

JUST PEACE QUEENSLAND INC – 11TH ANNUAL REPORT
FOR THE YEAR 1ST JULY 2011 TO 30TH JUNE 2012 PRESENTED TO
THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD AT THE KURILPA
COMMUNITY HALL, 174-176 BOUNDARY ST WEST END, 11AM
SUNDAY 18TH NOVEMBER 2012.

Introduction

Despite the combined efforts throughout the world of organisations such as ours over the past year, armed conflict and aggressive militarism has continued un-abated.

We are sure that all who value Peace, Freedom, and Equality for all peoples of the world would join us in condemning those nations and individuals who perpetrate wars, acts of violence, and brutality against our fellow human beings, in their pursuit of power and profits.

Unfortunately Australia is in the vanguard of this un-acceptable trend, with many billions of dollars, countless Australian lives, and our sovereign independence being expended and sacrificed, on the altar of the un-equal US Alliance. In last years Annual Report we predicted that the alliance would become an unholy and absolute allegiance.

The accuracy of that prediction was confirmed when in November 2011 the US President used our Federal Parliament to tell Australians and the rest of the world, of US intentions to dominate the Asia Pacific region militarily, and economically, in the years ahead.

The President emphasised that the basing of marines in Darwin, and the intensification of US air and naval traffic into our air bases and ports is a vital part of their so-called pivotal strategy in retaining US super power status.

Australian troops are still in Afghanistan, and the tragic tally of lost lives is now 39, with well over 200 hundred physically wounded. There is no doubt that 100% of those who have served are suffering some form of mental trauma.

The inhumanity, injustice, discrimination and the abuse and denial of basic human rights is still being perpetrated against Palestinian citizens in the occupied territories of the West Bank and Gaza.

To our everlasting shame the Australian Government has chosen to pay only lip service to a “two state” solution, however it is obvious that it is toeing the US/Israeli line by not yet declaring its support for recognition by the UN of Palestinian Statehood.

In the past year we have witnessed the death of many thousands of civilians, and the total destructions of cities, towns, and infrastructure, and the overthrow of dictators and despots across a number of countries in the middle east. The current civil war in Siria is a stark example of the horrendous consequences of such conflicts.

The effects of the Global Financial Crisis is still being felt across Europe and world wide. The consequences of the draconian measures imposed on the citizens of Greece, Spain, and Portugal have caused widespread demonstrations which have led to violence, the destruction of property, human suffering, and the further destabilisation of Governments globally.

Whilst a small group of countries including Australia are taking minimal action to

confront the ravages of the ever increasing impacts of “climate change”. The deniers, aided and abetted by the all powerful transnational oil/coal/gas companies are slowing, and even halting real and constructive progress in dealing with the horrendous environmental, economic, and social consequences that will result from unfettered “climate change”.

During the year your Management Committee has worked very hard to achieve a level of activity that ensures Just Peace will remain a relevant, credible, and constructive, anti-war, peace, and social justice organisation.

Membership

At a time when all organisations, are struggling to recruit and retain members, Just Peace has maintained a membership of 100 plus during the 11/12 year.

The incoming Committee faces the dual challenges this year, of increasing membership numbers, and to also encourage greater membership participation in it's events and activities. Your assistance in realising these goals will be greatly appreciated.

Finances

Treasurer Beth by virtue of her judicious management of our finances during the year has ensured that Just Peace is in a sound financial position as at the 30th June 2012. The value of a hard working and effective Treasurer should never be underestimated and Beth fits that description admirably.

We also wish to acknowledge that generous donations of cash and kind from members, kindred organisations, and the un-conditional encouragement and support given by Senator Claire Moore and her Staff have enabled Just Peace to remain financially viable.

Sub Committees/Groups

It is pleasing to report that our sub-committee “Just Peace 4 Palestine”, under the stewardship of Convenor Nicole Erlich, and with the assistance of Bec, Fay, Margo, Wendy, Ken, Khalil, and the support of Management Committee members was very active and effective in planning, organising, and participating, in numerous events throughout the year.

Three Just Peace treasures, Nicole, Margo, and Ray Bergman, are contributors to the book titled “Beyond Tribal Loyalties”, edited by Avigail Abarbanel. It tells the personal stories of 25 Jewish Peace Activists from five countries.

Committed and energetic Sub-Committees play a vital role in effective organisations, and members are encouraged to participate in others that place a focus on issues of importance to Just Peace.

Affiliations – Networks

We have continued to renew and strengthen existing links, and to establish new affiliations with groups and organisations with objectives compatible with ours.

Our promotion and support of events related to the International Day of Peace continues, and we participated in a successful event held at St John's Cathedral on the 21st September 2011.

Links were maintained with the United Nations Association of Australia Qld Branch through Annettes involvement as a member of it's management committee.

Our good relationship with the Trade Union movement has been maintained through regular contact with Ron Monaghan General Secretary of the QCU, and also with the Secretary's of individual affiliated unions.

We have joined the Cluster Munitions Coalition, and supported it's campaign against proposed Government amendments which will weaken Australia's position with respect to the enforcement of the Cluster Munitions Treaty.

We are an affiliate of the Australian Palestine Advocacy Network, (APAN), and have supported and participated in campaigns aimed at changing the Australian Governments policies on issues related to the Israeli/Palestinian conflict.

We are a founding member of a national umbrella organisation, Independent and Peaceful Australia Network, (IPAN), which now has affiliates in six states and the NT.

Just Peace acknowledges with gratitude the continued support and the generous financial contributions made over many years by the Union of Australian Women.

Contact has been maintained with WILPF, MAPW, Friends of the Earth, Amnesty, Quakers and other groups, organisations and individuals, who share similar aims and objectives as Just Peace.

During the year we continued our long standing association with Peter Arndt and the Catholic Commission for Peace and Justice, and we also met with the Most Reverend Dean of the Anglican Church, Dr Peter Catt, and the Director of the Multi Faith Centre at Griffith University, Mr Brian Adams.

The leadership, dedication, enthusiasm, and networking skills of Co-Convenor Annette has been a major factor in maintaining and strengthening the profile and credibility of Just Peace as an anti-war/peace and social justice entity at both State and National levels.

Communications

Editor Adrian Pollock has produced three high quality editions of our newsletter "The Peace Issue" this year.

The Committee of Management again acknowledges the time and effort Adrian expends on the production of the first class newsletter. We are also aware of, and appreciate the fact that at times he takes leave from work to complete the task. On behalf of the Management Committee and of members we express our sincere thanks to you Adrian.

It would not have been possible to print the now (41) editions of "The Peace Issue", without the support, and practical physical assistance provided by our valued member Senator Claire Moore, and her committed team.

On behalf of Just Peace members we say thanks to Claire and all of her team who

have co-operated with and contributed to our cause through the printing of the newsletter, and in many other ways, over the eleven years of our existence.

To Stephanie and Alastair Campion who continue to do a great job in keeping members informed on current events per medium of the E-Bulletin/Breaking News, and in the development and maintenance of our first class website we say thanks, your efforts are greatly appreciated.

Co-Convenor and spokesperson Annette has pursued every opportunity to issue media releases, arrange media interviews for keynote speakers at Just Peace events, and has successfully negotiated the broadcast of events on Radio Nationals programme “Big Ideas”.

We also continue to maintain our affiliation with Community Radio 4EB.

Annette also provides an update on current activities, and upcoming events, with each addition of “The Peace Issue”, or when a general posting is made to members.

Major Events/Activities 2011/2012 Financial Year

The Management Committee has maintained a very busy schedule again this year for example;

- Sought support for Palestinian Statehood, in meetings with Trade Union leaders, and Senator Claire Moore and Senator Larissa Waters
- Made a presentation to Brisbane Unitarians, on the history of Just Peace Qld
- Conducted a candlelight vigil to express opposition to 2011 Talisman Sabre war games
- Attended Hiroshima Day Rally, and hosted Inoue Miwako a third generation victim of the Nagasaki atomic bombing at a JP monthly meeting
- Held a 10th Anniversary Celebration Dinner
- Participation in the Public Forum featuring Miko Peled activist and author of “The General's Son”
- Attended IDP event held at St John's Cathedral 21st September 2011
- Campaigned against certain terms of the Government's Bill to ratify the Cluster Munitions Treaty
- Questioned the Prime Minister at Yeronga Community Cabinet meeting, as to when Australian Troops will be withdrawn from Afghanistan, and if her Government would vote yes, to Palestinian Statehood in the United Nations
- Submitted six written questions for response by the Defence Minister
- Convened a meeting of interested organisations, and individuals, to discuss a campaign around the US/Australian Governments agreement to host 2500 Marines in Darwin, and increased air and naval access to Air Bases and Ports(IPAN)
- Conducted a rally in King George Square in support of the Global Day of Action on Military Spending, (GADAMS)
- Held Anzac Eve candlelight vigil featuring peace songs by Combined Unions Choir
- Conducted a Public Forum at UQ – US Bases in Australia – Counting the Costs, featuring keynote speakers, Dr Peter Stanley, Felicity Hill, Boyette Jurcales, with Ron Monaghan as MC – It was recorded and replayed on Radio Nationals Big Ideas programme.

In addition to the activities listed above Just Peace generated prolific written representations to Federal and State Members of Parliament, and to organisations and individuals on matters of concern to us. (our sincere thanks to Secretary Frances for her sterling efforts in firing off her pointed but non violent barbs)

The events/activities listed represent a brief overview of the matters dealt with, during the year. There were many meetings, E-Mails, phone calls, telephone hook-ups, that have not been included in this report.

Thanks to Vicki and Michael for co-ordinating and managing Just Peace Stalls and Displays at various venues and events throughout the year.

Meetings/Public Forums

There were a limited number of Public Forums held and every effort will be made to organise more in 2012-13, around issues of interest and concern to members.

The Management Committee continues to hold monthly meetings on the 2nd Tuesday of each month, at the TLC Building 16 Peel Street South Brisbane commencing at 7pm. Members are invited to attend.

Public Liability Insurance

Section 70 of the Associations Incorporation Act 1981, requires the Management Committee to consider at least annually whether there is a need to take out Public Liability Insurance.

The Act also requires the Management Committee to report to Members at the Annual General Meeting, the reasons for its decision.

This matter is the subject of a separate report to this meeting.
Acknowledgements

The Management Committee would not be able to operate as effectively without the encouragement, support, and assistance, of individuals and organisations.

Therefore it wishes to give public recognition to the following;

- Senator Claire Moore and her Staff
- Ron Monaghan, General Secretary QCU and Staff, and Affiliated Unions
- Union of Australian Women
- The Union Choir
- Just Peace 4 Palestine Sub-Committee
- Members who have donated money, time, and effort, throughout the year.

As this report covers the period ending the 30th June, the many activities since then will be featured in subsequent "The Peace Issues", and in the next Annual Report.

The Year Ahead

The incoming Committee of Management, and the membership as a whole will be confronted by major and complex issues both old and new in the year ahead.

When identifying priorities for action in 2012-13, some of the issues to be addressed are;

Operations

- Establish and maintain active Sub-Committees/Groups
- Encourage greater Member participation in activities/campaigns
- Identify and activate community based activities
- Strengthen affiliations/links with organisations/groups with similar common interests

Major Campaigns

- Withdrawal of troops from Afghanistan
- Statehood for Palestine – Resolution Palestine/Israeli Conflict (APAN)
- Removal US Military Bases/Training Facilities (IPAN)
- Reduction domestic/global military budgets/spending (IPAN)
- Prevention of storage of Cluster Munitions in Australia, and their use globally
- Campaign against extension of Uranium Mining/Nuclear Power Stations/Nuclear Submarines and weapons (IPAN)
- Independence for West Papua
Government Policies
- Foreign Affairs (IPAN)
- Defence/Attack Force (IPAN)
- Asylum Seekers
- Environmental
- Human Rights Acts

Conclusion

Our thanks to Management Committee Members, Beth, Frances, Vicki, Michael, and Nicole for their contribution on behalf of Members, and their support and assistance given to us during the past year.

The relevance and effectiveness of any organisation is dependent upon the level of commitment and participation of its Members. This is the foundation on which Just Peace has built its reputation and credibility over the last 11 years.

We are optimistic that the spirit and resolve of Members is such that Just Peace will continue to play a meaningful and progressive role as an anti-war, peace and social justice organisation in the years ahead.

Yours in Friendship and in Peace

Annette Brownlie Norm Bullen
 President (Co-Convenor) Vice President (Co-Convenor)
 Just Peace Queensland Inc Just Peace Queensland Inc
 18th November 2012 18th November 2012