



A PLACE IN HISTORY...

All Australians will benefit from this ongoing project.

It is based upon the history, contemporary concerns and future ideals of one of the great strands of Australian culture - Our Working Life.



BARCOLDINE - QUEENSLAND



127 Oak Street, Barcaldine, Qld, 4725
australianworkersheritagecentre.com.au





CONTINUING THE PROUD TRADITION...

The Australian Workers Heritage Centre, was opened on May 4th, 1991 by the then Prime Minister, the late Bob Hawke. A tribute to the working men and women of Australia, it stands as a signpost of great significance. In one it marks the past, gives a sense of renewal to the present and points the way to the future.

We are dedicated to continuing the proud traditions of Australian workers, their families and supporters who have made an invaluable contribution to our Nation and its resources. They created unique social, political and industrial movements which were to reform, reshape and continue to influence our National character and all it stands for. Few of the things accepted today as being part of the Australian way of life, would exist were it not for this long and proud contribution of workers.

In the same way the Labour Movement works tirelessly to improve the quality of life of all Australians, the Workers Heritage Centre aims to enlighten and educate today's and future generations about the history of that movement. An invaluable lesson in history that is vital for the future of a decent and compassionate Australian society.

This legacy continues today, as we strive in partnership to further build and sustain our society and ensure the extraordinary contribution of today's working Australians and those of the past, has a seamless connection with our collective vision for the future.

A PLACE OF REFLECTION...

The Australian Workers Heritage Centre and its on-site Outback Education Centre Wanpa-rda Matilda have the potential to significantly contribute to the growth and development of cultural tourism in Australia and undoubtedly the capacity to become a significant philosophical resource for the present and future generations of all Australians.

THE EXTRAORDINARY LEGACY OF WORKING AUSTRALIANS...

Work engenders a sense of national pride and lends dignity and yet it is seldom spoke of in terms of the invaluable contributions it makes and workers make to Australia, nor do we as workers stand up and celebrate our worth, as we continue to build and sustain our nation.

Our vision is to pay tribute to the lives of these extraordinary people who built our nation and fought fearlessly to defend the freedom that all Australians enjoy. The continuity and further development of a national monument recognising their past achievements and ongoing commitment to their country, is crucial in helping to preserve this vitally important part of Australian heritage and culture.

THE CHALLENGE...

The Australian Labour Movement has a continuing dream for a better Australia. The Workers Heritage Centre is an expression of that dream, but the picture is far from complete.

Our combined challenge today and in the future is to work in partnership to develop our Centre to ensure that our working history is relevant to today's Australians, play our part in educating, informing and engaging with all Australians and providing them with an intimate ownership of the critical watershed of Australia's history - *Our Working Life*.

The history and the stories that will be recorded today and in the future will be those of your fathers, mothers, grandparents and ancestors, they will also be your stories...

A CENTRE FOR ALL AUSTRALIANS...

TAKE YOUR PLACE IN THE WORKING HISTORY OF A NATION...

Ownership of the Australian Workers Heritage Centre is held in trust by our current honorary Board of Management on behalf of all Australian Workers.

The Workers Heritage Centre is at a defining crossroad and in order for us to meet the significant challenges we currently face in continuing to develop the Centre and our planned associated projects, it requires the combined Labour Movement Australia wide, to lead the way and support our crucial national fundraising campaign, commencing immediately.

Our succession planning for the future, relies very heavily on completing the necessary urgent refurbishment and extension of Worker Displays, developing alternative income streams and further ultimately reaching independent financial viability.

With independence comes strength and choice - which we must achieve to ensure our continuity and future aims and objectives. The Australian Workers Heritage Centre aspires to immortalise an important chapter of this country's past, present and future industrial, social and political history.

Working history is more than a record of sacrifice and achievement where the ideals of organised labour were played out - cooperation, mutual support and solidarity; it is an account of that experience and a precious resource in today's landscape by helping to mobilise support for the trade union movement as it responds to the continuing vicious attacks on the very right to organise and represent workers.

We urgently need your help and support by means of committing your Union on behalf of its members towards an annual contribution at a level you feel is appropriate for your organisation. Alternatively, if your Union is not in a position to commit to an annual contribution, you may like to consider a donation.

Please see the attached form which outlines the details. We would encourage you to give favourable consideration to this most worthy and deserving cause; it is fitting, timely and absolutely justified.

We must all feel compelled to safeguard and take complete ownership of our past history, and future aspirations for our nation. If we fail to do so, history has proven, others will bastardise both.



TRADE UNION ANNUAL CONTRIBUTION

- ☐ \$25,000.00
☐ \$20,000.00
☐ \$15,000.00
☐ \$10,000.00
☐ \$5,000.00

Please select your preferred payment option

☐ Full Payment ☐ Bi-Annual ☐ Quarterly

DONATION

☐ We are not in a position to commit to an Annual Contribution but would be pleased to make a donation

Name / Organisation:

Address:

Phone:

Email:

☐ Cheque ☐ Direct Deposit

Account Name: Australian Workers Heritage Centre

Bank: Westpac

BSB: 034000

Account No: 206426

Thank you for your most generous contribution

Please return your subscription to:

Australian Workers Heritage Centre

PO Box 62

Bald Hills QLD 4036

T: 07 3261 5688

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M: 0407 925 705

*All donations to the Australian Workers Heritage Centre
are tax deductible.*

ABN 76 160 175 042 - DGR 900 357 771



FROM SOLIDARITY, PASSION AND COMMITMENT, BIG THINGS GROW

In the late 1970's a group of workers met beneath the Tree of Knowledge in Barcaldine, Central Western Queensland. Among them were the late Bob Gleeson, shearer; the late Alf Kain, District Secretary AWU Qld Branch; the late Neil Kane, Secretary ETU QLD Branch; the late Rocky Ryan, railway carpenter; the late Harry Hauenschild, President of the Trades and Labour Council Queensland; and the late Pat Ogden, publican and former railway guard.

Bob Gleeson moved the motion at the 1978 ALP Regional Conference to construct the Australian Workers Heritage Centre and the Monument to the 1891 Shearers' Strike beside the Tree of Knowledge. It was resolved that Australia needed a fitting tribute to its workers. Barcaldine's place in the nation's working history as headquarters of the 1891 Shearers' Strike made it a fitting venue.

Pictured are the people who unanimously endorsed the construction of the Australian Workers Heritage Centre as well as the monument to the 1891 Shearers' Strike at the site of the Tree of Knowledge.

Finally, the seeds of a vision sown more than a decade earlier had begun to bear fruit when Stage One was opened on May 4th, 1991 by then Prime Minister the late Bob Hawke. Surrounded by unionists from around the country the centre was celebrated as the 'national monument to working men and women', honouring all workers and dedicated to preserving the important contribution of workers to Australian heritage and culture.

The 1891 Great Shearers' Strike and Australia's first May Day parade, led to the formation of the labour movement in Australia under the Tree of Knowledge. It's the place where modern day Australian ideology of mateship, egalitarianism and a belief in a fair go was enacted.

**A CULTURAL AND HERITAGE STYLED INTERPRETIVE CENTRE
HONOURING OUR NATION'S WORKERS**