

## **JUST PEACE QUEENSLAND INC**

**14TH ANNUAL REPORT 1-7-14 -30-6-15  
PRESENTED TO ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING  
MAGDA ARTZ, 80 BOUNDARY ROAD BARDON,  
2PM SUNDAY 6TH DECEMBER 2015.**

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### **Introduction**

**After hearing last years Annual Report a perceptive member made a relevant comment to the effect that it had a similar message to all others presented since Just Peace was formed.**

**Despite our determined efforts to identify a more positive scenario for this years report to members, we regret that the current state of world affairs does not allow that.**

**As reported previously wars, brutal conflicts, and various forms of aggression/oppression are continuing in Syria, Ukraine, Gaza/ West Bank, Iraq, Egypt, states and regions in Northern Africa, and in many other countries across the globe.**

**In the past year we have witnessed the death, devastation, and deprivation, of many thousands of innocent civilians across the world as a direct or indirect consequence of those wars, armed conflicts, and horrific acts of violence.**

**As a foundation member of the so-called “Coalition of the Willing”, and it's part in the illegal invasion and occupation of Iraq, the Australian Government must accept major responsibility for it's role in the creation, growth in numbers, strength, power, and brutal atrocities, now being perpetrated by the terrorist group IS.**

**The Federal Government continues to adopt an aggressive, and militaristic, approach to foreign affairs, in most cases in lock step with those of the USA.**

**Notwithstanding the immovable nature, and immensity of the task before us, the Management Committee after 14 years of hard work is still totally committed to making a difference for the better.**

### **Membership**

**We welcome those new members who have joined in the past year, and thank those long standing members for their support during the year.**

**Evidence suggests that most organisations struggle to maintain memberships at a level to maintain service and effectiveness at viable levels, Just Peace is no exception.**

**Membership numbers are down on previous years, and there is a need to increase both numbers and the level of participation.**

**The Management Committee will be focussing on improving the recruitment, retention, and participation of members this year.**

**Members are encouraged to join the Committee in achieving the above objectives.**

#### **Fincances**

**The duties of the Treasurer have been much more complex and time consuming in the past year, as a result of additional work associated with the management of the Ipan bank account.**

**As a result of Beths prudential management of funds, and the generous donations of individual members our financial position is sound.**

**We also express our thanks to all who have given their time, materials, and services, as that unconditional support is invaluable, to organisations such as ours.**

#### **Sub Committees**

**Just Peace 4 Palestine continues to operate effectively under the guidance of Convenor Vicki Henry.**

**Vicki, Fay, Ken, Khalil, Margot, and Margid, and Co-Convenor Annette, continue to conduct regular information stalls in the Queen Street Mall. The prime activities are obtaining signatures on petitions, and the dispensing of factual information about the Palestinian cause.**

**The Management Committee is convinced that committed and energetic sub-committees can play a vital role in the survival and future development of Just Peace. Members are encouraged to participate in this aspect of our operations.**

#### **Affiliations – Networks**

**Just Peace is now formally affiliated with the following;**

**Australian Palestine Advocacy Network (APAN)  
Independent and Peaceful Australia Network (IPAN)  
United Nations Association Australia Qld (UNAA)  
International Peace Bureau Network (IPB)**

#### **Apan**

**We have maintained our affiliation with Apan. It continues to do its strong and effective advocacy at the national level on issues of vital importance to the lives and future of Palestinians.**

**We maintain close contact with Wendy Turner a Queensland member on the Apan Executive.**

## **Ipan**

**Members of the Committee were heavily involved in the organisation and financial management of the Ipan AGM and Conference which was held in July 2015.**

**Co-Convenor Annette is involved in regular Ipan national telephone hook-ups related to the organisation and further development of Ipan.**

## **Unaa (Q)**

**Annette continues in a position of Vice President on the Executive of that body, and with the support of Vicki is heavily involved in the organisation and presentation of the Brisbane Peace Lecture, which is delivered by a high profile speaker on International Day of Peace 21<sup>st</sup> September each year.**

## **IPB (GDAMS)**

**Just Peace receives relevant information and statistics from IPB, and also participates in the Global Day of Action on Military spending which is held in April of each year.**

**We have maintained a close working relationship with the QCU, and affiliated Unions throughout the year.**

**We continue to work with the Catholic Commission for Peace and Justice, which is under the leadership of Peter Arndt.**

**Contact is maintained with Dr Peter Catt, the Most Reverend Dean of St John's Cathedral, mainly during the organisation of the Brisbane Peace Lecture.**

**We were part of a joint committee with RAC, in organising the successful 2015 Palm Sunday event.**

**During the year we have worked with, and in support of, many organisations and groups with common interests. In the year ahead we will be working hard to consolidate, and expand, on this activity.**

## **Communications**

**The Editor Adrian Pollock produced (3) top quality editions of "The Peace Issue", they are widely read by members and supporters. (Many thanks from us all)**

**Without the support of member, and ALP Senator for Qld Claire Moore, and her ever obliging team, the continued printing, and distribution, of the Peace Issue, and other promotional material, would not be possible.**

**Annette has kept members informed on issues and events,**

by E-Mail, and by post regularly throughout the year.

As spokesperson Annette has made a number of media releases, and has been interviewed on issues of interest and concern to Just Peace.

Secretary Michael, and Committee member Ross, have produced many first class Flyers, Fact Sheets, Posters, and information pieces, to advertise and promote various activities and events.

The Management Committee is keenly aware of the need to ensure that method, presentation, timeliness, and relevance of contents is of importance to members.

As a result of the ongoing review, the Just Peace website has been renewed, and a Facebook Page has been created. The use of twitter is being tested, and skills are being learnt.

#### Major Events/Activities 1<sup>st</sup> July 2014-30<sup>th</sup> June 2015

- Just Peace 4 Palestine, regular stalls Queen St Mall
- Ipan F35 Fighter Jet Petition, presented to Parliament
- George Georges Scholarship Fund Dinner
- March Australia Rally, Queens Park Brisbane
- Canadian/Palestinian Lawyer, Diana Buttu, part of national tour
- Movie screening BMAC, "The People and the Olive"
- APAN AGM Melbourne
- IDOP – Brisbane Peace Lecture – Professor Larissa Behrent  
St John's Cathedral
- Meeting Qld Ipan affiliates
- Meeting with General Secretary QCU, Ron Monaghan/Ros Mclellan
- Public Forum featuring, Sarah Thompson Executive Director  
Christian Peacemaker Teams, Peter Arndt EO Catholic  
Justice and Peace Commission, Talk on recent visit W Papua
- Palm Sunday Peace for Refugees Rally, Just Peace/Rac
- Sandgate Pieces for Peace Festival
- Anzac Eve Candlelight Peace Vigil Roma St Forum, March to  
Anzac Square for discussions and songs
- Address to the ETU Centenary State Conference
- Submission to Prime Minister Abbott
- Meetings with Terri Butler MP, Senator Claire Moore
- Management Committee heavily involved in meetings, and  
planning and organising Ipan AGM/Conference, in May/June  
(AGM/Conference held Brisbane 8th-9<sup>th</sup> July)

The events/activities listed represent only a brief overview of the matters dealt with during the year to the 30<sup>th</sup> June 2014. There were many meetings, E-mails, letters, phone calls, and other activities, shared by the Committee, not recorded here.

Thanks to Vicki, and Michael for organising, co-ordinating and managing stalls and displays throughout the year.

**Thanks also to those Committee members, and other members, who helped with stalls, and supported the various events.**

### **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 carry out its duties effectively without the encouragement, support, and the assistance of many individuals and organisations.**

**We therefore give public recognition, and express our sincere appreciation to the following;**

- **Senator Claire Moore and her team;**
- **Hon Mark Bailey MP, and his team;**
- **Ron Monaghan, General Secretary QCU, Ros McLennan, Assistant Secretary, and their team;**
- **Peter Simpson, Secretary ETU, and his team;**
- **Union of Australian Women;**
- **Union Choir;**
- **To those organisations, groups, individuals, and members who have given financial assistance, moral support, and their time, throughout the year.**

### **The Year Ahead**

**Each year under this heading we make the following point;**

- **That to remain relevant, and effective, we must continue to review, and strengthen, basic organisational, and operational, processes and systems, such as;**
- **Establish more active Sub-Committees/Groups;**
- **Broaden and strengthen affiliations/networks with organisations/groups, with similar common objectives, at local, national, and international levels;**
- **Identify/initiate/activate community based campaigns/activities, to raise awareness, understanding, and participation in Peace and Social Justice issues;**
- **Consciously target, cultivate, and recruit new members, per medium of Public Forums, Just Peace sponsored rallies/events, information stalls, family and friends;**
- **Maintain a planned programme of addresses to Trade**

**Unions, Branches of Political Parties, Service Clubs,  
Community Groups, other interested groups;**

**Consolidation of existing policies, and development of new  
policies, for inclusion in a Just Peace Policy manual;**

**Prime areas of Government Policy/Non Policy that  
should be challenged and changed; in 2015-2016, and  
beyond;**

**Foreign Affairs (Apan, Ipan)**

**US Alliance, Agressive Militarism, Defence Spending (Ipan,  
Ipbn/Gdams)**

**Environment/Climate Change/Renewable Energy**

**Promotion and protection of Human Rights/Civil  
Liberties (Human Rights Act)**

**War Powers Act that prohibits Australian Troops being  
committed to a war/war zone, without the approval of  
the Australian Parliament**

**Treatment of Asylum Seekers/Refugees**

### **Conclusion**

**At the 2014 AGM members granted the highest award  
possible, that being a Life Membership Award, to our  
President Annette Brownlie, it reads quote;**

**“ In recognition of your outstanding leadership in the  
formation, and the continued development of JustPeace  
Queensland Inc; and your**

**Significant contribution to the advancement of peace and  
social justice at Local, State, and National levels”.**

**Congratulations Annette an honour well deserved.**

**Without the co-operation and hard work of our  
Committee, Beth, Michael, Vicki, Ross, Margid,  
Anita, and Willy we could not have been effective.  
We extend our best wishes and sincere thanks to  
all.**

**As in past years we believe that your Management  
Committee continues to perform at a level that  
ensures Just Peace remains a relevant, credible,  
constructive, and effective peace/anti war, and  
social justice organisation .**

**We remain optermistic, and confident, that with  
your encouragement, support, and active participation,  
Just Peace can make a difference for the better, in  
the years ahead.**

**Yours in Peace**

**( Annette Brownlie )**

**President (Co-Convenor)**

**Just Peace Queensland Inc**

**( Norm Bullen )**

**Vice President (Co-Convenor)**

**Just Peace Queensland In**