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| **No 51                                   February, 2021**  |

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| **In this issue:** \* A People's Inquiry: Submissions are rolling in\* Inquiry Background Information: Environment & Climate Change\* Inquiry Background Information: Social and Community\* A People's Inquiry: Australia must reconsider its relationship with the U.S. - Kellie Tranter\* ICAN: United Nations Treaty making Nuclear Weapons Illegal comes into force- CELEBRATIONS\* It's not rocket science: Australia needs to prohibit nuclear weapons - Sam Brennan\* Nuclear Weapons Illegal: Celebration in Hobart\* Australia's Novel Peace Prize:, The Treaty to ban nuclear weapons, and the alliance- Manning Clark House function, 5th February\* An Australian pathway through Pine Gap to the nuclear ban treaty- Richard Tanter\* WHO worries that Melbourne University's links to arms industry will threaten joint medical research\* Message of support from IPAN to NZ peace protesters- Waihopai Spy Base Protest\* IPAN adds signature to International call on President Biden\* Western Governments will have blood on their hands unless they stop persecuting Julian Assange- Spencer Zifcak\* Pompeo and Blinken are wrong: China is not committing genocide in Xinjiang- Colin Mackerras\* Victors of colonial terrorism, disguised as civilised democracy, get to write the story - Vacy Vlazna\* Wage Peace and Quakers highlighting International Solidarity for Yemen and against Weapons Expo\* Rapid Public Response |

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| **Submissions are rolling in** |

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| **Submissions can be short (one paragraph) or long (up to 5,000 words).Here is one from William Briggs** |

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| **Extracts:**"The essence of this inquiry and of this submission is inextricably linked to how Australia sees itself and its relationship with the United States. It is also tied to a question of how this middle power can forge something that resembles an independent foreign policy stance. What is unstated in the overarching brief of the inquiry is how Australia reacts and responds to the growing tension between the USA and China. That Australia will be drawn into any such conflict would seem almost inevitable, despite all manner of claims that Australia will always act in accordance with its national interests."......."Any quest for an independent foreign policy for this country, or indeed for any but the major actors involved, would appear to be a vain quest and made more so by the integrated economic dependency and interdependency that exists within globalised capitalism. This poses real and present considerations for the immediate future. This does not mean an acceptance of the reality of subservience, and nor does it wave away any action on Australia’s part to act on behalf of the common good of its own citizens or, more importantly, the citizens of the world. Equally, however, to not recognise the imperative of economic integration and the ills of capitalism, both national and international, is to commit a tragic mistake." READ COMPLETE SUBMISSION [**HERE**](https://ipan.us14.list-manage.com/track/click?u=d3766f6de66f92775b3ee224d&id=08df3ec917&e=8ef5b7f4e3)  |

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| **Environment & Climate Change:**Inquiry background information sheetRead or download [**HERE**](https://ipan.us14.list-manage.com/track/click?u=d3766f6de66f92775b3ee224d&id=6b848fe4ac&e=8ef5b7f4e3) |

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| **Social & Community:**Inquiry background information sheetRead or download[**HERE**](https://ipan.us14.list-manage.com/track/click?u=d3766f6de66f92775b3ee224d&id=44f1fff2b4&e=8ef5b7f4e3) |

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| A **People's Inquiry: Australia must reconsider its relationship with the U.S.****By**[**Kellie Tranter**](https://ipan.us14.list-manage.com/track/click?u=d3766f6de66f92775b3ee224d&id=19fb8ae8d2&e=8ef5b7f4e3) ***It is time to re-evaluate the U.S.-Australian alliance in light of challenges such as international security and climate change, says***[**Kellie Tranter**](https://ipan.us14.list-manage.com/track/click?u=d3766f6de66f92775b3ee224d&id=6bd8787e33&e=8ef5b7f4e3)***. This is a transcript of the***[**keynote address**](https://ipan.us14.list-manage.com/track/click?u=d3766f6de66f92775b3ee224d&id=56d007d940&e=8ef5b7f4e3)***at the***[**IPAN Inquiry**](https://ipan.us14.list-manage.com/track/click?u=d3766f6de66f92775b3ee224d&id=6ae6ca82dd&e=8ef5b7f4e3)***launch:*'A People’s Inquiry',*proudly partnered by Independent Australia*.**VIEW [**HERE**](https://ipan.us14.list-manage.com/track/click?u=d3766f6de66f92775b3ee224d&id=b7a3db38bc&e=8ef5b7f4e3) |

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| **To make a submission to the Inquiry, go to:**[www.independentpeacefulaustralia.com.au](http://www.independentpeacefulaustralia.com.au)  |

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| **United Nations Treaty making Nuclear Weapons Illegal comes into forceCELBRATIONS** |

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| **HOW WE CELEBRATED**JAN 28, 2021 | [NEWS](https://ipan.us14.list-manage.com/track/click?u=d3766f6de66f92775b3ee224d&id=58763a53df&e=8ef5b7f4e3) Across Australia, the birthplace of ICAN, the entry into force of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons was celebrated loudly along with a clear call for the federal government to sign and ratify without delay. Worldwide, more than 150 actions and gatherings created an undeniable wave of dissent to nuclear weapons and all who wield, build or support them.The movement for the ban gathered online and at events in every Australian state and territory. We heard the powerful words of First Nations nuclear test survivors, unionists, parliamentarians, ambassadors, councillors, activists, medical professionals, poets and peacemakers. A wide array of civil society organisations joined the call for Australia to get in line with international law.**These are some of the highlights:**See [**HERE**](https://ipan.us14.list-manage.com/track/click?u=d3766f6de66f92775b3ee224d&id=61a8a5aff0&e=8ef5b7f4e3) |

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| **It Is Not Rocket Science: Australia Needs to Prohibit Nuclear Weapons.**by Sam Brennan **On January 22 the possession and facilitation of nuclear weapons will be prohibited by international law, however, Australia has at every stage of the law’s process shown its unwillingness to create an anti-nuclear world.**Back in July 2017, the UN General Assembly was ironing out the final wording of what would come to be known as the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW). This meeting was the culmination of years of work by NGOs such as Australia’s own [International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons](https://ipan.us14.list-manage.com/track/click?u=d3766f6de66f92775b3ee224d&id=d363634ac3&e=8ef5b7f4e3) (ICAN) and countries such as Austria, Brazil, Mexico, South Africa and New Zealand. The vast majority of the countries in attendance agreed on a treaty that would prohibit the development, testing, producing, acquiring, possessing, stockpiling, use or threatened use of nuclear weapons.Australia, however, was not supportive of the TPNW and had tried to [derail](https://ipan.us14.list-manage.com/track/click?u=d3766f6de66f92775b3ee224d&id=b74ec50a07&e=8ef5b7f4e3) previous negotiations. Despite this 122 countries supported the TPNW in 2017, and late last year Honduras became the 50th country to ratify it. This means that on January 22 the TPNW will become international law. Australia did not vote in favour of adopting TPNW in 2017, despite countries like Iran doing so, nor did it sign the document, siding instead with the nuclear-armed states. At every stage, Canberra has rejected the TPNW and in doing so helped prevent a world where nuclear weapons no longer exist. This is despite the devastating threat of nuclear weapons, being declared a [human rights](https://ipan.us14.list-manage.com/track/click?u=d3766f6de66f92775b3ee224d&id=ae74e179a0&e=8ef5b7f4e3) violation, and the Australian government itself supposedly [supporting](https://ipan.us14.list-manage.com/track/click?u=d3766f6de66f92775b3ee224d&id=bc350b7207&e=8ef5b7f4e3) nuclear disarmament. [**READ ON**](https://ipan.us14.list-manage.com/track/click?u=d3766f6de66f92775b3ee224d&id=b9d63f0a16&e=8ef5b7f4e3)  |

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| **Nuclear Weapons Illegal : Celebration in Hobart** |

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| Peace groups in Hobart - WILPF, MAPW, Quakers - joined together on January 22 for a celebration of the Treaty making nuclear weapons illegal with a tea party at the Hobart Town Hall, hosted by Mayor for Peace, Lord Mayor, Anna Reynolds. The Town Hall flew the ICAN flag for the occasion. Speakers were Lord Mayor, Anna Reynolds, and MAPW convenor, Dr Sally Attrill.  |

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|   **AUSTRALIA’S NOBEL PEACE PRIZE, THE TREATY TO BAN NUCLEAR WEAPONS, AND THE ALLIANCE** **Friday 5 February 2021, 5:00pm, Manning Clark House, ACT** In 2017 the Nobel Peace Prize was awarded to the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN) “for its work to draw attention to the catastrophic humanitarian consequences of any use of nuclear weapons and for its ground-breaking efforts to achieve a treaty-based prohibition of such weapons”. **Dr Sue Wareham**, a board member of ICAN & President of the Medical Association for the Prevention of War, will talk about ICAN’s foundation in Melbourne and the remarkable work of ICAN activists across the world to achieve the UN Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons.  The Treaty will enter into force on 22 January 2021 after being signed by 50 countries and is celebrated internationally. **Kathryn Kelly,** a national Committee Member of the Independent and Peaceful Australia Network (IPAN) will follow with a talk on the People’s Inquiry into the costs and consequences of the Australia-US Alliance for Australians.  The aim of the Inquiry is to facilitate a deeper conversation and engagement with the broader Australian community to determine a path towards a genuinely independent foreign policy. |

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| **Booking essential:  MCH members $10****Concession (Government Support) and full-time students $12****Non-members $15.00****Bookings:** [https://www.trybooking.com/BOCQY](https://ipan.us14.list-manage.com/track/click?u=d3766f6de66f92775b3ee224d&id=174717de9b&e=8ef5b7f4e3) **Refreshments provided but please bring your own glass, due to COVID restrictions.**  The event will be held in the MCH gardens at the address below-you might like to bring a hat**Manning Clark House, 11 Tasmania Cres., Forrest, ACT**  |

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| With acknowledgement to Pearls & Irritations 5 August,2019  **An Australian pathway through Pine Gap to the nuclear ban treaty**by Richard Tanter  The Pine Gap Relay Ground Station could be closed, with appropriate notice of intent, without genuine disadvantage to US national security.  This would provide a technically and strategically feasible pathway past the most important obstacle posed by Pine Gap to Australia becoming compliant with the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons(TPNW).Having failed to prevent the adoption of the nuclear ban by 122-1 at the United Nations in July 2017, the Australian government has shifted ground on its opposition to the treaty as it moves towards entry into force. In a remarkable display of arrogance and intellectual over-reach the government now asserts that, even if Australia wanted to join the [Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons](https://ipan.us14.list-manage.com/track/click?u=d3766f6de66f92775b3ee224d&id=3423e15b3a&e=8ef5b7f4e3) is simply incompatible with the continuation of the U.S. alliance. We are, the government says, already in too deep to pull out.[**READ ON**](https://ipan.us14.list-manage.com/track/click?u=d3766f6de66f92775b3ee224d&id=1229832668&e=8ef5b7f4e3) |

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| With Acknowledgement to The Guardian,22nd January,2021**WHO worries that Melbourne University’s links to arms industry will threaten joint medical research**by Paul Daley  The World Health Organization has ethical concerns about the university’s collaboration with nuclear weapons maker Lockheed Martin.University of Melbourne academics fear the WHO’s ethical concerns about nuclear weapons maker Lockheed Martin could jeopardise projects at the proposed $150m Australian Institute for Infectious Diseases and Global Health. The University of Melbourne’s [links with nuclear weapons manufacturer](https://ipan.us14.list-manage.com/track/click?u=d3766f6de66f92775b3ee224d&id=a5f10f49ed&e=8ef5b7f4e3) Lockheed Martin are compromising collaborations between the institution’s global-leading infectious disease researchers and the World Health Organization.As a United Nations ban on nuclear weapons comes into force today, senior academics have disclosed the WHO’s serious ethical reservations about collaborating with the [Peter Doherty Institute for Infection and Immunity](https://ipan.us14.list-manage.com/track/click?u=d3766f6de66f92775b3ee224d&id=75a16f487d&e=8ef5b7f4e3), a world leader in Covid-19 research, and the [Nossal Institute for Global Health](https://ipan.us14.list-manage.com/track/click?u=d3766f6de66f92775b3ee224d&id=97ece55c1d&e=8ef5b7f4e3), due to the university’s links to the globe’s biggest arms maker.The academics fear the WHO’s concerns about working with the university could ultimately jeopardise WHO collaborations with the proposed Melbourne-based $150m [Australian Institute for Infectious Diseases and Global Health](https://ipan.us14.list-manage.com/track/click?u=d3766f6de66f92775b3ee224d&id=b08c273641&e=8ef5b7f4e3), which will play a significant role in combating the current and future pandemics.[**READ ON**](https://ipan.us14.list-manage.com/track/click?u=d3766f6de66f92775b3ee224d&id=78614b7ad8&e=8ef5b7f4e3)  |

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| **Waihopai Spy Base ProtestMessage of support from IPAN to NZ peace protesters**The Independent and Peaceful Australia Network sends greetings across the Tasman Sea to colleagues in the Anti-Bases Campaign (NZ). We, like you, live in a country that plays host to military facilities that are dominated by, and serve the interests of, the United States of America. The Waihopai spy base in New Zealand operates in parallel with the one at Pine Gap in Australia. We therefore have no hesitation in affirming our  support for your planned protest at Blenheim on Saturday, January 30th. Good luck to you - and may your voices be heard!"   |

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| **IPAN adds signature to  International Call on President Biden****US, South Korean and International Civil Society Organizations Call for the Suspension of US-ROK Combined Military Exercises**January 26, 2021 We, the undersigned civil society organizations in the United States, South Korea, and around the world, call on President Biden to suspend the annual US-South Korea (ROK) combined military exercises.Suspending these costly and highly provocative war exercises will be a crucial step toward re-starting genuine diplomacy with North Korea (DPRK).It will remove a formidable obstacle to a peaceful resolution of the ongoing 70-year-old Korean War and allow all parties to focus on other intractable global issues facing our nations today, such as creating a nuclear weapons-free world and resolving the current COVID-19 pandemic.[**READ ON**](https://ipan.us14.list-manage.com/track/click?u=d3766f6de66f92775b3ee224d&id=c4dfa96915&e=8ef5b7f4e3)  |

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| With acknowledgement to Pearls & Irritations 18th January, 2021**Western governments will have blood on their hands unless they stop persecuting Julian Assange**By Spencer Zifcak .The case of Wikileaks founder Julian Assange is complex, containing elements of law, freedom of speech and of the media, journalism, politics, international relations and health. In the recent hearing to determine whether Assange should be extradited to the US, health became the dominant discourse. He may die if several Western governments do not stop persecuting him.Assange is seriously mentally ill. The magistrate in the extradition proceeding decided he could not be extradited to the US because if he were, it was highly likely he would die by suicide. Other aspects of the legal reasoning in that judgment were open to criticism, but this one wasn’t.Assange is a political prisoner, having been locked up for 10 years at the behest of the governments of the US, the United Kingdom, Sweden, Ecuador and, because of its neglect of his cause, Australia.[**READ ON**](https://ipan.us14.list-manage.com/track/click?u=d3766f6de66f92775b3ee224d&id=4650cd4a21&e=8ef5b7f4e3) |

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| With acknowledgement to Pearls & Irritations, 25th January,2021**Pompeo and Blinken are wrong: China is not committing genocide in Xinjiang**By Colin Mackerras On his last day as US secretary of state, Mike Pompeo declared China’s human rights abuses in the Xinjiang region constituted “genocide” against ethnic Uighur Muslims. This outrageous declaration was the last of many that Pompeo has issued in a deliberate attempt to destroy relations with China on his way out of office.Immediately after Pompeo issued this statement, Biden’s nominee for secretary of state Antony Blinken told the U.S. Senate that in his judgment Pompeo’s verdict of “genocide” was correct. He also made it clear that he was not about to try and repair relations with China. Speaking of Trump’s China policy, he said “I disagree very much with the way he went about it in a number of ways, but the basic principle was the right one and I think that’s very helpful to our foreign policy.” It’s about the only major area where he agreed with Trump’s policy.[**READ ON**](https://ipan.us14.list-manage.com/track/click?u=d3766f6de66f92775b3ee224d&id=eb19c9fd6d&e=8ef5b7f4e3) |

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| With acknowledgement to Pearls & Irritations, 26th January, 2021**Victors of colonial terrorism, disguised as civilised democracy, get to write the story**by Vacy VlaznaJust as Israel’s Independence Day and the Palestinian Nakba Day, in remembrance of deportation and deadly dispossession, have a bloody symbiosis, Australia Day/Invasion Day is celebrated or mourned according to the victors or the vanquished.The tragic past and near narratives of the suffering of unspeakable colonial atrocities against Indigenous Palestinians and Indigenous Australians bear a close resemblance and are written in blood and great injustice.[**READ ON**](https://ipan.us14.list-manage.com/track/click?u=d3766f6de66f92775b3ee224d&id=1b2c7a5df9&e=8ef5b7f4e3) |

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| **Wage Peace and Quakers highlighting International Solidarity for Yemen AND against  Weapons Expo** Electro Optic Systems has been selling a smart killing camera into Middle Eastern markets: both to Saudi Arabia and UAE. We protested exports at their newly acquired subsidiary in Brisbane. We reminded workers they now worked for an arms dealer.We also ran a short **Webinar** on the current situation in Yemen which you can find [here](https://ipan.us14.list-manage.com/track/click?u=d3766f6de66f92775b3ee224d&id=4c6fb35d39&e=8ef5b7f4e3)And here is our [**live feed from the occupation.**](https://ipan.us14.list-manage.com/track/click?u=d3766f6de66f92775b3ee224d&id=5d27daf2e1&e=8ef5b7f4e3) |

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| **IPAN's People's Inquiry BROCHURE can be accessed / downloaded** [HERE](https://ipan.us14.list-manage.com/track/click?u=d3766f6de66f92775b3ee224d&id=9d9b3c6741&e=8ef5b7f4e3) |

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| **RAPID PUBLIC RESPONSE**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. I**n 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 |

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| 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 objectivesContributions 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.**Disclaime**r: 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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