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IPAN's Public Campaigns in 2018



At its strategy planning meeting in Melbourne in January, IPAN's national coordinating committee decided on two major public campaigns in 2018. Both campaign reflect closely IPAN's Aims.

Firstly, a public campaign to oust the U.S. Marines from Darwin, under the banner of **"Give 'em the boot"**.

Secondly, a public campaign to change Government spending priorities away from aggressive military activity into socially needed activity under the

banner “**Don’t buy into war**”.

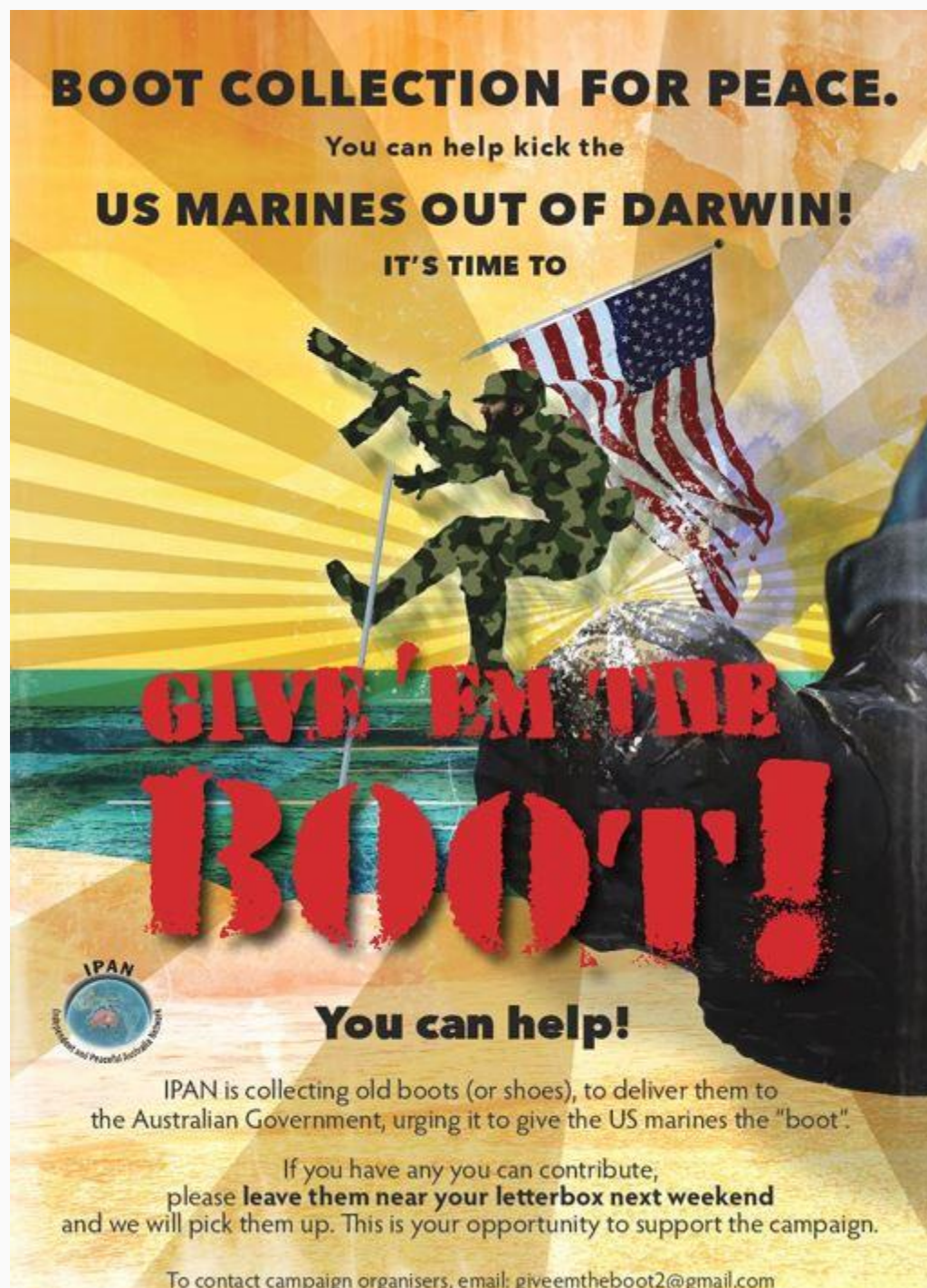
Both campaigns reflect closely the following of IPAN’s Aims.

- a. Promote an independent Australian foreign policy, a policy that builds peace and promotes non-violent resolution of any conflicts in our region;*
- b. Oppose the establishment of any foreign military bases, and the deployment of any foreign troops and/or military hardware, in Australia and the Asia-Pacific;*
- c. Provide information, analysis, coordination and other assistance for affiliates and other NGOs, unions, churches, and community groups, to campaign on Australia’s peace and security options;*
- d. Promote a vision of a peaceful, just and sustainable Australia;*
- e. Organise such events and activities as will promote these objectives.*

Further details of these campaigns are provided in other articles in this edition or subsequent editions of Voice.

Give ‘em the boot Campaign to oust the U.S. Marines from Darwin

Up to 2,500 US troops are stationed in Darwin under the U.S. Force Posture Initiative to which Australia has agreed for 25 years. It also facilitates the use of Darwin and Tyndal’s aircraft runways and supply facilities for use by U.S. bombers such as the B1 which is capable of carrying nuclear bombs. It makes NT a base from which the U.S. can launch war activities against our neighbours, including North Korea and China. It makes Australia a target by U.S. enemies and implicates Australia in their military activities.



**For our peace and security
the US marines must leave 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, and will be exposed to the threat of a retaliatory attack. It is costing the Australian tax payer a significant proportion of the stated **\$2-3billion** 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!”

The campaign consists of:

1. Mass letter boxing of the campaign leaflet; the aim is **one million homes** over a five year period or shorter
2. Asking for a response from those letter-boxed, to leave old boots/shoes at their letter box for collection
3. These boots/shoes will be deposited at a government establishment supported by rallies and public meetings calling for the marines to be “booted” out of Darwin ie repatriated home
4. A petition will be circulated showing public support for ending the stationing of US troops in Darwin through termination of the US-Australia Force Posture Agreement
5. Politicians will be lobbied to explain the campaign and seek their

support

6. The campaign will be publicized through social media and other media outlets where possible

Volunteers are urgently needed for this peace activity

Can you commit a few hours of your time several times this year to assist in letter-boxing for this campaign ? Initially this will be in Sydney and Newcastle and later extended to other states.

We need you to get your walking boots/shoes on for this peace activity.

To offer your help, email: giveemtheboot2@gmail.com or for Sydney, Phone Nick Deane on 0420 526 929 or for Newcastle phone Bevan Ramsden on 0418 697 528



Independent and Peaceful Australia Network
(IPAN)

MEDIA RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE 29 January 2017

Don't buy into war: Turnbull Government rushing in the wrong direction with arms industry

- ***Australia should be a nation that leads the world in promoting peace not war***
- ***Government expenditure on health, education or transport will provide more jobs growth than an equivalent expenditure on the Defence industry***

The Independent and Peaceful Australia Network (IPAN) does not believe that more taxpayer dollars should be committed to the manufacture of

weapons used in war, which contribute to death and destruction and human rights abuses around the world.

The new plan unveiled by the Federal Government today for a \$3.8 billion Defence Export Facility to assist arms industry companies wanting to find overseas markets requires a serious rethink.

“Australia becoming a major arms exporter is just what the world doesn’t need now,” said IPAN spokesperson Stephen Darley. “What is needed is an independent voice seeking diplomatic and peaceful resolution of conflicts, not a country boosting the arms race and the profits of arms manufacturers who rely on the existence of conflicts

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IPAN - Peace and Justice is Union Business

The 2017 IPAN National Conference held in Melbourne in September established several IPAN Working Groups to organise activities and campaigns around IPAN’s main objectives.

One of these is ***Peace and Justice is Union Business*** Working Group (PJUB).

Australian workers through their unions have a long and proud tradition and history of playing a leading role in the struggles to end Australian involvement in foreign wars of aggression and for a just world.

Peace and Justice is Union Business Working Group aims to work with unions and workers to build a broad based peace movement in the union movement and engage with workers and unions in activities on peace, an independent Australian foreign policy and why peace and justice is union business.

To date several unions have affiliated to IPAN – MUA, NTEU, ETU, CFMEU,

AEU (NSW Branch)

The first meeting of PJUB was held on 29 January and attended by officials and rank and file members from MUA (national, Qld, Sydney, Victorian Branches); ETU - Qld and Victorian Branches; CFMEU members; CWU members ; AEU (Canberra branch) member and several retired union members from NTEU, CWU and MUA.

Workers and union members interested in IPAN Peace and Justice is Unions Business Working Group should contact Shirley on 0417456001.

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Media Release

War subsidies a cruel joke, no future for workers

The Turnbull Government's plan to give weapons manufacturers \$3.8 billions of taxpayers' funds is being blasted by workers involved in the Don't Buy Into War campaign.

Peace and Justice is Union Business, which includes unions and rank-and-file union members, says offering government support for the arms industry so soon after withdrawing support for domestic auto manufacturing is a cruel joke.

ETU Victoria Assistant Secretary Ivan Balta says the subsidies come just a few years after the Abbott government withdrew industry support for domestic auto manufacturing, declaring the 'Age of Entitlement over' and

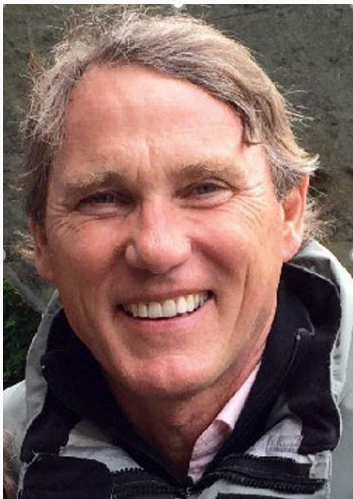
daring car makers to leave Australia.

“Apparently government support isn’t allowed for the thousands of workers who relied on work up and down the production line at Holden, Ford and Toyota – but according to Malcolm Turnbull it’s perfectly fine to dole out the dollars to these multinational corporations with no guarantee of jobs.”

“The Coalition said it wouldn’t pick winners. They said every industry must stand on its own two feet. Well, what else can you call this massive handout? I can tell you that there will be many angry former auto manufacturing workers out there.”

Peace is Union Business spokesperson Shirley Winton says public money should be spent on health, education and creating sustainable jobs instead.

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Prospects for peace in Korea depend on less interference from the U.S.

Michael Pembroke,(NSW Supreme
Court Judge), on ABC The Drum, 8th
February 2018

On 8th February,2018, NSW Justice Michael Pembroke spoke on ABC’s The Drum on prospects for improved relations between North Korea and South Korea as demonstrated by encouraging signs with the athletes of

North and South Korea marching together as one in the Winter Olympics. He said:

“ I’ll tell you why I think this is important and that is because it demonstrates that President Moon, whose father was or is a North Korean, is prepared to side step around the United States . He didn’t ask their permission to engage in talks with Pyongyang. He did it himself and initiated that dialogue and he has been very careful and astute in defusing the issue with the Thaad Missile defence program and he has also been able to negotiate a postponement of the latest round of military exercises by the US and South Korea off the peninsula.

So he is a very interesting person for the future and if he is allowed to do what he wants to do without much interference from Washington, we might see some progress.

LISTEN TO ALL THE PROGRAM

Women's Peace Groups press for Korea negotiations



Women protest outside the site of the summit on North Korea in Vancouver on January 15, 2018. *(Darryl Dyck/The Canadian Press via AP).*

A US-proposed naval blockade “is not diplomacy,” they tell UN member states.

During a week when the two Koreas are finalizing plans for

an Olympics truce, foreign ministers from a dozen countries that fought in the Korean War gather in Vancouver, Canada, for an unusual summit organized by the United States and Canada to “demonstrate international solidarity” with diplomatic efforts to stop North Korea’s nuclear and missile programs.

A principal goal of the summit, US officials say, is to win support for an aggressive program of maritime interdiction to prevent the Kim Jong-un government in North Korea from evading UN-imposed sanctions on oil,

textiles, and other products. The ministerial summit was initiated in December by Secretary of State Rex Tillerson and Canadian Foreign Minister Chrystia Freeland. Defense Secretary Jim Mattis will also join the meeting.

But the summit could be upstaged by 16 women representing peace groups from the United States, Canada, and other countries involved in its planning. They have come to Vancouver to press for diplomatic and economic initiatives to peacefully resolve the Korea crisis and ultimately bring a formal end to the Korean War through a peace treaty. That devastating conflict, which lasted from 1950 to 1953, ended in an armistice agreement that stopped the fighting but left the country in a perpetual state of war.

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US stealth bombers in Guam appear to be readying for a tactical nuclear strike on North Korea

Business Insider Australia -ALEX LOCKIE JAN 25, 2018, 11:15 AM

- The US recently sent nuclear bombers to Guam that can carry tactical nukes that would be perfect for taking out Kim Jong Un.
- Some have suggested that a quick tactical nuclear strike on North Korea could cripple the country's nuclear infrastructure with few casualties
- Recent reports have suggested President Donald Trump considering a strike on North Korea, but some experts and politicians think the idea of a tactical nuclear strike is a recipe for a disaster

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Doomsday clock moved forward by 30 seconds now 2 minutes to midnight

Friday, January 26, 2018 By Joseph Gerson, [Truthout](#) | News Analysis

Warning that the danger of nuclear war has become more "dire" than at any time since the Cold War, the Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists just moved the hands of its iconic Doomsday Clock to two minutes before midnight. This is the closest the hands have been to an apocalyptic assault on human survival and civilization in the clock's 71-year history.

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**US Pacific Commander
Admiral Harry Harris is
President Donald
Trump's pick to serve as
the new ambassador to
Australia.**



ReutersFEBRUARY 10, 2018**1:23PM**

President Donald Trump has named US Pacific Commander Admiral Harry Harris as his pick to serve as the American ambassador to Australia.

The naval officer has served in the military for 39 years and is in his seventh command assignment as head of the US Pacific Command, according to the White House.

"Australia warmly welcomes the appointment of ambassador designate Harry Harris," foreign affairs minister Julie Bishop told reporters in Auckland on Saturday.

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No Foreign Bases: Challenging the Footprint of US Empire

by Kevin Zeese and Margaret Flowers / January 17th, 2018



The United States cannot be a moral or ethical country until it faces up to the realities of US empire and the destruction it causes around the world. The US undermines governments (including democracies), kills millions of people, causes mass migrations of people fleeing their homes, communities and countries and produces vast environmental damage.

A new coalition, The Coalition Against US Foreign Military Bases, held its inaugural event January 12-14, 2018 at the University of Baltimore in Maryland. The meeting was framed by a Unity Statement that brought together numerous peace and justice organizations. The basis for unity was: U.S. foreign military bases are the principal instruments of imperial global domination and environmental damage through wars of aggression and occupation, and that the closure of U.S. foreign military bases is one of the first necessary steps toward a just, peaceful and sustainable world.

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Shifting the blame in 2018

by David Macilwain

Reviewing Australia's role in the foreign wars of 2017, both in sustaining those conflicts and in contributing to the associated domestic crises of "border protection and security".

In July last year I wrote on the fraudulent claims that Syrian Government forces had launched a chemical weapons attack on the town of Khan Shaikoun – that prompted Trump’s infamous “Tomahawk” attack on a Syrian airbase. A revelatory article by US investigative journalist Seymour Hersh had just been published – claiming that US intelligence services knew there was no such strike by the Syrian air-force, but could not restrain the impulsive tomahawk-thrower in the White House.

Hersh’s information, as with his previous damning articles about US support for terrorist groups in Syria, was completely shunned by the Western mainstream media including Australia’s, but was also ignored by independent and “left-wing” commentators. The immediate context of that article was to draw attention to what I believe was the only mention of his story in the Australian press – my letter to my local Fairfax press paper the Border Mail.

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Nuclear weapons — Australia stands on the wrong side of history BY TILMAN RUFFE

During Senate estimates in October last year, the Australian government dug further into the deep and dark moral abyss in which it is stuck in relation to the existential threat posed by nuclear weapons.

In questioning by Tasmanian Labor Senator Lisa Singh, DFAT Assistant Secretary Richard Sadleir sought to explain the circumstances in which under Australia’s security doctrine the government regarded use of nuclear weapons as appropriate: “extended nuclear deterrence is something which comes to the fore in a situation of extreme emergency of the sort that has been referred to in terms of self-defence”. Senator Singh was appropriately appalled that there were any circumstances in which the government considered that use of nuclear weapons was appropriate.

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Quakers train for lobbying politicians to have Australia sign Ban-the-Bomb treaty

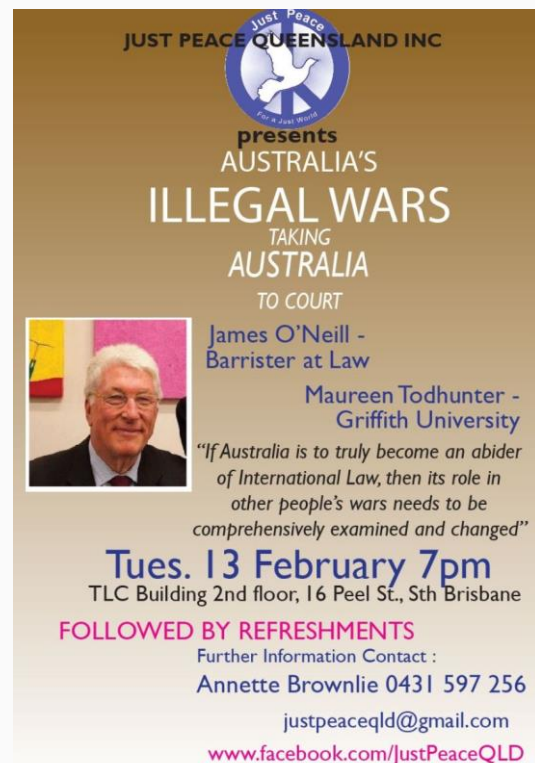
In late March Australian Quakers will be holding a workshop for their members to learn the skills of lobbying MPs and Senators. This will include a day of visiting politicians in Parliament House in Canberra. The intention is that the experience and knowledge gained will help in future work when advocating on peace-related issues at all levels of government and community. Similar lobbying workshops are held regularly in Washington DC by American Quakers.

The focus for this workshop will be the UN treaty to ban nuclear weapons, adopted in late 2017 by the General Assembly, but opposed by Australia. Quakers wish to see the Australian Government support the treaty, and will be using the workshop to learn more about the treaty, the current policies of our political parties, and the best ways to approach MPs and Senators to present the case for supporting this important step towards nuclear disarmament.

David Purnell (from the Quaker Peace & Legislation Committee).

David.christine@iinet.net.au

Just Peace- February Events



"Lest We Forget the Frontier Wars" Camp, Vigil and March

Friday 20 - Wednesday 25 April 2018

Includes four days of Frontier Wars Story Telling
Aboriginal Tent Embassy, Anzac eve Peace Vigil at
the Australian War Memorial and the "Lest We
Forget the Frontier Wars" Anzac Day march to the
Australian War Memorial.

FaceBook events pages will be posted. Contact
0407 951 688

30 MARCH - 8 APRIL 2018



RADIOACTIVE EXPOSURE TOUR

**A TEN-DAY JOURNEY INTO THE HEART
OF AUSTRALIA'S NUCLEAR INDUSTRY**

**For information and to register your interest:
www.melbournefoe.org.au/radtour2018
radexposuretour@gmail.com / 0417 318 368**

Radioactive Exposure Tour 2018

The Radioactive Exposure Tour is a journey through Australia's nuclear landscape. The Tour has exposed thousands of people to the realities of 'radioactive racism' and the environmental and social impacts of uranium mining, radioactive waste and nuclear bomb testing.

Run by Friends of the Earth, this year's Tour will take place from Friday 30th March to Sunday 8th April, 2018.

This year we will visit communities in Kimba and the Flinders Ranges in South Australia, who are fighting to stop a radioactive waste dumps on their land.

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Palm Sunday rally for refugees for 2017, which will be held at 2pm Sunday 25 March at Belmore Park.

Over the last few years there have been nationwide rallies on Palm Sunday for refugee rights. In Sydney the rally is again being organised by a broad coalition including Sydney Peace & Justice Coalition, Refugee Action Coalition, unions, church groups and other refugee rights groups.

The drums of war are beating louder, especially for a possible nuclear war over the political crisis on the Korean Peninsula. War creates millions of new refugees. Nuclear war could destroy the world as we know it. Its time to stand up for refugees, justice, peace and unity!

A vision of an Independent and peaceful Australia

contributed by an IPAN supporter

An Australia that always acts in the best interests of its citizens and environment.

This means:

- The Australian government adopt and implement an independent foreign policy with particular emphasis on promoting, encouraging and acting as an equal partner in peaceful co-existence with our neighbours in the Asia-

Pacific region.

- To develop sustainable policies that are **not** based on ever-increasing and unsustainable growth for the sake of increasing profit for the few; policies that are mindful of the environment and that promote the prosperity of the population. To promote equality and opportunity for all.
- An independent economic policy that **does not** include secretive trade agreements designed only to benefit the profit margins and power of the corporations.
- An Australia that is fully reconciled with its Aboriginal population. This will include constitutional recognition, a Treaty, and policies that will address the desperate plight of many of them caused since the colonisation by the First Fleet in 1788. To recognise the right of the Aborigines to self-determination and sovereignty and to cherish, respect and promote their culture(s).
- An Australia that **does not** follow another country in that country's imperialist ambitions, i.e. the USA, especially in participating in their conflicts or promoting instability in countries that pose no threat to Australia. The removal of all foreign bases and troops.

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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 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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