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US- China Naval clash narrowly averted when US Destroyer attempted to sail within Chinese-claimed Territorial waters



Chinese Naval Vessel moves to block US Destroyer US Decatur sailing in Chinese-claimed territorial zone - collision barely averted

The Pentagon has accused the Chinese ship of conducting an "unsafe and unprofessional manoeuvre" near USS Decatur as it sailed near Gaven Reefs, which are claimed by Beijing.

China's defence ministry spokesperson Wu Qian said on Tuesday that China respects and protects other countries' right to freedom of navigation and overflight in the South China Sea, but "resolutely opposes" other countries' moves to challenge China's sovereignty and security in the name of "freedom of navigation".

In a statement, Defence Minister Christopher Pyne described the reports as "concerning".

"We would view any use of intimidation or aggressive tactics as destabilising and potentially dangerous," Mr Pyne said.

Prime Minister Scott Morrison said Australia would strive to provide a calming influence in the region.

"Australia will continue to conduct itself around these issues in a very modest, and very constructive way ... in a way that would seek to deescalate any issues, rather than escalate," he told reporters in Perth.

Shadow Foreign Minister Penny Wong said Labor supported the Government's stance.

RICHARD WOOLCOTT. Over reaction in the South China Sea when US influence is waning and Chinese influence is rising

Posted on 4 October 2018 - Pearls and Irritations

The present and recent Australian Governments seem to have become victims of their own China and Russia phobias.

In a situation in which China is rising to – or has already attained – superpower status ; and in which the United States is losing influence, but is, as yet, unwilling to accept this great change in the global situation, the Australian Government should accept that China is simply demonstrating its rightful place on the world stage.

The Australian Government is reported in the media today as criticising China for adopting " aggressive tactics " and for a Chinese destroyer launching an " unsafe " challenge to a US warship in the South China Sea. This implies that, while the Australian Government has no problem if the US behaves in this way, we regard it as dangerous, if a Chinese naval ship behaves in the same manner. Such an approach is of course illogical !

(Richard Woolcott is a former head of the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade)

Fanning the flames of the new Cold War

- Richard Stone

The rapid rise of China as a regional economic powerhouse has now, however, drawn the ROK closer to Beijing than Washington. The fact, China is also the biggest trading partner of the DPRK which has created a triangular diplomatic relationship of shared, mutually beneficial common interests, with trade and other political considerations. The US have assessed the development as a major threat to traditional hegemonic positions.

It is, therefore, not surprising to note a major presidential statement from the Trump administration in the US was issued recently by vice-president Mike Pence, in which it was stated, 'the US is not simply engaged in a trade war with China; it is much bigger and broader than that', also included reference to Cold War positions. (2) A series of eight dot-points from the official media release was headed by a reference the US were resisting an attempt by China 'to push the US from the western Pacific', revealing a military plan to challenge the rise of China. (3).....

A number of points emerge with recent developments on the Korean peninsula, the most important of which has been the recent diplomatic initiatives between the ROK and DPRK. As the US strive to fan the flames of the new Cold War using the recent Australian article as but one facet, developments on the Korean peninsula itself seem to be edging slowly toward a peaceful outcome for the Korean people who are moving in an opposite direction. (12) In fact, an ROK diplomatic initiative has already given support to the issuing of a 'symbolic statement declaring an end to hostile relations on the Korean peninsula'. (13)

Progressive forces across the region should applaud the important initiatives taking place on the Korean peninsula between the ROK and DPRK. It has amounted to a dramatic departure from previous Cold War positions, foisted upon the peninsula by the US.

For complete article **READ ON**

US-China War is Inevitable?

By Finian Cunningham

October 13, 2018 "Information Clearing House" - When a US warship narrowly avoided slamming into a Chinese naval vessel earlier this month in the disputed South China Sea, the incident could serve as a metaphor. The two economic giants seem to be on a collision course for war.

That collision course was ramped up last week when US Vice President Mike Pence delivered a barnstorming speech declaring China as global enemy number one. Speaking at the rightwing Hudson Institute in DC, Pence castigated China for "increased economic and military aggression", and warned: "We will not back down."

If the Trump administration continues its aggression towards China then a collision seems inevitable. Accusatory, derogatory rhetoric is one thing. But when America starts to inflict huge economic damage on the very economy and livelihood of China, as it seems intent on doing, then at some point Beijing may be forced to respond out of sheer necessity. This is, of course, condemnable conduct by the US. Its reckless actions towards China are bordering on criminal in that they are inciting a war with a nuclear power.

North Korea to dismantle key nuclear facilities



SBS News 21st Oct 2018:

North Korea has agreed to "permanently" abolish its key missile facilities in the presence of foreign experts, and is willing to close its main nuclear complex if the United States takes reciprocal action, South Korea's President Moon Jae-in says.

Speaking at a joint news conference following their summit talks in Pyongyang, Moon and North Korean leader Kim Jong-un said they agreed to turn the Korean peninsula into a "land of peace without nuclear weapons and nuclear threats".

Kim said he will visit Seoul in the near future, in what would be the first-ever visit to the South's capital by a North Korean leader.

North and South Korea opened a joint liaison office in the Northern city of Kaesong on Friday as they knit closer ties ahead of President Moon Jae-in's visit to Pyongyang next week.

But discussions over how to implement the vague commitments have since faltered, with Washington demanding concrete action towards denuclearisation by North Korea before agreeing to a key goal of Pyongyang - declaring an end to the war.

Korean President Moon Jae-in says he's been told by North Korean leader Kim Jong-un that he wants the US secretary of state to come to Pyongyang for nuclear talks. Kim also wants a second summit with President Donald Trump as soon as possible, Moon said. Moon also said he would convey to Trump his and Kim's desire to get a declaration ending the Korean War by the end of this year.

The 1950-53 war still technically continues because it ended with a ceasefire not a peace treaty. Such a declaration would be the first step toward a formal peace treaty, but the US is worried it could result in Kim pushing for the removal of US troops from South Korea.

The United States says it is ready to resume talks with North Korea after Pyongyang pledged to dismantle its key missile facilities and suggested it may close its main Yongbyon nuclear complex. US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo has invited North Korea's foreign minister to meet in New York next week, with the aim of completing its denuclearisation by January 2021, after a Pyongyang summit between the leaders of the two Koreas.

Taking a little step away from slavishly following US foreign policy

SBS News 2nd Oct 2018

US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo has hosted Australian foreign Minister Marise Payne at the State Department. Last Friday, Payne said Australia supported the nuclear deal signed in 2015 between Iran and former US President Barack Obama's administration. The Trump administration

withdrew from the deal in May.

Labour says concerns over China shouldn't prompt Pacific involvement

SBS News 23Sept 2018

Australia's involvement in the Pacific shouldn't be prompted by a desire to block China from the region, Labor defence spokesman Richard Marles says.

Australia's involvement in the Pacific region should not be prompted by concerns over China, says Labor.

The Morrison government has announced a \$5 million deal between Australia and Papua New Guinea to develop a joint naval base on Manus Island, but has remained tight-lipped on whether the project is to prevent China from building a port.

However, Mr Marles says the genuine benefit of the Pacific nations should be the focus.

"If our engagement in the Pacific has as its goal the strategic denial of China ... we won't succeed, we will not get policies right," he told Sky News on Sunday.

Invictus Games and the arms manufacturers connection.



Nick Deane writes:

The Invictus Games will be familiar to all who watch the ABC, their promoter and sponsor. The Games will be taking place in Sydney in October, the participants being injured service personnel from 18 countries. But why are major arms manufactures 'official supporters' ?

It is highly inspiring to see the human spirit triumph over mutilations of the human body. Who can fail but be impressed by the fortitude of the participating athletes? As the Story of the Games tells us, they have faced life-changing injuries but have somehow found the motivation not to let those injuries define them.....

(But) in the shadows, but most noteworthy, is the fact that among the 'official supporters' of the Games are major armaments manufacturers – Boeing,

Lockheed Martin, Raytheon, Leidos and Saab. There is something deeply unsettling about this. On the one hand these companies and their shareholders grow rich through creating, selling, researching and constantly 'improving' weaponry and weapons systems. But it is weaponry that has produced the horrific injuries sustained by the Games' participants. It cuts no ice to say "Our injuries were caused by their weapons." The explosives in IEDs quite possibly have their origin in these multi-national companies.....

How armaments manufacturers can reconcile their core business with sponsoring the Invictus Games is, at best, problematical. At worst, it is utterly cynical. It may even be a touch ghoulish. It is beyond possible that their motivation is to absolve themselves of guilt. The organisers might ask themselves why they allowed such sponsorship.

For the complete article, [READ ON](#)



Media Release:

**No Social Licence
through the INVICTUS
Games.**

No Social Licence through the INVICTUS Games

- **Invictus Games begin 20 October for military personnel with disabilities caused by their service**
- **Weapons dealers and manufacturers sponsor the Invictus Games**

Independent and Peaceful Australia Network (IPAN) wholeheartedly supports the mission of the Invictus Games, "[a]n international sporting event for wounded, injured and ill veteran and active service personnel...[which] highlights the power of sport to inspire recovery, support rehabilitation, and generate a wider understanding of and respect for those who serve their country." ¹

Founded by HRH The Duke of Sussex in 2014 the Games have been well received and Australia is hosting them this year from 20-27 October in major venues throughout Greater Sydney.

However, IPAN does not support weapons dealers, and weapons manufacturers and developers, cynically using the games to build their social licence to operate through sponsorship. Many of the people involved in the games, who suffered physical and emotional trauma, could well have been injured by the weapons very much like those made and supplied by these companies.

The marketing opportunity the Invictus Games provide for these companies are considerable, with special events with and opportunities to meet and talk with members of the UK royal family and politicians.

The Invictus Games website rightly states “Most of us will never know the horrors of combat. Horrors so great that many service men and women suffer life-changing injuries, both visible and invisible, while serving their countries, while serving us.”² To use these noble aims as a marketing opportunity undermines the values and intentions of the games. These weapons dealers and weapons manufacturers should not be using these games to sell more weapons and cause more suffering in the world.

And we must remember that some of these same weapons manufacturers are also sponsoring the Australian War Memorial,

see: <https://www.facebook.com/CommemorateDontCommercialise/>

Medical Practitioners against War (MAPW) have also expressed concerns about the commercialisation and promotion of arms. For more information, contact Michelle Fahy, MAPW Project Officer, Australia: Stop Arms

Promotion. E: mfahy.mapw@gmail.com

The main companies involved that we are referring to are Presenting / Premier Partners or Official Supporters. They are:

Jaguar Land Rover –

<https://www.australianfrontlinemachinery.com.au/vehicle-types/land-rovers>

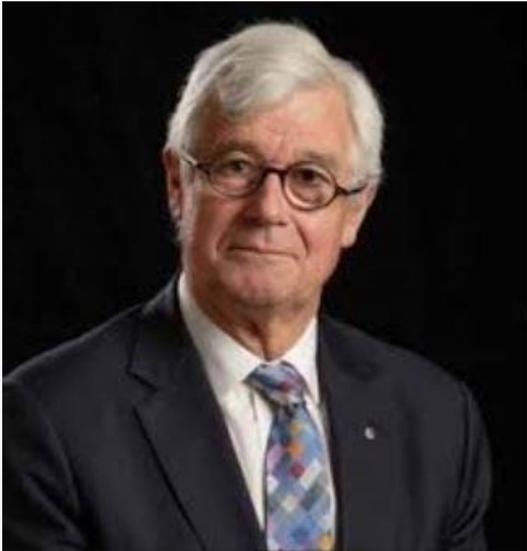
Boeing - <http://www.boeing.com.au/>

Leidos <https://www.leidos.com/company/global/australia>

Lockheed Martin - <http://www.lockheedmartin.com.au/>

Raytheon - <https://www.raytheon.com/au>

Saab - <https://saab.com/region/saab-australia/about-saab-australia/>



**There can be no Peace
without Justice
-Julian Burnside**

The International Day of Peace in Brisbane

At this 7th annual Peace Lecture Julian Burnside QC AO delivered a speech titled ***There can be no Peace without Justice***

Julian spoke about how peace within Australia is undermined by the policies of governments which does not value justice. His lecture explored this in relation to people with little power, the poor, refugees and the first peoples of our land.

Around 300 people came together at the Anglican cathedral in Brisbane St Johns. The Dean Peter Catt is contributing significantly to building community engagement and action around the important challenges we face to build a peaceful society based on justice for all.

IPAN affiliate Just Peace works with the United Nations Association Qld, St Johns, University of Qld University of Griffith, and Rotary Peace Program to bring the event together.

Vanuatu PM speaks up for West Papuans at United Nations



The Australia West Papua Association (Sydney) , Oct 7th, states in its newsletter:

Congratulations to the Pacific countries of Vanuatu, Tuvalu, the Marshall Islands and the Solomon Islands for raising the issue of West Papua at the 73rd session of the UN general assembly in New York.

Prime Minister of Vanuatu Charlot Salwai Tabimasma spoke as follows:

Madam President, the international community has witnessed violence and violations of human rights that have been suffered by the people of West Papua. We call on the Human Rights Council to investigate these human rights abuses.

We also call on our fellow leaders of the world to pay greater attention to these inhumane acts, and together with Indonesia, to put an end to all forms of violence and find common ground with the populations to establish a process that will allow them to freely express their choice.” Video -Prime Minister Tabimasma’s full speech here (West Papua mentioned just over 11min in). <https://gadebate.un.org/en/73/vanuatu>

11th Silent March in Manly to stop Aboriginal Deaths in Custody



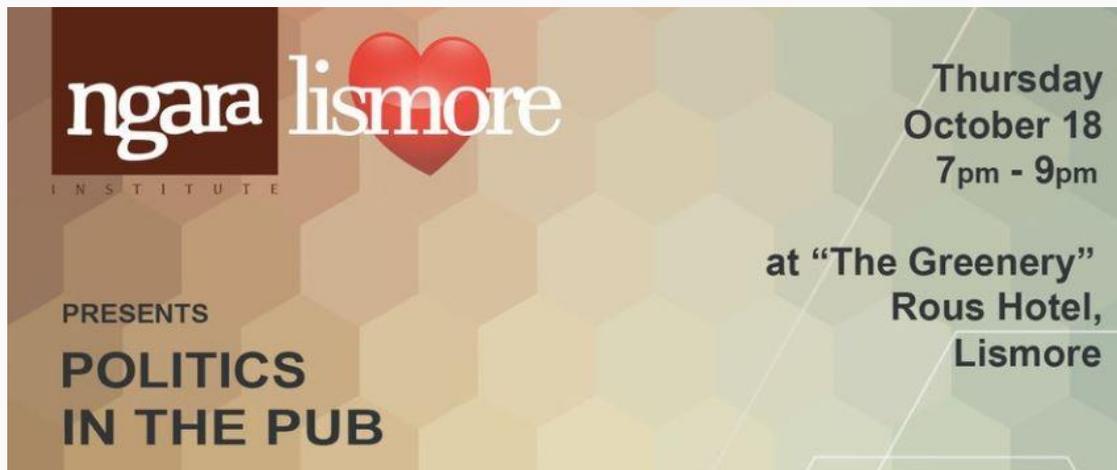
Meet on November 3rd at 11.17 am at Circular Quay at the wharf and be ready to travel to Manly in silence.



Let's end war! Sign our Declaration of Peace

I UNDERSTAND THAT WARS AND MILITARISM MAKE US LESS SAFE RATHER THAN PROTECT US, THAT THEY KILL, INJURE AND TRAUMATIZE ADULTS, CHILDREN AND INFANTS, SEVERELY DAMAGE THE NATURAL ENVIRONMENT, ERODE CIVIL LIBERTIES, AND DRAIN OUR ECONOMIES, SIPHONING RESOURCES FROM LIFE-AFFIRMING ACTIVITIES. I COMMIT TO ENGAGE IN AND SUPPORT NONVIOLENT EFFORTS TO END ALL WAR AND PREPARATIONS FOR WAR AND TO CREATE A SUSTAINABLE AND JUST PEACE.

CLICK [SIGN HERE](#)



‘Politics in the pub’ has come to Lismore!

Lismore Ngara has formed and is bringing topical speakers to Lismore to stimulate discussion about the issues that affect us all. Issues like social inequality, climate change, democracy. Lismore

‘Ngara’ is an aboriginal word that combines listening, hearing and thinking. It’s a concept that many of us seem to have lost – we often listen but don’t really hear the implications of things, nor think about them.

Lismore Ngara wants to create a space to critically reflect on how to achieve a more just, peaceful and sustainable world based on the common good rather than private profit.

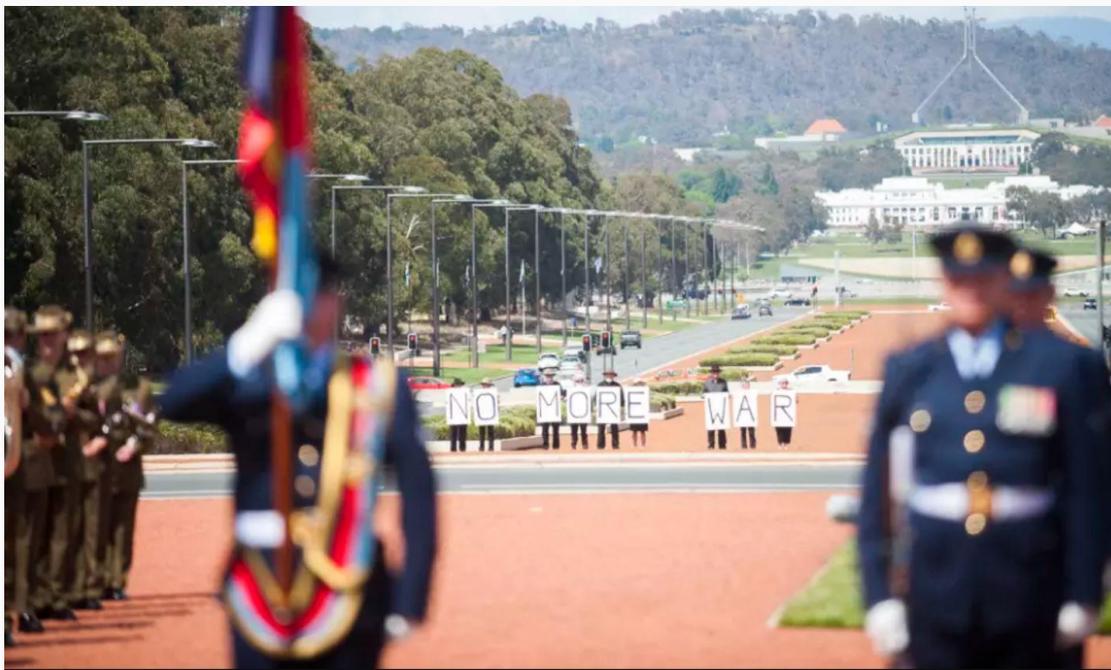
The Inaugural ‘Politics in the Pub’ will be held on Thursday 18 October in ‘The Greenery’ at the Rous hotel from 7 to 9 pm. The hotel is opposite the Lismore cinema. Meals are available from 6 pm.

A donation of \$10 (concession \$5) is suggested

Our First speaker is Dr Richard Hil, Convener of the original Mullumbimby Ngara institute, Adjunct professor in the school of human services and social work at Griffith University, and Honorary associate at the university of Sydney.

His topic is **‘Against Despair and Inertia; the stories we need to guide us to a better future’.**

Remembrance Day peace vigil on Anzac Parade banned by NCA



MAPW peace vigil last year in Anzac Parade on Remembrance Day

Peace activists say they are being blocked from marking Remembrance Day with a peace vigil outside the Australian War Memorial by the National Capital Authority.

The Medical Association for the Prevention of War wrote to the authority to inform it of its intention to mark the hundredth anniversary of the World War I. The organisation wants to stage a "silent commemoration" on Anzac Parade outside the war memorial, with the message "**honour them – promote peace**". A similar event was held on Anzac Parade last year, across the roundabout from the memorial but in view of the main event.

On September 19 the National Capital Authority told the organisation its vigil would not be allowed, saying Anzac Parade was "reserved exclusively for the 2018 Remembrance Day commemorations".

Dr Wareham said the group didn't want to take up the invitation to be part of the main ceremony as members wanted to mark their opposition to the war memorial's sponsorship relationships with weapons manufacturers.

The association, which is the parent body for Nobel Peace prize winners the International Campaign Against Nuclear Weapons, is yet to decide what it will do on November 11 after the setback.

"Our priority is to retain a respectful presence," Dr Wareham said.

Please help us overturn this decision

Make your views known to:

* NCA at nca.events@nca.gov.au

*the director of the Australian War Memorial, Dr Brendon Nelson at brendon.nelson@awm.gov.au

* The Canberra Times at letters.editor@canberratimes.com.au

And please join us on 11th November.

Enquiries: MAPW: Dr Sue Wareham: 0407 924 152



Human rights abuses have been identified in Yemen and the Saudis are implicated. Since 2015, an unlawful war has been occurring there. The Saudi government has been conducting bombing raids as part of a

"coalition" trying to gain control. In August 2018, a Lockheed Martin [missile](#) [killed 40 school](#) children when it hit a school bus.

Save the Children, Amnesty International, and Human Rights Watch have [requested the Australian ministers of foreign affairs and defence to **guarantee military exports are not used in unlawful attacks in Yemen.**](#)

Australia has been dealing weapons with the Saudis. We know because [Christopher Pyne was in Saudi Arabia hobnobbing and doing deals at the end of 2016](#). Human rights lawyers called it '[a conspiracy of silence](#)' because they refuse to disclose details.

Australian defence ministers must guarantee that we are not arming Saudi Arabia.

Sign Now the petition: No Military Exports to Saudis For Use in Yemen

[Sign the Petition](#)



MAPW health professionals promoting peace

It is time for AUSTRALIA to STOP ARMS PROMOTION

Do you realise how much financial support and encouragement our Government gives to huge multinational weapons corporations?

- The Government has committed **\$3.8 billion of taxpayer funds** to help Australian arms makers - including the subsidiaries of global weapons makers – export more weapons.
- The **Australian War Memorial seeks funding from weapons companies** and actively promotes their brand names, even inside the Memorial itself.

- The weapons industry made huge profits from the carnage of World War 1 yet the **world's largest weapons-maker**, Lockheed Martin, is **this year funding** Australian War Memorial activity around commemorations of the Centenary of the end of WW1.
- **The Avalon arms fair**, held biennially in Victoria alongside the air show, is organised by a group of corporations that have charitable status and thus receive **generous tax concessions**. The Federal and Victorian State governments appear as sponsors on the website, in arrangements which **lack transparency**.
- **Australia sells weapons to Saudi Arabia**, a country which has helped create a humanitarian catastrophe in Yemen.
- Australian **universities are accepting weapons' company funding** which will influence students to opt for careers in this sector instead of areas the world needs more, such as renewable energy.

We need your help to start changing these things

Will you help us expose Australian Government complicity with war profiteers ?

Please donate here

Michelle Fahy, MAPW Project Officer, Australia: Stop Arms Promotion,
mfahy.mapw@gmail.com

RAPID Public Response Arrangements to any imminent major military conflict or war

In the event of an imminent major military conflict, 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.

COMING EVENTS SUMMARY:

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Adelaide: 2018 Wilk's Oration: "Australia's Unnecessary Wars" – Prof. Henry Reynolds- Sat. 20th October, 7pm, Effective Living Centre, 20 King Williams Rd, Wayville

Brisbane: Politics in the Pub: "United States and the stalking of Venezuela"- Karla Manoli Orellana and Eulalia Reyes De Witney; Sunday 21st October, 3-5pm; Red Brick Hotel, 83 Annerley Rd, Woolloongabba. Contact Mike Henry, 0410132021 , Just Peace Qld

Hobart. The Tasmanian Peace Trust has organised its 2018 Annual Lecture on Wednesday 24 October at 6 pm at The Friends' Meeting House in North Hobart with Henry Reynolds speaking on 'Australia's Unnecessary Wars.' We hope to transcribe the lecture for publication.

Newcastle: Screening of John Pilger's film "The Coming War with China" and discussion of IPAN's "Give 'em the boot" campaign; Fri. 26th October, 6.30pm, 3rd Floor, Newcastle Trade Hall, 406-408 King St Newcastle; organised by IPAN and Hunter Peace Group.

Brisbane: 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.a*

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).

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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