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## **COMING EVENTS**

**United States to increase number of US troops  
stationed in Darwin and increase  
interoperability between US military and  
Australian military**



The 2018 high level AUSMIN conference between the Australian Foreign Minister and United States Secretary of State issued the following statement:

“The Secretaries and Ministers highlighted the importance of U.S.-Australia defense cooperation in the Indo-Pacific, particularly through full implementation of Force Posture Initiatives between U.S. and Australian forces in Australia. They emphasized the value of Marine Rotational Force-Darwin and Enhanced Air Cooperation for improving the interoperability of U.S. and Australian defense forces. The United States and Australia highlighted their commitment to raising the number of Marines rotating to Darwin to the full complement of 2,500 as soon as practicable. They committed to strengthening bilateral security partnerships with like-

mindful Indo-Pacific nations through joint training and exercise opportunities. The principals also decided to integrate U.S. force elements into Australia's annual Indo-Pacific Endeavour exercise."...and....."Develop and implement a plan to counter the growth of advanced missile threats to our mutual security interests in the Indo-Pacific region".

With Acknowledgement to Pearls and Irritations: Posted on 15 January 2019

## **Joined at the hip to a very dangerous ally that is almost always at war. An update**

**by John Menadue**

We are a nation in denial that we are 'joined at the hip' to a dangerous ally that is becoming even more dangerous with the increasing privatisation of the US 'war complex'. The complex is less and less under civilian control. Arms companies in the US and particularly drone manufacturers have powerful interests and the means to keep the US perpetually at war.....

Apart from brief isolationist periods, the US has been almost perpetually at war; wars that we have often foolishly been drawn into. The US has subverted and overthrown numerous governments over two centuries. It has a military and business complex, almost a 'hidden state', that depends on war for influence and enrichment. It believes in its 'manifest destiny' which brings with it an assumed moral superiority which it denies to others. The problems did not start with Trump. They are long-standing and deep rooted.....

How long will Australian denial of US policies continue? When will some of us stand up? Are our political leaders right in their

assessment that any questioning of the threats posed by our interpretation of the benefits and obligations of the US alliance will lose them an election?

### **READ COMPLETE ARTICLE**

## **A response to John Menadue's article: "Joined at the hip to a very dangerous ally.."**

Nick Deane says:

17 January 2019 at 10:22 AM

Menadue asks “When will we wake up?” and “When will some of us stand up?”. The fact is that some of us are awake and on our feet already! Unravelling the fabric Australia’s alliance with the USA may appear a daunting task – but that task gets greater, the longer it is delayed. We need to make a start somewhere. Where better than with the US marines stationed in Darwin? The Australian public has never received any convincing reasons for their presence, and the fact that they could be used in US-initiated military action, from their base in Australia, on orders from Washington (not Canberra), is cause for great concern. We in IPAN (Independent and Peaceful Australia Network) say “GIVE ‘EM THE BOOT!”

## **Hands off Venezuela**

The Trump administration last week issued sweeping sanctions against Venezuelan state oil company PDVSA, froze profits generated by refining subsidiary Citgo, and has vowed to starve Maduro's government of all revenue.



**IPAN MEDIA RELEASE 7 February 2019**

**Australia must condemn United States sanctions and threats of military intervention in Venezuela**

- **Venezuelans have the right to decide who governs them**
- **US sanctions on Venezuela are not endorsed by the UN**
- **UN diplomacy needed immediately for non-military resolution to the crisis**
- **Urgent need for an independent Australian foreign policy**

**READ ON**

Acknowledgement to Pearls and Irritations: Posted on 7 February 2019

## **The US Is Orchestrating a Coup in Venezuela (Truthout).**

by Marjorie Cohn

The Trump administration is now pursuing regime change in Venezuela in plain sight.

“The naming of notorious ‘dirty war’ expert Elliott Abrams to oversee the Venezuela operation, the public threats against Venezuela of ‘consequences’ should they defy the US made by Trump’s hawkish John Bolton, and Trump’s own multiple statements that a military option is ‘on the table’ for Venezuela, clearly show that the table is set,” Golinger told Truthout.

The “US is not just ‘behind’ this coup,” Ben Norton wrote in a series of tweets. “The US is openly leading the coup.”

Indeed, The Wall Street Journal reported that on January 22, Pence called Juan Guaidó and “pledged” US support “if he seized the reins of government from Nicolás Maduro.” Guaidó was a little-known player whom the United States had long cultivated to undermine the Bolivarian Revolution. Guaidó swore himself in as “interim president” of Venezuela the following day.

.....“The shocking aggression and illegal interference against a sovereign nation by the Trump administration is a blatant violation of the charters of the United Nations and Organization of American States, which recognize the principles of national sovereignty, peaceful settlement of disputes, and a prohibition on threatening or using force against the territory of another state,” the National Lawyers Guild said in a statement.

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Information Clearing House: 8th Feb, 2019

## **Juan Guaidó: The Man Who Would Be President of Venezuela Doesn't Have a Constitutional Leg to Stand On**

**By Roger Harris**

Donald Trump imagines Juan Guaidó is the rightful president of Venezuela. Mr. Guaidó, a man of impeccable illegitimacy, was exposed by Cohen and Blumenthal as “a product of a decade-long project overseen by Washington’s elite regime change trainers.” Argentinian sociologist Marco Teruggi described Guaidó in the same article as “a character that has been created for this circumstance” of regime change. Here, his constitutional credentials to be interim president of Venezuela are deconstructed.

**READ ON**



**Spirit of Eureka  
Statement on US  
intervention in  
Venezuela and an  
Independent  
Australian Foreign  
Policy**



Spirit of Eureka condemns the Morrison government and the ALP Opposition's compliant endorsement of the US intervention and preparations for a "regime change" in sovereign Venezuela.

**This points to the urgent need for an independent Australian foreign policy that upholds and promotes the sovereignty and independence of countries to determine their own destiny.**

**READ ON**

***Date Claimer!!!***

# **Australia at the crossroads:**

**Time for an independent foreign policy**

**National IPAN Conference**

**Darwin, August 2nd – 4th, 2019**



## **Topics Addressed include:**

- US/China contention risking war in the South China Sea
- Ending US Marines in Darwin & the Force Posture Agreement
- Hosting of US facilities on Australian territory such as Pine Gap and North West Cape
- Millions of refugees fleeing the wars that Australia has supported and participated in
- Environmental damage from war and military activities
- Asia Pacific regional struggles against foreign bases
- Costs of war and military spending versus socially useful spending
- Militarisation of society, universities and manufacturing

Booking details to be announced

For more information contact IPAN at [ipan.australia@gmail.com](mailto:ipan.australia@gmail.com) or Annette on 0431597256 or Bevan 0418697528

**Join us in Darwin- Australian and International speakers-workshops for action**  
**An independent and self-reliant Australian foreign policy IS possible**

**Darwin Conference Enquiries including advanced  
accommodation bookings, phone Annette on 0431597256 or  
Bevan on 0418 697m 528**

## **"Bring our military home from Syria, Iraq and Afghanistan":**

### **IPAN letter to PM and Opposition**

Following the announcement that the US would commence withdrawing its troops from Syria and Afghanistan, IPAN sent the following letter to the PM Scott Morrison, his defence Minister Chris Pyne and his Minister for Foreign Affairs Marise Payne with an appropriate letter to the ALP Opposition leader and shadow spokespersons to support this call: Extracts from the letters follow:

*"We urge that your government follow the lead given by the US President and withdraw all Australian military personnel from Syria and Afghanistan and extend that withdrawal to Iraq. This will enable the countries concerned to determine and take responsibility for their future without foreign troop interference.*

*The involvement of Australian military personnel in the US wars in Afghanistan in 2001 followed by Iraq in 2003 and later in Syria, until the present day, represent the longest continuous war involvement for Australia, ever. The justification for involvement with the US in these wars has never been made clear, publicly. Neither Afghanistan, Iraq or Syria presented or present today, a military*

*threat to Australia. However, the devastation inflicted on the people of the countries concerned by these US military invasions, backed by Australia, has been enormous. It has also initiated a flow of refugees escaping from these war-torn countries and seeking a peaceful life elsewhere, including Australia. We believe it is time to stop interfering in these countries and allow them to sort out their future without foreign military interference".*

With acknowledgement to East Asia Forum: 9th January 2019

## **The cost of containing China**

by Hugh White, ANU

Washington's policymakers at last understand that China is a serious strategic rival. For the first time since the Soviet collapse, they recognise that a major country is trying to expand its power and influence at the expense of US global leadership.

.....

Most Americans take it for granted that the United States can and would go to war with China if it attacked Taiwan. But they may not realise what that would mean and how it might end. As China's air and naval forces have grown, the United States has lost the capacity to secure a swift and sure victory in a conventional war with China in the Western Pacific.

This means that, to a much greater degree than is commonly realised, US confidence in winning a war with China depends on nuclear forces. The United States would rely on the threat of using nuclear weapons first to make up for its inability to win a

conventional war on its rival's doorstep. The hope is that this threat would be enough to make China back off

[READ ON.](#)

## SafeGround Joins International Campaign to Stop Killer Robots



SafeGround is proud to have recently joined the international campaign as part of the current global effort to create a preemptive ban on lethal autonomous weapons systems. There is increasing momentum in the international community with more states showing their support for the ban, though others are opposed to international negotiations toward such a treaty.

**Regrettably the current Australian government feels such a ban is premature**, and ahead of further progress to be made this year, we consider increasing the visibility and voice of Australian-based support for prohibition of these weapons is a priority.

If you or an organisation/company/institute that you are involved with may be interested in joining the network, discussions, activities

or planning in any capacity please reach out to our Secretary Matilda Byrne, and co-ordinator of the campaign in Australia at [byrne.matilda.j@gmail.com](mailto:byrne.matilda.j@gmail.com)

**Acknowledgement to Pearls and Irritations:** Posted on 7 February 2019

**Secret Trials: The illegal bugging of the Timor Leste Cabinet and the extraordinary prosecution of Bernard Collaery and Witness K**

by Ernst Willheim

Australians reading about secret trials in foreign countries tend to content themselves in the belief that in Australia we have an open court system and an independent judiciary. After all, freedom of speech, the rule of law and an open and independent court system are basic bulwarks of our democracy. Aren't they? This brief paper challenges that comfortable assumption.

**READ ON**



**ALP CONFERENCE  
DECISIONS ON  
FOREIGN POLICY**



**Jan 2019**

This Alert summarises the foreign-policy related decisions of the ALP National Conference held in Adelaide in December 2018. Friends are encouraged to monitor how the Party implements these decisions, and to respond accordingly in their advocacy.

According to various media reports, the Conference adopted a number of significant decisions about matters of concern to Friends and others in the peace and justice movements.

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Farm in North Korea

## **QUAKERS VISIT NORTH KOREA**

A group of Australian Quakers went to North Korea in October 2018, led by a Korean who now lives in Australia and seeks to build closer ties. The group went as tourists with some additional opportunities to visit farms, owing to many years of involvement by American Quakers in humanitarian work there. The group was surprised by the number and range of tourists in the country, and the attention with which the Quaker group was received by local people. There were visits to educational institutions, factories and farms, noting the evident energy and efficiency of the people despite significant resource limitations. Discussions with agriculture officials revealed the deleterious impact of sanctions on the availability of fuel and seeds.

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## **Alice Springs Peace Group gains WW1 Centenary grant to record stories of WW1**

Access through:

**Apple appstore link:**

<https://itunes.apple.com/au/app/world-war-one-stories/id1441207859>

**Google Play link:**

<https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=au.com.worldwaronestories>



## Annual Waihopai spy base protest takes aim at Donald Trump



Green Party co-leader, Marama Davidson, gives a speech, while Steffan Browning, former greens MP, holds an umbrella

The numbers were smaller but the message remained loud and clear for a group of protesters at New Zealand's enigmatic Waihopai spy base – shut it down.

Organiser Murray Horton said it was important that the group kept coming to the site each year to raise public awareness of the site and what they believed it was being used for.

Horton said the protest was making a point this year that "Waihopai works for Donald Trump", which made New Zealand "complicit in his volatile and downright unhinged behaviour."

"Trump would be a joke if he didn't have control of the world's biggest spying apparatus, biggest military and biggest nuclear

arsenal."

## **United States Foreign Policy and Military Planning Directive**

**December, 2018**

by Richard Stone

Following a dramatic boost to Japan's military budget, at the behest of the United States, the Pentagon has now issued an important regional directive for Canberra to follow.

It was not coincidental.

Japan and Australia are formally part of a triangular diplomatic relationship with the US, specifically for defence and security initiatives aimed at China. War-games and military exercises increasingly contain scope for real-war scenarios with the South China Seas a likely 'theatre of war' for future operations.

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**Pax Christi  
Scholarships  
to Cover Conference  
Registration Fee for  
A Just and  
Ecologically**

**Sustainable Peace,  
Melbourne, 23-24 April  
2019**

For details of eligibility for a scholarship [READ ON](#)

For application form [CLICK](#)



**Perth: “All creatures great  
and Small Public Forum** on  
Extinction, Environmental Law  
and the Yeelirrie Court Case;  
Wed 20<sup>th</sup> February at 6pm at  
Tattersall Lecture Theatre,  
University of Western Australia

The event will be a great opportunity to learn about our unique wildlife, biodiversity, and ecology. We will discuss how current laws are failing our wildlife, and how the landmark Yeelirrie court case aims to uphold environment laws and prevent extinction.

**Members of IPAN's Coordinating Committee  
meet in Melbourne, on January 26th to  
formulate IPAN strategies for 2019**



Clockwise from left: Annette Brownlie (Qld), Derek Burke (SA), Nick Deane (NSW), David Purnell (ACT), Shirley Winton (VIC), Bevan Ramsden (NSW), Jonathan Pilbrow (NT) Stephen Darley (SA).  
Ross Gwyther (QLD) via internet

## **RAPID Public Response Arrangements to any imminent major military conflict, invasion or war**

In the event of an imminent major military conflict, military invasion or war actually breaking out, IPAN organisations in the following states, urge everyone to rally :

**In Melbourne**, outside the State Library in Swanston St, Melbourne, from 5pm that evening- bring banners and placards - family and

friends

**In Adelaide**, on Parliament Steps at 4.30 pm that evening – bring banners and placards – family and friends.

**In Newcastle**, at the Clocktower, Hamilton, 4.30pm that evening- bring banners and placards and tell family and friends

**In Canberra**, on the median strip at the corner of London Circuit and Northbourne Ave.

## **COMING EVENTS SUMMARY:**

**Adelaide:** Waging Peace Exhibition: November 2018 – April 2019- FREE at UNISA's MOD Museum, North Terrace adjacent Morphett Street Bridge, Adelaide: Tue-Thu: 12pm 'til 6pm; Fri: 12pm 'til 8pm; Sat-Sun (public holidays): 10am 'til 4pm; Mon:Closed

**Brisbane:** AVPQ: Basic Workshop, Sat 16th February; enquiries: [admin@avpq.org.au](mailto:admin@avpq.org.au) or phone Valerie on 0422 434 336

**Melbourne:** IPAN-Victoria, Wednesday 20th February, 5.30pm - 7pm Level 4, Trades Hall

This meeting will commence earlier due to a small overlap with a meeting on Venezuela on the same night, at 7pm in the Trades Hall, at which the Venezuelan Consul will be speaking. IPAN meeting will be at 5.30pm – 7pm to enable people interested in the situation in

Venezuela to attend. IPAN meetings normally commence at 6pm.

**Perth:** "All creatures great and Small Public Forum on Extinction, Environmental Law and the Yeelirrie Court Case; Wed 20<sup>th</sup> February at 6pm at Tattersall Lecture Theatre, University of Western Australia

**Mullumbimby:** Court House Hotel, Wednesday 27 February 6:30pm - 8:30pm, Decolonising the Commons: First Nations' Perspectives: *Ngara Politics in the Pub 2019* features three Indigenous speakers – academics, activists and commentators.

**Brisbane:** UAW's International Women's Day Dinner, Friday 8th March, 2019, 6pm for 6.30pm at Queensland Council of Unions Building, Level 2 at 16 Peel St, South Brisbane: Guest Speaker: Jo-Anne Bragg, CEO, Environmental Defenders Office.

**Melbourne:** Melbourne Unitarian Church on Sunday 17 March at 11am, 110 Grey Street, East Melbourne, 3002: Forum: Australia needs a Bill of Rights: "*Australia is the only Western liberal democracy that does not have a Bill of Rights*".

*Lunch provided. For catering purposes, please RSVP*

[admin@melbourneunitarian.org.au](mailto:admin@melbourneunitarian.org.au)

**All states and territories: PLAN NOW for delegates to attend :**

**IPAN National Conference:** Darwin, Charles Darwin University, Casuarina Campus, 2-4th August 2019

**"Australia at the cross-roads- time for an independent foreign policy"**

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*

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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