



New Series: Volume 2 Issue 9

January 2008

Brisbane Labour History Association, PO Box 5299, West End, Qld 4101. ABN 30 340 094 794

* Welcome to the bi-monthly Newsletter from BLHA – keeping members informed *

BLHA FEBRUARY EVENT - CONCERT

Rekindling the Flames of Discontent # 2 - *Worth Fighting For!*

Australia has both a rich history and a promising future in the links between the Folk Movement and the Labour Movement, and back in 2006 the BLHA presented the first *Rekindling the Flames of Discontent* event to celebrate this connection. Its popularity and success proved that folk really do care.

In answer to those who ask: 'When's the next *Rekindling the Flames of Discontent* concert?', it will be on **Saturday 9 February 8pm** at the East Brisbane Bowls Club, Lytton Rd, East Brisbane (adjoining Mowbray Park).

AN EVENT NOT TO BE MISSED!

And what a line-up! Performing before the stunning *Flames of Discontent* backdrop will be:

* **Margret RoadKnight**

"...a woman of big, sassy voice" who, for 54 years has performed songs of social comment;

* **Leah Cotterell**

who "...could sing the shopping list and melt your heart" has, through political cabaret and community theatre in Brisbane's lively fringe scene, found her way into the professional jazz scene.

* **Jamie Clark**,

"...a cracking guitarist" whose skills and experience as an accompanist will be one of many highlights of this concert.

* **Helen Rowe**

folksinger who will bring her "...breathtaking fusion of sweet melody and wondrous poetry" to the concert

* **Combined Unions Choir**

marking their 20th anniversary, will, as always, sing for social justice.

Title of the concert, *Worth Fighting For!*, is borrowed from a song written by Leah Cotterell and John Rodgers for the QCU and will be performed by the whole cast in full voice as a fitting finale.

Brisbane Labour History Association

Proudly Presents:
Rekindle the Flames of Discontent
Concert #2

Worth Fighting For!

Leah Cotterell:
"... could sing the shopping list and melt your heart". *Rhythms Magazine 2002*
with **Jamie Clark:**
"...a cracking guitarist" *Rolling Snow Magazine*

Margret RoadKnight:
"...a woman of big, sassy voice who delighted the entire audience" *Glasgow Herald*

Helen Rowe:
"...breathtaking fusion of sweet melody and wondrous poetry" *Folk Rag 2007*

Saturday 9 Feb 2008
8pm

East Brisbane Bowls Club
Lytton Rd East Brisbane

\$20 waged / \$15 unwaged

Enquiries: ph: 5494 4046
sr.music@bigpond.com

and featuring:
The Combined Unions Choir

Supported by: Queensland Council of Unions & Woodford Folk Festival

Saturday 9 February 8pm
East Brisbane Bowls club – Lytton Rd, East Brisbane
Tickets available at the door: \$20 waged / \$15 unwaged.

Further information

Dale Jacobsen (ph 5494 4046); email: sr.music@bigpond.com

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BLHA MARCH EVENT – BOOK LAUNCH

(Jointly hosted by BLHA & CFMEU Mining & Energy Division, Queensland District Branch)

The Coalminers of Queensland, Volume 2:

A narrative history of the Queensland Colliery Employees Union: The Pete Thomas Essays

by Pete Thomas and Greg Mallory



This book has been a long time in the making. When **Pete Thomas**, author of the first volume of *The Coalminers of Queensland*, died in 1988, he left archives to the Queensland Colliery Employees Union, later to be known as the CFMEU Mining & Energy (Queensland Division). Among these archives were eight unfinished manuscripts for Volume 2.

Greg Mallory has brought together these essays that Pete had written over a two-year period prior to his death to provide the basis for this book, which also includes an essay on Pete's work in 'left' politics and the labour movement.

The essays (divided into three sections: Mining Communities, Campaigns and Strikes, and Utah and the Union) describe the working and living conditions of miners and their families in Central Queensland from the early 1960s to the mid-1980s.

BLHA, together with CFMEU Mining & Energy Division, Queensland District Branch, will be hosting a special event to launch this book in March at the Brisbane Workers and Community Centre (BWCC) on Saturday 8 March at 2pm.

SATURDAY 8 MARCH 2pm

**Brisbane Workers & Community Centre (BWCC)
2 Latrobe Tce, Paddington**

Further information

Contact: Greg Mallory 0407692377 gmallory@vtown.com.au

BLHA APRIL EVENT – DVD LAUNCH

BUILDING UNITY traces the vibrant and turbulent history of Queensland's oldest union, the CFMEU. From its humble beginnings in 1858, the Union has consistently been at the forefront of many of the industrial, social and political battles that have characterised the State. This documentary tells the stories of people who lived through these times; who struggled and won together.

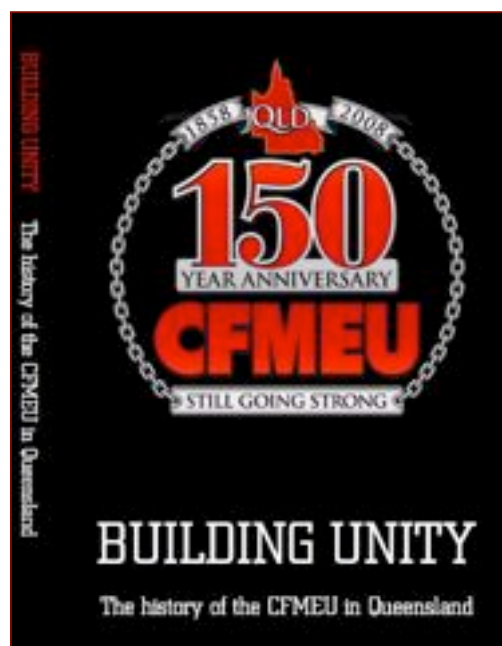
This film, commemorating a proud history and celebrating the solid legacy established for future generations of Queensland building workers, will be jointly launched by BLHA and CFMEU (Queensland Constructions Workers Divisional Branch).

SATURDAY 5 APRIL 2PM

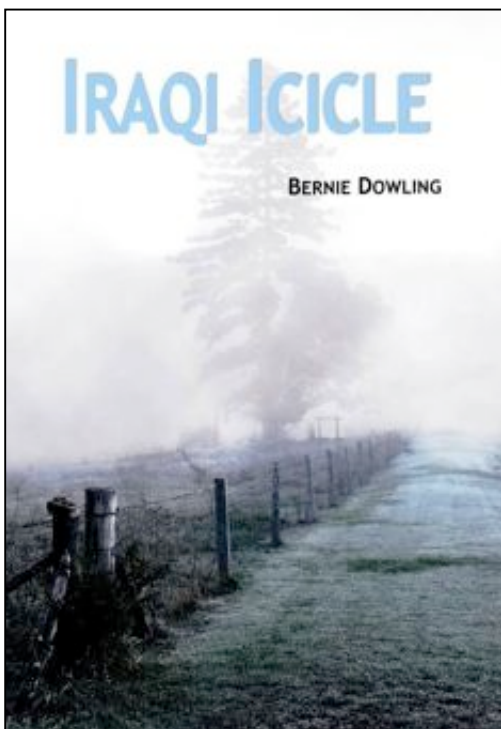
**Laurie Carmichael Room
Union House
366 Upper Roma Street
Brisbane**

Further information:

Contact: Jason Stein 3236 2355 or
Greg Mallory 0407692377 gmallory@vtown.com.au



BOOKS OF INTEREST



Queensland journalist Bernie Dowling launches his first novel, the detective thriller *Iraqi Icicle* at West End Library on 28 February.

Iraqi Icicle is a detective thriller set in and around Brisbane from 1986 to 1992. Dowling sees the period as an extraordinary time in Australian and world history...“We had the explosion of personal computers and mobile phones in Australia as well as the recession of 1990-1991...In Queensland, we had the Fitzgerald inquiry into police corruption and the fall of the long-serving Joh Bjelke-Peterson Government...Overseas, the internet started, the US invaded Panama to arrest its president Manuel Noriega, and America and its allies prosecuted the first Iraq War.

These international and national events invade the blackly humorous novel, *Iraqi Icicle*, which introduces young orphan gambler Steele Hill as the unlikely “detective”.

The launch features original songs and music from local band **Jumping Fences** back from their tour of Mexico and Cuba.

THURSDAY 28 February 4-6pm

Featuring “Jumping Fences”

West End Library
178-180 Boundary Street
West End

Further information:

Ian Curr 3398 5215 or Bush Telegraph:
<http://busstelegraph.wordpress.com/why-bush-telegraph-2/>



Your Newsletter editor has just finished reading *Eleanor Dark*, by Barbara Brooks, and was very impressed by this dense but rivetting book.

This first full-length biography of one of Australia’s foremost writers, best known for her historical novel *The Timeless Land*, draws on restricted letters and papers, her published and unpublished writing, recently released security files and extensive interviews with family, friends and writer colleagues to give a clear indication of what it was like to be female, a leftie, and a fiercely independent writer in the 1930s-50s in Australia (as were her colleagues Katharine Susannah Prichard, Nettie Palmer, Miles Franklin, Marjorie Barnard). Although Eleanor never joined any political party, as a Fellow Traveller of the CPA she was targeted by the anti-communists of her day.

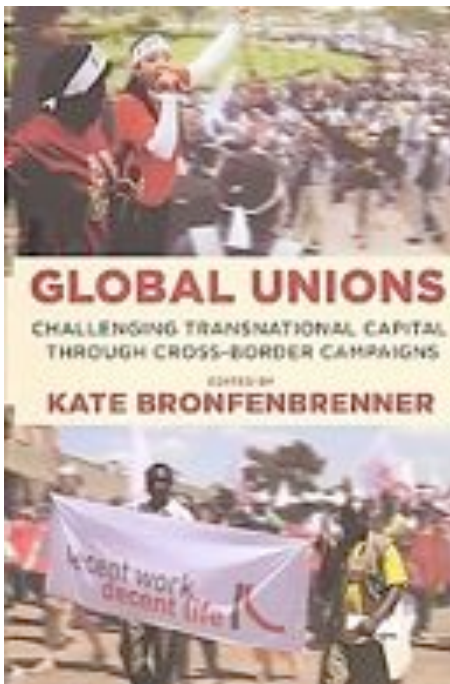


Eleanor Dark: A Writer's Life

by Barbara Brooks with Judith Clark
Pan Macmillan Australia Pty Limited
St Martins Tower, 31 Market Street, Sydney
ISBN 0 7329 0903 1
\$49.34

www.panmacmillan.com.au

Global Unions: Challenging Transnational Capital through Cross-Border Campaigns –
 edited by Kate Bronfenbrenner



Last year, an extraordinary event took place in New York City. Over 600 trade unionists, academics and activists from all over the world got together for a conference on the subject of *global unions and global campaigns*.

It's taken nearly two years, but at long last that conference has resulted in a new book entitled *Global Unions: Challenging Transnational Capital Through Cross-Border Campaigns*.

This book includes original research on innovative strategies that unions are using to adapt to the new era -- and how they are mounting cross-border campaigns against global corporations. It focuses on a number of key sectors, including dock workers, manufacturing, food processing and services, and concludes with a look at key lessons for strengthening union power in relation to global capital.

Global Unions: Challenging Transnational Capital Through Cross-Border Campaigns.
 Edited by Kate Bronfenbrenner
 Cornell University Press
 PO Box 6525, 750 Cascadilla Street, Ithaca, NY 14851
 December 2007
 ISBN-10: 0801473918
orderbook@cupserv.org

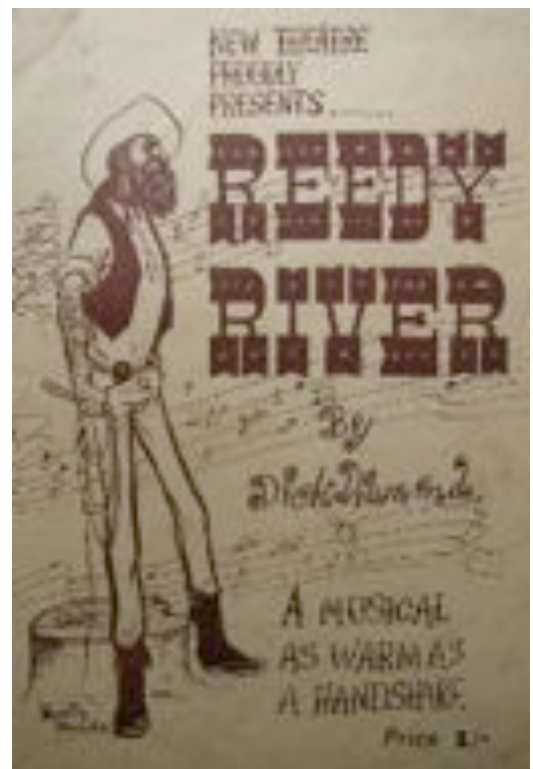
REEDY RIVER RUNS AGAIN – IN REDLAND!

A pivotal episode of Australian union and working class history will be brought to life in Redland Shire with the presentation of the Australian classic musical play *Reedy River*. Terry Annesley, Director of THEATRE GENESIS, has drawn together a cast of local actors for a dinner show that will be presented at the historic Redland Museum, opening January 26 2008.

Director **Terry Annesley**, winner of the Queensland Director of the Year 2002, is a popular and respected Brisbane actor with a wide breadth of experience gleaned over many years on stage and in film. Terry has designed this production as an outdoor dinner theatre, to be held at the Redland Museum.

Reedy River – the source

Reedy River is a classic of Australian theatre. Written by Dick Diamond in 1953, it was designed as a vehicle for the songs of the Australian bush, set in a major part of Australian history. The songs were given a new lease of life when *Reedy River* was staged at New Theatre in Melbourne, and later in Sydney and Brisbane, and has gone on to become a standard repertoire piece for theatre groups around Australia. As well as the traditional songs, the score includes Henry Lawson's *Reedy River*, set to music by the late Chris Kempster, and the stirring *Ballad of 1891*, by Dorothy Bridges and the late Helen Palmer.



REEDY RIVER – Dinner Show	Saturday 26 January (booked out!)
Redlands Museum	Friday 1 February
Cleveland	Saturday 2 February
Admission: \$25 per head (sorry, no concessions)	Friday 8 February
Bookings: Redland Museum 3286 3494	Saturday 9 February

Further information: Contact Terry 3821 0274 / 0416 366 805

IN MEMORIAM

RONALD GEORGE EDWARDS – folklorist – died at the Cairns Base hospital on Saturday 5 January 2008, aged 77, after a battle with a long illness.

Friend and colleague, Keith McHenry wrote:

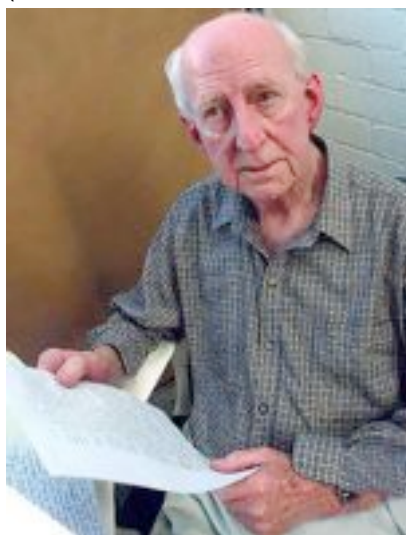
“Ron has been unwell for some time – not that mere severe illness stopped him writing/painting/publishing/working and celebrating life generally for a second – but nonetheless his death comes as a shock. Ron was a wonderful man, an irrepressible larrikin and pathological worker whose contribution to Australian folklore and bush craft was without peer. In a career that spanned over 55 years, Ron’s Rams Skull press published over 400,000 copies of over 350 books on folk song, yarns, bush craft, travel and art, most of which he wrote and illustrated himself. His passing literally draws the final curtain on the pioneering era of the Australian folk revival.”



*Ron Edwards –
photo courtesy Folk Rag (Sep 2005)*

Bob Gollan

(8 December 1917 – 15 October 2007)



*Bob Gollan –
photo courtesy SMH (6 Nov 2007)*

In October 2007 two of the great stalwarts of Australian labour history, Eric Fry, and Bob Gollan passed away. They were founders of the Australian Society for the Study of Labour History and played key roles in the launching and growth of the journal, *Labour History*. They were also mentors to many labour historians both at the Australian National University and elsewhere. In their own right they made significant contributions to the Australian

labour history through numerous books and articles. This symposium will bring together several leading Australian labour historians to remind us and celebrate their contribution to Australian labour history. The convenor of the symposium will be Peter Love (Swinburne University of Technology). The speakers are John Merritt (colleague at the ANU and a former editor of *Labour History*), Susan Magarey (The University of Adelaide) and Verity

Burgmann (The University of Melbourne). Their tributes will form the basis of papers to be published as part of a special tribute to Bob and Eric in the May 2008 issue of *Labour History*.

Dr Eric Fry

(21 August 1921 – 3 October 2007)



*Eric and Sheila Fry -
courtesy 'Recorder' – ASSLH Melbourne branch*

* For in-depth obituaries, visit ASSLH Melbourne branch website: <http://asslh.org.au/melbourne/> *

Labour History

invites you to a

SYMPOSIUM

“Honouring Bob Gollan and Eric Fry”

Date: Friday 8th February

Time: 2-3.30 pm.

Venue: Darlington Centre Conference Room 2,
The Darlington Centre, City Rd., The University of Sydney

As the symposium will have an afternoon tea, could you email blhg@econ.usyd.edu.au before close of business on Monday 4 February if you wish to attend. There is no charge for this event.

Request for Postcards of the International Labour Movement

"Some weeks ago our historical society started a new project to research the "Postcards of the International Labour Movement". On the project site www.proletcard.info we have published some scans which are illustrating our intention. There are in our collection many postcards of the labour movement from many countries, but from Australia we don't possess a scan nor copy of a postcard!

We are looking for scans of postcards from 1900 until 1946/47. As you see on our website we want to consider all the aspects of the labour movement: great strikes, Eight Hour Day, fight against the war, initiatives of women, youth organisations, campaigns to free imprisoned members of the labour organisations, support for the Spanish republic 1936-39, anti-fascist cards and so on. Maybe there is a postcard for supporting to Egon Erwin Kisch after his "illegal" landing in Australia 1934...? We are collecting scans and items of cards from all aspects of the labour movement, but our focus lies on the fight against war and fascism 1919-1945."

Can you support us with scans of one or two postcards? We are preparing a publication to the project theme.

Contact:

René Senenko
Project manager
Proletcard.info
Willi-Bredel-Gesellschaft e.V.
Im Gruenen Grunde 1
22337 Hamburg

Further information:

willi@bredelgesellschaft.de
www.bredelgesellschaft.de
www.proletcard.info
Fax +49-40-591358

NOTICEBOARD

- As from July 2008, membership of BLHA will involve membership of ASSLH; an association incorporated in the A.C.T. New membership forms will be sent to each member when the design is finalised. The BLHA will continue to be a branch of ASSLH while retaining its current name. Even though this has been a difficult process, the BLHA's Executive is united in its decision to maintain our status as the Brisbane branch of ASSLH while vigorously practicing our independence.
- Submissions to *The Queensland Journal of Labour History* due by 31 January.
Contact Editor on (07) 5494 4046 or email: sr.music@bigpond.com

January

26 Opening of **Reedy River Dinner Show**. Redlands Museum, Cleveland [see p4 above]
Contact Terry 3821 0274 / 0416 366 805
(opening night sold out, but tickets still available for February dates)

29 **Post-Election Party**. Combined Unions Choir will entertain guests. Hosted by Fabian Society.
BWCC, 2 Latrobe Tce, Paddington. 6.30pm for 7pm. All welcome. Contact: m.partridge@qut.edu.au

February

8 Labour History **Symposium** honouring **Bob Gollan** and **Eric Fry** [see p5 above]
Darlington Centre Conference Room 2, The Darlington Centre, City Rd., The University of Sydney.
2-3.30pm. Contact blhg@econ.usyd.edu.au

9 **Worth Fighting For!** Folk/Labour concert [BLHA event] [see p1 above]
East Brisbane Bowls Club, Lytton Rd East Brisbane. 8pm
Contact Dale: 5494 4046 email: sr.music@bigpond.com

28 Launch of **Iraqi Icicle** [see p3 above]
West End Library, 178-180 Boundary Street, West End 4-6pm Contact: Ian Curr 3398 5215

March

8 Launch of **The coalminers of Queensland: a narrative history of the Queensland colliery employees union; volume 2: The Pete Thomas Essays** [BLHA / CFMEU EVENT] [see p2 above]
Jointly hosted by BLHA & CFMEU Mining & Energy Division, Queensland District Branch
BWCC, 2 Latrobe Tce, Paddington 2pm
Contact: Greg Mallory 0407692377 gmallory@vtown.com.au

April

5 Launch of **Building Unity** DVD [BLHA / CFMEU EVENT] [see p2 above]
Jointly hosted by BLHA & CFMEU Queensland Constructions Workers Divisional Branch
Laurie Carmichael Room, Union House, 366 Upper Roma Street, Brisbane 2pm
Contacts: Greg Mallory 0407692377 gmallory@vtown.com.au Jason Stein 3236 2355

Contributions to the next Newsletter should be sent to the Newsletter Editor: sr.music@bigpond.com

* Material published herein does not necessarily reflect the views of the Association or the Editor *