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For the Independent & Peaceful Australia Network www.ipan.org.au

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- * Palm Sunday Rally for peace and refugees Brisbane
- * Remembering Clarrie O'Shea- Fighting for the right to strike- 50th Anniversary Celebration - Melbourne
- * Book Review: "The US Lobby and Australian Defence Policy by Vince Scappatura
- * Rapid Public Response arrangements to any imminent

major military conflict, invasion or war

* COMING EVENTS SUMMARY

US Marines Seize Pacific Island in Training for War with China



US marines in exercise capturing an island near Japan

Alex Lockie of the Business Insider (29/1/19) says: The U.S. Marine Corps is developing a new concept of naval warfare to allow Marines to take South China Sea islands from Beijing in the context of a massive missile fight in the Pacific.

Global Research (22/3/19) says: "Last week, 31st MEU, backed by the 3rd Marine Division, 3rd Marine Logistics Group and 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, members of the Air Force 353rd Special Operations Group, and Army soldiers with 1st Battalion, 1st Special Forces Group, conducted a series of simulated military exercises attacking and seizing *Ie Shima Island* located off the northwest coast of Okinawa Island in the East China Sea, reported <u>Task Purpose</u>. The new military strategy, known as <u>Expeditionary Advanced Base</u> (EAB) Operations, will allow Marine units to seize, establish, and operate multiple small bases across the Pacific Ocean, a tactic that will be beneficial in a high-end fight with China."

Nick Deane, IPAN spokesperson for the IPAN campaign to end the stationing of US marines in Darwin, responded to this report by saying: "This US Marine exercise affirms the US intent to prepare for war with China. It also reinforces the IPAN campaign to end the stationing of US marines in Darwin. The HMAS Adelaide has been modified to support amphibious landing of troops on island territories and US Marines are now imbedded on HMAS Adelaide in training exercises. Clearly this is preparation to draw Australia into the US plans for hostilities with China. Every effort should be made to keep Australia out of yet another US war overseas and especially against China our major trading partner. In such a war scenario the US marines operating out of Darwin would also draw fire, perhaps missiles on the northern territory. We need, for our own peace and security to see an end to the stationing of US marines in Darwin and end these war exercises with the United States."

For IPAN's Darwin Conference Bookings, Go to BOOKING

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 <u>ipan.australia@gmail.com</u> 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

This year's IPAN conference is being held in Darwin as it is the centre for the most recent establishment of a foreign troop presence in Australia with the numbers of US Marines planned to rise to 2,500 and an undeclared strength of US air-force at Tindal and Darwin and US naval forces using Darwin Harbour.

The conference is being held in the ominous shadow of contention in our region between the US and China which might break out into hostilities at any time; and Australia is currently joined militarily 'at the hip' with the US military and their objectives.

Never has there been a more important time for Australia to pursue an independent foreign policy for the economic well being and national security of the Australian people and that of our neighbours.

Let's keep Australia out of US wars!

Topic areas include:

- * Why Australia needs an Independent Foreign Policy
- * The extent of foreign military facilities in Australia
- * The impact of militarism on the environment
- * The costs of militarism to Australians

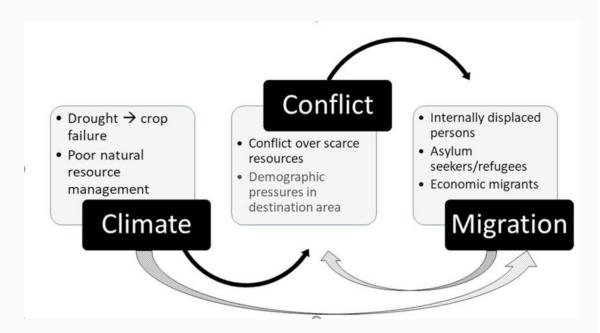
Speakers include international and Australian personalities such as Lisa Natividad from Guam, Richard Tanter, Robin Taubenfeld (FOE), Susan Harris Rimmer, Margie Beavis, Warren Smith, Alison Broinowski, Sue Wareham and contributions over the internet from John Pilger and Abby Martin and Mike Prysner.

Click on **BOOKINGS**

General enquiries: Annette on 0431 597 256 or Bevan on 0418 697 528

Why peace activists must work with climatechange protesters and refugee advocates to prevent future wars

- Bevan Ramsden



Friday 15th March,2019 should be a wakeup call to politicians and governments all around the world. On that day over one million school children from 90 countries left their books and classrooms to protest publicly for government action o arrest climate -change. The world-wide protests included 300,000 school children in Germany, 150,000 in one city, Montreal and in Australia 150,000. The Australian protesters called for a stop to the Adani coal mine, an end to coal-fired power stations and a 100% conversion to renewable energy by 2030.

These school children have realised that climate change poses a serious threat to the quality of their future life. It can be expected that their protest numbers will continue to increase until effective action is taken by government's around the world. Their actions should also be a wake-up call to us all; we all need to join in and make these protests so large that politicians are unable to move without being confronted by the demand for climate change action.



Peace activists should be motivated additionally by the threat to peace posed by climate change.

READ ON

Thoughts on the Schools Strike for the climate - Nick Deane

Concerns about climate change and the environment cannot be separated from concerns about militarism and war. All military

activity is polluting. Climate change increases the likelihood of war. Environmentally damaging activities are, ultimately, protected by armed force. Preparation for war runs in parallel with climate change.

READ ON



With acknowledgement to Graeme Dunstan, peace pilgrim and activist

Newcastle City Council supports ICAN's 'Save our Cities' campaign

Members and friends of the Hunter Peace Group, an IPAN affiliate, congratulate the Newcastle City Council in supporting ICAN's and the Hunter Peace Group's request to support the 2017 United Nations Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons.

The Newcastle City Council voted unanimously to support ICAN's Cities Appeal Campaign and will publish their commitment statement on the City of Newcastle's web site and social media channels. They have also agreed to write to the Prime Minister and Opposition leader calling on the Federal Government to sign the 'Ban the Bomb' treaty.



Hunter Peace group- Hiroshima Day 2017

The City of Newcastle joins the following Australian cities which have already joined ICAN's 'Save our Cities' campaign: Bayside (Vic), Blue Mountains (NSW), Darebin (Vic) Fremantle (WA), Inner West (NSW), Melbourne (Vic), Moreland (Vic), Randwick (NSW), Woollongong (NSW), Sydney (NSW), Yarra (Vic), Yarra Ranges (Vic).

Has the City Council in your city signed up? If not, could your organisation send a request and encourage the signing.

For DETAILS

US-Australia war exercises trample on pristine environment





A Qld tourist brochure says "Snuggled on the Queensland coast just 175 kilometres north east of Rockhampton is the tranquil town of Stanage Bay. Turn off the Bruce Highway and travel through cattle properties, which can be abundant with wildlife - especially after the wet. You don't have to travel far before you find pure peace, loads of fresh reef fish and barramundi, huge mud crabs, serene beaches, mountainous bushwalking, beach combing around cliffs and caves, islands, whales, turtles and dugongs."

Voice Editor says:"But between 11-24th July, peace in this paradise will be shattered by a major US-Australia military and maritime exercise called Talisman Sabre; so either keep away between 11-24th July or keep your head down and put plugs in your ears it will be noisy and disruptive with simulated firing around you and there wont be many whales, turtles and dugongs to view except, perhaps, a few dead ones.

Talisman Sabre will also be conducted in a part of the Great Barrier Reef perhaps to simulate certain Chinese Islands built on coral reefs so keep away from the Great Barrier Reef also between 11-24th July. I assume damage to the Great Barrier Reef, one of the seven

wonders of the natural world, is considered by the military to be unfortunately necessary and just collateral damage arising from the big picture, "defence of Australia", or is it practice with the US for hostile actions against China?"

IPAN (SA) protests against Australian arms sales to Saudis and UAE ignore human rights



IPAN (SA) held a protest outside Defence Minister Christopher Pyne's electoral office at 429 Magill Rd. St. Morris on Wednesday 3rd April from 4 – 5 pm. The issue is Australian arms sales to the barbaric Saudi Arabian and United Arab Emirate dictatorships, amid their murderous war against Yemen.

. . . .

Despite a cease-fire supposedly in place, the Saudi's continue a murderous bombing campaign, killing 22 children only last week. Australian arms sales are supposed to adhere to Australian human rights principles, routinely violated by buyers Saudi Arabia and the UAE: the recently sales of EOS remote-weapons systems may be used in Yemen in the future, or more likely to further repress the people of those countries. The government awarded EOS A\$ 36 million for their "efforts". Either way it makes a mockery of human rights claims by Australia. IPAN (SA) calls for an end to such sales, and a review of the whole Australian drive to become a top-ten global arms seller.

Time for Superannuation to be Free of Nuclear Weapons -

Margaret Peril, MAPW Director of nuclear free portfolios

Nuclear weapons are the most destructive weapons ever used as they are designed to devastate cities and annihilate populations irrespective of whether civilian or not. In July 2017, the majority of the world rejected nuclear weapons through the adoption of the UN Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons. But today Australian Superannuation Funds continue to invest our money in companies involved in the production of these, the worst weapons of mass destruction.

The Medical Association for Prevention of War (MAPW) has recently embarked on a Nuclear Weapons Free Portfolios campaign, with the aim of discouraging Superannuation Funds from investing in such companies. This MAPW initiative follows closely the "Don't Bank on the Bomb" campaign, initiated by PAX, which aims to discourage financial institutions from providing loans to companies involved in the nuclear weapons industry.

READ ON

Military Exercise Cope Drill- more US war exercises aimed at China

- Richard Stone

A recent US-led military exercise in the Asia-Pacific region, together with some related defence matters, has revealed a great deal about regional military planning.

Wave after wave of US-led military planning is continually sweeping the region.

The Pentagon has clearly defined military planning directed primarily against China; initial planning to contain and encircle China in the region now appear to have been escalated to a higher level of militarism.

READ ON



United States blocks United Nations Treaty prohibiting weapons in Space (P.A.R.O.S.)

Whilst 138 nations voted in favour, zero voted no and 2 abstained but the United States refuses to support this UN Treaty which would ban weapons in space and so prevent a space war.

View this video for details:

VIEW



Women's right to freedom from violence petition presented to the UN

We want to thank all who signed our Fight For Her Rights petition, calling for urgent action on domestic violence.

Our team is on their way home from the UN in New York, where they represented you and the 25,000+ Australians who signed our petition.

We were at the UN for the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) – the world's largest annual meeting on women's rights. Together our message was clear – ALL governments must take action to protect women and girls from domestic violence.

After two weeks of intense negotiations, governments endorsed a roadmap on women's rights, known as the *Agreed Conclusions*.

Oppose \$500 million extension to war memorial

83 prominent Australians have signed the petition opposing the \$500 million extension to the war memorial in Canberra.

Sue Wareham of MAPW explains:

"This proposed expansion is wrong because:

- The budget for it is huge, far greater than that given to any other cultural institution
- \$1/2 billion could be used to:
 - help restore our overseas aid, especially to places
 where we fight our wars

- help our veterans
- finally commemorate those who died defending their land in the Frontier Wars
- properly fund our other cultural institutions
- o set up a peace research centre, or
- any other area of need
- A major reason for the proposed expansion is to display more weaponry. This does not help us understand Australia's wars better.
- Another major reason for the proposal is to commemorate current wars, including by direct "feed" from the Defence Department. This will be likely to have the effect of stifling dissent in relation to current military operations."

You can add your voice to the protest by signing the petition:

PETITION

With acknowledgement to New Matilda

Australia Is Sleepwalking Into An Orgy Of Militarism

- Joe Camilleri

You might think the threat of war is lower than ever. The opposite is true, writes Professor Joseph Camilleri.

Recent revelations of Australian arms exports to the Middle East have rightly provoked widespread consternation. But this is no sudden aberration. Nor is it a uniquely Australian phenomenon. Ours is a world of expanding military budgets, soaring arms sales, deeply entrenched conflicts, and large-scale military interventions. The result: humanitarian disasters, record numbers of forced displacements, immense damage to the natural environment, and the use of a nuclear weapon now more likely than at any time since the worst days of the Cold War.

In all of this, Australia has chosen to be either passive spectator or willing accomplice.

READ ON

Australian defence strategy still locked in a past era

- James O'Neill

According to a report in the Sydney Morning Herald (25 March 2019) the coalition government, if re-elected, would spend \$2.5 billion on an air defence system. The object of the expenditure is said to "bolster Australia's capacity to intercept enemy aircraft". The new system will also defend against helicopters, cruise missiles and unmanned aerial systems.

The cost is divided between an initial acquisition price of \$1.5 billion and a further \$1 billion to operate and maintain it over two decades. The Minister for Defence Industry, Linda Reynolds, said that the project had great export potential.

Once again, one has to wonder exactly what planet our defence politicians and their advisors actually inhabit. While the cost of this touted new system is small change compared to the tens of billions of dollars being lavished on expensive boundoggles such as the F35 joint strike fighter and the French built submarines, it is another illustration of wasted expenditure on military equipment not fit for purpose.

READ ON

Newcastle meeting calls on Australian Government to withdraw its recognition of Juan Guaido, self-proclaimed president of Venezeula

At a Newcastle film night on Venezeula- the hidden agenda, held on 29th March and organised by IPAN (NSW) and the Hunter Peace Group, the following resolution was passed:

"This meeting urges the Australian Government to withdraw its recognition of the self-proclaimed president of Venezuela, Juan Guaido, who under the direction of the United States, is attempting to displace the elected and legitimate president of Venezuela, Nichols Maduro. This external interference in the internal affairs of a sovereign country is illegitimate, undermines that country's sovereignty and represents an attempt to sabotage its normal democratic processes."

The resolution was forwarded to the PM, Foreign Affairs Minister and Opposition Leader and Opposition Foreign Affairs Shadow Minister and to the local Newcastle Herald.



Lismore Remembering and Healing

held a public gathering on
Saturday 30th March at the
Lismore Library in which public
leaders and the wider
community joined together to
reflect on the recent terror
attacks and to unite, grieve and
support each other.

25 May Peacekeepers Ceremony and Peoples March (Brisbane City)

The United Nations Association of Australia Queensland (UNAAQ) wishes to invite you to the annual Peacekeepers March and Ceremony to commemorate the sacrifices of Australian peacekeepers and to lay a wreath in remembrance, as well as recognize our current peacekeepers.

The march will commence on Saturday 25 May at 09:30 am in King George Square. It will be followed by a service at 10:00 am in ANZAC Square.



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**



Ngara Institute has announced that renowned activist, journalist and film maker John Pilger will speak at Cavanbah Byron Sports Centre at 7 pm on 10th April, 2019: Breaking the silence: Q & A with John Pilger on propaganda inside the Australian bubble: false enemies, real threats and heroes unsung.

Book now: https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/an-evening-with-renowned-author-journalist-documentary-maker-john-pilger-tickets-57263066373

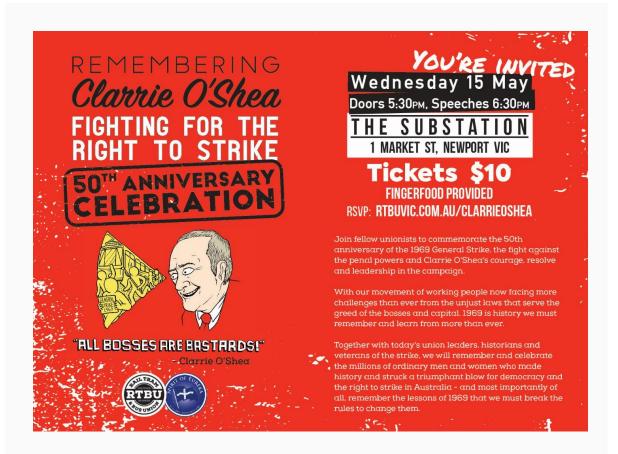
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2PM SUNDAY 14TH APRIL SPEAKERS' CORNER - OUTSIDE PARLIAMENT END OF GEORGE ST, BRISBANE CBD

SEE FB EVENT 'PALM SUNDAY RALLY FOR PEACE AND REFUGEES' FOR LIST OF ENDORSING ORGANISATIONS PRINTED BY SENATOR LARISSA WATERS ON RECYCLED PAPER





Commemorate 50th anniversary of the momentous Clarrie O'Shea and the Penal Powers struggle on 15 May in Melbourne.

This event is jointly organised by the RTBU (Railways, Tram and Bus Union) Victoria and Spirit of Eureka, under the theme of <u>Fighting for the Right to Strike</u>.

Speakers include:

Humphrey McQueen - Marxist Historian and activist

Sally McManus - ACTU Secretary

Bob Narva - RTBU National Secretary

Shirley Winton - Spirit of Eureka

Marcus Clayton - Head of Industrial Law, Gordon Legal

Clarrie OShea's family member

MC - Luba Grigorovich, RTBU State Secretary

Trade Union Choir; displays; finger food

Doors open 5.30pm, speches 6.30pm

Please book o facilitate seating and catering numbers - details below and in the attachment; or register on https://www.facebook.com/events/1486633894801350/

Book Review:

The US Lobby and Australian Defence Policy by Vince Scappatura

Australian society and its leaders generally take for granted the importance and value of this nation's relationship with the United States. The US is commonly thought of as the world's great purveyor of liberal values and the rule of law, and as a powerful friend indispensable to Australian security. In The US Lobby and Australian Defence Policy Vince Scappatura demonstrates how these conceptions are underpinned by the work of the Australian American Leadership Dialogue, Australia's most important, private, pro-US lobby group. As the inner workings of this lobby are unveiled for the first time, Scappatura also discusses the considerable costs to Australia of its strong military ties to the US, draws into question notions of "benign" US power, and demonstrates that suggestions of the US keeping Australia safe from invasion are flatly wrong. For Australia's national

security elite, other considerations, to do with power and wealth and spreading political influence, are to the fore.

See Book Launch in Brisbane in Coming Events below

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 eveningbring 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

Byron Shire: Ngara Institute, the People's Think Tank, is announcing that outspoken activist and renowned film maker and journalist, **John Pilger** at Cavanbah Byron Sports Centre at 7pm on 10th April, 2019. Breaking the silence: Q & A with John Pilger on propaganda inside the Australian bubble: false enemies, real threats and heroes unsung".

BOOK NOW https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/an-evening-with-renowned-author-journalist-documentary-maker-john-pilger-tickets-57263066373

Sydney: Book Launch: "Island off the coast of Asia";
Saturday 13 April 3:00pm – 5:00pm, Monte Sant' Angelo Mercy Coll
ege O'Regan Arts and Cultural Common Theatre 128 Miller Str
eet, North Sydney, entry free.

Brisbane: Palm Sunday Rally for Peace & Refugees- Its Time: 2 pm, Sunday 14th April, Speaker's corner, outside parliament, end of George St, Brisbane CBD. Justice for Refugees; Peace not war; Bring them here.

Mullum: Sunday 14th April, 4-5.30pm; Mullum Ex-Services Club;

April Stories in the Club; all female line up of tellers on the theme, "Seeding Change"- Andrea Darvill, Sophie Wilksch, Dani Wolf & Alison Crook.

Tallarook/Seymour: Easter Weekend Gathering at **Commonground** from dinner Friday 19th April til Sunday afternoon 21st April 2019. To book your place, email admin@common-ground.org.au

Melbourne: Earth@Peace Public Forum, April 23rd, 7-10 pm,Join us for an evening exploring the most critical issues of our time with leading scholars and practitioners. Moderated by Emeritus Professor Joseph A. Camilleri OAM of La Trobe University, the forum will feature presentations by the panel, followed by a Q&A and lively conversation amongst the participants. The speakers include: Behrouz Boochani – Outspoken Kurdish-Iranian writer and advocate and Sister Patricia Fox – Fox has worked in the Philippines for 27 years.

Register here

Melbourne: Pax Christi: "A Just and Ecologically Sustainable Peace"; 23-24th April at Pilgrim Theological College, 29 College Cres, Parkville.

Contact name: Meg Nelson Contact phone: (03) 9853 3177.

Brisbane: United Nations Association of Qld invites you to **Peacekeepers Ceremony and Peoples March;** 25th May, 9.30am in King George Square

Melbourne: Remembering Clarrie O'Shea- Fighting for the right to strike- 50th Anniversary Celebration. Wednesday 15th May, 5.30pm, The Substation, 1 Market St, Newport. RSVP: RTBUVIC.COM.AU/CLARRIE OSHEA

Melbourne: **Fair Go for all.**. Conference, Wednesday 10th July 2019 9:00 – 4:00pm, Coburg Greek Orthodox Church, Community Hall, 23-29 Victoria Street, Coburg 3056. Come and discuss what's gone wrong, what sort of 'welfare' services and society we want and how we can get there.

Lead speaker: Rob Watts, Professor of Social Policy, RMIT University.

Australian Defence Policy"; 6-8pm, Thurs., July 18th, Avid Reader Book shop, West End Brisbane. Avid Reader in conjunction with Just Peace present Vince Scappatura discussing his book.

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

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 information on issues/events relating to IPAN's objectives

Contributions to Voice, in information or comment, should be emailed to:

<u>Ipan.australia@gmail.com</u> 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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^{*}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