

ACTU REPORT ON ELECTION

NSW Teachers' Federation President Bob Lipscombe:

In the recent federal election Prime Minister Julia Gillard led a first term Labor government to a loss of its majority in the House of Representatives for the first time since 1931. The last time this happened was when the Scullin Labor Government was defeated.

There has been no shortage of reviews of and analyses of this year's election result.

Interestingly not many noted the widespread alienation of teachers by the Labor government and the pivotal role played in this by the Prime Minister. In the last week, however, it appears this oversight has been addressed.

A review into the election, commissioned by the ACTU, has found that the energy and goodwill arising from the very successful 2007 Your Rights at Work campaign evaporated during the three years of the Rudd-Gillard Government.

Among the reasons identified for this was concern the failure of the Fair Work Act to address a number of the issues which had given rise to the Your Rights at Work campaign in the Howard years.

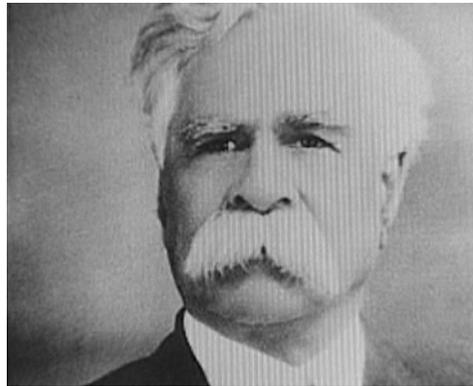
The report singles out the alienation of teachers for particular mention: "Teachers felt under attack by the Rudd government." It also noted that many teachers were hostile to the ALP and that there was a strong belief that the ALP had not delivered on key issues.

What is surprising is that so many federal politicians appear to have thought that they could repeatedly treat the profession with contempt and suffer no electoral consequences. It now remains to be seen if anything has been learned by the politicians.

KRISTALLNACHT PROTEST - 1938

It's 72 years since the terrible night in Germany and Australia called Kristallnacht - the Night of Broken Glass. The organised mass violence against Jews saw rampaging Nazis smash Jewish stores

and properties, kill nearly 100 people and intern 36,000 others in camps.



A month later, across the other side of the world in Melbourne, a remarkable elderly man organised a protest march to the German consulate, the only private demonstration against the pogrom of that night. The man was William Cooper, now recognised as one of the founders of modern Aboriginal activism, who fought for the plight of many oppressed groups as well as his own people.

William Cooper wasn't just half a world away from the Nazi horror, he was a man disenfranchised in his own country, the founder of the Australian Aborigines' League.

Aged 77, William Cooper led a delegation from his house in Melbourne's inner-west to the German consulate in the city to deliver a resolution, "... against the cruel persecution of the Jewish people by the Nazi Government of Germany and asking that the persecution be brought to an end."

ABCC: ARK TRIBE WINS

Ark Tribe stood trial in Adelaide Magistrates Court charged with failing to attend the Australian Building and Construction Commission (ABCC) to answer questions about a union meeting at an Adelaide building site in 2008.

Magistrate David Whittle delivered a verdict of not guilty to the offence, which carries a maximum penalty of six months in jail for a conviction.

Leaving the court, Mr Tribe pumped the air with his fist and vowed to fight for other workers if they faced charges under the laws.

"Australians, regular working Australians can feel proud, we got them," he said.

In a statement released immediately after the verdict, National Secretary of the CFMEU Construction and General Division, Dave Noonan, says the union is elated.

"We have been fighting this for 18 months, and this is terrific news for Ark and his family. It proves what a shambles the ABCC is. A worker has been dragged through hell for what?"

The Government must now recognise the Australian Building and Construction Commission to be a shambles and move to abolish it once and for all," he said.

Federal Greens MP Adam Bandt said the Government should immediately scrap the ABCC.

"There is no place for laws that give one group of workers less rights than accused criminals, let alone other workers.

"The Australian public does not support the ABCC having the coercive powers used against Ark Tribe. These are unjust laws that are not supported by the broader population."

BIG BANKS - BIG LIES

The big four banks have fattened their margins while complaining about being squeezed, new figures reveal.

"It means we have been complaining about the wrong thing," said Richard Dennis, the director of the Australia Institute, which analysed the figures.

"Whereas we have been angry about banks not moving in lock step with the Reserve, we should have been concerned their actual costs weren't even keeping pace with Reserve Bank increases," he said.



<http://www.rightsonsite.org.au/>

The figures show that while the Reserve cash rate rose 1.36 percentage points between the June quarters of last year and this year, the average rate paid by the big banks rose 0.88 points.

The lower rate would have been because rates on some of the funds banks borrowed went up more slowly than the Reserve cash rate.

"It's like making hamburgers. If meat accounts for a third of your costs and the price of meat goes up 10 per cent, you shouldn't be expected to put the price of hamburgers up 10 per cent," Dr Denniss said.

CANCUN CLIMATE SUMMIT

ACTU President Ged Kearney is attending the summit in Mexico for various meetings and discussions with world leaders in hopes to advance a resolution on the issue.

Ms Kearney said that a global gathering will highlight that urgent action is needed for a domestic carbon pricing mechanism that will encourage investment in new industries.

"Our major international competitors are already establishing themselves in clean energy industries, technology and manufacturing," Ms Kearney said.

"We are missing out on billions of dollars of investment that is now flowing to projects and communities in other countries.

"The longer we take to move to a low pollution economy here the more it will cost Australia to make the economic transformation.

"To remain globally competitive we need to establish a price on carbon, invest in and develop new industries and jobs as well as assist in helping current industries to become cleaner and more efficient. This will ensure that vulnerable communities will be cared for."

CLEANERS: BMCC SUPPORT

Blue Mountains City Council staff have recommended the adoption of the LHMU Clean Start principles for all BMCC cleaning contracts and tenders at the meeting next week. This came from a notice of motion Councillor Gibbs put up some months ago, and staff have supported this move.

Gibbs' motion was unanimously passed at A BMCC meeting making the council one

of the first local government areas to adopt these principles to ensure that cleaners get a fair deal.

Recommendation:

That the Council endorses the inclusion of principles contained in the LHMU Clean Start Collective Agreement into all future Council cleaning contracts, noting that when fresh tenders are called for external cleaning services there may be an impact on the contract price for the service.

SCHOOL FUNDING CAMPAIGN

NSW Teachers' Federation Vice President Gary Zadkovich:

Hundreds of submissions have been made to the review, but many more are needed before the end of the year.

As the end of the school year approaches, Federation members are urged to ensure that all NSW public school communities contribute to the Review of Funding for Schooling.

The campaign is resonating positively in communities across the state. From the far western plains to the eastern beaches, the Riverina to the north coast, from metropolitan Sydney, Newcastle and Wollongong to regional centres and country towns, people continue to express support for greater funding for public schools.

Thousands of signatures have already been collected on Federation's petition and hundreds of submissions have been made to the review, but many more are needed before the end of the year.

In addition to encouraging every one of our 2240 public school communities to prepare a submission, Federation continues to encourage parents and carers, principals and teachers, allied staff and community members, to have a say, to speak out as an individual citizen for a new funding system that ensures no child misses out on a quality public education in their local community.

MUA: NO TO TOXIC WASTE



MUA National Secretary and President of the International Transport Workers'

Federation, Paddy Crumlin, has congratulated the Danish Government for refusing to accept toxic waste shipments from Australia after unions repeatedly voiced concern over the plan.

Mr Crumlin said the Danish decision was a victory for common sense over the scheme to load the hazardous chemical waste from the Orica site at Port Botany and ship it for disposal in Denmark.

"The first shipment of this toxic waste was due to leave tomorrow, so we would like to thank all of the unions involved who lobbied hard for this outcome," he said.

On behalf of the drivers at the Australian end of the operation, State Secretary of the Transport Workers Union, Wayne Forno, said: "Ensuring that risk assessment is carried out on the driving route and risks associated with it for our drivers, we support the MUA in totality."

Mr Crumlin added: "There needs to be a long term solution thought out for this issue. It is not good enough to ship hazardous chemical waste around the globe - there are enormous risks involved."

Australian Unions



Working for a better life.

JOIN BMUC

Blue Mountains residents can become BMUC members if they support our Aims and Objects. Membership is open to union members, to retired unionists and to those who are unemployed or unwaged.

Membership Fees
Waged \$15.00 pa
Unwaged \$5.00 pa

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