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September, 2020

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IPAN's People's Inquiry into the costs and consequences of Australia's involvement in U.S.-led wars

Impact of the U.S.-Australia Alliance on the Australian community

**Advance information prior to the launch of the Inquiry in
November, 2020**

Following the launch, submissions can be made in writing or verbally by concerned individuals and organisations.

IPAN has identified seven possible areas of concern:

Environmental

Workers and Unions

Economic

Social and community

Military and Defence

Political (including Democratic rights)

Impact on First Peoples

Those who respond may make a general submission or may care to address one or any of these areas of concern.

IPAN has appointed seven expert panel leaders for each of these areas of concern and each panel leader will read the submissions addressing their area and compile a report encompassing the submissions.

The final report under the leadership of the chair-person of the panel

will combine the individual area reports which will be issued as a public document.

The final document will be publicised and distributed widely in the community and to politicians, public figures and the media and is aimed at stimulating a public conversation addressing the cost and consequences of the U.S.-Australia Alliance which has drawn Australia into so many unnecessary and disastrous wars. It is expected to propose alternative approaches to Australian defence .



Annette Brownlie, IPAN's chairperson explains the nature of and the importance of, the People's Inquiry into the impact of the U.S.-Australia Alliance on the Australian community

[VIEW HERE](#)

The ANZUS Treaty explained

When and why was it signed? What does it say? Does it guarantee

*Australia the protection of the United States? How has it impacted on
the Australian people?*

by Stephen Darley and Bevan Ramsden

The resulting treaty was concluded at San Francisco on 1 September 1951 and entered into force on 29 April 1952. The treaty bound the signatories to recognise that an armed attack in the Pacific area on any of them would endanger the peace and safety of the others. It stated: 'The Parties will consult together whenever in the opinion of any of them the territorial integrity, political independence or security of any of the Parties is threatened in the Pacific'. The three nations also pledged to maintain and develop individual and collective capabilities to resist attack.

In practice, the Treaty has been used by Australian governments as a reason for joining the United States in their overseas wars of aggression in regions **not** in, or bordering, the Pacific including Vietnam, Afghanistan, Iraq and Syria and in situations which **did not** involve a military threat to Australia.

The “justification”, unsaid, was that in showing support for the United States in its wars, Australia was contributing to an “insurance policy” with the United States for continued “protection” of Australia from any military threat.

For complete article [READ HERE](#)



Brisbane Report :

Just Peace and Friends of the Earth

ON THE BEACH AT Nudgee ; Remembrance of the 75th anniversary of the Hiroshima/Nagasaki nuclear bombings.

We had a great turn out at Nudgee Beach on Sunday, August 9th, at 2 pm. 35 people (see attached photos) braved the cool windy weather to be among friends who have been appalled by the sheer brutality of the bombings. Weapons which are capable of destroying worlds.

We heard from singer/songwriter Glenn Major with his powerful and angry, Message from Hell.

Then we listened to poet Anita Reed tell us of her heartbreaking story,

The Shadow on the Stairs.

Our last musical item was a unique flash-mob rendition of *Peace on the Earth in Our Time* by 15 members of the Brisbane Combined Unions Choir.

Afternoon tea was rushed along in order that we could assemble on the beach (rapidly increasing in width) for a photograph of our group (see photo above).

From The Graham F Smith Peace Foundation

Hiroshima & Nagasaki Remembered

August has been a sobering and important month. A month when much of the world, including some of our mainstream media, has reflected on the horror and devastation of the bombing of Hiroshima on August 6th and Nagasaki 9th August 75 years ago and the ongoing existence of nuclear weapons.

In Adelaide, we met on August the 6th at 8am in the Peace Park to commemorate the inhumane bombing.

This event is organised annually by the Romero Community and The Graham F Smith Peace Foundation. We were happy to see new participants. Our speaker Lani Coy (a student from Flinders University studying Law and International Relations) spoke of her moving experiences in participating at the Hiroshima Peace Memorial

Ceremony in Hiroshima 2019.

Participants were asked to stand with ICAN by encouraging councils to take a public stance to keep cities safe against nuclear weapons by signing the UN Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW). Leaflets were distributed. Francis Bedford MP helped us in this regard.

The costs and benefits of the US-Australia Alliance

- Dr Alan Patience



[VIEW HERE](#)

Shining the spotlight on Australia's unabated

defence spending

3CR radio program - Radioactive Show

Today's show features interviews with two organisers for peace, Annette Brownlie of the Independent and Peaceful Australia Network (IPAN), and Margie Beavis from the Medical Association for the Prevention of War (MAPW). Annette speaks about RIMPAC 2020, which is the Rim of the Pacific military exercises, currently being held in Hawaiian waters. She also introduces us to the IPAN inquiry. Margie critiques Australia's increased defence spending, exploring why it remains unchallenged.

Listen [HERE](#)



The parlous state of our security policies – thinking through the hard questions

by Dr Joseph Camilleri

In Australia security policy is made largely behind closed doors, and subject to remarkably little scrutiny by parliament or our mainstream media. It has at best a fleeting presence in our political and public discourse.

Should we be concerned about this? If so, can much be done about it? Daunting as the task may seem, the risks of neglect are too great to ignore.

READ ON

Bernard Collaery, East Timor and Governmental Duplicity

by George Browning, 21st August, 2020

The extent of the outrage and the reason the government is desperate to keep hidden its unlawful behaviour through the prosecution of Bernard Collaery and Witness K has now had a little further light shone upon it.

For some time, it has been publicly and shamefully known that the Australian Government instigated unlawful surveillance on the East Timorese authorities to gain unfair commercial advantage over fossil fuel assets in the Timor Sea.

READ ON



New video on Pine Gap

View [HERE](#)

How Military Satellites Spy on You

View [HERE](#)

3CR Alternative News - US Marines in Darwin

3CR program - Interview with Nick Deane of Marrickville Peace Group
and IPAN committee member

In today's program we will hear Nick Deane, who is a peace activist from Marrickville Peace Group and NSW representative on Independent and Peaceful Australia Network IPAN's National body. Nick was invited to speak at a zoom event organised by Dr Hannah Middleton and Denis Doherty on US Marines in Darwin.

Nick has been active in a campaign to stop the annual stationing of U.S. Marines in Darwin.

Nick speaks about what are the strategic advantages to Australia from the presence of the U.S, and who actually benefits, from this arrangement?

Listen [HERE](#)

Acknowledgement to Pearls and Irritations, 3rd August, 2020

AUSMIN 2020: confirmation of Australia's abandonment of strategic autonomy?

by Mike Scrafton

Australians should not be quite as comforted by the government's recent statements around Australia-US Ministerial Consultations (AUSMIN) as some have indicated. Reassuring words are the slippery province of diplomacy. Strategic policy is founded in force structure and force posture.

Australia's force structure decisions have recently been released in parallel with the 2020 Defence Strategic Update. The dependence on and integration of the Australian Defence Force into the US military system continues apace.

If China and the US were to edge closer to a war, the more the ADF

posture is joined at the hip with forward-based US forces the less room Australia will have to make decisions in its own interest. An odd step given the government's relentless insistence of Australia's sovereignty. At this recent AUSMIN, Australia appears to have surrendered a substantial degree of strategic autonomy, and that's how the Chinese will view it.

READ ON

Acknowledgement to Pearls and Irritations, 26th August, 2020

What would an independent Australian foreign policy look like?

by Scott Burchill

Only in a small number of countries is the idea of an independent foreign policy considered to be a radical approach to international relations. Australia is one of them.

There are influential voices within the country, such as the United States lobby, which strive to maintain an alliance-based approach and prevent the development of independent external relations. Their presupposition is that Australia is incapable of self-defence, unable to thwart almost any military threats – always unspecified – whether they

be real or imaginary.

If alliance boosters were less influential, what would a more independent Australian foreign policy look like? The primary challenge is how to deal with the United States.

READ ON



between war and peace
Australia's past and future
A conversation we need to have

Join us on Zoom
Monday 21 September 2020
7.30 pm - 9.15 pm



Prof Allan Patience

is honorary Principal Fellow at the University of Melbourne
He has been a Professor of Politics and Asian studies at universities in Australia and Asia. He has written extensively on the role of middle powers, and has called for a thorough reappraisal of the ANZUS alliance

Speakers



Dr Sue Wareham

is President of the Medical Association for Prevention of War – Australia (MAPW), a board member of International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War, and a board member of ICAN (the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons) Australia

Please register by sending your name and email address to:

j.camilleri@latrobe.edu.au

An initiative of the recently established conversation project



**Gillian Triggs -
International Day of
Peace Lecture
- Brisbane**

On Monday 21st September at 7pm, the 2020 International Day of Peace Lecture will this year be delivered by Gillian Triggs, the former President of the Human Rights Commission, now appointed **ASSISTANT HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR PROTECTION, OFFICE OF THE UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES.**

Gillian will speak to the importance of the United Nations in its 75th year as the people of the world face a global pandemic, climate change and the threat of war between China and the United States. The Peace lecture will be held at St Johns Cathedral, Ann St, Brisbane at 7pm on Monday 21st September

Livestream on

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCNK4UfKhyzHdskN-s_Q9e4Q

The stream of the lecture will commence at 6.45pm on Monday 21st September.

Anyone who have this link will be able to watch the event from 6.45pm on the day, or at any time afterwards.

A specific link to the video will be available after the event.

For more information contact: Annette.brownlie@unaa.org.au

2PM SATURDAY 19TH SEPTEMBER
UN INTERNATIONAL DAY
OF PEACE.
AN ONLINE EVENT
HOSTED BY THE
INDEPENDENT
PEACEFUL
AUSTRALIA
NETWORK
(IPAN)

WITH
VINCE
SCAPPATURA
(AUTHOR OF
'THE US LOBBY
AND AUSTRALIAN
DEFENCE
POLICY')
+
GREG BARNES SC
(DEMOCRATIC RIGHTS
LAWYER AND
BARRISTER)

**WILL
THE U.S.
ALLIANCE
DRAG
AUSTRALIA
INTO
ANOTHER
WAR?**

Information & registration: ipan.victoria1@gmail.com ipan.org.au

AUSTRALIA NEEDS AN INDEPENDENT FOREIGN POLICY

The poster features a large, stylized red dragon on the right side, breathing fire. The dragon's body is composed of intricate, flame-like patterns. Below the dragon, a map of Australia is shown in white, surrounded by blue wavy lines representing water. The background is black, and the text is in white and red. The IPAN logo is located in the bottom left corner of the poster.

Speakers:

Vince Scappatura, author of "The U.S. Lobby and Australian Foreign Policy"

Greg Barnes, SC, Democratic Rights Lawyer and Barristor

Saturday 19th September, 2pm and On-Line.

Information and registration: ipan.victoria1@gmail.com



**International Day of
Peace
Interfaith Peace
Service**

Parramatta

The 55th session of the General Assembly of the United Nations designated 21 September as International Day of Peace.

To celebrate this day, **you are invited to join an Interfaith Prayer Service to be held on Monday 21 September 2020 at 2 PM via ZOOM (ZOOM details below).**

The Occasional address will be given by Dr Sue Wareham, President of the Medical Association for Prevention of War (Australia), and is a board member in Australia of ICAN (the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons) which was awarded the 2017 Nobel Peace Prize.

Representatives from Aboriginal, Armenian Apostolic, Bahai, Brahmakumaris, Buddhist, Catholic, Coptic, Hindu, Islamic, Jain,

Jewish, Mandaean, Sikh, Sufi, Uniting Church and Zoroastrian Communities will offer prayers for peace, and there will be time for silent reflection. There will be some musical items. There will be opportunity to light a candle for Peace during the service. So please keep a candle ready.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://uca-nswact.zoom.us/j/99928573628>

Meeting ID: 999 2857 3628

For further information contact Rev Dr Manas Ghosh on 0429 892 548 or email: revmanasghosh@gmail.com or, Manas.Ghosh@parramattamission.org.au

What's more important: defence funding on Manus or helping PNG fight COVID-19?

by Michelle Nayahamui Rooney

As I write, earlier hopes that Papua New Guinea (PNG) would avoid a serious COVID-19 outbreak have diminished. With 110 positive cases as of 2 August, and two recorded deaths, fears are growing that these numbers will continue to grow exponentially in the coming weeks.

Most of the cases are concentrated in PNG's largest and most populous city, Port Moresby, where the purpose-built COVID-19 complex has 72 beds. There are serious concerns that the city will not be able to handle more cases. The government has announced that a curfew will be imposed, and mask-wearing became compulsory from

29 July. The Port Moresby General Hospital has made a public appeal for the most basic of items to equip it to handle an increase in cases, while the authorities in Port Moresby are looking at options for more isolation units.

READ ON

Stop Persecuting West Papua Human Rights Defenders!

By Ronny Kareni

We are West Papuans living in Australia, calling for our friends to support Veronica Koman, an Indonesian human rights lawyer. Many West Papuans admire her advocacy work on West Papua issues, including her defense of West Papuan clients charged with treason for peacefully demanding our right to self-determination.

For more information: [HERE](#)

26th August, 2020

China Fires Two Missiles Into Sea As "Warning

To US" In Huge Escalation Following Spy Plane Breach

by Tyler Durden

Chinese media and regional sources are reporting what appears to be the biggest provocation yet amid the months-long US-China ratcheting tensions in the South China Sea.

"China launched two medium-range missiles into the South China Sea on Wednesday morning, a source close to the Chinese military said, sending a warning to the United States," The South China Post reports in a major breaking development.

The launch is said to be in response to the major incident from Tuesday, wherein China's PLA military **angrily denounced that a US U-2 spy plane allegedly entered a 'no-fly zone'** off China's coast while the PLA conducted live-fire military drills. It was unclear exactly where the claimed breach of airspace happened, however.

One of the missiles is reported as being an "carrier killer missile"
No mention of this in the Australian media!

Daily Mail

Scott Morrison warns of war with China

Charlie Moore, Political Reporter For Daily Mail Australia

Australian prime minister Scott Morrison has warned that war between the US and China is possible as tensions grow in the run-up to the US election.

Mr Morrison was responding to an article by former leader Kevin Rudd who wrote on Tuesday that a 'hot war' between the superpowers could break out for the first time since the end of the Korean War in 1953.

In an interview with US think tank the Aspen Institute, the prime minister said he would not use the phrase 'hot war' but admitted that armed conflict is possible.

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 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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Our emailing address is:

ipan.australia@gmail.com

Our mailing address is:

IPAN

PO Box 573

Coorparoo, Qld 4151

Australia

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