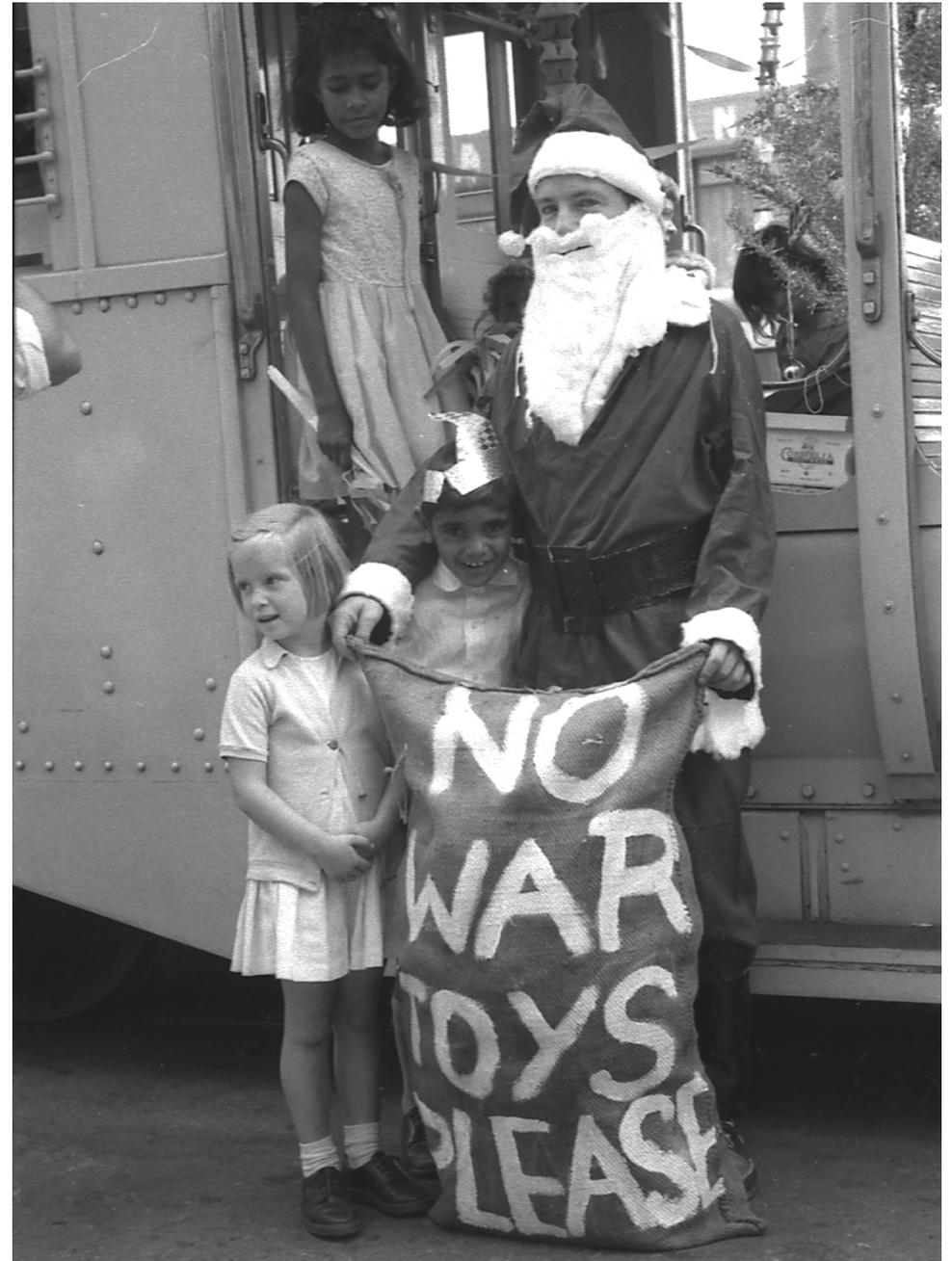




Clockwise from top:  
 Combined Unions Choir;  
 Karin Mayer, Dramaturge and  
 Researcher, *Red Cap*;  
 Griff Bignell;  
 Andrew Dettmer, State  
 Secretary, AMWU



No War Toys Campaign, 1960s. The UAW and WILPF (Women's International League for Peace and Freedom) conducted campaigns against war toys.



**Aldermaston Peace March, Easter 1965. Marchers are near the Ipswich Amateur Turf Club.**



**Fred Thompson, Northern Organiser, Amalgamated Engineering Union at the time of the dispute**



**Speakers Karin Mayer, Uncle Bob Anderson, Ken De Lacy and Fred Thompson**



**Betty, the non-debutante. Studio portrait.**



**Aldermaston Peace March, Easter 1965, from Ipswich to Brisbane. A CND organisation was created in Brisbane, inspired by the British CND. Women's Committees, attached to militant unions, were active in Peace as well as industrial issues.**



**Aldermaston Peace March, Easter 1965. Two UAW members carry small banners. Large ones were banned.**



**Hiroshima Day 1964. Women were often members of both the UAW and the Queensland Peace Committee and their children marched with their parents or in groups organised by their parents.**



**Hiroshima Day 1964. The UAW banner.**

## Deserving Orphans and the Housework Ethic

Claire Wagner

Traditional women's roles, according to Simone de Beauvoir, have been regarded as service, not for money but for love (as in tennis). This view was nowhere more explicit than in colonial Australia, when immigration propagandists urged that 'good servants make good wives'. But while there was concern to redress the shortage of women, England's upper servants, versed in sophisticated needlecraft and cookery, were less welcome than the maid-of-all-work, where disdain for superior housecrafts was fortified by puritanism. There was no training for the skivvy, who was required to do heavy cleaning, laundry and – incidentally – cooking.

Colonial mistresses were typically far less skilled than upper servants, according to R.E.N. Twopeny, writing in the 1880s.<sup>1</sup> He noted that households lacked the apprenticeships of the old-world servants' hierarchy, whereby senior retainers passed on skills. Inevitably, colonial mistresses were wont to stand on their self-made dignity and impose on their maids, and colonial housewifery was generally worse than mediocre: The Reverend Mr Twopeny, who liked his claret, lamented that it was almost unobtainable. He was also scathing about the gaudy taste of the newly-embourgeoised, and the dearth of bookcases.<sup>2</sup> There was an emphasis on outward display; he (or perhaps his wife) noted that the cheapest underwear sustained the most elaborate finery.

He was nonetheless pained that many

working-class girls preferred to work amidst grime and stress in factories and shops, and deplored their desire for 'independence' rather than the colonial version of the decorous domesticity befitting all females.

According to Catherine Spence, newcomers had to leave refinements behind. Her novel *Clara Morison*, published in 1854<sup>3</sup> describes the introduction to heavy housework as a colonial rite of passage. The gently reared heroine, who had never cleaned a grate, scrubbed a floor, emptied slops or boiled a copper, finds herself stranded, and must work as a maid for a rather obtuse employer who lodges her in the attic. When Mr Right appears proffering more of the same (plus pregnancy) she is reaccommodated and invited to sit in the parlour.

Spence approves of this ordeal as a means to egalitarian self-respect, whereby a servant could become a wife. Similarly, a quasi-egalitarian policy informed the training of Queensland's female orphans, as formulated some thirty years after Twopeny's work, with the same notion of domestic service as a means to womanly dignity.

### The 1911 Act

Queensland's State Children Act of 1911 replaced an antiquated system, which among other things had laid orphans open to abuse by carers or employers. It was as humane as could be reasonably devised.

Protestant orphans were placed in foster homes until the age of thirteen, then hired out, the girls as maids, the boys on farms. They were under control until