



## Independent and Peaceful Australia Network (IPAN)

*IPAN Patrons: Emeritus Professor Ian Lowe & Kellie Tranter*

### **IPAN Annual Report Financial Year 2023-2024**

2023-24 has been another full and challenging year, with key IPAN priorities/activities highlighted below.

#### **Working Groups**

Over the past year a range of IPAN Working Groups have been active, with key working groups being

- Alternative Self Defence
- Force Posture Agreement
- Peace is Union Business
- Pacific Peace

#### **Alternative Self Defence Working Group**

IPAN's Alternative Self Defence Working Group has been in existence for 3 years. The project has been a protracted task and produced a number of draft policy configurations. In 2023, the working group produced documents, held discussions, and conducted five webinar/ Zoom meetings, nationally with military, peace and geopolitical experts. These forums were well attended and overwhelmingly supported the Alternative Self-Defence statement at that time.

In 2024, the working group set itself the task of outreaching to the Australian community with the statement seeking feedback and support for the concept of an Australian self-defence force. We first met with Pax Christi members to explain our draft statement and receive their feedback. While they were happy with the diplomatic, neutrality and nonalignment sections of the statement, they had reservations about the sections dealing with military defence.

Next, the working group met with the Green's Senators David Shoebridge and Jordan Steel-John to canvas our draft statement. They were both positive and supportive of our approach. Finally, the working group met with Rex Patrick (former SA senator and submariner) who was not opposed to the draft statement but thought it had little chance of being seriously considered by the current parliament, defence establishment, and getting an airing to the general public.

Bevan Ramsden gave the presentation of the draft Alternative Self-Defence policy statement at IPAN's 2024 National Conference in Perth. The working group also produced a fact sheet for the conferees to peruse and think about.

#### **End the Force Posture Agreement Working Group**

Over the past year, the working group has worked on the following:

##### Information/Fact sheet on the Force Posture Agreement

- Finalisation of Information/fact sheet on the FPA which was distributed via Voice to IPAN mailing lists

##### Petition re Termination of the US-Australia

- Production of petition to House of Reps calling on Minister for Defence to terminate the US-Australia Force Posture Agreement
- Communication with IPAN Affiliates and members and a wide range of organisations including The Greens, Australian Citizens Party and Australian Anti-Aukus Coalition alerting them to the petition with supporting material to get them ready to respond when the petition was opened
- Close to 4,000 signatures were gathered in one month in Oct/Nov 2023 on the FPA Termination Petition
- The petition was presented to Parliament on 28th November 2023 by Mr Bates Green's Members for Brisbane
- Minister for Defence or his office admin responded to the petition with the usual pro-US platitudes and the FPA's consistence with the US-Australia Alliance. The FPA WG responded to the Minister's reply in a suitably critical manner

### Outreach to Federal Parliamentarians

- Letter to all Federal MPs including Senators sent by email and by 'snail' mail listing key aspects of the FPA and seeking their response to it with questions like: 'Do you consider the FPA surrenders sovereignty to the US?' and 'Do you think the FPA makes Australia more likely to go to war with the US?' This letter received no replies (only formal acknowledgement of reception) except for that by the Green's Senator David Shoebridge.

### **Peace is Union Business**

A side event was organised at the ACTU Organising Conference in June 2023 entitled Peace is Union Business, with speakers from Wollongong (Arthur Rorris), NSW Teachers Fed, NTEU, ETU and QNMU - attracted over 50 delegates and local union activists.

### Anti-AUKUS Gathering at the 2023 ALP National Conference,

Brisbane IPAN union reps from ETU, NTEU and QNMU (Nurses and Midwives Union) coordinated an anti-AUKUS gathering at ALP National Conference, including construction of a four-metre-long submarine prop, and production and distribution of over 1000 info flyers and a letter to all ALP delegates, about the problems and insecurities arising from AUKUS.

### Visits to the West Bank

A report back meeting was organised at ETU offices and addressed by Andrew Irvine from ETU on an APHEDA visit to the West Bank, and local activist Judy Atwood on a separate trip to the West Bank.

### Public Meeting re AUKUS

Nurses Union rep and other staff assisted in arranging a large public meeting about AUKUS and nuclear power at Nurses Union headquarters with speakers from trade unions, Labor against War and Qld Conservation council.

### **Pacific Peace Network**

#### RIMPAC and Talisman Sabre

IPAN continues to play an active leadership role in the **Pacific Peace Network**, established to work on RIMPAC, held in Hawaiian waters, and Talisman Sabre, held in Australia – primarily in the Shoalwater Bay Military Reserve. These are the two most significant US led military exercises in the region. Working in conjunction with affiliates and volunteers, IPAN sponsored a Pacific Peace Speaking Tour in August 2023.

Representatives working as members of the Pacific Peace Network over the past five years have come from South Korea, Japan, Guahan, Philippines, Hawaii, New Zealand, Australia, Northern Marianas, Fiji, Vanuatu and the United States.

### Pacific Peace Tour July/August 2023

In July/August 2023, the Pacific Peace Network organised a national tour of Pacific peace activists which followed on from the Pacific Peace conference in Brisbane.

The speaking tour and conference were timed to bring attention to the Talisman Sabre exercises and to the lived experience of people in the Pacific whose lands have been used to base US military forces and prepare for war. IPAN had two sponsored speakers, Monaeka Flores from Guahan and Shinako Oyakawa from Okinawa. The aim of the project was to raise awareness within Australia and the Pacific region of the full impacts of allowing the USA to base their forces and materiel on the lands by sharing the experiences of Pacific People. The tour included speaking engagements in Brisbane, Sydney, Canberra and Darwin with regular media releases, meetings with Federal MPs and Senators.

### **Webinars**

One of the valuable outreach activities of the above working groups have been webinars attracting hundreds of participants,

### **Australian Anti AUKUS Coalition**

IPAN has key members active in the Australian Anti AUKUS Coalition formed after the 2021 announcement by the Morrison government. Rallies and webinars in opposition to AUKUS have been held in most states. A number of IPAN Coordinating Committee members have been closely involved in the Australian Anti AUKUS Coalition (AAAC).

### **IPAN initiated Online Petition re AUKUS**

The IPAN initiated change.org petition, titled 'No Nuclear-Submarines; End U.S. dominance; Healthcare not Warfare' developed in response to the AUKUS announcement, is still active and currently has more than 39,900 signatories. It has been an excellent way for us to communicate regularly with those thousands of people around Australia.

### **Submission Writing**

**Over the past year, IPAN has submitted the following :**

- Feb 2024 Submission to Senate Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs Defence and Trade re: Australian Naval Nuclear Power Safety Bill 2023; and also presented at the subsequent Senate Standing Committee's Public Hearing
- June 2024 Submission to the Australian Submarine Agency Licence Application to Site a Prescribed Radiation Facility known as the 'Controlled Industrial Facility'

## **IPAN Email Campaigns**

**Over the past 12 months, several email campaigns have been initiated**

**Email your MP Campaign re Australian Naval Nuclear Power Safety Bill 2023 - 156 emails sent**

This email campaign urged people to write to their MP expressing how absolutely critical that we do not allow US and UK nuclear submarine high-level waste to be housed, stored or dumped in Australia.

**Email the Attorney General on Prevention and Punishment of Genocide- 39 emails sent**

This email campaign urged people to email the Attorney General, Mark Dreyfus, to bring his urgent attention to a complaint made by Professor Richard Tanter about potential breaches by Australia to its obligations under the 1949 Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of Genocide.

**Call for letters to Federal Parliamentary representative about AUKUS - 23 emails sent by IPAN members/supporters**

**Nov 2023 Email your MP/Senators** The appalling war on Gaza must be stopped (The Australian government refused to support a United Nations Resolution calling for a ceasefire in Gaza. This is shameful and must be reversed)

**July/Aug 2023 Email Labor Politicians re AUKUS** in lead up to Labor National Conference August 2023 – Number of emails sent not collated

**Jan 2024 APAN initiated ‘Email your MP’ campaign: Re Gaza:** To urge the Aust Government to support South Africa’s case against Israel in International Court of Justice *Email sent out to all IPAN members*

## **IPAN in the Media**

### Media Releases:

14 Media Releases were sent out between July 2023 - June 2024 (See 2023/24 Executive Officer Report for full details).

Gaining interest from Media outlets has been difficult – with community radio stations being the most likely to respond.

Efforts have been made to build relations with mainstream media outlets. A media briefing kit with bios and photos of 10 spokespeople available to provide a media response regarding defence and foreign policy. Efforts are now being made to keep track of all media coverage that results from IPAN Media Releases.

### Social Media Reach

Social media is an area where IPAN could be a lot more impactful. The IPAN X site now has 1828 followers, and our Facebook site has 2800 followers. A designated Social Media person (possibly paid) is being considered – but raising funds for this position is required before we can proceed with employment.

### Media Working Group

Over the last year or so, IPAN has refined the process for drafting media releases in a more timely fashion, with the IPAN Media Working Group taking full carriage of the process (while consulting with

people with expertise both within and outside of IPAN) and ensuring media releases go out in a timely fashion. In addition, we have recruited several current or former journalists to support the Media Working Group and we thank Peter Cronau, Lee Duffield and Mark Jeanes for their ongoing advice and expertise.

### **E-Newsletter VOICE**

The IPAN Monthly online newsletter VOICE is an important communication to network with members and a broader contact list. A huge thankyou to editor Bevan Ramsden for his ongoing work. Bevan along with Andrew Fullarton have also published more than 20 podcasts over the past year on varied topics related to IPAN activities.

### **IPAN involvement in speaking Events**

- Presentation (Ross Gwyther & Annette Brownlie) to U3A Current Affairs class in Cleveland, Qld
- Presentation (Andrew Irvine & Janet Baillie) at a public meeting on AUKUS and nuclear dangers at Qld Nurses Union.
- Talk (Barbara Hartley) to retired unionist group Vintage Reds in Brisbane
- presentation (Annette Brownlie) to International Peace Bureau webinar on NATO in the Pacific
- IPAN talk (Cameron Leckie) at Palm Sunday joint refugee/Gaza/AUKUS rally
- Presentation (Bevan Ramsden) at International Conference in Columbia on Neutrality
- Contribution (Justin Tutty) to Pacific Peace Network webinar on Why is the Pacific being prepared for war?
- Talk by IPAN-Vic member at Fight Against Inequality Network Public Forum. (Transcript of the talk circulated to IPAN CC previously). Other speakers: CEO of Food Bank, Public Housing Committee; Tax Justice, Uniting Church; Single Mother and her Child; Australian Unemployed Workers Union.
- Talks by No AUKUS Vic/IPAN-Vic members at local community organisations' meetings and rallies. Member involved in local Gippsland regional Trades and Labour Council.

### **Advocacy for Whistleblowers**

- Free Julian Assange campaign
- Richard Boyle
- David McBryde
- Campaign against Dan Duggan's extradition to the US (support for the Alliance Against Political Prosecutions)

The Coordinating Committee had actively responded to the ongoing persecution of Julian Assange with media releases and letter writing and signing petitions. IPAN received the news of Julian Assange's freedom with enormous relief, but clearly press freedoms continue to be threatened. We support the call for him to be pardoned.

IPAN members have continued to write to Attorney General Dreyfus asking him to drop the charges against ATO whistleblower Richard Boyle, and to refuse the extradition to the USA of former pilot, now Australian Dan Duggan, who has been in solitary confinement for two years. IPAN members also support David McBride's appeal against his sentence which will be heard in the ACT Supreme Court in March 2025.

## **Current Issues and New Developments**

IPAN also continues to devote time to current issues and new developments. These have included the war in Ukraine and rising tensions in the Asia Pacific.

## **Other**

- IPAN involvement in actions against a number of military expos around the country
- Screenings of David Bradbury's film 'Road to War' throughout the country ?? TBC
- Involvement in actions in opposition to Nuclear Submarine Ports

## **Engagement with Federal Politicians**

1. Regular letter writing to politicians
2. Volunteers across the country meeting with Federal (and state) politicians regarding the People's Inquiry

## **Support from University Students for IPAN's work**

- Macquarie University ARTS3000 Students – Semester 2 2022, Vince Scappatura lecturer – Barbara Hartley provided IPAN support

## **Membership**

Currently IPAN has approximately 50 Affiliated Organisations and 200 Associate (Individual Members)

## **Finances**

**Expenditure** for the year was a total of \$14,477. This included \$5913 for wages of executive officer, \$2062 for subscription to mailchimp and zoom, \$4290 for conference costs, \$800 donations to other campaigns and \$1136 for insurance

**Receipts** totalled \$17,665 including \$4236 in affiliations and associate memberships, \$5211 in donations and \$978 in conference registrations. The resulting surplus for the year was \$3188.

**Total IPAN funds** in June 2024 were \$26,153

Also the Bob Brownlie Gaza appeal raised \$10,632 which was distributed equally to MSF, APAN and APHEDA

Full details of IPAN finances are available in the *Annual Finance report to IPAN AGM, 2024*

While IPAN has continued to be able to cover annual costs, and is very thankful for generous donations from a number of organisational members and individuals, the reality is that more funds are required to sustain the paid Executive Officer position and for us to be able to employ a Media/Comms/Social Media worker. Such funding is critical to IPAN being able to fulfil our objectives and extend our impact in working for peace and independence for Australia.

## **Recruitment of Volunteers to assist IPAN**

Recruitment of more volunteers to IPAN Working Groups has occurred.

## **International Organisational Representation**

IPAN has been a member of the International Peace Bureau (IPB) for six years, and for the past year or so Annette Brownlie has been the IPAN representative on the IPB Board.

## **IPAN's Coordinating Committee**

The Co-ordinating Committee have worked hard as a committed group demonstrating respect for each other and for differences. The Committee is supported by various people outside of the committee, who have contributed significantly to IPAN's work and who attend many Co-ordinating Committee and Working Group meetings.

A large group of volunteers outside of the committee that included Barbara Hartley, Rita Camilleri, Margaret Clark, Justin Tutty and Bevan Ramsden, Jo Vallentine and Christopher Crouch).

We have continued holding combined Co-ordinating Committee and members' meetings for regular opportunities for consultation with and feedback from members in helping to steer the work of IPAN.

## **Elected Coordinating Committee Members**

The State/Territory Coordinating Committee Representatives have been as follows:

<b>State/Terr</b>	<b>Name</b>
<b>Qld</b>	Annette Brownlie, Ross Gwyther
<b>NSW</b>	Shahnaz Martin, Michael Walker
<b>Vic</b>	Shirley Winton, Rita Camilleri
<b>SA</b>	Peter Harpas, Derek Burke
<b>WA</b>	Eileen Whitehead, One vacancy
<b>ACT</b>	Tamara Jacka, Penny Lockwood
<b>NT</b>	Diana Rickard, One vacancy
<b>Tas</b>	Peter Jones, One vacancy

Executive roles for the past year have been held by:

**Chairperson** - Annette Brownlie

**Treasurer** - Ross Gwyther

**Secretary** – Peter Harpas

**Membership Secretary** - Rita Camilleri

**Public Officer** – Kathryn Kelly

## State/Territory Reports

### Queensland (Reps: Annette Brownlie and Ross Gwyther)

#### IPAN Collective activities

#### 1. Palm Sunday Rally

Joint Palm Sunday Rally (IPAN, Just Peace/Justice for Palestine) based on AUKUS, nuclear subs, refugees and Palestine approximately 1500 people attended.

#### 2. Anti-AUKUS campaign

Anti-AUKUS campaign gathering at the **ALP National Conference** in August 2023, including 100 ETU members and several hundred other supporters, including IPAN affiliate groups. Included was a large papier-mâché nuclear submarine constructed by Qld anti-AUKUS members, with assistance from NTEU Qld branch. Information leaflets handed to all conference attendees.

#### 3. Speaking Engagements

Two IPAN reps spoke **at the Cleveland U3A current affairs class** (100 participants) about IPAN and AUKUS.

#### 4. IPAN/Pacific Peace Network Conference

This conference was held in Brisbane in April 2024 with Pacific Peace activists touring Australia and speaking at the conference (80 people attended), also included a Webinar on *why is pacific being prepared for war* (140 registered)

#### 5. Anti-AUKUS activities

**Anti-AUKUS Group Public Meeting** at Nurses Union on Hiroshima Day 6<sup>th</sup> August with Arthur Rorris, Labour Against War, Qld Conservation Council, ETU and Nurses Union speakers Very successful meeting with about 100 people attending, and new members for local Just Peace group as well as IPAN and the anti-AUKUS group here.

#### 6. Other

- Annual IPAN and local peace groups meeting at Quaker House in 27 January. 25 reps attending
- Joint ETU/Vintage Reds/ /IPAN rally and protest outside LNP State conference (250 people).

#### 7. IPAN affiliate activities:

- Just Peace street rally and handout to high school students on Global Day against Militarism (20 people)
- Wage Peace regular protests at weapons companies (often 50-100 young people)
- Quaker silent peace vigil every Friday evening in City square (10 people)
- Just Peace Palestine Friday morning vigil/leaflet handout in Queens Gardens park once per month (10-15 people)
- Report-back meeting on APHEDA trip to The West Bank and East Jerusalem by ETU organiser Andrew Irvine and activist Judy Attwood in Nov 2023 organised by Just peace (80 people)
- Annual Brisbane Peace Lecture in St John's Cathedral (200 people), speakers Nasser Mashni (APAN) and Louise Adler (Jewish Council of Aust) Sept 21, organised by UNAA Qld/assistance from Just Peace.



- Annual Concert for Peace with four different music groups in Sept 2024 (100 people) organised by Just peace.

### **New South Wales (Reps: Shahnaz Martin and Michael Walker)**

It has been a busy Year for IPAN NSW. We established the NSW IPAN email group. This group now tries to grow and hold meetings on zoom every second month and encourage participation in the members meeting on the alternative month.

We have had a guest speaker on the group zoom and have made the recording available to the wider community.

We have recently attended the successful IPAN conference in Perth.

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1NqUGK4K2pioEaCLUjNDOCjEmuBJuMTnG/edit?usp=sharing&ouid=102758945597198840331&rtpof=true&sd=true>

Our Colabarative work with Non-Affiliated Organisations is ongoing.

- Collaborative work led to NSW IPAN and Canberra Anti-Nuclear attending the ANFA Conference hosted by WAWAN (Wollongong Against War and Nuclear).
- AAPT – supporting Whistle Blowers including McBride gatherings and events eg the court cases
- Beyond Uranium Canberra – 18 March – 20 April Peace Walkers Against AUKUS – walked 450km from Port Kembla to Canberra and had a media reach of over a million people. Media Coverage Report Link - <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1nsTO8eVwbdGGgWDhKJ8JTE80w-rNXWHJ/view?usp=sharing>
- Also gave Letters to Federal MPs and local Councils to sign NPA and create Nuclear Free Shires. Shane Rattenburry – ACT Attorney General - gave a speech at the reception
- Australian Nuclear Free Alliance – Attending the Conference, first one on the east coast. They have successfully campaigned to stop all uranium mining in WA. Great Teachers.
- Truth Not War – Part of the organizing group. Can report a win. Julian Assange is now FREE!! Ongoing support in the David McBride Campaign as well as other Whistleblowers like Richard Boyle
- Julian Assange Campaign – We Won. An International Peoples Campaign.
- Free David McBride Campaign – collaboratively working with the campaigners and the family sharing footage, time and strategy.
- Our Future Shoal Haven – The Home of Albatross and the Wreck Bay community who have freehold title and have blocked access to the Naval base on prior occasions. Guest Speaker and participant in the Draft Ocean Plan Submission about potential wars and nuclear submarines as a current threat and ongoing contributor to climate change on our shores as well as indigenous fishing rights.
- WAWAN - Wollongong against War and Nuclear. Attending some events and doing Public Speaking.
- Student Occupiers at Universities - We have actively supported, visited and engaged with the university encampments. This was followed by a Media statement in Support and a Publication in Pearls and Irritations. IPAN Media Release on university intimidation of student protestors (14/6):

<https://ipan.org.au/intimidation-and-harassment-by-australian-universities-leadership-teams-must-stop-media-release-14-june-2024/>

- Hard copies printed and distributed at Gaza protest march to Sydney University (16/6)
- Koori Fishing Rights – first fishing theft charges dismissed in October 2024. Preparing for the next the next round of legal and community engagement.
- Dreaming Australia – Working with the Arrernte of Alice Springs year-round, The Aboriginal Tent Embassy for Australia Day, Barrow Creek Mob – last massacre site and currently approved for open cut mining for metals to strengthen weapons as well as ongoing publications on Substack. 25 April 14<sup>th</sup> ANZAC Day Frontier Wars Wreath Laying as a form of Protest – National War Memorial
- The Chorus of Women and Peace bus with Graeme Dunstan and Dreaming Australia. We had our last peace vigil in the ACT at the National War Memorial on ANZAC EVE 2024. Creating a halo of peace and light above the National War Memorial. About 14 years of doing the event.
- Making Peasce Working with the settler story of the Aboriginal Massacres represented by the Desert Pea. ANZAC Day and Remembrance Day laying wreaths and or holding Peace Banners at the War Memorial. Year round making Desert Peasce and sharing these around the country.
- Guest to the Opera House for the Indigenous Opera as an IPAN Rep and Assange Campaigner
- Guest of the Turkish Embassy in ACT – Opera for Palestine, Selfies with Diplomats from Palestine, Turkey, Russia, Indonesia ... meeting refugee/citizens – from the various countries
- Palestine Support Group Rallies. NSW and WA - Attending with IPAN signs and Aboriginal and Palestine flags.

Associated article published in Pearls & Irritations (1/7): <https://johnmenadue.com/australian-universities-leadership-teams-must-cease-intimidation-and-harassment-ipan-pic/>

We would like to thank Michael Walker for great service and input. We have a new Nominee to fill this position called Andrew Gaines. We look forward to another year of working towards and Independent and Peaceful Australia.

### **Victoria** (Note covers Nov 2023 – 2024)

- IPAN-Vic is one of a number of organisations comprising the No AUKUS Coalition Victoria, jointly organising activities, discussions, public forums, rallies, producing and distributing information on AUKUS, US drive to war, militarising the region.
- Regular monthly joint No AUKUS Coalition Victoria meetings. - Discussions, updates on AUKUS developments, jointly planned activities and events. Information sessions, forums, rallies, prepare information material. Discussions on AUKUS in the context of the US alliance and independent foreign policy.
- December Forum in Trades Hall - Military build up in Australia. Speakers: Scott Burchill, IPAN-Vic, No AUKUS Vic.
- Nov 2023 – present organising and attending Palestine Sunday rallies and local Palestine Solidarity events.

- February – participated in the Assange Conference – anti-AUKUS information; speakers discussed AUKUS, US alliance and Australia’s subservience to US. Over 150 attended. Speakers included Mary Kostakidis, Michael West, Jo Camilleri, Peter Cronau,
- IPAN-Vic members working with APAN and local Palestine Solidarity Groups – protests outside MP’s offices (eg Tim Watts – Deputy Foreign Minister), leaflet handouts in the community. No AUKUS Vic and IPAN-Vic information flyers and speakers at public events and rallies linking Australia’s complicity in the Palestinian genocide to Australia’s subservience to US and calling instead for an independent foreign policy. No AUKUS Vic/IPAN-Vic speakers at local rallies outside Tim Watts and Marles electoral offices.
- March - Hobsons Bay Community Palestine Solidarity Public Forum. Key note speakers Nasser Mashni (APAN), Adel Salman, President Islamic Council of Victoria, Max Kaiser, Jewish Council of Australia, Janet Rice. Good discussion on AUKUS and the US-Australia Alliance.
- 16 March rally and march through the city – anniversary of Labor Government endorsing the AUKUS military pact. 250 attended. Good public response to calls for No War. Speakers inc. MUA, AMWU, APAN, Nasser Mashni (APAN), FoE, LAW, IPAN-NO AUKUS Vic., Greens.
- May Day – This year’s May Day Sunday rally outside the Trades Hall combined with the regular Palestine Solidarity Sunday rallies. More than 5,000 attended. IPAN-Vic/No AUKUS-Vic speaker. No AUKUS Vic information table – a lot of information on AUKUS well received.
- APAN National Conference at VTHC A few speakers referred to AUKUS and the US alliance in their presentations. Comments on US military domination in Australia received strong audience applause ( US deputy sheriff).
- No AUKUS Coalition Vic Planning and Priorities meeting. Opened the meeting with brief discussion outlining international geo-political and national situations. Update on AUKUS and US expansion into Australia and Asia-Pacific. Reviewed our activities of past 12 months. Discussed what worked and what didn’t work. Clarified aims of the coalition. Lengthy discussion identifying our priorities and implementation. Objective: reach out to groups and orgs to raise awareness on AUKUS, subservience to US, independent foreign policy.
- ALP State Conference Protest rally outside the conference. (i) Palestine solidarity (ii) Opposition to AUKUS. Palestine Solidarity motion passed at the Conference. A watered down motion opposing AUKUS was passed. The mover of the motion, a rank and file LAW delegate and member of No AUKUS Vic, spoke strongly in favour of the original motion. Both motions generated good discussion at the conference. No AUKUS Vic information handed out at the conference.
- Members of IPAN-Vic/No AUKUS Vic regularly hand out flyers at rallies and public forums. No AUKUS Vic flyer linking Palestine genocide, Australia’s subservience to US and AUKUS well received at big rallies. 2,000 printed with more than 1,000 handed out at the October 7 anniversary. Another 500 handed out at local solidarity events. Enabling us to engage in some good discussions with rally participants and onlookers.
- Organised rally outside the American Chamber of Commerce Business Lunch on AUKUS. About 60 at the lunch time rally.
- Cancel RIMPAC South-East Asia – No AUKUS Vic/IPAN-Vic one of the speakers

- Hiroshima-Nagasaki Vigil outside St. Patrick's co-organised with MAPW, ICAN, FoE, Pax Christi.
- Disrupt Land Forces – Large rally and march protesting Hanwha and Elbit. Jointly organised by a broad coalition of anti-war and Palestine Solidarity groups. 1,000 attended. IPAN-Vic/No AUKUS Vic speakers and banners
- Talk by IPAN-Vic member at Fight Against Inequality Network Public Forum. (Transcript of the talk circulated to IPAN CC previously). Other speakers: CEO of Food Bank, Public Housing Committee; Tax Justice, Uniting Church; Single Mother and her Child; Australian Unemployed Workers Union.
- Young unionists – meetings with young unionists against war – MUA, AMWU, HACSU, AEU
- Media – regular interviews on 3CR community station. 3 CR supports, promotes and reports on No AUKUS Vic/IPAN Vic activities
- Discussions with Dangerfield who offered anti-AUKUS coalition to jointly design and bring out anti-AUKUS t-shirts. They offered to pay for design, manufacture and promotion of the t-shirts. However, discussions lapsed due to complications over industrial dispute between Dangerfield management and retail workers union RAFFW.
- Group Discussion - AUKUS and Alternatives. Background Paper prepared by members of No AUKUS Vic-IPAN Vic Group for discussion at December meeting.

### Regional Victoria

#### IPAN Geelong & Vic Southwest – very active group.

- Art for Peace competition & exhibition in Portland over summer.
- Weekly Peak hour for Peace in Palestine since April: placards for passing motorists at busy intersections in Richard Marles' electorate. Excellent response with many cars hooting in support but not just preaching to the converted – many motorists cruise past slowly reading the placards.
- Weekly since October Little Palestine Pop Up for Peace outside Richard Marles' office. Protesting AUKUS, Palestine genocide, war with China. Table with leaflets. Interaction with passing pedestrians. Messages for his constituents written in chalk on office walls & footpaths or on butcher's paper with crayon & stuck to walls with Blu-Tack.
- 2 x politics in the pub events called Drinks for Humanity on link between AUKUS & genocide in Gaza & on weapons manufacturing in Geelong.
- Weekly protests against ADF recruiting in Geelong August-October.
- Active member of Boycott Caltex- Chevron national and international campaign initiated by the Palestinians in the International Palestine BDS Campaign. 3 x Boycott Caltex National Days of Action & a webinar. Organised the actions at Laverton North & successfully engaged other pro-Palestine groups in the area.
- Active member of Elbit out of Vic group & active in Weapons out of Avalon campaign. Jointly organised with Elbit out of Vic a rally in Geelong in October.
- Irregular stalls & leafleting based on need & opportunity.
- About to host film screenings of Twilight Time in Geelong & Warrnambool in early December.

## South Gippsland

- Talks by No AUKUS Vic/IPAN-Vic members at local community organisations' meetings and rallies. Member involved in local Gippsland regional Trades and Labour Council.
- Involved in organising a community and regional TLC rally outside Darren Chester, local Federal Member. Protesting against building nuclear power station in Gippsland and opposition to AUKUS. Local member of Anti-AUKUS Victoria spoke.

## **South Australia (Reps: Derek Burke and Peter Harpas)**

### **1. Meetings with S.A. Members of Federal Parliament to present "Charting Our Own Course" report**

#### ***Rebekha Sharkie, Federal Member for Mayo - early 2023***

Robert Houghton and Derek Burke meet with Rose Beltchev, Rebekha Sharkie's constituent advisor. The meeting was very positive. Rose, on Rebekha's behalf, was supportive of what she understood of IPAN's message. She was very much onside with the TPNW and War Powers Reform. Rose gave us her business card and was happy for us to contact their office again. Rose was also willing to be placed on IPAN's email list.

#### ***James Stevens, Federal Member for Sturt - early 2023***

Ruth Russell and Derek Burke meet with James Stevens and his staffer, Hamish. James was opposed to the questions we put to him, such as that of war powers reform for parliament and dismissive of the concept of an alternative defence such as armed neutrality. The only productive outcome from the meeting was that James Stevens knows we exist, has a copy of the People's Inquiry report, and that he was prepared to meet us, albeit with hostility.

#### ***Louise Miller-Frost, Member for Boothby - early 2023***

Colin Mitchell and Peter Harpas contacted Louise Miller-Frost by email and letter. They received the following brush off by email: " Thank you for sending through this information and bringing this to Louise's attention. Please accept Louise's, apologies but at this time the diary is overcommitted and she is not able to facilitate a meeting. We will reach out if this changes."

#### ***Penny Wong, Senator for South Australia and Foreign Minister - early 2023***

Christina Hunter and Derek with Penny Wong's electoral office staffer. It was a cordial meeting but very little agreement. The staffer insisted that the Albanese Labor government is pursuing an independent foreign policy. We pointed out that AUKUS, FPA, Pine Gap are abdications of Australia's sovereignty.

#### ***Other SA Federal Parliament Senators and House of Representatives - 2023***

We received no response from the rest of the SA Federal Senators and Representative Members for a meeting and to give them a copy of "Charting Our Own Course" report. Therefore, we either dropped in or posted a copy to their electoral offices.

### **2. 20th Anniversary Iraq Invasion rally -2023**

IPAN rep (Derek) spoke at the 20th Anniversary Iraq Invasion rally in Adelaide.

### **3. Public Obstruction laws Protest and XR - May 2023**

Two large rallies (over a 1000 people for each rally) took place during May in SA against the new changes to the Public Obstruction laws. Offenders can now be fined up to \$50 000 or 3 months gaol for blockading or hindering a public venue.

#### **4. Summary of Hiroshima Day held in Adelaide on 6th August 2023**

Some 80 people gathered at Mukata (Hindmarsh Square) who then marched through Rundle Mall and then on to Parliament House, where a number of awareness-raising speeches were delivered. Speakers included Maddie from the National Union of Students (Flinders Uni campus), Andrew Gohl (President, Australian Education Union (SA Branch)), Dr Amanda Ruler (Coordinator, Medical Association for Prevention of War (SA Branch)), David Noonan (long-term anti-nuclear activist), Tammy Franks (SA Greens MP) and Professor Al Rainnie (economist, at Uni SA Business).

#### **5. Richard Boyle's whistleblower court case in Adelaide - 2023**

A Rally to support whistleblower Richard Boyle was held in Adelaide on August 9. Kathy Kelly, former Co-convenor of the Alliance Against Political Persecution and IPAN Coordinating Committee member, was unable to attend and Derek Burke was asked to speak on behalf of IPAN-SA. To read his speech, go to: <https://ipan.org.au/ipan-sa-derek-burke-speaks-out-for-richard-boyle-at-support-rally/>

#### **6. The Greens' AUKUS Deal - Panel Discussion - 2023**

This was held on Thursday, August 17th at Adelaide University. Senators Barbara Pocock, David Shoebridge, Karina Lester (Indigenous) and Jason Bilney (Indigenous) led the panel. The Greens appear to be committed to maintaining Australia's independence and opposition to AUKUS. Generally seemed to be in step with IPAN. It was an excellent meeting, and IPAN-SA members participated (Ruth Russell, Bob Hanney, Peter Harpas and Derek Burke) and asked questions.

#### **7. SA ALP annual convention - 2023**

A picket opposing AUKUS was held at the SA ALP annual convention on 20th and 21st October at the SAHMRI (South Australian Health & Medical Research Institute) building, North Tce.

#### **8. 70th anniversary of Emu Fields Protest - 2023**

A protest was held at Gawler Place in Rundle Mall on Friday, 27th October to commemorate the 1953 Second SA nuclear test at Emu Fields.

#### **9. Pyne and Partners - AUKUS Briefing - 2023**

A picket against war profiteer Christopher Pyne was held on Tuesday 21st November at the University of South Australia, Yungondi Building, UniSA City West campus North Terrace Adelaide. Pyne gave an AUKUS briefing that substituted a false perception for the dangerous reality of war. One of the protesters sat in on his talk and reported that "Pyne is a war-hungry slime". He began his talk by slurring the protestors and referring to them again twice in his speech.

#### **10. "Australian Naval Nuclear Power Safety Bill 2023"**

The ALP introduced the Bill, "Australian Naval Nuclear Power Safety Bill 2023", to the Federal Parliament on 16 Nov to declare Osborne and Stirling as nuclear zones. Many community members of Le Fevre Peninsula began to stir and prepare to do battle with Defence Minister Marles. This gave IPAN and No Nuke Subs the opportunity to engage with the residents. No Nuke Subs met with the Green's Hindmarsh branch secretary, Hayden Shaw, on Wednesday November 29th.

### **11. Protest at the ACTU Congress held in Adelaide - Winter 2024**

IPAN-SA members together with Palestinian supporters protested outside the convention centre. IPAN leaflets were handed out to the delegates.

### **12. Public Meeting to oppose AUKUS nuclear submarines - 2024**

IPAN-SA and No Nuclear Subs participated in organising the successful Port Adelaide Public Meeting in April 20th in Semaphore to oppose AUKUS nuclear submarines. This involved the following:

- Participating in the drafting the flyer explaining the issues and advertising the public meeting
- Printing and distributing 2000 leaflets at Port shopping centres and letterboxing Taperoo and Osborne suburban homes
- Undertaking and filming a very successful meeting of around 150 people
- Running a stall and collecting 22 sign-ups to join IPAN-SA email list and VOICE

This led to the establishment of the Port Adelaide Community Opposes AUKUS group.

### **13. Protect Protest rally - 2024**

IPAN-SA members participated in the Protect Protest rally, Thursday 16 May at the steps of Parliament. Around 200 people participated. About 10 XR members were arrested at the Pulteney Street and Rundle Mall intersection.

### **14. Protest SA ALP State Convention October - 2024**

IPAN-SA members together with Palestinian and CFMEU supporters protested outside the convention centre about their respective issues.

### **15. Port Adelaide Community Opposes AUKUS held a public meeting - 2024**

In October 26, 2024 in Semaphore held a successful public meeting to *Take Action Against AUKUS*. The following speakers presented the case against AUKUS and nuclear submarines: Al Rannie ( Economist from Uni SA), Amanda Ruler (MAPW), Michael Williss (IPAN and No Nuclear Subs member), Rex Patrick (former sub-mariner and senator) Tammy Franks (SA Greens Legislative Council parliamentarian). An audience of 130 turned up to listen to these speakers. Over 100 people signed up to join PACOA's email list.

### **16. A win for Port Adelaide residents opposing AUKUS at the Port Adelaide and Enfield Council meeting - 2024**

At the Tuesday 12 November PAE Council meeting voted to oppose any storage of nuclear waste ( of any level) at Osborne for any period of time. They added that if they were overridden by the Federal Govt (more than possible) they want comprehensive community consultation. It falls short of declaring PAE area a Nuclear Free Zone but that wasn't on the cards last night and may be where Port Adelaide Community Opposes AUKUS (PACOA) goes next re Council? There were approximately 18 PACOA supporters in the gallery.

## **Western Australia (Rep: Eileen Whitehead)**

### **1. Monthly IPAN Vigils**

Our monthly IPAN vigils have proved a useful ground for informing passers-by details of the AUKUS deal. They were discontinued over the winter months in 2024 due to constant rain, as handing out flyers to people rushing home from work in the rain proved rather unsuccessful. New flyers have been produced for 2024/25. We're grateful to The Greens for their help with printing.

### **2. Growth of STOP AUKUS WA**

IPANWA's biggest success since the foundation of Stop-AUKUS WA in 2020 has been facilitating Stop-AUKUS WA's exponential growth. It has gone from strength to strength under the guidance of Leonie Lundy and her band of dedicated individuals. They regularly question the local Councils, in the suburbs around HMAS Stirling, at their monthly meetings for clarification on AUKUS implications for people living in the area. In addition they hold regular stalls in the area.

They are also getting help from Brad Pettitt and The Greens in the Fremantle area and hold regular Politics in the Pub events there. Between our IPAN vigils and Stop-AUKUS WA, we're developing a greater awareness of AUKUS and its effect on our local area and on Australia as a whole. Red Ant has since brought Vijay Prashad to Australia where he spoke effusively about the US influence on Australia.

Stop-AUKUS WA hold meetings twice monthly and discusses the latest Pillar 1 and Pillar 2 developments and community action plans. These meetings are attended by Nuclear Free WA, MAPW, Quakers, Councillors from the Rockingham area, and many other political organisations.

### **3. Planning for the 2024 IPAN Conference in Perth October 2024**

The 2024 financial year ended with weekly meetings to plan the IPAN Conference, and the hard work was eventually rewarded. As the outgoing IPAN WA representative I have been working closely with IPAN's new Membership Secretary, Rita Camilleri and WA memberships are increasing. I sincerely hope that IPAN in Western Australia continues its upward trajectory.

## **Australian Capital Territory (ACT) (Reps: Tamara Jacka and Penny Lockwood)**

### **1. Regular IPAN ACT Meetings**

- Throughout the year, IPAN (ACT) met for a zoom meeting roughly every fortnight. We also held a number of in-person general meetings between mid2023 and early 2024. However, after that we decided that general meetings are not resource-efficient ways of recruiting more active involvement from people, especially younger people, outside the core, small group.

### **Public Meeting: The Dangers of AUKUS'**

- IPAN (ACT) organised a public meeting on 'the Dangers of AUKUS' on 1<sup>st</sup> August 2023. Speakers: Monaeka Flores (Guam) and Shinako Oyakawa (Okinawa) from the Pacific Peace Network, Prof. Wanning Sun (UTS, Sydney), Greens Senator David Shoebridge and Marcus Strom, convenor of Labor Against War, MC, Tamara Jacka.



### **3. Public Forum 'AUKUS and military escalation: Who pays and who benefits'**

- IPAN (ACT) organised a public forum, 'AUKUS and military escalation: Who pays and who benefits' on 12 March 2024. Speakers: Em. Prof. Hugh White, Dr Sue Wareham, Michelle Fahy, Allan Behm, MC, David Perkins.

### **4. Week of national action against AUKUS Activity**

- IPAN(ACT) organised a rally outside Parliament House on 18<sup>th</sup> March 2024, as part of the week of national action against AUKUS. Speakers: Dr Sue Wareham, Senator David Shoebridge, David Perkins and others.

### **5. Support for Palestine**

#### Rallies in support of Palestine

- Since October 2023, several members have participated in weekly rallies in support of Palestine, organised by the Australian Palestine Action Group. Kathryn Kelly and Sue Wareham have spoken at the rallies.
- Several members participated in the Palm Sunday rally in April 2024. Tamara Jacka was a member of the rally's Refugee Action Campaign organising team.

#### Support for ANU Gaza Solidarity Encampment

- Several members of IPAN (ACT) were heavily involved in supporting the ANU Gaza Solidarity Encampment, particularly Tamara Jacka, which ran for 111 days between 29 April and 17-18 August 2024. David Perkins, Kathryn Kelly and Sue Wareham spoke at rallies on campus. A series of anonymous Encampment members' articles, submitted to *Pearls and Irritations* by Tamara Jacka, can be seen here: <https://johnmenadue.com/writings-from-the-anu-gaza-solidarity-encampment-the-series/>. Tamara's report and thanks to the students can be seen here: <https://johnmenadue.com/thank-you-to-the-anu-gaza-solidarity-encampment/>. Tamara also produced a letter writing kit about Palestine, for use by those writing to politicians and others, in particular, those writing to the ANU to protest its investment in arms manufacturers and its response to students protesting against Israeli occupation and genocide in Gaza.

### **6. Resources Developed**

- IPAN (ACT) produced and distributed:
- No War, No AUKUS t-shirts and stickers
- a flyer about AUKUS and the links between AUKUS and the Australian government's stance on Palestine.

### **7. Other activities**

- IPAN (ACT) held a fundraising event: Scones, Jam and Jazz in the Garden on 7 October 2023.
- Members participated in a Truth Not War festival in December 2023. David Perkins gave a speech.
- Members participated in the Rising Tide People's blockade of the port in Newcastle in 2023 and will do so again in 2024.
- During the year, members were active in campaigns supporting Julian Assange and David McBride, and in campaigns to combat climate change.

## **Northern Territory (Rep: Diana Rickard)**

### Darwin/Top End

#### **1. Local reaction against Genocide in Gaza**

This year, local reaction against Genocide in Gaza has enriched other campaigns. Those mobilising for Palestine have readily recognised connections and built solidarity with campaigns for local Indigenous rights, and for a Free West Papua.

#### **2. Pitch Black**

This year's Pitch Black was far bigger - and louder - than any exercise ever before. The propaganda campaign was also strong, with huge crowds attending an exhibition hosted by ABC. Not fun to live with, but the silver lining is that it encourages more people to think seriously about where this is all taking us.

### Mparntwe/Alice Springs (Note: No IPAN Rep from Alice Springs)

*Most Events/actions in Mparntwe Alice Springs involving IPAN member organisation Alice Springs Peace Action Think Tank (ASPATT)*

#### **1. Hiroshima/Nagasaki Remembrance 2023**

- Annual Hiroshima Day Remembrance Event Aug 2023 (Joint ASPATT/ IPAN Event)
- Annual Yami Memorial Address, Aug 2023 (Joint ASPATT/ IPAN Event) – guest speakers Alison and Richard Broinowski, 50+ in attendance

#### **2. Ceasefire Now' Projections**

- Locals involved in creating 'Ceasefire Now' projections in various public places around Mparntwe/Alice Springs, - supporting national campaign by Save the Children) December 2023

#### **3. Anzac Eve Lament**

- ANZAC Eve Annual Service of Lament and Prayer, April 2024, Joint event ASPATT/Uniting Church) Around 30 people in attendance, including significant number of members from the Sikh community

#### **4. 'Email your MP' Campaign re Australian Naval Nuclear Power Safety Bill 2023**

- Local support provided for the IPAN 'Email your MP Campaign' regarding the Australian Naval Nuclear Power Safety Bill 2023, which urged people to write to their MP expressing that it is absolutely critical that we do not allow US and UK nuclear submarine high-level waste to be housed, stored or dumped in Australia.

## **Tasmania (Rep: Peter Jones)**

*IPAN consists of really only three groups in Tasmania; Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF), Medical Association for Prevention of War (MAPW) and the Quaker Peace and Justice Committee.*

#### **1. Hiroshima Day Vigil**

These groups come together once a year for a Hiroshima Day vigil which is well attended. Attempts to form an anti-AUKUS group have tended to fail with lack of support, apart from letter writing and activity within ALP branches.