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| If you are new to receiving IPAN's publication, "Voice" , please note that if you do not want to receive this publication in future, you can un-subscribe by clicking the words at the bottom of this publication.  |

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| Please share VOICE with organisational members and on your social media platforms |

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| **In this Edition:**\* An opportunity to campaign for peace & independence through IPAN\* IPAN Media Release: Northern Australia Nuclear Alarm: Time to sign the Nuclear Weapons Ban Treaty\* ICAN Media Release: No (air) space for ambiguity with nuclear-capable B52's\* A Call for Peace - Truth not War Rally- Melbourne 18th March- State Library,1pm\* Public Meeting Marrickville Town Hall: We live in troubled times.... can War be avoided or will Peace be shattered- Sunday 19th March,5pm\* Stop War and Make Peace- Rally for peace on Sunday 19th March,6pm, Darwin Esplanade\* The Road to War - Cinema Nova - Carlton, Vic, Wed., 22nd March,6.30pm\* Nation-wide campaign against AUKUS- 24th February- Reports from Brisbane, Sydney, Newcastle, Canberra, Geelong, Adelaide and Perth\* Permanent Visas for Refugees; Peace not War - Palm Sunday Rally, Brisbane\* ABC Investigation: What would war with China look like for Australia? Part 1-by John Lyons \* Costs of going to war with the United States against China - IPAN Podcast\* Alliance against Political Prosecutions- Activities coming up\* Wong surrenders to Canberra hawks, rejects war powers reform- Alison Broinowski\* The death of Australian Sovereignty? by Michael Callannan\* NEW IPAN Regional Group formed- Geelong and South- West Victoria\* Iraq War 20 years on - IPB Webinar- Dr Vince Scappatura\* Celebrating Stories of Non-Violence - World Beyond War Virtual Film Festival\* US State Department clears $500 million in anti-radiation missiles for Australia.\* Defence Strategic Review will recommend long range strike capabilities with acquisition of killer drones\* Manila seeks new alliance with Australia - Chris Barrett\* Australia eyes joint naval patrols with PH in South China Sea- Priam Nepomuceno\* AVP-New Year Workshops in 2023   |

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| Obtain a copy of the IPAN People's Inquiry Report [**HERE**](https://ipan.us14.list-manage.com/track/click?u=d3766f6de66f92775b3ee224d&id=3654aa0086&e=8ef5b7f4e3)  |

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| **An opportunity to campaign for peace & independence through IPAN** |

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| **Survey seeking volunteers to assist with engagement with political and community groups and members with the IPAN People’s Inquiry Report****Aim of the Questionnaire:**·       The primary focus of this questionnaire is on asking individuals if they can visit their local MP or local community/faith groups to present a copy of the Inquiry Report with discussion on findings and recommendations·       This questionnaire is being sent to all IPAN organisational  and individual members as well as all organisations or individuals  who made submissions to the IPAN People's Inquiry Complete the Questionnaire online [**here:**](https://ipan.us14.list-manage.com/track/click?u=d3766f6de66f92775b3ee224d&id=8207a09279&e=8ef5b7f4e3)  Thank you for taking the time to complete this questionnaire   |

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| **IPAN Media Release  15th February 2023****Northern Australia Nuclear Alarm: Time to sign the Nuclear Weapon Ban Treaty**  * **No nuclear weapons must be allowed into Australia**
* **Australian Government must adopt NZ policy re refusal of entry of nuclear weapons**

 IPAN is alarmed that the Secretary of the Department of Defence, Mr. Greg Moriarty, has recently stated he could not rule out that the U.S.A. Strategic B52 bombers which rotate through the Northern Territory could carry nuclear weapons.[READ ON](https://ipan.us14.list-manage.com/track/click?u=d3766f6de66f92775b3ee224d&id=d2ab332799&e=8ef5b7f4e3)   |

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| United States B52 nuclear capable bomber in Darwiin   |

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| ****Media Release: No [air] space for ambiguity with nuclear-capable B-52s****17th February 2023Nobel Peace Prize recipient ICAN has called for Australia to never accept a policy of ‘neither confirm nor deny’ about whether nuclear weapons will be within Australian territory.“Australia should reject any presence of nuclear weapons in its territory, including airspace and waters, even if in transit”, said ICAN Australia director Gem Romuld. “We are a sovereign state and can both set and should adhere to the rules.”The proposal to deploy US nuclear weapons-capable B-52 bombers at RAAF Tindal in the Northern Territory would contribute to the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons in our region. ICAN maintains that stationing these aircraft at Tindal or elsewhere would be a breach of the South Pacific Nuclear Free Zone Treaty (SPNFZ), or Rarotonga Treaty.Read complete media release [**HERE**](https://ipan.us14.list-manage.com/track/click?u=d3766f6de66f92775b3ee224d&id=b3ebfdca89&e=8ef5b7f4e3) |

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| **Speakers:****Prof. Bob Carr** (former NSW Premier and Federal Minister for Foreign Affairs)**Senator David Shoebridge** (NSW Greens Senator)**Dr Alison Broinowski** (President of Australians for War Powers Reform)**Col. Lawrence Wilkerson** (assistant to US Secretary of State, Colin Powell, in 2003)**Mary Kostakidis** has agreed to act as facilitator. Please distribute the date-claimer widely, [**HERE**](https://ipan.us14.list-manage.com/track/click?u=d3766f6de66f92775b3ee224d&id=3a32461785&e=8ef5b7f4e3) We aim to gather people who are ready to speak out against the current trends in Australia's defence stance, which appear to be leading in the direction of conflict, rather than peace.**Sunday, 19th March, 5pmMarrickville Town Hall, NSW**   |

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| No to AUKUS, No to Nuclear Submarines' protests were held at seven Federal Ministers' electorate offices across Australia, Here are some reports.  |

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| **BRISBANE:**Extract from Letter to The Treasurer 24th Feb protest at his Logan Office,24 February 2023.Hon Jim Chalmers MP Member for Rankin and Australian TreasurerDear Treasurer, The peace movement in South East Queensland is gravely concerned about the AUKUS agreement which, along with the Force Posture Agreement signed in 2015, significantly impacts our independent foreign policy decision making and sovereignty. [**READ ON**](https://ipan.us14.list-manage.com/track/click?u=d3766f6de66f92775b3ee224d&id=1bf83f220d&e=8ef5b7f4e3)  |

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| **SYDNEY**: Marrickville outside PM Albanese electorate officeThere were more than 40 people in our crowd. We had speakers from MPG, Socialist Alliance, Sydney Anti-AUKUS Coalition, IPAN, Medical Association for the Prevention of War. We were joined by a contingent from Wollongong - and our event co-incided with similar events outside the offices of other Ministers and Senators.  Nick Deane, from Marrickville Peace Group, told a crowd outside the Prime Ministers’ office in Sydney that the real emergency — the climate — was being ignored in favor of a new arms race in preparation for a war on China.A letter opposing the march to war was delivered to the PM’s office. |

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| **NEWCASTLE:** Hunter Peace Group protesting against AUKUS outside Federal Minister for Defence Industry, Pat Conroy's office.  |

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| **CANBERRA:** Protest against nuclear subs outside the office of Senator Katy Gallagher, Minister for Finance, Minister for Women, Minister for the Public Servic.  |

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| **GEELONG:** On Friday 24 at 4:00 pm, 25 mainly local Geelong residents, gathered outside the Minister for Defence, Richard Marles’ office to protest the proposed AUKUS pact. A treaty that, if signed by the Australian Government, will effectively surrender Australia’s sovereignty to the U.S. in decision making around committing our country to foreign wars of aggression.The rally outside Defence Minister’s Richard Marles’ Electorate Office was organised by the No AUKUS Coalition Victoria and recently formed IPAN Geelong and South West Regional Victoria.  The Geelong rally was one of several nationwide rallies held across the country organised by the Australian Anti-AUKUS Coalition.  |

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| **ADELAIDE:** The 24 February National Anti-AUKUS protest in Adelaide was held outside Foreign Minister Penny Wong’s electoral office. Around 30 protestors armed with placards, banners and flags made known their opposition to Australia's acquisition of nuclear-powered submarines, the AUKUS military pact,  and the US-led drive to war. A letter opposing AUKUS, based on the leaflet handed out to passersby,  was presented to the building's security to be handed to the Minister. Groups such as No Nuclear Submarines, IPAN, Extinction Rebellion and Free Assange participated in the protest. |

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| **PERTH:** At the office of Matt Keogh, Minister for Veteran Affairs & Defence Personnel, nine people turned up at 10am - mostly retirees and students free from 9-5 commitments: all representing various organisations - IPAN, Stop-AUKUSWA, Gabriela, the Quakers and the CPA.Keogh's office was locked and unmanned, which gave us the liberty of tying our banners across the front of the office.   |

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| ABC  20/2/23 **What would war with China look like for Australia? Part 1**by John Lyons -Global Affairs EditorIf Australia sleepwalks into a war with China, as many analysts fear is happening right now, then amid our strategic slumber we should at least ask one question: what would war with China mean for Australia?Put bluntly, the repercussions of Australia joining the US in any war with China over the status of Taiwan — or any other issue — may have catastrophic consequences.Of all the uncertainty and conflict in the world at the moment, for Australians this surely is one of the most important discussions we must have.[**READ ON**](https://ipan.us14.list-manage.com/track/click?u=d3766f6de66f92775b3ee224d&id=da5135d671&e=8ef5b7f4e3)   |

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| **Costs of going to war with the United States against China**Listen to IPAN Podcast by Andrew Fullarton and Bevan Ramsden [**HERE**](https://ipan.us14.list-manage.com/track/click?u=d3766f6de66f92775b3ee224d&id=3cc22107a9&e=8ef5b7f4e3)  |

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| Extracts:Not only will the ADF casualties be much higher than Vietnam or Korea (according to Dr Hugh White) but if it goes nuclear then there may not be many of us left, says Admiral Chris Barrie.Further, as 70% of our every day items come from China and that source will be blocked in a war against China; Kmart, Bunnings, Target, Big W and many retail outlets will have empty shelves in a short time. Even imported medical supplies will be affected.With exports to China frozen, the economy with go into decline with significant job losses.Australians of chinese descent will be subject to government surveillance, restrictions even internment or indeed anyone with asian features will be subject to a rise in racism and associated discrimination and abuse. That means approximately 3 million Australians will suffer this breakdown in community relations.In any case, the heavy miliary expenditures incurred by preparing for this war ($170 biilion on nuclear submarines, for example) mean that our hospitals and health services will suffer,as will education and there will be less to address the impact of climate change and the desparate need for affordable housing.  |

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| **We continue to** **gather at either the US Embassy in Yarralumla or at the front of the Attorney-General’s department at 3 National Cct, Barton on Tuesdays at 12.30pm** for one hour for Assange and David McBride and Richard Boyle. Please join us if you can. |

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| ***RALLY, 8AM, 20 MARCH FOR DAVID MCBRIDE, ACT COURTS***There will also be a **rally to support ADF Major David McBride at 8am on Monday 20th March at the ACT Courts**. David had the courage to release information about possible war crimes in Afghanistan to the Australian media after his calls for action within the military were unsuccessful. The **20th March is also the anniversary of the first day of the ground invasion of Iraq in 2003**, so it is a significant day to **remember that disastrous illegal war, which also led to the** [persecution of Julian Assange for releasing information on the war crimes in Iraq. The](https://ipan.us14.list-manage.com/track/click?u=d3766f6de66f92775b3ee224d&id=3eae9229e5&e=8ef5b7f4e3) hearing is to decide on the date of commencement of his trial – after 4 years!!**SPEAKERS at the rally will include Bernard Collaery, David McBride, Dr Monique Ryan (TBC), Senator David Shoebridge, and CBA whistleblower, Jeff Morris**.It is a monstrous shame that these two courageous people, McBride and Assange, are still being persecuted for their actions in the public interest. For over 10 years in the case of Julian and over 4 years for David, they have had the injustice of the prosecutions hanging over them. The Australian Government must do more to gain Julian’s freedom - just a phone call revoking Obama’s trip to Sydney on 28-29 March would probably do it!And **Attorney-General Dreyfus must surely recognise the hypocrisy of having a Press Freedom Roundtable tomorrow and of making changes to the Public Interest Disclosure Act, whilst continuing the prosecutions of David McBride and ATO whistleblower, Richard Boyle.** **Senator Shoebridge’s question at estimates revealed that the** [whistleblower cases have cost over $7.6 million dollars.](https://ipan.us14.list-manage.com/track/click?u=d3766f6de66f92775b3ee224d&id=4af20f25f1&e=8ef5b7f4e3) **What a disgraceful use of our money and the courts’ time and resources!** |

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| From Pearls & Irritations, 11 Feb 2023  Wong surrenders to Canberra hawks, rejects war powers reformby Alison Boinowski   |

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| Australia’s Foreign Minister, who advocates international law and better relations with Asian countries, has surrendered to the hawks in Canberra.[Penny Wong told Parliament](https://ipan.us14.list-manage.com/track/click?u=d3766f6de66f92775b3ee224d&id=340051dad7&e=8ef5b7f4e3) on 9 February that the way Australia goes to war will not change.She was responding to a question from Greens Senator Jordon Steele-John, whose bill for reform of the war powers is still before the Parliament.That is the sixth attempt to change the system, from 1986 when the Democrats tried repeatedly, to 2020 with the Greens’ latest bill.[**READ ON**](https://ipan.us14.list-manage.com/track/click?u=d3766f6de66f92775b3ee224d&id=b2f25c38d5&e=8ef5b7f4e3) |

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| With acknowledgement to Pearls and Irritations, 26th Feb 2023  The death of Australian sovereignty?by Michael Callannan  |

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| The Force Posture Agreement (FPA) clearly removes Australian sovereignty over what weapons may be launched or fired from this country by US Armed Forces. Even though the fiction is being peddled that this will occur at “Australian facilities”, the stark reality is that they are US bases under US control.Following the timely open letter to the Australian Government [The Abdication of Australian sovereignty](https://ipan.us14.list-manage.com/track/click?u=d3766f6de66f92775b3ee224d&id=cf31495279&e=8ef5b7f4e3), published in Pearls and Irritations on February 18, a couple of additional relevant details of the FPA might be usefully considered.The US-Australia Force Posture Agreement (FPA) was signed in 2014 by the Abbott Government. It provides for the greatly expanded militarisation by the US of Northern Australia, and thus a significantly enhanced risk of that region being targeted by China in the event of the increasingly likely war which is being contrived by the USA.[**READ ON**](https://ipan.us14.list-manage.com/track/click?u=d3766f6de66f92775b3ee224d&id=b0865feaa3&e=8ef5b7f4e3) |

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| **NEW IPAN Regional Group formed- Geelong and South West Victoria**The newly formed IPAN Geelong and South West Regional Victoria is a joint initiative of people living in Geelong and South West Regional Victoria.  The group was launched at a public forum on Sunday 12 February in West Geelong Town Hall.  Prof Clinton Fernandes addressed this inaugural meeting.   Extract of his speech......."Third, your name (IPAN): if you want to build an independent and peaceful Australia, you have to encourage study and thought about foreign and defence policy. You don’t need to specialise in military technology or strategy. But military literacy is important and should be developed….US submarines are not necessary for the defence of Australia; conventional submarines could take care of that. Nor are they required to protect merchant shipping en route to China. The nuclear-powered boats have a very different rationale. They enforce the United States’ self-defined right to project power globally under the guise of ‘freedom of navigation’For complete speech read [**HERE**](https://ipan.us14.list-manage.com/track/click?u=d3766f6de66f92775b3ee224d&id=ea02b4f5c4&e=8ef5b7f4e3)The group held its first public rally on 24 February outside Defence Minister, Richard Marles' electorate office as part of the 24 February AAAC nation wide  protests outside MPs offices.   |

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| International Peace Bureau Webinar**Iraq War 20 years on**Twenty years ago, on February 15th, 2003, activists from across the globe gathered in what many social movement researchers would come to describe as “the largest protest event in human history.” Listen to the contribution to the webinar made by Dr Vince Scappatura  [**HERE**](https://ipan.us14.list-manage.com/track/click?u=d3766f6de66f92775b3ee224d&id=571c5b01bd&e=8ef5b7f4e3)   |

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| [You're invited to join World BEYOND War for our 3rd annual virtual film festival, from March 11-25!](https://ipan.us14.list-manage.com/track/click?u=d3766f6de66f92775b3ee224d&id=1420f36d9f&e=8ef5b7f4e3)This year's theme of "Celebrating Stories of Nonviolence" explores the efficacy of nonviolent action, from Gandhi's Salt March, to ending war in Liberia, to civil discourse and healing in Montana. Featuring live Q&A on Zoom with special guests, including Ela Gandhi, David Hartsough, Garett Reppenhagen, and more. |

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| ****How the virtual film festival works:**** |

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| * 1 ticket gets you access to all 3 films & panel discussions.
* 1 week before each panel discussion, you will get the screening link to watch the film on your own time leading up to the live discussion.
* Then join us live on Zoom each Saturday in March from the 11th-25th to talk with key representatives from the films and special guests! The panel discussions will also be recorded if you can't join us live.
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| [Register here!](https://ipan.us14.list-manage.com/track/click?u=d3766f6de66f92775b3ee224d&id=488d1d1d6f&e=8ef5b7f4e3)  |

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| Breaking Defence, 27th February,2023**US State Department clears $500 million in anti-radiation missiles for Australia**by Aaron MehtaThe AARGM-ER is a medium-range air-to-ground missile, employed for the suppression or destruction of enemy air defense systems.The US State Department has [approved](https://ipan.us14.list-manage.com/track/click?u=d3766f6de66f92775b3ee224d&id=4435c39c08&e=8ef5b7f4e3) a potential Foreign Military Sale to Australia of  Advanced Anti-Radiation Guided Missiles-Extended Range (AARGM-ERs), with a estimated price tag of $506 million.  |

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| **Defence Strategic Review will recommend long range strike capabilities with acquisition of killer drones** Geelong Advertiser 4th March 2023**DSR recommends Australia urgently acquire killer drones**February 15, 2023 - 8:58AMA six-month review of Australia’s defence strategy has been handed to the Federal government.Recommendations include calls for long-range strike and unmanned weapon platforms and an urgent acquisition of killer drones.The Australian says**Defence review trigger pulled**The classified Defence Strategic Review recommends a rapid boost to long-range strike capabilities, the urgent acquisition of killer drones, and a major increase in naval firepower.   |

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| Sydney Morning Herald, 4 March, 2023**Manila seeks new alliance with Australia**by Chris BarrettSouth-East Asia correspondentSingapore: a new Quad alliance – comprising Australia, the United States, Japan and the Philippines – is being proposed to counter a rising Beijing amid escalating tensions in the Indo-Pacific.Situated near geographical hotspots such as the South China Sea and Taiwan, the Philippines is beefing up defence ties with the US and Japan and is in talks with Australia about joint naval and coast guard patrols.  |

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| Phillipines News Agency, 22 Feb 2023****Australia eyes joint naval patrols with PH in South China Sea****By Priam Nepomuceno **MANILA** – Australian Deputy Prime Minister and Defense Minister Richard Marles said Wednesday they are looking at ways to conduct joint patrols in the South China Sea and more military exercises with the Philippines.....In line with this development, Marles said Australia is sending one of its largest contingents ever to this year's iteration of "Exercise Balikatan," which will take place in April."And we look forward to the Philippines, for the first time, sending observers to Exercise Talisman Sabre in Australia in August," he added.  |

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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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