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Voice No 20 – Sept 2018

For the Independent & Peaceful Australia Network

www.ipan.org.au

In this Issue:

- * ICAN Nobel Peace Ride and Rally
- * MUA says NO to Nuclear Ports in South Australia
- * Youth Voice on Nuclear Disarmament Workshop
- * Two Koreas agree to September nuclear summit in Pyongyang
- * Danger of breakout of US-Russia hostilities as Syrian government ousts last stronghold of rebel-terrorist resistance in Idlib
- * The Social and economic impact of the US Force Posture Initiative and associated stationing in Darwin of US Marines
- * Australia, NZ deploy aircraft to Japan to help enforce North Korea sanctions
- * Residents protracted fight against RAAF pollution at Williamstown
- * The Ten Principles of Bandung- Could they be a good starting point for an Independent Australian Foreign Policy ?
- * Agents of Influence- What about the Australian Strategic Policy Institute ?
- * Defence giants: the "Valley of Death" is really a Mountain of Money
- * Visit to ACT by Joseph Gerson

- * Caspian Sea Agreement may show the way to solve the South China Sea disputes- James O'Neill
- * Aircraft accidents during war exercises threaten Darwin residents
- * A Charter of Human Rights - Ngara Institute
- * Signing up for War: The US Military Agreement with Australia you probably know nothing about
- * IPAN calls on you to consider signing its e-petition calling for the US Marines to be sent home
- * International Day of Peace Lecture- Julian Burnside AO
- * The American Foreign Policy Coup
- * C.I.A. in Syria - Operation "Timber Sycamore"
- * Neutrality and war powers reform- paths to peace for Australia - Forum
- * Jirga
- * Rapid Public Response Arrangements
- * Coming Events Summary

ICAN Nobel Peace Ride To urge Government to sign the UN Ban-the-bomb Treaty



In September 2018, we will journey from Melbourne to Canberra by bicycle, touring our Nobel Peace Prize medal and raising awareness of the new UN Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons. Beginning on September 2 in Melbourne, the birthplace of ICAN, we will arrive in Canberra on September 20, marking one year since the nuclear ban treaty opened for signature and demanding our Government join this landmark accord as a matter of urgency. The adventure culminates in a ride, rally and march on September 20 calling for Australia to sign and ratify the nuclear weapon ban treaty on the one-year anniversary of it opening for signature. Local cyclists are invited to join the final 5km “bridge to bridge” cycling leg. Everyone is invited to join the march and rally from the Canberra Peace Bell to Parliament House!

- § 10am: cyclists meet and depart from the Canberra Peace Bell in the Nara Peace Park, Yarralumla
- § 11am: everyone gathers to ring the Canberra Peace Bell and begin the march to Parliament House
- § 12pm: rally outside Parliament House

A bus is going from the Central Station, Sydney at 7am for the Rally in Canberra on 20th September.

To book a place on the bus contact Margot Pearson :

margotmp@ozemail.com.au

MUA says No to Nuclear Ports in South Australia

The Maritime Union of Australia (MUA) is continuing its long-running stance against the shipping of any nuclear material in or out of South Australia.

The Turnbull Government has shortlisted three sites in South Australia that could be used to permanently hold low-level nuclear waste and temporarily store intermediate-level waste.

Two of these sites are at Kimba, on the Eyre Peninsula, while a third is near Hawker, in the northern Flinders Ranges.

Whyalla, Port Lincoln and Port Pirie were named as potential nuclear waste ports in three “Site Characterisation, Technical Reports” released by the Federal Department of Industry in July.

READ ON

YOUTH VOICE ON NUCLEAR DISARMAMENT WORKSHOP

An initiative of UNAA QLD, Just Peace and ICAN (2017 Nobel Laurette) and
UN Global Citizens Leadership Schools



On the morning of 16th August, four students took the stage of Molly and Len Draney theatre at Marist College. They were welcoming 40 high-school fellow students from Regional Brisbane, gathered together to learn, debate and express their opinion on the subject of nuclear disarmament.

Joel Lindsay, president of United Nations Young Professionals Qld addressed the threat of nuclear weapons from the Australian government's perspective.

He outlined the argument that nuclear-armed states and the strategic security alliance provided security for Australia.

In response, Dr Sue Wareham, one of the founding members of ICAN spoke on the importance of the Treaty to Prohibit Nuclear Weapons (TPNW) brought into effect at the United Nations General Assembly in 2017 as a tool to exert pressure on countries with nuclear weapons or countries that might be thinking of acquiring them. She also emphasised the value and power of both individual and collective action.

READ ON

Two Koreas agree to September nuclear summit in Pyongyang

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SBS News 7th Sept 2018

North and South Korea have agreed to hold a summit of their leaders in Pyongyang to discuss "practical measures" to realise denuclearisation of the Korean peninsula.

Kim Jong-un will meet the South's President Moon Jae-in at a summit in Pyongyang in September to discuss nuclear disarmament, Seoul said Thursday. This would be the third meeting this year between the two leaders, who will discuss "practical measures to denuclearise" the flashpoint peninsula during the September 18-20 summit, South Korean National Security Advisor Chung Eui-yong told reporters.

Danger of breakout of US-Russia hostilities as Syrian government ousts last stronghold of rebel-terrorist resistance in Idlib

WASHINGTON (Reuters) - U.S. President Donald Trump on Monday warned Syrian President Bashar al-Assad and his allies Iran and Russia not to “recklessly attack” Syria’s rebel-held Idlib province, warning that hundreds of thousands of people could be killed.

A source has told Reuters that Assad is preparing a phased offensive to regain Idlib. The northern province and surrounding areas are the last major enclave held by insurgents fighting Assad.

U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo on Friday said Washington views any government assault on Idlib as an escalation of Syria’s war, and the State Department warned that Washington would respond to any chemical attack by Damascus.

Meantime up to 13 Russian warships have crossed the Bosphorus toward Syria so far this week as tensions between the U.S. and Syria continue to rise

The "Information Clearing House" reports on 28th Aug, the Russian Ministry of Defence said on Monday it had noticed Washington was building up its military forces in the Middle East in preparation for what Moscow feared was a possible strike on Syrian government forces, Russian news agencies reported.

Major-General Igor Konashenkov was quoted by agencies as saying that the USS Ross, a guided-missile destroyer, had entered the Mediterranean on Aug. 25 armed with 28 Tomahawk cruise missiles capable of hitting any target in Syria.

The deployment of the Russian fleet comes as the U.S. President Donald Trump threatened to strike the Syrian Army ahead of the long-awaited battle of Idlib. Syria,



The Social and economic impact of the US Force Posture Initiative and associated stationing in Darwin of US Marines

IPAN's submission to KPMG's investigation and report

IPAN has made a submission based on:

1. Local impact including:

- * increased aircraft movements and associated noise
- * increased risk of assaults
- * intrusion on Aboriginal land
- * physical danger

2. Environmental impacts within the NT including:

- * damage to the natural environment
- * storage of munitions, fuel and possibly nuclear weapons

3. National impacts including:

- * damaging Australia's status in the region
- * making Australia a target for attack
- * extra cost on taxpayers
- * risk to a vital trading partnership

For the complete submission:

READ ON

SBS News 7th Sept, 2018

Australia, NZ deploy aircraft to Japan to help enforce North Korea sanctions

Australia and New Zealand will deploy aircraft to assist in the enforcement of sanctions against North Korea

Australia and New Zealand said sanctions their governments were deploying three maritime patrol aircraft to Japan to assist with efforts to enforce United Nations sanctions against North Korea.

Australia will add two AP-3C Orion maritime patrol aircraft to conduct maritime surveillance to an existing aircraft deployed earlier in the year, Defence Minister Christopher Pyne said in a statement.

Residents protracted fight against RAAF pollution at Williamstown



A baby borne in Williamstown with 40 times the safe level of the PFAS contaminants in its blood, a property owner issued with a bank foreclosure notice after being unable to rent or sell her farm and the uncovering of a potential cancer cluster along Cabbage Tree Rd at Williamstown, all resulting from the leaking of PFAS contaminants from the RAAF base.

For the residents, it has been a political war of attrition to try and prise the required financial assistance from the federal government to clean up its own contamination leaching from the Williamstown RAAF base and compensate affected residents, a battle that has been going on for three years.

READ ON

The Ten Principles of Bandung

Could they be good starting principles for an Independent Australian Foreign Policy ?

In April 1955, the heads of state of 29 Asian and African countries, many of them newly independent, gathered in Bandung, Indonesia, to chart a course for peaceful co-existence and mutual respect between all nations. At the end of the Conference, the delegates issued a ten-point declaration known as The Ten Principles of Bandung. They are:

1. Respect for fundamental human rights and for the purpose and principles of the Charter of the United Nations ;
2. Respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of all countries,
3. Recognise the equality of all races and the equality of all nations,
4. Non-intervention in the internal affairs of other countries,
5. Respect for the right of each nation to defend itself singly or collectively, in conformity with the Charter of the United Nations.
6. (a) Abstention from the use of arrangements of collective defence to serve any particular interests of the big powers.
(b) Abstention by any countries from exerting pressure on other countries
7. Refraining from acts or threats of aggression or the use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of any countries

8. Settlement of all international disputes by peaceful means, such as negotiation, conciliation, arbitration or judicial settlement as well as other peaceful means of the parties' own choice, in conformity with the Charter of the United Nations.
9. Promotion for mutual interest and cooperation
10. Respect for justice and international obligations

Agents of influence — what about the Australian Strategic Policy Institute?

by John Menadue



Agents of influence via Shutterstock

Agents of influence, presumably Chinese, are in the news. But the really important agents of influence are organisations linked “hip to hip” to the US and its military/industrial complex. One of these is the Australian Strategic Policy Institute which is an enthusiastic supporter of almost all things American. It pretends it is an independent think

tank. [John Menadue](#) updates his post on this subject from September 6, 2016.

Yesterday, Bob Carr commented that ASPI and the US Studies Centre at the University of Sydney both express “consistently pro American positions” while receiving funding from “US corporations including armaments companies”.

[READ FULL ARTICLE](#)

Defence giants: the “Valley of Death” is really a Mountain of Money

MW Aug 9, 2018 | [Government](#)



Global defence contractors are among the largest beneficiaries of Australian government spending. All the big names of military hardware operate here: from Boeing and Raytheon to Lockheed Martin and BAE. Do they donate to political parties? Do they pay much tax in return for billions in taxpayer contracts, contracts which are rarely subject to public scrutiny? **Eliot Barham** and **Michael West** crunch the major numbers and take a look at the biggest of them all, BAE Systems.

British multinational defence contractor, BAE Systems, has just won an eye-watering \$35 billion contract to build a fleet of nine frigates for the Royal Australian Navy. The money in defence is huge but analysis of where that money goes shows foreign taxpayers are often the

beneficiaries.

READ ON



VISIT TO ACT BY JOSEPH GERSON

-Report by David Purnell and
Kathryn Kelly

Joseph Gerson, who leads the Disarmament Program at the American Friends Service Committee (AFSC), visited Canberra from 12-14 August 2018 as guest of the Independent and Peace Australia Network (IPAN), Canberra Quakers, and the Sydney Hiroshima Committee. His Australian trip followed attendance at an anti-nuclear conference in Japan. He has experience over many years in the peace movement, and is currently the Vice-President of the International Peace Bureau and President of the Campaign for Peace, Disarmament and Common Security.

On 13 August Joseph met with ALP Senator Lisa Singh, Greens Senators Peter Whish-Wilson and Janet Rice, and ALP MP Sharon Claydon, and several staff/advisers at Parliament House. He supported their efforts to get Australia to change its position, and to sign and ratify the Nuclear Weapons Ban Treaty passed by the UN in 2017 by a large majority (122 nations). He stressed the critical importance of reversing the nuclear arms race at a time when threats

to use nuclear weapons are greater than ever.

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Caspian Sea Agreement may show the way to solve the South China Sea disputes

James O'Neill

On 12 August 2018 the five littoral states to the Caspian Sea (Azerbaijan, Iran, Kazakhstan, Russia and Turkmenistan) signed an historic agreement governing the use of the Caspian Sea. The negotiations had been ongoing for more than 20 years.

.....

Although there are important differences between the Caspian Sea and the South China Sea, there are also lessons that can be drawn. Following the recent ASEAN meeting in Singapore, the ASEAN nations and China announced that they had agreed upon a new draft code of conduct for the littoral States of the South China Sea. Those negotiations had also been very lengthy.

The draft code of conduct underscores the importance of those nations most affected by the issues in dispute being the ones best able to formulate a resolution when they are able to do so. Those negotiations arguably have a better chance of success, absent the involvement of outside countries such as the United States and Australia. The actions and statements of those two nations demonstrate an inability to promote a peaceful resolution of the South China Sea issues, preferring instead a provocative and confrontational methodology.

The Caspian Sea Convention and the South China Sea code of

conduct provide evidence that an alternative model is available.

[READ FULL ARTICLE](#)

Aircraft accidents during war exercises threaten Darwin residents



ABC News 31st July, 2018:

It's probably not the adage you're familiar with, but it's not every day an aircraft fuel tank weighing up to 450 kilograms falls from the sky.

An aircraft (believed to be US) was forced to dump the tank over Darwin on Monday during the first wave of flights for Pitch Black — one of the biggest international airforce exercises in the Southern Hemisphere — after running into trouble after take-off. Darwin is hosting 140 aircraft and 4,000 personnel from 16 countries in the three-week exercise.

In a Facebook post, Trey Branson said he was parked near the service station on Wishart Road when he saw "something pretty big" fall off a jet overhead. He said it looked like it dropped "very, very close" to PowerWater Corporation workers in the power yard substation behind the petrol station. The workers were "all staring towards where it landed ... [it] just missed them," Mr Branson wrote.

It's not the first time an aircraft has run into strife at Pitch Black; in 2000, investigators were left scratching their heads after a dummy missile fell from an FA18 Hornet onto a ute in Darwin. Basil Rowe's ute was destroyed by the falling object, prompting calls for air warfare exercises to be moved away from the city.

Several years ago a US aircraft accidentally bombed the sleeping quarters of the RAAF at Tindal; fortunately there were no one in the quarters at the time.

NGARA Institute. Circulated 26 August 2018

A Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities

Draft subject to discussion and amendment

Extracts:

This Charter recognises that all people are born free and equal in dignity and rights and that human rights belong to all people without discrimination. Every person has a responsibility to exercise their human rights in a way that respects the human rights of others.

.....

The aims of this Charter are to protect human rights by:

- ensuring that all laws and policies are made and applied, compatibly with human rights, our first sovereign Nations peoples and the protection of the environment
- imposing an obligation on all public authorities to act in a way that is compatible with human rights, first sovereign Nations peoples and the need to protect the environment

The Charter address:

Equality before the law

Right to life

Freedom of movement

Privacy and reputation

Freedom of thought, conscience, religion and belief

Freedom of assembly and association

Families and children

Right to public life

Cultural Rights

Right to Property

Right to liberty

Right to a healthy environment

For the complete document [READ ON](#)

Comments can be made to: secretary@ngarainstitute



The US Pacific Fleet, with its more than 130,000 troops, is the spearhead of a potential confrontation with China. (IMAGE: US Pacific Fleet, Flickr, licensed under CC BY-NC 2.0)

Reprint from New Matilda:

Signing Up For War: The US Military Agreement With Australia You Probably Know Nothing About

Australia has long been an ally of the United States. But the extent of that relationship today remains largely secret. Bevan Ramsden from the Independent & Peaceful Australia Network sheds some light on it.

The Force Posture Agreement – entered into between the US and Australian Governments in 2015 – makes Australia a base in the Indo-Pacific-South East Asia for the US military, and from which they can parade their strength, intimidate and launch hostile acts against our

neighbours.

READ ON



IPAN Calls on you to consider signing the e-petition to the Government calling for the US Marines in Darwin to be sent home

Only a day to go for you to sign the e-petition to the Government calling on them to terminate the Force Posture Agreement between the US and Australian Governments and send the US Marines in Darwin home.

The reasons:

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.

The US Marines are trained as an attack force to "invade, capture and secure". They are not here to defend Australia but to enable the US to project its power in our region.

Any enemy of the USA (and it has plenty!) could, would, also regard Australia as an enemy. **The US Marines stationed in Darwin actually increases the chances of Australia sustaining an attack.**

- **It makes us a target!**
- **It makes us less, not more, safe!**
- **It makes us enemies, when we need have none!**
- **It means that we are being exploited by the USA, for its own purposes!**

TO Sign the e-petition:

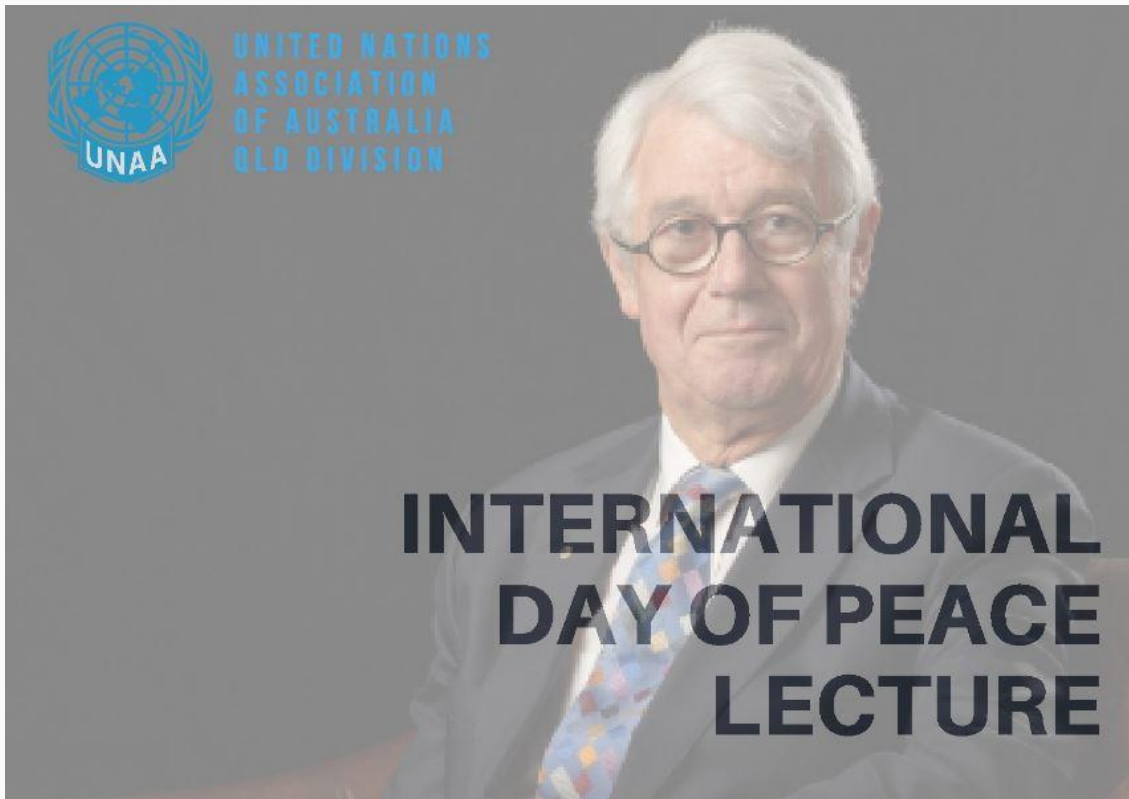
- * Click on [Sign an e-petition – Parliament of Australia](#)
- * Scroll through to petition number EN0667
- * Sign and follow the prompts.

The e-petition closes on 12th September.

Originated by IPAN's Give 'em the boot" Campaign

www.giveemtheboot.com.au

email: giveemtheboot2@gmail.com



The International Day of Peace Lecture will be given by Julian Burnside AO, Human Rights and Refugee Advocate and Barrister.

6.30pm-9pm, 21st September at St John's Cathedral Brisbane.

RSVP to Qld@unaa.org.au

The American Foreign Policy Coup

Listen to General Wesley Clark , (retired) Supreme Allied Commander Europe of NATO from 1997 to 2000.

[Click Here](#)

**C.I.A. in Syria - Operation "Timber Sycamore" -
Professor Jeffrey Sachs - Columbia University**

Listen to Professor Sachs on CIA operation to overthrow President Assad of Syria.

He says US must stop trying to overthrow Assad and stop supporting the terrorists and get out of Syria.

[CLICK HERE](#)



The Independent and Peaceful Australia Network invites you to a Forum in the ACT

‘Neutrality and war powers reform – paths to peace for Australia?’

Speakers:

Dr Alison Broinowski - *War powers reform*

Dr Peter Stanley – *What form might a neutral Australia take?*

6 for 6.30pm, Wednesday 26 September 2018

Reception Room, ACT Legislative Assembly, London Circuit

At this time of ongoing tensions in the South China Sea and the Middle East, and when it becomes more obvious day by day that America is a ‘dangerous ally’, the forum will provide a timely opportunity for discussion of possible practical paths to peace for Australia:

- * What would war powers reform look like?
- * What would neutrality look like for Australia?

* The implications of neutrality for the defence of Australia.
Come along and join the discussion on Australia's future as a responsible global citizen.

Bookings – [Eventbrite](#)

JIRGA

JIRGA is a riveting story about a former Australian soldier who returns to Afghanistan to find the family of a villager he accidentally killed during a night raid and to pay them compensation. He is tried by the village court called “the Jirga” as forgiveness cannot be purchased . JIRGA will release in cinemas nationally from Sept 27 after having recently screened In Competition at the Sydney Film Festival, the Melbourne International Film Festival and awarded winner of the 2018 CinefestOZ \$100,000 Film Prize, Australia's greatest film prize.

JIRGA is available at the following selected cinema locations around Australia from 27 September, 2018.

Sydney: Dendy Newtown, Dendy Opera Quays, Hayden Orpheum Picture Palace Cremorne

Melbourne: Cinema Nova

Perth: Luna Leederville

Canberra: Dendy Canberra

Hobart: State Theatre

Adelaide: Mitcham Cinemas

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:

Canberra: ICAN Bike Ride from Melbourne to Canberra, 2-20th September, to carry the Nobel Peace Prize to Parliament House and demand the signing of the UN treaty to ban nuclear weapons. Rally at 12 midday outside Parliament House

Brisbane: The International Day of Peace Lecture will be given by Julian Burnside AO, Human Rights and Refugee Advocate and Barrister.

6.30pm-9pm, 21st September at St John's Cathedral Brisbane.

RSVP to Qld@unaa.org.au

Canberra: a public meeting is planned in Canberra on 26th September : "Neutrality and War Powers Reform - paths to peace for Australia?" with Historian Peter Stanley talking on neutrality and Prof. Alison Broinowski on war powers reform . The meeting will be held at 6.30pm in the Legislative Assembly reception room.

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.

Newcastle: Screening of John Pilger's film "The Coming War with China" and discussion of IPAN's "Gove '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.

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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