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Voice No 22 – Nov 2018

For the Independent & Peaceful Australia Network

www.ipan.org.au

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North and South Korea agree to disarm border and re-establish road and rail links



North and South Korea have agreed to reconnect road and railway links between the two countries, following talks in Panmunjom.

The two Koreas have agreed to begin reconnecting rail and road links, another step in an improving relationship in spite of US concerns that the rapid North-South thaw could undermine efforts to press North Korea to give up its nuclear weapons. They also agreed to discuss late this month a plan to pursue a bid to co-host the 2032 Olympic Games, and to explore in November ways to restart webcam reunions and video exchanges for families separated by the Korean War. Military officials from both sides are to meet "in the near future" to craft follow-on steps to a military pact struck at last month's summit.

That accord includes the reinstatement of a joint military commission, the halting of military exercises, a no-fly zone near their border and the gradual removal of landmines and guard posts within the Demilitarised Zone (DMZ)

Australia-PNG naval base 'bulldozed through' without local input, former Manus MP says



Prime Minister Scott Morrison announced the agreement on Thursday, struck between the two nations amid rising anxiety about China's influence in the Pacific region.

But former Manus MP Ronnie Knight said the new agreement lacked detail.

"There was no discussion with any of the locals, it has just been bulldozed through again and that is what makes people cross," he told the ABC's Pacific Beat program. "There is a lot of questions to be answered. First of all, is it going to be a PNG base run on behalf of the Australians, or with the Australians? If that is the case, that is fine.

"If it is going to be an Australian base run by itself, we are now having a foreign base on our soil and we need to know the bits and pieces that go with it.

"Are we going to allow them to be on our sovereign soil and just do their own thing? Or do we have to answer questions like are they going to be subject to PNG laws?"

Michael Shoebridge, the director of defence and strategy at the Australian Strategic Policy Institute, said the base could see a fairly frequent Australian presence, but could also serve as a regional training facility for the Pacific's maritime forces.

"I think we should really be thinking about this as a forward operating base. It's about 1,500 kilometres further north than other Australian bases, whether that's Darwin or Cairns," he said.

Okinawans reject military bases and war !

Awarded Peace Prize



At the election for the governor of Okinawa on September, 30th, Tamaki Denny, the candidate opposing the construction of a new US Marine base at Henoko, Nago City won a land-slide victory over

the pro-base candidate backed by the Prime Minister Abe, and his government.

The All Okinawa Coalition against the new construction of Henoko Base won the Sean MacBride Peace Prize in 2017 for its commitment to win the closure of the Futenma Marine Air Base and for its unremitting non-violent opposition to the construction of a massive new base in Henoko.

Making the World Safe for Big Oil

An Armistice Day contribution by Humphrey McQueen

The guns fell silent on the Western Front at the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month while they continued to blaze on the Eastern Front, in the Far East and – above all – throughout the Middle East as they still do.

Revolution in Berlin, and mutinous troops everywhere, cornered the Allies into offering terms less than unconditional surrender.

The German leadership played on the Allies's fear that the Second Reich would go the way of Czarist Russia and turn Bolshevik.

Having failed in July-August 1914 to block an inter-Imperialist war with the promised general strike, Europe's working people imposed a cease-fire.

The 'Peace' Treaty signed at Versailles in July 1919 did not usher in 'peace'.

The Reparations Clauses were war by other means, as von Clausewitz might have put it.

The \$US33 billion debt laid a basis for the inflation of 1923 and its long-term effects on German politics towards the triumph of Nazism in 1933.

READ ON

Behind the Australia-Israel Diplomacy: The US-led Western Alliance & Israel; Implications for Australia

contributed by Richard Stone, Nov.2018

Introduction:

A recent media release about an Israeli-based company with offices in Perth, West Australia, has thrown a little light upon compliant diplomacy between Canberra and Tel Aviv.

The diplomacy, however, has huge implications for Australian people.

The media release, primarily concerned with defence and security considerations, has revealed the US bigger-picture military planning. It has drawn Australia into a dangerous position where Washington-formulated regional foreign policy has included provision for real-war scenarios.....

Conclusions:

In conclusion, Israel would appear to have amassed considerable influence within Australian decision-making circles. It has formed part of a massive wave of US-led militarism sweeping the Asia-Pacific region; the endless streams of military exercises taking place have planning provision for real-war scenarios which include computer simulations for invasion and counter-insurgency. Many include Australian military facilities with the rotation of US troops and joint inter-operability.

The media release about Sky and Space Global has also drawn attention to the likelihood of Australian involvement in future wars in the Middle East, following ADF personnel in both Iraq and Syria. The closeness of Australia-Israel diplomacy as shown by the Sky and Space Global media release, has also alienated Australia from much of the Arab world and sidelined the centrality of the Palestinian issue when dealing with the Middle East.

Progressive-minded Australian people are rightly concerned about such developments. Our safety and security remain at stake.

We require an independent foreign policy to avoid Australia being drawn into wars fought in the name of 'US interests', together with immediate full diplomatic recognition of the State of Palestine as defined by United Nations resolutions.

For complete article **READ ON**



11th Silent March against Aboriginal deaths in Custody

contributed by Raul Bassi

What a great day! The 11th Silent March has been probably the best so far. First, for its composition and numbers, five families, including children, of Aboriginal Deaths in Custody, David Gundy (1989), TJ Hickey (2004), Mark Mason (2010) Eric Whittaker (2017) and Nathan Reynolds (2018) were present and strong group of supporters. Second, for the complexity of the organisation, ferry to Manly, march on Corso to Manly beach, went to Tony Abbot office and finishing back to the Corso. Third, for its achievements, depart from Circular Quay with all the posters of the Deaths in Custody and arrive to Manly, keep the Aboriginal flag at the front of the ferry all the way, more than 700 leaflets, explaining what an Aboriginal

Death in Custody was, were distributed. A speech denouncing Tony Abbott for his role in the past and the “new given as envoy for the PM to connect with Aboriginal people”, all in a front of a market full of stall holders and public. And finally, a closing with a good speech from the new ISJA spokesperson, a family initiated chants, and the invitation to join ISJA to future actions. Thank you very much for everyone who has made this event so successful. We hope to see you in the next one! And if you didn’t come to this one, we welcome you to the next one

New Cold War: Just how independent can Australia be ?

With acknowledgement to Pearls and Irritations for this article by
Mack Williams

As renewed discussion grows pace in Australia about being less dependent on the United States in any Cold War against China how realistic is that option? For one thing we would need to loosen some of the linkages which have embedded us so deeply into the US defence machine through the US Indo Pacific Command (INDOPACOM).

.....

But how realistic will it to be for an Australian Government to implement a foreign and defence policy more independent of the United States? As a number of commentators have pointed out in recent years, in this blog and elsewhere, the embedding arrangements which have been established with the old and new PACOM have placed two senior ADF officers and a senior Defence Intelligence official in very important positions in the key US military

command covering Asia, the Indian Ocean and Pacific – and the one which would be responsible for managing any US military strategy against China.

.....

As the former PACOM Commander, Admiral Harry Harris, himself detailed in a speech to the Lowy Institute :

Our alliance is so important that Australian Army Major General Roger Noble is the Deputy Commanding General for Operations at U.S. Army Pacific..... That's right; an Aussie General Officer is a fully integrated partner at the top of one of my service component commands.

I'd also be remiss if I didn't also mention Australian Navy Commodore Phil Champion, our PACOM deputy J-5 – and Mr. Richard Gray, the Deputy Director for Intelligence; both of them represent their country and our alliance very well.

This confirmed publicly that these officers are under US command – an extremely important fact with direct national security implications which the Department of Defence failed to communicate to the Australian people at the time of Major General Burr's earlier appointment to a key position in PACOM.

For complete article **[READ ON](#)**

Australia's biggest defence mistake that will cost us billions



Defence Industry Minister Christopher Pyne, former prime minister Malcolm Turnbull and Defence Minister Marise Payne smile and nod in front of an F-35 jet. Picture: Tracey NearmySource:AAP

With acknowledgement to News.com.Oct. 23 2018:

AUSTRALIA has been locked into a “dud deal” by the US, which experts predict will put taxpayers billions of dollars out of pocket and leave the nation’s security dangerously exposed.

The F-35 stealth fighter jet program is the most expensive defence project in global history.

The Australian Federal Government has committed to spending \$17 billion on 72 jets due to be built in the US and delivered by 2035.

It has, so far, failed to meet many of its development targets and continues to rack up additional costs with each problem it encounters.

The fighter jets cost a staggering \$140 million each and have been plagued by computer system failures, software delays and breakdowns.

University of NSW defence technology expert Jai Galliot said the jets were fast becoming outdated due to the delays.

To put the sheer size of the F-35 fighter project into perspective, the program's budget blowout alone is the equivalent of three National Broadband Networks.

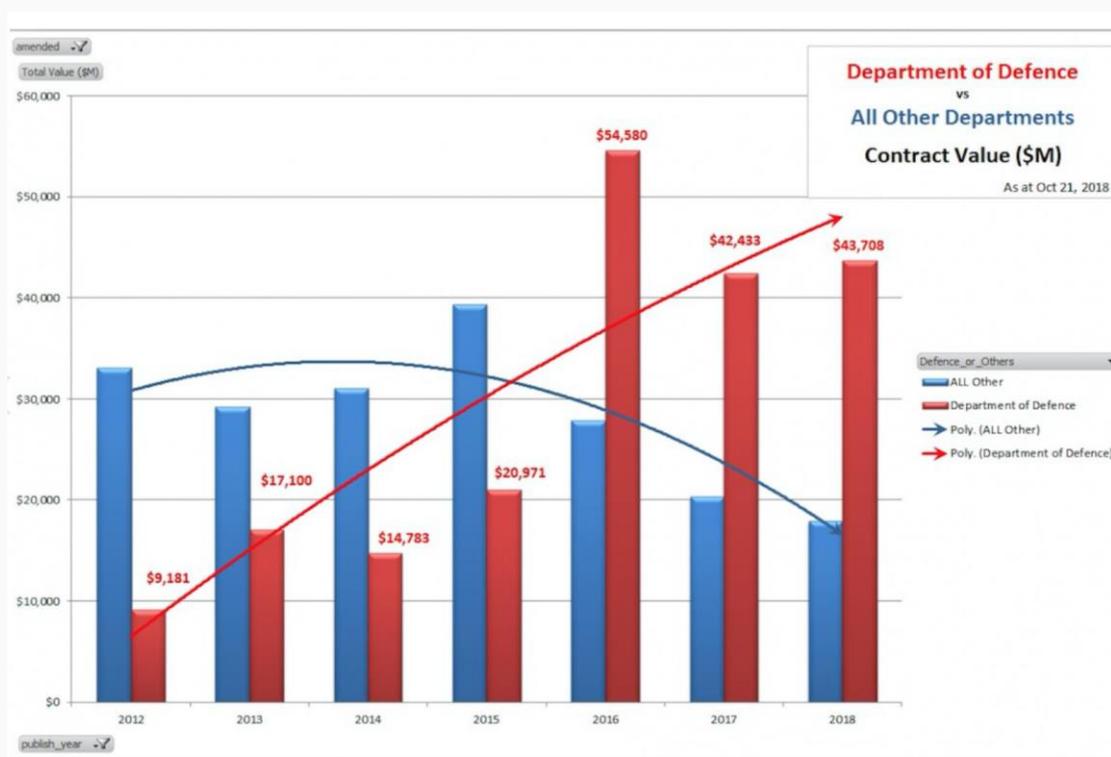
It is 77 times more expensive than the new Royal Adelaide Hospital, which opened last month.

Dr Galliot said Australia's commitment to the F-35 jet program was a strategic one, designed to appease our US allies.

Recently, the US has been critical of Australia's economic ties with China, and this deal was a way for the government to strengthen relations.

"There was too much to lose between Australia and the US; it wouldn't have looked good for us to say no," he said.

Huge procurement spending by Defence favours global arms manufacturers who pay little or no tax



Defence spending used to account for little more than a fifth of government spending on procurement. Just seven years ago. Now it accounts for almost three-quarters of government spending. Global weapons manufacturers, most of who pay little or no tax are the big winners. And now the government is muzzling contract information, information about how it is spending its taxpayers' money. The excuse? "National security".

Michaelwest.com.au highlighted the dramatic escalation in defence spending early last month in a series of reports which found a rise in

contracts with no tender contracts (\$80 billion worth of “amended contracts” over recent years) and also identified billions of dollars escaping Australia’s tax net due to deals struck directly with global arms manufacturers offshore (rather than with their Australian subsidiaries).

The blow-out in Defence has gained attention in mainstream media over the past week as the Government has sought to block the publication of details about a \$1.3 billion defence contract. Labor then expressed concerns about the dearth of parliamentary checks and balances.

“Last month, key sections of an Australian National Audit Office report were blocked from publication on national security grounds, keeping from the public details of the Defence Department’s contract with French-owned company Thales Australia for the purchase of 1100 Hawkei combat vehicles,” said a story in the AFR.

Australia sells arms to Saudi Arabia facilitating war crimes and human rights abuses in Yemen



Kellie Tranter(:Lawyer & human rights activist):

"Documents recently produced under Freedom of Information laws confirm that in the two years from 1 January 2016 to 31 December 2017 sixteen military licences were granted for the export of military equipment from Australia to Saudi Arabia. Until now it was widely believed that only four military licences were issued."

See: <http://kellietranter.com/2018/03/are-australias-military-exports-to-saudi-arabia-legal/>

The Saudi-led war on Yemen has caused the world's worst humanitarian crisis. 60% of Yemenis are food insecure; 16 million people lack access to clean water. **Sign the petition to demand that Australia stop dealing weapons to the Saudis!**

50 years since the My Lai Massacre - Never Again ?



(Left) My Lai Massacre



(Right) Genetic defect caused by Agent Orange

Orange

With acknowledgement to Countercurrents:

50 years ago today, on March 16, 1968, a company of green, battle-untested US Army combat soldiers from the American Division, swept into the un-defended Vietnamese hamlet of My Lai, rounded up the 500+ unarmed women, children, babies and old men, and efficiently executed almost all of them in cold blood, Nazi-style. No weapons or Viet Cong soldiers were found in the village. The entire killing operation took only 4 hours....

Although there was a prolonged attempt to cover-up the operation (which involved a young up-and-coming US Army Major named Colin Powell), those who participated in the massacre did not deny the details of the slaughter when the case came to trial two years later. ...

According to many of the soldiers, Medina had ordered the killing of "every living thing in My Lai", which was interpreted, of course, to mean all the civilians as well as their farm animals. ...

Whilst the My Lai Massacre became public, dozens of similar village massacres by the US troops have been lost in history as has the terrible genetic deformities inflicted on the Vietnamese population by the US' use of the toxic chemical Agent Orange sprayed on the Vietnamese countryside and hamlets.

Just like the Jewish Holocaust during World War II or the dropping of the atomic bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki, the realities of the My Lai Massacre and the use of toxic chemicals such as agent orange deserve to be revisited and not forgotten in this year, the 50th Anniversary of the Mai Lai massacre, so every effort can be made to ensure none of those atrocities will ever happen again.

US Violates Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty to which it is a signatory

(Acknowledgement to Counterpunch, Sept 27 , 2018)

Extracts:

The US military practice of placing nuclear weapons in five other countries (no other nuclear power does this) is a legal and political embarrassment for US diplomacy. That's why all the governments involved refuse to "confirm or deny" the practice of "nuclear sharing" or the locations of the B61 free-fall gravity bombs in question.

Expert analysts and observers agree that the United States currently deploys 150-to-180 of these nuclear weapons at bases in Germany, Italy, The Netherlands, Turkey and Belgium. The authors of the January 2018 report "Building a Safe, Secure, and Credible NATO Nuclear Posture" take for granted the open secret that nuclear sharing is ongoing even though all six countries are signatory

parties to the Treaty on the Nonproliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT).

Article I prohibits nuclear weapon states that are parties to the NPT from sharing their weapons.

Article II, the corollary commitment, states says: “Each non-nuclear weapon State Party to the Treaty undertakes not to receive the transfer from any transferor whatsoever of nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices or of control over such weapons or explosive devices directly, or indirectly ... or otherwise acquire nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices....”

Under NATO nuclear sharing in times of war, the US would hand control of these nuclear weapons over to the non-nuclear weapon states’ pilots for use with aircraft from non-nuclear weapon states. Once the bomb is loaded aboard, once the correct Permissive Action Link code has been entered by the US soldiers guarding the weapons, and once the aircraft begins its mission, control over the respective weapon(s) has been transferred. That is the operational, technical part of what is called ‘nuclear sharing.’”

And this is in violation of the spirit if not the text of Articles I and II of the NPT.”

Pacific Island nations: 'Climate change, not war, the main security threat' in the region



Acknowledgement to Green Left Weekly and Author Pip Hinman

Samoan Prime Minister Tuilaepa Sailele Malielegaoi made an impassioned plea for the big powers in the region to stop bullying small Pacific Island nations just days before the 49th Pacific Islands Forum (PIF) was held in Nauru over September 3-6.

Tuilaepa used an address to the Lowy Institute on August 30 to condemn “strategic manipulation” of small Pacific Island nations and called for an end to the militarisation of the region, which he said is “inculcating a far-reaching sense of insecurity”.

Tuilaepa emphasised that the most pressing security issue for the Pacific is the “existential threat of climate change” and that Pacific nations need help in tackling this crisis.

Pacific Islands Forum

The forum's final communiqué, the Boe Declaration, was clear when it came to climate change. It states: "We reaffirm that climate change remains the single greatest threat to the livelihoods, security and wellbeing of the peoples of the Pacific and our commitment to progress the implementation of the Paris Agreement."

This is significant, given that having a focus on climate change action was contested, in particular by Australia.

For complete article [READ ON](#)



MAPW health professionals promoting peace

MEDIA RELEASE 8.11.18

AWM 'partnership' with Lockheed Martin must end

In the lead-up to Remembrance Day, there are renewed calls for the Australian War Memorial to dissociate itself from the arms companies that supply the repressive and murderous Saudi Arabian government.

Lockheed Martin is one of those companies. It has a new three-year deal with the Memorial which, "this year focus[ed] on initiatives commemorating the centenary of the Armistice that ended the First World War."

[READ ON](#)

News in Conversation via the National Indigenous News Service

Earlier this year, Chris Graham (publisher and editor of New Matilda) started a new podcast at his actual day job (with the National Indigenous Radio Service, where he's the general manager by day, and the NM editor by night).

So if you're interested in an alternative take on the news that makes the headlines each week, **News In Conversation** - a one hour show - is broadcast around the country every week to more than 120 stations via the National Indigenous Radio Service.

You can access **News In Conversation** anytime you want at New Matilda [here](#).

And you can listen to it on Soundcloud on demand [here](#).

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164 years Eureka Stockade Anniversary

Democratic and workers' rights under attack – the fight continues

Join us for dinner and discussion to celebrate the 164th anniversary of the Eureka Rebellion
and the continuing struggle for a just, democratic, and sovereign Australia

Presentation of the annual “**Spirit of Eureka Award**” to the **CFMMEU Construction Division** for defending workers' rights and the Eureka flag

Thursday 29 November 2018

MUA Auditorium

46-54 Ireland Street, West Melbourne
(3-minute walk from North Melbourne Station)

Doors Open 6.00pm

Dinner

Buffet style meal; vegetarian available

\$20 waged, \$10 unwaged/concession

Pay at the door (cash only)

Beer, wine, soft drink - purchase from the bar

Speakers Start 7.00pm

Speakers

MC: Corinne Grant

Lawyer, comedian

Lidia Thorpe

Gunnai-Gunditjmara woman,
MLA Victorian Parlt.

Dave Noonan

National Secretary,
CFMMEU Construction & General

Greg Barns

Democratic and civil rights lawyer

For catering purposes, dinner bookings are essential!

Please book as early as possible. Table bookings (10ppl) available.

Booking contact: soedinner@protonmail.com or

call or text: 0476 234 232 (Dirk) or 0417 456 001 (Shirley)

Organised by Spirit of Eureka (Victoria)
Email: spiritofeurekavic3@gmail.com
www.spiritofeureka.org and [facebook.com/spiritofeureka](https://www.facebook.com/spiritofeureka)





Armistice Day November 11th -Honour the Dead by Ending War

Members of Marrickville Peace Group will be attending the 'official' Remembrance Day ceremony at the War Memorial in Hyde Park, Sydney on 11th November.

Whilst there, the group will display the slogan "**Honour the War Dead by Ending War!**" and have a flyer with a message of peace ready for distribution. For details: Nick Deane :0420 526 929

New Zealanders remember Armistice Day on Nov 11th with noise and joy for Peace

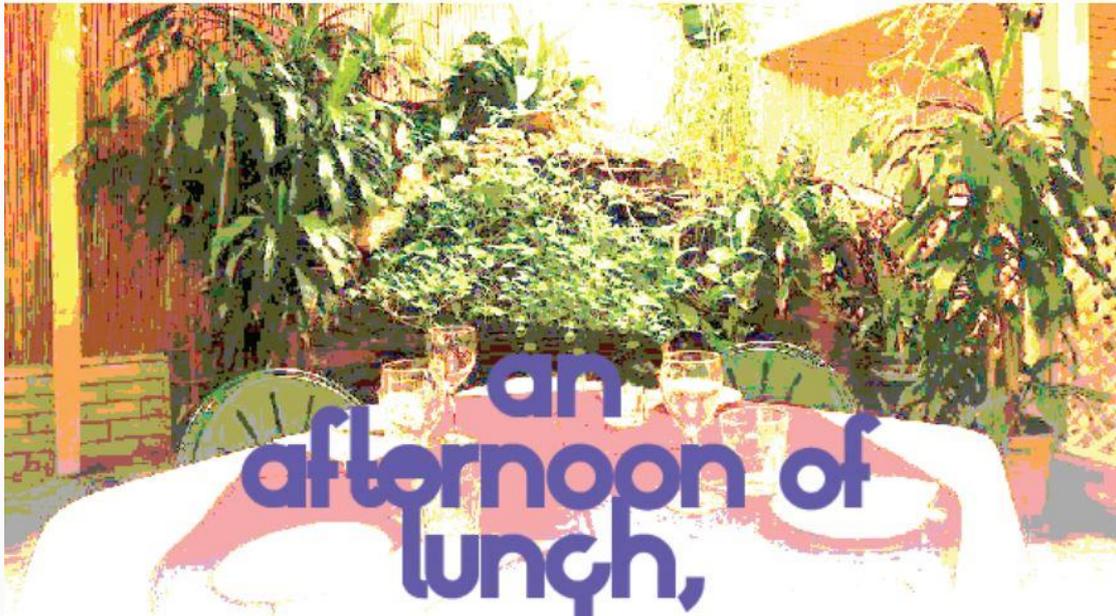
SBS News: 10th Nov, 2018:

Solemn silence will give way to raucous joy as New Zealand marks the centenary of the end of the First World War. Like counterparts around the world, Kiwis will commemorate with two minutes of

silence, at 11am (NZDT) on Sunday, a century since peace on the Western Front.

But a campaign calling for a "roaring chorus" to end the quiet and replicate celebrations when the war finished has spread around the country, with a flurry of boisterous events planned for the big moment. So two minutes after 11am on Sunday, chimes in Wellington will kick off cheers around the country.

Tens of thousands are expected to set off whatever horns and noise-makers they can bring along to commemoration events, while church bells throughout the nation will ring for 45 minutes. Fire trucks and police will sound their sirens, ships will sound their horns and even the country's trains will take part.



an
afternoon of
lunch,
meeting
& melody

Sunday, 2nd Dec.'18

11am-3pm

West End Garden

COST \$30 (waged)
\$25 (unwaged)

music
speaker (surprise)
Just Peace AGM

Includes sumptuous Chinese
Thai and Vietnamese dishes

Drinks from the Bar

RSVP before 30/11/18

Bookings:
<https://www.trybooking.com/441423>



JUST PEACE QUEENSLAND INC.
PO Box 573 Coorparoo, QLD 4151
Email: justpeaceqld@gmail.com
[facebook.com/JustPeaceQLD](https://www.facebook.com/JustPeaceQLD)

COMING EVENTS SUMMARY:

Brisbane:

Book launch on the 100th anniversary of the armistice for the 'War to end all wars'. Launch of "Imagining Peace" by Dawn Joyce

Saturday, 10 November 2018, 5:30 for 6pm. Launched by Michael Berkman, MP at Quaker Meeting House, 10 Hampson Street, Kelvin Grove, (345 Bus nearby) Kelvin Grove, QLD

Free event, with music, refreshments and book signings

RSVP to Margid: P: 0419 724 561 or margidbb41@gmail.com

Melbourne: A World at Peace with Itself: Elusive dream or achievable

goal ? -Sunday 11 November, 2018 2-5.15 pm ; *Dr Anne Elvey, Prof Allan*

Patience, Emeritus Prof Marilyn Lake, Mr Mohamed Mohideen at the Islamic Council of Victoria, 372 Spencer St, West Melbourne; Bookings:

www.trybooking.com/YJFR . Enquiries: J.Camilleri@latrobe.edu.au

Mullumbimby: Stories in the Club- All kinds of Strength: Sunday 11th

November: 4-5.30pm, Mullumbimby Ex-Services Club, 58 Daly St. Info:

Jenni 0403 328 643

Melbourne: MAPW (Vic) Dinner Meeting: Tuesday November, 13th, 6.30pm

at the Courthouse Hotel North Melbourne. Dinner \$35; RSVP to Dr Peter

Wigg (drpeterwigg@gmail.com)

Melbourne: IPAN (Vic) meeting: **Wednesday** 14th November , 6pm at

Trade Hall, Level 4, (rear building). Discussion: **Don't Buy Into War**

Campaign and the wide ranging **People's (Community) Inquiry** into

whether the current military spending and Australia's defence policies are in

the best interests of the Australian people and global peace. Plus the 2019

IPAN National Conference in Darwin. (Enquiries: 0417456001)

Newcastle: 26th Annual Reg Flag Dinner: Saturday 24th November, 2018,

7pm, Carrington Bowling Club ,1c Cowper St., Carrington: Guest Speaker:

Alex Edney-Browne (Melbourne University) "**The Militarisation of Education - great danger ahead**". Organised by Hunter Broad Left.(email hunterbroadleft@gmail.com or phone 0249 623 432

Brisbane: AVP (Alternatives to Violence) Basic Workshop: Saturday 24 & Sunday 25 November- 8.45am-5.0pm, **For further information:** ring 0421 942 406 or 0422 434 336.

at Lotus Place, 46 Cleveland St, Stones Corner.

Melbourne: 164 years Eureka Stockade Anniversary: Democratic and workers' rights under attack- the fight continues: Thursday 29th November, Starting 6pm with dinner. MUA Auditorium, 46-54 Ireland St, West Melbourne. Speakers: MC: Corinne Grant, Dave Noonan, Greg Barnes. Contact : 0417 456 001. Organised by Spirit of Eureka (Vic).

Brisbane & Inter-state: The **2018 Annual General Meeting of IPAN** will be held online (via Zoom conference) and in Brisbane at 4pm (AEDT) on 25th November, 2018. **Each affiliated organisation is entitled to attend and, if financial for the 2018-19 year, is entitled to vote at the AGM.**

Associate members, financial for the 2018-19 year, are entitled to attend the AGM and to speak at the meeting but are not entitled to a vote.

A Zoom teleconferencing facility will be provided to enable interstate or regional Affiliates and Associates to attend the AGM without having to be physically present at the meeting place. You will need to download the Zoom program prior to the meeting.

Brisbane: Just Peace (Qld) AGM: Sunday 2nd December, 11am-30m including lunch, meeting and melody, West End Garden. RSVP: before 30/11/18 Bookings: <https://www.trybooking.com/441423>

For more events see the IPAN website; www.ipan.org.au

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 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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