

The Anvil 4
continued from page 3

require the assets of most of corporate Australia. We're effectively asking for the abolition of capitalism.

And so the question arises – who can abolish capitalism and how can we manage to do it? Again we say the only way to abolish capitalism is through workers' revolution. By organising in the workplace and taking control out of the hands of the capitalists we can stop the capitalists destroying the environment and begin active reconstruction of economic processes. We can use the campaign to close Hazelwood to open discussion with workers who want to save the planet, but don't want to become human sacrifices in the process.

DEFEND THE FERTILITY CONTROL CLINIC

The presence of clinic defenders keeps the anti-abortionists away from the clinic, so that staff and clients can enter and leave, and people can walk the street, free from their harassment. Defending the clinic is still an important part of the battle to decriminalise abortion and make it freely accessible, on demand, to all women.

Fourth Saturday every month
10.00 11.30am
118 Wellington Parade, East Melbourne

Organised by Radical Women
For more information, contact them on
03 9388 0062.

What is Anarchism?

Anarchism is a social philosophy based upon the principles of liberty, equality and solidarity. It is the political dimension of a free society.

What is Communism?

Communism is the principle of "from each according to their ability, to each according to their need". It is the economic dimension of a free society.

What is the Melbourne Anarchist Communist Group?

The MACG is an organisation of class struggle revolutionary anarchists who share political positions, articulated in theory, strategy and tactics.

We aim to encourage struggle by the working class for its own interests and, within that struggle, we aim to advance Anarchist ideas as its necessary philosophical basis.

MACG



THE ANVIL



MACG

NEWSLETTER OF THE MELBOURNE ANARCHIST COMMUNIST GROUP

Vol 4, No 3

May - June 2015

Free

Reclaim Australia is one brick in the wall Let's knock the whole wall down

It looks like we are in for another round of Reclaim Australia's Islamophobic, racist and anti-Left mobilisations around Australia, particularly in Melbourne. Lately we have seen the racist, Fascist thugs raise their heads, ready to fight not only Muslim communities, but also anyone who opposes Islamophobia.

The ugly United Patriots Front (UPF), a split from Reclaim Australia, tried to storm Richmond Town Hall in the belief that they could destroy those they imagined were the main organisers against their April rally in Federation Square. They thought they could destroy the Left and the antifascist movement. Instead, a few dozen thugs wearing swastikas and other Nazi paraphernalia failed to "give the Left a lesson".

We believe that, in order to resist and effectively kick out the new round of hate mobilisations on 18 July, the whole antifascist movement must not repeat the faults apparent on 4 April. There is an urgent need for trade union and mass community mobilisation. We need migrant

communities to participate in the counter-rallies and other activities planned for 18 July in Melbourne and for 19 July in the rest of the country.

The counter-rally on 4 April was comprised mostly of white activists, most of whom were Anglo-Australian militants. With the important exception of activists from Warriors of the Aboriginal Resistance (WAR), and some non-white supporters of larger organised Left and Anarchist groups, the non-white and the migrant communities were simply absent. The same happened in the most recent counter-rally against United Patriots Front at Richmond Town Hall on 31 May.

This description of the weaknesses of the mobilisations so far is not meant to discredit the efforts of the organisers of these events. Every effort towards kicking the Fascists out and building an effective antifascist movement is welcome. Rather, we say this to emphasise that the task in front of us is larger than the work we have done so far.

continued page 2

Melbourne Anarchist Communist Group
PO Box 5108, Brunswick North VIC 3056
<http://melbacg.wordpress.com/>
macg1984@yahoo.com.au

The task we face is to draw the mass of the working class into direct and active participation in the movement. On the one hand, the Muslim and Asian communities who are the immediate target of Reclaim Australia need to join us. On the other hand, the union movement, which is the Fascists' ultimate target, needs to come on board. Without these two sectors, the anti-racist, antifascist mobilisation is likely to be seen as one side of a war between fringe groups of our society to which few will pay attention. This orientation, however, does not mean we allow the leaders of the Muslim communities or the union movement to have a veto on our activities.

Through our mobilisations we seek to halt the progress of the far Right. We must also realise the far Right are only a symptom of the government push to criminalise Muslims, indigenous people, immigrants and people of colour. They label them as potential terrorists who are enemies of some imagined "Australia".

We must go a few steps further, therefore, than just engaging in anti-racist and antifascist organising. We must fight the ongoing displacement of Aboriginal people from their homelands in Western Australia. We must fight the mass incarceration and illegalisation of people seeking asylum in this country. We must confront all these "single" issues. They are part of an entire attack against the working class and our communities by the Government, capital and the State.

Capitalism generates racism and produces the potential for Fascist groups to emerge. To abolish racism and to eliminate the Fascist threat for good, we need a workers' revolution to overthrow capitalism.

ANARCHIST FEDERATION AUSTRALIA

The Melbourne Anarchist Communist Group is pleased to announce that, after several years of discussion, the Anarchist Federation Australia has formed on a provisional basis. It was founded at a meeting in Sydney on 14 June by (in alphabetical order) Jura Books, the Melbourne Anarchist Club, the Melbourne Anarchist Communist Group and Perth Libertarians. As is good practice in federalism, the members of the AFA are its affiliated groups. Individuals do not join the federation directly, but instead join an affiliated group.

Being only a provisional organisation, the AFA will spend the next few months attempting to reach agreement on a Constitution and making arrangements for a founding Congress. Until then, it will have no external activities. Discussions around draft Constitutions have reached an advanced stage and the groups are confident that an agreement for the formal launch of the AFA can be reached around the end of the year.

Documents will be published when the AFA is launched.

CLOSE HAZELWOOD JUSTLY

Now that the East-West Link has been put to bed by the new Labor Government in Victoria, the mainstream environment movement is turning its attention to climate change. In particular, it seeks to achieve something practical by closing Hazelwood power station, the most intensive greenhouse gas polluter in Australia. It's a worthy objective, but the means used will be crucial to prospects of achieving continuing and timely climate change mitigation in Australia. And given Australia's position as the most greenhouse gas intensive society in the developed world, failure here would be a setback for prospects globally.

The Old Divide and Rule

Under capitalism, capitalists not only exploit their employees and despoil the environment in the pursuit of profits, but they exercise control over investment decisions. Capitalists decide what gets produced, how it is produced and whereabouts it is produced. They decide this, of course, on the basis of what is most likely to produce a good return on investment. Even those few capitalists who take account of social or environmental criteria necessarily give overriding priority to making a profit. If they don't, they go broke.

When the interests of profit conflict with the interests of the environment, the capitalists' first response is the old divide and rule. Workers in environmentally destructive enterprises are put in the position of defending their livelihoods by defending their bosses' environmental vandalism. The bosses cry crocodile tears over the prospects of unemployment for their workers and, in large scale cases,

the destruction of communities (needless to say, there is a different tune played when these same bosses axe jobs to increase their profits). Capitalist control of the economy pits the short term interests of workers against the environment, to the political benefit of the capitalists.

The Biggest Climate Vandal

Hazelwood power station in the Latrobe Valley is the biggest threat to the climate in Australia today and its closure is a burning necessity. Effective mitigation of greenhouse emissions in Australia can't be done otherwise. The current owners, International Power, have been responsible for emitting 16m tonnes of CO2 equivalent annually for 19 years, while they made large profits every year. Given that the dangers of climate change were known well before they bought Hazelwood, International Power shouldn't be compensated – they should be prosecuted.

A Just Transition

There is a conflict between society's need to avert dangerous climate change and the workers' need to protect their livelihoods in their Latrobe Valley communities. It can only be resolved in favour of both if it is resolved to the detriment of capital. Only by ripping the economic resources of society out of the hands of the capitalists can communities dependent on environmentally unsustainable activities re-orient to sustainable ones. In the case of Hazelwood, this would mean the confiscation of International Power's assets in order to fund a just transition. To fund such a transition for the entire Australian economy, however, would