

Yearly Report 2021

An Illustrated Guide to the Just Peace Annual Report for 2021

Preliminary Remarks

This report available as an electronic file and printed copies.

About Just Peace. See brochure. The Peace Issue - hand out. Electronic copies?

Introduction

In the private manufacturing sector, Marketing reacts to competition by classifying what's out there as an opportunity or a threat. Opportunities are paramount and threats must be eliminated.

The Marketing arm of *Just Peace* Queensland sees war as a major threat – to humanity.

Opportunities for peace are paramount and the threat - of war - must be eliminated, we say.

The Marketing arm of the Federal Government uses a different tactic. Threats are manufactured in order to create opportunities for private manufacturing (e.g., weapons of war) and the Public Service (Defence, DFAT), whose activities act as a feedback loop to amplify the original threats.

The Marketing arms, tentacles, of the Federal and State Governments see wars and rumours of wars and threats of wars as opportunities. They embrace these opportunities. Thus, the militarization of Australia has seen these tentacles extending into every nook and cranny of our society. Education, Research, Health, Defense, Trade, Foreign Affairs, Technology and Communication. Marketing's budgets here are incomprehensibly vast.

Against this juggernaut of misappropriated and misdirected public expenditure *Just Peace* would seem to have little chance of success. But I see changes coming; indeed, they are already underway.

Our little group of 100 members is part of an ever-growing Australian national network of anti-war, pro-human rights activists. They include the membership of the powerful Independent and Peaceful Australia Network (IPAN), the influential Australia Palestine Advocacy Network (APAN) and the United Nations Association of Australia Queensland (UNAAQ). In addition, we offer strong support for the Australian Solidarity with Latin America (ASLA), the Australia Cuba Friendship Society (ACFS), International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN), Quakers Brisbane and the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF).

The feverish work now being carried out to create a national opposition to the insanity of AUKUS, will undoubtedly bring all these anti-war groups closer than ever before. With any luck the enormous armies of eco-warriors fighting climate change will join us.

As Ross Gwyther wrote in his brilliant Editorial in the latest Peace Issue Newsletter (#64):

The announcement of nuclear-powered submarines brings two disparate issues together – the issue of war and peace and Australian ongoing involvement in US-led wars, and the issue of nuclear energy generation... together with those who are campaigning for a more sustainable and enduring environment.

Membership

Since I began writing this report another member has joined *Just Peace*, which brings the total to 101. We are honoured that most of our members have been with us for many years. It is most encouraging to have our members who are driven to fight for peace for so long. That road is hard.

Organisational

We offer our heartfelt thanks to the Committee for implementing many activities which can all be classified as opportunities for peace and justice.

Just Peace has a committee of 12. We welcome Karla and Janny and Barbara who joined last year. We gave a vote of thanks to Don and Rose Yule, previously on our committee. Rose agreed to design more of her brilliant flyers for us.

We usually meet on the first or second Thursday of the month in someone's house. These meetings are characterized by too much laughter which generally annoys the chairperson as he or she wants to get on with the business at hand. We also spend a lot of time eating lunch and drinking tea. At least we get around to assigning jobs (and they are legion) to those who cannot say no and providing financial support for worthy causes. You'll see some of those causes and jobs in the following summary of activities which stretch back over eons of time (it seems).

Opportunities for Peace and Justice

1. **Direct action** (The work of Just Peace **as an organization** includes public forums, rallies, commemorations, beach protests, workshops. These are achieved on one hand via three of our permanent sub groups: Just Peace for Palestine and the Anti-Nuclear Group, and Youth Voices for Peace.
2. **Membership of likeminded orgs:** We are a member of the powerful Independent and Peaceful Australia Network (IPAN), the influential Australia Palestine Advocacy Network (APAN), the United Nations Association of Australia Queensland (UNAAQ) and the International Peace Bureau (**IPB**, Berlin).
3. **Supporting and collaborating with likeminded orgs**, in their actions and also financially. Including the Australian Solidarity with Latin America (ASLA), the Australia Cuba Friendship Society (ACFS), International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN), Quakers Brisbane, the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF), the Refugee Action Collective (to hold Palm Sunday), World Beyond War (**WBW**, USA) and the Pacific Peace Network.
4. **Individuals** within Just Peace who belong to and often lead likeminded orgs.

Here are some details under the above headings:

Direct action

1. **Public Forums**
 - a. Politics in the Pub. Forum on IPAN INQUIRY. Held Sunday, April 18th with Professor Ian Lowe speaking on **The Environmental Impacts of Militarism and Nuclear War**.
 - b. **THE ONGOING NAKBA**, Politic in the Pub. July 11th. Jamal Nabulsi gave a riveting talk on the shocking HISTORY OF ISRAELI SETTLER COLONIALISM and PALESTINIAN RESISTANCE.
 - c. Politics in the Pub, September 12th: **Cuba and Venezuela in the Time of Sanctions**. Co-sponsored by the Australia Cuba Friendship Society (ACFS) and Australia Solidarity with Latin America (ASLA).
2. **Rallies**
 - a. **PALM SUNDAY RALLY** with Refugee Action Collective. March 28th. Guest speakers Peter Catt, Ian Lowe and others.
 - b. **ANZAC Eve Vigil** 24th April, 6pm. Shrine of Remembrance.
 - c. **CHERNOBYL**. April 26th Reddacliff Place gathering.
 - d. **YEMEN AID: ANITA REED COMMEMORATION CONCERT**. This exciting concert held on May 9th 2pm – 4:30 pm, Headline musicians, Cath Mundy and Jay Turner.

- e. **NUDGENE BEACH:** Supporting Pacific Peace Network. Not supporting RIMPAC.
 - f. **ALLIANCE AGAINST POLICIAL PROSECUTIONS (AAPP)** in support of Witness K.
 - g. **GDAMS. INTERNATIONAL PEACE BUREAU, BERLIN.** Just Peace supports the work of this Nobel Peace Prize-winning organization. In particular the Global Day of Action on Military Spending (GDAMS).
 - h. **UN DAY OF SOLIDARITY WITH THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE.**
The Just Peace for Palestine (JP4P) sub group will hold a rally at Queens Gardens, beginning 7 am on November 29th.
3. **Just Peace for Palestine**, Vikki Henry Convener.
- a. Attended Webinar on Anti-Semitism 22nd June 7pm. With 120 participants. Also available on Facebook on APAN site.
 - b. Played active roles in supporting this cause through numerous groups including APAN, Parliamentary Friends of Palestine, AFOPA, Free Palestine Melbourne, Medical Aid for Palestine, Justice for Palestine and several others.
 - c. The *Big Ride for Palestine*, Saturday 9th October 9-noon - Well attended by the Palestinian community with about 80 people attending to welcome the cyclists who rode a total of 750 km to raise money for a refugee camp in Lebanon housing many thousands of Palestinians
4. **Anti-Nuclear Group.** Rosie Severin Convener.
- a. A focus is currently on opposition to small modular nuclear reactors, which don't really exist in commercially viable numbers.
 - b. In addition, Rosie (with Robin Taubenfeld, Friends of the Earth Brisbane), organizes throughout the year, commemorations of numerous nuclear-related tragic events. These include, Fukushima, Chernobyl, Hiroshima and Nagasaki days, and Maralinga day.
 - c. Rosie regularly reports on issues such as the UN Nuclear Treaty, Nuclear waste dumps and their effect upon indigenous peoples.
5. **GUIDED TOUR** (March 3rd) of the Queensland Museum showing the permanent Anzac Legacy exhibit. Here you will find out much history of the anti-war movement in Queensland. There are also videoed interviews with members Ross Gwyther and Maureen Todhunter.
6. **YOUTH VOICES FOR PEACE**
This project is the brainchild of Lenora O'Connor, a *Just Peace* member. In 2021 she and Ross Gwyther have been working closely with the UNAAQ and sponsored by Quakers Brisbane, to hold workshops at Craigslea High School. These exciting events will involve dozens of students in a variety of activities including writing, art, dance, eco-engineering and cinematography photography, all focused on the theme of *Climate, Peace and Care for the Land*.

Membership of likeminded organisations:

- a. **IPAN** The powerful Independent and Peaceful Australia Network. Major Project: People's Enquiry into Costs and Consequences of Australia's involvement in US Led Wars (see <https://ipan.org.au/the-ipan-inquiry/>). 230 submissions have been made to the enquiry. Committee members Annette Brownlie and Ross Gwyther are president and vice President respectively.

- b. **APAN** The influential Australia Palestine Advocacy Network. This is one of the most effective groups supporting the rights of Palestinians. Powerful fundraising group, regularly speaking to Federal and other politicians, with great success.
- c. **UNAAQ** United Nations Association of Australia Queensland. ([20+](#)) [United Nations Association of Australia QLD | Facebook](#). Annette Brownlie leads the Peace and Security group here.
- d. **IPB** The International Peace Bureau (Berlin).
- e. **National AUKUS Coalition** An interim national committee has been established, including Janette McLeod and Tom Bramble from Brisbane. Rallies are organised in most Australian capitals for the weekend of 10th December, with future rallies foreshadowed in February next year. The campaign has a definite time-line of 12-18 months in view of the Government announcement of a final decision on nuclear submarines to be made in 18 months time.

Supporting and collaborating with likeminded organisations

- a. **WILPF Australia**. Their Demilitarization Campaign was launched in late October.
- b. **Quakers Brisbane** Just Peace supports the Brisbane chapter of the Quakers (Religious Society of Friends), the international peace organisation founded in 1650. Several of our members attended the annual Armistice Day event on the 11th November, 2021.
- c. **Jabiru Community College** - Just Peace helped to fund the *Peaceful Pathways Award* in honour of Joan Shears, OAM, who was a co-founder of Just Peace.
- d. **Antidote Films** - *The Reluctant Saviour*, Gil Scrine Producer and Director. Due for release in May 2021. *The Boys Who Said No*, directed by award-winning Judith Erlich.
- e. **ICAN** 56 nations have now ratified the UN Treaty to ban nuclear weapons. It enters into force on January 22nd 2021.
- f. **AAPP** Alliance Against Political Prosecutions. A new group formed to support whistleblowers such as Witness K, Bernard Collaery and Julian Assange.
- g. **STOP LAND FORCES 2021 COALITION**. With Quakers Brisbane and Wage Peace. Objective to disrupt the war weapons fair held in Brisbane on June 1st - 3rd. There will be an estimated 15,000 representatives of perhaps 30 countries descending on an unsuspecting Queensland population in this age of Covid19. They will want to sell and buy military hardware, software and services worth an estimated \$35 billion of taxpayer money over 3 days. Report: [dlf action forum - WagePeaceAU \(nationbuilder.com\)](#).
- h. **WORLD BEYOND WAR**, USA. We support and participate in the enormously creative and effective work they do, including webinars and workshops.
- i. **PPN** The Pacific Peace Network (PPN) ([Pacific Peace Network | Facebook](#))
- j. **ACFS** The Australia-CUBA Friendship Society:
- k. **ASLA** Australian Solidarity with Latin America. Communicated the event: UN International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women.
- l. **UNFOLD ZERO** is a platform for United Nations (UN) focused initiatives and actions for the achievement of a nuclear weapons-free world. It's an affiliated network of Abolition 2000 and a joint project of Basel Peace Office, Mayors for Peace 2020 Vision Campaign, PNND, PragueVision, Aotearoa Lawyers for Peace and Global Security.