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May, 2025

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Peak Hour for Peace - Geelong & South West Victoria IPAN Group action

National Day of Protest- Cut ties with Trump's America -May 24



IPAN Activities

Campaigns in 2025

Campaign to terminate AUKUS and the Force Posture Agreement- launch of the campaign imminent

The first step in this campaign is to produce a Public Statement calling on the government to cancel the AUKUS agreement and terminate the Force Posture Agreement. This document is currently being finalised by the campaign working group.

The Public Statement will be a vehicle for initiating discussions and seeking commitment by *signature*, from a broad group of community organisations and individuals across Australia. It will include a range of supporting and educational and agitational activities including public meetings and rallies, leaflet distributions, small discussion groups,

social media activity and webinars as determined by those currently involved in Anti-AUKUS and terminate the FPA, actions.

Details of the launching of this campaign to be released soon.

To join the campaign, contact Bevan Ramsden at bevanram1960@gmail.com

Campaign to Make Peace a Priority

Our Vision: To elevate peace as a national priority so that it informs policy development in Australia, to achieve peace domestically and internationally.

Whilst a peace initiative can coexist with defence initiatives, without peace, addressing issues such as climate change, migration, inequality, or hunger becomes much harder, if not impossible.

This campaign seeks to influence the political environment in Australia so that peace becomes a priority focus and a lens which informs policy decisions.

One objective currently being discussed to work towards, is the establishment of an Assistant Minister for the Foreign Minister to promote Australia's efforts towards peace and conflict prevention provide focus to engage with existing international frameworks, and expand diplomatic efforts to pursue peace.

If you are interested in being involved in this campaign, please contact Jonathan Pilbrow via ipan.alicesprings@gmail.com or 0403 611 815 or David Higginbottom via d.higginbottom@outlook.com or 0429 471949

Media Release: 30th April" Shifting ground on shaky US alliance: New opportunities must be taken

- The US has been called out as unreliable ally from a range of quarters recently
- New Government must conduct an independent review of AUKUS and the Force Posture agreement
- IPAN [Federal Election](#) scorecard highlights many calls for independent review of AUKUS
- New opportunities for a regional neutral nonaligned defence strategy must be taken

Read On

IPAN releases its Alternative Defence Strategy for an Independent Australia free of the US alliance

- * Diplomacy is the first line of defence seeking resolution of differences based on equality and mutual respect and building peace, trust and security in our region
- * Our troops stay at home for Australian territorial defence- no deployment in overseas wars
- * No military alliances with other countries- closer relations with non-aligned countries- an end to the US military alliance
- * Defence based on non-nuclear, armed neutrality
- * No MIC- only a publicly- owned Australian defence industry to serve an independent self -reliant defence force

READ COMPLETE POLICY [**HERE**](#)

IPAN WEBINAR: Wednesday, 14th May 2025 at 7pm, AEST

“Let’s Talk Alternative Defence for Australia—Free from the US Alliance”

This webinar will:

- * Showcase IPAN's Alternative Self-Defence Policy
- * Highlight the Green's Genuine Australian Defence Policy
- * Discuss diplomacy as the first line of defence (from a diplomat's perspective), and
- * Explore why neutrality is a viable peace alternative to military alliances

[REGISTER HERE](#)



Webinar speaker: Shirley Winton, Senator David Shoebridge, Alison Broinowski, & Pascal Lottaz

Further information and registration [HERE](#)

IPAN Podcast:

US decay and opportunities for Australian independence

"Trump is not an aberration but instead a symptom of the disease presently gripping the US ruling establishment. It is surely high time for the Australian Government to abandon the illusion that being in lock step with the US as we presently are, provides us with security and protection."

Listen [HERE](#)

Support IPAN's Social Media Platforms

We would like to take the opportunity to alert our members to all of the social media platforms that IPAN is utilising to get the message of peace and independence into the public realm

As well as our website and facebook page, we have been increasingly active on Twitter and now starting to become much more active on Instagram.

Please support the IPAN's use of these four main communication platforms - and share stories and posts.

IPAN website

<https://ipan.org.au/> - see the options for taking action on the home page, e.g.

<https://ipan.org.au/write-a-letter-to-your-politician-stand-up-to-trump-on-gaza/>

Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/IndependentAndPeacefulAustraliaNetwork/>

Instagram

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

Twitter

x.com/IPAusNet

IPAN Call on Supporters - Donating to improve outreach and effectiveness of IPAN

Donate [HERE](#)

Federal Election 2025

With acknowledgement to Pearls and Irritations, May 5, 2025

Election 2025: the Labor-Liberal waltz of irrelevance

by Joseph Camilleri

Another federal election. Another Labor Government with a much enhanced majority. A campaign with no great convulsions, except for the Liberal debacle. An Opposition Leader conceding defeat with proper decorum. All must be well in the land of Oz. But all is not quite as it seems.

Seldom have Labor and Liberal been so visibly disconnected from a rapidly transforming world. Never before has the lack of public interest in a national election and the electorate's mistrust of parties and politicians been so palpable.

READ ON

Palestine-Gaza



IPAN Geelong & Vic Southwest does an action every Friday night called Peak Hour for Peace in Palestine. We pick a busy intersection in Marles' electorate & take our message to motorists with our Palestinian flags & our placards. We've been doing it for just over a year now. In the non-daylight savings part of the year, we do it 4-5pm. The location changes every week. So we've made a generic "tile" for you to use in Voice. Interested people will have to go to our Facebook or Instagram site to find out the location:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/703662988117415/>

<https://www.instagram.com/palestineactionsgeelongandwvic/>

Aid ship bound for Gaza catches fire after alleged Israeli drone attack off Malta

By Kathleen Magramo, Abeer Salman, Todd Symons and Martin Goillandeau, CNN

A Gaza-bound activist aid ship caught fire and issued an SOS, after what its organizers claimed was an Israeli drone attack off the coast of Malta in international waters in the early hours of Friday.

The Freedom Flotilla Coalition (FFC), which is campaigning to end Israel's blockade of Gaza, told CNN activists were aboard its ship carrying humanitarian aid when the alleged attack happened just after midnight local time (6 p.m. ET Thursday).

The group is yet to provide evidence that the drone was Israeli, while the Israeli military has declined to comment on the alleged attack.

"There is a hole in the vessel right now and the ship is sinking," Yasemin Acar, the coalition's press officer, told CNN by phone from Malta on Friday morning.
(Both Greta Thunberg and Ann Wright were to join the Freedom ship at Malta)

ABC News, Fri 11th April, 2025

Australian-designed weapon trialled by Israel's military ahead of potential purchase

by Andrew Greene



Israeli defence officials pose with an EOS Remote Weapon System in January (Supplied: Israel's Ministry of Defense)

Israel's military has completed trials of an advanced weapon made by a Canberra-based defence supplier which boasts its “high precision” and “lethal” product can strike targets up to two kilometres away. The ABC can reveal the remote weapon system (RWS), designed and built by Australian company Electro Optic Systems (EOS), was one of dozens of counter drone technologies tested by the Israel Defense Forces earlier this year.

A defence industry source claims the Australian-made components were first sent to an EOS entity in the United States for assembly, before being shipped to Israel without an Australian export approval.

READ ON

MSN

Israel Approves Full Military Takeover of Gaza

Story by Asger Risom

Israel's security cabinet has formally approved a plan to take full military control of the Gaza Strip, including the complete occupation of the enclave and efforts to promote what it terms the “voluntary departure” of its Palestinian residents, according to an official Israeli source cited by *AFP*.

[AUKUS & Nuclear issues & War](#)



Just Peace (Qld) supports Global Day against Military Spending (GDAMS)

Just Peace QLD "celebrated" the Global Day of Action on Military Spending (GDAMS) by handing out white poppies and flyers to high school students as they arrived for classes. We stood outside 3 of the entrances to Brisbane State High School, April 24th, 2025. 8am to 9am. Just Peace QLD has been holding this commemoration every year since GDAMS began in 2011.

The poppies were hand-crocheted by Margid Bryn-Burns, and I believe about 300 students were pleased to accept them. There was a small group of 7 of us interacting with students aged around 12 to 18 years. GDAMS is an approximately one-month long campaign which forms part of the Global Campaign of Action on Military Spending (GCOMS,

Air Bases, Aukus and Trump: Where we are and where we are (likely) headed

Vince Scappatura's address to Mobilisation against AUKUS and War Strategic Planning Meeting, 30 March 2025

Where we are (pre-Trump)

I don't think the Australian public fully appreciates the transformation that has occurred in Australian defence policy and especially the Australia-US alliance over the past five years.

It's tempting to go back to 2011 as the turning point in the Australia-US alliance, when the Obama administration announced its 'pivot to Asia' in response to China's rise, using a presidential address to the Australian parliament to announce the 'rebalance' of America's naval and air forces from the Middle East to the Asia-Pacific, and to jointly announce with then prime minister Julia Gillard the establishment of the US Force Posture Initiatives in northern Australia.

READ ON



AUKUS Security Agreement signing by UK,US and Australia, 15th September, 2021

With acknowledgement to Pearls and Irritations, April 24, 2025

AUKUS is more than nuclear submarines and that's a problem

By Senator David Shoebridge

When we think of AUKUS, most people picture the dangerous \$368 billion gamble on a handful of nuclear submarines. The truth is AUKUS is a lot more,

and a lot more dangerous, than these submarines.

Extracts:

“The broader implications of AUKUS have suddenly come into focus with an Australian weapons system surfacing in Israel, reportedly having travelled there via the US, as a direct result of AUKUS.....”

“...This is what the Greens are so concerned about, this is why we have proposed a policy to end AUKUS and disentangle Australia’s defence from US weapons supply lines. We cannot have an independent foreign policy, or be a force for peace, when we have our entire defence industry, and the strategic direction of our defence forces, paid for by Australia and controlled out of Washington.”

READ ON

Teal independent calling for review of Aukus deal amid ‘growing uncertainty’ of US

The teal independent **Zoe Daniel** has called for a review of the Aukus deal amid concerns about cost, delivery risks and the “growing uncertainty” of the US as a reliable defence partner since Donald Trump’s return to the White House.

The Goldstein MP said a probe of the trilateral security pact with the US and UK should be among the “first orders of businesses” for the next parliament.

The comments are noteworthy given the prospects of a hung parliament in which crossbenchers such as Daniel could hold significant sway. Daniel said:

Strategic autonomy isn’t just about submarines. It’s about having choices. Right now, Australia has only one plan – and it’s Aukus. That’s not good enough.

If we’re serious about national security, we must be honest with Australians about what it will cost – and how we’re going to pay for it.



Disrespectful or democratic on ANZAC Day?

Local resident and WA Independent Peaceful Australia Network representative Dr Hughes was accosted by irate journalists calling him disrespectful at the Cottesloe surf club for displaying a banner calling for no AUKUS nuclear subs for WA.

Dr Hughes says as a school cadet on duty at the Shrine of Remembrance in Melbourne he met Gallipoli veterans who told him they "went to fight a war to end all wars and never again to fight under a foreign flag." They fought for our freedom in a democracy which allows peaceful non violent demonstrations. Especially at this time when others are beating the drums of war that being tied to Trumps USA through AUKUS will lead to the loss of more young Australians in foreign wars.

Defence, Sovereignty and Independence

With acknowledgement to The Conversation, April 21, 2025

Security without submarines: the military strategy Australia should pursue instead of AUKUS

By Albert Palazzo

For more than a century, Australia has followed the same defence policy: dependence on a great power. This was first the United Kingdom and then the United States.

Without properly considering other options, successive federal governments have intensified this policy with the AUKUS agreement and locked Australia into dependency on the US for decades to come. A more imaginative and innovative government would have investigated different ways to achieve a strong and independent national defence policy.

Read On

With acknowledgement to Defence Connect, April 23, 2025

US reliability waning: Australia requires alternative self-defence policy

by Bevan Ramsden

There has been a dramatic change in our strategic circumstances. United States reliability has been found wanting. This provides both a challenge and an opportunity. We now need an alternative self-defence policy which will safeguard our territory and enable the pursuit of peace in our region as an independent and

responsible country.....

The key features of IPAN's alternative self-defence includes recall of all ADF personnel to Australia where their role would be confined to defence of Australia's territory, including its approach waters, that ADF would not be deployed in wars overseas except for involvement in United Nations peacekeeping operations where appropriate.

The first line of defence would be diplomacy with the diplomatic service given increased and appropriate resources and differences with other countries sought to be resolved based on equality and mutual respect.

Read complete article [HERE](#)

ABC Poll shows Australians' radical shift over Trump, economy

A clear majority of voters in a new Q+A/YouGov poll say the US is no longer a reliable military ally.

More than seven in 10 Australians believe Donald Trump will make them worse off financially.

Two-thirds of Australians say the United States can't be trusted as a security ally and want to develop a more independent defence capacity, in a dramatic shift since President Donald Trump reclaimed the White House.

With acknowledgement to Independent Australia, 1 May, 2025

Shock poll sees voters reject Trump in favour of an independent Australia

By [David Donovan](#)

LAST SUNDAY, 27 April 2025, the ABC published the [results](#) of a survey it had commissioned from British-based polling organisation, YouGov, for the long-running Q&A program.

Whilst **IA** has strong, oft-expressed reservations about the veracity of opinion polls, which have consistently been shown to be staggeringly misleading, especially in an Australian context, the findings of this YouGov poll cannot be so easily dismissed. Firstly, because it was conducted on a very comprehensive (relatively large) sample of Australian voters (1,500). Secondly, because it indicated a shift in

sentiment far too significant to be categorised as a mere statistical anomaly.

The topic was Australians' opinions about the nation's relationship with the United States following Donald Trump's return as American President.

READ ON

Human Rights

Australian Citizens Party

Media Release Tuesday, 8 April 2025

Australian citizen Dan Duggan in prison for 900 days despite breaking no Australian laws

Support Dan's wife Saffrine's heroic marathon run to raise money for his appeal.

Tomorrow former US Navy Top Gun pilot Dan Duggan, who became an Australian citizen in 2012, will have languished in Australian prisons for 900 days.

Yet Dan Duggan has broken no Australian laws.

He is being subjected to cruel punishment, separated from his wife Saffrine and their six children, because the United States wants to make an example of him for its agenda to confront and stop the rise of China, and the Australian government is doing its dirty work for it.



Team Duggan Canberra Marathon

Saffrine Duggan is running the Canberra Marathon in April to raise money her husband Dan's legal fight for freedom.

[Click here to sponsor Saffrine Duggan's 42-kilometre Canberra Marathon run to support Dan's fight to remain in Australia with his family.](#)

Assange Campaign Australia
Every Action Counts

Together, we must push for a pardon for Julian and ensure that the persecution he endured is never repeated again.

HERE'S WHAT YOU CAN DO TODAY

1. EMAIL PRESIDENT TRUMP AND THE PARDON ATTORNEY

With a new pardon attorney soon to be appointed, we need your help to make our request for a pardon for Julian impossible to ignore. Join the 6,000+ people who have already sent an email to President

Trump.

EMAIL NOW

2. DONATE 🙏

Your support is crucial as we continue pushing for a pardon to reverse the dangerous precedent set by Julian's plea agreement. Can you chip in \$25 to the campaign to raise awareness and support for Julian's pardon?

DONATE HERE

Informative Articles

LESSONS FROM CHERNOBYL The Monthly, April 2025

By John Stevenson

The February 14 drone attack on Chernobyl's super-shielded reactor brought back memories of that nuclear accident's first lessons, on living with deadly radiation, along with a stunning new lesson. When the Chernobyl station blew up in Ukraine in April 1986 I was in Paris, at the start of a planned European rail jaunt. The French government, deeply committed to nuclear energy and weapons, contrived to play the event down and insisted there was nothing much to worry about. I spent 10 days with very little idea what the rest of the world was learning. I even decided to go ahead with my trip.

READ ON

Coming Events



RESISTANCE TILL RETURN

NAKBA 2025

Join us in NSW Parliament with special guest
Nasser Mashni followed by a screening of
'Palestinians Don't Need Sidewalks'

TUESDAY 13 MAY - NSW PARLIAMENT - RSVPS ESSENTIAL

We would like to invite you to an event commemorating the Palestinian Nakba. The event is hosted by Jenny Leong MP, NSW Member for Newtown, and co-hosted by several community organisations. It will be held at NSW Parliament House on Tuesday, 13th May 2025, starting at 6.00 pm.

The evening will begin with a Nakba address by Nasser Mashni, President, Australia Palestine Advocacy Network (APAN). This will be followed by a screening of the film, *Palestinians Don't Need Sidewalks*. Light refreshments will be available.

More details about the programme are on the [event registration page](#). We welcome you to participate in this event. Registration is essential.





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Adelaide: Bri S, 0439 702 828, brianakensi@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

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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