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**No 91**

**May, 2024**

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2024- Sat 25th May

## **IPAN Activities**

## **URGENT Protest**

**Stop Bill, which would allow US and UK nuclear sub waste being dumped on Australia, being passed by parliament.**

Details and letter to send to Labor MP's and Senators [HERE](#)



## **Charting our Own Course: Moving towards an Independent Nuclear Free and Peaceful Future**

The conference will host a range of expert Australian and international speakers. Themes for the conference presentations and discussion:

- **AUKUS - alternatives to \$368 billion, dangers of nuclear waste, implications for Australian security, etc**
- **Campaign around Palestine and connections with broader peace movement**
- **Regional peace initiatives in Asia Pacific**
- **Environmental consequences of arms buildup**
- **Threats of nuclear war**
- **More independent and genuine defence policy for Australia**
- **How do we build a broader and active movement for independence and peace**

To register your interest in attending and/or assisting with preparations

Please go to [www.ipan.org.au](http://www.ipan.org.au) or email [ipan.australia@gmail.com](mailto:ipan.australia@gmail.com)

## **AUKUS Concern**

Send IPAN's OPEN Letter to your MP/Senator [HERE](#)

## **New Instagram account for IPAN**

Recently an Instagram account was set up for IPAN

This provides another opportunity for IPAN's message to reach a different audience – with Instagram being widely used by young people in particular, a demographic that we need to connect with in a greater way

If you have an Instagram account, please 'follow' IPAN

If you don't have one - please consider creating one. It is another way we can build connections and further the peace movement.

If you have any questions about how to set up or use Instagram – please contact Jonathan Pilbrow, IPAN via

[ipan.alicesprings@gmail.com](mailto:ipan.alicesprings@gmail.com)

<https://www.instagram.com/stories/ipanaustralia/>

## **IPAN Rep attends Republic of Colombia Congress on Neutrality**

- a Strategy for Global Stabilisation. Bogota, Colombia April 4<sup>th</sup>-7<sup>th</sup> 2024.

### **Implications for Australia**



Colombian Congress Building in which the Neutrality Congress was held.

Report on the Congress [HERE](#)

Bevan Ramsden (IPAN Rep's) Speech at the Congress [HERE](#)

## **Australia-wide Activities**

### **Palestine-Gaza**

**University student on five Australian campuses protest and set up encampments in opposition to Israeli genocide in Gaza**



Sydney University students protesting Gaza Genocide

### **Scholasticide in Gaza**

Israel has also destroyed every university in Gaza, in addition to killing at least 5,479 students, 261 teachers and 95 university professors,



according to the UN, which has condemned Israel's actions as "scholasticide".

With acknowledgement to Pearls & Irritations, 5th May, 2024

## **Israel's war machine, Australian Universities, and why students are protesting**

By Helen McCue

*Australian university students are setting up encampments in universities across Australia. They are not only calling for an end to the war on Gaza and freedom for Palestinians, they are calling for key changes needed in Australian universities' relationships with Israel, including divestments in weapons research and development and sales and the cessation of links to Israeli Universities involved in the Israeli military complex.*

### **READ ON**



ANU Students encampment in solidarity with Palestinians and opposing the Israeli genocide in Gaza

With acknowledgement to Pearls & Irritations, April 29, 2024

## **Australia is a silent partner in atrocity in Gaza and the West Bank**

By Alison Broinowski, Margaret Reynolds and Mary Kostakidis

*On 27 February, we wrote to the International Court of Justice (ICJ) expressing concern that Australia had failed to fulfil its obligation under the Genocide Convention (1948) to prevent any action that further risks the survival of the Palestinian people. That failure continues.*

We copied our letter to Judge Hilary Charlesworth at the ICJ. We also sent it to Prime Minister Albanese, and other Ministers, pointing out that their inaction could make Australia complicit in the genocide whose plausibility the ICJ identified on 26 February. We documented widespread non-government sector advocacy in Australia for action in response to statements from the ICJ and the UNHCR.

**READ ON**



## Darwin- Supporting the Freedom Flotilla

-by Diana Rickard

Organised by Justin, Billee (taking photos) and Suki. Close to 20 people taking part. Last Friday outside Luke Gosling's office. The door was locked. No-one entered and left while we were there. There was a small police presence but all smiles when I asked them to join us. The ABC was present.

Lots of honks from the road, workers from other shopfronts supporting freedom and ceasefire for Gaza and no aggro at all that I can recall.



Banners on display as marchers approached. Just Peace QLD and Labor Friends of Palestine.

## May Day 2024 Brisbane- Just Peace events

Brisbane Just Peace QLD is a regular supporter of the May Day celebrations, which these days involve a one-hour march of twenty of more unions to the RNA Showgrounds. This is followed by general solidarity mingling with fellow union members and their families.

The extraordinary change in the marchers this year in contrast to previous events was the clear support for Palestine. This as evidenced by the scores of Palestinian flags waving from amongst most unions' groups of marchers.

There was also a larger than usual contingent of police who had been instructed to forbid Showground entry to pro-Palestine supporters unless they belong to a union. There appeared to be no confrontation of any kind except some booing of the Premier of Queensland, Steven Miles, from pro-Palestinian supporters, presumably because of this State's support of weapons manufacturers whose products are sold to Israel.

## **Sydney Anti-AUKUS Coalition (SAAC)**

**Leaflet for distributing at Pro-Palestinian Rallies & to spectators**

### **PINE GAP TARGETS GAZA**



Pine Gap near Alice Springs in Central Australia is a spy station and a military planning and targeting base. It controls satellites which can monitor the Gaza Strip and surrounding areas, gathering intelligence useful to Israel's military.

DOWNLOAD LEAFLET [HERE](#)

### **End University of Queensland's Ties to Weapons Manufacturers - PETITION**



Concerned students of the University of Queensland (UQ) call for an **end to the institution's associations with weapons manufacturers** like Thales, Lockheed Martin, BAE Systems, and Boeing Defence. It urges **transparency, divestment from the arms industry, and reallocation of resources towards peace initiatives**. Students emphasise the need for UQ to uphold its values of peace, social responsibility, and ethical research.

**[SIGN HERE](#)**

## **WA May Day**



**Stop AUKUS WA, Nuclear Free WA and IPAN WA** joined the May Day march in Fremantle on 5 May to call for safe jobs, no nuke subs, peace and in solidarity with the large Free Palestine contingent demanding Australia stop arming and supplying intel to Israel and our Universities demilitarise and cut ties with weapons companies.

**[AUKUS & Nuclear Subs](#)**

## **Bill before parliament will allow UK and US weapons-grade uranium to be dumped and disposed of in Australia**

Minister Marles has a Bill before Parliament to establish a dedicated regulator for military radioactive waste arising from AUKUS – it is deeply flawed legislation but a particular concern is that it would permit Australia hosting UK and US naval nuclear waste – including waste from six decades of their nuclear submarine programs.

For background READ the comprehensive submission by the ACF [HERE](#)

Article in The Guardian [HERE](#)

Additional article [HERE](#)



## **Successful Port Adelaide Public Meeting against AUKUS nuclear reactor submarines**

On Saturday 20 April, a very successful public meeting was held in Semaphore to oppose the AUKUS nuclear reactor submarines being built in Port Adelaide. The online media, InDaily, gave quite a reasonable report of this meeting. Excellent speeches were given by Rex Patrick, Senator David Shoebridge, Al Rannie, Amanda Ruler and David Noonan.

SA Greens MLC Tammy Franks called for the creation of an anti-AUKUS coalition at a weekend meeting in Semaphore, while other speakers were worried about provoking China.

Former SA senator Rex Patrick said he opposes AUKUS because of a loss of sovereignty to the U.S. Photo: Charlie Gilchrist/InDaily

More than 100 people attended Saturday's meeting, with Franks joined by former South Australian senator and submariner Rex Patrick and Greens senator David Shoebridge.

Other speakers included UniSA business school Adjunct Research Professor Al Rannie, environmental campaigner David Noonan and Dr Amanda Ruler from Medical Professionals for Prevention of War.

The meeting was called to discuss the AUKUS alliance between Australia, the United States and United Kingdom, and its centrepiece agreement for nuclear-powered submarines to be obtained by Australia and eventually built at Osborne in Adelaide.



ABC News, 4th April, 2024

## **Australia's AUKUS submarines could be used to fight China in war over Taiwan, US official says**

- **In short:** The US deputy secretary of state has suggested Australia's AUKUS submarines could be used in a war with China over Taiwan
- Kurt Campbell said AUKUS submarines could be used to deliver "conventional ordinance" in the Taiwan Strait
- **What's next?** Australia is preparing for regular rotations of US submarines in Western Australia

### **READ ON**

With acknowledgement to Crikey, 29<sup>th</sup> April, 2024

## **Pacific elder excoriates Australia on AUKUS panel with Bob Carr**

*'In all my years of politics I have never seen anything so brazen and disrespectful.'*

Report by Dr Wanning Sun

While Carr clearly won the most colourful speech prize, the third speaker, Enele Sopoaga, Tuvalu's former prime minister, delivered an equally devastating critique of AUKUS — something that's rarely

heard by the Australian public.

Sopoaga was prime minister of Tuvalu from 2013 to 2019. Speaking not on behalf of his nation's current government but as a representative of the Pacific Elders' Voice — a group of former Pacific Leaders - Sopoaga argued that the countries involved in the AUKUS pact had failed to consult Pacific nations. Quoting an AUKUS statement which said the pact was about “expanding our individual and collective undersea presence in the Indo-Pacific” and that it “contributes to global security and stability”, Sopoaga asked, “Who is the ‘our’ in these statements?” “This is not our agreement,” he said. “It is theirs.”

Sopoaga was clearly disturbed by the prospect of nuclear-powered submarines “cruising through the waters of the Pacific Island nations without any consultation whatsoever”.

## **READ ON**

The poster features the Chinese Australian Forum logo on the left, which includes the Chinese characters '中澳論壇' and 'CHINESE AUSTRALIAN FORUM'. The main title 'WHAT IS AUKUS?' is in large red letters, with 'DISCUSSION + Q&A' below it. Two speakers are listed: Dr. Michael Green, Professor and CEO of the United States Studies Centre at the University of Sydney, and Prof. James Laurenceson, Economist and Director of the Australia-China Relations Institute at UTS. The event is scheduled for Friday 3 May 2024 from 6:30pm to 8:30pm at Charles Darwin University, Haymarket, NSW. The Charles Darwin University Australia logo is in the bottom right corner.

**Chinese Australian Forum presents:**

# WHAT IS AUKUS ?

**DISCUSSION + Q&A**

**DR. MICHAEL GREEN**  
Professor and CEO,  
United States Studies Centre,  
University of Sydney

**PROF. JAMES LAURENCESON**  
Economist and Director,  
Australia-China Relations Institute,  
UTS

Friday 3 May 2024 6:30pm-8:30pm Charles Darwin University, Haymarket, NSW

**CHARLES DARWIN UNIVERSITY AUSTRALIA**

**Chinese Australian Forum** organised a panel discussion on AUKUS on Friday 3 May 2024 at Charles Darwin University. Dr. Michael Green, Professor and CEO, United States Study Centre, University of Sydney and Professor James Laurenceson, Economist and Director, Australia-China Relations Institute, UTS were the panel speakers.

The panel and audience discussed the justifications for and drawbacks of AUKUS from various angles, including defence, transparency, economics, feasibility, sovereignty and geopolitical implications.

A **survey** was taken from the 110 attendees after the panel discussion and 67 attendees responded to the survey. Nearly everyone in the audience found the panel discussion informative. **68% of those who responded to the survey indicated that they are against Australia's acquisition of nuclear-powered submarines**, 17% indicated that they support Australia's acquisition of nuclear submarines and 15% remain undecided.

Representatives from Mobilise against AUKUS and War distributed their Anti-AUKUS leaflet "No one wants a war".

## **Opposition to Anti-Protest Laws**

### **SA PROTECT PROTEST RALLY, 4pm 16th MAY 2024, Parliament House Steps**

This the anniversary of Parliament enacting the most draconian anti-protest laws in Australia, that passed in record time and without

community consultation despite our collective opposition at the time. They remain today as a chilling threat to protest.

protectprotestSA are holding a Rally to start a campaign calling on the SA Government to repeal the anti-protest laws. The Rally will be followed by an optional march and sit-down, for which a Notice of Public Assembly has been submitted to police. They have raised no objection and will facilitate it.

Independent and Peaceful Australia Network has been invited to:

- supporting the rally,
- co-hosting the Facebook event
- attending the rally,
- to sign off on a collective media release.

Which IPAN-SA has agreed to do.

#protectprotestSA

Organisers: Amnesty International Australia; Human Rights Law Centre, Extinction Rebellion South Australia, Students for Palestine, Australian Democracy Network and others.

**Sovereignty & Defence**



Free Julian Assange, before it's too late. Sign to STOP the USA Extradition.

[SIGN HERE](#)

[Will you Meet Your MP for Assange? Details HERE](#)

When you sign up, you'll receive everything you need: detailed templates, a step-by-step guide, support from a dedicated coordinator, and the opportunity to connect with like-minded individuals in your area. This is your chance to make a real difference. Visit your MP with a small group and show that Aussies care about free speech, free

press, human rights, and multi-award-winning publisher Julian Assange.

## Less than 3 weeks to go til extradition with no legal aid - please help

Saffrine Duggan

Orange, 6th May, 2024

In less than 3 week, Aussie citizen and father of six Dan Duggan faces extradition to the United States with no legal aid and no assets to defend himself after they were confiscated by the US Government. Dan does not even have a laptop to help prepare his case, despite facing 65 years for allegations that are not a crime in Australia and that he strongly denies.

The Duggans are now in the fight of their lives to clear Dan's name. If you can, please make a donation to help fund Dan's legal fight here: <https://chuffed.org/project/109154-dan-duggan-extradition-legal-fund>

Or help the family pay the bills and fight for justice with a donation via the link here: <https://chuffed.org/project/freedanduggan-campaign>

Alternatively, you make a direct donation via the <http://freedanduggan.org> website: <https://freedanduggan.org/help-the-cause/>

Dan has already spent more than 18 months in solitary with no local charges.

At his extradition hearing on May 24, Dan faces 65 years in a US federal prison for 12 year old allegations he strongly denies, and are not even a crime in Australia.

Dan has been a permanent resident of Australia since 2002, and an Australian citizen since 26 Jan 2012.

[SIGN Petition HERE](#)

With acknowledgement to Pearls & Irritations, May 8, 2024

## **The end of US primacy: facing Australia's existential security question**

By [Mike Gilligan](#)

*“Nothing Australia does – with or without AUKUS – will make any difference to the collective capacity to either deter or defeat China in the next decade, which is the time frame that counts. That means the only prudent choice for Australia’s military strategy is to prepare to defend ourselves from major powers such as China without American support” – Hugh White.*

It's time to talk frankly about Australia's defence. As a nation we are sleepwalking into catastrophe. Let's face it, Australian Governments deceiving their people on the nation's defence policy has been the norm for long periods.

[READ ON](#)

With acknowledgement to Pearls & Irritations, 1st May,2024

## Australia's National Defence Strategy: Where ideology trumps strategy

By Cameron Leckie

*The 'National Defence Strategy' is not a strategy. It is an ideology. An ideology that firmly ties Australia's future to that of the United States. A horrifying thought.*

Australia apparently faces the 'most complex and challenging strategic environment since the Second World War'. From the perspective of the underpinnings of Australian defence policy for many decades, that is indeed true. For Australia has progressively locked itself into a 'defence' strategy that was based on a shaky foundation; namely a foundational assumption of the ongoing global military dominance of the United States.

Events have proven this foundational assumption false.

**READ ON**

**[Other Activities](#)**





Ecopella Choir entertains at Blue Mountains Peace Picnic

## **BLUE MOUNTAINS EARTH DAY PEACE PICNIC**

An Earth Day Picnic for Peace organised by Blue Mountains Peace Collective was held on Sunday 21 April at a local Wentworth Falls park.

On a beautiful day about 50 people gathered for a teach-in and to launch a brochure “War Costs the Climate”.

Huge greenhouse gas emissions by the world’s militaries with Australia’s AUKUS partners leading polluters, how militaries emissions are not included in national emission reduction commitments and the intertwined existential threats to humanity and nature of the climate emergency and war between nuclear armed powers and more were topics of the day.

The contrast between the hundreds of billions Australia is spending on an arms race was highlighted against the shortages of funds for the urgently needed emissions reduction race and social assistance in a cost-of-living crisis.

The local Conservation Society and Unions and Community group brought stalls, food, plants and flew banners. The local Ecopella Choir entertained along with a local musician and poet. Numerous people shared relevant issues.

Copies of the brochure were taken for friends, networks and distribution. For copies download @ [www.blue-mountains-peace-collective.net](http://www.blue-mountains-peace-collective.net) or email [bluempiece@gmail.com](mailto:bluempiece@gmail.com) .

## Coming Events



**We need your financial support for this expansion program**

- A series of podcasts aimed at reaching and engaging a younger audience. Skills workshops
- Development and growth of the Patreon community
- Visual and Performing arts engagement
- A series of occasional forums (online and in-person) on pressing issues of national and international importance.
- Big Ideas in the Pub
- A 6-weeks course Greed and the lust for power in public life – What of ethics and integrity?
- An enhanced website and more effective engagement with social media
- Attitude surveys
- Formation of active groups in Sydney and elsewhere.

Please donate [HERE](#)

**MASS RALLY  
& MARCH!**

**Democracy needs protest**

**PROTECT PROTEST!**



*More info here*



**THURS 16 MAY | PARLIAMENT HOUSE STEPS**  
**4 PM | NORTH TCE**

PROTEST & SOCIAL MOVEMENTS DELIVER CIVIL & POLITICAL RIGHTS  
IN MAY 2023 THE SA PARLIAMENT RUSHED NEW ANTI-PROTEST LAWS  
WE NEED THOSE LAWS REPEALED AND CONSULTATION ON CHANGES

**STAND UP FOR YOUR RIGHT TO PROTEST**  
#protectprotestSA



## **WILPF Australia**

### **National PeaceWomen Awards 2024**

Help celebrate Australian women leading for peace

**Friday 17 May, 6 pm – 8.30 pm AEST**

**IN PERSON TICKETS SOLD OUT**

**Online – tickets remaining**

Join in the presentation of these Awards to five outstanding women who are working for peace in Australia and internationally, each of whom are leading for peace in areas that WILPF values.

#### **Attendance:**

**ONLINE – tickets available** (free) - broadcast commences from 6.20 pm AEST.

- **FOR MORE INFO AND TO BOOK:** <https://bit.ly/WILPF-PWA-2024>(or use QR Code above)

**[Read on for list of Peace Awardees for 2024](#)**



WILPF Australia presents:

## **Feminist peace in action**

*A morning with two inspiring guest speakers and more*

**Sat 18 May, 8 am for 8.45 – 12 pm AEST**

**Brisbane and Online**

WILPF Australia is honoured to invite all those in feminist peace, justice and related fields— and in the wider community—to join with us for a stimulating, thought-provoking morning that will include our two inspiring guest speakers and much more.

Further Details [HERE](#)

**Help WILPF challenge militarism and promote peace**



**—and win two fab new books on feminist peace in Australia!**



Drawn 19 May



## **WILPF Australia Fundraising for Peace**

The proceeds of this raffle will go towards engaging a communications professional to implement a focused communications campaign to help CHALLENGE MILITARISM AND PROMOTE PEACE through more effective engagement with media channels.

Further Details [HERE](#)

PROUDLY INVITE YOU TO THE

# UN PEACEKEEPERS MARCH AND CEREMONY 2024

SAT 25 MAY | 9 - 11 AM AEST  
MEET AT KING GEORGE SQUARE (BRISBANE)  
MARCH TO ANZAC SQUARE

We are honoured to extend an invitation to you to commemorate our annual United Nations Peacekeepers Ceremony and Peoples March – a celebration and remembrance of 77 years of valiant service and sacrifice by Australian Peacekeepers. This ceremony will celebrate the more than 65,000 Australians who have served in peacekeeping operations and remember the peacekeepers who never returned home or returned forever affected.



[CLICK TO RSVP](#)

[ENQUIRY:UNAAQPSPROGRAM@GMAIL.COM](mailto:UNAAQPSPROGRAM@GMAIL.COM)

## RAPID PUBLIC RESPONSE

In the event of an imminent major military conflict, military invasion or war actually breaking out, IPAN organisations in the following states, urge everyone to rally :

**In Melbourne**, outside the State Library in Swanston St, Melbourne, from 5pm that evening- bring banners and placards - family and friends

**In Adelaide**, on Parliament Steps at 4.30 pm that evening – bring banners and placards – family and friends.

**In Newcastle**, at the Clocktower, Hamilton, 4.30pm that evening- bring banners and placards and tell family and friends

**In Canberra**, on the median strip at the corner of London Circuit and Northbourne Ave.

**In Brisbane**, at King George Square, 5 pm

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Voice is produced and edited by the Media Group of the IPAN co-ordinating committee. It is produced for IPAN affiliates to:

- \*provide a medium for communication of their campaigns and activities*
- \*provide a medium for discussion of issues central to IPAN's objectives*
- \*provide affiliates with details of co-ordinating committee activities, media releases, lobbying activities and other actions taken on behalf of IPAN*
- \* provide information on issues/events relating to IPAN's objectives*

Contributions to Voice, in information or comment, should be emailed to : [ipan.australia@gmail.com](mailto:ipan.australia@gmail.com) and limited, if possible to 200 words.

The Media Group takes editorial responsibility for choice of content and is responsible to the IPAN co-ordinating committee. **Disclaimer:** Voice publishes a range of articles which reflect the broad movement for an independent and peaceful Australia but not all articles will necessarily reflect IPAN's position."

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