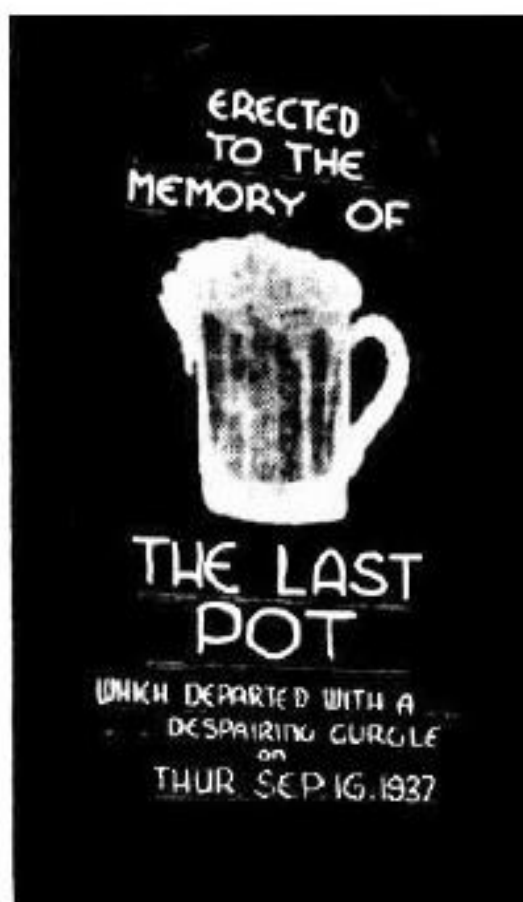


The Queensland Journal of Labour History

No. 28
Autumn 2019



The Brisbane Labour History Association

\$5.00



Brisbane
Labour
History
Association

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Subscribing to The Queensland Journal of Labour History

Subscription to the *Journal* is included in membership of the Brisbane Labour History Association, which is currently:

Individual: Waged \$25 Unwaged \$10 **Organisation:** \$150
Small or poor organisations can apply for a concessional membership for \$50.

A year's membership extends from 1 July to 30 June.

To join, contact:
The Secretary
Brisbane Labour History Association
PO Box 5299
West End QLD 4101

See inside back cover for *Editorial Policy* and *Notes for Contributors*.
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Front Cover Photo:

Seen during the 1937 Castlemaine Brewery Strike:

"An expressive sign on an empty beer keg in a city hotel yesterday"

The Courier Mail — Brisbane, Queensland Friday 17 September 1937 p.13.

The Queensland Journal Of Labour History

No. 28, May 2019

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Contents

BLHA President's Column	Greg Mallory	5
REPORTS		
Women's Work — The Struggles of Women in Employment	Patricia Hovey	7
ARTICLES		
Possession, Provider, Organiser: Three Eras in an Australian White-Collar Union	Bob Russell	10
1937 Castlemaine Brewery Dispute: "Valour Among the Vats"	Carol Corless	29
Women, Work and the Role the Male Bread- winner Concept	Glenda Strachan	45
REVIEW		
Loving Words: Love Letters of Nettie and Vance Palmer 1909–1914	John McCollow	58
IN MEMORIUM		
Eric Aarons	David McKnight	60
CONTRIBUTORS		63

LABOUR HISTORY

A Journal of Labour and Social History

Labour History is an internationally recognised journal published twice a year, November and May, by the Australian Society for the Study of Labour History. For more information, visit <www.labourhistory.org.au>



Number 116 May 2019

MARITIME LABOUR

Edited by Diane Kirkby

British Steamship Workers c. 1875–1945: Precarious
before Precarity
Jonathan Hyslop

"Violent and Not Quite Modern?": Lascars and
Everyday Resistance Across the Sail-Steam Divide
Naina Manjrekar

"Communists They May Have Been": Australian
Maritime Unionists and the National Shipping Line, c.
1950–90
Dmytro Ostapenko

Queensland Workers in 1928 Waterside Strike
Phoebe Kelloway

Forging an Australian Working-Class Identity through Myth, Story-Telling and Maritime Mateship:
Becoming Harry Bridges
Dolores E. Janiewski

Australian Transnational Union Solidarity through Union-Building in Timor-Leste
Daniel Hannington-Pinto

OTHER ARTICLES

"An Unpopular Cause": The Union of Australian Women's Support for Aboriginal Rights
Lisa Milner

"People Power": Social Planners and Conflicting Memories of the Australian Assistance Plan
Carolyn Collins and Melanie Oppenheimer

"Never Again": Fascism and Anti-Fascism in Melbourne in the 1990s
Vashti Kenway

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2019 ALEX MACDONALD LECTURE

Raymond Evans

(Adjunct Professor, Griffith University)

**‘Hostile whirlwinds swirl
above us...’**

The Red Flag riots and the tumult of 1919

Wed 12 June, 5.30 for 6.00

Level 2, QCU Building
16 Peel St, South Brisbane

The years after the First World War were years of tumult. Tens of millions of young men and women had died in the slaughter; hundreds of millions were determined that such a horror would never happen again. Many wanted society to be entirely reorganised, on socialist lines.

Determined to stop them were the hard men of the right; those who had organised the bloodbath, those determined to defend capital and its military.



Raymond Evans is one of Queensland's most distinguished historians.

He has written extensively about racism and frontier violence, as well as many other aspects of social and political history.

His book, *A History of Queensland* (2007) is the best one-volume history of this state.

The **Alex Macdonald Lecture** is the major event held by the BLHA each year. It is named in honour of the Left activist and former Secretary of the Queensland Trades and Labour Council (1952-69).



- We publish the *Queensland Journal of Labour History* twice a year.
- We host the annual Alex Macdonald lecture
- We hold regular presentations, seminars, film screenings, walking tours, book launches

BLHA Oral History Project — Preserving the history of our movement

Australia has a well-established and well-run network of archives that preserve documents and physical evidence from our history; including the history of our unions, parties and struggles.

However, the voices and experiences of individual activists are not so well preserved.

The Brisbane Labour History Association has decided to launch an Oral History project to begin changing that.

In the coming months, we'll be designing and managing a project to record the experience of the 1985 SEQEB dispute, the most significant dispute in Queensland in the past 40 years.

We want you, our members and supporters involved in this.

Almost everyone knows someone who participated in the dispute. Some were those in the front line of Bjelke-Petersen's assault on our jobs and rights; tens of thousands of others came to picket lines, rallies and meetings, raised funds, or just talked about it with their workmates and friends.

Others had positions of responsibility: in parliament, leading trade unions or other organisations.

Our long-term aims are to publish a book on the dispute and the lessons learned, and set up a website of materials about it, including excerpts from interviews.

A diverse project

At the same time, we will be encouraging our members and supporters to begin recording their own experiences, and that of their friends and colleagues, in the labour movement and the Left more broadly.

Within our membership there is a priceless heritage of building campaigns, organising and fighting for better workplaces and a more decent society.

As part of our project we will be organising training sessions with the assistance and expertise of members of Oral History Queensland.

Our oral history project will be launched at the annual Alex Macdonald Lecture, on June 12th this year.

Phil Griffiths, Brisbane Labour History Association Executive

BLHA

President's Column

Greg Mallory

I would like to welcome three new members to our BLHA committee — Jeff Rickertt, Jess Hensman and Elliot Darcy. Jeff of course has previously been an active committee member and journal editor and we are pleased to have his insights and experience again. Jess and Elliot are young union organizers and will bring some welcome new ideas and enthusiasm to our work!

BLHA members are assisting with a project to document the history of the Union Cooperative Society, which set up a Union Coop in inner city Paddington in 1969, with grocery store, petrol sales, white goods buying coop, and a meeting room which is still run as the Union Coop centre. The 50-year anniversary will be celebrated this year, and BLHA plans a talk about the history of coops in Australia as part of those anniversary celebrations in August.

In November last year, BLHA and the Search Foundation ran a joint seminar on *“Women's Work: the struggles of women in employment: wage*

disparity, superannuation, insecure work, discrimination and harassment. Speakers included Ros McLennan (QCU General Secretary), Prof Glenda Strachan, QTU official Penny Spalding, Young Workers Hub worker Imogen Barker, and Dr Linda Colley from ALP anti-discrimination Committee.

Following a workshop for retired unionists at the ACTU congress in June 2018, BLHA members have been involved in the establishment of a Retired Unionist Network in Brisbane, launched in August with the name *“Vintage Reds”*. Members carried a newly painted banner in the QCU Change the Rules rally in Brisbane last November, and have joined union actions by the MUA when ferry drivers were on strike last year, and by the ASU in support of hospital workers at the Mater hospital earlier this year. Vintage reds meet in the QCU each first Thursday of the month at 10:00am and any retired union members are welcome to join in!

Our committee discussions this year have included planning for the Alex

Macdonald lecture on June 12th and a project to start recording the stories of older workers about their working life and experiences, to provide an archive of valuable labour history. We will keep you updated as we develop this project as it is something with which any member of BLHA can assist.

Les Crofton, a long term member of the BLHA, passed away late last year. Les was Secretary of the Rail, Tram and Bus Union. An obituary will be published in the next journal.

The Brisbane Labour History Association

The Brisbane Labour History Association was formed in 1990 to encourage and promote the study, teaching, research and publication of labour history and the preservation of labour archives. There are no limits on the study of labour history and the diverse membership reflects many different areas of concern.

The BLHA is the Brisbane branch of the Australian Society for the Study of Labour History. The Association organises seminars, lectures, meetings, conferences and publications on themes of labour history. Membership is open to all individuals and organisations who subscribe to the Association's objectives.

Editorial Policy

The Queensland Journal of Labour History is a journal of labour and social history with a particular emphasis on Queensland history. The history of labour, the classic social movement, is central to our concerns, as are the histories of newer social movements. This journal is committed to the view that history has a social purpose. It publishes articles which, in Ian Turner's words, engage our sympathies, affect present circumstances and suggest answers to present problems. In the words of the Association's slogan, 'The Past is Always with Us'. Material published herein does not necessarily reflect the views of the Association or the Editors. The Journal's Editorial Board is the Committee of the BLHA, chaired by the President.

Notes for Contributors

The Journal is published in March and September each year. Articles of any length up to 7000 words are invited; shorter contributions are encouraged.

First person accounts of trade union, social movement and progressive political struggles and organisations are particularly welcome. Reports on exhibitions, seminars and research projects are sought, as are book reviews and photo essays.

Contributions can be submitted either as hard copy (posted to The Secretary) or as an electronic file, emailed to craig@amieuqld.asn.au. Please use Styles rather than character formatting from your article as it interferes with the laying out of the journal. Please ensure that your name, any relevant organisational affiliation, and all contact details are included in the article itself, as well as in the covering email.

Please also send details of any graphics, photos, maps, drawings, cartoons etc that might accompany your article.

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IN THIS ISSUE

Possession, Provider, Organiser: Three Eras in an Australian White-Collar Union
Bob Russell

1937 Castlemaine Brewery Dispute: "Valour Among the Vats"
Carol Corless

Women, Work and the Role the Male Breadwinner Concept
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NOTICES * LETTERS * CONFERENCE REPORTS * OBITUARIES



Brisbane branch of the
Australian Society for the Study of Labour History