

2014 Alex Macdonald Lecture

HOME FRONT WW2: MYTH AND REALITIES

Dr. Rowan Cahill



**5.30pm for 6.00pm
Tuesday 20 May
Level 2 TLC Building
16 Peel St
South Brisbane**

***free admission
*refreshments available**

Beginning with recent attempts by conservative interests to depict some Australian trade unions as acting in 'treasonous' ways during WW2 aimed at wrecking/sabotaging the war effort, this lecture will variously examine the claims, the use of consensus history as the base for conservative politics, and the myth of the social solidarity of Australian society 1939-1945.

Dr Rowan Cahill has worked as a teacher, freelance writer, agricultural labourer, and for the trade union movement as a journalist, historian, and rank and file activist. An Honorary Fellow with the Faculty of Law, Humanities and the Arts, University of Wollongong (NSW), he has published extensively in labour movement, radical, and academic publications. His books include The Seamen's Union of Australia, 1872-1972: A History (with Brian Fitzpatrick, 1981), Twentieth Century Australia: Conflict and Consensus (with David Stewart, 1987), A Turbulent Decade: Social Protest Movements and the Labour Movement, 1965-1975 (edited with Beverley Symons, 2005), Radical Sydney (with Terry Irving, 2010).

The Alex Macdonald lecture is an annual event organised by the Brisbane Labour History Association. It commemorates former Qld TLC Secretary Alex Macdonald and the critical role unions have played in the Qld Labour Movement.



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We would like to thank the Qld Council of Unions for its generous support of BLHA.
For more detail contact: Dr Greg Mallory 0407 692 377.