

SA LABOUR HISTORY NEWS

Australian Society for the Study of Labour History

(Adelaide Branch)



Summer
2014

Edition 9

PRESIDENT JUDE ELTON AND MEMBERS
OF THE EXECUTIVE OF ASSLH
(ADELAIDE BRANCH) INC. WISH ALL
MEMBERS, THEIR FAMILIES AND
FRIENDS A VERY HAPPY CHRISTMAS
AND PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR



JUDE ELTON

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Editorial & Farewell message from Gary Lockwood



This inside cover spot has been reserved for a message from the President for the last 6 years, however, our new President for this occasion only, has her message on page 3 giving me the chance to say **'Thank you members'** for the enormous opportunity to have been able to serve as President for near on 6 years – to learn and be part of 'Labour History', to help build up the membership of the Society and to have represented the Adelaide Branch on many occasions.

I think it healthy and the right time to hand over leadership of the Adelaide Branch at this time with a clear call to members to renew your membership, to encourage others to join and support with enthusiasm our new President Jude Elton, a person of enormous standing and quality and promote and uphold the very important reason why Labour History is so worthwhile preserving.

We live in quite difficult times – often the core qualities of 'labour and the working class' concepts appear to have been swept away – have we ever really recovered from the 'evils of Thatcherism'? As greed and capitalism run riot and destroy the life of so many – when lives of millions throughout the world are challenged by war, extreme ideology - can we see emerging any sign at all of the ability of the 'underclass', the poor and the oppressed to be delivered out of poverty? Seems like nothing has ever changed,

Labour History offers a 'place' – a place to remember the past in the History of the Labour Movement but more– it offers a 'place' for new ideas, research and perhaps something we all long for – hope.

RARE HONOUR – LIFE MEMBERSHIP – JIM DOYLE



The Society, at the AGM on October 26th, bestowed the rare honour of **'Life Membership'** to Jim Doyle who is already a life member of the Australian Workers Union. Jim is considered part of 'Labour History' in his own right and some highlights of his life can be seen on page 14. Jim has been a long time supporter of the ASSLH and has enthusiastically attended and supported most of our functions over many years but more importantly has been inspirational and always encouraging to senior officers of the Society.

***'Well done Jim and congratulations.'* – Gary Lockwood President**

FIGHTING AGAINST WAR : PEACE ACTIVISM IN THE TWENTIETH CENTURY

The 14th Biennial Labour History Conference will be held at the University of Melbourne from 11 to 13 February 2015. There will be 80 papers presented covering peace activism across a broad range of fronts in the numerous wars and conflicts in which Australia has participated.

Executive member Dr David Faber will be presenting a paper, 'Today We Own The Streets', which will chart the background to the successful **Adelaide No War protests** against the war in Iraq in 2003.

Executive member Greg Stevens will be presenting a paper **'Campaigning for Peace in Vietnam : The Adelaide Mobilisation'** which will traverse the activities of the principal anti-war groups in South Australia between 1967 and 1972.

Members and friends can get further information on the Conference from the 2015 ASSLH Conference webpage, <http://labourhistorymelbourne.org/2015conference/> or by contacting Greg Stevens on 0429691549.

2014 Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting, held on 26th October 2014, was very well attended – former President Gary Lockwood delivered an address entitled **"Labor's Way back" – Is integrity important?** (copies are available).

Jim Doyle gave an interesting coverage of his shearing life and is shown being congratulated by Gary and Greg Stevens on becoming a Life Member of the Society. Afternoon tea completed a successful AGM.



Aims and Objectives

The Australian Society for the Study of Labour History was founded in 1961 to study “the working class situation ... and social history in the fullest sense”. The Society aims not only to encourage teaching and research in labour history but also the preservation of the records of working people and the labour movement. It desires to make history a vital part of popular consciousness, a matter for reflection and debate, at a time when it is under attack from prominent conservative intellectuals.

Executive Committee 2014-2015

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David Faber
Allison Murchie
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Except where explicitly stated, news, commentary and discussion are provided for educational and information purposes and **do not** represent the official position of the Society.

Meetings are usually held at the Box Factory in Regent Street South, Adelaide and are advertised in the newsletter, by email and by post to members and friends. Admission is free and all are welcome.

This newsletter is a publication of the Adelaide Branch of the Australian Society for the Study of Labour History Inc. It is not affiliated to the Australian Labor Party or any other political party. Members are encouraged to make contributions to this newsletter.

General enquiries can be made to the Secretary, Marlene Fenwick on 041 880 4124 or by email to nonning@bigpond.net.au

SA Unions 130 Years

On Sunday 10th August 2014, the Society held a Seminar as part of the SA Unions' 130 Year Celebrations.

In the next newsletter, Ralph Clarke will summarise the findings of the sessions which focussed on the key role played by Unions in the last 30 years and their involvement in the passage of progressive legislation in the interests of Unionists and their families.



Greetings from the President

Let me first introduce myself: I am a labour historian and historian of South Australian history, with a background as a union assistant secretary, research officer, educator and organiser. I have also worked at the Working Women's Centre and lectured in Labour Studies at Adelaide University.



Taking on the job of President of the Adelaide Branch of the Labour History Society is an honour and responsibility I take very seriously, especially in today's social, political, and economic climate. Times are hard for working people and their trade unions; Indigenous Peoples; the young and ageing; those who seek sanctuary; and those pushed to the margins of society. Provisions designed to protect and benefit us are being steadily whittled away.

Representatives of the rich and powerful understand that history is an important tool in the pursuit of a conservative agenda. People such as John Howard and Keith Windschuttle have led the charge against histories that tell the particular stories of Indigenous Peoples, women and immigrants; labelling them a 'black armband view of history'. They seek to substitute a narrative that denies systemic inequality and emphasises only the positives of European settlement, and national unity and pride. In their narrative, the independent organisation of 'ordinary' people and their striving for justice and equality have been erased.

When we are denied access to our history we are denied knowledge of alternatives and of major achievements won in spite of considerable opposition. It may be that we 'can't go back' to the past. But knowledge of our diverse histories can give inspiration and hope.

My aim as President is to support the Society in bringing historical reflections to bear and encouraging debate on major issues confronting working people and those with least power in society. Issues such as falling union membership, falling real wages, job insecurity, a widening gender pay gap, and growing inequality can all be examined from an historical perspective. Reflections and debates can reconnect us to underlying principles and goals that have inspired us in the past and are still relevant today.

The conservative narrative is currently dominant, but our history shows that it can be successfully challenged. The Society can play a small part in that challenge. I hope that we can also have some fun along the way.

If you have ideas for seminars, events or other activities please feel free to contact me or other members of the executive. Feedback is also welcome. Thank you for the ideas already received.

Jude Elton

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WHAT IS A LABOUR HISTORY AMBASSADOR?

The Society had a great night of celebration on Saturday 11th October when we bestowed on 5 members of the Adelaide Branch the title 'LABOUR HISTORY AMBASSADOR' – so the question could be posed 'What is a Labour History Ambassador?'

Those selected to be 'Labour History Ambassadors' are being *honoured and recognised* by the Society because **they have contributed to the 'Labour Movement' in a significant way**, however they are also being called upon **'to do whatever they can'** to encourage people with an interest in the history of the SA Labour Movement **'to come on board'** and join our Society.

GARY LOCKWOOD The Adelaide Branch has decided to award retiring President Gary Lockwood with the honour of 'Labour History Ambassador' in recognition of his outstanding work in building up the branch of the Society in the last 6 years. Like Pat Perry Gary joined the Shop Assistant's Union in 1953 but went on to become the Secretary of the Shop Assistant's Industry Group.



Gary worked firstly for the Adelaide based retailer John Martin and Co Ltd known affectionately as 'Johnnies' – at the time of the Split became full time Asst Sec of the Anti-Communist Labor Party later returning to Johnnies in shoes, Ladies Fashion and eventually Deputy Manager of the Arndale Store He became a Union leader when he founded within the SDA, the Retail and Wholesale Management Association – becoming the President of the Manager's Union in the battle over 'Shopping Hours'.

Gary is married to Marie - 3 children and 4 grandchildren and is greatly involved in Catholic Church activities. For many years he led the fight for 'Aid for Independent Schools as Executive officer of the AEA and negotiated with Premier Steele Hall the first breakthrough in this area.

Gary returned to being an ALP supporter following the dismissal of Whitlam – and had a complicated return to ALP membership in the Ross Smith sub-branch in 2000. Always somewhat controversial Gary returned to the Enfield sub branch after being exiled to Torrens but was eventually elected the President again – he is currently Vice President of the sub-branch.

Gary is involved in Refugee work and **has been a dedicated member, supporter and President of Labour History since he joined and has represented us Nationally with ongoing distinction.**

HIGHLIGHTS FROM SOCIALIST LITERATURE

Few people realise that the most charming of writers, **Oscar Wilde**, was a socialist. He was the author not only of the hilarious *The Importance of Being Earnest*, but also of the ever so slightly earnest *The Soul of Man Under Socialism*. In the latter work he argued that socialism should and would provide for public goods such as beautiful architecture, above and beyond basic material goods like sufficient bread. He thus rejected the canard that socialism was narrowly materialistic and as such deleteriously neglectful of spiritual needs including artistic satisfaction.



Oscar was an Anglo-Irishman who graduated from Oxford to make his career in London high society. A contemporary luminary of English aestheticism he was the exponent of the arts and crafts movement, (inspired amongst others by the liberal proto-socialist John Ruskin).

William Morris was also a socialist. Morris' writings can be traced in our public and academic libraries and his corpus of political writing is quite substantial. Morris was the entrepreneur behind Morris & Co, a company which specialised in fine artisan production competing in a niche market against the cheap industrial products typical of capitalism. **His artistic work is sampled in a gallery of the Art Gallery devoted to his influence on South Australian high society, particularly the Elder, Barr-Smith, Rymill and O'Halloran-Giles parentela.** It is well worth a visit.

A review of English socialism cannot but mention **Eric Blair**, known to the world as George Orwell. His dystopias *Animal Farm* and *1984* are the prime literary analyses in our tongue of stalinism and authoritarianism. Orwell was concerned to make out a case for a plain English socialism adapted to anglo-sphere political and socioeconomic conditions. He was the enemy of language corrupting spin and propaganda. *Animal Farm* was written while convalescing from a throat wound suffered while serving on the Aragon front of the Spanish Civil War as an anti-fascist volunteer soldier with the anarcho-marxist *Partido Obrero di Unidad Marxista (POUM)* [Marxist Workers' Unity Party]. Cold war attempts to co-opt his fable as an anti-socialist tract are accordingly to be dismissed. Orwell's experience in Spain is recounted in *Homage to Catalonia*, where he pillories the propaganda and anti-anarchist pogrom in which the POUM was caught up, instigated behind the Republican front, especially in Barcelona, by the Soviet line Spanish Communist Party. In *Homage* Orwell enjoins the reader to be aware of bias, including his own. But he fails to mention that anarchists, after fighting off Franco's putsch in the city, proved militarily ineffective in any but street fighting, and ruled the city by an anti-religious and anti-bourgeois terror featuring church burning and execution without trial.

The Chilean communist poet and Nobel Literature laureate **Pablo Neruda** was stood up against a wall in Barcelona and very nearly lost to the world for the sin of wearing a bag of fruit rather than a workers boiler suit.

More glories of socialist literature next newsletter.

Dr David Faber

David is a member of the Adelaide Branch Executive and part of the Editorial team.

NAIDOC WEEK EXHIBITION by BRONWYN ROOK

SUPPORTING NAIDOC WEEK

Our Past President Gary Lockwood attended a NAIDOC Week function at the Electorate office of Frances Bedford MP. The exhibition of works by Bronwyn Rook was officially opened by Hon Ian Hunter.

Bronwyn is an **ANANGU PIT-JANTJATJARA** woman born in Port Augusta who began painting seriously about 14 years ago in Coober Pedy around the time of the birth of her second son. She was greatly influenced and guided in style by the women Elders of the area.



The Exhibition included a painting on loan from 'Ardtornish Primary School' called 'Everyone is entitled to an Education'. This was Bronwyn's first public exhibition and Minister Ian Hunter and those present were all very impressed by the quality of the work. Many friends and family members of the artist were in attendance and wonderful stories were told by many—a great event.

The Adelaide Branch of Labour History was delighted to promote Bronwyn's very special work and to wish her every success in the future.

VALE

EDWARD GOUGH WHITLAM

At the time of going to print, we are saddened to hear of the passing of a great Labour leader and Prime Minister of this country, Edward Gough Whitlam. Certainly, history has been enriched by the life of this Australian leader whose contribution to our nation is unsurpassed.



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JUDE ELTON Jude is a curator and historian at History SA. She began working in history as a tutor in the national Trade Union Postal Courses scheme. She lectured and tutored in Labour Studies at the University of Adelaide and continues to present union training sessions on the labour history of women and Aboriginal Peoples. Jude's honours work included a history of worker's education in South Australia and gender relations in the clothing trades. Her doctorate examined factors affecting union relations with Aboriginal workers in the South Australian and Northern Territory pastoral industries from union formation to the Cold War. She has also conducted historical research for Native Title claims.



Jude has worked in the labour movement for many years: as a union research officer, educator and organiser; Director of the Working Women's Centre; and Assistant Secretary of the United Trades & Labor Council. She continues to provide historical research and archival support to SA Unions.



DON JARRETT Born at Port Augusta in February 1936, Don went to both Port Augusta Primary and the High School. His home was a central focus for the local Communist Party. He began work as an apprentice electrical fitter in the Commonwealth Railways, Port Augusta in December 1951 but suffered from continued verbal and physical abuse, so he took up a position with the PMG in Adelaide in February 1952 and stayed there for two years.

Don took a break from the Post Office to work at Elder Smith & Co mainly on the West Coast but another dispute with the local Manager led to Don returning to the Post Office at Port Adelaide after passing the Commonwealth Third Division exam. His time at the Post Office came to an abrupt end ***as ASIO was not at all impressed with the young Don Jarrett's political affiliations.***

A new adventure took him into the environs of LeFevre Peninsula and working class Pt Adelaide. His new job included being a Painter and Docker, Trades Assistant, Storeman/Driver and lastly as a Boilermaker/Welder. He worked in the structural, marine engineering and ship construction areas all in the working class districts of Port Adelaide and LeFevre peninsula.

(Continued on Page 14)

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PATRICIA PERRY Pat has been honoured by the Adelaide Branch of the Society by being appointed a **Labour History Ambassador** and few deserve it more – her loyalty and ongoing support has been amazing – for many years attending with her friend the late Margaret Roberts but always there for us – cream puffs and all.



Pat was born in 1928 at the start of the Great Depression. Both her mum & dad were working class people and the family lived in the Port Adelaide area of Exeter. Pat attended local schools which included Port Adelaide Technical Girls High and went on to complete a tailoring apprenticeship.

Pat married Les a seaman and she worked as the Manager of Haigh's Chocolates in Semaphore. In 1953 Patricia joined the Shop Assistant's Union, known these days as the SDA. In time Pat worked for Ezywalkin, the Specialised Corsetry section in Myers and later the Clock department – but all this led to the most amazing next stage of her life – Teddy Goldsworthy invited her to become a Shop Union organiser in 1976.

These were difficult and challenging times in the Retail Industry with shopping hours dominating the working conditions of those in that industry. Pat covered an area as wide as Outer Harbour, West Lakes, Prospect, Elizabeth and as far as Kapunda & Port Wakefield in the country.

Pat was fearless in her defence of the rights of workers in the Industry and is fearless in defending anyone who she believes has been trodden on and treated unfairly. She is a life member of the SDA. **Labour History salutes the amazing Pat Perry and is indeed honoured to have her named a Labour History Ambassador.**

SOCIETY AWARDS CERTIFICATES OF AP

KEVIN KAEDING & MARLENE FENWICK

The Society awarded Kevin Kaeding and Marlene Fenwick Certificates of Appreciation Dinner. Kevin Kaeding is our dedicated Treasurer and has been an active member of the Executive of the Adelaide branch as both Secretary and Treasurer along with r Canberra. (See further details of Kevin's union and workplace activities on Page 1

Marlene joined the editorial team of the Society about four years ago with the spec for printing. For Allison Murchie and Gary Lockwood, Marlene was the angel sennership Officer and is now Secretary. In her workplaces, in both State and private Marlene has been a member of several unions. Since retirement from paid work, s torical aspect of the Labour movement.

Federal Officers' tribute



Nikki Balnave (l) and Nick Dyrenfurth

On behalf of the Federal Society, I would like to congratulate the executive and members of the Adelaide branch on another successful year, topped off by a fantastic Labour History Ambassadors Dinner. I would also like to wish the incoming executive all the very best for 2015, and look forward to hearing about the events and activities of the branch over the year.

As Gary Lockwood retires from the position of Branch President, might I take this moment to congratulate him on six very successful and vibrant years at the helm. Gary has played a

lead role in building the Adelaide Branch into a strong, vibrant community. Gary's passion for, and commitment to, labour history and the memories of workers (past and present), has shone brightly through his service not only to the Branch, but also to the Federal Society.

On behalf of the Australian Society for the Study of Labour History, I should like to extend our very best wishes and heart-felt thanks to Gary (and of course his right hand women Marie). Cheers comrade! Many thanks,

Nikki Balnave (National President)

Australian Society for the Study of Labour History

It has been a delight to watch the renaissance of the Adelaide branch of the Australian Society for the Study of Labour History over recent years. The energy and dedication that your branch devotes to its busy schedule of historical talks, social activities such as the labour history ambassadors' dinner, and engagement with the South Australian labour movement are an inspiration to us all. In particular, on behalf of the federal executive, I want to pay tribute to the extraordinary work of your outgoing branch president, Gary Lockwood. I wish your President-elect Jude Elton well as she embarks upon leading the branch. The National Executive Office also extends its congratulations to the Adelaide Branch Labour History Ambassadors Gary, Jude, Don, Patricia and Murray – you have all played an important role in the SA labour movement in SA over the years and deserve the recognition your branch is bestowing on you. I am confident you will continue to promote and advance the cause of the society for many years to come.

As you would be aware, the federal society is embarking upon a formal review of its operations, the first of its type in our proud fifty three years of existence, with a view to providing an interim report to the 2015 national conference. The review committee look forward to working with you on this very important project.

Yours in solidarity,
Nick Dyrenfurth (Federal Secretary)

Australian Society for the Study of Labour History

JIM DOYLE—Life Member

Jim Doyle, born in 1918 in Yeppoon, Queensland, worked carting wool to Longreach stations and eventually learned the skill of shearing. He enlisted in the army and returned to shearing after the war working in five States with membership of the A W U since 1933, eventually becoming a life member.

He was a key player in the fight to win the 40 hour week. He first worked for the AWU as an organiser at Renmark in 1950. **He along with many others were banned from standing for the union ticket if it was thought that they were Communists, no proof was required – this was in the union rules.**

In 1961 he attended an international conference in Sophia, Bulgaria organised by the World Federation of Trade Unions. It was not until 1971 that the laws were changed and he was able to be elected as a union organiser. He was a union organiser from 1972-82; apart from state positions he was also Vice President of the national branch of the union.

He retired in 1986 but there was real retirement for Jim - many of you will be familiar with his regular publication 'The **PLOD**' where he shares his views with an ever increasing readership. His commitment to bettering the life of the working class is still a driving force in Jim's life. **In some ways – Jim is 'walking History' – a great support of the ASSLH and we are proud to honour him with 'Life Membership'.**

Don Jarrett (continued from Page 5)

Early in 1974 Don began a change of direction in life attending Adelaide University completing an Arts Degree followed by a Diploma in Education in 1977. He went on to a teaching career with his first appointment being Stuart High School Whyalla. Later, he taught at three high schools in the metropolitan area, teaching for 17 years in a permanent positions and later as a relieving teacher for 6 years, fortunate at times to be working with New Arrival students.

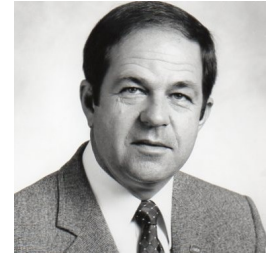
Don regularly supports the society and is often seen with Jim Doyle at Labour History events.

Kevin Kaeding (continued from Page 6/7)

Kevin's union activity began in 1972 when he joined the Clerks Union while working for Farmers Union. He commenced work at the QEH site for Tempo Health Support in 1999 and as a Misc. and Liquor Trades Union member became an applicant in a Union test case (underpayment claim) in the Industrial Court in 2005/6 for a 30% shift loading. He and another worker won the test case - Tempo's employees on site were backdated six years re the 30% shift loading instead of the former 15% leave loading. **The union's test case paved the way for other employees in the health industry.**

Kevin is an active member of the broader Community and has played a role in many areas often related to the Historical. He is a well known voice within the media as he upholds the interests of SA Ratepayers **being the chief spokesperson for the ratepayers peak body**, the South Australian Federation of Residents and Ratepayers Associations.

MURRAY DE LAINE Murray is another of our Labour History heroes who comes to us from a Port Adelaide background having been born at Semaphore and becoming a member of the SA Parliament for the State seat of Price in 1985, serving with distinction as Official Labor Party Whip. He ceased to be the Member for Price in 2002. Murray is married with one son.



Murray went to school at Pennington Primary, LeFevre Boys Technical high and the University of Adelaide in Engineering. He did his National Service in the Royal Australian Navy (Engineering 1956) and went on to work for GMH for 34 years where he was a Senior Project Engineer until 1985.

Murray was an outstanding cyclist and was involved with the sport for 34 years – a real stayer who represented South Australia 10 times and won 53 Championships. His great contributions to the Labor Party, local Government, Community organisations and the Parliament of South Australia are just too numerous to be listed on this occasion – he was a member of the Australian Metal Workers Union and a Senior Shop Steward for Technical Grades at GMH. Murray's union membership extended to the AEU for 5 years.

Murray De Laine has been a JP for 26 years with duties at Mt Barker Court-house for 8 years and has been involved with Hills Community Health for 3 years.

Murray's untiring work in the Parliamentary arena led to him being made a 'life member' of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association as well as gaining life membership of the SA Parliamentary Bowling Club. Overall – great service to the Labour Movement.

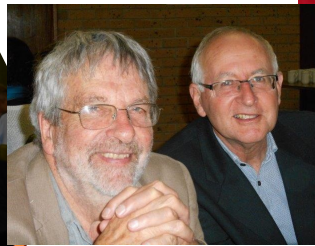
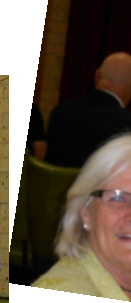
APPRECIATION

tion at its recent Labour History Ambassadors' r of the society since the year 2000 serving on epresenting SA at the National Conference in 4)

ific brief to assist with preparing the newsletter it in at a critical time. She later became Mem- ate schools, and finally in Local Government, she has developed a special interest in the his-



Society Members-



- Up to 16 as “ours” (friends or supporters of the Movement),
- Up to 10 as “Barry” (possible friends) and
- Up to 26 as “Cain” (clear enemies).

“Barry,” or alleged supporters of prominent wheeler-dealer Bill Barry, the lower house member for Carlton, was as much a euphemism for the Melbourne Catholic businessman John Wren, whose supporters the Movement tried to win over as Wren’s influence declined, as much as it was for supporters of Barry. Wren died in 1953, but in late 1952 his influence was virtually non-existent.

Only two listed in the Barry camp were clear former Wren associates, Barry himself and Archibald Fraser, the father of tennis star Neale Fraser.

The list keeping was not just about keeping tabs on numbers, it suggested a possible leadership challenge to party leader and Premier John Cain when the numbers could be found. His replacement would be someone favourable to the Movement faction. It suggested an almost evenly divided Caucus between Cain and those who may vote to replace him. This may have been wishful thinking, for Cain’s support was much stronger than the list suggests.

There were several errors, with Cain supporter Stoddart from Gippsland North omitted, and Sheehan from Ballarat, a Catholic who in fact proved to be a Cain supporter, in the list as “ours.” The son of one member of the “Barry” camp told the writer that his father was never a supporter of Bill Barry.

Some parliamentarians in each category were described with question marks. Of the two in the “ours” camp only the non-Catholic, Anglican David Arnott, failed to support the Movement when the party split in 1955. The Barry camp had three question marks, but these names are nothing but rough guesses as to possible allegiance. Only three of the nine in the Barry camp at the time of the split, including Barry himself, supported what became the ALP (anti-Communist) and later the Democratic Labor Party (DLP). The Cain camp had two question marks.

Of those listed as loyal to Cain, with the exception of one upper house member, Coleman, (regarded as a question mark), all supported Cain at the time of the split.

References Patrick Morgan (ed.), *BA Santamaria. Running the Show. Selected Documents 1939-1996*, Melbourne, Miegunyah Press, 2008, p.184.

Frank Hardy, *The Hard Way*, London, T. Werner Laurie, 1961, p.61.

Tim Hayes, “Faith of our Fathers: the fate of the expelled,” in B. Costar, P. Love and P. Strangio (eds.), *The Great Labor Schism. A Retrospective*, Melbourne, Scribe Publications, 2005, p.283.

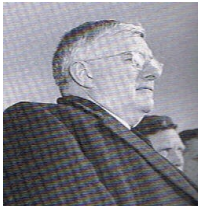


Lyle Allan

THE GREAT ALP SPLIT – IT STARTED 60 YEARS AGO

'SANTAMARIA'S LIST AND ITS REVELATIONS'

by Lyle Allan (Part 1)



H Evatt

In an obscure Sydney Bookshop on 5 October 1954 the ALP Federal Leader Doctor Herbert Evatt embarked on a strategic and momentous move. **He was about to make history – delivering a speech of enormous importance** – one that would eventually lead to the Hobart Conference in 1955 and what came to be known as the great split in the ALP. It would destroy Evatt himself and leave the ALP out of power for many years.

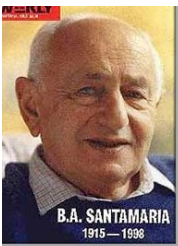
Evatt went on to blame a man called BA Santamaria and his supporters in the Victorian Labor Party calling them "the Groupers" – blaming Labor's loss of seats and defeat in the 1954 federal election on "a small minority of members, located particularly in the State of Victoria", which were in a conspiracy to undermine him.

On 6 December 1952 the Australian Labor Party (ALP) led by John Cain Senior won the Victorian state election. Despite malapportioned electoral boundaries the party won a majority of seats in the Legislative Assembly for the very first time. Just two days later on 8 December a meeting was held by supporters of B. A. Santamaria's Catholic Social Studies Movement, (the Movement), at La Verna, then a Franciscan monastery in Sackville Street, Kew, a prestigious Melbourne suburb.



BA Santamaria

Movement supporters then comprised the largest faction in the Victorian ALP, although they lacked majority support in the state parliamentary Caucus. They did control the ALP Victorian Central Executive, and had clear support from the Catholic Hierarchy and Archbishop of Melbourne Daniel Mannix. Industrial Groups, largely but not completely Catholic ALP members who contested trade union elections in order to defeat Communist officials, were also strong supporters of the Movement faction.



The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the legislative agenda of the Cain government, **and in particular it considered a list of factional allegiances among the members of the Victorian parliamentary Caucus.** The list was published in 2008, in an edited book of documents from Santamaria's files (Morgan 2008). A cursory examination of the list would suggest the extent of division among Labor's Victorian parliamentary members.

The list categorised the members of the ALP's Victorian Parliamentary Caucus into three categories or "camps."

–out and about



Labour History Ambassadors Dinner—the social event of the year for Members!



2014 Labour History Ambassadors:
Murray De Laine, Pat Perry,
Don Jarrett, Jude Elton and
Gary Lockwood