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Nuclear waste will be dumped on defence land, location unknown at present  Consider attending and making plans well in advance. More details in May edition of Voice | | |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | **‘Plea for a Common Humanity'** This Open Letter produced by Stuart Rees and supported by IPAN received 5,000 signatures including those of 100 organisations.  [**Read details here**](https://ipan.us14.list-manage.com/track/click?u=d3766f6de66f92775b3ee224d&id=13431e7693&e=8ef5b7f4e3)  The Open Letter was presented at Parliament House on 28th March The presentation was watched/filmed by an impressive media contingent. Sixteen supporters from diverse NGOs plus members of the ACT Palestinian community attended presentation which Greens Senator David Shoebridge hosted and which Nasser Mashni, Kathryn Kelly and Stuart spoke. A main theme concerned the judgement that governments’ response to the slaughters and starvation in Gaza is a test of humanity. If we fail Gaza, an entitlement to live on planet earth is forfeited.  The day in parliament finished with a large group of us marching towards the assembled media holding aloft a large placard ‘GAZA PLEA for HUMANITY’ . | | |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | **IPAN's Open Letter:** Demand the Australian Government freezes military support for Israel – not UNRWA aid for Palestinians, received 3,000 signatures | | |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | **IPAN MEDIA RELEASE                            FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE                                                                      19 April 2024**   **Huge increases in defence spending for war preparation must stop**   * **Public expenditure must instead address the climate emergency and other urgent social needs** * **There is no evidence that China presents a military threat to Australia** * **Continued trade and pursuit of mutually beneficial relations in our region offers our best security**   Wednesday’s announcement by Defence Minister Richard Marles of a $50 billion boost over a decade to defence spending for a future war, is not what our country needs. This represents an increase up to 2.4% of GDP by 2034.  “Where is the spending on peace building measures?”, asked the spokesperson for the Independent and Peaceful Australia Network (IPAN) Mr. Cameron Leckie, a retired Army Major.  “This increased defence spending is not for the defence of our territory, but is part of preparations for Australia to participate in a U.S. war against China”, stated Mr. Leckie.  “Australia and China have a mutual interest in protecting their respective sea lines of communication. Australia’s ‘defence’ strategy is logically incoherent.”  “In fact, there is actually no evidence that China presents a military threat to Australia”. “Continued trade and pursuit of mutually beneficial relations in our region offers our best security”, stated Mr Leckie.  [**READ ON**](https://ipan.us14.list-manage.com/track/click?u=d3766f6de66f92775b3ee224d&id=e9ca4a339f&e=8ef5b7f4e3) | | |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | **Australia-wide Activities** | | |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | **Palestine-Gaza** | | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | A group of people marching in a street  Description automatically generated | |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | **SYDNEY**: Every weekend for six months, ten thousand, sometimes more, of all ages have marched through the streets of Sydney. The streets have echoed with "CEASEFIRE NOW", "End the Genocide", "Israel is a terrorist state"., "Penny Wong you can't hide you're supporting genocide" and many other slogans. Similarly in Melbourne and other cities. This weekly level of sustained protest is unprecedented in Australia. It is history making. It is slowly moving the Australian leadership.It is having a political impact. | | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | A group of people holding flags  Description automatically generated | |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | **Campaigning against Gaza Genocide in Brisbane-Ferra Protest:**  Over 150 young people gathered at the entrance to Ferra engineering factory in Brisbane on Monday 15th April at 5am.  This picket was part of the worldwide campaign on that day to shut down weapons companies implicated in the Gaza genocide.  In Brisbane Palestinian, Indigenous and other Australians, West Papuans - all joined in speaking out against the current Australian Government encouragement of this weapons trade with Israel. | | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | A group of people holding a banner  Description automatically generated | |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | GLW, March 24 ,2024 **24 weeks of protest: 'We're not normalising genocide'** [Alex Bainbridge](https://ipan.us14.list-manage.com/track/click?u=d3766f6de66f92775b3ee224d&id=10e13b11be&e=8ef5b7f4e3) [Jacob Andrewartha](https://ipan.us14.list-manage.com/track/click?u=d3766f6de66f92775b3ee224d&id=c11f296030&e=8ef5b7f4e3) [Jim McIlroy](https://ipan.us14.list-manage.com/track/click?u=d3766f6de66f92775b3ee224d&id=93b046d50a&e=8ef5b7f4e3) [Alex Salmon](https://ipan.us14.list-manage.com/track/click?u=d3766f6de66f92775b3ee224d&id=bf19418f08&e=8ef5b7f4e3) [Renfrey Clarke](https://ipan.us14.list-manage.com/track/click?u=d3766f6de66f92775b3ee224d&id=e1cf9f8a32&e=8ef5b7f4e3)   The traditional Palm Sunday rallies for peace and refugee rights were organised on the 24th week of continuous protests against Israel's genocide against the people of Gaza. Rally chairperson Remah Naji in **Meanjin/Brisbane** told almost 500 people, who braved rainy weather, that the Labor government has failed to take “any serious action” to stop the slaughter. She pointed to the almost $1 billion military contract with Israeli military company Elbit Systems as proof that the government is not serious about it’s supposed talk of a “sustainable ceasefire”. “We're past lip service,” she said, arguing that a mere ceasefire is not enough and it is time to sanction Israel. “We're not normalising the abnormal,” she said. “We're not normalising genocide.” | | |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | **AUKUS & Nuclear Subs** | | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | A hands holding keys with flags  Description automatically generated | |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | With acknowledgment to Pearls & Irritations, 15th April, 2024  **Terra nullius 2.0 – what AUKUS means for First Nations peoples**  By [Ben Abbatangelo](https://ipan.us14.list-manage.com/track/click?u=d3766f6de66f92775b3ee224d&id=8d2ebb3606&e=8ef5b7f4e3)    **Australia will essentially become America’s military launch-pad into Asia. However, Ben Abbatangelo writes, little has been said or written about the drastic and disproportionate impacts it will have on First Nations communities in Australia.**  The ramifications of the military alliance between Australia, the United Kingdom and United States (AUKUS) will weigh heavily on First Nations communities for generations to come, as the Commonwealth of Australia cedes lands and waters that never belonged to them, in a bid to become the 51st state of the United States.  Described as the [“greatest transfer of wealth outside this country in its history”](https://ipan.us14.list-manage.com/track/click?u=d3766f6de66f92775b3ee224d&id=4ba712bdad&e=8ef5b7f4e3), the [Australian government is essentially paying the United States up to $368bn](https://ipan.us14.list-manage.com/track/click?u=d3766f6de66f92775b3ee224d&id=5c614170e6&e=8ef5b7f4e3) for its own acquisition. This is happening as Australia unravels a new era of [‘strategic deterrence’](https://ipan.us14.list-manage.com/track/click?u=d3766f6de66f92775b3ee224d&id=aef42b0451&e=8ef5b7f4e3) against our largest trading partner, China, and brings the armageddon threat of nuclear war closer to home.   [**READ ON**](https://ipan.us14.list-manage.com/track/click?u=d3766f6de66f92775b3ee224d&id=69d803fc53&e=8ef5b7f4e3) | | |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | **WA Activity** | | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | A group of people holding signs  Description automatically generated | |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | Tues 19 March 8am gathering at the WA Defence Forum. Rockingham. About 30 turned up. The Protest title was Demilitarise Education | Jobs for Peace | No Nuke Subs - No AUKUS – No Warmplate. | | |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | Stop-AUKUS , on Friday 12 April, co-hosted with the Medical Association for Prevention of War, Doctors for the Environment and Nuclear Free WA, an evening to discuss **Resisting Militarism in the AUKUS Era** at the Walyalup (Fremantle) Civic Centre. It was a full house and many people signed up to join Stop-AUKUS. . | | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | A newspaper with black text  Description automatically generated | |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | Marking the anniversary of the San Diego announcement,   **Unpacking the AUKUS Submarine Deal**  by Michael Walker on Community Radio  [**LISTEN HERE**](https://ipan.us14.list-manage.com/track/click?u=d3766f6de66f92775b3ee224d&id=0c2c582ce9&e=8ef5b7f4e3) | | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | **Albanese Government boosts key projects at HMAS Stirling** The Albanese Government is investing over $83 million to deliver vital Defence infrastructure upgrades at HMAS Stirling in Western Australia.   Ensuring the Australian Defence Force has fit-for-purpose facilities and infrastructure is critical for its capability and preparedness.  This is in addition to the $8 billion investment the Albanese Government is making to upgrade HMAS Stirling over the next decade in preparation for Submarine Rotational Force-West.   HMAS Stirling has already hosted two visits from United States conventionally armed, nuclear-powered submarines since the AUKUS announcement in March 2023, and these upgrades will be critical in ensuring Australia is prepared to host US and UK submarines as part of SRF-West.  **Community information** A series of drop-in information sessions and community pop-up stalls have been scheduled to share the plans of the infrastructure upgrades at HMAS Stirling and to seek feedback.  This is an opportunity to talk to the members of the project team about the planned infrastructure works in an informal setting. **Information sessions**   | **Date and time** | **Location** | | --- | --- | | Saturday 4 May 2024 11 am - 3 pm | Rockingham Shopping Centre (opposite Zing Pop Culture) Pop-up stall1 Council AvenueRockingham 6168 | | Sunday 5 May 2024 8 am - 12 pm | Local Farmers Market Honeywood Pop-up stallHoneywood OvalWandi 6167 | | | |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | AAP  **Bob Carr tells New Zealand: steer clear of AUKUS**  Former Australian Foreign Minister Bob Carr has urged New Zealand not to acquiesce to American interests and join up to AUKUS as an associate member.  Mr Carr is visiting Wellington this week to be part of a foreign policy symposium at Parliament House alongside former Prime Minister Helen Clark.  The pair are strident critics of AUKUS, the military alliance between Australia, the UK and United States that will see Australia kitted out with nuclear-powered submarines.  They also oppose New Zealand's involvement in pillar two of the pact, which aims to bring together a broader clutch of like-minded nations - like Canada, Japan, South Korea and New Zealand - with AUKUS members to share advanced military technologies.  [**READ ON**](https://ipan.us14.list-manage.com/track/click?u=d3766f6de66f92775b3ee224d&id=807e4bdfb1&e=8ef5b7f4e3) | | |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | **AUKUS Bill declares Osborne a nuclear zone!**  Osborne Naval Ship yard is now a designated zone for nuclear-powered submarines under new Federal government legislation, **bypassing and over-riding the civilian nuclear safety agency, ARPANSA.**  Nuclear subs have never used this Port before, and now the nuclear fuel cycle will be established in the Osborne yard, less than a kilometre from homes.  (See map below.)  Naval nuclear reactors are to be authorized at Port Adelaide under the powers of a military nuclear regulator, the “Australian Naval Nuclear Power Safety Regulator”, which will report directly to the Minister for Defence.  **This is cold comfort for residents on the LeFevre Peninsula and Adelaide,** previously declared nuclear-free zone by the former City of Port Adelaide.  **Apart from the peacetime safety issues these subs would be military targets in a conventional or nuclear war.**  **If an accident were to occur, would Port Adelaide andbeyond become uninhabitable?**  The SA and Port Adelaide communities have a right to have a say on nuclearsafety and on the risks in bringing naval nuclear reactors into the Port.  **Key public interest questions are yet to be answered.** | | |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | **Sovereignty & Defence** | | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | A group of white flowers  Description automatically generated | |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | **Australia can become a global champion of peace**   Raising Peace ANZAC Day statement 2024  Extract: By committing itself to peace, Australia would honour all soldiers, family and community members killed, injured, and traumatised in war. In every international engagement it can commit to asking first: what is the way to resolve this peacefully?  It can end the intrusion of the defence industry into our schools and universities, replacing it with investment in peace-focused education. Australia can become a champion of scholarship and the practice of peace-making, peace-keeping and peace-building. And, if it chooses to learn from its Indigenous population, Australia is uniquely placed to become the world’s leading proponent of First Nations approaches to peace-building.  READ COMPLETE statement [**HERE**](https://ipan.us14.list-manage.com/track/click?u=d3766f6de66f92775b3ee224d&id=38b7d7b643&e=8ef5b7f4e3) | | |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | **Labor Government boosts defence spending to 2.4% of GDP**  Defence Minister Marles announced on 17th April, 2024 an increase in Defence spending of $50 billion over the next decade as part of an overhaul that the federal government says will ensure the military can project power further from its shores. . $16-21 billion is allocated to manufacturing domestic long range guided missiles | | |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | **Two thirds of Australia's exports would halt if war broke out with China** | | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  | |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | Sky News host Steve Price says a “wake-up call” has been issued today as two-thirds of Australian exports and 40 per cent of imports could come to a halt if war breaks out in our regions. “There has been a wake-up call issued today,” he said. “About just how vulnerable Australia’s trade routes would be should a war break out in our region. “Which, obviously, would involve China, let’s be honest. “If there was a global conflict, well, you can forget about exporting anything.” | | |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | **Australia is preparing for war against China but without China we'd be in a hole economically says Graham Richardson, former Labor Senator**  Former Labor senator Graham Richardson has pointed out Australia’s “problem” is its biggest trading partner is “also the one we prepare for war against”.  “That’s a dichotomy that I don’t really think is very helpful for anyone on either side here,” he told Sky News Australia.  “But that’s what we’re stuck with.  “So, you’ve got to expect that we’re going to be in some sort of argument sometimes if we’re sending out submarines, what are they for – they’re to stop Chinese ships.  “Yet without China, we’d be in a terrible hole economically.” | | |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | **Informative Articles** | | |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | With Acknowledgement to Pearls & Irritations,April 17, 2024   **Australia’s leadership is destroying the very fabric of this country**  By [Cameron Leckie](https://ipan.us14.list-manage.com/track/click?u=d3766f6de66f92775b3ee224d&id=65626312ff&e=8ef5b7f4e3)  Some days I wake up and don’t recognise the country we have become. It is not the country I grew up in. It is not a country I can be proud of. It is not a country that has a bright future under current leadership.............“Imagine an Australia that helps bring a just Peace in Ukraine, as opposed to a mindless forever war. A non-aligned Australia that is never neutral in the face of injustice but, also, not automatically aligned with every warmongering adventure decided in Washington.”  That is an Australia that we could all be proud of. That is an Australia that would be respected in the world. That is an Australia where the trust in our political institutions and leadership could be restored. That is an Australia with a sense of purpose and whose actions align with its purported values. That is an Australia, freed from the odious entanglements of an unnecessary alliance, that could also focus on addressing the myriad of domestic challenges that we face.  This is the Australia that we must demand from our political leadership!   [**READ ON**](https://ipan.us14.list-manage.com/track/click?u=d3766f6de66f92775b3ee224d&id=ff2b0225e0&e=8ef5b7f4e3)  Cameron Leckie speaking at Palm Sunday Rally Brisbane : View [**HERE**](https://ipan.us14.list-manage.com/track/click?u=d3766f6de66f92775b3ee224d&id=f6c1ac30ea&e=8ef5b7f4e3) | | |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | **Coming Events** | | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | A white paper with black text  Description automatically generated | |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | **Repeating: AUKUS pact implications meeting: Saturday April 20th, 2pm at St Bede's 200 Military Rd, Semaphore** | | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | A poster of a planet earth  Description automatically generated | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | A submarine in the water  Description automatically generated | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | A close-up of a red background  Description automatically generated | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | A white and red sign with black text  Description automatically generated | | |
| |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | A poster for a political event  Description automatically generated | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | A graphic of a tank with a tree growing on it  Description automatically generated | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | A close-up of a document  Description automatically generated | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | A group of people holding signs  Description automatically generated | |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | **MAY DAY SYDNEY**  Wednesday May 1, assemble Belmore Park 10.30am, march to Hyde Park North 11am. | | | |
| |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | **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 | | | | | | | | | | |
| |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | 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](mailto: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."   |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | Copyright © 2017 IPAN, All rights reserved. Our emailing address is:  [Ipan.australia@gmail.com](mailto:Ipan.australia@gmail.com) **Our mailing address is:** IPAN PO Box 573 Coorparoo, Qld 4151 Australia  [Add us to your address book](https://ipan.us14.list-manage.com/track/click?u=d3766f6de66f92775b3ee224d&id=dede8ae99a&e=8ef5b7f4e3) | | | | | | |