

THE FREILICH FOUNDATION PRESENTS:



ANU PUBLIC LECTURE SERIES 2009

THE NEW CRUSADE? MILITANT SECULARISM, STRIDENT ATHEISM & SOCIAL HARMONY IN AUSTRALIA

Tom Frame

Director of St Mark's National Theological Centre,
Professor of Theology, Charles Sturt University



Tuesday 20 January 2009, 6pm

Conference Room, Old Canberra House, Lennox Crossing ANU

This lecture is free and open to the public.

Enquiries E: Freilich.Foundation@anu.edu.au T: 02 6125 5527

In this lecture Professor Tom Frame will examine militant secularism and strident atheism as emerging features of post-9/11 Western popular culture. He asks whether these forces are a response to religiously-inspired terrorism, the last gasp of modernist philosophy or a renewed attempt to drive religion from the public square. He will argue that the 'New Atheism' championed by Professor Richard Dawkins will revive the worst elements of 'Social Darwinism', perpetuate economic, educational, social and spiritual inequalities, and foster intolerance and close-mindedness. Professor Frame will contend that the relegation of religious considerations to the fringes of social policy and political discourse will damage Australia's democratic institutions and impoverish community life.

The Right Reverend Professor Tom Frame was ordained in 1993, he has held parish appointments in Australia and England. He has been Bishop to the Australian Defence Force (2001–2007), Patron of the Armed Forces Federation of Australia (2002–2006), a member of the Council of the Australian War Memorial (2004–2007) and judged the inaugural Prime Minister's Prize for Australian History (2006–2007). Professor Frame is the author or editor of 24 books including *Church and State; Australia's Imaginary Wall* (2006), and *Anglicans in Australia* (2007). In 2009 he will release a new book entitled *Losing My Religion: Unbelief in Australia* (November).

This public lecture will be held as part of the Freilich Foundation Summer School in Bigotry and Tolerance being held in January 2009 on the theme of Religion and Bigotry. For more information visit www.anu.edu.au/hrc/freilich

To join the ANU Public Lectures mailing list and to listen to selected podcasts, visit www.anu.edu.au/publiclectures
The views expressed in this lecture are those of the presenter and do not necessarily represent the views of The Australian National University. CRICOS# 00120C

ANU COLLEGE OF ARTS & SOCIAL SCIENCES

MAC0809016