



People for Nuclear Disarmament (WA)

Newsletter, Late 2012

5 King William Street, Bayswater WA 6053

www.pndwa.org.au

Tel: 9271 8786

HIROSHIMA DAY 67th ANNIVERSARY

When will we achieve the outlawing of nuclear weapons?

Again around the world and here in Perth, commemorations are being held to remember the tragic nuclear bombings in Hiroshima and Nagasaki in 1945 which had killed around 200,000 civilians by the end of 1945 and many more in the years that followed.

The survivors of the atomic bombs that devastated two Japanese cities belong to a dwindling number of ageing Hibakusha. Many are determined to use their experiences to help the world to understand why the tragedy of nuclear warfare must never be repeated. Together we can help to make their dream - a world free of nuclear weapons - become a reality.

Here are two events in Perth. We do hope that you can attend one or both...

*HIROSHIMA AND NAGASAKI FILM FESTIVAL

SUN 5TH AUG, 12 – 5 pm

JAMES ST AMPHITHEATRE, NORTHBRIDGE

Screening THE ORIGINAL GODZILLA and NAUSICAA
Organised by Footprints for Peace & BUMP
Free entry

*PND'S HIROSHIMA ANNIVERSARY PEACE VIGIL

MON 6TH AUG 12 – 2pm

Cnr Hay & William Streets, Perth

This vigil will feature an exhibition of photographs taken soon after the atomic bombing of Hiroshima in 1945, and paper crane folding to remember Sadako, the little girl who died from leukaemia after being exposed to the radiation in Hiroshima. Paper cranes will be offered to passers-by to think about how children should be able to live in a world free of the threat of nuclear war. A recording of Bernard Carney's new song, *Peace on Paper Wings*, will be played throughout. A leaflet will be distributed inviting people to urge Prime Minister Julia Gillard, Defence Minister Stephen Smith, and Minister for Foreign Affairs & Trade, Bob Carr, (all C/O Parliament House, Canberra, ACT 2006), to make nuclear disarmament a top priority of government with the aim of a **NUCLEAR WEAPONS CONVENTION**.

Your participation is warmly invited to help this vigil be a success.

People for Nuclear Disarmament supports Medical Association for Prevention of War, International Physicians for Prevention of Nuclear War, International Campaign Against Nuclear weapons (ICAN), Global Zero, Footprints for Peace and other like-minded national and international organisations working for the elimination of these unconscionably immoral weapons of mass destruction. We thank the Uniting Church in the City (Wesley Church) for use of its space and other support to hold this vigil

*****While we're at it,**

4 MORE PND EVENTS in 2012 to ADD TO YOUR DIARIES !

* **PND(WA) MONTHLY MEETING WED, 5 SEPT, 12 noon** at our office, 5 King William Street, Bayswater (in OXFAM's building.) All members are warmly invited to come along to help make and implement decisions. We bring a cut lunch and go through our agenda as we munch!

* **INTERNATIONAL KEEP SPACE FOR PEACE VIGIL**

Tuesday, 9 Oct, 12 noon to 2pm

Corner Hay & William Streets, Perth

* **PND'S AGM, WED. 7 NOV, 12 noon** at Bayswater office.

Office bearers will be decided. Annual Audit will be presented. Reports from Treasurer and Co-conveners will be presented. Planning for 2013

***PND'S END-OF-YEAR 'DO', 5 DEC.** Meet 12 noon at our office, and then over to nearby cafe for a scrumptious vegetarian lunch and the pleasure of each other's company! You are also most welcome to join ANAWA for its AGM which will follow at our office at 4pm.

WALKATJURRA WALKABOUT Aug 20-Sept 14

The **WALKATJURRA WALKABOUT** will see a group of around 70 committed people refusing to take TORO ENERGY's progress in starting up uranium mining in WA lying down. **THE WALK AWAY FROM URANIUM MINING** (Wiluna to Kalgoorlie to Perth, arriving on the CHOGM weekend last year) inspired a wonderful young activist, Laura Hogan to organise this new WALK which will start at **Yeelirrie** and finish at **Leonora**. It will be led by the Walkatjorra Rangers from the Leonora area, and is organised in partnership with Footprints for Peace, ANAWA, WANFA and the Conservation Council WA – and of course much supported by PND.



The WALK will be a celebration of Wangkatja country, and a testament to the strength of the community who have fought to stop uranium mining at Yeelirrie for over forty years. It's also a chance to join with others in a commitment to a sustainable nuclear-free future through a shared

reconnection with the land. It will be giving support to the Aboriginal communities who are desperately trying to

protect their sacred sites. The EPA's TORO decision (please see next article) was a hard blow for them – and the WALK will help to give them that essential emotion of hope. While the proposed uranium mine is part of the greedy 'dream-time' of the company, it flies in the face of indigenous culture of care for country and Song Line. Colin Barnett's coalition government is working hard to make this mine happen – but until it exists, there is much we can do to turn the tide on it.

Of course you too are invited to JOIN the WALK! Approximately 15km will be covered each day, arriving at camp early in the afternoon to allow time with the elders and to hear their stories about the land walked through. Time too for music and art work, and hearing more about the history of resistance in areas like Yeelirrie and Yakabindie.

If walking is out of the question, could you please ask yourself if you could make a donation to help with the all-important logistics of this exciting initiative? Tax-deductible donations can be made in two ways:

Via <http://www.everydayhero.com.au/walkingforcountry>

Or direct deposit in to the Fremantle Anti Nuclear Group account, BSB: 633-000 Account No: 137443347
Please reference: Walkatjurma

More info on the walk at www.walkingforcountry.com
Also see <http://www.facebook.com/WalkForCountry>

TORO'S BID TO BE WA'S FIRST URANIUM MINER

Our hearts plunged on May 21 as the Environment Protection Authority recommended that Toro Energy's proposed uranium mine at Lake Way near Wiluna be allowed to proceed. We wondered if 'EPA' really stood for **Environmental Pollution Atrocity!** Right at the gateway to our celebrated Canning Stock route, this mine is opposed by many of the traditional owners in the Goldfields region. It would place in jeopardy a number of protected species, some of which are found nowhere else in the world. It would open the door for the nuclear industry to expand its presence in this fragile desert ecosystem.

Toro Energy, a small-time player in the resource industry has no experience in mining of any kind, but is confident that it should start up WA's first uranium mine near the Goldfields community of Wiluna. The open air mine would produce thousands of tonnes of radioactive waste that, according to the government's own advice, will need to be isolated for 10,000 years. The highly concentrated and highly radioactive uranium would be trucked thousands of kilometres on public roads through WA communities to Adelaide or Darwin for export.

While our "environmental watchdog", the EPA waved Toro through this barrier, the company's plan still needs State and Federal Government approval.

If you haven't already done so, please send a message to State Environment Minister Bill Marmion, Premie Colin Barnett and Federal Environment Minister Tony Burke, letting them know your strong disapproval to Toro Energy's Lake Way uranium mine. It is crucially important that this first mine be stopped and that WA does not contribute to the feed stock of any future Fukushimas

– or nuclear weapons – or add to the legacy of radioactive wastes that is to be left to future generations to watch over.

bill.marmion@mp.wa.gov.au

Hon Bill Marmion Suite
1/ 160 Hamden Road
Nedlands WA 6009

Premier.Barnett@mp.wa.gov.au

Hon. Colin Barnett, Premier
197 St Georges Terrace
Perth WA 6000

Hon Tony Burke
Minister for the Environment
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

A VISIT TO VIOLA IN RUSSIA

In past newsletters, we've told you much about our engagement with VIOLA, and its much appreciated ongoing work to help people in Bryansk, Russia who continue to suffer in many ways the consequences of the Chernobyl accident of 1986. This wonderful organisation is led by our friend Dr Ludmila Zhirina. Our adventurous Jo Vallentine and Peter Fry visited Bryansk recently – and now we can really 'bring home' to you Jo's personal perspective of that experience. Here's her account to which photos sent by Ludmila have been added.

End of May 2012, was the realisation of dreams from two faraway continents, when I was able to visit Viola, ecological organisation in the Bryansk region of Russia. In 1997 two activists from the Chernobyl affected area visited Australia to participate in a Pilgrimage around our country to investigate uranium mines, or proposed mine sites. They were chosen by Viola to participate.

Ever since, PND in WA has supported the work of Viola, which constantly monitors radiation levels and teaches community members about the dangers of exposure to the poison which cannot be seen or smelt.

Viola, under the capable leadership of biologist Ludmila Zhirina, conducts many projects in various parts of Russia, promoting healthy eating by teaching about organic farming, and promoting use of renewable energy instead of the dangerous nuclear power, which from their direct experience, has been a catastrophe.

We went from Bryansk to Novozybkov, 180 kilometers from Chernobyl, the most irradiated still-inhabited town in Russia, where we visited the Pedagogical College under the direction of Dr. Alexander Sergeivich.

Dr Sergeivich was the person first alerting the authorities to the dangerous levels of radiation in the days immediately after the April 26th accident in 1986. His warnings were at first ignored, but he persevered with his data collection, proving that radiation was at very high levels, and

eventually he was believed. But for too many people who were not moved immediately, that was too late, and many cancers and thyroid problems eventuated.



(Outside Pedagogical College where original readings of radiation levels were gathered & reported. Radiation reading was extremely high this day.)

The figures are all documented in the museum at the college, which we were shown around by Dr. Oleg Kalmikov, a former student of Dr. Zhirina. Some of the exhibits were truly sickening, of deformed fetuses for example. In a certain spot in the grounds of the college, the radiation detector, constantly carried by Dr. Kalmikov showed a level of 435 mksv/hour, while less than 21 is the normal level of background radiation. We advised the young women to avoid that area!



((Photo-The Weeping Mother statue)

We then visited the Chernobyl memorial which is depicted by a “broken mother from a crying village” where nobody lives any more. It was heart wrenching to be there, feeling the pain of the people whose lives were shattered by the nuclear explosion, and who still suffer from its effects.

Passing through Starodub, we heard about the re-location of cows immediately after the accident, which authorities thought would prevent contamination of their milk. Unfortunately, they took the contamination with them, and the whole food chain was negatively affected – another town spoilt by the effects of radiation. We joined a teachers’ end-of-term picnic in the forest near there, where our banner “To Russia With Love and support from ANAWA and PND” was

warmly received. Speeches were made to this amazing group of welcoming people.



Another interesting journey was to Novonikolaevka, an ecological settlement under development an hour away from Bryansk, where many people in Viola are forming a community putting their ecological values into practice, and where they can also conduct seminars on the many topics of concern to them.

A highlight was the visit to an experimental organic garden in Glinisghevo, a rural village not far from Bryansk, where amazing results are being gained by creating compost and using worm technology to enrich the soil, eliminating any need for chemicals, but also helping to neutralize the effects of radiation. This was near a wonderful school, where many international projects are undertaken and where ecological awareness is high, largely due to the efforts of Viola, which has its headquarters here. Viola is a very welcome NGO throughout the Bryansk region. The generosity of the staff at the school was memorable, and after addresses to the students and a lively question and answer session, we were treated to a concert, including a Cossack dance with the splits as the grand finale.





Another school hosted us near the 20th anniversary Chernobyl memorial in Bryansk, featuring a huge globe, but broken, as a reminder of the negative effects of the radiation. We enjoyed an interactive session with the students of English, including the Elm Dance, taught by Joanna Macy in workshops all over the world as a measure of respect for the people who suffered from the nuclear explosion, in the hope of healing energy being created. We also did chalk pictures on the ground of the school, and again were treated to some musical items.

It was an adventurous and sobering three days, with generous hosting by Viola, and despite the seriousness of our shared work in creating a more peaceful and healthy planet, there was much lightness and positivity in our meetings. Jo Vallentine



Ludmila is so impressively active on many fronts in her response to Chernobyl's consequences. Just prior to Jo and Peter's visit, she, as a member of the Public Chamber of Russia, had a business trip to Moscow to discuss the program development of power industry in Russia. She is highly involved in community education to help people, like children and pregnant women, cope with arising health issues. Her VIOLA organisation has many professional members, including school principals and teachers.

She keeps PND up-to-date with descriptions and photos of VIOLA's community work – which of course includes much

practical work in fixing the cottage that we were able to help VIOLA to buy for this purpose. With her willing team, the debris in the yard was cleared and in its place, flowers and edible plants were planted. Brushwood was stockpiled for the first campfires and barbecues and an outdoor area prepared for seminars. Linen fibres between the thick log walls of the cottage were cleaned and stained and will keep out the cold, the floor was cleaned and treated, curtains washed and hung, and donated furniture was moved into the rooms. A small wood stove was installed to keep the house warm and dry in the Russian winter. Many photos from Ludmila show how welcoming and 'homey' the derelict cottage has become. It will be VIOLA's new health centre with multiple uses – such as children from the radiation zone coming for summer recreation to improve their health.

Her letters to PND (fortunately in English as we speak no Russian) are always a delight and full of information. She does appreciate PND (WA) and ended one recent letter with "Thank you very much for your very big activity anti-radiation on the Planet!!!"

CHERNOBYL TO FUKUSHIMA

Despite these two terrible demonstrations of the immediate and long-term pain arising from nuclear power when it 'goes wrong', the erroneous view that it is essential to meet the challenge of climate change persists among many. With at least 150,000 people evacuated as a consequence of the Fukushima disaster in March last year and an extensive exclusion area rendering 3% of Japan's land mass uninhabitable, major economic cost and human trauma, there has been a massive groundswell of opposition among the Japanese to re-starting the country's 50 idled reactors. They had come to the logical conclusion that nuclear power is just not worth the risks, but their government had not, and over-rode their demand by deciding in June to re-open the two Iho reactors on the 'safe' western side. Rampant mistrust of the Japanese government is likely to grow after this. There is naturally great anxiety during the summer typhoon season – and always the fear of more earthquakes in this tectonically-active part of the world - so do we all hold our breath that our Japanese brothers and sisters will be spared further disaster from Fukushima. In June, Kazuhiko Kudo, a research professor of nuclear engineering at Kyushu University warned that "uranium spent fuel pools of No. 3 and No. 4 reactors are currently naked," and that "A tornado with winds of 100 metres per second like the one that hit Tsukuba could suck up the pool water," exposing fuel rods.



The true health costs of Fukushima's radiation leaks won't be known for decades.

We know that Japan's Nuclear & Industrial Safety Agency and its science and technology ministry failed to disclose data collected by US military aircraft about the spread of radiation that spewed from the stricken nuclear plant last year, resulting in thousands of evacuees fleeing in the same direction as Fukushima's radioactive emissions. Some were exposed to the annual permissible level of radiation within eight hours. Poor internal communication between government levels further shook the trust in Japan's nuclear regulatory regime long characterised by cosy ties between bureaucrats and utilities, especially TEPCO. A new nuclear regulator is being established – and now many Japanese are scrutinising that process with far more care.

Two panels of experts, one appointed by the executive branch and the other by parliament, have investigated the causes and responses to the Fukushima crisis. Revelations highlighted the inadequacies in design, prevention and response measures to deal with such a disaster; also the high level of disfunction, cover-up, collusion and corruption in the nuclear industry – including its regulation and oversight.

Examples of design failures are – Fukushima's sea walls were designed to withstand a tsunami of only 5.5 metres, thus ignoring historic tsunamis that hit the coast (a 38 metre tsunami in 1896 and a 29 metre tsunami in 1933); cooling pumps, back-up generators and control systems were not required to be located on high ground; and spent fuel ponds, filled with vast amounts of long-lived radioactivity were placed right of top of reactors, without any special containment structures.

The maximum dose is normally 20 mSv per year for a worker in the industry. This was raised to 250 mSv after the Fukushima disaster. Recently it has been revealed by some of the workers involved that they were told by the government to cover their dosimeters with lead shields to mask their radiation exposure, so that they could work longer shifts to help control, shut down and clean up the damaged nuclear plants. How many more have thus been exposed to such excessive levels? By early December, more than 18,000 men had participated in clean-up work in Fukushima. These largely unskilled, inadequately trained, ill-equipped and poorly monitored day labourers performed the bulk of the dirty and dangerous work.

The government's claim that only 14 Fukushima evacuees have suicided is now unravelling as more and more Japanese tell their stories about how the agony of their rapid translocation from their homes and familiar life has brought beloved family members and friends to that sad end.

A senior Australian Government official confirmed that Australian uranium was present in each of the Fukushima reactors. What responsibility will each of us take about that fact?

How right were our Aboriginal friends, the Mirrar people who opposed the Jabiluka mine. After Fukushima's triple meltdown, senior Mirrar Traditional Owner Yvonne Margarula wrote to the UN expressing deep regret and sadness that uranium from her land (Ranger uranium mine in the NT) was present in those crippled reactors. It will take decades to dismantle and decommission them - and their toxic legacy will remain in the environment for millennia.

SAYING NO TO NUKES

Norwegian Foreign Minister Jonas Gahr Støre has announced that Norway will hold a conference in Oslo next March or April on the catastrophic humanitarian consequences of nuclear weapons use and to work towards banning the use of nuclear weapons under international humanitarian law. It is PND's hope that Australia can contribute substantially to the success of this Norwegian initiative. Norway was pivotal in the development of the international Treaty to Ban Land Mines which happened outside the slow old wheels of the UN Conference on Disarmament. Perhaps such a miracle can be repeated with Norway's good will synthesising effective cooperative movement towards that deeply needed new instrument of international law that will eliminate nuclear weapons – some form of a Nuclear Weapons Convention.

As Chair of the **International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN)**, MAPW's Dr. Tilman Ruff said of Norway's planned conference, this "demonstrates that governments are still prepared to rise to the challenge posed by nuclear weapons for our societies, our environment and our security. All governments, whether or not they own nuclear weapons, share a responsibility to remove this common danger".

Let us all do our best to convince the Australian Government to give Norway's conference every support possible towards a positive outcome next year.

We in PND can grasp "the catastrophic humanitarian consequences of nuclear weapons" - and spread this understanding throughout our communities by using significant dates – such as Hiroshima Day – to raise public awareness of the threats and risks of over 20,000 nuclear warheads in arsenals around the world. Most of us have access to computers and all to pen and paper. Without leaving the comfort of our homes, we can draft up letters to editors of newspapers and to our political leaders to enunciate this message. While we in Australia *are* 'under the protection' of US nuclear arms, we are still part of the vast majority of non-nuclear-armed countries around the world who can help those addicted to nuclear weapons to renounce their harmful habit.

Another way to indicate your commitment to a world free of nuclear weapons is to respond to on-line campaigns – like Global Zero's. For instance in May, NATO leaders at the NATO Summit were subjected to calls from **tens of thousands of GZ supporters worldwide** calling on them to remove US nukes from Europe. The Summit ended with what insiders have called the "**the foundation for change**" towards that outcome.

A report spearheaded by **General James E. Cartwright**, called on the US to cut its nuclear arsenal by 80%. This made a big splash in leading publications worldwide - including *The New York Times*, *Financial Times*, *The Economist*, *The Huffington Post*. *Associated Press* and the *Financial Times* concluding:

"Global Zero makes a good case for such a deep cut. An arsenal of 900 weapons would easily meet the reasonable need for mutual deterrence and vastly exceeds what is needed by either Washington or Moscow to deter third countries."

If you're not yet involved in Global Zero and want to be, you can join in via Facebook:

<http://www.facebook.com/globalzero>

The Red Cross refers to the 'Catastrophic Humanitarian Consequences' of nuclear weapons use, especially to the CLIMATE. Physicians for Social Responsibility's Ira Helfand's paper on the catastrophic climatic consequences of nuke weapons use, entitled '*Nuclear Famine - Unacceptable Human consequences of nuclear weapons use*' is a wake-up call. The 1996 advisory decision of the International Court of Justice on the illegality of nuclear weapons is a powerful dimension of international law that we can use as we advocate for nuclear disarmament.

RAD-WASTE NO GOOD FOR MUCKATY

Many Traditional Owners have opposed this national radioactive dump in their country. Other locals and the Northern Territory government feel the same way – but still Federal Labor and Coalition forces combined to pass the flawed "Dump Bill" (Minister Martin Ferguson's obsession) to build it there. Senator Scott Ludlam secured an amendment to ensure that no international nuclear waste would be stored in Australia – so that was one ray of hope. Nonetheless, the dump legislation represents enormous power in the hands of that one minister, a major driver of the push to increase uranium mining in Australia. The Greens have other ideas and have pushed instead for a commission of experts to determine how best to deal with Australian radioactive waste.

The Maritime Union of Australia (MUA) has been a strong voice in support of the campaign to stop the nuclear waste dump at Muckaty.

South Australia successfully resisted a Federal push for a nuclear waste dump – We continue to hope that the NT can do so too.

TROUBLES IN KUDANKULAM

It is interesting how different facets of the nuclear industry resort to force to get their way. **No Nukes Asia Forum Japan**, hurting so deeply from Fukushima fallout, wanted to express solidarity with poorly treated Indian uranium mine workers who are right at the start of the nuclear fuel chain. PND was proud to be one of the 175 organisations from 22 countries endorsing the organisation's '**Protest Declaration**' against the violent and inhuman oppression of the people protesting against the nuclear power plant in Kudankulam, India. The Declaration was submitted to the central government of India.

WHAT'S PND BEEN UP TO SINCE YOUR LAST NEWSLETTER?

March 13 – Vigil event for first anniversary of **Fukushima** disaster – held on Hay St/William St corner.

April 17 - To mark **Global Day of Action on Military Spending**, we sent a letter to Defence Minister Stephen Smith appealing for a reduction in Australia's military

budget with the 'savings' instead being dedicated to a range of pro-social peace-generating purposes.

April 24 – **PND's Chernobyl vigil** outside Wesley Church - With banners & a leaflet to hand out, we managed to collect a good number of signatures on petition to reinstate ban on u-mining in WA. Then on **26th**, the REAL Chernobyl anniversary **coincided with another visit by US's nuclear navy**. An official welcome party for the sailors was secretly moved from original venue due to fears that peace movement might interfere (violently?) so our protest was moved to Pioneer Park – where leftover leaflets from our Chernobyl vigil were distributed. The following day (**27th**) at Breakfast at Barnett's, Chernobyl was theme with "It all started with uranium mining" banner – and PND's left-over Chernobyl leaflets were again distributed to motorists stopped at traffic lights. (Another aspect of this CHERNOBYL anniversary was **Jo V's & Peter Fry's visit to Ludmila Zhirini & VIOLA in Bryansk**. See her inspiring report on p. 2.)

May 2nd – **MLC Alison's Xamon's Motion calling for u-mine tailings to be isolated for 10,000 years.**

May 16th, **this Motion was debated**. Curiously the impossibility of monitoring and safely storing waste for that time did not seem to be understood by Min for Mining, Norman Moore. Judy on behalf of PND attended this lively interactive session to support Alison

May 22 – **National Phone Hook-Up (NPHU) re expanded US-Australian military relationship**. Judy represented PND on this link-up organised by MAPW in Melbourne. Ideas for sharing resources were discussed. Various public forums were being organised in Eastern States and NT. WA's report was confined to US warship visit around Chernobyl Day.

May 23 – **Snap action outside EPA at its recommendation that TORO ENERGY u-mine be approved**. Leafletted public appealing to lodge appeals to EPA by June 5. PND contributed a banner for this event. It has been used on numerous occasions since.

May 25, June 22 & 13 - '**Breakfast at Barnett's**' **theme of EPA-TORO decision**. You are always welcome to come to this regular Friday protest (7.30 to 8.30am) outside the Premier's Cottesloe office on Stirling Hwy (just to south of Jarrad St.) These 'B&B's' were started by BUMP (Ban Uranium Mining Permanently) in February LAST year with intention to continue them until the day before the WA election of (9 March 2012). The themes each week differ across a

wide range of environmental issues – but uranium mining has been the most frequent theme.

June 13th – PND’s Letter appealing to Japanese PM Noda not to restart his country’s nuclear power reactors delivered to Japanese Consulate, West Perth. ...along with letters from Footprints for Peace, ANAWA and CCWA. (In July, the Iho reactors were restarted.)

June 17th – WANFA Art Auction opened in Kidoga Art Gallery, F’mtle. This was very well attended & successful. PND helped promote...

June 26th – Another NPHU on responses to US-Aust military relationship. Again in Jo’s absence, Judy represented PND. MAPW in Melb. has set up a dedicated email group to share ideas/information. A national organisation – possibly to be named Network for an Independent and Peaceful Australia (NIPA) could be set up. ** It would be great to have a WA rep from the north of this state participating...Any ideas about WHO might take this on?* The Brisbane group had run a public forum on upgraded US-Australian militarism, & is very active, intending to train up speakers to address various different groups. Possibilities discussed included a statement signed by prominent people and published in leading n’papers, and more solidarity links with other countries in our region facing increased US military linkages.

June 29-July 11 – Darwin anti-bases activist, Diana Rickard’s Perth visit. Judy B & Marcus Atkinson, KA and baby Shae (Footprints For Peace) showed her around our office and took her out for a splendid afternoon tea nearby to build friendships.

Right now we’re organising our **Aug 6 - Hiroshima Day vigil, 12 – 2pm** outside Wesley Church in Perth - after which we’ll have our PND meeting in a nearby cafe – You would be sooo welcome!

After June 14 – We sent a condolence card to the Grey Nuns of the Sacred Heart in the US at the loss of their wonderful Sr. Rosalie Bertell at age 83. She had been a huge support to the worldwide movement against uranium mining, nuclear power and weapons, providing a body of data that strengthened these causes so dear to us all. Dr Bertell was an internationally recognised environmental epidemiologist, cancer researcher and public health advocate, researching, writing, public speaking and enlightening the world on the effects of low-level radiation on human health and environment. Perhaps you have read her books, *No Immediate Danger* (1985) and *Planet Earth: The Latest Weapon of War* (2000).

June... Along with 82 NGOs & prominent individuals, PND endorsed a letter to Pres Obama to urging him to support rumoured reductions in US nuclear forces. The letter was initiated by John Hallam of the Nuclear Flashpoints Project (NSW). In part, it stated

“Your attention is also drawn to recent reports and arguments by a number of US military experts including former US Commander James Cartwright for Global Zero showing that deep reductions in US forces are both practical and helpful to US security and global stability. We strongly urge you to implement deep reductions as a step towards the complete global elimination of nuclear arsenals worldwide with the knowledge that such steps are strongly supported by public opinion, other States, international organisations, common sense, and international law.”

US-AUSTRALIAN MILITARY RELATIONSHIP

2 letters in The West Australian (from Judy Blyth)

Another nuclear visit (Published 27 April)

With the USS Carl Vinson and USS Bunker Hill in port, the visits of nuclear-powered and/or nuclear-armed US warships here are resuming. Their presence probably relates to the agreement announced by PM Gillard and President Obama last December to significantly escalate US-Australian military cooperation. The change in focus of US military activity from Europe to Asia and the Pacific will be much assisted by Australia’s willing acquiescence. The sailors visiting us are fresh from joint exercises with the Indian navy. China will be watching these movements with gathering anxiety.

We know that nine countries are nuclear-armed. Of the 20,530 nuclear warheads existing today, 95 per cent are in the arsenals of the US and Russia. International law has managed to ban biological and chemical weapons, but not yet to outlaw nuclear weapons. This failure is due to vested interests.

A new report, "Nuclear Famine: A Billion People at Risk—Global Impacts of Limited Nuclear War on Agriculture, Food Supplies, and Human Nutrition," by Dr. Ira Helfand has just been released. Commissioned by International Physicians for Prevention of Nuclear War and its affiliate, Physicians for Social Responsibility, it provides new evidence that even the relatively small nuclear arsenals of countries such as India and Pakistan could cause long lasting, global damage to the Earth's ecosystems and threaten hundreds of millions of already malnourished people through inducing a ‘nuclear winter’. Such a disaster, unprecedented in human history, would bring an end to modern civilisation as we know it. All those who are prepared to accept the existence nuclear weapons ought to familiarise themselves with the message in this report.

I wonder if the young sailors visiting us think about their navy's potential for annihilating so much of life on Earth... or of how the possession nuclear weapons by any country will incite others, including terrorists, to want them too. The only way to eliminate these dreadful weapons is through an effective Nuclear Weapons Convention.

Think about our sovereignty (published 4 July)

July 4th and people of the USA joyfully celebrate as they have done since a peace agreement with Britain was signed in 1783 recognising American independence. I wish them happiness as they mutually mark their status as an independent nation.

Struggles for national independence have been the stuff of history as old colonial powers have been shed. Among the many, two of our regional neighbours spring to mind. Indonesia finally became independent in 1947 after decades of resisting its Dutch masters. West Papua was not simultaneously freed from Dutch domination, and in time Indonesia became its neo-colonial power after a sorry twisted saga. The yearning for independence in West Papua is strong and long but not appreciated by Indonesia.

Australia was taken from its First People in a war of attrition after the First Settlement. We were the new colonists and we owe the indigenous people a great deal for this. For the first generations of European settlement, we hung onto the apron strings of our 'Mother Country' going to war for her causes. Later, our entanglement with ANZUS became another strong influence over our foreign policy. We did America's bidding by supporting it in Vietnam – and later in Afghanistan and Iraq. Last December, PM Gillard and US President Obama announced that the military relationship between the two countries was to be further escalated as the US shifts its focus to China and the SE Asia-Pacific region.

Malcolm Fraser's view that the new American marine base near Darwin is a mistake is interesting. He says, "We seem to believe that our security can best be assured if we do what we can to win brownie points with the US. This is a mistaken assumption."

Maybe we all ought to be thinking more about our national sovereignty.

WORLD NUCLEAR INDUSTRY STATUS REPORT 2012

This Report makes glorious reading – Only an 'appetiser' can fit into your newsletter, but we hope that it will cause you to hungrily CONSUME the whole document which you can access on <http://www.worldnuclearreport.org/>

We're including an overall statement from the introduction, and then the final statement from the Executive Summary:

The nuclear establishment has a long history of failing to deliver. In 1973-1974, the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) forecast an installed nuclear capacity of

3,600-5,000 GW in the world by 2000, ten times what it is today. The latest example was from Hans Blix, former Director General of the IAEA, who stated two months after 3/11: "Fukushima is a bump in the road...". The statement is both crass and far from today's reality.

Prior to the March 2011 (3/11) Fukushima disaster, the nuclear industry had made it clear that it could not afford another major accident. Over the past ten years the industry has sold a survival strategy to the world as the nuclear revival or its renaissance. In reality many nuclear companies and utilities were already in great difficulties before the triple disaster hit the Japanese east coast in 2011. Fifteen months after 3/11, it is likely that the decline of the industry will only accelerate. Fukushima continues to have a significant impact on nuclear developments everywhere.

Fifteen years ago, nuclear power provided over one third of the electricity in Japan, but as of May 2012 the last operating reactor was closed. The Japanese government is facing massive opposition to nuclear power in the country, thus making the restart of any reactors difficult. The controversy over the restart permission for the Ohi reactors in the Kansai region illustrates the dilemma. Germany shut down half of its nuclear fleet after 3/11. Japan and Germany could be leading a new trend. The German direction is clear with the possibility of Japan following: an electricity system based on highly efficient use and renewable energy technologies, even if many questions remain, including the timescale, local versus centralized, grid transformation and smart system development. It appears increasingly obvious that nuclear systems are not competitive in this world, whether from systemic, economic, environmental or social points of view.

AN APPEAL TO REMEMBER YOUR MEMBERSHIP SUBS!

Dear Members,

Enclosed within your newsletter (or attached if you are receiving the e-version), you will find a FORM to renew your MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTION for 2013. We do very much apologise for sending this SO EARLY – but we decided (for budget reasons) last year to restrict our newsletters to just two a year. This makes it rather tricky to inform you of various events and actions that we hope will attract you – AND to alert you to PND (WA)'s need for your membership subs to keep our office and couple of totally unpaid volunteers going. Our financial situation is thinning down – and we hope very much that you'll HANG ONTO YOUR SUBSCRIPTION FORM until late this year or early next year *and then renew*. We have printed the form on bright eye-catching paper – Perhaps you could attach it to your fridge door – to remind you to again support PND when the time comes!

AND ONE LAST THING!

We're emailing newsletters to all who have so far agreed to receive them that way to reduce our postage costs. Please do let us know if you would like to join that group – Just ring office and leave message.