

# Recorder

Official organ of the Melbourne Branch of the Australian Society for the Study of Labour History

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Bob Gollan's letter to the *Canberra Times*, 'A Veteran's lament for lost ideals', by Alan Ramsey, Page 2

'Brian Crowley: Primary School Principal, VTU and ALP member,' an interview with Brian and Phyllis, by Rennis Witham, Page 3

WORKING IN A UNION OFFICE, by Margaret Cassidy, Page 3

SHIVER ME TIMBERS!  
Old piers recycled as wall at Sandridge Beach, by Carmel Shute, Page 4

Vale John Douglas Ritchie, by John Merritt, Page 4

Vale Bede Nairn, by Chris Cunneen, Page-5

ACTU's National Day of Action, June 28, page 6

Quiz Night update, by Carmel Shute, page 6

And another thing... (a photo by Bruce Armstrong), page 7

The Rise and Fall of the 8 hour day, Radio National's Hindsight Program, page 7

Gippsland Trades and Labour Council, invite to 8 hour day events, page 7

Conference info: Trans-Tasman Labour History Conference New Zealand, page 7

Two conferences to celebrate the 8 hour day, page 7

ASSLH Meeting Place, contact details and membership form, page 8



Photo by John Ellis

## In memory of Ken Stone 13 March 1926 - 16 March 2006

Brian Smiddy

My first memory of Ken Stone was when I visited the office of the Printing Industry Employees Union to join the Union as a first year apprentice. The dark corridors of the Trades Hall did not mean much to me at that time but the Trades Hall building and the life within it has since come to mean so much to me. Ken offered me, as a young unionist, lots of advice and much friendship. I will be ever grateful for his warm welcome.

Ken Stone was a unionist, activist and humanist who spent his life turning seeds of adversity into the fruits of helping those in need. He produced results for his family, his community and his country

A stereotyper in the printing trade, he was not your stereotype trade union official. He served his nation with distinction all his working life.

In World War II he was in the navy for three years as a signalman. While not shirking the battle, he believed and practiced consensus and arbitration.

He turned the disaster of the West Gate Bridge collapse into a role model for helping victim's families.

He'll be remembered for his crusade against the Hamer Government's planned changes to worker's compensation. Ken believed in a fair day's work for a fair day's pay. He stood twice for State Parliament in the seat of Ormond, which convinced him trade unionism and not parliamentary politics was his vocation, no mean feat for a Catholic during the turbulence of the ALP Split. Such courage.

An ACTU Executive member for sixteen years, he played a key role in the development and early implementation of the Hawke Government's Accord with the trade union movement. An old Printing and Kindred

Industries Union Official, he taught many journalists about negotiation, attention to detail and settlement.

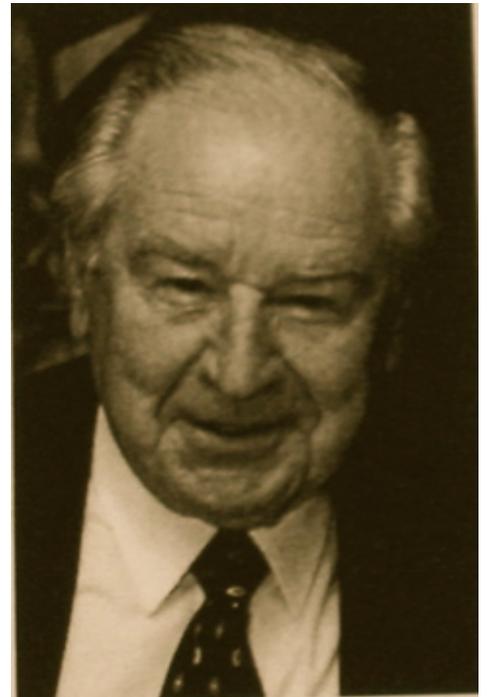
Ken was not constrained to his trade union activities. He used this role to build bridges to the wider community. He was its Victorian champion and its ambassador at large.

He believed in education and the pursuit of knowledge and served many institutions including the Trade Union Training Authority, MCG Trust, St Vincent's Hospital ethics committee and the Legal Practitioners Tribunal.

He turned a lifelong struggle with alcohol into a crusade for better understanding, as well as programs for treatment and handling of it in the workplace and eventually in the armed forces.

The community at large and the labour movement in particular have lost one of its favourite sons.

To his wife, Beryl and his family, we extend our deepest sympathy at the passing of a great man.



*Bob Gollan continues to be an outspoken activist for a more just society. The following is a reprint of an article by Alan Ramsey that appeared in the Sydney Morning Herald on 17/08/2005, it picks up on a letter that Bob wrote recently to the Canberra Times.*

## **A veteran's lament for lost ideals**

Alan Ramsey

BOB Gollan was a schoolteacher. Then World War II engulfed Australia and in September 1942 Flight Lieutenant Robin Allenby Gollan became an RAAF navigator in Beaufort reconnaissance bombers. In early 1944, while based near Sydney, Gollan and Ivan Barber, his closest friend, were due a weekend's leave before again being sent north. And because Barber, a West Australian, had no family close by, Gollan, with a young wife and baby son, invited him home in Sydney.

But Gollan's leave was cancelled at the last minute and he was ordered on a weekend operation. Barber offered to take his place. The RAAF agreed. Gollan went home to his wife and baby. Barber went off on flying operations. Over the weekend two of the Beauforts collided, killing both four-man crews. Flying Officer Cedric Ivan Barber, 29, was among the dead.

Bob Gollan, then 26, never forget it should have been him. He said yesterday: "Ivan and I were a bit older than most of the kids in No. 1 Squadron, so we'd become close friends. We'd already collected our week's grog at the time - two bottles of beer each - when the order came down for me to replace someone.

"I remember us looking at each other, and him saying, 'Look, you've got your family to see. I'll go in your place.' And he did. Obviously I remember him - vividly. We lost a lot of mates, but if he'd not taken my place I'd have been the one who died that weekend."

The date was February 2, 1944.

After the war Gollan lectured at Sydney Teachers College until, in 1953, he began a distinguished career of almost 30 years at the new Australian National University in Canberra. Among his appointments was as Manning Clark professor of history until 1982, the year he retired as emeritus professor. It was the year I met him. Bob Gollan loved the Australian bush - "the bush" was the only recreation ever listed in his Who's Who entry - and he and Anne bought an isolated, unspoiled lump of bush and beach near Bermagui, on the South Coast, where camping out was the closest thing I knew to paradise.

Last week Gollan, now 87, got a letter. It came with a commemorative medallion marking the 60th anniversary of the end of his war. The letter rekindled memories of his dead friend. It fired up a lot else, too. "I've been boiling for so long," Gollan said yesterday. So he sat down and wrote a letter of his own.

This is what he wrote.

"A few days ago, like thousands of other old men and women, I received a shiny medallion and a letter signed by John Howard and De-Anne Kelly. They thanked me for my part in protecting 'the Australian way of life in times of conflict' and for helping to build 'our community in times of peace'. It made me think of Ivan Barber, a West Australian wheat farmer who substituted for me on an operation, so I could take a few days' leave, and who died in my place.

"I wondered what he and the more than 40,000 men and boys who died defending our country in World War II would feel about John Howard's Australia. Certainly most people are materially better off. We have shared in the bounty of the one-fifth of the world which has become rich. But we have become a country governed by lies and fear.

"John Howard has surrendered the self-reliance, for which we fought, to curry favour with the most dangerous military power in history. He has stoked the fear of terrorists who may target us because of his fawning subservience to US President George Bush. He boasts he stands for mateship and egalitarianism at the same time he attempts, by his industrial relations 'reforms', to destroy the institutions on which those qualities have been nurtured.

"The chief law officer [Philip Ruddock] seems not to understand the principles of the rule of law and calls those who do 'armchair critics'. He and Howard undermine the very principles of democracy in the name of defending them. The Foreign Minister rails against those who don't accept his opinion as fools. He supports his stand by some weird interpretations of history.

"Yes. We would not have survived without the American alliance. But the Americans I served with believed, correctly, we were defending a great democracy. Today the alliance, for which Howard and his coterie are prepared to sell our soul, is a militaristic plutocracy. "I'm sorry, Ivan."

"Robin Gollan, Scullin, ACT."

He sent his letter to his local paper, The Canberra Times, which, to its immense credit, published it prominently at the weekend. It deserves to be read by the entire country. Bob Gollan will never write anything so powerful as his very personal defence of the Australia John Howard is killing.



Bob and his dog Chloe: photo by Peter Love

## **Brian Crowley: Primary School Principal, VTU and ALP member**

Rennis Witham

Brian Crowley's father was unemployed for two years during the early depression years. Con Crowley had previously owned a small grocery store in Wesburn, a small town just out of Warburton, which sold groceries to the four local Allens Timber Mills. After refusing to take the usual order to the scabs working the timber mills during the strike of February 1929, the mill owners black banned him and told others not to buy their goods from his store.

Born in 1923 Brian was the youngest by a number of years of a family of six. One of his earliest memories is from 1929 when the mill workers worked until midday on a Saturday and he remembers them walking down the street singing 'Solidarity Forever'.

He remembers that his family was very poor during the time that his father was out of work and says that those who say that everyone was poor were talking nonsense. He can remember half a dozen young boys who were dressed like princes because they were the only children in that family. By comparison he says that a photo of him has him unrecognisable and looking like a drowned rat. It was his family belief that a good place to work was in the public service because during the depression, the rail, teaching, Board of Works, PMG and electricity workers didn't lose their jobs.

His family were Catholic and Brian did the usual church attendance and altar boy role and believes that it was those early days that made him a socialist. All of the priests, some straight from Ireland, were Labor voters as were many of the townspeople. Brian says that his mother was a great hater of war, with two of her brothers killed in the Great War.

He became a primary school teacher and his first posting was at a school in Yarra Junction. In 1943 he enlisted in the army serving in the Islands, Borneo and New Briton. On his return he married, had two children, and started the move around Victoria, teaching in small and larger schools before becoming Principal at the primary school in Clifton Hill. As an active ALP member, he had joined in 1952, and became a union member in each of these towns. Brian sometimes felt alone in his beliefs and very often had to fight for them. In the 1950s in towns such as Hamilton, whilst the Labor Party had branches, this was strong and active DLP country. Brian took on one person through a letter writing marathon which when it finally ended found him being shunned by the locals. He was very pleased to be transferred to Wollert closer to Melbourne and his much loved Yarra Valley.

He was always a member of the Victorian Teachers Union but doesn't remember it as being a strong or supportive union at that time. He was one of the few Principals who always went on strike.

A move to Bendigo put him straight into the firing line of Bishop Stewart, well known for his loud condemnation of all things ALP, communist and anything that smelled like them. In 1965 Brian, his wife Phyllis and two children moved back to Melbourne joining the

Greensborough branch of the ALP. He still attends meetings of that Branch.

Based on an interview with Brian and Phyllis Crowley. February 2006.

### *Postscript*

In January 1929, Judge Lukin handed down an Award for timber workers which had them working longer hours for less pay and accepting piece-work with youths now able to do work previously reserved for adults.

The Timber Workers strike followed closely the defeat of the waterside workers, and was a test of strength for the new Australian Council of Trade Unions. Newly re-elected Prime Minister Bruce denounced the timber workers and took legal action against the Union and four strike leaders, among them E.J. Holloway, Secretary of the Victorian Trades Hall Council. A large demonstration of unionists burnt Judge Lukin in effigy in the Sydney Domain. A secret ballot was ordered by the Court and of the fifteen thousand ballot papers issued thousands were burned, six thousand were returned with 5,300 answering No to the question of whether the voter was prepared to work under the Lukin Award. One consequence of the No vote was that workers who lived in houses owned by the mill owners were given eviction notices. The strike lasted about eight months but some workers remained unemployed until 1935.

Wendy Lowenstein, *Weevils in the Flour* (Melbourne: Hyland House) 1978. p 71-72.

## **WORKING IN A UNION OFFICE**

Margaret Cassidy

*This is the story of Margaret Cassidy, (nee Walsh), who worked for two unions, at the Victorian Trades Hall from 1953 -1962.*

My father, Ernie Walsh was President of the Miscellaneous Worker's Union, and through the then Secretary, Jack Shannon, I was offered a job in the Union office. I worked there for three years and two people I especially recall from those days were the Assistant Secretary, Roy Cameron and Jack Betteridge, an organizer.

Later on, the then Secretary of the Shop Assistant's Union, Arthur Storey, offered me employment which I accepted and I worked in that office for six years. [Officials she recalls from those days were Frank Round, Don King, Tom Brennan and Paddy Brady.]

When the Split came in the Labor Party, the Hall was a different place to work in. It was so sad when Secretaries who previously were very close and worked to help members in their various unions, suddenly became absolute enemies overnight. The number of people you would see in the corridors who would walk past their previous friends as if they were not there. Half the Hall was not speaking to the other half. It was a terrible time and it was hard to cope with the situation. I was also disillusioned with the situation and resigned my membership of the Labor Party which I had joined when I was fourteen years of age and I used to go to all the branch meetings for years. However the writing was on the wall and I had enough of all the bitterness that was happening.

I could not give an account of my time at the Hall without mentioning the Trades Hall Girls' Club, which was a viable section of the girls in the various offices. Kath Reidy, who worked in the Printing Union Office, was the Queen Bee of the Hall. She was the Clerk's Union Shop Steward at the Hall and also President of the Girls' Club. Before long I was also under her wing and talked into joining the Club. I do not know how it happened but before you could look around I was President, later Secretary and spent many happy years as a member.

Among the social events we organized were theatre nights, dinners at City Hotels which were a real treat, as very few people went out to dinners at that time. In those days you could either pay £1 2/6 or £1 5s for lovely three course meals.

After being married for two years and expecting my first child it was time to leave. I was sad at leaving the Hall which had been such a big part of my growing up. I was 16 ½ when I started and 26 when I left.

I think that I left part of my heart at the Hall and have never regretted one moment of it.

**SHIVER ME TIMBERS!**

*Old piers recycled as wall at Sandridge Beach*

Carmel Shute



Timbers from the old Lagoon Pier in Port Melbourne, the Yarraville Pier and the Finger Wharf in Wollomooloo, Sydney, have a new lease of life as a wall on Sandridge Beach near Beacon Cove. The history of Port Melbourne's piers has been recorded in the face of the wall. The names of six Port Melbourne's piers and their builders, where known, together with the names of the timbers have been carved into the 400 metre long wall by artist Dave O'Grady.

Mayor and local Sandridge Ward councillor, Janet Bolitho, couldn't be more delighted.

"The wall looks wonderful. I love the way it evokes Port's maritime past. The timbers already have the patina of age so the wall looks like it's been there forever. As you walk from east to west along Sandridge Beach, you'll be taken on a journey traversing the history of the six piers, from the earliest to the most recent," she said. "The new wall is also practical. As well as stopping the sand from blowing away, it doubles as a seat. It's wide and low

enough for children to walk along the top as they try do a balancing act."

The first pier in Port Melbourne dates back to the ti-tree jetty built by Captain Wilbraham Liardet in 1839. Town Pier, at the end of Bay Street, replaced Liardet's jetty in 1849 but was removed in the 1950s and never replaced. Railway Pier, built in 1854 by Willoughby & Mason, was the terminus for Australia's very first railway service - from the city to Port Melbourne. Princes Pier, where many troops in World War 1 and 11 embarked, dates back to 1912 and was constructed by R O Law. Station Pier, designed by Law & Spence, had replaced Railway Pier by 1930 though the decision to build it occurred in 1922.

The timbers used in the new wall - and engraved as such - are tallow wood, grey iron bark, turpentine and white mahogany.

Cr Bolitho explained that the Sandridge Lagoon, originally between Esplanades West and East, provided a mooring for Port Melbourne's sizeable fishing fleet.

"Fish was also sold from its wharves, built in 1890. These extended out from the lagoon into the sea. In 1929, when the lagoon was filled in, a curve was added to the end of the eastern jetty (now known as Lagoon Pier) to provide some shelter for the displaced boats. Then in 1998 the pier was pulled down and rebuilt - but, luckily for this community, the timbers were saved."

Andrew Brophy, a landscape architect working with the council, designed the wall and path.

**John Douglas Ritchie, AO, FRHistS, FAHA, FASSA, Hon. FRAHS  
4 APRIL 1941 - 10 MAY 2006**

John Merritt

Early in May, John Ritchie died at his home in Canberra at the age of 65. He was the longest serving editor of the Australian Dictionary of Biography and the author of books on J.T. Bigge, Lachlan Macquarie and the



Wentworths, father and son. For his contribution to Australian history he had been awarded an AO and honoured with membership of several learned societies.

Between 1970 and 72 he and Jill Waterhouse, who worked as a tutor in John's first year British History course

at ANU, edited Labour History. John had no associations with the trade union movement and, as far as I am aware,

never voted Labor, but the decision of the Executive Committee of the ASSLH to invite him to become editor was thoroughly justified. He reformed hitherto casual editorial practices, conducted principally in the Canberra Rex Hotel, by appointing readers to assess articles and creating an editorial board to advise the editor. He insisted on punctuality from all involved in the editorial and publishing process and for the first time in its history the journal began to appear on time. His contribution to Labour History's rise from its humble cyclostyled beginnings to a popular scholarly journal is remembered with gratitude.

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## **BEDE NAIRN**

### **AO Historian 1917-2006**

*The following has been adapted from an obituary which appeared in the Sydney Morning Herald 15 May 2006, p.26.*

Chris Cunneen

BEDE NAIRN, the former general editor of the Australian Dictionary of Biography, who has died aged 88, hailed from Henry Lawson country in the bush and lived for the past 40 years in Canberra. However, his life and career as a leading historian also reflected his experiences in inner Sydney, not far from Trades Hall, where many of his later biographical subjects also flourished.

Born at Turill, near Mudgee, and named Noel Bede but known as Bede, he was the youngest of six children of Robert John (Jack) Nairn and Rose Ann, nee Hopkins. (The priest officiating at Bede's baptism reputedly refused to christen him his parents' first choice of Lloyd George.)

The family moved to the city, where his father got a job as a council watchman/cleaner. The Nairns lived in Bathurst Street west and were only one step away from real poverty. Yet his mother, who loved music, bought a piano, probably on time payment, and paid for piano lessons for Bede and two of his sisters; she financed the costs by taking in boarders. Bede was educated at "St John's poor school" in Kent Street, and then by the Christian Brothers at St Mary's School where his name can still be seen prominently on the honours boards. His firm Catholic faith was a lifelong commitment.

Leaving school with the Intermediate Certificate, he took a job with the NSW Electoral Office; later he worked at Sydney Technical College as a clerk. After part-time study at the tech, he matriculated in 1939 and the next year became an evening student at the University of Sydney. On Australia Day 1943 he married Jean Hayward; they were to have three sons and three daughters.

Nairn graduated with honours from Sydney University in 1945 and in 1948 began to teach in the Department of Technical Education in Ultimo. The following year he was seconded as lecturer in history to the newly established NSW University of Technology (later the University of NSW). He had a year at Balliol College, Oxford, in 1957, as a Rockefeller senior research fellow.

Nairn was the pioneering historian of the Labor Council of NSW and, as Ray Markey has noted, his work has provided "the most definitive account of early Labor politics in NSW". His groundbreaking book, *Civilising Capitalism: the Labor Movement in NSW 1870-1900*, was published in 1973. It was followed in 1986 by *The Big Fella*, a biography of Jack

Lang and an account of the Labor Party in NSW from 1891 to 1949. In 1989 a paperback edition of *Civilising Capitalism* was published with a substantial new epilogue.

Politics, and the Labor Party, was a lifelong interest. Nairn joined the ALP in Sydney at 16, and remained a member until 1966 and a supporter until the end of his days, when he would still bitterly excoriate "the conservatives".

When the Australian Society for the Study of Labour History was established in 1961 Nairn was one of its leading figures. After he moved to Canberra, he was its vice-president and a member of the editorial board of its journal, *Labour History*. He was a leader of what Verity Burgmann has called "a dynamic and confident sub-discipline, at the forefront of attempts to widen the scope of historical knowledge and develop new methods for analysing the past".

Nairn had a great influence on labour history in NSW and in Australia. The numerous scholars he taught, supervised, examined and helped attest to his legacy. He was more than a labour historian, and his wide knowledge of NSW history was legendary. His 1963 article "Writing Australian History", published in the journal *Manna*, was more than a superb review of volume one of Manning Clark's *History of Australia*, it was praised in the *London Times* as "one of the first great essays in historical criticism in Australia".

In 1969 Nairn co-edited with G.J. Abbott *Economic Growth of Australia 1788-1821*. From 1959 to 1976 he was a trustee (councillor) of the Public (State) Library of NSW and from 1971 to 1982 represented it on the state's Archives Authority. A fellow of the Royal Australian Historical Society, in 1988 he was awarded an AO for service to education as a historian and biographer. In 2000 the History Council of NSW presented a citation in recognition of his substantial contribution to Australian biography and to the teaching and writing of Australian history.

In biography Nairn was an outstanding figure, quite apart from his book on Lang. In 1962 he became chairman of the NSW working party of the *Australian Dictionary of Biography* at a difficult time, his involvement helping to defuse the tensions caused by Malcolm Ellis's public falling out with the editorial board.

Nairn became a member of the editorial board of the dictionary, and was section editor for volumes three to five. In 1966 he and his family moved to Canberra and he joined the full-time staff of the dictionary under its founding general editor, Douglas Pike, in the Research School of Social Sciences at the Australian National University.

When Pike was stricken ill in 1973, Nairn was thrust into the role of acting general editor and was responsible for finishing work on volume five, and for volume six. Then, in a rare, remarkable and successful example of interstate collaboration, he and the late Geoffrey Serle were joint general editors of the dictionary, producing the first four of the 20th century volumes - seven to 10.

As warm and approachable general editors, the pair encouraged, advised (and tightened the prose of) the thousands of voluntary researchers and authors that made up the far-flung, collaborative dictionary team. Nairn consolidated the dictionary's achievements, possessing as editor high administrative qualities, tact and literary skill, and proving as adept at cutting a superfluous phrase as in summarising a wordy paragraph.

He wrote more than 70 dictionary entries on NSW figures, ranging from a heartfelt essays on his heroes, the cricketers Archie Jackson and Victor Trumper and the jockeys Jim and Darby Munro, to his outstanding reassessments of NSW premiers Sir John Robertson and W.A. Holman. Many of these presented new interpretations of significant figures. Nairn retired from the ANU in 1984. His work on the Australian Dictionary of Biography augmented his wide impact on historical scholarship in Australia.

A tall, gentle man, with a neat moustache and a good head of hair, Nairn spoke softly but held his opinions firmly. He had a lifelong love of music and in particular of Beethoven's piano works. A good cricketer in his youth, he played regularly until he moved to Canberra and enjoyed talking and arguing about the sport to the end, being an ardent NSW patriot in cricket matters (and in other things as well).

He was also a devotee of horseracing, which he appreciated in both an intellectual and practical way, seeing the sport of kings and commoners as a metaphor for life. Rugby league was also an abiding enthusiasm: South Sydney was his team, and his last entry for the Australian Dictionary of Biography was an article on the "Little Master" Clive Churchill.

Bede Nairn is survived by his wife, Jean, their three sons and three daughters and their families.

## ACTU National Day of Action



### Say No to Unfair Work Laws, let's keep the pressure on:

#### Melbourne

When: 28 June, 10am

Where: Marches will start from Federation Square; Spring St; Trades Hall (Carlton); and Southern Cross Station (formerly Spencer St station) What: March from starting points to converge at Bourke St Mall for mass rally and demonstration.

#### Geelong

When: 28 June, 1pm

Where: Geelong Trades Hall, 127 Myer St; Geelong Hospital, Ballerine St; and Gordon Tafe, Fenwick St. What: March from starting points into the CBD for community rally.

#### Albury and Wodonga

When: 28 June, 12.30 - 1.30

Where: March up Jack Hore Place to High St on to Wodonga Civic Centre. Guest Speaker Julia Gillard.

#### Warrnambool

When: June 28, 11.30

Where: Town Green  
Save the date June 28.

More Victorian regional events to be confirmed. Visit the Rights at Work website for venue details, and up-to-date factsheets about the laws affect you: [www.rightsatwork.com.au/campaigns/weekofaction](http://www.rightsatwork.com.au/campaigns/weekofaction)

## QUIZ NIGHT Up-date

Carmel Shute

The "Know Your Rights" fundraising quiz night on May 20 was a raging success, raising over \$6,000 for the ACTU campaign. Seventeen tables competed for some fabulous prizes in the best traditions of socialist solidarity.

Two friends of the Labour History Society, Ken Norling and Carmel Shute, prepared the questions which ranged from what brand of underpants Shane Warne wears (Playboy) to where the recently-poisoned Tree of Knowledge is (Barcaldine). Each round finished with the song title answer which occasioned much singing. Sad to say everyone knew the words of The Play School theme tune much better than the words of "Friday on My Mind", even if it's consistently rated as Australia's best song ever. The evening ended with a rousing rendition of "Solidarity Forever" (the answer to what song did Bob Hawke lead the 75th anniversary dinner of the ACTU in singing).

President Peter Love and Carmel Shute compered the quiz which was able to take advantage of the data projectors now available in the Federated Education Union headquarters in South Melbourne. It was the first time such a big event had been held in the newly-refurbished union conference centre and it came up tops. Peter Love ably handled the record number of challenges from the floor. Protesters had to fork over \$10 to Peter before they could put their case to the crowd. The quiz-makers then argued their case and the matter was put to the democratic vote. Most challenges weren't upheld so an extra \$100 was raised for the ACTU campaign (take a bow Allie Dawe!).

Peter Love also made extra thousands by auctioning a Noel Counihan print, framed cartoons on the IR legislation donated by some of Australia's leading cartoonists, signed labour histories, an MP3 player and various other items. Special thanks to Industry Funds Financial Planning, Virtual Communities, Members Equity and Hertz & Union Shopper for their especially generous donations and to Jacinta Hill, Andrew McCleod, Jim Giannakopoulos, Jane Jarrott and Charlie Yanni (from Member Connect) for organising them.

The organising committee - Julie Kimber, Peter Love, Ken Norling, Carmel Shute and Cavell Zangalis would like to thank all those who helped on the night, most especially, Susanne Provis, a fabulous 'bag lady' and Michael Evans and his family, especially the 'Ethnic Food Group Squad': Hannah, Kate, Kendall, Romy and Sophie. We would also like to note and say a very appreciative thanks to Cavell Zangalis who organised the catering and ensured that enough fluid assisted in lubricating the voices of the participants.



**QUIZ NIGHT:** FEDERATED EDUCATION UNIONS (FEU) BUILDING  
GROUND FLOOR, 120 CLARENDON ST, SOUTH MELBOURNE  
**SATURDAY • MAY 20TH • 7.30PM FOR 8.00PM**

The Quiz night will be compered by Peter Love & Carmel Shute. Questions created by Ken Norling & Carmel Shute.

Great Prizes and Auctions including a \$1,500 Financial Plan from Industry Funds Financial Planning; a Samsung USB MP3 Player with Video Playback from Virtual Communities; 2 Days Car-Hire from Hertz and Union Shopper; 2003 Rugby World Cup Memorabilia plus AFL tickets from Members Equity; books from the New International Bookshop; 2-4 1 Movie tickets from Palace Cinemas; boxes of wine, champagne, beer, liquor, gourmet merchandise, and more more, including framed cartoons by some of Australia's leading cartoonists.

Drinks at bar prices (while there will be complimentary dips and Turkish bread we suggest that you eat before you come).

Make a group or single booking (table seat 6). Phone or e-mail the names for your table: **\$25 WAGED \$18 UNWAGED**  
PLEASE RSVP by May 15th.

**ALL FUNDS RAISED WILL GO TO THE ACTU'S 'YOUR RIGHTS AT WORK' CAMPAIGN**

**yourrightsatwork**  
worth fighting for

Special thanks also to: ABC Radio National, ANU Press; Australian Book Review; Chronicles Bookshop; 8 Hour Day Committee (Leanne Shingles); Gasworks; Kill City; the Australian Society for the Study of Labour History; Sue Hines Books; Melbourne Symphony, Melbourne University Press; The Monthly; New International Bookshop; Penguin Books; Andrew Reeves; Robarta's; Judy Smart; Spinifex Press; Vulgar Press (Ian Syson); Margaret Walters, Cavell Zangalis

Special thanks to these authors: Verity Burgmann, Peter Cochrane, Brian Costar, Eric Fry; Robin Gollan; Les Louis; Peter Love; Ross McMullin; John Merritt; Andrew Moore; Bobbie Oliver, Paul Strangio and Don Watson. Special thanks to these cartoonists: Andrew Dyson; Jed Edmunds; Matt Golding; Simon Kneebone; Bill Leak; Ron Tandberg; Nic Scott; Michael Streich and Cathy Wilcox. Thanks also to John Ellis and others whose photos were used in this quiz. And last but not least THANKS to all those who participated on the night, and for putting your hard earned money to the cause. The campaign continues.

**And another thing...**

Society member Bruce Armstrong made a recent visit to the Dromana Cemetery and sent us this picture of Justice



Henry Bournes Higgins' family grave. We're keeping an eye on the H R N i c h o l l s Society's website to see if their next dance is to be held on site, we'll keep you informed.

**The Rise and Fall of the 8 Hour Day**

The ABC Radio National program, Hindsight, program recently featured a two-part feature on the 8 hour day in Australia. Part I 'explores the rationale behind a movement which came to symbolise democracy in the workplace'. Part II 'The Trade Off' looks at how enterprise bargaining shifted the focus from gain to negotiation, time for money. These are must listen to programs, both are downloadable to your computer, iPod or MP3 player via the ABC's web-site:

Part I: <http://www.abc.net.au/rn/hindsight/stories/2006/1610318.htm>  
 Part II: <http://www.abc.net.au/rn/hindsight/stories/2006/1610335.htm>

**Notice from the Gippsland Trades and Labour Council**

RSVP ASAP for the following 2 functions in Wonthaggi on 12/6/06. **150th Anniversary of 8 Hour Day 'It's About Time' - Official Exhibition Opening in Wonthaggi:** Monday 12/6/06 (Queen's birthday public holiday) at the Wonthaggi Union Arts Centre, Graham Street Wonthaggi. Exhibition opening starts at 10am, opening formalities start at 10.30 am and run till 11am. Opening is by actor Chris Haywood and CFMEU Martin Kingham. Full media coverage has been arranged. At 11am light snacks etc will be served, then it's meet & mingle etc. for about an hour. There is no charge to attend the exhibition - all are

welcome to attend, but an RSVP is needed for catering purposes.

**Gippsland Trades and Labour Council Annual Luncheon 'A Celebration of Socialism and Social Justice':**

At 12 noon the GTLC lunch starts (it's across the road from the Union Arts Centre). Guest speaker is CFMEU Dave Noonan, eating time is approx 12.30. Set menu, please advise if vegetarian. Cost of lunch is \$30 waged, \$20 unwaged. Please advise the number of seats you require, names of guests, and send a cheque payable to GTLC c/- PO Box 639 Wonthaggi. A TV/DVD/VHS player will be available after the lunch, (for those who like to watch TV after a meal!) showing various footage of Wonthaggi Mine, Miners and unions etc. All proceeds from the lunch will be split 3 ways, and donated to Friends of the State Coal Mine, the Underground Tunnel Working Group, and the Rescue Station Committee. For further info or to RSVP please contact me on 5672-3898, [hayseeds@ompac.net.au](mailto:hayseeds@ompac.net.au) PO Box 639 Wonthaggi or 0425-755-940. (Julie Tyrrell)

**Trans-Tasman Labour History Conference**

Trans-Tasman Labour History: Comparative or International? Auckland University of Technology, 31 January-1 February 2007. Organised by the Centre for Work & Labour Market Studies and School of Social Sciences, AUT University. Early bird rates: \$NZ250.00 Full or \$NZ100 Low income. For more information on attendance or submission of papers contact: Anna Green: [anna.green@aut.ac.nz](mailto:anna.green@aut.ac.nz) or tel: +64 9 921 9693

The Eight Hour Day 150th Anniversary Committee presents two conferences to commemorate the Eight Hour day at the University of Melbourne, 21-23 June, 2006:



**EIGHT HOUR DAY**

Celebrate 150 years of work, rest & play

**Working To Live: Histories of the 8 Hour Day & Working Life:** Convened by the Australian Centre, University of Melbourne and the Melbourne Branch of the Australian Society for the Study of Labour History.

**New Standards for New Times? The 8 Hour Day and Beyond:** Convened by the Centre for Applied Social Research (CASR), RMIT University, with support from the Victorian government.

**Additional Conference events** include a Walking Tour with Jeff Sparrow and Peter Love around some of the most important sites of 'radical Melbourne'.

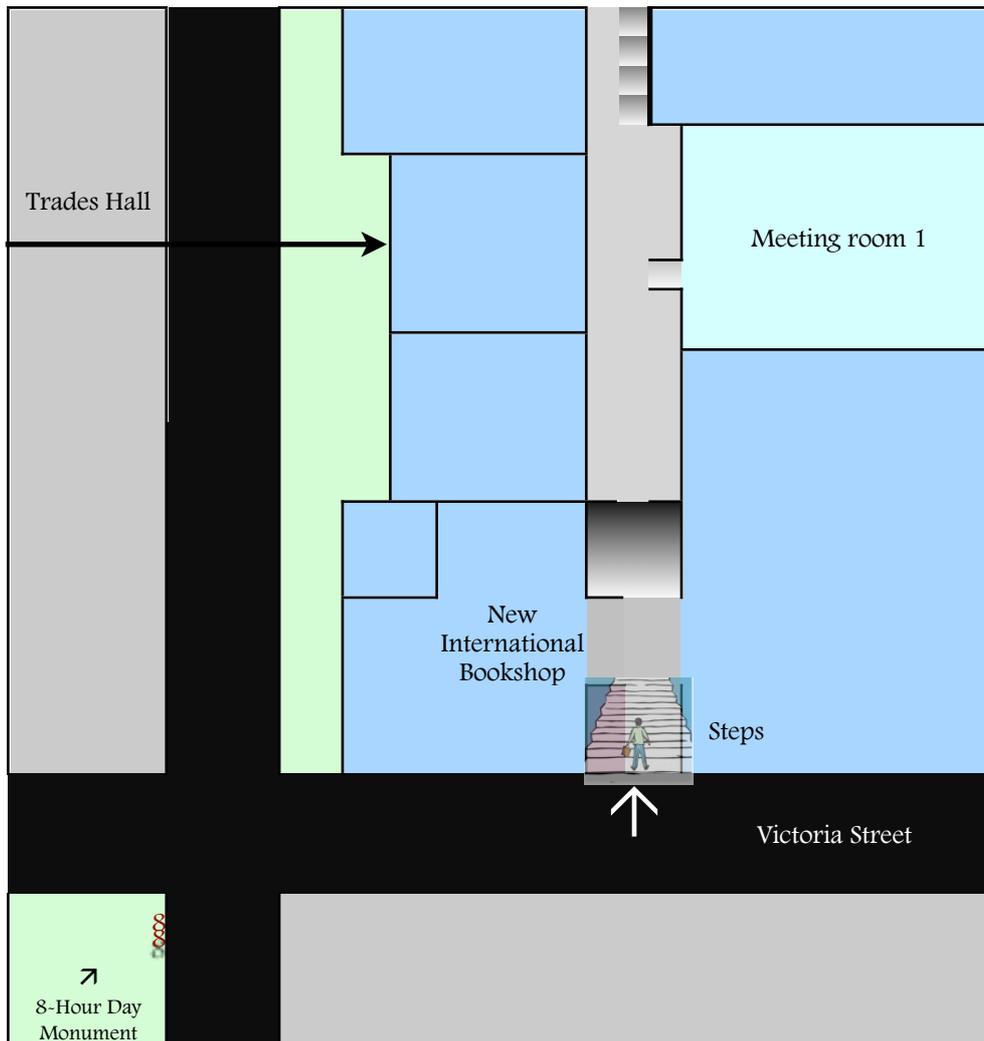
A reception at the Ian Potter Museum to coincide with Professor Stuart Macintyre's launch of: 'Under the Burning Sun of the Colony: The Eight Hour Day Movement'.

A plenary session bridging the two conferences will be addressed by Professor Belinda Probert (Dean, Faculty of Arts, University of Melbourne).

And a public panel on working life and time, City of Melbourne Public Lecture Series, in Melbourne's famous Capitol Theatre. For information on the conferences contact: Caroline Hamilton at the Australian Centre: [hanc@unimelb.edu.au](mailto:hanc@unimelb.edu.au) or tel: + 61 3 8344 7235 or download conference registration from: <http://www.australian.unimelb.edu.au>

# Meeting Place

Meetings of the society are held in Meeting Room One in the Trades Hall  
Enter the Trades Hall through the Victoria Street entrance



## Labour History Society -- Melbourne Branch Contacts

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Please send all submissions and research questions for inclusion in *Recorder* to the editor, Julie Kimber  
([juliekimber@unswalumni.com](mailto:juliekimber@unswalumni.com))

### Membership of the Melbourne Branch, ASSLH

For more than thirty years the Melbourne Branch of the Australian Society for the Study of Labour History (Incorporated) has published its newsletter *Recorder*, held regular meetings with guest speakers or seminar discussions and organised events to commemorate important anniversaries. We have published special issues of *Recorder* and played a part in restoring the public profile of Labour Day in Victoria. We have restored historic memorials and given assistance to the Labour Historical Graves Committee. Our members continue to write labour history, assist researchers, unions and other interested people. We have also organised one of the biennial national Labour History conferences.

If you would like to support our work we would be very pleased to receive your application to join or renew your membership of the Branch. It only costs \$10 per year. Please make cheques payable to ASSLH. Send subscriptions (together with your email and postal details) to the ASSLH Melbourne Branch Treasurer. Electronic direct deposits can also be made: contact the treasurer for details.

I, \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_  
[Name - in block letters please] [Address for posting of the newsletter Recorder]

Post-code \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone (optional): Home/Work \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_