

The Peace Preacher as Anti-War Organiser in Regional Australia “Mine eyes have seen the glory of the coming of the Lord”

Margaret Pestorius, 2022.

Note on Military Equipment Language: in this article we refer to an Armed Reconnaissance Helicopter (ARH) as an ‘attack helicopter’ because it is weaponised with machine guns, and missiles. An ARH carries two humans, a weapon operator and a pilot. Two different attack helicopters are referenced in this article the Boeing AH-64 Apache ARH (Ap#che) and the Eurocopter E665 Tiger. We avoid using the regular spelling of Ap#che because it appears to be an appropriation of a First Nations word/name.





[Photos can be found here](https://www.dropbox.com/sh/jjrizvmomnqshps/AADRzYkpDhlZd6bBv-HrAdT9a?dl=0) <https://www.dropbox.com/sh/jjrizvmomnqshps/AADRzYkpDhlZd6bBv-HrAdT9a?dl=0>

In July 2011, an Australian Defence Force (ADF) helicopter was seriously damaged by my husband, Bryan Law. Dressed as his alter-identity, the Peace Preacher, Bryan rode a red tricycle across the tarmac, and taking his mattock from trike basket, he whacked a hole in the attack helicopter, disarming it with a single blow.

The helicopter did not fly for more than three months. And by God, many of us were proud of Bryan. Bryan considered himself in an end of life phase of his activism. He knew heart disease would mean a short life. And his mind always sought escalation. As a peace activist of 30 years, he chose the prophesy of Isaiah - to “turn swords (attack helicopters) into ploughshares”. His act was to transform not only the helicopter, but the psyches of Australians permanently at war. We were 10 years in.

Though the action was not widely noted across Australia, it was significant to those in the small rural city where it occurred. Bryan made sure that the people of Rockhampton, known for their beef and colonial mentality, understood the action even if they disagreed. It was an act of disarmament. They knew it.

He composed and carried out a program of activities, actions and events which enabled the resident police, the city councillors, community leaders and ordinary people to be participants in the lead up and witnesses of the act. At the centre of this organising was a new character: the Peace Preacher.

I accompanied Bryan during this short mobilisation, scared for the future, anxious about everything: our son, our lives, our future.

Gandhian Nonviolence

Bryan Law had been a practitioner of Gandhian nonviolence for 30 years. He used the politics of nonviolence to wage momentum-based conflicts (referred to in this article by Engler and Engler

<https://wagingnonviolence.org/2016/03/using-momentum-to-build-a-stronger-movement/>), and furthermore, laid the ground for any conflict with attention to the web of players and organisations involved. He always held a view toward the transformation of values and relationships.

Bob Overy in his 2019 book *Gandhi the Organiser*, (*Gandhi the Organiser. How he shaped a nationwide rebellion: India 1915-1922*) writes about Gandhi as an ‘organiser’ rather than a moral leader or conflict manager:

“Nonviolent action, as pursued by Gandhi, was not just a conflict technique. Simultaneously, it was a tool for transforming social, economic, and political conditions. The two aspects, conflict and transformation were combined”.



Bryan Law outside the City Hall in Rockhampton, dressed as the Peace Preacher following a disruption of the Chamber in 2011.

Bryan’s understanding of the politics of nonviolence strongly emphasised ‘organising’. And from time to time he had successful outcomes. He had conducted strategic campaign

programs such as the prevention of the Tully Millstream Dam and challenges to urban bush destruction; he organised frontline action camps, challenging logging at Fraser Island and the building of a controversial cable car in the World Heritage Wet Tropics. He organised for justice at the local, state and national levels. He had assisted the coordination of intersectional justice movements transforming them into a coalition to oppose the Commonwealth Games (1982) and organised in the movements which brought down the corrupt colonial state government of Queensland. Some of his work can be found here at the [Bryan Law Archive](#)

He wanted to transform society. His primary identity - signified by his usual password - was “writer”. He communicated with an enormous number of people via letter, talkback radio, media release, articles, booklets and later blogs and internet commentary.

In the last 20 years of his life he lived in the small remote city of Cairns in the sovereign nation of the Gimuy Walubara Yidindji. With me, he lived in a family, worked as a taxi driver and was raising a child.

Part performance artist, part dad, and fully activist, Bryan had an extraordinary imagination for ‘tactics’, drawing from Gene Sharp’s 1973 lexicon of “Methods of Nonviolent Action”. Each year he would try something new and continued to develop a repertoire of creative action. Tactics were bold and oriented to the current political context: local, regional or national. A mourning procession for a chopped xanthoria, the open redesign of dozens of election signs, performative challenges to media racism, citizens inspections of US warships, incursions into prohibited areas, and swimming to prevent docking of warships. He had an eye for escalation.

As an organiser, [his archive](#) is full of dozens of personal letters to public officials requesting them to act justly or simply informing them of what he was intending to do. He was an early adopter of social media and activist media production. He used classic techniques of posterage, leafleting, sound, stencils and screens, public meetings, stalls, films, events, street theatre, costumes, bird-dogging, signs and banners, ceremony and speech. He stood for public office to break into closed discourses. And near the end of his life he invented a new character, the Peace Preacher.

Most famously, Bryan had been part of the Pine Gap 4, in 2005. Known as Christians Against All Terrorism, they entered the US operated military base to undertake a ‘citizens’ inspection’. The base was implicated in bombing Iraq. Later Bryan led the legal defence work at trial in 2006 and 2007 using the existence of a [‘sudden or extraordinary emergency’](#) as a formal defence. The trials were [embedded in community organising](#), use of social media blogs, community, public meetings and repeated direct actions located at Pine Gap. The story of our intertwining resistance to Pine Gap can be read in Kieran Finnane’s 2020 book *Peace Crimes*.

Bryan had attended the resistance to the Talisman Sabre Military Exercises in both 2007 and [2009](#) developing tactics other activists had initiated at previous mobilisations: the disruption of ADF vehicles, ‘field walk-ons’ which disrupted battalion movements, and various town-based theatre, protest, direct action and organising. With Christian activists, he blocked the temporary army base and conducted disruptive speak outs using sound and flags.

Taking Action During the Forever Wars

Bryan Law was, however, organising in a time of great resistance to the use of satyagraha in Australia. The peace movement was small and lacking focussed campaign skills.

Relationships were not great. The cultural constraints were considerable: war was not over but people were too comfortable - or too disturbed - to care.

After considerable success organising in the 80's, Bryan and I together had intended to teach people organising skills and the importance of building momentum using direct action. But the Australian public were largely disengaged from the reality of the forever wars.

Nonviolence was effectively denigrated by those connected to the Labor Party who were significantly co-opted into State and Federal governance. Most were unwilling to consistently organise, escalate and use varied tactics to match strategy. The middle class 'left' appeared resistant to taking any risks. Cairns was remote, and the local 'environment' milieu was dominated by "know-it-all" middle-class migrants from the UK.

Furthermore, by 2010, Bryan was becoming increasingly unwell with heart disease and diabetes. He had missed a planned action where he would be the "A for Australia" part of the [ANZAC Ploughshares](#) action at Waihopai surveillance station in New Zealand. Ploughshare actions are a radical Christian tradition, where weapons are physically disarmed using household items - bringing to life the Old Testament prophecy tradition of "swords turned into ploughshares". At Waihopai, three people used a sickle to puncture the covers of antennae at the US surveillance base. Bryan had a heart bypass instead. But he was no longer satisfied with repeating tactics disconnected to strategic outcomes. But he was finding it hard to find collaborators for tactics which escalated to build momentum.

Bryan began to discuss with me and others a disarmament action for himself, or a very small crew. For me it was almost unthinkable. Jail, absence, ill health, death. Bryan's actions were a dramatic confrontation to lies, and a potential revelation of truth that would probably end up with a nasty jail sentence. It was too frightening for me. Despite 20 years in the movement, I could hardly contribute to the planning at all. I lived with a systematic confusion, born of the silent lies and misrepresentations of the colonial middle class.

He wanted to pursue the 'extraordinary emergency' legal defence again. The court was a space for narrative and performance and to invite dilemma for the authorities. He liked the complexity of the law. As a working class man, the court was not a space in which he was supposed to act powerfully. 'Extraordinary emergency' had been rejected as a valid defence in courts across Australia, even while [getting traction in the UK](#). The "nexus issue" had not been resolved. A connection between 'action', such as entering a military base, and 'outcome' such as stopping drone strikes, could not be *legally* demonstrated.

In response, Bryan devised a [ploughshares](#) action for Talisman Sabre conducted by a new 'persona', the Peace Preacher. He would try to address the "nexus" standing between the deployment of a US Apache attack helicopter and its victims in the Afghanistan war.

The Peace Preacher

The Peace Preacher was not a separate character to Bryan Law in the sense of a theatre character. As the Peace Preacher, Bryan would be completely himself; he had always been known for eloquent speeches for example. But he would create an opportunity to be seen by

others in a different light. He would resonate with the spirit of the characters upon whom he was drawing, identities known to the people who would be witnesses.

The spirit of Martin Luther King was primary. Throughout 2010, Bryan listened to the King's speeches. As a new Christian, and a long term nonviolent activist, MLK was a clear starting point.

Bryan bought the Peace Preacher a suit, fancy shoes and a hat. He had never owned a suit before and had spent a good deal of his life barefoot. The hat was chosen carefully to match the other inspiration for the Peace Preacher: Bob Katter, a 'maverick' politician from northern Queensland. [The Peace Preacher would resonate Bob Katter](#) - via the hat. Katter was applauded by country Queenslanders, regarded as someone who stood up for them and spoke plain truth.

From his bedroom, snatches of MLK could be heard along with eclectic sets of music mostly from the southern states of the USA as Bryan morphed with his mentors. A music playlist was developed to accompany the preacher: like the people of Rockhampton, the preacher was a lover of country and gospel music enamoured of its repeated (and ancient) call for justice. Bryan bought a new-fangled battery powered amp with bluetooth microphone. He made new action signs, for the back of his red trike and for performances.

And then Bryan announced his intention to target a military helicopter and moved to Rockhampton from his home in Cairns.

Collateral Murder and the Attack Helicopters

[The announcement in March 2011 to target a military helicopter](#) during the Talisman Sabre Military Exercises was open and very public. He had already informed the ADF by letter over 6 months previously. Now it was exactly three months prior to execution. Talisman Sabre were the largest US Australian exercises in the region. The exercises were viewed by activists as the major symbol for US Australian military cooperation. This cooperation was key to the legitimisation of US wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. Australia was a rare ally.

The story is documented at [Bryan's website here](#).

Bryan [announced that the action](#) was

"an attempt to disrupt the (Talisman Sabre) exercise and alter attitudes towards Australia's role as "America's puppet in acts of aggression against some of the poorest people on the planet".

He went on to say

"I have already notified the defence department of my intentions. They know I'm coming, but I bet they can't stop me.

"I expect dozens of supporters, most of them prepared to carry on disruptive actions, trespass and more fully developed expressions of non-violent (sic) protest.

"If I can get my hands on a US military helicopter I will damage the avionics and communications as best I can.

"I don't rate the security at the airport. It won't keep me out."

Influenced by his friendships with Christian pacifists, the few taking courageous action during the Afghanistan/Iraq wars, Bryan became a Catholic in 2009. His Peace Preacher would draw on the pacifist [‘ploughshares’ tradition](#) where “people committed to peace and disarmament . . . nonviolently, safely, openly and accountably disable a war machine or system so that it can no longer harm people”. [Micah 4:3 proclaims, “they shall beat swords into ploughshares”](#). He had brought with him OUR household garden mattock!



The common garden mattock Bryan Law used to disarm the attack helicopter.

In April 2010, one year prior to the announcement, the ‘Collateral Murder’ video had been released by Chelsea Manning via Wikileaks. The video famously depicted a series of war crimes committed in 2007. Journalists, children and other civilians were the victims of missiles fired from Boeing’s killer helicopters. Peace folk watched the revelation of ‘collateral murder’ with horror, though we were not surprised. Long wars plus colonising racism were predicted to result in war crimes. And these were the same attacks that Donna Mulhearn had described during the trial of the Pine Gap 4. She had witnessed the attacks, famously pointing to her walking boots which were stained with blood from a market place in Fallujah.

Helicopters were also implicated in reports of civilian deaths in Afghanistan. In July 2010, reports from Afghanistan indicated that Australians were involved with kill-capture missions on civilian compounds using helicopter cover. (see Kerin, ‘Just don’t mention the war’, *The Australian Financial Review*, 29 July 2010, p. 61. Cited in [Reports, allegations and inquiries into serious misconduct by Australian troops in Afghanistan 2005–2013 – Parliament of Australia](#))

Boeing’s Apache attack helicopters on show at Talisman Sabre 2009 had been Bryan’s original target. However, during the Talisman Sabre Exercises 2011 following his announcement, the Americans kept the Apaches well away from the public.

That left a field of ADF owned Eurocopter Tiger ARH at the Rockhampton airport. Carefully tended with grooming and petting, like a paddock of expensive llamas, they were killing machines.

Australia had ordered 22 attack helicopters from Eurocopter in 2001. But according to the journal Australian Aviation, the helicopter only “started hitting its straps (to provide) its promised capability” in 2019 - 18 years later! In 2012, after three incidents with cockpit fumes that endangered aircrew, for example, [pilots “mutineed” and voted to not fly until all safety concerns were addressed](#). By 2019, the improved copter was just in time for the scrap heap (announced in the 2016 Defence White Paper). A new contract for Boeing’s attack helicopters was delivered in 2021.

Bryan recognised Australia’s Eurocopter Tiger as Australia’s version of the “collateral murder” aircraft. Like the Boeing helicopter, it was designed to fire the same Raytheon ultra hot missiles - the ‘Hellfire’. The helicopter was used to strafe civilians while soldiers moved around terrorising from the ground.

The Peace Preacher as Visible Organiser

Bryan’s political method was built on an experiential practice and Gandhian organising practices he had learned in the 80’s. He spelled out his theory of change [in a chronology of his 2011](#) work.

“Political campaigning is the right of every Australian citizen. Political campaigning requires:

a. Gaining attention for a “problem” (War in Afghanistan, war in general), and putting forward a point of view about that problem;

b. Provoking, cajoling, seducing and persuading people to engage with the problem;

c. Encouraging people to adopt and pursue a way forward to resolve the problem (withdraw troops, de-militarise the US alliance).”

“Engagement” with the problem didn’t necessarily mean ‘conversion’ or ‘agreement’ in country Queensland. And provocation was not Bryan Law’s only tool. As he inhabited the “Bryan Katter” identity, he became closer to the people of Rockhampton and developed a responsiveness to his organising. A few weeks in, [he reports](#) in a letter to supporters:

“Firstly, “the people” are friendly and hopeful. When I go to the East St Mall and speak out, I get a whole heap of affirmation, recognition, and joy from passers-by. Four or five times what I get contempt and abuse. Some days I don’t get any abuse at all. There’s strong opposition to the war in Afghanistan. No-one is buying the “victory around the corner” line. There’s a groundswell available for harvesting.”

The Peace Preacher was launched through a series of actions in Rockhampton from May 2011. The Peace Preacher appeared at a police memorial ceremony, attended the Mayoral Ball, a reception for the US officers, [spoke in the shops and the main street](#) of a local town and held speakouts at the barracks.

Bryan followed and [challenged the local Mayor](#) who was publically pushing [for a permanent US military presence](#) in the region. The Mayor supported the exercises and ostensibly the war in Afghanistan. Dressed as the Preacher, Bryan met him in supermarkets and attended the Council, disrupting with a simple banner action and

short occupations. Bryan did not regard this as bird-dogging, a tactic involving public harassment, but simply opportunities to invite the Mayor into public debate. He was raising the opposition to Talisman Sabre and pointing continually to the failure and injustice of the war in Afghanistan.

The [Peace Preacher appeared making speeches](#) in the shopping district of Rockhampton. He played country music with justice themes to connect with the people of the town. Amongst the play list were

- Lord have Mercy on the Working Man by Travis Tritt
- The Battle Hymn of the Republic: (Ironically performed by the United States Army Field Band and Soldiers Chorus)
- You don't love God if you don't love you neighbour by Rhonda Vincent
- Down to the River to pray by Alison Krauss
- Have a Little Talk with Jesus by Brenda Lee
- Peace Like a River by the Bluegrass Gospel Group
- Peace on Earth by the Howling Desperados
- Precious Lord by Charlie Daniels
- Don't Fence Me In by David Byrne

...And One Horse Town by Hank Williams the Third.

“Mine Eyes Have Seen the Glory of the Coming of the Lord” was significant. A 19th century poem written by a woman, these were the last public words of Martin Luther King. MLK, the original peace preacher had concluded his speech to sewage workers at Nashville with these words the night before he was assassinated. These spiritual resonances were to emotionally uphold Bryan as much as to be observed from the outside.

Bryan was raised poor/working class in a veterans' family. He was soaked in American westerns. Colonised Queensland had much of the same history and resonances as the US South: genocide, harsh violence, cattle and simplified agriculture combined with a nasty tone and a toxic masculinity. Bryan knew his audience as ordinary Queenslanders, like his own family.

Anti-war protesters swamp public meeting



SPRUIK FEST: Protester Byran Law airs his concerns in Yeppoon main street with a microphone and music to get his anti-war message across.

PHOTO: NIKITA WATTS, ROK1606TINLAW7

In setting up his project, Bryan Law organised himself two months of “Peaceful Assemblies Act” notifications so he would not be bothered by police intervention. Despite using this police process, complaints from a local bank (!!) and pub about “noise” ensured [he was illegally arrested](#), all 120kgs of him lifted and carried away with no cooperation. The Peace Preacher found himself diverted to defend a case essentially arguing the right to speak in public. Annoying, but the added notoriety was a bonus. He was accustomed to addressing civil liberties sidetracks.

In this way, with a gathering circle of friends, he skillfully manufactured a public face in the local newspaper. Letters to the editor, actions with locals and visitors. In a provocation by police a front page photo of a police dog biting its trainer was published with reference to protesters. It was a veiled threat. At the next opportunity, speaking as Peace Preacher, he made [a speech - which can be found here - in response](#).

“Things are getting hard for us Peace Activists”, he said. His health was failing. But at 57 years old he was using 30 years of skills and significant human courage to build power. Like Gandhi, Bryan was following a program based on a formulated strategy and he was following it with a degree of responsiveness to the developing situation.

Law used private letters as well as letters to the editor and media releases to communicate his intentions to authorities in ways the public could follow. On July 8th, Law was questioned and charged by the CIB (Australia’s FBI) with “threatening to damage aircraft”. In a letter to the editor dated 19th June, after hearing via the media that he was to be interviewed by the CIB, he taunts the authorities:

“The question I’ll be asking this time, is whether anyone seriously believes I can get past Queensland Police, Australian Federal Police, Regional Council Security, the ADF, US Marines, and a few fences with alarms to get at a US military helicopter? Air Chief Marshall Angus Houston (Chief of Defence) says “No way, Jose”. I say you’ve got to believe in miracles.

I do believe in miracles but I can’t see how Queensland Police can possibly lay criminal charges in an effort to prevent them occurring. You think they’d have more confidence in their own ability to keep me out.”

[In another media release following arrest and bail](#) for this same charge, he again finishes with a sting:

“Politicians have neither the moral courage nor the ability to stop this warmaking. At this time over 67% of Australians are against the war yet that would translate into maybe 2 votes against war in the House of Representatives. It is now up to the Australian people themselves to find ways to hinder the military and stop the war.”

He has temporarily agreed to bail conditions so that he can attend the Mayoral Gala Dinner.”¹

[The CIB interview can be listened to here](#). The bail condition - which he signed - was that he would not go near the Rockhampton airfield. Perhaps *unlike* Gandhi, he never intended to comply.

Together, as husband and wife, we attended the Mayoral Ball in order to meet socially with the guests of honour - the US military. Bryan arrived dressed as the Preacher in a tuxedo, hired at great expense. I had

had my hair done and was dressed in my wedding dress which I get out for ceremonial occasions. But despite holding tickets, we were refused entry and I was arrested. Later that year, we were to be awarded \$2000 by Rockhampton City Council in compensation for political discrimination: a good contribution to the mobilisation.

The Rocky Tiger Ploughshares within a Mobilisation

A local protest parade and concert was organised for the 17th July 2011. Bryan collapsed on the street and was taken to hospital by ambulance. His blood sugar was extreme and his toes had ulcers. Under these organising conditions he could not look after himself.

After the parade, me and my friends left for a three day incursion to disrupt the military exercises. It was the sixth such 'pilgrimage'. We crossed into the exercise area, walked, slept, reflected and then waited for a means of encounter and disruption.

Previous disarmament actions such as [Seeds of Hope](#) or Trident Ploughshares, [Pitstop ploughshares or ANZUS ploughshares](#) had been undertaken by small groups of people who planned for weeks or months before taking action usually with great secrecy. Bryan's plan was being executed in the midst of a mobilisation that involved other organisers and relatively new activists. He was acutely aware that it was important not to implicate people in an action that his associates had not directly consented to.

'Property destruction' as it is often referred to in the movement, has higher penalties and complex implications. People in the US were doing 1-3 years in prison for ploughshares actions. Law resolved to take action while the rest of us were actually locked up for another action. His plan required just two people. He had significantly reduced the risks for others by announcing the action, taking the action alone with minimal support and taking total responsibility for the action in the tradition of previous ploughshares actions.

When he crossed the tarmac on his red trike at the Rockhampton airport Bryan was again dressed as the Peace Preacher. His friend Graeme Dunstan drove him there in a rental truck. He rode down out of the back of the truck on his trike, and cut open a small chain on the gate, and started to pedal. [The whole action can be seen here.](#)

Bryan crossed the tarmac, passed the hanger where the pilots and mechanics were shining their vehicles. As he [reached the helicopter he took the garden mattock from the basket at the back of the bike.](#) He had just enough time for a single blow to the side of the copter.

It was filmed by Channel 9. One journalist. No fierce dogs. No cops, No military personnel.

A miracle perhaps.



Bryan Law, Peace Preacher on the tarmac following the disarmament. Photo by Chris Ison

Members of the ADF arrived almost immediately, running from the hangar. Law stood and took responsibility. Because they knew him so well they didn't even bother to overcome him with force. The whole event was over in a half hour but the Tiger Helicopter would not fly again for several months.

Bryan was arrested. An hour later he was sitting in the glass entry cage of the Rockhampton Watchhouse as my friend Andy Paine and myself appeared from the courthouse following our case for trespass. I had been unaware of the actual plans, and I had completely forgotten about him amidst my own (mis)adventure. He smiled and waved. He had completed his program and I was protected from implication.

I too felt very pleased.

In interviews with the CIB that afternoon, Bryan addressed a challenge that the action was "an act of sabotage". Was it his intention to prejudice the safety or defence of the Commonwealth? [Sharp as a tack he answers.](#)

"No, because I don't believe that the safety or defence of the Commonwealth is presently engaged. We're involved in murder. Let's be clear ... We are not defending ourselves, we are murdering others. We are murdering children. That's what we're doing. And if someone wants to hop up in a court and argue with me that that's defending ourselves - bring it on."

Bryan spent less than 24 hours in the watchhouse before being sent to Rockhampton Hospital where he was eventually bailed, again. He was very sick with diabetes and had two toes amputated by the end of the week.

The hole in the carbon fibre wall of the helicopter was eventually costed at AUD\$163000 to repair. This meant a jury trial in the District Court and for Bryan, something to look forward to. He would perhaps get a chance to run the extraordinary emergency defence. Jail appeared inevitable but for now he was still free. Bryan spent the next 18 months, continuing to resist

the Afghanistan and Iraq wars. He was arrested one last time in 2012 at HQJOC, the joint operations Defence command centre near Canberra from where the wars were being orchestrated. Now it's known that this was the coverup site for dozens of war crimes.

Bryan started to prepare for the case not just as a defendant, but of course as an organiser. But he never went to trial and he never paid restitution because he died in March 2013. Bryan's friend [Graeme Dunstan was found guilty](#) of the disarmament, though he was a latecomer to the action. [The story of the trial was told here](#) by film-maker activist David Bradbury

As a writer and archiver, a reflector and life long thinker and learner, Bryan left a significant archive describing his work. He would have been so excited to see the burgeoning climate action movements with people engaged in brave and interesting tactics. This is what he dreamed of and planned for, for Australian culture. They too will have a miracle.

Margaret Pestorius is an organiser and participant in the anti-militarist and climate movements. She is an activist educator focussing on communication, facilitation, organiser development and the practices of the politics of nonviolence. She was married to Bryan Law and they had a family and activist partnership for 20 years. They raised a son together.

Letters to the Editor
Rockhampton Morning Bulletin
19 June 2011

Dear friend,

Being the subject of a CIB investigation (RMB 18 June) brings me considerable anxiety. I'm not sure exactly what the CIB are thinking about, because they have yet to contact or interview me. Until they do I'm at something of a disadvantage.

At the same time, I've been investigated by the Rockhampton CIB before. In June 2009 two detectives from the Child Safety Unit wasted their time investigating whether or not I had attempted to impersonate Brigadier Bob Brown. When I asked the detectives whether they could seriously believe that anyone would mistake me in my street clothes for a Brigadier-General, the investigation stopped.

The question I'll be asking this time is whether anyone seriously believes I can get past Queensland Police, Australian Federal Police, Regional Council Security, the ADF, US Marines, and a few fences with alarms) to get at a US military helicopter? Air Chief Marshall Angus Houston says "No way, Jose". I say you've got to believe in miracles.

I do believe in miracles, but I can't see how Queensland Police can possibly lay criminal charges in an effort to prevent them occurring. You think they'd have more confidence in their own ability to keep me out.

If Police really believe my public statements constitute a criminal offence, why weren't they investigated when I first made them in October 2010 to Iain Lobegeier at Rockhampton Airport, and to "mediaops" at defence.gov.au? Early October last year. I was quite specific with those gentlemen about what I intended to do. They promised to get back to me.....but they never did. Imagine that.

I look forward to my interview with Rockhampton CIB. I look forward to them confirming for me that Australian citizens still enjoy the right to dissent and political expression. That we are still a democracy in which stupid, futile, murderous war can be challenged by the nonviolent citizen.

Yours sincerely
Bryan Law

Letter to the editor, from Bryan Law's archive at www.cairnspeacebypeace.org

Further archival material can be found at

www.cairnspeacebypeace.org,

<https://bryanlawarchive.postach.io/>,

Pinegapontrial.blogspot.com,

<http://frontlinefilms.com.au/war-on-trial/>

and forthcoming at the Queensland Museum and State Library.

Wikipedia

"The first two ARH helicopters were delivered to Australia on 15 December 2004. ARH deliveries were to be completed by June 2010 with Full operating capability planned for December 2011."^[100]

In 2012 after three incidents with cockpit fumes that endangered aircrew, pilots voted to not fly until all safety concerns were addressed.^[101] Army pilots stage mutiny over chopper fears 5 December 2015 Archived 15 October 2016 at

the Wayback Machine *The Australian* Retrieved 16 November 2016

<https://web.archive.org/web/20161015000141/http://www.theaustralian.com.au/news/army-pilots-stage-mutiny-over-chopper-fears/story-e6frg6n6-1226530364627>

In August 2014, the Australian Defence Force and BAE Systems Australia successfully trialled the **Advanced Precision Kill Weapon System** laser guidance kit for use with the ARH's 70mm FZ unguided rockets.

The 2016 Australian Defence White Paper stated that the Tiger helicopters will be replaced with other armed reconnaissance aircraft in the mid 2020s.^{2[103]} Issues cited include lack of commonality with the other Tiger variants, high maintenance cost of the engines and the shipping time of sending parts to Europe for repair and reconditioning.^[citation needed] “

Defence Connect Malcolm: “In particular, the (Boeing) Apache can connect with and control armed drones through its manned–unmanned teaming (or MUM-T) system”

Australian aviation 2019 : A helicopter that only “recently started hitting its straps (to provide) its promised capability” after 18 years according to Australian aviation. “and providing its promised capability – one which has been nearly two decades in the making”.

“Much has been written about the delays and capability shortfalls experienced by the ARH program, with developmental issues, groundings, spares shortages and sustainment gaps, as well as capability and performance shortfalls variously attributed to the program, some of which will be described below.”

Facebook series:

- The announcement
- Song: Dave Rovic If I had a hammer³

² <https://web.archive.org/web/20150923235531/http://www.defence.gov.au/news/armynews/editions/1338/1338.pdf>.

³ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rBWJuGhDFIU>