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No 47

November, 2020

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IPAN People's Inquiry Launch

**In conjunction with Independent
Australia**

**Thursday, 26th November, 2020 at
7pm**

Zoom details to be provided

**Full details of the Launch in a mid-November Special
edition of VOICE**



**The Case for an Independent and Peaceful
Australia:**

IPAN's People's Inquiry: What are the costs and

consequences of Australia's involvement in U.S.-led wars and the U.S.- Australia Alliance and what are the alternatives?



All readers of Voice would be most welcome to attend the Inquiry launch and details for launch meeting access on Zoom will be provided shortly to all readers in a mid-November special edition of VOICE.

A special Inquiry web site is being developed and in the meantime if more information is needed, check the inquiry link on the ipan.org.au website.

After the launch, submissions can be made in writing or verbally by concerned individuals and organisations. Submissions can be made via the Inquiry web site or via surface mail. IPAN will be publicising the Inquiry nationally and seeking submissions from a wide range of organisations and individuals to stimulate a conversation on these issues of concern and provide a voice to the many who normally are unable to publically have their concerns heard.

IPAN has identified eight areas potentially impacted by the Alliance with the United States. These are:

Impact	on	First	Peoples
Foreign			Affairs
Environmental	&		Climate
Workers	and		Unions
Economic			
Social,	community	and	culture
Military	and		Defence
Political	(including	Democratic	rights)

However **submissions** may be of a **general** nature or may address all or any of these areas of concern.

IPAN has appointed an Inquiry Chair and eight panel leaders; one for each of these areas of concern. 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 will combine the individual area reports which will be then be issued as a public document.

The final report 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 need for alternative approaches to foreign policy and defence which make for a more independent and peaceful Australia.



ICAN
AUSTRALIA

2017
NOBEL
PEACE
PRIZE

Entry into Force:

50th Country has signed the Treaty to Prohibit Nuclear Weapons

The moment has arrived. The Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons just achieved its 50th ratification at a UN event in New York! That means it will enter into force in 90 days, on the 22nd of January 2021, making nuclear weapons illegal under international law for all time.

The Treaty now has 84 signatories and 50 states parties, thanks to the newest additions Nauru, Jamaica and Honduras. Australia, shamefully, is not one of them. Yet!

Help us shine the spotlight on our government by adding your face to our virtual march.

Please enjoy our short celebratory video [here](#).



Acknowledgement to Pearls and Irritations- 30th October, 2020

Australia should show leadership on the nuclear ban-treaty

By MARIANNE HANSON

If Australia is committed to a rules-based order underpinned by international law, as it frequently claims to be, Canberra must sign the United Nations Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons. The UN Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons achieved its 50th ratification last week. This means that this long-awaited Treaty will enter into force next January.

The treaty (known simply as the ban-treaty) makes it illegal to manufacture, transfer, possess, use, or threaten to use, nuclear weapons; it also makes it illegal to assist any state in these activities.

The significance of the treaty is that it establishes clearly that nuclear

weapons are inhumane, unacceptable, and now illegal, and that no state should possess, use or threaten to use them. It proceeds from the basis that even in so-called ‘good hands’, these weapons are morally indefensible.

READ ON

MEDIA RELEASE | A FAIR GO FOR AUSTRALIA



50th Ratification of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons

Labor welcomes the 50th nation ratifying the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons – which will mean it will now come into force.

We congratulate International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN) and advocates for the significant milestone.

The ambition of a world free of nuclear weapons is one that Labor shares.

Labor has committed to signing and ratifying the treaty after taking account the need to ensure an effective verification and enforcement architecture, interaction of the Treaty with the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, and achieving universal support.

Coalition of Supporters of Bernard Collaery and Witness K (COSOCK)



Drop the Prosecutions!

Rally 12.30pm, Monday 9th Nov, ACT Courts,
Knowles Pl, Canberra City

(Contact Kathryn Kelly 0417 269 984)

Other rallies are being held around Australia as follows:

Rally, 7.30-8.30am, Monday, 9th Nov, 636 Mogill Road, Chapel Hill, Brisbane, near the offices of Julian Simmonds, MP for the Federal seat of Ryan.

Contact: Judy Attwood 0475 472 902

Hobart – Gathering at 2 venues, 11:45 am–12:45pm, Liverpool

Street Hobart, and Murray Street, Hobart

Contact: Jennie Herrera 0450 836 247

Darwin – Gathering 12 noon, Northern Territory Supreme

Court, State Square, Darwin

Contact: Rob Wesley 8983 2113

Rally, 12.30pm, Monday 9th Nov, outside AG Christian

Porter's office, 28 Main St, Ellenbrook

Contact: Seamus Carey 0424191753

COSOCK is appalled at the attempts by the Morrison Government and Attorney-General Christian Porter to imprison Witness K and his lawyer Bernard Collaery.

The courageous and conscientious actions of these men led to a fairer sharing of the resources of the Timor Sea, after Australia had bugged the Timor-Leste government offices. COSOCK believes that the people who should be held accountable are those Australian politicians and others who connived to defraud Timor-Leste, the poorest nation in SE Asia, from their fair share of resources in the Timor Sea.

The excuse of 'national security' for the secrecy of these trials is a travesty.

Tens of thousands of East Timorese people gave their lives in WW2 assisting Australian soldiers under attack from the Japanese, yet Australia's Timor Sea episode has been shameful. Are we to continue

to parade our greed and deceit by prosecuting people who actually live up to Australian values?

COSOCK demands that the vindictive charges—no doubt designed to intimidate others—are discontinued immediately. COSOCK demands that Bernard Collaery and Witness K receive recompense for the suffering and expense this secretive process is causing.

<https://bernardcollaerysupporters.org/>

<https://www.gofundme.com/f/support-bernard-collaery>

Please sign the petition to drop the prosecutions

Bill to facilitate use of foreign troops and police in Australia in "Emergencies" and give them and the ADF immunity from civil and criminal prosecution for their acts in such deployments

The Senate Committee recommends the passing of this Bill quickly and without amendment

by Bevan Ramsden

54 submissions were made to this Senate Committee Inquiry into this Bill.

IPAN and a number of its affiliates and associated organisations and

individuals made submissions of concern. IPAN's submission can be read [HERE](#).

Whilst the Senate Committee referred in its report to concerns raised by MAPW, Australians for war powers reform, the Spirit of Eureka, Kellie Tranter and Pax Christi plus others (but not IPAN), **no** amendments to the Bill were recommended by the Senate Committee as a result of these submissions.

Instead the Senate Committee recommended that the Bill be passed quickly and without any amendment.

The only "concession the Senate Committee made to concerns raised in the submissions was to recommend that in the "Explanatory Memorandum" associated with the Bill, that the following matters be included:

[READ ON](#)

The Greens put in a dissenting report which took up and supported many of the points made by IPAN and its affiliates and associated organisations. They also highlighted the Scrutiny of Bills Committee report which also supported most of IPAN and its affiliates' concerns. The Greens recommended that the Bill not be passed.

Acknowledgement to Michael West Media: 6th October, 2020

Tax break for weapons exports to Mid-East countries accused of war crimes

by [Michelle Fahy](#)

Australian weapons manufacturer Electro Optic Systems, with financial support from the federal and ACT governments, is capitalising on the 'growth market' of the Middle East, one of the world's most volatile regions. **Michelle Fahy** reports.

As has been reported repeatedly, remote weapons systems manufactured by EOS are being exported to the United Arab Emirates and Saudi Arabia despite both countries being accused of war crimes. Numerous UN reports have detailed shocking human rights violations over the six years of the Yemen war.

After a shutdown due to Covid-19, EOS announced last month that it is exporting again.

READ ON



Will you prepare to stand with us using direct action at Landforces in Brisbane, June 2021?

The weapons industry in Brisbane is rapidly developing. Wage Peace inspected three companies there: Boeing- aircraft, Rheinmetall- tanks and Nioa- ammunition.

real people going about their everyday preparation for ... war crimes.
Please get involved in direct action against the #warprofiteers. You can read more about our visits here

<https://www.wagepeaceau.org/facilitating-exports2020/>
<https://www.wagepeaceau.org/facilitating-exports2020/>

Julie Hart

New Victorian member on IPAN Coordinating Committee



Courtesy of the 'Portland Observer', Chapalt Sonti -journalist and Karen Hodge - photographer.

JULIE Hart has been part of the peace movement and other allied

organisations for close to four decades, and the Heywood resident is now devoting even more of her time to the cause.

Ms Hart recently accepted the role as one of two state coordinators for the Independent and Peaceful Australia Network, a grouping of likeminded individuals and organisations around Australia. IPAN's major goal is for Australia to pursue a truly independent and peaceful foreign policy "free of foreign military bases, and free of interventions by other foreign governments, corporations, or vested interests, that at present seek to exert undue influence in shaping Australia's foreign and defence policies in a manner that diminishes Australia's sovereignty".

For Ms Hart it is the latest step in a journey that began when she joined the peace movement as part of People for Nuclear Disarmament in 1981, as the Cold War raged, and the focus was on the prospect of nuclear war.

READ ON



**MEMORIES OF THE VIETNAM MORATORIUM
&
THE STRUGGLE TO STOP THE WAR
AND CONSCRIPTION**
by
LYNN ARNOLD

ADDRESS TO COMMEMORATE SEPT 18 1970

organised by

Labour History [SA] & Independent and Peaceful Network [SA]

Box Factory, Adelaide

20 September 2020

**HELL NO, WE WON'T GO – STOP THE WAR – PEACE NOW –
STOP THE DRAFT - LYNCH BURY – BURY LYNCH – WE DON'T
WANT YOUR FILTHY WAR – HO HO HO CHI MINH –
WHAT DO WE WANT? – PEACE – WHEN DO WE WANT IT? –
NOW**

It was fifty years ago last Friday that the second of Adelaide's three Moratorium marches took place. Fifty years is a long time – half a century. September 18 1970 was itself as distant from today as it was from the signing of the Treaty of Versailles (in June 1919) which had concluded the 'war to end all wars'. That war, as we know all too well, had not ended all wars; and so there were some five thousand people massing at the intersection of North Tce and King William St,

Adelaide, just as many more thousands had done on Armistice Day in 1918 – this time to stop a war, not to celebrate its stopping ... that would take nearly five more years.

READ

ON



Website: www.paxchristi.org.au
Facebook Page:
<https://www.facebook.com/Pax-Christi-Australia-106685886053133/>
ABN: 86 793 613 307

Pax Christi Victoria

International Christian Peace Movement

PO Box 31, Carlton South
Victoria Australia 3053
Tel: Convener 61 3 98934946
Tel: Secretary 61 3 93793889
Email: camrita44@gmail.com

PAX CHRISTI warmly invites you to join us at our

FORUM: Sustainable Peace or a Militarised Asia Pacific? Australia's Choice?

2.00 – 3.30 pm AEDT, Sunday November 15, 2020

The Australian Prime Minister, Scott Morrison, when announcing a large allocation for a stronger military force earlier this year, warned of “a poorer, more dangerous and disorderly” future, a portrayal many observers of our region agree with. This is extremely disquieting if this scenario was allowed to eventuate, as Asia-Pacific is crucial to Australia’s economic, political and security interests. Is the way forward more of the same?

Our times, however, challenge us to find new ways to secure a less “dangerous future”.

Can we imagine other approaches?
Does militarisation deliver lasting security and peace?

In Pope Francis' words, "military responses to conflict only breed more violence". Pax Christi's Nonviolence Initiative charts pathways for transforming and resolving conflict without violence to achieve integral and genuine peace. However, serious efforts are needed to nurture mutual trust and positive relations, not suspicion and hostility, for the sake of true peace and humanity.

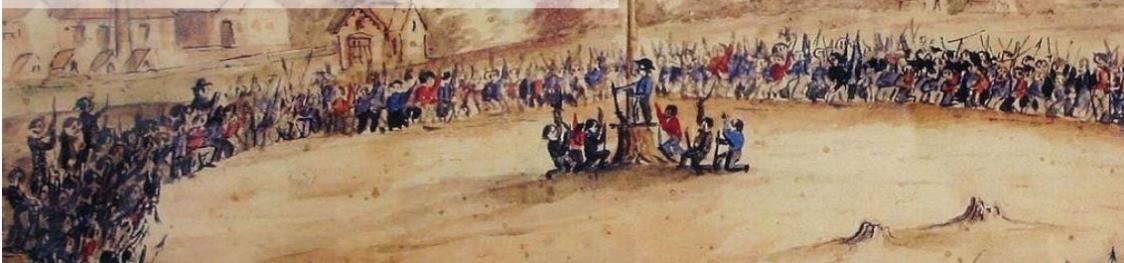
PRESENTERS: Fr Claude Mostowik, MSC, President, Pax Christi Australia: The Pax Christi Nonviolence Initiative Caesar D'Mello, Pax Christi Victoria: Scrutinising the QUAD* (*Quadrilateral Security Dialogue between Australia, India, Japan, and the US)

➤

To register for a link: email camrita44@gmail.com ➤

Note the Forum will be followed by the Annual General Meeting of Pax Christi Victoria. It is open to whoever wishes to attend.

166th Anniversary Eureka Rebellion On-line Commemoration



In the midst of the global crises it is right to rebel for our rights and liberties!

Sunday
29th November
2020

4:00pm VIC/NSW | 3:30pm SA/NT
3:00pm QLD | 1:00pm WA

Join us for a national Zoom to continue the spirit of Eureka today for a just, democratic, and independent Australia.

Participation via Zoom and streamed on Facebook Live
Join the Zoom and Register before the event spiritofeurekavic3@gmail.com
Also Live Streamed via Facebook; facebook.com/spiritofeureka

It is right to fight

- government attacks on people's democratic rights
- for workers' rights and jobs
- for proper funding of public health, aged care, education, social services and benefits
- for a just economic system and to end imperialist wars
- for climate justice and a healthy environment

Speakers

Alison Broinowski AO

Australians for War Powers Reform

Christy Cain

National President, Maritime Union of Australia

Charlie Joyce from Spirit of Eureka

Annual Eureka Award



Organised by Spirit of Eureka

VIC- spiritofeurekavic3@gmail.com, SA – spiritofeurekasa@gmail.com,

NSW - aim.eureka@gmail.com; facebook.com/spiritofeureka

www.spiritofeureka.org

find us on facebook



166 Eureka Anniversary On Line Commemoration

Sunday 29 November

4:00 pm VIC/NSW; 3:30pm SA/NT; 3.00pm Qld; 1:00pm WA

"In the midst of the global crises today continue the fighting spirit of Eureka for a just, democratic and independent Australia."

SPEAKERS

Alison Broinowski AO Australians for War Powers Reform
Christy Cain National President, Maritime Union of Australia
Charlie Joyce from Spirit of Eureka

Join the Zoom and Register before the event,
spiritofeurekavic3@gmail.com

Also Live Streamed via Facebook; facebook.com/spiritofeureka

Don't miss the Run For Palestine 2020

by Kathryn Kelly

Australia's Run for Palestine was first held in Melbourne, Victoria in November 2012.

The Run is a sporting and family event initiated and organised by Australians for Palestine /australiansforpalestine.com/ (AFP), a not-for-profit advocacy group that seeks a just peace and freedom for the Palestinian people.

Raising awareness about the onerous restrictions on the every day life of Palestinians takes many forms. AFP felt that a run would be a powerful way of helping people realise how lucky they are to have the freedom of movement denied to Palestinians.

To find out more about the Run for Palestine in your state see here
[/www.runforpalestine.com.au/](http://www.runforpalestine.com.au/)

<http://www.runforpalestine.com.au/>

75th Anniversary of the United Nations Peace Perspectives videos by UNAA NSW



Peace Perspective Video - Community 1:

<https://youtu.be/vVvJwxjEXzs>

Peace Perspective Video - Community 2:

https://youtu.be/s_FFjPlb5qQ

Peace Perspective Video - Institutions:

<https://youtu.be/7D4kMpZSIQ0>

Acknowledgement to Pearls and Irritations : 22nd October, 2020

China is not the urgent threat; climate change is

by Mark Beeson

If the People's Republic of China isn't deterred by the vastly superior military capabilities of the United States, it's hardly going to be intimidated by anything Australia does, with or without its increasingly erratic alliance partner. But while we are endlessly demonstrating our reliability and strategic credibility by investing in costly (and unproven) new weapons systems, we will not have the resources to address more urgent threats to our national security.

I refer, of course, to climate change, an immediate, rapidly intensifying problem that directly affects Australia, the driest continent on the planet. Environmental degradation and global warming not only potentially undermine Australia's economic position, but also threatens the lives and livelihoods of the population.

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

SBS News 29th Oct 2020

Eight in ten Australians fear climate change will cause more bushfires and want a transition away from coal

Despite the coronavirus pandemic dominating 2020, a new report has

found a vast majority of Australians are still concerned about climate change and fossil fuels.

Eight in ten Australians want coal-fired power stations phased out and fear climate change will result in more bushfires, according to a new survey.

The 2020 Climate of the Nation snapshot, an annual survey of 2,000 voters by progressive think tank the Australia Institute, found 83 per cent of Australians want to see coal-fired power stations gone and 82 per cent were concerned more bushfires will occur as a result of climate change, up from 76 per cent in 2019.

Acknowledgement to Pearls and Irritations : 19th October, 2020

In for a penny, in for a pound: \$90 billion for an obsolete submarine fleet

by Brian Toohey

So much for Australian sovereignty. We are locked out of repairing key US components of our subs' computer systems, and the Coalition has committed our submarine fleet to the extraordinarily dangerous role of helping the US conduct surveillance in the South China Sea.

It is hard to believe that a government genuinely committed to defending the nation would sign a contract to buy 12 ludicrously expensive submarines that would not be operational for at least 20

years, with the final submarine not ready for nearly 40 years. The fleet will be obsolete before its delivered.

READ ON

SBS News: 29th October, 2020

West Papua 'becoming a hunting ground' as Indonesian forces open fire on student protesters

by Virginia Langeberg

More than a dozen university students have been injured in an incident in the Papuan capital, Jayapura, with witnesses claiming Indonesian troops opened fire to disperse a peaceful rally.

A young man has been severely beaten and a dozen other students injured after Indonesian security forces opened fire on a university rally in the Papuan capital, Jayapura.

Months of fresh demonstrations have gripped the region as thousands of Indigenous West Papuans renew calls for an independence referendum amid a deadly crackdown in the Indonesian-ruled provinces.

Some 13 university students were injured in Jayapura on Tuesday, with victims and witnesses claiming Indonesian troops opened fire to disperse a peaceful rally of about 20 people.

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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