



NoWar Newsletter

The official newsletter of [NoWar \(SA\)](#)

Issue 1

3 July 2006

Welcome to the first edition of the NoWar e-Newsletter. We hope to publish an edition each month and provide our membership and support base with better information about NoWar's activities and to provide an alternative source of information about the war on Iraq and other similar issues of concern to you.

The newsletter is organised into headings that allow for easy and quick reading, with plenty of links to other relevant Internet sources. Each edition will provide information about recent NoWar Committee meetings and about upcoming events. We welcome feedback, contributions and any suggestions for improvements.

What is NoWar?

NoWar is a South Australian, Adelaide based group opposed to the war on Iraq. NoWar originally formed at the time of the invasion of Afghanistan in 2001. At that time, NoWar provided many opportunities for South Australians to publicly oppose the war on Afghanistan and was active in arranging public meetings, rallies and speaking to the media.

NoWar's level of activity was stepped up as the threat of war against Iraq increased in 2002. The Australian Peace Committee called a meeting at the Pilgrim Hall on 17 September 2002 to discuss what should be done about this threat. NoWar then began planning for public rallies against the war, with the first one being held on 5 October 2002.

Following that, many public meetings, rallies and other opportunities were created culminating in the historic 100,000 person rally in Adelaide on 16 February 2003, with several others held that day in rural centres throughout the State. This was the biggest rally ever seen in South Australia and was part of the world wide protest that weekend that brought 10 million people into the streets to oppose this war.

Since that time, although we have organised many rallies, protests and vigils, our focus has been on education and information dissemination and working out ways to consolidate peace groups in South Australia. In 2005 we developed plans for the *South Australian Peace Network*, which is still a work in progress. During 2005-2006 we brought outstanding speakers to Adelaide to bring an alternative perspective on the war in Iraq. These speakers were [Tariq Ali](#), [Scott Ritter](#) and [Zaki Chehab](#). We hope to continue this work in 2006-2007 in collaboration with the national [Global Justice Tours](#).

The aims of NoWar are:

To educate, inform and mobilise people based on the following principles:

- *Opposition to the increasing militarisation of the world, and the consequences for the international community;*
- *Support for a reversal of the global military build-up, specifically the removal of nuclear, chemical and biological weapons, an end to the trade in arms, and a reduction in the current level of conventional arms;*
- *Support for the removal of foreign military bases around the world, and an end to foreign military interventions;*

- *Support for the resolution of conflicts in a just and peaceful manner, having regard for the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, international law and the rights of all peoples to self-determination.*

Click here to view the [NoWar Constitution](#)

NoWar consists of a Committee, a financial membership that elects the Committee (see below) and a large support base, the names of which we have collected over time at our various functions and events. From this membership and support base come people such as you, who become involved in our public meetings, rallies and other public actions towards peace.

NoWar Committee

The NoWar Committee is elected at the AGM each year in October-November. The current members of the Committee are:

- | | |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------|
| ◦ Mike Khizam (Convenor) | ◦ Renfrey Clarke |
| ◦ Jeanie Lucas (Secretary) | ◦ Jane Bower |
| ◦ Margaret Peterson (Treasurer) | ◦ Anne McMenamin |
| ◦ Stephen Darley | ◦ Sue Gilbey |
| ◦ Ruth Russell | ◦ Colin Mitchell |
| ◦ Brian Arnott | ◦ Bob Eastman (seconded) |

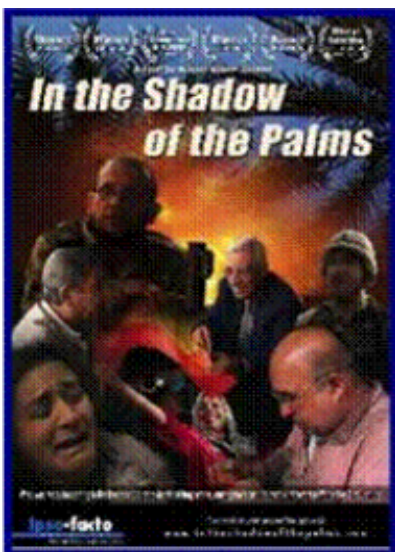
The Committee meets every 2nd and 4th Wednesday of the month.

The Committee has met approximately every 2 weeks for the last 3 years (with a short Christmas break each year!). Prior to that, particularly in the build up to the war, the Committee and membership met more than that, as many of you would remember!

During the height of anti-war activities, NoWar maintained a staffed office. Currently, the meetings are held at NoWar Committee member's homes.

What's on?

Film fund raiser



Sunday 30 July 2:45pm

In the Shadow of the Palms

**East End Cinemas, Rundle St,
Adelaide**

(Specific cinema to be announced)

NoWar presents its next film fund raiser for 2006,

In the Shadow of the Palms

a compelling and moving feature length
documentary by Australian film maker, Wayne
Coles-Janess.

A 30 minute audience response and discussion
period will be held immediately after the film.

**Phone 0414 77 39 18 to reserve your
ticket.**

\$15 – waged

\$10 - unwaged

*As usual, tickets will be available at the cinema door,
reserved in your name with payment to be made at that time.*

[***In the Shadow of the Palms – Iraq***](#) has been described as a 'humane and profoundly authentic' portrayal of the struggles of the people of Iraq through this tumultuous war. It provides an intimate insight into the lives of ordinary people during Saddam's Regime as they prepare for the rapidly approaching war. As the war raged and despite numerous arrests by the Iraqi Government, the production continued to film "un-embedded", documenting life in Baghdad not previously seen in the media.

"Coles-Janess delivers images only the most biased of observers could not be moved by." "Aussie documaker Wayne Coles-Janess has crafted an affecting look at ordinary citizens responding to extraordinary circumstance. Richard Kuipers – Variety Magazine

"An intimate documentary on the impact of war on Iraqis reveals telling insights" Larry Schwartz - The Age

Some NoWar members have seen this film and found it to be very powerful and affecting. Don't miss this film. It will have only a short season and NoWar greatly appreciates this opportunity offered by [East End Cinemas](#).

Our first film fundraiser, [Ten Canoes](#), was held on Sunday 2 July at the Palace Cinema. This was very well attended and we were able to raise funds for our work through the ticket sales, wine and nibble sales and a raffle. We are grateful to [Brian Deegan](#) and Ruth Russell for the donation of their respective books as prizes for the raffle. The film *Ten Canoes* is fantastic and we urge you to see it if you missed the fund raiser. Thanks again to the great folks at East End Cinemas.

General Meeting

EAST TIMOR

NoWar held a general meeting of membership and supporters on 28 June at 7:30 on the situation in East Timor.

The meeting was addressed by Andrew (Andy) Alcock of the [Australia East Timor Friendship Association \(SA\) Inc](#) and [Dr Michael Sullivan Lecturer](#) in Political and International Studies, Flinders University.

This was a highly informative meeting with a thorough background and analysis given on the present situation. We hope to be able to have access on our web site in the near future to the text of the presentation.

About 35 people were at the meeting; 35 brave souls on a very cold evening in an equally cold hall!

Featured item

No Bravery **- click here for video**

Powerful imagery set to the compelling music of James Blunt

News

Eight Die in Fresh Iraqi Bombings

3 July 2006

Bombings in two crowded Iraqi markets have killed at least eight people and wounded dozens of others. [Read more...\(BBC News\)](#)

Gaza: "The Children Wake Up Screaming. I Am Worried It Will Damage Them"

3 July 2006

Outside the home in central Gaza he and his own family share with his elderly parents, five married brothers and their children - 48 in all - Mr Mughari was describing the impact made by Israel's air strikes in Gaza last week, one of which severed the water pipe serving this refugee camp of 57,000 people. [Read More...\(The Independent\)](#)

Baghdad Market Blast Kills Scores

1 July 2006

A huge explosion has ripped through a busy Baghdad market, killing at least 66 people, officials say. [Read More...\(BBC News\)](#)

An Iraqi Withdrawal from Iraq

28 June 2006

Recent days have found a media feeding frenzy at the trough of the "National Reconciliation" plan by the US puppet "prime minister" of Iraq, Nuri al-Maliki. This "plan" was clearly a political move orchestrated from within Pentagon and State Department circles in preparation for the upcoming November mid-term elections in the US and has effectively changed, on the ground in Iraq, approximately nothing. *By Dahr Jamail* [Read more...](#)

World Military Expenditure in 2005 - \$1118 Billion

12 June 2006

SIPRI Yearbook 2006: Armaments, Disarmament and International Security reports that world military expenditure in 2005 is estimated to have reached \$1001 billion at constant (2003) prices and exchange rates, or \$1118 billion in current dollars. This corresponds to 2.5 per cent of world GDP or an average spending of \$173 per capita. World military expenditure in 2005 presents a real terms increase of 3.4 per cent since 2004, and of 34 per cent over the 10-year period 1996–2005. The USA, responsible for about 80 per cent of the increase in 2005, is the principal determinant of the current world trend, and its military expenditure now accounts for almost half of the world total. See: <http://yearbook2006.sipri.org/chap8/chap8>

Another U.S. Cover-Up Surfaces

12 June 2006

In the wake of the Haditha massacre, reports of another atrocity have surfaced in which U.S. troops killed two women in Samarra, and then attempted to hide evidence of their responsibility. [Read More...\(Inter Press Service\)](#)

Will Al-Zarqawi's Death Fuel the Insurgency or Diminish It?

8 June 2006

Someone said to me the other day in Beirut, where I live, you know, they said: Oh, well, you know, if they can just get Bin Laden it's the end. And I don't think it is, any more than it is with Zarqawi. You know, it's a bit like someone invents the atom bomb, so you go around and you arrest all the nuclear scientists. It doesn't matter. If the atom bomb exists, it's there. (*Robert Fisk*)

[Read More...\(Democracy Now\)](#)

Campaigns

Iran

NoWar is planning a campaign about the threat of a war against Iran. We have already had an 'in-house' information meeting for the Committee on the matter of Iran, during which Committee member Renfrey Clarke provided an excellent analysis of the present situation and the history leading up to it.

Stay tuned for announcements about this campaign. In the meantime, please visit the [don't bomb iran - ban all nuclear weapons](#) web site developed by the [Victorian Peace Network](#).

KBR / Halliburton

NoWar has developed a long term campaign against the activities of KBR/Halliburton, [Iraq war profiteers](#), who have a head office on Greenhill Road.

NoWar previously held a large protest outside the KBR offices in an effort to bring their activities to the notice of the passers by on this busy roadway. We had much support for this event and it was featured in a documentary on [SBS on 6 October 2004](#).

We now have a regular presence there every three weeks. This campaign requires a few dedicated people who can commit themselves over a long period.

If you are interested in this campaign, which is coordinated by Graham and Edward, please contact Graham on (08) 8581 1890 or email Edward at e_cranswick@yahoo.com for direct information about the next protest.

Peace Program – Radio Adelaide

NoWar Committee members Ruth Russell and Sue Gilbey have initiated a peace program for community access radio program at [Radio Adelaide](#). This program is being developed with other like minded groups. Training of personnel has already commenced and we hope to launch the program on air in later in the year. We have subsidized the costs of the training from our funds and we are hoping to find some sponsors to help fund the project for a year. Literally, stay tuned!

Ways we communicate

NoWar has a policy that, except in special circumstances agreed to by the Committee, we only send out emails related to NoWar matters and concerns. In this way we hope to keep email traffic to a minimum. Most emails you will receive from NoWar will be about upcoming events or notices about meetings – and now this newsletter. Very occasionally we may forward an item generated by another group or about another matter.

Aside from emailing what we call our “data base” (the approximately 700 people who have given us their email addresses), there are a number of other ways that NoWar communicates with people. These are:

The web site. Visit www.nowar-sa.net regularly as it is updated at least once a week and has excellent links to alternative sources of information about the war on Iraq and other anti-war groups throughout Australia and the world.

nowar_announcements. This is a newsgroup we set up for people interested in keeping in touch with supporters of NoWar SA. Various interesting and wide ranging items are posted to this news group and it is sometimes used for discussion. [Click here to join nowar_announcements](#).

nowar_australia. This newsgroup was originally set up as is a communication and information forum for members who attended NoWar Committee meetings. Subscribers must have attended NoWar meetings and the group is moderated. This news group and nowar_announcements are very similar and there may be a need to consolidate them. [Click here to join nowar_australia](#)

Summary of last minutes

The last meeting of the NoWar Committee was held on 28 June. The meeting covered:

- Correspondence
- Finances
- Agreement to launch this newsletter
- Arrangements for the film fundraisers
- Radio Program planning
- Contact with the [People's Health Movement](#)
- Discussion about the scheduled London (Bombings) Commemoration, 7 July 2006, Adelaide University
- Hiroshima Day
- Industrial Relations Rally – reported on NoWar's handout for the rally.

The previous meeting of the Committee was held on 14 June. The meeting covered:

- Correspondence

- Finances
- Announcements
- Film fund raisers
- East Timor meeting – 28 June
- Radio Peace Program
- Unity for Peace Conference
- Hiroshima Day
- Information session on Iran – Renfrey Clarke.

Membership form

If you would like to become a financial member of NoWar, please have a read of our constitution and then complete the membership form which is available through this link on our web site: <http://www.nowar-sa.net/pdf/IndMemb2006.pdf>

There is also a membership form for groups at: <http://www.nowar-sa.net/pdf/GroupMembForm2006.pdf>

Membership is \$10 for individuals and a starting membership for groups (under 100 members) is \$50. NoWar needs all the funds it can get so your membership fee is of significant value.

Database form

In the future we will soon be sending out an electronic form to ask you about your details and ways you would like to be involved in NoWar. This will depend on the acquisition of a new data base. Once we have an up to date and comprehensive data base, we will be in a much better position to engage people's interests and skills and to mobilise people in a much more efficient and effective way. Stay tuned.

Feedback

We welcome any feedback you may have about this e-newsletter and about NoWar in general. We are developing plans to increase the involvement of our membership and support base and more information about these plans will be forthcoming in later issues.

Just email us at nowar@ihug.com.au with your feedback.

Our contact details

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See you next month!