

International Campaign To Ban Landmines  
Australian Network Incorporated.



Landmine Action Week 2007  
Wednesday March 28-Wednesday April 4

Memorandum 78  
March 2007

This year Landmine Action Week will take place throughout Australia from Wednesday March 28 to Wednesday April 4, with a variety of activities planned to highlight the progress made in recent years and the need for continued action.

155 countries have now signed the Anti Personnel Mine Ban Treaty, with 153 of those being full States Parties, having ratified or acceded to the Treaty.

Yet millions of landmines still lie littered in more than 80 countries around the world. Anti Vehicle mines still remain outside the treaty and cluster munitions and other explosive remnants of war pose a threat to the daily lives of numerous families.



You can learn more about the Australian Network and Landmine Action Week by attending one of our activities or going to: <http://australia@icbl.org> or [www.landmine-action-week.org](http://www.landmine-action-week.org)

### Deadly Legacy

A photographic exhibition on the effects of landmines and cluster bombs.

Monday 2nd April – Friday 20th April  
10am - 12 noon, each day  
Gold Coin Donation

Bairnsdale Uniting Church  
Cnr. Lanes Rd & Omeo Highway

Official Opening by Craig Ingram  
Friday 30th March 7.30 pm  
Refreshments Provided

Supported by Bairnsdale Uniting Church

### Tasmanian Book Launch "

"A Path Is Made By Walking It".

Where: Hobart Bookshop, Salamanca Square, Hobart.  
When: 5.30 pm., Wednesday, 4th April, 2007

To be launched by Margaret Reynolds

### Western Australia

Friday March 30 Senior Student Forum  
Performing Arts Centre Chisholm College  
Contact: Mary Casotti (08) 9271 9001 or  
Peter Stewart (08) 9427 4227

Monday April 2 Book Launch  
"A Path is Made by Walking It" Venue TBC  
Contact: Peter Stewart (08) 9427 4227

Wednesday April 4 Public awareness raising display, Wesley Church Corner (Hay and William) 7.00am– 2.00pm. Come along to sign our petition and learn how you can help to rid the world of landmines.

### South Australia

The SA branch of the ANBL will be focussing on a cluster munition letter writing campaign to politicians. We would encourage any interested supporters to join this action.

Posters and brochures will be also be delivered to schools as part of awareness raising activities

Landmine Action Week in **ACT and Queensland** will revolve around educational activities in schools.

Landmine Action Week posters and website coordinated by NSW.

GPO Box 9830 Adelaide S.A. 5001 Email: [australia@icbl.org](mailto:australia@icbl.org)  
Website: <http://australia.icbl.org>

**Removing a Fatal Footprint: Moves to Ban Cluster munitions**

In December 2006 the Australian Democrats introduced into the Federal Parliament legislation to ban cluster munitions. The Australian Network to Ban Landmines assisted in the launch of the legislation by Democrats leader, Senator Lyn Alison, by providing a photo exhibition of the humanitarian impacts of cluster munitions and models of cluster munitions used by bomb disposal teams in Afghanistan.

“We welcome the initiative of Democrats leader, Senator Lyn Allison, to introduce a bill that would ban Australia from manufacturing, trading in and using cluster munitions”, said Dr Mark Zirnsak, National Coordinator of the Australian Network to Ban Landmines and Director of the JIM Unit. “Australian military personnel should not be involved in the use of weapon systems that leave behind a deadly legacy for civilian populations for decades after a conflict ends. This is a welcome step towards Australia supporting a global ban on those cluster munitions that have significant humanitarian impacts.”

On 7 December the Senate referred the Democrats bill to the Senate Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade for the Committee to hold an inquiry into cluster munitions. The Committee will report back to the Senate on 29 March 2007. The Australian Network to Ban Landmines provided a submission outlining the case for banning cluster munitions. The Committee has declared that it will not be holding public hearings, but has instead invited organisations to make submissions by 16 March to respond to the arguments by the Department of Defence.

The Department of Defence accepts that some cluster munitions cause significant humanitarian problems, but argues that this is when they are misused or fail to explode as intended. They oppose the Democrats legislation.

Cluster munitions are munitions (bombs, artillery shells and rockets) that contain two or more submunitions, but more usually in the hundreds, that break open on deployment to rain down the submunitions over a wide area.

Cluster bomblets pose a particular danger to civilians compared to other weapon systems because of the broad area of effect they have, lack of accuracy and the number of explosive duds left behind. Many of the bomblets do not explode on impact and then can lie around until they explode when touched, killing and maiming people for years after a conflict ends. The size and shape of cluster munitions make them attractive to children.

Australia does not possess cluster munitions and the Australian Defence Forces do not use cluster munitions, but the Department of Defence is in the process of purchasing advanced cluster munitions. Further, Australian forces have been part of conflicts in Afghanistan and Iraq in which Australia's allies have extensively used cluster munitions with devastating humanitarian impacts.

A total of 49 countries met in Oslo, Norway, on 22-23 February 2007 to discuss developing a treaty banning cluster munitions with unacceptable consequences. The Australian Government did not participate, claiming it was not invited. As far as the ANBL is aware the meeting was open to any country that wanted to attend.

The meeting resulted in 46 of the countries present agreeing to develop a new treaty banning cluster munitions that cause unacceptable harm to civilians by 2008. The countries that signed up to the declaration include Austria, Canada, France, Germany, Hungary, Indonesia, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lebanon, Mexico, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, South Africa, Spain, Sweden and the United Kingdom. The United Kingdom has been a major producer and user of cluster munitions. Only Japan, Romania and Poland attended the meeting and did not sign up to the final declaration

**What you can do:**

Write polite and respectful letters to:

The Hon. Alexander Downer MP Minister for Foreign Affairs Parliament House Canberra, ACT, 2600 Salutation: Dear Minister	The Hon Brendan Nelson MP Minister for Defence Parliament House Canberra, ACT, 2600 Salutation: Dear Minister
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**Points to make in your letter:**

Express concern that cluster munitions in common use are highly inaccurate and leave behind a large amount of live explosive ‘duds’ resulting in a deadly legacy for civilian populations for decades after conflicts finish.

Point out that children are disproportionately the casualties of cluster munitions, as the size, shape and colours of the unexploded ‘duds’ are often attractive to children in post-conflict situations.

Point out the sensitivity of unexploded cluster ‘duds’ make them even more difficult to clear than anti-personnel landmines.

Ask that the Australian Government introduce domestic legislation that would forbid Australia from manufacturing, stockpiling, purchasing or using cluster munitions with unacceptable humanitarian consequences.

**Belgium Bans Investments in Cluster Munitions**

New Belgian Law is the First of its Kind

The Belgium Parliament has become the first in the world to approve a law forbidding investments in cluster munitions . A report by Netwerk Vlaanderen reveals that 68 international bank groups have invested a combined total of more than €13 billion in cluster munition producers.

<http://www.netwerkvlaanderen.be/en/>

**Hidden bombs stalk Vietnamese as states seek treaty**  
 Extracts from a Reuters article by Grant Mc Cool



DONG HA, Vietnam, March 7 (Reuters) - In the same week that dozens of countries declared plans to ban cluster munitions, a boy was killed by the explosion of a steel ball he picked up and threw while tending livestock. The boy was not in one of the present-day war zones of Iraq, Afghanistan or Lebanon, but in Vietnam, where the battlefields were silenced more than 30 years ago.

Since the U.S. war ended in April 1975, unexploded ordnance and landmines have killed 38,000 people and wounded 64,000 in Vietnam, government figures show.

<http://www.reuters.com/>



A Vietnamese worker lays unexploded ordnances on the ground at Vietnam’s central Quang Binh province 500m kms south of Hanoi. March 1 2007.Photo Kham/Reuters

Do Thien Dang, a victim of unexploded ordnance is seen at his mushroom farm in Vietnam's central Quang Tri province, February 28, (Kham/Reuters 2007)

**INDONESIA BECOMES THE 153RD STATE PARTY TO THE MINE BAN TREATY**

**On 20 February 2007, the Republic of Indonesia deposited its instrument of ratification to the United Nations, thus becoming the 153rd State Party to the Mine Ban Treaty.**

Parliament approved the bill on 7 December 2006, and President Yudhyono signed it into law on 29 December. But this final step at the UN was necessary before Indonesia could officially become a State Party. The treaty will enter into force for Indonesia on 1 August 2007. Indonesia was one of the original signatories of the Mine Ban Treaty in 1997. Indonesia's ratification is a welcome addition to that of Brunei Darussalem last year on 24 April 2006.

There are now only two remaining signatories that have not yet ratified: Poland and the Marshall Islands.

Discussions about ratification of the convention between the Indonesian Campaign to Ban Landmines and the government of Indonesia began in 2002. Indonesia has declared that it is not a mine-affected country, but there have been some reports of injuries from mine-like improvised explosive devices and booby-traps in Ambon and Aceh, two regions affected by conflict in the recent past. It may also have a stockpile of anti-personnel landmines, which if verified, would need to be destroyed no later than 1 August 2011.

The announcement that the ratification process is complete comes at a welcome time, as the ICBL prepares to celebrate the anniversary of the Treaty's entry into force on 1 March. Since that date in 1999, three-quarters of the world's states have acceded to the Treaty, a monumental achievement in universalizing a ban on a weapon that had been commonly employed and accepted. The Treaty first opened for signatures in December 1997, making this the 10th Anniversary Year of the Mine Ban Treaty.

For more information on Indonesia and its ratification, visit:  
**[www.icbl.org/lm](http://www.icbl.org/lm) or [http://www.icbl.org/news/indonesia\\_sp](http://www.icbl.org/news/indonesia_sp)**

These countries in our region still need polite encouragement to sign the Mine Ban Treaty.

<b><u>Burma (Myanmar)</u></b> Burma is mine affected and has been producing antipersonnel mines. Myanmar's military has continued laying landmines. At least 15 rebel groups also use mines.	His Excellency U Soe WIN Embassy of the Union of Myanmar 22 Arkana Street Yarralumla ACT 2600
<b><u>Vietnam</u></b> Vietnam is mine affected and has mine production facilities.	His Excellency Mr TRAN Van Hinh Embassy of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam 6 Timbarra Crescent O'Malley ACT 2606
<b><u>India</u></b> India is mine-affected and a user and a producer of antipersonnel mines. It has the fifth largest stockpile of the weapon in the world.	His Excellency Mr Prabhat Prakash SHUKLA High Commission for India 3-5 Moonah Place Yarralumla ACT 2600
<b><u>Lao PDR</u></b> Lao PDR is massively contaminated by unexploded ordnance (UXO) other than landmines. The government has been showing increasing interest in the Mine Ban Treaty.	His Excellency Mr Khenthong NUANTHASING Embassy of the Lao People's Democratic Republic 1 Dalman Crescent O'Malley ACT 2606
<b><u>Sri Lanka</u></b> Sri Lanka is a mine-affected country. The government has announced its willingness to accede to the Mine Ban Treaty subject to it reaching an agreement with the LTTE on the non-use of landmines.	His Excellency Mr Kusumpala BALAPATABENDI High Commission for the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka 35 Empire Circuit Forrest ACT 2603
<b><u>Pakistan</u></b> Pakistan is mine-affected and a user and producer of the antipersonnel mines. It has the fourth largest stockpile of landmines in the world.	His Excellency Mr Babar W Malik High Commission for Pakistan PO Box 684 Mawson ACT 2600

### **A Path is Made by Walking It**

“A Path is Made by Walking It” was formally launched in Adelaide by the Hon Alexander Downer, Minister for Foreign Affairs. He was welcomed to Catherine McAuley Place by Meredith Evans RSM, and Patricia Pak Poy RSM, editor of the book.

Mark Zirnsak, National Coordinator of the Australian Network, in introducing Mr Downer acknowledged the significant role Mr Downer had played in the change of government policy regarding the banning of anti-personnel mines.

Mr Downer spoke of the work of the Network in urging a total ban on antipersonnel mines, and told of his own ‘conversion’ to the policy position favouring a total ban on these indiscriminate weapons. He affirmed the importance of cooperation between government and civil society in this shift in government policy. He responded briefly to mention of AVMs and cluster munitions, noting the complexities of these issues, and the use of cluster munitions in recent conflicts.

The Network acknowledges the assistance received from the Melbourne College of Divinity, the Uniting Church of Australia and Caritas Australia in producing “A Path is Made by Walking It.”

#### **Review of 'A Path is Made by Walking It'- Gill Paxton**

'A path is made by walking it' is an ancient Chinese saying and is an appropriate title for this collection of essays. The essays were written by people involved in the Campaign to Ban Landmines, especially in Australia. It is obvious that Sister Patricia Pak Poy has played a very influential part in the acceptance of a mine ban treaty in Australia.

As Alexander Downer points out in the foreword and Sister Patricia Pak Poy backs up with her historical perspective in the first chapter (A Journey Begins With a Single Step), the success of the campaign is a tribute to the cooperation of Government, NGOs, international organizations and civil society working towards a common humanitarian goal.

As an example of a cooperative effort, it is perhaps a model for groups wanting to pursue other issues and make other policy changes. As Sister Patricia says (p. 5) “The Government position on a total ban was shifting from ‘hopelessly utopian’ in 1995 to ‘foregoing the use of antipersonnel mines unless in extreme circumstances’ in early 1996.”

This collaboration is just one reason why the book is fascinating reading. Another is that the essays are personal stories and give an insight into the attitudes and experiences of the writers. A third reason is that the essays have been well-grouped in the editing process.

The essays are arranged using the metaphor of making a path. The first section deals with the need for a ban (A safe path is needed) This is followed by the process (On making the path), then by a section dealing with how it works (On the path). This is followed by four essays reflecting on advocacy, common ground and ethics (Reflections on making the path). The final essay (The path opens out) is a reminder that the work of the Australian Network to Ban Landmines is far from finished - there is still a need for universalisation and to ensure that the Treaty is adhered to. There is also a need to deal with harmful remnants of war, such as antivehicle mines, cluster munitions, depleted uranium etc

Due to its very nature - a collection of essays by supporters to a mine ban treaty - this book lacks dissenting voices, but it is significant which groups are contributors. The cross-section of support is evident by reading the 'Notes on the authors'. The book describes a process of cooperation, but we cannot be complacent. There is still much to be done, but the Ottawa Convention was an excellent first step.

**Funding Needs for the Australian Network to Ban Landmines**

In the last three years the Australian Network to Ban Landmines has had a number of successes. It:

Was successful in its campaign to have the Australian Government commit to providing \$75 million over five years for landmine clearance, assisting the survivors of landmines, mine risk awareness for communities that live with the presence of landmines and advocacy to have more countries in the Asia-Pacific region sign up to the Ottawa Convention that bans the use, production, stockpiling and trade in anti-personnel landmines;

Had the Australian Government accept that a mine that can be set off by a person is an anti-personnel landmine and therefore banned by the Ottawa Convention. Previously the Australian Government was arguing that if a mine was labelled by its manufacturer as an anti-vehicle mine, even if it could be set off by the unintended act of a person, it was not an anti-personnel landmine and therefore not banned under the Convention. This followed media attention, a letter-writing campaign and a petition on anti-vehicle mines.

Persuaded the Australian Labor Party to commit to a policy that it would ban the use of anti-vehicle mines with anti-handling devices when it is in government. It is currently considering shifting this position to support of a total ban on the use, manufacture, stockpiling and trade in anti-vehicle mines.

Wrote to Governments around the world and obtained support from 12 of them for moves towards a ban on anti-vehicle mines. A further 36 have stated that they support additional restrictions on the design and use of anti-vehicle mines.

Held a very successful conference in China that has engaged the Chinese Government to examine what more it might do to help clear existing minefields around the world and also a commitment that it intends to eventually sign the Ottawa Convention.

Held a successful conference of young people across the Asian region in Laos to give them skills in advocating for mine action and a global ban on landmines.

The Ottawa Convention has now been signed by 155 countries around the world. The number of countries that retain the capacity to manufacture anti-personnel landmines has decreased from 50 countries to 13. The trade in anti-personnel landmines has almost completely ceased. States Parties to the Ottawa Convention have destroyed 38.3 million stockpiled anti-personnel landmines. Casualties have decreased from an estimated 26,000 per year to an estimated 15,000 – 20,000 per year from anti-personnel landmines, anti-vehicle mines and unexploded ordnance.

However, a number of challenges remain. Key arms manufacturing states such as the US, Russia, China, India and Pakistan remain outside of the Ottawa Convention. A total of 54 countries still stockpile an estimated 180 million anti-personnel landmines, with countries not signatory to the Ottawa Convention stockpiling 160 million of these. There are 84 countries affected by anti-personnel landmines and unexploded ordnance with an estimated 200,000 km<sup>2</sup> of area being contaminated. There are an estimated 300,000 to 400,000 landmine survivors in the world today needing on-going assistance. The International Campaign to Ban Landmines, of which the Australian Network is a member, lobbies governments for assistance to landmine survivors and people with disabilities in general in landmine affected countries.

The Australian Network is a volunteer organisation with no paid staff.

In 2007 the key directions forward for the Australian Network to Ban Landmines will be:

- Continuing to seek the universalisation of the Ottawa Convention, with particular focus on Vietnam, Laos, USA, Nepal, Pakistan and India.
- Supporting a Norwegian Government initiative towards developing a new treaty banning cluster munitions with unacceptable humanitarian consequences and seeking that Australia introduces legislation banning Australian forces from using or assisting in the use of cluster munitions with unacceptable humanitarian consequences.

<b>Funding Needs for the Australian Network to Ban Landmines Cont.</b>
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- Campaigning for a global ban on anti-vehicle mines.
- Seeking to ensure that the Australian Government funds victim assistance programs for the survivors of landmine incidents.

To operate in 2007, the Australian Network to Ban Landmines needs \$25,000 of funding.

The Australian Network has not called for donations from its supporters for some time, so we are now asking for donations to assist with the on-going work of the Network. We would be grateful for any one-off donations or those who might be willing to commit to on-going regular donations.

Donations can be sent to:

**The Treasurer  
ICBL-AN Inc  
25 Chapel Street  
Campbelltown SA 5074.**

Unfortunately we do not have credit card facilities.

<b>Do You Have Email?</b>
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**<http://www.adobe.com/products/acrobat/index.html>**

Scroll down to **Looking for Adobe Reader? Download it now.**

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Sad News from New Zealand
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Sadly, John Head from the New Zealand Campaign has died.

John established the New Zealand Campaign Against Landmines (CALM) in 1993, and with single-mindedness, charm, political wiles, leadership and hard work achieved New Zealand government support for the international campaign by 1996, and continued CALM's work through to NZ ratification of the Ottawa Treaty in 1999. He also contributed to the international discussion and lobbying at Oslo, Ottawa and several meetings of state parties and regional ICBL meetings.

We honour him for what he did for the campaign, for many years and at many levels.

David Zwartz  
Covenor, CALM

Our condolences go to his family

Ruag Holding nominated for Negative Public Eye Award for production of Cluster Munitions
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Ruag Holding, with production facilities in Switzerland, Germany and Sweden, is Europe's largest manufacturer of small calibre munitions. As a result, it shares in the responsibility for the deaths of the more than 1,000 people who lose their lives through the use of small arms every day.

The Public Eye organisers choose three winners for their annual awards. The first two go to "examples of those WEF members and large enterprises whose social and/or ecological sins demonstrate the shady side of pure profit-oriented globalization." In contrast, the "Public Eye Positive Award" honors a concrete pioneering corporate initiative

Public Eye Swiss Award  
[www.publiceye.ch](http://www.publiceye.ch)