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**No 42**

**July, 2020**

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Extract from IPAN Media Release of 19th June,2020

## **Pacific Peace Network calls for cancellation of 'RIMPAC' War Exercises in the Pacific**

A new coalition of Pacific Peace groups convened by the Independent and Peaceful Australia Network (IPAN) and World Beyond War NZ, is calling for cancellation of the "RIMPAC" military exercises event attended by up to 26 countries in Hawaiian waters this August. The exercise has already been reduced from three months down to just two weeks duration because of fears around COVID-19, but the Pacific Peace Network (PPN) says it should be cancelled altogether. Two countries, Israel and Chile have already pulled out.

Correspondence from the Department of Defence on the 21st May stated "a final decision about the nature of the ADF's participation in RIMPAC has yet to be taken as Defence adjusts a range of plans and commitments to implement the Whole of Government response to the COVID-19 pandemic". IPAN has repeatedly called for a decision to be made by the Defence Minister and recommended that Australia not participate in RIMPAC.

"Indigenous people in Hawaii are struggling for some degree of self-determination in the face of nuclearisation, militarisation and economic exploitation of the Pacific. We believe the military exercise RIMPAC is an ugly expression of this multi-level colonisation –physical, cultural, spiritual, economic, nuclear, military – past and present", says Pacific Peace Network co-convenor and IPAN Chairperson Annette Brownlie.

A webinar chaired by Liz Remmerswaal from co- host World Beyond War Aotearoa New Zealand, has been produced in association with the Independent and Peaceful Australian Network.

The webinar has been recorded and is available to watch [HERE](#)

## **Stop United States' RIMPAC war exercises**



Brisbane Protesters calling for an end to United States' RIMPAC war exercises as part of peace protests across the pacific including protests in Hawaii., Guam, New Zealand and Okinawa

**What are the costs and consequences of Australia's involvement in U.S. led wars?**

## *A people's Inquiry into the US-Australia Alliance'*



**Re-affiliation fees and donations to IPAN**  
are needed urgently to support this Inquiry which is  
being organised by IPAN

The Inquiry will be launched nationally later this year to enable organisations and individuals across Australia to contribute to a national conversation about all aspects of the US-Australia Alliance, including the social, political, military and defence, economic and environmental impacts – leading to a review recommending a path to a genuinely independent foreign policy for Australia.

The Inquiry will be headed by seven experts in the areas of the Inquiry and they will be responsible for a final report with recommendations to be made public on as wide a basis as possible.

***Re-affiliation of organisations and individuals with IPAN is now due.***

***This can be done on-line [HERE](#)***

***Donations can also be made [HERE](#)***

Re-affiliations and donations will support IPAN in the organisation of this Inquiry. Your support is much appreciated.

Current financial affiliation is necessary for voting at the IPAN Special Meeting in July and at the AGM later this year.



## **Notice of IPAN Special General Meeting 18 July 2020**

**A Special General Meeting (SGM) of IPAN** will be held online (via Zoom conference) on Saturday 18 July at 2pm. The IPAN AGM will be held later in October 2020

Full details **HERE**

A Zoom teleconferencing facility will be provided to enable Affiliates and Associates to attend the SGM without having to be physically present at the meeting place. You will need to download the Zoom program prior to the meeting <https://zoom.us/signup>

**Please RSVP for the SGM to the Public Officer at [kathrynk09@gmail.com](mailto:kathrynk09@gmail.com) so we can send you the zoom link prior to the SGM.**

If your organisation, or you as an individual are unsure if you are financial, please call Ross on 0408 782 983.

## **Marines send RQ-21 Blackjack drones to Australia rotation for first time**



The annual Marine Corps rotation to Darwin, Australia will, for the first time, incorporate unmanned surveillance drones this year, according to U.S. and Australian officials.

RQ-21 Blackjack drones will soon arrive in Australia to support Marine Rotational Force — Darwin, rotational force commander Col. David Banning said in a telephone interview Thursday.

## **An update on US troops arriving in Darwin and covid-19 risks-**

Dimity Hawkins

On Tuesday 2 June, the first contingent of 200 US troops arrived in Darwin.

The Minister for Defence, having cancelled the exercises in March, then issued media releases on 21 May, announcing the rotation was going ahead. A further media release on 2 June announced the first arrivals. See the infographic below put out by MRF-D explaining how the troops will be monitored.

Over the next 2 months an additional 1,000 US marines will be given exemption to come into Australia.

For complete report read **HERE**

## **Pax Christi's Letter of Concern to the Minister for Defence**

"The presence of the US Marines in Darwin concerns us greatly, given its potential to involve Australia in conflict.".....

"Apart from what seems to be an implication that “to protect against COVID-19” was seen as a necessary and sufficient enough condition for welcoming US Marines, more worrying is the signalling of “our firm joint commitment to regional security”. This places Australia in a unique situation, as we do not have such a defined level of commitment with other countries in the region."

Read complete letter **HERE**

With acknowledgement to Pearls and Irritations

## **Entangling Alliances?**

- Cavin Hogue

Extracts:

All of the alliances or semi-alliances the US has entered into have been clearly designed to further US interests and have usually openly or implicitly been led by it. ....

Alliances can get wars started. WW1 began when a minor incident in a minor country grew into a monumental massacre created by a series of alliances. ....

Australia is a follower. We constantly harp on friendship and shared values in an attempt to persuade the US that we matter and deserve to be looked after.....

The 100 years of mate-ship might more accurately be called 70 years of dependence. ....

Given our integration into US forces at present presumably this will continue. ....

So do we really need a protector? Who is going to attack us? Will the Alliance get us into more wars? How likely is it that we will find ourselves in a war with a powerful country that the US is not involved in and would the US risk American lives to save us?

For complete article **READ ON**

**U.S. Senate calls for Australia to become a  
Regional F35 Hub and a key store for munitions  
for the United States**

By: Stephen Kuper

15 JUNE 2020

The US Senate Armed Services Committee has responded to growing concerns regarding Chinese aggression in the Indo-Pacific, calling for increased expenditure and forward deployment of key munitions and, critically for Australia, the potential to host a regional F-35 hub.

With acknowledgement to Michael West's Media

## **Are Australians paying for secret US weapons tests at Woomera?**

by May 29, 2020 | [Michelle Fahy](#)

Australian taxpayers will fork out close to \$1 billion for the Woomera Range Complex upgrade, used by the ADF, the US and UK. With revelations that the US military denies Australia access to computer source code needed to operate key components in our war-fighting equipment, **Michelle Fahy** investigates the real beneficiaries of the secret test range.

**READ ON**

**Does Australia Need Independence From the USA?**

On July 4th, US Independence Day:  
An Online Forum and Discussion Exploring the Political, Economic, and Military Relationship Between Australia and the USA

**Speakers:**

**Prof. Clinton Fernandes**  
UNSW Canberra, author of *Island Off the Coast of Asia*, and *What Uncle Sam Wants*

**Dr. Margaret Beavis**  
Melbourne GP, vice president of the Medical Association for the Prevention of War, co-chair of the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (Australia)

**Denis McNamara**  
Spirit of Eureka, CFMEU NSW Delegate

**Saturday July 4<sup>th</sup>, 2020**  
**4:00 – 5:30pm AEST**

Join the ZOOM Webinar:  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86227258465>

Also Live Streamed via **LIVE**  
[facebook.com/spiritofeureka](https://facebook.com/spiritofeureka)

To join the Zoom Webinar click [HERE](#)

Also Live streamed via facebook - [facebook.com/spiritofeureka](https://facebook.com/spiritofeureka).

## Australian foreign policy after Coronavirus: navigating the US-China rivalry

-Clinton Fernandes

Listen to his address at his book release " Island off the coast of Asia" on U-tube.

Listen [HERE](#)

**Worried about(Chinese) agents of foreign**

## **influence? Just look at who owns Australia's biggest companies**

-The Conversation (Clinton Fernandes) 26th June,2020

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.

**READ ON**

## US ownership of Australia's biggest companies.

Percentage of stocks owned by US investor in the ASX's top 20 companies (as of May 2019).

■ % US investors ■ % Australian investors



Source: Clinton Fernandez

With acknowledgement to Pearls & Irritations

# Roadmaps on the two biggest threats ready to go

By Sue Wareham On 30 May 2020

Our security lies in our capacity to work together for the common good, rather than in weapons that terrify other humans. Roadmaps to address our two biggest threats, nuclear weapons and climate change, are ready to go. We're not waiting for a vaccine, but simply for governments, including our own, to learn that increasingly alarming warnings require urgent action.

**READ ON**

# **Campaigning for an independent, self-reliant, and sustainable Australia- new directions required for industry and manufacturing**

-Bevan Ramsden



Australia has lost much of its manufacturing industry including the ability to produce essential strategic materials and has become far too dependent on imports which are subject to disruption from pandemics, wars and foreign political threats and intimidation. COVID-19 has exposed some of these vulnerabilities. In re-development of the economy, post-COVID019, new directions are needed to make Australia's economy independent, self-reliant, and sustainable. And indeed an independent foreign policy requires the backing of such an economy.

**Read on: [CLICK HERE](#)**

With acknowledgement to Pearls & Irritations

## **My Fear - a personal reflection**

- Nick Deane

My fear is that Australia's warring mind-set and its entanglement in its alliance with the USA will eventually lead the country into a US-led war with China. The possibility of stimulating defence industries to assist with the post pandemic recovery only adds to my trepidation. [more]

Read on : **CLICK HERE**



**members of the #TOXICSAS have been issued with 'formal notices': they will have to defend acts defined as 'war crimes' against poor people in Afghanistan. See article below.**

This is the same militarisation, born of **#foreverwar**, that has poured into US culture. It is now being enacted by a **#militarisedpolice** in

and colonisation are at its roots.

We acknowledge and remember that this militarised supremacy first rolled out in Australia aimed at Aboriginal people with a sustained wave of violence.

Even though the **#ToxicSAS** get massive media coverage, we suggest there are **several elements missing from public discussion** that a keen peacenik's eye will want to point out. It is up to us to force these issues into visibility with voice and action.

[READ MORE](#)

[HERE https://www.wagepeaceau.org/toxicwarcrimes/](https://www.wagepeaceau.org/toxicwarcrimes/)

**Quaker Peace & Legislation Committee**



**ACTION ALERT AA 20-2: ASIO BILL 2020**

This Alert draws attention to the recent legislation amending the ASIO Act, offers some analysis and comment, and gives information on where advocacy can be pursued.

**READ ON**

## July 4 Rallies in Adelaide, Sydney and Melbourne



**Raytheon**

**No to US War Profiteers**

Rally outside Raytheon: Sat 4 JULY  
11am 160 Greenhill Rd Parkside

From  
**people's  
bank to U.S.  
CONBANK**

61% US owned

11.30 am  
Martin Place  
Saturday July 4

Joint SoE (SA) and IPAN (SA) action  
IPAN (SA) ipansouthaustralia@yahoo.com www.ipan.org.au  
SoE (SA) soeureka@gmail.com www.spiritofeureka.org

**Where's OUR independence?**  
www.spiritofeureka.org

Due to increased risk of spread of Covid-19 in Victoria, the rally outside the US Consulate has now been **rescheduled ONLINE**.

We invite people and organisations to take part in the online rally by sending photos of themselves holding placards and banners to: Spirit of Eureka facebook page or Email [spiritofeurekavic3@gmail.com](mailto:spiritofeurekavic3@gmail.com)

Please send your photos to Spirit of Eureka fb page or email [spiritofeurekavic3@gmail.com](mailto:spiritofeurekavic3@gmail.com), by 12pm Saturday 4th July, preferably before Saturday, if possible.

- Peoples Welfare Not Warfare
- Oppose US imperialism

- Independence for Australia

**OPPOSE IMPERIALISM!**  
**NO TO U.S. WARS**  
**AND INTERVENTIONS!**  
**SATURDAY JULY 4 12PM**

**\*ONLINE RALLY**

\*DUE TO COVID-19 RISK IN VICTORIA, THE SCHEDULED MELBOURNE RALLY WILL NOW ONLY TAKE PLACE ONLINE

Organised by:

 Spirit of Eureka (VIC)  
spiritofeurekavic3@gmail.com  
0417 456 001 (Shirley)  
0476 234 232 (Dirk)

**TO TAKE PART:**  
**SEND IN PHOTOS OF YOURSELF**  
**HOLDING PLACARDS AND BANNERS TO**  
**SPIRIT OF EUREKA FACEBOOK PAGE**  
**OR EMAIL**  
**spiritofeurekavic3@gmail.com**

**#OpposeUSImperialism**  
**#PeoplesWelfareNotWarfare**  
**#IndependenceForAustralia**

## Independent and Peaceful Australia Network

MEDIA RELEASE

5 June 2020

**Peace and Justice only possible when Racism is defeated**

- \* Multiculturalism doesn't negate injustices for First Nations people
- \* First Nations Peoples make up 30% of the prisoner population

The uprising, anger and mass protests in the USA over the past week in response to the death of George Floyd at the hands of police last week have led to initial responses of disbelief and outrage amongst politicians and media.

## READ ON





# RAISING PEACE

## WILPF & IVP & IPAN

September 20/21, 2020

### Invitation and date claimer

International Volunteers for Peace (IVP) and The Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF, NSW) both celebrate their centenaries this year. They have joined with the Independent and Peaceful Australia Network (IPAN), to hold a series of events to mark those centenaries and draw attention to the United Nations International Day of Peace (21 September).

UN Secretary General Guterres has said "The fury of the (COVID-19) virus illustrates the folly of war". However, all levels of Australian government remain conspicuously indifferent to the IDP.

In contrast, WILPF(NSW), IVP and IPAN plan a celebration of successful peace initiatives that includes a Peace Fair on Sunday September 20, when all groups with an interest in peace, in any of its manifestations, are invited to set up a display or stall. This will be an opportunity for new connections to be made and new initiatives to arise.

This is a 'date claimer' intended to kindle your interest. If your group would like to get involved, to book a space or to collaborate with planning, please make contact soon. A suitable venue has been provisionally booked.

Pending coronavirus updates, planning is going ahead.

WILPF contact Margot Pearson ([wilpf.nsw@wilpf.org.au](mailto:wilpf.nsw@wilpf.org.au))

IVP contact Rita Warleigh ([rita.warleigh@gmail.com](mailto:rita.warleigh@gmail.com))

IPAN contact Nick Deane ([homishdu@yahoo.com.au](mailto:homishdu@yahoo.com.au))



## 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.

**In Brisbane**, at King George Square, 5 pm

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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Australia

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