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In this Issue:

- * Winter Olympics thaws relations between North and South- this opportunity should not be lost- IPAN Media release
- * Anti-nuclear campaigner awarded new peace prize
- * IPAN's Give 'em the boot Campaign kicks off in Sydney and Newcastle
- * IPAN's National Campaign- Don't Buy into War
- * Stop Defence poisoning us - report from Newcastle
- * Plan to increase defence exports at odds with our peace keeping role
- * Militarisation of SA Schools
- * An attack on North Korea could start a US-China war
- * North Korea war could 'kill 10,000 US troops within days'
- * Keeping an eye on Australia: Admiral Harry Harris goes to Canberra
- * The Nobel Peace Prize vs the Doomsday Clock - Northside Forum
- * Australia and the Nuclear Weapons Ban Treaty
- * Peace Movement Aotearoa - Nuclear Free & Independent Pacific Day

- * Sign petition to drop all charges against Okinawa Anti-base Activists
- * Be part of the Global Days of Action against Military Spending
- * Just Peace- Palm Sunday in Brisbane
- * Palm Sunday in Melbourne
- * Palm Sunday in Sydney
- * Ways to Peace in 2018 - Ngara Institute
- * Israeli Apartheid Week Rally ACT
- * The Big Picture, a seminal, meditative piece on the stand against violence and war
- * A vision of an independent & peaceful Australia - an IPAN supporter

MEDIA RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE 26 FEBRUARY 2018

Winter Olympics thaws relations between North and South – this opportunity should not be lost



IPAN calls on the Australian Foreign Minister to publicly support North and South Korea engaging in joint talks to end the crisis.

Speaking on behalf of the Independent and Peaceful Australia Network (IPAN), Dr Alison Broinowski welcomed the more positive atmosphere between South and North Korea following the joint participation by athletes from both countries in the Winter Olympics.

“Direct talks between the leaders of South and North Korea provides the only hope to counteract the perils of the current stand-off over the North’s nuclear weapons development.”

“This initiative creates an opportunity to calm relations between South and North, and to set the stage for a resumption of the Six-Party negotiations involving both Koreas, Japan, USA, China and Russia. It also restores to the South a direct role in working towards peace in the Korean peninsula”.

IPAN asks the Australian Government to support these moves and to add its weight to a resumption of the negotiation process.

“The Australian Government has the opportunity to remind its ally the USA, that Australians want to see a peaceful resolution to the conflict over nuclear weapons development, leading to a comprehensive outcome that takes into account the concerns of all involved” said Dr Broinowski.

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Anti-nuclear campaigner awarded new peace prize



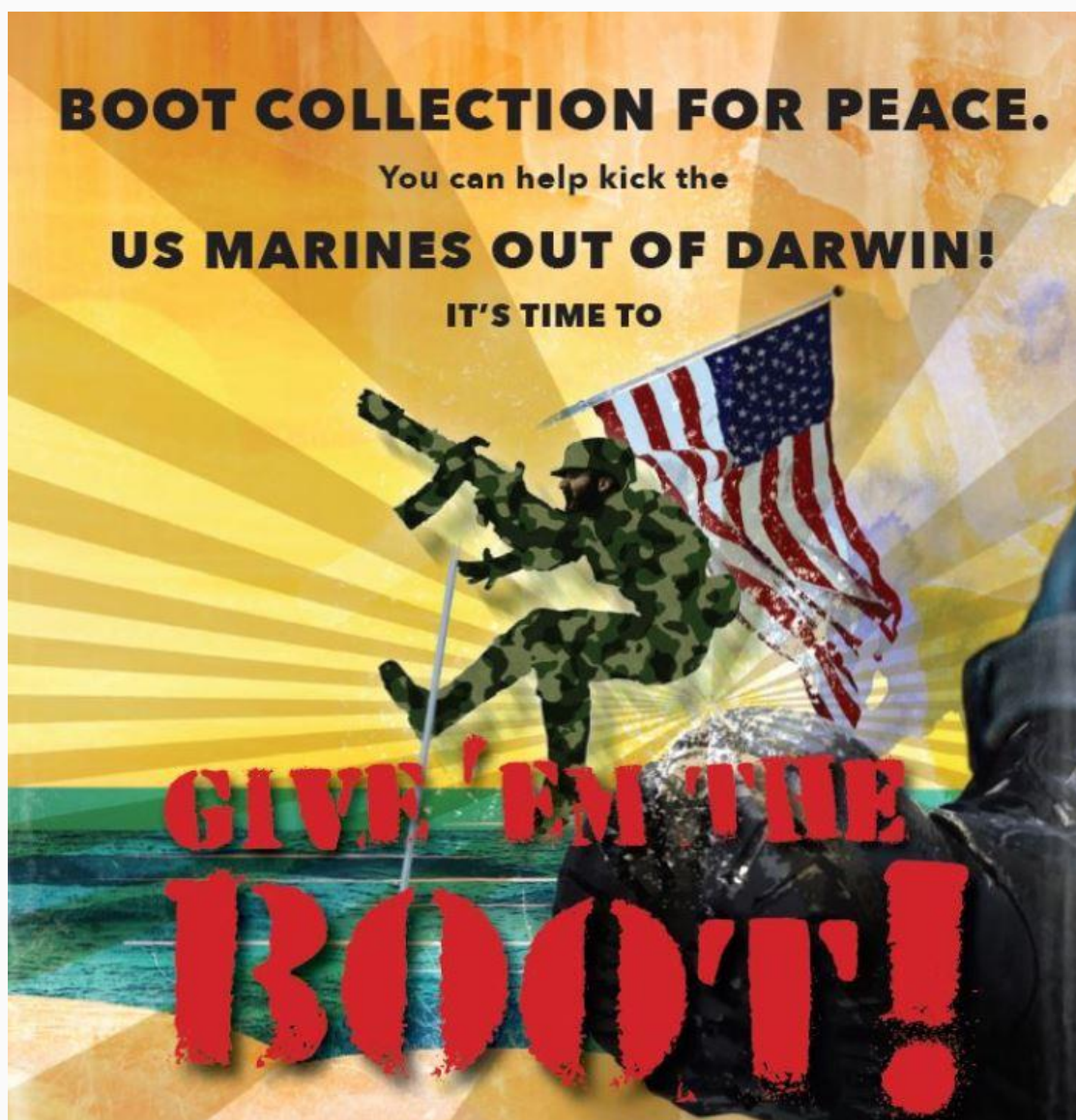
Dr Sue Wareham receives the inaugural Chief Minister's Rotary Peace Prize from Attorney-General and Minister for the Arts and Community Events, Gordon Ramsay. Photos: Jack Mohr.

Giralang GP Dr Sue Wareham has been awarded the inaugural Chief Minister's Rotary Peace Prize at the unveiling of Canberra's first, and the nation's second only Peace Bell, at Canberra Nara Peace Park on the shores of Lake Burley Griffin. Dr Sue Wareham, one of the founders of the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN), said the award was an honour, not just for her but the causes she represented. She said Australia had been at war for 16 years and lamented that it had become the norm for Australia.

"We need to change that. Going to war should not be the thing that Australia is good at and the thing that Australians recognise as central to their

identity,” Dr Wareham said. “There needs to be greater thought before we go to war, who’s going to look after the victims, and what will be the outcomes.” She called on Australia to rethink the policy of building an economy on war profiteering and having a vested interest in wars and instability.

IPAN’s Give ‘em the boot Campaign kicks off in Sydney and Newcastle



The campaign leaflet calling for the US Marines to be ousted from Darwin has hit 1,000 letterboxes in Erskinville in Sydney and 2,000 letterboxes in the Newcastle suburbs of Lambton, Hamilton, Rankin Park and Adamstown in the campaign "kick-off" late Feb. A total of 12 volunteer peace workers have been involved so far and their number is growing. Those receiving the leaflets have been asked to donate old boots and shoes to the campaign and these will be deposited at an appropriate government building at an appropriate time with a rally calling for the US Marines to be repatriated back to the US.

Sydney coordinator, Nick Deane, said recently: "There is an urgency about this campaign. If successful it will help Australia to break free of the US military and its war plans and help keep Australia out of US wars."

The campaign leaflet says:

For Peace sake, the US marines must leave Darwin!

Did you know that, under a 25-year agreement, up to 2,500 armed US marines are routinely stationed in Darwin?

In 2011, the Gillard ALP government announced this without parliamentary or public debate. No plausible justification for the move has ever been provided.

The troops are kept in constant readiness for deployment at short notice, on a command from Washington. Their presence in Darwin means that

Australia's sovereign independence has been jeopardised.

The US troops are not here for our defence (the ADF is quite capable of defending Australia) - they are an attack force for maintaining US domination in the Asia-Pacific region.

These marines and the spy base at Pine Gap means that, in the event of war between the US and any one of its numerous enemies, Australia, as part of the US war machine, will be exposed to the threat of a retaliatory attack.

It is costing the Australian tax payer a significant proportion of the stated **\$2-**

3 billion necessary to establish this US military presence in Australia, plus additional, annual maintenance

costs. This money would be better spent on pressing social needs such as housing, health care, education and aged care.

To regain our independence and self-respect, and for a peaceful future, we say

GIVE 'EM THE BOOT!

MORE VOLUNTEERS NEEDED – the aim is to letterbox 50,000 homes in NSW this year

Donations needed to finance leaflet printing

Email: giveemtheboot2@gmail.com or phone (Sydney) Nick Deane on 0420 526 929 or (Newcastle) Bevan Ramsden on 0418 697 528

IPAN National Campaign – Don't Buy Into War

So a nuclear arms race between the US and Russia is escalating; economic rivalry between China and US intensifies, and the US at least seems to be itching to turn it into military confrontation; the situation on the Korean peninsula remains very tense, with US threats of 'limited' nuclear attack still on the table; and fierce armed conflict still raging in Syria, the Yemen, various parts of Africa and endlessly of course in Afghanistan.

So what does our government do to calm the situation, to douse the flames of war to the extent it can? It announces \$3.8 billion dollars will be available to turn Australia into one of the world's major arms manufacturers and exporters. It intends to douse the flames of war with petrol.

If any industry globally has dark and unsavoury reputation, it is that of the "Masters of War". The low-interest loans policy will undoubtedly go mainly to global (mainly US) transnational arms corporations already well established in Australia – such as Lockheed Martin, Boeing, Raytheon, Airbus and BAE Systems. And despite the usual empty rhetoric about a careful vetting of

customers, Australia is already trading with such paragons of international virtue as Saudi Arabia and Israel. Jobs growth is an illusion – subsidising renewable energy, health, transport or education would yield far better and more productive jobs at much less cost.

As a result, IPAN has adopted as one of its two major and ongoing national campaigns “Don't Buy Into War”. This will not only oppose government (federal AND state) export aims; but also the major increases in Australian military spending already announced, which are much more about interoperability with US global belligerence (with all the attendant risks) than about any genuine Australian defence policy. To do so, we intend to co-operate with a broad range of Australian people and organisations already opposing and campaigning against this death trade.

-Stephen Darley (IPAN SA Rep.)



Welfare penny-pinching, Warfare plenty

Stop Defence poisoning us

So reads the sign on a ribbon tied to the fence at the entrance to the RAAF base Williamtown, NSW.

It marks two years of red zone contamination in a large area, including residential and farmland areas, in the vicinity of this air-force base. Freedom of information documents show that the Department of Defence found peri- & polyfluoroalkyl chemicals (PFA's) 30 times above acceptable levels one km away from the air-force base and that this was known in 2012, 3 years before the public were alerted in September, 2015. A red zone area covering many hectares has been declared and residents within the red zone advised not to drink ground water or eat vegetables grown in this area as the contaminants which have leached out of the base are associated with a variety of cancers. NSW EPA has suspended fishing in nearby waters. The Williamtown and Surrounds Resident Action Group is fighting to have the cancerous pollution stopped and the area cleaned up and wants made public a thorough impact statement addressing this distressing and dangerous contamination issue. Nothing has been said publicly as yet about the possible contamination of Newcastle's drinking water which is fed from the reservoir adjacent to the RAAF Base.

-Bevan Ramsden (NSW IPAN Rep)

SMH 14th Feb 2018

Plan to increase defence exports at odds with our peacekeeping role

· Zac Rayson

The latest plank in the government's "jobs and growth" strategy - to turn Australia into one of the world's 10 biggest defence exporters in the next decade - takes the country down a path that is fundamentally at odds with our nation's values.

We have long pictured ourselves as a leader in our region, maintaining peace and a rules-based international order. From myriad projects supporting democracy, to our peacekeeping missions in the Solomon Islands, Timor-Leste and further afield, promoting peace and stability is a mission at the core of our Australian identity.

But the \$3.8 billion defence export strategy announced by Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull at the end of January puts our role as a peacekeeping nation at risk.

READ ON

Militarisation of SA Schools

-Dr Bev Hall

Initially 3 SA schools were announced as piloting the defence schools programme in 2010 by the Federal government. These were Aberfoyle Park (which Raytheon was a partner), Henley High School and Valley View with St Patricks Technical school chosen to have a defence focus pathway.

Several defence companies including Raytheon, contributed to the Ignite programme for gifted students in maths and science. In return Raytheon and other defence industry manufacturers scientists and engineers could have access to students who could be 'mentored' into a career in the weapons industry. The aim of the then \$10.9 million National Partnerships Agreement was to prepare students to work in the defence industry and military. This funding could have offered real futures in developing environmental sciences and broader skills in more constructive and sustainable development.

READ ON

An attack on North Korea could start a US-China war

Opinion: Douglas Macgregor- Fox News

Following the Winter Olympics, South Korean President Moon Jae-in indicated he was ready to talk to North Korea and engage in diplomacy.

And while Vice President Mike Pence – who earlier announced severe sanctions on the North – first signaled a willingness to talk, he quickly seemed to change course.

President Trump further indicated that he is considering a preventive military strike on the North if the sanctions failed to denuclearize the communist nation. But such a so-called “bloody nose” strike against North Korean missile sites and nuclear facilities stands an excellent chance of becoming a bloody disaster.

China won't tolerate an unprovoked attack on North Korea, and President Moon will not support the use of South Korean forces as part of a U.S. military strike against North Korea.

READ ON

**North Korea could kill 10,000 US troops
in a war**

New York Times, MSN News & Business Insider

1st March, 2018

A war with North Korea could result in about 10,000 American combat-related casualties in the first few days alone, according to US military planners.

A classified military exercise last week, attended by Army chief of staff General Mark Milley and head of Special Operations Command General Tony Thomas, tested hypothetical scenarios of how US troops would mobilise and strike if ordered to into a potential war, reported the New York Times.

The “tabletop exercise”, held over a few days in Hawaii, thrashed out the challenges that could hamper a US assault on North Korea’s sizeable military.

Civilian casualties would far outweigh the initial toll on US troops, and could potentially reach hundreds of thousands, commanders were told.

While the US stations about 28,500 troops in South Korea, the capital, Seoul, a city of about 24 million, lies within range of the formidable firepower of North Korea's artillery stationed along the border.

The potential human costs of any war were so high that, at one point in the exercise, General Milley remarked that "the brutality of this will be beyond the experience of any living soldier" said the Times.

[READ FULL ARTICLE](#)

Keeping an Eye on Australia: Admiral Harry Harris Goes to Canberra

by Dr. Binoy
Kampmark

GlobalResearch

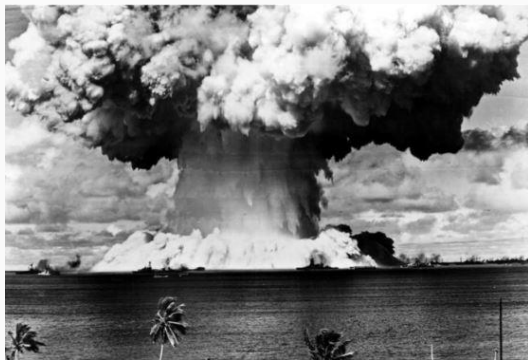


That **Admiral Harry B. Harris Jr.** will be making his way across to Canberra as ambassador to Australia (or, as the official appointment goes, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary) is significant in one fundamental respect. Harris is a man with a digest of distinct hawkishness where it counts. US power must be preserved; rivals must be contained. His motivations to that end are simple enough. He also fits, in

many ways, the profile of an appropriate governor of a distant province that might, should the time come, prove useful in war.

“During his 39-year career,” goes the press release from the White House, “he served in every geographic combatant command and has held seven command assignments, including the US Pacific Fleet, the US Sixth Fleet, and VP-46.”

READ FULL ARTICLE



The Nobel Peace Prize vs the Doomsday Clock

**Northside Forum
9th March, 12pm to 2pm, The
Union Hotel, 271 Pacific Hwy,
North Sydney.**

Gem Romuld - Australian Director of ICAN

Richard Broinowski - Board Member of ICAN; Australian
Ambassador to

Vietnam, South Korea and Cuba

Nick Deane - Marrickville Peace Group; national committee
member of the Independent and Peaceful Australia Network (IPAN)

Australia and the Nuclear Weapons Ban Treaty



ICAN Event- a round table meeting for ICAN partner organisations and friends

Thursday 22nd March, 2018, 6-8pm

In the Green Room, Multicultural Hub,

506 Elizabeth St, Melbourne

Please RSVP by 16th March

gem@icanw.org

0421 955 066

Discussion points:

- * How can we pressure the Australian Government and the federal opposition to commit to sign and ratify the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons ?
- * What are the barriers to achieving greater public and political support for

the Treaty ?

* How can we build a large and diverse civil society movement to make the treaty impossible to ignore ?

* How can we use the new treaty to drive change ?

Peace Movement Aotearoa



• 'Bravo' nuclear detonation, Marshall Islands • Leaking radioactive dump, Runit • RIMPAC military 'exercise', Hawai'i • Free West Papua • Rising sea levels, Kiribati. Image: Peace Movement Aotearoa, NFIP Day 2018

Today, 1 March, is Nuclear Free and Independent Pacific Day - the 64th anniversary of the 'Bravo' nuclear bomb detonation by the United States close to the surface of Bikini Atoll, in the Marshall Islands, which blasted out a crater more than 200 feet deep and a mile across.

Particles of radioactive fallout from the blast landed on the island of Rongelap (100 miles away) to a depth of one and a half inches in places, and radioactive mist appeared on Utirik (300 miles away). The US navy did not send ships to evacuate the people of Rongelap and Utirik until three days after the explosion. Fallout from this one nuclear weapon detonation spread over more than 7,000 square miles, and traces were detected throughout the Pacific, in India, Japan, the United States and Europe. The Marshallese, and other Pacific peoples subjected to more than 350 full scale nuclear weapon detonations in the Pacific - conducted by Britain, France and the US - were used as human guinea pigs in an obscene experiment to 'progress' the insane pursuit of nuclear weapons supremacy.

Nuclear Free and Independent Pacific Day is a day to remember that the arrogant colonial mindset which allowed, indeed encouraged, the horror outlined above continues today - the Pacific remains neither nuclear free nor independent.

READ ON

**SIGN PETITION TO
DROP ALL CHARGES
AGAINST OKINAWA
ANTI-BASES
ACTIVISTS**



THE COURT DATE IS MARCH 14

WE NEED TO FLOOD THE COURT WITH OUR SIGNATURES!

TIME IS OF ESSENCE— PLEASE ACT NOW!

To sign the petition, please go to our web site: NoForeignBases.org and scroll down to the petition on the right sidebar.

**Be part of the Global Days of Action Against
Military Spending**

Reducing 10% of military assets will help saving our planet. Take action!

14 APRIL - 3 MAY 2018

GDAMS
Global Day of Action
on Military Spending

**Global Campaign on
Military Spending**

When? April 14 - May 3

What? Worldwide actions for a redirection of military spending

GET INVOLVED!

We need to involve even more citizens and organizations in an open and robust debate on the counter-productive results of military expenditure. More than ever, we need new partners to work on the ongoing Global Campaign

on Military Spending (GCOMS), and to make the Global Days of Action on Military Spending (GDAMS) a great success!

Between April 14 and May 3rd, 2018, GDAMS will include as many actions as possible worldwide to ask for a redirection of military spending. GDAMS 2018 slogan will be:

Reducing 10% of military assets will help saving our planet. Take action!

Please send us any information on actions that you are planning in your country, mailto: coordination.gcoms@ipb.org. We will be pleased to publicize them in the GCOMS webpages and on the social networks. Please also send us any suggestion and proposal that you may have. We must all build the campaign in a joint and common effort, to succeed in reducing military spending!

Just Peace- Palm Sunday in Brisbane



PALM SUNDAY RALLY FOR REFUGEES

END THE WARS | CLOSE THE CAMPS
BRING THEM HERE



Speakers include:
The Very Reverend
Peter Catt
Anglican Dean of Brisbane

Ros McLennan
General Secretary
Qld Council of Unions

Whistleblower
former case worker
Manus and Nauru

1^{PM} SUN 25TH MARCH
KING GEORGE SQUARE,
BRISBANE CBD

(2PM - MARCH TO ST JOHNS CATHEDRAL, ARRIVAL 2:30)

 **BRISBANE PALM SUNDAY RALLY**

ORGANISED BY REFUGEE ACTION COLLECTIVE (QLD) AND JUST PEACE QUEENSLAND

Palm Sunday in Sydney

Palm Sunday Rally for Refugees, 2-4pm, Sunday 25th March, Belmore Park, Haymarket, Sydney

Israeli Apartheid Week Rally

IPAN and member organisation, Australians for Justice and Peace in Palestine, are holding a rally at 12 noon in Garema Place, Civic, on Saturday 14 April to mark Israeli Apartheid Week. We are also publicising the arrest of 17 year old Ahed Tamimi, who was filmed slapping an Israeli occupying soldier soon after her cousin had been shot in the head with a rubber bullet and severely injured. She is still being held in an Israeli jail.

Ways to Peace in 2018 Dialogue- Ngara Institute.

April 25 th at The Ngara Institute in Mullumbimby NSW, Professor Henry Reynolds and Professor Stuart Rees, in dialogue : 'Ways to Peace in 2018'

The Big Picture, a seminal, meditative portrait on the stand against violence and war.

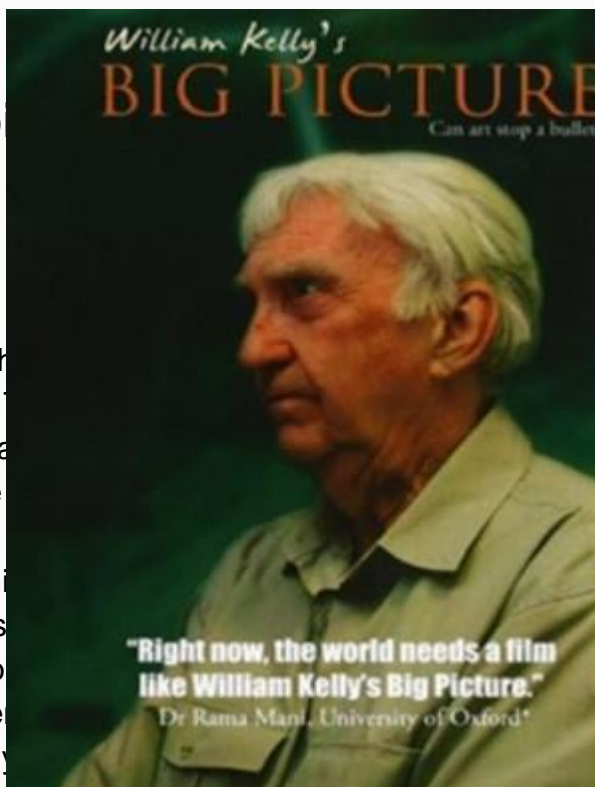
William Kelly is widely considered the social conscience of Australian art. This film documents the creation of William Kelly's monumental art work Peace - The Big Picture.

Pax Christi wishes to alert you to this important peace project, and invites you to support it financially. Pax Christi would like the film to reach as many audiences as possible once it is available in a year or so.

You can contribute as little or as much as you wish as to the crowdfunding campaign on the START SOME GOOD website

<https://www.startsomegood.com/william-kelly-s-big-picture>.

Please pass this on to anyone you know who may be interested to support the film.



A vision of an Independent and Peaceful Australia

- contributed by an IPAN supporter

I think about how a neighbour, say a citizen of Malaysia or the Philippines, views Australia. Our political elites must seem full of paranoia and racism; and they readily find echoes in our people when they stir up such attitudes more widely. The country kowtows to a big brother (first the UK now the

USA), acting either as their mercenaries or their political/diplomatic front-man or both, in whatever imperial aggression Big Brother commits, anywhere in the world.

This is not a balanced view of Australia, but it is hardly an inaccurate one. I want to be able to approach that neighbour, shake their hand and say, I don't fear you or your country and you have no reason to fear me or mine. Let's be friends and work together to deal with the major problems our wounded world has: let's abolish nuclear weapons and eventually all war, reverse deepening climate change and intensifying global inequality.

An independent foreign policy is a pathway to that future, when I can be proud to be both Australian and a global citizen without reservations.

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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