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## The Greens call for an end to the stationing of US Troops in Darwin



In response to a submission from IPAN's NSW rep Nick Deane, The Greens, at their 2018 National Conference and AGM in November, passed the following resolutions unanimously:

**That this Conference:**

- 1. calls on the Australian Government to rescind the Force Posture Agreement between Australia and the US and***
- 2. agrees that the continuous presence of US Marines in Darwin should cease.***

The following points were made in their discussions and debate on this issue:

The ongoing presence of up to 2,500 US marines in Darwin as a Marine Air Ground Task Force is not needed for Australia's defence. It undermines both Australia's sovereignty and its trade and diplomatic relations with neighbouring countries, has negative social and environmental impacts and exposes Australia to greater risk of military conflict.

This routine occupation of a portion of Australian territory by the armed forces of a foreign country, who will follow orders from a foreign government, when Australia itself is under no immediate or foreseeable military threat, is unacceptable.

The Greens therefore call for the termination of the Force Posture Agreement and the cessation of the US Marines' presence in Darwin.

## **Brisbane Youth support UN Ban-the-Bomb Treaty at Peace Workshop**



40 Brisbane youth and 6 professional artists came together in August 2018 - they discussed nuclear weapons and the nuclear ban treaty, and developed their own voice on this important issue through dance, music, art and special effects, video, and computer gaming.

For more details [view 4 minute video](#)

## **South Africa ratifies UN Treaty on Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons**

*Parliament, Friday, 30 November 2018 – The Chairperson of the Portfolio Committee on International Relations and Cooperation, Mr Siphosizwe Masango, has welcomed the National Assembly (NA) resolution to ratify the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons. “We join the campaign by South Africa and other State Parties that all other Countries must sign, ratify, accept, approve or accede to this Treaty with the goal of universal adherence, unless such a State can prove to the UN that signing this Treaty will “jeopardize its supreme interest,” said Mr Masango.*

South Africa was one of the original sponsors in the UN General Assembly of the resolution mandating the negotiations towards a Legally-Binding Instrument to Prohibit Nuclear Weapons, leading towards their total elimination. The Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons was adopted by the UN on 7 July 2017.

## Health Services Union calls on the Australian Government to sign and ratify the UN Treaty to Prohibit Nuclear Weapons



*The National Council of the Health Services Union:*

- 1. Acknowledges the devastating humanitarian consequences of any use of nuclear weapons, whether deliberate or by accident.*
- 2. Acknowledges that health workers would be among the first to respond to a nuclear attack. Most hospitals and support services would be rendered non-functional.*
- 3. Supports a nuclear-free defence policy for Australia. Nuclear weapons are inherently indiscriminate and inhumane. Their existence and policies for their use threaten the security of all.*

4. *Notes and welcomes the adoption of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW) at the United Nations in 2017 as a significant step towards the elimination of nuclear weapons.*
5. *Congratulates the Australian-founded International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons for their role in bringing about the TPNW, for which they were awarded the 2017 Nobel Peace Prize.*
6. *Calls on the Australian Government to sign and ratify the TPNW as a matter of urgency.*



**Just Peace calls on ALP Conference to support a Human Rights Act and parliamentary debate and approval for war before an Australian ADF overseas deployment**

At the Just Peace Qld Inc AGM on the 2nd December 2018 the following motion was passed during general business.

That this Annual General Meeting of Just peace Qld Inc reaffirms its commitment to campaign for the enactment of:

1. A national Human Rights Act for all Australians
2. An act that requires Parliamentary approval before committing our ADF to war service overseas

The National conference of the Australian Labor Party will be held in Adelaide from the 16th to 18th December 2018.

**We in Just Peace ask that you urgently communicate your support for a national human right act and for Parliamentary approval before committing our young people and the nation to war, to delegates attending the conference.**

This includes Senators, MP's and delegates from party membership and Unions.



## **ALP National Conference Peoples Protest Picnic**

Adelaide Convention  
Centre Plaza.

Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> Dec, 8.30  
am – 2 pm

**Join a group of community organisations and /or individuals to let the ALP know that we want positive policies – not just the lesser of 2 evils. Only voter pressure will influence their policies, so it's essential that we get a good crowd on the Sunday morning, and a continuous presence for the whole conference.**

# Commemorate

DON'T COMMERCIALI\$E

No weapon-makers at the War Memorial

The Australian War Memorial increasingly seeks and accepts sponsorships from the world's largest multinational weapon manufacturers. These companies reap enormous profits from war; for them, ongoing warfare leads to greater business success. They have no place in a memorial to our war dead.

Sign the petition : **Australian War Memorial: Stop accepting funding from weapon-makers**

**SIGN**

**164th Anniversary of Eureka-  
Melbourne Function**  
**"..they called for a republic and  
independence.."**



Extracts from Shirley Winton's introductory speech:

"The demands and a vision on which Eureka rebels united and fought for are still with us today as relevant as ever – genuine democracy and rights for the working people, fair go for all, taxing the rich not the poor and independence from big powers.

"Eureka was far more than a rebellion against the oppressive British colonial authority, the army, police and the rich

squattocracy. Eureka rebels put forward far-reaching demands and a vision of ordinary people— a just, truly democratic and independent Australia for the working people.

"On 29 November they swore solidarity to each other under the Eureka flag and called for an Australian republic and independence from British colonial empire. "

For complete speech [READ ON](#)

**11th November Centenary Forum , Melbourne**

**Alan Patience**

## **Australia in a World at Peace with itself**

The fall of Singapore abruptly taught Australians that their security dependence on the

British was now misplaced. But instead of choosing independence, they turned to the United States of America, eventually framing their alliance with this latest 'great and powerful friend' in the ambiguous terms of the ANZUS treaty that came into force a decade after what has been rightly described as the 'bloody shambles' of Singapore.

*The price of this confected arrangement with the USA is that Australia has been involved in every American war ever since. And it's not just America's wars that we are eager to get into. We must never forget – 'lest we forget' – that this has come at immense cost to the country in terms of blood and treasure. Regardless, Australia continues to cast itself as a belligerent nation, oblivious to the very idea that we have a sacred duty to 'give peace a chance.'* Whenever our great and powerful ally calls on us – and sometimes even before

they call on us – we are more than ready and willing to leap to America’s side, whether it be on the Korean Peninsula, throughout the terrible years and proxy wars of the Cold War era, in Vietnam, in Afghanistan, in Iraq, in Syria and in other clandestine conflicts about which the Australian public rarely hears. And now we have a Minister for Defence who wants to capitalise on Australia’s proclivity for going to other people’s wars by making the country a major arms exporting nation – including, it must be noted, exporting arms to Saudia Arabia.

**READ ON** for complete article

With acknowledgement to Pearls and Irritations:

## **JOSEPH CAMILLERI. The seismic shift we can no longer ignore**

Posted on 28 November 2018

*The acute tensions that disrupted the recent APEC summit, the Brexit fiasco in Britain, the rise of populist discourse and movements in much of Europe, the ‘theatre of the grotesque’ in Trump’s America, are just a few of the symptoms of the seismic shift that has been in the making for over three decades. It is a shift which political leaders, not least in Australia, seem scarcely able to comprehend, let alone address.....*

An independent Australian foreign policy would challenge more forcefully the current security, industrial and energy policies of many developed countries. In collaboration with others Australian efforts could help reverse the continuing pollution of the seas and mitigate the dangers of climate change, which have become life and death issues for Pacific Island nations.....

Over the next ten to twenty years Australia will have every opportunity to distance itself from subservience to US interests and priorities. The narrative of the United States, as the only superpower, delivering protection against the ultimate threat to 'national security', and enabling Australia to speak and act in its neighbourhood with a louder voice may have been reassuring in the past. But it is rapidly losing the credibility it may have once had.... In any case, if carefully and respectfully handled, the progressive demotion and eventual termination of the ANZUS alliance, should in no way obstruct a close and constructive economic, political and cultural relationship with the United States. Nor should it lead to new forms of dependence, whether on China or any other centre of power.

For complete article [READ ON](#)

# Caught in middle of US-China contention, Australia sides with US in their efforts to contain and keep China out of western pacific

Contributed by Bevan Ramsden



*Australia is currently facing a major change in strategic circumstances and the argument for pursuing a truly independent foreign policy for the economic benefit and security of the Australian people, has never been so great.*

The struggle between the US and China over dominance in the western pacific was never clearer than at the recent PNG APEC conference. And their mutual hostility prevented the APEC conference from producing a final communique because of lack of agreement between the two super powers over trade issues. The world's top two economies have become embroiled in a spiralling trade war, imposing tit-for-tat tariffs on each other's goods in a

confrontation experts warn could torpedo the global economy. The media headlines captured the situation accurately.

The Australian editorial of 19<sup>th</sup> November called the China-US contention evident at the APEC conference a “**Struggle for supremacy in the Indo-Pacific region**”.

ABC News, 19/11/18 stated: **APEC 2018: US-China clash at regional meeting leads to historic summit failure.**

SBS News of 19<sup>th</sup> November, 2018 said “**Australia is caught in the middle of escalating tensions between China and the United States, as the superpowers battle over trade and strategic control.**”

For complete article **READ ON**

With Acknowledgement to Pearls and Irritations

## **Australia-US Defence Relationship: Are we in the “prudent planning” phase already?**

**Mack Williams**

Former Ambassador to the Philippines and South Korea and Royal College of Defence Studies

Posted on 27 November 2018

The publication by the ABC of a previously highly classified analysis of the ADF’s logistic problems in the early phase of Gulf War 11 has shed some critical light on the process by which Australia joined in that war. It underlined the urgent need to review the role of ADF generals and other senior personnel embedded into PACOM in the contingency planning the US military must be preparing for the ramping up of military confrontation against China so vaunted on several occasions recently by Vice President Spence.

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With acknowledgement to Pearls and Irritations

## **With the rise of China our failures in Asia are even more serious**

John Menadue

Posted on 23 November 2018

We are so used to being conditioned, told and doing what Washington wants that we find it hard to make up our own mind on what is in our national interest in our own region. And our failure to think for ourselves is going to become even more critical with a new powerful player in our region, China. For the first time in our history we will have a regional power that will become more powerful than our outside protector, the US.

China is already a larger economy.

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SMH 2 Dec 2018

### **Gareth Evans urges Bill Shorten to move away from US, blasts Coalition over foreign policy**

One of Labor's most respected foreign policy figures has urged Bill Shorten to distance Australia from the United States if he becomes prime minister, and sign up to China's controversial global infrastructure spending spree.

Gareth Evans, who served as foreign minister under Bob Hawke and Paul Keating, also said a pivot away from America would

require billions more in defence spending, and condemned Prime Minister Scott Morrison's potential shift on Middle East policy as an "unbelievable folly" that threatened long-term relationships with key regional partners.

Mr Evans did not call for Australia to walk away from the ANZUS military alliance but said an end to loyally following the United States was long overdue.

"The bottom line is that neither we nor anyone else in the region should be under any illusion that, for all the insurance we might think we have bought with our past support, the US will be there for us militarily in any circumstance where it does not also see its own immediate interests being under some threat.

**[READ FULL REPORT](#)**

Acknowledgment to Pearls and Irritations

## **New Revelations About Australia and the Iraq War**

**James O'Neill**

Posted on [30 November 2018](#)

*A new ABC report reveals, quoting from a previously classified document, that the Australian government decided in early 2002 to join the American led Iraq War, but failed to disclose that to Parliament or the public.*

A newly declassified document, originally compiled by Dr Albert Palazzo of the Australian Army's Land Warfare Studies Centre, has been publicized on the ABC's news website. Professor Clinton Fernandes of the University of New South Wales obtained the 156-page report.

There are two key paragraphs in the ABC report. It quotes Professor Fernandes as saying that the Palazzo Report discloses that the Howard government had decided in early 2002 that Australian Defence Force personnel would be dispatched to the United States Central Command headquarters in Florida to begin planning the Iraq War.

Fernandes goes on to say that the Howard government has already decided, in early 2002, to join the US operation in Iraq. This decision was kept from Parliament, the ADF at large, and the Australian public.

For complete article [READ ON](#)

## **International Conference Against US/NATO Bases Addresses Militarism**

Roger Harris – TRANSCEND Media Service

26 Nov 2018 – For the first time in the history of humanity, the technical means are at hand to eliminate poverty if resources were not diverted to making war. World hunger could be abolished with only a small diversion from military budgets. The only luxuries that so-called middle-class Americans would have to forego would be the Blue Angels air show and drone-bombing wedding parties in the Middle East. Yet, military spending is expanding, and with it global poverty.

On November 16-18, some 300 peace activists representing over 35 countries gathered in Dublin, Ireland for the first International Conference Against US/NATO Military Bases to address this tragic paradox of the technical ability to serve humanity and the political proclivity by the ruling circles in the West to do the opposite. Roger Cole of the Irish peace organization PANA identified the twin threats to humankind of global warming and global war, both driven by accelerating militarization.

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### **Call for Actions on NATO Summit 2019**



***NATO turns 70 in 2019 and will celebrate its anniversary on 4<sup>th</sup> April 2019 in Washington DC. The international network No to War – No to NATO calls for broad, creative and peaceful actions against NATO in Washington DC and worldwide. NATO is obsolete, it belongs in the dustbin of history!***  
*NATO claims to strive for collective defence and for the preservation of peace and security. But, NATO has never been such a system. It is the largest military alliance in the world with the largest military*

spending and nuclear stockpiles. It is both the main driver for a new arms race and the main obstacle to a nuclear weapons-free world. Since the end of the Cold War, NATO has been transformed into a global alliance structured to wage “out of area” wars in Asia, the Middle East and North Africa, as well as to “contain” China. Having military troops at the Russian border, new nuclear weapons and a missile defence shield, it is a key driver for confrontation with Russia and a perpetrator of the corrosive “enemy” narrative.

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## **Voiding the INF Treaty – Dangerous Implications?**

Stephen Darley

The media coverage of the US plan to withdraw from the 1987 Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces (INF) treaty has been sparse. Although it was used to eliminate an entire category of nuclear weapons, this was probably the first time most folks had ever heard of this Reagan-era arms control agreement that helped end the Cold War and kept Europe stable for a generation. Which may explain why the American or the global public is not yet reacting to this disaster with the level of panic it deserves. But you would be forgiven for thinking that Reagan and Gorbachev came up with the idea to make the world safer and proceeded to negotiate and sign the treaty. It's the 'great man' approach to history, like the English historians of British India who wrote about statesmen and soldiers and diplomats, but somehow left out the Indians, except for an occasional Maharajah. A people-less history.

**READ ON**

Stephen Darley explores the very dangerous implications of further

nuclear escalation if the US follows up its announced withdrawal from the INF treaty with Russia, including background from Professor Stephen Cohen, interviewed on Russia Today. Implications for China, Australia and the western Pacific, and the planet are covered on the following Radio Adelaide Podcast.

**LISTEN**



James O'Neill speaks at Just Peace AGM:

**The War in Syria and Australia's Foreign Policy.**

On 23 September 2014 the United States sent a letter to the United Nations Security Council setting out its justification for the launching of air attacks against what it claimed was ISIL (or ISIS or Daesh).

The United States letter invoked the right to collective self defence under article 51 of the United Nations Charter where, as claimed in this case, the government of the State where the threat is located is unwilling or unable to prevent the use of its territory for the making of attacks against a third party nation. The government allegedly unwilling or unable to stop these attacks was Syria.

Syria had in fact been fighting various terrorist groups, including ISIS, on its territory, since at least 2011. It is true that by 2014 ISIS controlled a significant section of Syrian territory.

By no stretch of the imagination could it be said to be unwilling, so it was on the basis of an alleged inability to effectively eliminate ISIS that the United States purported to justify its intervention.

.....

In case there were any doubts about the legality of the United States – Australia – et al intervention in Syria, the United Nations Security Council and the United Nations General Assembly have on multiple occasions since September 2014 reaffirmed the territorial integrity of Syria and that all measures to counter terrorism must be in accordance with the United Nations Charter and other obligations under international law.

For complete article [READ ON](#)



REPRINT : Greens Fact Sheet  
produced by Scott Ludlam

## **The Impact of Military Bases**

The November 2011 announcement of the establishment of a US Marine base at Robertson Barracks has left many questions unanswered. Will the base host intelligence services, or is it strictly a training facility? Will military deployments be launched from there?

What agreements have been made about its potential expansion? Will weapons and munitions be stored there, and will these include depleted uranium munitions and cluster weapons? There is also great uncertainty about the scope of other basing and shared-use arrangements at other defence sites in Australia, including air weapons ranges across northern Australia and at Garden Island in Western Australia. Demanding accountability over military activities is an essential part of a functioning democracy, but the process of establishment of this base, its purpose and extent, shows just how much this accountability is under threat in Australia. For complete article [READ ON](#)

## **CLIMATE CHANGE- a threat to civilisation ? refugees? war ?**

An extract from Chris Hedges'  
"Unspeakable



A pervasive and ruthless security and surveillance apparatus, along with a heavily militarised police empowered to use indiscriminate lethal force, will turn industrial nations into climate fortresses to keep out refugees – we are already seeing this in Europe and along our (*i.e. the US*) border with Mexico – and make sure that a restive and desparate population inside these fortresses remains frightened and under control. The elites will retreat to protected compounds where they will have access to services and amenities, including food, water and medical care, denied the rest of us. It will become the world Hobbes feared.

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## **Action needed to save Julian Assange**

Nick Dean writes to  
politicians

Julian Assange is facing the prospect of arrest by British authorities, if, as seems possible, he is forced to leave the Ecuadorian Embassy in London in the near future.

In that eventuality, there is a strong possibility that he will be handed over to US authorities to face charges in that country (as he himself has always maintained).

If he is handed over to the USA, he will, no doubt, face severe punishment and, quite likely, torture.

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## **Militarisation of Education**

**Alex Edney-Browne at  
Newcastle's  
Red Flag Dinner**



MELBOURNE activist and academic, Ms Alex Edney-Browne spoke at the Newcastle Red Flag Dinner on what she says are the increasing links between the weapons industry and Australian

universities. She said universities were places that should teach the resolution of conflict through more peaceful means.

“Universities should not be doing research that contributes to the death of people,” Ms Edney-Browne said.

She said a number of Australian universities had embarked on joint ventures or partnerships with big weapons companies including Lockheed Martin, Thales, Raytheon and BAE. She said these companies liked to call themselves “defence” manufacturers but they were really about promoting war, not defence.

Hunter Broad Left spokesperson Rod Noble said: “This is very relevant to us here in Newcastle, given the proximity of the RAAF base at Williamtown and the links that the University of Newcastle has already established with the RAAF and some of the major companies,” Mr Noble said.

## **UNITED STATES DIPLOMATIC STANDOFF: IRAN, 2018**

Richard Stone

The diplomatic stand-off between the United States and Iran has become tenuous in recent weeks. It is not, however, solely confined to Iran.

There are wider hegemonic implications for US diplomatic positions toward the whole Middle East region.

In mid-November, an Iranian Revolutionary Guard military commander issued an official media release stating Iranian missile facilities had the capacity to hit United States bases in Afghanistan, United Arab Emirates and Qatar, together with US aircraft carriers in the Gulf. (1) The announcement, by Amirali Hajizadeh, head of the Iranian airspace division, followed months of US sabre-rattling toward Iran.

Earlier, President Donald Trump, speaking at the United Nations where he was chairing the Security Council in October, delivered an ultimatum to world leaders to isolate Iran or face the consequences. (2) The US diplomatic position, the outcome of a classic Cold War stance toward Tehran, also had wider implications for the Middle East, with an enforced division between Shia and Sunni Islam. Iran, is the centre of Shia Islam; US ally, Saudi Arabia, is the main centre for Sunni followers.

For complete article [READ ON](#)



**“If these men must die, would it not be better to die in their own country fighting for the freedom of their class, and for the abolition of war, than to go forth to strange countries and die slaughtering and slaughtered by their brothers that tyrants and profiteers might live?”**

**James Connolly, 15 August 1914**

## COMING EVENTS SUMMARY:

**Hobart:** A HUMAN RIGHTS WEEK EVENT, Wednesday 12 December 2018 , 12 noon to 2pm, organised by the Tas. Branch of WILF,  
Lower Level, Mathers House, Mathers Lane, (off Bathurst St) Hobart TASMANIA, parking in Melville St carpark  
Guest speakers – Ms Isla McGregor and Ms Bronwyn Williams, co-conveners of Women Speak Tasmania address “the impact of transgenderism on the human rights of women and girls”

**Melbourne:** End of Year concert, Sunday 16th December, 11.30am to 12.30pm, Melbourne Unitarian Peace Memorial Church, Raising funds for Asylum Seekers Resource Centre, 110 Grey Street, East Melbourne , [admin@melbourneunitarian.org.au](mailto:admin@melbourneunitarian.org.au), 03 9417 4178

**Brisbane:** Alternatives to Violence Workshop on 9 and 16 February in Paddington, Brisbane; [admin@avpq.org.au](mailto:admin@avpq.org.au); 0421 942 406

**Adelaide:** ALP National Conference -Peoples' Protest Picnic; Sunday 16th Dec., 8.30am -2pm, Adelaide Convention Centre Plaza.

For more events see the IPAN website; [www.ipan.org.au](http://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*

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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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