

# SCRAP

## I SUPPORT THE STRIKE



NEVER MIND  
THE REPUBLIC

HERE'S

Nick's Birthday  
Party

Saturday  
November 6th  
7.30pm

17 Lombard Ave  
airy Meadow

STOP THE LOCKOUT  
@  
JOY

OFFICIAL  
SCRUTINEER



NAME Nick Scottall

FOR REBAL OF: Dave Martin

(NAME OF CANDIDATE)





I've got to follow them, I am their leader.  
(Among the Paris mob at the barricades, 1870)

Making life means making trouble. There's only one way of escaping trouble, and that's killing things. Cowards, you notice, are always drinking to have troublesome people killed.

Higgins, Pygmalion  
GEORGE BERNARD SHAW 1876-1950

AUSTRALIAN 8/6/93



THE BEST OF MITCHELL

#### LIVING IN FEAR

I did not let the fear of death govern my life; and my reward was, I had my life. You are going to let the fear of poverty govern your life and your reward will be that you will eat, but you will not live.

Cyprian Shonover, *Heartbreak House*

GEORGE BERNARD SHAW 1876-1950

**SURF MOVIE**  
**"BAND ON THE RUN" (G)**  
 Tue. 8 p.m. Fri. 8 & 9.30.  
**WOLLONGONG TOWN HALL.**

**SUPERAD!**  
**★29 5611**  
 — PHONE IN YOUR CLASSIE

**WOLLONGONG LEAGUES CLUB**  
 18 BURELL STREET, WOLLONGONG  
 Presents  
**DON'S PARTY**  
 By DAVID WILLIAMSON  
 EVERY FRIDAY AND SATURDAY  
 NIGHT AT 8 P.M.  
 \$8.50 Supper and Show.  
 \$10 Dinner and Show (7 p.m.).  
 FOR BOOKINGS PHONE: 29 2777

HELD ★ NO EXTENSION POSSIBLE  
 OVERSEASON MUST END WED., NOV. 3.  
**REGENT** NOW! 11 ★ 8  
**28 9238** SAT. 2 ★ 8  
*Discos at 11 Alcohol at 12*  
*Heroin at 13*  
*Prostitute at 14*  
**Christiane F.**  
 LAST 8 DAYS

**THE GATEWAY TO ROCK**  
**CHARLES HOTEL**  
 FAIRYMEADOW, PH. 844 085  
**FRIDAY NIGHT:**  
**BOSS**  
 Admission Free.

**Gala Cinema**  
 NOW SHOWING  
 NIGHTLY 7.30 p.m.  
 SATURDAY 8 p.m. and 7.30 p.m.  
 SUNDAY 4.30 p.m. and 7 p.m.  
**"THEY'RE HERE!"**  
  
 Special Spectacular has featured, combined  
 and shared millions with JOHN  
 CUSACK AND OTHERS OF THE THREE KING  
 AND BARRON OF THE LONG P.A.S.  
 Now, for take you into a world of something  
 where the dark forces, and from the  
 more powerful lines of an extraordinary character  
 are the greatest looking that must be experienced  
 or be believed.  
**POLTERGEIST**  
 It knows what scares you.  
 plus  
**IDOLMAKER**

**FAMILY DISCO NIGHT**  
 UKRAIAN CLUB  
 50 Auburn Street,  
 Wollongong  
 Friday — 7 p.m.  
 All Welcome.  
 Adults \$2.  
 Children \$1.

\*\*\*\*\*  
**HEADLANDS HOTEL**  
 AUSTRIAN  
 PHONE: 47 1148  
 TONIGHT:  
**DOUBLE BARREL**  
 FRIDAY:  
**ZHARM**  
 SUNDAY:  
**HANK VAN HEARSAL**  
 July Roger Seaford Show open Wednesday,  
 Thursday, Friday and Saturday at 8.30 p.m.  
 \*\*\*\*\*

**Woononga Bulli RSL**  
**MEMORIAL CLUB LTD**  
 THE PAGE SETTER OF CLUB ENTERTAINMENT  
 PRESENTS FOR MEMBERS AND GUESTS ONLY  
**TOMORROW, FRIDAY, OCTOBER 29, 8 P.M.**  
 BULLI SURF LIFE SAVING CLUB PRESENTS



**THE JOHN PAUL YOUNG SHOW**  
 TICKETS \$7.50 EACH.

**SUNDAY AFTERNOON CONCERT SPECTACULAR — 3.30 p.m.**  
 FEATURING: FAYE WARRICK — TALENTED VOCALIST  
 STAN PENROSE — COMEDY & INSTRUMENTALIST  
 YOLANDE GIBSON — INTERNATIONAL VOCALIST.  
 JOE KERR ON THE ORGAIN IN THE LOUNGE, 6.30 p.m.  
**TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 2 — MIDDAY:**  
 MELBOURNE CUP PARTY AFTERNOON. Tickets \$5.50 each includes  
 giant emeraldstone. Special Guest Artist FREDGIE PARIS.

**BERKELEY SPORTS & SOCIAL CLUB LIMITED**  
 PHONE 71 3111  
**THURSDAY MEAT MARKET**  
 155 Prices to be won — Meat Trays, Fruit and Veges, Turkey,  
 Hot and Frozen Chicken.  
 Tickets on sale from 8.15 p.m. — draw starts 8.15 p.m.  
 Special weekly prizes and monthly super prizes.  
**FRIDAY NIGHT SUPER POKER NIGHT**  
 7.30 p.m. SPORTS BAR — be there and send your pulse racing.  
**FRIDAY NIGHT ROCK DANCE TO ZARSOFF BROS.**  
 8 p.m. — Admission \$3.  
**SATURDAY NIGHT POPULAR DANCE MUSIC BY THE MARKSMEN**  
 8 p.m. in the Auditorium.  
**SUNDAY MIDDAY MONSTER ARM WRESTLING CHAMPIONSHIPS.**  
 Members and their guests welcome.

**WARILLA SPORTS CLUB LTD.**  
 McGregor Avenue, Barrack Heights.  
 Phone: 98 3000.  
**MONDAY: 7.30 p.m. start — BUCHHE — cash prizes.**  
**TUESDAY: MELBOURNE CUP DAY.**  
 Twenty City — Tim Parake.  
 Guest Artist — BILL PHELMAN.  
**WEDNESDAY: 10.30 a.m. LACHES MORNING — good prizes — all free.**  
**WEDNESDAY NIGHT, NOVEMBER 3**  
**THE SINGING KETTLES COUNTRY DUO.**  
 Pool competition — 7.30 p.m. — cash prizes.  
**THURSDAY: MURRAY MEAT MARKET with monthly bonus prizes. 4.30 p.m. start. 8.30 p.m. draw.**  
**FRIDAY: 11 a.m. LOTTO GAMES — Guest Artist — Super Prizes — All Free!**  
 8 p.m. NEW TALENT SHOW.  
**SATURDAY: Dance with THE MILES, 8 p.m. till midnight.**  
**SUNDAY: 10.30 a.m. POOL COMPETITION — cash prizes.**  
**DINING ROOM**  
 Open for Chinese and Australian dishes.  
**MONDAY: Noon to 5 p.m. (not open Monday night)**  
**TUESDAY-SATURDAY: Noon to 3 p.m. and 5 p.m. to 11 p.m.**  
**SUNDAY: Noon to 3 p.m. and 5 p.m. to 9 p.m.**  
 Members and Guests Welcome.

**OXFORD HOTEL**  
 CORNER CROWN AND CORRIMAL STREETS, WOLLONGONG.  
**THIS WEEK'S DRIVE-IN LIQUOR SPECIALS**  
 Johnny Walker Red Label  
 Scotch (750 ml) ..... \$12.99  
 Martini Vermouth (750 ml) ..... \$1.99  
 Vodka (various) (750 ml) ..... \$12.99  
 Tooheys and Tooheys Cans — cold! A carton ..... \$14.99  
**\*\*\* SPECIAL 'WINFIELD RED' CIGARETTES \$11.70 A CARTON**  
 MEET TOMMY MULQUEENEY AT THE CAPTAIN'S BAR FROM 2 P.M. EVERY DAY.







MINUTES OF A MEETING HELD IN THE LORD MAYOR'S OFFICE  
ON MONDAY 14 DECEMBER, 1981 AT 2.45 PM  
RE: DOUBLE-BOOKING OF McCABE PARK - SATURDAY 19 DECEMBER

Present: Lord Mayor - Alderman FN Arkell  
City Librarian - Mr R Drake  
Controller of Parks and Recreation  
- Mr D Miller

Esoteric Group Representatives  
- Mr C Donarski + 2

Alderman Arkell apologised for the double-booking situation that had arisen at McCabe Park for Saturday, 19 December, booked by both WIN TV and the Esoteric Group. (WIN TV had booked the Park for "Carols by Candlelight" and the Esoteric Group for "Saturday in the Park").

Mr Donarski stated that "Saturday in the Park" was due to finish at 4.30 pm and the Park could be cleared by 6.00 pm. As "Carols by Candlelight" was not due to commence until 7.30 pm the two events could take place without encroaching upon one another.

Alderman Arkell advised that he had spoken to the Manager of WIN TV about the double-booking and that he was not prepared to share the Park with another function.

Mr Miller agreed that this was an acceptable attitude as, in all fairness, WIN TV had booked the Park months before the Esoteric Group. He then suggested that the Esoteric Group consider changing their venue to Rest Park.

Mr Donarski pointed out that this would be impossible as they had advertised on the radio, in the newspapers and placed posters in public places advising of the location of the event.

Mr Drake advised that in order to solve this problem he would be willing to make new posters on behalf of the group, informing the public that the site had been changed from McCabe Park to Rest Park and suggested that directional signs could also be placed in McCabe Park.

Mr Donarski stated that, although "Saturday in the Park" only aimed at achieving a limited scale of success, Rest Park may be too cramped to accommodate the displays they had arranged, and enquired if it would be possible to accommodate the Bush Fire Brigade vehicles on the grass area behind the Library.

Mr Drake confirmed that this would be permissible, and also that part of the Library and the forecourt of the gallery could be used for their other exhibitions, in addition to Rest Park.

Mr Donarski then enquired if Burelli Street could be closed to traffic after 12 mid-day on Saturday.

Mr Drake explained that although this may be possible, it could pose difficulties with cars already parked in that area, and he did not consider that closing Burelli Street would prove to be a practical idea, to which Mr Donarski agreed.



ESOTERIC A WOULD LIKE TO THANK THE FOLLOWING  
INDIVIDUALS AND ORGANISATIONS FOR AVAILABLE ADVICE,  
ENCOURAGEMENT AND ASSISTANCE:

ACHE CO-OP

FRANK AXELL AND THE MOLLONGONG CITY COUNCIL

AUSTRALIAN MUSICIANS UNION

BUSH FIRE BRIGADES

CHINGLA COALWASH DUMP PROTECT COMMITTEE

FLETCHERS PHOTOGRAPHICS

INTERVENTION BOOKSHOP

MURIELLES SOBEKAL CAFE

GRAN ARCADE AND THE MOLLONGONG CITY GALLERY

THE MINGSTREETS

NSW DEPT OF SPORT AND RECREATION

ORGANISATION FOR INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION & DISARMAMENT

STAN PANTER AND THE EDUCATION RESOURCES UNIT

ADOLPH GADWINX

THE SUNDAY PAINTER

THE SUNDAY CRAFTS COURT LANE CRAFT SHOP

THE MOLLONGONG COMMUNITY YOUTH SUPPORT SCHEME

WHITE HEATHER ARTS ACADEMY, AND ARCADE

ED WOLF

MOLLONGONG CRAFTMANS SOCIETY

WOLLONGONG CITY LIBRARY - RICHARD DRAKE, HELEN MONELLA

CHARLES SLATER

MOLLONGONG COMMUNITY YOUTH SUPPORT SCHEME

MOLLONGONG POLICE STATION

MOLLONGONG POLICE STATION

MOLLONGONG POLICE STATION

MOLLONGONG POLICE STATION

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MOLLONGONG POLICE STATION

Esoteric

Presents  
a

HAPPENING

SATURDAY 19, 1981

(happening) v.

1. an occurrence, event
2. an improvised or spontaneous display or performance consisting of bizarre and haphazard events.

FREE!



ESOTERIC would like to thank the following individuals and organisations for invaluable advice, encouragement and assistance:

ACME CO-OP  
FRANK ARKELL AND THE WOLLONGONG CITY COUNCIL  
AUSTRALIAN MUSICIANS UNION  
BUSH FIRE BRIGADES  
CRINGILA COALWASH DUMP PROTEST COMMITTEE  
FLETCHERS PHOTOGRAPHICS  
INTERVENTION BOOKSHOP  
MANNELLE'S SIDEMARK CAFE  
GRANNA HUDSON AND THE MIGRANT RESOURCES CENTRE  
FRANK HYBRIDGE AND THE WOLLONGONG CITY GALLERY  
THE MINSTRELS  
NIK NOL NAIH  
N.S.W. DEPT OF SPORT AND RECREATION  
ORGANISATION FOR INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION & DISARMAMENT  
JOHN PANTER AND THE EDUCATION RESOURCES UNIT  
REDBACK GRAPHIX  
THE SUNDAY PAINTERS  
THE UNITING CHURCH COURT LANE CRAFT SHOP  
VISITOR ENSEMBLE  
WARILLA COMMUNITY YOUTH SUPPORT SCHEME  
WHITE HEATHER ARTS & CRAFTS, MIB ARCADE  
ED WOLF  
WOLLONGONG CERAMICS SOCIETY  
WOLLONGONG CITY LIBRARY - RICHARD DRAKE, IRENE BONELLA  
CHARLES SLATER  
WOLLONGONG COMMUNITY YOUTH SUPPORT SCHEME  
WOLLONGONG POETS UNION  
WOLLONGONG WOMEN'S CENTRE

# Esoteric

Presents  
a  
**HAPPENING**

SATURDAY 14, 1981

(hæpanɪŋ) n.

1. an occurrence, event
2. an improvised or spontaneous display or performance consisting of bizarre and haphazard events.



Esoteric is an organisation of young people dedicated to the promotion and support of alternative forms of art and music. The aim of the day is to provide an avenue for different groups to encounter the public and display their works and philosophies.

This programme is NOT meant to provide a comprehensive guide to the events that will occur on the day. Even we do not know exactly what will happen, so why not stay a while, who knows what will happen?

ESOTERIC

## Stalls and Displays by

BUSH FIRE BRIGADES  
MIGRANT RESOURCES CENTRE  
CRINGILA COALWASH DUMP PROTEST COMMITTEE  
UNITING CHURCH COURT LANE CRAFT SHOP  
WARILLA COMMUNITY YOUTH SUPPORT SCHEME  
WOLLONGONG COMMUNITY YOUTH SUPPORT SCHEME  
WOLLONGONG CERAMIC SOCIETY  
WOLLONGONG WOMEN'S CENTRE  
POETRY READINGS BY  
WOLLONGONG POETS UNION  
and INDEPENDANT POETS  
MUSIC BY

VISITOR

NIK NOL NAIH  
THE SUNDAY PAINTERS  
THE ALTERNATORS  
and the MINSTRELS will be performing throughout the park throughout the day.





**WAYS** of

**SEEING.**

*john berger*

**plus**

VIDEO ON ADVERTISING

*PLUS SUPPER*

**5.30 p.m. FRIDAY Nov. 4**

**LEN SUTTEE HALL**

**(BEHIND INTERVENTION BOOKSHOP)**

**RAILWAY SQ. WOLLONGONG**

ORGANISED BY THE UNEMPLOYED  
COMMUNIST BRANCH.



On the other side of Campbell street, the cops are climbing out of their cars. As they emerge, a few sneers and jeers celebrate their arrival. Crossing the road, the cops move into the crowd and single out a few punks, wrestling them back to the cars, they slam them into the bonnets, restraining them before loading them into the paddy wagons.

In their second floor dressingroom, oblivious to the scenes outside, the Clash are preparing to take to the stage. As the first of the paddy wagons pulls out, the kids in the back claw at the grill, screaming "Riot! Riot!"

Nobody leaves the queue. The driver deliberately slams his brakes hard, sending bodies careering across the back of the van. And then he changes gear and drives off.

The rest of the cops pull out as quickly as they'd arrived. As a tactical show of strength, the exercise has been successful.

# Backyard drug dealers peddle a new killer

Backyard chemists are producing a new killer drug which has left one person dead and many others violently ill, according to the Wollongong Public Solicitor's Office.

A spokesman for the Public Solicitor's Office said yesterday the Wollongong drug market had been flooded with the drug which caused severe stomach cramps, serious illness and even death.

The drug, an hallucinogen, was called "brown acid" by addicts. It was more dangerous than opium and cocaine.

"It is extremely dangerous and should not be taken," the spokesman said.

It is to appeal to people to be on the alert and they should know that the drug has the potential to kill.

At least one person has died after taking it and many have become seriously ill.

The drug also could cause backaches - severe hallucinations, dizziness, the effects of the drug had previously been felt.

WOLLONGONG  
1982. (11. Marc)

'ONE THING I'VE NOTICED SINCE REAGAN CAME TO POWER IS THAT THERES ALOT MORE OF EVERYTHING DANGEROUS AVAILABLE AND BEING FED TO PUNKS. IN THE SUBURBS THERES SUDDENLY ALL THESE PEOPLE TAKING ACID. I THINK IT IS TOTALLY PLANNED IN ORDER TO TORPEDO ANOTHER YOUTH CULT BEFORE IT STARTS.'

JELLO BINFRA, DEAD KENNEDYS  
LONDON 1981.

~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~





## REDBACK PUTS STING BACK INTO ART

Redback Graphix posters, the work of two Wollongong artists, will be displayed at the first Australian contemporary art exhibition in Japan later this year.

The exhibition is scheduled to be shown in Tokyo in August and selected areas will then be distributed to commercial galleries around the country.

The artists, Michael Callaghan and Gregor Cullen, also will have their poster work on display at the Australian Perspectives display in the New South Wales Art Gallery from May 12 to June 26.

Mr Callaghan and Mr Cullen recently received a \$12,500 State Government grant to enable them to continue their work for the next six months of this year.

Minister for Macarthur Mr Colin Butler presented the cheque to Gregor Cullen and Michael Callaghan of Redback Graphix at North Wollongong last month.

Mr Butler said he was delighted to present the cheque to the artists because their outstanding poster work deserved recognition.

Many posters had been displayed nationally and internationally, Mr Butler said.

Mr Butler said that while he got letters such as

that in the Illawarra region and that it has finally been recognised," Mr Butler said.

"Even though we are in a period of economic recession, I firmly believe any should be actively supported by the Government."

Mr Cullen said the grant would pay him and Mr Callaghan's wages for the first six months of the year.

"The grant is designed to encourage artists to work with the community and to reflect the needs of the community in their art," Mr Cullen said.

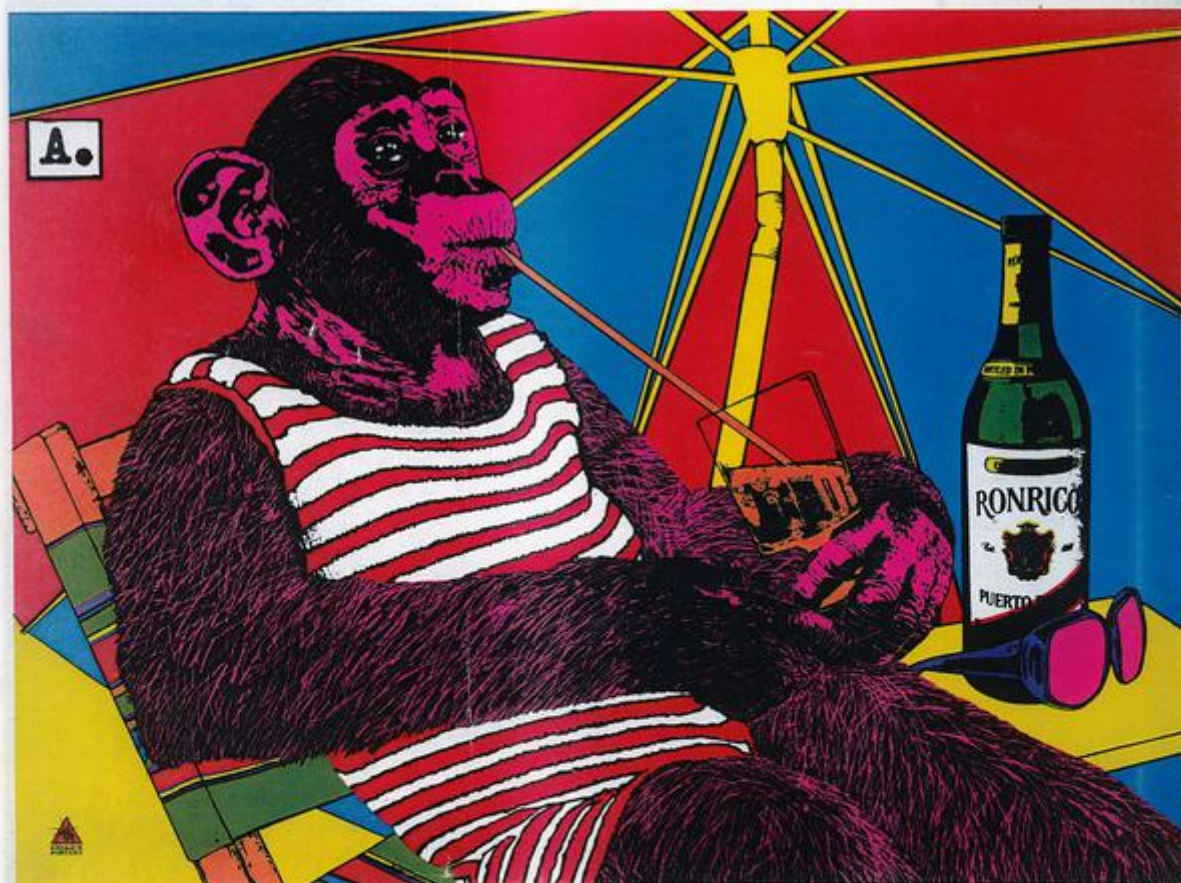
● Redback Graphix artists Michael Callaghan (left) and Gregor Cullen with some of their posters behind them. Redback posters will be displayed at the first Australian contemporary art exhibition in Japan later this year.







**Q. If the unemployed are dole bludgers,  
What the fuck are the idle rich?**







View the exhibition online:  
UOW Library > Digital Collections

Greetings from Molokong  
Michael Callaghan and Nick Southall, Redback Graphics, 1982.  
Screenprint, printed in colour from five stencils, 59 x 87 cm.

Callaghan and Southall, 1982. Screenprint, printed in colour from five stencils, 65 x 93 cm.



**RIGHT TO WORK**  
MARCH 11 NOW TO 54D



STREET CITY PICTURES PRESENTS  
*Greetings from Wollongong*  
A DYNAMIC FILM ABOUT 19-20 CENTURY TIMES

FEATURING AN ALL STAR CAST



WORLD PREMIERE AT THE BRIDGE



... EL PUEBLO UNIDO JAMAS SERA VENCIDO ...

# WOLLONGONG IN POSTERS

Art on a Telegraph Pole



8 July  
to 9 August  
2013

UOW Library

Panizzi Room

UOW Library



Thanks for your help and support!  
cheers Paul

# ART AS AGITATION

## 30 YEARS OF POLITICAL POSTERS



**Guest Speakers**  
Sharon Pusell and Nick Southall (ex-Redback Graphix)

### Plus

Huge selection of Australian and Overseas Political Posters, recently 'rediscovered', including Redback Graphix, Earthworks, and Tin Sheds (Sydney Uni). Includes posters from the anti-war, anti-nuclear, feminist, gay and lesbian, punk, indigenous, animal rights, prisoners rights, anarchist and trade union movements.

## SATURDAY 5<sup>TH</sup> JULY

6PM TO 8PM

## JURA BOOKS

**ENTRY BY DONATION. FOOD AND DRINK AVAILABLE.**  
**440 PARRAMATTA RD PETERSHAM 9550 9931**

For further information about the event or to help with preserving the collection contact Paul on 0422 662 237

### *Giant Book Sale*

including newly Arrive Books from US and Europe, including feminism, punk, anarchism, drugs, t-shirts, CDs, videos, magazines, posters, and much more.

**Sat 28<sup>th</sup> June 11am to 4pm.**



**CONDOMAN** SAYS:

DON'T BE  
SHAME  
BE GAME

**USE FRENCHIES!**

# Life Matters, Action Counts: Michael Callaghan & Collaborators

3 - 17 July 2013

FCA Gallery & Long Gallery  
Faculty of Creative Arts, building 25  
University of Wollongong  
Gallery hours: 9am - 5pm, Monday - Friday  
[www.uow.edu.au/crearts/fcagallery](http://www.uow.edu.au/crearts/fcagallery)

To be opened by  
Dr. Philip Batty, Senior Curator, Museum Victoria  
Tuesday 9 July at 12:45pm

UNIVERSITY OF  
WOLLONGONG  
FACULTY OF  
CREATIVE ARTS

Images: Redback Graphics  
Michael Callaghan and Marie McMahon,  
Condoman plays Life Matters 1987,  
University of Wollongong Art Collection



# Greetings from Wollongong

HOW DID YA GO?

←← SHE SAID

WHAT DO YA RECKON?

HE SAID

DIDN'T GET IT?

SHE SAID

YA NOT WRONG

HE SAID

ADN'T  
YAMP

# Greetings from Wollongong

BORN FREE

ON THE DOLE,  
YOUR CONSOLATION PRIZE  
\$40 PER  
WEEK







UNEMPLOYMENT. CAPITALISM'S FINEST PRODUCT.



1st solo Redback poster.  
October 1982.





Lab

#### Redback Graffiti

Posters by Redback Graffiti being carried in steelworkers protest demonstration, Wollongong, October 1980. The posters are based on earlier radical images: the top one is from *Sage* — *A Pinch in Underlife* by the Workers Artists, 1933, and the other is from a cover illustration by Percy Lawson in the 1920s for an edition of Edward Bellamy's *Looking Backward*. Photo: Julie Van Driel, *Artists*.





*Fred Moore opens the  
Kemira Embassy.*



# KEMIRA DIARY OF A STRIKE

The film deals with one of the most determined attempts by workers to challenge the right of companies to make mass dismissals of workers on solely economic pretexts. In September 1982, at the height of the economic recession, Australian Iron and Steel, a subsidiary of Australia's largest company BHP, announced its intention to retrench 400 workers. The company's response was to support the company's Wollongong steelworks. We got offed was Kemira at, where 205 workers—75 of the workforce—went to form their idea.

The mining unions took the company to arbitration before the Coal Industry Tribunal arguing for a moratorium on the sackings pending a proper inquiry. They claimed that the company's reason for the sackings—the decline in export and domestic markets—was merely an excuse to sack workers and install new labour-saving technology. 20 days before the sackings were to take effect, a group of rank and file workers at Kemira Colliery, deciding that arbitration would get them nowhere, arranged a clandestine operation which resulted in 31 of them occupying the pit and establishing themselves 5 kilometres underground.

The miners received the backing of other unions right across the country, and the people of Wollongong—economically tied to the company working behind them. Meanwhile, the Miners' Wollongong branch and one of the company's buildings and computers set up an 'embassy' at pit-top and kept vigil.



The "Stay-In" helped weld a strong unity between miners and steelworkers on the South Coast and inspired one of the most sensational demonstrations in Australian labour history—the storming of Parliament House.

Australian film-maker, Tom Zubrycki and his crew travelled to Wollongong during the period of the strike and captured these dramatic events on film. The next few months he proceeded to follow the fortunes of the strikers and their families. The result was a film that is both a gripping and a document as he discovers marriages have broken up and families scattered.

Australian filmmaker, Tom Zubrycki and his crew travelled to Wollongong during the period of the strike and captured these dramatic events on film. In the next few months he proceeded to follow the fortunes of the strikers and their families.

The result makes for an exceptionally moving human document as he discovers the personal stresses and strains caused by unemployment.



KEMIRA - DIARY OF A STRIKE was produced with the assistance of the Southern District of the Miners' Union and the Coal Industry Development Branch of the Australian Film Commission.



KEMIRA - DIARY OF A STRIKE is the first Australian film to document the organisation of a strike and its unfolding over time from an "inside" perspective. The wider historical, political and economic context is also revealed, especially the factors which will influence the future of underground coal-mining for many years to come—factors such as: the impact of new technology, and the actions of multinational corporations.

The film is an important educational resource for schools, universities, libraries, trade unionists, sociologists etc. at both secondary and tertiary levels. It is also an excellent tool for trade union organisers.

Tom Zubrycki's first film WATERLOO (1981) recorded the response of an inner Sydney community to an urban renewal project. The film has won major awards and has been shown on television and in festivals around the world.

KEMIRA - DIARY OF A STRIKE, his second major film had its first public screening at the 1984 Sydney Film Festival. In the same year he was awarded one of the first series of Documentary Fellowship grants from the Australian Film Commission "to encourage the pursuit of innovation and excellence in documentary film."

Main colour film 65 mm in 24 frames  
Photography Fabio Cavallini Editor Gill Sorlie  
Sound Recording Russa Hensman  
Tribunal Adaptation Graham Pitts  
Produced by Sydney Filmmakers Co-op  
P.O. Boxed by Sydney Filmmakers Co-op  
St. Peters Lane, Darlinghurst, Sydney Ph. (02) 330721  
Retail \$69 negotiable  
Print Sale Printviews available free of charge anywhere in Aust.





and community organisations. To this end we have made available a 20-minute videotape containing highlights of the ad in. This is a "case" for the longer film to come. The videotape is available from the Southern District office of the Miners Federation in Wollongong or from the film makers (2 Punch Street, Balmain, phone 62 5576). The film was initially funded from our own resources. Subsequently the Creative Development Branch of the Australian Film Commission has made a substantial investment. Donations have also come from the local branch of the Miners Federation. The film makers are looking for further contributions from unions in order to complete the film. The end result should not be a positive self-portrait picturing ordinary people not as victims on the side of the state, but as people trying to take control over their own lives and shape their own destinies.

Top: Workers "storming" Parliament House, Canberra, 1982.

Far left: Kerista mine worker Jim Rieagh reunited at the mine with his family.

(left) Scene at the picket.

# THE AUSTRALIAN

NUMBER 5641

WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 27 1982

## PM tells workers he will intercede over mine, Protesters storm into Parliament

By GERRY SORBY

THE Federal Government offered yesterday to negotiate with BHP over trenchments after more than 1500 coal miners and reworkers stormed Parliament House in Canberra.

During a violent confrontation with police while the Opposition was moving a censure motion condemning the government's economic policy:

**DEMONSTRATORS** forced their way through a police cordon, smashing the bullet-proof front door of Parliament.

**AFTER** storming Kings Hall

and 100 demonstrators

aged a roving mob.

**THE** Prime Minister, Mr

Waser, the Minister for In-

quiry and Commerce, Mr

McCook, and the Minister for

Industrial Relations, Mr Mac-

Kenney, agreed to meet a deputa-

tion to discuss their grie-

nces.

**THE** Speaker, Sir Billy Bin-

ton, was abused when he wait-

ed to the front steps of the

house and appealed for an

aid to the protest.

**THE** national president of

a Miners' Federation, Mr

Mc Kelly, said Mr Fraser had

caused him, at "starting a

war".

**AGREEMENT** was finally

reached that the Government

will encourage BHP to seek

temporary protection from

tariffs, only weeks after

a Temporary Assistance

subsidy rejected appeals for

it.

The workers, some accom-

panied by their wives and chil-

dren, had hired two special

buses from the NSW south-

During the three-hour con-

frontation with a restrained

force of 60 police only one as-

sault was made - for assault.

Sir Billy told the demonstra-

tors the storming of Kings

Hall had "put Parliament in

crisis".

"Parliament is your protec-

tion," he said.

But defiant union leaders

were unrepentant, despite

conciliatory calls from the

Leader of the Opposition, Mr

Hayden, the Labor spokesman

for industrial relations, Mr

Rob Hawke, and the Labor MP

for Cunningham, Mr Stewart

West.

Mr Kelly said after the Cab-

inet Room meeting: "The fact

that many demonstrators

went through the front door

and stormed Parliament

House is a fair indication

about what Australians feel

about being forced out of a

job."

He said Mr Fraser, during

the Cabinet Room talks, had

"virtually accused me of creat-

ing a revolution".

About 60 police were at Par-

liament when the demonstra-

tion began at about 2.45pm,

but the police ranks swelled as

the demonstrators chanted

"We want jobs".

Their shouts could be heard

in the Parliament chambers.

Many of the miners drank

from cans of beer they had

carried with them on their

hour-long march from Can-

berra railway station to Par-

liament House.

Some MPs, including the

leader of the Australian

Democrats, Senator Chubb,

mingled with the miners dur-

ing the protest.

The miners took every

chance to convince bystanders

**THE** Flinders by-election is

likely to be held on December

4 and the Government is pre-

paring to end the present ses-

sion of the House by the end

of this week.

**THE** Government's speculation

that Mr Fraser, backed by an

improvement in public opin-

ion polls and with the Govern-

ment able to capitulate on the

storming of Parliament House

by unionists yesterday, may

decide to call a snap general

election.

Although the House could

also on Thursday, the Senate

will have to sit for several

weeks if the Government is to

pass all its legislation.



A MINE worker finds himself in the grip of



THE DOORS



## Promises, promises — but little more, as... Jobless storm House

From PAUL KELLY and RICHARD MACEY

**CANBERRA.** — Retrenched coalminers and steelworkers stormed Parliament House yesterday, chanting "we want jobs". But senior Federal Ministers were unable to give them much hope.

After talks between a six-man union delegation and the Prime Minister, Mr Fraser, the Industry and Commerce Minister, Mr Peacock, and the Employment Minister, Mr Macpherson, the best the Government could offer was an approach to BHP.

The workers, and some of their families, had travelled to Canberra by chartered buses from the Blue Mountains, where BHP has announced large-scale retrenchments in steelworkers and coalminers.

The smashing through a police wall last King's Hall yesterday afternoon was the most violent demonstration in Parliament House since 1960 and brought hungry unemployed to within feet of the parliamentary chamber.

Labour's employment spokesman, Mr Hawke, warned last night that "we will now see the worst days ahead in the history of the country".

The incident came when the Prime Minister was closing a session in which the Opposition leader, Mr Hayden, appealed for a budget to reverse economic policy.

The front door of Parliament House was smashed when about 60 men broke through into the building, where they chanted and demanded to meet the Prime Minister.

After negotiations which involved Mr Hayden going to Mr Fraser's office in an unsuccessful bid to see the Prime Minister, a delegation finally joined a Youth Club local government group for talks with the three ministers.

Mr Macpherson said later the Government was always going to see a representative from the unions. "It didn't need 1,000 demonstrators to prove it to us," he said.

At mid night both Mr Hayden and Mr Hawke left Parliament House by a side door and began speaking on the lawn opposite in a bid to encourage the unions to leave the building.

Both men gave their criticism to the steel industry and Mr Hayden broadcast a "message" to the workers in the area.

Journal would only be for a few days.

The new national president of the Miners' Federation, Mr Bob Kelly, said he was "not satisfied" with the results and they were "not good enough".

The demonstrations were aimed at saving the jobs of more than 1,700 workers expected to be sacked by BHP and Australian Iron and Steel before the end of the year. The jobs include 800 steelworkers at Port Kembla and 250 steelworkers at Newcastle. Another 443 men employed by Australian Iron and Steel in milling in the Port Kembla area are also to be retrenched and 260 apprentices will be dismissed by AIL on completion of their courses.

The Opposition said this would take the total number of jobs lost to the industry the year in New South Wales and Wollongong to about 8,000.

The demonstration, in which only one man was arrested, began after more than a 1,000 steel and coal workers had arrived by train after a six-hour journey from Wollongong. Many more had travelled from Newcastle by bus.

They waited out of sight of Parliament House for their colleagues to arrive before they practised their chants and waved their banners. Among the crowd were mothers and children.

At 2.45 pm the word was given and the rally began to move off towards Parliament, with a police escort at the lead. A police spokesman estimated there were 1,400 people.

The demonstrators moved across the lawn of Parliament House chanting their slogans. "What do we want? Fraser out. We want jobs — jobs for dach."

They quickly reached the yellow metal barriers set up along King's Avenue on the far side of the street from Parliament.

Police warned them to stay behind the barriers but it was clear they had no intention of stopping. It was Mr Fraser the two weeks the last time to see...



A door shatters as the demonstrating miners force their way into Parliament House and the police inside.

## The Hayden recipe

**CANBERRA.** — The leader of the Opposition, Mr Hayden, put his proposals in Parliament yesterday for "receding" Australia when moving centre of the Government's handling of the economy.

He proposed —

- Exploration of a 12-month freeze of State Government charges, with the Commonwealth making up their losses.

- One-off increases in grants to the States to provide 300,000 additional in housing.

- A 12-month freeze on protection for Australian industry and a review of the decision to withhold temporary assistance to the steel industry.

- An approach to the unions to accept only "real wages and holding costs" for 12 months.

- A mid-Budget this year to provide new job opportunities and increases in disposable income to reduce consumer debt.

The reform motion was defeated, Debate, Page 2.



The Speaker, Mr. Billy Snedden, will wearing his white stock, is coaxed by demonstrators as he goes to the steps of Parliament House to try to calm the situation.

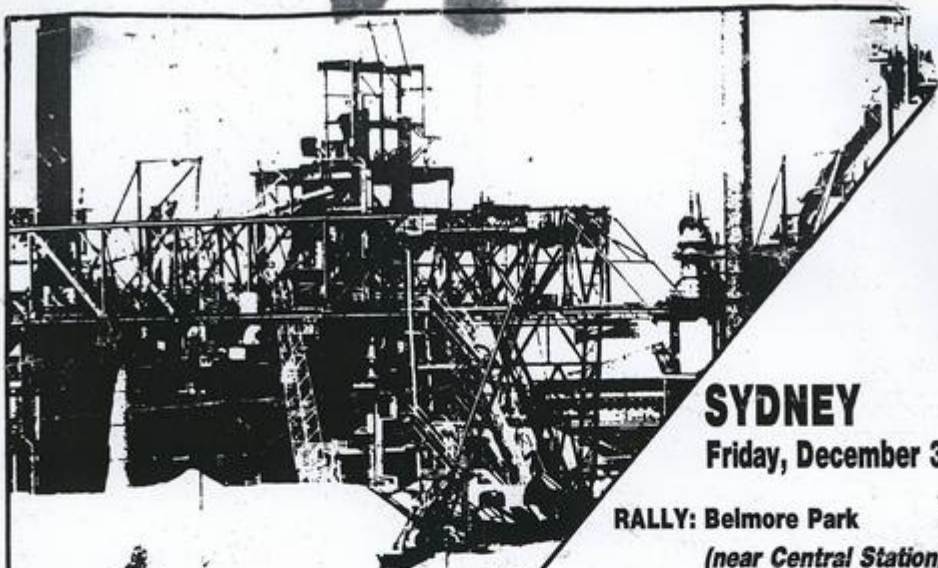
# The **KEMIRA STAY IN STRIKE**



**14-29  
OCTOBER  
1982**

**WOLLONGONG  
WORKERS  
RESEARCH CENTRE**





## SYDNEY

Friday, December 3

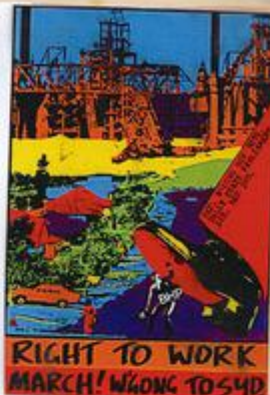
**RALLY:** Belmore Park  
(near Central Station)

**11.30am**

**MARCH:** to Parliament House,  
Macquarie St



**RIGHT TO WORK  
MARCH W'GONG TO SYD**



# JOBS PROTEST TREK BEGINS

**NIGHT ONE:** On the positive side, the right to work marchers are 18 km down the track.

By  
**PADDY GINNANE**

They are camped at Colendale Beach. They are fed and resting, and must be in bare feet.

The rows of shoes and boots outside the tents are capsules for today's slog up the winding, hilly coast road, up the hill to Stanswell Park, up the long road to Helensburgh, up the highway to Scheridan.

The road is hard and the hills are steep, and today, day two, will be a brutal testing time for everyone in the march to meet Premier Mr Wran in Sydney on Friday.

On the negative side they are small in number. There should be more, given their cause and that unemployment has cut so deep a scar among young and old.

There were between 30 and 40 of them at the start from the Trade Union Centre in Wollongong.

We stood around and clapped as they came out under the banner which said Steelworkers Unite and Fight, and well-wishers brought the party to 100 or more for the walk down Crown St and north along the Princes Highway towards Sydney, 80 km away.

There were police to the north of them, police to the south, and behind came a winding lane of motorists and trucks wondering if ever they'd get a break to skirt around them.

"We stopped for drinks between Corrimal and Russell Vale, and again at Wooma," says Andy Gillespie, the Federation Ironworkers' Association spokesman who is their official spokesman.

He is in shorts and T-shirt, and his feet are well comfortable in the soft boots he picked for the march.

"The people are holding up well," he says, eyes the line behind him. "We have no stragglers."

Along isolated stretches of roadway they keep to the left and let the traffic through.

But where there is an audience they form a wedge of walkers and chant their hymn for work.

"What do we want? — work. When do we want it? — now."

It will carry them up the road to Sutherland today, to a park near Radfern tomorrow, to Macquarie St on Friday.

Their numbers picked up at Colendale last night. A handful of people who could not begin the walk yesterday arrived last night to join the line this morning.

"We will pick up all along the way," Andy Gillespie predicts. "By the time we're in Macquarie St we'll have the numbers."

A few steps back Sue Donnelly is trudging along, glad of the not-so-hot breeze which is cooling down the walkers.

Four weeks ago she was unemployed, and she's really walking for work.

Paul Manners, an FIA official, picked up a passenger as he passed through his home town, Austerman — his daughter, Beth, eight.

She waited by the roadside for him after school and together they walked out past the Headlands. At Kronosby 162 Beth found the going hard and Dad carried her on his shoulders from there to the campsite at Colendale.

## Crowds cheer on sloggers

● **BELOW:** Eighteen kilometres down the track Pamela Gregory, of Sydney's Unemployed People's Union, detects the first blisters. Barry Lewis, also of Sydney UPU, says those feet are tough enough to reach Sydney on Friday.



● Right to Work march leader Andy Gillespie, fit and walking well at the end of Day One — and encouraged by well-wishers.

**JOHN DORAHY'S**

Mercury 1/12/82











Workers News, Saturday December 16, 1967, PAGE 1



## 10,000 march on Parliament House in jobs rally

By MALCOLM BROWN

More than 10,000 "right-to-work" marchers packed Macquarie Street outside State Parliament House yesterday in a protest against rising unemployment and the policies of the Federal Government.

The demonstration, which had the support of 27 unions in Sydney, became the culmination of a 100-kilometre march by about 50 Woolong workers, most of them unemployed.

The marchers' hostility was directed mainly against the Federal Government and its policies but some larger corporations also were shouted and the State Government received angry, if muted, comment.

According to Mr Joe Owens, a former secretary of the Builders' Labourers' Federation and an organiser of the rally, the demonstration was only the beginning of a long campaign on behalf of the unemployed.

The noisy but orderly crowd overwhelmingly endorsed a resolution, read out by Mr Owens in front of State Parliament House, rejecting Federal Government policies and the wages freeze.

The motion called on the Federal Government to inject more money into education, public health and unemployment benefits.

The Sydney section of the march began at Regent's Park, near Central Station, soon after midday. Only about 2,000 people started but their numbers quickly swelled.

Many Eureka Stockade flags were waved and the air was filled with calls to sack the Prime Minister, Mr Fraser, and his Government as the procession moved along Hay, George, Hunter and Macquarie Streets.

At the Town Hall, the strong was joined by a Father Christmas who rang a bell and chanted: "Ho, ho, but Fraser must go!"



Protesters, many with banners, jam Macquarie Street outside Parliament House during yesterday's "right-to-work" rally.

The Federal secretary of the Building Workers Industrial Union, Mr Pat Clancy, who is now blind and carries a white stick, sat in the back of a utility at the head of the procession, beside the Australian Workers Union State president, Mr Charles Oliver.

Police controlled traffic during the march but few seemed to be guarding the Parliament House entrance.

The Minister for Industrial Relations, Mr Hill, spoke briefly to the rally and said his Government supported the union movement.

But he was met by constant heckling and abuse.

He was shouted at derisively when he said the Premier, Mr Wran, was in Melbourne consulting with the ACTU and Australia's other two Labor Premiers.

**JACK TAYLOR, Industrial Reporter**, warned tugboat crews angry over delays in finalising a new award began an indefinite ban on handling tankers in all main NSW ports today, following a 24-hour strike yesterday.

In three other States — Victoria,

South Australia and Western Australia — the tug crews are likely to continue indefinitely the strike begun yesterday while in South Australia tankers are facing an indefinite ban.

The ban could cost operating companies an average of \$15,000 a ship a day in demurrage alone, but will not affect petrol supplies for some time.

The 24-hour strike yesterday was timed to coincide with the Sydney right-to-work rally, but its purpose was to protest against delays in implementing the new award giving

tug crews increased wages and a 35-hour week.

The acting state secretary of the Firmens and Dockhands' Union, Mr John Garrett, said that although the pay increase had been in force for some time, the 35-hour week which was part of the revised roster system had not, because the new pay rates were based on the new roster, the delay meant a loss of earnings, he said.

The union, which has 500 tug members in NSW, is one of four maritime unions involved in the dispute.

50th 4/17/92



# March for Jobs



# THOUSANDS JOIN RIGHT

New South Wales' longest street march of recent times ended in Sydney's Macquarie St yesterday — 80 km from where it began in Wollongong last Tuesday.

The 40 right to work marchers who trekked to Sydney in three days led a tumultuous procession of trade unionists in a finale that virtually brought the city centre to a standstill at its busiest hour.

Thousands of Sydney workers voted to stop work for the day to support the rally and the theme of the march.

While the 40 walkers gathered in Chalmers St after marching from their overnight camp site in Mount Park, workers at Cockatoo Island and Garden Island began manhandling in nearby Botany Bay.

Other workers began leaving building jobs and metal and engineering shops. Mail workers arrived. Others came from the Great Australian Bore.

Sydney waterfront workers, seamen, busmen and dockhands and ship painters and dockers swelled the numbers.

Buses from Wollongong brought mine and steelworkers, and there was a contingent from Newcastle.

There was no mistaking the contingent which had walked. Many of them were tired and unshowered. Their feet were blisters, their muscles stiff.

But FIA organiser Andy Gillespie, their spokesman, said everyone who began the march finished it.

And if they were sore they forgot their aches and pains to lead the huge demonstration through Hax St along George St, through Hunter St to Macquarie St and State Parliament.

"What do we want?" they asked. And the buildings echoed the answer a thousand times: "Work."

The distance took just two hours to complete.

The crowd spread along the length of two city blocks and some 15,000 men to join a grim procession.

FIDFA State secretary Mr Jack Cambourne, who presided at the street meeting, outside Parliament, told the crowd:

"It is a beautiful day and it is a beauty of a march. And it is only the first of many."

And marcher Kay Barnes, the wife of a mine worker, was helped into the back of the motor which served



## MARCHERS STOP CITY RUSH HOUR

Twelve abreast, the right to work marchers sweep through Sydney yesterday on their way to State Parliament.

- Report: PADDY GINNANE
- Pictures: WAYNE VENABLES

Hunter, where he had been working.

Mr Ellis spoke briefly, and most of what he said was drowned out by jeers and cheers.

The meeting went on to adopt a resolution which acknowledged that the march had shown national attitudes to unemployment and living standards as the major issues confronting working people.

It rejected the concept that unemployment was necessary to solve the economic crisis and started a wage freeze.

"We call for a national policy of economic recovery aimed at injecting funds into public works, housing and industries which are engaged in production socially useful products which in themselves create further jobs," it said.

And accusing the Government of placing the burden of the crisis on the backs of those least able to afford it, the resolution said: "We have not begun to fight back."

It said the next step would be a rally organised in Sydney next February by the New Labor Council.

FOOTNOTE: Wollongong's right to work marchers composed a song about the Kewarra hills as they walked to Sydney.





Marcy  
4/2/82  
p2-3

## TO WORK PROTEST



● Santa had a political message as the Wollongong, right to work, marchers led thousands of unionists past Sydney Town Hall.





An ACTU/CAB publication



Right cover  
**Right to Work March**  
March belonging to Territory  
November 1982. The banner was  
produced by Redback Graphics  
commissioned by Redback Out of  
Workers Union. Photo: Alan Stephen

# Art & Working Life

Cultural activities in the  
Australian trade union  
movement 1983

**Wollongong Out of Workers Union**

**WOW**  
**Wollongong Out of Workers Union**

IF YOU'RE UNEMPLOYED ITS YOUR UNION. PH (042)28 0636.

**FORCED TO**



**TEAL  
TARVE  
LEEP OUT**



# WEST WARNS BHP OF GOVT TAKEOVER

Immigration Minister and Member for Cunningham Mr West yesterday criticised BHP management for continuing plans to sack workers despite negotiations for added protection.

In a May Day speech yesterday, Mr West said the Federal Government was prepared to take over the steel industry if BHP pulled out.

Several hundred unionists, peace activists and unemployed people marched down Crown St, Wollongong, to mark the annual international celebration of May Day.

The marchers, led by the Miners' Federation Band and the Out of Workers' Union, carried banners calling for jobs for the unemployed, early retirement for overworkers and peace in El Salvador.

Mr West addressed the marchers in MacCabe Park.

He called for the immediate termination of the Industrial Relations Barriers and the repeal of legislation attacking trade unions.

Mr West criticised BHP for continuing plans to reduce the workforce at Port Kembla works by another 1500 while negotiating with the Federal Government for increased protection for the industry.

In the solidarity event of BHP deciding to pull out of steel in Australia, the Government was committed to maintaining a viable steel industry.

"The Government has a commitment to a steel industry in Australia and if this has to be achieved by selling up ownership with Government involvement — that is to be it," he said. Minister for Macquarie Mr Hallis said Government membership of BHP's board of management.

Members of all ages joined the Wollongong demonstration. Here a father carries his baby son as he waves a leaflet. — Picture: KIRK GILMOUR.

## Sackings intolerable, march told

Government would ensure accountability for the "blank cheque" assistance the company was demanding.

In Melbourne yesterday ACTU president Mr Cliff Dolan said May Day did not get the public recognition or promotion it deserved.

In his May Day message, Mr Dolan said that around the world the focus of marchers would be on unemployment and its devastating impact.

Members of the Wollongong Out of Workers' Union led other unionists, peace activists and political party members in the May Day march down Crown St, Wollongong yesterday. — Picture: KIRK GILMOUR.



Members of the Wollongong Out of Workers' Union led other unionists, peace activists and political party members in the May Day march down Crown St, Wollongong yesterday. — Picture: KIRK GILMOUR.

## 25,000 PARADE THROUGH SYDNEY

An estimated 25,000 people paraded through the streets of Sydney yesterday in the annual International Labor Day march.

The marchers extended the full distance of the route, from its beginning at George Street in the Haymarket to its end at the Domain.

The marchers included union, ethnic and socialist organisations, and groups supporting women's rights, gay rights and nuclear disarmament.

A variety of other political causes were represented, including supporters of the Pretoria struggle in Timor and friendship societies with the Soviet Union, Vietnam, Kurdistan and others.

Police reported no incidents, although there were some spirited exchanges between disapproving onlookers and marchers carrying red flags.

"You should all be thrown in jail," one passer-by shouted. "How many jails do you have?" a marcher shouted back. "There aren't enough to hold us."

Similar marches have been held in May Day in Sydney for 40 years.

Midnight, another ceremony was held in Sydney yesterday to mark International Labor Day. Organised by Amnesty International, it involved the signing of letters to eight world leaders calling for the release of trade unionists jailed by their governments.

The countries mentioned were Israel, Thailand, Czechoslovakia, Pakistan, Poland, South Africa, Cuba and China.



The News 5/5/83

# Jobless erect Parliament tent embassy

Social Security Minister Senator Grimes learned first hand yesterday what it is like to be young and out of work in Wollongong.

Nicholas Southall, 20, and on the dole since he left school in 1978, was one of a group from Wollongong's Out Of Workers' Union which set up a tent embassy on the lawns opposite Parliament House and later met Sen Grimes and two other ministers.

The seven group members slept out on Tuesday night and again last night in Canberra's overnight freeze, and their very presence was a reminder to the nation's lawmakers that it is virtually impossible these days to snap out of the trap of unemployment at Wollongong.

Nicholas Southall will have been five years out of work in November. He has been trying work after work to escape unemployment.

"My only work experience on that time has been 17 weeks with Wollongong City Council on a youth training program," he said. "I was put on with 25

By  
**Paddy  
Ginnane**

others for 17 weeks under a system by which the Federal Government subsidises the council. At the end of 17 weeks 24 of us were put off and one given permanent employment.

"At the same time the council put on another 24 students, using the Government subsidy."

Sam, at 25 the oldest of people training the embassy, has been three years on the dole.

Trevor, 24, has been out of work for two years, and

Richard, youngest of the seven at 17, left school at 16 and has never had a job.

The tent embassy went up with the help of Local Government and Territories Minister Mr Upton, who intervened on behalf of the Out Of Workers' Union.

Tent embassies no longer are lawful on Parliament's well kept lawns.

Immigration Minister Mr West and Member for Macarthur Mr Hollis helped the out of work "diplomats" to meet Sen Grimes, Employment and Industrial Relations Minister Mr Willis and Education and Youth Affairs Minister Sen Ryan.



## WARM MUM'S HEART









YOU CAN JOIN NOW. THE MORE MEMBERS WE HAVE THE MORE POWER WE HAVE GOT. UNITY IS STRENGTH. AFTER THAT IT'S UP TO YOU. EVERYONE HAS SOMETHING THEY CAN GIVE TO HELP THE UNION GROW. NOW CAN ALSO PROVIDE TRAINING IN MANY SKILLS THE UNION NEEDS.

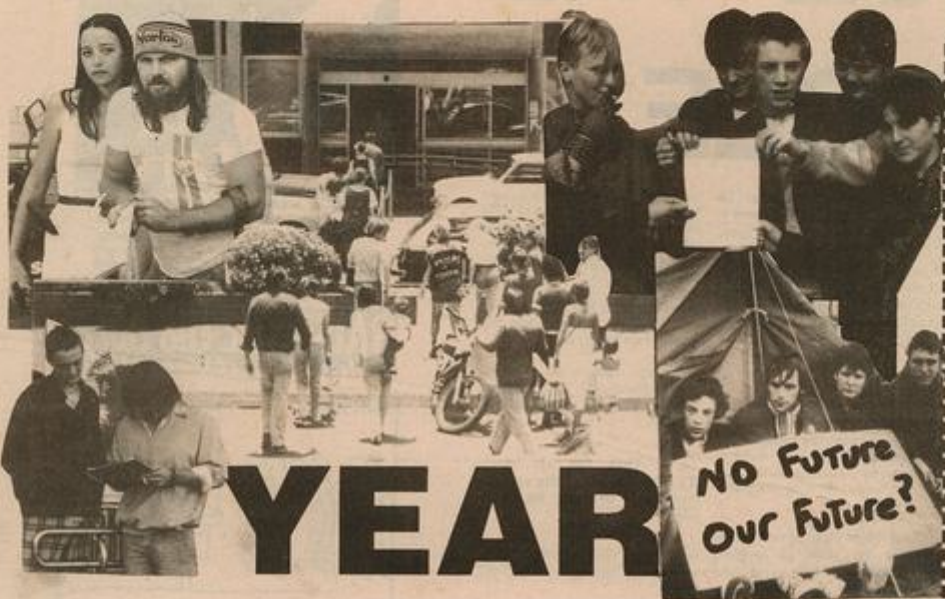
ALOT OF PEOPLE THINK THEY ARE USELESS BECAUSE THEY ARE UNEMPLOYED. YOU'RE NOT. NOW CAN HELP YOU AND YOU CAN HELP NOW.

**organise. unionise.**





# THE WOW



# YEAR



PARLIAMENT OF AUSTRALIA

## VISITOR'S PASS

No. 47

Expiry Date

18 AUG 1983



Please hand in on departure







Top: Adam serves a customer at the WOV Soup Kitchen; Above: Another politician who has got some strong support from the unemployed, George Petersen, M.L.A.; (left): Christine with a police but important message.



Illawarra's union for the unemployed, Wollongong Out of Workers Union (WOW), is on the move.

Unemployed workers established the union last April with the support of major regional unions such as the Waterside Workers Federation, Federated Ironworkers Association, Federated Miscellaneous Workers Union, AMFSU, Teachers Federation and South Coast Labor Council.

Since its inception membership has grown to 200 and includes houseworkers and part-time workers, retrenched workers from the mining, manufacturing, building and service sectors and unemployed school-leavers who have never had a job.

WOW has been involved in a wide range of activities, including:

- Campaigning for alternative job-creating economic policies for the Illawarra which will produce full employment. WOW members were involved in the Right to Work march to Sydney and presently are involved in the Coalition on Employment and in organising the 1983 Labor and Community Conference.

- Campaigning to lift the dole to the poverty line, extending rebates to unemployed for electricity, rent, transport, dental services and campaigning to make dole payments non-taxable. In these campaigns WOW members have been involved in a number of trips to Canberra, where tent embas-

## WOW makes waves to aid unemployed

sies have been established and hunger strikes staged. Several deputations have called on Federal Ministers.

- Campaigning to ensure unemployed people in occasional casual work get correct award pay rates. WOW recently succeeded in gaining back-payment of wages for casual circus workers.

- Campaigning to ensure unemployed workers employed under job creation schemes receive the going pay rate.

The Out of Workers Union centre is at 71 Market St, Wollongong, oppo-

sing the Social Security Department offices. It employs two full-time coordinators, Peter Cockcroft and Leane Lindsay, who help organise activities and provide information on welfare rights.

An example of work at the centre is the union's current action on behalf of five members who have received notice from the Taxation Department that they owe up to \$900 in back taxes, despite being unemployed for the last 12 months.

WOW can be contacted on 28-01-55 between 9 am and 5 pm Monday to Fri-

day. General meetings are held fortnightly on Tuesday afternoons.



• PETER COCKCROFT

Elle Mercury 8/11/83



### WHAT IS WOW?

WOW stands for the Wollongong Out of Workers Union. We are an organisation which aims to represent all the unemployed in the Wollongong area. Only unemployed people can be full members and only unemployed people get a vote in the organisation.

### HOW CAN IT HELP?

We offer advice and information if you have hassles with Social Security, CES, Youth and Community or any other organisation. We're on your side so you know the advice will benefit you. We help unemployed people who get ripped off by casual employers. We help the main thing we really want - MORE JOBS.

We pressure Governments for better benefits for the unemployed, we make sure the media do not forget that we are still here and we campaign all the time for the main thing we really want - MORE JOBS.

### WHAT CAN I DO?

You can join. The more members we have the more we have got. Unity is strength. After that it is up to you. Everyone has something they can give to help which the Union needs. A lot of people think they are useless because they are unemployed. You're not. WOW can help you and you can help WOW.

### "I WANT TO JOIN WOW"

NAME .....  
Address .....

Phone number .....

Post to WOW at P.O. Box 1587 Wollongong 2500 or bring to the WOW Office at 71 Market Street Wollongong



# WOW FOOD



## BHP posts record \$638 million profit



ABOVE RIGHT: Kevin and a coffin for the unemployed make their message clear at the deserted A.I.S. employment office.

RIGHT: Last years Mercury headlines tell the story.

**BHP SAYS  
STEEL  
JOBS  
WILL GO**

**MERCURY**

**AIS TELLS WORKERS  
'RETIRE  
OR BE  
SACKED'**

**MERCURY**

**BHP  
BUYS  
UTAH**

# WOW REPORT

## DECEMBER

- \* WOW members interviewed on RSR as part of their appeal for funds for a new transmitter.
- \* Attended human rights day demo.
- \* Produced handbill and newspaper ad for 2JJJ dole docos.

## JANUARY & FEBRUARY

- \* Feature article in Illawarra Mercury on W.O.W..
- \* WOW members participated and spoke at Marxist Summer School.
- \* WOW invited to address local Rotery club on problems of unemployed.
- \* WOW organised a gig to raise funds.
- \* WOW met with a number of candidates in the Heathcote By-election and discussed our log of claims.
- \* Film Australia video released featuring WOW.
- \* Organised National Conference for N.U.U.P..

## MARCH

- \* Carried out decisions of N.U.U.P. Conference. e.g. sent out letters.
- WOW members meet Billy Bragg.
- Telexed Premier Unsworth & contacted unions over the State Dockyard closure.
- \* WOW members appeared on Vox Populi about Government attacks.
  - \* Article in Daily Telegraph about WOW and homelessness.
- Assisted in setting up local community radio studio.
- Joined workers compensation demonstrations.
- Interview in Syd. Morning Herald on Taxation & dole.
- \* WOW reps. join anti-bases committee.
  - \* Participated in C.E.S. seminar on job creation.
- Lobbied D.E.I.R. about tightening work test.



## APRIL

- \* Assisted A.S.W.W.U. campaign against D.E.I.R. crackdown.
- Lobbied Aust. Council on Employment & Training.
- WOW members joined Palm Sunday peace march.
- Organised anti-hawke demo with students, peace groups, wesley unemployed group and others.
- \* Lodged submission with Community Volunteer Program for "Work for Rich".
- \* Joined 1987 Campaign for a Just Society.
- \* WOW reps. attended and spoke at National Left Fightback Conference.
- WOW assisted with organisation of May Day activities.
- \* Joined campaign against public service job losses.
- \* Produced May Day T-Shirts.
- \* WOW reps. join Broad Left Coalition Committee.
- \* WOW reps. interviewed by Daily Telegraph, 2GB, 2WL, ABC, 2SER, 3CR, RSR, ADVERTISER, ILLAWARRA MERCURY, TRIBUNE, GUARDIAN, VANGUARD, DIRECT ACTION.

WWF

## MAY

- \* Joined demo against visit of French Ambassador.
- \* Took part in Jobs March from Parramatta to Sydney.
- \* Joined U.U.S.T. demo outside Redfern D.S.S.
- \* Joined anti mini-budget demo outside Sydney Town Hall.
- \* Started producing anti-work for dole posters for N.U.U.P..
- \* WOW members elected to Woll. Arts Council Committee.
- \* Supported continued funding of New Zealand paper 'Doledrums'.
- \* Began campaign against housing commission rent hike.
- \* Began contributions to S.S. page in Woll. Uni. students paper.
- \* Lobbied Telecom about job losses and price rises.
- \* Began campaign for improved waiting conditions in new Woll. D.S.S..
- \* Began food co-op distribution again.
- \* Recieved donation of free use of offset press.
- \* WOW reps. interviewed by Illawarra Mercury, Daily Mirror, 2JJJ, 2WN, 200, 2SM, ADVERTISER, RSR, GUARDIAN, 4ZZZ, ABC,

MAY CONT.

- \* WOW members attended Arts Council Annual General Meeting.
- \* Lodged Community Volunteer Program submission.
- \* WOW reps joined broad left structure committee.
- \* WOW reps joined broad left newspaper committee.
- \* Began Mini Budget Campaign against cuts.

JUNE.

- \* Organised and hosted the NUUP 8th Nat. Conf.
  - \* Distributed Steal/Sleep & Starve postcards to local organisations
  - \* WOW reps attended YACS conf.
  - \* WOW reps attended C.A.R.E. Nat. Conf.
  - \* WOW participated in drawing up a community response to the May Mini budget. with 10 local Community orgs.
  - \* WOW members attended and spoke at Parramatta Young Workers public meeting.
  - \* Lobbied Aust. Post for unemployed concession and condemned price rises.
  - \* WOW members travelled to National Mobilisation against Mini Budget Demo in Canberra. *Internal Bulletin for NUUP.*
  - \* Distributed Housing Commission petition around community.
  - \* Participated in Mini Budget Demo organised by NCYSSPA in Sydney.
  - \* WOW organised fund raiser dinner for Sat 27th June.
  - \* Produced internal bulletin for NUUP.
- Successfully lobbied local businesses and shops for discounts to the unemployed.
- \* WOW reps interviewed by; The Mercury, 2jjj, The Advertiser, 2SER.
  - \* Produced NUUP ad for various media outlets.







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&  
tarve.

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**RAISE THE U18 DOL**  
Wollongong Out of Workers Union

**WOLLONGONG OUT OF WORKERS**

**WE WANT A PUBLIC TRANSPORT**  
**WE WANT JOBS**  
**WOW**

**THE GONG**

**MAY DAY SPECIAL**

**MAYOR OF DOLE CITY**





## WOLLONGONG OUT OF WORKERS

### UNION

#### NEWSLETTER

12 October 1983

#### Budget 1983 - W.O.W. PUTS EMPLOYMENT ON THE AGENDA

Most commentators noted the "moderation" of the Federal Budget. The increases for the unemployed are certainly not spectacular.

Having lobbied the new Government as soon as Parliament began, W.O.W. members returned to Canberra to remind the politicians of our existence when the Budget came down. We were part of a coalition of unemployed groups from Sydney, Newcastle, Wollongong and the La Trobe Valley.

We set up a Tent Embassy in front of Parliament House and had a seven day hunger strike, presented a petition to increase the under 18 dole with 7000 Wollongong signatures, lobbied politicians including an hour with Ralph Willis, marched, demonstrated and stole the show at the treasurers traditional address to the National Press Club.

Achievements : surviving the Canberra weather, getting some (though not enough) movement out of the Government on dole levels and public commitments for further improvement and yet again pushing unemployment onto the political agenda. It was no small achievement for the demo how young people are supposed to live on \$45.00 a week. A vote of thanks to Colin Hollis M.H.R. for his support and help throughout the period.

#### W.O.W. FIGHT CIRCUS RIP-OFF

A dollar an hour isn't exactly great wages but its what some young people have been getting for casual work with the Circus Royale.

W.O.W. blew the whistle on them in the Mercury. At the time of writing we were in discussion with the Theatrical and Amusement Employees Union and the South Coast Labour Council, we're asking Council to take a position on youth exploitation and we're planning a picket.

#### FULL TIME WORKERS FOR W.O.W.

W.O.W. Has appointed two co-ordinators to work for the next 35 weeks as well as helping to organise the current work of W.O.W., the co-ordinators, Leanne Lindsay, and Peter Cockcroft, will help to develop a Welfare Rights advisory service in the W.O.W. house at 71 Market Street.

The Office side of the House's operation has already been re-organised and we hope to build up a drop - in! Cafe operation to increase members participation in the Union.

#### W.O.W. DIARY

General Meetings	-	Tuesday the 18th October and every second Tuesday.
Dance	-	Friday October the 21st at 7.30 p.m.
Convenors Meeting	-	Every Monday at 9.30 a.m.

#### W.O.W. ORGANISE YOUTH CORPS WORKERS

The Youth Corps Programme has limped into action with young workers employed at Wiseman's Park and near Stewart Park.



ADVERTISEMENT  
13/6/84

# PAPER'S FINANCIAL CRISIS



Wollongong Out-of-Workers Union Co-ordinator Peter Cockcroft (right) and Mark Hoole, 20 of Wollongong, at work on The Gong newspaper. A shortage of money and resources is threatening the paper's future.

Dwindling finances are threatening the Wollongong Out of Workers Union monthly newspaper The Gong.

The July issue faces abandonment unless 'substantial' financial help is soon forthcoming.

WOW Co-ordinator Peter Cockcroft said this month's edition could be the last. "The need for money is critical," Mr Cockcroft said. "It costs more than \$700 for each issue."

"We cannot afford another issue without more financial support."

The Gong is written and edited in Wollongong, by volunteer members of WOW, and printed in Sydney by Spot Press.

It was started six months ago and is aimed toward exposing problems experienced by unemployed people, dissolving the gap between the jobless and working community and giving a voice to the "dispossessed".

"It would be a tragedy if the paper folded," Mr Cockcroft said.

The project has given many unemployed people a public voice and the opportunity to learn new skills.

It also has fostered unity between the unemployed, general community and trade union movement.

"It is important this unity is retained."

The last six issues of The Gong were financed by WOW 880 club members, advertisers and the trade union movement.

An application for government funding under the Community Employment program also was made.

"We've exhausted all our resources on the last six issues," Mr Cockcroft said.

"Although we expect CEP funding we need money to bridge the gap in the meantime."



Wollongong Out-of-Workers Union presents

"GREETINGS FROM WOLLONGONG...  
...RAISE THE DOLE!!!"



& Steel City Pictures

"Greetings from Wollongong"

7 p.m. start PHOENECIAN CLUB

\$6 & \$3 conc. 173 Broadway



WOW  
11/14/84

Write to the Editor, 282 Kara St.  
Wollongong, where possible  
include a telephone number.

## YOUR LETTERS



### Unemployed view of refugees

SUE — I write in reply to George Collie (28.4.84).

Mr Collie is correct in saying that jobs cannot be found in this country for hundreds of thousands of people.

But he claims that "this country is already overcrowded with refugees," and that this is somehow related to unemployment, is not only naive it is dangerous.

Our union is well aware of the plight of the unemployed including many recent migrants (eg British migrants retrenched by BHP) in Australia.

We are also aware of the fact that the companies who have sacked thousands of people and refuse to employ any more are still making huge profits.

Mr Collie also claims that "thousands of soldiers lost their lives fighting to keep Australia for Australia."

We believe that, in fact, World War II was fought to stop people with values like Mr Collie's from taking over the world.

Maybe Mr Collie should talk to some members of the Jewish community for

a clearer view of what his type of views have accomplished in the past.

Many people have come to Australia from other countries during the last 200 years and have found Australia to be a reasonably fair and tolerant country to live in.

We assume that Mr Collie is not an Aboriginal and is, therefore, related to or is, in fact, a "refugee" himself. We find his views extremely hard to tolerate.

Finally, our union would hope Mr Collie is an angry about multi-national companies, claiming "Australia and ripping us off" as he is about people who do not happen to be the same as him.

It makes us sick when people are being used by the rich of this country to keep them in luxury and all some people can do is attack those working people for being different.

If you were genuine about creating jobs, Mr Collie, you would ask for some of the massive profits companies make to be

given back to the people who have created them.

We hope from now on you keep your narrow-minded racist rubbish to yourself.

— RICK HUTTELL, on behalf of Wollongong Out of Workers Union, PO Box 1482, Wollongong.

### Calling all Portlanders

VRP Portland, Victoria's 19th, will host the official opening of Victoria's 150th anniversary on November 17, 1984, by the Premier of Victoria.

Thousands are expected to flock to the historic seaside town to be a part of Victoria's 150th anniversary.

A weekend of non-stop activities has been planned, commencing on November 14 when fireworks will drive in period costume.

Other activities in this day will include the Crayfish Eating World Championship.

All former residents and interested citizens are invited to visit Portland during November.

Inquiries should be addressed to — (Mrs) LYNDIA COOPER, Portland 120th Committee, Susan Parker 106, Portland 2205.

• MORE LETTERS — PAGE 12

# WOW WINS



STOP  
TAX  
ON THE DOLE

On December 14th, 1984, the Wollongong Out of Workers Union decided to hold a sit-in demonstration at the Wollongong offices of the Taxation Department to try and alleviate the distressing situation caused by the taxation of unemployed people's benefits.

WOW MEMBER'S SIT-IN.



TWO 'PLAIN CLOTHES' FEDERAL POLICE MEN ORDER WOW MEMBERS TO 'TO LEAVE OR BE ARRESTED'



# WOW

## Wollongong Out of Workers Union

IF YOU'RE UNEMPLOYED ITS YOUR UNION. PH (042)28 0636.



Mr John Roberts, a member of the Wollongong Out of Work Union, chains a door after a number of unemployed young people occupied the Labor Party's national headquarters at John Curtin House yesterday in protest at their lack of representation at the national taxation summit conference.

### NUUP SUMMIT and 5TH NATIONAL CONFERENCE

The National Union of Unemployed People's 5th National Conference and Summit was held in Canberra on the first and second of July. The issue of taxation was adopted by all unemployed unions and organisations at the last N.U.U.P. conference in February. The Federal Tax Summit being held at the same time presented the opportunity to voice the unemployed's opposition to the governments proposed changes to the taxation system.

LETT-AN OUT OF WORKERS UNION MEMBER, JOHN, CHAINS THE FRONT DOOR OF THE ALP'S NATIONAL SECRETARIAT OFFICE DURING THE NUUP'S OCCUPATION.

BELOW-MAX, ANOTHER OUT OF WORKERS UNION MEMBER, RECEIVES ATTENTION AFTER COLLAPSING ON THE STEPS OF PARLIAMENT HOUSE.



Max's protest ends on the summit steps

THE NATIONAL UNION  
**NATIONAL  
 CONFERENCE**  
 OF UNEMPLOYED PEOPLE  
 SATURDAY 27th  
 SUNDAY 28th JUNE  
 10am - 5pm  
 MIGRANT RESOURCE CENTRE  
**WOLLONGONG**  
 FOR MORE INFO  
 CONTACT (042) 28-0636  
 WOLLONGONG OUT OF WORKERS UNION

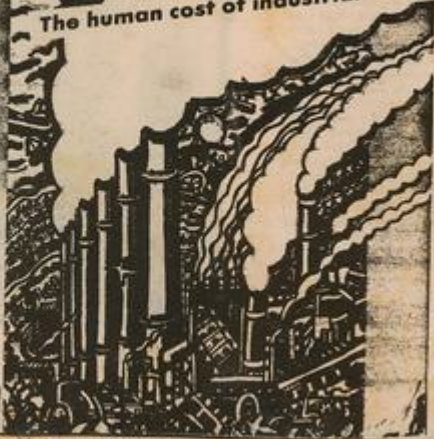
REAL JOBS  
 FOR  
 REAL WAGES

NO WORK  
 FOR  
 THE DOLE



## STEEL CITY BLUES

The human cost of industrial crisis



Steel City Blues was written by Julianne Schultz. The book is an attempt to explain how the restructuring of the manufacturing industry has affected the people of Wollongong.

The book shows that it is the poor and disadvantaged, rather than business and government, who are paying the price of restructuring. In the book she talks to steelworkers, miners, unemployed and women who explain how the economic crisis has affected their lives and how they've begun to fight it.

There is a whole chapter devoted to WOW, entitled "Impossible Dreams". It talks about the early days of WOW mentioning YAPO and the right to work march in 1982. It continues with:

*The year 1983 was to be their carrying Wollongong's Tradition of activism forward by lobbying for better Social Services, protesting in Canberra and Sydney, providing a focus and a voice for the unemployed. While the rest of the community retreated to find private ways of coping with unemployment, WOW's young activists took a very public lead.*

*Their futures depended on making unemployment in the 1980's the issue they had read it was in the 1930's.*

The book then contains a very detailed report of the hunger strike and the Canberra demonstration that took place in 1983.

*This action by young unemployed people was unusual. The young unemployed are usually invisible — alienated individuals who are shy, introverted, psychologically damaged and without hope. The 11 hunger strikers and their 80 supporters in Canberra were an articulate minority but they were determined to prevent this 'bad generation' from being forgotten.*

*The teenagers who joined WOW and protested in Canberra were the exception. They were able, at least part of the time, to withstand the barrage of images and expectations and turn around and say 'The system is wrong, not us'.*

She then goes on to discuss the vigil WOW held outside Social Security and the occupation of the house in Market St.

Steel City Blues is an accurate and interesting account of the political situation in Wollongong in the early 1980's.







## Jailhouse rock awaits rowdy punk

One of 50 punk rockers who gave other passengers headaches with their celebrations on a train to Wollongong has been sentenced to seven days' jail.

Wollongong Court was told yesterday the punk-rockers caused a considerable amount of police during the train journey from Central Station to Wollongong on February 8. While most of the group behaved and stopped shouting alcohol when warned, one became offensive and shouted loud remarks at the train guard, the court was told.

Magistrate Mr John Seberry told Leon Glyn Jones, 24, unemployed, sitting as passengers should not be kept up with this type of offensive behavior, which was driving people away from using the NSW railways.

Jones, care of the Lismore Hotel, Pitt St, Sydney, pleaded guilty to offensive behavior on the afternoon train on February 8.

Prosecutor Sgt Terry Robinson told the court the guard reported trouble with a large group of punk rockers who were warned at Central to behave themselves. The rockers were drinking in the carriage and more police boarded the train at Sutherland to warn the group, he said.

Most cringed but at Waterfall Jones yelled obscenities at the guard. A large number of women and children were on the train, he said. When the train arrived at Wollongong at 3.55 pm they were met by a squad of police and Jones was arrested.

Mr Seberry said people were virtually prisoners on trains during such episodes of behavior. Jones later lodged an appeal against the severity of the penalty of a week in jail and Mr Seberry fixed the bond to prosecute any appeal at \$100 in cash.

● PICTURE: Punk rocker Leon Jones is arrested at Wollongong railway station on February 8.

JTH WALES

Amount has been made by  
this receipt is paid into  
the office in the amount of which it is given being  
there cleared.



WOLLONGONG. L 219830

5-1 1985.

Received by CBA the sum of (in words) ONE THOUSAND EIGHT

HUNDRED AND EIGHTY FOUR POUNDS

STATE BANK CBA No 084214 Wollongong

from

Mr I. M. Southall  
213 Mt Kaura Rd, Mt Kaura  
For Nicholas Southall

1884.00

Per 30/5/85 Ch No 1737620 1732640 1733641 1805244  
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Telephone: (02) 82 0499 Telex: AA26644

SOUTHALL, N. W.

612

ROOM NUMBER

ROOM RATE

ARRIVAL DATE

SCHEDULED DEPARTURE

612

45.00

7/12/85

8/12/85

**The Sydney Travelodge**

Blue Street North Sydney, N.S.W. 2060

Telephone: (02) 82 0499 Telex: AA26644

612

ROOM NUMBER

ROOM RATE

ARRIVAL DATE

SCHEDULED DEPARTURE

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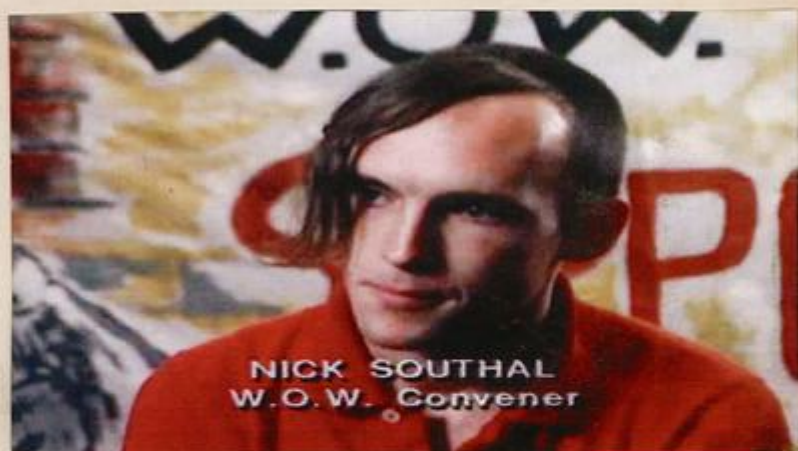
7/12/85

8/12/85

If there is any change in the information above, please notify the front desk immediately.

A WAGON WELCOME TO THE HOTEL ON SYDNEY'S BUSBOURNE

CHECK OUT TIME 11.00 A.M.





# Rebels with a Cause

## Rebels with a Cause

Militancy without aggression. Rebellion without violence. Before politics, all catchcries of the Wollongong Out of Workers' Union.

WOW's effectiveness and high public profile is demonstrated by being chosen as the central group in an ABC Four Corners program about youth and politics.

A Four Corners team will spend three days in Wollongong next week researching and filming WOW in action.

Mercury journalist BRETT MARTIN this week talked to WOW about their image, aims and origins.

The spiked haircuts, punk and boogie gear sported by the majority of people in Wollongong Out of Workers' Union Market St offices is at first surprising.

WOW's image leads to expectations of it as aggressive, at least cynicism about it.

Yet the mood is friendly and helpful. There is no pre-judgment.

It appears the benefits of the do-it-yourself and the militant power are worth it.

The atmosphere is at the same time militant.

Old word banners and posters promote the group's attitudes and goals — effect a strike.

The debates are expected — WOW has taken a tack on its shoulders over the use of the mythical atom.

They are not so much that the restructuring of Australian society.

Mr. Four Corners journalist Tony Jones said WOW had been chosen to highlight a Youth, Politics and the Atom special because of their activity and involvement in the area of unemployed people's rights.

"It is back to the wall union like Wollongong where these groups are particularly important," he said.

The Four Corners feature is an obvious cue for WOW — national recognition of a group that is often taken for granted or ignored by the Wollongong public.

While WOW claims to be apolitical their policies and aims are distinctly socialist in intent even if presented in innocent form.

### "We're not building barricades or burying M16s in the backyard."

WOW spokesman Nick Southall argues a job society will never be achieved.

"We need to change our economic and political system," he said.

Unemployment is the result of restructuring, as already proceeding to the detriment of sections of Australian society and the multi-national interests.

"We believe society should be changing towards sharing the wealth of people, not much national," Southall said.

"A new form of society that will give us the opportunity to develop and participate fully."

The moral codes of the Government's current stand can be seen in the rising rates of suicide, crime, domestic violence and alcoholism.

Unemployed people are denied to live a crisis existence which leads to anger and social tension. Mr Southall said.

"Being unemployed means facing economic and emotional problems after another," he said.

"Even the Government acknowledges the existing unemployment but it will be below the poverty line — but they do nothing."

WOW wants:

• To make the most benefits to be at least the poverty line and introduce

some of quarterly pensioners in line with cost of living increases.

• Unemployment benefits for under the current cost of living rate.

• That 15 year olds not be allowed to shirk by unemployment benefits.

• Creation of meaningful and socially useful unemployment.

The unemployed must be united to survive and fight for change," Mr Southall said.

Mr Southall said while WOW members were "very angry young people" there was no talk of revolution.

"We're not building barricades or burying M16s in the back yard," he said.

Democratising centres such as Sweden have always popular, revolution is not for Wollongong's lot of aims.

"It takes a lot of commitment from a lot of people."

The public have to be enlightened to the social and political realities then pressure brought to bear for change."

WOW believes a social service which total recovery and restructuring can be financed by tax returns and defence spending cuts.

They demand its own demands — WOW are little point in being polite in there they are an appropriate Government action of funds into direct job creation schemes such as hospitals, roads, housing, schools and sewerage.

When Government's cry poor most WOW points to a wealthy tax, capital gains tax and resources tax as obvious money making measures.

Defence spending would also come under the WOW aim.

WOW, while it maintains the fight with a major level — pressing Government for reform, also believes in dealing with problems at a national or personal level.

To help the unemployed who may be living in a bad deal WOW members are available at their T1 Market St Wollongong office to advise the unemployed anything from drug addiction to housing to police harassment.

They can also advise on alternative living, or moving on the job.

This can range from recipes for cheap vegetable food to how to set up your own shop.

"If we can't deal with a problem we can put the person in touch with someone who can," Mr Southall said.

WOW is affiliated, on an observer level, with the South Coast Trades and Labor Council.

Mr Southall said the council had been supportive.

"We like to be a question-asker role," he said.

"While we are not allowed to vote we can voice an opinion and they in turn can voice an opinion."

WOW currently has five paid workers — three social welfare officers and two others co-ordinating and operating the food drop.

The day to day operations are in the hands of 20 "regulars" who attend the union on a regular basis.

Mr Southall claimed the union could "at a conservative estimate" call on 500 people for an important demonstration.

Mr Southall pointed the 800 risk as an example of the union's popular support.



at times go against instructions. Some are when they make you are a human being and they treat you like a human being. But others believe that you are the owners of society, they have the right to judge and to punish. In the books they call it judgemental authority or positive authority. And because the people coping it are at the bottom of the heap the story never gets out. Well now we have a union and we intend to fight back against those that put us down. All people have rights, however poor and however dumb they might be."

WOW was born in early 1981 of a breakaway group from the Unemployed Peoples Movement.

Mr Southall said the two groups differed, not about what needed to be done, but on the best method of doing it.

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Mr Southall pointed the 800 risk as an example of the union's popular support.

"Well now we have a union and we intend to fight back against those that put us down..."

The 800 risk consists of 200 individual letters, organisations and small businesses who donate \$1 a month to assist with the printing of the union's monthly newspaper, The Gong.

"They read it as well," he said.

"It is what we were saying and doing was different or dangerous than we were, we were more informed about the issues that affected them than many of the 'stragglers' we criticised."

"We try and channel people's aggression — make it positive aggression."

But people's anger to work helping the unemployed at street level and fighting the social change at Government level.

Popular criticism of WOW is often based on the radical image of its core members.

Punks, no-fingers, unemployed, homeless, ravers are all familiar names dropped at the mention of WOW.

Mr Southall, himself, hardly straggled in haircut or dress, criticised society's image of WOW's frontline workers.

"We get all types here — punks, trippers," he said.

"The majority feel they have been rejected by society and are simply hitting back by rejecting society norms."

Anyway, Wollongong's young too far and cultured too much to be sacked in the old budget myth.

"Everyone in Wollongong knows someone who's unemployed."

Mr Southall answers the "you'll never get a job looking like that" criticism with the old adage: what time first — the chicken or the egg.

"That isolated act of thinking is much chosen in the local police reaction," he said.

"Considering the time we support we cop very little hassle from Government agencies."

"However the police don't like us here — they particularly don't like the punk image."

Mr Southall accused the worst but Government had said the WOW officers received "quite a lot of police attention and visits."

"In their eyes we are no-hopers," he said.

Mr Southall argued that people in contact with WOW, whether they loved or not, were more informed about the issues that affected them than many of the "stragglers" he criticised.

"At least we are aware what's happening around us politically and socially and willing to do something about it," he said.

"It's the struggle in itself positions who have to re-evaluate their position and accepted opinions."

"We want to make people conscious of the dangers and the solutions available."

There have been new editions of The Gong to date — all equally strutting in their criticism of Government and big business.

As well as editorial content and features The Gong contains worthwhile information for the unemployed.

A large portion of the group's literature goes into producing and distributing the free paper.

The food drop is another service WOW has established.

Though it is still in its infancy WOW has plans to offer the drop facility to more than 6000 unemployed and low income earners.

"People involved in the scheme will be able to purchase food at cost through WOW."

The union will deliver goods on a weekly basis to neighborhood centers where the orders can be picked up.

The time consuming task has been taken on by one of the other retired panics involved in the union.

"She's also a punk tripper," Mr Southall said.

"But she still wants to help — there's no reason she shouldn't have to change her image before being allowed to make a contribution."





BEAT

THE

JJJ  
105.7 FM

ORIGINAL  
SOUNDTRACK

DOLE RUMS



MONDAY 15th Dec 11am 12pm  
TUESDAY 16th Dec 11am 12pm  
WEDNESDAY 17th Dec 11am 12pm



3 DOLE DOCO'S  
WITH A  
DIFFERENCE

ALSO ON 2WN, 2NC, 2CN



MUTANT DEATH

PRIORITY ONE - pigs can  
POLICE VERBA'S  
DEATH CULTURE



## YOUTH APPEALS TO PM

PICTURE: Wollongong Out of Workers' assistant secretary Nick Southall at his Market St centre yesterday contemplating his radio talkback session to-day with Prime Minister Mr Hawke.



**Bill Simpson**

Nick Southall can't afford telephone calls because he hasn't had a permanent job since he left school six years ago—but he will be one of the first on the phone today when Hawke-type talkback radio comes to Wollongong.

The 22-year-old son of a Wollongong University English professor will tell the Prime Minister what he thinks of the Federal Government's youth employment policies and what he should do with them.

Mr Hawke may not be impressed, but, says Mr Southall, he will know exactly where he stands after his talkback chat with Wollongong's unemployed.

The Illawarra Mercury and Radio 2 Double 8 are sponsoring the Talkback to Hawke session, which will be broadcast live on the station between 4.30 and 5.15 pm.

Listeners can speak to Mr Southall on 004 556133. Mr Southall suggests the

**Give us decent trades, wages**

Prime Minister's nationwide radio "yarn to youth" are no more than a public relations exercise, designed to win back the larger number of young people's votes the ALP lost at the last election.



The Labor Party, he maintains, already knows what young people out of work want—a job—but, he says, it hasn't done anything about it.

That, however, does not mean he will ignore the

Prime Minister's invitation to talk to him on the open line.

He accepts the concept as a good one, worthy of his support.

Mr Southall is assistant secretary of the Wollongong Out of Workers' union,

which has taken up residence opposite the city's Social Security offices in Market St.

He would like to avoid another Brixton in Berkeley, but says it may not be possible if youth unemployment is ignored.

Mr Southall survives on \$91 a week dole money, which, he protests, is \$45 below the Government's poverty line.

He does want to work, he says. But he hasn't found a job he wants.

Two Commonwealth schemes trained him in printing and social work, but he hasn't been able to get a permanent position in either. Nor has he had success in working work as a coal miner, waterside worker or painter.

There are thousands more like him in the Illawarra, he says.

They don't want CDP-type work. They don't want traineeships which "at \$12 a week are still below the poverty line and will only encourage employers to undermine existing young workers."

What, they want, says Nick Southall, is a decent job at a decent wage that will help them to feel like decent people.

That will be his message to the Prime Minister.



# WORK FOR WAGES NOT THE DOLE

The Federal Government recently announced that it

could become compulsory for young unemployed people to

work for their dole

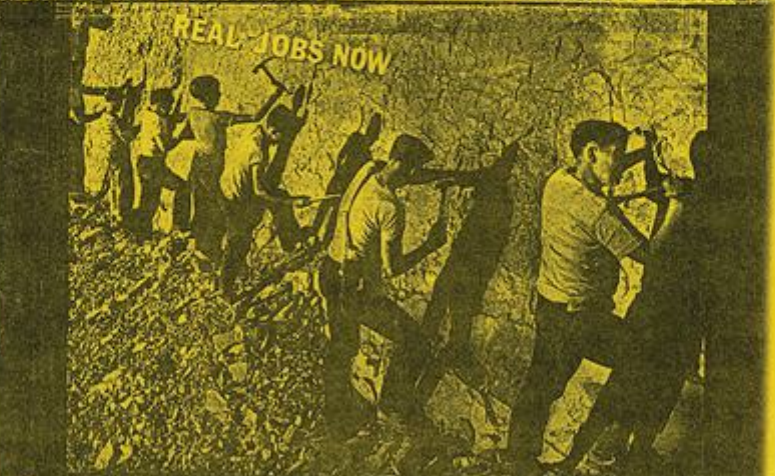
REJECT THE WORK FOR DOLE SCHEME BECAUSE IT BLAMES THE UNEMPLOYED FOR UNEMPLOYMENT

UNEMPLOYED WORKERS WOULD BE DOING NON-UNIONISED WORK (I.E. SCAB LABOUR)

MANY UNEMPLOYED WORKERS WILL BE INJURED OR KILLED DOING WORK NOT COVERED BY WORKERS COMPENSATION

UNEMPLOYED WORKERS WOULD BE UNABLE TO LOOK FOR REAL WORK WHILE WORKING AND SURVIVING ON BENEFITS BELOW THE POVERTY LINE

IT WILL DESTROY EXISTING AWARD CONDITIONS AND PAID JOBS IN THE COMMUNITY SECTOR



## SAY NO TO SLAVE LABOR

# Port Kembla May Day 1987

G. PATEK, Union No. 137

Port Kembla formed its May Day Committee at the March stopwork meeting with several volunteers, plus the assistance of the Women's Committee and the Wollongong Out-of-Workers Union (WOW).

In the period of time until Friday, May 1, all worked tirelessly on organising a demonstration attacking the New Right, which was our theme, plus other political issues relevant to the workingclass.

First of all we needed a new SUA Port Kembla banner; WOW volunteered to make this and it was a job truly well done. The making of the frame was taken up by Maurie Williams and it was a very professional job with aluminium, also collapsible for easy transportation.

Five signs — 8' x 4' — were done by Peter Carr and myself, all based on the New Right, Bjelke-Petersen, Workers' Compensation etc.

Numerous hand-held posters and caricatures of Howard and Bjelke-Petersen were made by Russell and Margaret Wesson and Tim and Sandra Ribergerard.

Then we came to the costumes to be worn by some of our good actors: The SS uniform — Ken Deegan; Ronald Reagan — Dwayne Martin; Margaret Thatcher — Debbie Shipson (WOW); 2 Klu Klux Klan members — Tony Fenech and Terry Radford; and a much-coated Gintapo member — Warren Webb. The idea was to link the Old Right with the New Right and it certainly drew the attention of all those watching from the streets as well as the local press. Without doubt it was the best display of the march in Wollongong.

Particular mention must be made of Paddy Crumlin and the contingent of Sydney seamen who travelled the 80 km to march with their Port Kembla comrades on May 1.

## On to Sydney

After a very successful May Day in Wollongong it was agreed by the Relieving Branch Secretary, Wally Pritchard, and the Committee that we should take our display to Sydney on Sunday, May 3, to make full use of our banners and the impact created by the costumes. A bus was hired and once again the Port Kembla contingent swung into action.

At this point we should express our appreciation to Maurie Wil-

liams who not only drove the bus but picked people up enroute to Sydney, to drive around Sydney on May Day in mind boggling. Then after the march he did it all in reverse with a load of 'songsters' (well, it was a long day!) and we were all delivered to our doorsteps safe and sound. Well done Maurie!

We joined with the Sydney SUA and our combined efforts were most impressive. So much so that one uneducated dock threw a bucket of water at our SS and Reagan look-alikes, only to miss them and hit a woman bystander on the footpath!

The Women's Committee was also represented at the Sydney march. Carrying their banner proudly were Joy Patek and Laurel Schimmel, also Sue Williams and Julie Armstrong.

What impressed me was to see Soosy and Joan Webster marching in Wollongong and then in Sydney. It is leadership of this calibre that

has made the port of Kembla what it is today — a close-knit militant SUA and Women's Committee, and many volunteers for any activity.

I, along with Sammy Craney, Maurie and his son Glen, proudly carried the Port Kembla SUA banner. It was gratifying to receive the applause from onlookers and to think we were playing some part in getting the messages across to the public. I would also like to thank all the members who came off ships for these two matches.

After the Sydney march we were guests of the Painters & Dockers at Balmain, where we celebrated May Day in fine style with the amber fluid and a very fine meal — our thanks to the Dockers. Then we were invited to the Greek Atlas Club for further red carpet treatment and we certainly made the most of that. We thank George Gionis, our host, for a very enjoyable evening.

Well all good things must come to an end because we had to make tracks for home, but I would like to thank all who assisted and all



Port Kembla Women's Committee members leading the SUA contingent, followed by seamen proudly displaying the new Port Kembla Branch banner, made by members of the Wollongong Out-of-Workers Union.



NST 1/7/87: W'GONG OUT OF WORKERS UNION MEMBERS, L to R, NICK SOUTHALL,  
MICHAEL JONES & WARREN SMITH. THEY KEEP THE UNION RUNNING WITHOUT PAY.  
PIC: KIRK GILMOUR. EXNEWSWO kg/kg









# Capitalism's children

When Bob Hawke made his 1987 promise that, "no Australian child will be living in poverty by 1990", the nation responded with excitement.

More recently he sought to define it — so quickly that neither — no child — was used to ensure such conditions — all the support services and help that a government could foster would be available. Governments could not be held responsible for family breakdowns, self-destructive impulses and so on, he said.

Social Security Minister Brian Howe, managed to spin Hawke's original promise, cast in Parliament as a commitment to a new social contract, into a commitment to a new social contract. The Family Allowances, rebates and tax relief measures represented the fulfilment of the Prime Minister's pledge to remove child poverty — six months early!

Behind the rhetoric of these apologies for the effects of capitalism are scores of hard facts about poverty and inequality in Australia.

With around one in every five children living in poverty, Australia has the second highest child poverty level in the Western world after the United States.

It is estimated that over 800,000 children in Australia live in households with incomes below the poverty level. At least another 50,000 are on the streets.

**Child poverty — as real as ever**

The Government's "Family Package" announced in the 1987 Budget, did not effectively alter the situation of the vast majority of these children.

more to fear from infectious and chronic diseases such as they reach middle age, they are more likely to have cancer or heart disease.

Those whose infirmity will grow up in a nation where income inequality is becoming steadily more open, is becoming more and more young people, and where over two million people live below the official poverty line.

There are currently over two million unemployed people in Australia. (For every registered unemployed there are another three who are not.) School leavers know that their chances of getting a job are slim, and that the few and getting fewer and fewer. Higher education is no guarantee of a job.

The Labor Government is constantly eroding unemployment benefits and dismantling training and job creation schemes. Many state and federal training schemes are now run on a "user pays" basis.

**"User pays" education**

For example TAFE fees have been introduced in NSW, and the Skills Share, unemployed pay for their course.

The education system is similarly under attack. As "user pays" is becoming more widespread in all forms of education, student allowances lose real value, class sizes increase and facilities decrease. Economic restructuring has meant cuts in government spending on public education and the poor are unable to foot the bill.

Increasingly, Australia's young people are ending up in government-

by Nick Southall

more time, but it is increasingly seen as absurd.

**Part of the system**

Australia is developing a permanent "under-class" and no amount of rhetoric or policy reforms will do anything to change that.

To adequately address child poverty in Australia requires a recognition that poverty is entrenched and institutionalised by the capitalist system.

If the fact that large numbers of children are being deprived of the benefits of social life in the midst of a wealthy community is not recognised, those affected will suffer permanently as a consequence.

"All children have a right — to adequate nutrition, housing, medical services, education, special treatment, affection, and security, protection from neglect, cruelty and exploitation," is how the United Nations Declaration on Human Rights of the Child defines those rights.

A CSIRO report that was released in 1988 entitled *Cavalier of change: The predicament of youth in Australia* attributed the problems that face today's youth to the "fundamental" changes sweeping Australia.

**Harsh reality**

The grim picture of capitalism was painted in the report with the darkest colours of deprivation. The findings

"Tens of thousands of young people who do not live at home are receiving no wage or government assistance."



visions of the system or at creating a decade of concern.

In reality both parties support and implement policies which will in fact deepen and increase child poverty in

This should include wage justice, a guaranteed right to full-time permanent employment, provision of free public education, free and universal medical and hospital services, provision of government housing projects for both



# Organising the unemployed

## Part I — Wollongong Out of Workers' Union

The Wollongong Out of Workers' Union (WOW) related from 1985 to 1988, outlining any Australian union of the unemployed since the 1950s. Throughout its existence WOW was solely controlled by unemployed people, most of whom had no previous political experience and many of whom embraced a wide variety of 'positive' cultures, including, skateboards, petty criminals and drug addicts. Despite this high reputation in a way because of it — WOW enjoyed an extraordinarily high and sustained positive public profile both within Wollongong, and throughout NSW and Australia.

It started with the mass sackings in the mines and the sackworks on the NSW South Coast in late 1982.

Then came the occupation of the Kemira Colliery, the storming of Federal Parliament and the Right to Work March from Wollongong to Sydney.

The fight by Wollongong's steel and mineworkers against mass sackings captured the imagination of Wollongong and Australia. Unemployed people, small business people and other workers fraternised with the sack, and their families, rallied in support.

Unemployment shot to the top of the country's political agenda and the Liberal/National government's days were numbered. The Hawke Labor government was elected on a promise of jobs, jobs, jobs.



by Nick Southall •

WOW's first meetings were held at Wolfson CYSS where many young people became involved. For many, WOW's meetings were their first experience of participating in a meeting.

Prior to the establishment of FOW there had been four previous attempts in Wolongong since the early '70s to set up unemployed organisations.

A key difference with WOW was that there was a core of young unemployed people who had known each other for years and had been involved in previous political activity without ever becoming "activists" as such.

WOW's constitution was adopted at the Union's second General Meeting. It guaranteed un-

met with six Cabinet Ministers over a three-day period.

The *Warsaw Mercury* featured a "leave delegation of young people who were facing the freezing cold in tents while they asked for gold in tents while they asked the government" about unemployment. We didn't have style and polish, we were real people, in this case real victims, and no politician or journalist at that time, could deny it.

we've had designed the bug of claims as a political program for action, around which "volunteers" can

sleeping on the street during winter to highlight the conditions of the young unemployed.

The protest began with about a dozen WOW members marching up the main street of Wellesburg and into the main shopping centre where the maze was occupied and WOW's demands read to the shoppers present.

More young unemployed people joined the protest as it made its way to the 1955 distribution station and plaining the Steel Sleep out and Starve campaign as they went.

© 2001 by Blackwell Science Ltd

The welfare rights centre aimed to provide an advocacy service for all unemployed people who had problems with government departments or services.

Local shops and businesses were lobbied for convenient for the unemployed, obtainable with a WOV membership card.

These, in fact, could also be used to

If you're concerned about the severe unemployment facing our community then

## MARCH FOR JOBS!



*End mass sackings!  
No to unemployment and poverty!*

**SATURDAY AUGUST 26th  
ASSEMBLE AT MARKET SQUARE  
Wollongong 10 a.m.**

*Man Bites Dog will be playing after the march.*

*For more info, contact (042) 264269 or (042) 284865.*

*Organised by Jobs March Committee '89.*

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## Soup kitchen protest



● Sharon Puseell of Wollongong mans the makeshift soup kitchen outside the Wollongong Social Security Department building yesterday.

By DENISE EVERTON

A tureen of soup, symbolic of the only nourishment many unemployed people receive, was yesterday used to promote a protest march against unemployment.

The vegetable soup was served to unemployed people leaving the Social Security offices in Bareilly St yesterday morning, along with a pamphlet calling on people to say no to unemployment and poverty by marching for jobs on Saturday, August 24.

The makeshift soup kitchen was organised by the Jobs March Committee 95 to highlight the plight of the unemployed and gain community support for the march.

March organiser Warren Smith said the soup morning promoted Saturday's march and encouraged people to join the

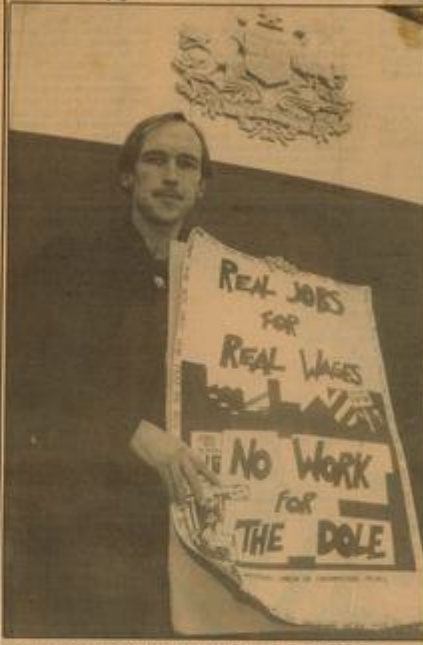
## Jobless to march for work

fight against mass sackings and false job creation schemes.

"The march is for everyone. Unemployment affects the whole community, not just those people without jobs," he said.

The march will begin in Market Square at 10 am and end in MacCabe Park where speakers from the Christian community, the Jobs March Committee and a representative of the sacked Tallawarra workers will address the crowd.

## WOW, jobless union reborn



● Wollongong Out of Workers' (WOW) convenor Nick Southall prepares for a protest outside the Social Security Department's Wollongong offices next week.

By BILL SIMPSON

Illawarra's skyrocketing unemployment has led to the rebirth of the Wollongong Out of Workers' Union (WOW).

Defuncted in 1989 after five years in operation, WOW is back in business with a first-year protest planned for July 1 to coincide with introduction of the Federal Government's Newstart program, which will replace the dole.

WOW members — who must be unemployed — will demonstrate outside the Social Security Department's Wollongong offices by serving soup to unemployed recipients.

Convenor Nick Southall said yesterday WOW shared the view of Newstart opponents that its conditions requiring recipients to sign contracts with the department were draconian.

But Newstart is not the only reason for reviving the unemployed's union.

"We need a voice. Nobody is that voice for us in the community," Mr Southall said.

"There is no commitment from either (major) party for job creation. They talk of job training — but training for what?"

"There are no jobs for those being trained. I've been trained in office printing, silk screen printing and social welfare work, but there aren't any jobs for me."

Trade unions, generally, also were fairly quiet about unemployment — despite Australia's 19 per cent jobless level.

Mr Southall and his associates had fallen victims to unemployment since the recovery days of the late 1980s, when WOW's existence became almost irrelevant.

"I support me also had combat fatigue after five years of trying to combat unemployment. We're re-fueled — and unemployed again — and ready to go," he said.

WOW's principal role will be to apply political pressure through public statements.

It will also offer advice to the unemployed and, possibly, provide cheap entertainment, as it did in the early 1980s.

WOW's former controversial newspaper The Gong, may also reappear.

"Our message, basically, will be that the answer to unemployment is not, as the political parties suggest, education and training," he said.

"The answer is unemployment is jobs."

IRA: MBL-22/8/89

unhoused by union rebuke

# Jobless scramble for few vacancies



● ENID WHALAN...biggest regret is not finishing the HSC.

By MICHELLE TYDD

The Wollongong Out of Workers group says finding work in the Illawarra has gone from difficult to daunting with 50 people on average applying for the one job.

Group spokesman Nick Southall said it's time to put unemployment back on the political agenda.

He said the fact the region's jobless had jumped by 32 per cent in the past year should be an urgent signal to the Federal Government to start generating more job-creation schemes.

"Suicide, domestic violence and crime are all higher among the unemployed, yet the Government persists in smokecreening the problem with useless training schemes when jobs are the answer," he said.

The Illawarra Mercury asked four young, long-term jobless people for their views.

ENID WHALAN, 26, Gwynneville, separated with one son, Nathan 2. Income \$387 a fortnight.

"I haven't had a full time job since 1983. Since then I've been doing a bit of part-time work in a fruit market, minding children and other bits and pieces," Enid said.

"At the moment I'd settle for a training course but they're almost impossible to enter."

"I tried to get into Skillsave but my spelling wasn't good enough," she said.

Enid's one big regret is not completing her High School Certificate.

"I tried to get into TAFE but there was nobody to look after my son."

Enid's particularly protective of Nathan because he has heart problems and needs close care.

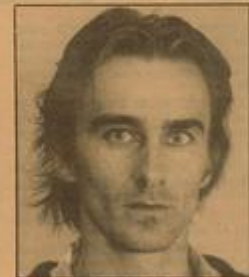
STEVE ELLIS, 30, West Wollongong. Income \$260 per fortnight.



● STEVE ELLIS...Unemployment has reduced his quality of life.



● GLENN WHALAN...has applied for hundreds of jobs without success.



● KONRAD JONES...finds training scheme certificates mean nothing.

## Business grants to cut dole queues

By BILL SIMPSON

With unemployment in the Illawarra reaching record levels, young jobless people are being enticed with the offer of financial assistance to start their own business.

The scheme is being administered by the Illawarra Business Advisory and Development Centre.

Young unemployed people who can convince the centre of the viability of their proposed operation will receive up to \$3000 to get their business going.

They will also be eligible for income allowances equivalent to unemployment benefits for the first 12 months.

Additional assistance will be given through initial training in starting and managing a business.

To qualify, applicants must be 18 to 25,

registered with an appropriate authority as unemployed and have a business idea with a reasonable chance of success.

The scheme will be funded by Youth Business Initiative (YBI) under the Queen Elizabeth Silver Jubilee Trust, Federal Government and Illawarra businesses.

It is based on a job creation idea introduced by Prince Charles in London after he inspected the scene of Brixton riots in the early 1980s.

Applications are presently being invited for an initial Illawarra class of 18.

Illawarra Business Advisory and Development Centre executive director Dennis Owen, who will administer the scheme locally, said yesterday he expected an instant and overwhelming response.

"I would imagine there are a lot of talented young people in the Illawarra who are fed up with being unemployed and could really take off in business if given the right kind of break."

Mr Owen can be contacted on 26 3723.



● PRINCE CHARLES

"I came up from Victoria 12 years ago looking for work and I'm still looking," Steve said.

He says unemployment has cost him dearly in terms of quality of life.

"I lost my wife and young son because we constantly fought about money," he said.

"I suppose, on the positive side, I've learned to be a resourceful survivor — I grow vegies and fish, which saves a lot of money."

Steve, like many other unemployed people, is cynical about training courses.

"If society is really serious about jobs, why does it allow the State Government to cut TAFE courses?"

GLENN WHALAN, 29, Mt Ousley. Income \$207 per fortnight.

Glenn's first full-time job after leaving school was with the Port Kembla steelworks but he was retrenched in the 1983 downturn.

He separated from wife Enid after a nervous breakdown which he says was brought on by the pressures of raising children and servicing debts while he was out of work.

"After applying for hundreds of jobs and getting just as many knockbacks, I've got no confidence in the future," he said.

KONRAD JONES, 27, Wollongong. Income \$260 a week.

Konrad has worked all around Australia doing part-time and seasonal work.

"I blame myself to a degree because it didn't work out at school."

"But then I say to myself it was the system and not me."

On the topic of retraining, Konrad is most bitter.

"I've gone for jobs with training scheme certificates and they've meant nothing."

"These courses are just amusement to get the likes of me off the street and out of trouble."



# WOW lends voice to BHP sheet, coil plant picket

## Day-labour battle finds new support

By ANNA PATTY

Wollongong Out of Workers (WOW) members yesterday joined combined steel unions in the long-running contract labour dispute and picket outside BHP's sheet and coil plant.

About 15 people representing the union for the unemployed joined the picket which has been in place for more than a week to stop contractors replacing day-labour in the rolling stock maintenance, bathroom and yard areas.

One of the members, who only gave the name Conrad, said WOW shared the concern of BHP workers who feared losing their jobs.

"WOW identifies itself with those whose jobs are under threat and we are here to show our disapproval at BHP's attitude on jobs," he said.

BHP sheet and coil day-shift workers this morning will stop up demonstrations outside the plant.

Workers will carry banners across the pedestrian overpass outside the Springfield Rd plant's main gates between 6 am and 7 am.

Federation of Industrial Manufacturing Employees research officer Nando Lelli said workers yesterday decided to show Wollongong the sheet and coil workers were still firmly committed to fighting against contract labour.

The pickets so far have caused minor disruption to production.

BHP Sheet and Coil personnel manager Bryan Beattie has played down suggestions the company was ready to start standing down employees at the plant.

"There has already been some cut to the company through lost production in the packaging area with employees cleaning the bathroom, but overall the pickets have caused minimal inconvenience," Mr Beattie said.

He said the company had shown a lot of patience in dealing with the issue and was not prepared to "rush into" any move against the union.

BHP made an unsuccessful application to the NSW Industrial Commission last week to seek a wide-ranging stand down provision in the steel awards.



Wollongong Out of Workers members give their support to the BHP Sheet and Coil picket.

Australia and a born again Christian

### Union protests Newstart

"Wollongong Out of Workers' Union (WOW) hopes to draw a spaxian in the works of the Newstart scheme for the long-term unemployed."

WOW has begun circulating a standard appeal form to try and halt the implementation of the contracts now being demanded by the Commonwealth Employment Service (CES). From June 30, Newstart requires those out of work for more than 12 months to sign a contract with the CES and be cut off benefits if they breach the terms of the agreement. The appeal forms, which will be sent to the Social Security Appeals Tribunal, are available at Wollongong Social Security Department and the CES.

ADVERTISER

JULY 26 '91

## Dozens lose jobs daily

FROM PAGE ONE

Every Social Security Department branch in the Illawarra recorded an increased number of beneficiaries in July under the new Job Search and New Start allowance schemes.

If this year's monthly trends continue, Illawarra's official unemployment level is likely to reach 14,000 by year's end.

The real level, however, is understood to be about 25,000. Thousands out of work are not registered with the DSS.

News had the biggest monthly rise in July of 202 to 3618. Other branch July figures were Cerrimal 2782, Dapto 2214, Warrila 2728, Warrawang 2140 and Wollongong 1947.

In the 12 months to the end of July, Cerrimal branch rose from 1694 to 2782, Dapto 1220 to 2214, Nowra 2540 to 3618, Warrila 2252 to 2728 and Warrawang 1588 to 2140.

The Wollongong branch figure dropped from 1973 to 1947.

Wollongong Out of Workers' Union convener Nick Southall condemned the Federal Government for allowing unemployment to reach record levels.

Mr Southall said unemployment in Wollongong was a result of radical economic restructuring, which brought higher production and record company profits while tens of thousands of workers had been condemned to poverty.

26. AUG 9 / 91



MR SOUTHALL condemns the Government over unemployment levels.

# Further attacks on unemployed

by Mark Roberts

The federal government this week called for submissions on its redesigned work-for-the-dole scheme, now called the Community Volunteer program.

Unlike Hawke's original proposal, the Community Volunteer program will be administered by the Department of Employment and Industrial Relations. There will be no links between the scheme and the Department of Social Security and payment of benefits will not be made conditional on taking part in the scheme.

Although this represents a considerable backdown from Hawke's original concept of "undertaking community work in return for unemployment benefits", unemployed organisations are still sceptical of the government's motives.

Nick Southall of the Wollongong Out of Workers' (WOW) told *Tribune* that the scheme was "just another attempt by the government to cover up the fact that they have done little to tackle unemployment".

Southall also expressed fears that, although the scheme is voluntary, the government could make it compulsory in the future. "The government, in effect, is creating the agenda for further attacks on the unemployed," he said.

Volunteer workers at Sydney public radio station 2RSR-4M (Radio 514 Raw), which relies on volunteers to stay on air, were also critical of the scheme.

groups and influential sections of the media have been instrumental in promoting the concept of compulsory work-for-the-dole programs. Among the most vocal supporters has been Channel 9's 50 Minutes.

In the weeks leading up to their "forum" on work-for-the-dole program at the Ruffy Hill RSL Club last week they ran a number of misleading items on the Workfare program in the USA.

These suggested the program was



«Where is the dignity in working for nothing?»

very small proportion of again being blamed for the inability of the current economic system to

unemployment, it should reverse the budget cuts to job creation

SUN HERALD



## WOLLONGONG ROUND

EDITED BY JANINE CULLEN

# Jobless are 'killing themselves'

THE Wollongong Out of Workers' Union claims many of its members are committing suicide because they cannot get a job.

Union convenor Nick Southall said the strain of long term unemployment was also causing many others to turn to drugs, alcohol and crime.

"They've just given up hope of ever getting work," Mr Southall said.

The union is about to launch a campaign of protests and demonstrations as the number of jobless in the Illawarra escalates monthly.

Figures released this week show Illawarra's official unemployment level has risen to more than

18,000, 56 more than the previous month, an increase of 1,400 compared to the start of the year, and 7,000 more than the same period two years ago.

Members of WOW will take part in an Alternative Youth Summit held in a marquee opposite Parliament House in Canberra on Wednesday next week to co-ordinate with the Government youth summit.

"We will also be demonstrating, holding soup kitchens and being very visible during the government conference to point out the worthless nature of a summit of this type," Mr Southall said.

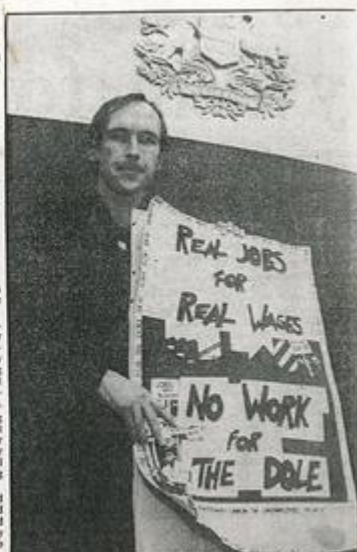
"There is no way either the Labor or Liberal Party is likely to put forward real

alternative policies which will help alleviate our problems."

Mr Southall said neither the Federal Labour nor State Liberal Governments had made any real progress in creating significant employment opportunities for the jobless in the last 10 years.

"Things are getting worse, and we are all just giving up," said Mr Southall who has never held a permanent full time job since leaving school.

He said many turned to drugs, alcohol and crime because they did not believe they had any future, so did not care to worry about the consequences.



NICK SOUTHALL: "They've just given up hope."



# Unemployed picket against Newstart

The Wollongong Out of Workers' Union (WOW) held a soup kitchen and picket of the Federal Government offices in Wollongong on July 1, the day of the introduction of the Newstart scheme.

The demonstration aimed to publicise the reform of WOW as well as to protest against the introduction of harsh new rules which the unemployed will be forced to follow.

About 50 people attended the demonstration, and a number of inquiries from people concerned about the impact of Newstart have since been made to WOW. Three applications for membership of

WOW were made after the picket.

Of particular concern to unemployed workers is the Newstart Activity Agreement, a contract which must be "negotiated" between the CES and benefit recipients after their first 12 months without employment.

WOW pointed out in a pamphlet circulated at the demonstration that there do not

appear to be any restrictions on the requirements which the CES can impose on the unemployed in the Newstart Agreement.

These requirements could include undertaking psychiatric treatment, losing weight or moving house.

Unemployed workers have already been forced to participate in work-for-the-dole schemes and to cross picket lines and break strikes.

If an unemployed person has not come to an agreement with the CES after two

interviews, their benefits will be cancelled and will not be re-commenced unless an appeal is lodged against the cancellation within two weeks.

Once the agreement has been signed, the unemployed person cannot appeal against its contents or terms.

WOW will be making representations to the Minister and the Department of Employment, Education and Training in order to raise the concerns of the unemployed regarding Newstart and to have the scheme changed.

## T to some, Newstart has ambiguous beginnings

By KERRIE O'CONNOR

The Newstart program will make job seekers "jump through hoops" for work that doesn't exist, say Wollongong groups representing unemployed people.

It makes a cost cutting exercise to cut people off the dole, according to the Coalition on Unemployment (COUE) and Wollongong Out of Workers' Union (WOW).

But a spokeswoman for the Federal Department of Employment, Education and Training (DEET), Wendy Simpson, denied this.

She said the program was not designed to be punitive, and cutting people off the dole would be a last resort for those who "reluctantly" did not want to find work.

The Newstart program is aimed at people who have been unemployed for more than 12 months. As from June 30, they are required to sign a contract with the Commonwealth Employment Service (CES) and may be cut off benefits if they breach the terms of the agreement.

According to the Federal Government, the unemployed will be agreeing to improve their access to the

### Matters wants to start 'war on unemployment'

Wollongong Out of Workers' Union (WOW) and the South Coast Labour Council (SCLC) will seek a meeting with Federal Employment, Education and Training Minister John Dawkins.

Calling for "a war on unemployment", SCLC secretary Paul Matters said a concrete job creation strategy had to be negotiated.

He said Federal Government inaction meant either Mr Dawkins had accepted mass unemployment in the region as inevitable or he had underestimated the enormity of the problem.

He said the Gulf War had encouraged the Federal Government to mobilise "vast resources at enormous expense", yet there had been no similar response to the "greatest social crime of unemployment".

A delegation from the SCLC social welfare committee and unemployed groups will also seek to negotiate with local Newstart officials. They hope to meet regional Employment, Education and Training (DEET) Department manager Kevin Bird.

training schemes could not guarantee jobs.

Ms Dooley said the program was a red herring and did not deal with the "real problem, that there are not enough jobs".

She said training places were inadequate in Wollongong, with TAFE and other institutions already overloaded.

But Ms Simpson said the DEET budget allocated to Newstart had been increased from \$7 million last financial year to \$12 million this year, and 500 training places would be available for an estimated 10,000 people entering Newstart agreements.

Ms Dooley was concerned unemployed people who agreed to undertake a six week childcare course, for example, would be cut off benefits if they could not then find work. But Ms Simpson said if clients were indeed trying to find work they would not be cut off.

Both COUE and WOW said unemployed people would welcome quality training that led to jobs, but feared training provided under the Newstart program would be inadequate.

COUE spokeswoman Lynne Dooley said unemployment was close to 30 per cent in Wollongong and short-term

### Useless job schemes

By Stan Reeves

WOLLONGONG — Recent unemployment figures released for this area showed a 5 per cent increase in unemployment for the period December 1985 to December 1986.

Commonwealth employment statistics showed a total of 19,160 people registered as unemployed in December 1986 compared to 18,002 the previous year.

"While we are told that Wollongong is doing well, unemployment is rising and more people are forced into poverty," Wollongong Out of Workers' spokesperson Nick Southall said.

"We have heard a lot about different training schemes, so-called job creation schemes, and numerous other plans to stop the rise in unemployment."

"We have been offered training, short term jobs and work for the dole. None of these offer the unemployed the chance to have a stable, constructive and rewarding future."

**GOT A JOB?**

**WANT TO BE PAID  
\$50/WEEK?**

WORK BESIDE SOMEONE  
WORKING FOR THE  
**DOLE**

AND HOW LONG BEFORE  
YOU ARE PAID THE DOLE FOR  
**THE SAME WORK?**

SACKED TODAY - WORKING FOR THE DOLE TOMORROW

**KEEPING YOUR WAGES  
MEANS**

**NO WORK FOR DOLE**



## UNEMPLOYED TENT EMBASSY IN CANBERRA

On November 4, representatives of the Wollongong Out of Workers' Union (WOW), Sydney Unemployed Workers' Union (SUWU) and the Blacktown Unemployed Action Group (BUAG) travelled to Canberra to hold a tent embassy on the lawns of Parliament House. They were protesting against the repressive Newstart legislation and for real job creation.

The delegation had arranged to meet with Senator Graham Richardson, the Minister for Social Security, and Peter Baldwin, Minister for Higher Education and Employment Services. While in Canberra, the delegation also hoped to meet with John Dawkins, the Minister for Employment, Education and Training.

Logs of claims on behalf of the unemployed were presented to each minister and a number of other MPs. Local, state and national media coverage for the protest was good and the delegation received support from the South Coast, New South Wales and ACT Trades and Labour Councils.

While in Canberra the delegation also met with the Canberra Unemployed Workers' Union, who decided to join the delegation and protest.

During October, WOW also assisted the ABC's award winning current affairs show Four Corners to film a documentary on local unemployment.

Chris Masters interviewed a number of WOW members about their experiences, the activities of the union and WOW's policies.

After the filming Chris described the lives of the unemployed in Wollongong as "shocking". "I just spent two weeks amongst people who don't have a job, who are hungry. I think the screen we have pulled down over the unemployed is very effective. I just pulled the screen back and had a look and maybe more of us should do that. I was shocked", Chris said.

The documentary entitled *The Callous Country* looks at the human side of unemployment and the fact that unemployment affects whole communities not just individuals.

### Let them Eat Saos - journeys with the jobless

In late October, ABC radio (2WN and Triple J) also broadcast a documentary on unemployment in Wollongong.

The delegation had their meeting with Mr Baldwin on November 5. Mr Baldwin told the delegates that he was concerned about the level of unemployment, but that it was not his area of responsibility.

The next day, the delegation met with the executive of the ACT Labour Council and discussed their concerns over Newstart and the unemployment situation.

Then on November 7, the delegation met with Senator Richardson. While he said he was concerned about unemployment, Mr Richardson argued that the country could not afford to lift the unemployed out of poverty.

Informed of harsh and unreasonable demands being made of unemployed people through the implementation of Newstart, Mr Richardson promised that he would investigate and asked the delegates to inform him of abuses.

A further meeting with Senator Richardson was arranged, to be held at the end of November.

The delegates also met briefly with Prime Minister Hawke, who said he was "too busy" to talk to them.



The ABC RADIO crew that produced the program included previous WOW members and WOW convenors who were assisted in their research by current WOW members. The program also features WOW members and spokespeople and is now available from WOW.

18/7/71

## Unemployed organise in Wollongong

By Bernie Brian

**WOLLONGONG** — Wollongong Out of Workers Union (WOWU) convener Nick Southall believes that after 10 years of consistently high unemployment, a renewed spirit of anger is emerging in the community.

WOWU was formed in 1962, when record job losses in the coalfields and the Port Kembla steelworks led to the historic storming of Parliament House in Canberra by South Coast trade unionists. Today, Wollongong has an official unemployment level of 13,000 and probably a real level double that, with one in three young people unable to find work.

"We have leafleted the major DSS offices of Wollongong and Corimal and are getting much more support from the unemployed, the public and DSS staff than we did three years ago", Southall said.

"I think one reason for the growing anger in the region is that people are tired of hearing the same old excuses and solutions from governments such as training and work for the dole schemes. These 'solutions' have not worked, and people are starting to look for alternatives."

"Sections of the ALP and the unions are also beginning to show concern at the unemployment statistics because they know governments will fall as a result."

Southall said unemployed unions were being established in many cities around the country, most recently in Brisbane and Sydney. WOWU's

intention was to establish a coordinated national campaign against Newstart.

"We are urging all unemployed people to appeal to the Social Security Appeals Tribunal about the compulsory agreements being imposed on them by Newstart. So far the DSS in the Wollongong region has been soft on applying Newstart. We feel this is partly due to the pressure being applied by WOWU and the union movement."

According to Southall, the initial target of the DSS seems to be those sections of the community with the least means of defence, such as people of non-English speaking background,

Aborigines and the unemployed in the rural areas. "Unemployed people need to be informed they have rights under the Australian Constitution, and that includes the right to unemployment benefits."

In addition, WOWU is supporting the campaign by the South Coast Labour Council and welfare unions against Grinner's cuts to public and community sector jobs and is calling for jobcreating investment in social and economic infrastructures.

WOWU now has an office at 59 Evans St in Wollongong and can be contacted on 26 2654 or 29 2934. ■



Nick Southall. Photo by Bernie Brian.

## Illawarra MPs meet jobless

13/5/72

Unemployed people and representatives of community groups yesterday took their appeal for more jobs and a better deal for the jobless direct to Australia's political leaders.

Federal MPs in all States — including the six Illawarra-based MPs — received delegations of constituents concerned about the impact of unemployment, organised as part of the National Day of Action of Unemployment.

In Wollongong, Federal Member for Cunningham Stewart West listened as members of Wollongong Out of Workers Union, Illawarra Migrant Resource Centre, Oatlands, Berkeley Neighbourhood Centre and the Public Sector Union outlined their strategies.

Top of the list was job growth, with delegation member Lynne Dooley presenting a se-

ven-part action plan drafted by the Australian Council of Social Service (ACOSS).

The ACOSS plan calls for: changing economic policy to make lower unemployment the top priority; an expansion of public investment; moderation of wage increases and tax cuts; the removal of tax loopholes which encourage speculation and debt; encouraging exports and discouraging imports; measures to offset the impact of industry restructuring on jobs; and more flexibility with permanent part-time work and leave for family needs.

Ms Dooley also called for an expansion of employment and training programs for the unemployed and better financial support for unemployed people.

The Wollongong Out of Workers Union's Nick Southall called for new large-scale go-

vernment projects in the Illawarra, including a bypass of Marguerite Pass, the restart of work on the Malden-Dombarton rail link, the electrification of the railway line from Wollongong to Bomaderry and the expansion of port facilities at Port Kembla.

Mr Southall backed the South Coast Labour Council proposal for a National Centre for Regional Policy Development at Wollongong University and the relaunching of the Community Employment Program.

Other delegation members called for a welfare rights centre for Wollongong, greater assistance in university and TAFE students, longer opening hours for the Commonwealth Employment Service, the introduction of government bus services and an expansion of TAFE services.



# "Jobsearch" -

## THE GONG

WOLLONGONG OUT OF WORKERS' UNION  
NEWSLETTER ISSUE ONE NOVEMBER 1991

### What Jobs?

After dissolving the Wollongong Out of Workers' Union (WOW) three years ago the past convenors of WOW decided earlier this year to re-form the union and call a public meeting. That meeting decided to re-form WOW and launch a campaign against government harassment of the unemployed and for real job creation.

The Illawarra's unemployment rate continues to rise, with 15,000 people in the region now officially out of work.

The true number (as revealed by local MP Stewart West) is now in fact over 25,000 people unemployed in the Illawarra. More than one in every three of the district's young people is without work.

In the past twelve months job losses have grown dramatically. With thousands of jobs under threat in the local steel, coal and associated industries the situation here is now as disastrous as in 1982/83.

Nationally there are nearly one million people officially registered as unemployed. The real figure is over 1.5 million when the hidden unemployed are included. Meanwhile over three hundred thousand jobs have been lost already this year and more will go in the near future. More than one thousand people are joining the dole queues every day.

From July 1st, if you have been unemployed for 12 months you must sign an individual contract to do whatever the CES requires, or your benefits will be cut off. This new system, Newstart, gives the CES the power to cancel your benefits if you refuse a "training" offer, any job "reasonable" referral, or if they consider you are not looking hard enough for work. There appear to be no guidelines to limit the requirements the CES can place on a person. The Australian Council of Social Services (ACOSS) point out, that this could include psychiatric treatment, moving house, losing weight or work for the dole.

Newstart places an added heavy burden on the unemployed at a time when there are around 100 unemployed people for every job vacancy. The 'activities test' upon which Newstart is based has already been used to force unemployed people to cross picket lines and become strike-breakers. Many more are being forced into "training" schemes few of which will lead to permanent fulltime work and many of which are little more than cheap labour schemes.





Protest at Haymarket DSS, Sydney

## Newstart — "It's a joke!"



Protesting against the abolition of the dole and its replacement by the punitive and unfair Newstart program, the Sydney Unemployed Workers' Union (UWU) recently held a demonstration and soup kitchen in Sydney, outside the Haymarket DSS office.

The demonstration was to draw attention to the unfairness of Newstart. It was a very loud and successful rally with speakers from UWU and the recently revived Wollongong Out of Workers' Union (WOW).

The unemployed do not benefit from the new program, demonstrators declared. Newstart was unfair. It served government policies that are "dictated by big business." "It's a joke", said one recently unemployed person, now a UWU member.

Demonstrators heard how Newstart puts the unemployed through as many hoops as possible; intimidates and deters the unemployed. Applying for Newstart is a hassle. It reduces unemployed people's eligibility for benefits. To be unemployed is no longer grounds enough to be eligible for unemployment benefits.

Nearly every unemployed person in Australia wants a job, but like anyone they also want to

by Rohan Gowland

retain their liberty. Requiring unemployed people to move house, change hair style or buy clothes they cannot even afford, just to receive an income, exploits their situation and passes the blame for the recession on to the unemployed.

Much to the Liberal Party's pleasure, the Hawke government has literally "cashed in" its responsibility of ensuring support and security for the unemployed in the process of its cost-cutting "reforms".

The unemployed are required to make themselves more employable, but the government does nothing to create jobs or long term employment.

Compulsory "negotiation" of a contract setting conditions for receiving unemployment benefits (in a business-client relationship) is bad news for the unemployed.

There are two options: to "agree" to a contract with the CES, or not to receive benefits.

Newstart aims at reducing the number of unemployed who receive benefits — not the number of unemployed.

Unemployed can be forced to do unpaid work in the guise of "job training". Thus a free labour force is created that takes the place of wage workers.

Any skills learnt in "job training" can as easily be learnt with award wages.

The question is also raised, "Training for what jobs?" Speakers pointed to the government's failure to take the necessary measures to create jobs.

Workers are being penalised twice by losing their job and being denied government support.

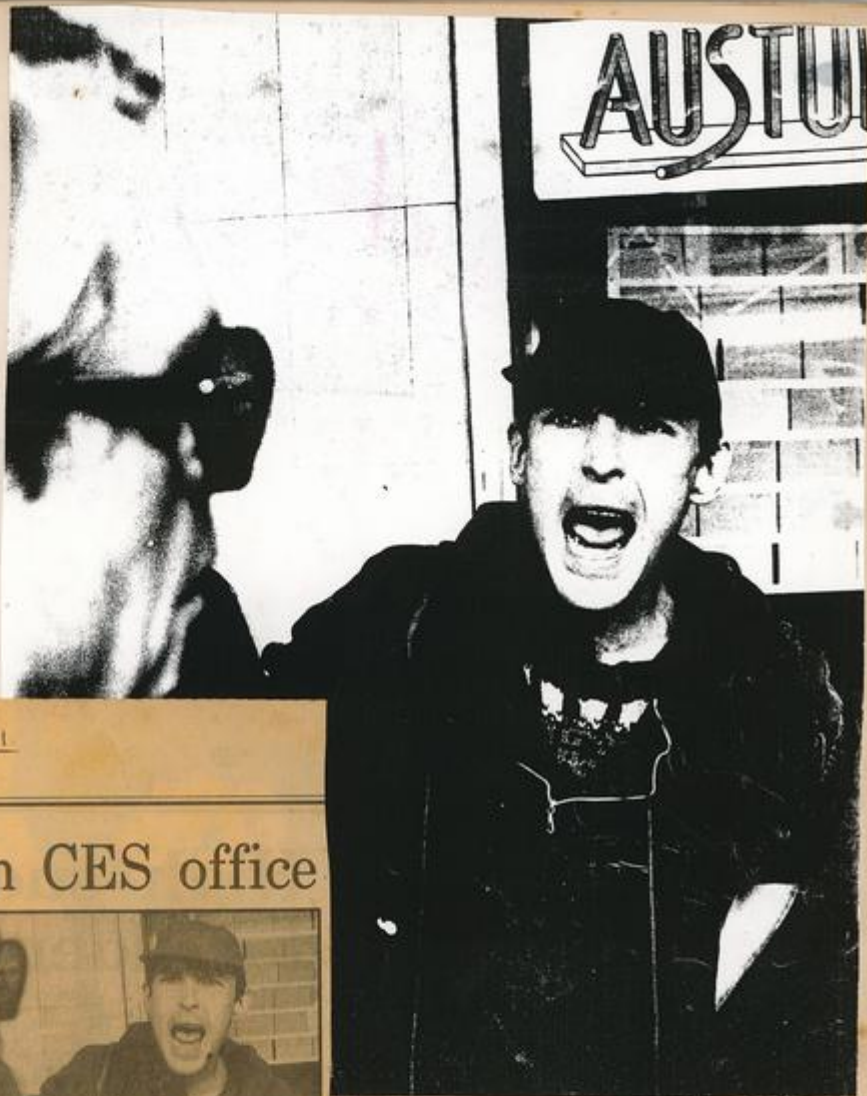
For this reason a union for unemployed has been set up in Sydney, the Unemployed Workers' Union, and WOW has been reformed in Wollongong where there is a high concentration of unemployed.

UWU (Sydney) meets Wednesdays, 7:30pm at 118 Regent St. Redfern or call 389 1700.

4/9/91

GUARDIAN P-2





SYDNEY MORNING HERALD  
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 10TH, 1991

## Jobless storm CES office

By JULIE LEWIS

There were angry scenes outside Broadway CES in the inner-city yesterday as members of the newly formed 'Unemployed Workers' Union tried to occupy the building in a protest against the Federal Government's Newstart scheme.

Unemployed workers and a representative of the Department of Employment, Education and Training argued on the footpath outside the building before the group of 15 protesters entered the CES.

They were escorted off the premises by police half an hour later after failing to secure a meeting with the Minister for Employment, Education and Training, Mr Dawkins, or the Minister for Social Security, Senator Richardson.

A spokesman for the group, Mr Richard Southwall, said the protesters had demanded that the ministers agree to hear their grievances.

He said that under the scheme, unemployed people could be forced to undertake training courses or even cut their hair or alter their appearance in other ways before they could receive unemployment benefits.

The scheme requires those who have been unemployed for more than a year to sign a contract with the Government agreeing to undertake, for instance, extra training or



Protester Mr Nick Southwall voices his objections to Mr Charles Stokes of the Department of Employment, Education and Training.

Picture by DEAN WILMOT

to report to the CES every few weeks before they receive benefits.

Mr Southwall said he knew of unemployed people who were forced to go to the CES every day in order to qualify for unemployment benefits.

"It is like being on parole and if you don't make it in for one day then you are off," he said.

A spokeswoman for the Minister

for Higher Education and Employment Services, Mr Baldwin, said yesterday that this was a most unlikely case.

She said no-one would be forced to change his or her appearance under Newstart and that the agreements were arrived at after long talks between the person and the CES.

# Jobless urged to 'wreck' Newstart

By PAUL McINERNEY

Wollongong's unemployed will be asked to lodge written appeals as part of a national campaign to wreck the Federal Government's recently-introduced Newstart employment scheme.

Members of the reformed Wollongong Out of Workers' Union (WOW) will begin handing out appeal forms to people attending the Wollongong Social Security Department and CES from next week.

The two-week campaign is part of a national move to stop the Newstart scheme, which WOW co-convener Nick Southall yesterday described as "unjust and a denial of rights".

"We will be handing out the forms every day for two weeks and during that time hope to make contact with every person using either office," Mr Southall said.

Under the Newstart scheme the unemployed will be required to sign an individual contract to do whatever the CES requires, including retraining programs.

Without a signed contract an unemployed person will lose all benefits.

Mr Southall said he was hopeful that if enough people Australia-wide signed the appeal forms it would clog up the Social Security Appeals Tribunal and force the Federal Government to withdraw the legislation.

Mr Southall said Newstart gave the CES the power to cancel benefits if the unemployed refuse a training or work experience position.

He said few of these training programs lead to full-time work and many were virtually cheap labour schemes.

**Fighter planes arrive**



**'POLITICS IN THE PUB'**  
at THE ILLAWARRA HOTEL, Dining Room  
Cnr. Keira & Market Sts., Wollongong

(N.B.: The Dining Room is a SMOKE-FREE Venue)

**FRIDAY, SEPT. 4th, 6.00 pm**

(N.B.: As one speaker has to leave early, the starting time has been changed this month to

**6.00 pm, not 6.30 - please come on time**)

## Youth Unemployment: Jobs/Wages/Training THE KEATING GOVERNMENT'S PLANS & the HEWSON ALTERNATIVE

*Will Keating and Hewson implement real measures to combat this social dilemma, or will our under-privileged youth be sold out? Australia's youth are one of the most valuable resources for the future socio-economic stability of this country - yet they are being undervalued. Youth unemployment is on the increase in this current climate of recession, carrying with it major social implications for Australia as a whole - including increased poverty, homelessness and hopelessness. What is being done to rectify this situation? Are any really viable solutions being offered by both major political parties? Our speakers will discuss what the youth unemployment packages of both Labor and Liberal have to offer for Australia's youth - their pitfalls and anomalies.*

### SPEAKERS:

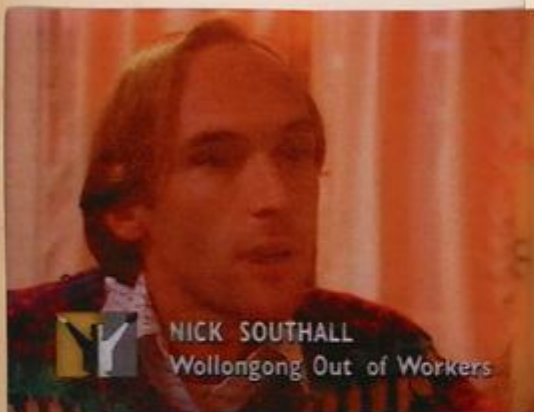
**PETER KNOTT:** Endorsed A.L.P. Federal Election candidate for Gilmore, & currently Kiama Council Alderman

**MICHAEL BAUME:** Liberal Senator & Shadow Minister for the Arts, Heritage and Sport

**NICK SOUTHALL:** Member, Wollongong Out of Workers Union

All welcome. \$2 donation at the door

'Politics in the Pub' is an initiative of the Illawarra New Left Party, with the Working Group comprising both NLP members and other broad left activists. Present members are: Birgit Baader, Patrick Brownlee, Rosemary Nichols, Janine Oldfield, Beverley Symons. For enquiries: Ph. 28,4997.



**NICK SOUTHALL**  
Wollongong Out of Workers



# Jobs activist now has an 'inside' look

By KERRIE O'CONNOR

A prominent activist in the campaign against NEWSTART is now fighting a more personal battle on the issue.

Wollongong Out of Workers' Union (WOW) will appeal the terms of a NEWSTART agreement he said he was forced to sign last week.

Under new legislation, people unemployed for more than a year are required to sign an agreement with the Commonwealth Employment Service (CES) to continue receiving benefits.

Unemployed people are required to join training programs or take part in other approved activities to receive the dole.

The NEWSTART program has drawn fire from unemployed people's organisations, who say it forces them to "jump through hoops to prove they are looking for work that doesn't exist".

Mr Southall and other unemployed people's groups have been critical of training offered under NEWSTART, believing such schemes are not recognised by employers and will not lead to jobs.

Mr Southall said he was called in to the Wollongong Commonwealth Employment Service (CES) last Wednesday for his formal NEWSTART interview.

He said he was told at the start of the interview that his benefit had been suspended and would only be paid if he signed a contract with the service.

Early last week, Mr Southall was happy with the way NEWSTART was being implemented in the Illawarra.

He had earlier told the Wollongong Advertiser that CES staff were sensitive to the fact that "25,000 unemployed people in Wollongong could not all get jobs".

But he remained critical of training schemes offered under the program, calling them "Mickey Mouse programs that would not lead to fulltime employment".

But after his NEWSTART interview later in the week, he reversed his position.

"People are scared and they feel the department will come down on them hard if they don't sign," he said.

Mr Southall said he signed an "agreement" to attend the CES office daily, present for a fortnightly interview and keep a detailed job search journal of his attempts to find work.

He said he was already required to keep such a log on his fortnightly dole form.

He said he had had training in social welfare, but the only job advertised in this field on the day of his interview required applicants to have tertiary qualifications.

During his interview, he asked for assistance to attend university and wanted this to be made part of his agreement.

He said the interview panel of three CES officers had refused.

Instead, they said he would probably be placed in a short term training scheme in November but could not say in what field.

He was also required to search the CES computer files fortnightly to look for jobs in Sydney.

A spokesman for the Department of Employment, Education and Training (DEET) which oversees the CES, said he was unable to discuss the terms of Mr Southall's agreement under the department's privacy provisions.

Regional DEET manager Kevin Bird was unavailable for comment as he was in Canberra.

## West demands harassment claims probe

By BILL SIMPSON

Social Security Minister Neal Blewett was yesterday requested to investigate claims of harassment of unemployed Illawarra people by department staff.

The claims by the Wollongong Out of Workers' Union (WOW) were sent to Dr Blewett by Member for Cessnock Stuart West.

Mr West demanded Dr Blewett take immediate and appropriate action if the allegations are found to be accurate.

WOW's claims include allegations of termination or suspension of unemployment benefits to people for refusing or appealing against DEET programs.

"There is no justification for harassment of any kind," Mr West said.

"We have seen reports as recently as this week that unemployed people are being harassed and threatened with the loss of bene-



MR WEST

fits for taking part in demonstrations.

"This cannot be tolerated. People, unemployed or employed, are entitled to involve themselves in demonstrations.

"I see no difference between people taking part in ARUEX anti-war type protests, as happened in Canberra last November and for which some unemployed people are reported to be in danger of losing

their benefits, and participation in Liberal or Labor Party rallies.

"They are entitled to be involved, and to lose unemployment benefits for doing so is a travesty of our democratic system."

Mr West said he was concerned that WOW members had complained of harassment of Illawarra members by Social Security Department (DSS) and Employment, Education and Training Department (DEET) staff.

"More generally, WOW has also publicly claimed the DSS has determined that unemployed people involved in political activity cannot also be looking for work and, therefore, cannot undertake work or activity test and so lose their right to receive benefit."

"I find this to be an extraordinary claim and would appreciate clarification as to the true position," he wrote to Dr Blewett.



## Four Corners report a justified dose of reality



● MR MASTERS

Was the ABC's Four Corners program fair to the Illawarra when it screened the unemployment special this week?

Some of our community leaders think not. Since Monday night they have been extremely bitter in their denunciation of the program, presented by award-winning journalist Chris Masters.

I can understand the dismay of those trying to sell the region from a tourism viewpoint. People such as Harold Hanson of the Leisure Coast Tourism Association are entitled to be miffed.

Contrasting shots of smoke stacks and pollution are very misleading

and give the nation a terribly distorted picture of the Illawarra.

However, I think, in general terms, Four Corners and Chris Masters were fair. We do have rampant youth unemployment at twice the national average.

The young people are hurting — badly.

They have given up hope. Their future is bleak and they need help.

There's no use sticking our heads in the sand and making out these problems do not exist.

Instead, we should be making concerted drives to help our young people get back into the workforce. I think we have to get rid of that chip on our shoulder.

We ask far too much and accuse the media of taking cheap shots. You must remember Chris Masters came here to do a story on unemployment, not tourism or another subject.

And Andrew Gile was fair at the end when he said Illawarra's problems mirrored many regions around the nation.

I do not believe it was an Illawarra bashing exercise. What's more, I thought Paul Masters, of the South Coast Labour Council, was the best TV performer from Illawarra's end.

He was polished, articulate and sensible. A lot more than I can say for the Illawarra person who described us as the Poverty Coast.

He did more damage than anybody with that ridiculous statement.

MARK L. WENIG  
Journalist

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## ROW SIMMERS OVER 'TRIAL' OF THE PM

HOST Jena Wendt said last night she was disappointed no government frontbenchers would take part in 4 Current Affair's controversial "trial" of Prime Minister Paul Keating.

The Keating trial — to be aired in a one-hour special tomorrow night — has angered Mr Keating, who phoned Wendt early last week.

The trial was filmed at Balmale Court House in inner Sydney and its premise has Keating charged with "murdering" the Australian economy. Wendt said she could not reveal the essence of her phone call with the PM.

The trial will feature judge Sir John Starks, the former Victorian Supreme Court justice who sentenced to death Ronald Ryan, the last man hanged in Australia.

Former New Zealand Prime Minister David Lange is the prosecuting lawyer and prosecution witnesses include National Farmers Federation boss Graham Blight, stockbroker Ross Stokis, failed Perth businessman Mark Percy and a debt recipient from Wollstonecraft.

The verdict — sealed in an envelope — will be revealed on Tuesday, as will the results of a viewers' telephone poll.

— NATEY CONDON



DISAPPOINTED: Jena Wendt with 'trial' judge Sir John Starks and prosecutor David Lange.



# KEATING IN RAGE OVER TRIAL ON TV



The personnel in the court setting where Mr Keating's policies will be put on trial... result is very lively indeed

PRIME Minister Paul Keating is outraged over a top-selling TV program which plans to put him on trial in front of millions of viewers.

The TV program will have as trial judge Sir John Starks, the former Victorian Supreme Court justice responsible for sentencing to death the last man hanged in Australia, Ronald Ryan.

And former New Zealand prime minister David Lange - a longtime critic of Mr Keating - has been chosen as prosecuting lawyer.

The four prosecution witnesses are: failed Perth businessman Mark Povey, National Farmers Federation chief Graham English, a dolt recipient from Wellington and stockbroker Renee Pivkin. Clarence Nixon & Co. said it will put the show to air in a special one-hour edition next Monday

By AMANDA BUCKLEY  
night, hosted by Gold Logie winner Jason Webb.

Mr Keating, usually one of Mr Webb's biggest fans, is apparently furious about the show and firing the hotel to tell her so earlier this week.

But the show will go on despite the prime ministerial phone call, according to ACA executive producer Stephen Rice.

The program tried to get some of Mr Keating's freebenchers to take part as defense witnesses but not one would agree, apparently because of Mr Keating's anger about the show.

But Mr Keating's office denied yesterday any pressure was applied to the ministers.

But ALP backbencher Janice Crossie, a former State government

ministerial agree to take part. She said yesterday no pressure had been applied to her not to go on the show, but she had not checked with Mr Keating's office before agreeing.

Mrs Crossie said she and Mr Lange had a lively exchange of views when she was in the witness box.

"It is a unique concept and I did my best to defend the Government's honor," she said.

According to Mr Rice the program will be just like a real trial, with a judge, jury and four witnesses each for the defence and prosecution.

It is understood that the venue is the Rialto Cinema in Sydney.

"It's fairly dramatic, but Mr Keating gets a fair trial," Mr Rice said.

Editorial Page 10

## POCKET SIZED P3 WITH FREE CAR ADAPTOR

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## NEO NAZIS ATTEMPT

## TO INFILTRATE

## UNEMPLOYED

## MOVEMENT

In defiance of death threats, members of the NSW Coalition of Unemployed Unions (CUU), as well as members of the anarchoist group, the Jelly Heads, and members of other left groups, staged a picket outside a "forum on unemployment" organized by the Unemployed Peoples Union (UPU) in Campsie, Sydney on Thurs, 22nd Sept.

The picketers drew attention to the fact that the forum and the UPU are supported and assisted by the neo-nazi group, National Socialist Defence of Aryan People (NSDAP).

The forum was the second to be held recently in Campsie. Both were chaired by David John Palmer, the self-proclaimed "Führer" of the NSDAP.

The first forum featured right-wing AUP MP Leo McLeay, currently involved in a pre-selection struggle with a party's left-wing, some of whom have received threats of violence from people identifying themselves as members of the UPU.

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Shane Nicholls & John Palmer, Neo-Nazi organisers of the Forum.

Forum advertising made no mention of the involvement of neo-nazis, but claimed the forum was sponsored by Canterbury Council, NSW Labor Council, Toyota, Blue Haven Pools, Kellogg, etc.

When a concerned resident contacted Canterbury Council and informed them of the neo-Nazi involvement, the Council withdrew its support and put up a sign in the venue to this effect. The organisers added a line to the sign saying "by order of international socialists."

The Toyota company, listed on the forum's advertising leaflets as a sponsor, denied knowledge or involvement when contacted by unemployed activists.

Before the forum took place, several activists of the CUU were threatened with violence and death if they opposed or publicised the involvement of the neo-nazis.

Outside the forum's venue, organisers had put up a sign saying that nazis were welcome to participate. A journalist who attempted to photograph the sign was threatened with assault by a forum organiser.

Palmer, before taking the chair at the forum, stood alongside the



picketers outside a hastily scrawled placard saying "commo demo" and attempted to pass off the involvement of neo-nazis in the forum as a commitment to freedom of speech.

Another forum organiser responded to a journalist's question about the picket, by saying they were "all Jews and communists."

Inside, speakers on the forum's platform included Burnett O'Brien, the Liberal Party candidate for the Watson electorate, and David Elliot, research assistant to O'Brien and to Liberal shadow minister for industrial relations, John Howard.

Both used the platform to attempt to sell the Liberal Party's Goods and Services Tax (GST) and proposed \$3.50 an hour "youth wage" to the audience of 20 which attended.

The CUU picket was a success, ensuring that people attending the forum were aware of the involvement of the neo-nazis. Several people changed their minds about attending when given this info.

Organisers of the CUU picket received more threatening phone calls on the night following the forum. One was told to "look at Channel 7" and, when he did so, saw Palmer being interviewed by the programme Real Life in his role as the leader of the Sil-



Sign by Canterbury Council — Canterbury Municipal Council is not sponsoring nor is it associated with this forum.

ver Knights of the Ku Klux Klan.

The CUU members remain undeterred by the threats of the neo-nazis and are determined to do all in their power to oppose

the attempts of the neo-nazis to exploit the unemployed and stir up racism.

## Nazis try to dupe unemployed

GREEN LEFT WEEKLY  
By Paul Oboohov

SYDNEY — The fascist threat made a daring public appearance last week in Campsie, when an organisation calling itself the Unemployed Peoples Union held a function in this suburb with a vibrantly diverse ethnicity and high rates of unemployment.

The principals of this harmless enough sounding "Unemployed Peoples Union" turn out to belong to, or have close links with, a neo-nazi organisation known as the National Socialist Defence of Aryan People's Movement.

Unemployment activists who have uncovered this link have received death threats over the phone, telling them not to expose the UPU as a front of the NSDAPM (One NSDAPM member was recently charged with assaulting a young Jewish person who contested their anti-Semitic fifth.)

A picket outside the bogus "UPU" event in Campsie warned unemployed people that nazi elements lurked within. Cars and trucks booted in support as members of genuine unemployed

groups and left organisations handed leaflets to passers-by.

Inside, the chairperson opened by suggesting that "despite differences about colour, creed and politics, we'll suppress that for now". The panel of speakers identified themselves as Liberals. The forum apparently had the theme of the impact of Liberal policies on the unemployed, with a focus on organising to beseech employers to take on more workers.

According to a "UPU" leaflet, refreshments at the event were provided by Arncliffe, Cadbury and Pepsi, and support also came from K-Mart, Toyota and Blue Haven Pools.

In a leaflet, the now Coalition of Unemployed Unions asked:

"... why have large multi-national companies ... decided to sponsor this political forum on unemployment at this time? Is there, in fact, as we suspect an alliance being developed here by conservative political forces and major corporations which aims to use the unemployed as a political weapon?"

The NSW Coalition of Unemployed Unions coalition can be contacted on (042) 674 054.

## Unemployed unions oppose fascist influence

In defiance of death threats, members of the NSW Coalition of Unemployed Unions (CUU), as well as members of left political organisations, trade unions and the Labor Party, staged a picket outside a "forum on unemployment" organised by the Unemployed People's Union (UPU) in Campbell, Sydney, last week.

The picketers drew attention to the fact that the forum and the UPU are supported and assisted by the neo-fascist National Socialist Defence of Arayan People (NSDAP).

The forum was the second to be held recently in Campbell. Both were chaired by David John Palmer, the self-proclaimed "father" of the NSDAP.

Forum advertising made no mention of the NSDAP, but claimed the forum was sponsored and supported by

Century Council and a number of companies.

When a concerned resident contacted Century Council and its involvement in the forum, the Council refused to comment on its support and put up a sign in the venue to this effect. The organisers added a line to the sign saying "by order of international socialism".

The Toyota company, listed on the forum's advertising leaflet as a sponsor, was accused of involvement when contacted by unemployed activists.

Before the forum took place, several activists of the CUU were threatened with violence and death if they opposed or publicised the involvement of the neo-nazis.

Outside the forum's venue, organisers had put up a sign saying that men were welcome to par-

ticipate. A journalist who attempted to photograph the sign was threatened with assault by a forum organiser.

Palmer, before taking the chair at the forum, stood alongside the picketers outside with a hastily prepared speech in which he denounced the pickets and attempted to pass off the involvement of neo-nazis in the forum as a commitment to freedom of speech.

Another forum organiser responded to journalist's question about the picket by saying they were "all new and coming to the forum". The forum's platform included Burnett O'Brien, the Liberal Party candidate for the Western electorate, and David Ellice, research assistant to O'Brien and to Liberal shadow minister for industrial relations, John Howard.

Both used the platform to attack the CUU and the UPU. They proposed \$3.50 an hour "youth wage" to the audience.

The CUU picket was a success,



Sign by Century Council — Century Municipal Council is not sponsoring the forum associated with the forum.

ensuring that people attending the forum were aware of the involvement of the neo-nazis. Several people changed their minds about attending when given this information.

Organisers of the CUU picket received more threatening phone calls on the night following the forum. One was told to "look at Channel 7" and, when he did so, saw Palmer being interviewed by the programme *Real Life* in his role

as the leader of the Silver Knights of the Ku Klux Klan.

The CUU members remain undeterred by the threats of the neo-nazis and are determined to do all in their power to oppose the attempt to use the forum as an excuse for the unemployed and set up a

The participation of Les McLeay and Liberal Party representatives is strongly condemned.\*

## Doctors' Reform Society calls for consultation

Services in public hospitals in NSW, Tasmania and the ACT were drastically reduced on Tuesday this week, as junior doc-



With ABC Corporation's The Festival of Carping and Picking.



# NEWS

## Neo-nazis bid for the unemployed

### I. The Forum

A PICKET outside last Thursday's UPU Forum showed that there was an underlying atmosphere of antagonism. Members of the NEW Campaign for the Unemployed gathered outside the UPU building to picket against the forum.



The picket in front of the forum.

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An organisation calling itself the Unemployed People's Union (UPU) held a forum last Thursday in the Sydney suburb of Camlet. Several other unemployed people's organisations have accused the UPU of being a neo-nazi front, and perhaps a recruiting ground for two far-right organisations. They say the forum was chaired by David Palmer, a self-proclaimed nazi, while UPU convenor David Nicholas openly sympathises with Palmer's views. JOHN KILLICK'S investigation.



Unemployed activist John Nicholas (left) with the other two men, David Palmer and David Palmer.

### III. The Organiser

DAVID NICHOLAS, 31, a former car mechanic, is married with three children. He has been unemployed for four years. At Thursday's forum he spoke to about 100 people who were not intended to be a forum.

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## New South Wales Coalition of Unemployed Unions

C/O 59 Evans Street, Wollongong 2500. PH: (042) 674054

23 / 9 / 92

PRESSRELEASEPRESSRELEASEPRESSRELEASEPRESSRELEASEPRESSRELEASE

### Beware nazis at work!

On Thursday September 24 unemployed workers' unions from across New South Wales will stage a demonstration outside Orion Function Centre in Campsie to coincide with a forum on unemployment to be held inside by the Unemployed Peoples Union (UPU).

The demonstrators whose slogan is "Beware Nazis at work!", will be drawing attention to the fact that the Unemployed Peoples Union is supported by an alliance of Liberal Party members, right-wing members of the ALP and members of the neo-nazi group the National Socialist Defence of Aryan People's Movement.

The UPU's previous public forum was chaired by the "Fuehrer" of this nazi group and was used as a vehicle to publicise the existence and membership of the National Socialist Party.

Since uncovering this disturbing alliance between the neo-nazis and the right-wing of the ALP we have been threatened with violence (even death) if we dared to speak out against this neo-nazi front and its connections. We shall not be silenced!

Fascist groups have a history of organising amongst the unemployed using their anger and frustration to target minority groups as scapegoats for mass unemployment, diverting attention from the real causes of economic collapse.

Leading up to the next Federal election the ALP is desperate to cover-up its record on unemployment and are obviously willing to ally themselves with ultra-right elements to instil fear into the community and intimidate people into silence.

Our unemployed unions would also like to know if this ALP/nazi alliance is connected to the recent bitter pre-selection struggle over MP Leo Macklay's (right-wing ALP) pre-selection as rumours suggest?

And why have large multi-national companies (K-Mart, Toyota, Cadbury, Pepsi etc.) decided to sponsor this political forum on unemployment at this time? Is there, in fact, as we suspect an alliance being developed here by conservative political forces and major corporations which aims to use the unemployed as a political weapon?

We ask all those who have seen what similar alliances have done in the past to join us in opposing the rise of fascist groups and denouncing any collaboration with neo-nazi groups by the ALP, Liberal Party or big business.

CONTACT: NICK SOUTHALL (Wollongong Out of Workers' Union Convenor)

ON BEHALF OF THE NSW COALITION OF UNEMPLOYED UNIONS.





WOLLONGONG CITY  
OF WORKERS UNION  
STREET BULLETIN NO. 1

# ON THE STREETS

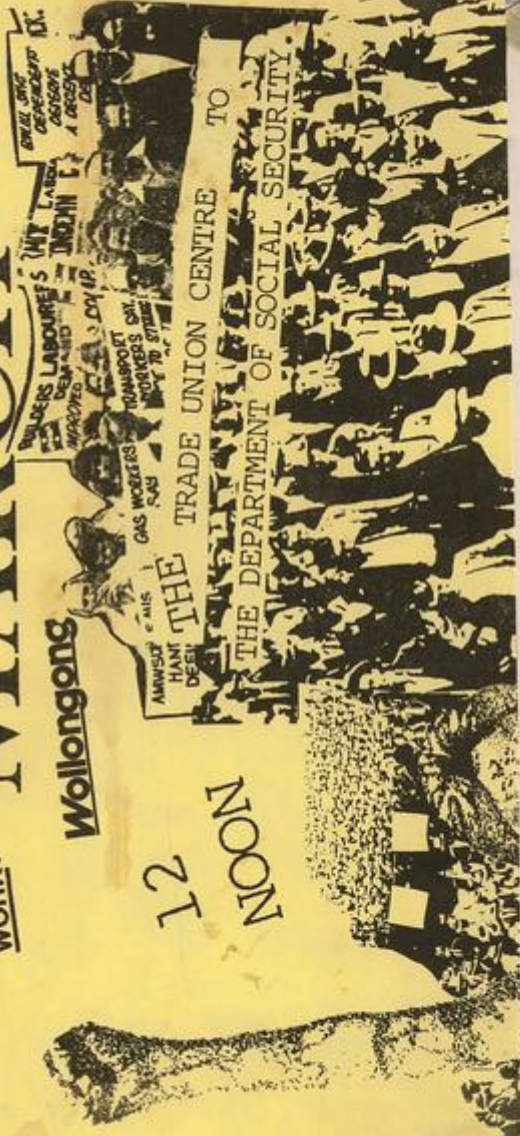
## UNEMPLOYED DAY

DEMAND  
WORK!

# MARCH

Wollongong

12  
NOON









## WHY PICKET?

Picketing Wollongong unionists were united in their efforts to maintain the solidarity of the strike last Thursday. Why were we there, at the frontline? A member of each of the three unions explains.

### LHMWU member John Papakostas

"There is speculation that the Howard government will make 500-600 million \$ cuts to universities across Australia. This would be a disaster for Wollongong Uni which is the second biggest employer in the area. The future of our world is with the young people. Without free education it's hard to survive. The way things are heading we will be going back to the 20's and 30's when only people with money got higher education.

Wages of working people have not increased over the last 5 years. Equivalent positions outside the University are paid more. This strike is even supported by the VC because the cuts are a disaster for the whole area.



CPSU members working together

### CPSU member Nick Southall

"I'm concerned about job losses - my job and the jobs of the people I work with - and attacks on education. Having been long term unemployed I understand how essential the fight for jobs is for all workers. The picket line is a physical demonstration of the unity of workers in the industry. It helps to show the government and the community the strong feeling and determination of the workers. This picket has been effective in stopping people going into the Uni and building solidarity between people in different unions. It's a visible sign for anyone who doubts that people here are genuinely concerned."



Most visitors decided not to cross the picket lines

### SELECTING A VICE PRINCIPAL (ADMIN)

Wollongong University branch of the CPSU has endorsed Union delegate Karen Narbeth for the election of a member of general staff to the selection committee for the position of Vice Principal (Admin). Karen is known as a fair minded and honest staff member who speaks her mind and will represent your interests on this committee. Make sure you have a say in getting a Union member onto the committee. Vote Karen Narbeth onto this committee!

### NTEU member Leonie Jones

If the proposed cuts go ahead Australia will be dropping out in the 21st century. Higher pay is important but it's not the most important thing for me. If these cuts go ahead they will affect the quality and number of staff. Already university staff get paid substantially less than the private sector for the same qualifications.

Many people work in Universities for love of the work rather than money. The cuts will take away the joy in the job because we will have to do more with less and there will be less money for research. We have held back from strike action in the past so as not to hurt students. As a result we have achieved nothing. This picket line draws attention to the problem. There is solidarity among staff and students and the media is paying attention. I think most people are not at work."

CPSU Branch President Brian Webb was on the picket line early and went on to address the huge rally in Sydney. Here is an edited version of his speech.

"Our VC told us that he believed John Howard was a man of integrity and would keep his promise to maintain the level of funding to Higher Education. We are here to make sure he doesn't break his promises so easily. Howard the Coward and Vanstone the Vandal haven't got the guts to tell students there'll be fewer places and fees will go up, haven't the guts to tell the unions that jobs will be cut, that they won't get a wage increase, haven't the guts to tell the Australian people that a multi billion dollar export earner will be ravaged. But we have the guts to fight. Our fight won't be a one day wonder.

We've got the guts to fight this to the end.  
We must win - we will win!"



# Violence, power, and the future

**S**ir—On January 6 (From the Editor's Desk), you ran an editorial on youth violence proposing a call from Wollongong Council's Cr Terry Gallagher for more police to deal with this increasing problem.

Most police? Was this a sick joke? Have you and this naive councillor least nothing from the Police Royal Commission?

The following day the Sun-Herald ran an article on Page Two under the heading "When Nobody Listens." This report dealt with a Youth Justice Coalition survey which showed how the young people you referred to in your editorial as "riff raff" and "rubbish" view their situation.

The survey's findings released under the title "Nobody Listens" detailed a long list of harassment and abuse by police against these poor and working class youth.

I ask: Can you really imagine what it is like to be a young girl or boy powerless in the hands of someone like former Gosford Drug Squad boss Det-Sgt Wayne Eades? Do you, Mr Cullen, in your secure middle-class world know anything about the life facing these young people, many of whom have grown up in areas devastated by poverty and

unemployment? In these regions we are now seeing generation after generation offered no hope of the life you lead.

The Mercury Opinion (January 5) said: "The level of youth unemployment in the Illawarra and many other industrially-based regions in this country is particularly high and has major ramifications for the future", and it pointed to "empty promises and empty rhetoric likely to foster future generations of unemployed, disillusioned and cynical Australians".

It is those who have power in our society who are responsible for the plight of today's youth, not the kids themselves. Our youth didn't decide to destroy jobs, cut wages and turn a blind eye to the drug barons. Those guilty of these crimes against society sit in our corporate boardrooms, police headquarters and parliament houses.

We were all warned about the consequences of offering much of our youth the bleak future they now see before them and until we take action to create an alternative future, we must all suffer.

— NICK SOUTHAALL,  
Fairy Meadow.

## HAVE YOUR SAY

Letters should be no more than 250 words. All letters must be signed, with the writer's full name, address and phone number. Letters may be edited for space or clarity. Letters should be sent to: PO Box 1215, Wollongong, NSW 2500. Fax (042) 263 616. Letters can also be sent via E-mail to: editor@news.com.au (Include contact number).

## TODAY IN HISTORY

Highlights in history on this date:

1683 — Thomas Crapper patents the self-lifting toilet.

1896 — Emilio Zola's famous defence of Captain de Drayfus, J'accuse, is published in Paris.

1921 — Fire destroys 11 buildings in downtown St. Paul.

1929 — Seventy-one people die in Black Friday riots in Victoria; Melbourne records record 1-deg Celsius temperature.

1941 — Death in Zurich of Irish novelist James Joyce.

1962 — US comedian Ernie Kovacs dies in car crash in west Los Angeles.

1978 — Death of former US Vice-President Hubert H. Humphrey, aged 66.

1982 — Sir Ninian Stephen appointed Australia's Governor-General.

1990 — Salvadoran President Alfredo Cristiani announces arrest of four officers and four soldiers in connection with slayings of six Jesuit priests.

1995 — Authorities in Philippines say they unearthed a conspiracy by militant Muslims to assassinate Pope John Paul II during his visit.

## The real causes of our problems

**S**IR—I think Mark Cuthbertson's letter in *Mercury*, January 13, blaming juveniles for the behaviour of "feral kids", which followed the article From the Editor's Desk blaming the kids themselves, has again missed the mark.

Mark asked: What has changed in our society in the last 20 years that would cause the anti-social behaviour from mostly young people?

Today we see many families being forced into such turmoil that they are breaking down. Many relationships are ending needlessly through sheer lack of time to build and sustain them.

Health is being damaged through overwork, kids are being neglected and mistreated, many young people despair. Millions live in poverty. At least one million are unemployed, while many with jobs are working 50 or more hours per week. Many of these jobs are under threat.

Hundreds of thousands of families with young children have both parents in full-time jobs. These parents are living

stressed lifestyles, rushing to childcare, commuting across and out of towns, getting little sleep, barely earning enough to offset the costs of childcare and basic essentials.

Our world is so polluted that we sustain genetic damage and have soaring rates of miscarriage and infertility. Asthma, related to air impurity, is now a problem for two in every five kids. Similar problems exist with allergies and reactions to the chemicals in the environment.

The Liberal and Labor parties both support economic rationalism, yuppie values, with people seen as expendable and pursuit of the dollar as the ultimate goal.

The future belongs to a positive alternative that embraces equality, environmentalism, compassion, happiness and freedom. We must tackle the real causes of our problems — the economic priorities of our governments and the corporate forces that shape the way we live.

— NICK SOUTHAALL,  
Fairy Meadow.

## TODAY IN HISTORY

ry on this date:

1946 — Basketball game in US.

1948 — John F. Kennedy holds the notorious Wannsee conference where they arrive at their "final solution" to Europe's Jews.

1954 — Franklin Roosevelt is sworn in as president of the United States.

1958 — Forces quell mutiny of Tanganyika's army and Kenya.

1961 — US President John F. Kennedy held a press conference after the assassination of John F. Kennedy.

1969 — Jimmy Carter to Ronald Reagan.

1984 — Australia holds what is supposed to be the first real bullfight at Dapto, NSW, but the bull falls asleep and a second could not be stirred into action.

1991 — During the Gulf War, Iraqi missiles are shot down by US Patriot rockets as they approach Dhahran, Saudi Arabia.

1993 — Audrey Hepburn, Oscar-winning actress and goodwill ambassador for UNICEF, dies in Switzerland.

1995 — The Bosnian government and rebel Serbs exchange nearly 100 prisoners in a move instilling hope in a fragile truce.

January 20, 1996

Mercury

## A CONSPIRACY AGAINST THE WORKERS

The latest revelations from the NSW Royal Commission into Police corruption have demonstrated what many on the left have known for some time.

On January 18 the *Mercury* ran a report on the former head of the Newcastle Police, Ian Cleary, who has now disclosed that he uncovered high level corruption amongst senior Newcastle police and was told by former Commissioner Lauer to "forget about it".

He also said that there were other corruption allegations that "would put my life and my families lives in jeopardy" if he aired them. "There is an organisation in Newcastle that is so strong, and controls so many things, and it is crime based," he said.

In Kings Cross, Cabramatta, Gosford, Newcastle and of course Wollongong the story is the same. Organised crime has permeated every aspect of society. Drugs, prostitution, robbery, extortion, paedophile and child porn rackets are rampant.

The top organised crime bosses do not really lurk in the shadows, they sit at the head of the capitalist system. They dominate and manipulate the media, the police, the legal system, the state bureaucracy,

the intelligence services, the armed forces, the major political parties and the trade union movement.

The ruling class has developed their divide, rule and exploit strategies into a fine art. Those who stand in their way are silenced through various, often extreme methods.

According to Frank Costigan QC, head of the Royal Commission into the Ships Painters and Dockers Union (1980-84) "A comparatively small group of people in this community are waging a war on it in an organised fashion across a wide spectrum of criminality ... if nothing is done about the current problem, within five years this country will have become a jungle." ("Can Of Worms" 1986).

Whatever the flaws of the present Royal Commission and the limited possibilities for real solutions to the organised crime it has uncovered, the left has an obligation to utilise this opportunity to expose the nature of the system we now confront.

It is time to break the silence and expose the criminal bosses and their local agents responsible for poisoning our community, the working class and its organisations.

Nick Southall

Ill. Merc. 15/5/96

## Maritime battle strategy



Sharon Pusell (left) and daughter Cali, with Richard Southall (brother of Maritime Defence Committee leader Nick Southall) and Lucy Pepolin.

Maritime defence committees have been formed in Port Kembla and Sydney to help maritime unions in their looming battle with the Federal Government over its proposed industrial relations laws.

Former Wollongong Out of Workers Union convener Nick Southall, who heads the Wollongong Maritime Defence Committee, believes a defeat for maritime workers will spell "more poverty, unemployment and social instability for the Illawarra".

"The Maritime Union of Australia has played a leading role, not only in defending its docker and seafaring membership but has often struggled militantly for the interests of the whole working

class," he said yesterday.

Mr Southall claims that before the federal election, the Coalition made plain its intention to start rolling back hard-won conditions of workers in a number of areas.

"The Wollongong MDC believes the community should unite to defend the maritime unions as they have defended our community many times during their proud history," he said.

"Attacks on maritime workers and the MUA are an attack on all workers and their unions and could result in a bitter and potentially violent struggle, the effects of which could have serious repercussions for this region and its social and economic future."



## Maritime Defence Committee Launch

On Friday May 10 around 80 people attended the launch of the Maritime Defence Committee (MDC) in Sydney. All of the main left parties and organisations were represented as well as many unions and community organisations.

The purpose of the launch was to introduce the MDC and its charter. Danny Brady, a Maritime Union of Australia (MUA) member and rank and file activist opened the night's proceedings by describing the MDC as a united front organisation providing a "non party political forum" and that "the MDC believes maritime workers need and deserve your support." He also pointed out that it was "not enough to wait for the intent of the ruling class."

Jim Donovan, MUA Central NSW Joint Branch Secretary, spoke next declaring that "the MUA will be part of any organisation that is set up to defend our union." Jim explained that the employers were "waiting for the big day" and "targetting the MUA."

"When we talk about the defence of the MUA, we are talking about the defence of the whole trade union movement," he said. "We are being targetted because of our role in the national and international labour movement, for instance our actions during the recent Weipa dispute." Referring to the MUA's National Action Conference held in Sydney on May 17, Jim invited everyone to attend. "We will launch our offensive next Friday" he said.

The next speaker was Shaun Shaffer, NSW Central Branch Assistant Secretary, who congratulated the MDC on its formation. "The Liberals are legislating against workers

and their ability to organise collectively. We must take this opportunity to start fighting because no-one else will do it for us. We owe the previous generations who established our conditions and those who will follow us," he said.

A CPSU delegate addressed the gathering and expressed solidarity with the MDC, MUA and maritime workers and supported a call for a national day of action against Howard's attacks.

Finally Amanda Perkins, a recruitment officer for the PKIU section of the AMWU and an MDC Steering Committee member explained that "the MDC has an activist role and encourages rank and file unionists and community activists to join the committee. We will be producing propaganda to distribute throughout the community. We will be holding events like film nights and public meetings. We want to take pro-worker arguments into the community, lend support to demonstrations, picket lines and any other MUA actions. The MDC believes that history is made by people, by class struggle, that every one of us can influence what happens. The victory of the bosses is not a forgone conclusion. Petty differences cannot be allowed to come between us. If we stick together we can win!"

Readers may have noted (in the Mercury) the launch of the Maritime Defence Committee in Wollongong. For more information contact Nick Southall on (042) 84 8004.



## Govt. To Use Troops Against Maritime Workers?

**Coalition's  
secret plan  
to break the  
docks union**

**Unions ready to fight  
for waterfront, even if  
military is called in**

By Peter H. Rothermel  
Washington  
The AFL-CIO leaders are warning  
that the government's plan to use  
troops against the Maritime Union  
of Australia (MUA) is a direct  
threat to the rights of all workers.

Unions are ready to fight  
for waterfront, even if  
military is called in.

Unions are ready to fight  
for waterfront, even if  
military is called in.

**Unions vow to fight as  
waterfront war looms**



**PM refuses  
to back down  
on waterfront**

By Associated Press (AP) Wirephoto

The Federal Government, the National Farmers Federation (NFF) and anti-union companies are preparing to go to war against the Maritime Union of Australia (MUA). As the articles above show the Howard Government has drawn up plans to smash the MUA and is even considering the use of the armed forces. This attack on the MUA is part of the government's attempts to destroy the organised workers' movement.

Defeating this union would be of great historical importance for the bosses in Australia and internationally. The MUA has played a leading role, not only in defending its docker and seafaring membership, but has often struggled militantly for the interests of the whole working class.

In response to the intensified attacks on living standards, working conditions and union organisations, maritime workers have made substantial concessions by foregoing hard won conditions and reducing workforce levels while at the same time increasing the volume of production. Despite this situation employers continue to attack these workers. The tactics being used by the employers, supported by the Federal Government, are part of a multinational devised onslaught. First they attacked maritime workers in Chile, then Britain, followed closely by New Zealand, France, Italy and now Australia.

**An injury to one is an injury to all**



## Defend the maritime workers

In Wellington, New Zealand, large numbers of police forcibly arrest the national president of the Seafarers' Union Dave Morgan and 26 New Zealand seafarers while they picket the cross trader American Star. Another 16 New Zealand seafarers are arrested on a picket in Lyttleton. In Liverpool, England, police waded in with their batons, rendering one British docker unconscious by blows to his head. While he is down, a 'thug in uniform' inserts two fingers up his nostrils.

And in Australia, mining giant Rio Tinto calls for 200 police and for scab drivers to smash a union picket and deliver coal to the Newcastle wharves. Management at the New Castle coal loader (30 per cent owned by Rio Tinto) threaten to stand down maritime workers who refuse to load any scab coal they force through to the picket. "These incidents, all within weeks of each other, show what lengths conservative governments and big business will go to do away with unions," said MUA national secretary John Coombs. "It's happening everywhere. And wherever it happens in Australia we're going to find the Maritime Union will be in the frontline."

The Wollongong Maritime Defence Committee (MDC) is calling on people to contact us if they can offer support physically (i.e. on picket lines), by distributing information, financially or with resources.

The MDCs believe it is imperative that we unite to defend these workers and their union. To this end the MDC is trying to develop the political, organisational and financial means necessary to help achieve this, as well as inform and educate the community as to the significance of this struggle. The Wollongong MDC includes workers, students, unemployed people and pensioners and, although independent, maintains cooperative links and communication with the Maritime Union of Australia. The MDC seeks to work alongside the union in this important struggle.

The **next meeting** of the Maritime Defence Committee will be held on

**TUESDAY OCTOBER 14th 6pm**

at the Ironworkers' Building, 2nd Floor

325 Crown Street Wollongong.

**For more info. you can contact the  
Maritime Defence Committee on  
42848004 or C/O 35 Balgownie Rd.  
Fairy Meadow 2519.**

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**One Nation and it's**  
**racist hate**  
**are coming here!**

**One Nation are launching a branch in Coirrimal in  
preparation for the federal elections**

**Say no to racism, fascism and**  
**hate ! Rally and demo**  
**against One Nation**

***7pm Tuesday 18 August***  
***Corrimal Community Centre, Short St.***  
***Corrimal (behind the library)***



Ill. Nat. 8/8/97

## One Nation rolls into town

Photo: DAVID TRAVIS



A protestor and Pauline Hanson supporter exchange views outside the One Nation Party meeting in Robertson last night.

## All quiet in Robertson

By JENNY DENNIS

Pauline Hanson's One Nation Party juggernaut steamed quietly into the Southern Highlands last night.

Aside from some eggs hurled by Hanson supporters, the meeting - at which Ms Hanson was not present - went off relatively peacefully.

While 20 protesters and 15 police officers braved the chill outside the Robertson School of Arts, another 80 listened inside as Robertson businessman Tom Dell read from a prepared speech.

Several of the protesters chanting outside were from Wollongong, representatives of the socialist youth organisations Youth Against Racism and Campaign Against Racism.

They were joined by local and Illawarra High School students and other individuals drawn to the meeting to protest the One Nation Party's first foray into the Illawarra region.

Robertson residents, watching from outside as people entered the School of Arts, claimed there were very few locals among the Hanson followers.

They labelled the majority of the audience "the usual rent-a-crowd-mob".

Jade Markham, a student at Keira High, said she had travelled to Robertson because she wanted to express herself as a non-racist.

"People need to get involved," she said.

Miss Markham was one of several protesters pelted with eggs as the Hanson supporters left the hall at the end of the meeting.

Ross Marshall from Moss Vale, who said he'd decided to drive out to Robertson to make a silent



Police escort one person through the crowd outside Robertson's School of Arts.

protest outside the meeting, was hit by an egg with such force that a gash was opened above his left eye.

Police took the names of those Hanson supporters suspected of hurling the eggs, but there were no arrests last night.

The newly signed-up Southern Highland's One Nation Party members will meet again in Robertson next month.

GLW

Nick Southall  
35 Balgownie Road  
FAIRY MEADOW 2519

Dear GLW,

I would like to take up a couple of issues which have been discussed recently in GLW relating to the anti-One Nation demos.

Firstly, the issue of freedom of speech. Last week's GLW (13/8/97) carried an article by Sean Healy (Socialist and Free Speech) which argued that socialists defend the democratic right of free speech and that "any restriction of democratic rights by capitalist governments is an attack on the working class's ability to discuss and debate what politics are best suited to advancing its interests".

The whole of Sean's article seemed to offer a naive belief in the 'democratic rights' that exist in a capitalist society. In reality these 'rights' do not exist and any call to 'defend' them fosters false illusions about the true nature of capitalist society.

Sean claims that capitalism "is forced to continually try to restrict democratic rights". In fact, the working class under capitalism constantly encounters the contradictions between the 'rights' proclaimed by the 'democracy' of the capitalists and the thousands of real limitations and dirty tricks which the dictatorship of the capitalists imposes. To argue in favour of the 'democratic right to freedom of speech' in a capitalist society is to support the status quo. It is the argument of Howard and Hanson. Does Sean really believe that the working class thinks that there should be no restriction on what people are allowed to say, for instance, the public promotion of child sexual abuse. This position also causes you to oppose racial vilification legislation, which will alienate you from other groups in the community who are actively combatting racism. 'Free speech' is directly connected to who has power and who doesn't, and Sean's position fails to recognise this fact.

Secondly the issue of non-violence. I was a participant in the Anti-One Nation demonstration in Robertson which was attacked in an orchestrated way by racist thugs. While some may see this as a "good example of a non-violent protest" (One Nation Supporters Attack Peaceful Protest 13/8/97), I do not think that being beaten and attacked was an "empowering" experience. Malcolm X, a very famous anti-racist fighter, once pointed out that to argue non-violence in the face of racist violence was a "crime". While I am not advocating attacks on One Nation supporters or their meetings I do believe that self defence and self protection can involve having to decide whose blood will be spilt. When the working class confronts the enemy holding the white flag of non-violence history shows it is not long before that flag is stained red.

Nick Southall



## One Nation supporters attack peaceful protest

By Simon Frew

WOLLONGONG — On August 7, 50 people who had gathered in the southern highlands town of Robertson to protest peacefully against the inaugural meeting of the One Nation party were assaulted by racists.

Activists from Resistance, Youth Against Racism, the Campaign Against Racism and local community members had assembled outside the Robertson School of Arts, with placards and information leaflets.

The demonstrators handed out leaflets rebutting some of Hanson's claims, and sang and chanted enthusiastically. High school students danced and played drums.

From the outset, eggs and insults were thrown at protesters by Hanson supporters. A protester carrying a megaphone was attacked with pliers, and the megaphone cord was slashed. Police witnessed the attack but did not intervene or attempt to arrest or even question the attacker.

Several Hanson supporters remained outside. They attempted to intimidate protesters by writing down the number plates of protesters' cars, and following protesters across the road to the toilets, forcing us to go only in groups.

Following the meeting, more eggs were thrown at protesters. A local man was hit in the eye, and another protester was knocked to the ground. At least one Hanson supporter punched a protester, giving him a bleeding nose.

Police have refused to lay charges on the evidence of protesters unless the incident were recorded by television cameras. Police even refused to take statements from bleeding protesters.

Television coverage then claimed that police suspected protesters "came to the rally with more than placards and banners". Several pro-

testers intend to lodge official complaints against police.

Protest organisers had stressed the need for protests against One Nation to be peaceful, and the rights of all to free speech. These incidents prove that it is Hanson supporters who are promoting hatred and violence.

Campaign Against Racism spokesperson Andrew Hall said: "In spite of tonight's violence, we will not be intimidated, and we will continue to exercise our democratic right to freedom of speech and show our opposition to One Nation's racist and divisive policies."

"This was a good example of a non-violent, empowering and politically challenging protest. But it has been twisted by the media to imply that trouble was caused by the demonstrators."

Journalists were visibly shocked at the time, but they — or their editors — still did not accurately report the events. The *Illawarra Mercury*, for example, headlined its coverage "All quiet in Robertson", and omitted to mention the punching by Hanson supporters or the attack with pliers.

"This was one of the most spirited and enthusiastic protests. People going to the meeting were not abused", said Hall.

"A majority of people attending the



Resistance activists campaign against racism in Sydney last week.

meeting were undecided on the party's views but wanted to hear for themselves. Upon leaving the meeting, a number of people commented that they now agreed with the protesters, and several congratulated us for protesting."

Dr Margaret Perrow, a long-term peace activist who attended the protest, told *Green Left Weekly*, "I was

shocked at the television's attempt to deliberately distort the facts".

Local television news coverage repeated lies from Hanson supporters, including from one, a confessed "proud racist", that eggs on his car was thrown by protesters.

"Everyone there, protesters, police and One Nation supporters, knew it

was the racists throwing eggs", Dr Perrow said.

Another One Nation meeting in Robertson is planned in four weeks. All people interested in coordinating a non-violent and safe response to Hanson and her One Nation supporters should contact the Campaign Against Racism or Resistance on (042) 262 010. ■

# BOOK LAUNCH

Meet and hear WENDY LOWENSTEIN author of

## WEEVILS AT WORK

What's happening to work in Australia  
- an oral record

A compelling book, a great read and worthy companion to  
*Weevils in the Flour*.

LIANA THOMPSON, CITY OF PORT PHILLIP MAYOR

Lays bare the losses and the legacy of economists and national leaders who put personal interest before public good. There is deep anger here as working people contemplate what it means to be an Australian today.

PETER LOVE, LABOUR HISTORY SOCIETY PRESIDENT

'Work is not just what we do for a living, it is what we do with our life.'  
Wendy Lowenstein, author of *Weevils in the Flour*, has done it again.

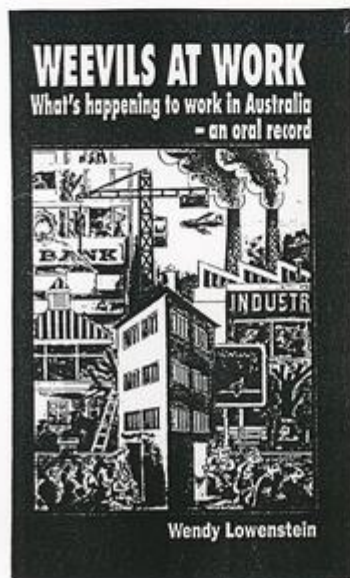
Interviewing people in and out of work, she brings alive today's Australia. Her informants spare neither Labor nor Liberal governments, employers or trade union bureaucrats. She sees unemployment as the great destroyer of life; and hope as existing only in people's ability and determination to organise resistance at the grassroots.

Warmly recommended.

ROBIN GOLLAN, EMERITUS PROFESSOR OF HISTORY, AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL UNIVERSITY

Wendy Lowenstein pioneered white oral history in Australia with the best-selling *Weevils in the Flour* about the 1930s Depression. It was described by the Melbourne Age as 'so good that it is impossible to praise it sufficiently without sounding absurd...'

*Weevils at Work* is a timely companion volume bringing together interviews with Australians, in and out of work, from the early 1980s to the mid-1990s.



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1997



# Aust's workers have their say

By GLEN HUMPHRIES

A SOCIAL worker who found statistics about client treatment were more important than the clients, a coal miner who admits to being a mystical philosopher, a CES employment officer who says official unemployment figures are false, a marijuana grower who complains about the stress of his "occupation".

These are just some of the people who talk out their work in Wendy Lowenstein's latest book, *Workers at Work*. What's Happening to Us in Australia. The book is an oral history; in person tells their story in their own words, using the way they feel about work.

This is Lowenstein's second oral history book. A former journalist, she has also been a story worker, history teacher and a school nurse. Her book about the Depression, *Resists in the Foot*, gained considerable praise (and sale).

Oral history is, for Lowenstein, a way of trying to get the balance, a way of ensuring people don't slip through the cracks of history.

"It offers an opportunity for democratising history," she said. "Most history is written by winners about winners, so I suppose 90 per cent of 20th century history is written about famous men."

"If we're talking about labour history, it's the labour elites and trade union leaders. It's very, very seldom about the workers. After all, workers are 90, maybe 95 per cent of the human race, yet they become lost to history because very few workers write their memoirs."

"Middle-class people tend to leave letters and things (but) the workers tend to just work and die."

Her fascination with both oral history and people's employment took one of a folklore project she was researching.

"I tried to go out and find folklore and folk music for the National Library and for myself," she said. "When people didn't know any more folklore, I'd ask them 'what do you do for a living?' I was interested."

"I was always been interested in working life, in how people do their jobs, why they do them and how they feel about them."

When she began *Workers at Work*, she thought she'd be able to finish it in a year, but the project took more than four years of writing and researching, with Lowenstein interviewing double the number of people that ended up in the book.

There are a diverse range of occupations featured in the book: miners, farmers, unionists, librarians, youth workers, painters, ambulance officers, as well as unemployed people.

While some of these made it into the book because they were friends or friends of friends, others simply popped up.

"I found one guy when I was in Adelaide working on the job," she said. "I needed to get my car fixed and I turned up at the mechanic's at 7:30am. I thought they'd be closed but they were open."

"I said, 'My God, you start early'."

"He said 'yeah, and I bloody work late'. I asked him if he got overtime and he said, 'you've got to be joking'."

Then he said how he seldom saw his children and how they were in bed by the time he got home.

For Lowenstein, getting these people to talk about themselves was easy. "Once they know you understand and talk their language and that you're on their side."

One method she used was to send the interview back to each person so they could read it. She makes minor changes to the text but leaves the speaker's sentiments intact.

"Often when I do send it back to them, they write back and say, 'I don't know why you bothered to send



Wendy Lowenstein: "People feel that they're being deskilled". PHOT: ANDY ZWILL

it to me. You didn't change a word."

I might have worked on that piece for a week, but I don't add my own words. What you have to do is edit it in such a way that it's told the way the bloke would have liked to have told it."

Despite each person being in different jobs, Lowenstein believes they express many of the same sentiments. "There's a) lack of trust in government and political parties of any sort."

"There's b) the belief that we're being screwed and, whilst we're told it's for our own good, things aren't getting better and our children aren't getting jobs."

"There's just cynicism about what we've been told. Everybody's doing it."

"White collar unemployed and white collar employed feel they are being programmed so if they are on a production line, to not out on the time they spend on things."

"All these things are happening, which are making people feel that they're being deskilled and that they're not able to do a decent job that they can be proud of."

From Lowenstein's perspective, it's not all bad news. She sees people are beginning to do something about their situation, in an attempt to change it for the better.

"What I think is interesting is the response to the (Federal Government's) work for the d-ole (scheme). In Wellington, I understand they've started an unemployed workers' movement. This is the first I've heard of that happening for 30 years... the ACTU is calling for action against work for the d-ole. That seems to me to be a hopeful sign."

"I think another hopeful thing is that people won't put up with it forever. You're finding half the workforce being forced to work harder and pay more and more taxes to support the other half who aren't working."

"Also, (people are) being pressured more than they can stand in the workplace. I think that these things break down (and) I believe there will be a big struggle."

*Workers at Work - What's Happening to Us in Australia*, by Wendy Lowenstein (Camden Press, pp \$24.95).

## THEIR OWN WORDS

The following extracts are from *Workers at Work*:

"In the early 80s a lot of my school friends, including my boyfriend, were unemployed. No jobs in Wellington. People being laid off from the mines and steelworks. And I was consuming to Sydney every day. The line went a clear-cut, took hours to get to work and I was a tracer at the Water Board, drawing plans. Anyone with half a brain could do it."

— SHARON, unemployment activist

"It's not like agriculture where the price starts with the middle man. The grower's selling to the agent, so you're satisfied with the price you're getting. You might make, say, \$20,000 a year. It varies from year to year."

— GEORGE, marijuana grower

"No-one should believe the monthly unemployment figures of around eight to 10 per cent - \$80,000 to one million. The real rate is 20 to 30 per cent, or at least two million and almost certainly more."

— MARCUS, CES employment officer

"I'm a mystical philosopher, belonging to an ancient, mystical order. We study natural and spiritual laws, ask ourselves 'what do you mean by God?' You've got to find yourself, know who you are, what you are, what's your purpose in life."

— GIOVANNI, miner

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Mercury 12/8/97



Author Wendy Lowenstein in Wollongong to launch her book on Weeivats at Work - What's Happening to Work in Australia.

## Author says workers are being squeezed

By LOUISE TURK

Australian workers are facing increasing despair and dissatisfaction with the rapidly changing workplace, according to author Wendy Lowenstein.

Ms Lowenstein said professionals and blue collar workers were finding work stressful as they struggled to endure longer hours, under the daily pressures of job insecurity, enterprise bargaining and redundancy.

The former journalist made these observations after interviewing hundreds of Australians from various walks of life for her latest book, *Weeivats at Work - What's Happening to Work in Australia*.

The oral history was launched by Wollongong University's Dr Mike Donohue on Sunday.

Ms Lowenstein spent 10 years travelling around the nation recording the personal experiences of those in and out of work.

She said many workers believed they had lost their personal autonomy and job satisfaction under the constraints of economic rationalisation. "People, particularly professional

workers, feel they are being squeezed in their profession," she said. "There are social workers, for instance, who spend more time typing in statistics than dealing with people and they feel the human content is being taken out of their work. They feel they are being reduced to production lines."

Ms Lowenstein said the people she interviewed said they were required constantly to find cheaper and quicker ways of doing things in the workplace. She said the pressure to perform had created a subversive workforce.

"It's making people insecure and lead so that they mustn't stick their head out," she said.

"I think it's more than social change, I think it's an attack on workers by capitalists who are now determined to exploit maximum profits and I think people are being cornered into being the architects of their own destruction."

Ms Lowenstein said the working class movement had to get better organised to defend its rights. She said new forms of organisations, in addition to trade unions, would soon evolve to enable people to fight back.

## LETTERS TO THE

### Workers and jobless urged to join forces

SIR - In response to K Tonnaga (Mercury, August 1) and Y Bower (August 6), I point out a number of facts regarding the Howard Government's work-for-the-dole scheme.

It is the latest in a series of attacks on the unemployed which began when the Coalition took office. The scheme is being used as a cheap response to rising unemployment which distracts attention from the fact Government policies are creating unemployment, not jobs.

Tens of thousands of jobs are being destroyed in the education system, public and community services and in industries such as BHP in Newcastle. The message from the Howard Government is that the jobless, especially the young, should not expect real jobs and do not deserve a decent standard of living.

After pulling off the hand-out of labour market programs in their first Budget, the Coalition needs another way of keeping thousands of desperate and angry young people busy and under supervision. The Government is now talking of a "massive expansion" of the scheme in the next Budget.

I have worked as a community worker, mainly with unemployed youth, for 10 years - mostly as a volunteer. During this time I have never had a permanent full-time job, only part-time, temporary and casual positions. I have been willing to give my time and energy to help my community because those responsible for mass unemployment have not provided

money or resources to help those in need. Today I am again unemployed after having my casual job at Wollongong University destroyed by Federal Government funding cuts. Now I am being told I may soon have to join a slave-labour scheme or have my meagre income, which is below the poverty line, taken away.

If I am forced to work for this pittance and I am injured or killed on the job, my partner and two children will receive no compensation. This has already happened to unemployed people in the UK and US.

I will also be denied protection under the Workplace Relations Act, the Occupational Health and Safety Act and various other Acts.

Traditionally those in power use periods of depression and the resulting large pool of poverty-stricken desperate unemployed as a lever to force down wages and attack working conditions.

If you allow someone to work for the dole, how long will it be before you are working for the dole and receiving the same sort of working conditions?

This scheme is an attack on all workers and must be stopped. Workers and the unemployed must now unite and say 'no' to this attack.

Unemployed people already make a massive voluntary contribution to our community - largely unrecognised. They need decent jobs and wages, not slavery.

- NICK SOUTHALL,  
Fairy Meadow.

### HAVE YOUR SAY

Letters should be no more than 250 words. They should be signed with the writer's full address and phone number for verification. Letters may be edited for space or clarity. Letters should be sent to PO Box 1215, Wollongong, NSW 2500. Fax (042) 263 616. E-mail letters to: editor@llnews.com.au (include phone number). Letter writers please note: Letters published in this newspaper may be republished by the Illawarra Mercury on the Internet, CD ROM, by photocopying and other methods.



FIDEL CASTRO

### TODAY IN HISTORY

Highlights in history on this date:

1668 - First of a series of earthquakes in Peru and Ecuador which kill about 25,000.

1910 - Death of Florence Nightingale, British nurse in the Crimean War.

1920 - Princess Highway between Melbourne and Sydney is officially opened at Warragul.

1926 - Birth date of Fidel Castro, long-term President of Cuba.

at 13, 1997

Mercury 13/8/97



# Wharfies firm against sneak attack

Cold, wet but defiant even on an empty jetty

By LOUISE TURK

They were cold, they were wet but they remained defiant.

While major ports around the nation remained in turmoil, a small band of Port Kembla wharfies manning a picket line kept guard over an empty wharf determined that "Australia's defining point in industrial relation history" would not sneak up on them.

The union members and their supporters stood their ground even though there was no ship to defend from non-union labour and the jetty they were protecting was not leased by Patrick.

Their unity was watertight and showed no signs of leakage. Most of them remained at the jetty for up to 12-hour shifts.

Previous pickets along the fence, which separates the dock and the forecourt, were rained too wet yesterday and wharfies had huddled under a tarpaulin or sought refuge in an amenities block.

Retired waterfront worker Jim Keough, of Shellharbour, gave up the comforts of home to join the picket line as soon as he heard of Patrick's sacking of its entire workforce, including 45 employees at Port Kembla.

"We have a brotherly instinct to help each other and to fight against illegal sackings and against big corporate take-overs," he said.

Mr Keough, who was on the waterfront for 38 years, said he was prepared to lend his hand to the union's industrial campaign for as long as was needed.

Waterfront veteran Eric Myers, of Albion Park, said the resolve of members would stay strong until the dispute ended.

Mr Myers, an honorary official with the Maritime Union of Australia, said the wharfies' high spirits had been buoyed by visits to the jetty from well-wishers.

"We have been able to maintain a positive attitude because we have been unwillingly dismissed in politically driven action," he said.

"We are very confident that trade union workers and the public can see through what Patrick and the Government has done. It's not about efficiency and productivity. It's about denouncing the workforce."

He said many Wollongong unionists had volunteered their support at Port Botany and Darling Harbour yesterday.



Port Kembla waterfront workers and their supporters remained strong and defiant in yesterday's trying weather conditions.

# Violence erupts at Sydney dock

Patrick denies security guard mace attack

Three people were injured as violence erupted between Patrick stevedore security guards and Maritime Union of Australia workers along a fence at Sydney's Darling Harbour dock yesterday morning.

Further trouble is predicted in Melbourne this morning, where trucks are due to start dropping off and collecting cargo from a Patrick terminal where a freight train was turned back by protesters yesterday.

The Darling Harbour confrontation appeared to support claims by the MUA that security guards sprayed protesters and police with mace.

MUA assistant national secretary Vic Slater was confident workers from the security



MR FISCHER

company employed by Patrick would be charged over the incident.

"Two police officers, three waterfront workers and a camera operator were all sprayed

in the eyes and face. We have statements from witnesses who saw the guards wearing gloves spraying the substance," he said.

"There's a police investigation taking place and I am confident that at the end of it charges will be laid."

Patrick said wharfies had tried to storm the dock fence and a spokesman "categorically denied" its employees had used toxic spray.

The company was cooperating with a police investigation of the incident, a spokesman said.

"If it is, at the end of the day, proven that someone on our side was responsible (for using mace), then they'll be dismissed," he said.

The situation remained tense around the country as non-union contractors,

employed by Patrick to replace the 1400 workers, lacked nationally on Tuesday, continued to load and unload cargo.

About 150 protesters linked arms and stood across railway tracks at the gates of Appleton Dock in Melbourne, stopping a train from Adelaide pulling 30 containers to Patrick's East Swanston dock.

MUA national industrial officer Mick O'Leary conceded non-union labour had begun work at Patrick terminals in Sydney, Brisbane, Melbourne and Newcastle, but scoffed at the number of personnel the company appeared to have working.

"I've heard reports that they've got a total of 60 people working. Well, 60 people are hardly going to take over the Australian docks," he said.

(Sharon + I at back of photo - on right.) 22/4/98 Mercury P. 3

## WAR ON THE WATERFRONT



Maritime union members in Sydney cheer the Federal Court ruling ordering Patrick to reinstate them.

# Wharfies win back jobs





Mercury 27/2/99

## Funeral service for Sally Bowen

# She cared for all at work

By GEOFF FAILES

A funeral service will be held at Bulli on Tuesday for prominent union, political and community activist Sally Bowen, who died on Thursday.

Ms Bowen, who was 81, died in Lawrence Hargrave Hospital, Throuth, after suffering a stroke several months ago.

Survived by a daughter Margaret and son David, Ms Bowen was widely known for her union and political activities, especially her work with the miners' women's auxiliary.

And throughout her active years, the former farm hand, steelworker and Communist Party official found time to record her vast array of experiences in poetry through a book called *A Garland of Poetry*.

Several years ago, Ms Bowen was nominated for Wollongong's Australia Day citizenship award in recognition of her community work.



Union, political and community activist Sally Bowen, who died on Thursday at the age of 81. She cared greatly for working people.

Ms Bowen worked for peace since 1950 in the Organisation for International Cooperation and Disarmament and the Save Our Sons movement during the Vietnam war.

At Lysaghts where she worked on production of the Owen machine gun during the war years, Ms Bowen joined the Ironworkers Union and was appointed to the shop committee.

Former Combined Pensioners' Association branch secretary Bob Heggen said yesterday Ms Bowen was instrumental in the success of the miners' women's auxiliary and was

involved in many miners' protests.

Another friend Peter Cockcroft described Mrs Bowen as "a hero".

"She was the best there was," he said.

"Sally was the first person I met when I first came to Wollongong in 1976 from Sydney. She was a loyal and committed person."

"The Wollongong women's centre was named after her and the miners' women's auxiliary is a monument to her."

Unemployed activist Nick Southall said Ms Bowen was "loved by so many people and

touched so many people" during her life.

"She cared so much for working people."

He said the movie *Kemira - Diary of a Strike*, the story of the Kemira mine sit-in which featured Ms Bowen would be screened at the migrant resource centre on March 28 as a tribute to her.

Keira MP Colin Markham said Ms Bowen was a great Australian whose commitment to helping the working class was "second to none".

A funeral service will be held at Parson, Bulli, on Tuesday at 2pm.



The Broad Left Collective presents

**A TRIBUTE  
TO  
SALLY  
BOWEN**



**KEMIRA  
DIARY OF A  
STRIKE**  
Including a screening of  
which features Sally  
supporting the Kemira Mine occupation

and a tribute by Joyce Critcher (South Coast Miners' Womens' Aux.)

**SUNDAY MARCH 28 1pm**

**Migrant Resource Centre**  
(cnr. Market & Kembia St. Wollongong)

For more info ph: (02) 42848004

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Sally Speech

Before Film

In September 1982, BHP notified 400 miners at six local pits that they were being retrenched. The companies reason for the sackings was a downturn in demand for coal which made the coal from these pits unprofitable. In response to this announcement the miners at Kemira pit, where 206 of the 296 workers were threatened, decided to take militant action. In October they began a stay-in strike. Thirty one miners occupied the mine, living 15 kilometres underground.

Film-maker, T. Zupski and his crew travelled to Wollongong during the strike and captured the... worked with... the local com...

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the occupati... olved as p... port, shov... workplac...

V... i... her... e... cont... fea... melo... produ... which...

After the film

Sally B... dictated... injustice... partisan,

Sally trust... in practices... them. Sally... they needed... and oppresse...

Sally Bowen



1918 - 1999



## Sally Speech

### Before Film

In September 1982, BHP notified 400 miners at six local pits that they were being retrenched. The companies reason for the sackings was a downturn in demand for coal which made the coal from these pits unprofitable. In response to this announcement the miners at Kemira pit, where 206 of the 296 workers were threatened, decided to take militant action. In October they began a stay-in strike. Thirty one miners occupied the mine, living 15 kilometres underground.

Film-maker, Tom Zubricki and his crew travelled to Wollongong during the strike and captured the dramatic events that unfolded on film. In the next few months Tom and his crew worked with Sally and other comrades following the fortunes of the strikers, their families and the local community.

There are no women mineworkers in Kemira. No women occupy the mine, but women do occupy the pit face, led by Sally Bowen. Sally and the other women organised through the Miners Womens Auxiliary, that Sally helped to form, are vitally involved in the strike. Not simply in their ability to provide the miners with food, not just because they organise an effective support structure, but because Sally and the Womens Auxiliary provide the impetus and the moral support which allows the men to maintain their rage.

The occupation of the mine puts the women in a role of active equality with the men, directly involved as partners in the struggle at the workplace. Sally and the other women, through their support, show the men that the strikes meaning is not limited to the relations of worker, boss and workplace, but instead involves all aspects of their lives - home, family and community.

While Sally is shown playing an important role in the occupation, she would never of allowed herself to be shown as the films main hero. Instead we witness the change of Ngaire, from a confused, fearful woman into a strong determined figure. Her story and the film itself is a melodrama with tragic implications. Almost seventeen years have past since this film was produced, yet today I believe it is in fact more relevant than it was then. This is a great film which features great people, including one of the greatest - Sally Bowen.

### After the film

Sally Bowen was a communist. This doesn't mean she was a dictator or a terrorist. Sally never dictated to people - she was a teacher and a leader. Sally never terrorised people - she fought injustice and she hated violence and oppression. Sally was a liberator, a freedom fighter, a partisan, a working class hero.

Sally trusted and believed in the working class. She had no faith in politicians and saw no hope in practices that benefitted a few and damaged many. Sally tried to include people not exclude them. Sally didn't wait until some future day to let working people have power, she knew that they needed that power today. Sally built socialism amongst the downtrodden, the exploited and oppressed. She built socialism from below.



Sally dedicated her life and all her energies to society's progress, working tirelessly to assist the working class in its effort to create a progressive social system. All of us should grieve for Sally's death, for we have lost a great friend and comrade. Yet we should also pay tribute to Sally in the way I am sure she would have wanted.

We need to build socialism. The socialism of Sally Bowen, the socialism of human dignity, human respect, of peace and love. We need to build socialism amongst each other, support each other and be strong like Sally. We need to build socialism amongst our families, and our friends. We need to take care of each other, and share what we have, like Sally did. We need to build socialism amongst our workmates, and in our communities, and we need to oppose and defeat those who would put us down and exploit us. We need to help socialism grow throughout the world, creating a new world. Because a new world, is the only fitting tribute to Sally Bowen.

## wollongong

Strike action on April 19 has assisted progress of the Union's EB claim. During discussions between the parties on Friday May 14, the following points of agreement were reached:

1. The University Management would not offer Australian Workplace Agreements to Deans and Directors provided that these classifications are exempted from the HECE award. As well mutually acceptable arrangements must be reached in relation to superannuation, salary packaging, misconduct and performance management.

2. The existing 60% rule in relation to casual academic staff would be maintained and made consistent with the HECE Award.

3. The principle of participation in the disciplinary procedures by a person or persons external to the University and appointed by mutual agreement between Management and the Union would be maintained.

Arrangements are being made to begin drafting clauses for workloads and flexible delivery at the next enterprise bargaining meeting. As a result of this progress the NTEU decided not to hold strike action on the 26th and 27th of May and also suspended its proposal



to implement further and subsequent industrial action. The NTEU however affirms its commitment to taking industrial action in the event of unsatisfactory progress in achieving the Branch's log of claims in the current round of Enterprise Bargaining.

*Anti-clockwise from below: NTEU recruiter Nick Southall with the main message of the day; the picket line; from left: Wollongong Branch Treasurer Ron Perrin, Executive Officer Jo Kowalczyk & President Mike Morrissey.*



**I SUPPORT THE STRIKE**





Dr Lenore Lyons joined her Wollongong University peers on a picket line over an enterprising bargaining dispute. **Picture: DAVID TEASE**

## Academics walk out over zero rise offer 1777

By NALITA FERRAZ

Striking Wollongong University academics have accused the institution's management of inflexibility in the latest round of enterprise bargaining talks.

National Tertiary Education Union Wollongong branch president Michael Morrissey said management was unwilling to come to the table and discuss the 19 per cent pay claim.

Frustrated academics walked off the job yesterday, cancelling almost all classes and forming a picket line to protest against management's "attitude".

But Vice-Chancellor Professor Gerard Sutton rejected claims he did not want to negotiate with the union, saying he would if he could.

"They know the university does not have funds to pay the salary increase despite what they are putting out," Prof Sutton said.



**PROF SUTTON**

"They have access to the budget and financial statements — and there are no funds."

Mr Morrissey said the union could not accept that position and would press on with its claim for increased salaries and no changes

to employment conditions.

"The pay increase (claim) is 19 per cent but that's negotiable," Mr Morrissey said.

"The point is that they are offering a pay increase of zero per cent and they're saying that's not negotiable."

"The strike action was not about the amount of pay increase but about their attitude in not negotiating."

Academics at universities across the country are involved in enterprise bargaining talks with their respective managements.

Mr Morrissey said a long and drawn-out process would affect student recruitment and he urged Wollongong University to make an attempt to negotiate.

"Some of our main competitors, like the Universities of NSW and Sydney, are moving towards some sort of settlement," he said.

"If they're all nicely tucked

up and settled by the middle of the year and we're still going on like this then the effect on recruitment is going to be pretty obvious."

Prof Sutton said the claim that other universities were close to settlement was ridiculous.

"The offer on the table at the University of NSW is one per cent which is not a lot different to zero per cent," Prof Sutton said.

"I understand the academics are frustrated in so far as any reasonable comparison to be drawn with say, high-school teachers, would indicate academics deserve a salary increase."

"The only way we can pay a salary increase is for the Federal Government to change the indexation arrangements for universities which they said they would do and now are reneging on, or we increase our income from fees, or job losses."

1777  
24. MAR 20 / 12 / 97

The Editor  
Illawarra Mercury

Nick Southall  
17 Lombard Ave  
Fairy Meadoq 2519  
PH: 42848004

8 / 2 / 99

Dear Sir,

I felt I must respond to J. Lowrey's two letters (26/1/99 & 5/2/99) concerning the leadership of the South Coast Labour Council (SCLC). Jack states in his first letter that an attempt to replace the current leadership is "organised by the ruling class" and that critics of the leadership are "people who represent the ruling class". His second letter again calls in to question the activism and allegiance of critics of the present SCLC leaders.

I think Jack maybe right when he says "we are heading for the greatest depression in history". That is why the leadership of the working class movement is an important issue for the whole class, not just the delegates to the SCLC. The central issues are unity and democracy within the trade union movement. As an unemployed worker and past unemployed representative to the SCLC I have been a labour movement activist for twenty years. I have supported numerous actions of the SCLC and I have spoken on the floor of the SCLC to criticise the current leadership and their failure to adequately support the organisation of unemployed workers.

Divide and rule is the main weapon of the ruling class. The danger with the current SCLC struggle is that the working class could be left more divided and further weakened. If the SCLC, and the trade union movement in general, fails to become more democratic, then workers must and will, organise collectively through structures that they can run and control. We need democratic, united and powerful fighting organisations of the working class. I resent the assertion that I, and other working class activists who are critical of the current leadership, are agents of the boss. It is this type of attack on genuine and committed labour activists that must now stop!

Yours sincerely

Nick Southall



# MATTERS VOTE FIASCO

Protest  
stuns  
meeting

## Ballot goes on as Rorris storms out

By GEOFF FAILES

South Coast Labour Council secretary Paul Matters last night retained his position after a voting fiasco led to a walkout by unions supporting challenger Arthur Rorris.

Early this morning when counting finished Mr Matters had received 61 votes ahead of Mr Rorris who polled 21. There were 34 abstentions meaning Mr Matters would have won a full ballot by a single vote had the abstentions and the votes of five ineligible Public Service Association delegates votes been included.

The walkout by delegates from at least four unions left the meeting about 10.40pm without casting a vote, claiming the voting process was undemocratic.

Mr Rorris, 30, who is on secondment from Centrefisk to the Community and Public Sector Union declined to comment but his supporters said they would be calling for a new



MR RORRIS

ballot "run in accordance with trade union principles and run by the ACTU or an independent party".

But Mr Matters and his supporters claimed the unions supporting Mr Rorris had endorsed the voting process which had been discussed at a previous meeting.

Mr Matters said he believed the walkout was prompted after

Mr Rorris' group realised they could not win the major ballot after the result of an another motion earlier during the meeting.

In a show of hands at the Labour Council's annual general meeting delegates voted by 62 to 57 to uphold a ruling by the meeting's chairman that the five PSA delegates were ineligible to vote.

These five votes were expected to go to Mr Rorris.

Last night Mr Rorris' supporters meeting at the City Pacific denied their walkout was related to that motion.

"We wanted to be able to send our delegates in as a group to vote as a block and not individually," a leading Left wing official said. "Our view was that the Labour Council should not have interfered with the internal affairs of the PSA. The PSA delegates should have been allowed to vote."



South Coast Labour Council secretary Paul Matters who late last night retained his post.

Picture: ORLANDO CHICCO

25/3/99

## Ultimatum over demand for another ballot

# Unions 'ready to quit' SCLC

By GEOFF FAILES

Unions claiming to represent most of Wollongong's workers signalled last night they were ready to quit the region's peak union body.

Representatives from 14 disaffected unions embarked on moves to disaffiliate from the South Coast Labor Council (SCLC) and form their own rival organisation if another SCLC executive ballot was not held.

Meeting at the Ironworkers' building, they expressed dissatisfaction with the way last Wednesday night's SCLC ballot was held and delivered what amounted to an ultimatum to labour council president Mike Dwyer.

In a strongly worded resolution the unions also declared they did not recognise Paul Matters as the labour council secretary or "any other person who purports to have been bal-

loted at the March 24 annual meeting".

"In the event that there is no positive response to the proposal for a new ballot as demanded by the South Coast unions, then we would strongly recommend to our respective unions that we disaffiliate forthwith," the motion said.

"In the event of disaffiliation, we would request that our respective unions immediately investigate reconstitution of a regional labour council which properly represents the interests of all unions."

In a letter sent to the labour council on Monday, nine of the disaffected unions demanded another labour council executive ballot be called by today or they would disaffiliate.

These unions had supported a challenge to Mr Matters' position from Community and Public



Representatives from 14 disaffected unions met last night at the Ironworkers' building to discuss last Wednesday night's SCLC ballot.

Picture: MARK VAN STEUENBERG

Sector Union industrial officer Arthur Morris.

But late on Monday Mr Dwyer said it was not up to him to call another ballot. It would be up to the new executive which the disaffected unions did not recognise.

Speaking after last night's meeting AWU-FMEI national president Graham Roberts said there was great concern about last week's ballot and about the disunity it had created.

"We want a united trade union movement on the South Coast. We haven't been united under the labour council banner for a number of years," he said.

Mr Matters said last night it was not up to him

to call another ballot.

"We've had a stoush. And now it's very important we have unity," he said. "It's up to Arthur Morris and his supporters to come back into the fold but if they don't they have to explain to their rank and file members why they haven't."

Among the unions which sent representatives to last night's meeting were the Australian Workers' Union, the Australian Labor, Hospitality and Miscellaneous Workers' Union, the Transport Workers' Union, the Electrical Trades Union, Plumbers and Gasfitters, the Australian Manufacturing Workers' Union, the Community and Public Sector Union, the National Tertiary Education Union, the NSW Nurses Association, the Public Transport Union, the Industrial Services Union, and the Public Service Association.

The Construction, Forestry, Mining and Energy Union (CFMEU) construction division, already disaffiliated with the SCLC, was also represented.

## Academics plan strike on pay row

By GEOFF FAILES

Academics at Wollongong University will meet tomorrow to consider a recommendation for a 24-hour strike over their pay claims.

National Tertiary Education Union (NTEU) spokesman Michael Morrissey said yesterday management had refused to make any pay increase offer in the current round of enterprise bargaining.

At a lunchtime meeting tomorrow the NTEU branch executive would be recommending an initial 24-hour stoppage on a date to be determined, he said.

Another NTEU spokesman, Dr Mike Donaldson, said: "We have been offered a zero per cent pay increase - in real terms a pay cut - and arbitrary sackings by the Vice-Chancellor and we intend to energetically oppose it."

"Student numbers continue to grow while staff numbers continue to decline."

"The staff-student ratio at secondary schools is now far superior to ours. The NTEU branch executive is recommending an initial 24-hour strike. No classes will be run and the university will be completely closed."

University Personnel Services director Chris George said negotiations had begun concerning salary increases for academic staff. Such increases could only be funded if there were matching job losses or revenue increases, he said.



# ILLAWARRA MERCURY

SINCE 1855

Friday, April 23, 1999

80 CENTS



## CHERYL LOOKS AHEAD

Industry push

NEWS - PAGE 3



## TEEN SKINS SURF ELITE

\$21,000 win

SPORT - BACK PAGE

PLUS



# Breakaway unions sign up for change Rebels with a new cause

By GEOFF FAILES

Rebel unions have taken the first step in forming a new peak union body likely to be called the Illawarra Council of Trade Unions.

They have appointed a special committee to draw up a constitution and rules.

It will report back on May 19 to unions which have disaffiliated from the South Coast Labour Council, for amendment or endorsement of the document.

Members of the committee include Community and Public Sector Union representative Arthur Morris, Wollongong University Associate Professor of Industrial Relations Ray Mackey and Australian Workers Union organiser Naomi Arrowsmith.

If the new constitution and rules are adopted the next step will be to establish a secretariat.

"This is information of the trade union movement in the Illawarra," the committee members said last night.

CONTINUED PAGE 4



Associate professor Ray Mackey (left), Naomi Arrowsmith and Arthur Morris are drawing up a Constitution and rules for a new Illawarra trade union council.

Picture: MARK VAN STUIVENBERG

# Union officer fears Matters, court told

By CYDNEE MARDON

An education union officer claims he fears for his safety after a threat by South Coast Labour Council secretary Paul Matters to "smash his face in".

National Tertiary Education Union recruitment officer Nicholas Southall is seeking an apprehended violence order against Mr Matters over an alleged confrontation at Wollongong University on March 19.

Wollongong Local Court was told yesterday Mr Matters allegedly approached Mr Southall and said: "I am

fed up with you splitting the trade union movement, if you don't stop it I will smash your face in."

The incident was witnessed by others and reported to police, according to the tendered summons.

Mr Southall "fears violence and seeks orders placing prohibitions and restrictions on the behaviour of the defendant", it said.

In a brief appearance yesterday, Mr Matters opposed the application and said the claim was vexatious.

The matter was adjourned to July 13.



MR SOUTHALL

## Statement by Nick Southall

On Friday March 19 I was working as a recruitment officer for the National Tertiary Education Union (NTEU) at the University of Wollongong. Whilst performing this job I was walking past the university library when someone called out "hey you fucking prick". I saw that it was Paul Matters addressing me, as he approached me. Mr Matters stood in front of me blocking my path and said "I'm fed up with you splitting the trade union movement, if you don't stop it I'll smash your face in." As Mr Matters was making this threat some people were walking past us and I called out to the closest "did you hear what he just said". The man (I now know to be Ray Cook) replied that he had heard and said "that's assault". I told Mr Cook that the person threatening me was Paul Matters, the Secretary of the South Coast Labour Council and that I believed he may carry out his threat. As Mr Cook continued walking I asked him if I could have his name and phone number as I intended reporting the threat to the police. While Mr Cook gave me the information Mr Matters began calling out "whats wrong Nick are you scared?" I then returned to the NTEU's office and reported the incident to the NTEU's Wollongong president, Mr Michael Morrissey. Mr Morrissey reported the incident to the university's security service and they called the police. When the police arrived I made a statement and gave them the witnesses details. After speaking to Mr Matters, the police suggested I apply for an AVO.

## Unionist clash brings AVO bid

Wollongong's trade union war continued in court yesterday when a Wollongong University union organiser applied for an Apprehended Violence Order against South Coast Labour Council secretary Paul Matters.

According to the application tendered in Wollongong Local Court, Mr Matters allegedly threatened Nicholas Southall with violence.

Mr Southall, 36, of Fairy Meadow, a recruitment officer for the National Tertiary Education Union, was in court to apply for the AVO. Mr Matters was not.

Mr Southall wants Mr Matters prevented from assaulting, harassing or molesting him and that the union boss not contact him, except through lawyers.

He said that at Wollongong University on March 19 Mr Matters called out: "Hey you ... prick." Mr Matters allegedly approached close to Mr Southall and said he was "fed up" with him splitting the trade union movement. It was claimed Mr Matters said: "If you don't stop it I will smash your face in."

The matter was adjourned to August 18.

"He's a pain in the arse, and he's been a pain in the arse for 10 years." - National Tertiary Education Union spokesman Nick Donahoe, explaining the Matters factor in his union's decision to quit the South Coast Labour Council.



## Port Kembla festival focuses on civil liberties



The scene in Shipp Park, Port Kembla, during Saturday's no-loitering festival. The event was organised as a result of Wollongong City Council's trial of no-loitering zones in the suburb.

Picture: DAVID YEATS

## Police praise loitering ban

By LISA CARTY

Crime trends in Port Kembla had been "completely reversed" since controversial "no loitering" zones were introduced, according to police.

Lake Illawarra local area patrol commander Bruce Newling, who inspected a defiant no-loitering festival staged by civil libertarians on the weekend, said the zones had been welcomed by business and residents alike.

"Port Kembla has been at the forefront of drug abuse for many years but now people can come to the area without fear of running the gauntlet of drug dealers, needlestick injury or being accosted in the street," he said.

"Before this initiative was introduced break and enters, car theft, drug and street crime were consistently very high and genuine businesses were being forced out of the area because people were reluctant to use the shops

"This trend has completely reversed with crime trends in the area now amongst the lowest in the Wollongong local government area.

"New businesses are opening and more and more people are coming to the shopping centre. Some businesses are recording record profits."

Mr Newling said he "supported the initiative" of the festival organisers, who drew about 80 people to Saturday's Shipp Park event.

"If we had been given more notice we would have provided a police contingent to handle inquiries regarding personal and home security," he said.

Festival spokeswoman Denise Harvey said the event was organised "as a positive response" to Wollongong City Council's trial of the no-loitering zones in Port Kembla.

"The festival was designed to highlight the positive aspects of the

area and demonstrate the need for activities which rejuvenate and stimulate cultural life," she said.

The zones could violate human rights like freedom of association, freedom of speech and the use of community space, she said.

The six-month trial of the zones is due to end in September.

**RIGHT:** Prominent civil libertarian Tim Anderson takes a break under a no-loitering sign in Port Kembla.



**"SEEIN"**  
A FREE SE  
OPHTHALM  
KIN

## LOITERING FESTIVAL - HASTENING SLOWLY

Over 200 people took part in a "Loitering Festival" held in Allen Street Park, Port Kembla on Saturday May 29. The festival included face painting, entertainment, speakers and stalls.

Openly defying the "no loitering" restrictions being trialled by Wollongong City Council and the Police, many of the festival participants took part in a "mass loiter" on Wentworth Street to demonstrate the stupidity of the loitering laws and to defend the right of everyone to use public space. The "mass loiterers" walked slowly up the street, making frequent pauses, they hung about and lingered. The police, who had earlier loitered around the festival, kept a low profile during the mass loiter and none of the mass loiterers were moved on or fined.

The open defiance of the law was an important symbol of resistance to increasingly oppressive laws and showed that the loitering laws are oppressive and discriminatory.

The loitering festival was opened by local Koori Angela Walton, who welcomed people to the land and spoke of police intimidation of local koori youth and the effect of the loitering laws on the Port Kembla community. Tim Anderson appeared as Sgt Anderson of the Port Kembla Police to explain to the crowd that the recently introduced loitering laws were not aimed at "law abiding citizens", rather they were aimed at "undesirables" such as young people, students, unemployed people, sex workers, druggies, kooris and the like. Removing his police hat, Tim spoke on behalf of the NSW Council of Civil Liberties and expressed their support for the campaign against the Port Kembla loitering laws and encouraged the campaigners to keep up the good work. A message of support from Vanessa Wagner, star of

national youth radio station Triple Jay was also read out.

Under the recently introduced "loitering laws" being trialled by Wollongong City Council and Wollongong police, anyone deemed by the police to be "loitering" in certain areas of Port Kembla can be given an on the spot fine of at least \$110 and a maximum of \$550. The trial area includes Wentworth Street and is bounded by Military Road, Horne Street, Kembla Street and Church Street. Signs have been erected in the area warning residents and visitors of the new "no loitering" restrictions and the possibility of a \$550 fine. At least one person has already been fined under the new loitering laws after eating a pie outside a pie shop. Illawarra Legal Centre solicitor Danae Harvey is defending this innocent victim after he refused to pay the fine. Danae has referred the matter to the NSW Ombudsman explaining that "hungry people often eat pies before they walk or drive away from the shop."

Potentially the loitering trial could have a statewide impact, since depending on the outcome other councils might decide to use, or not to use, the legislation. It is understood that there are a number of councils watching what happens here with this trial because there is a general reluctance to use the legislation. It is hoped that strong opposition from Illawarra residents will have an impact, not only on the Wollongong City Council but on other councils across the state. A report will be given to Council at the end of the trial. If the police and council decide it has been successful, council will consider enforcing a permanent no loitering rule and no loitering restrictions could end up being extended over the whole of the Wollongong region.

Nick Southall

## SHORTER HOURS, MORE JOBS

A broad campaign to reduce working hours will be launched in the Illawarra following a meeting held in May. Members of the Sydney Shorter Working

Week Committee (SWWAC) initiated the meeting and outlined the need for a national campaign for a shorter working week.









#### Why?

Because under recently introduced "loitering laws" being tried by Wollongong City Council and Wollongong police, anyone deemed by the police to be "loitering" in certain areas of Port Kembla can be given an on the spot fine. The trial area includes Wertheim Street and is bounded by Murray Road, Home Street, Kembla Street and Church Street. Port Kembla Signs have been erected in the area warning residents and visitors of the new "no loitering" restrictions. At least one person has already been fined under the new loitering laws after eating a pie outside a pie shop. Illawarra Legal Centre solicitor Daniele Harvey is defending this innocent victim after he refused to pay the fine. Daniele has referred the matter to the NSW Ombudsman explaining that "hungry people often eat pies before they walk or drive away from the shop."

While there is no legal definition of "loitering" the dictionary defines it as to "linger on the way, hang about, travel idly, and with frequent pauses". According to Community Worker for the Wollongong City Council's Safe Community Action Team (SCAT), Alison Marshall, "the police approached council about the Port Kembla No Loitering trial and council approved it". The approval was given despite the objections of more than twenty local youth, Koori and community groups. A report will be given to council at the end of the trial. If the police and council decide the trial has been successful, council will consider enforcing a permanent no loitering rule. The no loitering restrictions could end up being extended over the whole of the Wollongong region.

Outrage by local residents has seen the formation of a community action group concerned that the community's civil rights are being undermined. "We are concerned for our

## WARNING: Do not stand around or sit reading this article in Port Kembla, it could cost you between \$110 and \$550!

Highly inflammatory and probably indicative of the attitudes of a few police officers who will be enforcing the No Loitering laws, ICAPS has pointed out that hanging around is not a criminal offence. Yet, the law means you can be fined for sitting in a park or standing in the street, even sitting in your car. Young people, the unemployed and Koori groups are already disadvantaged in their dealings with police and could now be increasingly targeted simply because of their employment status, age, gender, nationality or dress.

The ICAPS "Loitering Festival" will be held in Allen Street Park, Port Kembla on Saturday May 29th from 10 am to 1pm. The festival will include artistic displays, entertainment, speakers, buses, stalls and more loitering. ICAPS is taking a positive approach to its campaign against the new loitering laws and is planning the Loitering Festival to draw people into Port Kembla to show that the way to make an area safer is to encourage greater participation by all members of the community in it's public spaces - not turning the place into a ghost town by moving everyone out if you want to help with the festival or want more information on Illawarra Community Action for Public Space please contact Jane Cipriotti at the Illawarra Legal Centre, Greene Street Warragong, on 4276 1939.

Nick Southall

# Port Kembla Litening Festival

FOR FURTHER INFO : PH : 42761939



# Former Painters and Dockers rep in dock

By MICHELE TYDD

A shipping company manager paid \$20,000 to a non-existent agent to avoid delays on a ship in Port Kembla, Wollongong District Court heard yesterday.

Mr Alexander of Beaufort - a division of P and O Maritime Services - was giving evidence of alleged cash transactions between different ship owners and two Painters and Dockers union officials.

On trial is Eric John Wicker, who is defending eight charges of demanding money with threats with intent to mislead.

The charges involve colleague Stan Woodbury, who is now dead.

One of the charges involves the Aka, which berthed at Port Kembla on May 23, 1992.

He said there was a number of ship deficiencies listed by the Australian Maritime Safety Authority.

Mr Alexander said there was also a union picket line formed on the wharf relating to a crew member's complaint about wages and accommodation on board.

He said he had a conversation with Mr Woodbury about the picket line and asked what

the union could do to move it.

Mr Alexander said Mr Woodbury was angry he did not get to see the AMSA list of deficiencies.

It's alleged he threatened to delay the ship's departure if he was not given the list.

Mr Alexander allegedly asked Mr Woodbury how the problem could be overcome and Mr Woodbury answered "the same deal as the previous ship".

Mr Alexander said he believed Mr Woodbury asked for \$20,000.

The ship owner agreed and a cheque was sent

to Mr Alexander, who cashed it at the Commonwealth Bank in Port Kembla.

He said he arranged to meet Mr Woodbury and Mr Wicker at a club in Port Kembla.

Mr Alexander said the two men got into his car and the money was handed over.

Crown prosecutor Paul Costello asked if any of the money was for six union members who were employed by a contractor to do work on the ship.

Mr Alexander answered it was not.

The hearing will continue before Judge Deborah Payne today.

## Matters rejects attack claim

### 'Politically vexatious'

By MICHELE TYDD

South Coast Labour Council secretary Paul Matters has obtained a protection order application against him as a vexatious attack designed to do him political damage.

He was addressing magistrates William Brydon in Wollongong Local Court yesterday where it was alleged he threatened and intimidated Nick Southall on March 19, this year.

Mr Southall - a former secretary of the now defunct One of Workers Union, who did not give evidence yesterday in the part-heard case - called his only witness, student Ray Cook, who said he saw the two arguing on Wollongong University campus on March 19.

"I don't recall the exact words but he (Mr Matters) said 'I will ... get you made'."

He said he noticed Mr Matters was much taller than Southall and Southall looked scared.

Under cross-examination by Mr Matters, Mr Cook said he did not know Mr Southall or Mr Matters but he came forward to give evidence because he "wanted to see justice done".

When Mr Matters asked Mr Cook to elaborate he said "big people shouldn't intimidate small people".

Mr Matters, who has four witnesses, maintained he and Mr Southall were simply having a political argument.

Mr Matters' first witness, Labour Council assistant secretary Maureen McAlane, told the court her association with Mr Southall went back 16 years when he was a member of the Young Communist movement.

She said he phoned her on March 2 shortly before the Labour Council elections on March 24.

She said she told him she hoped he had not phoned about the elections.

When asked why, by Mr Southall's counsel, Peter Holmes, she said Mr Southall was well aware of her support for Mr Matters as the incumbent secretary.

"Nick proceeded to say 'Matters has to go', he is a boss' agent and is trying to ruin the trade union movement," Ms McAlane said.

"I asked him did he have Paul that much and he said 'It was driving and he was crossing the road I would think twice about hitting the brakes,'" she told the court.

Ms McAlane said considering Mr Southall's tone she reported the conversation to Mr Matters two days later.

The hearing is to continue on December 13.

## MARITIME RANK AND FILE

ISSUE 1 No 1 September 1999

### Who Dobbed Wicker in to Pickering?

The workers movement in the Illawarra is divided as never before. While the employers and the Liberal Government attack wages and working conditions and shackle the unions, our unions are tied up in a bitter dispute around one man.

All sides agree that, without the issue of Paul Matters, the movement could unite and work together. But he will not go. In the last couple of weeks we have had the chance to see what sort of man he is. The story goes back a few years.

In the early nineties Paul Matters was pushing for the South Coast Labour Council to have a role in (or to take over) the Port Kembla Ports Committee. The maritime unions had other ideas and after he had pushed his nose in too far and stuffed up a dispute, they told him to shove off.

In 1992 the unions were holding up a ship called the Aka in Port Kembla. The seamen were owed wages and the ship was a rust-bucket ready to sink. Matters was approached by the bosses with a story that the unions were trying to extort money from them. By his own account, Matters ran off like the bosses pet poodle to get police action against the workers who were holding up the Aka. He even had the hide to spill his guts to the Illawarra Mercury (13<sup>th</sup> June 1992) telling them about these shocking allegations against the maritime unions and telling them that he (Matters) had been to see the Liberal Police Minister Pickering to make sure the police took action!

Why Pickering? Matters told the Mercury, Pickering was "the only person I could go to." What a picture, the Secretary of the South Coast Labour Council, Nigel Nofriends, singing a chorus of "Who can I turn to," and trotting off to do in workers to the class enemy. Would you want this bloke representing you?

Well the bosses and the coppers knew what to do and there has been a police "investigation" and charges laid. In the first instance they were after the heart and soul of the Ports Committee, Stan Woodbury, but Stan died and Eric Wicker had to carry the load for five long years before the charges were heard and thrown out by the court.

So who dobbed in Wicker? Paul Matters did.  
Who says so? Paul Matters says so.

We say no trade unionist with a shred of principle will have a bar of this police pimp. We say he has to go and go quickly and be replaced by honest trade unionists who understand whose side they are on and represent the interests of the workers.

# Port Kembla Loitering Festival



\*Reclaiming Public Space for ALL\*

SAT. 29th MAY - 10AM - ALLEN St PK. Port Kembla.

ENTERTAINMENT - SPEAKERS!! - INFO. STALLS  
TIM ANDERSON + MORE



# ARE YOU LOITERING!



**The Police are trialing "No Loitering and Disorderly Behaviour" laws in Port Kembla**

If you are stopped by the Police you may be asked to move on. If you do not the Police may fine you \$110.

If you have any questions, comments or need a FREE solicitor or FREE legal advice  
CALL US:

Illawarra Legal Centre 4276 1939

**WHO DOBBED  
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# TOUCH ONE ALL TOUCH



## SOME THINGS NEVER CHANGE.

70 years ago two NSW miners were jailed after involvement in industrial action for allegedly wounding a strikebreaker. Ancient history? In 1998 a Port Kembla maritime unionist, Eric Wicker, is being threatened with 8 years imprisonment for "extortion" - Involvement in industrial action. Everyone concerned with the rights of workers in the wake of the MUA - Patricks dispute are invited to a screening of *Touch One, Touch All* a video for the defence campaign by Peter Ewer.



## 6:30PM WED OCT 21

**Theatre 1, Building 20, Wollongong Uni**  
Entry by donation. All proceeds to the Eric Wicker Defence Committee

**PARTY 21**



RAILWAY SQUARE  
THIS SATURDAY  
23rd MARCH  
LEN SUTTEE HALL  
STARTS 8.00 PM  
B.Y.O

**ART**



**LIVE**

**music**





## Australian Federal Police

P.O. Box 401  
Canberra City  
ACT 2601

Our ref: 84/1726  
Your ref:

Telephone  
(062) 49 7444

Contact: Acting Senior Sergeant FOWLER  
Telephone: (062) 683588

7 March 1984

Mr N. Southall  
c/- P.O. Box 1887  
WOLLONGONG NSW 2500

Dear Sir

### FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST

I refer to your letter dated 24 February 1984 concerning your request for any documents held by the Australian Federal Police (AFP) in relation to you.

Your letter contains insufficient detail to enable me to locate the documents you are seeking. Section 15 of the Freedom of Information Act 1982 (the Act) states, inter alia, a request shall provide such information necessary to enable the agency to identify the documents. Failure to provide the requested information may lead to a refusal to grant access under Section 24 of the Act.

To remove any grounds for refusal under Section 24 it would be appreciated if you could provide the following: your date of birth, address of any previous residence, name of any organisation you are associated with (political or otherwise), details of the geographical locations (city/state) involved in matters which may have resulted in the AFP possessing documents in relation to you. The above information will ensure that if any documents, related to you, are in the possession of the AFP, they will be located.

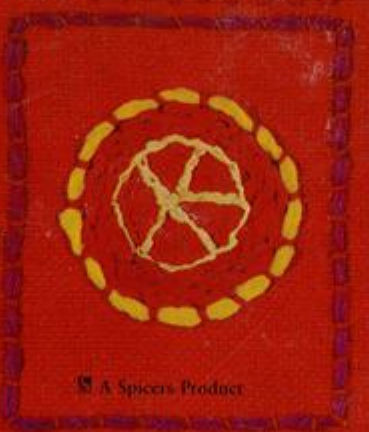
Attached is a copy of charges applicable to a Freedom of Information request as specified by the Freedom of Information Regulations.

Your advice on the information, requested above, will enable me to complete the search of AFP records. However should you decide not to proceed with your request please advise me accordingly.

Yours faithfully

*Anthony J. Fowler*  
for (P. BALLARD)  
Acting Inspector  
Officer-in-Charge

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION BRANCH



9 310355 192326

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