

**SUBSCRIBE TO LABOUR HISTORY -  
THE NATIONAL JOURNAL OF THE  
ASSLH**



*Labour History* (ISSN: 0023 6942) is an internationally recognised journal and part of the prestigious History Co-operative of the University of Illinois. It is published twice a year, in November and May, by the Australian Society for the Study of Labour History – a non-profit organisation.

Members of the Brisbane Labour History Association who are not already receiving *Labour History* are encouraged to subscribe – the full rate for individuals is \$50.00 (concession rate for students/unwaged is \$35.00). New subscribers to *Labour History* receive the current year's journals and a free back issue of their choice.

Your support of the journal as a subscriber makes it possible for *Labour History* to continue to promote and publish labour history research in Australia and beyond. Please send for our *Guidelines* if you are interested in contributing to the journal.

The November 2007 issue commemorates the centenary of the Harvester Judgement with a thematic section that focuses on the transcripts of significant twentieth century federal and state arbitration cases (including Justice Higgins's famous case itself). These transcripts provide great insights into wages, conditions and the industrial relations tactics of both employers and unions. Mark Hearn examines the discourses of nation embedded in the 1912 Fruitpickers case and the 1919 Clothing Trades case, exploring the gendered dimensions of Higgins's approach to citizenship. W.M. Robbins and Ian Harriess uncover the theatrical dimensions of the early Commonwealth Arbitration Court. Thalia Anthony's important study of the 1965 'Equal' Wage Case for Aboriginal Station Workers is a valuable and insightful contribution to the labour history of Indigenous people. Papers on the meaning of skill (by Ben Maddison), employer strategy in the early days of the WA goldmining industry (by Naomi Segal), the effect of tribunals on workplace mobilisation (Sandra Cockfield), the organisation of sewerage workers in Sydney (by Peter Sheldon) and a listing of NSW tribunals and their surviving records (Christine Yeats) complete this wonderful collection. Other articles, book reviews, research reports, conference reports and obituaries add to the mix. For \$17.50 (the cost per issue) this must be the best value around for anyone wanting a stimulating read in labour history!

You can subscribe from the secure website – [www.asslh.org.au](http://www.asslh.org.au); or by faxing your credit card details to (02) 9371 4729; or by posting a cheque made out to *Labour History* or credit card info to: **Labour History, Economics & Business Building H69, University of Sydney NSW 2006**

Enquiries: Tel: 02 9351 3786 Fax: 02 9351 4729 Email: Margaret Walters at [m.walters@econ.usyd.edu.au](mailto:m.walters@econ.usyd.edu.au). Contents, abstracts and prices of back issues are available from the web site [www.asslh.org.au](http://www.asslh.org.au) or on application to Margaret Walters.

**The Queensland Journal  
of Labour History**

No. 5, September 2007  
ISSN 1832-9926

**Contents**

<b>EDITORIAL</b>	Janis Bailey	3
<b>BLHA President's Column</b>	Lucy Taksa	5
<b>ASSLH President's Column</b>	Greg Mallory	7
<b>REPORTS</b>		
1967 Civil Liberties March	Greg Mallory	9
1964/65 Mt Isa Dispute Forum	Dale Jacobsen	11
<b>ARTICLES</b>		
Deserving Orphans and the Housework Ethic	Claire Wagner	15
Berthe's Story: Tales of a Grandmother	Doreen Wendt-Weir	25
Kate Lovegrove (nee Parkinson): Her Story	Connie Healy	35
<b>PHOTO ESSAY</b>		
The Women's Movement of the 1960s	Grahame Garner, compiled by Ted Riethmuller	39
<b>RESEARCHING LABOUR HISTORY</b>		
Fryer Library and its Collections	Jeff Rickertt	47
<b>BOOK REVIEWS</b>		49
<b>CONTRIBUTORS</b>		53
<b>NOTICEBOARD</b>		54

## 90th ANNIVERSARY OF THE WARWICK EGG INCIDENT

In late November, 1917, Prime Minister Billy Hughes embarked on a tour of Queensland to promote the cause of conscription. Hughes had moved from opposition to conscription, to wholehearted endorsement. As he began his tour, he was greeted by a rowdy crowd at Warwick. 'An egg thrown from the crowd missed him and broke upon the platform rails. The odour it gave off quickly cleared a space about it. A second one, better aimed, broke upon the Prime Minister's hat and knocked it off ....' (*The Argus*, 30 November 1917). Different accounts reported that 'The Prime Minister ... set out on a tirade of abuse' and that 'the Prime Minister .... was hustled and jostled by men twice his size in the crowd'. The upshot was that Hughes attempted to ensure that a local in the crowd, Pat Brosnan, be charged for 'creating a disturbance'. When the police did not do so, Hughes complained to Queensland Premier Ryan. Following this incident, Hughes established the Federal Police Force. As Brian Fitzhardinge put it: 'From the Warwick egg was hatched the Commonwealth Police Force!'



The 90th Anniversary of this incident will be celebrated as follows:

**WHEN:** 23-25 November 2007  
**WHERE:** Warwick.  
**ENQUIRIES:** Julie Conway 07 3348 6347;  
email: [jconway@technet2000.com.au](mailto:jconway@technet2000.com.au)

## ANOTHER REKINDLING THE FLAMES CONCERT

The Brisbane Labour History Association will reprise its highly successful concert of late last year with a second *Rekindling the Flames of Discontent* concert featuring **Margret Roadknight, Leah Cotterell** and **Helen Rowe**.

**WHEN:** Saturday 9 Feb 2008 (7.00 pm)  
**WHERE:** East Brisbane Bowls Club  
**COST:** \$15 (\$12 concession)  
**ENQUIRIES:** Dale Jacobsen 07 5494 4046;  
email: [sr.music@bigpond.com](mailto:sr.music@bigpond.com)  
**SUPPORTERS:** Queensland Council of Unions and  
Woodford Folk Festival



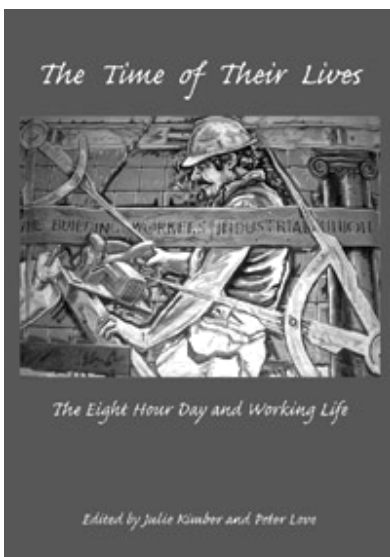
# Noticeboard

## NEW BOOK FROM MELBOURNE LABOUR HISTORY BRANCH

### **The Time of Their Lives: The Eight Hour Day and Working Life**

Edited by Julie Kimber and Peter Love

On 21 April 1856 Melbourne building workers won an industry-wide agreement to establish the Eight Hour Day. In the 150 years since then the slogan 'Eight Hours Labour, Eight Hours Recreation, Eight Hours Rest' has symbolised workers' efforts to take control over the time of their lives and, in doing so, strike an equitable balance between work, rest and play. This book offers historical perspectives on that continuing campaign, to give readers a long-term context for our current debates over the work/life balance and power in the workplace.



Contributors: Margo Beasley, Lyn Beaton, Drew Cottle, Angela Keys and Helen Masterman-Smith, Charles Fahey and John Lack, Patricia Grimshaw, Nell Musgrove and Shurlee Swain, Claire Higgins, Rob Hitchcock, Julie Kimber and Peter Love, Ben Maddison, Val Noone, Bobbie Oliver, Mikael Ottosson and Calle Rosengren, Jeff Rich, Kerry Taylor, and Barbara Webster.

Published in 2007 by the Melbourne Branch, Australian Society for the Study of Labour History. Cost: \$24; [jkimber@swin.edu.au](mailto:jkimber@swin.edu.au) or [plove@swin.edu.au](mailto:plove@swin.edu.au).

## REMEMBERING ERIC FRY AND BOB GOLLAN

Two founders of the Australian Society for the Study of Labour History—Eric Fry and Bob (Robin) Gollan—passed away in October 2007. They encouraged the interest of many people in labour history, involvement in the ASSLH, and the formation and development of the ASSLH's national journal, *Labour History*. The May 2008 issue of *Labour History* will be dedicated to Eric and Bob and will contain reminiscences of their personal qualities and their many achievements.

# Editorial

## Janis Bailey

This issue celebrates, in a variety of ways, the contributions of women to labour history in Queensland. They are, for the most part, stories that tell the 'other' labour history; that is, not the history of unionised women (to which we hope to devote an issue in the near future) but rather of women not associated with the formal labour movement.

The three main articles all relate the histories of women close to the authors—their mothers, or their grandmothers. Claire Wagner's wonderful piece of social history tells the story of her mother, Elizabeth (Betty) Richardson, who became a ward of the state in 1909 when her mother died and her stockman father was unable to care for her and some of her siblings. Fostered with various families and then beginning hired service, Betty's experiences are a snapshot of life for this group of less-than-privileged children, subject to the vagaries of their foster families and their employers, over whom they had little or no choice. Claire's fine, unsentimental prose takes us into that period and Betty's experiences in a compelling fashion.

Doreen Wendt-Weir has chronicled in previous publications the social history of the Logan region, south-west of Brisbane. Her article in this issue, written in the first person, tells of the early life of her paternal grandmother Berthe Auguste Wendt (nee Stegemann) who

emigrated to Australia in 1884, aged 12, with her family, from Schleswig-Holstein in Germany. She lived a hard-working farming life, giving birth to and bringing up six children. While Claire's mother Betty was at least schooled, Berthe spent only three weeks at school and did not learn to read or write until her children taught her sufficiently well so that she could read the Bible and the *Courier Mail*, and write a letter.

Both are stories of Australian stoicism and hard work, filling out the Australian bush legend of (mainly) male heroism with some alternative accounts of life on the Queensland frontier, geographically and socially, in the first part of the twentieth century.

Connie Healy's story of her mother, Kate Lovegrove, is also a 'frontier' story. Not only did Kate live during her childhood in various North Queensland mining towns, she also inhabited a particular political frontier, in that she was a foundation member of the Queensland Housewives' League, which later became part of the Union of Australian Women.

The last major article is a photo essay featuring photographs taken by Grahame Garner. Compiled by Ted Riethmuller, himself a fine photographer and chronicler of activist occasions in Queensland, this lovely piece show-

cases pictures from marches of the 1960s in Brisbane. We are reminded of some of the foremost organisations of feminism's second wave and of the Cold War peace movement, including the Union of Australian Women, the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, and the women's committees of some of the trade unions. The photos are a fresh and lively reminder of women's contribution to political culture and activism, and how events in the 1960s were such a seedbed for activism, and a ground in which many young women (and men) were radicalised. The aprons and other radical garments that women sewed for the various marches, with anti-nuclear signs and the dove of peace, link back hundreds of years to the wearing of political colours and radical garb of all kinds. I've taken the liberty of fast-forwarding to earlier this year, and the protests against the Talisman Saber 'war games' of the US and Australian armies in cen-

tral Queensland. One of Ted's own photographs (below) shows women activists once again subverting notions of femininity and genteel behaviour to make a serious point (read the fine print!). The work of faithful recorders of our social conditions, such as Grahame and Ted, and the availability of websites such as *flickr* and online picture archives like those of the National Library of Australia and Fryer Library, are very important for our communal memory.

The remainder of the issue is made up with the usual mix of book reviews, reports of BLHA functions, notices and of course the reports of National ASSLH President Lucy Taksa, and BLHA President Greg Mallory. We are particularly pleased that Jeff Rickertt has reminded us of the great asset that we have in the Fryer Library at the University of Queensland.

\* \* \* \* \*



**The CWA makes a point at the Talisman Saber protests, Central Queensland, 2007.**

(Photo Ted Riethmuller)

## CONTRIBUTORS

**Janis Bailey** is a Senior Lecturer in the Department of Industrial Relations at Griffith University. Her research interests include union strategy and culture. Before moving to Queensland in 2002, she taught at the University of WA and Edith Cowan University in Perth, and on the committee of the Perth Branch of the Australian Society for the Study of Labour History. She worked as a union industrial officer in the 1980s and 90s for various blue- and white-collar unions in Perth.

**Helen Ester** is currently a sessional lecturer in politics and is completing a PhD on contemporary political journalism with the Centre for Governance and Public Policy at Griffith University.

**Connie Healy** worked in trade union offices and at the University of Queensland. She is twice married: her first husband, an air force navigator, was killed in World War Two; her second was Queensland Trades and Labour Council Secretary 1943-52. Her book *Defiance: Political Theatre in Brisbane 1930-1962* was published in 2000, and she contributed five articles to *Radical Brisbane: An Unruly History* (2004). Awards include the 1992 Denis J. Murphy Memorial Scholarship, University of Queensland and in 2001 the Centenary Medal 'For distinguished service to industrial relations'.

**Greg Mallory** is an Adjunct Lecturer in the Department of Industrial Relations at Griffith University. His book, *Uncharted Waters: Social Responsibility in Australian Trade Unions*, was published in 2005. He has co-authored *The Coalminers of Queensland, Vol 2: The Pete Thomas Essays* with Pete Thomas,

shortly to be published. Greg is writing a brief history of the Brisbane Rugby League competition, to be launched in 2009.

**Jeff Rickertt** is a librarian with Fryer Library at the University of Queensland.

**Lucy Taksa** is Associate Dean (Education) in the Faculty of Commerce and Economics at the University of New South Wales, and before that was Head of the School of Organisation and Management. She is Director of the UNSW Industrial Relations Research Centre and was appointed Chair of the State Records NSW Board on February 2007. Her current work focuses on labour and industrial heritage and the history of Sydney's Eveleigh railway workshops. She was Associate Editor of *Labour History* for ten years, until 2004.

**Claire Wagner** is a writer and editor. As a journalist in Sydney she specialised in environmental matters and wrote for *Nation* and *Australian Financial Review*. At Sydney University she took Arts and Town Planning and on retiring to Brisbane took a Classics degree at the University of Queensland.

**Doreen Wendt-Weir** is a trained nurse and artist with a BA (Hons) in Creative Writing from Griffith University. Her books *Life on the Logan* and *Barefoot in Logan Village* were published in 1988 and 2003 respectively, and *Sex in Your Seventies* in 2006. Her family has farmed for four generations in the Logan area. Doreen has four children, and lives on Tamborine Mountain in a house named 'Birkenfelde', after her grandparents' house.

the diligent perusal of old documents alone.

Apart from the importance of the book as history, Mairi's personal accounts of defining stages in her life are written with great insight and literary skill. She movingly describes how she and her siblings hid in a shed when the father failed to return after going to visit their mother in hospital the previous night, and then their reaction to a neighbour's news that their mother had died. Less fraught are her descriptions of falling in love and then the disappointment of not experiencing marital bliss on the first night of the honeymoon. This disappointment was totally forgotten when her hopes and expectations were joyfully achieved the next day and her optimistic approach to life was vindicated.

Of its kind, this is a very good book. Read it for the history and read it for the pleasure of listening to a story of a life well lived.

**Ted Riethmuller**

\* \* \* \*

# Federal ASSLH President's Column Lucy Taksa

The 'President's Column' aims to keep members of the Australian Society for the Study of Labour History (ASSLH) in touch with the Society's activities and to acquaint them with the work being done by the Federal Executive. It gives me great pleasure to provide a report on recent developments. In early July, the Melbourne Branch hosted an extremely successful conference. On behalf of the Society I'd like to take this opportunity to thank the organisers, the Melbourne Branch and especially Peter Love and Julie Kimber, the other members of the Conference organising committee: Verity Burgmann, Phillip Deery, Stuart Macintyre, Sean Scalmer and those who supported them, Jackie Dickenson, Gabrielle Murphy, Margaret Walters and Nick Irving, for their hard work and dedication in helping to make this a memorable event. Their efforts help the Society to maintain its traditional links with the industrial and political wings of the labour movement, as well as scholars, students and activists. Congratulations are also extended to the Branch for the publication of the Conference proceedings, and to Julie Kimber, Peter Love and Phillip Deery as its Editors. Of course, thanks must also be extended to all those labour historians

and fellow travellers who presented papers and those who helped to support their research by attending the conference.

The Federal Executive meeting held at the Conference in Melbourne was especially pleased to welcome colleagues from New Zealand. Ray Markey and Peter Franks took the opportunity to report on the success of the Trans-Tasman Labour History Conference held in Auckland in January and its role in helping to foster closer links between the ASSLH and labour historians in New Zealand. The Federal Executive congratulated Ray and Peter on the success of the Trans-Tasman conference and we look forward to further collaborations in future. In recognising the importance of developing such international links, the meeting appointed Andrew Moore to investigate potential relationships with local and international affiliates, and to advise the Federal Executive on this matter.

Traditionally our conferences have been hosted by our Branches on a rotational basis. It was with great regret that the President of the Adelaide Branch, Louise Miller, recently informed the Federal Executive that the Branch

Executive decided that it was not, at the present time, in a position to provide the resources necessary to hold the next Conference. Accordingly, we will be investigating another location and I will report on developments in due course.

Prior to the Melbourne Conference, a number of important organisational decisions were taken to streamline the work done by members of the Executive and to ensure a greater balance in the work load. At the Executive meeting held on 31 May, office holders' duties and activities were reviewed and position descriptions of all the Executive Officers were produced to clarify role boundaries and expectations.

To lighten the load on the Secretary, while also creating a framework for better communication with and between the Branches and improving our capacity to update the Society website, the meeting decided to create two new formal positions on the Executive. Tony Harris kindly agreed to take on the new Branch Liaison Officer role in which capacity he will be responsible for the exchange and dissemination of information with the Branches and also the contact for matters relating to the Bede Nairn fund. Melanie Oppenheimer kindly agreed to take on the position of the Website Monitor and in this capacity she will liaise with the web manager and provide suggestions to the Executive on additional information and links, including extending links with other history organisations in Australia and elsewhere.

In a previous report I noted that the Federal Executive had resolved to un-

dertake a review of the ASSLH constitution. In order to ensure a collaborative approach based on maximum consultation with and involvement from Branches, the Executive meeting held in May decided to hold a special constitution review meeting at the Melbourne Conference. The meeting was held on 6 July and attended by members of the Federal Executive and Branch representatives. Past President Terry Irving was also invited to attend to provide input in recognition of his role in raising the need for a review some years ago. A representative from New Zealand also attended to create a firm foundation for trans-Tasman collaboration.

The meeting agreed that there was a need for specialist legal advice on the nature of federal incorporation vis-a-vis branch affiliate status and also in relation to the decision by a number of Branches to obtain separate incorporation in order to ensure legal protection. An appropriate lawyer was subsequently identified by the President and Vice President and advice has been sought. The meeting also agreed that once legal advice has been obtained the constitution will be examined with a view to identifying potential amendments, primarily on matters of branch and affiliate status, but also on other procedural matters.

Suggested amendments will be circulated via email to the Federal Executive, including Branch representatives, and proposals for amendments and/or changes will be presented to a Special General Meeting for discussion and approval.

\* \* \* \*

## Review of **A Fantastic Dad and his Romantic Daughter**

**By Mairi McKenzie**

Orders to the author on  
(08) 9371 8521

\$30, hardback, 378 pp.

Mairi Mackenzie has led a long life full of personal triumph. This engaging book covers many aspects of working class life in Western Australia in the pre and post war years and like the best of such writings is an amalgam of family, social and labour history.

It is also a personal memoir and this is what adds depth and richness to her story, but it is the wonderful description of family life and her affectionate homage to her father that readers will remember most vividly. Although the worldly accomplishments of Mairi's father brought him no fame beyond his circle of friends, comrades and family, the affection and loyalty of the author, the eldest of his eight children, would have been a crowning glory of a long and productive life that men achieving more conventional success and material goods should envy.

Her father, Thomas Wignal, a carpenter by trade, was an active trade unionist and a communist. He immigrated to Australia in 1912 and was followed by his wife-to-be some time after. Times were hard and he worked where he could in the

back blocks. By the time the family came to Perth in 1924 they had six children. Two more followed and although Tom was working in his trade, with eight children it was still a struggle. Mairi's mother was sickly but brave and cheerful. Then tragedy struck. Her mother died. The eldest of the children, the twins, were ten years old and the youngest was 15 months. The family managed with the help of family, friends and neighbours, to stick together even though some of the children were cared for by others. Readers became aware that a sense of neighbourly responsibility and solidarity from their extended family allowed them to remain intact as a family.

When Mairi was 13, she was obliged to leave school and become the housemother. She liked and was good at school but leaving meant that the family could all be together again. No doubt the experience and skills she attained in her new role served her better than mere book learning. The description of the noisy chaos and anarchic family life dominated by children is full of charm and the example of the father being obliged to buy enamel plates because of the breakages during washing up says a lot. Tom Wignal survived it by patience and philosophy, only occasionally needing respite. After all, he had his job and political work to escape. Mairi's descriptions of domestic matters are full of important detail and social historians, irrespective of whether they share the political interests of the author, will find a goldmine of information in the book.

When she grew older she herself joined in political activity (Katharine Susannah Pritchard was an older comrade) and her book has much of interest to labour historians. History from the memory of those who made it, including from the rank and file, offers insights not accessible through

A particularly lively chapter is Janet Ramsey's analysis of contests over representations of women in NSW politics, using domestic violence politics and policy as the context in which to explore such representations. This exploration is contextualised within the generally late 'discovery' of domestic violence by Western feminists. While the NSW women's movement did not identify this as an issue until a 1973 meeting organised by WEL and Sydney Women's Liberation groups, the first Australian women's shelter, Elsie, opened in Glebe the following year, and by 1982 amendments to the Crimes Act to take into account domestic violence were supported by what Ramsay describes as 'rare unanimity across party lines'.

Non-party women's organisations receive particular attention in Marian Sawyer's chapter, 'Generations of Advocacy'. She uses the case studies of the Australian Federation of Women Voters (AFWV) and the Women's Electoral Lobby (WEL). The former, founded in 1921, 'handed over the torch' to WEL in 1982 (WEL had been founded 10 years previously). Non-party organisations are also covered by Sarah Maddison's valuable chapter on young feminists, which is a useful incursion into the domain of identity politics and the 'generation wars'.

Three underpinning themes guide analysis: the gendered nature of political institutions, and feminists' challenges to unequal political power relations; the notion of political 'insiders' and 'outsiders' (the former norm-breaking rather than rule-breaking); and the notion of an 'activist continuum' between insiders and outsiders, with the two arenas facilitating each other, rather than being

viewed as dichotomous.

The success of women in NSW politics—as elsewhere—has been not merely to infiltrate political institutions and take an active part, but also to 'extend the boundaries of what has been considered "political" in the discipline of political science' (citing Karen Beckwith, on p.11). Politically active feminists have placed on the public agenda many issues previously dubbed 'private', such as domestic violence, reproductive rights and workplace rights. We now take it for granted that these issues are legitimate political matters, but it was not always so.

The book is well indexed and well footnoted, and has some lively visual material. It is modestly priced for a beautifully produced hardback.

Alas, no book of this kind can be completely comprehensive: the role of trade union women is recognised in the chapter on ALP women, naturally, and receives a brief mention in another chapter, but apart from this the role of union women in political life is not mentioned.

In all, the book makes a highly readable contribution to our knowledge of women in Australian politics.

**Janis Bailey**

\* \* \* \*

# BLHA President's Column Greg Mallory

The BLHA has been very busy in the past six months on a number of fronts. In July we conducted a seminar at the Brisbane Workers and Community Centre (BWCC) on the 1964-65 Mt Isa Dispute. This coincided with the play *Red Cap*, staged at La Boite Theatre. The event attracted around 100 people. Speakers included Fred Thompson, AMWU organiser at the time of the dispute, Bob Anderson who went to The Isa as a BWIU organiser to assist the Disputes Committee, and Keith De Lacy, former Queensland Treasurer and author of a novel on the Mt Isa dispute, *Blood Stains the Wattle*.

In September we were involved with a number of other groups in celebrating 40 years of the Great Civil Liberties March of 1967, also at the BWCC. Around 140 people attended including a large number of 'veterans' of the march. The gathering was addressed by, amongst others, Dan O'Neill and Brian Laver. The event has inspired a number of people to work on a number of historical projects associated with new left/student movement of the 1960s/70s. Two projects that are presently being undertaken are the research and writing

of a book and a commemorative plaque to be located on the University of Queensland campus.

Both the above events are reported at more length in this journal.

## **Folk/Labour History Event**

Plans are already underway for a second folk/labour event to be held in February 2008. This follows the *Rekindling the Flames of Discontent* event held in September 2006. Dale Jacobsen, the main organiser of our last event, has obtained sponsorship from the Queensland Council of Unions and the Woodford Folk Festival. We warmly acknowledge both organisations' support. A flyer is currently being prepared and will be widely distributed over the next three months. A mass distribution of flyers will occur at the Woodford Folk Festival.

## **Incorporation**

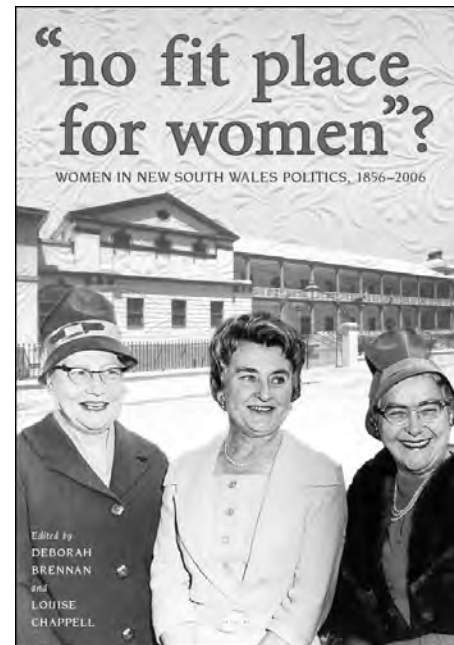
There have been significant developments in the incorporation issue. Over the past two years the BLHA has had discussions with the Federal Executive of the Australian Society for the Study

of Labour History (ASSLH) about this issue. Both organisations have taken legal advice and we have recently negotiated a position that suits both parties. We have sent a series of questions to the Federal Executive for clarification regarding a number of matters. I am currently in the process of developing a statement for members from the BLHA Executive about this issue, to support our recommendation to members that the BLHA not separately incorporate, but rather take advantage of the incorporated status of the ASSLH.

### Season Greetings/Thanks/Next Year

I take this opportunity to wish all members an enjoyable festive season. I also take the opportunity to thank the BLHA Executive and other members who have made 2007 a successful year. I would particularly like to single out Ted Riethmuller for his work as Secretary. Next year there are a number of projects under discussion. As well as the folk/labour event, there is the BLHA launch of *The Coalminers of Queensland, Vol.2: The Pete Thomas Essays*, the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the 1948 Rail strike and the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the eight-hour day in Queensland.

\* \* \* \*



Review of

### **‘No Fit Place for Women’? Women in New South Wales Politics, 1856-2006**

**By Deborah Brennan and  
Louise Chappell (eds)**

University of NSW Press,  
Sydney, 2006

\$49.95, hardback, 320 pp.

With an excellent history on the role of *Queensland* women in politics already published (John McCulloch’s 2005 *The Suffragists and the Legislators*), this is the second of what may hopefully be a string of such books giving tribute to the role of women in all states and terri-

tories. Jointly edited by Deborah Brennan and Louise Chappell, the book contains ten chapters from 16 authors, covering a diverse range of topics that explore the involvement of women in New South Wales politics.

As the book’s introductory chapter points out, more than a quarter of the Emma Labor Government’s members are women, with five of 21 Ministers being women. The first woman – Millicent Preston-Stanley – took her seat in 1925, in the Legislative Assembly, although the Parliament’s history dated back to 1856 and women won the vote in 1902. While the current figures are promising, only 83 of 2000 NSW MPs – from 1925 to 2005 – have been women.

Some of the contributions focus on women’s engagement with the major political institutions: Parliament, the bureaucracy and political parties. Each of the major political parties is covered: the Coalition parties (Don Harwin and Jenny Gardiner), the ALP (Rebecca Huntley and Janet Ramsay), and women in independent and minor parties (Ariadne Vromen, Anika Gauja and Rodney Smith). Deborah Brennan’s chapter gives useful broad statistics, and looks at the inaugural speeches of women parliamentarians. Louise Chappell looks at women’s role within the bureaucracy. Other chapters examine women’s engagement at more grassroots levels: government advisory committees (Sue Goodwin) and the women’s movement (Marian Sawyer with Jasmina Brankovich and Gail Radford), for instance. Jenny Donovan’s contribution gives an overview of the struggle for women’s suffrage, paying due recognition to the contests between women’s groups along the way, as well as to the persistence of those who fought for over 50 years to achieve suffrage.

## Fryer Library: A Sample of Its Labour History Collections

<i>Collection Name</i>	<i>Collection Number</i>
<b>Australasian Meat Industry Employees' Union</b>	UQFL427
<b>Australian Building Construction Employees' and Builders' Labourers' Federation</b>	UQFL166
<b>Bacon, Eva</b>	UQFL241
<b>Bowden, Warren U</b>	QFL290
<b>Building Workers' Industrial Union of Australia</b>	UQFL199
<b>Campbell, Judith</b>	F3338
<b>Cane Toad Times</b>	UQFL403
<b>Communist Party of Australia</b>	UQFL234
<b>Crawford, Jim</b>	UQFL301
<b>Dalton-Morgan, Geoffrey</b>	F3235
<b>Dickson, Bruce</b>	UQFL395
<b>D'Urso, S. (Salvatore)</b>	UQFL72
<b>Fabian Society</b>	UQFL170
<b>Federated Engine Drivers' and Firemen's Association of A'asia</b>	UQFL159
<b>Garner, Grahame</b>	F3400
<b>Grey, Peter</b>	F1124
<b>Harris, W. J. H.</b>	UQFL106
<b>Healy, Constance</b>	UQFL191
<b>Henderson, Jim</b>	UQFL267
<b>Laver, Brian</b>	F3149
<b>Leeks, Ron</b>	UQFL399
<b>Marchisotti, Daisy</b>	UQFL156
<b>McFarlane, Marie</b>	UQFL281
<b>McMurchy, Megan</b>	F846
<b>Morrow, Bill</b>	UQFL30
<b>Murphy, D.J. (Denis Joseph)</b>	UQFL129
<b>Noonuccal, Oodgeroo</b>	UQFL84
<b>O'Neill, Dan</b>	UQFL132
<b>People's Book Shop (Brisbane, Qld.)</b>	F2242
<b>Plunkett, Mark</b>	UQFL338
<b>Queensland Council for Civil Liberties</b>	UQFL240
<b>Schlick, Werner</b>	UQFL347
<b>Self-Management Group</b>	F2460
<b>Stewart, Jenny</b>	UQFL408
<b>Thomas, Kath</b>	UQFL175
<b>Thompson, Mitch</b>	UQFL186
<b>Trades and Labor Council of Queensland</b>	UQFL118
<b>Union of Australian Women</b>	UQFL193
<b>University of Queensland Union</b>	UQFL194
<b>Weir, Greg</b>	UQFL249
<b>Williams, Heather</b>	UQFL413
<b>Wills, Nancy</b>	UQFL304
<b>Women's International League for Peace and Freedom</b>	UQFL251

## SEMINAR REPORT

### 1967 Civil Liberties March

**Greg Mallory**

#### Then ...

The 1967 Civil Liberties March, from St. Lucia to the city, involved over 4000 participants. Over 100 demonstrators were arrested in Roma Street after a sit-down demonstration. According to many activists, this was the defining moment in the history of the student movement in Brisbane. Large demonstrations followed in subsequent years, which eventually led to Moratorium marches and the anti-Springbok demonstrations of the early 1970s and the right to march campaigns of the late 1970s.

#### ... 40 years on, we still remember!

The event was celebrated at the Brisbane Workers Community Centre, Pad-



**Roma Street: Police make the first arrests**

(Photo Gary Redlich)

dington, on the evening of Friday 7 September The BLHA was one of the sponsors of this 40-year reunion. Over 140 people attended the event. A number of speeches were made by some of the key activists of the 1967 march, notably Dan O'Neill and Brian Laver. Others spoke briefly of their experiences and the general effect it had on 'politicising' them for the rest of their lives. The reunion was, to a large extent, a social occasion and Merv Partridge from the BWCC is planning to hold more events, where the issues arising from the March and other subsequent actions of students and workers of the 60s and 70s can be debated and analysed.

\*\*\*\*



**Dan O'Neill addresses the Forum**

(Photo Gordon Curtis)



**Kevin De Lacy,  
AM**



**Dr Robert ('Uncle Bob')  
Anderson**



**Mt Isa Strikers**

## **Researching Labour History: Fryer Library and its Collections**

**Jeff Rickertt**

The Fryer Library at The University of Queensland continues to build on its reputation as a centre for labour history research. In 2006 hundreds of Fryer items found their way into the Museum of Brisbane's *Taking to the Streets* exhibition, while this year the library's collections gave up many of the facts featured in *Red Cap*, La Boite Theatre Company's dramatisation of the Mt Isa Mines lockout of 1964-65.

Fryer has much to offer historians of radical and working class Queensland. They can, for instance, delve into the records of the Australasian Meat Industry Employees' Union (AMIEU), one of the State's oldest and most significant industrial unions. Comprising some 100 boxes of minutes, reports, Arbitration and Court transcripts and award determinations, this collection traverses the history of the union's Queensland branch from 1907 to 1997. It is one of several union collections available.

Alternatively, they can scour the TLC collection (which alone runs to 606 boxes), or the records of the Queensland branch of the Communist Party or the various other Left political formations represented. Or they can fossick through any number of personal

collections accumulated by individual reformers, rebels and revolutionaries.

Fryer's smorgasbord of labour movement and radical holdings includes the items listed on the following page. Access to this material is not restricted to university staff and students. All researchers are welcome to visit and view what's on offer.

Prospective collection donors are welcome too, and, if visiting in person, will quickly be shown to a comfortable chair. Any items or collections with ongoing historical and research value in the field of Queensland history are of interest, including personal papers, diaries, records of non-government organisations, political ephemera, photographs and oral history recordings. Fryer also accepts books, especially if they are rare or carry the author's signature or some other significant annotation. Copies of your own arrest warrants, bail conditions and records of interview will generally be accepted as well, providing the matters are not still outstanding.

For more information about Fryer Library, its collections and its collecting habits, visit the library's website at [www.library.uq.edu.au/fryer/](http://www.library.uq.edu.au/fryer/) or contact the Manager, Mark Cryle, at [m.cryle@library.uq.edu.au](mailto:m.cryle@library.uq.edu.au) or on 3365 6205. The library is on level 4, Duhig Building, St Lucia campus.

\* \* \* \*





**May Day 1967. Women's groups such as the UAW and the women's committees of militant trade unions were able to appeal for support from trade unions for such issues as equal pay.**

## SEMINAR REPORT

### 1964/65 Mt Isa Dispute

**Dale Jacobsen**

On Saturday 28 July, over a hundred people gathered at the Brisbane Workers Community Centre at Paddington to remember the dignity and determination of the workers who took part in the 1964/65 Mt Isa Mining dispute, and to discuss the lessons this dispute holds for today.

Able chaired by Andrew Dettmer (State Secretary of AMWU), the forum was addressed in turn by Keith De Lacy (AM) whose book, *Blood Stains the Wattle*, a fictionalised but historically correct account of the dispute, was published in 2002; Karin Mayer, dramaturge and researcher for the musical, *Red Cap*, staged by La Boite Theatre as part of the Queensland Festival of Music; and Fred Thompson, Northern Organiser for the Amalgamated Engineering Union at the time of the dispute. Fred had travelled from Townsville to address the audience at the previous night's performance, and to speak at the Forum. Now aged 87, Fred has been 'retired' since 1980, but continues to work as a community activist and is regularly in demand as a speaker and voice of wise counsel.

Following a Welcome to Country, Dr Robert (Uncle Bob) Anderson told of his experiences during the dispute as a union delegate and State Organiser for the Building Workers Industrial Union. Singer/songwriter Griff Bignell per-

formed the Don Henderson song *Isa*, and told of how Hendo and his mate Geoff Wills, upon hearing of the dispute, lamented their inability to help – until Hendo said, 'Bugger this, let's go!' They tossed their guitars and some clothes into the car and drove straight to Mt Isa where they entertained the locked-out workers, writing songs as they went.

The afternoon was rounded off by the Combined Unions Choir in their inimitable fashion.

Events such as this Forum, jointly organised by BLHA, WorkLife and Just Peace, perform a necessary function in keeping alive the inside story of those who fought for conditions that many today take for granted.

\*\*\*\*



**Poster for the play *Red Cap***