Records relating to the Peace Movement in Australia

Just as the wars in which Australia has fought have had irrevocable impacts on Australian society, so too have the peace and social movements associated with them and with Australia’s foreign policy. The Archives holds a significant number of records relating to these movements. Records deposited by trade unions, as well as the personal papers of activists, academics and others, include a significant amount of documentary material relating to the peace movement. Most of the Australian Peace Congresses held from the 1940s to the 1960s are documented in the records of the trade unions which sent delegates to the Congresses.

The Archives also holds a comprehensive collection of pamphlets and serials produced by peace organisations in Australia.

PERSONAL PAPERS

James Normington Rawling Collection
The Rawling collection consists of internal documents and publications of many Australian radical organisations in the period to 1939. Rawling was a Communist Party of Australia functionary. He was also a strong peace campaigner, having served in the trenches in World War I, and was National Secretary of the Movement Against War and Fascism until 1939.

N57/432-456 Subject files Peace and anti-conscription organisations, 1902-1939
Movement Against War and Fascism, 1932-1939

N57/1305-1352 Pamphlets Pamphlets of peace movement including:
- Movement Against War and Fascism, 1933-1938
- Conscription in Australia, 1912-1940 and
- International Peace Campaign, 1936.

N57/2035-2062 Serials Serials, 1932-1940
Publishing organisations:
- Movement Against War and Fascism
- International Peace Campaign and
other peace organisations.

N57/2246-2275 Posters, placards and broadsheets 1933-1939

N57/2349-2366 Photographs and other illustrations Movement Against War and Fascism, 1916-1935

N57/2380-2396 Leaflets and handbills Military atrocities, 1918-1925

N57/1906-1911 Leaflets and handbills published in Australia by various trade unions, political parties and other organisations, 1888-1962
**Ian Turner Collection**
Member of the Australian Labor Party and the Communist Party of Australia. In 1955 he was an organiser of the Australasian Book Society. He was expelled from the Communist Party in 1958 with Stephen Murray-Smith for criticising the Stalinist leadership. He studied for his doctorate at the Australian National University and taught at Monash University.


**Ray Marginson Papers**
Public servant. Joined the Commonwealth Public Service on 20 July 1948 as a research clerk in the Department of Transport. In 1950 he joined the Postmaster General's Department, holding numerous posts. He resigned from the Commonwealth Public Service in 1966 when he was appointed Vice Principal of the University of Melbourne. In 1968 he obtained an Eisenhower Exchange Fellowship to the USA.

P6/10/28 **Poster** Appeal to the World Council for Peace, c1951
P6/10/40 **Poster** Vote for Peace in the Australian Peace Ballot, undated

**W J H Harris Papers**
Member of the Building Workers Industrial Union of Australia and the author of *First Steps, Labor in Queensland*, issued by the Labour History Association in 1965.

P43/9/7 **Published material** Anti-conscription campaign leaflets and roneoed material, undated
P43/9/11 Material issued by: Australian Peace Council, Peace Committee for International Co-operation and Disarmament, Australian Assembly for Peace, Queensland Women's Peace Movement, 1951-1964
Leaflets, 1952-1964
Roneoed material, 1951-1962

**Ken Gott Papers**
Member of the Australian Journalists Association, committee member of the Victorian Branch of the Australia-China Society from 1953 and Secretary from 1956-1959. He was Managing Director of the Pacific Merchandise Agency (1953-1954), joint proprietor of the Australian Trade Research Service, and Manager of Wallaby Recordings (a non-profit organisation issuing records of people’s songs and music) (1952-1954).

P36/12 **Peace Congress material** Asian and Pacific Peace Conference, World Congress for Disarmament, 4th World Congress against A and H Bombs, Australia-New Zealand Congress for Disarmament and International Cooperation, Science for Peace Committee (London), 1952-1959
John Playford Collection
Lecturer in the Faculty of Economics and Politics at Monash University. Playford collected papers relating to student protest and related activities in the 1950s to 1960s.

P14/4 Publications of the peace movement and peace conferences

P64/1 Publications (pamphlets, leaflets, etc) relating to the peace movement and peace conferences issued by various peace and other organisations [21 items]

P64/8 Publications of various student organisations in Australian universities [16 items] 1948-1969

P128/1-13 Subject files
- Conscription and Vietnam, 1969
- Includes: circulars, pamphlets, letters, correspondence, leaflets, press cuttings, etc

P128/16 Subject files
- Draft resistance and Vietnam, 1968
- Includes: press cuttings, pamphlets, serials and correspondence

Geoff McDonald Collection
Member of the Eureka Youth League and the Australian Communist Party. He was expelled from the Party in 1961 and joined the Australian Labor Party, becoming the Founding President of the Diamond Creek Branch. Organiser for the Building Workers Industrial Union of Australia, Victorian Branch, and an official of various unions thereafter.


P122/25 Subject files, 1912-1976 [10 folders]

P122/43 Constitution
- Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament (Victoria), 1962?

P122/46 Circulars
- Committee for Peace in Vietnam, 1964

P122/55A Circulars
- Fabian Society of Queensland re Vietnam, 1960s

P122/75 Circulars
- International Trade Union Committee for Solidarity with Workers and People of South Vietnam, 1965

P122/121 Circular
- Victorian Peace Council, 1950s

P122/126 Circulars
- Vietnam Action Committee, 1965-1966
PEACE MOVEMENT IN AUSTRALIA

P122/572 Posters, 1965-1967 Vietnam War, Conscription
N94/1604 Minutes of the Disarmament Sub-committee (Australian Council of Trade Unions) [1 volume] 1964-1965

Joe Owens Collection
Senior union official and organiser of the Builders Labourers Federation, New South Wales Branch. Member of the Communist Party of Australia from the 1960s.

Z235/15 Subject files Omega Base, 1973
Z235/17 Anti-conscription, 1972
Z235/42 Moratorium, 1969-1970

Peter O’Dea Collection
Union official of the Australian Capital Territory branch of the Builders Labourers Federation.

Z356/7-9 Files relating to radical organisations in Adelaide and Canberra, 1968-1978 Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament, 1977 (leaflets)
Conscription, 1968-1972 (circulars, leaflets and pamphlets)
Omega (North West Cape), Campaign Against Foreign Military Bases in Australia, 1973-1976 (correspondence, leaflets, circulars)

Z356/10 Photographs [27 items] Omega/North West Cape overland journey and demonstrations, 1974

Ron Arnold Collection
Ex-assistant New South Wales State Secretary of the Amalgamated Metal Workers Union. The collection reflects his involvement in peace and disarmament conferences, as AMWU or ALP representative.

Z76/6-9 Files [31 files] Peace and disarmament, 1950-1981

Ernie Boatswain Collection
Building Workers Industrial Union, Federal Office. Records relating to his position as Secretary of the New South Wales Trade Union Peace Committee, and National Secretary and Co-chairperson of the Australian Peace Committee.

Z285/418-427 Peace files [72 files] Files cover various committees, conferences, subjects and individuals including the Australian Peace Committee, Committee for World Peace, Disarmament and Development Working Group, International Peace Conference, social and economic effects of disarmament, Trade Union Peace Committee, World Congress against A and H Bombs, French nuclear tests, etc. 1964-1987
TRADE UNIONS

Building Workers Industrial Union, Federal Office

Federated Engine Drivers and Firemen's Association, NSW Branch
N81/199 Subject files of State Secretary [1 file] International correspondence: Vietnam File 1, 1964-1966
N72/1267 Subject files (general) Peace: Association for International Cooperation and Disarmament/Trade Union Peace Committee: correspondence and circulars, 1978-1982
N72/1268 Peace: Australian People's Disarmament Conference, 1978
N72/1269 Peace: Association for International Cooperation and Disarmament, Australians for Nuclear Disarmament, and others: correspondence and circulars, 1978-1982
N72/1299-1302 [4 files] Uranium mining and nuclear energy, 1974-1982

Sheet Metal Working, Agricultural Instrument and Stovemaking Industrial Union of Australia, New South Wales Branch
Tom Wright, New South Wales Branch Secretary, holds many peace movement publications among his personal papers (also held at the Archives Centre).
E206/2 Subject files of Secretary and Federal President (Tom Wright) Committee Against Atomic Testing: circular letter to T Wright, 1967
E206/26 Organisation concerned with Vietnam: correspondence, circulars, pamphlets to and from T Wright. Includes documents from the Junior Eureka League, 1965-1971
P120/958 Union files of Tom Wright Anti-Vietnam War, 1965-1966
E196/3/16-17 Correspondence files Peace and Peace Congresses, 1955-1964

Amalgamated Metal Workers Union, National Office
N24/562-563 National Secretary's files re peace movements Australian peace activities, 1959-1964
N24/563 World peace movements, 1970
N24/464-475 Assistant National Secretary's Vietnam/Anti-conscription files (L. Carmichael) [12 files] AICD and CICD files (see finding-aid for full description of file titles and items)
Z102/94 Subject files Peace: Australian organisations and Sister Bertell's press kit, undated
Z102/21 National Office general filing system Uranium: Dr Helen Caldicott's visit, 1982-1984
Z102/24 Uranium, 1980-1984
Disarmament, 1976-1982
ACTU Uranium Policy, 1982
PEACE MOVEMENT IN AUSTRALIA

Z102/25 Disarmament Times, 1982-1983
UN Special Session on Disarmament, 1982-1983

Z102/55 National Office subject filing system Uranium, 1975-1979

Z102/59 Peace: Australian organisations, 1980-1984

Z102/61 Peace: Metalworkers to Enforce Nuclear Disarmament, 1983-1985
Peace movement, 1981-1982


Seamen’s Union of Australia, Federal Office

E183/21/33 Correspondence - Federal Office Australian unions and organisations. Re: Malaya, 1947-1949

E183/17/11 Subject files Victorian Branch re Malaya, 1945-1951


Includes: ships for Vietnam, moratoria, conferences, National Anti-war Conference, boycott of USA shipping, medical aid etc (see finding-aid for full description of file titles and items)

Z129/168 Peace, 1980
Z129/124 Peace, 1983

Seamen’s Union of Australia, Sydney Branch

E183/29/6 Correspondence Australian Peace Council, 1949-1951
Includes: minutes of Combined Union Peace Committee and Maritime Union Peace Committee

E183/29/7 Printed material New South Wales Peace Council, 1955-1956

N38/1413-1436 Printed material World Peace Council publications, 1972-1976

Z91/28-30 Bound correspondence and subject files Organisation’s correspondence, 1959-1966 Includes: Peace Committee, AICD, Vietnam, Hiroshima, peace, Committee Against Atomic Testing, etc

Z91/50 Subject files Vietnam, South Africa, Spain, Greece, 1963-1964

Z91/69 Ship files Jeparit, 1966-1967

Z91/71 Ship files Ships delegates’ correspondence on Moratorium and other COM proposals, 1970

Z91/119 Minute books Boonaroo Shipboard Committee: minutes and correspondence, 1958-1968

Z91/90 Correspondence Organisations: AICD, Trade Union Peace Committee, etc, 1971-1973

Z91/100-101 Peace files [22 files] Includes AICD, Australian Peace Committee, Hiroshima Day, Moratorium, peace conferences and committees, World Congress of Peace Forces, World Peace Council etc, 1966-1972 (see finding-aid for full description of file titles and items)
PEACE MOVEMENT IN AUSTRALIA

Z91/134  Miscellany  Badges: ‘No Neutron Bomb’
Z91/139  Pamphlets  Includes peace movement.
Z91/141  Leaflets Published by SUA  Includes peace movement

Seamen’s Union of Australia, Victorian Branch
Z263/42-47  Subject files  Peace files, 1954-1984
[14 files]
Includes: Vietnam (general), ban against US shipping and Moratorium campaign

Seamen’s Union of Australia, Victorian Branch
Waterside Workers Federation, Federal Office
E221/2  J Healy’s files  Korea: opposition to US and Australian involvement in the Korean War, 1950-1952
E221/3  Malaya: protests against the use of Australian armed forces in Malaya, 1948-1950
E221/36  Peace Council: Council activities and WWFA response, 1949-1952
E221/49  Compulsory military training and conscription: protests against conscription, 1950-1951
E221/62  World Peace Congress, 1950-1953
Includes: AICD, conferences and congresses, nuclear testing (France), Vietnam War, war shipments (Jeparit and Boonaroo), Moratorium and Marseilles Conference (Japanese Transport Unions, 1968) (see finding-aid for full description of file titles and items)

Waterside Workers Federation, Sydney Office
Z248/66A  Subject files  Jeparit, ban on US Shipping (Vietnam), 1969-1973
Z248/81  Photographs  Marches, demonstrations and May Day marches, 1947-1960

Waterside Workers Federation, Adelaide Branch
N90/525  Office files  South Australian Peace Committee/Council, 1953-1964
N90/421  Jeparit dispute, 1969

Merchant Service Guild
N51/221  Transcripts of proceedings heard before the Commonwealth Conciliation and Arbitration Commission  Dispute between Australian National Line and the Seamen's Union of Australia, re manning of the vessel Boonaroo on voyage to Vietnam, 1966

Australian Institute of Marine and Power Engineers
Z123/31  Subject files  Vietnam Charters (Boonaroo, Jeparit), 1967

Professional Radio Employees Institute of Australasia
E208/334  Marine Section correspondence  Marine Award: re seamen's war pensions and questions re cargo and manning of Jeparit on voyage to Vietnam, 196
Manning of Boonaroo on voyage to Vietnam, 1966
Letters from SUA and ACTU re supplies to Vietnam etc, 1966-1967
Letters from ACTU and SUA re Vietnam cargoes and Vietnam war, 1966-1967

**NSW Teachers Federation**

E208/335
E208/338
E208/340

**Australian Railways Union, Victorian Branch**

N11/143
N11/199
N11/205

**Australian Railways Union, Tasmanian Branch**

E231/484-485
E231/575

**Australian Railways Union, South Australian Branch**

E197/8/3126

**Union of Australian Women, National Office**

Z236/17
Z236/28-30
Z236/38
Z236/46-49

Includes: abolition of nuclear tests, Vietnam, peace (general), conferences, Moratorium campaign and disarmament, 1958-1977 (see finding-aid for full description of file titles and items)

Peace Congress, 1959-1964

World Federation of Teachers Unions: peace, anti-nuclear matters, 1953-1955

Peace Congresses, 1959-1964

Peace, Australia and Peace Congresses, 1956-1957

Peace Congress, 1956-1964

War and peace, 1908-1971

Peace Congress, 1965


War and peace, 1966-1973

South Australian Peace Council, 1956-1959

Peace files, 1962-1975

Includes: AICD, Vietnam, nuclear weapons, Save our Sons, W White etc (see finding-aid for full description of file titles and items)

Peace files, 1977-1986

Includes: peace (general), Hiroshima Day, AICD, Australian Peace Committee, nuclear disarmament, United National Associations, Women’s Peace Camp, toxic poisons (see finding-aid for full description of file titles and items)

United Nations Special Session on Disarmament, 1982-1988

Peace files, 1978-1987

Includes: peace conferences and congresses, UAW peace school and women’s peace organisations
Union of Australian Women, NSW Branch
N96/113-120 Subject files [8 files] Peace files, 1964-1982 Includes: peace (general), Australian Peace Conference and UN Committee of Support for UN Special Sessions on Disarmament

Australian Coal and Shale Employees Federation, Central Council
N144/336 General Secretary’s files Vietnam, 1973 Re: joint delegation (provisional revolutionary government - Vietnam Peace Committee) visit to Australia and special minute re levy for ploughing machines for Vietnam

Australian Council of Trade Unions
N21/824 Secretary's subject files Nuclear tests, 1956-1957
N21/514 Omega Base, 1977
N21/1751 Uranium, 1977
N21/1758 Vietnam, 1965-1970

Published Sources

Inglis, A, Australians in the Spanish Civil War, Sydney: Allen & Unwin, 1987


Oliver, B, Peacemongers. Conscientious objectors to military service in Australia, 1911-1945, Fremantle: Fremantle Arts Centre Press, 1997

More information
For more information about the Archives, go to www.archives.anu.edu.au. You can contact us at butlin.archives@anu.edu.au or by phone on 02 6125 2219.