



# Voice No 15 - Apr 2018

For the Independent & Peaceful Australia Network

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- \* Newcastle, 23rd June: Dr Vince Scappatura- "US soft power influence in Australia"
- \* Melbourne, War Never Again Art Show Fundraiser: Saturday 19 May 2018 at 3pm.
- \* ACT, Rally protesting government plans to become a major arms dealer, 12 pm, 8th May
- \* Newcastle, May Day Celebration Meeting, Fri ,27th April at 6pm
- \* Brisbane: Anzac Eve Peace Vigil and Procession, 4.45pm, Tuesday,24th April

## **BOOKS**

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## **EDITORIAL**

### **Glimmer of hope for peace on Korean Peninsula glows more brightly**

South Korea says it is considering how to change a decades-old armistice with North Korea into a peace agreement. Reports from Seoul indicate that North Korea and South Korea are preparing for their summit between Kim Jong Un and South Korean President Moon Jae-in on 27<sup>th</sup> April, with a bid to formally end the 1950-53 Korean War a major factor in talks. "As one of the

plans, we are looking at a possibility of shifting the Korean peninsula's armistice to a peace regime", a high-ranking South Korean presidential official told reporters recently, "We want to include discussions to end hostile acts between North and South".

US President Trump said this week (16<sup>th</sup> April, 2018) that he backed efforts between North and South Korea.

Meantime efforts are being made to arrange an unprecedented meeting between the US and North Korean leaders and these have already helped to ease tensions between the two countries especially as North Korea has suspended missile tests and closed a nuclear site in advance of the talks.

IPAN applauds the commencement of these talks and has consistently argued that such talks were the pathway to peaceful outcomes on the Korean peninsula, rather than bellicose military threats. It hopes that the United States will not interfere with positive outcomes from the North/South talks to formulate a peace treaty to replace the ceasefire of the 1950's.

It is unfortunately significant that the Australian Government has chosen to remain silent on the commencement of the talks between North and South Korea and between the US and North Korea.

Is it waiting for a lead from the United States before commenting?

Surely our government should be reflecting the desire of the Australian people to move towards peace in our region. It should also take the opportunity to seek to open a diplomatic mission in North Korea. Such a move would facilitate communication between Australia and North Korea to mutual benefit instead of Australia using the Swedish Embassy as a "back door" for communications with North Korea..



**Rally in Brisbane in support of  
the Global Campaign against Military  
Spending**

**"Shame on Prime Minister Turnbull's support for the  
air attack on Syria."**

**"Each of the 100 missiles fired cost the taxpayers of  
the US UK and France \$1.4 Million."**



## **Representatives from IPAN and Just Peace rallied in King George Square, Brisbane, Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> April**

On Thursday, 19th April, representatives of Brisbane Independent and Peaceful Australia Network (IPAN) gathered in the city to support the Global Campaign on Military Spending led by Nobel Peace Prize winning organisation the International Peace Bureau.

IPAN spokesperson at the rally, Annette Brownlie was shocked that the Australian Government enthusiastically supported the bombing of Syria by the US UK and France. "This illegal act compounds the tragedy of the Syrian people who have suffered death destruction and dislocation for 7 years now."

"It's all very well for Julie Bishop and Malcolm Turnbull to call for adherence to international laws but here they support a contravention of those very same laws," she said

"An attack on a sovereign country if its not for self-defence or without UN approval is illegal.

“The decision to launch the attack was taken before the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Warfare could arrive at the scene to provide fact finding information.

“Robert Fisk internationally respected journalist for the UK Independent newspaper has entered Douma in recent days and interviewed residents who describe not a chemical assault but a sand storm leading to asphyxiation in tunnels where people sought refuge from the ongoing war.”

“Each of the 100 missiles fired on Syria on the 14<sup>th</sup> April cost the taxpayers of the UK US and France A\$1.8 Million making a total of \$180M spent in one night.”

International spending on military materiel exceeds \$1.6 Trillion. Just Peace and IPAN aims to see much of that money redirected to meet the UN Sustainability Development Goals which are about creating a sustainable future for all life on earth.

“On these Global Days of Action to reduce military spending we call on our government to withdraw from their morally bankrupt aim to be amongst the top 10 arms manufacturers internationally,” said Ms Brownlie.

"In Australia funds would be much better spent on social needs – climate change, housing, health and education." ,said Annette Brownlie..



Media Release

14th April, 2018

## **ANU lecturer Dr Alison Broinowski says Bombing in Syria must be condemned**

Defence Minister Payne and Prime Minister Turnbull’s obsequious support for the bombing attack on Damascus by the US UK and France demonstrates their hypocrisy when calling for a rules-based order.

The missiles fired on Damascus have broken international law, **since Syria**

**did not threaten the US, UK or France**, said ANU **Visiting Fellow** Dr Alison Broinowski. ‘There was no UN resolution to approve this military act against a sovereign state, just as there was none when Iraq was attacked 15 years ago.’

“The Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons had accepted an invitation from the Syrian government to inspect the region where an alleged chemical weapon attack occurred, demonstrating a willingness to support its claim they had not conducted such an attack. **What will now become of the OPCW verification?**”

“Australia was a founding member of the United Nations,” said Dr Broinowski, “and now it disrespects **the central** role of the UN to prevent wars and ensure there is never again another world war.”

“Prime Minister Turnbull can be a responsible voice at this crucial time and say no to further bombing and call for an **emergency meeting of the Security Council** to prevent any further escalation. **If Australia supports an international rules-based order, it has to apply those rules to itself and its allies.**”

## **Syria - Who is stalling the OPCW investigation in Douma ?**

**By Moon Of Alabama**

April 19, 2018 "[Information Clearing House](#)" - Why has the fact finding mission (FFM) of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) not visited Douma?

The OPCW inspectors are held up by the United Nations Department of Safety and Security (UNDSS) which has a say about any movement of UN aligned organizations in areas that might be dangerous. The UNDSS is led by an Australian police / intelligence officer. The holdup seems to be intended.

On Sunday April 8 videos were published of an alleged 'chemical attack' in Douma near Damascus. At that time the area was under control of Jaish al-Islam, a Salafi terrorist organization financed by Saudi Arabia. The various videos from terrorist supporters like the 'White Helmets' were unconvincing.

They showed obviously arranged scenes of an alleged 'barrel bomb' and manipulated bodies of dead children that had been moved and decorated with shaving foam to superficially fit the claims of a 'chemical incident'. Another video showed people in a hospital being doused with water for no apparent reason.

### **READ ON**



Photo produced by the Syrian White Helmets to support an alleged chemical attack on Douma residents by Syrian Government

## **Robert Fisk's report refutes story of alleged chemical attack on Douma residents**

Fisk's arrival was a significant event. He was clearly aware of the journalistic burden on his shoulders. Those still in Douma, after the jihadists fled, we can assume, are mostly supporters of the Syrian government. Even if they are not, they may be fearful of retaliation from the Syrian army if they speak out against it.

So Fisk, a very experienced reporter who has won many awards, was careful in the way he handled the story. Unlike many reporters, he is prepared to add context to his reports, such as the manner or tone of the person he talked to – clues to help him and us decode what they might really be thinking or meaning, rather than just what they are saying. But the content of what he reported was incendiary. Just a few days after the US, UK and France had bombed Syria, in violation of all principles of international law, on the grounds that the Syrian government had used chemical weapons in Douma, Fisk interviewed a doctor at the clinic where the victims were treated. The doctor said no chemical attack occurred. The video footage from last week was genuine, the doctor added, but it showed civilians who had inhaled dust after a Syrian bombing attack, not gas.

[READ FULL REPORT](#)

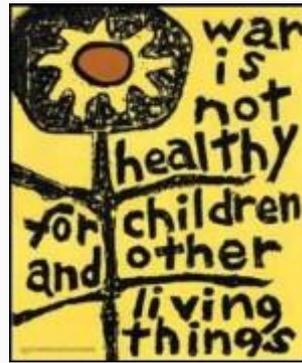
## **National Project on War and the Environment - Friends of the Earth, Brisbane**

We're at a moment, right now, where we could be turning ourselves from the brink of disaster. Tragedy is happening all around us but...the Koreas stood together and shook hands at the Olympic, thanks to the great efforts of Australia-born ICAN nuclear abolition is within reach, Americans are questioning the role of guns in society, Australians are questioning the increasing cost of supporting the U.S. alliance and an era of endless war.

There's been no better time to take action! Australia has the real opportunity to decide how it wants to relate to its friend the U.S., the message it wants to send the region and the world, and whether it wants to protect its environment and its people.

Friends of the Earth has just launched our national project on War and the Environment. Using a social and environmental justice framework, the project will map, respond to and challenge war and the ongoing militarisation of people and places.

**READ ON**



## US Marines land in Darwin again for 7<sup>th</sup> Rotation

IPAN spokesperson says “they make us enemies and undermine our sovereignty- they are not wanted here”



US Troops at Robertson Barracks, Darwin

"The seventh rotation of the Marine Rotational Force – Darwin commenced in March 2018, bringing 1,587 US marines, eight MV-22 Osprey tilt-rotor aircraft and an artillery battery of six M777 Howitzers. In addition

an Enhanced Air Cooperation program expanded the number and type of US aircraft coming to northern Australian bases. These forces were announced to be participating with more than 15 training exercises and would be joined by personnel from Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore and Thailand as either participants or observers.

"The United States has used Australia as a base for many decades and in many different respects, whether it is cyber security information gathering, the marines in Darwin and the air force," Defence Industry Minister Christopher Pyne said.

IPAN "Give em the boot" campaigner for ousting the US Marines from Darwin, Nick Deane commented :

These troops form an Air - Ground Task Force, constantly ready to 'fight tonight', deployed on commands from Washington. It makes Darwin a useful 'forward position' of great value to US military strategists. The Australian Government has no control over these US military forces. It could not prevent any military action they might take. **Australia's sovereign independence has been lost.**"

Nick Deane continued, "The Australian public should be under no illusion that these US troops are here for our protection. For one thing, we need no assistance in our own defence - the ADF is quite capable of defending Australia. Besides that, these US forces are essentially an attack (not a defence) force. We are hosting US forces on our territory, that could be used to attack some other nation, if that suited the USA, regardless of Australian interests."

"Any enemy of the USA (and it has plenty!) could, and probably would, also regard Australia as an enemy. The stationing of US Troops in NT actually increases the chances of Australia sustaining an attack." Last year North Korea media pointed out that the US troop deployment in Australia's top end, for example, was the largest since the 2<sup>nd</sup> World War and was proof that the

United States was ready for war.

We, believe, says Nick Deane, “that the US troop deployment in Australia:

- Makes us a target!
- Makes us less, not more, safe!
- Makes us enemies, when we need have none!
- Means that we are being exploited by the USA, for its own purposes!”

The participating US marines are expected to complete the seventh rotation of training in Australia in October.

**For details of the IPAN "Give em the boot" campaign go to:**

[www.ipan.org.au/campaigns/giveemtheboot](http://www.ipan.org.au/campaigns/giveemtheboot)

<https://www.facebook.com/giveemtheboot2/>

or email: [giveemtheboot2@gmail.com](mailto:giveemtheboot2@gmail.com)

or phone: Nick Deane, 0420 526 929 or Bevan Ramsden, 0418 697 528 for details

## **Syria Airstrikes Instantly Added Nearly \$5 Billion to Missile-Makers' Stock Value**

Raytheon stock surged Friday morning, after 59 of the company's Tomahawk missiles were used to strike Syria in Donald Trump's first major military operation as President. The Tomahawk missile used in the strike is made by Raytheon (RTN, ration as President, -0.31%), whose stock opened 2.5% higher Friday, adding more than \$1 billion to the defense contractor's market capitalization. The shares of other missile and weapons manufacturers, including Boeing (BA, -0.60%), Lockheed Martin (LMT, -0.41%), Northrop Grumman (NOC, -0.61%) and General Dynamics (GD, -0.76%), each rose as much as 1%, collectively gaining

nearly \$5 billion in market value as soon as they began trading, even as the broader market fell.

Defense contractor stocks have risen in the months since Trump was elected, spurred by his promises of a “historic” increase in U.S. military spending. The budget Trump proposed last month includes an additional \$52 billion for the Department of Defense. Boeing stock has gained nearly 21% since the election, while General Dynamics stock is up 14% over the same period. (The S&P 500 has risen roughly 11% since election day).

## **War costs the earth - 3CR Earth Matters program**



In this edition of Earth Matters we look at the costs of war to the environment through habitat destruction, nuclear test fallout, chemical pollution, weather manipulation, depleted uranium, and CO2 emissions. Our guests unpack the staggering financial cost of war and question the proposed development of a large subsidised weapons export industry in Australia. Together we broach the question: how we can end the endless wars and build a more positive, sustainable future?

To hear the program go to:

<http://www.3cr.org.au/earthmatters/episode-201803251100/war-costs-earth>

## **Sarcastic & entertaining video : Australian Government wants to boost arms manufacture and exports**

Click

[Worth viewing](#)

## **Progress towards Australia joining the Nuclear Ban Treaty**

Eighty-four parliamentarians have pledged to work for Australia to sign and ratify the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, and that number is growing every week. Sixty-nine of the pledgers are from Labor, representing 72% of all federal Labor parliamentarians. Congratulations to our most recent pledgers: Ged Kearney MP, Senator Kristina Keneally and Mark Butler MP. We hope to see a clear commitment to join the ban treaty in the new policy platform at the Labor National Conference in July.

Please help us ensure that Australia signs on to the ban treaty as soon as possible. You can see the list of signatories and get the contact details for your federal representatives at [www.ican.org.au](http://www.ican.org.au). If you are a Labor member and would like to help please email: [gem@icanw.org](mailto:gem@icanw.org)

## **ACT Protest against Israeli Apartheid**



Rally was sponsored by IPAN and Australians for Justice and Peace in Palestine calling for an end to the killings in Gaza and an end to Israeli apartheid.

## **Parliamentary debate on going to war is long overdue**

**By Dr Sue Wareham**

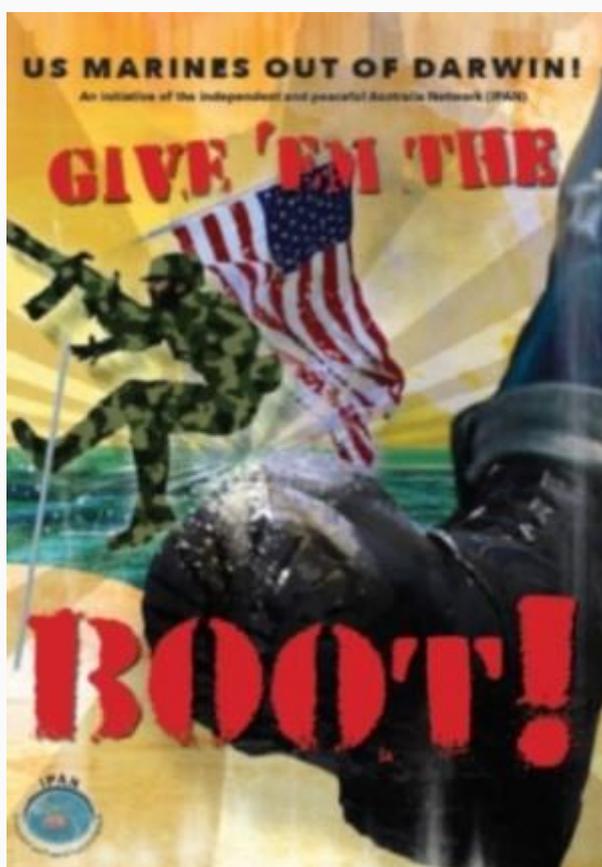
This week marks the 15th anniversary, on March 20, of one of Australia's most disastrous foreign policy decisions – our involvement in the invasion of Iraq. To characterise this as "our" involvement however does a great disservice to the millions of Australians who were vehemently opposed to the decision that was made by just one person, prime minister John Howard. The clear wishes of the people on this most significant of all decisions were ignored, and our elected representatives in parliament were not consulted. The situation was not an emergency and Iraq posed no threat to Australia. There was every opportunity for the exhaustive scrutiny of Howard's plan that was critically needed. But it did not happen.

**READ ON**

## **Palm Sunday Rally leafleting by Spirit of Eureka in Melbourne**

### **Refugees are Welcome**

US Marines in Darwin are not!



Wars of aggression, foreign occupations and ethnic cleansing – imperialism – turn tens of millions of ordinary people into refugees fleeing death, persecution and suffering. The US is leading most of these wars today, directly or by proxy.

The Australian government is spending billions hosting 2,500 US marines. Darwin is now a US military base on standby to launch war in the Asia-

Pacific against North Korea and China.

**Spirit of Eureka supports the campaign by the Independent and Peaceful Australia Network (IPAN) calling for the removal of US marines in Darwin and an independent and peaceful Australian foreign policy.**

Spirit of Eureka calls for removing all US bases from Australia and for an end to the US-Australia military alliance.

## **EVENTS.**

**Mullumbimby**, 6.30pm, Wednesday 25th April, Courthouse hotel: "**No to violence and cruelty**" - Special ANZAC Day Politics in the Pub with **Historian Prof. Henry Reynolds and Peace Activist Prof Stuart Rees**, sponsored by The Ngarra Institute and IPAN.

**Alice Springs**: 6.30pm, Wednesday 25th April, **ANZAC DAY peace gathering @Campfire in the Heart-** conversation around the campfire led by Trish and Noel Delany-Davis.

**Newcastle**, Sat. 23rd June, **Dr Vince Scappatura, "US soft power influence in Australian politics and culture"**, 7 pm, Carrington Bowling Club, Cowper St, Carrington, organised by the Broad Left.

**Melbourne**, Sat. 19th May at 3 pm, **War Never Again Art Show Fundraiser**, Steps Art Gallery, 62 Lygon Street in Carlton, per courtesy of the Victoria Branch of Medical Association for Prevention of War and of the International Campaign for the Abolition of Nuclear Weapons

**ACT**, **Rally protesting government plans to become a major arms dealer**, Senator Peter Wish-Wilson and Dr Sue Wareham, 12 pm Tuesday 8th May, Parliament House Lawns, Canberra supported by IPAN and

MAPW.

**Newcastle, May Day Celebration Meeting**, 6pm, Friday, 27th April, Hunter Unions Building 406-408 King St, Newcastle; hear **Warren Smith** , Assistant National Sec'y, MUA, "**Why Peace and Justice is Union Business**"; sponsored by Hunter Peace Group (0249 539 346)



## "Scorched Earth" by Sue Rosen

**Australia's secret plan for total war under Japanese invasion in  
World War II**

Book review by Bevan Ramsden

Every attempt to raise the possibility and desirability of Australia having an independent foreign policy, standing on its own feet and being prepared to defend this continent itself without reliance on the United States, always raises, among part of our population, fear and opposition to these ideas and a determination to keep clutching the coat tails of Uncle Sam.

It is therefore inspiring to come across a short period in Australian history (1942 to be exact) where the Australian political leadership and the Australian people **did** believe in their ability to defend and defeat an invasion of the continent and produced comprehensive plans involving “total war” and mobilisation of the entire population for defence and ultimate defeat of the invader.

### READ ON

## **RECOMMENDED READING:**

"**Korea**" by NSW Supreme Court Judge, Michael Pembroke- a well researched thorough history of Korea and the role and impact on it of the 1950's Korean war.

"**The Honest History Book**" edited by David Stephens & Alison Broinowski - Australia is more than Anzac- and always has been.

## **WANTED: Graphic Designer- volunteer for IPAN**

Are you a graphic designer? Could you help out with designing flyers for IPAN events? We need to make our resources look more professional and attractive to help get our message out. If you can help, please contact Kathryn Kelly on 0417 269 984, or [ipan.australia@gmail.com](mailto:ipan.australia@gmail.com)

## **A vision of an Independent and Peaceful**

### **Australia**

**- contributed by an IPAN supporter**

Australia is a country which:

- contributes to global peace by being non-aligned, having no foreign bases on its soil and being a good global neighbour. It takes a strong position on the eradication of nuclear weapons, having signed the NPT and the UN Treaty to Prohibit Nuclear Weapons. Australia has a culture which opposes militarism and the arms industry (except for the essential defence of Australia).
- has legislated for war powers reform and it is illegal for Australian troops to be involved in any international conflict without a vote across both houses of parliament. A general principle is that Australian troops would not be actively engaged except for the direct defence of Australia or clear necessity for global peace (with the latter being a very exceptional and unlikely occurrence).
- ensures its international work for peace is based on fundamentals of equity and fairness domestically and protection of the environment domestically and globally. The urgent challenge of climate change is being addressed as a priority.
- has recognised the grave injustice done to indigenous people and their culture in the violent take-over of this land and has taken concrete steps to redress that injustice.
- has an international aid program close to, or exceeding the OECD goal of 0.7% of GNI and gives priority assistance to countries in our region – PNG, Indonesia and the Pacific Islands and other international emergencies. Its aid programs are effective in supporting the strengthening of the local recipient societies.
- has a universal basic income, an improved Medicare (including dental) program, a more effective progressive taxation system and

one which insures corporate taxation is paid at the legislated rate. Supports an international Tobin tax and has legislated against the use of tax havens.

- Political donations are illegal from corporations and capped for individuals and other organisations. Australia's education system from pre-school to tertiary is free. Union membership is encouraged in all sectors, and union rights protected.
- works to improve our democracy and recognises that a domestically fair and more democratic society is necessary to underpin policies of peace internationally.

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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