

LABOUR HISTORIAN AMBASSADORS DINNER

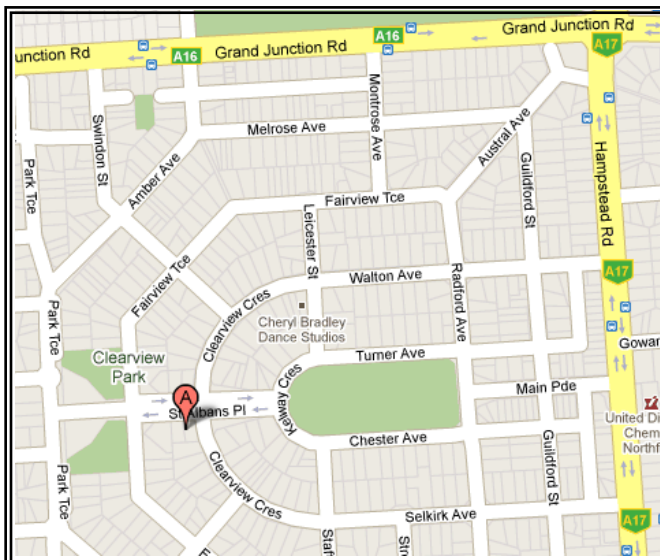
Date: Saturday 11th OCTOBER 2014
Time: 6.30pm – for 7.00pm start
Venue: Good Shepherd Parish Centre
7 St Alban's Place CLEARVIEW
Cnr. St Alban's Place & Fairview Terrace,
entrance to the hall & parking off Fairview Terrace



We are searching for a very
special guest speaker on
this occasion.

More information will be available shortly.

Why not book a table of 10-12 and have a great night out?!



BYO all drinks (alcoholic
or otherwise)
Glasses provided

RSVP **Kevin Kaeding**
1st October 2014
0429966324
Or email
kjkaeding@hotmail.com
3 course meal
Vegetarian friendly

SA LABOUR HISTORY NEWS

Australian Society for the Study of Labour History

(Adelaide Branch)



Winter—July 2014

Edition 8



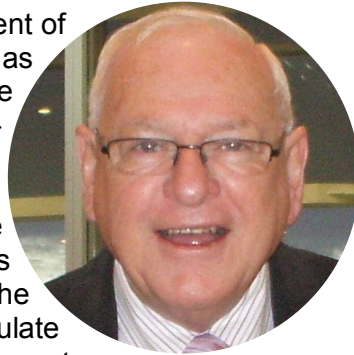
**Premier
Jay had
every
reason to
smile!**

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Message from the President

In this edition I am wearing 2 hats – not just President of the Society but on this occasion the Editor—and as such, an apology for this rather late edition but the State Election made it difficult and in a way, inappropriate for our normal Autumn/Winter edition to be produced. Many of our contributors had the election on their mind – many were involved - some most fearful of a possible Liberal win. Thankfully this did not happen and this edition somewhat reflects the 'historical' – a 4th term Labor win and we congratulate Premier Jay Weatherill and his team on this achievement.



Our last production was devoted to the work of Allison Murchie and the editorial team are having to find a way to 'get the job done' without her – not at all easy, but hence you will find this edition more of a pictorial 'slide' or coverage of this year's events and promotional material for what is yet to come.

Chris Schacht set the pace at the beginning of the year with his thoughts on Reform of the ALP – a well attended and challenging meeting indeed. Then followed the Post Election forum with 3 outstanding presentations by **Paul Caica**, **Angas Story** and **Tung Ngo**, concluding in June with 4 giants of the women's movement, current Director **Sandra Dann**, former Directors **Jude Elton** and **Hon Steph Key**, along with Board Member **Suzanne Franzway** outlining the work of The Working Womens Centre in SA.

We can be very proud of all the events presented to members and they are high justification for the continued presence in SA of Labour History. See our centre spread for Adelaide May Day events – congratulations to the May Day Collective. To all our supporters - remember to pay your subscription as the Adelaide Branch of Labour History has a Voice that needs to be preserved - contact Kevin Kaeding our Treasurer on kjkaeding@hotmail.com

The Adelaide branch of the ASSLH has a strong commitment to the Trade Union Movement and we are proud of our links with SA Unions – hence our enormous pleasure at being able to commemorate **SA Unions 130 Years** by hosting a **special seminar of outstanding presenters to be held at the Box Factory on SUNDAY AUGUST 10TH 2014** – a not to be missed event starting at 1.30pm.

On a final note, our year will conclude with a Labour History Ambassadors dinner on Saturday 11th October – see details back page of this newsletter and our AGM will be held on Sunday 26th October.

Gary Lockwood

The Australian Society for the Study of Labour History (Adelaide Branch) Inc.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Box Factory 59 Regent Street South Adelaide

Sunday 26TH October 2014

You are Invited

to the formal AGM of the Society

commencing at 1.30pm, to be followed at 2.15 pm with a most interesting talk by

Retiring President of our Adelaide Branch



Gary Lockwood

"Labor's Way back"

**Is integrity
important?**

**Can we get rid of the hate – retribution –
cosy deals and the tendency in recent years to sell off Labor
Principles for Electoral Expediency?**

**Some thoughts on why Labour History should be
honored and revered.**

Also introduction of newly elected President

Afternoon tea provided 3.30pm

Enquiries to: Gary Lockwood 8262 2812 or 0409 092 102
gary.marie.l@bigpond.com or Marlene Fenwick 8359 8886
nonning@bigpond.net.au

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 2013-2014

President Gary Lockwood

Vice President Greg Stevens

Secretary Marlene Fenwick

Treasurer Kevin Kaeding

Committee:

Barbara Blenkinsop

Ralph Clarke

David Faber

Marie Lockwood

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 through 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—please contact the editor.

Authorised by Gary Lockwood, 5 Walton Avenue, Clearview 5085—Acting Editor

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

The Australian Society for the Study of Labour History (Adelaide Branch) Inc

LABOUR HISTORY celebrates

SA Unions 130 Years

With a special SEMINAR of outstanding presenters

To be held at the Box Factory

Regent Street, Adelaide

SUNDAY AUGUST 10TH 2014 - 1-30PM

- This Seminar will examine relations between the Trade Union Movement in SA and State Labour Governments from 1982 to the present day.
- It will focus on the Industrial, Workers Compensation and Occupational Health and Safety Legislation enacted during this period.
- What were the major issues between the Unions and Government and how were they resolved?

This Seminar forms part of the SA Unions' 130 Year Celebrations and recognises the key role played by Unions in the last 30 years in the passage of progressive legislation in the interests of Unionists and their families

TWO GREAT SEMINAR SESSIONS - NOT TO BE MISSED

Session 1 – 1.45pm - Topic: the years 1982—1994

Panel - Bob Gregory, Terry Groom and Kevin Purse

Session 2 – 2.45pm—Topic: the years 2002—2014

Panel - Janet Giles, Nev Kitchen and Wayne Hanson

3.30pm — Ralph Clarke will sum up

3.45pm afternoon tea/drinks—4.15pm finish



Enquiries to Greg Stevens on 0429691549



THE FOUNDING OF THE WORK

Our June meeting was the most outstanding function we have ever held at the Box Factory. A very large crowd attended and listened with enormous interest. The meeting was devoted to the story of the founding of the Centre in Adelaide in 1979 and its operations to the present day.

The story was told by two former Directors, Jude Elton and Stephanie Key MP and the current Director, Sandra Dann and summarised by former Board Chair and member Adjunct Professor Suzanne Franzway.

They spoke of some of the political and funding difficulties that have faced the Centre in the past and how these had been overcome. But they mainly highlighted the many success stories including some not told before.

The Centre has not only undertaken a massive caseload function, but has also been at the forefront of social policy issues of concern to working women and their families.

It has always worked in conjunction with SA Unions and its predecessor and with other government and non government agen-



L-R: Allison Murchie, Jude Elton, Sandra Dann, Suzanne Franzway



Happy faces in the audience

cies, to bring about those changes that really matter to women, both individually and collectively.

The Society is indebted to the Centre and to the presenters for giving us such a meaningful insight into its activities.

Greg Stevens

Joe Szakacs LLB/LP

Joe is the Secretary of SA Unions, the peak body for the South Australian Union Movement representing over 160,000 members and 27 Trade Unions. He was elected in October 2013 having served at the United Firefighters Union for seven years. He has also worked at the Australian Manufacturing Workers Union.

Joe was the first person in his family to attend University, attaining qualifications in law and legal practice. He was a student activist, and an active political activist from an early age.

Joe is currently a member of the SA Fire and Emergency Services Commission Board, Presiding Member of the Workers Rehabilitation and Compensation Advisory Committee, Director of StateWide Superannuation and member of the Australian Council of Trade Unions Executive and Asbestos Advisory Committee.

He is a former athlete, having competed at World Cup events, winning multiple State Titles and holding South Australian records for almost a decade. He has lived in the United States while pursuing his swimming career.

Joe has extensive experience in representing the interests of working people in a legal, political and campaigning framework.



2015 CONFERENCE – FIGHTING AGAINST WAR: PEACE ACTIVISM IN THE TWENTIETH CENTURY

14th Biennial Labour History Conference

University of Melbourne

11-13 February 2015

Throughout the twentieth century, labour movement activists have been in the forefront of challenges to war and militarism. This conference, hosted by the Melbourne Branch of the Australian Society for the Study of Labour History, seeks to restore their role to our historical memory.

SURELY A DIARY NOTE FOR ADELAIDE BRANCH MEMBERS

New Corporate Member

Labour History Welcomes the IEU

Our latest Corporate Member is the Independent Education Union (SA) Inc. The IEU represents the interests of teaching and non-teaching members in SA Catholic and Independent schools, as well as private education and training institutions.

This year the IEU celebrates the 30th year of its existence.

We look forward to the IEU, its officers and members taking part in Society activities in the future.

Greg Stevens
Vice President ASSLH



The Independent Education Union joins with the following—Aust Manufacturing Workers Union, Tram & Bus Union, CFMEU, Finance Sector Union, Maritime Union, Police Assoc of SA, Public Service Assoc, SA May Day Collective, SA Unions, United Fire Fighters Union of SA—in becoming a Corporate Member of our Society.

All are making a great contribution to the Labour Movement and its history.

Oh where have all the social justice revolutionary thinkers and great reformers gone?

When I look back on the last 10 years I see the selling of Labor principles for electoral expediency as one of the great disasters of our time – but further ...the evil days of Thatcherism and Reagan economics – the development of individual contracts – the way they have been used to avoid reasonable wages – the way the work force was hived off and by becoming self-employed, somehow graduated to being mini capitalists and Howard's so called battlers. Somehow Labor never held on to this group of workers. Did our Trade Unions let them slip by? Idealism seems to have been squashed.

Barbara Blenkinsop

Ed note: Barbara is part of our new editorial team.



KING WOMEN'S CENTRE IN SA

Right: Jim Doyle surrounded by Steph Key, Jude Elton, Sandra Dann



Left: Sandra Dann, Jude Elton, Steph Key



Captivated onlookers

Hon Steph Key MP

STEPH WAS “KEY” IN ASHFORD WIN

The redistribution of the seat of Ashford had made it notionally the third most marginal seat in the state and combined with a predicted swing against the ALP, many had conceded the seat.

Despite the narrow margin Steph Key not only retained the seat, but resisted the general trend across the state against the Labor party increasing Ashford's margin to 1.3%.

With Steph's opponent sending copious amounts of generic material to constituents, Steph took the time to hand sign and personalise over 24,000 letters to constituents of Ashford, outlining her vision for the future of Ashford and inviting them to personally contact her with any issues and concerns. In this way, Steph shifted the focus away from the political parties and back onto the candidates and once this was done, the choice for electors was simple.

It can be said that Steph indeed was the “Key” to winning the seat of Ashford and as a result ensuring that the Labor Party was returned to government in South Australia.

Ben Waters- Campaign Manager”

Editors Note

This edition of 'SA Labour History News' has highlighted the amazing win of Premier Jay Weatherill – Steph Key, Frances Bedford, Paul Caica, the efforts of SA Unions and the election of Tung Ngo and Kyam Maher to the Legislative Council. *Of course a great many others held on- upset the Liberals - like Tom Kenyon hanging on to Newland and Tony Piccolo holding on to the seat of Light - congratulations*



CAN YOU BELIEVE—Adelaide led the way in this remarkable story?

Some extracts from the Introduction to a remarkable historical account about 'The Working Class' who were present at the birth of Anzac - and present at the birth of Anzac Day.

Labour and Anzac: An Introduction
Edited by - Frank Bongiorno, Raelene Frances and Bruce Scates

The first celebration of Anzac Day occurred in Adelaide on 13 October 1915. It was also Eight Hours Day or, as the *Daily Herald*, South Australia's labour newspaper, put it, “Eight Hours Day in a patriotic costume.” “Eight Hours Day,” the *Herald* explained further,

was to don a military uniform, just to show that Labor, in its celebration of its day of victory, was not forgetful of the gallantry of those brave boys who are fighting that the Australian workmen [sic] may not have to see his advantages swept away by the rough hand of Prussianism.

For the *Adelaide Advertiser*, the workers had solved the problem of how to reconcile “the holiday spirit” with “dire national stress ... by eliminating from their demonstration any element of self.” The anti-labour *Register*, unable even on such a grand occasion to refrain from a series of cheap shots, backhandedly praised labour's “splendid sacrifice” when it had forgotten “all about itself, all about its politics, and its industrialism, all about its eight hours a day or less, all about its advocacies of impossible ideals which, in recent years, have been trying to dominate the aims of a sane democracy, forgot about everything that was not just patriotic.”

Although the occasion was designed to raise money for wounded men, with wounded soldiers participated in the procession, carried in the cars of Automobile Association members, it was not a sombre affair. The city was covered in bunting and flags, and it “wore a carnival garb ... the citizens flocked in to enjoy themselves.” The *Advertiser* seemed to be making a convenient fine distinction when it judged that “Anzac Day was one of good spirit rather than of merriment.” For the *Herald*, however, “Anzac Day” drew “a happy, gay crowd of people” and “every minute of the time was chock full of incidents of a diverting, and, in some cases, intensely humorous and ludicrous nature.” While over 2000 soldiers marched, so too did performers disguised as prehistoric people and animals; a display that promised “to hold the interest of the young and the aged. **Nothing like it ever seen before, and probably never again.**” From pages 1 & 2 of the LH Journal no 106.

From Gary Lockwood of the Adelaide Branch

Congratulations to Frank Bongiorno, Raelene Frances & Bruce Scates for this remarkable Labour History Journal Edition – number 106 – a production that should make the Society very proud indeed.

If you would like to purchase the journal, the weblink is

<http://www.jstor.org/action/showPublication?journalCode=labourhistory>

Labour and the Great War

The Australian Working Class
and the Making of Anzac



Edited by

Frank Bongiorno, Raelene Frances and Bruce Scates

Frances Bedford MP

Frances Bedford is another of 'Labor's Great Heroes' in the recent State Election – she held on to what many in the Liberal Party were sure 'would be theirs' on this occasion – oh how wrong they were – Frances held the seat with an increased majority .

The battle to hold Florey was of course not new for Frances – she was first elected as Member for Florey in 1997 winning what was then widely believed to be an "unwinnable" seat. A resident and active Modbury community member for over 35 years, she has maintained strong personal links with local people, groups and organisations since election. With 2 adult children and 2 grandchildren (and another on the way), Frances' interests include social justice issues - particularly access to health and education, women's issues and youth participation in community especially via sports and performing arts.



The issues that led Frances Bedford to Parliament are the ones that affect most people – having a job with fair conditions, wanting a decent environment to live in and good public health and education services nearby.

Frances has been strongly involved in local community groups for many years, including the Modbury Hospital Local Action Group and the North East Residents Action Group. She established a Florey Reconciliation Taskforce and has a keen interest in Aboriginal affairs. She was also involved in the opposition to privatisation of the public transport system through a public transport action group and the union movement.

Founder of the Muriel Matters Society in June 2009, Frances is now spearheading research into the Adelaide-born elocutionist who left these shores in 1905 and made a name for herself in the UK suffrage movement.

Following two terms on the Social Development Committee. Frances was appointed Deputy Speaker and Chairman of Committees in the 53rd Parliament in June 2014. This will allow her to pursue her long held ambition of a program visiting schools unable to travel to see how Parliament works.

Labour History is very proud to count Frances amongst its membership and congratulates her on this outstanding victory.

Post Election Forum

Paul Caica MP, Member for Colton

Paul Caica spoke about his successful campaign for his re-election to the seat of Colton after a tough battle with his Liberal opponent. He outlined the key factors that he believed swayed the outcome. They included Labor's clear and detailed policies as opposed to the Liberals small target approach, maintaining an accessible presence in the electorate for the last 12 years, and having a dedicated campaign team which worked hard and communicated well.

This was a must win seat for Labor and we congratulate him on his 'never give up approach' which paid dividends.



Angas Story, Manager of Industrial Services – SA Unions

Angas Story stood in at short notice for SA Unions Secretary Joe Szakacs. He informed us about the high profile media and public campaign by the Union Movement. Issues such as proposals to slash penalty rates and what that could mean for the living standards of many workers and their families were highlighted very effectively. It was important for SA Unions to be seen to be independent of Government.

Once again the result of this election demonstrates to us that although Union membership is not at the levels of years gone by, the voting public takes notice of what the Union Movement has to say.

Thank you Angas for taking part.

Tung Ngo, newly elected Labor Member of the Legislative Council

All of a sudden, half way through the Election – we were flooded with Tung Ngo photos in many strategic locations all around Adelaide but especially so in areas where Vietnamese and many refugees of the past were, in this State Election, able to vote. IT DID ITS JOB ...by almost a miracle, Tung not only secured his election in the Upper House as number 3 but also pulled Kyam Maher over the line into the elusive and unexpected number 4 position.

CONGRATULATIONS TUNG NGO – and thanks from Labour History for your great presentation of 'How the Weatherill Labor Government was able to secure a historic 4th Term'.



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Union of Australian Women (cont.)

The UAW also maintained a constant anti-nuclear stance that was mostly focused on the destructive potential of nuclear weapons, but also stemmed from their maternal concern over the long-term environmental consequences future generations would have to bear. They stood alongside environmental groups in firmly opposing uranium mining in Australia, particularly the Australian government's controversial decision to invest in uranium mining in 1977.

In addition to supporting local causes, the UAW was also vocal on international causes, particularly peace. Through personal correspondence and grass-roots campaigns, they addressed conflicts related to issues of equality and freedom, and strongly protested against Australia's involvement in the Vietnam War. The UAW was fundamentally committed to peace, both from a general anti-violence perspective and a feminist/maternal one, which championed the nurturing, peaceful qualities of mothers. The UAW also kept close correspondence with the Vietnamese Women's Union, visiting North Vietnam as their guests even as Australia was still at war with the country. After the war's conclusion, the UAW sent support for the improvement of conditions in Hanoi.

Consequently, the UAW staunchly opposed the most problematic war during their peak period of activity—the Vietnam War. UAW members participated in moratoriums and launched letter-writing campaigns that encouraged disarmament while objecting to conscription and the imprisonment of draft resisters. Some members, notably Nola Barber, banded with women from other organisations to form the successful Save Our Sons organisation in 1965. When five Save Our Sons members, later dubbed the Fairlea Five, were jailed in Fairlea for distributing anti-war pamphlets, the UAW publicly supported their release.

The UAW protested the South African apartheid movement from the 1950s, maintaining support for various anti-apartheid citizens and figures, they boycotted multiple avenues of African trade due to their stance on apartheid. Their long-standing support of the African National Congress was finally acknowledged by Nelson Mandela when he visited Sydney in 1990.

The UAW's efforts culminated in their role in organising the first United Nations-sponsored international conferences for women in 1975, which the United Nations declared International Women's Year. Prominent attendees included Elizabeth Anne Reid, Margaret Whitlam, and Joan Child.

I was a member of the SA Branch of UAW for many years and had the honour of representing them at an international women's conference in Hanoi in 2003.

Allison Murchie



Union of Australian Women

The Union of Australian Women (UAW) is a left-wing women's organisation that operated in Australia in the latter half of the 20th century, concerned with local and international issues regarding women's rights, international peace, and equality. It was established in Sydney on 31 July 1950 as the successor to the New Housewives' Association with the first branch formed in N.S.W, soon followed by Victoria, Queensland, S.A., W.A. and Tasmania.

The UAW's name reflected their aim to attract "all women" recognising that those who stayed in the post-war workforce were no longer necessarily housewives and would want to identify otherwise. The UAW's significant peace activism stemmed from the perceived universal concern of mothers over the mental and physical well-being of children.

Although the UAW was never officially affiliated with any political party, it was associated with the Communist movement from its inception. Many of its founding members were Communist women who kept in close contact with Communist Party of Australia. However, the circumstances surrounding the UAW's formation and individual members' actions in the politically hostile Cold War environment earned it the continued scrutiny of the Australian Security Intelligence Organisation through the 1950s and 1960s. Member Barbara Curthoys claimed that every state branch had 'at least one ASIO agent'.

One of the UAW's key concerns was the well-being of women across the world. They campaigned for women's rights to work and receive equal treatment, hand-in-hand with affordable and universal childcare. The UAW's most noted contributions were submissions to the National Wage Cases: firstly in 1969, then in 1972 alongside the WEL with partial success, followed by 1974 and 1983. Childcare was one of the UAW's earliest and most significant concerns. Their advocacy for working women was inextricably linked to their push for government-supported childcare accessible for all women. It challenged the traditional maternalistic thinking dominant in the 1950s and 1960s, which dictated that women had to look after their children at home.

The UAW was an early, ardent and constant supporter of indigenous rights, striving to promote racial equality consistent with their left-wing opposition to oppression. They were affiliated with Aboriginal groups such as the Aboriginal Advancement League (AAL) and the Council for Aboriginal Rights (CAR) with some members serving on their committees. Prominent Aboriginal activist Pearl Gibbs served on the management committee of the UAW's NSW branch, acting as an important link between the Aboriginal and women's movements.

Trashing the country?

The social function of the historian is to place at the service of the present the knowledge of the past, without which no perspective on the future is worth having. The labour historian does so from the point of view of the masses, in the name of democracy.

From this point of view, Australia and the labour movement, which has emerged from the 20th century bruised but unbowed, is at a crossroads, and it behoves labour historians to take their place in the fray. Not for us the myth of the uncommitted scholar. Nor should we hide our light under a bushel, but rather point out the lessons of history.

During the Great Depression the Commonwealth engineered a Premier's Conference which bore forth an austerity plan known as the Premier's Plan which was an unmitigated disaster for the people of this country, in whose soul many felt a special egalitarian impulse lurked. The effect was to blight the lives of a generation which never forgot the trauma of dole queues which stretched down the years.

Today, in the wake of the Great Recession or Global Financial Crisis of 2008/9, the Commonwealth's Budget imports into national life the chill winds of that dose of Thatcherism which magnate Gina Rinehart so recently wished upon us. The ideas are as second hand as they are second rate, received uncritically from a Europe laid waste by austerity and unemployment.

Achievements of the labour movement like Medicare and popular access to tertiary education stand threatened, with only an incoming Senate to protect them. How ironic for those of us who saw Whitlam brought low by obstructionism to see the mandate of the Upper House now pitted against that of the Lower, with the government which concealed its program from the electorate standing low in the polls if it cares to chance a double dissolution.

What is at stake is the future of the nation. We must not passively accept a future in which Australians cannot afford health care and education. Let others turn their backs on the Good Old Cause of peace and democracy, of liberty, equality and fraternity. **It is time to write and march and fight with all our might for the things we hold dear.**

Dr David Faber

Ed note: David is part of our new editorial team.



Chris Schacht on Labor Reforms

Chris spoke on the need for the Labor Party to reform its internal governance structure. He advocated that the Trade Unions continue to be allowed to affiliate to the Party but that the members of those unions be **given the right to "opt in" to be counted as an ALP member and that they pay personally, a political levy that allows them to vote in local Labor Party pre selection and in other party wide election ballots.** This as opposed to the current practice of having their union secretary vote, via their use of handpicked delegates, a bloc vote to one faction or the other without the general membership of the union having a vote, as they would have if voting in their own union elections.

Only in that way could the ALP free itself of the dominance of 2 or 3 union secretaries having all the say in choosing MP's and the composition of various governing bodies of the Party, e.g. National Conference and State Conferences. The dominance of the two main factions, the so called Left and Right "shared the spoils" amongst themselves and promoted political careerists to the exclusion of ALP members who wanted to debate and formulate progressive party policies without having to obey factional dictates.

The factions had long ceased being based around an ideology, they are now simply self promotion instruments for political careerists and their union backers.

Chris commented that unfortunately trade unions in 2014 now represented less than 15 % of the private sector workforce in Australia, where once they represented 60%. *The party had to recognise that the world of work had changed and that it needed to tap into and become representative of that broader community and represent their aspirations and needs also. A ruling troika of full time union officials was incapable of achieving this aim.*



2014 May Day Celebrations



2014's May Day celebrations commenced with a highly successful sold-out Dinner and a great speaker, Michele O'Neil from the Clothing, Textile and Footwear Union. The traditional May Day March to Light Square on 3 May concluded the celebrations—these are a few photos of a great crowd!

Congratulations to the May Day Collective—one of our Corporate Members.