

**JUST PEACE QUEENSLAND INC – 9TH ANNUAL REPORT
FOR THE YEAR 1ST JULY 2009 TO 30TH JUNE 2010 PRESENTED TO
THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD AT THE KURILPA
COMMUNITY HALL, 174-176 BOUNDARY ST WEST END ON
SUNDAY 17TH OCTOBER 2010.**

Introduction

As we plan and prepare for our 10th year of operation it is disappointing to note the lack of progress that has been made in that time in confronting and resolving the major international and domestic issues of our time.

The intensity and brutality of the Afghanistan conflict continues unabated, 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.

The full extent of the devastation that will be caused to the lives of millions of people world wide by the global financial crisis is yet to be fully realised. The consequences that will flow from draconian austerity measures imposed by Governments will create a level of global volatility not experienced in our life time.

The failure of Governments to confront and urgently develop solutions to climate change, described by many “as the greatest moral challenge of our times”, is another significant factor in perpetuating the conditions that foment and cultivate wars, violence, and all other actions that we in Just Peace oppose.

Although various circumstances impacted on the Management Committees capacity to always maintain activities at previous levels. It has worked hard to ensure Just Peace remains relevant, and that it maintains an active, constructive, and credible role in the anti-war/peace and social justice movement.

Membership

Membership numbers are in decline and if the current trend continues the viability of Just Peace will be seriously impacted.

Whilst our list of contacts is substantial this has not translated into increased membership, a greater level of participation, or more revenue this year.

The incoming Committee will review the situation and seek ways to address the elements listed above.

Finances

Under the stewardship of Treasurer Beth the financial position remained sound for the financial year ending 30th June 2010.

With the decline in membership subscriptions, increasing costs such as postage, and the need for the first time to meet the commercial printing of our Newsletter "The Peace Issue", our financial status could be seriously challenged in the 2010/2011 financial year.

Sub Committees/Groups

Despite a plea to Members in our last Annual Report for those who have a particular interest in issues inherent in Just Peace objectives to participate in an appropriate sub committee or group, activities have been limited to an energetic focus group titled "Just Peace for Palestine".

Affiliations – Networks

Just Peace continued its support and participation in the International Day of Peace Alliance Inc through the stirring and dedicated efforts of Co-Convenor Annette Brownlie and Secretary Frances Kendall.

Just Peace has maintained contact with the Queensland Nuclear Free Alliance and Peace Convergence through Annettes involvement with the organisation.

Links with the United Nations Association of Australia Qld Branch were maintained during the year due to Annettes position on its management committee.

During the year Just Peace worked with Just Rights, Amnesty International, Qld Council for Civil Liberties, and other organisations and individual activists in the campaign for a Human Rights Act for Australia and Queensland.

Our good relationship with the Queensland Council of Unions has been maintained and we publicly acknowledge the encouragement and support provided to Just Peace by General Secretary Ron Monaghan and his team at the QCU.

Individual Unions have offered support and assistance to Just Peace in the campaign around the Israel/Palestine conflict, in particular we publicly acknowledge that given by the ETU and AMWU through their State Secretaries Peter Simpson and Andrew Dettmer.

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 established and maintained with other organisations and groups relevant to Just Peace operations during the year.

As has been acknowledged in the past the leadership, dedication, and networking skills of Co-Convenor Annette has maintained and strengthened the profile and credibility of Just Peace as an anti-war/peace and social justice entity.

Communications

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

The Committee of Management is aware that Adrian expends much time and effort in producing the newsletter and that at times he takes leave from work to complete the task. On behalf of members we express our sincere thanks.

It would not have been possible to print and distribute the (36) editions of The Peace Issue, over the nine years of our existence without the financial support and the practical assistance provided by 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.

Stephanie and Alastair Campion continue to do a great job in keeping members informed on current events per medium of the E-Bulletin/Breaking News, their efforts are greatly appreciated.

Co-Convenor Annette has pursued every opportunity to issue media releases, give media interviews, and enhance contacts with community radio throughout the year.

Major Events/Activities 2009/2010

Although the capacity of the Management Committee has been impeded by rest and recreation leave, illness, family and other commitments during the year it has still maintained a very busy schedule, for example;

- **Forum on Peace, Research, Practice and Activities, at UQ School of Psychology**
- **In conjunction with the Catholic Justice Commission Brisbane a Public Forum on Human Rights in Papua, with Julianus Septer Manufandu, Executive Secretary Papua NGO's Co-operation Forum**
- **International Day of Peace, Peace Fair**
- **4th Youth Peace Parliament of 3 days duration**
- **Film night, screening of "Scarred Lands and Wounded Lives the Environmental Footprint of War" (valuable liaison provided by Anthony Wheadon)**
- **Anzac Day Peace Picnic held at Toowong Cemetery the home of "The Temple of Peace" built by Richard Ramo of Brisbane in 1924**
- **Celebration in recognition of Joan Shears OAM peace activist**
- **Gareth Smith address on his experiences during the Gaza Freedom March 2009/10**
- **Co-hosted with Avid Reader Bookshop two book launches, Mark Danner Author Stripping Bare the Body, and Donna Mulhearn's book Ordinary Courage**
- **Several meetings Just Peace 4 Palestine sub-group**
- **Submission to the Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade, "Inquiry into the Defence Amendment (Parliamentary Approval of Overseas Service) Bill 2008 (No2)**

In addition to those activities listed above Just Peace has generated prolific representations to Federal and State Ministers, and to other organisations on matters of concern to our organisation. (Thanks to Secretary Frances Kendall)

The events/activities listed are but a brief snapshot of the matters dealt with, as there are many meeting attendances, E-Mails, Telephone contacts, and other activities related to Peace and Social Justice issues that the Management Committee is involved in.

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

Meetings/Forums

As reported in the last Annual Report, difficulties are being experienced in organising more than one General Meeting in addition to the AGM, however if circumstances warrant it, further attempts will be made to do so.

The importance of Public Forums, and the interest they generate amongst Members is appreciated and the Management Committee will endeavour to hold more in the coming year.

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 welcome and are invited to attend when possible.

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 Staff**
- **Ron Monaghan, General Secretary QCU and Staff**
- **Union of Australian Women**
- **ETU and AMWU and State Secretaries Peter Simpson and Andrew Dettmer**

- **Kindred Organisations, and Individuals, who have supported Just Peace Events/Activities throughout the year**
- **Norm Hoare Honorary Auditor**
- **Just Peace Members who have donated money and have participated in various ways throughout the year.**

The Year Ahead

As in past years the incoming Management Committee and the membership as a whole will be confronted by major complex challenges. When identifying priorities for action this year, the following issues will be some that will receive attention.

Operations

- **Membership recruitment and renewals**
- **Establish and maintain Sub-Committees/Groups**
- **Encourage greater Member participation**
- **Identify and activate community based activities**
- **Review effectiveness and sustainability of the Website**
- **Identify and implement ways to fund the printing and distribution of "The Peace Issue"**

Areas of Continuing/Potential Armed Conflict

- **Afghanistan/Pakistan**
- **Israeli/Palstinian Conflict**
- **Iran**
- **West Papua-Asia Pacific**
- **North Korea**

Government Policies

- **Continued pursuit of a wide range of issues included in the submission to the then Rudd Government**
- **Climate Change**
- **Australian/Queensland Human Rights Acts**
- **Repeal of Anti Human Rights/Social Justice/ Industrial Legislation**
- **Joint US/Australian Military Bases**
- **Extension of Uranium Mining/Nuclear Power Stations**

Conclusion

Our thanks to Management Committee Members, Beth Gordon, Frances Kendall, Michael and Vicki Henry, and Anthony Wheadon 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 in the affairs of the organisation. This has been the foundation on which Just Peace has built its reputation and credibility over the last 9 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
President (Co-Convenor)
Just Peace Queensland Inc
17th October 2010**

**Norm Bullen
Vice President (Co-Convenor)
Just Peace Queensland Inc
17th October 2010**