

**POLITICIAN  
SCUM**



**MAKE LIKE  
HAROLD HOLT  
& TAKE A  
SWIM**



**FUCK THE POLICE  
FIGHT THE POWER  
FREE THE PRISONERS**



**Bi-annual report on indigenous, ecological &  
anti-capitalist resistance in the occupied  
territory known as Australia**



**SHANK THE SCREWS**



**BURN THE PRISONS**

**FREEDOM FOR ALL**

**THE ONLY GOOD PARLIAMENT**



**IS A HUNG PARLIAMENT**

## Melbourne: Wilson Security offices attacked in solidarity with refugees in detention



26 June - On Sunday night we glued the locks and spray painted the entrance to Wilson Security on Sydney Road, Coburg in Melbourne.

Wilson provides security at Nauru and Manus Island detention centres and are responsible for numerous, well documented abuses of detainees.

Solidarity with the protesters at Nauru detention centre!

Close the camps!

## Narrm / Melbourne: Offices of Liberal & Labour party MPs trashed in solidarity with refugees in detention

On the 2nd of July, the day of the federal election in so-called Australia, we glued locks, graffitied and broke the windows of Liberal and Labour MP offices across Narrm/so-called Melbourne. We did this in solidarity with those on Manus Island, Nauru and in detention centres everywhere.

End the border & prison industrial complex.

End white supremacy.



# FTP

# VII.

## FuckThePoliceFightThePowerFreeThePrisonersFireToPatriarchy

Welcome to the fifth issue of FTP zine, our biannual report on anti-colonial, anti-state resistance, compiled within occupied Cadigal territory.

Like previous issues we have chosen to highlight acts of resistance to the Australian state and its control of this territory, such as attacks on its police, its prisons, its monuments and its schools.

The entirety of the content in this publication was found as public information online, and later compiled for this zine. Nothing here is the original content of those who may be responsible for this project.

The contents include communiqués, media releases, photos, posters and leaflets which have been found on radical blogs. The remaining content has been culled from the websites of corporate newspapers and TV stations. Many texts have been condensed for reasons of space.

We make no claims to the intentions behind the unclaimed actions. We have simply chosen to highlight acts which open possibilities for a more libertarian, less polluted future. Actions which, if generalised, have the potential to fundamentally disrupt and weaken the Australian state and its ability to govern.

The actions and opinions expressed in this zine do not necessarily reflect the perspectives or attitudes of any other individual or group mentioned in this publication.

This report is only partial as most acts of resistance are not reported in the mainstream press, and most people who stand up to state authority don't write self aggrandising communiqués of their actions.

This magazine is in no way a for-profit publication. We encourage the printing, sharing, translating, and widespread distribution of this magazine by anyone with resources to do so.

- July 2016

[ftpzine.wordpress.com](http://ftpzine.wordpress.com)

## VIC: Dozens charged for prison riot

13 Jan - More than a dozen prisoners alleged to have been involved in last year's riot at Ravenhall prison in Melbourne's west have faced court on violence and property damage charges.

For 15 hours, prisoners at the Melbourne Remand Centre rioted in June 2015, destroying doors, windows and other items and setting fires.

In the documents filed against the first 17 defendants today, the charges were "disrupting the proper operation of a prison ... to assist one another by force ... against anyone who may have opposed them". They are said to have "executed that purpose in a violent manner".

A number are also facing charges of destroying or damaging property "to cause major disruptions to government functions".

More than 100 current and former prisoners will be charged in the coming weeks, in a case involving more than 300 witness and thousands of minutes of CCTV footage from 100 cameras at Ravenhall.

The court brief is expected to run to more than 12,000 pages, making the case one of the biggest and most complex undertaken by Victoria Police and the courts.

The police are looking at the logistics of how so many defendants and their lawyers will be able to access the volumes of documents and evidence. One option is to provide laptops and hard-drives to defendants and to give them open access while in jail, but the hard-drives alone could cost \$200 each.

Police have expressed concern about the cost. It is further complicated by the fact that as many as 60 defendants are now out of the prison system.

"The scale of the incident and investigation is unusual," Detective Leading Senior Constable Glen Hatton told the court. "The nature of the brief is unique."

The charges follow the release of a report on the riot by former police deputy commissioner Kieran Walsh.

Ahead of the riot, prison staff had seen evidence of growing prisoner discontent, including damage to internal fences, home-made balaclavas concealed in a cell and several small protests, the report revealed.

The report detailed two "passive protests" over tobacco restrictions at the MRC in the lead up to the riot, including about 90 prisoners congregating in a yard chanting "we want Ox" on June 25 before leaving a letter under a rock requesting a delay on the state's July 1 prison smoking ban.

"We ask of you to extend the no smoking policy or amend the legislation to allow us an area outside well within shelter but beyond the 10m from government buildings," the letter stated.

"This is just the start of said peaceful protests we believe that smoking is our right as it is not available for purchase we are not being given our basic rights."

Two days later damage was discovered on internal fences separating the mainstream yards and on June 28 about 50 prisoners refused to return to their units and left staff a list of prisoners they believed had not received their quota of tobacco because the canteen ran out early.

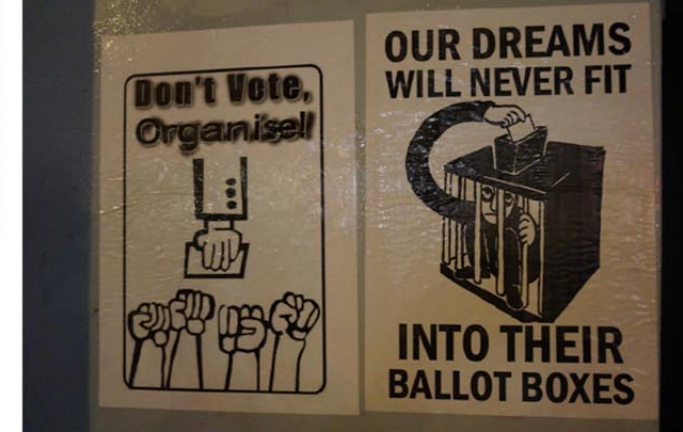
Finally what would become the largest prison riot in Victoria's history, causing more than \$10 million worth of damage, started when a third protest involving about 50 inmates swelled to 400 once internal fencing was brought down shortly after 11.45am on June 30.

Rampaging prisoners armed with metal posts were chanting "we want OX," a reference to pouch tobacco, when they stormed the Central Movement Control tower and went unit to unit bringing down fences and lighting fires.

Prisoners took control of several vehicles, including a small tractor, and armed themselves with makeshift weapons as they went unit to unit releasing more prisoners.

They managed to gain control of the CMC on three separate occasions and, even once a group of 200 prisoners had been "secured" with restraints on a basketball court, they were able to free themselves and return to the riot.

Police stormed the security at about 8.35pm and regained control from the fatigued remaining prisoners.





## Sydney: Anti-electoral campaign

2 July - Over the past two months some anarchists around Sydney mounted a campaign against politics and the democratic process.

This election takes place in a period of historic disillusionment with the political spectacle and the politicians who represent it, and never before have so many parties been on offer, to direct that mistrust back into the electoral process.

We reject this process in its entirety. Elections are a charade to confuse us about where power lies, and how things can be changed. With the following petty acts of anti-political sabotage, we draw a line.

Thousands of anti-electoral posters were pasted up throughout Sydney.

Hundreds of anti-political slogans were painted across the city.

A dozen banners were to highway overpasses.

Political advertising of every party was vandalised, or taken down and later burnt.

Party activists caught spreading political propaganda were confronted, harassed and sometimes relieved of their material.

Unlike every political party we do not measure success based on opinion polls or ballots.

We do not seek to promote ourselves as a solution to capitalism, we do not seek to recruit, we do not want power. We offer no promises. We represent no one.

We intend to encourage the spread of class hatred and collective resistance to the bosses, their politicians and the way of life they've sold to us.

We desire the total annihilation of capital and the state.

Fighting for ourselves.



## Melbourne: Solidarity actions against the French consulate & VINCI owned companies

14 Jan - To the defenders of the ZAD\*, Solidarity from anarchists in so-called 'Melbourne, Australia' - the never-ceded indigenous land of the Wurundjeri people of the Kulin Nation, stolen and occupied by the genocidal settler-colonial state.

In response to recent threats of violent eviction by the French State, actions were taken at several locations in Melbourne.

The actions targeted the French consulate and company offices of VINCI subsidiaries linked to the proposed destruction of land at the Zone-A-Defendre.

The Melbourne office of Electrix was redecorated with a number of slogans celebrating resistance to VINCI's plans.

The Offices of Menard-Bachy and Fressynet had their windows broken and slogans in support of the ZAD painted on the facade while the French consulate was attacked with paint and its locks were stuffed and glued.

\*The ZAD is a large squatted area of farms and forest in Notre-Dam-Des-Landes, France that is the proposed location of a new airport. The French government has made repeated unsuccessful attempts to evict the site over the past few years.



## East Gippsland: Treesit set up, logging halted



21 Jan - Conservationists have halted logging in the Kuark forest in far East Gippsland this morning. A person is positioned on a tree platform 30m above the ground. Ropes from the platform are attached to machinery, preventing logging from continuing.

The contentious logging coupe contains high quality habitat for threatened species. State owned logging company VicForests has not conducted a pre-logging threatened species survey, as required by law.

Citizen science surveys conducted by GECO have recorded two listed endangered species in the area. An endangered Long-footed potoroo was recorded on a remote fauna camera two weeks ago and last week a population of critically endangered East Gippsland Galaxias fish were photographed in streams bordering the logging coupe.

The critically endangered East Gippsland Galaxias fish is only found in the Kuark forest and was only described as a species in late 2014. Logging impacts the species by increasing sediment run off, reducing water yields and disrupting stream flow. Both species are highly restricted in their distribution and only occur in far East Gippsland.

“VicForests claim a survey for threatened species is not needed in this forest, because apparently they do not exist here. We’ve managed to find two endangered species in just a couple of weeks. This proves the forest is high quality habitat that should have been subject to a pre logging survey to identify endangered species habitat.” said GECO member Ed Hill

“Last week we submitted reports to the Department of Environment Land Water and Planning (DELWP) documenting the presence of endangered species. VicForests should be disbanded and the forest must be protected as endangered species habitat,”

“It should not be left up to community groups like us to do the work of the DELWP by identifying and monitoring endangered species habitat. The management actions for these species are inadequate and allow extensive logging in important habitat,”

“Kuark forest is a stronghold for these two species, extensive logging currently occurring throughout the Kuark forests are placing their future in danger. Kuark forest needs urgent protection to protect its biodiversity and create an important connective corridor between the Errinundra Plateau and the coast,” said Ed Hill

“Protests and disruptions will continue until Kuark forest is receives the protection it deserves as stronghold for biodiversity, rainforest and threatened species.”

## Perth: Vandals destroy electoral signage in Hasluck



2 July - Vandals destroyed electoral signage across several polling locations overnight in the Hasluck electorate, in Perth’s south east. Liberal signage at Forrestfield Primary School was “cut up” and “torn” while material at Walliston Primary was also damaged.

Hooded men wearing balaclavas were seen approaching Helena Valley Primary School but fled when security arrived.

As he cast his vote on Saturday, Mr Wyatt said he respected his opponent — Labor candidate Bill Leadbetter — and did not believe his party was responsible for the damage.

“In Australia we’ve got great Australians who respect the freedoms we have within our democracy and it is disappointing that people damage any polling booth regardless of which party it is,” he said.

“It’s important that the work volunteers do is respected and that’s fundamental. I just don’t expect people to damage property, period.”

Mr Wyatt said he didn’t know whether the vandalism had been co-ordinated or was the work of separate groups.

Both Labor and Greens volunteers at Anzac Terrace Primary claim their election bunting were also torn down. The volunteers said they had reported the matter to police.

Booth captain Graham Robert Harris said a group of men had been loitering around Midland Town Hall, also in the Hasluck electorate, on Friday evening.

Harris said he suspected the men were out to cause trouble, but left when they saw him.

“They obviously had come to see what could take place but they could see I was here and left. “I don’t know what would have happened if I hadn’t have been here.” he said.

Canning Liberal MP Andrew Hastie also said his campaign signage was defaced in Mandura.

## Moe: Pre-election banner & stencil action



2 July - Pre-election day banner and stencil action in the town of Moe, southeastern Victoria, in so-called ‘Australia’.



## Electoral advertising defaced by vandals across the country

28 June – Election sign theft and defacement comes with campaign territory but in Tasmania one senator says that she’s had enough.

Labor senator Lisa Singh has lodged a complaint about the theft of her signs from Hobart pre-polling booths.

Candidates expect signs to go missing from houses and roadsides during an election campaign, or to have vandals add their own creative touches, but Senator Singh said it was unusual for signs to go missing from a polling booth.

Though some vandals have expressed their disapproval of candidates more creatively.

A Tasmanian artist targeted Braddon MP Brett Whiteley, covering his face with a gimp mask on numerous signs in Tasmania’s north-west.

In Bass, a slight adjustment to Labor’s Bass candidate Ross Hart results in voters being encouraged to vote for the less appealing “Ross Fart”.

The Nationals New England campaign team have complained 800 posters had been damaged or vandalised with slogans and photos across the electorate.

New England Inspector Chris McKinnon said, in addition to Barnaby Joyce’s posters being de-faced, there had been a report to police about independent Tony Windsor-branded corflutes being stolen in Armidale.

“We have received reports of signs being damaged or stolen from various candidates,” he said.

“It is an offence to de-face, damage or steal a sign and inquiries are continuing.”

Meanwhile, motorists along busy Gympie Rd, Strathpine seeing Peter Dutton’s new billboard would have read that the Immigration Minister “kills people in concentration camps” on the LNP campaign billboard of a smiling Mr Dutton with Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull.

The billboard also said Mr Dutton “does not represent you”.

## Brisbane: Foundain turned blood red for Invasion day



26 Jan - On Invasion Day (“Australia Day”) 2016, the water in this South Brisbane feature turned red as a reminder of the attempted genocide of more than 200 nations that have called this land home for over 60, 000 years. This particular feature was used due to its close vicinity to the South Bank police station on Glenelg St, to mark the ongoing unjust and excessive incarceration, abuse and murder of First Nations people at the hands of the police.

This action was undertaken by non-indigenous people in solidarity with First Nations’ struggles.

## Brisbane: Disruption of ‘Australia Day’ celebrations



26 Jan - Some anti-colonial activists disrupted the official Australia day council event in South Bank, Brisbane.

The activists stormed the event stage, some held banners while other activists chanted slogans against the colonialist celebration and distributed leaflets to the crowd.

## Graffiti for Invasion day



26 Jan - Over the past week unaustralian vandals have painted anti-colonial slogans across numerous locations in Brisbane, Sydney and Melbourne.

Parliament station in Melbourne CBD was covered in anti-australia day slogans, as were a number of parks in Sydney where ‘australia day’ functions were to take place.



## Melbourne: Homeless people & housing activists disrupt the CEO Sleepout

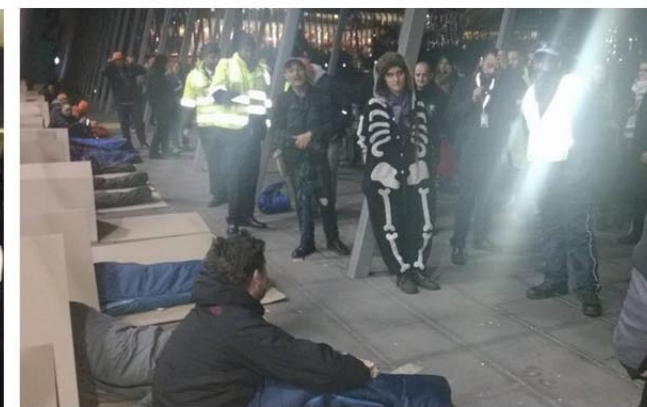
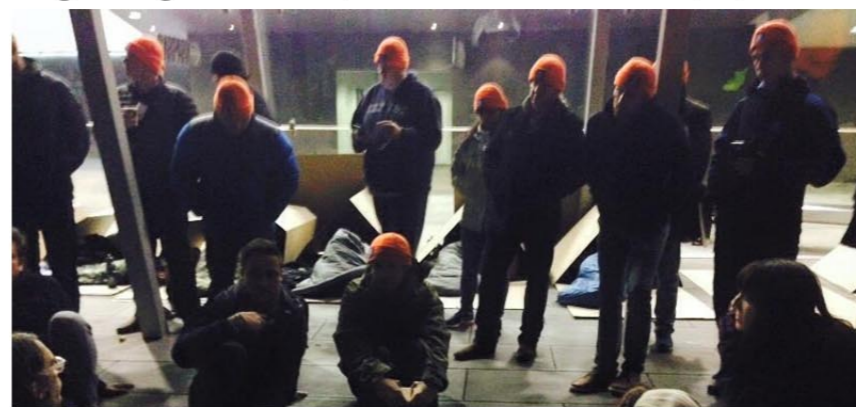
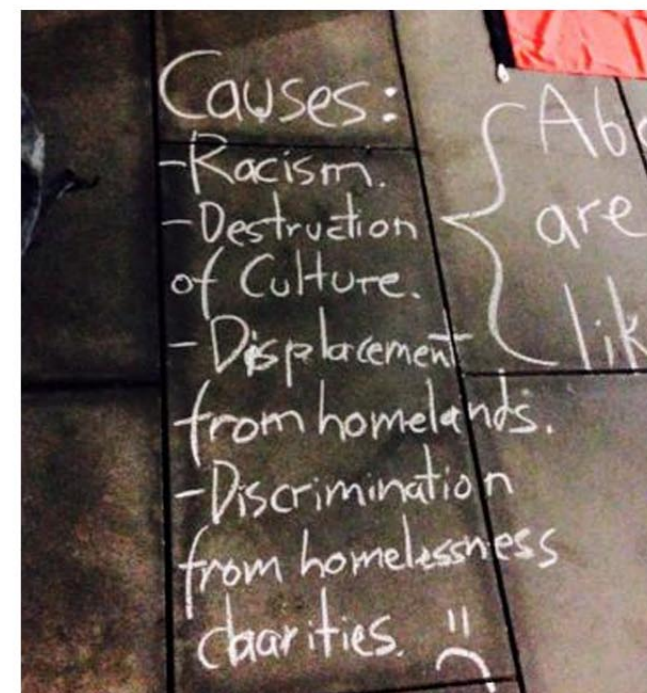
24 June - Homeless people and housing activists confronted CEOs pretending to be homeless.

St Vinnies says of the CEOs participating in their annual CEO Sleepout: "Their commitment has increased the profile of homelessness". But homelessness has never been more visible on the streets of Melbourne. We do not need more visibility. We need solutions.

By promoting big business as an ally in the fight to end homelessness St Vinnies is covering up the cause of this growing social crisis. If big business in Australia simply paid the tax it owes, billions of dollars would be raised to fund emergency accommodation and build the long-term public housing we desperately need.

With over 105,000 people homeless in Australia and 173,000 on public housing waiting lists the homelessness crisis will not be solved with PR stunts. Many of the businesses participating in the CEO Sleepout have already done far more harm than good. Instead of congratulating them for pretending to be homeless for a night we need to be holding them to account for their role in growing wealth inequality. As the share of tax paid by big business has shrunk, so has spending on public housing for those in need.

Many Australians are suffering from the housing crisis caused by putting the needs of the market before the interests of people. The market can't solve this growing social crisis, and neither will these CEOs.





## Darwin: Two men remanded in custody after cars damaged

7 June - Two of the men accused of causing \$30,000 of damage to more than 60 cars in a Parap unit complex car park have been remanded in custody.

Tyler McKay and Jayke Leslie Rhodes appeared in Darwin Local Court yesterday facing more than 300 charges between them for the string of smashed cars on May 29.

However, police prosecutor Daniel Warner Collins said police expected to charge the men with another 90 offences each over the alleged vandalism. "I've been instructed by police that there are some 90 plus charges coming for each offender in this matter,"

## Melb: International Day of Solidarity with Long-Term Anarchist Prisoners



11 June Banner action by members of Anarchist Black Cross Melbourne and Pink Bloc Narrm / Melbourne for the June 11th International Day of Solidarity with Long-Term Anarchist Prisoners.

## Vandals tag Fuck the police on historic headstone at Lawnton Cemetery



22 June - The tag was noticed by David Fullagar at the Lawnton cemetery, in the Moreton Bay area.

"I was at Lawnton Cemetery today and first thing I saw was this artwork on one of the historic headstones. Bloody wonderful."

A Moreton Bay Regional Council spokesman said that "Council has a zero-tolerance policy in relation to graffiti on public property.

## Melb: Violence breaks out at anti-immigration, anti-racist rallies



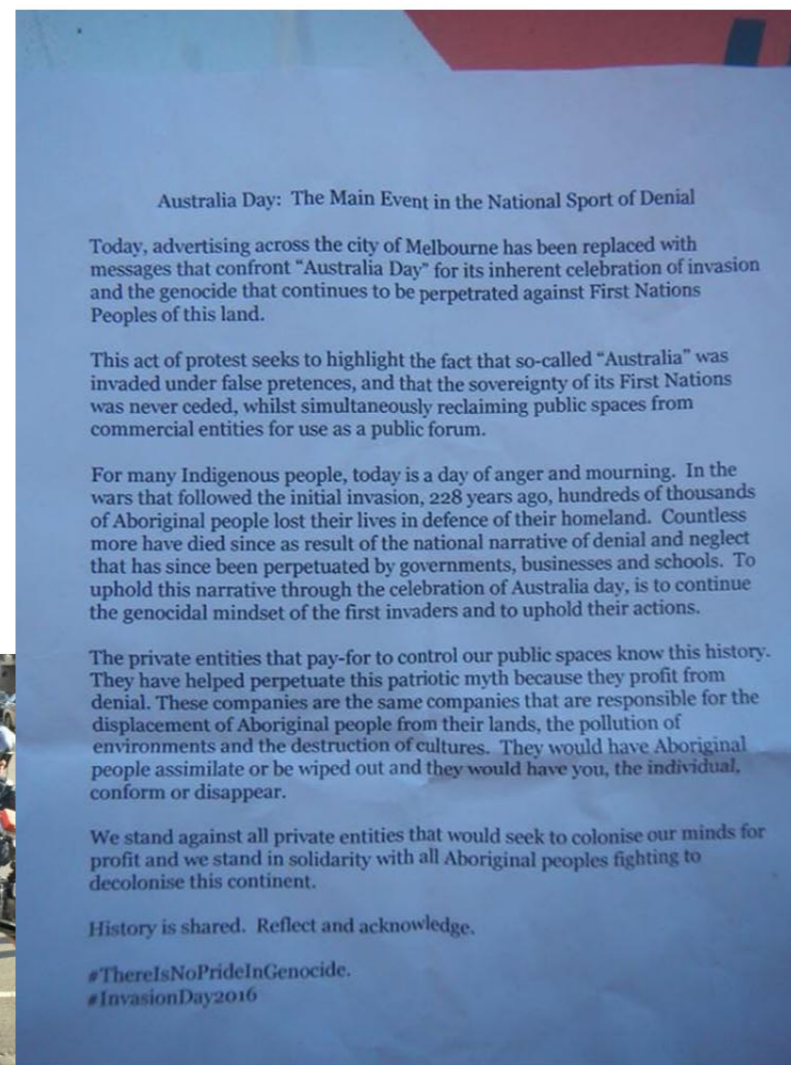
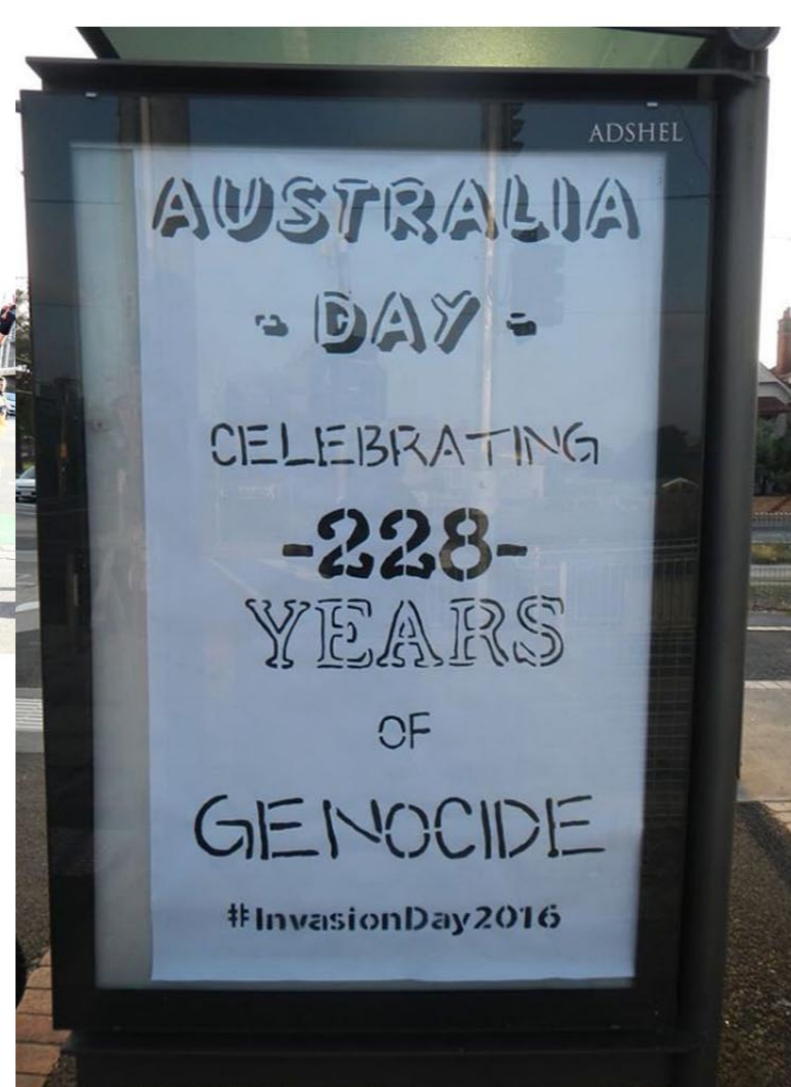
26 June - Violence has erupted in Melbourne's CBD after rival rallies involving more than 150 anti-racism and anti-immigration activists.

More than 100 anti-racism activists had earlier gathered at the steps of Parliament, chanting "No hate, no fear, fascists are not welcome here".

Further down Spring Street, up to 60 anti-immigration activists marched in a rally organisers said was to "celebrate" the Australian flag.

Scores of police — including officers in riot gear and on horseback — tried to keep the groups separate but some anti-racist protesters managed to splinter off.

Three people were arrested, a journalist had his camera smashed by anti-racist activist and a number of Australian flags were burned.



## Melbourne: The Main Event in the National Sport of Denial

26 Jan - Today, advertising across the city of Melbourne has been replaced with messages that confront "Australia Day" for its inherent celebration of invasion and the genocide that continues to be perpetrated against First Nations Peoples of this land.

This act of protest seeks to highlight that so-called "Australia" was invaded under false pretences, and that the sovereignty of its First Nations was never ceded, whilst simultaneously reclaiming public spaces from commercial entities for use as a public forum.

For many Indigenous people, today is a day of anger and mourning. In the wars that followed the initial invasion 228 years ago, hundreds of thousands of Aboriginal people lost their lives in defense of their homeland. Countless more have died since as a result of the national narrative of denial and neglect that has since been perpetuated by governments, businesses and schools. To uphold this narrative through the celebration of Australia Day, is to continue the genocidal mindset of the first invaders and to uphold their actions.

The private entities that pay to control our public spaces know this history. They have helped perpetuate this patriotic myth because they profit from denial. These companies are the same companies that are responsible for the displacement of Aboriginal people from their lands, the pollution of environments and the destruction of cultures. They would have Aboriginal people assimilate or be wiped out and they would have you, the individual, conform or disappear.

We stand against all private entities that would seek to colonise our minds for profit and we stand in solidarity with all Aboriginal peoples fighting to decolonise this continent.

History is shared. Reflect and acknowledge.



## Sydney: Some banners against 'Australia Day'

26 Jan – Following the huge Invasion Day demonstration from the Block in Redfern to Australia House in the CBD, a dozen anti-colonial banners were tied to various highway bridges across Sydney.

Jamiel Sabah, a Palestinian, explained the significance of what happened this weekend:

“I know too well of the fear and deeply rooted pain caused by the Australian establishment’s Islamophobia and anti-terror laws that suffocate our Arab and Muslim community. A decade ago, my old Palestinian footy coach and a Muslim man on a street I grew up on were amongst a few locals who were imprisoned for years under anti-terror laws for content-less ‘thought-crimes’.

“My family, like many Arab and Muslim families, fear for their relatives who speak out against racism. The rants about ‘extremism’ in the papers and by the politicians remind us every day to keep our heads down or you may be the next scapegoat.

“Today, in Coburg, the establishment and a group of fascists once again tried to use fear to shut down our right to protest against racism. All week cops in Coburg have been telling locals to keep away. But today, in Coburg, we refused to be intimidated by fear mongering, we stood together to defend our civil rights and tell Australia we are proud to stand against fascism, institutionalised racism and intimidation, attacks on refugees and wars that slaughter our brothers and sisters in the Middle East.”

Of course, one protest in one suburb will not overcome decades of fear and intimidation. But it was a good start.

The media will, as always, slander those who are prepared to stop fascists marching in the streets. The Sunday Herald Sun ran a front cover and four-page spread denouncing “street warfare” and condemning the left and right equally.

It is a funny thing. When the left marched against US wars in Iraq, we were accused of “appeasing” what we were told was the 21st century’s version of Hitler, Saddam Hussein. When we protested against draconian “war on terror” laws or defended the Palestinians, we were told we were appeasing the new “Islamofascism”.

But when we stand up against actual fascists – bona fide admirers of Adolf Hitler – and say they should not be able to spread hatred, fear and violence on our streets, we are condemned to high heaven. Actual fascists, it seems, are the only people the right wing media think the left should appease. Well, we are not going to appease them. We are going to stop them. And we won’t be apologising for that for one second.



## Melbourne: Fascists driven out of Coburg



27 May – “Finally, I see so many people standing here together, standing in solidarity. We are uniting against these bigots, these clowns.” These were the words of Rasheed, one of a hundred or so young Muslim locals who joined several hundred socialists, anarchists and other local residents to drive the Nazis out of Coburg on Saturday morning.

Rasheed was speaking after he and other locals had led a triumphant march of 500 people down Sydney Road, the iconic centre of multi-ethnic Coburg.

The Nazis and fascists, who had declared they were coming to the suburb with “force and terror” to shut down an anti-racist rally, had been comprehensively beaten, pushed off the streets.

The fascists had planned to march down Sydney Road. Instead, their rally of 70-80 was cornered blocks away as they were repeatedly taken on by a growing crowd of anti-racists. Only a large and violent police operation to protect the fascists saved them from an even more ignoble fate. As it was, their rally was broken up and they scampered away as hundreds of anti-racists chased them through carparks and sports fields.

Viv Malo, an activist in First Nations Liberation, was among those who helped rout the fascists. “Personally, I will not be idle and let these white colonial remnants spew their vitriol while genocide against my peoples continues”, she said. “Scared idiots is what they are. I’ll shout them down at every opportunity.”



Some argued that we should ignore the fascists, or just rely on the police to protect us. The organisers of the original anti-racist rally, primarily the Socialist Alliance, insisted that they would not confront the fascists, and announced that they had agreed to police requests that they not march on Sydney Road.

If this argument had won the day, it would have been a disaster.

If the vile United Patriots Front bigots had succeeded in their goal of marching down Sydney Road and preventing anti-racists from holding a rally, it would have set a terrible precedent. If the left couldn’t beat back the fascists in Coburg, where else could we expect to stop them?

As it turned out, though, the overwhelming majority who turned up were determined that the fascists would not march. And once groups of people started marching on the fascists’ rally, significant numbers of locals, most of them Muslim, joined in.

Whipping up anti-Muslim racism is the core of the fascists’ organising strategy in Australia and around the world. So having young Muslims on the front lines taking on the fascists who slander and threaten them day in and day out was easily the most important and inspiring aspect of the day.

For the last year, responsibility for taking up the fight against fascists on the streets has fallen mostly to socialist and anarchist groups. The relentless anti-Muslim propaganda in the media, along with intimidation and state terror from the police, has made many Muslims understandably reluctant to take to the streets in anti-racist mobilisations.

## Melbourne: Statement on the disruption of Pride 2016

31 Jan - Today at the Melbourne ‘Pride’ March, on Boon Wurrung land, a group of queer and transgender activists staged a peaceful sit-in with the aim of disrupting the march. We drew attention to the ties of ‘Pride’ with environmentally destructive and socially unjust corporations as well as police and political parties that institutionalise oppressive systems.

Our group wanted to remind people that ‘Pride’ is not simply a celebration, but a protest fighting for liberation for everyone harmed by heteronormativity, cisnormativity, misogyny, ableism, racism and other forms of oppression.

Several onlookers violently assaulted us. They sprayed us with a hose, threw large buckets of dyed yellow water, threw glass bottles and some attempted to violently take a transgender flag. Victoria Police and some Pride attendees also assaulted a physically and visibly disabled person participating. Predictably, Victoria Police were reluctant to take action against the assaults until one of their own was hit with water.

There is no pride in a racist police state and police violence. Police are not welcome in ‘pride’ marches. We oppose the involvement of the police in the same way as we oppose the involvement of anti-queer corporations.

This is a time to draw attention to the history of Pride. Significant moments in queer and trans history including the Stonewall riots led by trans women of colour, have involved disruption and direct action which has always been met with violence.



We see corporations using the ‘LGBTQI+’ branding of ‘Pride’ to pinkwash their oppressive practices. Multinational corporations like NAB and ANZ are peak funding bodies for fossil fuels worldwide. AGL, a key sponsor of Midsumma, invests in fossil fuels causing dangerous climate change. They are all complicit in the ecocide of land and genocide of First Nations peoples.

Jetstar is involved in forcibly deporting asylum seekers, some of whom are queer and gender diverse. Many are being deported to countries in which homosexuality is criminalised, and may face violence and long term imprisonment of up to fourteen years as a result of their sexuality.

The ‘Pride’ parade’s championing of state-sanctioned marriage ignores the history of queer resistance to the patriarchal institution of marriage. Marriage does not help the most marginalised queer and trans people who need good housing and welfare support in a homophobic and transphobic society.

Current pathology healthcare cuts particularly affect poor trans people who need blood tests for hormones, amongst other requirements.

We ask, “What is the Melbourne ‘Pride’ March for?” And for whom? What occurred at Melbourne ‘Pride’ March 2016 was a disgraceful display of violence and oppression directed towards queer and transgender people who were protesting corporate, police and conservative political party co-optation of an event that was meant to be about collective liberation from oppression.



## Melbourne: 'Let them stay' bridge protest



11 Feb – Two protesters who suspended themselves from a Melbourne bridge with a banner imploring the federal government to let asylum seekers facing deportation stay in Australia are back on the ground.

Katherine Woskett, 25, and Hannah Patchett, 22, began their protest on the Yarra Bend Road overpass on the Eastern Freeway alongside a "let them stay" banner at 7.30am on Thursday.

They want to stop the imminent deportation of 267 asylum seekers, including 37 babies, from Australia to Nauru.

A High Court decision on February 3 cleared the way for their return following a failed challenge against Australia's offshore processing arrangements.

Ms Woskett and Ms Patchett's protest ended after about three hours when they came down on their own accord and spoke to waiting police officers, who confiscated their banner.

"The pair left pending further inquiries," a Victoria Police spokeswoman told journalists.

It's unclear if the women will be charged but police have told them to expect a summons in the mail.

The pair had widespread support on social media, as well as from asylum seekers in detention.

"All day we have been receiving messages from refugees who are actually in detention centres," said protest spokeswoman Helen War.

## Brisbane: Students occupy Peter Dutton's Office



12 Feb – Early Friday morning in Brisbane, university and TAFE students occupied federal immigration minister Peter Dutton's office.

Sitting in the cramped public space, we chanted: "Say it loud, say it clear! Refugees are welcome here!"

Behind the locked doors, Dutton was nowhere to be seen.

Framed in the foyer are numerous awards and messages, including a mental health awareness poster. Lauren Saunders, NUS Women's Officer for Queensland pointed out the irony:

"Many of the asylum seekers are here in Australia to be treated for the psychological trauma they have suffered on Nauru – and now they are being sent back to an island camp which is not fit for human beings."

She indicated to a number of framed children's drawings on the walls of Dutton's office. "We can see a giraffe and bicycles here. Meanwhile children locked in detention are drawing pictures of themselves committing suicide."

After two hours, media arrived. When one of our representatives stepped outside to speak with them, 14 police clamped down on the occupation.

A follow up action against deportations took place in King George Square at 5pm.

The protest coincides with another action in Sydney this morning where people placed 37 cribs along Bondi Beach to symbolise the 37 babies facing removal.

## Sydney: Top cop demands 'justice' after police memorial vandalism



21 May – A 'sacred' memorial honouring NSW police who died on the job may have to be removed after a senseless and insulting desecration, police say.

NSW Police Commissioner Andrew Scipione has made a personal plea seeking justice over the vandalism of the Wall of Remembrance in Sydney's Domain after it was scratched with glass or a rock by a man on Friday night.

'There is no more important or sacred place in the country to the NSW Police Force, than this memorial,' he said on Saturday, joining police and politicians in expressing their disgust.

'The person who has done this knows who they are. I am appalled and saddened that the names of our state's heroes have been desecrated,' Commissioner Scipione said.

Earlier, Sydney City Local Area Commander David Donohue said the memorial would likely need to be deconstructed and professionally polished, and that police were considering installing security cameras at the site to protect it in future.

They've already released CCTV footage of the man they believe was involved, and have collected fingerprint evidence.

Footage shows a man who 'walked with a distinctive swagger' who was also seen falling off his skateboard into oncoming traffic the same afternoon, Supt Donohue said.

'It's only a matter of time until we apprehend this person,' he said.

'This is a senseless act and an insult to all serving police officers in the state of NSW.'

The man faces a malignant damage charge and up to 15 years in jail.

## Sydney: Man charged over Police Wall vandalism



25 May – A man is expected to be charged over the vandalism of the police memorial in Sydney's Domain that has been defaced twice in four days.

The wall displays the names of dozens of New South Wales police officers who lost their lives on the job, and is the site of the state's annual National Police Remembrance Day service in September.

On Friday the NSW Police Wall of Remembrance was marked with scratches and abusive messages.

About 11.15pm, officers found the wall had been desecrated further, with black graffiti on the panels and the ground in front of the memorial.

Police believe both incidents are linked. Earlier in the evening, the 30-year-old man believed to be responsible was arrested near the pedestrian overpass at The Domain following information from the public.

Police said the man resisted arrest and smashed the rear window of a police car as he was being taken to Day Street Police Station.

He was then taken to St Vincent's Hospital to be treated for injuries about 11:00pm.

Officers said they expected to charge the man over both incidents once the 30-year-old was released from hospital. On Saturday, police said the panels would need to be deconstructed and be professionally cleaned.

## Australian police forces are buying up sound weapons



Above: American cops deploying sound weapons during the 2009 Pittsburgh G20 protests and in Baltimore during the 3 day anti-police rebellion in April 2015

17 May - They can break up protests with loud, piercing sound, but Long Range Acoustic Devices (LRADs) can also cause permanent hearing damage. Australian law enforcement agencies are now heavily investing in the technology, but sound and law experts say their potential use is extremely concerning.

Australia's police forces are buying up devices capable of causing long-term hearing damage from a distance.

The controversial Long Range Acoustic Device, or LRAD, has been used to disperse crowds in protest situations in the US.

Its use at a Pittsburgh G20 protest in 2009 left University of Missouri professor Karen Piper with permanent hearing damage.

'We had seen these machines there [that] looked like an armoured vehicle with a satellite dish on top,' says Piper, who had been observing the protest from a distance.

'Then this machine emits this long piercing noise. It's a very high frequency, it really hurts your ears. I started to not feel well immediately after that. I felt dizzy and nauseous and disoriented.'

Piper's hearing continued to suffer in the following days and months. Tests eventually revealed the effects caused by her exposure to the LRAD were permanent.

'It's actually nerve damage, and those nerves will never recover,' she says.

LRADs continue to be used by American authorities, including during protests over police brutality in 2014.

A recent survey of Australia's police forces found most now own LRADs.

Victorian, West Australian, South Australian and Queensland police, as well as the Australian Federal Police, admitted to purchasing the device, while New South Wales and Northern Territory police would not comment.

Melbourne University sound and law expert James Parker says potential use of the LRAD in Australia is deeply troubling.

'The secrecy of the state around the tools, the weapons that it has and is capable of using on its population is something to be really, really concerned about,' says Parker.

'It expands the nature of police/state/military authority in a certain kind of way. It makes sound itself part of the arsenal that police and military and state institutions have. I think there's a question about whether we want sound to be used in this way at all.'

The LRAD is marketed as a communication device, and was first used at sea by the US Navy and commercial shipping companies to ward off pirates.

Later, the device was deployed by the US military in Iraq and Afghanistan to clear buildings.

'They could play the LRAD's alert function at high volume, people wouldn't be able to stand it, they would run out and the snipers could pick them off,' says Parker.

Parker says LRADs have since been marketed 'quite aggressively' to military and police forces around the world.

## Melbourne: Two protesters scale 162m-high Arts Centre spire



19 Feb – Victoria Police says it will not press trespassing charges against two women who scaled Melbourne's Arts Centre spire to protest against offshore detention.

The women, aged in their 20s, ended their 12-hour protest about 3:00pm on Friday.

'The Art Centre has informed Victoria Police that it will not be pressing trespassing charges at this stage against the two women,' police said in a statement.

They pair, who climbed the 162-metre structure about 3:30am, left a "LetThemStay banner on the spire.

Earlier a search and rescue crew climbed the base of spire and prepared rigging ahead of expected negotiations with the two protesters.

Senior Sergeant Dean Delle-Vergini earlier said police were "intending to commence some negotiations with the two protesters".

Police had been trying to negotiate with the women through a third party.



The protest delayed preparations for White Night festival, where work was due to be done on lighting displays for the Arts Centre.

The Whistleblowers Activist Citizens Alliance (WACA) named the two women as Hannah Patchett, 22, and Katherine Woskett, 25.

WACA said the women were acting in support of doctors at Lady Cilento Hospital in Brisbane, who were refusing to release the one-year-old daughter of asylum seekers in case she were to be returned to Nauru.

It is understood the baby, named Asha, who suffered burns last month, is in a stable condition.

Both her parents are in Brisbane and have been visiting her daily.

Asha is one of a group of 267 people, including more than 30 babies, who could be sent back to Nauru after the High Court threw out a challenge to the Government's offshore detention network earlier this month.

WACA's Helen War told 774 ABC Melbourne that the two women, professional climbers, were also behind a #LetThemStay banner that caused traffic havoc on Melbourne's Eastern Freeway last week.

The pair were also not charged over the Eastern Freeway stunt.

Senior Sergeant Delle-Vergini said he believed the protesters had "got their message across".

The Sergeant also said that police had seized all of their climbing gear.

"From my understanding there was no power to retain their gear from their last protest, which was held in a public place, this is obviously a different situation because it's a private premises," Senior Sergeant Delle-Vergini said.

## Werris Creek: Train Occupation Grinds Coal Railments to a Halt



21 Feb - Two women have occupied a fully-laden coal train in Werris Creek this morning to call for a moratorium on further coal and gas production in Australia. The action has halted all railments of coal to the Port of Newcastle, the world's busiest coal port.

"My community is bearing the brunt of our government's addiction to mining." said Roselyn Druce, a resident of Maules Creek, where Whitehaven Coal is poised to begin another round of forest clearing for open-cut coal mine expansion.

"Malcolm Turnbull told Townsville residents last week that the end of the mining construction boom 'always had to happen', but our communities are being left out in the lurch".

"Coal and gas companies are devastating our health, our communities, our water and our wildlife," said Elise Chatterton, 23, one of the women participating in the action.



## Maules Creek: Coal Train and Bulldozers Halted



27 Feb - Today the rail line for coal in north west NSW has again been shut down by people opposed to Whitehaven's forest clearing. A bulldozer has also been halted in the Leard Forest forest by 2 women, delaying clearing.

Whitehaven are clearing the environmentally and culturally significant Leard State Forest, on Gomerioi/Gamilaraay Country, for the expansion of their Maules Creek Mine. These actions prevent any coal reaching port from all mines north of Willow Tree, including the Maules Creek Mine, as well as delaying clearing of the forest.

"Gamilaraay people are about stopping the clearing of the Leard Forest. First and foremost it's about protecting the land, our connection to country, song, dance, story, knowledge and culture." said Uncle Paul Spearim and Uncle Allan Talbot, Gamilaraay Nation

"We are a few of many concerned about the mining expansion on Gamilaraay/Gomerioi country, and the impacts this will have on our last remaining forests and climate. This affects us all, we will do all that it takes until our voices are heard" said Annette who was locked to a bulldozer along with Emil Dacy-Cole, who scaled and stopped the locomotive essential in hauling coal to the Port of Newcastle.

## Sydney: Cops injured in clash at wild bash in abandoned house

7 May – Police have clashed with revellers at a wild house party in Sydney's south overnight. A police officer was hospitalised and a teenager has been charged following the out-of-control party in a vacant house at Gymea on Friday night. Shortly before 8pm officers were called to the property following complaints. When police arrived, they found about 150 people at the abandoned premises and were attacked with glass bottles and projectiles. The attack was so intense authorities called in the riot squad, dog unit and police helicopter, before the revellers dispersed.

Later, a police officer was injured arresting a 17-year-old teen.

The police officer, who sustained cuts and swelling to his head, has since been discharged from hospital.

## Coomera: Stretch of new developments vandalised



14 May - A stretch of brand new investment houses in Upper Coomera have been targeted by graffiti artists, as police try to find those responsible for the tag.

Since the end of March, three houses along Angahook Circuit have had their garage doors and interior walls vandalised.

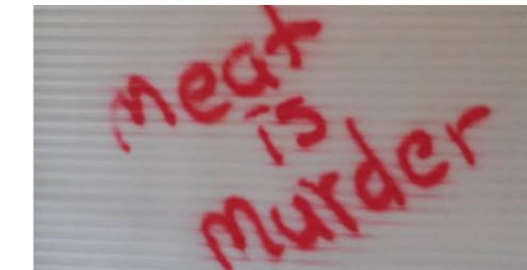
One of the property owners, Mark Goodrick, was notified by his builder that his investment home had been broken into on Tuesday night and graffiti painted on an interior wall and the garage door.

Mr Goodrick said it had become a common tag in the area and it needed to be dealt with.

"They actually got into the house and didn't steal anything. The graffiti they spent a lot of time on."

Coomera police said graffiti had become an issue in the area and police were investigating.

## Wanneroo: Shooting club vandalised



17 May - WA's top sporting shooters have turned their sights on vandals who caused thousands of dollars damage to club premises at Wanneroo sometime on Sunday.

They are offering a \$1000 reward for information leading to the vandals.

Iron window gratings were forced aside, several doors were smashed, tables overturned and walls and other surface were spray painted with slogans like "Meat is Murder - we will be back".

Mr Bryant suspected militant activists were likely behind the vandalism.

## Darling Downs: Vandals smash 150 school windows



24 May - A Darling Downs school has been left with a massive damage bill after it was targeted by baseball bat wielding vandals.

Police are investigating after the Oakey State High School was extensively damaged at on May 21.

Police believe two people armed with baseball bats caused the damage around midnight, which is estimated to be in excess of \$80,000.

They smashed more than 150 school windows throughout the attack.

## Brisbane: Omid has had his life support machine turned off.

30 April - Omid, the man who self-immolated on Nauru two days ago was finally flown to Brisbane, over 24 hours after he set himself on fire in front of UN officials.

Peter Dutton has tried to justify the amount of time it took but many feel the flight was deliberately delayed or at least delayed through bureaucracy.

Omid and his wife had been kept on Nauru for around three years as part of Australia's offshore immigration detention policy.

At least five others on Nauru have attempted suicide/self harm with two men in jail for swallowing razors.

There have been protests by refugees detained in RCP3 for 40 days. These have been supported by those living in the community.

Other refugees have said they will begin protesting soon.

Friends and family of Omid are devastated many on Nauru have given up all hope.

## Nauru: Another Refugee Attempts Suicide by Self Immolation

1 May - While refugees on Nauru are mourning the suicide death of Omid, another young man has attempted self immolation in RCP1.

Yesterday afternoon at 6pm Nauruan time the 20 year old known as Milad doused himself with petrol but was arrested before he could follow through with the act.

He is known to have mental health issues, as do many if not all of the refugees on the 22km square island, which is being used by Australia as a human dumping ground as part of its refugee policies

This is at least the sixth suicide attempt in the last week.

Instead of providing mental health care to those who attempt to take their own lives Nauru has charged many of them. Authorities say this is to discourage others and 'stamp out the offense'.

Protest by refugees continue, today is day 43, the number of days the refugees have been on Nauru is now well over 1000.

## Nauru: Somali refugee Hadon fighting for her life after self-immolating



2 May - A 21 year-old Somali female refugee, Hadon, has set fire to herself on Nauru.

She is presently at the Nauru hospital. The Refugee Action Coalition understands that an air ambulance has already been called to medivac Hadon to Australia.

Witnesses say she is badly burned – saying all her clothes have been burned off. One report says she has suffered burns at least as bad as Omid.

Hadon was one of three refugees snatched by Border Force office at 3am from the Brisbane Immigration Transit Accommodation last Wednesday morning, 27 April.

She was carried out of the detention centre by Border Force officers.

The removals came in the early hours following the news that the PNG Supreme Court had found that the Manus detention centre was unlawful.

Hadon was brought to Australia in November last year – after suffering a serious head injury. People who knew her did not believe she had recovered from the injury.

"This is another self-harm attempt that is Peter Dutton's responsibility," said Ian Rintoul, of the Refugee Action Coalition. "A vulnerable young woman who needed protection was a victim of a spiteful removal. She has been sent to the toxic environment that the Minister has created on Nauru. Tragically this was entirely predictable."

A crowd of refugees has already gathered outside the hospital.

## Melbourne: Teenagers riot at juvenile detention centre



7 March – A group of six boys have surrendered to police after rioting on the roof of the Youth Justice Centre in Melbourne for almost seven hours on Monday.

The inmates at the justice centre in Parkville climbed on its roof while wielding metal bars around 2.30pm, a Victoria police spokeswoman told journalists.

The unruly group then began to smash windows, swing from the roof, kick in sheets of glass, and rip air conditioning units to shreds with their hands.

They also began using the poles to smash in the tin roof

Police wearing heavy armour and shields and the Department of Human Services search team negotiated with the rioters.

Just before 10pm, the group finally surrendered to the heavily armed officers at the scene.

It is the second time in less than six months a group of inmates has climbed onto the roof, of the detention centre.

Last October, six youths climbed onto the green roof with tennis rackets.



## NSW: Violent riot at Wellington Correctional Centre

11 March – Teargas was used to quell a fresh wave of violence that erupted yesterday in the state's prisons, including a deliberate ambush of guards after two cells were set on fire.

The chaos occurred as the Baird government revealed it is considering new measures to ease prison overcrowding crisis including reopening the 580-bed Parramatta jail, which was shut in 2011.

"The government is considering a number of options to respond to the growth of the prison population," Prisons Minister David Elliott said.

Public Service Union prisons boss Steve McMahon welcomed the idea: "Reopening Parramatta would bring some much-needed bed space and take pressure off other jails."

The latest violence erupted at Wellington Correctional Centre yesterday afternoon as fires were set inside two cells. Guards who responded to fire alarms were assaulted by four prisoners who "came out swinging" as the doors opened.

The prisoners involved in the violence are said to be part of a Pacific Islander gang called the Outcasts.

"The guards suffered some cuts and bruises but I'm told one of the guards gave as good as he got," one source said.

Teargas was used to quell the violence, amid fears the four inmates may try to release other prisoners from cells.

"There was a further disturbance when staff were moving inmates due to smoke," a Corrections spokesman said.

"Some staff and inmates were treated at the scene by Justice Health."

The violence at Wellington Correctional Centre is said to have involved a group of inmates moved to the jail after violence at Goulburn prison. Guards used tear gas and live bullets, 'as a warning', to stop a brawl at Goulburn on January 26.

The state's prison population rocketed above capacity to about 12,300 inmates last year, causing major backlogs in courts and police stations.

## Pakenham: Balaclava-clad man firebombs police station



12 March - An unidentified man firebombed a police station in Pakenham last night, fleeing the scene before he could be arrested.

The balaclava-wearing assailant entered the station on the Princes Highway just before 1am carrying a lit Molotov cocktail.

Reportedly a policy of locking one of the two sets of doors leading into the station at night likely prevented the offender from being able to throw the firebomb at the officer manning the desk.

After failing to gain access through the second set of doors, the offender threw the Molotov cocktail at the glass doors and fled.

The Pakenham police station is yet to receive an upgraded "security screen" to protect the front desk, a security measure being rolled out across Victoria.

Police Association secretary Ron Iddles said the delay in installing the equipment was sparking anger and frustration among officers.

"We are fortunate that this offender was unable to fully enter the station foyer or this situation might have seen our members very seriously injured or worse. The Police Association has been calling for the installation of security screens at stations for over 18 months, but the installation of these screens is taking far too long," he said.

No injuries were reported. "The resulting fire was extinguished by members at the station," a police spokeswoman said.

## Nauru: Update on the refugee protests



28 April - For 40 days now refugee families detained in the RPC3 compound at the Australian detention center on Nauru have been staging daily protests against the conditions at the camp and to demand asylum in Australia.

On April 14 the protesting refugees wrote an open letter to the people of Australia calling on them to take action and protest in solidarity with them. The response from people in Australia has been fairly muted – some small protests and solidarity actions have taken place but nothing on a large scale as of yet. The fact that Australia's mainstream media are ignoring the protests is also a problem that only adds to the refugee's overall sense of isolation and abandonment.

In the past two weeks the situation on Nauru has escalated dramatically, on April 19 an Iranian Kurd refugee was arrested and charged by Nauru police after he tried to self-immolate. The man was distraught due to the fact that his one year old child is getting mentally ill due to the conditions at the detention center.

On April 27, detainee 'QLN027' began a hunger strike outside the RPC3 compound and a male refugee called Omid self-immolated resulting in serious burns to 80% of his body.

Omid was taken to the poorly-equipped and unhygienic Ron Hospital on Nauru where he was kept for almost 24 hours before finally being airlifted to the RBWH hospital in Brisbane, Australia. Latest reports indicate that Omid is in a very critical condition and may not survive.

Refugee solidarity activists are currently holding a vigil outside the hospital.

We have also learned that in the past 24 hours there have been several suicide attempts by refugees held on Nauru, as this article is being written we have also been informed that 2 refugees have swallowed razor blades.

## Sydney: Two residents arrested occupying empty Westconnex houses



April 30 – Two residents who occupied the roof of a forcibly acquired home in Haberfield to protect it from WestCONnex destruction this morning have been arrested and charged with trespass. Paul Jeffery, 62, and Chris Elenor, 65, spent four hours on the roof of 1 Wolseley St.. They decided to occupy the roof after the former family home was fenced off for demolition to make way for a WestCONnex construction compound.

"We took this stand to show solidarity with the hundreds of people who are losing their homes to this toll road," said Mr Jeffery. "We also wanted to stand up for our communities, which will suffer terribly from the toxic pollution and traffic WestCONnex will cause, and the people of NSW, who are being forced to pay for this \$16.8 billion disaster through tolls and taxes.

"They've treated residents with contempt in their rush to hand over billions of taxpayer dollars to companies accused of corruption," said Mr Jeffery.





## Alice Springs: Lest we forget sign at Anzac Hill vandalised



23 Apr - A sign in Alice Springs, at a memorial honouring soldiers, that was vandalised to read "we forget" has been repaired just days before Monday's Anzac Day commemorations.

Police were alerted on Saturday to damage at a sign, on Anzac Hill, that originally consisted of two-metre-high red letters made from Remembrance poppies reading "Lest we forget".

About 3:00am on Saturday all the letters making up the word "lest" were knocked over.

The president of the Alice Springs RSL, Dave Batic, said there was security at the site ahead of Monday's dawn service, which is expected to draw a crowd.

"The security guard was distracted by a few of the other youths and one individual started to damage one of the signs," Mr Batic said, adding five youths were involved in the vandalism.

Mr Batic said it was disappointing that young people would attack a sign honouring soldiers.

The sign had only been erected at the site on Friday.

There are now plans for extra security and gates have been placed near the signs to protect them, he said.

"It will be very difficult to try and damage the signs again."

## Gold Coast: Arson attack on private school



26 April – A fire that caused extensive damage to a Gold Coast private school is believed to have been deliberately lit.

Police have established a crime scene at St Andrew's Lutheran College at Tallebudgera, after fire gutted a theatre building.

The multi-level building was still smouldering on Tuesday morning.

Firefighters were called to the school after 11pm Monday night and a number of units, including a cherry picker, took some several hours to get the blaze under control.

Fire station officer Peter Richards said two of three levels were alight.

"We had about 25 fire officers as well as our hydraulic platform there to extinguish it," he said.

"We were there for about six hours. We managed to compartmentalise some of the classrooms but the major auditorium and the music room were completely destroyed."

Police have declared the area a crime scene and are treating the blaze as suspicious.

"The school J Block was completely engulfed and it suffered major structural damage," Senior Sergeant Angelique Maloney said.

St Andrew's principal Tim Kotzur said the fire would affect classes for students. He said it was devastating to see the building destroyed.

## Maules Creek: Women lock-on to save Aboriginal sacred site



8 March - United with Gomeroi Women on International Women's Day, three women, Tash Jones, Clarity Greenwood and Chelsea Lazar have locked themselves to habitat trees within the critically endangered Leard State Forest in North West NSW. While Gomeroi women gather on Leard forest road to show support and solidarity for today's action. Gomeroi elders are demanding protection for Lawlers Well, the last remaining sacred site scheduled for destruction by Whitehaven Coal.

Earlier this week Gomeroi/Gamilaraay men locked on to concrete barrels on a haul road to physically stop the theft of their land.



## Sydney: 'Free Transport, Full Communism'

18 March – Police are hunting a deranged group of thugs who are inciting members of the public to physically attack transport officers, ticket inspectors and council rangers.

The cowardly vandals are also urging people to destroy train and bus ticket machines, Opal card readers and parking meters.

Going by the name Free Transport, Full Communism, the anarchist group also encourages public transport passengers to refuse to pay fares.

The group, which police have yet to track down or identify, has been plastering anti-establishment posters near train stations throughout the inner city.

Under the heading "Transport Officers Are Scum" and an image depicting two ticket inspectors with telescopic rifle sights on their faces, the poster refers to an anarchist website called "disaccords" which uploads articles about people rebelling against government.

"Spit venom and throw bricks at Transport Officers, Police, City Rangers and every other stooge enforcing capitalist law," it says.

The posters, which have been shared by thousands of Facebook users, have caused alarm among police, state and local government and transport and police unions, who fear people's lives are at risk.

Ticket Inspectors have already been suffering a high rate of violent attacks. About 80 per cent of train guards have experienced confrontations with violent or aggressive customers, according to a rail union survey.

Head of the Police Transport Command Max Mitchell confirmed rail officials and police in the Joint Transport Intelligence Group were searching for the anarchists.

Transport Minister Andrew Constance was appalled by the posters: "It's disgusting to see material like this distributed in our community."

Rail Tram & Bus Union state secretary Alex Claassens described those behind the poster campaign as "grubs".

Police Association president Scott Weber described the use of violence as cowardly.



## Adelaide: Cory Bernardi's office trashed

18 March – Senator Cory Bernardi has demanded that the “full force of the law” be brought to bear on protesters who trashed his office.

The university students and high-school pupils, who were protesting against his opposition to the Safe Schools anti-bullying program and ongoing debate about same-sex marriage, reportedly engaged in vandalism and “threatening behaviour”.

Student protesters left graffiti and rubbish strewn about in Senator Cory Bernardi's Kent Town office in Adelaide.

Both Flinders and Adelaide universities released statements condemning the action.

Branding the protesters “a bunch of cowards”, Senator Bernardi labelled the fracas a form of intolerance and intimidation that only “strengthened his resolve”.

“I'm happy for the full force of the law to be brought upon those who've done property damage and threatened my staff.”

Police reported one man for graffiti damage to a road sign and are reviewing CCTV evidence from the scene.

About 20 students — from Adelaide and Flinders universities, UniSA and high schools — occupied the Grenfell St office at noon and scrawled abusive messages on the outside walls and veranda.

They also overturned tables and chairs, wrote messages in chalk on the carpet and chanted slogans such as “racist, sexist, anti-queer, Bernardi is not welcome here”.

During the commotion, Bernardi's wife, Sinead, and staffers retreated into other rooms.

The protesters ripped up pamphlets in Senator Cory Bernardi's reception area and chanted slogans as Bernardi's staff took shelter in another room.



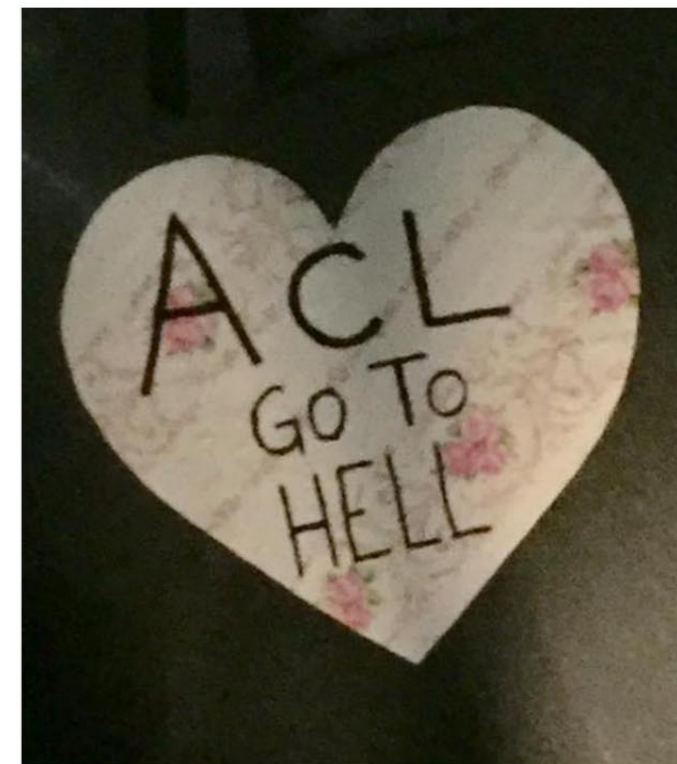
Previous events organized by Equal Love have been justifiably criticized for not centering the issues of Transphobia and Transmisogyny as well as placing nearly all of the emphasis on mainstream queer issues such as marriage equality. This time however a banner reading ‘TRANSPHOBIA KILLS’ was displayed prominently during the counter-demonstration along with the Trans flag and the Pink Bloc ‘QUEERS REVOLT’ banner that was last seen at the disruption of the mainstream ‘Melbourne Pride Parade’.

Many different voices were heard on the open mic, including one memorable speech by a young Trans activist who stated that it was the responsibility of cis-gendered queer activists to ensure that Trans issues were centered, they also stated that cis-normativity and homo-normativity in our community need to be confronted and destroyed.

While the blockade did not succeed in shutting down the event completely, many bigoted ACL supporters were prevented from getting inside the church and the ones who did attend had to run the gauntlet of angry protesters. Several ACL bigots tried to violently storm their way into the church but the blockaders stood their ground. As per usual an over the top Victoria Police presence was in attendance using disproportionate levels of violence in response to what was in essence a fairly peaceful blockade.

Towards the end of the counter-demonstration local fascist Neil Erikson, a former member of neo-nazi group United Patriots Front turned up with his camera-person in toe and immediately began trying to provoke and intimidate the counter-demonstrators. A scuffle ensued that resulted in Erikson having to make a very hasty exit with a bloodied face and some serious bruising. Unfortunately police intervened and deployed capicum-spray; two counter-demonstrators were detained as a result of this scuffle, however latest reports indicate that they were both issued fines for ‘breach of the peace’ and were not charged with any criminal offences. Laughably, Erikson later took to social media making the laughable claim that he ‘knocked an anarchist out’.

All in all a successful counter-demonstration and blockade with the added bonus of seeing a prominent fascist getting his comeuppance!





## Melb: LGBTQI community blockade of Australian Christian Lobby event

27 April - Last night the far-right religious conservative, transphobic, queerphobic hate group the Australian Christian Lobby (ACL) held an event at Scot's Church in Naarm / Melbourne CBD.

The ACL have been running a reactionary campaign in conjunction with the ruling Liberal National Party (LNP) that has resulted in the LNP cutting vital aspects of the Safe Schools program, a program that was set up to stop bullying of LGBTQI kids in schools. In Tasmania, the ACL are attempting to block changes to Equal Opportunity legislation which would remove obstacles that currently prevent Transgender people from changing the sex indicated on their birth certificates. The ACL are also campaigning to repeal abortion laws in Victoria and to block change to laws affecting sex workers in South Australia.

One of the speakers at the Naarm / Melbourne event included Eric Metaxas, a conservative bigot from the USA who is infamous for campaigning against marriage equality being legalized and for being part of the attack against Trans people using public toilets.

In response, the mainstream queer group Equal Love organized what was touted as being a peaceful 'speak out' against the event. However a sizable contingent of militant LGBTQI anarchists, antifascists and anti-authoritarians and their supporters were in attendance and quickly decided that a counter-protest and blockade of the event would also take place.



Once police arrived, the students went outside, knocking over a fence outside the office on their way and leaving paper and rubbish strewn around. One sign read: "Eat rainbow, bigot."

Senator Bernardi tweeted: "What a bunch of cowards. Lefty totalitarians have trashed my office and threatened my staff."

Tom Gilchrist, Adelaide University's Student Representative Council president and several other SRC members from the socialist group Student Voice were among the protesters.

Mr Gilchrist defended the protesters' actions on Friday, saying the damage was "completely superficial".

"This is nothing compared to the damage being done to LGBTI people," he said of the Federal Government's decision to "gut" the Safe Schools program, announced on Friday shortly after the protest.

"That is the really disgusting thing."

Senator Bernardi was a vocal critic of Safe Schools, a program to prevent bullying on gender and sexuality grounds.

He said the program was intimidating, indoctrinating, and bullying children by picking on heterosexual children.

Pressure from backbenchers forced Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull to announce a review of the program. Tensions over the issue heated this week to the point where Queensland MP George Christensen tried to link the program to paedophilia and started a petition calling for a full inquiry.

On Friday, the Government released the review and announced a radically altered version of the the program.



## Willow Tree: Coal trains disrupted



20 March - A protest in Willow Tree NSW has halted Whitehaven Coal's trains from reaching Newcastle Port. Trains were stopped for 5 hours after 33 year old Jamie Dunit scaled, and occupied, the locomotives pulling the wagons laden with coal from Whitehaven's coal mine. This action occurs in the midst of a government crackdown on people who try to defend themselves from the impact of fossil fuel industries through direct action.

Jamie told journalists that "These new laws are a last ditch attempt from a dying industry to save itself as people stand up for their rights. We are showing them that we will not be deterred from protesting. We will not be silenced".

"New legislation in NSW means that a person protecting their communities from mining will face a similar fine to a company that is in breach of environmental regulations," said former mining worker and Front Line Action On Coal member Jason Mclean.

Jason said that these actions "will not stop. Mike Baird's condemnation will not stop us from standing up against dodgy companies like Whitehaven. We will stand up to them from the Pit to the Port."

## Melb: Kurdish refugee re-starts hunger strike after Immigration break promise

24 March - Refugee advocates have grave fears for the welfare of 36-year-old Kurdish refugee, Sardar Zahiri, who has re-started a hunger strike in Melbourne after being moved from Perth.

Sardar was hospitalised in Perth after 20 days of a hunger strike in the Perth detention centre in February, this year.

After continuing his hunger strike at the Royal Perth Hospital, he was told by the treating psychiatrist that he had discussed Zahiri's case with Immigration and that Immigration had agreed, if Zahiri began eating, he would be transferred to a Melbourne clinic and then placed in community detention.

Zahiri was transferred to The Melbourne Clinic, a private psychiatric hospital, but instead of being released in to community detention, he has been placed in the high security, Maribyrnong Immigration Detention Centre.

He waited five days to see if the promise of community detention was going to be kept. Then, Sardar began a hunger strike in protest at the broken promise four days ago, Monday, 21 March. His physical condition has deteriorated rapidly.

"We're seriously concerned for Sardar's welfare," said Ian Rintoul, of the Refugee Action Coalition, "He has lost all hope, and any trust, which wasn't much, that he had in the Immigration officers and doctors, who promised he would get community detention."

"Why immigration would live up to the first part of its undertaking to Sardar, to transfer him to Melbourne, but has reneged on the issue of community detention is both cruel and inexplicable, unless they want to inflict yet more mental torture."

Sardar's case is eerily reminiscent of that of Fezal Chegeni, the Kurdish man who was found dead on Christmas Island in November, last year.

In spite of being found to be a refugee in 2012, Sardar has been held in indefinite detention as a result of being given a good behaviour bond in 2013 following Immigration property being damaged in an incident in the Darwin detention centre.

His detention nightmare has led Sardar to attempt suicide on 12 occasions. He has damaged neck vertebrae, giving him constant pain, from a hanging attempt in Darwin early this year.

Immigration officers told Sardar today that the Minister hasn't agreed for him to be moved into community detention, and regarding his hunger strike, that "It was not important whether you live or die, that is up to you."

## Narrabri: Coal mine shut down by protesters



11 April - Narrabri underground coal mine, operated by Whitehaven was temporarily shut down when Hannah Grant and Lily Matchett locked-on to a coal conveyor.

"We have obligations to take care of country and everything within it. If we look after the land it will look after us. Life sustains life," said Dolly Talbot, Gomeroi Traditional Custodian.

Hannah Grant said of her actions, "these companies are destroying land to the point of no return and causing catastrophic climate change. Around the world it is people who contribute the least to climate change who will be affected the most. End coal now."

In 2016 we continue to break regional, national and global temperature records, while coal mines are approved for expansion and the Government continues paying lip service to climate solutions.

Government has failed to put the cultural land rights of Gomeroi/Gamilaraay people ahead of mine expansion by Whitehaven Coal in critically endangered forest.

Lily Matchett said, "I'm taking action because the coal industry is running Aboriginal land and our health and environment into the ground in the name of capital. I'm watching my government do nothing to stop climate change or assist workers into sustainable jobs. There was only so much watching I could do before taking matters into my own hands."

## Sydney: Two WestConnex protesters arrested after occupying empty house

April 15 - Two protesters have been arrested after refusing to leave a house slated for demolition as part of the WestConnex motorway project. Sydney residents Bill Holliday and Sharon Laura were detained on Saturday morning after spending the night inside the fenced-off house in Haberfield, due to be demolished.



The suburb is heritage-listed as a Conservation Area and the house, which did not belong to either of the protesters, had been compulsorily acquired to make way for a construction site for WestConnex.

The 33-kilometre road project is due to be opened to traffic by 2023 and will see the M4 and M5 widened, extended and joined together.

Mr Holliday, whose home in Lilyfield will also be affected by the motorway, was carried out of the house by two officers and placed into a police wagon.

The last time he was arrested was in 1974, when he was protesting the construction of an expressway near Glebe.

"I insisted that I'd have to be carried out," Mr Holliday said. "It was deliberate. The topic of WestConnex has not had the attention that it deserves."

The pair were eventually released from Burwood Police Station without charge.

Ms Laura, a Haberfield resident, said they had not been deterred from participating in future protests. "It's sort of like an act of desperation, to be honest," she said.

Several people stayed inside the Haberfield house overnight, Ms Laura said, and a dozen or so protesters gathered outside with placards.

A Sydney Motorway Corporation spokesman said four protesters had illegally entered the house.

"Any illegal behaviour that seeks to intentionally disturb local residents and jeopardise individual safety cannot be condoned and is unacceptable," the spokesman said.

WestConnex protests have been an increasingly familiar sight, with residents opposed to the project standing in the way of trucks, occupying construction sites and holding snap rallies around Sydney.

Last February, academic Peter Ross was arrested and charged with trespassing after locking himself to a drilling rig in St Peters.

## Nauru: Refugee Protests Escalate



8 April - Daily protests continue at the RPC3 family compound despite increasing efforts by Immigration and the Nauru police to stifle them.

More protests are expected today as the asylum seekers were promised a response, by today, from Australia's Border Force following tent-top protests by children detained in the RPC3 camp, over two nights on the weekend.

Border Force agreed to send a letter written by the children to Canberra outlining their concerns.

Anti-ABF graffiti appeared overnight Sunday on a wall in Anijuw, a compound inside RPC3, after Nauru police confiscated four phones from refugees filming the protests, at the behest of the ABF.

No response has been received from ABF by this afternoon, although the family of one of the boys in the roof-top protests received a positive determination this afternoon.

"We are very angry," one asylum seeker told the Refugee Action Coalition, "They are trying to separate us. We have been kept in hell for three years. Why are we in Nauru?"



## Perth: First Nations People lead homeless action at WA Parliament



14 April - Some people from Matagarup/ Heirisson Island led a march and sit in at Western Australia's Parliament House for the homeless today.

The Noongar Sovereign Tent Embassy has been known as Matagarup Refugee Camp since the government started forced closures of remote communities of First Nations Peoples. It serves as a camp for the people displaced by the genocidal policies of the racist government. Despite the island being a registered Aboriginal Heritage Site the racist cops and council have evicted them and stolen their belongings countless times.

Today's action was for all homeless people wherever they may live.



## Newcastle: Action Shuts Down Coal Exports



25 March - Some people have taken direct action to interrupt coal exports from Whitehaven's Maules Creek mine this morning. One woman has occupied a coal line, stopping trains from entering the coal export terminal at Kooragang Island in Newcastle. They have taken a stand to preserve the remaining ecosystems & Aboriginal Sacred Sites in the Leard State Forest where the Maules Creek mine is situated.

Front Line Action on Coal is calling for an end to the coal industry and a shift into renewable energy sources stating that the coal industry and the Maules creek mine are detrimental to the environment, the Aboriginal cultural heritage of the local Gomerioi nation, native wildlife, ecology, water resources & community health.

Hundreds of people have been arrested over the past four years in protest against Whitehaven Coal's destruction of the Leard State Forest since direct opposition began in 2012. Today's action is a part of ongoing effort to protect Lawler's well, one of the last remaining sacred sites for the local Gomerioi/Gamilaraay tribe in the Leard state forest.

Chelsea Lazar said of her actions today "When we look back at the destruction will we ask ourselves, why didn't we do more? Our government is failing us and silencing us. How much longer will we continue to watch our forests plundered, our water poisoned, our rights stolen before we all stand together and say; enough is enough."

## Bentley: Police called to teen mental health unit riot

27 March - Teenagers at a mental health facility reportedly "conspired together" to start a riot.

The March 13 disturbance got so out of control, police were called to Bentley Adolescent Unit, a 12-bed facility for children aged 12 to 17.

The Child and Adolescent Health Service (CAHS) said security staff "had to use restraint to contain the situation".

The "physical restraint" was used as per the service's "restraint and seclusion" policies. Extra staff and police attended to "help contain the situation".

No staff were injured and there were no arrests.

Health Advocate Debora Colvin said it "pointed to a crisis in the system that is on its knees".

She said the flare-up exacerbated staff shortages and led to a code yellow alert on March 17, which shut the facility to new patients. Ms Colvin said she was told before the trouble of concerns the teenagers were using mobile phones to "plan something".

"Kids were texting each other and planning things and kids from outside were trying to get admitted into the unit," Ms Colvin said.

She said health officials had described the episode to her as a "riot", "One girl had barricaded herself in a room. Nurses couldn't control them. There was a lot of shouting and screaming and banging on the window of the nurses' station," she said.

Ms Colvin said 103 people aged under 25 were kept involuntarily in Perth since November. More than 15 per cent of all involuntary mental health inpatients were youths.



## Willow Tree: Coal Trains Stopped in Their Tracks



29 March - Coal trains bound for Newcastle from Whitehaven and Idemitsu mines have again been stopped by protesters opposing the continuing expansion of coal mines.

Three eco activists occupied a locomotive at Willow Tree in rural NSW, stopping all coal trains from reaching port and effectively shutting down the coal production line.

Coal production continues to expand in NSW, despite global acknowledgement that fossil fuel consumption is drastically changing the world's atmosphere and is sending greenhouse gas emissions to levels not seen before in human existence. In addition, the broadscale clearing of carbon-dense forest by Whitehaven Coal at the Maules Creek mine is driving landscape-scale loss of biodiversity and huge losses of natural carbon stores.

The Government sanctioned destruction of the Leard State Forest at Maules Creek is causing the loss of irreplaceable ecosystems that contain at least 34 threatened species, and is home to the largest remaining intact area of critically endangered Grassy White Box Woodland in NSW. Current estimates suggest that as little as 400 hectares of unmodified GWBW are left in Australia, providing critical habitat for Koalas, Tiger Quolls and nationally threatened bird species such as the Regent Honeyeater and Swift Parrot.

"The actions of protesters this afternoon have been taken to highlight that coal has no future, and ours is on the line," said Frontline Action on Coal member Jason McLean.

## Melb: Banner in solidarity with anarchist prisoner



29 March - Banner at Richmond railway station in solidarity with vegan anarchist prisoner Osman Evcan, on hunger strike since 22nd February in Turkey for the right to receive vegan meals as well as improvements to basic living conditions and communications with the outside world.

## Darwin: Businesses face huge vandalism bill

1 April - Vandals left four Darwin businesses counting the cost of another "senseless act" of destruction in the CBD.

Police were gathering evidence from the shopfronts of businesses on Searcy St after several windows were smashed last night.

Matthew Pullman from Elders Real Estate said the business was looking at a \$15,000 damage bill.

"Glass alone at the minute is looking to be about \$8000 to \$10,000. Then we've got the wrapping and all the plastic along the top you're looking at around \$15,000."



## Melbourne: Police and Protesters Clash Outside Liberal Party Dinner

8 April - Police have used capsicum spray on protesters outside a Liberal Party dinner to mark the 20th anniversary of the election of John Howard's government.

However, Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull is believed to have avoided the skirmish in Melbourne's Docklands by arriving by boat and entering the back of Shed 14 behind a police line.

About 150 people gathered outside the Central Pier function venue about 6pm on Friday to protest the federal government's changes to higher education and the treatment of asylum seekers.

Students, unionists and refugee activists held placards and chanted slogans such as "No ifs, no buts, no education cuts."

The demonstrators scuffled with police, including about 50 uniformed officers, as well as five mounted police and some Australian Federal Police.

The protesters yelled "scum" and "shame" at guests and jostled them as they arrived at the venue and were ushered around the rear of the venue by security guards.

Some of the building's windows were broken, with officers using pepper spray on about 20 people, including an ABC cameraman.

Matt Munro, 46, from Hoppers Crossing, said he was sprayed in the eyes and mouth at close range after questioning an officer who had allegedly punched his friend.

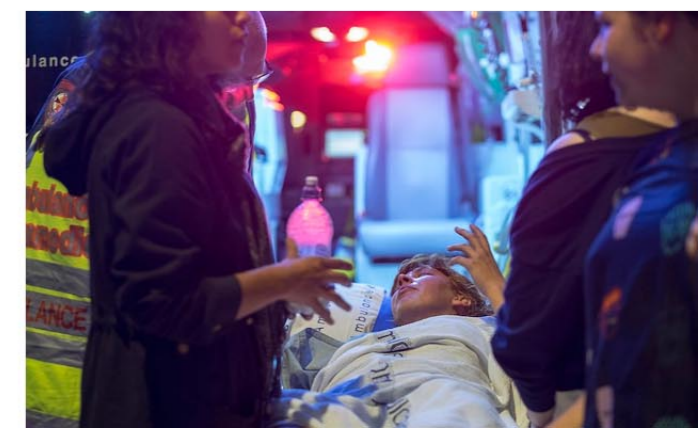
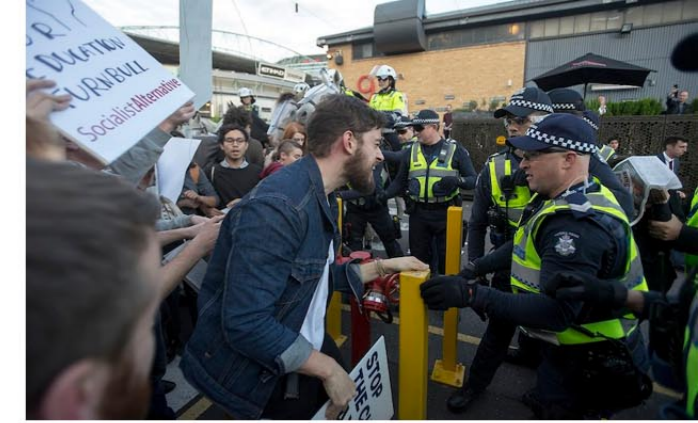
He and other people were treated by ambulances at the scene.

Mr Howard, as well as Mr Turnbull and Victorian Opposition Leader Matthew Guy were due to speak at the \$1100-a-head party fundraiser, held at the Harbour Esplanade venue, Peninsula.

Several state and federal ministers and MPs were also expected to attend the event.

One of the rally's organisers, Kim Stern, 20, from the Monash Student Association said it had been a success because those who had tickets had an "absolutely horrible time" getting in.

"I don't think the fat cats and the Liberal Party deserve a peaceful night out when they have abused refugees and attacked students through deregulation and fee hikes," Stern said.



## Ravenhall: Screws still off work after smoking riot



6 April - Dozens of prison staff traumatised by prisoners during Victoria's smoking ban riots have not returned to work more than 10 months after the rampage.

Prison guard union figures reveal 30 Metropolitan Remand Centre workers are battling stress, anxiety and depression and have been unable to work following the 14-hour siege in June last year.

And alarmingly, WorkCover director Geoff Lewin warned the figure was expected to double in the next 12 months "because of the post-traumatic stress suffered by many still at the site".

A WorkCover report revealed 100 incidents occurred during the siege including 18 traumatic events, two assaults and 49 cases of occupational violence.

Others had threats scrawled against them on walls and one officer's personal address was passed around inmates after a guard area was ransacked.

The increasing numbers on extended sick leave has resulted in 18 officers being called in from other prisons to help run the remand centre, a move that is placing pressure on staff across the prison network.

"The staff feel like they are still at risk," one guard told journalists. "They are going to the doctor and saying, 'I can't do this any more, I have had enough'."

## Sydney: Riot police clash with student protesters



7 April - Riot police have forcibly removed a group of protesting students from the University of Sydney library during an event attended by the federal Education Minister Simon Birmingham on Wednesday night.

In a video posted online, police can be seen pulling students to their feet and pushing them through the open glass doorways of the Fisher Library.

The group of about 30 students were protesting against the coalition's proposal to deregulate university fees as Mr Birmingham adjudicated a round of the Sydney University's Liberal Club's John Howard Debating Cup.

According to witnesses, the group had been chanting and making speeches for roughly 15 minutes before the police formed a barricade around the group and removed them.

"People were nearly trampled. Students were heavily traumatised by the police action," organiser of the protest and SRC Education officer Liam Carrigan told Honi Soit.

SRC General Secretary Georgia Mantle said "[the police officers] put me in a wristlock and pulled my hair and lifted me up by the ankles".

During the scuffle, the security door to the library was reportedly badly damaged.

The police had arrived earlier in the afternoon ahead of the event.

The protesters chanted "Simon Birmingham get out, we know what you're all about: Cuts, job losses, money for the bosses".

"We're education activists and we're here because there's a Liberal education minister in this building and he has the gall to step into this university when he wants to deregulate university fees," one female protester can be heard saying over a megaphone.



## Melb: Homeless Person's Union occupy state owned empty homes

30 March - Early this morning a coalition of Homeless Persons Union activists and members of Melbourne's homeless community occupied a number of empty properties on Bendigo St, Collingwood. The properties are among those that were compulsorily acquired by the former Napthine government for the now defunct East West link.

There are 35,000+ Victorians on the public housing waiting list, growing at 100 per month. This is while the Andrews government neglects, demolishes and privatises public housing.

Each and every person has a right to safe, secure and affordable housing. People lose their lives due to medical conditions acquired through being exposed to the elements whilst living rough.





## Geelong: Furious pensioner sets ATM alight

1 April – A pensioner who took issue with ANZ, allegedly smashed up an ATM and blew it up.

Ivan Edwards, 71, has been charged after he was apparently caught on CCTV footage destroying an ANZ bank ATM in Geelong, a city 100km south-west of Melbourne.

The footage shows a man in a bright fluoro orange jumper approach the ATM with a torch and smash the machine several times with a crow bar. He then poured petrol on the ATM's keys, screen and on the ground before walking away and flicking a match at the foot of the machine.

The blaze engulfed the shopfront, destroying the machine and causing hundreds of thousands of dollars damage.

Significant damage also spread inside the bank, burning through windows and taking hold inside.

Police told journalists that Mr Edwards had unsuccessfully attempted to withdraw cash from the ATM on Pakington Street on Tuesday.

They will allege Mr Edwards returned to the ATM at 2.30am on Wednesday to carry out the attack with the crowbar.

Following an inspection of Mr Edwards home on Wednesday, police allege they found the crowbar and petrol used and the same shoes and jumper seen in the CCTV footage.

Mr Edwards was seen being led from his home pushing a walking frame to a waiting police car where he was taken into custody

'It wasn't me, I wasn't there and I didn't do it,' Mr Edwards could be heard saying.

Mr Edwards was charged with criminal damage.

While he initially denied any knowledge of the attack to journalists, after leaving court he stated to reporters that "next time it should be a 44 gallon drum"



## Melbourne: Far-right demo attacked outside Halal food expo



3 April - A Halal food festival was rocked by a violent brawl between anti-Islam protesters and far-left activists.

About 30 far-left protesters wearing black clothing and balaclavas, believed to be part of the anti-fascist Antifa group, swarmed a group of right-wing extremists.

Demonstrators on both sides threw punches, wrestled each other and pinned each other to the ground outside the festival in Ascot Vale.

One right-wing protester was punched in the face and left bleeding, and another was left scarred after he was struck with a pole.

The brawl continued for about two minutes before about five police officers on horseback quelled the fight.

A police spokesman said that "a group was protesting outside the Showgrounds when a second group moved through them about 12.30pm," "Police intervened and the second group dispersed. One man in the first group was transported to hospital with a facial injury".

Some right-wing activists wore t-shirts that read "Rapefugees not welcome" while others wore burqas and waved placards reading "Muslim terrorists not welcome here".

Arguments broke out between the far-right protesters and Muslim passersby, who were attending the festival.

