



ADVANCE AUSTRALIA FAIR
Building Sustainability, Justice and Peace

CONFERENCE PROGRAM

Pre-conference public meeting - Friday July 29, 6pm

Corporocracy vs the Global Commons

Storey Hall, RMIT, Swanston St, Melbourne. Cost \$5

- Phyllis Bennis** anti-war activist with United for Peace and Justice & fellow with the Institute for Policy Studies, USA
- Sharan Burrow** President, ACTU and President, International Confederation of Free Trade Unions
- Rey Casambre** Director, Philippine Peace Centre
- Margo Kingston** journalist and author of 'Not Happy, John'
- MC Rod Quantock**

Saturday 30th July

TIME & ROOM	SESSION
9 am - Foyer	Registration
10.15 - 10.30 am New Council Chamber	Welcome to Country
10.30 - 12.30 pm New Council Chamber	OPENING PLENARY 1 - Challenging the Neo-Liberal Danger What are the challenges we face under the next term of the Coalition Government tightly aligned to the Bush administration? Focus on social services, human rights, the environment and military policies under a neo-liberal government. Speakers Andrew Wilkie , former intelligence officer Rey Casambre , Director, Philippine Peace Centre Bev Kliger , Victorian Council of Social Service David Taft , Education officer, Monash University Students Association Guy Rundle , commentator, Arena editor (on leave) Pat Randal , Australian Fair Trade and Investment Network Pat Byrne , Federal President, Australian Education Union MC Sarojini Krisnapillai , current affairs presenter from 3CR
12.30-1.30pm	Lunch
1.30-4.30pm	WORKSHOPS (including a 15 min break)
Workshop A New Council Chamber	Going it alone - John Howard's 21st Century Australian workplace Imagine an Australia without unions. John Howard is working towards just that outcome. A discussion of strategies to oppose the Howard IR agenda and to revitalise the union movement. Include a look at the role and importance of Global, as well as national unions. Speakers Mordy Bromberg , labour barrister

Peter Marshall, Firefighter's Union & President, Vic Trades Hall Council

Rev Elenie Poulos, UnitingJustice, Australia

Jenny Farrar, Media Entertainment & Arts Alliance, Vic

Facilitator **Rob Durbridge**, Australian Education Union

Workshop B

Annex

Women, GLBT, and the rise of the Moral / Christian Right

George Bush won in Ohio and overall, partly by mobilising a Christian Right vote against gay marriage and women's rights. John Howard and Tony Abbott are busy doing the same here. Howard's family tax benefit, baby bonus, and childcare policy make it hard for working women. Abbott's push against the right to choose an abortion is a major threat to women's basic rights. And now Family First has a Senator. It's time to rebuild the women's movement and broader alliances for a better morality.

Speakers

Michael Kelly, Rainbow Sash movement

Cobina Crawford, Pro-Choice Coalition, Vic

Felicity Martin, Vic Gay and Lesbian Rights Lobby

Facilitator

Ellen Kleimaker, Women's & Equity Officer, VTHC

Workshop C

Meeting Room 1

Protecting human rights in Australia

Access to health care, education and housing, freedom of association, freedom from discrimination - all these 'taken for granted' human and civil rights are being rolled back under Howard and Bush. Australia stands out as a country without an effective Bill of Rights, and no way to enforce the human rights conventions it has signed and ratified. An interactive workshop, discussing how to protect human rights in Australia.

Facilitators

Sarah Nicholson, Federation of Community Legal Centres

Michael Salvaris, Institute for Community Engagement & Policy Alternatives, Victoria Uni

Workshop D

Old Council Chamber

The big corporate grab: Free trade, the WTO and neo-liberalism in Australia

Howard believes free trade is a global panacea that will solve the problems social service delivery, poverty and terrorism. Yet the Asian tsunami has put aid and aid policies back on the public agenda. Howard wants the TELSTRA sell-off to be a jewel in the crown of his third term. This workshop will explore the real impacts domestically and globally on our social policies, human rights, aid policies and the fundamental question of democratic processes.

Speakers

Anne O'Rourke, Liberty Victoria; Intern'l Centre for TU Rights, Monash Uni

Pat Ranald, Aust Fair Trade and Investment Network

Ted Murphy, National Tertiary Education Union

Facilitator **Len Cooper**, CEPU – Communications Union

Workshop E

Bar

Delusions and destruction in Howard's education program

The push for a user-pays system in education is one particularly strategic attack undermining access and opportunity for education and reinforcing social disadvantage and advantage. We will discuss how we confront Howard's policies of privilege for pre-schools, schools, TAFE and university.

Speakers

Grahame McCulloch, National Tertiary Education Union

Jenni Devereux, Australian Education Union, SA

Pat Forward, TAFE Secretary, Australian Education Union

David Taft, Education Officer, Monash Uni Student Association

Facilitator **Gemma Pinnell**, National Tertiary Education Union

Workshop F

Evatt Room

The corporate media grab – Are we already Foxed?

A diversity of media sources is fundamental to enhancing our democracy through the ability to access information from different points of view. Media deregulation and ripping the guts out of the ABC are Howard Government priorities.

Speakers

Glenys Stradijot, Friends of the ABC, Victoria

Shane Elson, Community Radio Broadcasting Association
Andrew Lowenthal, Indymedia
Facilitator **Louise Connor**, Media Entertainment Arts Alliance, Vic

4.30 - 5.30 pm
New Council
Chamber

Discussion on the Conference Statement

The statement has been drafted and amended according to comments from people in the networks and participating organisations. Come to this session to make your final suggestions for the conference statement before it is passed by the conference participants in the closing plenary on Sunday. Read and comment on the statement now.

5.30 - 7.30 pm

Drinks in the Trades Hall Bar

Sunday July 31st

9.00 am - Foyer

Registrations

9.30 - 11.30 am
New Council
Chamber

PLENARY 2 - Howard's (di)vision for the land of the long economic boom

An examination of the growing divide in Australian society, with particular emphasis on education, housing and health. A new agenda for the public provision of services and wealth redistribution. A sustainable and equitable look at the current situation.

Speakers

Graham Larcombe, economist

Rob Watts, Social Policy researcher, RMIT

MC Mary Crooks, Victorian Women's Trust

11.30am - 2.15pm

WORKSHOPS (including a 15 min break with light lunch provided in Foyer)

Workshop G

Unhealthy Nation

Exploration of the impact of undermining the public health system, the development of a two tiered healthcare system, the extended Private Health Insurance Rebate, lack of access to bulk billing GPs, neglect of preventative healthcare strategies and corporate GP services.

Evatt Room

Speakers

Charles Livingstone, Institute of Primary Care, La Trobe Uni

Dr Tim Woodruff, Doctors Reform Society

Helen Keleher, School of Health and Social development, Deakin Uni

Facilitator **Panayiota Romios**, Health Issues Centre

Workshop H

The War on Terror

Anti-terrorism and the Australia-US Alliance has been cemented at the centre of the political agenda. Australia is repositioning its military focus to South/East Asia and escalating the domestic terror laws. How do we address terrorism and the attacks on Arab, Middle Eastern and Muslim groups under the so-called 'War on Terror' without eroding basic civil rights. What are the consequences, both internationally and in Australia and how can mainstream advocacy organizations take up the issues and act for justice?

New Council
Chamber

Speakers

Phyllis Bennis, United for Peace and Justice, USA

Nuzhat Lotia and

Jaweria Khalid, Islamic Women's Welfare Council of Vic

Agnes Chong and

Waleed Kadous, Australian Muslim Civil Rights Advocacy Network

Dr Jude McCulloch, Dept of Criminology & Criminal Justice, Monash Uni

Patrick Emerton, Faculty of Law, Monash Uni

Brian Walters SC, Liberty Victoria

Facilitators **Marika Dias**, Federation of Community Legal Centres and

Joo-Cheong Tham, Law Faculty, Uni of Melbourne

Workshop I

Reclaim Democracy! Community organising and mobilisation

When governments are beholden to big business and elections don't feel like satisfactory inputs into the direction of your community and the country, get active! Come to this workshop on community organising. Learn skills on developing strategies,

Annex

involving your community, build active participation, educate, work for long term change.

Facilitator, **James Whelan**, The Change Agency, Qld

Workshop J

Jobs and the Environment: Having the cake and eating it

Bar

One of the major victories of the elite has been the pitting of environmentalists against unions. It is a situation that must be overcome if we are to achieve a just and sustainable society. This workshop will dispel the myths about the false choices between employment and saving the environment, and explore the opportunities for working together.

Speakers

Fraser Brindley, Greens Councillor, Melbourne City Council

Dave Kerin, Earthworker

Jenny Warfe, Blue Wedges Coalition

Charles Berger, Legal Advisor, Australian Conservation Foundation

Facilitator **Jono La Nauze**, Friends of the Earth, Melbourne.

Workshop K

Reigniting hope for asylum seekers and refugees

Old Council Chamber

After Howard's win, the huge community campaigns need to reassert the human rights agenda. Children are still in detention, people are still marginalised by their TPV status, and asylum seekers are still being forcibly deported to danger. This Australian model is being exported overseas. This workshop will outline the current state of policies and focus on renewing campaign coalitions.

Speakers

Pamela Curr, Asylum Seeker Resource Centre

Representative, Rural Australians for Refugees (RAR)

Lauren Ireland, Refugee Action Collective (RAC), Melbourne.

Facilitator **Arnold Zable**, Melbourne writer

Workshop L

What comes after ATSIC? Effective alliances with Indigenous Australians?

Meeting Room 1

Reconciliation has been pushed off the government agenda, Indigenous health continues to disintegrate, and Indigenous representation and self-determination has been undermined. The workshop will explore what we can do to address racism and to take meaningful steps towards creating a just society where Indigenous peoples rights and their status as first peoples is acknowledged and valued. Interactive workshop exploring what we can do to further reconciliation and indigenous justice.

Facilitators

Frank Hytten and Clare Land, Australians for Native Title and Reconciliation, Victoria

2.15 - 2.45pm

Adoption of conference statement

New Council Chamber

2.45 - 4.45pm

CLOSING PLENARY 3

Working together to build an alternative

New Council Chamber

Building coalitions, promoting grass roots democracy and participation, challenging corporate power.

Speakers

Cam Walker, Friends of the Earth, Australia

Sue Kenny, Centre for Citizenship and Human Rights

Jacqui Katona, Lumbu Indigenous Community Foundation

Doug Cameron, AMWU

Senator Lyn Allison, Australian Democrats

Senator Kerry Nettle, Australian Greens

Jenny Macklin MHR, Labor Left

Rod Donald MP, Co-leader NZ Greens

Facilitator **Dave Sweeney**, Australian Conservation Foundation

5pm

Close