

MAPW E-NEWS

A round- up of MAPW news in July 2018

Presidents Report

This E-news will reach you as we commemorate the 6 and 9 August Hiroshima and Nagasaki atomic bombings. Apologies that it is too late to notify you of local commemorative events (we'll blame a winter virus). Our best commemorative effort remains in fulfilling the words inscribed in the Hiroshima Peace Park Memorial: *"Let all the souls here rest in peace, for we shall not repeat the evil"*

The atomic bomb anniversaries remind us of what's at stake as we prepare for endless warfare. On 21 July, the Canberra Times printed an [article](#) by writer, activist and interfaith minister Rev Stephanie Dowrick, titled "War – what is it good for?" (different title in the online edition). In the article, Dowrick lists just some of the enormous costs paid by innocent people - people such as refugees - for wars which profit the arms manufacturers. She wrote "Yet in scrambling for solutions to the "refugee problem", too few are contemplating the pervasively deadly "war problem". And Dowrick lists many areas to which Australia could redirect some of our military spending - set to reach \$58 billion by 2025 – which would actually make us safer. First among them is to "stand with the most peaceful nations on earth, rather than the most bellicose".

MAPW remains a vital voice calling for just that. As we reach out to colleagues in all the health professions, please talk about MAPW with any contacts you have who might be interested, or let me know so that I can! I am visiting branches as much as possible and am keen to talk.

And don't forget our national council meeting, to which all members are warmly invited, on the last weekend in August in Melbourne; see below for details. It would be great to see you there.

Dr Sue Wareham
National President

PS Good news just in – New Zealand has now signed and ratified the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons

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MAPW & IPPNW in the news

- **Australia has failed to invest in peace:** Letter by Dr Sue Wareham - Canberra Times, 24 July 2018.

<https://www.canberratimes.com.au/national/act/australia-has-failed-to-invest-in-peace-20180723-p4zt6f.html>

- **Are they in safe hands?:** Letter by Dr Sally Attrill – Hobart Mercury, 17 July 2018.

It is far from reassuring to hear President Trump proclaim that he and Putin control more than 90 per cent of the world's nuclear weapons. These weapons constitute a major hazard to world peace and health. Are they in safe hands? It is time for Australian politicians to reconsider our decision not to sign the new UN Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons.

- **Armed Neutrality for Australia?:** Article By Kathryn Kelly – Pearls & Irritations Blog, 16 July 2018

<https://johnmenadue.com/kathryn-kelly-armed-neutrality-for-australia/>



Calling all cyclists and supporters!

The Nobel Peace Ride from Melbourne to Canberra is coming up on 2-20 September 2018. ICAN is seeking cyclists to join for all or part of the journey. It's a supported ride so you don't need to be highly experienced to get involved. Check out the route, itinerary and everything you need to know [here](#).

Melbourne: Join the first day on bikes or just send ICAN off on foot from the Victorian Parliament House on Sunday 2 September at 9:30am. Sign up [here](#).

Canberra: Join the grand finale ride, march and rally on Thursday 20 September from 11am-1pm (cyclists start at 10am). On the 1 year anniversary of the nuclear ban treaty opening for signature, ICAN is rallying for Australia to sign and ratify it without delay. Spread the word and sign up [here](#)!

Sydney: thanks to our partner organisation WILPF, there will be a bus organised to take you to Canberra for the day on September 20. Stay tuned for details and a discounted ticket to ride.



Australian Living Peace Museum Launched

Launched at the end of July 2018, the Australian Living Peace Museum is an online resource presenting Australian narratives of peace-making, non-violent social change and alternative forms of resistance to war and violence. The Museum aims to foster a culture of peace reflecting the multidisciplinary nature of peace efforts made personally by individuals and by organisations past and present.

The Museum is an online resource; it can be easily accessed at <http://www.livingpeacemuseum.org.au/omeka/>



A still photo from the film "The Face of Jizo" (Image courtesy of The Face of Jizo Partners, 2003)

International Essay Competition

Japanese newspaper The Mainichi is holding a new international essay contest on the theme of the play "The Face of Jizo," penned by the late Hisashi Inoue about the atomic bombing of Hiroshima, for youth around the world. This would be a good education driver for students and young campaigners. Please share this announcement with any you know who may be interested.

"The Face of Jizo" is considered a theatrical masterpiece of postwar Japan. After reading the accounts of several hundred atomic bomb survivors, or hibakusha, Inoue decided to write the play not as a tragedy, but as a comedy, in order to convey the horror of the atomic bomb to as many people as possible.

The full script of the four-act play will be made available on The Mainichi website from 6

Aug through Oct. 31. 2018.

https://mainichi.jp/english/the_face_of_jizo/

The essays on the play must be no more than 1,000 words in English, and from readers between the ages of 13 and 23. The essays can be submitted to jizo@mainichi.co.jp, and the deadline is Oct. 31, 2018.

More details, including words of support from ICAN, can be found here.

<https://mainichi.jp/english/articles/20180719/p2a/00m/0na/025000c>

MAPW Joins Call on Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems

MAPW has endorsed a [global pledge for action](#) for strong laws against Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems, sometimes known as killer robots.

The pledge states in part:

“Artificial intelligence (AI) is poised to play an increasing role in military systems. There is an urgent opportunity and necessity for citizens, policymakers, and leaders to distinguish between acceptable and unacceptable uses of AI.

In this light, we the undersigned agree that the decision to take a human life should never be delegated to a machine. There is a moral component to this position, that we should not allow machines to make life-taking decisions for which others – or nobody – will be culpable. There is also a powerful pragmatic argument: lethal autonomous weapons, selecting and engaging targets without human intervention, would be dangerously destabilizing for every country and individual.....

We, the undersigned, call upon governments and government leaders to create a future with strong international norms, regulations and laws against lethal autonomous weapons. These currently being absent, we opt to hold ourselves to a high standard: we will neither participate in nor support the development, manufacture, trade, or use of lethal autonomous weapons. We ask that technology companies and organizations, as well as leaders, policymakers, and other individuals, join us in this pledge.”

The full text of the pledge, and facility for individuals and organisations to sign, can be found here: <https://futureoflife.org/lethal-autonomous-weapons-pledge/?submitted=1#confirmation>

Please Sign Up to Abolish Nuclear Weapons

Thank you to everyone who has already signed the Australian health care professionals' statement calling on the government to support the nuclear weapons ban treaty.

If you haven't already signed, please do so! And please ask any health care colleagues to sign too. You could:

- Print some copies and take them to work and elsewhere.

- Refer colleagues to our website <https://www.mapw.org.au/news/please-support-our-call-for-australia-to-sign-the-nuclear-weapons-ban-treaty/>

This is an excellent way of introducing MAPW to colleagues and giving people a chance to contribute to our work. You can download a copy of the statement [here](#).

If you represent an organisation involved in health care, we urge your organisation to sign a similar statement which you can find [here](#).

Have you renewed your MAPW membership for 2018/19?

MAPW relies completely on the support we receive from you, our members and supporters. Thank you to all our members who have already renewed their membership. If you haven't done so already, please renew today by clicking [here](#).

What's On

MAPW Annual General Meeting Notice

Notice to Members of MAPW Annual General Meeting

The MAPW AGM for 2018 will take place on **Sunday 26 August 2018 at 9.30 am**, in the Archive Room, Victoria Trades Hall, 54 Victoria Street, Carlton, VIC, 3054.

All members of MAPW are invited to attend.

The AGM agenda will address the following items:

- 1.Approval of Minutes of 2017 AGM
- 2.Receipt of the Presidents Report for 2017/18
- 3.Any other business

There will not be elections for office, as they are held every two years and are not due this year.

If you wish to attend, please rsvp to Phyllis Campbell-McRae, Executive Officer, MAPW by email at eo@mapw.org.au or by calling the MAPW National Office on 03 9023 1958.

The Financial Statements for 2017/18 will not be considered at this meeting. The AGM will reconvene at a later date to review and approve them. Members will receive 21 days' notice of the reconvened meeting.

The AGM will be held during the course of the MAPW annual National Council meeting, which will be held from Friday evening 24 August until lunchtime on Sunday 26 August. All members are warmly invited to join us for the full weekend or any part of it to help plan MAPW's activities.

MAPW Annual National Council Meeting

Members Day Saturday 25 August 2018

Venue: Archive Room, Trades Hall Council (Victoria Street Entrance), 54 Victoria Street, Carlton, Vic.

All members are invited to the MAPW National Council Meeting members' day, to meet and talk with others from around Australia who are working for a more peaceful and nuclear-free future. "Active" and "inactive" members are all very welcome!

Members are also warmly invited to take part in National Council discussions and planning, on Sunday morning 26 August. The AGM will take part at 9.30 am.

If you would like to attend or know more, please email eo@mapw.org.au or phone the office on 03 9023 1958, so we can send you the agenda when it is finalised.

People's Health Assembly, Bangladesh, November 2018, and workshop in September in Canberra

Many MAPW members and supporters will be interested in the following events.

In November this year, the People's Health Movement (PHM) will be holding its fourth global People's Health Assembly (PHA4) in Savar, Bangladesh. This will be a wonderful opportunity for health activists from many different countries, backgrounds and issues to come together, share experiences, strategise and re-launch. Issues to be addressed will include the political and economic landscape of development and health, social and physical environments which destroy or promote health, and other key areas of global health.

In September, as part of the lead up to PHA4, the People's Health Movement in Australia (PHM Oz), with the Political Economy of Health Special Interest Group of PHAA (PEH SIG) and the Southgate Institute at Flinders University, are organising a workshop, which will be held on Thursday 13 and Friday 14 September in Canberra (see [flyer here](#)). To register for the workshop please visit the [registration page](#).

More background on PHA4 is [here](#). More about PHM generally [here](#)

AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

What: NOBEL PEACE RALLY & MARCH TO PARLIAMENT HOUSE

When: Thursday 20th September, 2018 at 11am

Where: Canberra Peace Bell beside the lake near Canberra Nara Peace Park, ACT
For more information, Click [here](#).

Welcome the Nobel Peace Ride to Canberra and join the call for Australia to sign the U.N. Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons.

Local cyclists are invited to join the final 5km "bridge to bridge" cycling leg at 10 am. Everyone else is invited to join the march and rally from the Canberra Peace Bell to Parliament House at 11 am.

NEW SOUTH WALES

What: **It's Time to Ban the Bomb – Rally & March**
When: Saturday 11 August 2018 at 11.00am
Where: Rally at Sydney Town Hall Square then march at 12.30 pm to Hyde Park.
Inquiries: Radhika – 9749 0409
Leaflet: Download the leaflet [here](#).

The Australian government should sign the 2017 UN Nuclear Weapons Ban Treaty

Speakers: Dr Joseph Gerson and Prof Tilman Ruff

Dr Joseph Gerson has served the American Friends Service committee since 1976. His recent work has focused on education and mobilization to end the US war and occupation in Iraq, advancing the struggle for nuclear weapons abolition, establishing the global "No Bases Network", and peaceful resolution of the US-DPRK and US-Iran nuclear confrontations.

Professor Tilman Ruff is an infectious diseases and public health physician. He is a co-founder of the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN) which was awarded the 2017 Nobel Peace Prize. He is Associate Professor at the University of Melbourne, and is International Medical Advisor to Australian Red Cross.

Authorised by Hiroshima Day Committee, PO Box K257, Haymarket NSW 1240

TASMANIA

What: **Lunch meeting of the MAPW Tasmania Branch**
When: Tuesday 7th August 2018, at 1pm
Where: Members Room, Tasmanian Museum & Art Gallery, Dunn Place, Hobart TAS 7000

If you would like more information please contact: Sally Attrill sattrill@bigpond.com

VICTORIA

What: **ICAN NOBEL PEACE RIDE – Melbourne send off**
When: Sunday 2 September, 2018 at 9.30am
Where: Victorian Parliament House, Spring Street, Melbourne
For more information click [here](#)

Join the call for Australia to sign the U.N. Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons - Got a bike? Join the first leg through Melbourne. For more information and registration go to: www.icanw.org/au/

Thank you to all our contributors for sharing their articles and reports with MAPW. If you would like to write an article for enews or have information about events in your area you think would be of interest to MAPW members, please email Phyllis at eo@mapw.org.au