



MAY DAY NEWSLETTER

MARCH 2025

'WORKERS OF THE WORLD UNITE'

May Day Events 2025:



- ✚ Wreath laying at the 8-hour Memorial on ***Thursday 1st May at 5pm***. Location: Victoria St. opposite Trades Hall.
- ✚ International Solidarity and Multicultural event. Details to be confirmed shortly.
- ✚ May Day March and demonstration on ***Sunday 4th May 2025. Assemble at 1pm*** outside at Trades Hall, corner of Victoria St. and Lygon St. Carlton. March commences at 2pm to march around the city and back to Trades Hall. Two of our key-note speakers will speak on our key topics after the march
- ✚ ***Between 11am and 1pm on May Day 4th May***, many activities take place enjoyed by all. A breakfast BBQ, community stalls, music, the singing of working- class songs, lots of lively discussions and other activities. Beginning at 1pm, two of our key-note speakers will speak on our key topics.

The next general meeting of the Melbourne May Day will be at 7pm on Tuesday 8th April 2025, at the Nellie Jerrang Room, the Old Executive Room on Level 2 of the rear building at the Victorian Trades Hall Council, Lygon St. Carlton. .

We would love you to come and take part.

WHY MAY DAY ACTIVITIES DESERVE YOUR SUPPORT!

May Day is workers day. Each year May Day supports the struggles of workers and their unions, for better wages and conditions, and for their democratic rights to organise and unionise.

-  May Day supports the struggles of our First Nation People.
-  May Day opposes all wars of aggression, and demands peace and justice in the world.

Every year the Melbourne May Day Organisation brings workers, their union organisations together and their other community organisations together to demonstrate the range of issues that affect them.

MAY DAY STATEMENT RE PARLIAMENTARY ATTACK ON THE UNIONS.

Recently, the National Labor and Liberal parties in the Australian Parliament, combined and took extraordinary and unprecedented steps to put in place legislation, which enables the authorities to take over a union, sack it's elected officials and other union employees, take control of its funds and take control of the collective bargaining process which governs the wages and conditions of employees. The Parliament did this even without proving any wrongdoing by any employees or officials.

Not only are worker's rights threatened by current long-standing industrial legislation on the books in Australia's Federal Parliament, which breaches the right to strike and other worker rights, and which is recognised to be in breach of the International Labour Organisation (ILO) standards on worker's rights. This latest anti-worker, anti-union legislation passed by the Federal Parliament, must be recognised as some of the worst anti-worker, anti-union legislation in the world.

For a Parliament to take action designed to put a union out of business, by appointing a hand- picked administrator to be in control of the union for years, is the worst action imaginable. In fact, one finds it impossible to imagine a more anti-union, anti-worker outcome.

Clearly the contractors and developers see the opportunity of putting the construction division of the **CFMEU** out of business and replacing it with a tame cat union thus giving them a free hand

How will such a blatant attack be prevented against any other union in the future when parliament and the employers don't approve of a unions capacity to fight for and achieve good outcomes for its members, or when a union takes action that they disagree with? Any parliamentary action of this type cannot possibly be supported under any circumstances.

Unions are essential to maintaining the dignity, health, and safety of workers. The **CFMEU**, in particular, has played a crucial role in ensuring safe working conditions in one of Australia's most dangerous industries. The low death rate in the Australian construction sector is a testament to the hard work of the CFMEU and its members.

Accordingly, the **Melbourne May Day Committee** calls on the Australian Council of Trade Unions (ACTU) to reverse its policy regarding the attack on one of its affiliates and take all necessary action required for the repeal of this anti-union, anti-worker legislation.

The ACTU decision has divided the union movement, and we call for unity around the fundamental principle that a union must be controlled by its members and not outside forces. The legislation will not work and will leave a legacy of bitterness and distrust for years.

The Melbourne May Day Committee applauds the mass mobilisation and actions of Building Workers in support of their union.

The solidarity of some other unions with Building Industry Workers shows an awareness of the Government decision on this matter and its implications for all unions fighting for members rights

Melbourne May Day Committee, 2025.

May Day A Brief History

The history of May Day is a history of the struggle of working people to achieve a better way of life, decent pay, working conditions and for a society that meets the needs of the people. The international Labour Holiday called May Day, actually originated in the United States in 1884 at a conference of U S. and Canadian Trade Unions. The conference decided to launch an intensive campaign for the 8-hour day and to culminate the struggle on May 1st 1888.

This campaign led to bitter struggles and strikes.

Subsequently at an International Labour Congress in Paris, a resolution was carried to declare May 1st 1890, a great day of workers international demonstrations throughout the World. **Australian delegates were at this conference.**

Three years after the first celebrations of May Day, saw the adoption of Socialism as one of the main aims of May Day and the recognition that workers can never be free of exploitation, injustice, and poverty while capitalism exists.

In Victoria the Day was marked by a meeting at the Trades Hall Council. It was later decided to celebrate International May Day by the holding of a march, on the first Sunday of every May, calling for better wages, working and living conditions, the end to imperialist wars and for Socialism.

May Day Marches in Victoria started in 1893 and continued every year up to today, except for the war-time years.

The May Day March is held traditionally on the first Sunday in May so that all members of the community have the opportunity to take part and demonstrate the broad range of issues that affect them.

Melbourne May Day Executive Committee

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