

Introduction

In previous Annual Reports we have commented on the extent of inhumanity, injustice, discrimination, and the abuse and denial of basic human rights, that is being inflicted on increasing numbers of disadvantaged and vulnerable people throughout the world.

It is with heavy hearts, and a great sense of disappointment, that we must report that in our opinion little has changed for the better in the past year.

The glimmer of hope, and cautious optimism engendered by the “Arab Spring”, uprising, has been diminished by the brutal and inhumane civil war in Syria, and the return of a Government again controlled by the military in Egypt.

Whilst Western Nations are paying lip service, and declaring support for peace initiatives involving North Korea, Iran, Israel/Palestine, and Syria, there is little evidence that genuine progress is being facilitated, and achieved, as a result of their efforts.

After participating in the futile, and longest war in Australia's history our troops will be withdrawn from Afghanistan by years end.

We should never forget the tragic tally of Australian's sacrificed in the futile war in Afghanistan, 40 lives lost, well in excess of 200 physically wounded.

We have little doubt that the many thousands who served and survived will be condemned to suffering a lifetime of severe mental trauma as a result of their involvement in that war.

As in past years we have witnessed the death, devastation, and deprivation of many thousands of innocent civilians across the world as a direct or indirect consequence of wars, armed conflicts, and violence in all of its forms.

The examples alluded to, and other acts of inhumanity and injustice, where ever it occurs has been the motivation for your Management Committee to work hard during the year to in some way “make a difference” for the better.

Membership

Thanks to the enduring support of long term members, and to those who have joined during the year, we have been able to maintain membership at or about 100.

For Just Peace to continue to pursue it's objectives in a meaningful way into the future it must build membership numbers, and ensure that all members are given the opportunity to participate in it's activities.

The Management Committee will welcome the assistance of existing

members in the recruitment of family, friends, work mates, and others who they believe would make a positive contribution to the causes championed by Just Peace.

Finances

There was an increase in the workload of the Treasurers position this year due to Just Peace taking on the responsibility of managing a Bank Account on behalf of the Independent and Peaceful Australia Network,(Ipan).

Despite the increased complexity of her task, Treasurer Beth has maintained our finances at a sound level, which has enabled us to operate effectively throughout the year.

As in past years we have received generous donations of cash and kind from loyal members, kindred organisations, and from Senator Claire Moore and her Staff.

On behalf of the Management Committee we express sincere thanks to all who have contributed and we acknowledge that your generosity enables Just Peace to remain an active and financially viable organisation.

Sub Committees

“Just Peace 4 Palestine”, has continued it's great work this year, in organising, planning, and participating in activities such as public forums, street stalls, lobbying and making submissions to politicians, and other activities.

Convenor Nicole Erlich, joined national executive member Wendy Turner at the national conference of the Australian Palestine Advocacy Network (Apan), and also attended an associated workshop.

The sub-committee has been both active and effective through the efforts of Nicole, Fay, Bec, Margo, Vicki, Wendy, Ken, Khalil, with advice, guidance, and participation from Co-Convenor Annette, and the support of the Management Committee.

Committed and energetic Sub-Committees can play a vital role in effective organisations, as members can focus on specific issues of interest to them, and which are important to the organisation. Members are encouraged to participate in this aspect of Just Peace operations.

Affiliations – Networks

During the year we have continued to renew affiliations, and to strengthen existing working relationships with kindred organisations and groups.

Our promotion and support of events related to the International Day Of Peace continues, and we were participants in the 2012 event at St John's Cathedral, which featured the inaugural Brisbane Peace Lecture, titled “Speaking Out for Peace” delivered by Griffith University Chancellor, and former Governor of Queensland M/s Leneen Forde.

We also supported and participated in the “Sustainability and Peace Fair”, organised by the International Day of Peace Alliance held in King George Square, on the 22nd September 2012.

Links were further strengthened with the United Nations Association of Australia Qld Branch, this year through the involvement of Annette who serves on it's Management Committee. We are also fortunate that Just Peace Committee Member Vicki, whilst wearing her WILF badge, also serves on the UNAA Committee.

We have continued to support the work of the Cluster Munitions Coalition.

We have organised events and given active support to the “Global Day of Action on Military Spending (GDAMS), which is held in April each year.

We are an active affiliate of the effective Australian Palestine Advocacy Network (APAN), and have participated in events at both national and state levels.

As one of the founding members of the “Independent and Peaceful Australia Network (IPAN), we continue to play a prominent role in its development, and campaign activities.

Our bond with the Trade Union movement has been maintained by regular contact and dialogue with Ron Monaghan, General Secretary of the Queensland Council of Unions, and the Secretaries of various individual unions.

Our long standing working relationship with the Catholic Commission for Peace and Justice, has continued with the support and assistance of our friend Peter Arndt.

We have also held valued discussions during the year with the Most Reverend Dean of St John's Cathedral, Dr Peter Catt, on matters of mutual interest.

We have given and received support throughout the year to/from a wide range of progressive organisations, and groups, that are committed to goals and objectives, compatible with those of Just Peace.

Whilst Just Peace has about 100 members, the leadership and networking skills of Co-Convenor Annette has been instrumental in building an extensive National and International network of contacts over 1000 and growing.

Communications

On behalf of members, established contacts, and those who pick up our newsletter “The Peace Issue” at various events, we thank Editor Adrian Pollock, for producing (3) high quality editions this year.

We greatly appreciate the time, effort, and commitment, Adrian has so willingly expended over 12 years in producing the 44 editions, well done Adrian.

Without the support of our valued member Senator Claire Moore, and her dedicated team, in printing and at times subsidising the postage, the fruits of Adrian's labour would not be enjoyed by its avid readers.

Although Stephanie and Alastair Campion are now living in other parts of the world, they continue to keep members informed per medium of the E-Bulletin/Breaking News, and the maintenance of our website.

To Stephanie and Alastair we in Just Peace extend our best wishes, and express our sincere thanks for a job well done.

As in previous years Co-Convenor and spokesperson Annette has issued media releases, and organised interviews on ABC Radio for high profile keynote speakers at Just Peace sponsored events.

Affiliation with Community Radio 4EB was maintained this year.

Annette has kept members informed about upcoming events, and on other issues, a number of times during the year by post, and on E-Mail.

Secretary Mike Henry, and Committee member Ross Gwyther, have prepared numerous Flyers, Fact Sheets, and Information Pieces, for the purpose of advertising and promoting Just Peace activities and affiliations.

Major Events/Activities 2012-2013 Financial Year

- Public Forum Avigail Abarbanel – Beyond Tribal Loyalties
- Public Forum – Young Israeli Voices for Peace
- Attendance APAN AGM Adelaide
- Attendance National Workshop Adelaide – Boycott Divestment & Sanctioning of Israel
- JP4P monthly Stalls in City Mall – Israeli/Palestinian Issues
- Monthly National phone hook-ups meetings (Ipan) members
- Inaugural IDPA Brisbane Peace Lecture – National Launch Ipan
- IDPA Sustainability and Peace Fair Stall – JP one of keynote speakers
- JP AGM – Guest Presenter Professor Richard Tanter – Workshop
- National Campaign (500) supporters advert Australian Newspaper (IPAN)
- Public Forum to commemorate Protests against a War in Iraq*
- Co-Convenor Annette interview with ABC's Steve Austin re above*
- Public Forum featuring Donna Mulherin about horrendous situation in Iraq
- Ipan sponsorship of University Qld student project on building relationships with similar organisations in the Asia Pacific
- Stall in City Mall in protest against Global Military Spending (GDAMS)

The events/activities listed represent only a brief overview of the matters dealt with during the year ending 30th June 2013. There were many meetings, E-Mails, letters, phone calls, and other activities not included.

Thanks to Vicki and Michael for organising, co-ordinating, and managing

Just Peace Stalls and Displays throughout the year.

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 could not be effective without the encouragement, support, and assistance of individuals and other organisations. We therefore give public recognition to the following;

- Senator Claire Moore and her Team
- Ron Monaghan, General Secretary QCU, and his Team
- Union Of Australian Women
- The Union Choir
- Just Peace 4 Palestine Sub-Committee
- All kindred organisations, and groups, who have donated money, and who have encouraged and supported our events/activities
- Members, and Supporters, who have generously donated money, time, and given their moral and physical support throughout the year

The Year Ahead

We believe that the intensity, depth, scope, and complexity of issues confronting Just Peace, and kindred organisations, will escalate to a more extreme and damaging level locally, nationally, and internationally, in the year ahead.

To meet the challenges ahead we must review, and strengthen, the basic operational elements which we list each year in our Annual Report;

- Establish active Sub-Committees/Groups
- Greater Member participation in events/activities/campaigns
- Identify/Initiate/activate community based activities
- Broaden and strengthen affiliations/networks with organisations/groups with similar common interests

When identifying Major Campaigns for the up-coming year it is disappointing to report that most have been on the agenda for the 12 years of our existence.

- Resolution Palestine/Israeli Conflict (Apan)
- Removal US Military Bases/Training Facilities (Ipan)
- Reduction domestic/global military budgets/spending (Gdams)

- Campaign against the use/storage of Cluster Munitions
- Campaign against extension of Uranium Mining Qld/nationally
- Campaign against the production/use of Nuclear Weapons, and Nuclear Submarines in Australian Ports (Ipan)
- Independence for West Papua
- Campaign for Iraq War Inquiry (Civi)
- Syrian Civil War, Conflicts/Potential Conflicts throughout Middle East

The struggle to influence, change, or to prevent discriminatory or draconian Government legislation and policies will be much harder this year at Federal and State levels under the Abbott and Newman Governments.

The major areas of Government Policy that are of concern, and that will be the subject of Just Peace scrutiny and action are;

- Foreign Affairs (Ipan-Apan)
- Militarism in all of its forms (Ipan)
- Environment/Climate Change
- Refugee/Asylum Seekers
- Protection of Human Rights/Civil Liberties

Conclusion

Our thanks to Management Committee Members, Beth, Vicki, Michael, Nicole, and Ross for their contribution on behalf of Members, and for their support and assistance given throughout another very busy year.

To Nicole, thanks for your dedicated and effective leadership as Chair of Just Peace 4 Palestine. On behalf of all Just Peace Members we extend best wishes, and the hope that you enjoy happiness, and success, in the future.

As in past years your Management Committee has worked very hard to achieve and maintain a level of activity which ensures Just Peace, remains a relevant, credible, and constructive, organisation which denounces war, and advocates peace, and social justice for all.

We are confident that with the encouragement, support, and active participation of Members we can continue to make a difference for the better, in the years ahead.

Yours in Friendship and in Peace

(Annette Brownlie)
 President (Co-Convenor)
 Just Peace Queensland Inc

(Norm Bullen)
 Vice-President (Co-Convenor)
 Just Peace Queensland Inc