

MARCH
ON

LABOR
888
2010
MAY DAY

DEFEND
UNION
RIGHTS
DEFEND
DEMOCRATIC
HUMAN
RIGHTS

MIGRANT
RIGHTS

PUBLIC
ASSETS

STOP
INTERVENTION
TREATY

OHS

GREED

PROFITS



Workers of the world unite
Assemble 1pm Sunday 2nd May
Victorian Trades Hall
crn Victoria & Russell Streets

EVENTS FOR MAY DAY 2010

Thursday 22nd April 2010

■ **May Day film Night**

Democritus Workers league, 583 High St, Northcote

Several short films/DVDs showing the struggles around the world. Australia, Burma, Haiti, Colombia, Northern Territory intervention, Afghanistan, Vietnam and Greece.
Supper provided. Entry by donation

THURSDAY 29th April 2010 AT 5PM

■ **Wreath Laying At The 8 Hour Memorial**

At the 8 Hour monument opposite the Victorian Trades Hall (Victoria Prde).
Brief ceremony to commemorate workers' struggles, including the 8 Hour day struggle.

Union speakers, May Day resolution. Laying of donated union wreaths.

FRIDAY 30th April 2010 - Starting at 7PM Sharp

■ **The Multi-Cultural Evening and Entertainment**

New Ballroom, Victorian Trades Hall, 54 Victoria St, Carlton South

Speakers and cultural items hosted by a number of Ethnic organisations.
Followed by a multicultural smorgasbord.

SATURDAY 1st May 6PM till late

■ **The May Day Gig At Trades Hall**

Trades Hall Lygon Street Carlton.

Bands, drinks, solidarity. Entry \$10/\$5/\$2

SUNDAY 2nd May 2010

■ **May Day March, Concert and Family Activities.**

Festivities begin at 12 Noon in Lygon St. Carlton

Between Victoria and Queensberry Sts. Carlton.

The May Day March assembles at 1PM, departs 1.30PM.

On the corner of Victoria & Russell Sts. Opposite Trades Hall, then moves through the city and back to Lygon St. Speakers, activities, stalls etc.

May Day Concert. Following the speakers, after the March, entertainment and singing community and working class songs.

MAY DAY/WORKERS' DAY 2010

May Day is the time of the year when workers, their unions and other organisations come together to highlight their demands and share their struggles.

As 2010 develops a number of things become clearer.

The economic crisis of capitalism worldwide is acute. The panic amongst European Governments about Greece and other European economies, the massive debt in the United States and other countries, and the diminishing impact of the taxpayer bailout strategy with little capacity in the private sector to take up the demand and so on, means the crisis can only worsen.

It is clear that Governments around the world will try to cut social spending, and employers will strengthen efforts to attack workers' wages and conditions as the authorities continue to place the burdens of the crisis on the working class and those least able to afford it.

The wars of aggression in Iraq, Afghanistan and other places, by the US Government, seeking to ensure control of the resources and cheap labour for US Corporate interests continues.

No effective measures to combat global pollution have been put into place, mainly due to the power, wealth and influence of those corporate interests who are the biggest polluters and who are prepared to continue to threaten the globe with their filthy, irresponsible activities in the interests of protecting their profit making.\

In election year these and other issues loom large. An Abbott led Government would be a disaster for the Australian people and would ensure more of the same – more exploitation, more attacks on workers' rights, more support for wars of aggression, more globe destroying pollution, more attacks on democratic and human rights.

Unfortunately the Rudd Government has facilitated the possibility of an Abbott Federal Government, by its weak capitulation to the polluters, to the war mongers, to big business, on so many issues.

The unions and other organisations need to mobilise in 2010 to fight any possibility of an Abbott Government, but to also put massive pressure on what has been a pathetically weak, wishy/washy Labor Government, to take a stand; to force the rich and the corporations to pay for the economic crisis created by them, to force the big polluters to stop polluting and for a more independent, non aggressive foreign policy measures to protect and enhance the democratic and human rights of the people.

May Day 2010 needs to be about this and more.

May Day 2010 must be used as a significant mobilisation of the working people and other community sectors to demonstrate the people's demands for a fair, decent, peaceful, welcoming, democratic and tolerant Australia.

May Day is about winning a shorter working week, protection and improvement of the environment, a Bill of Rights to help protect the democratic, social and human rights of the Australian people, land rights and sovereignty for indigenous Australians and international solidarity with the struggling peoples throughout the world.

May Day is also about winning a public holiday to celebrate May Day - Workers' Day. In the final analysis May Day is about opposing the death and destruction caused by aggressive wars, such as those launched by US Imperialism in Haiti, Iraq, Afghanistan, Somalia and other places, but it is also about changing the system of

world capitalism - a system based on exploitation, to serve private profit - to a system of social ownership, based on community and people's needs.

INTERNATIONAL LABOUR ORGANISATION – MINIMUM STANDARDS 2010

The ILO long ago laid down the minimum standards to measure workers' "freedom of association" by.

The standards go to the heart of the freedom of association matters, such as the right to strike, the right to pattern bargaining, the right to take solidarity action with other unions and community sectors and the like.

The Communication, Electrical and Plumbing Union (CEPU) have made an application to the ILO to test the Rudd Labor Government's new laws against the ILO's minimum standards. Other unions have done the same

There is a need to continue the struggle for proper minimum democratic and human rights for Australian workers and a successful outcome from the ILO could help the struggle to win those rights eventually.

Organising around workers' rights at work, is really fighting for those rights, and not just "fiddling at the edges" of the Howard Government's previous legislation.

SUPPORT THE CFMEU AND ARK TRIBE

John Howard introduced the Australian Building and Construction Commission (ABCC) to help big construction companies and property developers make more profits. Howard has gone, but his ghost lingers on. The ABCC can still stand over construction workers and try to threaten and intimidate them.

The ABCC, industrial enforcers for the employers, have attacked the rights and freedoms of many construction workers. Today, the struggle centres on Adelaide worker Ark Tribe who is the latest target of that oppression.

The right to silence, a right provided to any other citizen is not provided to Ark and other building workers.

The right to meet, the right to defend occupational health and safety standards, the right to protect workers' conditions are all under attack by the ABCC legislation.

This legislation can no longer be described as "Howards Law". It is now "Rudd's law". It is the Rudd Government which supports it and protects it.

The Melbourne May Day Committee calls on unions and organisations associated with May Day to mobilise in support of Ark Tribe, other building workers and their unions.

MAY DAY 2010

WORKERS' DAY – Continue The Fight For Your Rights At Work

The Melbourne May Day Committee, which has been organising the May Day march and other activities in Melbourne for over 117 years, and the Victorian Trades Hall Council are once again jointly organising May Day 2010.

A central theme for May Day 2010 is to continue the fight for your rights at work. We must continue our campaign at least until all workers' rights have been restored, including the right to strike and other basic freedom of association rights still being denied by the Rudd Government. Rights that will come under even worse attack if Abbott becomes Prime Minister.

We are also continuing to mobilise against Australia's involvement in the Iraq and Afghanistan wars and for Australia to take a more independent position in world affairs.

We are continuing to demand a public holiday on May 1st.

The traditional May Day March, will start at 1PM (assembly at the Trades Hall), and end up back at the Trades Hall to occupy Lygon Street (between Victoria and Queensberry Streets) with family activities, music, food and information stalls, children's activities and the like.

There will be speakers at the end of the march to tell of various worker struggles that have taken/are taking place and issues of international struggles and solidarity.

Bring family, friends, neighbours and your community organisation members.

Be there on Sunday May 2nd 2010, at Lygon Street between Victoria Parade and Queensberry Street from 12 Noon onwards.

JOIN IN FOR WORKERS' DAY 2010



APPEAL FOR FINANCIAL & OTHER SUPPORT FOR MAY DAY

The 2010 May Day will focus on the right to strike and other worker rights which need to be enshrined in labour laws in Australia, the international capitalist economic crisis, the threat to the planet from industrial and other pollution, Australia's continuing involvement in wars of aggression in other parts of the world and the appalling situation faced by the Palestinian People in the Middle East.

May Day allows for people to be aware and demonstrate support for union policies aimed at improving their health, education, housing, welfare and other concerns.

May Day also provides the opportunity for unions to join with the community on issues such as the need for consumer price and interest rate controls, opposition to unfair trade agreements, restoration of resources and infrastructure to public control, and water and climate conservation programs based on the interests of people, not investors' profits.

However, if the May Day activities organised for 2010 are to be successful it is essential that the May Day Committee receive financial assistance.

For this reason your union is requested to consider making a financial donation to the May Day Committee.

Donations can be made payable to: **Melbourne May Day Committee**

And addressed to: **The Secretary Melbourne May Day Committee
Len Cooper
1st Floor, 139 Queensberry Street
Carlton South 3053**

APART FROM FINANCIAL SUPPORT - WHAT YOU CAN DO TO SUPPORT MAY DAY

- Appoint someone in your union/organisation to be involved and to organise support in your organisation.
- Plan a union float/vehicle for the March.
- Put your name down for one of the various committees organising May Day 2009. The work is all done by volunteers
- Attend the May Day General Meetings on behalf of your organisation.
- Sell the May Day badges and ribbons.
- Publicise the May Day activities.
- Distribute the May Day Newsletter.
- Mobilise for a bumper turnout for the May Day activities as part of the process of continuing the struggle for our workers' rights.

We urgently need your support and financial assistance.

MAY DAY A BRIEF HISTORY

The history of May Day is a history of the struggle of working people to achieve a better way of life, decent pay, working conditions and for a society that meets the needs of the people.

The international Labour Holiday called May Day, actually originated in the United States in 1884 at a conference of U.S. and Canadian Trade Unions.

The conference decided to launch an intensive campaign for the 8-hour day and to culminate the struggle on May 1st 1888.

This campaign led to a bitter struggle. There were 1572 strikes involving 600,000 workers leading up to the May 1st demonstrations. Over half a million workers took part in the May 1st activities. Six workers were killed, 200 injured, others framed and hanged.

Subsequently at an International Labour Congress in Paris a resolution was carried to declare May 1st 1890 a great day of workers International demonstrations throughout the World. Australian delegates were at this conference.

On this day in Australia large demonstrations were held in Queensland in Barcaldine and Ipswich by striking shearers. Over 1000 men took part, some 600 on horseback.

Three years after the first celebrations of May Day saw the adoption of Socialism as one of the main aims of May Day and the recognition that workers can never be free of exploitation, injustice, and poverty while capitalism exists.

In Victoria the Day was marked by a meeting at the Trades Hall Council. It was later decided to celebrate International May Day by the holding of a march on the first Sunday of every May calling for better wages, working and living conditions, the end to imperialist wars and for Socialism.

May Day marches in Victoria started in 1893 and continue today.

The Melbourne May Day Committee has continually made representations to the State Government to declare May 1st a public holiday, but only public awareness, support and pressure will finally achieve this demand.

Until then the May Day March is held traditionally on the first Sunday in May so that all members of the community have the opportunity to take part and demonstrate the broad range of issues that affect them.

MELBOURNE MAY DAY COMMITTEE

"WORKERS OF THE WORLD UNITE"



Melbourne May Day Committee
139 Queensberry St, Carlton South 3053

List of May Day Office Bearers:

LEN COOPER, Secretary, M. 0438 389 302
Email: lencoop@inet.net.au

JOHN SPEIGHT	President
KEVIN BRACKEN	(MUA), V-President
RAY BERBLING	V-President
JOHN RUTHERFORD	Treasurer

MELBOURNE MAY DAY WEBSITE: www.melbournemayday.org