

Welcome to the fortnightly **Peace e-Script** of the Medical Association for Prevention of War (MAPW), sent free to our members, supporters and interested members of the public. It's been a particularly busy fortnight, with papers launched on For more events and resources see www.mapw.org.au.

Thanks and welcome to all our new members. A special thanks to those who have generously responded to our recent appeal for donations to our work on war and militarism project. If you're not a current member, you can support our work by re-joining, or by donating, at www.mapw.org.au.

Scroll down for:

MAPW news; MAPW events; Nuclear news: Australia and world news; and more reading and viewing . . .

MAPW headlines

NUCLEAR FAMINE: NEW IPPNW STUDY SHOWS BILLION PEOPLE AT RISK

MAPW's international organisation IPPNW has released a new study showing that nuclear war anywhere in the world, using as few as 100 weapons, would disrupt the global climate and agricultural production so severely that the lives of more than a billion people would be at risk. Agriculture around the world, including in Australia, would be severely affected whatever the bombing location.

** See the front page story (which contains link to the report): at www.mapw.org.au

** Australia Network TV interviewed report author, Dr Ira Helfand, James at ICAN says it's a "fabulous" interview so do have a look: please follow the link below and select the 'nuclear war' tab.

<http://australiannetwork.com/newsline/>

MAPW MILITARISM PROJECT: NEW PAPER ON SENDING AUSTRALIANS TO WAR; AND WAR AND HEALTH

Former Defence Department Secretary Paul Barratt is the guest author in the third in our series on Militarising Australian History. Read or download his paper which argues that the decision to go to war should be made by Parliament rather than the executive government, at www.mapw.org.au . Note the "buttons" on the front page leading to the three papers in this series.

** See the related opinion piece by Paul Barratt, and comments, on

www.abc.net.au/unleashed/3974488.html

** Hear Paul talk with Fran Kelly on RN Breakfast:

www.abc.net.au/radionational/programs/breakfast/sending-australians-to-war/3975696

** Read Jenny Grounds' piece *The Human Cost of War*, on the ABC's The Drum:

<http://www.abc.net.au/unleashed/jenny-grounds-3971312.html>

This work has been funded by donations to MAPW and to our tax-deductible MAPW Peace Fund.

MEDICAL DOCTORS OPPOSE JUNK RADIATION SCIENCE

Many MAPW members responded to the request to add their signatures to a statement calling on uranium mining company Toro Energy to stop promoting radiation junk science. It was released on Tuesday morning through a media release which pointed out the

occupational health risks of encouraging complacency about radiation dangers. Thanks to the 45 doctors who added their names. Read the news story at www.mapw.org.au (it contains the link to the statement, with signatures). The statement has been circulated to politicians, unions and other interested parties - please help to circulate it further!

MAPW events

(See many more events at www.mapw.org.au – email your events for our website listing)

Hobart, Monday 7 May

MAPW LUNCH: MEET THE PRESIDENT

Regular MAPW lunch, 1pm at the Timeless Way cafe in the Jam Factor, Hunter Street. MAPW President Jenny Grounds will update members on our work on the health costs of war, and on the abolition of nuclear weapons. All welcome: queries to tas@mapw.org.au

Melbourne, Tuesday 8 May

MAPW VICTORIAN BRANCH DINNER: AUSTRALIA AND WAR

Author and historian Richard Trembath is co-author of *Witnesses to War*, a book on the history of Australian war journalism and has also written a history of nursing. He will draw on both these in discussing the Australian military tradition.

Paul Barratt is a former Secretary of the Department of Defence. He has just written a paper, *Sending Australians to war*, in MAPW's War and Militarism series and has been prominent in calling for Parliament rather than the executive government to decide on sending troops to war.

** Open and print the flyer and put it up somewhere!

www.mapw.org.au/files/downloads/2012-05-08_flyer_Trembath-Barratt.pdf

** The dinner will be as usual at La Notte, 140 Lygon Street (near Queensberry); \$30 fixed price for a tasty and substantial meal, student members subsidised \$15.00;

** RSVP to Carole: secretary@mapw.org.au or via the office on 9023 1948.

** If you forget all this, it's on our website www.mapw.org.au

Canberra, Saturday 26 May

MUSIC AS PEACE WORK: MAPW FESTIVAL

MAPW's annual musical evening at Kingston Baptist Church Hall features groups and individuals from the Canberra community, who provide great entertainment across several rooms, for a wide range of musical taste. String quartet, brass ensemble, Italian choir, classical piano, ukelele orchestra, puppet show and more! A shared supper is part of the evening. Not to be missed - always a fabulous evening both from the musical and social points of view!

Find more detail, or print some posters to promote it:

www.mapw.org.au/events/mapw-music-festival

Geelong, Saturday 2 June

FUNDRAISING MUSICAL EVENING: DETAILS COMING

Local musicians have offered to play at this MAPW fundraiser. Put it in your diary.

Melbourne, Tuesday 19 June

US FORCES IN AUSTRALIA: SECURITY OR THREAT?

Public meeting. Key speakers will include Professor Richard Tanter who is writing

extensively on this topic, Nic Maclellan who will discuss the effect on our neighbours of this even closer relationship with the US military, Okinawan Australian Maki Yohana, and from the Philippines. MAPW has joined with several other organisations to inform and discuss a campaign around the expanding US military presence in Australia and implications for our region. 6.30pm at Trades Hall. Tim from ICAN has designed a great flyer:

www.mapw.org.au/files/downloads/USforcesflyer.pdf

** MAPW supporter Judy Blyth in WA had this letter printed in the West Australian linking warship visits to the nuclear famine research noted above:

www.mapw.org.au/download/nuclear-warships-and-nuclear-famine

Hiroshima 24-26 August

IPPNW CONGRESS

Bookings are open now for the biennial event of our international organisation, International Physicians for Prevention of Nuclear War. We're looking at the details of scholarships to assist with costs for students.

Nuclear industry: one year since Fukushima

CHERNOBYL REMEMBERED

On the 26th anniversary of the nuclear disaster, the Ukrainian President inaugurated the assembly of a 20,000 tonne containment to cover the destroyed nuclear reactor, while 2000 people protested, demanding more compensation for victims, in the capital Kiev.

www.freep.com/article/20120427/NEWS07/204270435/Chernobyl-nuclear-disaster-Ceremony-protests-mark-26th-anniversary

US TROOPS LEAVE OKINAWA, COME TO AUSTRALIA

This Guardian article notes that the US is taking some troops out of Okinawa where they are massively unpopular. The US they planned to send them to their Pacific colony of Guam, where there have also been major campaigns against this move. Guam will still see an increase, but a smaller one than originally planned. (Victorians please note meeting advertised above: a chance to further discuss reasons for basing more US forces in Australia)

www.guardian.co.uk/world/2012/apr/27/us-marines-out-of-japan

LEARNING TO LOVE INDIA'S NUCLEAR WARHEADS: *THE AUSTRALIAN*

The Australian's 30 April editorial begins by noting that " India's arms build-up, dramatically underlined by its achievement in launching an ICBM capable of carrying nuclear warheads between 5500km and 8000km, will understandably raise concern among those who believe that with hundreds of millions of its people living in abject poverty, the country has got its priorities wrong." The gist of the editorial is an argument that the ability to face off an expanding Chinese military force should be seen in a positive light. Several MAPW spokespersons have replied, suggesting that in view of our new "nuclear winter" evidence (above), there is nothing positive to see about nuclear weapons. We remain hopeful that these important responses will be printed.

www.theaustralian.com.au/news/opinion/indias-nuclear-capable-missile/story-e6frg71x-1226342107068

LONG TERM JAPANESE STUDY CONFIRMS RADIATION-RELATED DEATHS

A new research paper by the Radiation Effects Research Foundation in Japan give the results

of extending a long-term study of atomic bomb survivors for a further six years, until 2003. ,
"The 6 years of additional follow-up since the previous report provide substantially more
information at longer periods after radiation exposure (17% more cancer deaths), especially
among those under age 10 at exposure (58% more deaths)." *Studies of the Mortality of
Atomic Bomb Survivors, Report 14, 1950–2003: An Overview of Cancer and Noncancer
Diseases*

<http://www.rrjournal.org/doi/abs/10.1667/RR2629.1>

MARTIN FERGUSON REPHRASES REASONS FOR NUCLEAR WASTE DUMP

In a letter to MAPW President Jenny Grounds, the Minister for Resources and Energy says
that a national nuclear waste facility is needed primarily for waste arising from the production
of nuclear medicines, not from their use. This is a change from his speech introducing the
relevant legislation in 2010, when the Minister told Parliament that "The bill. . . is aimed at
ensuring that radioactive waste from the production and use of nuclear medicine and other
essential applications is managed properly". We will continue to inform the public and the
Minister, when we believe that the information he is giving out is incorrect.

Australia and world news

GALLIPOLI: DISCUSSING THE MILITARY DISASTER

Martin Flanagan broaches what's become a taboo topic:

www.theage.com.au/opinion/society-and-culture/gallipoli-was-a-military-disaster-lets-discuss-20120427-1xq5g.html

PM SPEECH AT GALLIPOLI: IS TRUTH THE CASUALTY?

The PM's Gallipoli speech-writers appear to have bent the facts to fit their story. Ms Gillard
stated that Historian Peter Stanley has pointed out that the statement that Turkey honoured
Australia's war graves is untrue. In a letter published in the Canberra Times, he points out
that the graves were desecrated in 1916; and that they are maintained by the Commonwealth,
not Turkey. The speech also implies that Australian troops were the main forces fighting the
Turks at Gallipoli. (Both British and French outnumbered Australians, and there was also a
sizeable but often-ignored Indian contingent).

Read a lively debate on this and related issues:

www.canberratimes.com.au/national/letters/truth-in-commemoration-of-anzac-day-is-demanded-20120426-1xo8x.html

PM's speech:

www.canberratimes.com.au/opinion/a-place-shining-with-honour-pm-honours-diggers-turks-and-the-mates-they-left-behind-20120425-1xkok.html#ixzz1t1fqTHhI

PEACE STUDIES CENTRE LEFT OFF ANZAC CENTENARY PLANS

The PM has announced a range of commemorative activities, grants, and displays leading to
the 2015 ANZAC centenary. However the peace studies centre suggested by MAPW and
included in recommendations of the centenary's Advisory Board, is not mentioned in the
media release. MAPW will inquire.

http://minister.dva.gov.au/media_releases/2012/apr/jointcentenary.htm

Action requests

100 DAYS OF SPEAKING OUT

Join activities during the 100 days of action leading up the UN's final negotiating conference for a global Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) in July. Read the Stockholm Peace Research Institute's fact sheet with latest statistics showing a 24% increase in arms transfers in their 5-year review. <http://books.sipri.org/files/FS/SIPRIFS1203.pdf>

** Sign the global petition at www.controlarms.org

** If you are a health professional please sign this petition organised by our international network IPPNW:

<http://armstradetreatymedicalalert.wordpress.com/2011/12/09/med-alert-att/>

Extended reading and viewing

NUCLEAR WEAPONS - THE LIGHTER SIDE

Thanks to the *New Internationalist* for this link to Bernard Carney as heard at the National Folk Festival this weekend. An ode to greenwash - take a minute to enjoy it!

www.myspace.com/bernardcarneymusic/music/songs/green-weapons-49011062

BOOK RECOMMENDED

Drift: the militarisation of US culture. (We are recommending the book - not that you buy it overseas, but it is described here:)

www.bookdepository.co.uk/Drift-Rachel-Maddow/9780307460981?b=-3&t=-20#Fulldescription-20

MAPW thank you list

Thanks this week to Gerry Schultz, Dave Noonan, Michelle Fahy, Bill Williams, James at ICAN, Nat Wasley and Friends of the Earth.

Compiled and edited by Nancy Atkin, for the Medical Association for Prevention of War (Australia). Email comments and contributions to: nancy.atkin@mapw.org.au

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