



Takver



Against Terrorism, Against War: Melbourne Protests for Peace

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Dedication: For my father who saw the devastation of nuclear war inflicted upon the people of Hiroshima, Japan by the U.S.A in 1945. And to the millions of people who marched against war in 2003 and continue to campaign against war.

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Time to Make a Stand Against Warmongering

It is time to make a stand against the warmongering of the greatest rogue state in the world, the United States of America. The U.S. has the largest stockpiles of weapons of mass destruction of any nation, including nuclear, biological and chemical weapons. Its military industrial complex sells ingredients and technology for the production of weapons of mass production to numerous countries, including in the past to Iraq. The government of the United States refuses to sign or abide by international agreements including:

- abandoning the Kyoto protocol on global warming
- Scrapping the Anti-Ballistic Missile (ABM) treaty
- the U.S. Senate refused to ratify the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty
- Walking away from enforcement of the 1972 treaty prohibiting biological weapons.
- Only two countries in the world have refused to sign the Convention on the Rights of the Child -- Somalia and the United States.
- refused to sign the convention banning anti-personnel landmines.
- Voting against the establishment of the International Criminal Court, along with China, Israel, Libya, Iraq.

Source: TomPaine.common sense Journal

Declassified Documents Prove: US planned and executed genocidal acts against the Iraqi people in 1991 by targeting water treatment plants which has resulted in more than half a million civilian deaths.

CIA analyst Stephen Pelletiere (retired professor at the Army War College), has exposed the Bush Cabal's motives and plans. Pelletiere was a senior analyst with the CIA for Iraq and Iran. He confirms that this war is about the control of oil, and that Iraq cannot be considered a military threat. He also considers that the Kurds of Halabja, in March 1988, were civilian casualties arising from battles in which both Iran and Iraq used chemical weapons.

Prime Minister John Howard has taken Australia to war against a nation posing no security threat. Who will profit from this war? The U.S. based Oil companies, the arms manufacturers, and reconstruction companies.

John Howard said "have your beef with the Government, have your beef with me, do not have your beef with the men and women of the Australian Defence Force", and indeed that is the case. I say bring the troops home to avoid being killed, to avoid ingesting depleted uranium, a weapon of mass destruction which the US forces used, to avoid being indicted for crimes against humanity. And when our military forces do come home, I support adequate compensation and recognition of their medical conditions from Veterans Affairs.

In all, between 800,000 and one million Australians marched to stop the war on Iraq on the weekend of 14-16 February. Opinion polls continue to show a large majority opposed to Australia's military involvement without in Iraq and Afghanistan. In fact our presence in these two war zones has made Australia a military target for terrorists.

Most people are aware of the nature of Saddam Hussein's brutal regime, but questioned whether that was enough grounds to justify a military invasion and occupation. There are many countries with brutal military regimes, none of which are being proposed for invasion and occupation. Invasion and occupation inflicts massive casualties on the civilian population. While Australia has been quick to support the USA in Iraq, our country has detained Iraqi refugees fleeing the war zone.

On the question of biological and chemical weapons of mass destruction, the US government sold Anthrax spores and base chemicals to the Iraq regime in the 1980s. If it is good enough to demand that Iraq's chemical and biological weapons be inspected and destroyed, surely it is good enough for the same to occur with other countries, starting with the USA. It was Anthrax from its own stockpiles that was sent anonymously by post after September 11 2001, yet we do not see any rigid accountability of those stockpiles:

In the summer of 2001, the United States walked out of another international conference, this one on how to enforce the 1972 treaty prohibiting biological weapons. Everybody agreed there needed to be stronger inspections of potential sites where germ weapons could be produced -- what Washington is always accusing Iraq of hiding. But this time it wasn't the Iraqis, it was us -- the U.S. delegation walked out because they refused to accept international inspections of American production facilities which the United States demanded for everyone else.

Source: TomPaine.common sense Journal

The Bush government is full of hypocrisy. Just look at how the USA has used its veto on the Security Council in the last 30 years.

Iraq's oil fields are the second largest known reserves in the world. The war on Iraq is about oil and profits. George Bush and Cheney, and other cabinet members have backgrounds in the oil industry. But it is also ideologically driven. Many of them are also members of a right wing Think Tank called The Project for the New American Century. The invasion of Iraq is the first stage for American control of the Iraq oil fields and literally, world domination under a new socio-economic Pax Americana:

The Project for the New American Century seeks to establish what they

call 'Pax Americana' across the globe. Essentially, their goal is to transform America, the sole remaining superpower, into a planetary empire by force of arms. A report released by PNAC in September of 2000 entitled 'Re-building America's Defenses' codifies this plan, which requires a massive increase in defence spending and the fighting of several major theatre wars in order to establish American dominance. The first has been achieved in Bush's new budget plan, which calls for the exact dollar amount to be spent on defence that was requested by PNAC in 2000. Arrangements are underway for the fighting of the wars.

Source: Blood Money by William Rivers Pitt - 27 February 2003 - Information Clearing House.

That the Australian Government is an accomplice in this immoral and avaricious invasion and occupation will come home to haunt us. The true Axis of evil are the Governments of the USA, Britain and Australia, who are imposing nothing less than corporate fascism on a world scale.

The State terrorism of Bush, Blair, and Howard must all be rejected. Professor Brian Martin from Wollongong put forward A nonviolent plan to oust Saddam. He has written extensively on peace, war and nonviolence.

We must continue to say an emphatic NO TO WAR. But with the intransigence of our Governments, it means doing more than signing another petition, attending another rally, although these are necessary to do. It needs to be made clear that the profits of war will no longer be tolerated. No Business as Usual.

When the invasion and occupation of Iraq started in March 2003 there were thousands of direct actions across the globe. These included:

- Boycotts of products by those corporations which are part of the military industrial complex, or the oil companies that are backing George Bush.
- Encouraging Defence force personnel to refuse to go, and support those who make this decision.
- Civil disobedience. In Italy people blockaded trains transporting equipment to US bases in Italy. In Ireland protests, civil disobedient ploughshares actions caused damage to military aircraft, have effectively stopped the use of Shannon Airport as a major refuelling stop for military aircraft. The Greenpeace vessel, Rainbow Warrior, blockaded a UK military port for 6 days, before being seized.
- Financial districts were closed down due to protests.

The Pitstop ploughshares action in Ireland not only severely damaged a US Navy warplane, but when the protestors finally came to trial in July 2006, a jury agreed with their defence that they had a lawful excuse to damage the plane in order to stop it from being part of a system that was directly involved in killing civilians in Iraq.

Fighting an Immoral War

As the crescendo against the impending war in Iraq reaches fever pitch, the cry has gone out to leave the armed forces alone. The spectre of the treatment many Australian ex-servicemen and women received on their return home from Vietnam is raised again and again. People conveniently forget that successive Australian governments not individuals were responsible for the abysmal treatment many Vietnam veterans received.

Australian servicemen and women in the Middle East know they are participating in a war that does not have public support. They know that when and if they return home, their participation will be resented by many people. They also know that the treatment and support they and their dependants will receive from government when they return back to Australia will be inadequate to meet their needs. Faced with these facts they may be thinking about their participation in the war.

Refusal to participate in a war by a professional soldier is a very serious offence. At the very least, they will be ostracised and dishonourably discharged from the armed forces, at the worst they would have to face a military court and spend years in a military prison. The pressures they are faced with are immense. Irrespective of the years of military training they have undergone, rapidly changing events will force them to think about the extent of their participation in the upcoming war.

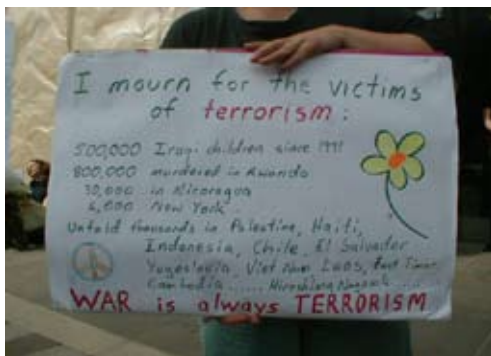
Governments make decisions about participation in a war, individual soldiers carry out those decisions. Whether a war occurs depends on whether soldiers obey orders. The Nuremberg Trials clearly stated that individuals not the State, carry the ultimate responsibility for the atrocities that are carried out in a State's name. Following orders is not an acceptable excuse. A soldier's duty to humanity far outweighs any responsibility to their unit, military commanders or government. Faced with these competing pressures, it's possible that some members of the Australian armed forces may refuse to fight in the upcoming war. Those that are thinking about making that decision need to be supported by those of us who oppose the war.

*Comment by Dr Joe Toscano
Anarchist Age Weekly Review
Number 538 17th March - 23rd March 2003*

The Emergence of a 21st Century Peace Movement

The crashing of planes into the World Trade Centre in New York, and the Pentagon in Washington, on September 11, 2001 is to be condemned as a crime against humanity. The perpetrators of this horror should be pursued and brought to justice through the United Nations and under international law.

Instead we see the USA Government intent on vengeance, and launching a sustained attack on one of the most impoverished and war torn countries - Afghanistan. The war on Afghanistan is an abrogation of international law and justice and is clearly illegal. The Howard Liberal / National Party Coalition Government committed Australia to fully support, politically and militarily, the USA's act of vengeance outside of international law. The Labor Party opposition fully supports the Government on this issue. For International legal issues



read what the Australian Section of the International Commission of Jurists have to say on the Appropriate Response of the UN to the Attacks on the USA.

Meanwhile the 'War on Terrorism' is being used as an excuse to introduce draconian laws which threaten democratic rights in the USA, UK, Canada, and in Australia and many other countries. Members of the Australian Legal profession are concerned with the foreshadowed anti-terrorist legislation. Some suggest Conscription in Australia is a real possibility. There are many arguments being put forward that Bush and executive members of the USA administration and the CIA were complicit to varying degrees in the terrorist actions on September 11.

Now it seems the USA is about to imitate the hardline stance of Australia of imprisoning refugees in a concentration camp outside the continental USA. There was initially speculation regarding the island of Tinian near Guam to hold enemies of the new world order, but the USA settled on using their naval base of Guantanamo Bay on Cuba.

Initial Melbourne Peace Protests 2001

On Sunday 16 September a Melbourne Peace Vigil was held in the Melbourne City Square. The vigil was a symbol of mourning for the deaths caused by US Foreign Policy, and a protest against the declaration of war by President Bush. Retaliatory Violence will only lead to more civilian deaths. 'Collateral Damage' = civilian murder.



Another vigil was held on Sunday 23 September. Australia was witnessing the historic birth of a new peace movement, protesting against the Bush-Howard plan to devastate the women and children of Afghanistan. The corporate news media unfairly limited their coverage of this peace movement, although they gave heaps of coverage to the Bush-Howard war preparations.

On Sunday 30 September thousands rallied for Peace. About 3,000 people rallied for peace in the City Square. A new peace movement had emerged in Melbourne.



A lively and colourful rally against war and racism was held in Melbourne's City Square at 5pm on Wednesday 3 October by the O3 Alliance. The rally was covered on Channel 7 and 9 news at 6pm but it was ignored by Channel 2 at 7pm.

On Monday 8 October Melbourne peace activists responded to the Bombing of Afghanistan with a Peace Rally. At short notice, about 1,000

people rallied in the Melbourne City Square at 5pm and marched for peace and against the violence and terrorism of war, sitting down at various city intersections for a few minutes. See photos of the crowd and banners.

Over a thousand people rallied at the Arts Centre in Melbourne on Saturday 13 October at Stop Star Wars Melbourne Rally for Peace, to hear speakers, then a march on the U.S. Consulate in St Kilda Road. Similar rallies took place in Syd-

ney, Perth and Adelaide today. The march protested the militarisation of space and called for an end to war against Afghanistan.

On Sunday 14 October over 500 protested the American war on Afghanistan. 500 people assembled on parliament steps in Melbourne. The rally was organised by a coalition of women's organisations supporting Muslim women and refugees and calling for an end to the War.



On Saturday 20 October there was a Rally Against the War in the suburb of Richmond. Activists set up a microphone and amplifier and for an hour, activists from various groups set up literature tables and addressed the shoppers and handed out leaflets. The speakers included two candidates for the local electorate in the forthcoming federal election - Pamela Curr (from the Greens) and Stephen Jolly (from the Socialist Party). The sitting Member of Parliament for that area --Lindsay Tanner (A.L.P.) - was also there (with an A.L.P. table) when the anti-war meeting began but he quickly absented himself from the scene as the speakers started

their anti-war talk. \$40 was collected for the Peace Vigil.

On Sunday 21 October an ANSWER Stop War Rally was held. 500 people listened to speakers in the Melbourne City Square from 2pm. Speakers included Alison Thorne from the Socialist Alliance and Leigh Hubbard, Secretary of Melbourne Trades Hall Council. People then marched up to the Peace Embassy, a small tent city vigil set up on the lawns of the State Library, where further speakers and music were heard.



A Vigil for Peace operated from 14 October to 2 November - 24 hours a day 7 days a week at the State Library Lawns, Swanston and Latrobe streets, Opposite Melbourne Central Station. Following an agreement made with the library administration, the protesters won the right to operate an information tent on the lawns between 9am and 9pm daily.

On Sunday 4 November ANSWER (Act Now Stop War End Racism) held a Stop War Rally. About 800 people rallied for peace and to stop the war, in the Melbourne City Square. Several hundred had rallied with the Refugee Action Collective at Southbank against the treatment of refugees and had marched to join the

anti-war rally, where they were addressed by several speakers. The rally then marched on Liberal Party Headquarters, then to the lawns of the State Library for music and entertainment. Similar demonstrations occurred in Perth, Sydney, Adelaide and Brisbane.

On Friday 9 November a Liberate the commons Party and Protest said "No to the WTO: No to the War Machine: No to the Economy of Violence." About 200 people took part in a protest to liberate the commons, and claimed a space in Swanston St to set up a Peace Shop.



Sunday On 11 November - Remembrance Day - a Peace Vigil occurred at the Shrine of Remembrance. It was a silent protest to remember the dead of all war. The ABC reported, "Four anti-war protesters, braved cold and wet conditions to attend the ceremony."

Act Now Stop War End Racism and National Union Students conducted a National Student & Community Conference at Melbourne Uni Student Union on Sunday/Monday 2-3 December 9am - 5pm.

Sunday 9 December 12 noon - Human Rights Day - Protest against the War
Anti-war activists demonstrate around Australia. Thousands of anti-war protesters took part in rallies across Australia today to mark International Human Rights Day and to plead for peace in Afghanistan. In Melbourne several hundred people rallied at the City Square, before marching to a Human Rights Day Concert in the Treasury Gardens.



Mounting concern over impending Invasion of Iraq

By 2002 tens of thousands of people were participating in peace protests in Melbourne co-ordinated by the Victorian Peace Network. This was a broad based community coalition, which included the Victorian Council of Churches, Victorian Trades Hall Council, Victorian Council of Social Services, Australian Arabic Council, Islamic Council of Victoria, Australian Jewish Democratic Society, National Union of Students and the Federation of Community Legal Centres, and many smaller socialist and community groups.

45,000 March against war in Melbourne - October 13, 2002

Sunday October 13, 2002: Melbourne witnessed the largest demonstration against the proposed war on Iraq to date on Sunday. Up to 45,000 people marched according to organisers. Coordinated by the Victorian Peace Network, a coalition of religious, union, legal, student and other groups, the demonstration marched from the State Library to Treasury gardens. Protesters chanted "no blood for oil", others had placards reading "regime change begins at home".



Speakers condemned the Israeli occupation of Palestine with Katerina Lecchi of the Victorian Peace Network, stating "if we want to see justice and peace in the Middle East we should start with Israel's continued occupation of the West Bank and Gaza in defiance of UN resolutions." Leigh Hubbard of Victorian Trades Hall Council, said, "this attack will be a slaughter and a war crime, regardless of whether or not it has UN backing."

A huge rally filled the streets of Melbourne today protesting Australian involvement in the planned attack on Iraq. An estimated crowd of 45,000 people marched from the State Library to the Treasury gardens chanting "No war for oil" and "Don't attack Iraq." Speakers expressed their opposition to political violence and sympathy for the victims of the attacks in Bali, which reinforces the need for a different approach to conflict than further violence and war.

The diverse range of Victorians who attended expressed strong opposition to any attack regardless of the decision of the UN Security Council in the coming weeks, calling on the ALP to strongly oppose Australian involvement.

Leigh Hubbard, Secretary, Victorian Trades Hall Council, said, “this attack will be a slaughter and a war crime, regardless of whether or not it has UN backing.”

Prominent actor Annie Phelan led the gathering in a “pledge of resistance” to Australian involvement. “We believe that as people living in Australia it is our responsibility to resist the injustices done by our government, in our names. Not in our name will you wage unjustified wars there can be no more deaths, no more transfusions of blood for oil? We pledge resistance ? We pledge to make common cause with the people of the world to bring about justice, freedom and peace. (See below for full statement).

Maureen Postma, Victorian Council of Churches, speaking on behalf of all faith communities said, “we want justice and peace for all, this war is immoral and people of faith are opposed. Katerina Lecchi, Victorian Peace Network, said “if we want to see justice and peace in the Middle East we should start with Israel’s continued occupation of the West Bank and Gaza in defiance of UN resolutions.”

Damien Lawson, Victorian Peace Network, said today “This is just the beginning, in the coming weeks and months there will be a multitude of actions, meetings and protests against the war. We will be joining with networks in other states to build a broad national movement against an attack on Iraq.”

The rally and march was called by a growing coalition of organisations which includes: Victorian Council of Churches, Victorian Trades Hall Council, Victorian Council of Social Services, Australian Arabic Council, Islamic Council of Victoria, Australian Jewish Democratic Society, National Union of Students and the Federation of Community Legal Centres.



Thousands Rally Against War - December 1, 2002

On December 1, 2002 thousands of people around Australia protested against the proposed war with Iraq. 15,000 rallied in both Melbourne and Sydney, 1,500 in Adelaide and thousands more in Canberra, Darwin, Taree, Brisbane, Launceston, Ipswich, Alice Springs, Perth and Hobart.

The rallies were part of a national weekend of action against war called by peace networks made up of union, student, environment, community and religious groups "concerned that the United States government intends to attack Iraq regardless of the results of UN weapons inspections" and arguing that "an attack on Iraq will mean the death of hundreds of thousands of people and will not contribute to peace or security in the Middle East."

The Australian government said it will commit SAS troops to any war on Iraq, is talking up the prospect of a "war levy" and is also advocating pre-emptive strikes with Prime Minister John Howard arguing that international law should be changed to allow nations to strike pre-emptively against terrorists. His comments sparked immediate outrage from governments across Asia.

Huge Peaceful Peace Rally Attracts Big Publicity

by Steven Stevenson (republished from Melbourne Indymedia report)

Reported fairly accurately by major media, considering. After lengthy self-congratulation for rising early enough on a Sunday to attend the Rally For Peace, I got there a little late, and speeches were already in progress. The crowd was huge, some thousands of people. Channel 7 later dubiously estimated "a crowd of 2,000 doubling in size as it attracted the attention of afternoon shoppers." Two thousand shoppers spontaneously joined a protest march? Nice thought. A few fellow late risers no doubt joined it during. Both Channel 9 and The Age estimated attendance at 10,000. The real figure is probably in the middle. In any case we're talking a lot of concerned voters.

The Snuff Puppets were also in attendance. The march proceeded down Swanston St, with banners and placards held high. The Victorian Peace Network, which organized the rally, includes representatives from over 40 organizations, a diverse mix of religious groups, socialists, unionists, students, anti-war groups, and others, all of whom attended en masse. Of course, many demonstrators were unaffiliated peace fans. Ralliers included lots of family types, as well as unionists and experienced protesters. Channel 9 stated "churches, unions, social groups and ordinary Australians [were] joining the call to end plans for war." Note that by their definition churchgoers and unionists are not 'normal' Australians - meaning they're more enlightened than the 'great unwashed'? Not their intention I think.

By 'social groups' I suspect Channel 9 meant socialists; but the latter is a complicated word offensive to the middle classes and better off not spoken during a family news program. At the corner of Collins St, a group humorously posed as a line of Big Brother-type police (with guns). As the real police escort approached, the cutout police jumped forward a step and yelled 'Hut!' in unison. The march continued, proceeding up Collins St without violent incident. Protesters then gathered at Treasury Gardens to listen to some more speeches followed by acoustic music. Further testimony was related to otherwise relaxed marchers of the reality of the evil, which is war. Very important to hear, I think, for those like myself who have not personally experienced war, so we are inspired to work extra hard to ensure it doesn't happen here. One speaker encouraged everyone to write letters to the likes of Bush and Howard.

We can expect more, similar consciousness-raising protests before long, I guess after the Christmas holidays due to the huge amount of preparation involved. Presumably Channel 9 got this side of it wrong (again) when they stated "Organizers said... they're planning more protests around the country *and the world* over the next few weeks." Maybe the same 'worldwide socialist conspiracy' which organizes and attends all of the world's anti-globalisation protests? But 9 did get it right about the rally "show[ing] a growing tide of opposition to any war." Large peaceful protests of this size can only be ignored at government's peril.

Protests In Melbourne & Victoria Against War

Monday January 20, 2003. Solidarity actions with global protests against war were held over the weekend in Victoria. A vigil outside the US consulate brought 200 protestors together on Sunday around the demand "no blood for oil". In Melbourne on Monday, 300 women held a vigil on the steps of Parliament House, gathering around a banner stating "not in our name".

In Apollo Bay, around 400 people marched along the Great Ocean road and several businesses closed their doors declaring their opposition to war. A peace picnic was also held in Geelong. In the US, hundreds of thousands participated in anti-war demonstrations in Washington DC, San Francisco, Portland, and several other cities. There were also large demonstrations in Tokyo, Canada, and the Netherlands. Closer to home, more than 2000 people gathered in Christchurch demanding that the New Zealand government sever its links with the US war machine.

Massive protests are planned for February 14-16 in Melbourne, around Australia and around the world.

Source: Melbourne Indymedia anti-war features

Melbourne Protests for Peace and Against war on Iraq

14 February 2003

Up to a quarter of a million people brought the centre of Melbourne to a standstill from 5pm to 7pm protesting against the War on Iraq. This is the largest demonstration Melbourne has seen and sends a powerful message to the Australian Government and to the United States and Britain about popular opposition to their warmongering on Iraq.



The protest was part of a weekend of protests internationally against the war on Iraq, which saw millions of people on the streets of over 600 cities and towns of the world. Estimates of numbers participating ranged from 10 million to more than 30 million people globally.

It started with a Youth against war rally at 2pm Federation Square with music and speakers. Trade unionists rallied at Trades Hall 4.30 pm and marched to the State Library at 5pm. Cyclists pedal for peace was also advertised. Peace trains from Belgrave at 3.47pm. and Geelong 2.43pm were organised. The main rally was at 5pm at the State Library, which pretty soon was overflowing in all directions

The crowd stretched from the corner of La Trobe and Swanston streets outside the State Library down Swanston Street to Federation Square opposite Flinders Street Station, spilling down several side streets. It took more than an hour and a half for the crowd located north of Collins Street to pass the Bourke and Wills Monument.

Organisers said this rally was up to 200,000 people, but I think there was more than that. I spoke to one of the high school kids on the Bourke and Wills monument at the corner of Collins Street. The crowd before the march already stretched from the State Library past the monument to Federation Square. It took at least an hour and a half for the crowd from Collins to La Trobe Street to pass this monument.



Strangely, there were no media helicopters in the air to take aerial photographs to give the true size of the enormous crowd. No one person on the ground (or from a building on route) could see the full extent of the crowd. The police estimated there was more than 100,000 but did not give any estimate of how much more. Later they estimated the crowd at 150,000. Channel 9 News reported the crowd up to 250,000. Melbourne has a population of about 3 million people, so the demonstration had perhaps 8% of the population in attendance, a huge number to get out onto the streets.



By late Friday evening, The Age, The Sydney Morning Herald and the Bernama (Malaysia) websites all reported 200,000 protesters in Melbourne. Channel 9 news at 11pm reported 250,000 protesters in Melbourne. The Age subsequently adjusted their estimate to “more than 100,000” for their frontpage story on Saturday, with a Front Page photo of part of the huge crowd in St Kilda road, and a two page spread of photos and articles on page 4 and 5.

I also know from some friends unable to get into town on public transport, that parts of the tram network appeared to stop functioning from about 4.30pm - 5pm, and many people could not get a tram into the city to join the huge demonstration.

This was not just your collection of socialists, anarchists and Greens marching, although they were all there. Middle Australia was there in droves, expressing its opposition to the Howard and Bush Government's drive to war on Iraq.



A festival atmosphere prevailed with many people brightly decorated in costumes, home made banners and placards, and slogans on their clothing. This crowd was a broad cross-section of Australians opposed to Australian involvement in the war on Iraq.

*The Age 15 Feb 2003 Masthead
and Page One photo of the Peace
march in Melbourne*



18 February: The capital cities of Australia, over the weekend, saw massive anti-war demonstrations. These demonstrations are record breaking rallies and marches that even eclipse the large rallies of the Vietnam Moratorium movement of the 1970s. It includes over 250,000 people in Sydney, over 200,000 in Melbourne, 100,000 in Adelaide and Brisbane, 20,000 in Perth, Hobart and Newcastle, 15,000 in Canberra, and 1,000 in Darwin. But the anti-war feeling isn't restricted to the capital cities. Large numbers of people attended rallies in regional and country towns across Australia including:

In Queensland rallies occurred in Bundaberg (150), Mackay (1,000), Noosa, Rockhampton (600), Toowoomba (800), Townsville (1,000 to 2,000).

In New South Wales rallies occurred in Armidale (5,000), Bathurst (peace bus to Canberra 12 Feb) 32, Bellingen (3,000), Bega (400), Byron Bay (3,000), Foster/Tuncurry (700), Kempsey (300), Kingscliff (1,000), Lismore (7,000), Newcastle (20,000), Tamworth (500), Taree (?), Tathra (1,500), Wollongong (Feb8) (5,000), Wagga Wagga (1,000) .

In Tasmania: Launceston (1,000), Strahan (50), Devonport (750)

In Victoria: Geelong (200), Albury (?), Mildura (?).

In South Australia: Mt Gambier (500), Whyalla (Peace Vigil)

In Western Australia at Margaret River (Peace pilgrimage) (20) , and the Northern Territory at Alice Springs (400) .

In all, between 800,000 and one million Australians marched to stop the war on Iraq.

Naturally, our Prime Minister, Little Johnny Howard, will not be deterred by the public opposition, but already he has rejected a plebiscite on the issue proposed by Greens Senator Bob Brown. He has sent his Foreign Minister, Alexander

Downer, and deputy Prime Minister John Anderson to speak in Orwellian doublespeak:

Mr Downer and Deputy Prime Minister John Anderson yesterday downplayed the significance of the demonstrations. Mr Downer said wide-ranging views were held by the more than half-a-million people at the protests and many were not anti-war. He said the Government was accused of populism if it made decisions in line with public opinion and of not listening if it did not. Mr Anderson said the protests showed some people had very deep concerns about the Government's position. But they also showed many people were undecided and many wanted to see how things unfolded. Mr Anderson criticised protesters for concentrating on Mr Howard and US President George Bush rather than on Saddam Hussein.

Source: The Age Feb 18 2003

On the contrary, a Newspoll opinion poll is said to show that most people opposed war in Iraq without the backing of the United Nations. Sol Lebovic, from Newspoll, said on ABC TV "The numbers are quite large and at that kind of level, I have no doubt at all. The other interesting thing is the intensity of that opposition, that we have half the Australian electorate say they are strongly opposed unless there is UN backing." I think a substantial number would still strongly oppose war even with the sanction of the U.N. Security Council.

Most people are aware of the nature of Saddam Hussein's regime, but does that justify a military invasion and occupation? There are many countries with brutal military regimes, none of which are being proposed for invasion and occupation. Invasion and occupation inflicts massive casualties on the civilian population. As the Iraqi regime is so brutal, perhaps we should also immediately grant any Iraqi refugees permanent residency visas.

On the question of biological and chemical weapons of mass destruction, the US government sold Anthrax spores and base chemicals to the Iraq regime in the 1980s. If it is good enough to demand that Iraq's chemical and biological weapons be inspected and destroyed, surely it is good enough for the same to occur with other countries, starting with the USA. It was Anthrax from its own stockpiles that was sent anonymously by post after September 11 2001, yet we do not see any rigid accountability of those stockpiles:

In the summer of 2001, the United States walked out of another international conference, this one on how to enforce the 1972 treaty prohibiting biological weapons. Everybody agreed there needed to be stronger inspections of potential sites where germ weapons could be produced -- what Washington is always accusing Iraq of hiding. But this time it wasn't the Iraqis, it was us -- the U.S. delegation walked out because they refused to accept international inspections of American production facilities which the

United States demanded for everyone else.

Source: TomPaine.common sense Journal

The Bush government is full of hypocrisy. The only rationale for occupation of Iraq is to take over the oil fields. Iraq's oil fields are massive. George Bush and Cheney, and other cabinet members have backgrounds in the oil industry. The invasion of Iraq is nothing more than a grab for American control of the Iraq oil fields. That the Australian Government is an accomplice in this immoral and avaricious attack will come home to haunt us.

No Blood for Oil - 21 February 2003

200 people gathered outside the offices of BP in Melbourne Central on Friday 21 February to protest the war on Iraq. They then marched through rain to the offices of Esso at Southbank. Welcome rain had been falling all day, which probably reduced numbers turning up to a rally and march organised by the Anti-war Action Collective. The rally at Melbourne Central was outside the offices of BP - British Petroleum. Speakers articulated the real reason for the war on Iraq - control of the second largest oil reserves in the world, and the destabilisation of OPEC.

Moreland Peace Group - anti-war march in Brunswick 22 February 2003

About 300 people gathered at the Brunswick Town Hall for a rally and march against the U.S. led war on Iraq. The rally and march was organised by the newly formed Moreland Peace Group.

Outside the Brunswick Town Hall the rally was addressed by a number of speakers including the local State Member of Parliament, Carlo Carli, from the Labor Party and Green Party and Fairwear activist Pamela Curr.



Brunswick, being an inner city suburb of Melbourne, has a large ethnic population containing many muslims, and still has a strong traditional working class culture. Moreland Council has adopted a strong antiwar stance since October 2002 in regards to the USA led invasion of Iraq.

At just before 11.30am the crowd started marching up Sydney Road, chanting as they went. The march contained a cross-section of Brunswick: mothers pushing strollers; people pushing shopping jeeps, children, old people, muslim men

and women, local labor politicians, various socialists, anarchists and Greens.

Sydney Road is the principal thoroughfare and strip shopping centre through Brunswick and Coburg, and midday on Saturday is always very busy. A small contingent of police accompanied the march.



Outside the Brunswick Market the march stopped for a few minutes, before rallying again in a nearby car park, to hear more speakers. The mood of the march and rallies was good natured with a feeling that a worthwhile statement had been made to other residents in Moreland.

Moreland City Council Against the war on Iraq

Moreland City Council adopted an anti-war stance at its meeting on 14th October 2002 by resolving in regard to Iraq Military Action:

1. *That Moreland Council is opposed to Australian personnel being involved in any military action against the Government of Iraq and strongly believes that the settlement of any dispute with Iraq should be resolved by peaceful negotiations and means.*

2. *To acknowledge that the present Iraqi Government has perpetrated appalling atrocities against its own people and stays in power by conducting a reign of terror against all opposition and its people. It is not Australia's role to change that Government in the interests of securing US control of Iraqi oil and with the very real threat of all out war in the Middle East by US action.*

3. *To write to the Hon John Howard, Prime Minister and the Hon Simon Crean, Opposition Leader expressing Council's strong view.*



Minutes of the Council Meeting on Monday 14 October 2002

Subsequently the Mayor issued a statement against the war on 10 February 2003, with a peace call from Moreland City Council issued on 12 February 2003.

Melbourne Students march against war! - 5 March 2003

A carnival atmosphere pervaded the school students outside the State Library in Melbourne today. Many of the students were present in school uniform with home made banners and placards opposing the war on Iraq.



Estimates of the crowd ranged from 2,000 (the police) to 7,000 (the organisers) I thought there were about 4,000 people present. Most of them were high school students, with a small sprinkling of university/TAFE students and supportive adults.

Some of the banners said: "Our lives have just begun, don't end them with a gun"; "2 wrongs don't make it right So why r we going 2 fight"; "War is disease peace is the cure"; "We are all terrorists"; "War is not the way"; "There is no oil in Korea" on an American flag; and of course "Books Not Bombs"; and "No War".

After hearing several speakers the students marched to Parliament House in Spring Street.

In other cities around the country students turned out to protest. This included more than 10,000 in Sydney, 7,000 in Adelaide, 1,000 in Canberra and hundreds more in Brisbane, Hobart, Darwin and other regional centres.

College of the Arts Students stage anti-war protest 14 March 2003

On Friday students from the Victoria College of the Arts performed street theatre against war outside their school on St Kilda Road. About 70 students and on-lookers watched the street theatre to puzzled and amused expressions of passing motorists.



Behind a banner saying, "How destructive does a man's phallus have to be" two mock phalluses poked up several metres, one draped in the Stars and Stripes flag of the USA and the other in the British Union Jack. Many of the students wore

caricature face masks of George Bush, Tony Blair or John Howard. Another banner said, "Sponsored by..." with the symbols of the major oil companies. A youthful Osama Bin Laden pranced up and down.

Peace Vigil at US Consulate - 14 March 2003

I visited a peace vigil on Friday outside the consulate of the USA at 553 St Kilda Road. The vigil has been running since March 6 and is sponsored by Women for Peace and the Moreland Peace Group. People attend the vigil from 8am to 7pm Monday to Friday. A card table with information, stickers and badges provides a focus for engaging people.

A honk for Peace placard has definitely been working and quite a few passing motorists sound their horn. The vigil has been getting great support from locals who live nearby and from workers in surrounding offices, including from the same building as the consulate.



Reta Kaur for Women for Peace said "It cannot be business as usual at American embassies and consulates around the world when Iraqi children, women and men are circled and terrorised by 250,000 troops and American weapons of mass destruction. Peace loving people opposed to all wars must be present and be witnesses at American, British and Australian government offices and demonstrate their rage and grief at the injustice and racism inherent in the Iraq conflict. No male leader, white or black, has asked the women and children for their views, and they will form 80% of the war casualties."

Women for Peace oppose the war in Iraq totally. Ms Kaur said, "The UN was established to keep peace in the world, not start wars. We demand that Australian troops be brought home to their families, that Australia, like New Zealand and Canada, play a leadership role in keeping the peace all over the world, and not support American interests against the wishes of the Australian people."

"The terror of war is not the solution to terrorism. Only sustained peace and justice in the 21 century will deliver a safe and a peaceful world for all. Wars are crimes against humanity and must be banned as must be the manufacture of weapons," declared Reta Kaur.

The vigil is a powerful symbolic action against the government of the USA and

their plans to invade Iraq. If you can spare some time, wander down and volunteer to do some shifts outside, or just spend some time with a placard and talk to passing pedestrians.

‘Stop the War’ Rally and March - 14 March 2003

Up to 400 people gathered at Federation Square on Friday afternoon to condemn Howard, Bush and Blair and their rush to war on Iraq. Several speakers exhorted the crowd to keep up the protests, including an Iraqi woman. Dave Cushion, from the MUA, explained that across the world, workers were preparing to strike and protest when US and allied forces invade Iraq. Reta Kaur, from Women for Peace made an impassioned speech against war and the effect of war on women and children.



The rally then started marching up Flinders Street to No 1 Spring street, the building that has an office for our Prime Minister John Howard.

The march continued around the city, at one point sitting down at the intersection of Collins and Exhibition streets, before moving on.

Coburg Rally and march - 15 March 2003

The Moreland Peace Group organised a rally in Victoria St Mall in Coburg on Saturday. Over 100 people attended this local event held in conjunction with local actions happening all over the world, as well as Australia. Many families brought their children and took the opportunity to sip cappuccinos while listening to speakers. Reta Kaur, from Women for Peace performed her street theatre against war and the brutal effect of war on women and children.



The march continued around the shopping precinct, stopping briefly outside the offices of local Federal member for Wills, Kelvin Thomson. As it happened, Kelvin Thomson was working inside and came out and addressed the crowd and accompanied them back to the rallying point in the mall.

Peace Vigil Brunswick Free Speech memorial - 16 March 2003

As part of a Global Candlelight Vigil for Peace: Sunday, March 16 -- 7:00 PM, a vigil was organised on short notice (7 hours) at the Free Speech Memorial outside the Mechanics Institute on Sydney Road Brunswick. Another vigil also occurred in Brunswick at Gilpin Park. See above for a photo of the picket setting up at 7.00pm.

Although there were never more than 35 people at one time at the vigil, at least 20 others came for shorter periods of time and held candles.

The Free Speech memorial was built to commemorate the free speech fights by workers and the unemployed in the area in the 1930's and particularly a young artist, Noel Counihan, who defied the police by speaking from a locked cage on a cart chained to a balustrade. Noel would have approved of our public witness for peace at the memorial built in his honour.

At one stage at least 8 toddlers and their mothers or fathers were present. Several teenagers attended and occasionally burst into song: "All we are saying....is give peace a chance." In fact the vigil had a broad range from the elderly to toddlers in attendance.

People mainly sat down chatting with each other and waving to motorists and their passengers when they tooted their horns.

A number of placards were made on the spot and decorated the intersection of Glenlyon and Sydney Roads, a busy spot in Brunswick. A large number of cars honked their horns in support. This vindicated setting up a vigil in this spot in which a large number of motorists and tram passengers could identify with our vigil for peace.

At 9.30pm, the vigil was packed up. Traffic on Sydney road had lessened substantially and we felt we had achieved our witness for peace, and communicated



that directly to many fellow residents of Brunswick and Melbourne.

The Callout

Archbishop Desmond Tutu and Rev. Bob Edgar of the National Council of Churches, along with the American Friends Service Committee and many faith-based organizations, called for a Global Candlelight Vigil for Peace on Sunday, March 16th.

This worldwide vigil is sponsored by Win Without War, a coalition of organizations including MoveOn.org, Sierra Club, NAACP, Peace Action and Women's Action for New Directions. World opinion has had a tremendous impact in delaying -- and hopefully ultimately preventing -- an unnecessary war with Iraq.

Tough inspections can disarm Saddam Hussein without the loss of a single life. Just two days after the vigil was announced, people in 85 countries have planned over 2500 vigils. This is an unprecedented global event. By the time you read this, many more vigils will have been planned all over the world. You can see these vigils listed, along with the numbers of people registered to attend, at: www.GlobalVigil.org

This week may represent our last chance to win without war. A war with Iraq could kill tens of thousands of Iraqi civilians and inflame the Middle East. According to current plans, it would require an American occupation of the country for years to come. And it could escalate in ways that are horrifying to imagine.

This is a quiet vigil, not a rally. Bring friends, candles (or flashlights/glow sticks) and paper cups to protect fingers from wax and candle flames from wind.



Victorian Trades Hall and Victorian Peace Network posters calling for a rally when the war starts.

Up to 50,000 protest in Melbourne at 5pm after the missiles started landing - 20 March 2003

With less than 2 - 3 hours notice 20,000 - 50,000 people gathered in Melbourne and marched against the war and to bring Australian troops home. The Victorian Peace Network (Vicpeace) and the Victorian Trades Hall Council (VTHC) had both put out posters advising people to protest the start of the invasion by congregating at the State Library at 5pm on the day.

Open Letter to Prime Minister John Howard
Dear John Howard,

People are hopping mad. Your act of committing Australia to participation in a war of aggression against Iraq is unprecedented in Australian history. It has set back foreign policy in our relationships to Asia at least 30 years. It has opened up the possibility for justifiable acts of retaliatory warfare in Australia against Australians.

Parts of Swanston Street and St Kilda road were blocked from between 5pm and 9pm, causing significant traffic delays. But then what's a short delay when our Government is participating in bombing the shit out of people who have done nothing to harm us.

We heard a simulated air raid siren this afternoon. In Baghdad they had 40 cruise missiles rain down upon their city. There will be many more to follow I'm sure. How many people will die from these we may never find out because of the threats to target independent media who stay in Baghdad. How would you feel if someone was sending missiles aimed at Kirribilli house; at your wife and children? About 53 percent of Iraqis are under 15 - they are mostly children. How do



you live with yourself that your actions will mean the death of many innocent Iraqi children? Is regime change really worth the cost of perhaps several hundred thousand people dead? Had we exhausted every conceivable alternative before war? I think not.

Today I saw a couple of hundred students gather in Federation Square. As they marched up Swanston, people literally stepped off the side walk and joined the march. It stopped for a few minutes in Bourke Street and seemed to noticeably swell in numbers. By the time it reached the State Library it was several thousand strong. However, the road outside the State Library was full as was the grassed area and Library Forecourt.

How many kids did you kill today, John? Students today are so sensible, pity you don't have their commonsense.

Thousands marched past Flinders St Station. I hope they are marching in your dreams too. You may take some comfort that it was perhaps only a quarter the size of the demonstration of 200,000 people on February 14. Don't. This protest was organised with just a few hours notice. It is the tip of the iceberg. That Iceberg is coming to kick you out of the lodge and Kirribilli House. It may take a while, as Ice Bergs move slowly, but take it from me it is coming.

People marched down from the State Library to Victoria Barracks. 20,000 is probably a conservative estimate from the organisers at the time. From the photos my son took by climbing various vantage points I guessed at 30,000 may have been there. And David Spratt from vicpeace has estimated 50,000 people were there. It did stretch for several blocks, and they were pretty tightly packed in there. Whatever the number, it was an amazing congregation to achieve on the streets in a little over two hours.



I'd worry John. This peace movement is a cross section of society. Churchgoers, trade unionists, businessmen, students and mothers with toddlers are part of this movement. Even Vietnam and Gulf War veterans are marching with us. Even our own troops on active duty are having second thoughts about the morality and rationality of this war.



Bring them home John. Demonstrate some courage. Support our troops the best way possible and bring them home to their loved ones before they get killed, injured, or inhale the depleted uranium particles used in US munitions. Make sure your Veterans Affairs Minister authorises proper long term medical studies and our vets get adequate compensation. They will need it.

The Socialists were there outside the consulate. And some who dared describe your relationship to George. And some who held a picnic with their children outside the consulate.



After Victoria Barracks a few hundred people went on to the US Consulate at 553 St Kilda Road. More speeches and music. Even a group having a picnic dinner.

By 9.30pm the numbers had dwindled to about 20, but these people are determined to stay and keep vigil outside the consulate. While I was outside an American from New York came up and spoke to me. He said he was ashamed. Ashamed of his country going to war when there is no perceived threat. He was truly frightened with the present Bush political administration. Don't necessarily believe the polls in America, many many people oppose Bush and oppose this war!



Tomorrow even greater numbers of people will gather and march in Melbourne. They will gather at noon outside the Trades Hall, corner Victoria and Lygon Streets, Carlton. I hope your watching, John.



So, John, that's the view from the streets of Melbourne this afternoon. I hope you sleep well tonight!

Victorian Unionists Against War - 21 March 2003



Up to 10,000 unionists stopped work and marched against the war in Melbourne. They gathered outside Melbourne Trades Hall before marching down to the corner of Flinders and Swanston Streets.

The Age on Saturday estimated 5,000. The closing rally was held at the bottom of Swanston St. The crowd at this point filled Swanston st back to Collins St. During the speeches many chose to leave and the crowd dwindled down to about half by the time the rally was formally closed.



Thousands rally in the rain & march against war - 21 March 2003

Thousands of people continue to march against the war on Iraq. Friday afternoon thousands rallied in the rain and showers. Perhaps 20,000 people met at the State Library then marched up to the State Parliament.



I was apprehensive about the numbers that would attend this rally, given the number of rallies happening lately and physical burnout by people who attend them, often at the cost of alternative everyday commitments. I was surprised at the numbers attending this rally, despite the rain and showers.



It is also deceptive the numbers at the start of this rally as many people stayed under cover in the Library portico, against the shops on Swanston Street, and in Melbourne Central during the rain showers. I would have said 8,000 on the lawns. But this number easily doubled and more when the weather fined up a bit and the march started.

I said there were perhaps up to 20,000 people at this rally. The Age on Saturday said 15,000.

Parents and kids protest for peace in Melbourne - 23 March 2003

11.00am, Sunday morning, 23rd March, Victorian babies and their families came to Casselden Place in Melbourne to add their voices to anti war protests. About 150 people pushing prams or holding babies listened to several speeches and joined in finger-painting. One group of women, dressed dramatically in red, held 'Vagina Monologue for peace' placards.

Speakers included young Daniel who spoke about kids need for peace. Professor Lew Irving from the Medical Association for the Prevention of War talked about the terrible impact on the health of children and babies of continuing conflict in Iraq. One town near the border has not had one live birth in three years. One in five children born in Iraq have congenital health problems. Pamela Curr from the Greens highlighted the terrible cost of war and urged people to continue their opposition to the conflict.



After the speakers, children finger-painted a banner for peace. Others chalked slogans: 'Iraq is bleeding'; 'Peace is a better investment'; 'No War'; 'Welfare not Warfare', and 'Fight Terrorism with Social Justice' on the pavement.

Youth Against war protest for peace - 26 March 2003

About 3,000 students, predominantly from High School, rallied and marched against the war on Iraq, shouting slogans and chanting through the streets of Melbourne. The rally was angrier and louder than the previous one on 5th March. The Crowd was estimated at between 2,000 (ABC) and 5,000 (The Age)



Students went on strike on Wednesday the 26th of March for the Youth Against War rally at the State Library. They voiced their opinions and rage over the war on Iraq, holding the Iraqi flag high and proud, students yelled in fury. At the end of the rally some of the students burned the American flag and threw it into the air in anger.

There were speakers at the State Library, including representatives from anti-war organisations, and an Iraqi refugee talking about the pain of being a refugee, her terrible time in Iraq, and now because of the Australian Government, here too.

During the march students held up signs including "Ignorance is strength, war is peace, freedom is slavery" - a quote from George Orwell's classic 1984, "buck fush", and "we learnt not to fight in Kindergarten", chants rang through the city including "Johnny's a Wanker" and "1,2,3,4 we don't want your racist war, 5,6,7,8 we will not cooperate".



The march finished at Parliament House where there were more speakers, including a representative from AMWU, Steve Roach from CFMEU, a Gulf War veteran who stated proudly that he has returned his war medals, students were also given the opportunity to voice there opinions, lots of student packed up onto the back of the truck to express their feelings about the war crisis.

Kate (15)



Lawyers Against war - 27 March 2003

Thursday 27 March - Melbourne lawyers and legal workers rallied outside the Supreme Court of Victoria against a war they declared to be illegal and immoral. The crowd overflowed onto William Street blocking traffic.

Several hundred Lawyers and legal workers rallied outside the Supreme Court of Victoria on Thursday in opposition to the war on Iraq. A number of speakers emphasised that this war is immoral, illegal and contrary to international law.



Melbourne University international law Professor Gillian Triggs said the only legal justification for war is self-defence or the support of the United Nations.

"I've read with as much objectivity as I can manage the 17 Security Council resolutions since 1990 and I can honestly say that there is no authorisation for the unilateral use of force in the absence of a further Security Council resolution," she said, according to the ABC online report.

Other speakers pointed out the need for the legal community to defend protestors such as those in Sydney who were arrested yesterday. People overflowed the footpath and blocked traffic on William Street outside the Supreme Court from 1.15pm till shortly after 2pm when the rally ended. There were no arrests!

March Against war protest - 29 March 2003

Saturday 29 March - Large crowds continue marching against war. 40,000 people took to the streets of Melbourne today to voice their continuing opposition to the war in Iraq. The crowd stretched for several city blocks and filled Swanston St from kerb to kerb. It was 45 minutes from the start of the march before the last people left the State Library.



Reality Check for John Howard: Lindsay Tanner, Labor Party Member for Mel-

bourne, Kerry Nettle, NSW Greens Senator and Lyn Allison Australian Democrats Victorian Senator, spoke to the crowd outside the State Library.

As the march passed the building site next to the State Library several peace signs and one placard that read, "Bomb Iraq" were visible. This sign and two people with a USA flag were the only evidence of support for John Howard. They were ignored.

It was a diverse crowd united by its opposition to the war. There were political groups: the Australian Democrats; anarchists; Labor Party, environmentalists and socialists. They mixed with older people, kids, students, babies in prams, couples, lots of dogs, and trade unionists to march down Swanston St. Many had made their own placards. Some were made of old sheets stuck together with duct tape, others were works of art. Some examples are:

"Making peace takes brains and time and heart. The real winners in big wars are the arms makers!"

"Alert, alarmed, ashamed, extremely ashamed of Australia"

"No to all warmongers, Bush, Blair, Howard, + Hussein. We can't afford them"

One peace marcher carried a placard featuring John Howard dreaming of being knighted with bombing and rivers of blood in the background. He commented, "John Howard is a little man. He dreams of being knighted. He is relaxed and comfortable but the cost of this little man's dreams is rivers of blood."

A group of gay activists carried striking pink and black placards with humorous slogans. "Pretty and gay, not bombing all day." "underarm hair not Tony Blair." "Dykes on bikes not military strikes." The carnival atmosphere was reinforced by people in costume and a truck filled with musicians playing rock music, as well as lots of individual musicians throughout the march.

The march went down Swanston St and up Collins St to the Treasury Building. A last reminder over the loudspeaker was an invitation to come to the Palm Sunday rally and bring a friend.



March for Peace on Palm Sunday - 13 April 2003

About 25,000 people marched in the Palm Sunday rally in Melbourne today to voice their continuing opposition to the war in Iraq. With threatening thunderstorms many people ventured to Treasury Gardens for a Palm Sunday Peace Rally. Other people attended an ecumenical service in Federation Square.



At 2.20pm the march left Treasury Gardens down Flinders Street. It met up with the people from the ecumenical service at Federation Square. The intersection of Swanston and Flinders was packed with people, with the crowd extending motionless up to Russell Street while more people arrived. The march started up Swanston Street, while people were still coming down Flinders before Russell St.

The thunderstorm struck and torrential rain started at about 3.30pm while the march was proceeding up Bourke St. This had the effect of dispersing the crowd on to the footpaths under awnings, while a hardy few continued in the rain.

Bias in Mainstream Media Coverage

While some commentators put the numbers attending at up to 50,000 at the rally and march, probably 25,000 to 30,000 was a more accurate figure. The mainstream media reports heavily underestimated attendance numbers.

The ABC reported:

In Melbourne, between 5,000 and 8,000 people marched before heavy rain dispersed the crowds.

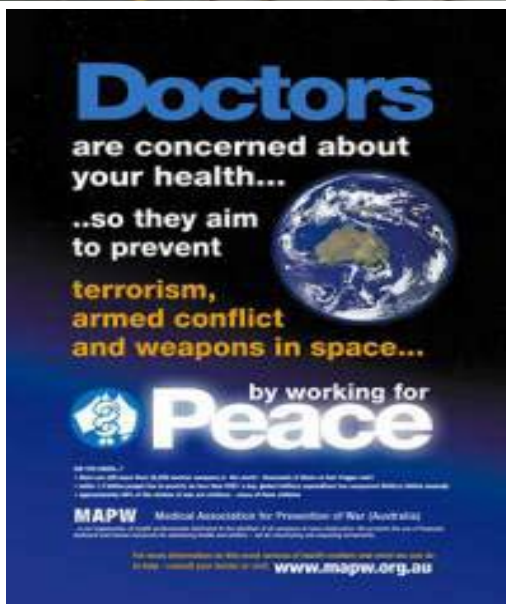


The Sydney Morning Herald Report was even worse:

And in Melbourne, about 5000 people joined Palm Sunday peace marches. The march commenced with two rallies in the city - a secular gathering at Treasury Gardens in Spring Street and an ecumenical church service at Federation Square, both starting at 2pm. After hearing speakers in Treasury Gardens, more than 3500 marchers walked down Flinders Street to meet about 1500 others who had attended the service in Federation Square. The two events, jointly organised by the Victorian Peace Network and the Victorian Council of Churches, then joined together for a march through the city streets, ending up back at Treasury Gardens.

The SBS report was brief but far more accurate with numbers in attendance:
Meanwhile, more than 20 thousand people joined Palm Sunday peace marches through Melbourne. The march commenced with two rallies in the city - a secular gathering at Treasury Gardens in Spring Street and an ecumenical church service at Federation Square.

Don't believe everything you read in the mainstream media, even about Peace marches in Australia, and use a variety of sources for a more accurate interpretation of events.



Appendix – Melbourne Indymedia Anti-War features November 2001 to 2007

This is a listing of the anti-war features from Melbourne Indymedia. It provides a succinct commentary on peace and anti-war protests in Melbourne, as well as from further a field from 2001 to 2007. It is a valuable summary of events and protests from a grassroots perspective on the peace movement from 2001.

Australians opposed to the war against Afghanistan - 13/11/2001

Since the attack on the WTC on September 11, there has been a growing vocal international peace movement voicing its opposition to the war against Afghanistan. In Australia there have been dozens of protests throughout the country - in Brisbane, Darwin, Sydney, Melbourne, Perth, Adelaide and Ballarat (there have been several rallies and marches in both Sydney and Melbourne).

Aboriginal Elders have called for a mobilization to Canberra against war & genocide, women have marched against the war, and a peace vigil has been set up in Melbourne (it has since ended). There have also been several anti-war protesters in court, for the occupation of a Military Recruitment Centre/Defence Office in Brisbane, and for jamming up the Liberal Party Headquarters.

As the evidence of large numbers of civilian casualties grows, and the opposition to the war gains numbers and momentum, the mainstream media has been forced to cover the protests (though, some have chosen to attack them instead).

A disused milk bar in Melbourne's CBD has been occupied by anti-WTO protesters and converted to an info-shop promoting peace.

Terror of War Continues as Resistance Grows - 21/11/2001

Questions continue to be asked about Bush's so called 'War on Terror', including whether or not Bush was negotiating with the Taliban before the WTC tragedy, as well as Bush's motives for the War. There have also been questions about the US destruction of the Al-Jazeera Television station's office. The recent victories of the Northern Alliance, while a sign of hope for some, is increasingly being questioned, especially now that aid workers are beginning to return. Despite all of this, the Taliban and Bin Laden remain defiant.

Global protests against the War are still growing, with some of the largest protests yet in recent weeks. The peace office in Melbourne is still going strong, and the peace vigil near the 8-hour monument continues. And recently, the truth of Bin Laden's 'confession' has been called into question.

Attacks on Civil Liberties Set to Increase - 21/11/2001

The September 11 attacks have given cover and impetus to western governments seeking to implement draconian "anti-terrorism" legislation. The US government recently passed the Patriot Act, which allows the indefinite detention of immigrants and non-citizens and the greater surveillance of personal internet communication without the need for a court order. The Canadian government is attempting to introduce similar legislation.

The British government has declared the country to be under a state of public emergency and is opting out of article 5 of the Human Rights convention which bans detention without trial. The British legislation would also allow extensive Internet spying.

The Australian government also wants to increase the police and intelligence services scope by giving them wide ranging new powers that threaten civil liberties. Listen to an interview with Damian Lawson from Western Suburbs Legal Service on the new global intelligence powers.

Proposed Terrorist Legislation a Threat to Democratic Rights - 18/03/2002

Concerns are mounting over the government's proposed new terrorist legislation. The Bills would give ASIO the power to arrest and detain people for up to 48 hours without legal representation, without access to lawyers or information provided to their family. The Bills also make failing to answer questions punishable by up to five years imprisonment, removing people's right to silence. Far reaching proposals would also allow the attorney general to ban organisations and make membership or support of such organisations a serious criminal offence.

An Amnesty International statement argues that "national security must not be promoted at the expense of human rights" and that the bills "contain an excessively broad definition of terrorism". This is the fear of many groups; that the greater government powers will be used against legitimate dissent and social movements. A public meeting has been called to inform people about the proposed legislation.

The Australian bill follows similarly draconian laws passed in Britain and the US after the September 11 attacks. Many migrants continue to be imprisoned in the US with out charge.

Government Push to Pass Terror Legislation - 05/05/2002

Terror Laws - Last days. The federal government is looking to rush through so-called 'anti-terrorist' legislation in the next couple of weeks. Public dissent is mounting to the proposed laws, with wide spread criticism coming from Amnesty International, Liberty Victoria, the ACTU and host of other community, legal and activist groups.

The laws would grant ASIO, Australia's spy agency, wide ranging new powers, including the right to detain citizens without charge and without access to lawyers, and allow the Attorney General to ban certain organisations. The legislation also targets internet activists, would allow greater surveillance of internet communications and it's broad definition of 'terrorist' could easily lead to attacks on a wide range of social justice groups, including Indymedia.

Protests have been held at the senate hearings into the legislation. A rally has been called, this Saturday, to demand the new laws be scrapped.

Update - May 9: Senate Committee fails to protect democracy

Protests At Pine Gap, and Around the World, Against War - 07/10/2002

More than 400 people converged in the desert centre of Australia last weekend to protest the against war and the Pine Gap joint defence facility. Pine Gap is one of the largest and most important US spy bases in the world and has played a major role in many US military operations (including the Gulf War and the current "War on Terror"). Established in 1968 as a CIA intelligence base, Pine Gap's satellites gather military radio transmissions, giving information on military readiness, troop and ship movements and other matters.

Over three days of protest people blocked the road leading into the base, staged parties and presented petitions. 17 people were arrested. Protestors also included the Raging Grannies for Peace the Medical Association for Prevention of War and the Intergalactic Cosmic Powered Sound System.

Police and media have embarked on a mission to avoid the issues by focussing

on paint balloons and slingshots allegedly seized from one protestor. The fact that Pine Gap is integral to the US deployment of their very own weapons of mass destruction was lost on both police and the media.

The protest coincides with demonstrations around the globe against George Dubyas warmongering. 1.5 million protested in Italy, more than 4000 marched in Adelaide and there were dozens of protests across the US. A demonstration against the war is planned this coming Sunday in Melbourne

Thousands Against War On Iraq - 14/10/2002

Melbourne witnessed the largest demonstration against the proposed war on Iraq to date last Sunday. Up to 45 000 people marched according to organisers. Coordinated by the Victorian Peace Network, a coalition of religious, union, legal, student and other groups, the demonstration marched from the State Library to Treasury gardens. Protesters chanted "no blood for oil"; others had placards reading, "Regime change begins at home".

Speakers condemned the Israeli occupation of Palestine with Katerina Lecchi of the Victorian Peace Network, stating "if we want to see justice and peace in the Middle East we should start with Israel's continued occupation of the West Bank and Gaza in defiance of UN resolutions." Leigh Hubbard of Victorian Trades Hall Council, said, "this attack will be a slaughter and a war crime, regardless of whether or not it has UN backing."

Thousands March Against War - 01/12/2002

Thousands of people around the country protested against the proposed war with Iraq last weekend. 15,000 rallied in both Melbourne and Sydney, 1,500 in Adelaide and thousands more in Canberra, Darwin, Taree, Brisbane, Launceston, Ipswich, Alice Springs, Perth and Hobart.

The rallies were part of a national weekend of action against war called by peace networks made up of union, student, environment, community and religious groups "concerned that the United States government intends to attack Iraq regardless of the results of UN weapons inspections" and arguing that "an attack on Iraq will mean the death of hundreds of thousands of people and will not contribute to peace or security in the Middle East."

The Australian government has said it will commit SAS troops to any war on Iraq, is talking up the prospect of a "war levy" and is also advocating pre-emptive strikes with Prime Minister John Howard arguing that international law should be changed to allow nations to strike pre-emptively against terrorists. His comments

sparked immediate outrage from governments across Asia.

Torture, massive civilian deaths, cluster bombs, ...yep, another Afghanistan update - 07/01/2002

The so-called war on terrorism continues to devastate the local population of Afghanistan. There are reports of massive civilian casualties (with more Afghani-stani civilians killed in the US attack than in the bombings of the World Trade Centre). Most recently, more than 100 Afghan civilians are reported to have been killed when US aircraft bombed a village in eastern Afghanistan. And of course, who could forget the US bombing of Afghan tribal leaders...

Along with the massive civilian casualties, there is the looming humanitarian disaster, reports that upwards of 5,000 unexploded cluster bombs (which are painted yellow, just like air-dropped US aid packages) dropped by the US Air force may be littered across Afghanistan. And the UN is reporting that common crimes, looting, and highway robberies are on the rise.

How is the war going for the American war machine? Well, it seems that Taliban leader, Mullah Mohamed Omar, broke a siege of his mountain redoubt on a motorbike. The Taliban leader raced over dirt roads in a dramatic escape from allied forces who were closing in on the village of Baghran in Helmand province. Oops. And it seems as though the war is a bonanza for China, which is being called "The Big Winner in Afghan War".

And what of the 7,000 Taliban and al-Qaeda prisoners the US is holding in various jails, including fortresses, a desert compound, an aircraft hangar and a warship? Well, at least they aren't being brutalised by Afghanistan's new authorities while the American's are holding them. How they will react when they arrive in Cuba is anyone's guess though....

Towards a New Cold War - 15/01/2003

As the global economic system lurches from one crisis to the next in continent after continent, the escalating hysteria over terrorism reflects desperate attempts by western planners to concoct new enemies and re-create the tired old logic of the cold war. While American military spending as a percentage of global spending continued to rise throughout the 1990s, (from one third at the end of the Cold War to 40% currently - one third of a trillion dollars US per annum), the absurdly named "War on Terror" is set to rehash the same contrived threats and anti-communist type hysteria that marked the McCarthyist period.

After a lull for a decade, after the demise of the USSR as a world power, and a

clumsy attempt at positing the “War on Drugs” as keeping at bay the great new lurking menace to civilisation, a convenient and slightly more credible threat has seemingly been found to fill the void. And in classic Orwellian style it turns out to be a former ally from the last great crusade.

Protests In Melbourne and Victoria Against War - 20/01/2003

Solidarity actions with global protests against war were held over the weekend in Victoria. A vigil outside the US consulate brought 200 protestors together on Sunday around the demand “no blood for oil”. In Melbourne on Monday, 300 women held a vigil on the steps of Parliament House, gathering around a banner stating “not in our name”.

In Apollo Bay, around 400 people marched along the Great Ocean road and several businesses closed their doors declaring their opposition to war. A peace picnic was also held in Geelong.

In the US, hundreds of thousands participated in anti-war demonstrations in Washington DC, San Francisco, Portland, and several other cities. There were also large demonstrations in Tokyo, Canada, and the Netherlands. Closer to home, more than 2000 people gathered in Christchurch demanding that the New Zealand government sever its links with the US war machine.

Global Anti-War Reports: Massive protests are planned for February 14/15 in both Australia and around the world.

Troops Depart, Resistance Grows - 25/01/2003

Australia has begun pre-emptively sending troops to the Middle East for a possible war on Iraq, the only other country to join the US and UK. Two months ago John Howard promised a parliamentary debate before any Australian involvement in America’s war on Iraq. Coincidentally, Australia is also looking to sign a “free trade” deal with the US in the coming year worth billions to both Australian and US corporations.

Departures in Sydney were met with protests, but no direct attempts to disrupt the military mobilisation have yet been made. Elite SAS soldiers were farewelled from Perth on Friday, but their actual date of departure is being kept secret.

Lunchtime anti-war vigils are occurring daily at St Paul’s Cathedral as groups prepare for a massive mobilisation on Friday February 14.

Disarming the War Machine - 13/02/2003

A statement from Australian Ciaron O'Reilly, a participant in the recent damaging of a US Navy plane with hammers at Shannon Airport in Ireland.

"It's a week since the 'Pit Stop Ploughshares' disarmament of a U.S navy plane at Shannon airport, Co. Clare Ireland. Shannon has become a major pit stop for U.S troop and munitions movement into Kuwait and Qatar. The witness once again reveals the twin reality that the weapons are not secure! / The weapons don't secure us! Over 90 ploughshares communities over the last 23 years all arriving at the weapon systems they hope to disarm - many located in more intense security environments than the hangar at Shannon. The presence of U.S troops and munitions in Ireland en-route to war is not only unconstitutional but endangers Iraqi, Irish and American lives," said Ciaron O'Reilly

"The action itself was beautiful - After crawling through the sludge and muck of the airfield in the early hours of Feb 4th, we arrived at the hangar. The repairs on the warplane from Mary Kelly's disarmament action the previous week had just been completed hours before. We spray-painted the hangar with PITSTOP FOR DEATH and THE WAR STOPS HERE! PHIL BERRIGAN R.I.P." said O'Reilly.

200 000 March Against War - 14/02/2003

200 000 people gathered in the streets of Melbourne on Friday afternoon in a massive display of dissent to any war on Iraq. A huge array of people gathered in opposition to Australia's involvement in any war in what organisers say is the biggest protest in the city's history. Australia is the only country other than the US and UK to have already committed troops to the gulf region.

Bigger than the anti-Vietnam war moratorium protests, the march stretched for blocks and barely moved as thousands crammed the streets. The crowd listened to Kurdish and Iraqi refugees, union organisers, and politicians, some calling for civil disobedience and industrial action. Victoria Trades Hall Council called for a stop work if war broke out.

The march kicked off what is expected to be a huge weekend of global protests against war and for peace. Stay tuned to indymedia.org for on the ground reports from around the world.

Reports: Anti War Protesters Descend On Lismore Streets, Canberra anti-war rally, Bellingen anti-war rally, No war rally in Newcastle

Oceania Anti-War Wrap Up - 16/02/2003

An absolutely massive and unprecedented level of protest action against war occurred across Oceania from Hawaii to Perth this weekend. It kicked off Friday evening with a rally of 200 000 in Melbourne and ended on Sunday with 250 000 in Sydney.

In New Zealand/Aotearoa there were demonstrations across the country in Dunedin, Tauranga, Whanganui, Wellington, Christchurch, and 10 000 in Auckland.

Australia saw massive rallies not just in Sydney and Melbourne. 100 000 protested in Adelaide and Brisbane, 20 000 in Perth and Newcastle, 10 000 in Hobart and Canberra, and local rallies in Darwin, Lismore, Bellingen and many, many more.

In Asia there were actions in Japan, Jakarta, the Philippines, Kuala Lumpur and East Timor. There were also actions in Hawaii at Pearl Harbour and even Antarctica.

No Blood for Oil Protest - 22/02/2003

200 people gathered outside the offices of BP in Melbourne Central on Friday 21 Feb to protest the war on Iraq. They then marched through rain to the offices of Esso at Southbank

Welcome rain had been falling all day, which probably reduced numbers turning up to a rally and march organised by the Anti-war Action Collective. The rally at Melbourne Central was outside the offices of BP - British Petroleum. About 200 people gathered and listened to speakers on the real reason for the war on Iraq - control of the second largest oil reserves in the world, and the destabilisation of OPEC.

Minimum Security - 03/03/2003

"After four weeks in Limerick prison I find myself back on the streets. Before I turned in last night I saw four armoured personnel carriers pass by the pub on their way to Shannon, this morning I started the day in my Limerick B & B bedroom with a detective making threats. So we're back in "minimum security" as Phil Berrigan called our lives of self-regulated accommodation with the high crimes of state and corporations." said Ciaran O'Rielly

Students Take the Streets - 07/03/2003

Students around the country took to the streets on Wednesday March 5 to protest against any war on Iraq. In Melbourne, 5000 rallied outside the State Library in a carnival atmosphere before marching to Parliament House. Many of the students were present in school uniform with home made banners and placards opposing war. Tens of thousands participated around the country, including 10 000 in Sydney which had three arrests and reports of police harassment.

Some of the banners said: "Our lives have just begun, don't end them with a gun"; "2 wrongs don't make it right So why r we going 2 fight"; "There is no oil in Korea" on an American flag; and of course "Books Not Bombs"; and "No War".

There were also protests in Brisbane, Adelaide, Perth, Wollongong, Albury, Canberra, Launceston, Geelong, Hobart, Darwin, Ballarat, and Newcastle.

In other news, the Department of Defence has withdrawn advertising from all student media around Australia because of an 'adbust' done by Vertigo, the student newspaper of The University of Technology, Sydney.

NZ Protestors greet Australian PM - 10/03/2003

From Aotearoa/NZ Indymedia: Australian PM John Howard's visit to NZ has not gone unnoticed. The pro-war PM arrived on Saturday in Auckland, landing at the Whenuapai airbase. A large anti-war message was delivered as part of International Women's Day march in Auckland.

Howard must have found it hard to have a quiet Sunday breakfast while protestors with megaphones, pots and pans and sticks banging on barricades gathered in front of the Sheraton and sent a loud anti-war message for him to consider over his weet bix.

The Australian PM continued on to Wellington on Monday only to find that Greenpeace had hung a John Howard puppet from the fingers of a giant Gollum (aka GW Bush) from Lord of the Rings who lurks on top of the Embassy Theatre. The action was intended "to expose who's pulling the strings"

Later in the afternoon 1000 people gathered outside parliament for another rowdy protest designed to annoy Clark and Howard while they had their cosy state luncheon. Police made 5 arrests but it remains unclear what the protestors will be charged with.

Local Protest to Global War - 16/03/2003

Melbourne saw a host of peace protests last weekend in response to the ever-looming war on Iraq. On Friday students from the Victoria College of the Arts performed street theatre against war whilst others protested at Federation Square.

There were rallies Saturday in Northcote and Coburg as well as several peace vigils on Sunday in Northcote and at the free speech memorial in Brunswick. There is an ongoing daily peace vigil outside the US consulate on St Kilda road.

There were also actions in Ballarat and at Treasurer Peter Costello's home.

There is another planned student strike for March 26 and a national convergence in Canberra on Sunday 23 March. If/when war breaks out; people are encouraged to go to the state library at 5pm that same day.

Bombing Begins - 19/03/2003

The invasion of Iraq has "officially" begun. Australian troops are set to participate in the invasion and possible war crimes. As the war machine rolls in we hope to bring you coverage on those resisting it. Five Australians remain in Iraq at present as human shields.

A multitude of resistance is planned in Melbourne. People have been urged to occupy the US consulate at 5pm on Thursday, shut-down the defence department offices on Monday, swamp the PM's office with email, be part of an international boycott and go-slow and to attend emergency rallies the day the bombing begins.

Various actions have occurred in the last few days including a rally in the Latrobe Valley, an Order of Australia recipient has returned her medal; Greenpeace activists blockaded John Howard's residence and two people painted NO WAR on the Opera House.



Military action comes on the heels of negotiations in Canberra this week of a "free trade" deal between the US and Australia.

Thousands At Emergency Anti-War Demo - 20/03/2003

More than 30 000 people attended an emergency anti-war demo in Melbourne on Thursday afternoon. Given just 3-4 hours notice the turnout was immense.

The crowd swelled around the state library as people poured onto the streets. The rally then marched down to the Army Barracks on St Kilda road. At the end of the demonstration around 500 people continued on to the US consulate where they lit flares and threw paint bombs at the building. One person was arrested.

Upcoming activities include: Sunday, Grassroots Gathering and anti-war discussion; Monday, Community Picket of Defence Plaza

Listen Live to San Francisco Indymedia's Enemy Combatant Radio
Update March 21: Thousands Rally in Rain | Victorian Unionists March Against War

Report From Human Shield In Bagdad - 22/03/2003

Rosemarie Gillespie is part of a group of 14 international Human Shields, including two Australians, at the 7th of April Water Treatment Plant, on the Tigris River, in the suburbs of Baghdad.

"We had a big raid last night. Very intense. Some hit close to us. I think they are aiming at the bridges. It seems that I slept through some of the bombing last night. (Thursday) After a while you get used to it. It only wakes you up if it is close or right on top of you. I did an interview with Derryn Hinch this morning and got an idea of the type of bullshit that is being pushed out through the commercial media."

Protest Actions in the Asia/Pacific - 23/03/2003

Reaction in the Asia/Pacific against the war on Iraq has been both swift and massive, with huge demonstrations continuing. In Manilla, spontaneous as well as organised protest actions have been occurring, including one of 10, 000 people outside the US embassy.

In Perth building workers walked off construction sites, students walked out of class, and 1500 people rallied in the streets. 11 people were arrested.

Brisbane's first rally on Thursday attracted 8000 people and later 1000 protesters blocked a main street. On Saturday some anti-war protestors reclaimed the

Victoria Bridge.

Meanwhile in Melbourne 30 000 people attended an emergency anti-war demo on Thursday afternoon, 10 000 unionists rallied on Friday day, and there was another demo of around 10 000 that evening.

In Sydney 20 000 marched Thursday including a small group who threw paint on Premier Bob Carr's vehicle. Sunday saw more than 50 000 take to the streets.

Adelaide protesters rallied at Parliament House Thursday, blocking traffic, while in Hawaii protesters gathered at the Federal Building in Honolulu.

In New Zealand emergency response vigils took place throughout the country, while protesters in Wellington and Auckland targeted the embassies and consulates of the UK, USA and Australia. Protests continued on Saturday, with 10 thousand demonstrators in Auckland and 4,000 in Wellington. Three people were arrested at the Wellington US embassy.

Reports From the Frontlines - 25/03/2003

Various reports are coming out from non-corporate sources witnessing the bombing of Iraq. On the ground reports continue to come out from Brigades Against War, human shields, doctors and many more. Australian Rosemary Gillespie continues to stay in Bagdad acting as a human shield. One report from members of the Brigades Against War stated:

"The Brigade went to visit a new hospital this morning, the Al Kindi University hospital, a centre specialising in traumatology and orthopaedics in the Palestina neighbourhood. The director, Osama Salah Taha, trained in Cuba, explained to the Brigade in Spanish that an average of 30 wounded people are being admitted to his hospital every day, as a direct result of the previous nights US attacks. One hundred people were admitted from Friday night's attacks, the worst so far, with US B52 bombers."

Striking Back Against the Empire - 26/03/2003

A multitude of protest actions against war have occurred in Melbourne and around Australia in the last few days. On Monday, 40 people locked down the defence plaza in Bourke st, Melbourne. In Canberra angry demonstrations occurred outside parliament house supported by Aboriginal elders who brought a ceremonial fire to the front of the parliament doors.

Wednesday saw 3000 students take to the streets of Melbourne against war. In Sydney the protests got more confrontational when a girl was arrested for unknown reasons and her companions attempted to de-arrest her, some throwing chairs and bottles at police. Police hemmed in protestors for hours at the end of the day amidst reports of police violence and dozens of arrests.

Upcoming Anti-War Activities include Friday 6pm, John Howard speaking in Camberwell; Saturday 1pm, mass rally, state library; Saturday 1pm, roving street party, meet cnr lonsdale and swanston; Sunday: Parents, babies and toddlers protest for peace; Monday, weekly picket of defence plaza.

Howard's Dinner Goes Cold - 29/03/2003

500 anti-war protestors succeeded in delaying the arrival of Prime Minister John Howard to an exclusive Liberal Party function on Friday night. Howard's car was blocked twice and pelted with eggs and paint before his entourage finally pushed through protestor lines on the third attempt, an hour late, with the help of more than 100 police and dozens of horses.

On Saturday, 35 000 people marched in Melbourne against the war.

Stage Managing Victory Amidst the Carnage - 10/04/2003

As the US and UK enter Bagdad declaring victory amidst the carnage, scepticism of their imperialist plans remains high. 3CR radio reported that the chaos has led the Red Cross to halt all activities in Baghdad citing, "the chaotic and totally unpredictable situation in the city." Amnesty International reports that up to 1.2 mill people in the city of Basra are without water deemed safe even to wash in. US Vice President Dick Cheney has declared that control of a new Iraqi Government "has to reside with the US government." He added, "We don't believe that the United Nations is equipped to play that central role," as US, British and Australian corporations line up for contacts to reconstruct Iraq.

In Melbourne protests continue. On Sunday one group staged a die-in on the steps of parliament. On Monday activists picketed the Defence Plaza and Wednesday saw a cluster bomb action and union rally.

Upcoming Actions include April 13, 2pm, Palm Sunday Rally, April 14, 5pm, Pro-test Howard at Grand Hyatt, Whole day shutdown of defence plaza

U.S.-led Invasion Morphs into Occupation - 27/04/2003

Although the bulk of the fighting in Iraq has subsided, the aftermath of the war is only beginning. The civilian death count has yet to be reported, and the Pentagon announced that it “has no plans” to determine how many civilians were killed or injured during the war. US forces remain firmly entrenched in Iraq, where they are likely to remain for a long-term occupation. But last week, as Iraqi civilians looted hospitals and archaeological museums, US troops were busy protecting the Ministry of Oil building.

The US military continues to impinge on the freedom of the press in Iraq, banning from the Palestine Hotel members of the human rights group Voices in the Wilderness. This occurred after VITW released a press release outlining US failures in Iraq.

Post-war plans for a democratic Iraq have been revealed to be fraught with hypocrisy. Many have questioned whether the US is interested in a real representative democracy or simply colonialism in the region.

There has been much talk lately of the new global role that the United States is playing. Some claim that the United States used the war on Iraq to send a message to the rest of the world: don't stand in the way of US economic and geopolitical interests, or else face brutal consequences. There is already evidence that the US intends to continue its foreign policy in this fashion. Leaked on 22 April, a secret memo written by Donald Rumsfeld calls for “regime change” in North Korea, and the US seems to have moved on quickly from its task in Iraq, as it now threatens Syria in familiar tones.

Most independent reporters have returned home from Iraq, and there is little if any independent reporting coming out of Iraq.

Iraq: Counting the cost of ‘Liberation’ - 13/05/2003

From the newswire:

“As the dust settles in newly ‘liberated’ Iraq, the neo-conservative Right has become increasingly bold and shrill in their denunciations of prior Left opposition to the war. With victory, we are told, has come vindication. Amid apparent signs of jubilation on the ‘Iraqi street’, the Left, so the story goes, has been ‘shamed’ by its ‘blind Anti-Americanism.’ The anti-war movement – which at one stage drew 200,000 onto the streets of Melbourne and Sydney respectively, and perhaps 2 million onto the streets of London, has thus been dismissed as something of a ‘misguided embarrassment’. Meanwhile, many of the Left’s most dire predictions have failed to eventuate, leading

some to suggest a crisis of credibility.”

“It seems pertinent, therefore, to pose the question: what really did happen in Iraq? What is ‘the way forward’ for a movement confronted by triumphant neo- conservative proclamations of ‘victory’ and ‘vindication’? What is more: what does the future hold for Iraq, and what are the Americans likely to do from here?”

Protest ‘Defence and Industry 2003’ in Canberra - 17/06/2003

This year is the 10th Defence Procurement Conference, ‘Defence+Industry 2003’, and will be staged over three days, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, 24-26 June, with registration and the welcoming cocktail party on the Monday, 23 June 2003. A convergence of activists will occur outside the National Convention Centre, on Constitution Ave in Canberra, at 8:00am on Tuesday 24th of June. Defence Minister Robert Hill is scheduled to speak at 8:45am. Let’s give him, and several defence industry CEO’s, a warm welcome.

Members of the Acehnese community and their supporters will join the protest campaigning against Australian military ties with Indonesia.

Altogether an extra \$2.5 billion is to be spent on ‘Defence’ over the next five years with total ‘defence’ spending to rise to \$15 billion in 2003-04. This increase will be at the expense of education, Medicare, public hospital funding reduced by more than \$100 million a year, and the conspiracy of silence on poverty.

Update 25 June: ‘Defence’ Minister Senator Robert Hill condemns the violence of a cardboard gun; then announces killing machine program.

Depleted Uranium - Weapon of Mass Destruction - 19/06/2003

As used by the USA in Iraq, Afghanistan, Serbia, Bosnia, Kosovo, Puerto Rico, Okinawa, Scotland and testing ranges on mainland USA. Professor Doug Rokke outlines ‘Depleted Uranium: uses and hazards’. The use of depleted uranium munitions has caused political foes to unite.

Extreme Birth Deformities have resulted from use of depleted uranium in the Gulf War 1991. During the invasion of Iraq in 2003 the Pentagon and United Nations have estimated up to 2,200 tons of depleted uranium were used, much of it in urban areas. For example, each round fired by an Abrams tank is over 4,500

grams of solid uranium. Although the confirmed civilian body count is 5500 to 7200, it is likely that hundreds of thousands of civilians will be affected in future by depleted uranium in the environment. Depleted Uranium should be seen as the new nuclear threat. Recent studies have shown the US used nuclear weapons in Afghanistan which has affected many people across the country.

Professor Doug Rokke, the Army Reserve Major and Health Physicist in charge of DU cleanup after the Gulf War (1991) exposes the lies by the US Army. He has been campaigning against depleted uranium munitions since the first Gulf war, touring the world giving lectures like this one on May 5, 2003. He openly says the US has used it despite warnings and impact on people and environment

Hear Dr Rokke in Melbourne Tuesday 24 June, 7pm. Sponsored by vicpeace.

Anti-war protests to target Bush sleepover visit - 9/10/2003

George Bush is due to attend the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) summit in Bangkok on 20-21 October, before a quick visit to Australia, including addressing a joint sitting of parliament on 23 October in Canberra. The visit was described on ABC News Satire show CNNNN as 'Bush announces slumber down under'. But the Bush spin-doctors definitely needed to do more research. While tap water is mostly drinkable, and Canberra is definitely a bit boring, our Prime Minister is definitely not John Major.

Preparations are already underway to protest the war policies and legitimacy of George W Bush. Last Saturday Bush was found guilty of Crimes against humanity in a mock trial by Coburg shoppers. The trial will be repeated this Saturday. Benefit gigs are being organised to raise money for buses to take people to Canberra protests. A Melbourne protest is being organised for 22 October. You can download flyers for protests around Australia.

Why not participate in the No Weapons in Space - Keep Space for Peace Week this Saturday 11 October with a Peace Picnic outside the Planetarium, Science-works, 2 Booker St Spotswood from noon to 3pm.

Greens Bushwack USA President in Canberra - 24/10/2003

While thousands protested in Melbourne and Sydney, two murderous Presidents, Bush and Hu, arrived in Australia to address the Australian Parliament. Canberra was under massive security alert for President Bush. Three thousand people

protested his visit in Canberra. Inside parliament, Greens Senator Bob Brown interjected during Bush's speech to release two Australian citizens detained without charge in Guantanamo Bay. Later Greens Senator Kerry Nettle interjected to urge Australia not to sign a free trade agreement with the United States.

Some people argue that Howard should use this opportunity to push to free Political Prisoners held by China and the USA. Security precautions are less for the President of China, and the question has been asked: Is the Left letting China off the Hook

Footy fans read about disarmament trial in Ireland - 31/10/2003

At the Australia-Ireland Footy at the MCG Friday night there was distributed this information on the Irish Pit Stop Ploughshares who disarmed a US naval aircraft before the invasion of Iraq. Ciaran O'Reilly, an activist from Australia and a member of the Pit Stop Ploughshares, will be appearing in an Irish Court on November 3. Ciaran O'Reilly was previously targeted by British intelligence agencies over East Timor Solidarity work. In a previous case, a jury refused to convict anti-war activist, Mary Kelly, for damaging a warplane.

Remembering War, Walking for Peace - 17/11/2003

Over the weekend of 15-16 November an International Peace Pilgrimage Conference was held in Melbourne. Jeff McKenzie from Military Families Speak Out (MFSO) presented this speech about why he is participating. The conference is the preamble to the International Peace Pilgrimage, an epic eight-month walk that follows a highly symbolic path from Roxby Downs uranium mine in South Australia on December 1 to Hiroshima and Nagasaki in Japan by August 2004.

Earlier in the week, on Remembrance Day 11th November, Women for Peace attempted to hold a silent vigil with their banner 'War is murder, rape and grief – ban wars - peace in the 21st century'. They were assaulted, dragged along the ground and two women were arrested and charged. It seems the first and last casualties of war are civilians, and police and old soldiers are quick to forget this. The same day 10,000 workers held a march and rally called by the Victorian Trades Hall which called for a fair go for workers. The protest was a direct response to the Howard Government's 'War on Workers'.

Star Wars: Increasing Australian Insecurity - 8/12/2003

The Howard government has formally signed on to America's ballistic missile defence system known popularly as "star wars", an appropriate phrase. A number of comments about this are in order for the Government case in favour of BMD is hopelessly flawed. To understand the major expansion in the US, hence Western, global military system you need to understand the forces driving it: the Political Economy of Hegemony, Survival and Self-Deterrence.

To counter the nuclear threat to the future posed by the Australia and the USA alliance, on Monday 8th December, members of the Kupa Piti Kungka Tjuta and the Irati Wanti GANG (Girls Against Nuclear Genocide), will travel from Coober Pedy to Roxby Downs for the launch of the International Peace Pilgrimage Towards A Nuclear Free Future.

Pork Barrelling Into Space - 20/01/2004

The past week has been a big one for space. We have seen the Bush administration commit the US to, effectively, colonising the Moon and sending a manned mission to Mars. Secondly, we have seen the Howard Government make significant steps toward participation in the US programme for the militarisation of space.

Direct action anti-war activists on trial - 1/02/2004

On January 30, Dr Will Saunders and Dave Burgess were sentenced to 9 months imprisonment to be served in periodic detention. The two activists have also been ordered to pay the Sydney Opera House Trust's full compensation demand of \$151,000. They were charged with "malicious damage" for painting NO WAR in 5m high blood-red letters on the Sydney Opera House - two days before Bush, Blair, and HoWARD started invading Iraq on March 20, 2003.

In Ireland, Brisbane peace activist/Catholic Worker, Ciaran O'Reilly returns to Dublin's Four Courts on Monday February 2nd. Along with other members of the Pit Stop Ploughshares he is charged with \$US2.5 million "criminal Damage (sic)" to a US Navy War Plane at Shannon Airport. Charges arise from a non-violent disarmament action at Shannon, Co. Clare on 3rd February 2003.

In the USA a petition has been launched to free three Dominican nuns serving prison terms who took direct action in non-violently and symbolically exposing and inspecting a first strike 330 kiloton (20x Hiroshima) Minuteman III intercontinental ballistic missile.

International Peace Pilgrimage Arrives in Melbourne - 20/02/2004

After two and a half months and 1500 kilometres of walking, participants in the International Peace Pilgrimage (IPP) will arrive in Melbourne at 12:00pm, Friday, February 20th. The IPP is an epic 8 month journey from Olympic Dam uranium mine (Roxby Downs), South Australia, to Hiroshima and Nagasaki in Japan. Whilst walking the four thousand kilometres from the largest uranium mine in the southern hemisphere to the sites of nuclear war, pilgrims hope to share stories, disseminate information, and through dialogue with local communities, create paths towards peace and a nuclear free future.



Militarism is the real Terrorism - Feb 25th 2004

The good people of Melbourne were locked out of Station Pier on the weekend for the duration of the visit of an American Warship, the USS Port Royal. (exceptions were apparently made for many of our local girls who wandered out shortly before the ship sailed). The state Government (read taxpayers) provided police, with boats and barricades, and security was heavy. Meanwhile, five anti-war activists in Canberra interrupted and halted the Minister of Defence, Robert Hill's address to the inaugural conference of the Australian Defence Magazine.

Archbishop Tutu Gives Support To Ciaran O'Reilly Awaiting Trial In Ireland - Feb 26th 2004

Australian peace activist Ciaran O'Reilly awaits trial in Ireland charged with two counts of "criminal damage" (\$US2million & €200). The charges are in relation to a non-violent disarmament action by the Pit Stop Ploughshares of a US Navy war plane at Shannon Airport, Co. Clare, Ireland on February 3rd 2003. Deirdre Clancy, Nuin Dunlop, Karen Fallon and Damien Moran are four others who are also facing the same charges. The major criminal damage charge faced by the five carries a maximum sentence of 10 years. At the time, the US Navy was integral in enforcing genocidal sanctions on Iraq and was mobilising for an escalated bombing campaign, invasion and occupation of Iraq. In 2003, Shannon Airport facilitated 125,855 US troops in transit to Iraq.

Nobel Peace Prize winner Archbishop Desmond Tutu, well-known for his non-violent resistance against the previous South African apartheid regime, has com-

pared the peace activists' direct action to the Dunne's Stores workers who refused to handle apartheid goods, in his visit to Ireland on February 23rd. Initially, these workers were isolated and ridiculed, only to be vindicated in their contribution to the end of apartheid in South Africa.

Anti-Occupation Rally To Be Held On International Day Of Action - Mar 17th 2004

An anti-occupation rally in Melbourne will be held at the State Library on March 20 at 1:00PM to coincide with an international day of action. It is one year since the first bombs started raining on Iraq in its most recent war. The day of action specifically calls for the withdrawal of all foreign troops and the end of the occupation. The situation in Iraq is still very much in the minds of many people, after millions took to the streets around the world in February last year in the biggest anti-war action ever. Find out why it is important to participate in the global anti-war day.

Thousands rally in anti-war protests across Oceania - Mar 21st 2004

Although turnouts were not as great as the February 2003 massive rallies against war, thousands of people across Oceania have participated in anti-war protests and peace marches to mark the first anniversary of the invasion of Iraq. Protests occurred around Aotearoa and included an Anti-Occupation Action in Wellington, a protest in Auckland, a protest and flag burning in Christchurch and many more smaller protests. In Australia, several thousand people protested in both Melbourne, and Sydney. A thousand people rallied in Brisbane, 200 in Perth, and smaller protests in Canberra and Hobart and other regional centres. Adelaide held a protest on Sunday.

In the Philippines a Candlelight protest was held on Friday night and a further protest in Manila on Saturday where over 1000 people were attacked by fire hoses. More than fifty East Timorese people and a number of internationals protested in Dili outside the US Embassy in regard to the occupation of Iraq.

Other protests occurred in Tokyo and other cities in Japan where organisers estimated 30,000 people protested the Japanese involvement in sending members of the Self Defence Force to Iraq. In Seoul, Korea about 1,500 mostly young college students staged a peaceful anti-war demonstration. In Thailand, dozens of people protested in front of the American and British embassies in the capital Bangkok, protesting the deployment of 450 Thai troops in Iraq. Demonstrations also occurred in Hong Kong, and in New Delhi in India.

Emergency Action Against War In Iraq Called - Apr 18th 2004

An emergency anti-war action has been called for April 23 by three Peace Groups. The action will be held at 5PM at the GPO steps, Bourke Street Mall. The action will call for the end of the occupation, responsible for the present catastrophe in Iraq, in order to allow Iraqis determine the future of their country. Australia, with a history of imperialism, did not have the liberation of Iraq at heart, but the interest of Australian business when deciding to invade, according to a commentator. "By assisting the US in the invasion, Australia got some access to contracts and possibly oil profits during the rebuilding and ensuing economic dominance of Iraq".

The intensity and ferocity of the current fighting in Iraq has made it more difficult for any media source to portray resistance to the US occupation of Iraq as the work of foreign mujadeen and remnants of the Baath Party. This has brought about a spurt in the interest of the plight of Iraqis.

Activist To Commemorate WW1 Anti-War Campaign - Apr 22nd 2004

Anti-war activist Jeremy Dixon has announced that he is to hold an action at the corner of Little Bourke and Russell Street in the city on ANZAC Day, April 25 at 9:30AM for two hours. In front of the old Industrial Workers of the World site, he will hold a placard in memory of the anti-conscription drive that saved tens of thousands of lives in the First World War. He believes that ANZAC Day currently glorifies war.

The Industrial Workers of the World had opposed the war since 1914. They actively campaigned against the war, drawing the analogy that workers on either side of a bayonet were fighting the war. Their opposition to the war captured the public imagination and within a year church groups and much of the trade union movement had become involved in the struggle to stop the carnage. They were successful, as two Conscription referendums were rejected in 1916 and 1917.

Anti-War activists are encouraged to show solidarity with Dixon, by joining him or passing by and having a chat.



Protestors Greet Howard At IPA - May 21st 2004

A small but loud protest met John Howard and guests at the entrance of the Institute of Public Affairs in Melbourne on Wednesday May 19. It was called at short notice by the Moreland Peace Group, which featured two hooded figures flanking the entrance, a reminder of the torture of prisoners in Iraq by the occupation forces. A number of refugee advocates were also present.

John Howard made a speech at the C. D. Kemp lecture in the IPA building where he stated that the occupation of Iraq was a test of values, character and leadership, and also stated that a “weakening or retreat” by the “Coalition of the Willing” in Iraq would not result in a “respite from future terrorist attacks”.

Tony Kevin, a former Australian ambassador to Poland and Cambodia, rejected the Prime Minister’s stance in an article on May 20, calling it a recipe for further distress and pointing out that the majority of Iraqis wanted the foreign occupiers to leave.

Australian Peace Activist Receives Presidential Pardon - Jun 16th 2004

East Timorese President Xanana Gusmao, following in the wake of Martin Sheen of the West Wing, embraced and pardoned Australian peace activist Ciaran O’Reilly. O’Reilly met Gusmao in Ireland and gave him a copy of his book “Remembering Forgetting - A Journey of Non-Violent Resistance to the War on East Timor” (Oxford Press, Australia, 2001).

In 2002 O’Reilly founded the Dublin Catholic Worker in Ireland the country of his father’s birth. He began to campaign against the militarisation of Shannon Airport in County Clare. By the end of 2002, over 10,000 US troops were passing through Shannon on their way to war in Iraq. Recent reports point to prisoners passing through to Guantanamo Bay in Cuba and the passage of cruise and patriot missile components through Shannon Airport.

On February 3 2003, O’Reilly and four other Catholic Workers made their way into the airport and disarmed a US Navy war plane. The Pit Stop Ploughshares Five await trial in Dublin charged with \$US 2.5 million in criminal damage to the war plane and €200 to the hangar window. They face a maximum sentence of 10 years imprisonment.

Activists subvert Defence Force Billboards - 23/07/2004

In Sydney a small group of culture jammers have attacked Australian Defence Force recruitment billboards. The signs were subverted by changing the wording to emphasis the murderous nature of a career in the defence forces. The billboards are located at train stations in working class areas. Alternatives to militarism do exist, in the form of non-violent social movements and social defence. In Nonviolence versus Capitalism Brian Martin argues that "Non-violent action is the most promising method of moving beyond capitalism to a more humane social and economic system."

ADI Weapons Plant: Rooting out A Homegrown Terror - Jul 2nd 2004

A weekend of non-violent direct action has been planned for July 2-4 2004 at Benalla. The aim of the action is to highlight the links between Australian Defence Industries (ADI) and human rights abuses in West Papua, Aceh and the Occupied Territories. ADI owns a munitions factory at Benalla which supplies weapons to the Indonesian and Israeli defence forces. ADI is also a major supplier of weapons and equipment to the Australian Defence Force.

So-Called Transition Of Sovereign Power Takes Place - Jun 29th 2004

On June 28, the 'Coalition of the Willing' transferred a minute amount of power to an Iraqi interim government in Iraq, two days earlier than the June 30 deadline. This came after the targeting of government buildings, officials, and security forces by resistance some days earlier. The occupation by the United States imperialist forces, along with other allies, have been deeply unpopular within the Iraqi population, especially after the torture of Iraqi prisoners was exposed.

While some power will be in the hands of the interim Iraqi government, also unpopular for being a 'puppet government' for the United States, the reality is that very little in the way of power will be in their hands. They will have no control over their oil resources, which is in the hands of transnational corporations, with little revenue being returned to Iraq, let alone spent appropriately. 'Major decisions' will still be made by the USA, while the imperialist forces, which number 135,000 US troops and approximately 20,000 more from other Coalition countries, will continue to keep control of 'security'.

The US Embassy is expected to keep Iraq run in the best interests of the United

States of America, with John Negroponte appointed the ambassador for the US to Iraq. Under Negroponte's ambassadorship in Honduras from 1981-1985, he supported US-sponsored human rights violations, which became systematic. The infamous Battalion 316, trained by the CIA and Argentine military, kidnapped, tortured and killed hundreds of people.

Those in Melbourne who wish to speak out against the war in Iraq can attend a candle light march on June 30 at 5:30PM, starting from Federation Square.

Senior Military Officers Say 'Vote Liberal' - Jul 16th 2004

Melbourne radio broadcaster and commentator Joseph Toscano has revealed that senior officers in the Australian military are telling their troops how to vote at the upcoming Federal election. Across the country and overseas, Australian military personnel are being told that if they want to keep their jobs, they, along with family and friends, must vote for the Liberal Party/National Party Coalition at the next Federal election, according to one source familiar with the military.

This news has come in the face of an allegation by General Peter Cosgrove to the Senate estimates committee hearing that Prime Minister John Howard is breaking a long-standing convention against the images of defence personnel being used for "unmistakably political purposes". Voters have been receiving images of John Howard posing with military personnel from Liberal Party MPs and candidates. Critics have been angry by the politicisation of the Australian military, which is supposed to be an arm of the state, rather than the Federal Government.

Beating Swords into Ploughshares - 16/08/2004

Peace activist Ciaran O'Reilly visits Melbourne this week to talk on "Beating Swords into Ploughshares: Resisting the War in Iraq". On 3rd Feb 2003, on the eve of the Iraq War, Ciaran was part of a group calling themselves "The Pitstop Ploughshares" that disarmed a US war plane as it passed through Shannon Airport, Ireland. At the time, the US Navy was integral in enforcing genocidal sanctions on Iraq and was mobilising for an escalated bombing campaign, invasion and occupation of Iraq. In 2003, Shannon Airport facilitated 125,855 US troops in transit to Iraq. Within the month, 3 of the 4 companies contracted to ferry US troops and weapons to Iraq had left Ireland.

Ciaran and his four co-defendants in Ireland are charged with two counts of "criminal damage" (\$US2million & €200). The major criminal damage charge faced by the five carries a maximum sentence of 10 years.

End the Lies Rally and Concert - 19/09/2004

The week before the election people will gather in Melbourne for the 'End the Lies!' rally. The pre-election rally to bring the troops home will see thousands of people gathering in solidarity. Actions will take place nationwide across the weekend to speak out against the lies John Howard has fed the Australian population. Organised by Victorian Peace Network, 'End the Lies!' has been endorsed by many organisations, including Victorian Trades Hall Council, Pax Christi, Unitarian Church, Islamic Council of Victoria, The Greens, local peace groups, and union, left and solidarity organisations.



Action Against War Profiteers - 24/09/2004

From the 28th – 30th of September the Australian Land Warfare Conference will take place in Melbourne. A mix of corporate ideas sharing seminars crossed with an industry sales exhibition: an expo of efficiency in death and destruction for your dollar. Attending the conference will be many of the biggest names in arms manufacturing, from the homegrown ADI (Australia's biggest weapons manufacturer) to global mega-corporations such as General Dynamics and BAe Systems

On Tuesday the 28th of September the conference is having its official cocktail party at the Melbourne Aquarium. At the same time protesters will be having their own Cocktail Party against War Profiteering at 6pm out the front of the Aquarium. Earlier a Fare Evasion Tram Party will begin at 5pm in Brunswick. Yarra trams is owned by Transfield, 50% owner of Australian Defence Industries (ADI).

Snuff Puppets greet PM at Footscray - 26/09/2004

SNUFF PUPPETS chased Prime Minister John Howard as he arrived at the Footscray markets on 24th September. A Snuff Puppet greeted the PM with a puppet JUMBO JET on a stick and a sign reading: 'Howard creates Terrorism'. (Story and photos) Another contributor says Our Children will pay for the lies of our Prime Minister.

Anti-war activists parody militarists - 30/09/2004

From the newswire: "This evening I met face to face some of the faceless men who manufacture and sell the weapons of war. The men of the military industrial

complex. They had to run a gauntlet of people asking questions, congratulating them on profiting from war, and spraying champagne around. Some of them were distinctly surprised with the cocktail party welcome, and having their photo taken.”

Activists execute citizen's arrest on Alexander Downer - 01/10/2004

Anti-war, pro-refugee and civil rights activists made a citizens arrest of Foreign Minister Alexander Downer for War crimes and other detailed transgressions. Activists picketed at the Melbourne Arts Centre on 1 October where Foreign Minister Alexander Downer was due to address a symposium on “Iraq and the challenges for Human Rights”. Downer was able to evade the rodent trap set up at the main entrance, but Jacob Grech and two others confronted him and one person was able to lay the requisite hand on him to formalise the arrest.

Where are the weapons of Mass Destruction in Iraq? - 05/10/2004

Thousands of people participated in ‘End the Lies’ rallies across Australia against the Howard Government, in protest against the lies told to justify the invasion of Iraq by the Howard Government. In Melbourne [Report, Photos] David Ristrom told the rally that “The bill for this Iraq war so far has been \$US151 billion (\$A207 billion),” he said “It could provide food for half the hungry people in the world for two years”. In Sydney, author Thomas Keneally told the crowd of several thousand: “When I get lied to as a citizen, I feel very alone, and today I feel there are others who feel like me - alone. Truth lies bleeding and isolated on the steps of our Parliament.” In Adelaide at least 300 people rallied and marched to Parliament steps.

Occupiers Occupied: Activists Disrupt Business of War Profiteers - 26/10/2004

Around 20 anti-war and anti-corporate activists occupied the offices of the Worley Group at 300 Flinders st on Friday the 22nd of October. Worley is involved in a 1 billion dollar operation in northern Iraq to restore and maintain oil infrastructures. It is the biggest Australian war profiteer benefiting from the occupation of Iraq.

Arundhati Roy collects Sydney Peace Prize - 04/11/2004

Arundhati Roy was awarded the Sydney Peace Prize on 3rd November at a function in Sydney where she delivered an address, 'What we call peace is little better than capitulation to a corporate coup'. The prize citation reads: "In recognition of her courage in campaigning for human rights and for advocacy of non-violence as in her demands for justice for the poor, for the victims of communal violence (in India), for the millions displaced by the Narmada dam projects and for her opposition to nuclear weapons."



Roy has been an articulate critic of the war in Iraq and the economic rationalist agenda of 'free trade' and investment regimes. Conservative commentators like Gerard Henderson have attacked the awarding of the Peace prize due to her support for resistance in Iraq against the invasion and occupation by the USA 'Coalition of the Killing'. Arundhati Roy told an ABC reporter "One wasn't urging them to join the Mehdi Army, you know, but to become the resistance, to become part of what ought to be a non-violent resistance against a very violent occupation. So that is to redefine what resistance means, you know, we can't just assume that resistance means terrorism, because that would be playing right into the hands of the occupation."

100,000 Dead in 'Free Market' Shock Therapy in Iraq - 03/11/2004

Journalist Naomi Klein talks of the Shock Therapy in Iraq and exposes the economic restructuring of Iraq to match free market ideology being imposed by the USA occupation. "I think it's really important to understand these economic policies as violence, and that they actually cannot be imposed without some form of terror, without some form of violence. We've seen this throughout Latin America, and we've seen it in Africa, and I think what has happened in Iraq is the culmination of the economic and the military side of this single project."

The terror comes in the form of 100,000 civilian deaths from war related violence, according to a report in the British Medical journal, the Lancet. Report author, Dr Les Roberts, a public health expert in the USA, said "We can say with absolute confidence that both mortality and violent deaths have gone way up," he said. "Making conservative assumptions, we think that about 100,000 excess deaths

or more have happened since the 2003 invasion of Iraq. Violence accounted for most of the excess deaths, and air strikes from coalition forces accounted for most violent deaths.”

US may trial dumb bombs in Australia? - 06/11/2004

The United States looks set to test new generation weapons, including dumb bombs, in Australia within three years. The testing would be part of increased joint military exercises, which are currently being planned. Up to 20,000 United States troops will descend on Queensland's Shoalwater Bay, north of Rockhampton, in 2007 to participate in new warfare training and experimentation exercises.

“There is not a US military base in the world that has not resulted in soil and/or ground water contamination from toxic chemicals in munitions, fuel, paint and thinners, greases, heavy metals, acids, PCBs, oils and solvents. By signing up as a front line collaborator with the US military, the Howard Government is putting all Australians in danger.” said Dr Hannah Middleton, spokesperson for the Australian Anti-Bases Campaign Coalition.

Attack on Fallujah, Emergency Action Friday - 11/11/2004

U.S. forces have begun their ground assault on the Iraqi city of Fallujah, a city full of ‘terrorists’ according to most media. But for many Iraqi people, Fallujah represents resistance against the US led occupation, an occupation that has so far led to the deaths of more than 100,000 people. The Australian government and Australian corporations continue to support, participate and profit from the war. Aljazeera reports that almost half of the mosques in Fallujah have been destroyed and that the city is facing a humanitarian crisis with US forces bombing a hospital.

Demonstrations against the attacks have occurred around the world. There will be a protest Melbourne on Friday at 5.00pm in the Bourke St Mall.

Peace Protester to Face Court - 16/11/2004

At 10am on Friday November 19 2004, teacher and activist, Rita Kaur will face the Magistrate's Court for her peaceful anti-war action. When bombing commenced in Iraq on 20 March 2003, Reta wrote, “The Killing has Started!” on marble statues outside the US Consulate in Melbourne. Written in water-soluble red paint, Reta planned to wash the words off before attending the Victorian Peace Network rally at the state library, but she was arrested before getting the chance to do so. Charged with criminal damage and facing a clean up bill of \$9080 seems even more ludicrous when all it took to clean the statues was water and a cloth.

Reta will plead 'not guilty' at Magistrate's Court appearance on Friday.

Peace Activist Acquitted - 24/11/2004

Peace activist Pretam Kaur was today acquitted in the Melbourne Magistrates Court of criminal damage after she wrote the killing has started in red paint and placed red handprints on two statues outside the US Consulate in Melbourne last year. She also avoided a restitution bill of over \$9000 for the alleged clean up costs. The incident occurred in a spontaneous moment of grief upon Ms Kaur being told of the outbreak of war on Iraq on 20 March 2003. Ms Kaur had been maintaining a vigil with others outside the US Consulate in the hope that the war would not begin. When she was told that it had she took a pot of water based paint that she had been using to make protest signs and applied it to the statues.



Magistrate Hodgins who heard the matter found that damage had been caused by Ms Kaur's actions but that she had not intended it.

Action Against War Profiteers - 05/12/2004

On Friday December 3rd actions occurred in both Sydney and Melbourne against Kellogg, Brown and Root, a subsidiary of the Haliburton corporation. The actions were to protest the obscene war profiteering that KBR have engaged in during both the current war in Iraq and the global 'war on terror'. Both KBR and Halliburton have benefited massively from the war and occupation in Iraq. They have been awarded no-bid contracts worth US\$7 billion by the US government. These contracts have been paid for through the sale of Iraq's oil.

In Melbourne ANZ offices were also occupied due to their complicity in the Iraqi occupation through their participation in the Trade Bank of Iraq.

Opera House Anti-War Activists lose appeal - 24/02/2005

An appeal court in Sydney has rejected the arguments of the Opera House 2 who painted 'NO WAR' on the Opera House in 2003 that they were attempting to defend Iraqis from wrongful harm, under Section 418 of the Crimes Act. Dr Will Saunders and David Burgess face 9 months of periodic detention and payment of \$151,000 as full compensation to the Sydney Opera House Trust.

In Ireland, Australian peace activist Ciaron O'Reilly is facing trial on March 7th in the Dublin Four Courts, with four co-defendants, charged with \$US2million criminal damage to a U.S. Navy War Plane at Shannon Airport in February 2003. The five pacifist Catholic Workers awaiting trial are known in Ireland as the "Pit Stop Ploughshares".

Opposing Australian war profiteers in Iraq - 03/03/2005

Australian corporations have been well rewarded for their governments' participation in the invasion and occupation of Iraq. A host of companies have received contracts related to oil infrastructures, communications technology, transport, food distribution and much, much more. Whilst relatively small compared to the major projects given to US and UK businesses, Australia's corporate participation is by no means insignificant and Australia's role in general has helped give legitimacy to the "coalition of the willing" and its brutal occupation. As the Government prepares to send another 450 troops to the region mobilisations are being built for the 2nd anniversary of the Iraq invasion around the weekend of March 20th including a tram fare evasion action and rallies across the country.

Dissent on trial: Women for Peace in court - 08/03/2005

Two women from Women for Peace will be appearing at Melbourne magistrates Court on 7th and 8th March to defend their protest at the Shrine of Remembrance on 11/11/03, where they were attacked, assaulted and arrested. They welcome supporters and claim that the right of dissent is on trial.



On 11/11/03, with the illegal invasion of Iraq killing 100,000 people, eight women from Women for Peace: No Weapons No Wars, went to the Melbourne Shrine on Remembrance Day to protest against all wars, and to grieve for victims killed and wounded. Caprice was assaulted by an ex-service man, then arrested and charged with trespass, assaulting police, & resisting arrest. Reta was charged with trespass, resisting arrest & offensive behaviour. The man was commended for assisting police, and NOT charged.

Charges of assault and resisting arrest against one of two anti-war protesters arrested at the Shrine on 11 Nov 2003 were dropped in return for a guilty plea

on a charge of trespass; the other protester, who rejected the offer, had her case adjourned to 11 July

In November 2004 Reta Kaur was acquitted of criminal damage after she wrote 'the killing has started' in red paint and placed red handprints on two statues outside the US Consulate in Melbourne in 2003.

Anti-war celebration on ANZAC Day - 26/04/2005

People gathered in Melbourne on ANZAC day to pay tribute to the IWW anti-conscription and anti-war movement active at the time of the First World War. Vilified, hunted and imprisoned, the IWW militants were responsible for saving hundreds and thousands of Australians from death and maiming.

The 'smoking gun' on Iraq, and the corporate media are nowhere to be seen - 20/06/2005

It has been more than 6 weeks since the Downing Street Memo was published by the Times in London and provided irrefutable evidence that the US, UK and Australian governments lied about the invasion of Iraq. So far, the response of the corporate media and opinion makers has been virtually inaudible to what should be a headline story.

Military action was now seen as inevitable. Bush wanted to remove Saddam through military action justified by the conjunction of terrorism and WMD. But the intelligence and facts were being fixed around the policy. From the top secret memo.

Military Exercises, Resisters Arrested & Joh's Ghost Still a Haunting! - 29/06/2005

"As we hit the road in the early hours of June 10th for the 400 mile drive north to blockade US/OZ joint military exercise Operation Talisman Sabre at Shoalwater Bay, the radio had us 2-0 up already! Two members of the U.S. Navy from the USS Boxer had been busted in a downtown Townsville motel room with 11 kgs. of amphetamines and thousands of dollars in cash! By the time our mini vans and car pooling pulled into the campsite on the Rocky Riverside, we were 50 strong. Spirits were good and ready for the face off with 11,000 U.S. & 6,000 OZ troops."

Australian Storm of Metal Terror - 28/07/2005

In the wake of the London bombings and the subsequent angry condemnation of terrorism, an Australian company has invented what it claims is the “world’s deadliest gun”. This weapon of ultimate terror will be used by precisely those countries that claim to fight terrorism. Metal Storm, an Australian company whose shares have recently skyrocketed on the stock exchange, has developed a robotized killing machine capable of firing more than one million rounds a minute, enough to shred an entire building in the blink of an eye. Their stated intention is to deploy the lethal weapon in “hostile urban environments” and it has been reported in the mainstream media that this deadly weapon will be used in Iraq.

Bring Them Home Antiwar Protest - 25/08/2005

A Melbourne Vigil in support of Cindy Sheehan highlights who has benefited from the Iraq war. Cindy Sheehan said: “I believe the only people who have profited from this illegal and immoral war are the war profiteers like Halliburton and Black Water Security, Inc. Halliburton has raped and pillaged billions of dollars from our economy with its no-bid, Cheney-enriching contracts”. Despite criticism from some media commentators her protest outside George Bush’s Texas ranch at Crawford, in an attempt to ask why her son was killed in Iraq, has received strong public support with over 100,000 people attending 1600 vigils in communities across the USA.

Ruddock challenged over Parkin deportation - 19/09/2005

A roomful of protesters wearing Mahatma Gandhi masks demanded an explanation for the deportation of US peace activist Scott Parkin from Australian Attorney-General, Philip Ruddock, at a speaking engagement in Melbourne on Monday night. Protests targeting ANZ Bank for its role in the Iraq war occurred earlier in the day.

One commentator writes: To mitigate the injustice done to Scott, it’s important that Australian activists keep up the struggle against the war, against the bastards profiteering from it and to continue to tell our own stories in defiance of the threats made by the governments’ persecution of peace activists.



We need to keep the pressure on Halliburton (Corpwatch profile) and the ANZ (the target of many successful actions in Australia already). And we need to be prepared. Scott shared his knowledge on Non Violent Direct Action at workshops while he was here and we can continue to train ourselves and be ready for what the government and its agencies are going to throw at us. If we are going to be persecuted for our dedication to peace, then we need to live that peace and capitalize on the opportunity to reach many people with our stories. Think about why you are a peace activist, so you can be prepared to speak when your time comes. The "Battle of the Story" has started in earnest.

Campaign to force ANZ out of Iraq escalates - 06/10/2005

The past few months has seen a rapid rise in anti-war protest actions against the ANZ bank in an attempt to force it to withdraw investments from Iraq. Protests have occurred in cities around Australia and across the Tasman, designed to highlight to the public how the ANZ is profiteering from the on going war.



The ANZ is one of a number of international banks, in a consortium led by JP Morgan Chase Bank, chosen by the Coalition Provisional Authority to assist the establishment of the Iraq Trade Bank. Protestors say that the bank is exploiting Iraq's oil wealth for the benefit of western exporters while pushing a privatisation agenda.

In Melbourne the last few weeks has seen a series of actions including bank occupations, leafleting and even cake stalls. A meeting will be held on Thursday night to further co ordinate these actions.

Iraq: Stop the War to End the Terror - 06/11/2005

In the lead-up to anti-war protests this weekend around Australia, Sister Susan Connelly and other peace activists interrupted Question Time in federal Parliament in Canberra, chanting anti-war slogans and showering the chamber with pamphlets, before being escorted out by security. In Ireland, Ciaran O'Reilly, an Australian peace activist, took the stand for disarming a U.S. War Plane.

In other news Cinemas extend the screening of Depleted Uranium Documentary, Blowin' In the Wind, by award winning director David Bradbury.

Adelaide Hosts US War Criminal - 17/11/2005

Donald Rumsfeld, US Secretary of Defence, is attending the Australia-United States Ministerial Meeting (AUSMIN) in Adelaide on 17 and 18 November, with protests organised by local anti-war activists. Protestors were initially denied a right to protest outside the South Australian Parliament House, but this has now been reversed by Dr Bob Such, the Speaker of the House of Assembly, A minor victory for the right to protest.



Protest organiser Mike Khizam said, "We are only a threat to Donald Rumsfeld's political ego. The Federal government wants to pretend to the US and the world that the whole of Australia is behind the US war on Iraq and the rest of their generally aggressive global strategy," A 500 strong rally and march occurred through Adelaide city streets on 17 November disrupting peak hour traffic.

The US Pentagon this week has been accused of using phosphorus weapons – designed to set people on fire and are not easily extinguished – on Iraqis in Fal-lujah. Chemical weapon use by US forces in Iraq has been confirmed.

USA to bomb the Northern Territory - 23/11/2005

Peace activists will converge upon the Darwin offices of U.S. corporation and Halliburton subsidiary, Kellogg-Brown-Root (KBR) on 25 November in Darwin to protest last week's announcement at AUSMIN that American B-52s and Stealth Bombers will drop live bombs on the NT. Peace activists have declared that a US bombing range in the NT is not acceptable anywhere.

Peace activists Stand Trial at Rockhampton - 23/11/2005

Ten peace activists are contesting charges they incurred while protesting against the War on Iraq during joint US-Australian military exercises, called Operation Talisman Sabre, at the Shoalwater Bay Defence Training Area near Rockhampton in June this year. They will appear in the Rockhampton Magistrates Court from the 30th of November. Ciaran O'Reilly, one of the Pitstop Ploughshares activists in Ireland, said, "The only anti-venom we have is our spirituality and solidarity. I invite you to accompany the 12 good folks before the courts for non-violently

resisting Operation Talisman Sabre...”

Recent Queensland Peace protests have included Action Against Land-warfare Conference, Occupying ANZ Bank branches, and solidarity with Scott Parkin. ‘Christians Against Terrorism’ say that the search for terrorism begins at home and are travelling from Brisbane to Pine Gap in November to inspect the US Australian military intelligence base for possible terrorist activity.

Peace Activist on Trial for Remembrance Day Protest - 27/11/2005

Reta Kaur is charged with trespass for a peaceful protest against the glorification of war on Remembrance Day, November 11, 2003. Reta and another Women for Peace activist had previously appeared in court in March, 2005. Women for Peace have appealed for supporters to attend Reta’s trial, commencing on 28 November, 2005. Reta Kaur painted “the killing has begun” in red on the sculptures outside the US Consulate on the day of the invasion of Iraq in 2003 and was acquitted of criminal damage for this act in November 2004.

Anti terrorism activists arrested at US Spy Base - 13/12/2005

Update 13/12/05: Pine Gap U.S. Terrorist base was shut down for two hours by two members of the pacifist group Christians against ALL Terrorism conducted a citizen’s inspection. Six hundred employees were not allowed into the base, employee’s cars queued up for kilometres outside the front gate.”



Five people have been arrested at Pine Gap in connection with an attempted inspection of the secret US run site. The inspection was organised by Christians Against All Terrorism to highlight the important role played by the base in the on going war in Iraq. “If we condemn suicide bombings, we must also condemn military bombing of civilians,” said Sean O’Reilly, a spokesperson for the group. “We must bring some intellectual and moral honesty to the issue of terrorism.” Before undertaking the inspection, the group had been threatened by Senator Robert Hill with a jail term of 7 years.

Brisbane Peace Activists oppose US Naval Presence - 29/01/2006

A coalition of peace groups in Brisbane say that the nuclear powered and armed USS Ronald Reagan is not welcome in the Port of Brisbane and are taking to their kayaks and row boats in a peace flotilla to make their point.



In North Queensland the Townsville Greens has called on Townsville's Nuclear Free Zone to be enforced to prevent nuclear powered and armed ships entering local waters. Spokesperson Jenny Stirling said "The Australian government should take the same stand as New Zealand, and permit only ships that confirm they are not carrying radioactive material into our Ports."

ASIO questions Australian Peace Activist - 06/02/2006

Australian peace activist, Ciaran O'Reilly, was questioned by ASIO agents in Brisbane after he arrived on a flight from Ireland on 3 February. Ciaran is one of the Pit Stop Ploughshares defendants awaiting a third trial in Dublin, on July 5th, with no restrictions placed on travel to Australia. He was questioned on his plans in Australia, the civil disobedience that occurred during the Shoalwater "Operation Talisman Sabre" joint U.S./OZ military exercises in 2005, and whether he planned to accompany his brother Sean to Alice Springs for his court date arising from his arrest following a peace demonstration at the CIA/NSA outback base at Pine Gap.

It's not the first time ASIO has expressed interest in peace movement activists recently. In 2005 ASIO made an adverse security report on US peace activist, Scott Parkin, resulting in his deportation. Parkin has launched a Federal Court challenge to uncover the reasons for his treatment, as Attorney-General Phillip Ruddock has refused to divulge the contents of the adverse security assessment that led to Mr Parkin's removal from the country.

Peace Activist found Not Guilty of Obstruction - 7/03/2006

Christians Against All Terrorism member Sean O'Reilly was found not guilty in the Alice springs Magistrates court on March 3rd. O'Reilly had been charged with obstructing police while holding an anti-war vigil outside the Pine Gap Military facility in December last year.

Brisbane Peace Activist on Trial in Ireland - 07/07/2006

A Brisbane peace activist & four co-defendants from the pacifist Catholic Worker movement return to Dublin's Four Courts on July 5th for their third trial in 16 months. Long time Brisbane peace activist Ciaron O'Reilly along with Deirdre Clancy, Karen Fallon, Damien Moran and Nuin Dunlop face a charge of \$US2.5million 'criminal damage without a lawful excuse, charges arising out of their non-violent disabling of a US Navy plane in the early hours of February 3rd 2003 at Shannon airport, six weeks before the outbreak of the Iraq war

Australian government has escalated its military involvement in Iraq while US-led offensive in southern Afghanistan kills hundreds.

Ireland: Jury declares Anti-War activists Not Guilty - 28/07/2006

Ciaron O'Reilly and the four other Pitstop Ploughshares have been acquitted by a jury in Ireland of the charges against them for putting a US war plane out of action in 2003. The jury agreed with their defence that they had a lawful excuse to damage the plane in order to stop it from being part of a system that was directly involved in killing civilians in Iraq.



A statement from the Pitstop Ploughshares after the trial said, "The decision of this jury should be a message to London, Washington DC and the Dail that Ireland wants no part in waging war on the people of Iraq. Refuelling of US war-planes at Shannon Airport should cease immediately."

Is Conscription on the Horizon? - 26/08/2006

The Howard government has announced a \$10 billion plan over 11 years to boost the armed forces by an extra 2,600 soldiers. Greens Senator Kerry Nettle attacked the plan saying, "The answer is not to get a bigger army but to pull out of Iraq and Afghanistan and rethink the ADF's involvement in supporting US foreign policy adventures," The rationale for this increase is to prepare the defence force for intervention in more failing states in the Asia/pacific region. The question arises with the amount of military nationalism occurring recently, are we being prepared for the reintroduction of conscription?

Convergence Call for Pine Gap Spybase - 04/09/2006

Attorney General Phillip Ruddock has authorised the Commonwealth to use Cold-War era legislation to prosecute Jim Dowling, Bryan Law, Adele Goldie and Donna Mulhearn for indictable offences under both the Commonwealth Crimes Act, and the Defence (Special Undertakings) Act (used for the very first time) for carrying out a citizen's inspection of the US operated Pine Gap Spy Base. The charges carry a maximum of seven years in prison.

The Pine Gap 6 are organising a convergence in Alice Springs to coincide with their trial. They said "We will put an alternative view - super secret spy bases do NOT hold the key to Australia's security (nor do control orders!)." The national peace convergence and solidarity actions are timed for the trial from October 3 to Oct 13.

At the committal hearing in April James Dowling told the court "We needed to inspect Pine Gap for terrorist activity," after calling US Intelligence chief John Negroponte "a known terrorist". Mr Negroponte inspected the base just three days before the group broke in.

Protestors in Cairns target U.S. Military Ship Visit - 08/09/2006

On Friday 1st September the USS Salvor visited the port of Cairns for five days rest and recreation. This was the sixth US warship visit to Cairns since May last year. The ship was met by 20 peace activists, with 3 arrests for 'threatening the peace', although those arrested were later released without charge.

On Trial for Citizens Inspection of Pine Gap Spybase - 07/10/2006

Christian pacifist activists faced court this week in the Supreme Court in Alice Springs. They are the first ever to face charges under the Defence (Special Undertakings) Act 1952, and risk up to seven years in jail. This legislation was devised to suppress spies and saboteurs in the cold war era. The Four activists, calling themselves "Christians Against ALL Terrorism" are Jim Dowling, Bryan Law, Adele Goldie and Donna Mulhearn, entered the Pine Gap military base to do a citizens inspection. Colourful processions, silent vigils and protests are accompanying the trial.

Five Arrested at Pine Gap Spybase - 07/10/2006

Five people were arrested on Saturday during a protest at the gates of the US Pine Gap spy base outside of Alice Springs. The arrests came at the end of an afternoon of activities by about 60 local and interstate activists drawing attention to the role the secret base plays in US and Australian state sponsored terrorism in Iraq. The action coincides with the first stage of the trial of four Christian peace activists who broke into Pine Gap last year and face seven years in prison.



Opposition to War Games in Barrier Reef Park - 14/11/2006

Anti-war and environmental protestors are preparing to oppose the Talisman Sabre 07 joint US-Australian war games in May 2007 in environmentally sensitive habitat in Queensland. The military games will be carried out in the Ramsar listed Shoalwater Bay and the nearby Coral Sea section of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park. Peace and environmental activists from all over the country will converge on the region to oppose the games.

Peace Action Wellington takes on Howard - 17/02/2007

Anti-war protestors from Peace Action Wellington harassed Prime Minister John Howard's visit to New Zealand. A small group of protestors greeted him at the airport and later about 50 protestors gathered outside Premier House in the evening. Up to three rows of police barred entrance to the Premier House grounds. Protestors blocked the road, let off smoke bombs and resisted the police "safe zone". Three protestors were arrested during brutal police repression.

Antiwar Protests commemorate Iraq Invasion - 18/03/2007

Global protests on the weekend marked the 4th anniversary of the US invasion of Iraq. In Melbourne up to 1000 people gathered outside the State Library on Saturday and marched in a noisy protest through the city streets to the Headquarters of the Liberal Party.

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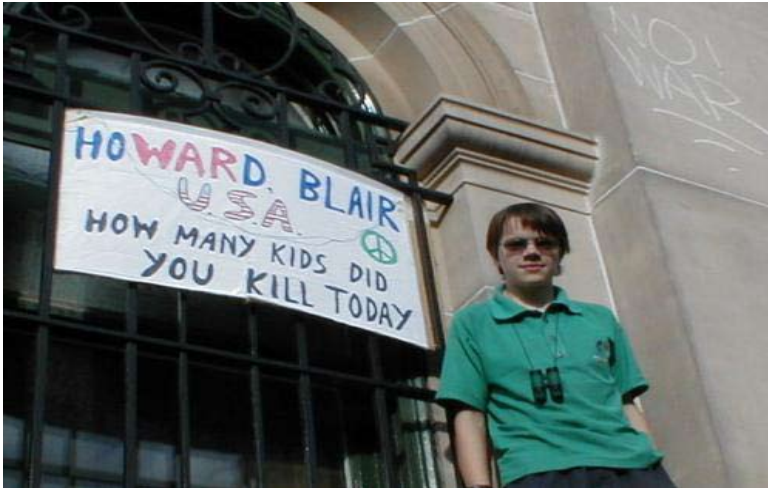
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Photos:

Most of the photographs from Melbourne were taken by myself, but some were taken by PC, Steven Stephenson or other photographers and made available on Melbourne Indymedia. Photos not from Melbourne were published on Indymedia under the Melbourne Indymedia copyleft policy. A few images were used from Wikipedia, including the image of Arundhati Roy and the IWW anti-war poster from the First World War.



March 20 2003: A student protesting the bombing of Baghdad



March 17 2007: Protests on the 4th anniversary

In 2003 millions of people marched against the invasion of IRAQ. This book documents the peace and anti-war protests in Melbourne from 2001 to 2007, in the context of the global peace.movement.



February 14, 2003: Students hold a banner on Swanston Street, Melbourne before a crowd of 200,000 people marching against the invasion of Iraq.