

**JUST PEACE QUEENSLAND INC – 10TH ANNUAL REPORT
FOR THE YEAR 1ST JULY 2010 TO 30TH JUNE 2011 PRESENTED TO
THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD AT 2ND FLOOR,
TLC BUILDING, 16 PEEL STREET SOUTH BRISBANE,
7PM TUESDAY 8TH NOVEMBER 2011**

Introduction

It is disappointing to report in this our 10th year of existence, that little has changed for the better. Despite the combined efforts throughout the world of organisations such as ours, armed conflict and aggressive militarism has flourished.

Unfortunately Australia is in the vanguard of this un-acceptable trend, with many billions of dollars, countless Australian lives, and our sovereign independence being expended and sacrificed, on the altar of the un-equal US Alliance, which is soon to become an unholy and absolute allegiance.

The intensity and brutality of the Afghanistan war continues unabated, with 32 Australians now dead, and over 200 hundred physically wounded, with many thousands more mentally scarred for life.

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.

To our everlasting shame the Australian Government has chosen to pay lip service to the “two state” solution, however it is obvious that it is towing the US/Israeli line by not declaring its support for recognition by the UN of Palestinian Statehood.

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 continued 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 acts of inhumanity that we in Just Peace oppose.

Although various circumstances have depleted the Management Committees capacity to always maintain activities at levels achieved in the past. 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 have been maintained at around 100 this year which is consistent with past years, and the incoming Committee will strive to build on that number in 11/12.

Finances

Through the efforts of Treasurer Beth the financial position remains sound for the financial year ending 30th June 2011, and we commend her on that achievement.

Notwithstanding significant increased costs for postage, and an overall increase in other costs, the Committee is confident that with prudent management our financial position will be maintained in the 2011-12 financial year.

Sub Committees/Groups

It is pleasing to report that our sub-committee “Just Peace for Palestine”, has been very active in the organisation and conduct of effective campaigns and events around the Palestine/Israel conflict, and it is evident that its commitment, enthusiasm, and efforts in pursuit of that cause will continue in 2011-12.

Affiliations – Networks

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

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

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

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, AMWU, QNU, through their State Secretaries Peter Simpson, Andrew Dettmer, and Beth Mohle.

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 WILPF, MAPW, and other groups and kindred organisations that share similar aims and objectives as Just Peace.

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.

It is also acknowledged that Frances, Vicki, and Michael, have been active and effective networkers, in support of Annette's efforts in this area.

Communications

Editor Adrian Pollock has produced two 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 (38) editions of “The Peace Issue”, without the financial support, and practical physical assistance provided by our valued member 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.

To Stephanie and Alastair Campion who continue to do a great job in keeping members informed on current events per medium of the E-Bulletin/Breaking News, and in the development and maintenance of our first class website we say thanks, your 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 2010/2011

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;

- Australia Pacific Earth Charter + 10 Festival – Peace & Sustainability Fair
- 5th Youth Peace Parliament
- Awareness Campaign Palestine/Israel Conflict in partnership with Trade Unions
- Attendance National Boycott Divestment and Sanctions Conference Melbourne
- 60 Letters to State and Federal politicians re US Bases on Australian soil
- 55 Letters to Federal politicians seeking Defence Force Budget Cuts
- Submission to the Public Environment Report on Joint Military Training Exercises at Shoalwater Bay
- Protest to the ABC re their ban on the showing of film “Hope in a Slingshot”

- Submission to the National Committee on Anzac Centenary Celebrations
- Further representations to Government requesting withdrawal from Afghanistan
- Event King George Square focussing on Global Day of Action on Military Spending
- Article on plight of Palestinians, published in the Qld Nurses Journal
- Event in support of Mothers and Grandmothers of Japan following the Earthquake, Tsunami, and Nuclear Power disaster, and delivery of a statement to the Japanese Consul in Brisbane
- Participation in Nuclear Free Alliance seminar Saturday 16th April
- Public Forum, “From Bahrain to Libya - the Struggle for Peace and Democracy”
- Candlelight Vigil in support of the Gaza Freedom Flotilla

In addition to those activities listed above Just Peace generated prolific written representations to Federal and State Members of Parliament, and to organisations and individuals on matters of concern to our organisation. (our sincere thanks to Secretary Frances for her efforts in that field)

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 was 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

The Committee of Management has met at least once a month in the past year.

There were a limited number of Public Forums held and every effort will be made to organise more in 2011-12, around issues of interest and concern to members.

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, AMWU, QNU, and State Secretaries Peter Simpson, Andrew Dettmer, and Beth Mohle
- The Union Choir
- Kindred Organisations, and Individuals, who have supported Just Peace Events/Activities throughout the year
- Just Peace for Palestine sub-committee, and members who have donated money and who have assisted in various ways throughout the year.

Activities Since 30th June

Since the end of the Financial Year the Committee of Management has been involved in a number of core issues of concern to Just Peace;

- Meetings have been held with Ron Monaghan QCU, Beth Mohle QNU, Senator Claire Moore, Senator Larissa Waters, on US Bases, Palestine's application to UN for recognition as a State
- Candlelight Vigil to express opposition to the 2011 Talisman Sabre exercises
- Support Hiroshima Day commemorations
- Hosted Inoue Miwako as guest speaker at JP Meeting, she is the grand-daughter

- of survivors of the Nagasaki bombing
- Conducted stalls over 5-6 weeks in City, to collect signatures on Petitions calling on the Australian Government to vote “YES” for Palestines bid for Statehood
- Conducted awareness vigils on same subject, adjacent to Queens Park, and the Parliamentary Precinct
- Meeting with Federal Minister for Defence Materiel J Clare in conjunction with attendance at Yeronga Community Cabinet meeting
- Just Peace delegation, as a part of 400 attending the Community Cabinet was able to ask 3 questions on issues which are the subject of ongoing representations
- Presentation to Brisbane Unitarians on history of Just Peace
- Public Forum with keynote speaker Miko Peled, son of an Israeli General
- 2 Skype/Phone hook-ups with Cluster Munition Coalition Australia
- Plan and organise our successful 10th Anniversary Dinner, held on 28th October

The Year Ahead

As in past years the incoming Committee of Management, and the membership as a whole will be confronted with major complex challenges, both old and new. When identifying priorities for action in 2011-12, some of the issues to be addressed are;

Operations

- Establish and maintain active Sub-Committees/Groups
- Encourage greater Member participation in activities/campaigns
- Identify and activate community based activities
- Strengthen affiliations/links with organisations/groups with similar common interests

Major Campaigns

- Withdrawal of troops from Afghanistan
- Statehood for Palestine – Resolution Palestine/Israeli Conflict
- Prevention and removal US Military Bases/Training Facilities (Force Posture Review)
- Reduction domestic/global military budgets/spending
- Prevention of storage of Cluster Munitions in Australia, and their use globally
- Campaign against extension of Uranium Mining/Nuclear Power Stations/Nuclear Submarines and weapons
- Government Policies
 - Foreign Affairs
 - Defence/Attack Force
 - Asylum Seekers
 - Environmental
 - Human Rights Acts

Congratulations

President/Co-Convenor Annette was the recipient of a Women's International League For Peace and Freedom , 2011 Peace Women Award.

No doubt all members will join in congratulating Annette on receiving the award, and agree that there could not be a more deserving recipient.

Conclusion

Our thanks to Management Committee Members, Beth, Frances, Vicki, Michael, and Nicole for their contribution on behalf of Members, and the 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. This is the foundation on which Just Peace has built its reputation and credibility over the last 10 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 Norm Bullen
President (Co-Convenor) Vice President (Co-Convenor)
Just Peace Queensland Inc Just Peace Queensland Inc
8th November 2011 8th November 2011