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**No 50**

**January, 2021**

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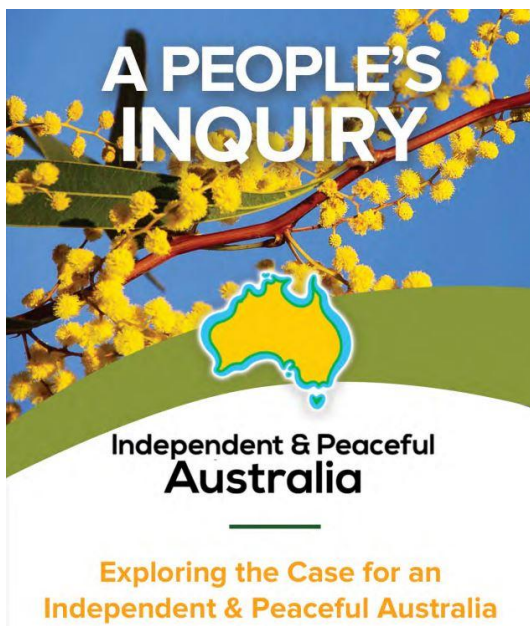
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What are the costs and consequences of Australia's involvement in US-led wars and the US-Alliance?

And what are the alternatives?

**Have your say...**



[www.independentpeacefulaustralia.com.au](http://www.independentpeacefulaustralia.com.au)

## Submissions are rolling in

### How to have YOUR SAY?

The Inquiry provides an opportunity and a voice to individuals and organisations whose views and concerns about Australia's involvement in US wars and the USA-Australia alliance have not been heard in the public debate.

We invite organisations and individuals to make a submission on one or more of the “Issues” or a general submission covering a range of issues.

Submissions can be as short as a few sentences or up to 5000 words.

You can make a submission to the Inquiry by going to the IPAN Inquiry Website and submitting through an online form:

**[www.independentpeacefulaustralia.com.au](http://www.independentpeacefulaustralia.com.au)**

Rectangular Snip

If you are unable to make a written submission you can contact the Inquiry HelpDesk to enquire about providing a verbal submission.

**IPAN Helpdesk: 0418 697 528 or 0431 597 256**

**Media Inquiries: [ipan.inquiry@gmail.com](mailto:ipan.inquiry@gmail.com)**

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## **Foreign Affairs:**

Inquiry background information  
sheet

Read or download [HERE](#)

## **Political and Democratic Rights:**

Inquiry background information  
sheet

Read or download [HERE](#)



Inquiry Panel Leader Greg Barn's speaking on Political and Democratic Rights. Listen [HERE](#)



## **MEDIA RELEASE:**

### **Australia is Failing its Citizens and National Interests by Giving Assange to the US**

The Walkey award-winning Australian journalist, publisher and WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange will find out Jan. 4, 2021, if he will be extradited to the United States to face espionage charges, while his government remains silent.

The Independent and Peaceful Australia Network, which initiated the People's Inquiry exploring the case for an independent and peaceful Australia, is greatly disturbed by the unwillingness of the Australian

government to protect their citizens as well as Canberra's subservience to its supposed ally in the US.

Despite a UN Special Rapporteur saying in 2019 that Assange showed "all the symptoms typical for prolonged exposure to psychological torture"; Assange being the first journalist to be indicted under US espionage charges; and the requirement of countries to protect their citizens abroad, successive governments have failed to assist Assange.

How to achieve a peaceful and independent foreign policy is at the heart of the People's Inquiry - Assange's imprisonment, torture and possible extradition are reminders of the need for this change. There is a very slight chance that the UK court may refuse Assange's extradition to the US, although all indications are that they will agree to it. Regardless of the outcome, the continuing injustices faced by Assange shows that the Australian government has failed in its duty to protect its citizens and failed to assert Australian interests over those of the US.

If you would like to talk to the Inquiry's panellist on Democratic and Political Rights, Greg Barns, or Chair, Kellie Tranter, about how Australia's relationship with the US is preventing it from protecting its citizens and pursuing its national interests, please contact the Communications Manager.

**Communications Manager - Sam Brennan**  
**Independent & Peaceful Australia Inquiry**

[www.independentpeacefulaustralia.com.au](http://www.independentpeacefulaustralia.com.au)

**Facebook:** [@AusInquiry](https://www.facebook.com/AusInquiry)

**Twitter:** [@AusInquiry](https://twitter.com/AusInquiry)

With acknowledgement to Pearls and Irritations: 7th January, 2021

## **Right outcome, wrong reasons on Julian Assange**

By [ALISON BROINOWSKI](#)

*British justice has been done, but it is hard to fathom. Assange's crime is different from the usual. He embarrassed the US by revealing activities recorded by Americans themselves, and the lawlessness of the US military that continues every day, all round the world.*

Having been told by a senior judge that he was a narcissist and nobody is above the law, he is now free to be both, or either, if he wishes. Having been in solitary lock-up for 23 hours a day in Belmarsh prison without exercise or showers since November, and with the worst criminals, some of whom have COVID19, he will not be extradited to the US because conditions in Super Max, Florence, Colorado, are reportedly similar. Having been found more than a year ago by a UN Special Rapporteur and numerous medical specialists to be suffering mental torture, this is suddenly grounds for his release.

For complete article [READ HERE](#)



## REQUEST FOR DONATIONS TO SUPPORT THE INQUIRY

Dear IPAN Member or Supporter

As you may be aware, the Independent and Peaceful Australia Network has undertaken to establish a national people's Inquiry: **Exploring the Case for an Independent and Peaceful Australia** *What are the costs and consequences of Australia's involvement in US-led wars and the US Alliance?*

A lot of work has gone into the development of the Inquiry process so far with more to be put in place. The majority of the work is being done on a volunteer basis, however, there are some specialist tasks/roles that require a paid worker. These tasks/roles include

- Development of a vibrant website to help maximise publicity and ensure a user-friendly submission process.
- Worker to manage the Communications Strategy for the Inquiry
- Administrative Support for the Inquiry Panel
- Publication costs for the Inquiry Report

We are therefore writing to all of our IPAN members and supporters to seek financial support towards the costs of the Inquiry, specifically for the needs outlined above.

If you feel you can contribute towards these costs it would make an enormous contribution to the work of the Inquiry and help maximise our reach into the Australian public.

**Donations can be made:**

**\* Via the Inquiry website (preferred) at**

**<https://independentpeacefulaustralia.com.au>**

**\* Bank transfer CUA BSB 814282 Acct 51169962 ensure you add your name**

**\* Via cheque to IPAN at Post PO Box 573 Coorparoo Brisbane 4151**

Thank you in anticipation for your support with this. Any assistance at all that you can provide will be greatly appreciated.

Yours

sincerely,

**Annette**

**Brownlie**

IPAN

Chairperson

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[www.ipan.org.au](http://www.ipan.org.au)

<https://www.facebook.com/IndependentAndPeacefulAustraliaNetwork/>



IPAN's People's Inquiry BROCHURE can be accessed /  
downloaded [HERE](#)



## VIRTUAL MARCH FOR AUSTRALIA TO JOIN THE #NUCLEARBAN TREATY!

The Treaty will enter into force on the 22nd January, 2021.

Add your face to the march by emailing a picture to:  
[australia@icanw.org](mailto:australia@icanw.org)

**NUCLEAR BAN STATUS:** 86 countries have signed and 51 states  
have ratified

The United Nations Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons is the first global treaty to ban nuclear weapons and all activities related to them. It makes nuclear weapons illegal alongside landmines, cluster munitions, chemical and biological weapons.

ICAN urges all nations to sign and ratify this ground breaking agreement which will enter into force on 22nd January,2021.

**Australia must sign and ratify this nuclear weapon ban treaty. Join the campaign and be part of the solution.**

For details of all the celebration activities read [HERE](#)



With acknowledgement to Pearls and Irritations:7th January,2021

## **Don't Mention the Ban: Australia's evasion of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons**

By GEM ROMULD

*Australia has disagreed with its major military ally on the prohibition of other unacceptable weapons and we must do so again. If our alliance requires allegiance to weapons of mass destruction, who does it really*

serve?

The Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons is a gamechanger. It puts all nuclear-armed states in breach of international law, along with any state that includes these weapons in its security doctrines. It coalesces regional nuclear weapon free zones, builds upon other nuclear arms control agreements and in 10 simple pages condemns any activity that condones nuclear weapons.

Read complete article [HERE](#)

With acknowledgement to Pearls and Irritations: 17th December, 2020

## **We have already ceded our sovereignty, not to China but to America for no good reason.**

**by Bruce Haigh**

Racism, fear and lack of moral courage sees Australia tied to a declining America, suffering, as a result, a lack of self-respect, independence and a viable and progressive relationship with our largest trading partner.

.....

Why do we follow the Americans so blindly and before them the British? As noted above a lack of self-confidence has been a motivating factor but equally an inferiority complex which has seen Australians gawk at American exceptionalism and braggadocio. A lack of self-respect is also in play as evinced through the treatment of Indigenous Australians and refugees.

.....

The training of ADF officers occurs within the framework of going to war with the United States. There is no independence of thought because Australia has no independent foreign or defence policy. Defence procurement is similarly governed. Whatever is purchased must have interoperability with US defence hardware. And our defence spending is profligate.

For complete article read [HERE](#)

With acknowledgement to the Newcastle Herald,

## US the great foreign interferer: Toohey



**SECRETS:** Across almost half a century of investigative reporting, Brian Toohey has travelled the world - and buried deep into the archives - to piece together the truth, rather than the government spin, about our spy agencies and the people in them. **Picture: Jonathan Carroll**

**Secrets:** Across almost half a century of investigative reporting, Brian Toohey has travelled the world- and buried deep into the archives- to piece together the truth rather than government spin, about our spy agencies and the people in them: Picture : Jonathan Carroll

Distinguished investigative journalist Brian Toohey spoke in Newcastle

on Saturday night, 28th November about his take on the world of spycraft and "intelligence", and why the United States, not China, was the world's greatest agent of "foreign interference".

Toohey's work from 1973 at The National Times, the Australian Financial Review, the Sydney Morning Herald and other publications including his own periodical, The Eye, has made him a perpetual thorn in the side of the power elites in Canberra and elsewhere..

He was in Newcastle to speak at the Hunter Broad Left dinner at Carrington Bowling Club, attended by about 45 people under COVID-19 restrictions.

Toohey's speech- Crazy Laws and Crazy Wars- included subjects in his latest book, Secret: The making of Australia's Security State, published last year.

With acknowledgement to Asia-Pacific Defence Reporter, Dec/Jan2021

## **AUSTRALIAN CULTURE AND MILITARISM**

by KYM BERGMANN // CANBERRA

**(An extract from his article: "FIXING THE SAS CULTURE IS ULTIMATELY A POLITICAL PROBLEM")**

Military organisations are reflections of the societies that produce them

and so there is plenty in the Brereton Report for all of us to contemplate. Perhaps without realising it, the contemporary Australian culture has become one of veneration of the armed forces, be it the jingoism that now applies to much of Anzac Day; the \$500 million expansion of the War Memorial; the \$100 million white elephant in the form of the museum at VillersBretonneux Military Cemetery named after Sir John Monash – all the way through to the appointment of numerous retired officers as Commonwealth and State Governor-Generals. All of this – and much more – have put sections of the military on a pedestal. That being the case, it is hardly surprising that some have developed a feeling of being special and therefore above either scrutiny or reproach. Journalists working in the domain know how frustrating it can be to do their job and cover what is going on, be it mundane procurement matters or the detail of current operations. As the Brereton Report shows, if there had been more scrutiny of the SAS in Afghanistan the outcome for everyone might have been better.

Quaker Peace & Legislation Committee

## **WATCHING BRIEF 20-12: THE FUTURE OF PALESTINE**

December, 2020

This Brief looks at the trends affecting Palestine and particularly the two-state solution that has long been advocated. Background The Trump Administration in January 2020 put forward a 'Middle East Plan'

to resolve the Israel-Palestinian conflict. This followed an earlier plan in June 2019 that concentrated on economic aspects. No Palestinians were involved in the negotiations that led to the plan, and it was widely seen as biased towards Israel. The plan rejected a Palestinian capital in East Jerusalem and required few concessions from Israel in relation to the annexation of land. The Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu made it clear that Israel would annex the Jordan Valley and West Bank's settlement while committing not to create new settlements.

Read Complete Brief [HERE](#)



## Pathways of Peace

### OUR WORKSHOPS

- ◆ Are grounded in the belief that there is power and good within everyone
- ◆ Help participants discover new and creative ways of responding to conflict
- ◆ Help participants uncover strengths and skills within themselves to deal with conflict or potential violence in a positive way

Limited Places  
Please register  
Now!

## FEBRUARY 2021 BASIC WORKSHOP

**DATE**  
13-14 Feb

**TIME**  
9 am - 5 pm

**VENUE**  
Lotus Place  
46 Cleveland St. Greenslopes  
QLD 4120

**COST**  
\$125 waged \$40 unwaged  
No cost/donation for those who  
cannot afford it.

**REGISTRATION**  
Please complete the registration  
form and send to:  
New  
admin@avpq.org.au  
0490 481 828

**PLEASE BRING SOME FOOD TO  
SHARE**

**FIND OUT MORE ABOUT AVP  
ALTERNATIVES TO VIOLENCE  
PROJECT**

**FACEBOOK:** Alternatives to  
Violence Project Queensland

**WEB:** [avpq.org.au/](http://avpq.org.au/)

Start the  
new year by  
experiencing  
Pathways of  
Peace  
and  
discovering how  
to create them  
in our BASIC  
WORKSHOP

### AVP BASIC WORKSHOP

- Affirmation
- Communication
- Co-operation
- Community Building
- Conflict Resolution
- Trust

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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