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Voice No 18 – July 2018

For the Independent & Peaceful Australia Network

www.ipan.org.au

*** In this issue:**

- * The Ups and Downs of the peace process on Korean Peninsula and Australia's response
- * US, South Korea agree to suspend joint military exercise following Trump-Kim meeting
- * Public Meeting to launch IPAN's 'Give 'em the boot' campaign
- * Nick Deane address Politics in the Pub, Surrey Hills ,Sydney on IPAN's 'Give 'em the boot' Campaign
- * Melbourne University Students protesting University contract with war profiteer, Lockheed Martin
- * Oppose the weapons export industry- petition
- * Protesters burn the Australian Military Sales Catalogue in Sydney
- * University of Sydney tied to arms manufacturer- Lara Sonnenschein
- * Just Peace Brisbane to commemorate Hiroshima Day
- * Mike Scrafton- Hunting for the reason-The new frigates
- * ALP Branch challenges Labour Party Policy on Foreign Troops in Australia
- * American soft power influence in Australia- Dr Vince Scappatura

- * Over here and under scrutinised - Justin Tutty (Base Watch Darwin)
- * How the Nuclear Annihilation stands in the way of World Peace- Dr Joseph Gerson speaks in Melbourne
- * South China Sea a touchstone for the new realities - James O'Neill
- * Why are the Chinese so interested in Tasmania - Martin Flanagan
- * Some extracts from the Lowy Institute's recent surveys of public opinion
- * Wage Peace- Expose the Toxic SAS
- * Palestinian Human Rights in the age of Trump- Noura Erakat
- * AVP's Next Basic Workshop
- * Chris White receives Honorary Life Membership of The Graham F. Smith Peace Foundation Inc
- * RAPID Public Response Arrangements to any imminent military conflict or war breaking out
- * COMING EVENTS SUMMARY

The ups and downs of the peace process on the Korean Peninsula and Australia's Response

ABC News: 2nd May, 2018.

North and South Korea dismantle propaganda loudspeakers at tense border

North and South Korea have dismantled huge loudspeakers used to blast Cold War-style propaganda across their tense border, as South Korea's President asked the United Nations to observe the North's planned closing of its nuclear test site.

The dismantling of dozens of loudspeakers was in line with an agreement on reconciliation by the leaders of the Koreas at their summit last Friday.

USA Today: 7th June, 2018

North Korea destroys missile test site ahead of Trump-Kim summit

New commercial satellite imagery indicates that North Korea is destroying a key ballistic missile test site ahead of next week's summit between the North Korean Leader Kim Jong Un and President Trump, a new analysis shows.

Kim announced a moratorium on nuclear and missile testing in April.

ABC News 12th June, 2018



US President Donald Trump and North Korean leader Kim Jong-un signed a "comprehensive" document following a historic summit aimed at the denuclearisation of the Korean peninsula.

Mr Kim said the leaders "decided to leave the past behind" and "the world will see a major change".

"I would like to express my gratitude to President Trump to make this meeting happen. Thank you," he said.

SBS News 23rd June, 2018:

The United States has indefinitely suspended joint military exercises with South Korea, with Donald Trump saying they were "provocative" to North Korea.

The United States has indefinitely suspended joint military exercises with South Korea, the Pentagon says, following a promise made by President Donald Trump at his North Korean summit this month. Repeating North Korean arguments, Trump said the games were "provocative" to Pyongyang and added that they were "very expensive." He also speculated about the eventual withdrawal of 28,500 US troops from South Korea.

SBS News 23rd June 2018:

US President Donald Trump has signed an executive order extending the "national emergency" against North Korea despite saying it no longer presents a threat.

US President Donald Trump on Friday cited "an unusual and extraordinary threat" from North Korea's nuclear arsenal to extend sanctions on Kim Jong Un's regime, despite touting the success of a historic summit earlier this month. "The existence and risk of proliferation of weapons-usable fissile material on the Korean Peninsula and the actions and policies of the Government of North Korea continue to pose an unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security, foreign policy, and economy of the United States," it said..

News.com 9th July, 2018

NORTH Korea just called him a 'gangster'. But US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo says he's 'confident' Kim Jong-un will stick to his commitment to abandon nuclear weapons.

US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo has brushed off North Korean charges that he used "gangster-like" diplomacy in negotiations in Pyongyang, saying that he would continue to pursue denuclearisation talks with the regime.



ABC News 14th June 2018

Reporting on Australian Foreign Minister, Julie Bishop's comments about North Korea:

"She is worried Trump will give away too much. She said: "I wouldn't be taking my foot off the throat of North Korea until I saw very concrete steps that this time they were genuine" "

SBS News 11th July, 2018

Labor's foreign affairs spokesperson Penny Wong

said Australia needs to keep up sanctions as early optimism of a rapprochement between the US and North Korea fades. "That is why it is so important that we agree that, as Julie Bishop has said and as the US has continued to say, it is so important to continue the economic pressure through the sanctions regime", she said.



ABC news 19th June 2018

US, South Korea agree to suspend joint military exercise following Trump-Kim meeting



The United States and South Korea have agreed to suspend a joint military exercise scheduled for August, South Korean and US officials say, following President Donald Trump's pledge to end "war games" after his summit with North Korean leader Kim Jong-un last week.

Public Meeting to launch IPAN's 'Give 'em the

boot' campaign

Tuesday, 17th July, 6.30pm NSW Teachers Federation Auditorium



The Public Meeting is titled:

Keeping Australia out of U.S. Wars

Three authoritative speakers on the need for an independent foreign policy for Australia

An independent foreign policy, peace for Korea & Australia's role- Richard Broinowski, former Australian Ambassador to Vietnam, South Korea and Mexico and immediate past President of the Australian Institute of International Affairs in New South Wales.

The urgent need for an independent foreign policy- Lee Rhiannon, NSW Senator and long time peace and justice campaigner

"Give'em the boot!"- Nick Deane, on IPAN's Campaign to terminate the Force Posture Agreement with the U.S.A. and send the U.S. Marines back home.

**Followed by Q & A Session with Panel
Chaired by Annette Brownlie, Chairperson of IPAN**

Tuesday, 17th July, 6.30-8.30pm

NSW Teachers Federation Auditorium, entry 33 Reservoir St, Surry
Hills, NSW

\$10 entrance (\$5 concession).

Book at <https://www.trybooking.com/392122>

For queries: Bevan Ramsden 0418 697 528

Nick Deane addresses Politics in the Pub, Surrey Hills Sydney on the IPAN Campaign to "Give 'em the boot"

Extract:

Consider the situation in Australia. We face no threat today and faced no threat at the time we first learnt about the possibility of entertaining US marines- which was ironically, on 11th day of the 11th month of the 11th year of this century. Its an easy date to remember. So when President Obama came over to announce the USA's military pivot to Asia Pacific in the Australian Parliament on the 16th November, 2011- I found it hard to believe that our government could have even countenanced such as step.

We were facing no threat then and we are facing no threat now; there was and is comparative peace in our region. Indeed the Defence White Paper says".. there is no more than a remote prospect of a military attack by another country on Australian territory in the foreseeable future"... yet we still compromised our independence by inviting or acquiescing in the stationing of foreign forces on our territory. Forces that would never be under the control of our

government.

To hear and view his full address on U-Tube [CLICK HERE](#)

Melbourne University Students protesting University contract with war profiteer, Lockheed Martin



11th July, 2018:

Students at Melbourne University are locked on this morning to their administration building blocking people from getting in - they are saying no to education for war.

Call Melbourne University Right Now on 136352 or send them an email at news@media.unimelb.edu.au

Deputy Vice Chancellor of research Jim McCluskey Dvc-research@unimelb.edu.au

Tell them:

"Release to the public the details of the contract, between Lockheed Martin and Melbourne University, regarding the 'STELaR Lab' which will lock Australian students into engineering for war."



OPPOSE WEAPONS EXPORT INDUSTRY !

Consider signing the petition calling on Government to stop pushing Australian arms exports:

<https://www.change.org/p/prime-minister-of-australia-stop-pushing-australian-arms-exports>



Protesters burn the Australian Military Sales Catalogue in Sydney

IPAN NSW spokesperson Nick Deane speaking at the protest said: Book burning has a long history and some unpleasant connotations. However, some publications deserve to be consigned to fire. And that is what my colleagues and I think of this publication, "The Australian Military Sales Catalogue. We understand that \$3.8 billion is being

spent to encourage the sale of Australian-made weapons to overseas clients.

Something terribly obvious needs pointing out ! The purpose of every weapon ever made is to inflict fear, pain damage and death. Those who engage in the trade demean themselves. Gun-runners deserve condemnation. Governments that encourage and assist such activity should hid their heads. And of course they usually do.

To hear full speech, [click](#) to view video

University of Sydney tied to arms manufacturer

The Chancellor is the chairperson of weapons manufacturer

Thales

by Lara Sonnenschein



University of Sydney Vice-Chancellor and Principal Dr Michael Spence and arms manufacturer Thales Australia's Country Director and CEO Chris Jenkins

sign a 2017 MOU agreement.

Our Federal government is engaging in the biggest defence build-up since the Second World War. In the 2016 Defence White Paper, the Australian government outlined an 81 per cent increase in the defence budget over the next decade, translating to an additional \$29.9 billion and the hiring of 4400 new Australian Defence Force employees.

Recently, Prime Minister Turnbull announced his government will invest \$3.8 billion into the arms manufacturing industry, in the hopes that Australia will break into the top ten weapons exporters worldwide. At the same time, Turnbull is slashing \$2.2 billion from higher education.

Amid cuts to higher education and broader corporatisation, universities have turned to research partnerships to make up the revenue lost from public funding. And with Australia's newfound embracing of the arms industry, weapons companies are proving attractive bedfellows.

READ [complete article](#)

HIROSHIMA & NAGASAKI
73 years on
How far have we come ?



join us in commemoration of this horrendous
"human SANCTIONED" disaster!
SATURDAY 11th August-DINNER 6.30pm
at West End Garden (Traditional Chinese / Vietnamese food, Vegetarian, vegan and gluten-free options)
• 190 Melbourne St., West End • Cost: \$35 / \$30 conc.

SPEAKERS

Dr Joseph Gerson - Disarmament Co-ordinator
American Friends Service Committee

Dr Donna Weeks - Professor of Political Science,
Musashino University, Japan

SUNDAY 12th August-11.30am

MaiwarGreen (beside GOMA) • hear above speakers at a ceremony commemorating 73rd year
since the bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki in Japan

Booking essential by 9th August, 2018 for catering:

TryBooking.com/397382

Contact Annette Brownlie - 0431597256

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Just Peace

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Just Peace Brisbane to commemorate Hiroshima Day

Remember to book your place for the dinner on August 11th (www.TryBooking.com/397382) where internationally known speakers Dr Joseph Gerson and Dr Donna Weeks will be present. On Sunday 12th August we are holding an open air public forum (now 11:30am) commemorating the 73rd year since the nuclear bombings of Nagasaki and Hiroshima, Japan. Drs Gerson and Weeks will again be speaking on this immense tragedy. For details of the dinner and the forum please see the flyer here and attached.



AUSTRALIA is sinking \$35 billion into the purchase of nine ultra-modern frigates. So what is it that makes them so necessary, and what will be their place in the battlefields of the future?

MIKE SCRAFTON. Hunting for the reason-The new frigates.

Acknowledgements to Pearls and Irritations: 3 July 2018

In line with normal practise, the government has plenty to say about the economic and employment benefits to flow from the acquisition of the new Hunter class frigates and a little bit about what they can do. But offers nothing about the strategic justification for these expensive naval assets. That doesn't mean there isn't a strategic justification. However, the public should be entitled to hear the government's full explanation of the priority of this capability.

READ ON

ALP Branch challenges Labour Party Policy on

Foreign Troops in Australia

A NSW Labour Party Branch submitted the following resolutions to the ALP State Conference held in June this year:

1. That Labour re-assess the risks and benefits to the majority of Australian citizens in its close economic and military relationship with the United States of America and the UK.
2. That Labour considers the recommendation of IPAN in the on-going use of Pine Gap
3. Labour re-assess American troops on Australian land in preparation for increased hostility towards countries that pose no immediate military threat
4. That Labour considers commissioning a formal inquiry into the Iraq War

These resolutions were debated on the floor of the ALP State Conference and were **rejected**.

The reply to the branch following this rejection was:

Labour remains committed to Australia's alliance with the United States as the cornerstone of foreign policy. The alliance also must continue to be defined by the principles that have always underpinned it- the same principles and shared values that have shaped our post war world, our two countries shared principles and interests- democracy, freedom and human rights. Labour will always put Australia's interests first in foreign policy.

The ALP branch is continuing to debate these issues with a substantial reply to be sent to the State Organisation.

American Soft Power influence in Australia.



Dr Vince Scappatura speaks at the Newcastle Broad Left Function, June 23rd, on American Soft power influence in Australia. His address was very well received by the 95 people present. The Broad Left at Newcastle consists of ALP Left, Search Foundation, Progressive Labour Party, and Non Party Left.

His speech was video'd and can be accessed by [CLICKING HERE](#)
The audience was entertained by the Newcastle People's Chorus seen below singing:

"We swear by the Southern Cross to stand truly by each other and fight to defend our rights and liberties"



Over here and under scrutinised

by Justin Tutty (Base Watch Darwin)

Darwin locals know that sexual assault by visiting forces is a reality – both historically, and since the marines arrived in 2012. But in the face of this growing risk, we find we are poorly served by the local (foreign-owned) paper. So far, it seems, nothing has been done to actively manage the risk, but activists propose some simple steps that could at least better assure all stakeholders of shared expectations of the visitors.

[READ ON](#) for complete article

**How the Nuclear Annihilation stands in the way
of World Peace**

Dr Joseph Gerson speaks in Melbourne

CICD will be hosting Dr Joseph Gerson from 14th August to 16th August, 2018, with the support and sponsorship of: IPAN Victoria, Melbourne Unitarian Church, Quakers, Pax Christi, Spirit of Eureka and the Victorian Council of Churches (VCC).

PUBLIC MEETING: Wednesday 15th August, 7 pm at the Unitarian Church, 110 Grey St, East Melbourne.



Dr Joseph Gerson is Executive Director of the Campaign for Peace, Disarmament and Common Security and Vice President of the International Peace Bureau.

Joseph has served the American Friends Service committee since 1976 and is currently director the Peace and Security program for the AFSC in New England

South China Sea a touchstone for the new realities

by James O'Neill

”Containing” China has long been a US strategic imperative, but the role of China’s Belt and Road Initiative, a huge undertaking involving the Eurasian, African and South American continents has given a fresh impetus to American strategy in the Indian and Pacific Oceans. The new commander of US forces in the Pacific, Admiral Davidson told his Senate confirmation hearing on 17th of April that his major task was to prepare his forces for war with China, and enlisting as many allies as possible (Australia being a prominent one) in the Pentagon’s campaign to encircle China.

This “containment” already exists in the form of 400 US military bases located in proximity to China (China by contrast has two foreign military bases, one each in Pakistan and Djibouti). The US maintains what it calls a “continuous bomber presence” in the South China Sea. These nuclear-armed bombers are stated by the US to “demonstrate its global strike capacity.”

READ ON for complete article

Why are the Chinese so interested in Tasmania?
By Martin Flanagan



China's President Xi Jinping and his wife Peng Liyuan arrive in Hobart in 2014

In 2016, after Australia endorsed the Permanent Court of Arbitration's finding against China in the South China Sea, China's state-owned tabloid newspaper, *The Global Times*, wrote: "Australia lauds Chinese-Australian relations when China's economic support is needed, but when it needs to please Washington, it demonstrates a willingness to do anything in a show of allegiance ... If Australia steps into the South China Sea waters, it will be an ideal target for China to warn and strike. Australia is not even a 'paper tiger', it's only a 'paper cat' at best". *The Global Times* went so far as to predict our demise as a nation: "But this 'paper cat' won't last".

Australia's policy towards China is a dangerous contradiction. I say to our politicians: you got us into this mess, you get us out of it. What is

needed is an open debate about economic sovereignty, one that avoids racism. It can't be ignored.

[READ](#) complete article

Some extracts from the Lowy Institute's recent surveys of public opinion

Trust in the United States

A bare majority of Australians (55%) say they trust the United States to 'act responsibly in the world', in a six-point fall since 2017, a 28-point fall since 2011, and the lowest level of trust in the United States ever recorded in our polling.

The US Alliance and Trump

Three-quarters (76%) of Australians say the US alliance is either 'very' or 'fairly' important for Australia's security, in a result almost unchanged since last year. Only 31% say 'Australia should distance itself from the United States under President Donald Trump'.

Foreign interference in Australian politics

Only 41% of Australians see 'foreign interference in Australian politics' as a critical threat to Australia's vital interests. While 63% express concern about China's influence in Australia's political processes, 58% are concerned about the influence of the United States.

China

In 2018, 46% of Australians say it is likely that 'China will become a military threat to Australia in the next 20 years'. 77% of those who see China as a likely military threat agree with the statement that 'China

and the United States are likely to come into conflict in the future and Australia will end up being drawn into the conflict through its alliance with the United States’.

More than eight in ten (82%) Australians see China as ‘more of an economic partner’ than a ‘military threat’ (up three points since 2017).

More than half (55%) see China as the world’s leading economic power, compared with 29% who see the United States this way.

Around eight in ten (81%) Australians say ‘it is possible for Australia to have a good relationship with China and a good relationship with the United States at the same time’.

Click here for complete survey



**Expose the
#ToxicSAS**

#theAfghanFiles
@MarisePayne: where is the report??



August 12, 2018,
and the following fortnight,
Melbourne County Court of Victoria.

MELBOURNE 19 JULY 7pm

**"PALESTINIAN HUMAN RIGHTS
IN THE AGE OF TRUMP"**

State Library - Village Roadshow Theatre 179 La Trobe Street, Melbourne, CBD
TICKETS: \$20 CONCESSION \$10 BOOK NOW: crm.apan.org.au/erakat/

NOURA ERAKAT

Human rights attorney and an assistant professor at George Mason University.
Her media appearances include: CNN, MSNBC, Fox News, BBC, NPR
Democracy Now! and Al Jazeera

*Also speaking in Adelaide on 14 July 5.30pm at the Edward Said Memorial Lecture TICKETS: afopa.com.au/esml
and in Sydney on 16 July 6.00pm at SYDNEY IDEAS - "Gaza: Settler-Colonialism and War" - SOLD OUT*



Palestinian-American human rights attorney Noura Erakat is coming to Australia in July and will be speaking in three capital cities on settler-colonialism and Palestinian human rights.

- **Adelaide 14 July** Edward Said Memorial Lecture — "Anti-blackness: settler-colonialism and the question of Palestine"
- **Sydney 16 July** Sydney Ideas - "Gaza: Settler-Colonialism and War"
- **Melbourne 19 July** "Palestinian Human Rights in the age of Trump"

Keep checking the Facebook page of Australia Palestine Advocacy Network (APAN) for an announcement of a Facebook live event.

Noura's interview on CBSN about the recent Gaza massacres went viral on social media. Watch HERE



**Our next Basic
Workshop is on Sat 21
and Sun 22 July at
Musgrave Park, West
End-. Register now!**

For details [CLICK HERE](#)

Chris White Receives Honorary Life Membership of The Graham F. Smith Peace Foundation Inc.

Chris White received Honorary Life Membership in April 2018 of the Graham F Smith Peace Foundation Inc. in recognition and appreciation of his exceptional support for the Peace Foundation. Chris was a founding member of The Graham F Smith Peace Foundation (previously known as the Graham F Smith Peace Trust) established in 1989. Chris, Secretary and Assistant Secretary of the United Trades and Labour Council (UTLC) between 1985 and 2002, enriched the Peace Foundation with his radical politics including unionism and community activism. During this period, he connected the Peace Foundation with various unions.

Following his retirement Chris was involved in the life of the Peace Foundation by promoting its aims and works widely. He distributed pamphlets at conferences across Australia and linked the Peace Foundation with likeminded people. He ensured that the Peace

Foundation was politically up to date on various issues. The Chris White Blogging from a life-long unionist helped in this regard too. He wrote for the newsletter occasionally. It was through his encouragement that the Peace Foundation became a member of IPAN, The Independent and Peaceful Network.

We acknowledge with gratitude his big-heartedness and commitment to The Graham F Smith Peace Foundation since its inception in 1989.

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

COMING EVENTS SUMMARY:

Sydney, 17th July, 6.30pm, 'Keep Australia out of U.S. wars': IPAN Public Launching of the 'Give 'em the boot' campaign: Speakers: Richard Broinowski (Independent foreign policy & Korea), Lee Rhiannon (on an independent Foreign policy) and Nick Deane (on the IPAN Give 'em the boot' campaign) , NSW Teachers Federation, 33 Reservoir St Surrey Hills

Newcastle, Saturday 4th August, Hiroshima Day March & Rally, Clocktower Hamilton at 10am; speaker Alex Edney-Browne on military drones and militarisation of education

Adelaide, Monday, 6th August, 8am, Ceremony, Hiroshima Day 1945 remembrance, Peace Park, Sir Edwin Smith Drive

Brisbane, Sunday 11th August, 6.30pm, Hiroshima Day dinner, Speakers Dr Gerson & Weeks. www.TryBooking.com/397382

Hobart, Saturday, August 4th, MAPW in Hobart is organising a Hiroshima Day vigil on Parliament House lawns from 11-12 supported by other local peace groups.

Melbourne, Dr Joseph Gerson, How the Nuclear Annihilation stands in the way of World Peace, Wednesday, 15th August, 7pm, Unitarian Church, 110 Grey St , East Melbourne

Hobart: WILPF Tas is organising "Drumming for Peace" to be held on UN International Day of Peace on 21 September, from 12-1 p.m. in the Hobart City Mall.

We invite all those who can across Australia to drum something at that time to show the Government we want Australia to sign the UN Ban on Nuclear Weapons.

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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