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The IPAN People's Inquiry Report

Annette Brownlie and Jonathan Pilbrow proudly brandishing IPAN's People's Inquiry Report which represents an historically unique compilation of submissions by 283 Australians plus a questionnaire responded to by 1,000 Australians, from all walks of life providing, for the first time, an Australian community view on Australia's involvement in U.S.-led wars, the consequences and the alternatives.

A copy of the report can be ordered in hard copy [HERE](#) or a soft copy [HERE](#)

Obtain a copy of the IPAN People's Inquiry Report [HERE](#)

Review of ‘*Charting Our Own Course*’:

a paper presented to a meeting of IPAN, Adelaide 8 December 2022 by Adrian Graves

There is no more prescient moment for a searching re-consideration of Australia’s security and defence policy.....

The Independent and Peaceful Australia Network, IPAN, has bravely taken a stab at this herculean task through an extensive consultation, resulting in three hundred submissions incorporated into an important publication, *Charting Our Own Course: A People’s Inquiry: Exploring the case for an Independent and Peaceful Australia* which was presented recently to the Australian Parliament by Kellie Tranter, chair of the Inquiry.

Read complete article [HERE](#)



IPAN-SA holds Round-Table on draft "Alternative Defense Policy"

On 8th December 2022, IPAN-SA held an open public meeting to consider the "draft Alternative Defense Policy" that Bevan Ramsden and Stephen Darley had written on behalf of the IPAN Coordinating Committee. A meeting of 20 people from different walks of life and

various organisations came along to hear two excellent presentations on the issue and then break up into small Round-Table groups to discuss and give feedback on a different approach to the defence of Australia.

Adrian Graves and Leonnie Blumson got the meeting started by examining Australia's current defence posture and comparing it with the alternatives proposed by IPAN to stimulate discussion amongst the attendees. IPAN-SA is very grateful for their considered input. The small Round-Table groups carried out vigorous discussions and then drew up their viewpoints onto sheets and presented feedback to the whole meeting. This feedback will be collated and passedback to the IPAN Coordinating Committee for consideration and inclusion.

There were plenty of viewpoints to be considered and concerns raised. This consultation was a worthwhile event to undertake and everybody who attended felt Australia needed to rethink its defence relationship with the United States.



Amnesia Atomica, Pedro Reyes' three-storey inflatable mushroom cloud

2023 The Brisbane Peace Community Function

Sunday, January 22nd 2023

TIMES: 1 pm Shared lunch. 2pm – 4:30 pm

Coming together to listen and share activity and plans for the coming year. We celebrate exactly two years since the United Nations Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, became international law.

Listening and sharing ideas

Brisbane Quakers Friends House, 10 Hampson St Kelvin Grove.

CONTACT: Annette Brownlie 0431597256 Margid Bryn-Burns
0419724561

With acknowledgement to Pearls and Irritations, Nov 11, 2022

China has neither the intent nor the capability to attack us

By John Menadue

We are being led in our anti-China hysteria by the United States which is not concerned that China will attack us, or even the United States, but is concerned that its world hegemony is being challenged.

That is why the US is persistently goading China into conflict and possible war. And we follow along. As Jack Waterford put it from a US official, the US sees us as an 'easy lay'.

What the United States really resents about China is that it is successful after almost two centuries of poverty and humiliation.

[Read on](#)

US Militarisation of Northern Territory



📷 A US air force B-52 bomber. Tindal airbase in Australia's Northern Territory will be able to host up to six of the nuclear-capable aircraft, officials have confirmed. Photograph: US Air Force/Reuters

With acknowledgement to P & I, Nov 5, 2022

B52's mark the demise of Australia as a self-reliant nation

By [Bruce Haigh](#)

News that the US plans to base six B52's at RAAF, Tindal, will likely change the dynamic, in what has admittedly been a half-hearted attempt by Australia, at improving relations with China.

The basing of B52's in the Northern Territory changes the nature of Australia's defence relationship with the USA and our diplomatic relationship with China. Australia has become a base for the possible use of US nuclear weapons against China. Tentative and

overly cautious moves to re-establish a sound and workable relationship with China will have been set back, if not put on ice. Moves that Morrison was a party to, or patsy to, have proceeded apace without the brakes being applied by Marles or Albanese. The horse has bolted. And all this has happened without the Parliament being consulted. So much for Australian democracy. All this talk about Western Democracies standing up to totalitarian regimes is so much cant.

Read complete article [HERE](#)



President Obama announces US military "Pivot to Asia" in Darwin in 2011, to contain and confront China- the US Australia Force Posture Agreement followed soon after

The US-Australia Force Posture Agreement has opened the gate for the US to set up Australia as a launching pad for its next war.

By Bevan Ramsden

3/1/2023

When it comes to military activities or agreements between Australia and the United States, the ANZUS Treaty is waved to provide "motherhood" authorization or justification for such activities. More recently, the AUKUS security pact between Australia, the UK and the US has been used to authorize and justify certain military acquisitions, nuclear-powered submarines in particular.

However, neither of these treaties mention, justify or authorize the US military build-up in the Northern Territory and elsewhere in Australia. It is the US-Australia Force Posture Agreement (FPA), signed in 2014 by Julie Bishop and David Johnston, respectively the then foreign minister and defence minister, for the Australian Government and by John F. Kerry and Chuck Hagel for the US, which provides the legal basis for the comprehensive US militarization of Australia, especially the Northern Territory thus setting up Australia as a US forward base from which to launch its next war.

READ ON

Aukus and Nuclear Propelled submarines prepare Australia for war

(Aukus is a trilateral security pact between the UK, the USA and Australia)



With acknowledgement to P & I, December,22, 2022

AUKUS and the threat of war with China

By Richard Tanter

We are on the verge of an almost irrevocable historical choice to assist United States plans for an existential nuclear threat to China in the event of major conflict between the US and China.

Extract

"AUKUS allies – dangerous and dysfunctional

In functional terms – as opposed to the ideology of the Anglosphere – the AUKUS agreement centres on the nuclear-powered submarines issue. Much has been written on this, not a lot of it well-informed. Moreover, there is at present little reliable information on actual government intentions, other than to say the Albanese government appears to have adopted the Morrison general commitment without modification, and that there is an emerging possibility that either British or US (or both) nuclear-powered attack submarines may be based at Australian ports, most likely Stirling in Western Australia."

Read full article [HERE](#)



Sydney Anti-AUKUS Coalition protest supported by trade unions:
"No Nuclear Submarines"

Sydney Anti-AUKUS Coalition Forum: 14th December, 2022

B52's an Act of War

The decision of the Australian Government to allow the hosting B-52s in Catherine at the RAAF Base Tindal is a provocation and an act of war. With this great array of speakers namely Justin Tutty Northern Territory environmental activist, Kieran Finnane journalist and author on many issues covering Central Australia. Professor Richard Tanter, Richard is Senior Research Associate, Nautilus Institute and Honorary Professor in the School of Political and Social Sciences at the University of Melbourne. He has worked on regional peace, security and environment issues and more recently has focussed on Australian defence and foreign policy, and on the US military base at Pine Gap. This great online forum lets you know how the Northern Territory is being militarised and nuclearised and to discuss what we need to do about it.

View Forum [HERE](#)

With acknowledgement to Green Left Weekly, Dec 8 2022

CFMMEU opposes 'reckless AUKUS military alliance'

By [Kerry Smith](#)

Paul Keating, Maritime Union of Australia Sydney branch secretary,

moved the following resolution on November 24 at the Construction, Forestry, Maritime, Mining and Energy Union's (CFMMEU) national conference. It was carried unanimously.

CFMMEU National Conference is opposed to the ongoing and reckless AUKUS military alliance to develop nuclear submarine capability.

The secretive plan could cost as much as \$170 billion and continues to escalate conflict with China and throughout our region.

This money should be spent on health care, education, social housing, natural disaster response and development of publicly owned renewable energy capacity.

We support workers across the world opposing war and excessive military spending and pledge ongoing opposition to further expansion of the nuclear industry.

Petition to Parliament to sign

Petition EN4647 - No to nuclear-capable B52s, AUKUS

(For supporting argument, Read [HERE](#))

We therefore ask the House to cancel: the stationing of B52 bombers in the Northern Territory, the AUKUS Pact; and the Marine Rotational Force – Darwin. Further, we call on the Australian government to adhere to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, which Australia signed in 1970, and to sign the United Nations Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons.

Sign [HERE](#)

With acknowledgement to Green Left Weekly, 1st December, 2022

Australia must pull back from a war with China, forum told

by Jim McIlroy

The so-called China threat was discussed at a webinar on November 30 of around 150 people.

Organised by Australians for War Powers Reform (AWPR), it was addressed by Hugh White, emeritus professor of strategic studies at the Australian National University and Michael Sainsbury, a freelance journalist based in south east Asia. Broadcaster Quentin Dempster was the chair.

White said the danger of a war with China was real as “Taiwan has become the flashpoint in the growing rivalry between the United States and China”.

He said Australia “should definitely not go to war with China in support of the US”. It would “not be like previous US wars in Asia — it would almost certainly become World War III.”

The danger of a devastating nuclear war would be very real, White said.

[Read on](#)



The end of a long journey?

by **Dr Alison Broinowski**

We can't be sure whether we're at the end of a long journey to our war powers destination, or if we've reached at a fork in the road, or if it leads nowhere. So celebrations are premature.

On 9 December AWPR was invited in the opening hour to give evidence to the parliamentary sub-committee on how Australia goes to war. Our team of three did so, and with members Jenni Beattie and Kellie Tranter unable to appear, we were grateful for last minute back-up from Dr Sue Wareham and Professor Charles Sampford, both of whom had made submissions on behalf of their other organisations.

[Read on](#)

ADF Veterans address the War Powers Inquiry

By Noel Turnbull

21st December, 2022

On Friday December 9 John Phillips (former Captain Royal Australian Regiment Vietnam 1971) and myself (2nd Lieutenant Royal Australian Artillery Vietnam 1968-69) gave evidence to the Joint Standing Committee inquiring into War Power reform – how we go to the war.

Currently, unlike a number of other countries, the decision to go to war is the Prime Minister's and the Executive Government – as in the case with John Howard and the Iraq War.

[Read on](#)





On this longest day of the year, we'd like to say thank you for being part of the campaign to abolish nuclear weapons!

It's been a massive year and we are several steps closer to Australia signing and ratifying the UN Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons. Check out some of the campaign highlights in this [short video](#). With a supportive Prime Minister and party in government, we have a window of opportunity to get this done. 2023 will be critical!

We are very close to reaching our end of year fundraising goal, to power our work in 2023! Can you help us get there? Every dollar up to \$10,000 will be doubled by a generous Melbourne supporter.

All donors will receive the below A3 poster (if we have your address) in January. It features the iconic 1983 Pam Debenham poster and a list of important dates for the nuclear weapon ban treaty in 2023. It's also on its way to every state, territory and federal parliamentarian that has signed the [ICAN Parliamentary Pledge](#).

We wish you a restful holiday period and we'll see you next year!

For a world free of nuclear weapons,

Gem Romuld

On behalf of ICAN Australia



'Enough is enough': Albanese on concluding the Julian Assange matter

November 30, 2022 - 3:18PM

Prime Minister Anthony Albanese says he made his point that “enough is enough” and it is time for the Julian Assange matter to be “brought to a conclusion”.

“In that I don’t express any personal sympathy for the actions of Mr Assange,” Mr Albanese said during Question Time on Wednesday. “I do say though, that this issue has gone on for many years now. “I have raised this personally with representatives of the United States government, my position is clear and has been made clear to the US administration.

Kathryn Kelly, Co-convenor of the Alliance Against Political Prosecutions, reports that "ABC Global Affairs Editor John Lyons said in a TV interview that he expects Julian Assange to be released within 2 months, but gives no evidence for this view. Several commentators are sceptical of his view, and I would certainly like to see some evidence of this happening.

The Lyons interview is here -

https://twitter.com/assangecampaign/status/1609463864537796611?s=51&t=CYkfRNZ-Lp47lo6Ssav_DQ

Stella Assange, Julian's wife, is meanwhile calling for people to join a call to Ambassador Caroline Kennedy to make a plea for his release to President Biden. AAPP urges people to add their name to the call."

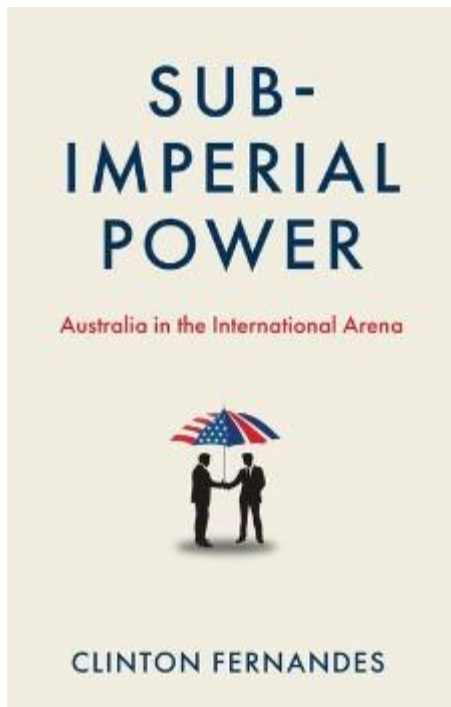
Stella - "I've worked closely with his legal defence team to write it, making the most powerful argument we can for his release. The US Government is under pressure to act, which is why it is necessary to continue to mount community pressure on the government to do the

right thing. Can you join me and add your name to those already reaching out to the Ambassador?

Hear Clinton Fernandes, author of "Subimperial Power- Australia in the international arena", on Radio National

[Listen HERE](#)

A new book '*Subimperial Power - Australia in the International Arena*' argues Australians ought to be told what our relationship with the United States is really about: a relationship where we eagerly and routinely act to help the US keep its imperial position at the apex of global power. Iraq, Afghanistan and now AUKUS - the book argues Australians have been kept in the dark as to the real motivations behind these consequential decisions. The book is available from MUP (Melbourne University Press)



Aukus will lock in Australia's dependence on US, intelligence expert warns

Clinton Fernandes argues in provocative new book the security pact will make it impossible to have an independent defence policy

The Aukus deal will lock in Australia's dependence on the US and make it impossible to have an independent defence policy, a former Australian army intelligence officer has warned.

In a provocative new book to be released this week, Clinton Fernandes argues the true character of Australia's relationship with the US is "a transactional, dramatically unequal one". He argues the rhetoric about mateship is merely "window dressing".

Book review from The Guardian, 2nd October, 2022

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.

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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