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VOICE
For the Independent and Peaceful Australia Network www.ipan.org.au

No 77

March, 2023

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

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Obtain a copy of the IPAN People's Inquiry Report HERE



An opportunity to campaign for peace & independence through IPAN

Join and help in an IPAN Working Group – there is a lot to be done

IPAN Working Groups:

Australian Anti-AUKUS Coalition:

The Australian Anti-AUKUS Coalition (AAAC) is a diverse coalition of groups from around Australia, including IPAN, with its own website.

To get involved with AAAC, <u>visit the website antiaukuscoalition.org</u> <u>here</u> For background information, including statement and press releases protesting AUKUS and nuclear submarines from a wide cross section of organisations in Australia, as well as some detailed background articles on these issues,

See the NoAUKUS no nuclear submarines page here.

End the Force Posture Agreement:

Our task is to raise the awareness of the US Force Posture
Agreement which opens the gate to United States militarisation of
Northern Australia and provides the entry "permit" for US warships
and submarines to our ports and for their fighters and bombers to
land, be stationed and refuelled at our airfields. It also enables the
US to establish fuel, maintenance and munitions stores in Australia
and these could include nuclear weapons. The working group will
help initiate a campaign to have this Force Posture Agreement
terminated.

Convenor: Bevan Ramsden,

Email: Bevanram1960@gmail.com

See Force Posture Agreement (FPA) Working group webpage here

The Cost of War

A campaign to limit military spending to Australia's genuine defence needs – and to use the \$400 billion aimed at integrating the Australian military into US war fighting for useful social needs instead

Convenor: Shirley Winton, Email: shirleywinton9@gmail.com see The Cost of War working group page here

Union Group-Peace & Justice are Union Business

If you are a member of one of the unions affiliated with IPAN, or would like to spread the word about IPAN in your union, this working group is for you. We have 15 unions already affiliated with IPAN.

Convenors: Ross Gwyther email rgwyther@optusnet.com.au

and Shirley Winton Email: shirleywinton9@gmail.com
see the Peace and Justice are Union Business working group page
here.

Regional Peace Initiatives and Network

Addressing the military build up in the Asia Pacific Region, AUKUS and major military exercises – IPAN aims to establish links and cooperation with people in the region to build a Regional Peace Alliance. We have already established a Pacific Peace Network of peace activists across the region.

Convenor: Annette Brownlie, Email:

annettebrownlie@optusnet.com.au

see the Regional Peace initiatives and network here

Utilising the Inquiry Report

Promoting and Utilising the IPAN People's Inquiry Report: This Working Group supports IPAN's work in maximising opportunities to distribute and promote the IPAN People's Inquiry Report across the country. This includes developing and coordinating media and other promotional opportunities; assisting in obtaining volunteers to take the report to Federal MPs and volunteers to present the report findings to community, faith and political groups and talking circles in the community.

Convenor: Jonathan

Pilbrow; Email: <u>ipan.alicesprings@gmail.com</u>

see the <u>Utilising the IPAN Inquiry working group here</u>.

Alternative Defence Policy for Australia

Our task is to continue to stimulate public discussion on alternative defence policies for an independent Australia which would equip and confine the ADF to defence of territorial Australia only including its approach waters and seek to firm up on an appropriate policy.

Convenor: Bevan Ramsden,

Email: Bevanram1960@gmail.com

see the Alternative Defence Policy for Australia working group here

All working group and join up details: HERE

IPAN MEDIA RELEASE 9 March 2023

Peace Not War

- IPAN denounces recent rabid media war propaganda
- Call for peace-loving people to mobilise and force the Australian Government off path to war

The Independent and Peaceful Australia Network (IPAN) believe the recent blatant war propaganda published by the Sydney Morning Herald and Melbourne Age under the title of "Red Alert" and similar propaganda by Murdoch's Sky News' hour-long Special, titled "Are

we ready?", represent an appalling misuse of the media ownership.

Such media is clearly intended to create fear which it is not in any way justified by facts and has been done so in order to create support for a heavy increase in military spending in preparation for joining the United States in a war against China, alarmingly predicted to occur within the next three years.

READ ON

IPAN MEDIA RELEASE 14 March 2023

Peace Network calls for immediate cancellation of Nuclear Propelled Submarine Acquisition

- \$368 Billion for 13 nuclear subs at the expense of urgent climate mitigation, housing, hospitals, education
- There is no military threat to Australia to warrant such immense military spending
- Many more jobs would be created by developing sovereign and sustainable manufacturing industries; constructing public & affordable housing and addressing climate mitigation
- This expenditure is destined to be the greatest waste of tax-payers money in Australia's history

"Today's announcement by Prime Minister Anthony Albanese of the acquisition of 13 nuclear propelled submarines over a 30-year period at the cost of \$368 billion will no doubt blow-out to billions more dollars and is destined to be the greatest waste of tax-payers money in Australia's history, despite there being no military threat to Australia", said IPAN spokesperson, Dr Alison Broinowski. "Meanwhile, the urgent social needs of Australians will be left unaddressed. We need more public and affordable housing now and \$20 billion is needed to bring our hospitals up to scratch. Classes at schools are being cancelled because of a lack of teachers", stated Dr Bronowski.

READ ON

Upsurge across Australia of anger and opposition to AUKUS and the acquisition of nuclear submarines

MELBOURNE



Melbourne Naarm Report on 18th March Call for Peace – Truth Not War rally

Rally numbers estimates varied between 400 and 600. Many people were sheltering under the shade of trees on the perimeter of the open library square where a shade cloth was set up for the speakers. A long time teacher with experience counting heads at schools' assemblies walked through the crowd holding up placards,

counting over 700.

The march through the city went well, probably 400 marched through the city, with lively chants and handing out information flyers to visibly sympathetic by standers.

Read Shirley Winton speech at the rally **HERE**

Richard Tanter's speech: "These are the horrors" Read **HERE**

Read Margaret Beavis' speech **HERE**

Read John Lander's Speech **HERE**



Students supporting the Melbourne rally in Saturday, 18th March

Maribyrnong branch of Australian Education Union (AEU) opposes nuclear submaines

"Australia's announced acquisition of nuclear submarines will escalate the arms race in our region, increase the likelihood of war

between the US and China, with Australia's involvement, and cost an estimated \$368 billion.

The submarines are a dangerous waste of money, in the face of a cost-of-living and climate crisis, and funding shortages for school, hospitals, housing and social services."

READ ON

SYDNEY



Marrickville Town Hall Meeting organised by the Marrickville Peace Group and supported by IPAN, denounced AUKUS and the acquisition of nuclear submarines. 400 people attended the Marrickville Town Hall for the Peace not War public meeting on a very hot Sunday,19th March. A further 300 attended the meeting via live streaming of the event on Facebook. The audience was greeted by inspirational singing per courtesy of the Solidarity Chorus. Speakers included Col.Lawrence Wilkerson (former assistant to Colin Powell, US Secretary of State in 2003 via zoom from the USA denouncing US foreign policy and warning Australians of the dangers of the alliance with the US. The other speakers included former NSW Premier and Australian Foreign Minister, Bob Carr,

former Australian diplomat Dr Alison Broinowski and Greens Senator David Shoebridge. Former SBS News Presenter, Mary Kostakidis was facilitator for the meeting.

The complete meeting, including all speeches, can be viewed **HERE**

You can read Dr Alison Broinowski's speech HERE



"PEACE NOT WAR!" "shouts" the paint up opposite the entrance to the Marrickville Railway Station

PERTH



WA Nuclear Free Alliance supporting the Australian Nuclear free Alliance at their meeting at Quorn

"We were so glad to be part of the Australia Nuclear Free Alliance meeting in Quorn over the weekend, re-energised and focused on our part in the movement to make Australia nuclear free. Here's the meeting statement and a group picture. Thanks so much to the organisers, volunteers, donors and most importantly to all the First Nations people who made it there and those who couldn't make it but continue to fight for country and culture against this toxic industry...."

READ ON



We're as unhappy as Port Kembla by the fact that we're going to have nuclear submarines so close to densely populated cities.

There were about 30 of us there (not bad for 8am and a 50 minute drive for a lot of us to get to Rockingham)! About 70+ people in actual attendance with a few white uniformed, heavily braided Naval personnel!



STOP AUKUS WA calling for a nuclear free Cockburn Sound

Closer to home around Fremantle, the **STOP AUKUS WA** group launched its campaign for a '**Nuke Free Cockburn Sound**' at South Beach, South Fremantle, with HMAS Stirling and Garden Island as the campaign backdrop.

READ ON

MAY DAY in PERTH

Stop AUKUS WA invites anti-war/peace and anti-nuclear activists and advocates in WA to join our march contingent at **May Day**, 30 April at **Fremantle Esplanade**. Event start 10am. Speeches 12 midday followed by March through Fremantle. Visit our stall for info and to sign our petitions. Grab a 'nuke free snag' from the Nuclear Free WA sausage sizzle (annual fundraiser). Please join us in

calling for # Peace # No Nuke Subs #No War on

China. Enquiries stopaukuswa@gmail.com FB Stop AUKUS WA

ADELAIDE



Call to Peace Rally Adelaide

Here is a summary of the Call to Peace Rally held in Adelaide on the 19th of March. It was organised by a number of groups including No Nuclear Subs SA and Adelaide for Assange. Some 120 people attended and most passers-by took the IPAN leaflet (Media Statement from 14 March) with many expressing opposition to the subs deal.

READ ON



No Dump On Our Country BARNGARLA

A First Nations community in SA is fighting against the Federal Government's proposal for a nuclear waste facility being built on their country. Will you support the Barngarla people?

Sign their petition HERE

READ ON

DARWIN



Darwin- Stop War Make Peace Rally report

About 40 people attended the Stop War Make Peace Rally in Darwin. The rally was suitably held in Bicentennial Park Darwin between a large children's playground and the USS Peary Memorial (in memory of an American warship's crew sunk by the Japanese in Darwin Harbour in WWII - just in front of where we gathered). It was a magnificent venue aided by unpredictable weather and natural firework displays (thunder and lightning). The gods rattled their spears and threw firesticks from a distance. The huge Wickham Point gas tank (that a previous Labor Chief Minister promised we'd never see from Darwin) across the harbour was hidden for the first time in 20 years by a massive black cloud.

READ COMPLETE REPORT **HERE**

HOBART



Andrew Wilke MP speaking at Free Julian Assange Rally in Hobart

Andrew Wilkie is the Independent MP for Clark (Hobart). He worked in Intelligence in Canberra till 2003 but lost his job when he challenged reports of Iraq developing N-weapons. He moved to Hobart and became the Independent MP for Hobart but continues to speak out. This rally was organised by the Free Julian Assange campaign with Amnesty International.

CANBERRA



What you can do to promote peace

1. GET ACTIVE.

JOIN IPAN ACT to campaign for a more peaceful world

https://www.ipan.org.au

Email: ipanactactivists@gmail.com

Facebook: IPANPeaceACT

Ph: 0413 149 279

Receive email notifications bit.ly/IPAN-ACT

2. WRITE TO THE CANBERRA TIMES

Email: letters.editor@canberratimes.com.au

2. WRITE TO THE CANBERRA TIMES

Email: letters.editor@canberratimes.com.au

3. WRITE TO, OR VISIT YOUR FEDERAL MP

Senator the Hon Katy Gallagher (ALP) Email: senator.katy.gallagher@aph.gov.au

Senator David Pocock (Independent)
Email: senator.david.pocock@aph.gov,au

Hon Dr Andrew Leigh MP (ALP) Member for Fenner Email: andrew.leigh.mp@aph.gov.au

Ms Alica Payne MP (ALP) Member for Canberra Email: alica.payne.mp@aph.gov,au

Mr David Smith MP (ALP) Member for Bean Email: david.smith.mp@aph.gov.au



Authorised by IPAN ACT: IPAN is a national organisation of concerned Australians, organisations and individuals promoting peace and independence.

Visit our website https://ipan.org.au

WOOLLONGONG



Establishment of Port Kembla nuclear submarine base will be for 'no good reason'

Story by Sky News Australia

South Coast Labor Council Secretary Arthur Rorris says Port Kembla will be lost to a foreign navy for "no good reason" if the area becomes a nuclear submarine base.



No nuclear subs base! Oppose the drive to war!

12PM TUES 4th APRIL NOVOTEL WOLLONG, CNR KEMBLA AND BOURKE ST





Wollongong Against War and Nukes

It has been less than two weeks since we learned that <u>Port Kembla</u> <u>has 'firmed' as the Defence Department's preferred option for an east coast nuclear submarine base</u>. Wollongong Against War and Nukes has been active in the media and in the community, making it clear to the warmongers that we don't want Port Kembla to become a war base.

Unfortunately, there are some people who see dollar signs instead of dead bodies when it comes to the nuclear subs and they are holding a <u>conference in Wollongong to talk up the investment</u> <u>potential of the war industry</u>.

Wollongong Against War and Nukes will be there to let them know what we think about their vision for our town. Wollongong can have a peaceful and equitable future based on renewable industries. We don't need to become a cog in the US war machine. If you feel the same way, please join us!

What: Speakout Against the War Industry

When: 12 noon, Tuesday 4 April

Where: Outside the Novotel Wollongong, cnr Kembla and Bourke Streets

Let us know you are coming by <u>liking and sharing the event page on</u> <u>Facebook</u>.

You can also download a printable <u>poster</u> or <u>flyer</u> to help spread the word.



Bring your questions and concerns to this public discussion about the potential nuclear submarine base in our port

2PM SATURDAY 29TH APRIL

PORT KEMBLA COMMUNITY CENTRE CNR WENTWORTH AND CHURCH ST

Wollongong Against War and Nukes

MAY DAY! MAY DAY! May 6 - Port Kembla



March for Peace, Jobs & Justice

Assemble 12 Noon, Wentworth St, Port Kembla

Authorised: A. Rorris, South Coast May Day Committee, 1 Lowden Sq, Wollongong 2500

BRISBANE



Palm Sunday in Brisbane



NATIONAL

We're on the path to war. How can we stop it?



Dr Alison Broinowski



Brian Toohey



Dr Vince Scappatura

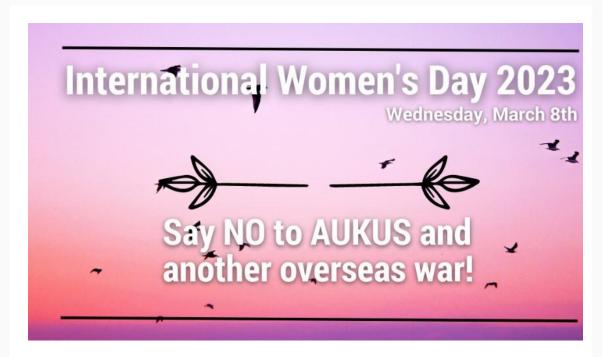
Australian Anti-AUKUS Coalition National Zoom Meeting Sunday 26th March

attracted the unprecedented response of 640 registrations indicating the high level of concern about AUKUS and the Nuclear Submarine acquisition and where it may led us.

You can view this zoom meeting HERE

You can read the transcript of Brian Toohey's presentation **HERE**You can read the transcript of Dr Alison Broinowski's presentation **HERE**

You can read the transcript of Dr Vince Scappatura's presentation HERE



Australian women say NO to AUKUS on International Women's Day

by WILPF Australia | Mar 7, 2023 |

We urge the Federal Government to listen to the voices of Australian women to guarantee peace and security.

We reject those irresponsible and strident voices advocating an American agenda of increased militarization and preparations for war with China.

Australian women need to speak out against this dangerous media messaging by military minded men easily excited by the prospect of preparing for a war.

Has anyone documented the economic and social consequences of Australia yet again following America and Britain into battle? Has the Defence Department calculated the workforce required and whether conscription would again be imposed? Tell your local Federal Member and Senator, the Australian community wants its government to act in Australia's national interest as an independent country that is committed to conflict resolution and peace building.



Save the date - Rally against the QUAD summit, No war on China!

Central Sydney location, 17 May Town Hall, CBD

The Sydney Anti-Aukus Coalition (SAAC) with the support of a growing number of anti-war, peace, and environmental groups invite you to join our protest against the QUAD summit to be held in Sydney during 17-18 May. Prime Minister Anthony Albanese will host US President Joe Biden, Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida and Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

READ ON

With acknowledgement to The Interpreter published by Lowy Institute

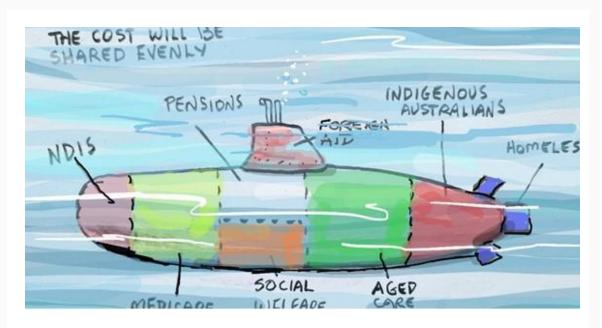
AUKUS commits Australia to fight China if America does, simple

by Hugh White

Whatever the flag, Washington would not sell nuclear-powered boats unless it could count on them in war over Taiwan.

"So AUKUS is only going to work if the Albanese government plainly acknowledges Australia's willingness to join America in a war with China. But that is a war that America has no clear way to win, and which may well become a nuclear war. That is one of the many reasons why AUKUS is a dumb idea. It also raises big questions about Australia's whole approach to the US-China contest."

READ COMPLETE ARTICLE **HERE**



Opportunities to address urgent social needs lost to \$368 billion government splurge on Nuclear Subs

Akis Haralabopoulos

Economist, currently based in Sydney, formerly an economist in Federal Treasury Canberra writes

The opportunity costs and any other options for investing these funds in any alternatives have not been highlighted by the Federal Government. The opportunity costs or alternative uses of these funds are staggering. \$368 billion can be used to build 3,271 new hospitals, around 4,920 primary schools, purchase some 433,601 houses, build 102 million large school indoor sports halls, acquire 62,276 tomahawk missiles or 4,930 F/A 18 fighter jets. The opportunity costs are beyond belief, 102 million sports halls suggest a lot of people playing sports but the figures quoted put the cost of the nuclear submarines in perspective. The effect the allocation of

\$368 billion could have on the economy if invested in renewable energy, energy and transport infrastructure would be the ultimate game changer for Australia. Funding of this size could even rebuild most nations in the world. See Table 1 below. It is peculiar that when communities make requests for things such as hospitals or more teachers the standard response is generally "where will we find the money". However, finding the money was not an issue for Australia's nuclear submarine programme.

READ ALL OF HIS ARTICLE **HERE**



The AUKUS submarine deal highlights a tectonic shift in the US Australian Alliance

by Ashley Townshend who is a senior fellow for Indo-Pacific security, directing research on regional strategy, defense policy, and alliances and partnerships.

Canberra is becoming a critical player in collectively deterring

Chinese aggression through force posture cooperation

Extract:

"But from the standpoint of deterring Chinese aggression within the next ten years, the most significant aspect of the deal was

something else: a new trilateral submarine force posture initiative. This arrangement will see four U.S. Virginia-class submarines and one UK Astute-class submarine begin to make rotational deployments to Western Australia's HMAS Stirling naval base from 2027. The move highlights how AUKUS, when combined with a new generation of U.S.-Australia force posture initiatives, can advance a strategy of collective deterrence on a much faster timeline than many expected. It also offers a window into the tectonic shift underway in the U.S.-Australia alliance as Canberra positions itself as a critical node in supporting high-end U.S. military operations to preserve a stable balance of power in an increasingly contested Indo-Pacific region."

READ COMPLETE ARTICLE **HERE**



The AUKUS "Gang of three"

With acknowledgement to Pearls and Irritations, 1st April,2023

AUKUS: a collection of views not found in our Washington dominated media

By John Menadue

AUKUS: signed and sealed by the Liberal government when it joined the pact in September 2021, the spoils of which have been delivered by the Labor Government in March 2023. The Labor Government and Australia will pay a heavy price for what is being done in our name. We are being humiliated by our own government. The AUKUS alliance has forever changed Australia's sovereignty. Foreign policy and diplomacy has been pushed aside by military policy.

READ ON





Senator Jordan Steele-John, who spoke powerfully at the ACT rally on 20th March

A rally organised by AAPP, MAPW and IPAN ACT and attended by around 80 people was held at the ACT courts on the 20 March for the anniversary of the invasion of Iraq and to support David McBride at his court hearing on the day. Speakers at the rally were Senator Jordan Steele-John, Larissa Baldwin-Roberts, CEO of GetUp, Dr Sue Wareham, Pres of MAPW, Senator David Shoebridge, David McBride, Bernard Collaery and CBA whistleblower Jeff Morris.

There will be a gathering at the ACT courts at 9am on 11 April for David McBride's next hearing and at 12.30 on that day at the British High Commission, Commonwealth Ave, Canberra, on the 4th anniversary of Julian Assange's incarceration in Belmarsh Prison. The Australian government appears to be doing **nothing** to achieve Julian's freedom, saying they can't interfere in the legal process and

Attorney-General Mark Dreyfus is allowing the prosecutions of David McBride and Richard Boyle to continue, after the latter's public interest defence failed.

Shame on the Government and the Attorney-General and for our democracy which urgently needs whistleblowers!



AUSTRALIANS FOR WAR POWERS REFORM (AWPR) – CAMPAIGN UPDATE

We need your support - Help reform Australia's dangerous war powers

War puts the lives of our armed forces at risk, the lives of civilians in other countries at risk, and the life of every single Australian at risk. It's not a decision that should be made by one person. As a nation, we must be sure before we go to war. Australians can be sent to war simply because it suits the domestic agenda of a Prime Minister. Or worse, because it suits the aspirations of other countries.

If an Australian Prime Minister wanted to send troops overseas today, it could be done without a parliamentary debate, consultation with the public, or even a requirement to assess the risks and costs.

In 2022, the Australian parliament Joint Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade's conducted an Inquiry into

international armed conflict decision making – examining the issue of war powers. Many organisations and individuals put in submissions calling for reforms to war powers -with 94 of the 113 submissions favoured changing the way Australia goes to war.

There is still time for Australians to make their views known on this very important issue. You can take action now: Write to your local MP and express your concerns.

Become a Member of

AWPR https://warpowersreform.org.au/membership/

Join the mailing list https://warpowersreform.org.au/resources-and-

media/awpr-bulletin/

You can also read a recent piece by AWPR President Alison Broinowski https://warpowersreform.org.au/a-month-of-crucial-decisions-for-australia/



AUKUS and the Treaty on the Prohibition of **Nuclear Weapons**

From Gem Romuld

As you know, the Albanese Government has confirmed a major shift in defence and foreign policy by acquiring nuclear-propelled submarines fuelled by highly enriched uranium. We have previously outlined our deep concerns (for example in this <u>report</u> and <u>briefing note</u>).

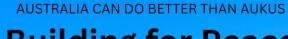
Recently in Parliament, independent member Zoe Daniel MP asked the Prime Minister what his plans are regarding signing the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons.

His response didn't commit to a timeline, but said they will work through the issues identified in their platform. Watch the clip here. If the Albanese Government is serious about its commitment to nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament then it must sign and ratify the UN Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW), as Labor has already committed to do.

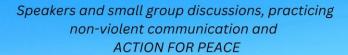
Can you help continue this momentum by raising the TPNW with your federal member? Click the button below to send a quick message off to your federal MP and Senators.

TAKE ACTION NOW HERE









Saturday 22 April 10.00 - 5.00

Quaker Meeting House, 119 Devonshire Street, Surry Hills and on Zoom Further details to follow soon

For more details of this Raising Peace event contact: Wies Schuiringa <wies.schuiringa1@gmail.com>



View **HERE** Interview with film producer, David Bradbury by ABC Presenter, Peter Goers



conflict

positive way

now with Neil at

0490481828

Help participants discover new and creative ways to respond to

Help participants uncover

strengths and skills within

or potential violence in a

themselves to deal with conflict

Limited places, please register

queensland@avpaustralia.org

New Year Workshops in 2023

Dates -

Basic February 11 & 12

Our workshops are grounded in belief that there is power Advanced March 11 & 12 and good within everyone

T4F May 6 & 7

Times - 9 am - 5 pm with a lunch

Venue Lotus Place 46 Cleveland St, Greenslopes QLD 4120

> Cost Per Workshop \$80 waged \$40 unwaged Fees negotiable if needed

Experience pathways or peace and discover how to create them in living ou daily live:

Affirmation
Communication
Co-operation
Community Building
Conflict Resolution
Trus

www.facebook.com/avpqin avpaustralia.org

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 :

<u>Ipan.australia@gmail.com</u> 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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