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| **No 58                                  September, 2021**  |

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| **In this issue:**\* IPAN Media Release: The U.S. and Australian invasion of Afghanistan an unmitigated disaster\* Disaster in Afghanistan requires a Royal Commission into the Australia-U.S. alliance - PETITION to the Australian Government\* The Conversation: The ANZUS treaty does not make Australia safer. Rather, it fuels a fear of perpetual military threats- Emma Shortis\* Afghanistan debacle exposes the limits to Empire - Joseph Camilleri\* No Way USA - letter to Canberra Times by Kathryn Kelly\* Shock and Awful - The Collapse of the Empire- Cameron Leckie\* Best we don't ask why we go to war - Alison Broinowski\* Over 230 submissions to IPAN Inquiry received: Open until 21st September to make a submission\* 1,100 questionnaires received: you can still have your say\* Submission to the IPAN Inquiry by the Medical Association for Prevention of War (MAPW)\* Raising Peace Festival - Sydney, 16-26th September\* Sydney says Hiroshima Never Again 2021\* Tasmanian Peace Groups remember Hiroshima Day\* IPAN Media Release: 76 years since Hiroshima the Australian Government must stop its support for nuclear weapons\* Disrupt Land Forces Action Report\* Endorse the Pacific People's Declaration for Peace\* Spirit of Eureka Statement on Afghanistan\* Spirit of Eureka - Covid-19 - A call for Community Response not Militarisation\* CICD Statement on Afghanistan\* War Powers Reform Bulletin: Editorial - ANZUS needs a review- Dr Alison Broinowski\* End of the Forever War? - Matthew Hole\* Save our Aussie whistleblower David McBride -Petition & Webinar\* U.S. - led Talisman Sabre Military Exercises 2021 - Richard Stone\* COMING EVENTS\* Rapid Public Response |

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| **MEDIA RELEASE** 18 August 2021  **The U.S. and Australian invasion of Afghanistan an unmitigated disaster**  * Recent events in Afghanistan show the need for a peaceful and independent foreign policy
* Continuing the ANZUS alliance with the United States must now be seriously questioned
* The Australian Government must at the very least offer refuge to people from Afghanistan after twenty years of bloodshed

[**READ ON**](https://ipan.us14.list-manage.com/track/click?u=d3766f6de66f92775b3ee224d&id=d5e59f0039&e=8ef5b7f4e3) |

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| **Disaster in Afghanistan Requires a Royal Commission into the Australia-U​.​S. allianceAdd your voice to the call for a new peaceful & independent direction in Australian foreign policy by signing this petition****PETITION to the Australian Government** The end of the war in Afghanistan must be a turning point for Australian foreign policy and provide the impetus for a Royal Commission.After a generation-long war that cost the lives of thousands of innocent civilians in Afghanistan and led to the deaths of hundreds of Australian soldiers in battle, from injuries and accidents, and through suicide, the consequences of engaging in foreign wars unrelated to the defence of our country are clear.Successive Australian Governments have committed our Defence Forces to follow the U.S. into Afghanistan, Syria, Iraq, and Vietnam, culminating in millions of deaths, untold suffering, and environmental devastation. Tens of billions of dollars have been wasted on destructive war machinery while depriving much needed expenditures at home for better schools, hospitals, roads, public housing for the homeless and addressing climate change.During this 70th year since the ANZUS Treaty was signed, we call on all Australians to speak with a clear and urgent voice.We, the signatories, urgently call on the Australian government to establish a Royal Commission to examine Australia’s alliance with the U.S. and whether an alternative independent foreign and defence policy would better serve the peace and security needs of the Australian people.[**SIGN HERE**](https://ipan.us14.list-manage.com/track/click?u=d3766f6de66f92775b3ee224d&id=97c058f5fe&e=8ef5b7f4e3) **Please share with friends and help boost the signatories** |

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| **by Emma Shortis with acknowledgement to The Conversation.**……ANZUS was born out of a shared experience of war in the 1950s, and particularly Australian perceptions of ongoing, existential threats from non-white neighbours. These perceptions, based on deep racism and fear, were [wrong then](https://ipan.us14.list-manage.com/track/click?u=d3766f6de66f92775b3ee224d&id=14eab7d4fd&e=8ef5b7f4e3), and they are wrong now.Yet, the current US-Australia strategic relationship still requires an enemy – a “common danger”. As a result, the US and Australia will always find one, together.The only way to change this is through a deep, honest reckoning with the origins of Australia’s security alliance with the US — and its consequences….It means trying to forge a relationship with the United States that is not, [in the words of a former US president](https://ipan.us14.list-manage.com/track/click?u=d3766f6de66f92775b3ee224d&id=7bad748473&e=8ef5b7f4e3), “sealed with … blood”.Yet, even as the recent events in Afghanistan make the consequences of our unquestioning security alliance so glaringly obvious, there is no indication Australia will do anything other than double down on it.The mindset that has led successive Australian governments to follow the US will not change, no matter what Washington does or who is in charge. The position of the current government is to strengthen the treaty, rather than try to dismantle it.That’s dangerous for us and the world. Happy birthday, ANZUS.READ COMPLETE ARTICLE [**HERE**](https://ipan.us14.list-manage.com/track/click?u=d3766f6de66f92775b3ee224d&id=a31900009c&e=8ef5b7f4e3) |

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| With acknowledgement to Pearls & Irritations 18th August, 2021**Afghanistan debacle exposes the limits to Empire** by [Joseph Camilleri](https://ipan.us14.list-manage.com/track/click?u=d3766f6de66f92775b3ee224d&id=814ce7ed2a&e=8ef5b7f4e3)  The chaotic scenes at Kabul airport are symbolic of a military intervention that has brought the people of Afghanistan nothing but loss and destruction. The United States and its allies, not least Australia, have a great deal to answer for. This twenty-year war has been an unmitigated disaster from beginning to end. And what an ignominious end it is, especially for the United States.READ Complete article [**HERE**](https://ipan.us14.list-manage.com/track/click?u=d3766f6de66f92775b3ee224d&id=931e1741f8&e=8ef5b7f4e3) |

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|                       Letter to Canberra Times 18th August, 2021 **No Way USA**by Kathryn KellyWhen will we learn to stop following or joining the US in its unconscionable wars?  Did we learn nothing from Vietnam?  Following the US into Afghanistan in 2001 and into Iraq in 2003 was incredibly destructive for the people and peace in those countries and globally.  War is a failure of politics, it can’t be the answer anymore, and hasn’t been for a long time. [READ ON](https://ipan.us14.list-manage.com/track/click?u=d3766f6de66f92775b3ee224d&id=22b1df530f&e=8ef5b7f4e3) |

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| With acknowledgement to Pearls & Irritations 23rd August,2021 **Shock and Awful – The Collapse of the Empire**                                     by [Cameron Leckie](https://ipan.us14.list-manage.com/track/click?u=d3766f6de66f92775b3ee224d&id=9de3c44cb8&e=8ef5b7f4e3)  We are witnessing the accelerating collapse of the United States’ imperial system. Yet despite the potentially awful consequences Australia remains wilfully blind.The rapid collapse of the Afghan Government and its Army to the Taliban is a truly historical event. Despite expenditure measured in trillions of dollars, with many tens of thousands of lives lost or otherwise damaged, and the arming and training of a huge Afghan National Army and Afghan National Police; twenty years of intervention by some of the world’s most powerful countries has resulted in an epic failure.Read complete article [**HERE**](https://ipan.us14.list-manage.com/track/click?u=d3766f6de66f92775b3ee224d&id=4005bea67d&e=8ef5b7f4e3) |

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| With acknowledgement to Pearls & Irritations 27th August, 2021 **Best we don’t ask why we go to war.**                                     by [Alison Broinowski](https://ipan.us14.list-manage.com/track/click?u=d3766f6de66f92775b3ee224d&id=7457de8230&e=8ef5b7f4e3)The lessons of our history are plain. Before we repeat them by taking on China and inviting a worse disaster, ANZUS at 70 needs a thorough review, and Australia needs another independent, public inquiry – this time into the wars in Afghanistan, Iraq, and Syria.READ COMPLETE ARTICLE [**HERE**](https://ipan.us14.list-manage.com/track/click?u=d3766f6de66f92775b3ee224d&id=4152cff8bb&e=8ef5b7f4e3)  |

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| ***The tragedy of war caused by the U.S. invasion of Afghanistan in 2001 has become even more apparent 20 years later . It has prompted even more submissions to IPAN's People's Inquiry into the costs and consequences of Australia's involvement in U.S. - led wars and the alliance and alternatives.*** |

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| **IPAN's People's InquiryOver 230 submissions received****Have you had your say yet?**A submission can be as short as a paragraph or as long as 5,000 words**Submissions close on 21st September, 21****To make a submission to the Inquiry, go to:**[www.independentpeacefulaustralia.com.au](http://www.independentpeacefulaustralia.com.au)  |

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| **Here is the submission from the Medical Association for Prevention of War (MAPW)SUMMARY**The values that the US alliance promotes are not those of a more peaceful world, but a militarily aggressive one. The alliance, as it is currently conducted, has greatly limited Australia’s independence in foreign and military policy, with major costs for Australia.They include:· Complicity with nuclear weapons policies, with Australia becoming a likely nuclear target;· Involvement in disastrous US wars;· An unnecessary deterioration of our relations with other nations, particularly China. Social, economic and other impacts follow.MAPW recognises that not all the developments outlined in this submission can be directly attributed to the US alliance; some could well have occurred without the alliance. However, we believe that Australia’s almost unquestioning obedience to a nation for whom warfare is the normal state of affairs has made us more belligerent and warlike in the process. An alliance does not need to be thus. This submission concludes with recommendations for a more mature relationship with our ally.READ COMPLETE SUBMISSION [**HERE**](https://ipan.us14.list-manage.com/track/click?u=d3766f6de66f92775b3ee224d&id=fb19236fd7&e=8ef5b7f4e3) |

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| **1,100 questionnaires receivedHave your say on Australian Foreign Policy using the IPAN questionnaire with Survey Monkey**Access the Questionaire at[https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/CMMMKTS](https://ipan.us14.list-manage.com/track/click?u=d3766f6de66f92775b3ee224d&id=123e081648&e=8ef5b7f4e3) |

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| **Raising Peace Festival****Sydney- 16 to 26th September** The festival has been built around the United Nations International Day of Peace on 21 September when the Raising Peace keynote address will be given by **His Excellency Mr Armando Vargas Araya, Ambassador for Costa Rica**. Costa Rica is known as a model country for developing a culture of peace, with no military force and as the site of the United Nations University of Peace.More than 30 public events will be held online over 11 days from 16-26 September as part of the Raising Peace Festival. An unprecedented coalition of Sydney-based peace groups has come together specifically to organise this event.The festival will bring together academics, activists and practitioners to celebrate key achievements and identify priority challenges and strategies as part of raising the profile of peace as a significant subject for public discussion. It will be opened on 16 September by David Shoebridge, MLA and key speakers Alison Broinowski (author and former diplomat), David Brophy (University of Sydney) and Rita Warleigh (Raising Peace). Other participants include Geraldine Doogue (ABC), Allan Behm (Australia Institute) and Clinton Fernandes (author and academic).The program will also feature musical performances, poetry reading, yarning circle, film screenings and workshops.Spokesperson for Raising Peace, **Rita Warleigh**, said: ‘It is high time we started talking about peace again, instead of talking about war. We organisers are inspired and excited by so many groups, with a common interest in furthering the cause of peace, co-operating on this project. It indicates widespread interest in prospects for future peace, within the Australian community.’The full festival program can be viewed here [Raising Peace Festival Tickets, Thu 16/09/2021 at 6:30 pm | Eventbrite](https://ipan.us14.list-manage.com/track/click?u=d3766f6de66f92775b3ee224d&id=866c463cdf&e=8ef5b7f4e3) and on the Raising Peace website [Raising Peace - Celebrating Peace](https://ipan.us14.list-manage.com/track/click?u=d3766f6de66f92775b3ee224d&id=8ff2a1dc9b&e=8ef5b7f4e3) |

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| **Sydney action remembering Hiroshima and Nagasaki** |

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| Hiroshima Day Committee letter to PM and Opposition calls for signing of U.N. Treaty to Prohibit Nuclear Weapons[**READ HERE**](https://ipan.us14.list-manage.com/track/click?u=d3766f6de66f92775b3ee224d&id=e392d13ff4&e=8ef5b7f4e3)  |

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| **Tasmanian Peace Groups remember Hiroshima Day**Peace groups in Hobart (MAPW, Quakers, WILPF) held their annual Hiroshima Day vigil in the city, organised by the local MAPW. 20 people turned out on a cold, wet Hobart Saturday - surprisingly the best attendance for years. Councillor Bill Harvey represented the Lord Mayor as Hobart signed up early for Mayors for Peace some years ago.   |

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| **MEDIA RELEASE** 6 August 2021  **76 years since Hiroshima the Australian Government must stop its support for nuclear weapons**This Hiroshima Day, the Independent and Peaceful Australia Network (IPAN) calls on the Australian Government to sign and ratify the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW) and remove foreign military bases that contribute to nuclear proliferation**.** [READ ON](https://ipan.us14.list-manage.com/track/click?u=d3766f6de66f92775b3ee224d&id=e55d988f2a&e=8ef5b7f4e3)   |

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| ****DISRUPT LAND FORCES ACTION REPORT**** |

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| During seven days of creative, ingenious, staunch, peaceful, collaborative actions, over three hundred people spoke truth to the power of the war makers at Brisbane’s Land Forces weapons expo. Our Festival of Resistance unfolded in a whirlwind of humanity discovering itself, as we supported each other to take risks, make art, experiment and disrupt the military industrial death machine that is wrecking our planet and her peoples.[**READ ON**](https://ipan.us14.list-manage.com/track/click?u=d3766f6de66f92775b3ee224d&id=a5f9b5222c&e=8ef5b7f4e3) |

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| ****Endorse the Pacific People’s Declaration for Peace**** |

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| **Sign Pacific Declaration of Peace** [HERE](https://ipan.us14.list-manage.com/track/click?u=d3766f6de66f92775b3ee224d&id=65ee08fd9c&e=8ef5b7f4e3)View Pacific Peace Network Webinar calling for Cancellation of Talisman Sabre [**HERE**](https://ipan.us14.list-manage.com/track/click?u=d3766f6de66f92775b3ee224d&id=dee97522e6&e=8ef5b7f4e3) |

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| Spirit of Eureka welcomes the withdrawal of US military forces from Afghanistan.  It is a testament to the heroic Afghani people’s historically long resistance to colonial and imperialist invasions, occupations and exploitation. The determination of many Afghani people fighting for justice, the rights of women, peace, genuine independence and democracy, will continue.[**READ ON**](https://ipan.us14.list-manage.com/track/click?u=d3766f6de66f92775b3ee224d&id=0fdab2647f&e=8ef5b7f4e3)  |

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| **Covid-19 Crisis - A call for Community Response not Militarisation**  |

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| We invite you to sign this open letter to NSW and Federal governments calling for a community response not a militarised one to this Covid crisis. Too often profits have been put before people in decision making. We also ask that you mobilise your networks and encourage others to sign. Our aim is to help build a strong united front based on the facts and a clear way forward. This open letter is a first step. We hope you too will be compelled to action. To sign the letter, please follow this link [https://forms.gle/NK9QWmXKPCuvyRHPA](https://ipan.us14.list-manage.com/track/click?u=d3766f6de66f92775b3ee224d&id=9e07dd1ab3&e=8ef5b7f4e3)  or email your own or your organisation’s name to aim.eureka@gmail.com   |

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| **CICD Statement on Afghanistan**When will Australian Politicians listen to the public and learn from history? Less than a month after the 11 September 2001 attacks on the World Trade Centre and the Pentagon, US leaders began an all-out aerial assault against Afghanistan, the country supposedly protecting Osama bin Laden and al Qaeda. 9/11 was the perfect justification for US plans for the region..........US intervention in Afghanistan has proven not much different from intervention in Iran, Iraq, Libya, Syria and elsewhere. It had the same intent of preventing egalitarian social change, and the same effect of overthrowing an economically reformist government. In all these instances, the intervention brought backward elements in that have corruptly dominated and ruined the economy and destroyed innocent lives. Is Australia going to follow the US to another war when asked? It is time for Australia to have an independent foreign policy.**For Complete statement** [READ ON](https://ipan.us14.list-manage.com/track/click?u=d3766f6de66f92775b3ee224d&id=b0d40c7304&e=8ef5b7f4e3) |

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| **Editorial - ANZUS needs a review**By AWPR Acting President, Dr Alison Broinowski...........In September, on the anniversary of the signing of ANZUS, we can expect the familiar claims about the benefits of the Alliance for Australia to be repeated. But each can be disputed:* Intelligence: it was wrong about Saddam Hussein’s WMD and wrong about the Taliban in Afghanistan.
* Joint Facilities: it makes Australia a target of attack in US wars and erodes our independence in foreign and defence policy.
* Access in Washington: all US allies have access, some more so than Australia, which has been described as an ally that ‘always agrees to everything’.
* Defence against attack: this is not guaranteed by the Treaty. Any such defence would prioritise US combat elements hosted at bases in Northern Australia.

READ COMPLETE BULLETIN [**HERE**](https://ipan.us14.list-manage.com/track/click?u=d3766f6de66f92775b3ee224d&id=56600d4800&e=8ef5b7f4e3) |

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| ****End of the Forever War?****By Matthew Hole The United States longest war in its history has officially come to an end.  After 20 years of intervention, US troops packed up and left Bagram Airfield in the dead of night earlier this month, without a proper handover to their Afghan partners, and leaving countless old vehicles without keys and other equipment for onlookers to salvage.  The hasty withdrawal came after US President Biden pledged in April to end their occupation, with the knowledge that if left to the generals, US presence would remain indefinitely.  The official end of assistance to US backed Afghan government forces will end on August 31, at which time the US still reserves the right to conduct drone strikes on ISIS and other extremist forces in the region, and a further 650 troops will remain behind to guard the US embassy in Kabul.  One must ask, is this really the end?[**READ ON**](https://ipan.us14.list-manage.com/track/click?u=d3766f6de66f92775b3ee224d&id=4794225dbd&e=8ef5b7f4e3) |

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| **Save our Aussie whistleblower David McBride****Please sign and share my petition to free whistleblower David McBride says  Arezo Zoe Safi** Without courageous whistleblowers like David McBride, our democracy is at stake. I’m calling on the Attorney-General to drop all charges against McBride. As an Afghan-Australian and a lawyer, I am deeply upset by the persecution of David McBride, the brave whistleblower who exposed Australian Defence Force’s war crimes in Afghanistan.[**SIGN HERE**](https://ipan.us14.list-manage.com/track/click?u=d3766f6de66f92775b3ee224d&id=3585d96ec2&e=8ef5b7f4e3)  |

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| Don't miss this Webinar hosted by UQ -[Whistleblowers, War Crimes and Press Freedom: David McBride on Trial](https://ipan.us14.list-manage.com/track/click?u=d3766f6de66f92775b3ee224d&id=4a7b82c87b&e=8ef5b7f4e3) 14 September 2021 6:00pm–7:15pm **Moderator**: Prof Peter Greste,**Panellists**: ABC Journalist Dan Oakes, Law lecturer Rebecca Ananian-Walsh and Human Rights Legal Centre lawyer, Kieran Pender and Victorian Barrister, Fiona McLeod AO SC DETAILS [**HERE**](https://ipan.us14.list-manage.com/track/click?u=d3766f6de66f92775b3ee224d&id=9388dd3134&e=8ef5b7f4e3)   |

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| **US-LED TALISMAN SABRE MILITARY EXERCISES, 2021:** by  Richard Stone   The 2021 US-led Talisman Sabre military exercises have revealed some fascinating insights into the changing balance of forces taking place in the Indo-Pacific region. Military incursions into make-believe islands together with liaison with local civil and emergency service provision leave little to the imagination about the state of mind of US-led military planners based in the Pentagon. The whole Talisman Sabre military exercises also highlighted the centrality of Australia for US-led regional defence and security provision. [**READ ON**](https://ipan.us14.list-manage.com/track/click?u=d3766f6de66f92775b3ee224d&id=0d5a774198&e=8ef5b7f4e3)   |

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| **COMING EVENTS** \* **China's Rise- Threat or opportunity:** Prof Colin Mackerras AO in conversation with Prof Joseph A Camilleri OAM. Organised by Pax Christi Victoria. Sunday 19th September, 2pm to 4pm. Inquiries: camrita44@gmail.com. Register **HERE**\* **Long Half-Life** - Ian Lowe: Monday 20th September, 6.30pm to 7.30pm ; Avid Reader Bookshop/Zoom Online: Details **HERE**\* **Basic Workshop: Alternatives to Violence Project Qld**: Sat 25th, Sun 26th September. Lotus Place, 46 Cleveland St, Greenslopes,4120 REGISTER: admin@avpq.org.auor Phone Neil on 0490 481 828 \* **Rogue Forces**- Mark Willacy: Tuesday 28th September, 6.30pm to 7.30pm; Avid Readers Bookshop/Zoom Online Details  [**HERE**](https://ipan.us14.list-manage.com/track/click?u=d3766f6de66f92775b3ee224d&id=a2c2a0afb8&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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