Australia and the War in South Vietnam, 1962-1975

**UNION AND ORGANISATION RECORDS**

The Australian trade union movement’s involvement in anti-Vietnam war campaigns is documented in the records of many unions and organisations. The items listed below are just a sample.

**Administrative and Clerical Officers’ Association**

Subject files:
- Department of Navy, 1964-1973 (E257/195)
- Department of Army, 1964-1973 (E257/184)
- Department of Labour and National Service, 1966-1974 (E228/213, E257/171, E257/193)
- Manpower – Department of Labour, 1973 (E257/236)
- National Service training, 1969-1972 (E257/321)
- Sick leave – returned soldiers, 1964-1975 (E257/323)
- Department of Veterans’ Affairs – Repatriation Department, 1966-1980 (N67/157)

**Amalgamated Metal Workers’ Union**

Anti-conscription and defiance of the National Service Act, 1955-1973 - newspaper clippings and miscellaneous papers (Z102/114)
- Publications on the war in South Vietnam, 1965-1972 (Jack Garland collection) (Z503/10)

**Amalgamated Metal Workers’ and Shipwrights’ Union**


Vietnam/anti-conscription (L Carmichael’s files), 1964-1971 - correspondence, circulars, newspaper cuttings, minutes, reports, working papers and printed material regarding general union activities relating to compulsory military service, United States’ and Australian involvement in Indochina, the implementation of the National Service Act, National Anti-War Conference, etc. (N24/464-475)
- Vietnam after the war (L Carmichael’s correspondence files), 1977-1978 - includes *Vietnam Today* (Australia-Vietnam Society bulletin) and *On the Question of the Representation of the South Vietnamese people* (World Peace Council report) (N24/552)
- Correspondence, reports and other papers on trade union and political activities in Vietnam, together with items received by L Carmichael and other AMWU officials, concerning Amnesty International, political prisoners in Southeast Asia, etc., 1972-1975 (N24/560-561)

**Photographs:**

**Australasian Coal and Shale Employees’ Federation**

Photographs:
- Anti-Vietnam war demonstration, 1968 (E165/56/11)
- Manly-Warringah Peace Movement demonstration against conscription, 1968 (E165/56/99)
- May Day demonstration, Sydney, 1965 (E165/56/68)
International Trade Union Conference for Solidarity with Workers and Peoples of Indochina struggling against United States aggression – a Chinese Communist delegate’s report, 1965 (N144/1166)

**Australian Council of Salaried and Professional Associations**


Signed statement of defiance by members of Hevrat Ovidim (Israel’s Society of Workers), circa 1965 (E215/470)

**Australian Council of Trade Unions**

Conscription and Vietnam - ACTU Executive decision as endorsed by Congress, 1967 (S784/28)

Reconstruction aid to Vietnam – ACTU Congress Agenda Paper, 1975 (S784/32)


ACTU Secretary’s (H Souter) subject files:
- Compulsory military service - ACTU Executive decision, 1966 (N21/1134)
- Re-establishment of allowance for National Servicemen, 1966 (N68/484)
- ACTU Congress Agenda and Minutes, 1969 (N68/77)
- ACTU Congress Agenda Paper, 1975 (N68/83)
- Vietnam, 1965-1970 (N21/1758)

**Australian Institute of Marine & Power Engineers**


**Australian International Cabin Crew Association**

Saigon charters, 1965-1972 (N107/186)

‘Troubled Areas’ insurance, 1971 (N107/209)

**Australian Journalists’ Association**

Vietnam Moratorium Campaign, 1970 (N59/778)

Students' demonstrations - Noel Hazard incident - correspondence and statements relating to the use of violence by police on journalists covering a students’ demonstration, 2 Jul 1968 (N59/1023)

**Australian Railways Union**

Compulsory military service, 1964-1966 (N11/125)


Correspondence on demobilisation, abolition of conscription, etc., 1962-1965 (E231/575)


President Ky’s visit to Australia, 1967 (N79/36)


**Building Workers’ Industrial Union of Australia**

*Draft resistance: the dynamics of moral protest*, Committee in Defiance of the National Service Act, 1969 (Z392/8)

**Clothing and Allied Trades Union of Australia**

‘Summit Conference of the Indo-Chinese Peoples’ - report published in *Vietnam Federation of Trade Unions No. 5*, June 1970 (N84/210)

**Council of Australian Government Employee Organisations**

National Service - trainees pro-rata recreation leave credits, 1965-1968 (N87/237-238)

**Federated Engine Drivers’ and Firemen’s Association**

Australia-Vietnam Society, 1983-1986 (N129/102)

**Federated Ironworkers’ Association of Australia**

Correspondence concerning (FIA) Soldiers Welfare Fund, 1964 (E247/322-323)

Annual National Conference records - include reports and correspondence on the situation in South East Asia and recommendations from Branches and National Council, 1966 (E247/328)


**Federated Miscellaneous Workers’ Union of Australia**


**Federated National Engineers’ Association of Australia**

**Merchant Service Guild of Australia**

Boonaroo dispute - transcript of proceedings heard before the Commonwealth Conciliation and Arbitration Commission, 1966 (N51/221)

**New South Wales Farmers’ Association**

National Service Scheme, 1966-1974 (N92/849, 988)
New South Wales Teachers' Federation
Military training of teachers, including W White’s conscientious objection case, 1966-1967 (N111/1348)
Anti-Vietnam war and conscientious objection, 1966-1973 (N111/1357, 1394, 1398-1401)
Peace - Vietnam, 1965-1971 (N111/1514)
Association for International Co-operation and Disarmament (AICD), 1965 (N111/1515-1518)
Vietnam Moratorium Campaign, 1970 (N111/1522)

Plumbers and Gasfitters Employees’ Union of Australia
Leaflets of various organisations including Victorian Peace Council, Socialist Youth Alliance, ACTU, Women’s International League for Peace and Freedom, 1962-1975 (N133/1440)
Published and printed material:
The Children of Vietnam. A Ramparts Extra, Ramparts Magazine (N133/1356)
Letters from Vietnam, Victorian Peace Council, Research and Information Centre, 1963 (N133/1422)
Vietnam: Myth and Reality. An Appraisal of Western Policy, Melbourne University Democratic Socialist Club (N133/1434)
Salmon, L., Pig Follows Dog. Two Years in Vietnam, 1960 (N133/1608)
South Vietnam. The just struggle of the workers and the people for national independence, peace, prosperity, World Federation of Trade Unions, 1963 (N133/1609)
The Vietnamese people will certainly be victorious, Vietnam Federation of Trade Unions, 1965 (N133/1611)
Vietnamese Trade Unions, Hanoi, 1975-1978 (N133/289)
Vietnamese Trade Unions No. 3, 1970 with reports on International Trade Union Conference for Solidarity with Workers and Peoples of Indochina struggling against United States aggression (N133/1613)

Printing and Kindred Industries Union
Vietnam Moratorium Campaign Committee in South Australia, 1970 (N12/11)

Professional Radio Employees’ Institute of Australasia
Seamen’s pensions and allowances - Department of Shipping and Transport and Repatriation Department correspondence, 1965-1967 (E208/323)

ACTU Congress Report - Vietnam issues, 1967 (E208/69)

Seamen’s Union of Australia
Anti-conscription campaigns, 1965-1973 (N38/222)
Correspondence with miscellaneous organisations - Vietnam Education Aid Fund, Vietnam Action Campaign, Medical Aid Committee for South Vietnamese Peoples, Association for International Co-operation and Disarmament (AICD), 1965-1969, 1971-1973 (N38/424-427, 490-491; Z91/30, 90, 100)
Ship delegates’ correspondence on moratorium campaigns and other COM proposals, Aug 1970 (Z91/71)

Union industrial action over political issues, 1962-1975 - general correspondence (Z467/13)
Records of Seamen’s Union Shipboard Committees - MV Boonaroo, 1958-1968 (Z91/119)
National Anti-War Conference, 1971 (N38/726)

Sheet Metal Working, Agricultural Implement and Stovemaking Industrial Union of Australia
Correspondence with groups opposed to the war in Vietnam - Youth Campaign against Conscription, Save Our Sons movement, Vietnam Action Committee, etc., 1961-1966 (E196/3/14/9-10)
Union opposition to the war in South Vietnam, 1965-1966 (P120/958)
Photographs:
May Day demonstration, 1967 – with placards protesting over President Ky’s visit to Australia (E206/35-45, 61-62)

South Australian Institute of Teachers
Correspondence files:
Campaign for Peace - Vietnam Moratorium Campaign Committee in South Australia, 1970 (N91/413)

Union of Australian Women
Save our Sons movement, 1964-1967 (Z236/17)

Waterside Workers’ Federation of Australia
Committee in Defiance of the National Service Act, 1969 (Z432/5)
Moratorium Campaign, etc., 1965-1974 (N114/1001-1003C)

PERSONAL PAPERS
Various trade unionists, political activists and academics collected records about Australia’s anti-Vietnam war activities and campaigns for world peace. The items listed below are just a sample.

**COLEMAN, JE (socialist)**

**DAVISON, Jack (trade union official)**
Press cuttings and newspapers, 1964-1966 (P117/19)

**DWYER, Jack (trade union official)**

**GOLLAN, RA (Bob) (historian, academic)**
Vietnam Heroes, Vietnam Control Information Service, 1952 (P44/1/493)
Vo, NG (General), The Vietnamese Peoples Liberation Army, 1952 (P44/1/497)

**LANGER, Albert (political activist)**

**MCDONALD, Geoff**

**O’DEA, Peter (trade union official)**

**OWENS, Joe (trade union official)**
PLAYFORD, John (academic, political scientist)
Anti-war demonstrations, compulsory military service, 1964-1974 (press clippings) (P124/525-532; P128/1-12)
Compulsory military service and Vietnam, 1969 (circulars, pamphlets, letters, notes, leaflets, serials, newspapers cuttings, including items from the *Save Our Sons* movement) (P128/13)
Compulsory military service, conscientious objection, the Vietnam Moratorium Campaign, student unrest, etc., 1958-1973 (miscellaneous published and printed material issued by various organisations and people, including the *Save Our Sons* movement and university student organisations) (P64, P124, P128)
National service and conscientious objection, 1967-1968 (newspaper cuttings, pamphlets, leaflets, serials, letters) (P128/16, 91)
Anti-conscription, 1966-1970 (printed and photocopied material, including public statements by conscientious objectors) (P128/104-125)
Compulsory military service, 1965-1971 (press clippings) (P128/155-156)
SANDON, Mal (academic, state politician)
Vietnam war and compulsory military service, 1964-1967 (printed material) (Z569/1)
WRIGHT, Tom; WRIGHT, Mary
Statement on Vietnam war and conscription for overseas service, 1970 (Z267/17)
Letter from Sydney trade unions to the United States Consul General regarding bombing of Hanoi, July 1966 (Z267/24)
Photographs:
Women’s Movement anti-Vietnam war demonstration, Punchbowl, NSW, circa 1965 (Mary Wright displays a placard 'No conscripts for Vietnam') (Z267/18)
Published material:
*End This War*, Union Printing Ltd, Sydney, 1966 (P120/287)
*Vietnamese Trade Unions*, Hanoi, 1965-1966 (gaps) (P120/935)
Association for International Co-operation and Disarmament (AICD) Newsletter, 1965-1971 (Z267/27)

OTHER SOURCES
Noel Butlin Archives Centre serials collection
ACTU Congress Papers, 1965-1975 (compulsory military service, opposition to Australia’s involvement in the war, Vietnamese refugees to Australia, government rehabilitation and reconstruction programs at the end of the war, etc.) (S784)
ACTU Circulars, 1962-1975 (compulsory military service, opposition to Australia’s involvement in the war, Vietnamese refugees to Australia, government rehabilitation and reconstruction programs at the end of the war, etc.) (S888)

Noel Butlin Archives Centre miscellaneous pamphlets and periodicals collection
Conference papers - Vietnam Moratorium Campaign, National Anti-War Conference, Feb 1971 (P56/262/1)

Australian National University Archives
Registration for National Service - compulsory military service, draft evasion, anti-war protests, Australian National University’s relationship with the Holt, Gorton and McMahon governments, 1962-1975 (ANUA 53/4.0.0.22 parts 1-3 & C)