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### **In this issue:**

- \* Australia urged to take stronger stance on curbing West Papua bloodshed
  
- \* IPAN letter to PM Morrison to condemn violence against West Papuan independence protesters
  
- \* Make Papua safe - Wage Peace suggests actions
  
- \* International Day of Peace activities- Melbourne, Sydney, Newcastle, Brisbane, Adelaide
  
- \* International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons
  
- \* Strike for the Climate- School Strike 4 Climate
  
- \* Saving the Planet means overthrowing the Ruling Elites - Chris

## Hedges

- \* 10 Ways that the Climate Crisis and Militarism are intertwined
- \* Australia now world's second biggest weapons importer behind only Saudi Arabia - Andrew Greene
- \* Cut military spending and fund social need - Bevan Ramsden
- \* Aussie and US uni collaboration to work on next-gen autonomous systems - Stephen Kuper
- \* Call for international convention to tackle "unstoppable" rise of killer robots
- \* Campaign to stop Killer Robots- Safeground
- \* Worried about agents of foreign influence? Just look at who owns Australia's biggest companies - Clinton Fernandes
- \* Domestic Nuclear Power submission to Government Inquiry- Friends of the Earth
- \* We have surrendered our sovereignty to a very dangerous ally- John Menadue
- \* Iran says region is 'on edge of collapse'

- \* Chained to the chariot wheels of the Pentagon- Brian Toohey
- \* The Vietnam Moratorium Campaign- 50 years celebration- volunteers needed
- \* Politics in the Pub, Brisbane: We are not Monkeys- The struggle for justice in West Papua
- \* Raffle of George Gittoes painting of Trump
- \* Rapid Public Response Arrangements to respond to threat of war
- \* Coming Events Summary



## **Australia urged to take stronger stance on curbing West Papua bloodshed**

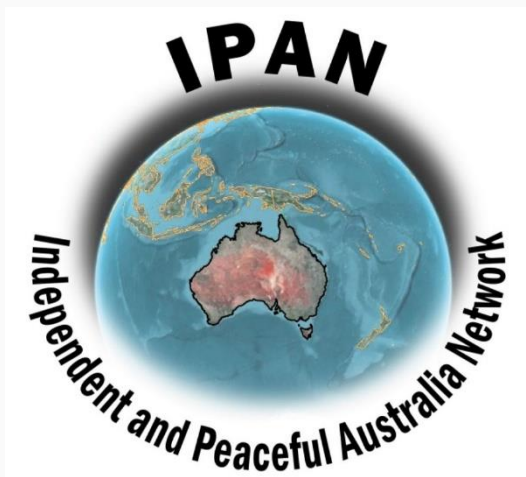
**SBS News 26/9/19**

The mounting death toll of West Papua's latest escalation in violence has seen Australia being pressured to take a stronger stance on urging an international response.

Exiled West Papuan independence leader Benny Wenda told SBS News the protests started peacefully and the bloodshed marks a serious deterioration of the situation.

Mr Wenda spoke to SBS News from New York, where he is attending the UN General Assembly to lobby for the body's High Commissioner for Human Rights to be granted access to his homelands. "My message to global community is we really need the United Nations peacekeeping force to enter West Papua," he said. "We are talking about a humanitarian crisis happening [there]. The independence leader said Australia should support calls for international intervention to investigate the situation.

"I urge the Australian government to quickly act... we don't want to repeat the same history that is happening in East Timor," he said.



**IPAN letter to PM Morrison calls for Australia to condemn violence against protesters for West Papuan Independence**

In a letter to the PM Morrison, IPAN's Chairperson, Annette Brownlie on behalf of IPAN states:

I write with great concern about the human rights abuses occurring in West Papua with the reported deaths of over 40 students protesting in Wamena in recent days.

<https://www.sbs.com.au/news/indonesia-s-joko-widodo-open-to-meeting-papuan-pro-independence-groups?cid=newsapp:socialshare:other>

As Australia is currently serving on the United Nations Human Rights Council. We believe this is an opportunity for the Australian government to address the recent events in West Papua with the council.

We also urge you to communicate with the Indonesian President Joko Widodo directly to condemn the use of excessive force and killings of protesters.



## **Make West Papua Safe**

West Papuans are currently engaged in a full-scale, nationwide, nonviolent insurrection. They demand all Indonesian troops to be withdrawn and for the internet to be switched on.

The conflict is not going away until the question of political self-determination is settled in a free, fair and dignified way, either

through political negotiations and/or a referendum. West Papuan leaders also want the Indonesian government to immediately release all political prisoners arrested for calling for self-determination. They are urging the international community to pay attention to what is happening and for the Indonesian government to allow a visit from the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights.

### **What you can do**

1. Please share the news on social media. Find stories via the #keepiton #WestPapua hashtags on twitter. Use #MakeWestPapuaSafe. Take the stories and shift them to Facebook groups linked to the petition. Follow Wage Peace on FB.
2. Sign and share our petition. It helps us find and reach out to interested Australians.
3. Demonstrate outside *AFP offices or Indonesian embassies and consulates* on Friday - 6th of September.  
#MakeWestPapuaSafe.

# International day of Peace (IDP) activities

21st & 22nd September, 2019



## IPAN (Vic) 's IDP rally at Federation Square Melbourne

For report: [READ ON](#)

Extracts from speech by Shirley Winton

### CLIMATE CRISIS AND U.S. WARS - STOP AUSTRALIA'S INVOLVEMENT

This year's United Nation's International Day of Peace theme is "Climate Action for Peace". This rally is part of the world wide actions against the two major threats facing the world today - wars of aggression and climate change.

How do we here in Australia contribute to global peace and justice and be part of the world wide people's movement to put an end to imperialist wars of aggression?

Today, Australia is deeply enmeshed in U.S. war machine and its military-industrial corporations. Our 2 main political parties are subservient to U.S. foreign policies and act like puppets of the U.S. Successive Australian governments obediently answer every call made by the U.S. to support its global military agendas, taking

orders from the world's most ruthless aggressor and war monger that tramples on lives and human rights of people across the world and sovereignties of countries.

**READ COMPLETE SPEECH**

**Speech by Bryda Nicholls  
No Australian support for U.S. wars**

Today is the UN international day of peace. One of our demands here today is for so called Australia to stop backing US wars. We are calling for Peace. Now, shamefully there are many barriers to Peace. How can we aim for peaceful Australian foreign policy when this country refuses to acknowledge its genocidal past. I'd like to tell you about my ancestor Malanargenna who fought in what's known as the Black war in Tasmania. It wasn't a war it was a genocide. The atrocities, these acts of genocide aren't left in the past they happening now. The Andrews government is committing cultural genocide against the Djap Wurrung people.

**For Complete Speech READ ON**



**IPAN (SA)'s IDP Rally in Adelaide 22nd September, 2019**



### **Extracts from Speech by Stephen Darley**

What's the difference between 10,000 people being killed in air strikes and a bunch of missiles taking out an oil processing facility?

The difference is that only the one which threatens the markets will "not be tolerated" by the Trump administration.

Scott Morrison, PM of Australia is in the US exploring how far he can kis Donald Trump's bum. Morrison is following a long tradition – remember Harold Holt's "all the way with LBJ" as the Vietnam War built up? So will this be part of the preliminaries to a new war, against Iran?

**READ COMPLETE SPEECH**



**IPAN (Newcastle) "No War On Iran" vigil on IDP, 21st  
September**



## **International Day of Peace- Brisbane Sophie McNeill- ABC Journalist- speaks on Middle East**

Just Peace and the United Nations Association of Australia Peace and Security program along with St Johns and Rotary Peace hosted the 8<sup>th</sup> Peace Lecture in Brisbane on the 21<sup>st</sup> September in St Johns Anglican Cathedral. Around 200 people came to hear ABC Journalist Sophie McNeill provide a harrowing report on her 4 years as the Middle East correspondent. Sophie's strong message was that all the big powers have lost all respect for humanity whether in Gaza, Yemen, Syria or Iraq there is no adherence to international laws and the victims mostly civilians have and are still suffering death, starvation, horrific injuries and destruction of their homes. She called on us to pressure the powerful and to not turn our minds off the wars that Australia has contributed to.

INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR THE TOTAL  
ELIMINATION OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS

AUSTRALIA:



Today is the International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons, an important day to reaffirm our demand for Australia to sign and ratify the UN Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons.

Nuclear-armed leaders continue to threaten to use these weapons of mass destruction, pouring billions into the industry that builds them and flouting arms control agreements. **The treaty is a bright light of hope amidst this fragile landscape, and it's getting brighter!**

**Please donate today to support ICAN Australia's work**

[Donate](#)

In good news, Ecuador just became the 27th state party to the treaty! As you begin your day tomorrow morning, a group of at least ten countries will step forward to sign or ratify the nuclear weapon ban treaty at a special ceremony at the United Nations in New York. The new ban-champions will take us ever closer to the inevitable 50 ratifications required for entry-into-force (the treaty currently has 70 signatories and 27 states parties).



**Four million protesters**, school children leading the way, in 150 countries, at 4,000 events called for action on climate change on 20th September, 2019

300,000 in Australia in over 100 cities and towns; 150,000 in NZ. School children left their classrooms and workers left their work places.

2,500 business stopped in Australia encouraging their workers to join in.

[VIEW](#) the Sydney protest

## THE CLIMATE CRISIS & WAR.



**The Climate Crisis will bring WAR!**  
AND  
**War and militarism worsen the  
Climate Crisis**  
**Stop War and Save the Earth!**  
(BOTH AT ONCE!)



**Shout Out for Peace and  
Climate Action**

**Saturday 21  
September**

is U.N. International Day of Peace

**1:00 RALLY**  
pm  
Federation Square  
Melbourne

**No Australian Support for U.S. wars!**

**Oppose U.S. wars**

**For an Independent and Peaceful  
Australian Foreign Policy**

**Come to the rally - Bring placards and  
banners**

**Fossil fuel and military corporations  
drive climate crisis and global wars**

They depend on the world's continuing use of fossil fuel and endless wars to maintain their profits.

Their competition to grab the world's fossil fuel resources – oil and gas - promotes global wars and conflicts.

The 2003 US invasion of Iraq was mainly for control of oil. Today the threat of US war on Iran is also for control of oil.

Fossil fuel corporations and military corporations are major greenhouse gas emitters and destroyers of the environment. They trample on the rights and culture of First Nations People.

Whilst millions of people worldwide want peace and meaningful action to limit global warming, the fossil fuel and military corporations are profiting from endless wars.

The Australian government is protecting fossil fuel corporations' profits and supports US

## Climate Change will lead to war

IPAN groups in Sydney, Newcastle and Melbourne took the message that climate change will lead to war, to the rallies and distributed several thousand of these leaflets.

Acknowledgement to Truthdig, 23<sup>rd</sup> Sept 2019

## Saving the Planet Means Overthrowing the Ruling Elites

by Chris Hedges

Friday's climate strike by students across the globe will have no more impact than the mass mobilizations by women following the election of Donald Trump or the hundreds of thousands of protesters who took to the streets to denounce the Iraq War. This does not mean these protests should not have taken place. They should have. But such demonstrations need to be grounded in the bitter

reality that in the corridors of power we do not count.

.....

We must embrace a new radicalism. We must carry out sustained civil disobedience to disrupt the machinery of exploitation, even as we prepare for the inevitable dislocations and catastrophes ahead. We must alter our lifestyles and consumption to cut our personal carbon footprints. And we must organize to replace existing structures of power with ones capable of coping with the crisis before us.

**READ ON** for complete article

*Thursday, September 26, 2019 by Common Dreams*

## **10 Ways That the Climate Crisis and Militarism Are Intertwined**

by Medea Benjamin

The environmental justice movement that is surging globally is intentionally intersectional, showing how global warming is connected to issues such as race, poverty, migration and public health. One area intimately linked to the climate crisis that gets little attention, however, is militarism. Here are some of the ways these issues—and their solutions—are intertwined.

1. The US military protects Big Oil and other extractive industries.
2. The Pentagon is the single largest institutional consumer of fossil fuels in the world.

3. The Pentagon monopolizes the funding we need to seriously address the climate crisis.
4. Military operations leave a toxic legacy in their wake.
5. Wars ravage fragile ecosystems that are crucial to sustaining human health and climate resiliency.
6. Climate change is a “threat multiplier” that makes already dangerous social and political situations even worse.
7. US sabotages international agreements addressing climate change and war.
8. Mass migration is fueled by both climate change and conflict, with migrants often facing militarized repression.
9. Militarized state violence is leveled against communities resisting corporate-led environmental destruction.
10. Climate change and nuclear war are both existential threats to the planet.

**READ ON for complete article**

**ABC News**

## **Australia now world's second biggest weapons importer behind only Saudi Arabia**

by Andrew Greene

A push to make Australia a "top 10" weapons exporter appears to be faltering, with analysis suggesting the country has instead become one of the world's largest arms importers, second only to Saudi Arabia.

Figures compiled by the renowned Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) show Australia last year fell from the world's 18th largest military exporter to now be ranked 25th.

At the same time Australia jumped from being the fourth-highest weapons importer in 2017, to the world's second biggest military purchaser in 2018.

In 2018, payments for expensive new aircraft such as Joint Strike Fighters as well as French work on the Future Submarine project are believed to have helped push Australia close to the top of global defence import rankings.



## **Cut Military Spending and fund Social Need**

by Bevan Ramsden (IPAN (NSW))

Australia is spending \$200 billion on military equipment in the next ten years thrusting Australia up into number 2 in the world for military equipment imports. Yet "Australia is facing no military threat now or in the foreseeable future". Those are the words in the 2016 Defence White paper. This heavy military expenditure appears to be in response to the United States urging that its allies spend 2% of more of their GDP on "defence" and in Australia's case in order to ensure interoperability with their military forces as they prepare for



wars against China or Iran or ?

Yet we have over 100,000 homeless people, pensioners struggling on inadequate income, Newstart allowance a pittance, hospitals under-staffed and pensioners and those on low income unable to afford proper medical and dental care.

Cutting this huge military expenditure could do much for the Australian community in social services and would go a long way towards addressing our social needs.

- **\$5 Billion would raise pensioners income by \$100 per fortnight**
- **Another \$5 Billion would fund:50 additional primary schools plus 50 additional secondary schools plus 3,500 teachers plus 3 new regional hospitals plus 2,500 nurses and 1,500 doctors** (Figures from The Australia Institute)

With Anti-Poverty week coming up soon this month, the demand to cut military spending and fund social need is very timely.

Defence Connect 19 September 2019

## **Aussie and US uni collaboration to work on next-gen autonomous systems**

By: **Stephen Kuper**

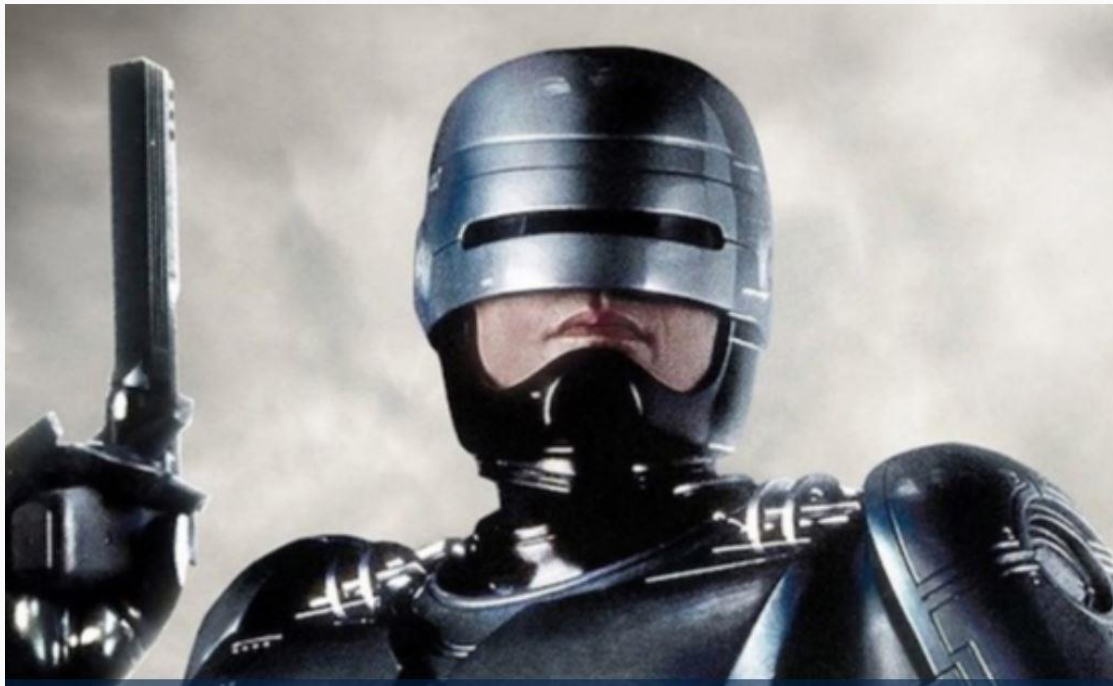
Defence Industry Minister Melissa Price has announced a \$3 million collaboration agreement between Australian and US universities to develop the next generation of autonomous vehicles.

The University of Melbourne, Macquarie University, the University of

New South Wales and Queensland University of Technology will join forces with Boston University and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

The universities will explore whether the way in which living creatures receive, process and react to environmental and contextual information **can be applied to robots** to improve their perception, navigation and spatial awareness.

Designed to encourage collaboration between Australian universities and their US counterparts, AUSMURI provides funding of up to \$1 million per year for three years, supporting research in high-priority areas for Defence.



**Microsoft president Brad Smith calls for international convention to tackle 'unstoppable' rise of killer robots**

## **US, Russia, China, Israel, and South Korea are all working on autonomous weapons systems**

The rise of killer robots is now inevitable, and urgent global action is needed to protect humanity from the growing threats posed by such killing machines.

### **CAMPAIGN TO STOP KILLER ROBOTS**



Lethal autonomous weapons systems or 'killer robots' are causing growing concern among all experts, the security community, the public and many countries across the globe – now is the time for a preemptive ban. The moral, ethical, legal and security challenges these weapons pose, when we delegate the decision to take human life to a machine, require urgent and decisive action from the international community. As you may have read on our blog, SafeGround Inc became a member of the Campaign to Stop Killer Robots in January 2019. The campaign is a global coalition of over 100 NGOs in 54 countries working to see an international treaty supported by all.

**Information: [info\(at\)safeground.org.au](mailto:info@safeground.org.au)**

Acknowledgement to Pearls and Irritations, 19th September, 2019

## **Worried about agents of foreign influence? Just look at who owns Australia's biggest companies**

by Clinton Fernandes

*The attention being given to possible covert influence being exercised by China in Australia shouldn't distract us from recognising that very overt foreign influence now occurs through investment.*

Right now US corporations eclipse everyone else in their ability to influence our politics, through their investments in Australian stocks. Using company ownership data from Bloomberg, I analysed the ownership of Australia's 20 biggest companies a few days after the 2019 federal election in May. Of those 20, 15 were majority-owned by US-based investors. Three more were at least 25% US-owned.

According to my analysis, all four of our big banks are majority-owned by American investors. The Commonwealth Bank of Australia, the nation's biggest company, is more than 60% owned by American-based investors. So too are Woolworths and Rio Tinto. BHP, once known as "the Big Australian", is 73% owned by American-based investors.

Such a concentration of foreign ownership should be a concern regardless of how much we see the US as an ally committed to liberal-democratic values, and appreciate that US corporate interests are not necessarily monolithic or necessarily exercised in accordance with a government agenda.

**READ ON** for complete article

**Friends of the Earth**

**Civil Society Statement on Domestic Nuclear Power  
Submission to the Standing Committee on  
Environment and Energy Inquiry into Nuclear  
Energy in Australia**

**September 2019**

Our nation faces urgent energy challenges. Against a backdrop of increasing climate impacts and scientific evidence the need for a clean and renewable energy transition is clear and irrefutable. All levels of government need to actively facilitate and manage Australia's accelerated transition from reliance on fossil fuels to low carbon electricity generation.

The transition to clean, safe, renewable energy should also re-power the national economy. The development and commercialisation of manufacturing, infrastructure and new energy thinking is already generating employment and opportunity. This should be grown to provide skilled and sustainable jobs and economic activity, particularly in regional Australia.

There should be no debate about the need for this energy transition, or that it is already occurring. However, choices and decisions are needed to make sure that the transition best meets the interests of workers, affected communities and the broader Australian society. Against this context the federal government has initiated an Inquiry into whether domestic nuclear power has a role in this necessary energy transition.

Our organisations, representing a diverse cross section of the Australian community, strongly maintain that nuclear power has no

role to play in Australia's energy future.

**For complete submission [READ ON](#)**

Acknowledgement to Pearls and Irritations, 18th September, 2019

**We have surrendered our sovereignty to a very  
dangerous and violent ally. An update**

by John Menadue

How long will Australian denial of US policies continue? When will some of us stand up? When will our humiliation end?

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?

In so far as China is any sort of distant threat it would be much less so if we were not so subservient to the US. The US is determined to make China its enemy. We are cooperating in that process.

The US is a very dangerous ally. It is more likely to get us into trouble than out of trouble.

We are joined at the hip to the most violent and dangerous country in the world.

For Complete article [READ ON](#)

## **Iran says region is 'on edge of collapse'**

Iran's president has warned world leaders that security in the energy-rich Persian Gulf could collapse quickly with a "single blunder" as he accused the US of engaging in "merciless economic terrorism" against his country.

On the same day as President Hassan Rouhani spoke, the US ramped up oil-related sanctions on Iran, imposing penalties on six Chinese companies and their chief executives for continuing to transport Iranian crude. Mr Rouhani said in his speech to the annual UN general assembly that the US was engaging in "international piracy" against his country by re-imposing economic sanctions after Washington withdrew from the 2015 nuclear deal with world powers.

"Stop the sanctions so as to open the way for the start of negotiations". "Our region is on the edge of collapse, as a single blunder can fuel a big fire," he said, adding that it will become secure only when US troops withdraw.

Acknowledgement to Pearls & Irritations, 2nd September, 2019

## **Chained to the chariot wheels of the Pentagon**

by Brian Toohey

*The British monarchy has no say in Australian government decisions. It's a different story with the head of the American Republic. A US president presides over a military-industrial-intelligence complex with a huge say in whether Australian governments go to war, buy particular weapons, host*

*US-run military and intelligence bases and ban trade with certain countries. The upshot is that Australia has now surrendered much of its sovereignty to the US.....*

"As far back as August 2001, a Parliamentary Library research paper concluded that it was "almost literally true that Australia cannot go to war without the consent of the US"." .....

"Embedding Australian troops, ships and planes within US forces effectively prevents Australian governments pulling them out if a conflict suddenly occurs."

For complete article **READ ON**





## The Vietnam Moratorium Campaign

A 50 years- on- Celebration is being planned for May next year

### Volunteers are needed

To make it **national**, celebration organising committees need to be set up in **all states**.

Melbourne has already established a committee and is in the process of organising.

**Can you help or contribute in some way or have memorabilia for a display ?**

If so please get in touch with:

Bevan Ramsden 0418 697 528 [bevanramsden@gmail.com](mailto:bevanramsden@gmail.com)

The aim of the celebration includes learning from the past and applying those lessons to the present.

Not much has changed since May 1970. Australia is still in a close alliance with the United States and has continued to support and follow the U.S. into wars of aggression; in Afghanistan, Iraq, Syria and currently there is danger of being drawn into a war on Iran.



**Remember Vietnam and keep Australia out of U.S. wars !**

Supported by the Independent and Peaceful Australia Network (IPAN)

**We are  
not  
Monkeys!**

**The struggle  
for justice  
in**

**WEST PAPUA**

**GUEST SPEAKER**

**PETER ARNDT**

Executive Officer of the Brisbane Archdiocese  
Catholic Justice and Peace Commission

POLITICS  
IN  
THE  
PUB



**FREEDOM**

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**SUN 13th OCT '19  
3pm to 5pm**

**\$5  
donation**

Red Brick Hotel  
83 Annerley Rd., Woolloongabba

**TRYBOOKING**

<https://www.trybooking.com/556259>

or contact Mike Henry 0410132021

ALL WELCOME TO JOIN US IN THE HOTEL FOR DINNER AT 5.30PM  
TO CONTINUE THE DISCUSSION



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[facebook.com/JustPeaceQLD](https://www.facebook.com/JustPeaceQLD)

## **RAFFLE of George Gittoes painting of TRUMP**



### **RAFFLE**

The raffle has been organised by Australian Anti-Bases Campaign Coalition and the proceeds will allow AABCC to continue its work in the cause of peace.

The prize is a painting by celebrated artist, and Sydney Peace Prize recipient, George Gittoes. The painting is a portrait of Donald Trump that Gittoes created on hearing that Trump had won the Republican nomination. It is a study for a later and larger work titled "The Beast".

Here is the link for purchasing tickets on-line <https://www.rafflelink.com.au/art-raffle-for-peace>.

## **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

**Sydney: Protest outside EOS offices**, 75 Elizabeth St , Every second Thursday of the month. Next is Thursday 10th October. Organised by the Anti-bases Coalition

**Brisbane: Politics in the Pub: "We are not Monkeys- the Struggle for justice in West Papua"**- Peter Arndt. Sunday, 13th October, 3-5pm; Red Brick Hotel, 83 Annersley Rd, Woolloongabba. Organised by Just Peace (Qld)

**Byron Bay: Book Launch and conversation: "The Good University- what Universities actually do and why it is time for radical change"**- Raewyn Connell. The Book Room at Byron, 27 Fletcher St, Byron Bay, Wed. 16th October, 5.30pm. Organised by Ngara Institute.

**Canberra: "Defend Whistleblowers and Press Freedom- drop prosecutions"** Rally at Parliament House Lawns, 12.30pm, Thursday, 24th October

**Melbourne: Film screening of "The Beginning of the End of Nuclear Weapons"** (Avaro Orus & Tony Robinson, 2019); documents the creation of the UN nuclear weapons ban treaty; it premiered in NYC in June,2019. Tuesday, 15th October, at 7.30pm in RMIT Cinema, Building 80, Swanston St, Melbourne.  
Sponsored by Screen and Sound Cultures and RMIT Socialist

Alternative Club.

**Sydney: IPAN's "Give 'em the boot" campaign** delivers boot to Foreign Affairs Minister, Marise Payne at her offices in Macquarie St, Parramatta for relay to the US marines in Darwin, 12 midday, 7th November

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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