



# Vanguard

For an Independent Australia and Socialism

Volume 50 Number 6

July 2013

Print Post Approved PP332582 0006

Recommended Price \$2 inc GST

Vanguard expresses the viewpoint of the Communist Party of Australia (Marxist - Leninist)

## Treaty now, treaty yeah!

by Nick G.

**Progressive Australians were saddened recently to hear of the passing away of Yothu Yindi lead singer Mr Yunupingu. (Traditional Aboriginal custom prevents us from using a deceased person's given name or image)**

With singer-songwriter Paul Kelly and members of Midnight Oil, Mr Yunupingu created the defiant and challenging song "Treaty". "Treaty" was composed in 1991 to demand that the Australian government honour a promise made by then Prime Minister Bob Hawke that his government would enter into a Treaty with Indigenous Australians by 1990.

### Treaty promised but never delivered

Hawke made the promise after being presented with a bark petition calling for a Treaty at the Barunga Festival in the Northern Territory in 1988.

The promise of a Treaty made by Hawke was ultimately worth as much as his infamous promise that "no child will live in poverty by 1990".

Yet calls for a Treaty still resonate within Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander (ATSI) communities.

Its advocates seek formal acknowledgement that Australia and its islands were occupied and owned by Indigenous first nations prior to their unsettling by British colonialism.

They seek formal acknowledgement that these lands were never ceded or surrendered to the invaders and that surviving communities and peoples have an inalienable right to continuing custodianship over their lands.

They seek formal acknowledgement that surviving communities and peoples have the right to exercise self-determination.

### Opinions divided on constitutional recognition

Such a Treaty should be the foundation upon which changes to the Constitution of Australia in respect of



Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples have a proud history of struggle for sovereign rights

Aboriginal peoples should be made.

The referendum on constitutional recognition of Aboriginal Australians, in the absence of such a Treaty, has become a contested issue within the ATSI communities.

Aboriginal Peak Organisations in the Northern Territory recommend "a vote for changes to the Australian Constitution which eliminate racial discrimination, support agreement-making and recognise and protect the culture, languages and identity of ATSI people". Many other ATSI organisations and personages support this position.

Yet a number of other influential ATSI persons and groups reject constitutional recognition as a deception and a diversion.

Brisbane Aboriginal Sovereign Embassy spokesperson Wayne Wharton believes the referendum is "an empty, tokenistic distraction from the real issue, the real discussion about sovereignty..."

Phil Winzer, a Ngarabul man from northern NSW is also critical of the referendum. "There is no proposal to change the constitution to recognise that the entire land mass of the continent of Australia was legally and absolutely owned by the original nations that were here, and has never been legally ceded by them, and there is no proposal to recognise that our people had rights attached to that ownership as sovereign nations".

Aboriginal activist and historian Dr Gary Foley believes constitutional

recognition to be a "stupid and pointless idea" and "an idiotic proposition dreamed up by black middle-class bureaucrats and academics... designed to divert attention from the real issues."

### Treaty should come first

There can be no genuine reconciliation between the ATSI peoples and the rest of the Australian people until a Treaty exists acknowledging ATSI people's prior ownership of this country.

The Treaty must acknowledge that the essence of the relationship between Indigenous peoples and the colonialist settlers was that the invasion of ATSI

lands was essentially accomplished by force and violence or the threat of force and violence.

The Treaty must acknowledge ATSI communities' rights to self-determination on the basis of real and lasting Land Rights.

The current Australian Constitution is a patchwork quilt of the competing requirements of different sections of the British imperialist-dominated ruling class that existed over a century ago.

It is unworkable and must be replaced by an anti-imperialist, democratic and republican Constitution that includes a Bill of Rights defining and enshrining our rights and liberties.

<http://www.yothuyindi.com/music/treaty.html>

### In This Issue

Corporate tax dodgers bludging on workers	p3
Editorial: Reject class collaboration! No new Accords!	p3
GMH attack on wages	p5
Marxism Today: What is 'a fair days pay'?	p6
Commemorating 50 years of Vanguard - article	p6/7
Imperialist globalisation turns workers into fringe-dwellers	p8
Fraser's speech on Australian independence	p10
People's mass revolt in Turkey	p11

# Prisons – a public responsibility, not a private cash cow

by Max O.

**Studies by the Institute of Criminology have revealed a dramatic increase in the number of Aboriginal deaths in custody.**

This has not reached the highs of the eighties when the main cause of death in custody was self-harm, usually hanging.

The recent rise in prison deaths has been due to natural causes, or in other words neglect.

Given that incarcerations across the board confine primarily the poor and the marginalised we can expect that those entering prison are not brimming with good health.

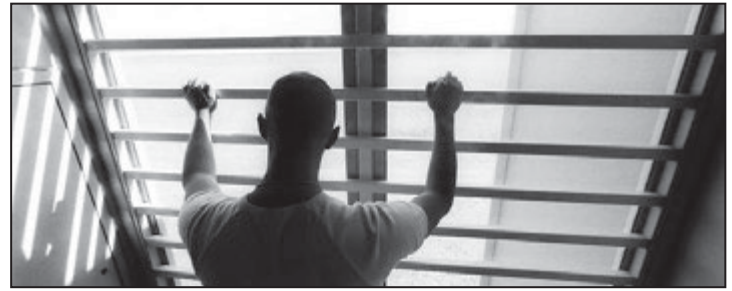
The health problems associated with poverty and marginalisation are well known and unless all persons taken into prisons, particularly Aboriginal

prisoners, are assessed on entry and any health problems dealt with and monitored, deaths in custody from 'natural' causes will increase, particularly as the level of incarceration rises as it is currently.

## Why are indigenous deaths in custody rates rising?

The NSW bureau of Crime Statistics and Research found that the adult imprisonment rate in Australia rose by 37% between 2001 and 2008 (and by 48% in New South Wales).

These are amazing jumps which would suggest a dramatic increase in the levels of offending. But, not so. The N.S.W Bureau found no increases in the levels of crime. The increase according to their research is due to an increase in the number of prison sentences being handed down, longer prison time



Port Phillip private prison in Victoria

ordered and less bail offered.

Tougher bail conditions discriminate against Aboriginal and other marginalised groups because they cannot so readily meet bail conditions such as stable accommodation and adequate supervision.

Whilst the level of incarceration across the board has increased, the level of Aboriginal incarceration has doubled over the last two decades.

This flies in the face of the basic tenet of the *Aboriginal Deaths in Custody Report* which advocated alternatives to prison as a way of reducing deaths in custody.

## Taking the children away

The rate at which Aboriginal juveniles are imprisoned is even more alarming.

In Western Australia Aboriginal youth comprises more than two thirds of minors in custody. In the Northern Territory 97% of those under eighteen in prison are Aboriginal.

Another report by the N.S.W Institute of Technology reports that Aboriginal youth Australia-wide are thirty-one times more likely to be imprisoned than non-Indigenous youth.

With the Northern Territory achieving economies of scale through what has been described as 'spartan conditions' imposed on prisoners, one wonders just what long term impact this high rate of juvenile removal from family and community and these 'spartan' conditions are having on the Aboriginal youth enjoying Her Majesty's accommodation.

## Keeping people out of prison

Various organizations such as the Red Cross and prisoner support groups argue for lower and lesser prison sentences and suggest options ranging from community involvement in sentencing to court imposed electronic surveillance.

Just the costs of imprisonment would suggest alternatives to imprisonment are the better option with the imprisonment of each individual prisoner costing thirteen to forty times more than non-custodial alternatives.

Capitalism is, of course, riddled with contradictions.

The contradiction here is between those who argue for alternatives to prison for economic, moral or humane reasons and see prisons and prisoners as a state responsibility, and those who profit from the privatisation of prisons.

## Private prisons in Australia

The privatisation of prisons is an increasing trend across the capitalist world.

Currently Australia has twelve privatised prisons incarcerating approximately 20% of Australia's prisoners. Discussions are well underway for more privatisations in Queensland and New South Wales.

Maximising profiteering from prisons requires that privately run prisons be filled to capacity, thus their existence gives rise to powerful lobby groups agitating for tougher and longer sentencing.

These, along with political parties' popularising, 'get tough on crime' policies, dominate the air space, whilst those advocating public ownership and alternatives to prison have trouble getting their voices heard.

A Government Productivity Commission report found that privatised prisons are no cheaper to run than those managed by the State, and at approximately \$269 per prisoner per day (or \$98,000 per year according to the Productivity Commission figures) the percentage of this money spent in locking up juveniles in particular and minor or moderate offenders would be better spent on preventative measures such as tackling poverty and the increasing inequality in Australia.

Capital roams the world looking for lucrative places to invest. Taxpayer funded prisons fit the bill.

Capital is aided and abetted by compliant governments all too willing to sell off Australia to the highest bidder.

We need to take responsibility for our own institutions, including prisons, to ensure that all essential services serve the Australian people, not the profit aims of foreign capital.

## Vanguard

**Vanguard is a national monthly newspaper which expresses the viewpoint of the Communist Party of Australia (Marxist - Leninist), the CPA (M-L).** Readers are encouraged to comment on, criticise or contribute material to *Vanguard*. Articles, digital graphics, cartoons, clippings, comments or a few lines are all very welcome. All material should be sent to:

**Vanguard Editorial Staff  
PO Box 196, Fitzroy, Vic. 3065**

*Vanguard* strives to provide a Marxist analysis of Australian society, economy and politics. An important aspect of developing this analysis is an intimate knowledge of and close involvement in all aspects of Australian struggle.

The cost of producing a national newspaper is considerable. Readers are encouraged to contribute whatever they can by sending donations to the above address.

The CPA(M-L) may be contacted through *Vanguard* at PO Box 196, Fitzroy, Vic, 3065.

Email: cpaml@vanguard.net.au

## Subscription rates

For *Vanguard*, plus all new leaflets and special broadsheets

- \* Individuals and organisations: \$15 (GST inc)
- \* Students, pensioners, unemployed: \$10 (GST inc)



I enclose:

\$..... for *Vanguard*

Name:

Address:

Postcode:

New subscription    Renewal

Send to PO Box 196, Fitzroy, Vic. 3065

## Corporate tax dodgers are bludging on working people

by *Bill F.*

**Workers can't avoid paying tax; it's taken out of our pay and we cough up GST almost every time we buy something. But, if it's a rich and powerful corporation, things are different.**

In the June issue of *Vanguard* an article titled *Taxation system works for the rich* exposed the extent of tax minimisation by the corporate monopolies, with some paying no tax at all.

There was mention of the secretive use of overseas tax havens to dodge the scrutiny of the Australian Taxation Office.

A report has just been released by the Uniting Church which examines the use of these tax havens by subsidiaries of the top 100 companies listed on the stock exchange. The report was written by Mark Zirnsak, the director of the Uniting Church Justice and International Mission Unit.

The report, titled *Secrecy Jurisdictions, the ASX100 and Public Transparency*, found that more than 60 of the top 100 companies had subsidiaries in tax havens such as the Cayman Islands, Switzerland, Luxembourg, the British Virgin Islands, Bermuda, Mauritius, Jersey, the Cook Islands, the Seychelles, and in low-tax jurisdictions such as Hong Kong and Singapore.

Many of these subsidiaries conduct almost no commercial activity, and exist only to avoid or minimise taxes. "These are places that fail to meet international standards on transparency, on anti-money-laundering laws, and on tax law co-operation," said Mr Zirnsak.

News Corporation, Westfield and the Goodman Group were listed as operating more than 50 subsidiaries each in a number of tax-free or low tax countries.

The Commonwealth Bank was also listed. A subsidiary of the bank, Burdekin Investments, operates out of George Town, capital of the Cayman Islands. Its headquarters is Uglund House, home to thousands of so-called 'post-box companies' taking advantage of local tax rules.

In its 2012 annual report, Telstra confirms 20 subsidiaries registered in tax havens – 11 in the British Virgin Islands, four in Bermuda, four in Jersey, one in Mauritius and one in the Cayman Islands.

Information on the identity of corporate tax dodgers and the extent of the scams was recently leaked to the International Consortium of

Investigative Journalists. It came from two companies dealing in taxation law - Commonwealth Trust Ltd in the British Virgin Islands and Portcullis TrustNet, based in Asia.

According to the *Saturday Age*, this information has fingered more than 500 Australians with connections and involvement with tax haven rorts. A special investigating task force, Project Wickenby, has been set up combining the Australian Crime Commission, the Federal Police and the Australian Tax Office.

It is a smokescreen. Its purpose is to round up a few somewhat petty criminals and con artists and give the appearance of cracking down on tax avoidance. It complements the passing of parliamentary legislation to 'close tax loopholes' – they've been doing that for decades and the rich still get away with it.

You can bet that none of the top 100 companies, the multinationals, the corporate monopolies and big banks, or the media monopolies will be investigated, hauled into court and their bosses carted off to jail. The 'legal' tax haven subsidiaries will continue undisturbed and the profits will keep rolling in.

In a stagnating economy, State and federal governments are cutting services and dumping workers. They blame falling tax revenues for the austerity measures being imposed on the people. They dare not try to collect even the legitimate taxes that should be levied on the monopolies, let alone impose a progressive taxation system to spread the burden in a fairer way.

These parasites are bludging on the working people who get less and less for the taxes they have to pay. Workers may not like paying taxes, but they hate bludgers who get away with not paying any.

**Public sector jobs, the last bastion of jobs for life under the remnants of the capitalist 'welfare state', are under attack by federal and state governments of both Labor and Liberal persuasion.**

As reported in June 2013 edition of *Vanguard*, the federal budget will result in the loss of 2,400 full time jobs in the Department of Human Services.

The Queensland and NSW state Liberal Governments continue to

## Editorial

### Reject class collaboration! No new Accords!

**Former Labor Prime Minister and ACTU President Bob Hawke was reported on June 1 as having called for a revival of the Prices and Income Accord. Talk about flogging a dead horse!**

He was speaking at a Sydney seminar to mark the Accord's 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary. The Accord was notorious then amongst politically advanced workers for imposing a wage freeze and preventing industrial action.

That is not to make a fetish of industrial action or wages struggles. In themselves, they do not challenge capitalism or place demands for independence and socialism on the agenda. But they do reflect the reality that classes exist and that class struggle occurs.

They do reflect the reality that organisation on the job and unity in the workplace is a prerequisite for any advances in the social circumstances of people who are employed by other people.

The Accord that is now a dead horse didn't even have legs. It was incapable of advancing the workers in any direction.

It should not be forgotten that one of the leading critics of Gillard's and Swan's "class warfare rhetoric" (sic!!!) is Simon Crean, and that Crean was a collaborator with Hawke in the class collaboration that was the Accord.

Current ACTU President Ged Kearney issued a diplomatically worded response which went a little bit too far in its praise of the Accord, presenting the "internationalisation of the Australian economy that took place in the 1980s (as) a lasting product of that partnership".

This is true, but it was not a good thing. The wave of financial deregulation, competition policy and privatisation that came with "internationalisation of the Australian economy" has only served to further enmesh us in the web of imperialist control and manipulation.

But Kearney did then go on to say that a new Accord was not part of the agenda. "Since the Accord, the way unions achieve reform has changed," she said. "We have mobilised into an independent campaigning force, capable of multiple campaigns at the same time."

This indicates the direction that we must take. Our own agenda is coming into being and it is being realised by not relying on Labor or parliament or by seeking to build alliances between the trade unions and Capital, but by building alliances between unions and community organisations.

We must ensure that the ACTU leadership contributes to our having an independent capacity to fight regardless of which political party of capitalism holds office for the rich.

When working people develop awareness of their own class interests they can then be helped to understand the irreconcilability of those interests and the class interests of foreign and local monopoly capitalism.

The development of such an understanding will facilitate the speedier acceptance of the crucial need for anti-imperialist independence and socialism.

## Public sector fight for jobs

by *Ned K.*

eliminate public sector jobs.

Even the South Australian Weatherill Labor Government announced in its State Budget in June 2013 the loss of a further 5,000 public service jobs by 2017.

The sting in the tail of this announcement was that as from 1 July 2014, the cap of 116 weeks on a redundancy package would be slashed to a maximum of 52 weeks.

The date of 1 July 2013 for the reduction in the cap to 52 weeks coincides with the end date of the SA Labor Government's "no forced

redundancy policy" for public sector employees.

The Government's Health Department is eager to take advantage of this situation by ploughing ahead with a proposal to privatise all non-clinical jobs in the major hospitals.

Public sector union members are preparing for a big fight for job security as a major issue leading up to the State election in SA in March 2014 and prior to the 1 July deadline next year, irrespective of which party is in parliamentary office at the time.

They have no choice.



# Whitlam: The Power and the Passion reviewed

by Nick G.

ABC TV's recent two-part series *Whitlam: The Power and the Passion* was a welcome reopening of discussion about a major event in Australian political life.

However, it missed the opportunity to fundamentally analyse the role of US imperialism in orchestrating what was in reality not a simple "dismissal" but a semi-fascist coup.

Neither did it analyse – and nor could we expect it to have analysed – the role of social democracy in confining the working class to capitalism.

## Tentative expressions of independence

Coming after a long period of pro-British and pro-US servility by conservative governments, and in the wake of widespread opposition to the US imperialist war of aggression against Vietnam and to conscription, Whitlam appeared almost visionary in his decision to withdraw Australian troops and end conscription, recognise the People's Republic of China, abolish the death penalty, abolish university fees, establish legal aid and introduce Medibank.

There were tentative expressions of a more independent Australian outlook, including replacing "God Save the Queen" as the national anthem and creating a national honours list in the place of the imperial system.

As if this were not enough, Whitlam and his Minerals and Energy Minister Rex O'Connor instigated a move to "buy back the farm", focussing on the largely foreign-owned mining industry.

This not only challenged multinational domination of the Australian economy but induced the government to seek finance from the Middle East rather than from the imperialist centres of finance capital: New York, London and Tokyo.

US imperialism took umbrage at this insubordination and in 1973 Nixon appointed career coup-master Marshall Green as Ambassador to Australia.

Green had been in charge of the US Embassy in South Korea at the time of the 1961 coup d'état that brought Major-General Park Chung Hee to power (father of the current South Korean president Park Geun-hye).

He was later appointed US Ambassador to Indonesia in time to oversee the toppling of the anti-imperialist Sukarno government and the murder of half a million communists.

Narratives of the Whitlam dismissal



November 12 1975 and Bob Hawke asks for a day's pay in lieu of mass struggle against US imperialism.

do not, as a rule, examine the implications of Whitlam's irritation of the US overlords, concentrating instead on immediate players in the saga such as Whitlam, Cairns, Fraser and Kerr.

The ABC TV series is no exception. A thorough exposure of the role US imperialism played in the constitutional coup would not suit the ruling class although it is very much sensed and understood by the advanced sections of the working class.

## Failure to rely on the people

The anti-Whitlam coup developed as an Opposition move to block Supply in the Senate. This was scripted in such a way as to require the Governor-General to withdraw Whitlam's commission to form government.

Whitlam was ultimately complicit in his own sacking.

US imperialism had sent Marshall Green with a hangman's rope, but it was Whitlam who placed the noose around his own neck by his appointment of Sir John Kerr as Governor-General.

Kerr was an anti-working class arch-reactionary and associated with various US-funded institutions.

He had disgraced himself in 1969 by jailing Victorian Tramways Union secretary and CPA (M-L) vice-chairperson Clarrie O'Shea over his refusal to pay fines imposed on his union.

As noted by this paper on March 7, 1974, "Sir John Kerr has a very doubtful record in Australian politics. His appointment does no credit to those who appointed him".

Throughout 1973 (the year of Green's appointment), 1974 (Kerr's appointment) and 1975 (the lead-up to the Supply crisis), our Party consistently and regularly warned the working class that a coup against Whitlam was being prepared.

Kerr performed his role and Whitlam was sacked.

Addressing a crowd of supporters

outside Parliament, Whitlam urged Australians to "maintain your rage".

But he qualified that and his full statement was: "Maintain your rage and enthusiasm for the campaign for the election now to be held and until polling day."

Whitlam could have gone back into Parliament House and resumed his seat as Prime Minister of Australia.

This would have been consistent with his view that the Governor-General was bound by custom and practice to act on the advice of the Prime Minister and Cabinet.

He did not believe the Prime Minister and Cabinet were bound to follow the orders of the Governor-General. Yet that was what he did.

For all of his flirtation with the traditions of the labour movement (calling associates "comrade", for example), Whitlam was, as he proudly proclaimed on more than one occasion, "a bourgeois".

Both as a bourgeois and as a Labor reformist, the idea of encouraging a confrontation between the people and the capitalist state machinery in the streets of the nation was anathema to him.

By refusing to stand up to Kerr by continuing to function as the elected

Prime Minister, Whitlam gave no focus or purpose to the maintenance of rage other than to wait for the casting of ballots.

## Treachery to the interests of the people

This was simple treachery to the interests of the people.

And it was matched the following day when the "gruff, abrasive cream-puff" of an ACTU President, Bob Hawke, rejected union calls for a nation-wide strike and urged workers instead to donate a day's pay to an ALP pre-election campaign.

The great struggles and national strikes that took place over six days following O'Shea's jailing forced the ruling class to back down and manufacture an opportunity to have him released.

Hawke could have drawn on that legacy and brought the undeniable strength of collective working class action to force a second retreat by the reactionaries.

But his tradition was that of the Victorian and NSW Trades Hall mis-leaderships who had refused to back the O'Shea general strikes.

Fraser now had the incumbency, the time and the complicity of the vanquished to ensure his electoral victory over Whitlam.

The troops that had been put on stand-by to threaten blood should stain the wattle were not needed.

And we continue to this day to be bound hand and foot to US imperialism having had the one chance to really mount a mass challenge to that rule snatched from us by system loyalists in the leadership of the ALP.

<http://ozfolksongaday.blogspot.com.au/2012/01/mild-colonial-boy.html>

## More bad news for food processing industry

by Duncan B.

US based vegetable processor **Simplot** has announced that it may close vegetable processing plants in Bathurst (NSW) and Devonport (Tas).

The Bathurst plant is Australia's biggest corn-processing plant.

The Devonport plant employs 300 workers.

The company blames cheap imported



frozen vegetables for its problems. Tasmanian vegetable growers who supply about 60,000 tonnes of vegetables each year to Simplot are concerned by the announcement.

## General Motors Holden in attack on wages

by Nick G.

**US multinational General Motors Holden is demanding its production line workers at the Elizabeth plant in South Australia take a pay cut of up to \$200 per week.**

This tax-payer subsidised dinosaur has blackmailed successive state and federal governments to get one financial rescue package after another with the threat of closing its Australian operations.

It has also attacked its workforce on previous occasions, cutting out shifts and reducing workers to a four day week.

It treats its workers as one more just-in-time production component, laying off and hiring workers according to the anarchic whims of the market. It is currently finalising 400 job cuts at Elizabeth and 100 at its Port Melbourne engineering plant.

Now it wants a direct wage cut.

It is simply outrageous that one of the biggest corporations in the world can make demands of this nature.

It is clearly past its use-by-date as

a global entity as its US government rescue packages and its closure of plants such as the GM Opel plant in Bochum, Germany with 3000 job losses, announced in April, show.

It is in crisis, a crisis of overproduction and a crisis of capital investment and production costs.

The only answer to the problems besetting the manufacture of vehicles in Australia is to nationalise without compensation the entire industry and rationalise and plan its production to the needs of the market.

**What do urban Australians need in the way of a small, green energy car?**

Build it to meet that need.

**What do Australian primary producers and urban tradespeople need in the way of a utility vehicle?**

Build it to meet that need.

**What vehicles are required for better public transport?**

Design and build trains, trams and buses.

**What can be done with these big manufacturing facilities in the way of research and development for**



*Ed Devereux, grinning Yank boss of GMH, wants to slash workers' wages*

**advanced manufacturing capacity?**

Provide the funds and unleash the creativity of the workers both manual and intellectual.

**What can be done for the workers?**

Give them the responsibility to control the process and intensity of production, and to determine the social purposes to which their surplus value (profit) is put instead of seeing it disappear overseas

to the multinational bosses.

To implement such common sense measures requires anti-imperialist independence and socialism.

A capitalist society that allows giant multinational corporations to bully and intimidate their way through the inevitable crises of a market economy is unsustainable.

We fight for a better future.

## Migrant workers left high and dry when companies go under

by Ned K.

**At the same time as Ford announced closure of its production plants in Victoria and the direct loss of 1200 jobs, a major contractor in the property services industry, Swan Services, went belly up.**

Two thousand five hundred workers, mainly contract cleaners were affected.

Most picked up work with the contractors that the property owners have used to replace Swan to provide the same services. However, these workers have to start all over again regarding accrual of annual leave and sick leave.

Even that presumes the new contractor offers them permanent jobs rather than casual work.

With their previous employer going broke, they are left being owed unpaid wages, leave entitlements and redundancy pay.

The Howard Government brought in a government scheme to pay minimum entitlements to workers in this situation.

Labor continued and improved this scheme somewhat and now call it the Fair Entitlement Guarantee (FEG).

Once a company is put into liquidation workers can claim award severance pay, annual and long service leave entitlements and any unpaid wages in the last 3 months of employment with

the employer that went broke.

Problem is, this FEG scheme only applies to Australian citizens and permanent residents.

The majority of workers in property services jobs like cleaning and security in the cities employed by companies like Swan Services are either migrant workers hanging on for permanent residency qualification or overseas students.

Most of these workers are from non-English speaking background countries. So there is an element of racism as well in the FEG scheme coverage.

These workers pay taxes, but cannot access a safety net scheme funded by taxation revenue.

The parliament knows about this situation, but nothing has been done to change it.

The rich property owners are partly responsible for Swan's demise because they award contracts to the cheapest bidder who is then unable to pay for the service those same property owners require.

It is downhill for the workers from then on.

The migrant workers and overseas students can see this and are demanding that the property owners and the government sort it out so that their lost wages and entitlements are paid.

With a strong trend to contracting out of services by governments and big business in many industries, the

likelihood of contractor companies going broke will increase in the race to the bottom to win contracts.

This trend is already seeing some of

the most vulnerable migrant sections of the working class being drawn in to struggle in what they hoped to be the 'lucky country'.

## Geelong reeling from job cuts

by Duncan B.

**Workers in Victoria's second-largest city, Geelong, have been copping a beating lately.**

First it was the announcement in April that Shell was looking to sell its refinery there, with a possible loss of 450 jobs.

Next came the announcement in May that Ford is to cease vehicle manufacturing in Australia in 2016. This will result in the loss of 510 jobs in Geelong.

June brought more bad news for workers in Geelong. Carpet manufacturer Godfrey Hirst announced that is to cut out the night shift at its Riverside Textiles plant with the loss of 15 jobs.

Employees at the Geelong head office of retailer Target were next in the gun. The company announced that 260 jobs are to go, most of them in Geelong.

These job cuts follow on from last year's cuts at the Gordon TAFE College (89), Qantas (260) and Alcoa (60).

Traditionally, Geelong was a major industrial city, with much heavy industry such as car and tractor manufacturing, abattoirs and woollen mills. In fact Geelong was once known as the "Bradford of the South" because of its many textile mills.

These industries provided employment for many thousands of workers. Later Shell and Alcoa set up in Geelong, employing many hundreds more.

The latest job losses show the dangers of relying on foreign-owned companies to look after the interests of workers. The multinationals will only invest where it is profitable and will close operations in an area if it becomes less profitable, moving operations to countries where there is greater exploitation of workers and profits are higher.

The *Vanguard* editorial in the June issue was correct when it called for the nationalisation of imperialist-owned industries such as Ford, Shell and Alcoa should also be candidates for nationalisation.



## Marxism Today

# What is a fair day's pay?

by Dennis M.

**What decides the level of our wages? The capitalist media make it seem that wages are the outcome of discussions before tribunals.**

One example is the un-Fair Work Commission. It recently added \$16.90 to the minimum weekly wage.

The boss-class was pleading for no more than six dollars. The ACTU had asked for thirty.

To some extent, the Commissioners balanced the needs of capital against the necessities for the lowest paid. But that calculation played a tiny part in the outcome.

Why did neither side get all it wanted?

The answer is because our wages are decided by the relative strength of the contending classes.

The class struggle sets the socially necessary costs of reproducing labour-power. So, how much money is 'socially necessary'?

Marx pointed to cultural differences. The English worker, for instance,

wanted ale and the French wine. Engels explained accommodation costs. If workers pay rent, wages have to meet that expense.

However, if we own our houses, the bosses will try to reduce wages accordingly. Today, it is almost impossible for a working family to exist without at least one second-hand vehicle to get to work.

That expense is 'socially necessary' because of the lack of public transport.

However, 'socially necessary' goes way beyond material conditions. 'Socially necessary' includes the political, the cultural and the industrial.

The political intervenes because the state resorts to open violence. We saw that when the police rioted during the Grocon dispute.

One cultural element in 'socially necessary' is the notion of a fair day's pay for a fair day's work.

A second cultural element is the background propaganda of television dramas. They never show that workers alone add value to the wealth of nature.

Rather, the programs reinforce the lie



Karl Marx

that capital creates jobs.

A further element in 'socially necessary' is industrial.

The latest wage rise would have been even less if United Voice had not been campaigning for years around a Clean Start for cleaners.

Those actions created public support. They strengthened the wage demands in workplaces.

But the impact of union action is limited by the laws against 'unprotected' industrial action.

A nation-wide cross-industry campaign like the one against WorkChoices would have lifted the increase towards the \$30 mark.

BLF secretary Norm Gallagher spelt out BLF strategy and tactics in the 1970s.

The union would 'tenderise' the employers before they got to court. Once there, the lawyers would 'grill'

them. That approach worked in the 1970s for two main reasons. First, our victory of our class in the 1969 O'Shea dispute had broken the penal powers.

The boss-class therefore had to regroup. It did so with the Trade Practices Act of 45D and E against secondary boycotts.

The second reason for the BLF wins was its depth of workplace organisation. Militant delegates exposed the lie about 'a fair day's pay'.

Hence, the campaign for wages and conditions has to be waged on every front: the industrial, political, and cultural. Those struggles open paths to socialism.

To repeat: our wages are decided by the relative strength of the contending classes. Gallagher had another way of putting this truth: 'You won't get from the courts what you can't hold at the gate.'

## Commemorating 50 years of Vanguard

**In this issue we continue our occasional series of reprints from across the 50 years of Vanguard's publication. These articles help trace the origin and development of the ideological foundations of our Party.**

**The Labor Party is in a state of permanent crisis**  
(From Vanguard December 1966)

*The Labor Party in Australia is in a state of permanent crisis. More than any other party of capitalism it exhibits the signs of crisis. Its crisis actually arises from the conditions of capitalism.*

*We should like to discuss some aspects of the present Labor Party crisis.*

*Our starting point is that the Labor Party is indeed a party of capitalism. It is not a working class party at all. Much of the misunderstanding about the Labor Party has arisen through departing from the correct analysis that it is a party of capitalism.*

*The fact that we characterise it as a party of capitalism does not in any way meant that Communists cannot and should not have good relations with workers and even some leaders who follow the Labor Party. On the contrary it is critical for the Communists (as*

*Lenin put it) "in a certain degree to merge if you will with the masses".*

*Certainly the Communists must work in this way precisely to share in the experience in life which will show all workers that the road of advance is through revolutionary struggle. Their sharing is not passive: it is active: it leads to conclusions: to action. This occurs as adverse experience of capitalism unfolds. It is not a simple process. It proceeds unevenly and at different speeds for different people.*

*The Communists will patiently step by step try to demonstrate the correct way ahead. They must be with the masses at every stage of development, advanced, backward, not so backward, not so advanced.*

*Today, however, many honest people are saying what is wrong with the Labor Party? What can be done to rectify the position? It is said it is a tragedy to see the disintegration of a great party. This represents the genuine desire of many workers. It is a desire to reform the Labor Party. Then on the other hand the capitalist press is full of advice to the Labor Party.*

*It is to be noted that the whole of this debate goes on within the context of the parliamentary politics.*

*The question that is posed is how can the Labor Party correct either its policy or organisation or both to do better in parliamentary elections? In itself this directly shows that the suggested reform is a reform to make capitalism function better. Parliament is a capitalist institution. It serves capitalism.*

*Thus this debate clearly proceeds on a capitalist basis. However many do not understand this and do not understand the nature of parliament itself.*

*Merely to write an article about it like this will not solve the problem. It is a question of experience, struggle, experience even repeated many times. The Communists must be clear on the principle involved. Then infinite flexibility in mass work, infinite patience, to a certain degree merging if you will with the masses, learning from experience, will achieve over a period of time mass understanding.*

*The first essential of working class politics is the independence of the working class from the capitalist class. The interests of the workers are diametrically opposite to those of the capitalists.*

*There can be no reconciliation between them. Therefore to subordinate working class politics to the capitalist*

*institution of parliament is desertion of working class politics.*

*It never occurs to many participants in this debate that really they are being deluded. The illusion developed by the capitalist class about the parliamentary institution is so strong that it is almost taken as read that the debate will proceed on the basis of parliamentarism.*

*It is essential then to understand this.*

*Parliament and the parties that serve it are alike the instruments of capitalism. This is clear to us but not yet to many of the people.*

*The Labor Party, however, is a party of capitalism that takes a special form. It takes the form of a workers' party. It calls itself a LABOR party. It is very close to the workers' trade unions. It has a large following among the workers. It has special features which are designed to deceive workers into believing it is a workers' party.*

*Nonetheless as countless experiences prove the Labor Party in Australia has always served capitalism. It has been the government in all states and federally. It is pledged to socialism. (1)*

*Nevertheless under Labor governments capitalism has developed. For example, the Labor Party created*

# 50 years of Vanguard continued...

the secret police, government ballots in the trade unions, has gaoled and shot workers and so on.

Within it there is a left wing. There is a right wing. There is a centre. Each plays a part in appealing to different sections of the people. Then the sections who support the left are told to wait till the right is defeated. The right "struggles" against the left.

The central feature of the crisis of the Labor Party is the conflict between its form as a workers' party and its content as a capitalist party.

The fact that Australian capitalism is tied to US imperialism leaves little room for the Australian capitalists to manoeuvre. The US imperialists have such a grip that they control the situation. Hence all the capitalist parties, Labor included, support the US alliance.

This is in complete conflict with the interests of the workers. Yet what are they to do? So long as they are tied to parliamentarism they too have no room to struggle.

The Labor Party opposed conscription for Vietnam. That is good. It does not matter that such a proposition does not step beyond capitalism. It is an important aspect of struggle against the Vietnamese war. And of course it is permissible for Communists to agree with sections even of the capitalists so long as no principle is sacrificed.

Yet the Labor Party is tied to the US alliance from which conscription flows. This dictates an inevitable inconsistency. Fundamental is the US alliance supported by the Labor Party: opposition to conscription by the Labor Party is consistent even with capitalist policy.

Certainly we welcome such a policy. But it is easy to understand a lack of confidence among the workers in the Labor Party, a cynicism about it when it is so firmly tied to the US alliance.

Conscription is really used by the ALP for deception, i.e. to maintain the illusion of militancy. Moreover, sections of the capitalists are opposed to conscription. It disrupts production: it deprives Australia itself of soldiers, etc. Yes, it has a positive side. That is important. It helps people to organise and think.

It has the negative side that opposition to it, unless as a matter of principle, can be used to delude them further.

The capitalist class is reaching an impasse on the method of its rule. It has relied on the Labor Party as the alternative government party. To do that it has presented the Labor Party as a radical party.

True, it has placed definite limits on this radicalism but still it was there. In



days gone by that was all right. But in today's explosive world, any form of radicalism is dangerous. Therefore the ruling class must narrow the limits of the radicalism of the ALP. In its turn that destroys the appearance of choice in parliamentary elections. The Labor Party therefore loses its apparent position as an alternative.

Then the capitalists or sections of them say we must make the ALP more conservative. However, that intensifies the contradictions between the ALP and the workers who have illusions in it.

Thus whatever way they turn they are in a dilemma. This dilemma reflects itself in the internal position in the ALP.

Then again there are divisions among the capitalists. Some say it is better for the ALP to appear to be left; some say it is better for it to appear to be right. This reflects tactical differences.

Still more the capitalists themselves have interests that conflict with each

other. This group promotes one line; that group another. This, too, promotes division.

Being a capitalist party in which the competition of capitalism is reflected, there is an important rivalry amongst the Labor Party leaders. There is a struggle for power. This, too, reflects the competitive struggle of capitalism.

Vanguard has more than once pointed out that a clear line of demarcation must be drawn between parliamentary politics on the one hand and genuine scientific politics on the other.

Parliamentary politics are the illusion of politics. The capitalist class wants politics confined to parliament. Understanding this is an essential part of genuine politics. If you understand it you can handle it. If you debate it on the ground of parliamentary politics you are at the mercy of the capitalists.

Reality then is that the Labor Party cannot be reformed into a genuine workers' party. It can be reformed as

a capitalist party. Such a reform may take it to the left or it may take it to the right. But whichever way it goes, it will not solve the problem. If to the left, the right will revolt; if to the right, the left will revolt. Compromise will occur. But all that is in the realm of parliamentary politics, i.e., of capitalist politics.

As yet there is not a mass understanding that the Labor Party is a capitalist party. Only a small minority understands this. There is a sea of illusion that the Labor Party is a workers' party. With the workers who have this illusion we have no quarrel. We know that sooner or later they will realise the illusion.

This is a contradiction among the people. It will be resolved above all by experience in struggle with correct Communist mass work and by discussion. It won't be resolved by an attitude of contempt for these workers or trying to ram down their throats these views. Mass work is the critical thing.

Lenin, in speaking of party spirit of the Communist Party, spoke of three conditions. All of them are relevant to this discussion. But for emphasis here we reproduce the second and third with Lenin's own emphasis.

"Secondly, by its ability to link itself with, to keep in close touch with, and, to a certain degree if you will, merge itself with the broad masses of the toilers - primarily with the proletariat, but also with the non-proletarian toiling masses. Thirdly, by the correctness of the political leadership exercised by this vanguard and by the correctness of its political strategy and tactics, provided that the broadest masses become convinced of this correctness by their own experience".

### Note

(1) In 1913, Lenin wrote: "The Australian Labor Party does not even claim to be a Socialist Party. As a matter of fact, it is a liberal bourgeois party and the so-called Liberals in Australia are really Conservatives ..." However, with the growth of socialist sentiment in Australia following the Russian revolution in 1917, the 1921 All-Australian Trades Union Congress adopted a resolution calling for "the socialisation of industry, production, distribution and exchange." As a result, Labor's Federal Conference in 1922 adopted a similarly worded "socialist objective". The only attempt at socialisation was the failed attempt at bank nationalisation by Chifley in 1947. The "pledge to socialism" referred to by Vanguard was officially dropped by Labor in 1975.



# Imperialist globalisation turns workers into fringe-dwellers

by *Bill F.*

**Fringe dwellers are people who live on the outside, cut off from the main centres of activity and social enjoyment, isolated and chained down by poverty and lack of opportunities to change their situation.**

This is what is happening across Melbourne as the 'losers' in the globalisation game are pushed out.

As manufacturing jobs are wiped out and the building industry slows, lesser skilled workers find it harder to get secure employment.

Low wages, casualisation, temporary work contracts, unemployment and pitiful welfare benefits have meant that many can no longer meet housing costs in the formerly working class inner suburbs.

These are now rapidly being taken over by a higher paid class of educated and skilled workers and professionals, managers and small business owners.

This is not to say that their future is all that secure either, as out-sourcing and off-shoring are now cutting a swathe through white collar jobs in the banking, finance and legal areas, while on-line shopping is hitting the retail sector.

In suburbs such as Altona

North, Yarraville, Coburg, Preston, Newport, Thornbury and Fawkner the demographic balance is shifting towards higher income groups and higher levels of debt.

At the same time, the sprawling outer suburbs and towns such as Cranbourne, Tarneit, Romsey, Koo Wee Rup, Melton, Bacchus Marsh, Somers and Whittlesea have seen an influx of lower income workers, young families and arriving migrants.

## Traffic chaos

Adding to their struggle to make ends meet is the need to spend hours in traffic every day just getting to work and back, as these suburbs are poorly served by public transport.

Melbourne's radial network of roads means that traffic converges at bottlenecks that used to be in just a few inner suburbs but now occur all the way through the middle suburbs.

If people manage to get to work on time, they arrive stressed out, and that's even before the boss has a go at them!

This chaos is most apparent in the poorly planned growth areas to the south and west of Melbourne.

According to a state government report, the Wyndham Growth Corridor around Werribee, Point Cook, Tarneit



*Peak hour in Hoddle Street*

and Hoppers Crossing will generate 226,000 vehicle trips a day by 2021.

It is the fastest growing municipality in Australia. Much of this traffic will converge on the main Yarra River crossing at West Gate Bridge.

Currently, at least 170,000 vehicles, including 24,000 trucks, travel over West Gate Bridge each day, and this is increasing at more than 2% each Year.

Instead of building another river crossing, whether bridge or tunnel, all that has happened is the emergency lanes on the bridge now carry traffic and the other lanes are narrower.

Don't get crook or have a bingle on West Gate Bridge, because the

ambulance just won't get through!

So, all this chaos and misery isn't just down to short-sighted politicians.

It's part of the restructuring of the local economy in the interests of the global imperialist agenda – the de-industrialisation of Australia.

The global monopolies want to just have mining and resources and a few service industries. Everything else can be imported.

The main ones to benefit from this will be the foreign multinationals and their lackeys – the same mob that makes huge profits from the cars, fuel, road-works and insurance that we all need and rely on.

## Napthine government intent on ramming through its East West Link

by *Bill F.*

**The Victorian government is pressing ahead with plans to build its \$ 9 billion east west link tollway, and has given priority to the eastern section, even though no business plan for this has been revealed.**

It has put the badly needed Melbourne Metro rail tunnel on the never-never list.

Never mind about the crying need for a second Yarra River crossing to take the burden off West Gate Bridge.

Never mind traffic chaos at the airport and outer suburbs because long promised train lines have not been built.

Never mind the objections of inner city communities who fear the link will pour thousands more cars into their suburbs.

Never mind the advice of the Linking Melbourne Authority which favoured the western portion of the link as a priority.

The Napthine government is hell-bent on kicking off the eastern link, hoping this will translate into votes

in the marginal electorates on that side of town and much needed new project work for the profit hungry road construction outfits.

### Yarra Council digs in

In Clifton Hill and Collingwood, where the east-west link tunnel is likely to begin, residents are very concerned at the lack of information available.

The Council has allocated \$300,000 to fund a campaign against the project, with mayor Jackie Fristacky saying, it was "an improper use of public money" and would exacerbate congestion on Hoddle Street, Flemington Road and surrounding streets.

"It will also deprive Melbourne of billions of money that is needed for much-needed public transport projects... With that money you could build airport rail, Doncaster rail, Rowville rail, the Melbourne Metro, the Mernda extension."

Yarra councillor Stephen Jolly was also quoted: "If the government think they can put the wrecking ball to Collingwood homes without us using every tool possible to stop them, they're

dreaming."

On Thursday 13 June, hundreds of people attended a meeting at the Fitzroy Town Hall to oppose the east west road link and in support of the "Trains not Toll Roads" campaign for the Doncaster rail line. The Yarra Council will spend a further \$200,000 on this campaign which envisages the rail line running along the median strip of the Eastern Freeway.

Key speaker at the meeting was Alannah MacTiernan, the former Western Australian transport minister, who spoke of the success of the Mandurah Line along the Kwinana Freeway in Perth. Costing only \$1.69 billion, it was carrying 56 million passengers in 2010-11.

"The semiotics of actually having the rail down the centre of the freeway, with everyone seeing the trains travelling faster than the cars, was really important."

You'd have to say, this was the exception to the rule. Under capitalism, even if it's smart, practicable and efficient, and really benefits the people, it just doesn't happen unless there's a profit in it.



A4 sized colour mini-posters will be available shortly to download from the website at [www.vanguard.net.au](http://www.vanguard.net.au)

Four others will also be available with short messages about sustainable manufacturing, taxing the mining monopolies, combatting greenhouse gas emissions, and an independent Australia.

For hand-out, email and paste up during the election campaign.



# The Ford announcement

-Contributed-

**The announcement by Ford Australia of its intention to cease vehicle production here in 2016 has had a substantial impact across the country, especially in Victoria where the production occurs.**

It has given rise to a flurry of media, political and general public response, which cannot fail to bring about a huge increase in the depth of people's awareness of the vulnerability the nation faces as a result of the subservience shown by both major political parties to foreign economic domination.

Ford Australia's CEO appeared on the ABC 7:30 report, and tried to soften the blow by stating that Ford would maintain a strong interest in Australia.

To which presenter Leigh Sales, to her credit, responded, "Surely you don't expect the Australian people to swallow that spin?"

It was quite a justified response. But nevertheless remarkable that the local head of a huge US multinational company should be humiliated in this manner on national television.

## Bosses' politicians offer no real solutions

The political response so far has had little or nothing to propose as a way forward. The Prime Minister has restricted the government's contribution to the situation to funds to provide some assistance to the workers in the industry when it closes. Nothing said about the many thousands in associated manufacturing whose livelihood is also threatened.

Abbott's contribution is to blame the Carbon Tax as the primary factor. This is a view that has not been accepted by commentators; even those on the conservative side were not able to accept such nonsense.

Victorian Premier Napthine wants the National Disability Allowance Scheme administrative headquarters to be located in Geelong, because it will provide employment for about 1000 people. This idea must fill the hearts of workers skilled in the manufacture of cars with overwhelming relief?!

It appears that the workers at Broadmeadows are to be hung out to dry however.

The Ford announcement is not out of the blue. It has been known to be coming for months, even years. It follows a series of closures in manufacturing industries by multinational companies and Australian companies, which have moved to places where labour is cheap



– mostly Asian countries such as China, India, Bangladesh, and Indonesia.

Banks have also relocated certain of their central information centres overseas, particularly to India.

## Nationalisation is a step in the right direction

It is time the Australian people put an end to this national sell-out.

It has now become clear to a substantial percentage of the Australian public that this will not be brought about by either of the two main political parties, as both have, by their policies and actions or lack of action for many decades, shown their willingness to comply with the dictates of big business, especially multinational corporations, be it in vehicle making, mining, food

processing, etc.

Victoria and Australia need huge state-owned undertakings to be carried out relatively urgently. They have the potential to provide employment for numerous people for years to come.

Transport problems in Melbourne, in the inner city and suburbs have led to chaos on the roads and overcrowded trains.

Climate change caused by greenhouse gas emissions is making the change over from fossil fuels to renewable energy essential, particularly in regard to large-scale electricity production and vehicle powering in the cities.

Here is an opportunity to act. Wouldn't it be a powerful move if the federal government told Ford that in view of the more than \$1 billion of

subsidy it has given the company in the past decade or so, it will take all its plant and equipment when they leave, as compensation.

It would be quite possible to then start building electrically powered vehicles for city driving, in factories under the public ownership of the Australian people, managed by Australians, and operated by the highly skilled workforce which already exists.

General Motors Holden CEO in a recent interview pointed out that Ford had a brilliant design team of about 1000 people.

So the complete workforce is available – it just needs to happen – and before they're poached by Holden (itself on the verge of closure) or some other mob.

The announcement by Ford has resulted in a sharp rise in the understanding of the Australian people of the need to gain real independence from the control of our economy by foreign investors through multinational companies and by other means.

Despite the constant harping by supporters of the so-called 'free market' and weak government responses, the movement of history is irreversibly heading toward the creation of a genuinely independent Australian People's Republic.

## Big Brother is watching you

by Jack D.

**Today you are being watched and monitored more than at any time in the past. Not even in the Dulles era when there were allegedly "reds under the bed" were people monitored as much as now.**

With today's technology there is the ability to spy on all facets of peoples' lives. Your financial doings and shopping habits are recorded. Your accessing of medical and other like needs are recorded.

What you do, where you do it, why you are there and whom you see, is recorded. Your bits of plastic card and your human need for food, clothing, medical, dental, travel and other such things are all recorded, largely because of your bits of plastic card.

When you enter any of the bigger shops you are on camera. Driving a car you are often on camera.

If you walk around the streets you may be on camera.

This is especially so in some areas, such as around housing commission flats.

Over and above that, some of the shopkeepers want to search people's



bags. This is especially so by the biggest thieves, the large supermarket chains.

They can only ask to look in your bag.

You, in turn, have the right to refuse, and so you should. This is a ploy by the Retailers Association and big business to con you into submitting to them.

There is a similar thing about to happen in the fuel industry where service stations are going to try to force customers to submit to screening of some more advanced kind or other.

The excuse is the increase in drive offs from fuel bowzers. Certainly there have been increases, but this is no excuse to tar all customers with the one

brush. Times are hard. People are much more desperate now.

Ironically, this whine about people stealing fuel comes from the greatest thieves of all with the most over-priced product of all, the oil companies.

Surveillance and the rising use of spying are about control and manipulating the population. It is about the gradual training of people to get used to such domination and to accept it.

We need to start now and organise against such measures, in the supermarket and the petrol station which need to have more staff, more employees, more person to person dealings, more respect for their fellows.

A few years ago Woolworths was exposed for tossing the bread into the skips with deliberately busted packaging then hosing it down so the homeless and poor could not use it. They thought it would force those with no means to come in and buy bread. But we never see Woolworths giving bread for no money.

We need to make it very clear that enough is enough.

# Syrian resistance to stepped up invasion

by Jim H.

**Unfolding events in Syria prove beyond any doubt that US and European power intervention in Syria is a crime against humanity.**

For what else can it be when every action is geared towards overthrowing the government of a sovereign nation, by means of relentless attacks on the population and the destruction of the infrastructure and economy of another nation?

Claims by the perpetrators of this atrocity that they are protecting Syrians has long been shown as the lie that it is. Intervention is no more than about establishing a new semi-colony to gain a foothold in a turbulent, strategic and resource rich region.

The so-called rebels are largely foreigners sent in. Increasingly the al Qaeda linked groups are taking the upper hand on the battlefield. Chechen elements are consolidating their dominant position.

The intervention seeks to pit Sunni against, Shia, Alawi, Christian and other groups. Others are little more than mercenaries prepared to sell out their country for a bag of gold. They do not have the support of the Syrian



people. This is the simple fact

In contrast, the great majority, despite whatever criticisms they might have of the Assad government, have united together and called for the protection of this government and opposition to foreign intervention. All other considerations are secondary and have to be put aside at this time.

Increased US military assistance to its protégés has resulted in a significant step up in the supply of small arms, ammunition, mortars, and SA16 anti-aircraft missiles. There is also the stationing of F16b fighters and Patriot missiles in Jordan.

The reason given is that the Syrian government has been using chemical weapons. What is the evidence? There

is no more than some vague assertion that two people have been found, with traces of sarin on their bodies. There is no word on where or when this happened. It smells like a manufactured story.

As for the rebels there is evidence that they have been using depleted uranium shells and there are claims that they have been using chemical weapons. A recent video that has been widely circulated shows a rebel cutting out the heart of a victim and eating it.

There is also dismay in the ranks of the invaders that Hezbollah and Iranian volunteers have come to support the Syrians. Turkey, one of the front line stooges is in turmoil, partly because of popular Turkish opposition to their

government's dishonourable role in supporting US ambitions in Syria.

Add to this significant Syrian military gains on the battlefield.

Stepped up US intervention has the hallmarks of desperation and is recognition that plans for victory over a smaller country are not materialising.

Furthermore, increasing intervention threatens to destabilise the whole region. The Syrian resistance is giving peoples heart that it is possible to fight back. It is a potent example.

Reactionary regimes that have come out on the side of imperialism are looking more exposed. The longer this goes the more difficult the situation that they find themselves in.

The longer the conflict goes on the sharper the division between the US and the European imperialist powers. All have intervened in order to assert their own sectional interests. But in Europe there is nervousness about the US becoming too dominant. This feeds misgivings about too much military intervention.

The US has the dilemma of moving forward or pulling back a bit to maintain the semblance of unity. It is a considerable weakness.

The success of the Syrian resistance is heart-warming to those who truly value independence and freedom.

## Malcolm Fraser's speech on Australian independence

by Alice M.

**In a bold speech at the launch of Melbourne Globalist on 2 June, Malcolm Fraser, former Liberal Prime Minister between 1975 and 1983, condemned Australia's subservience to US foreign policies and complicity in US wars of aggression.**

Fraser called on Australia to become an independent nation and free itself from control by any big power.

Amongst the many "prominent" guests in the audience was the US Consul-General.

*Vanguard* thinks this is an important speech, and has reproduced some major quotes and paraphrased key points.

Fraser warned that the stationing of over 2,500 rotating US marines in Darwin, along with offensive air and naval units, is clear evidence of US preparations to use Darwin (together with other US military and intelligence installations on Australian soil) as a launching pad for US military attacks into the region.

He said that the complacency and the acquiescence of the two main political parties to US preparations for wars of aggression made Australia complicit in

future US wars in the Asia-Pacific.

Fraser said Australia was "hostage to the decisions of a country 10,000 miles away. Today, the US has influence over our armed forces. Influence might be the wrong word – the right word may be control", he said. "Since the 1990s Australia's dependency on the US has become closer than ever before. "Australia has no defence independence in its own rights."

Australia does not have an advanced communication system of our own and needs approval from the US military to use its communication facilities based on our soil, he said. Australia's defence and military forces are enmeshed into the US war machine.

Fraser said when the US decides to launch a military strike from Australia it would not consult, or even notify, the Australian government before launching an attack.

"They'll do it and we'll read it in the newspapers. Our prime minister will be told about it after the attack is made. Because that's the way these things work. That, for me, is a total denial of Australian sovereignty and if we were ever independent, it's a denial of Australian independence."

He said the US has firmly locked

Australia into the US military machine by the recent appointment of Australian army general Richard Burr as the second in command of US Pacific operations.

This appointment creates an illusion that Australia is an equal partner.

But in truth, he said, it is designed to force Australia into whatever war or conflict US is engaged in and to prevent Australia from pulling out of US military operations.

It is another way of tying Australia to the decisions made by the US, he said.

At the start of his speech Fraser declared that "Australia never had a foreign policy of our own and we have never been independent".

He said that up to the 2<sup>nd</sup> World War the British government determined our foreign and defence policies. After the 2<sup>nd</sup> World War, Australia's foreign and defence policies followed the US.

*Vanguard* applauds and welcomes Fraser for his honesty in taking a principled public stand and strongly urging the Australian people to demand a sovereign defence and foreign policy that does not submit to the dictates of the US, or any other big power.

His tireless work and public calls for a peaceful and independent foreign policy, sovereignty and an independent

Australia advances the anti-imperialist interests of the people.

Fraser represents the liberal, patriotic capitalist class in Australia that longs for national sovereignty and understands the dangers of dependency on foreign powers.

He is gravely concerned that decisions of going to war and foreign occupations are made by foreign big powers, not the people and government of Australia.

He understands the importance of nations' right to self-determination and opposes big power domination over smaller countries and people.

Fraser does not view the world from a Marxist, anti-imperialist class position which points to the compulsion by monopoly capital to expand as the main force driving imperialist military aggression, occupations and domination of countries by imperialist powers.

It is from our understanding of these class relations and class power that we hold the view that genuine and thoroughgoing national independence can only be achieved and secured by the people in a socialist Australia where the working class runs our country to benefit the overwhelming majority, not the tiny handful of foreign and local monopoly corporations.



# People's mass revolt in Turkey

by Max O.

The mass revolt began with a sit-in in Istanbul's Gezi Park on the edge of Taksim Square, where some seventy odd protesters gathered on May 27 to prevent the destruction of one of the last-remaining green spaces and its transformation into a shopping mall.

What started out as a demand to preserve a small section of Istanbul and a citizen's right to their city, mushroomed into a full blown rebellion across major cities in Turkey.

Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan and his AKP's (Justice and Development Party) provocative act of sending in bull-dozers to rip up the trees in Gezi Park and the aggressive deployment of riot police, assaulting crowds with enormous amounts of gas, water, and rubber bullets has sparked a prairie fire.

Reports indicate this people's resistance has spread to more than 60 cities and provinces, bringing several million people onto the streets in a widespread protest against the ruling AKP government.

Coordinated with the anti-government demonstrations are two major union strikes.

One by the confederation of public sector workers which went out on strike in early June, the other being the metal workers' union who went out at the end of June.

These were political strikes against the actions of the government.

As the uprising has spread, it has had a punishing effect on capitalist operations in the country.

Turkey's stock market trading fell by 10% following the uprising, it also affected the important gas deals with neighbouring countries and the government cautioned that the protest had cost the economy 70 million Turkish lira (28 million Euros).

Back in 2002, when the AKP won government, Erdogan was seen as a potential reformer for both the Islamic and liberal constituencies who would block the Turkish military's dominance over the country.

However his pro-Islamic policies haven't ruffled the military's secular-chauvinist intrusions into society.

The military have staged four coups since the Second World War, crushed Kurdish and workers struggles and are the real power in Turkey.

The common denominator for both is to bring capitalism in Turkey up to-date through the implementation of neo-liberal economic policies and improving the alliance with the United States.

Neo-liberal economic policies expand under the AKP, Erdogan government



The so-called neo-liberal success story has seen a huge privatisation program similar to the West.

Prior to 2003 the state implementation of privatisations approached \$380 million per year; from Erdogan's time in government this has leapt to a devastating \$6 billion per year.

What has this meant for the peoples of Turkey? Unfortunately, Turkey has the worst quality of life within the OECD.

A Ministry of Family and Social Policies study, in 2011, illustrated how enormous the income gap was in the country.

The bottom 60% make less than \$35 per day. Only 1.2% of the total population make \$3,000 or more per month. With figures like this one can imagine how bad it is for the bottom 10%.

As a consequence ordinary people's debt and unemployment has soared. An economist, Mustafa Sonmez observed: "In 2003 there were 2.4 million people with consumer credit debts. By the end of 2012, however, the number of people who owe consumer credit debts to the

banks reached 13.2 million."

OECD figures on Turkey point to the fact that female unemployment has doubled in ten years, there are 3.5 million Turkish and Kurdish child labourers (half of whom have discontinued their schooling) and workers are working harder and longer than their counterparts in any other OECD country.

The country's Occupation, Health and Safety record fares no better. It ranks top in the number of workplace accidents (in effect industrial murders) in Europe, killing 12,686 in the last 12 years.

The mass media in Turkey, similar to the West, likes to highlight the fact that the number of millionaires in Turkey has risen from less than 10,000 to over 50,000 in just 10 years as an example of growth and stability in the economy!

What is growth for the rich is misery for the worker.

## Capitalism and repression

It is these deep economic wounds inflicted by capitalism in Turkey that has been the catalyst for people's

willingness to clash with the police out in the streets.

The recent peoples' revolts that have erupted around the world, such as in Greece, Spain, Egypt and the US Occupy movement are not only a renunciation of the ruling governments but against the current political system in its entirety.

These so-called representative parliamentary democracies only implement the will of finance capital and the trans-national corporations. Increasingly these uprisings are consciously denouncing capitalism and its offspring imperialism.

The prevailing capitalist system is under a cloud of indictment.

This economic misfortune for workers in Turkey is the bottom of the iceberg that is in large part inflaming the current uprising.

Within the revolt that has been going on in Turkey however there are a wide range of influences - from Kemalist chauvinists to trade unionists, revolutionary movements and ordinary people.

Kemalism as Kemal Ataturk's (founder of the Turkish Republic) ideology is called, is a reactionary vision of secular unity encompassing Western capitalist modernisation and the oppression of the Kurds and other minorities.

The CHP, Republican People's Party which is the main parliamentary opposition party, considers itself Ataturk's heir.

Time will tell who takes the lead and how far the rebellion will progress.

## Extracts from a statement by the Communist Party of the Philippines June 13

**The Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) assailed Benigno Aquino III for feigning bellicosity towards China only to drum up a scenario for justifying the continuing buildup of US military forces in the Philippines and the rest of the Asia-Pacific.**

The CPP issued this statement a day after Aquino declared that his government "will not back down from any challenge" in asserting Philippine claims over the Spratly islands and other South China sea land formations.

The CPP reiterated its view that "the Filipino people have both historic and legal claim over the Spratlys and are fully justified in denouncing China's incursions into Philippine territories."

"The CPP deplores China's recent aggressive transgressions in the Spratlys but is also acutely aware that such measures are a reaction to the campaign of encirclement being carried out by US naval forces over the past two years

against China and to the fact that the Philippines is being used as a base for aggressive US operations in the Asia-Pacific," pointed out the CPP.

"The aim of the US imperialists is to apply economic, political and military pressure to force the further opening up of China's economy to the dumping of US surplus goods and contain its growth as a military force."

"Instead of asserting Philippine independence and non-alignment, the Aquino regime has sided openly with the US military in its campaign of aggression against China by allowing US warships, submarine tenders, jetfighters and other war machines to stream into the Philippines and use the country as an outpost for its operations in the South China Sea and the rest of the Asia-Pacific," said the CPP.

"By letting the US Pacific Command use the Philippines as its military base, the Aquino regime has provoked China and put the Philippines in China's

crosshairs," said the CPP.

"The Filipino people must not be drawn into Aquino's feigned bellicosity against China and demand that the government uphold the policy of non-alignment in order not to allow the country to be caught in the brewing tensions between the US and China," said the CPP.

"They must demand an end to the permanent presence of US troops in the Philippines and an end to the use of the Philippines as a naval outpost of the US military."

"Aquino is absolutely subservient to the US imperialists, the same imperial force that took away the country's national freedom, imposed its brutal colonial rule for more than four decades and only 'granted' Philippine freedom after having cultivated a new generation of subservient leaders that could ensure its continued economic, political and military dominance."

# 'Uni cuts are dumb cuts!'

by Henry L.

On the 13th of April, the newly minted Minister for Tertiary Education, Dr Craig Emerson announced cuts to the tune of 2.3 billion dollars from the tertiary education system to help fund the Labor government's planned partial implementation of the recommendations of the Gonski review into the funding of primary and secondary education.

The announcement of these cuts raised various questions for various people.

The resounding response from the general public was one along the lines of questioning how increasing the funding of the first tiers of education with money ripped from the third tier made any sense whatsoever.

Another perceptive response from an encouragingly large amount of people was to draw a correlation between the amount of funding being ripped from



Student rally in Melbourne on May 14

tertiary education and the fact that a very similar amount was announced to be spent on a new fleet of drone aircraft, for use on joint US-Australian missions.

Especially interesting to analyse in the lead up to the federal election is the fact that the Labor Party has essentially decided to pit itself against one of its traditionally stronger campaigning bases, those being the various student unions under the banner of the National

Union of Students and the kind of responses this has evoked from both the NUS and the National Tertiary Education Union.

## Student rally

At a rally held in Melbourne on the 14th of May, as part of a larger national series of rallies on the day, purported to be the largest student rally in Melbourne for more than a decade, the prevailing

mood both within the crowd, and as espoused by many, but not all of the speakers, was one of opposing the cuts and all who uphold them, be they Labor or Liberal.

This is yet another example of the Labor Party drifting further and further away from the party they historically lay claim to be, and the sectors of society they claim to represent. These facts are being laid bare through savage policies such as these, and people are beginning to consider alternative ideas.

The campaign has a long way to go and is not moving along as fast and decisively as is perhaps required, due to aforementioned loyalties to the ALP amongst various segments of the student leadership.

However, overall the campaign and the enthusiasm and energy it has aroused in a large number of previously unengaged students, highlights the bankruptcy of the ALP as a working class party and the need to press forward with alternatives.

## Cost of living increases squeeze workers

-Contributed-

**Even the big business media cannot ignore the rising cost of living for working people. Two common contributors to the rising cost of living that receive some attention in the media are cost of housing and the cost of utilities.**

In the Howard years, house prices outstripped average workers' income by a factor of three to one. ([www.housingstress.org.au](http://www.housingstress.org.au)). Nothing much

has changed since then.

Another study shows that the cost of paying off a house as a percentage of the income of a base trade equivalent skilled worker has risen from 53% in 2001 to 87.4%.

In Melbourne, in the four years 2000 to 2004, house prices doubled. This meant that wages had to double to maintain status quo on the ratio between house prices and wages constant. Of course this didn't happen. ([www.en//wikipedia.org/wiki/Australian\\_](http://www.en//wikipedia.org/wiki/Australian_propertybubble)

propertybubble)

Prices for households of gas and electricity have leapt ahead of household incomes. In the period 2007 to 2012, costs in all States of Australia increased by over 55%, with NSW topping the list at 80%.

The Consumer Price Index for the same period increased by 15% while average weekly earnings increased by 25%. ([www.theconversation.com/housing-stress-and-energy-poverty-a-deadly-mix-9484](http://www.theconversation.com/housing-stress-and-energy-poverty-a-deadly-mix-9484))

Household energy costs also rose at a faster rate than energy costs for business for the same period. Those who profit from this are mainly big corporations who have benefitted from the privatisation of gas and electricity production over many years.

As we near a federal election, anger is growing at the major political parties who people see as more interested in themselves and their survival than improving the lives of the people.

In the short term many vent their anger at the ballot box which is reflected in the large swings in opinion polls against the federal government and large votes against the sitting state governments in WA, Victoria, NSW and Queensland in recent years.

Frustration in the workplace is growing too as workers can see that the industrial laws under the Fair Work Act declare effective industrial action "unprotected" and illegal.

This frustration is bound to flow over to action regardless of the law as workers' lives come more under the pump.

## WA public sector cuts announced

by Mark H.

**WA premier, emperor Colin Barnett has announced that the public sector workforce will be shedding jobs.**

One thousand public sector workers will at first be offered voluntary redundancies and a further 200 will be forcibly made redundant.

He has told the public that further cuts are possible and he will introduce legislation into parliament that will give him the ability to sack public sector workers at will.

He hopes to have this legislation through parliament by December. "Merry Xmas from the emperor!"

The government here will follow the rest of the capitalist world with austerity measures and selling off of public assets.

This information has come on the back of an announcement that the new flagship hospital, (Fiona Stanley



Fiona Stanley Hospital in Perth

Hospital) has had to delay its opening due to issues with the compatibility of computer systems and "workforce problems".

The multinational Serco has been awarded the contract to supply support services for Fiona Stanley Hospital but interest from existing public sector workers in going private has been very low.

As many as 900 support staff face redeployment or possibly being sacked and forced to the private contractor.

With the delay in opening the new hospital, Serco and the state government will have to renegotiate the contract (that is worth billions of dollars over 20 years), as the opening has been put back 6 months and possibly a year.

There is no obligation for Serco to renegotiate the existing contract, and if they don't the cost to the public will be between \$250,000 and \$400,000 a day.

Talk about a potential bonanza for Serco, all that public wealth handed over for nothing!

### Vanguard Blog

Readers and supporters of Vanguard can find more articles at [vanguard-cpaml.blogspot.com.au](http://vanguard-cpaml.blogspot.com.au) Articles can be printed, emailed, or shared on social media.

Comments are welcome