

People for Nuclear Disarmament (Western Australia)



5 King William Street, Bayswater WA 6053



Newsletter – Late

2015 (and final one!)

Dear Members and Friends of PND (WA),

The past several issues of your newsletter have mentioned our dwindling finances. We have put our best efforts into keeping PND(WA) functioning normally, but finally our funds are almost completely exhausted. We have devised a plan to keep the organisation going – but in a different way – via the ether - so please read on! We will be office-less soon but will be able to retain a small storage space under Oxfam's kindly roof. We'll continue to pay Oxfam a modest retainer to use the mailing address and some storage space; also we'll pay subs to Independent Peaceful Australia Network, Australian Anti-Bases Campaign Coalition, the Geneva-based International Peace Bureau and of course, when we can, we'll support Viola in Russia. (See update page 2) so any subscriptions/donations you pay will still be very welcome, and receipted. Please see page 8 for form.

Joint Coordinators Jo Vallentine (now a hands-on granny so busier than ever) and Judy Blyth (now a great grandmother and soon to move into a retirement village!) will continue to operate on PND's behalf from home computers. PND's postage address will remain as above. Anyone who would like to send a membership donation help out with the small outgoings listed above is welcome and will be receipted.

Now we must pass on the probably not unexpected news that this must be PND(WA)'s final newsletter. In future, all contact will be on-line. Those reachable by email will have noticed that a weekly update of nuclear issues has been arriving in your in-box. In this way, thanks to our great friend Mia Pepper (Nuclear-free Future Coordinator of Conservation Council WA), we hope that you will be able to keep in touch with the issues we've grappled with since 1982 when PND began in this state. Should you NOT wish to receive these e-bulletins, there is an "Unsubscribe" to click on at base of these messages. For those who have not yet advised us of their email addresses but who might appreciate these bulletins to keep in touch with "our issues", please email Judy Blyth, judab@inet.net.au **AND** Jo Vallentine, jovall@inet.net.au with your email address so that between the two of us, we can have you added to the list for the bulletins. **Please put "PND email request" into subject line of your message** so that we won't MISS you as

we both receive voluminous email each day.

*Another way to keep in touch is to visit the anawa.org.au website where PND has a section. Look for the PND box on the right hand side of the homepage.

We've commemorated the 70th anniversary of the atomic bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki this year. Still nuclear weapons remain an existential threat to life on Earth. Our hope is that we can jointly ensure that the voices of PND(WA) persist as active participants in global efforts to eliminate them forever. In our own individual ways, we CAN go on ringing our federal MPs or writing them letters when opportunities arise, urging that Australia engage more positively with nuclear disarmament. Likewise, we can take actions to prevent uranium mining in WA. We can warn about the nuclear power-nuclear weaponslinkage, and the perpetual toxic legacy of radioactive wastes from using uranium that is best left in the ground.

Thank you for your support over many years – and special acknowledgment to Joy Beech, our capable, faithful Treasurer for long service keeping us on track. Now it's time to wish you a peaceful and happy festive season - and a future as self-impelled nuclear abolitionists guided by messages through the electronic ether!

Jo and Judy

HIROSHIMA DAY 2015, Aug 6



Burnt, blackened bodies of victims, Hiroshima, 1945

For the 70th anniversary of Hiroshima Day, a worthy commemoration was due. PND(WA)'s Co-conveners Jo Vallentine and Judy Blyth teamed with several organisations to prepare an evening event on August 6. Involved were Renata Sivacolundhu of the Red Cross, CCWA's Mia Pepper, Glenys Davies and Leigh Dix of Medical

Association for Prevention of War, Jeff Bice and Eira Clapton of Uniting Church, Elizabeth PO and Adrian Glamorgan of Mayors for PeaceWA, Marcus Atkinson of Footprints for Peace, and Jo again wearing her hat as Convener of the Anti-Nuclear Alliance WA. UWA was organising UWA August: Australians and War, a series of events throughout August, commemorating the Gallipoli and ANZAC centenary plus a focus on Hiroshima Day on August 6th. Our team was able to merge our event with UWA's on that day.

After UWA's official Reception in Lawrence Wilson Art Gallery, people followed a pathway lit by our small peace lanterns to the covered area by Winthrop Hall's entry where banners were mounted to set the scene. We had set up tables to distribute small peace lanterns to all participants, another to run a paper crane folding workshop, and a third with leaflets from our organisations.



Aleisha Taylor & Lucy Hancock preparing the paper-folding workshop.

A solemn bell rung to begin the formal part of our Hiroshima vigil, and Jo, our MC read aloud a list of nuclear catastrophes, starting with Hiroshima. At each one, the bell tolled once, compelling thoughts on Hiroshima and the harm arising from nuclear weaponry and power.

Bernard Carney followed with his moving song, *Dreams of Peace on Paper Wings* – about Sadako who folded paper cranes for health and peace in the world.

For MAPW(WA)'s Prof. Peter Underwood's slightly theatrical interactive, we divided those gathered into two halves which Peter labelled Pessimists and Optimists. To the first, he gave an image of children at Hiroshima Girls School just before and just after the bomb. To the Optimists, he gave an image of survivors – blackened tree stumps in Hiroshima. Some, including an Australian Yellow Box, were miraculously sprouting a few green shoots. Later they would produce flowers and seeds which were planted elsewhere to encourage active hope. The Optimists and Pessimists groups each had to try to overwhelm the other with their image. Of course the Optimists had to win – as Peter said, so that **“we will all find strength to do more than just hope ... we will all ourselves become seeds... and leaving here we will begin the task, each in our own tiny kernel ways, to work towards world-wide abolition of nuclear weapons.”**

Eleanor Carney, Bernard's wife then sang a heart-wringing song, *I come and stand at every door*, based on a Turkish poem by Nazim Hikmet Ran – about a dead little child of Hiroshima. (Music by James Waters, and adapted by Pete Seeger in 1962.)



And then our beloved Carneys uplifted us with a rousing rendition of We Shall Overcome, joined by many in the crowd, each carrying a small lantern for peace.

2.

This was the end of our programme, but some stayed to ponder and talk and lined the Pool of Reflection with peace lanterns. Judy, Jo and others arranged the lanterns in the nuclear disarmament sign on the lawn nearby. Altogether we felt our event was a beautiful, thought-provoking, hopefully motivational experience for who participated.



Jo adding a peace lantern to the nuclear disarmament sign at UWA



Jo V, Paddy Cullen & Roderick Pitty hold PND's main Hiroshima banner by UWA's ReflectionPool. Next day Judy fluked a "PND letter" in The West Aust (7/8/2015) re Hiroshima anniversary. Headed **A pledge for life**, it described the International Pledge – and the hope it generates.

UPDATE FROM LUDMILA

Like us here in WA, our great friend Dr Ludmila in Bryansk, Russia and VIOLA, the NGO she coordinates to help people living in the aftermath of the 1986 Chernobyl catastrophe, commemorated the 70th anniversary of Hiroshima. Also in her mid-August bulletin to us, she describes more of VIOLA's ongoing responses to the appalling forest and peat fires, so difficult to extinguish in the exclusion zone around Chernobyl starting in their hot, dry, windy summer season (probably exacerbated by global warming.) These fires resulted in a re-release of radioactive contaminants – which Ludmila has referred to as “a second Chernobyl!”. This volunteer work has been carried out despite the Russia-Ukraine troubles – and since her report of course politico-military complications have increased after Turkey shot down the Russian military jet close to the Turkey-Syrian border. If we ever think our voluntary “work” against nuclear power and militarism is tough, we should think of Ludmila and her brave and dedicated team.

A fourth fire in the Chernobyl forests compelled VIOLA to work hard trying to monitor soil, air and water, and explaining water purification and food decontamination methods to people in affected areas. This entailed many seminars detailing both traditional methods to weaken radiation and newer technologies.

Ludmila is a member of the International Forestry Forum, and spoke at a conference (Aug27-Sept11) in Durban, South Africa about VIOLA's responses to the Chernobyl fires and the inadequate funding from Russian and international sources for this important work. She reported too PND(WA)'s donations for this long-term work – and we might wonder, though it was necessarily small in context of the needs, if our funding might stir other sources to help financing this cruelly necessary humanitarian work Viola feels so impelled to do. It is a very difficult for 150+ Russian NGOs with government clamp-downs involving court meetings, fines, punishments and even imprisonment. Viola has not been exempt as one of its team is now banned to work as a teacher or for any NGO.



Viola team, imparting methods of deep ecology and traditional Russian methods to relieve psychological stress.



VIOLA teamwork monitoring forests and lakes affected by the fires that have released again contaminating radiation.



No more newsletters are possible from PND(WA) but we'll try to keep you in touch with Ludmila and VIOLA's post-Chernobyl struggles via the weekly e-bulletins. (See HOW TO details in front page letter to members & friends.)

FIFTH WALKATJURRA WALKABOUT (Aug17-Sept 19)



The Walkatjurra Walkabout,

initiated by Marcus Atkinson of Footprints for Peace in 2011, is a collaboration of Aboriginal and non-indigenous people against proposed uranium mines in the Goldfields region, and to keep all of WA uranium mine free. The month-long Walk became an annual event led by local Traditional Owners. This year was the fifth and covered almost 450 kms from Wiluna to Leonora, passing the proposed mines of Toro Energy near Wiluna at Lake Way and of Cameco on Yeelirrie Station. Along with Australian walkers were Japanese, Taiwanese, English, Swedish, Aoteroans (NZ), American and French people, all keen to learn about Aboriginal culture, to share in caring for country and their vision for a nuclear-free world.

While on Yeelirrie, the WALK was joined by Greens senators Rachel Seiwert and Co-Deputy Greens leader Scott Ludlam and Greens MLA Robin Chapple. Jo V, a veteran of much anti-nuclear campaigning joined part of the Walk too. The walkers were also joined by some of Toro's staff near Lake Way.

Many of the walkers had firsthand experience of the dangers of the nuclear industry, especially those from Japan and Taiwan where Australian uranium is used to fuel nuclear reactors. Vicki McCabe, a TO from Leonora said "We've been walking for 5 years against these uranium mines, and we'll continue to walk and invite people to our country to tell Toro and Cameco that there's no way they will be taking this poison out of our country."

Mandjindja Koara woman Sandra Evans said "You would think that the government and mining companies would have learnt the lessons of Hiroshima, Fukushima and Chernobyl. This poison has done nothing but kill and hurt



Multiple mutations from high radiation contamination were detected in herbs, berries, tree seedlings this year.



Radiation contamination results in young trees withering which attracts huge numbers of mobile insects that eat their wood and quickly spread. It is necessary to cut and burn these trees, but that process also increases radionuclide contamination.



A doctor helping children to understand additional pollution of forests, lakes and rivers due to fires over the summer.



Radiation-weary children express their longing for the natural world through artwork.

millions of people. Uranium is deadly. We have always known that it should stay in the ground where it is.”

Kaora Tribal Leader Richard Evans said “As the traditional owners of our land we have never consented to allow the Australian Government, State Government or mining companies to come here and dig up our country. We assert our sovereign rights to care for our land and stop this destruction. How long do we Aboriginal owners of the land have to demonstrate that we do not want in any way this uranium to be taken out of our country and then be sent overseas to poison some other people’s country.”

Thanks to those who made tax-deductible donations to help the fifth WALK happen. For more information please contact Marcus on 0400 505

765

3.

THE MAN WHO SAVED THE WORLD

Mark **Sept 26** as the anniversary of the time that Stanislav Petrov did indeed “save the world” from nuclear war back in 1983, and pay homage at least once a year for this hero who gritted his teeth and resisted enormous pressure to activate retaliation with Russian nuclear missiles when it appeared over some hours that US ones were heading towards Moscow. He was acutely aware of the possibility of a technical fault causing the persistent signals of incoming missiles on the Russian screens in that fraught atmosphere – and his own sense of the warmth of human relationships flashed through his mind as he tried to cope with the dreadful choice he had to make on that long night. He remained strong – but only just. This amazing true story of our Nuclear Age was hidden from the world for many years until fortuitously uncovered, leading to the making of this extraordinary film.

PND was able to obtain the film at some very worthwhile expense, recouped through unusually charging people to attend the event. We invited PND’s members and friends to a screening in UCIC’s Hall in Perth on Sept 22. The venue was nicely filled that evening and included Walkatjorra Walkers just returned from the month-long Goldfields Walk against uranium mining. How validated they must have felt for all their efforts organising and going on that great trek. All in the audience were deeply moved at how close we came to nuclear annihilation – and at the tormented courage of Stan Petrov who was coordinating Russian military HQ on that night in 1983. For everyone, I think there must have been a great boost to realisation of the greatness of human compassion – just feeling for each other through our common humanity.

Stan Petrov’s courageous and correct decision not to retaliate was not appreciated by his military masters, hence the wall of silence about it for such a long time. While he was a most reluctant “hero” himself, he was appallingly treated and diminished – but as the story unfolds, finally enjoyed some appreciation. We hope that you can see this film one day if you missed it. Fascinatingly, he plays himself (except for scenes of his life when a young man) – and his life story was also further unfolding to himself in the course of making the film.

**AT IPAN’S NATIONAL CONFERENCE
9 July, Canberra**



You’ll recognise the bonnetted granny. For this action during the Independent Peaceful Australia Network’s national conference in Canberra, Jo was again arrested while making the point that war is an outdated, inhumane way to deal with international problems. She is WA’s main contact with IPAN (Independent Peaceful Australia Network), representing PND (WA) and contributing much through monthly Phone Hook-Ups.

4.

HUMAN SURVIVAL PROJECT

Again our friend John Hallam of PND (NSW) and the **Human Survival Project** has coordinated drafting and sending of a sequence of appeals over several months to Presidents Putin and Obama aimed at nuclear threat reduction. Global disarmament organisations, including PND(WA) are encouraged to endorse the final letters. The focus of the most recent was on increased risks of catastrophic unintended consequences arising from possible clashes between NATO and Russian forces during military exercises in September. A nuclear exchange between them could lead to a “nuclear winter” as soot, particulate debris and smoke from many burning cities block out the sun for a long time leading to widespread famine around the world as global temperatures drop lower than the last Ice Age. The Letter was released publicly on October 7.

One precursor letter in this series was by former commanders of American and Russian missile forces, Generals James Cartwright and Vladimir Dvorkin who jointly engaged in a study on de-alerting nukes by **Global Zero**. This examined rising tension between Russia and the West over the Ukraine crisis and dangerous escalation in nuclear brinkmanship. (Since then another layer of distrust has grown between these two blocs over the heart-rending Syrian crisis.)

The three main measures that the Letter urged Obama and Putin to implement were:

- (1) lowering nuclear alert levels so that decision-makers are no longer faced with the necessity to take utterly apocalyptic decisions in time frames measured in a few short minutes based on inadequate information;
- (2) the sharing of launch data; and
- (3) avoidance of provocative military exercises and postures.

NOTHING new in all this – but none yet implemented.

Among the signatories of this appeal to Obama and Putin were some members of national parliaments along with a long list of major and smaller peace organisations. Your PND(WA) was among organisations like International Physicians for Prevention of Nuclear War, Mayors for Peace 2020 Vision Campaign, Physicians for Social Responsibility, the Middle Powers Initiative, World Future Council, Nuclear Age Peace Foundation, WILPF (Women’s International League for Peace & Freedom), and the Nuclear Age Peace Foundation... so you see our “voice” goes a long way with

many like-minded ones. Last time I counted, there were 61 different signatory organisations (which includes a handful of parliamentarians) on the appeal to Putin and Obama .

Should you be interested to follow up this work John H does, contact him:

Human Survival Project
Johnhallam2001@yahoo.com.au
jhjohnhallam@gmail.com
ph(h) 61-2-9810-2598

While Australia supports some good initiatives on nuclear disarmament at the UN General Assembly, this potentially constructive activity has been undercut and negated by our misguided attempts to derail the Humanitarian Pledge, which we should be whole-heartedly supporting.

HUMANITARIAN PLEDGE

Stigmatize, prohibit and eliminate nuclear weapons

Nuclear weapons are the only weapons of mass destruction not yet explicitly prohibited under international law.

The **Humanitarian Pledge** is a commitment by nations to fill this unacceptable “legal gap”. It offers a platform from which they can – and must – launch negotiations on a treaty banning nuclear weapons.

The Pledge was issued on 9 December 2014 at the conclusion of the Vienna Conference on the Humanitarian Impact of Nuclear Weapons, attended by 158 nations. This important document provides governments with the opportunity to move beyond fact-based discussions on the effects of nuclear weapons to the start of treaty negotiations.

Outlawing nuclear weapons is not a radical proposition: it enjoys widespread support among nations, and is the logical and necessary course of action in light of the indiscriminate and catastrophic effects of any use of these weapons. ICAN (International Campaign Against Nuclear Weapons) calls on all nations to endorse the Pledge and join negotiations for a ban. **Australia under PM Turnbull is still a hold-out state – so please urge our Minister for Foreign Affairs Hon. Julie Bishop to reconsider Australia’s position.** We are ashamed at this resistance to joining the international momentum embodied in the Pledge. The reason - our close relationship with the US, of course another “hold-out state.”

The following 116 nations had formally endorsed the Pledge by Sept 11... (At least 5 more have been added since then)

Afghanistan, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Austria, Bahamas, Bahrain, Barbados, Belize, Benin, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei, Burundi, Cabo Verde, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, Colombia, Congo, Cook Islands, Costa Rica, Côte d’Ivoire, Cuba, Cyprus, Djibouti, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Fiji, Ghana, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Ireland, Jamaica, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kiribati, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Liechtenstein, Macedonia, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Mongolia, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Niue, Palau, Palestine, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Qatar, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, São Tomé and Príncipe, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Somalia, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Suriname, Swaziland, Tajikistan, Tanzania, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Tuvalu, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, Uruguay, Vanuatu, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe

The Humanitarian Pledge works through cooperating countries, independently of the slow machinery of the UN where the power of veto retards or stops much progress towards outlawing nuclear weaponry. However there is an encouraging mechanism within the UN, the “OEWG” that is

being applied that might help to “open the door” to a nuclear weapons-free world.

Member countries met during October at the UN General Assembly First Committee to discuss and adopt resolutions on disarmament and international security issues. One initiative they were likely to discuss is the proposal to establish a [UN Open Ended Working Group \(OEWG\)](#) to take forward multilateral nuclear disarmament negotiations. This initiative was generally agreed on at the NPT Review Conference in May this year, and can bypass some of the slow-down tactics of veto-ing powers and their hangers-on. OEWG’s can develop a legal instrument or instruments to address the issue concerned. We can take heart in that an OEWG process succeeded in the adoption of an Arms Trade Treaty in 2013. (See UNGA Resolution 67/234B). Can it also have success in banning the bomb?



The OSCE (Organisation for Security and Cooperation) in Europe encompassing 57 parliaments of member states is supporting this OEWG which might be able to make progress on an instrument of international law on nuclear disarmament; also the Inter Parliamentary Union which represents over 160 parliaments. It is another reason for optimism, and to urge Australia to commit to the Pledge.

For additional background see [OEWG: Re-open the door](#)



Article 9 Campaign

Japan’s Prime Minister Abe’s relentless determination to weaken the war-renouncing Article 9 of his country’s Constitution – and similarly his determination to restart Japan’s nuclear power stations has proved very unpopular with a large sector of Japanese citizens. On 21 September, as the world celebrated International Day of Peace, the Peace Boat and the Global Article 9 Campaign condemned in strongest terms the adoption by the Japanese Diet of security legislation that fundamentally violates the principles and letter of anti-war Article 9 to allow Japan’s Self-Defense Forces to use force overseas.

The statement from the peace organisations expresses utmost concerns at the possible repercussions the legislation will have on the region; supports Japan’s civil society efforts to prevent the legislation from being implemented and Article 9 to be further eroded; and calls on people around the world to support Japan’s vibrant mobilization towards the revocation of the bills, the preservation of Japan’s democracy and pacific values, and the safeguard of Article 9 as a regional and global peace mechanism.

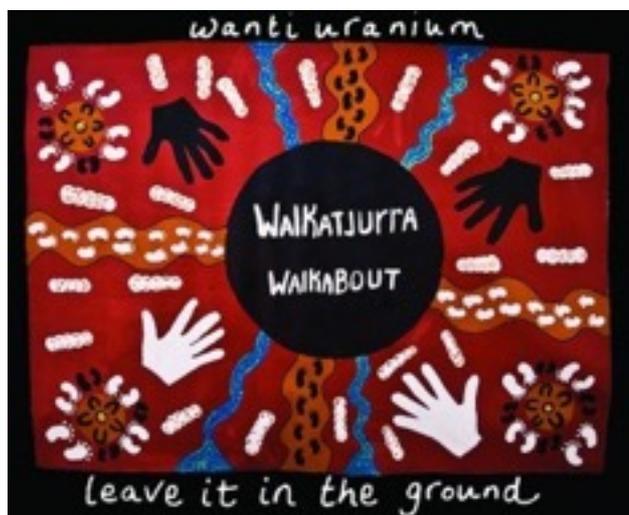
TORO ENERGY’S AGM, Nov 18

This small, inexperienced would-be uranium miner held its AGM inside Woodside's Perth HQ in St George's Terrace. Outside on the pavement some street theatre brightened the morning for the passers-by where "Toro office" popped up and its office phones started ringing incessantly. Two busy secretaries (who looked suspiciously like Jo and Judy) kept



answering calls. "We'll have to put you ON HOLD ...just like the company's on hold"- and breathlessly explaining that – "Well yes, there *is* an AGM going on – but hardly anyone's come – and NO, the prospects for uranium are very dreary - Hard to sell the stuff since Fukushima" etc

Adrian Glamorgan was able to attend Toro's AGM, asking several probing questions about financial management, and the company's prospects since Fukushima which he visited after the earthquake/tsunami/reactor meltdowns in 2011 devastated the region. At last the delayed flight bearing Vicki McCabe, a TO from the Goldfields, landed in Perth and she was able to catch the final part of the AGM. She is a very strong witness against the mining proposal and well-known to that small and inexperienced company's staff. Vicki is also an artist. An example of her striking work is this poster much used for the Walkatjurra Walk.



Next day it was Paladin's and BHP-Billiton's turn for their AGMs. Jo and Judy were able to attend BHP's and of course Jo asked one of her fabulous feisty "uranium questions" of CEO Jac Nasser. Again Adrian starred with a couple of questions from the floor.

Judy has drafted a submission to EPA re Cameco's Yeelirrie Uranium Proposal PER from PND(WA) – which must be submitted by Dec 14. She hopes to draft another about Toro's bid for two uranium mines in the lake system around Wiluna before deadline.

SA's NUCLEAR PROSPECTS DIM

How timely the findings of the South Australian Government's Experts Panel headed by former Liberal leader John Hewson. Released on November 25, its report,

"South Australia's Low Carbon Economy Experts Panel Findings & Recommendations" found that SA could reach a target of net zero emissions by 2050 using renewable energy and storage. Such a future was cost-effective, environmentally benign, and abounding in economic opportunities as the state becomes "a low carbon powerhouse and a net exporter of renewable energy." Plenty of appropriate jobs ahead for South Australia if it commits to that future. 6.

On the other hand what of the credentials of nuclear power in South Australia? The Expert Panel found that it was not cost-effective and saw no role for it in the state's energy future. Three cheers for SA's Experts Panel, says PND!

** More good uranium tidings from the WA Labor State Conference in Perth held AUG 29-30, where the party reaffirmed its policy position against uranium mining - and also voted to put a moratorium on fracking and to respect the rights of Aboriginal people to say NO to mining.

BANNER WORKSHOP

Paddy Cullen (from Oxfam) and Judy B ran a workshop at Lotteries House, West Perth on Nov 17 to help people make their messages loud and clear at the People's Climate March. This was just a tiny part of the mammoth preparations in Perth for that March on the eve of the UN's Climate Summit in Paris.



Judy with a small banner she made after everyone was set up and busy on their own. T-shirt was painted by granddaughter Jen a couple of years ago. Photo: PaddyCullen

PEOPLE'S CLIMATE MARCH

The weekend prior to long-anticipated COP21, the UN Climate Summit in Paris (Nov 30-Dec 11) saw the PEOPLE'S CLIMATE MARCH happening around the world. Here in Perth we had a spectacularly colourful March of around 8000-10,000 participants urging the Australian government's negotiators in Paris to make a really positive contribution. PND(WA) was there making sure that the usual energetic nuclear power lobby was opposed for pushing its notion that nuclear power is clean, green and must be part of the mix of energy technologies -to keep global warming below that 2 degree limit – or 1.5C if the low-lying countries like Bangladesh and small islands such as our neighbours in the Pacific are to survive.



Jo and Mia (in black&yellow T-shirt) and others at the rally in Wellington Square before MARCH.

Fossil fuel lobbyists will be into heavy spruiking in Paris too. How much progress could be agreed upon for mitigating climate change if only these two megalithic outdated lobbies would stay away and just let the rest get on with it!

THREE FAREWELLS in our PND family

OUR WONDERFUL SYLVIA

Sadly we must pass on the news that our faithful volunteer Sylvia Edwards who quietly served PND(WA) from its beginning in 1982 has passed away at age of 90. So many PND members will recall her as they engaged for a while with our organisation – and then moved on. Sylvia remained, tracking PND's office through about 8 changed locations, doing her half a day each week until old age prevented her from making that bus trip down from Bedford. PNDers Jo, Brenda Roy, Ann Pickett and Joy Beech were all able to attend her funeral on 29 July, along with Judy who presented the eulogy from PND.



Sylvia's first "job" with PND was cutting out and filing articles relevant to PND's concerns into several crammed filing cabinets. How information storage has changed since then. She always attended events organised by PND – Hiroshima anniversaries, and annual vigils like Chernobyl Day, Keep Space for Peace, Global Day for Action Against Military Expenditure and so on. Often Trevor, her loquacious husband would accompany taciturn Sylvie on these occasions – They were a very contented "Yin and Yang".

Over the years, Sylvia simply took on extra duties unasked – like when she reorganised PND's library, marking each book spine according to subject. Occasionally she would bring her granddaughter Philippa with her – so I got to know this

little girl now grown up with a 10 year old daughter of her own.

Sylvia's self-expanding task list came to handwriting minutes of our monthly meetings – and retyping them neatly back at home on her typewriter. She was always great at filing and helped enormously to keep our office tidy and functional. She took on answering some of PND's correspondence. I remember particularly one short, passionate letter she sent off to North Korea to plead for that country to abandon its nuclear weapons program. She never told us that in her youth she had some training as a journalist. She tapped into her skills and became PND's office coordinator for a couple of years "PND's Angel" we used to call her and we meant it! For a while we were able to pay her a tiny wage – enough to cover her bus fares and a bit more.

When Sylvia turned 80, another PND volunteer, Tony Noakes turned 70 and Judy 60. Always generous, Jo ensured we jointly and simultaneously celebrated these birthdays (210 in all) at a lovely party in Jo and Peter's back garden in Mt Lawley.

By the time of PND's last move to Bayswater, Sylvia's visits were becoming scarcer as she neared 90. Her wonderful back-room contribution to PND would have gone unnoticed by many. She helped keep the organisation's wheels turning for over 3 decades. Everyone who knew Sylvia came to love her for her quiet determination and willingness to do her utmost for our cause.

We in PND passed our condolences to all in her family.

SR VERONICA BRADY, the "Larrikin Angel" 1929-2015

Another of PND's precious oldies, Sr. Veronica Brady passed away in late August aged 86. Among this lively, bicycle-riding and inspiring Loreto nun's many interests and affiliations, she was for over three decades a member of PND(WA). She was deeply into peace activism and greatly supportive of PND(WA)'s events relating to that belief.

Veronica was on UWA's academic staff from 1972 to 1994. There she was instrumental in establishing Australian literature studies there. She herself was an author of many thought provoking books. She influenced many lives through her university year and through her presence on many boards – the ABC, the Library and Information Service WA, and Fremantle Press. She was Chair of the Perth branch of PEN. After a life which included much travelling and speaking, and having had an international reputation as a leading intellectual and moral crusader, life in her real old age was far too quiet for her. She was natural feminist inspiring many women to expand their capacities and lives. She stood up for Aboriginal rights and was loved and trusted by the Aboriginal community.

In this 70th anniversary year of the bombing of Hiroshima, I remember her as main speaker at its 60th anniversary in Perth's Forrest Chase. We (PND and MAPW) held a candle-lit meditation there with a very large crowd arranged into the nuclear disarmament symbol. At our 70th Hiroshima commemoration, again we arranged small lanterns this way, on the lawn by UWA's Reflection Pool on August 6. Regretfully Veronica's old age meant that she couldn't be with us that evening. She would have loved it as she longed to get out from her small room in Cathering McAuley Centre in Wembley and rage passionately for peace again.

7.

ROBERT McFARLANE 1932 – 28 June 2015

Rob was well known to generations of peace, social justice and environmental activists. While he and wife June were holidaying in the UK many years ago, they came across CND, the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament. This exposure led Rob and June to become foundation members of People for Nuclear Disarmament in Perth in 1982, and later in 1984, of the NDP, the Nuclear Disarmament Party. Its legendary election campaign that year saw Jo Vallentine rocketed into the Senate as the world's first MP to enter a national parliament on a no nukes platform.

In 1987, the energetic Palm Sunday Rally Organising Committee formed and Rob and June poured their enthusiasm into that too, and for some years were at the epicentre of organising this annual event.

A connection formed in the UK to Reynolds Engineering transitioned into Rob running an engineering works in Perth for the company. He delighted in the ethics and personal relationships practised by the company.

Rob was a prodigious writer of letters to newspapers on issues such as peace and nuclear disarmament, the bombing of the Rainbow Warrior, good governance, corruption, forest issues, asylum-seekers, Middle Eastern affairs, climate change, human rights... Another of his activist tactics was painting bold placards to present his case on many of the causes he supported – such as protecting Burrup rock art, or freeing David Hicks from Guantanamo Bay. When David Hicks was imprisoned in that inhumanly small metal cage, Rob had a replica metal cage made and this was much used in that campaign to free David. Also during that campaign, Rob designed a heavily modified version of the US flag which famously leapt onto T-shirts. Listed within its stars and stripes were the names of all the many countries where the US had military engagements.



In his last year, Rob and June celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary with family and friends and later were taken to Broome by their two daughters who wheel-chaired them both gloriously about that town. Their grandson became a father just a couple of weeks before Rob passed away –

Baby Jack was new bud on the McFarlane family tree just as its old stalwart was bowing out.

We sent condolences to June and family.

8.



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8.