

# 2<sup>nd</sup> Yami Lester Memorial Address

Remembering Hiroshima & Nagasaki

*'This is not a drill: Australia and the nuclear weapon ban treaty'*



**Speaker: Gem Romuld**

**Australian Director**

**International Campaign to  
Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN)**

**2017 Nobel Peace Prize Winners**

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**Friday 9 August 2019, 6.30 pm**

**Venue: Kungkas Can Cook**

**(Diarama Village, Larapinta Dr.)**

**\$25 p/p for a welcome drink & light dinner**

**ICAN Report Launch: "Choosing Humanity: Why Australia  
must join the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons"**

**RSVP TO Maya Cifali by Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> August  
on 0450 474 043 or [mcifali@bigpond.com](mailto:mcifali@bigpond.com)**

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**The Alice Springs Peace Action Think Tank (ASPATT) is member of IPAN**

[www.ipan.org.au](http://www.ipan.org.au)

## 2019 Yami Lester Memorial Address - Fri 9 August: Background Information

Since 2017, the Alice Springs Peace Action Think Tank (ASPATT) have held a dinner on or around the anniversary of the atomic bombs dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki in 1945.

ASPATT has initiated these events in recognition of the human devastation caused by the dropping of nuclear bombs on the people of Hiroshima and Nagasaki in August 1945, as well as the nuclear tests conducted by the British Government in Maralinga, South Australia in 1953. The impact of the tests in Central Australia had horrific environmental and health effects, including disability, on the Indigenous people living there.

In 2018, the dinner included the inaugural “Yami Lester Memorial Address” in recognition of the late Yami Lester – a victim and survivor of the nuclear tests at Maralinga. For the inaugural dinner we were extremely privileged to have Ms Karina Lester, daughter Yami Lester, to be guest speaker and deliver the first address in her father’s honour.

Ms Lester has herself been heavily involved in the *International Campaign for the Abolition of Nuclear Weapons (ICAN)*, who received the Nobel Peace Prize in 2017 for its role in highlighting the devastating humanitarian impact of any use of nuclear weapons as well as for enormous efforts to achieve a treaty-based prohibition on nuclear weapons. In 2017 the United Nations Conference made the decision to negotiate a treaty on the prohibition of nuclear weapons, leading towards their total elimination.

Guest Speaker to deliver the 2019 Yami Lester Memorial address – Gem Romuld:

*Gem Romuld is the Australian Director for the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons. She has worked on the campaign since 2013, building community and political support for the nuclear weapon ban treaty. She participated in the 2017 UN negotiations that led to the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons and is now working to raise awareness of this treaty and to ensure that Australia signs and ratifies as soon as possible. She has worked with Australians for War Powers Reform and spent 6 years producing radio programs for 3CR Radio and the Community Radio Network. Gem has degrees in Communications and Law from the University of Technology, Sydney.*

ASPATT is committed to partnering ICAN in its work towards the elimination of all nuclear weapons and this annual event is open to all supporters of a future free of nuclear weapons, missiles and drone warfare.

*Note: In addition to the 9 August dinner, there will also be a community Peace Vigil to be held on Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> August at 8.44am on the Uniting Church Lawns, to commemorate the day and time of the first nuclear bombing on 6 August 1945 on Hiroshima. This includes a minute’s silence, and the making of paper cranes.*

**The Alice Springs Peace Action Think Tank (ASPATT)** is a collection of individuals across Alice Springs, who are engaged in issues related to creating a safer and more peaceful world. ASPATT is committed to advancing dialogue around peaceful resolutions to international conflict, as an alternative to war.

ASPATT is an affiliate member of the **Independent and Peaceful Australia Network (IPAN)** - <https://ipan.org.au/> - a network of organisations from across Australia, united by its support for an independent Australian foreign policy based on peaceful resolution of conflicts.

ASPATT meets monthly - generally meets on the last Wednesday of the month.

For further information, contact the ASPATT Convener – Jonathan Pilbrow M. 0403 611 815 E. [aspatt2016@gmail.com](mailto:aspatt2016@gmail.com)