



**DEBATE: Should West Papua be independent?
Melbourne University Debating Society v Monash Association of Debaters**

**SAMPARI FORUM FOR WEST PAPUA
ACU ART GALLERY, 26 Brunswick St, Fitzroy (Melbourne)**

Thursday 8 December 2016: 6-8pm

WELCOME SPEECH, DR JONATHAN BENNEY

Thank you very much. I'd like to offer my thanks to Babuan, the band that just played, and everyone who has made this night a possibility. I am here in two capacities. I work at Monash University as a lecturer in Chinese studies, so in my job I am confronted with issues relating to Asia every day. I am also the President of the Debaters Association of Victoria, which is a large non-profit organisation that facilitates debate particularly in secondary schools but across the lifespan within Victoria. So I'm here to facilitate and explain the debate that is going to take place tonight about the independence of West Papua. This debate is hosted by the FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF WEST PAPUA.

Before I explain the format of the debate, I'd like to introduce our EXPERT PANEL, because after the debate there will be questions and discussion, and I'll do something to facilitate that but we will mostly hear from our panel of experts. From West Papua we have JACOB RUMBIK who is the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of West Papua, and ISAAC MORIN who has nearly finished his PhD at LATROBE UNIVERSITY concerning West Papua. Both of these people understand all the issues concerning the implementation of an independent state, and how West Papuans feel about the situation. We also have BISHOP HILTON DEAKIN, who is Patron of the AUSTRALIA WEST PAPUA ASSOCIATION IN MELBOURNE. For a very long time, including in East Timor, he has been an observer of the church and activists in the process of self-determination. Finally we have LANCE COLLINS who was the head of INTERFET military intelligence in EAST TIMOR under General Cosgrove IN 1999—2000. His historical novel 'A Dowry for the Sultan' which demonstrates the breadth of his talents explores relations between Muslims and Christians in the eleventh century. So that's our expert panel, and I'd appreciate it you could make them welcome.

I'm moving onto explain the format of the debate. Before we begin, because the debate is being live-streamed, and also to show respect for the debaters, please make sure that your mobile phones are turned off and that you keep noise to a minimum during the debate.

Our debate is on the subject of whether West Papua should be independent or not. We have two sides. One is the affirmative side agreeing with the idea that West Papua should be independent and the other is the negative side opposing the motion. Each side has three speakers who will each speak for seven minutes. We'll hear alternatively from the affirmative and negative teams, so our first speaker will be from our affirmative team explaining why they believe West Papua

should be independent. That will be followed by the first speaker of the negative team, who will address the claim put forward and put forward their own arguments against independence. And we will go back and forth between each speaker until all six speakers have spoken.

Before introducing the debaters I should stress that the sides were allocated randomly, and that the opinions put forward as part of this debate are not necessarily the opinions that each speaker holds. They've been allocated a side, and will argue their hardest for that side without necessarily reflecting their own personal beliefs. That's a very important part of the process of debate, and I think that's actually a useful process that encourages people to think outside their own personal beliefs and reflect on key issues.

Introducing our affirmative side supporting the independence of West Papua. We have one speaker from Monash University and we have two speakers from the Deakin University Debating Society as well. Our first speaker will be KELVIN KA WING NG who is a Commerce Law student at Monash. And he will be representing the Monash University Association of Debaters at the WORLD UNIVERSITY DEBATING CHAMPIONSHIPS AT THE HAGUE at the end of this year. Our second speaker is JOYCE LI who is a law student at Deakin University and she is a member of the newly formed Deakin Debating Society. And our final speaker will be REBEKAH DE KEIJZER who's an international studies and law student and the president of their debating society. So please make welcome our affirmative team.

I'd like to do the same with the negative side. These are all students from Melbourne University representing the Melbourne University Debating Society. Our first speaker is BEN O'SHEA who is a second-year student in the Juris Doctor program, the law-degree program at Melbourne University. He is the Vice-President of the Debaters Association, and he will be representing Melbourne University as a debate judge and adjudicator at the World Tournament at The Hague. The next two speakers will be a debating team representing Melbourne University at the World Tournament. We have ZOE BROWN in the middle who has completed an arts degree and will be starting law next year. She was one of the coaches of the schools debating team that represented Victoria at our state debating championships earlier this year. And our final speaker is ALESSANDRA CHINSEN, an arts student who is very interested in international development.

There will be a short pause between each speaker while the speeches are uploaded to the live-streaming. So to begin I call on our first speaker from our affirmative side KELVIN NG. Please make Kelvin very welcome.