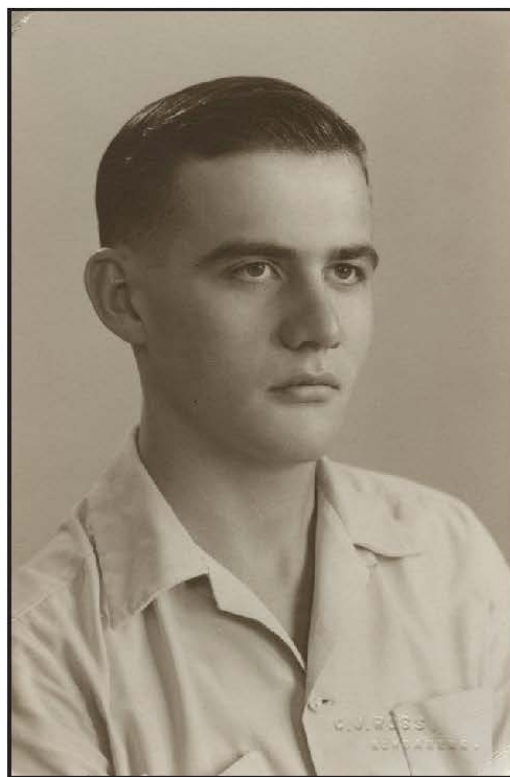


The Queensland Journal of Labour History

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Contents

Editorial	Dean Wharton	3
President's Report Spring 2019	Greg Mallory	5
IN MEMORIUM		
Some tracks Ted Riethmuller travelled	Humphrey McQueen	7
Alan Doesn't Get Arrested Again	Ted Riethmuller	11
ARTICLES		
“Hostile whirlwinds swirl above us ...”: The Red Flag Riots and the Tumult of 1919	Raymond Evans	13
In Memoriam—Alex Macdonald	Dean Wharton	31
Frank Fantin in North Queensland 1925–42	David Faber	41
Walking Together: Incorporating Aboriginal and European Perspectives Into Small Museum Processes and Practices	Aunty Evelyn Parkin and Elisabeth Gondwe	55
REVIEW		
Tempting Dame Fortune, A Brief History of the Dee Gold Rush, Central Queensland	Humphrey McQueen	64
The Far Left in Australia since 1945	Duncan Hart	67
Bjelke Blues: Stories of Repression and Resistance in Joh Bjelke-Petersen's Queensland, 1969–1987	John McCollow	70
OBITUARIES		
Vale Les Crofton		73
Vale Ron Monaghan		74
CONTRIBUTORS		78

Editorial

Dean Wharton

We lead this issue with a tribute to Ted Riethmuller who was key to the continuing existence of the Brisbane Labour History Association during the 2000s. In more recent years he often attended our events and produced rich reflections of working life for this journal.

The BLHA is currently organising to publish a book of Ted's reflections. Ted's family are currently fundraising to publish a novel by Ted and details are in this issue. Also, they need financial assistance to digitise Ted's extensive labour history related images and film recordings. This can be done at:

www.gofundme.com/f/8mm-activism-film-preservation

The videos they have already digitised and added to Youtube, of a March for Peace in Brisbane in 1963 and a march in Brisbane on Hiroshima Day 1967, can be accessed via the BLHA Facebook page.

Ted's obituary is written by his long-term friend and comrade Humphrey McQueen. We follow his personal recollections with a previously unpublished gem from Ted, a humorous view of the hazardous nature of activism in the 1960s/70s. How little changes.

In June the annual Alex Macdonald lecture was delivered by Ray Evans on the Red Flag Riots of 1919. Plenty has been written about the riots in this anniversary year. The transcript of Ray's lecture makes plain that no-one can link the events of 100 years ago to subsequent events in Brisbane more succinctly than the original and primary researcher on the riots.

This year also marks the 50th anniversary of the passing of Alex Macdonald and we publish a commemoration of his life. Research currently being undertaken on Alex was initiated following a call for assistance by Lyn Trad and Margaret Liessi, Alex's daughters, at the BLHA's 2016 Alex Macdonald Lecture, and in the pages of this journal in issue No.23. Any assistance with this project would be appreciated.

The article by David Faber introduces the remarkable story of Italian anarchist Francesco Fantin. This takes us from his time fighting against Fascism in North East Italy in the early 1920s to doing the same in Australia; and campaigning alongside the CPA in the sugar cane fields of Far North Queensland. He was assassinated by fascists in South Australia following internment by the Australian Government during the Second World War.

Walking Together is a transcript of a lecture delivered by Elisabeth Gondwe and Aunty Evelyn Parkin at the Australian Museums and Galleries Association National Conference in Alice Springs in May 2019. It describes the process developed by the museum on North Stradbroke Island/Minjerribah to describe "three histories - 25,000 years of First Nations' people; occupation and colonisation; and the shared experiences of 200 years."

This issue's book reviews include Humphrey McQueen's review of *"Tempting Dame Fortune - A Brief History of the Dee Gold Rush, Central Queensland"* by Bruce Heiser, Duncan Hart's review of *"The Far Left in Australia since 1945"* edited by Jon Piccini, Evan Smith and Matthew Worley, and John McCollow's review of *"Bjelke Blues"* edited by Edwina Shaw.

Our obituary of Les Croften is taken from the Autumn 2019 edition of *The Advocate*, the Journal of the Queensland Branch of the Australian Rail, Tram and Bus Union.

To commemorate the life of Ron Monaghan, a memorial and celebration took place in July 2019. Our thanks go to the QCU for supplying us with the speech delivered by Ros McLennan at that event, which we feature in memoriam to Ron.

Howard Guille and Ross Gwyther interviewed Ron at length in issue 22 of the QJLH. Issue 22 is available in full on the BLHA website.

Future issues

In July the BLHA co-hosted an event with the Union Co-operative Society to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Brisbane Co-op. The presentations given at the event will form part of a series of articles on the Co-op movement which we hope to include in our next issue. We would be interested to hear from anyone who could contribute to this.

Some time ago the BLHA received a typed transcript of the memoirs of Vic Slater, a member of the Communist Party of Australia who passed in 2012. Copyright law being what it currently is, we have been trying to contact his next of kin to gain permission to publish the whole memoir on our website, or to use selected edited extracts as articles in our journal. So far, we have had little success which is unfortunate because we believe the memoirs are historically significant and should be published. If anyone can help us with this, please get in touch