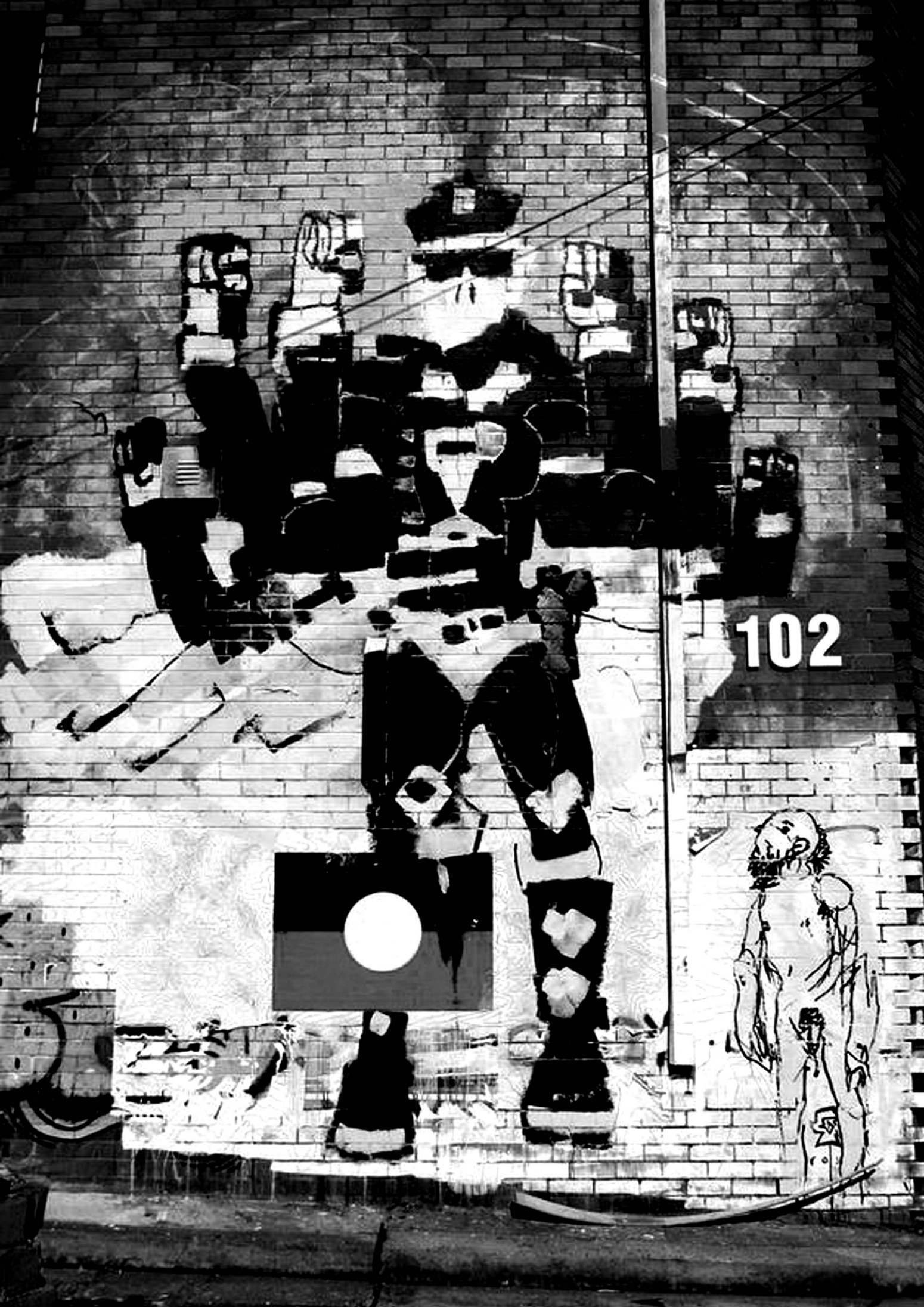


Bi-annual report on indigenous, ecological and anti-capitalist resistance in the occupied territory known as Australia



102

FTP



III.

FuckThePoliceFightThePowerFreeThePrisonersFireToPatriarchy

Welcome to the third issue of FTP zine, our fairly regular report on anti-colonial, anti-state resistance, compiled within occupied Gadigal territory. As the length of the previous issue became a hassle for us to print it in large quantities we've chosen to turn the publication into a bi-annual rather than yearly report.

Like the previous issue 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 or its schools. We have also included some reports of particularly egregious behaviour by state agents, if only as examples of grievances to be avenged.

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 or may not be responsible for this project.

The contents include communiqués, media releases, photos, posters and leaflets which have been found on self-publishing pages (such as indymedia.org.au), or radical blogs (such as disaccords.wordpress.com). 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.

- FTP zine crew, July 2014

Albany: Another bobcat used in ATM attack



3 Jan - Police in Albany suspect an attack on an automatic teller machine may be linked to a similar incident on the south coast a few months earlier.

The latest attack is estimated to have caused about \$100,000 damage to the machine and the Centro Albany shopping centre.

Early yesterday morning a bobcat, that had been stolen from the City of Albany depot, was used to ram an ANZ ATM at the centre on Chester Pass Road.

The offenders did not get any cash.

In August, a stolen bulldozer from a nearby construction site was used to ram an ATM at a shopping centre in the Albany suburb of Bayonet Head.

In that incident, the thieves fled empty handed but still caused \$200,000 damage including to the machinery.

Detective Sergeant Vaughan Mackay suspects the two incidents could be linked.

"Obviously the offenders have a good working knowledge of skid steers and heavy machinery, so the circumstances around it leads us to believe that they may be linked," he said.

Police believe the attacks are not linked to a series of ATM attacks in Perth.

"The offenders are putting themselves in danger, in regards to possible structural damage and electrocution" Det Sgt Macay said.

He said the latest incident had caused significant disruption and surprise in the area.

"Obviously they're shocked, the damage that's caused and the disruption to the bank and its customers and the shopping centre, obviously causes significant inconvenience."

Perth: Vandals damage war memorial



4 Jan - Vandals have again damaged a Northern Midlands war memorial, this time cutting off the side of a soldier's slouch hat and leaving numerous rock marks on the memorial in the Perth Lions Park.

Perth Lions Park Memorial ground caretaker Stuart Green discovered the "sickening" vandalism of the 93-year-old Perth War Memorial on Thursday before alerting council and police.

He believed a thrown rock could have done the damage.

However, police and Northern Midlands RSL Sub Branch president Brian Harper believe otherwise.

"They would need a hammer or an axe to do that damage," Mr Harper said.

Longford police Senior Constable Sam Lloyd believed whoever was responsible may have climbed the memorial.

"I'd be tending to think that it has been done by youths and there's been sighting of youths hanging around the memorial grounds over the past few days," he said.

He said the damage would have been committed some time between December 31 and January 2 and police needed witnesses to come forward to investigate further.

It is the second time vandals have damaged the memorial, after the Italian marble soldier was spray-painted blue and orange in 2005, which cost the Northern Midlands RSL Sub Branch and the Northern Midlands Council about \$5000 to fix.

Northern Midlands Mayor Kim Polley said the offence was despicable.

Protesters Block Timber Exports



8 Jan - A group of conservationists gathered at the Hobart port yesterday, where a ship was loading native forest veneer for export overseas. Holding a banner calling for an end to native forest destruction, the group stood in solidarity with conservationists from New South Wales and Victoria who simultaneously halted the loading of a woodchip ship in Eden.

“From the veneer ships in Tasmania to the woodchip ships exporting the forests of NSW and Victoria, conservationists are today taking a stand against the chain of forest destruction” said Miranda from Still Wild Still Threatened.

In Eden two people were arrested after locking themselves to the woodchip conveyor in order to stop loading of the woodchip vessel. This action is part of Fearless Summer, a national collaboration between grassroots forest groups from around Australia. After a nine hour shutdown of ship loading at Eden woodchip mill, our courageous lock-ons were cut free and taken away to be charged. The officer who cut them off did so in a reckless way, and they were injured in the process.

“Every day our precious forests are being lost, and our wildlife pushed closer to extinction, while the taxpayer foots the bill. The forestry industry has proven itself time and again to have blatant disregard for the environment and its own regulations. What we are seeing is an extinction crisis in the making, happening across Australia, and the fearless actions of these conservationists to confront this shows great courage” said David Caldwell of Goongerah Environment Centre

The two conservationists have been charged with ‘remaining on enclosed lands’, and ‘intimidation’.

These are the same charges that two other conservationists face for locking on to the conveyor back in December. They appeared in Eden court today and plead guilty to the enclosed lands charge, but not guilty to the charge of intimidation. Their brief will be handed down on the 12th of February, and their case heard on the 5th of March.

Boggabri: Activists Blockade Mine

13 Jan - On Monday about 30 activists, including local Aboriginal community members, blockaded heavy vehicles which are at the Boggabri site to build roads and a rail line.

If the road to Whitehaven Coal’s proposed \$767 million open-cut mine is cut through the forest then animals, plants and sacred Aboriginal sites would be lost, said Georgia from the Leard Forest Alliance.

She said the protesters, stationed throughout the large forest, wouldn’t be leaving anytime soon.

“It’s our intention to remain here the rest of the week and until this forest gets a reprieve and it’s protected from this coal mine,” she said.

About 20 police were at Monday’s protest.

“Police rescue have gone in. They will be trying to remove our protesters,” Georgia said.

“But we think they’re set up in a way that they won’t be able to be removed quickly.” Protesters also blockaded the site in December after the Federal Court dismissed an application by the Northern Inland Council for the Environment (NICE), which had called for the approval granted by former environment minister Tony Burke to be overturned. Police cut the activists free before arresting them.

Boggabri: Blockade of Mine Site Enters Third Day

14 Jan - Activists have blockaded the Maules Creek mine site at Boggabri in New South Wales, Australia, for three days now.

On Monday, 30 protestors, including members of Aboriginal groups, descended on the site, with some locking themselves to heavy machines.

Yesterday, 10 more protestors joined the group, re-enforcing an ad-hoc encampment and locking down to bulldozers.

The Leard Forest is set to be destroyed by the open pit coal mine, and the heavy machines are supposed to start clearing forest for Whitehaven Coal’s operation. The forest is important habitat, as well as a cultural and burial site for Aboriginal people in the area.

Sydney: Anti-racist redecoration



24 Jan - On the evening of January 24 some anti-fascists reworked a racist mural in Newtown, on a property owned by Sergio Redegalli on the stolen land of the Gadigal people. For the past 4 years he's been continually repainting islamophobic statements on the walls of his glass business which has been vandalised hundreds of times now. Despite his expensive security precautions, including numerous CCTV cameras, and motion sensor floodlights, it remains easy to attack.

He had only repainted the mural a couple days previously, and the new mural said "STOP MULTICULTURALISM", calling it a "Petri dish that islam exploits". We covered the words in red paint then sprayed:

BASH THE FASH
FUCK RACIST SCUM

On his other wall he has painted "FREE SPEECH", which is ironic considering that his racist speech is protected by law while the ability of others to project their speech onto these walls is criminalised.

Our action was in direct response to a 'protest' Sergio attended earlier that day against 'muslim rapists' in Rozelle. That gathering was organised by Sergio's best buddy, Nick Hunter Folkes, fuehrer of the tiny 'Party For Freedom' sect (a recent split from the tiny 'Australian Protectionist Party'). A measly 6 fascists showed up carrying a banner reading 'AUSSIE WOMEN ARE NOT HALAL MEAT'.

This gathering was apparently in response to police reports that a man of Iranian decent has been charged with sexually assaulting a young woman at the Anzac bridge. Through this action they attempt to racialise perceptions of violence against women and make invisible the violence women suffer at the hands of men generally.

They consciously play up the old racist and sexist anxiety amongst some white males of the imagined pure white woman being desecrated by a man of colour.

Merely looking through the webpage of the party one finds loads of sexist and misogynistic content, with numerous demeaning and sexualised cartoons of former PM Julia Gillard, Greens Senator Sarah Hanson Young and other women. Sergio himself gave an interview in 2012 in which he claimed to have been oppressed throughout his life by "man-hating lesbians".

This fascist party obviously couldn't give a fuck about patriarchy or rape culture in general. They did not react to reports of female asylum seekers being raped by guards in off-shore detention, nor will they protest on Invasion day in memory of the countless aboriginal girls and women abducted and raped by colonists throughout the brutal conquest of this land. The party and Sergio in particular, openly and aggressively demonise Muslim women who chose to wear any form of Islamic dress, campaigning for them to be criminalised. They help create and encourage a climate for sexist, racist violence against Muslim women. In Sydney alone there have been numerous reports of Muslim women in Islamic dress being abused, spat on and assaulted with their headwear torn off by racist white males.

While denouncing multiculturalism and comparing it to a 'petri dish' or 'failed experiment' they ignore and try to whitewash the real multiculturalism of the Aboriginal societies before invasion 226 years ago. Prior to the colonial genocide this land mass consisted of more than 200 distinct languages and coexisting national cultures.

We cannot allow these fascist to publicly spread their xenophobia without consequence. For now these groups are tiny, but as racist ideas are fairly widespread in this country, these sects have the potential to grow if not aggressively opposed. Lets drive the racists off our streets.

White Australia has a Black History
Fuck Patriarchy and Aussie Pride

Syd & Melb: Vandals attack Australia Day

24 June - Less than two days before the country's national day of celebration, graffiti vandals have sprayed slogans at historic sites in Sydney and Melbourne.

In Sydney Australia day was attacked at a place where white settlers first sailed into Sydney more than two centuries ago. An eight kilometre stretch along the Botany Bay shoreline was targeted, including a park which will host a citizenship ceremony on Sunday.

The trail of graffiti stretched from Brighton Le Sands, through Cook Park to Dolls Point.

Council workers have spent the entire day scrubbing off and spraying over the offensive messages. Political stickers and posters were also left on signs, toilet blocks, public walls and businesses.

Some people who were preparing for Australian Day parties at the targetted locations were outraged.

Rockdale mayor Shane O'Brien said: "To attack public and private property does nothing for the cause of Aboriginal people."

While in Melbourne vandals got in ahead of extra security planned for Captain Cook's cottage over the Australia Day weekend.

The Melbourne monument was sprayed with anti-Australia graffiti for the second year in a row early on Friday morning, with slogans reading "26th Jan Australia's shame" and "Fuck Australia Day".

A window was smashed in, fluorescent-coloured paint was sprayed all across the historic cottage.

Police believe light globes filled with paint were also used to vandalise the second storey of the cottage.

Melbourne Lord Mayor Robert Doyle said CCTV cameras, added after last year's attacks, had caught footage of the vandals and more security had been added to the cottage.

"We'll put security on there from now until early next week so it'll be under guard," Mr Doyle said.

"We were actually planning on doing that for this weekend but unfortunately these vandals got in in advance."

Detective Senior Constable Scott Gray says police are reviewing security footage from the area. "It does indicate that at least two people have been involved in this," he said. "They seem to know where the cameras are placed around the gardens but there is some footage that has been captured."

"Coming so close to Australia Day in Victoria and Australia, it's quite disturbing that people can do this," he said.

While no group has claimed responsibility for Friday's attack, a claim was posted on the anarchist blog "disaccords" for a 2013 attack on the building, which said that the denial of Australia's 'brutal' history was nowhere more evident than on Australia Day.

"This is why we trashed the absurd shrine to genocide, Captain Cook's Cottage, with paint," the vandals wrote last year.

Detective Senior Constable Gray says it is unclear if the incidents are linked.

A damage bill for the graffiti and broken window has not been finalised for the cottage, which attracts 100,000 visitors a year.



Sydney: Some actions against 'Australia day'

On the 26th of January, the 226th year since the British Naval fleet of Arthur Philip landed on this territory, we made some modest actions to counter the colonial narrative of 'Australia'. 4 banners denouncing the nationalist holiday were hung from highway bridges in Broadway, Stanmore, Kogarah and Sutherland reading:

STOLEN LAND

NO PRIDE IN GENOCIDE

FUCK AUSSIE PRIDE

BURN THE (AUSTRALIAN FLAG)

Later that day we gathered in Newtown and occupied the square by the Martin Luther King Mural for 5 hours and tied a large banner reading 'WHITE STRAYA, BLACK HISTORY'. During that time we handed out hundreds of anti-colonial fliers, blasted indigenous and anti nationalist rap music, and projected a number of first nations documentaries, including 'First Fleet Back', 'BabaKiueria' and 'Utopia'.

While these small actions did not prevent nationalists across the continent basking in the pride of British conquest and occupation, these were only some of many actions and demonstrations which challenge the official state propaganda.

We were pleased to see a large increase this year in the amount of anti colonial stickers, posters and slogans pasted and sprayed across various suburbs of Sydney. We were particularly impressed by news reports of 'Anti Australia day' graffiti painted over various structures along 8km of the Botany Bay coastline, while Captain Cooks cottage in Melbourne was reportedly vandalised the same night (the third it was attacked within 12 months).

We deride any suggestion that the date of this nationalist carnival be changed to a more 'appropriate' date. We oppose any celebration of this state and its colonial history, whether it is moved to 'Federation day' or some imagined 'Republic day'.

The struggle against Australian nationalism transcends any single day. Actions against the government and media and their promotion of patriotism and obedience mustn't be reduced to annual rituals but should become a continual activity.

Anti-authoritarian assembly for aboriginal solidarity



Walpole: Treehouse a fortress against logging



25 Jan - Protesters have built and manned a 45m-high treehouse in a WA karri forest in a bid to save it from chainsaws.

The platform was erected on Tuesday and protesters have spent the last two nights manning the structure in a bid to halt logging in the 490-hectare Challar Forest, 50km from Walpole on WA's south coast.

Local forest defenders from Denmark, Walpole and Peaceful Bay have taken shifts in the tree house, including 29-year-old mother Jess, who spent Tuesday night in the canopy.

Loggers have been held up since November by a series of protests supported by the WA Forest Alliance, which says it is determined "to defend Challar and the Deep River catchment from clear-fell logging".

Police have visited the site of the protest but have not yet attempted to remove activists.

Wafa spokeswoman Jess Beckerling said police were expected to move in at any time.

Logging was expected to start to start this week but has now been halted, she said.

"We have seen too many of our forests fall in the South-West," Ms Beckerling said.

"The Barnett Government isn't listening to the science, or to common sense and so now the community is taking this peaceful direct action to defend what remains of our spectacular karri and jarrah forests."

Protesters say Challar forms a "critical link" between two parts of the Walpole Wilderness Area but was not protected from logging when the national parks were created in 2001.

The karri forest lies within the catchment area of the Deep River, which is touted as one of the country's cleanest rivers, and provides habitat for threatened species including Carnaby's, Baudin's and red-tailed Black Cockatoos as well as mainland quokkas.

Boggabri: Anti-mining Blockade Steps It Up a Notch



28 Jan - Activists in Leard Forest are continuing their campaign against Whitehaven Coal's Maules Creek project with more direct action.

In drizzling rain a young male chained himself to a bulldozer to stop it moving into the forest to begin tree-clearing and construction work on the multi-million project.

Last Tuesday two women on Tuesday chained themselves to excavators near the site, while a young man was suspended on a platform attached by a cable to two trees that had been ear-marked to be felled. Ten people have been arrested at the site since January 13.

Despite the presence of police, members of the more than 100 protesters have defied orders to move on.

Georgia of the Leard Forest Alliance, said that protesters would ignore police and continue to disrupt any move to clear the forest.

"We have two camps and around 30 people in the area, one camp is on the side of the Leard Forest Road and the other on Therribri Road," she said.

"Over the past 11 days we have continued with our blockade of the workplace despite the presence of police and this action will continue."

Meanwhile police and Narrabri Council have succeeded in having the Leard forest declared closed to the public until March 31 because of 'fire risks'. The move sparked complaints by environmental groups and a firefighters' union.

The decision means fines can be issued to the environmentalists if they fail to comply with the move-on order which is expected to be issued in the coming days.

"We are disappointed that Narrabri Shire Council would allow itself to become a tool of fossil fuel industries," Georgia added.

"This decision won't change our determination to protect this forest."

Christmas Island: detainees on hunger strike

20 Jan - Family groups have joined a hunger strike on Christmas Island as protests spread to three separate compounds. The hunger strike began last week in the single adult male compound at north-west point, where some detainees also sewed their lips together.

A second hunger strike began at the Aqua family compound on Tuesday, according to detainees at the centre. The detainees have put up a banner bearing the word "freedom". It is not clear whether children are also involved in the protest.

A third group are also protesting in the Lilac facility, which houses men and women. The protesters there staged a sit-in protest and wrote a letter to the Department of Immigration complaining about their treatment and expressing their fears of being sent to Nauru.

The protest was initially sparked by the separation of some asylum seekers from family members.

The immigration minister, Scott Morrison, said the government did not comment on instances of self harm.

"We don't want to encourage other people to do things to themselves and we certainly don't want to establish a precedent whereby, in undertaking such behaviour, they think it will somehow give publicisation to their case, or indeed may change the outcomes of their case," he said in a press briefing on Wednesday.

"So I want to be really clear, when people engage in protest activity it does not change what will happen with their case or where they will go."

There are currently more than 2000 asylum seekers at various facilities on Christmas Island.

Perth: Party youths riot in Peppy Grove

28 Jan- Police in riot gear were called to a party in Peppermint Grove overnight amid reports 500 youths were creating a disturbance.

More than 200 youths pelted police with beer bottles at Manners Hill Park on the Swan River foreshore about 10:00 pm last night.

Officers using riot shields moved in to disperse the crowd. No arrests have been made and no-one was injured.

WA: Anti-shark cull activists remove bait

28 Jan - Shark cull activists have removed bait from drum lines in Western Australia's South West region after the first shark caught on the lines was killed.

A three-metre female tiger shark was shot four times in the head, dragged out to sea and dumped after being caught on a drum line one kilometre off Meelup beach on Australia Day.

The fisherman who took the tender for the South West said the shark was a threat to public safety and had to be removed.

But West Australians for Shark Conservation president Ross Weir told journalists it was an inhumane way of killing the animal and about 22 activists were keeping an eye on the fisherman's activities.

'They have been out on the water and they have removed baits from the lines,' he said.

Mr Weir said the fisherman did not have experience with sharks and his .22 rifle was not an appropriate gun to kill great white sharks.

Sea Shepherd Australia managing director Jeff Hansen said it was a cruel, painful and unnecessary death for the shark which could have been hanging on the drum line for hours.

'How can we condemn Japan for the indiscriminate killing of whales and dolphins, and do this to our precious protected marine life here in Australia?' he said.

'This method is utterly cruel and inhumane and these animals can take many hours to die.'

The controversial shark kill program went ahead after federal environment minister Greg Hunt granted WA an exemption under the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act, allowing the protected great white shark to be killed.

But the state government will be forced to use its own Fisheries Department officers to do the work in Perth after commercial operators pulled out following threats from activists.

A rally against the cull will be held at Cottesloe beach on Saturday.

Thousands attended the previous protest.

Yallourn power station fire 'an act of sabotage'

4 Feb - Police say a fire at the Yallourn power station in Gippsland in June last year was caused by an act of sabotage.

The blaze shut down the power station.

Three generators were knocked out at the plant which supplies a quarter of Victoria's energy.

It came in the middle of a bitter industrial dispute between the power station operator Energy Australia and the Construction, Forestry, Mining and Energy Union (CFMEU).

The fire coincided with Energy Australia's decision to lock CFMEU members out of the site indefinitely.

Detective Sergeant Alan Rumble says police are asking anyone with information about the fire to come forward.

"As a result of our enquiries we've been able to determine in fact the fire was a direct cause of a sabotage incident," he said.

"It was an extremely dangerous incident, potentially fatal for the person who conducted the offence.

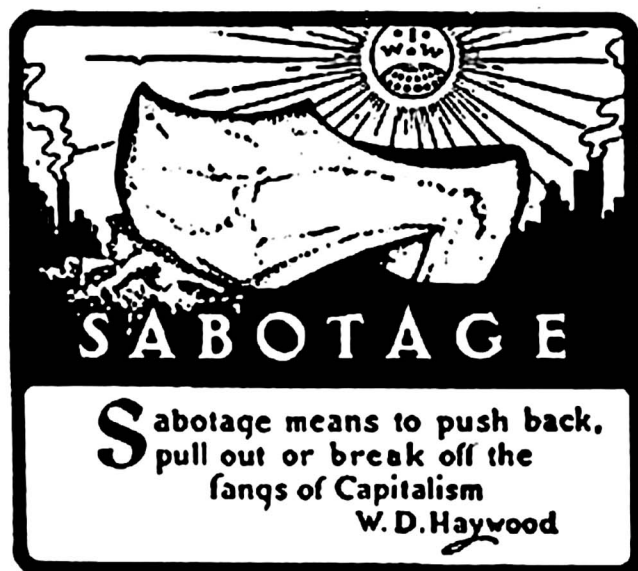
"We are aware that people out there in the community know, have knowledge in relation to this incident, and we're keen for those people to come forward and contact Crime Stoppers."

The Victorian Energy Minister Nicholas Kotsiras has issued a statement saying he is very concerned to read about the allegations.

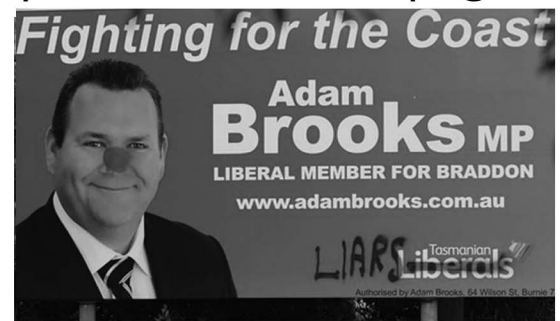
"No group or individual should be able to threaten the safety of workers and critical infrastructure which all Victorians rely on," he said.

"These matters are being investigated and if found true, should be dealt with by the full weight of the law."

The power station's operator says it will not comment while the investigation is underway.



Tasmania: Vandalism to signs 'part of election campaign'



6 Feb - Vandals have defaced dozens of election signs through Burnie. One such billboard at Round Hill, for sitting Liberal MP Adam Brooks, now sports a red nose with the word "liar" written in red spray paint next to the Liberals' own brand logo.

Mr Brooks took the vandalism with a light heart and said he had some comments about the sign from some in the community.

"A few people have told me the graffiti is actually an improvement," Mr Brooks said.

As an official stance, Mr Brooks said the Tasmanian Liberal party was opposed to graffiti, but said it had come to be part of any election campaign.

It is unknown what cost the graffiti would have on Mr Brooks' campaign.

Vandalism to the signs have become a part of election campaigns and it's believed that some politicians go to great lengths to deter potential vandals.

Mr Brooks had come under some fire in recent months because of his multitude of signs around the region. Brooks had even established promotional posters before the state election had even been called.

**OUR DREAMS
WILL NEVER
FIT**

**INTO
THEIR
BALLOT
BOXES**



International protests against the WA shark cull



6 Feb - Tens of thousands of people have joined protests in over a dozen locations against the new Western Australian government's new policy to bait and kill sharks 1 kilometer from the state's shores.

Events were held in at least 10 locations across the nation, from the NSW central coast to Adelaide, Melbourne, Hobart and Cottesloe, Broome and Perth in WA. Protests were also held in New Zealand and South Africa.

The protests came hours after an under-size two-metre shark, believed to be a tiger shark, was pulled from a baited drum line off Perth's Leighton Beach by fisheries officers. The animal – the second to be killed under the program was dumped further offshore.

In Sydney protesters brandishing hand-painted posters, inflatable shark toys and other shark-related paraphernalia.

Protest co-organiser Alice Forrest, an aquarist at Manly Sea Life Sanctuary, said the cull was not based on science and accused the WA premier of "killing endangered species."

Sitting on the beach was Edward Hunter and his family, who drove an hour and a half from western Sydney with his wife and two children to join the protest.

"The oceans are a necessary thing for the human race to survive on the planet. You try and take out the apex predators in an environment and bad things happen to the rest of the environment," he said.

Standing behind speakers on the promenade, Mosman High school teacher Pru Wawn said the shark cull was just one of a many examples of the government disregarding popular opinion and destroying the environment.

WA: Activist's boat held off Dunsborough coast

8 Feb - An animal activist protesting against Western Australia's controversial shark kill policy has had his boat impounded by police after another big shark was caught and shot.

Marine Rescue Unit campaign co-ordinator Simon Petterfy, who made international headlines in 2012 when he boarded a Japanese whaling vessel, was preparing to take footage of the latest shark killing on Friday morning when he was given a "move on" notice.

Mr Petterfy told journos that police claimed his boat trailer was unregistered.

He was also found to have thumblocks with him, which were often used by protesters to secure themselves to objects.

Meanwhile four more undersized tiger sharks have been caught off Perth beaches.

Campaign group West Australians for Shark Conservation (WASC) this morning reported a small tiger shark was caught on a drum line off Mullaloo.

WASC volunteers on a boat following the Fisheries vessel monitoring the hooks said the animal was dead and its tail appeared to have been bitten off.

Surf Life Saving WA said Fisheries had advised a 2.21m tiger shark was caught and released 1km off Cottesloe at 7am this morning.

At 9am, SLSWA again posted online that Fisheries had advised a 2.5m tiger shark had been caught and released 1km off Mullaloo.

Just after 1pm, another shark was caught on a drum line and then released - this time a 1.93m tiger shark off Leighton.

Under the Barnett Government's program, great whites, tiger and bull sharks over 3m will be destroyed but sharks under the size limit are to be released alive where possible.

However, the majority of sharks caught by drum lines off Perth and the South-West so far have been under 3m.

Neither the Department of Premier and Cabinet nor the Fisheries Department will confirm how many sharks have been caught.

On Friday, the fisherman contracted to set and monitor drum lines in the state's South West region killed a large shark.

The animal was caught off Meelup beach, where the first shark was caught and killed under the new policy.

Logan: Woman blinded after being tasered by police officer



7 Feb - An aboriginal woman has been blinded in one eye after being tasered by police.

Sheila Oakley, 36, was tasered in the eye by a senior officer at her home on Jacaranda Avenue at Woodridge, south of Brisbane, around 1:00pm yesterday.

Her family says Ms Oakley became upset after a visit by social workers.

"I don't think there's a chance for me to get my vision back on my left-hand side," Ms Oakley.

Ms Oakley who reportedly held a stick when police arrived, told journalists that "I put the stick down and as I was going in to get my bag, he pointed the Taser at me and got me,"

Her sister, who did not want to be named, says a steel prong carrying a high voltage electrical current hit Ms Oakley's eye.

"When she went to grab her handbag he tasered her and then the Taser went straight into her eye," she said.

She says with the Taser still lodged in her eye, the officers continued to arrest her.

"Four police officers then got her, threw her to the ground, turned her onto her stomach, put their knees into her back, and then put handcuffs on," she said.

"She was screaming in total agony. The Taser was in her eye and she was in so much pain she said to the police officer 'the Taser's in my eye, the Taser's in my eye', screaming all the while."

She says Ms Oakley was held at the house for more than 30 minutes before ambulance officers took her to the hospital.

Acting assistant police commissioner Steve Holland later claimed the woman had been threatening the officer with a table leg that had nails protruding from it.

"The police officer involved is a very experienced police officer. He's a senior constable and he's also a qualified Taser instructor.

"In the absence of Tasers, the police officer would have been justified in using his firearm under the circumstances," Holland said.

Ms Oakley's family say they will be suing the Queensland Police Service.

Family spokesman and community leader Abraham Saylor believes the incident is "absolutely appalling".

"From what I've been told about police taser-ing people you are not supposed to taser from the head up," he said.

"She lives alone and people rock up to her house, she would have a bit of a fear factor there."

A neighbour who witnessed the incident, but did not want to be named, said the officer who shot the woman arrived in a second police car. He said things appeared calm before the second car arrived, and believed the original police who went to the home were preparing to leave. But things changed when the second vehicle arrived, and the woman was shot.

"She was about five to seven metres away from them, I doubt a Tasering was necessary," he said.

Police say they are also weighing possible charges against the woman.

Police service guidelines on stun gun use specifically warn of the risk of eye injuries.

"Tasers should not be aimed so as to strike the head or neck of a subject unless this is unavoidable," the guidelines say.

Aboriginal activist Sam Watson has called on police to hand in their stun guns until the matter has been investigated.

"The Queensland Police Service just cannot be trusted with these Taser weapons," he told the ABC. "They are very dangerous. They can cause permanent damage, as we've seen."

Sheila Oakley later underwent surgery to remove the gun's metal prong from her eye, but doctors were unable to save her sight.

Mackay: Police officers rape woman in moving squad car

8 Feb - A Policeman has been accused of raping a woman in the back of a patrol car while another officer was driving.

Rape charges against the two men have rocked the Queensland Police Service, with Commissioner Ian Stewart flagging a review of recruitment and training.

The two officers, 28 and 29, barely looked at their family and friends as they appeared in Mackay Magistrates Court yesterday.

Police did not oppose bail for the men, who are charged with five counts of rape and one count each of deprivation of liberty and assault with intent to commit rape.

Both men have been in the police service for less than five years and one received a bravery award in recent years.

Details of the case were not read to the court, but the allegations were described to The Courier-Mail as involving a "gross breach of trust".

It will be alleged the woman was picked up by the two officers in their police car early last Sunday. She was not in custody at the time.

The woman made a complaint to police on Monday and internal investigators from Ethical Standards Command were immediately appointed.

Mr Stewart yesterday told a media conference the service would look at whether the allegations raised wider concerns about police culture.

"It is certainly one of those things that we are very mindful of, as to whether this is an aberration due to the actions of one or two or whether there is a more serious problem in the organisation,"

Magistrate Damien Dwyer granted bail for the pair, who cannot be named by court order, to report to Mackay police station every Wednesday and continue to live at their regular homes.

As the men sat in the dock a large contingent of family and friends watched on in the public gallery. It's believed a partner of one of the men was in the courtroom.

Brisbane: Police officer suffers broken leg in assault

8 Feb - Two police officers have been seriously assaulted in separate inner city incidents overnight, with one sustaining a broken leg

A 19-year-old man has been charged following an incident at Bowen St, Windsor at 1.40am Saturday, that caused a policeman to fall and fracture his leg.

The injured male Constable was transported to Brisbane Women's Hospital, while the 19-year-old Marsden man was been charged with serious assault of police causing bodily harm.

A 38-year-old man has been charged following a further incident in the CBD, when he attempted to drive his taxi away while being spoken to about a driving offence.

It is alleged that when the officer tried to get the keys out of the ignition, the taxi driver pulled the officer into the car and punched him in the face.

The Senior Constable was dragged a number of meters during the incident and sustained a cut to the inside of his mouth and bruising to his chin. He was treated at the St Andrew's Hospital.

The 38-year-old Wynnum man has been charged with one count each of serious assault of police and dangerous operation of a vehicle.

Victoria: Cops still using LEAP database to snoop on people

8 Feb - Dishonest cops still regularly snoop on people's private information or pass on police secrets with at least two suspected breaches investigated every week.

Abuse of the force's trouble-plagued LEAP database continues unabated, more than a dozen years after the force was first thrown into crisis over improper use of people's personal information stored on its LEAP database. And it is more than nine years since the State Ombudsman called for LEAP to be urgently scrapped.

Internal records obtained by journalists under Freedom of Information laws show two in five alleged breaches of "secure" police information involve LEAP, which holds information on at least 3.5 million Victorians and businesses linked to millions of incidents, vehicles, items of property, addresses and offender records.

Commissioner For Law Enforcement Data Security David Watts says abuse of LEAP crime data has "stubbornly remained at the same levels", two years after he slated the force for its lack of "necessary rigour or urgency" to plug the leaks.

In April the force was also subject to what Chief Commissioner Ken Lay described as "the gravest breach of police security" he'd seen, following the discovery of large numbers of sensitive police records during police raids at various sites around Melbourne linked to bikie gangs.

Inspector Ian Geddes said information security was extremely important to Victoria Police but could not say when the antiquated LEAP system would be replaced.

LEAP was to be replaced in 2009 but amid cost blowouts the new LINK rollout was suspended in March 2010 and finally shelved in mid-2011 at a cost of \$60.5 million.

In May last year, the Napthine Government announced a further \$23 million to be spent over 4 years; half to fund a "transformation strategy" and half to keep LEAP going for another 5 years.

Force command then said it would have "designed a clear and efficient way forward to meet our future information needs" by May 2017 - 12 years after an Ombudsman's report called for the present system to be urgently scrapped.

"At the present time there is no replacement for the LEAP system," Insp Geddes said.

"Without public confidence in the manner in which we treat all information in the possession of police, our ability to do our job is significantly hampered.

The data released under FOI shows police investigated 33 LEAP allegations in January alone, with 16 substantiated and six still under investigation.

Broken Hill Police fire at stolen tractor during slow-speed pursuit

10 Feb - Police fired upon a front-end loader when it was allegedly stolen in the state's west and attempted to make a very slow getaway.

A woman and a man, both aged in their 20s, were arrested for allegedly stealing a 14 tonne front-end loader near Broken Hill about 9.40am.

A witness saw the vehicle travelling on Silver City Hwy and contacted police.

Officers responded and found the front-end loader doing 45km/hr before performing a u-turn and heading northwards.

Police followed the vehicle for about 40 kilometres until officers fired a number of shots.

No injuries were reported and the two people inside the vehicle were arrested.

A critical incident team has been setup to investigate the incident, which will be reviewed by an independent officer with oversight from the Western Region Command.

The pair were arrested on the highway and taken to Broken Hill police station.

Police have said they are assisting with inquiries and it has been declared a critical incident.

Sydney: TJ Memorial March

16 Feb - In the early hours of February 14, various anti-police slogans were sprayed across dozens of fences, walls, billboards and bus stops throughout Woolloomooloo, Redfern, Chippendale, Camperdown, Darlington and Newtown.

Later that morning a few hundred people gathered at the fence where TJ Hickey was chased to his death by police 10 years ago. For hours his family and supporters marched through the streets of Sydney to Parliament House, chanting against the uniformed murderers of the state, with demonstrators carrying banners such as :

“ABORIGINAL CONTROL OF ABORIGINAL AFFAIRS”
“AVENGE TJ, BURN DA COPSHOPS” “ACAB”
“COPS PIGS MURDERERS” and “FUCK THE POLICE”

Throughout the rally, police made attempts to confiscate banners they considered "offensive" but were repelled by the crowd. Near Central station one pig was knocked off his bicycle after shoving a protester for stepping outside "the allocated area". Police responded by detaining one young man but were forced to release him after being surrounded by the demonstrators. At the end of the rally pigs made another attempt to make arrests, snatching three people they accused of "carrying an offensive sign", but again had to free them when the crowd cornered the pigs.

In response to the police attacks on the protest and their media statements afterwards, (where they threatened to ban next years' march and track down and charge "4 – 5 troublemakers") ten CCTV cameras mounted on various businesses were immobilised in Rockdale, Kogarah and Brighton Le Sands, using spray paint and hammers. Ten cameras for the years that TJ's family have been refused the simple demand of a plaque to honour his death.

Following the Redfern uprising in 2004 and the Macquarie field riots the following year, the NSW police initiated a major restructuring of their organisation. Utilising modern counter insurgency techniques they've followed a twofold path of 'community policing' and militarization. They established the riot squad and 'anti-terror' units alongside the introduction of police 'volunteers' ('ViP's), their new 'iWatch' snitching programs, as well as various police 'outreach' initiatives aimed at indigenous and other marginalised youth. The aim is to teach these youth to see police as their friends, friends who could beat and imprison them at any moment.



These 'community' programs must be disrupted and exposed for what they are, PR exercises to distract from and justify the daily violence their organisation metes out to the most oppressed members of the society. Our enemy is not simply the riot cop, but also, and especially the friendly 'liaison officer'.

This process has been particularly prevalent in Redfern and Woolloomooloo, areas that have experienced brutal gentrification, largely forcing the indigenous community out of the area, with the help of Aboriginal collaborators such as Mick Mundine, who on Feb 14 gave a joint press conference with police to condemn those who marched for TJ.

CCTV cameras are a major component of gentrification and the continued colonisation of this territory. Over the past 10 years they have rapidly spread across Sydney and all other metropolitan areas on this continent. The cameras are used to monitor, profile, criminalise and exclude those deemed unwelcome to certain areas, such as teenagers and the homeless. They represent the total commodification and control of our daily lives. If one has any interest in living a life free from constant surveillance, there is no point in lobbying business and the state to remove them, the only realistic response is to destroy them.

Any hope for a less totalitarian future lies in our ability to collectively liberate areas from police control and build toward moments of rupture like in Redfern 10 years ago. When these social explosions do occur, we must be prepared to support, strengthen and spread them across the society.

Even when there is no visible social conflict, attacks against state order challenge the police narrative of social peace, they can be a signal of hope to those who have resigned themselves to defeat and show others that the state is not invincible. It is only by finding complicities and learning to act now that we will be able to effectively fight back in times of social crises.

Despite the police that fill our streets, their surveillance cameras and their snitches, its easy to attack and targets are everywhere.

- some troublemakers



Logan: Aboriginal community stage anti-Taser rally



16 Feb - Sheila Oakley, the indigenous tasered in the eye by police has led a protest march in Brisbane calling on the officer involved to be identified and sacked.

On Saturday protesters gathered outside Ms Oakley's home, with several indigenous spokesmen stating that police used Tasers regularly against their community members and Logan's indigenous community was being viciously targeted by police.

Ms Oakley who only left hospital two days ago, was the first to address the rally, saying she was overwhelmed by the support.

"I just want to thank all of my family and friends and all of you for being here for me. Thank you very much," she said.

She then took the lead of the march which chanted "Justice for Sheila" as it walked to the police station where 150 officers, including mounted police, had been positioned.

Ms Oakley then presented Queensland Police acting chief superintendent Noel Powers with a petition at the Logan Central police station, demanding the officer's identity be released to the public, that he be sacked and then charged with assault.

The group of about 180 protesters said they would give police seven days to respond and if they heard nothing another march would be held.

Afterwards Supt Powers stated that "it seems they want some of the officers identified and that's not going to happen."

Powers then dismissed the claims of police discrimination and said it was agitators from outside Logan who were causing Tensions.

Aboriginal community leader Sam Watson said dozens of officers turned up to the protest wearing Tasers. He said it was unnecessary and inflamed what was meant to be a peaceful rally.

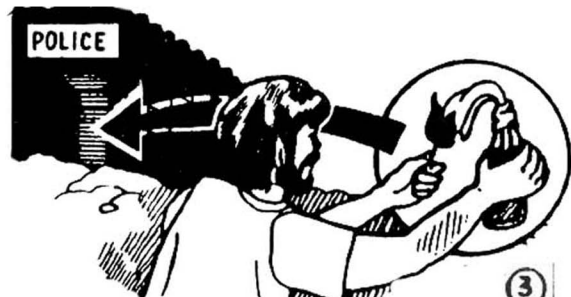
Logan: Molotovs thrown at police station

24 Feb - Three molotov cocktails have been hurled at Logan's police headquarters, weeks after an Aboriginal woman was shot by police with a Taser and blinded in one eye.

Police said while one bottle remained intact, two bottles ignited causing damage to one police vehicle parked outside. They said they weren't sure whether those responsible for throwing the devices were on foot or in a passing vehicle.

Police believe the devices were thrown between 3.30 and 4am this morning. CCTV footage from the front of the police station was still being examined.

It follows weeks of tension in Logan after Woodridge woman Sheila Oakley was shot in the eye by police with a Taser and two marches were held by the local indigenous community calling for the officer responsible to be stood down.



Manus Island: One dead, 77 hurt in riot at detention centre



17 Feb - One person was killed and 77 injured as tensions boiled over during a second night of violence at an Australian immigration detention centre on Papua New Guinea's Manus Island, officials said Tuesday.

Thirty-five asylum-seekers reportedly broke out of the same facility on Sunday evening, with several hurt, as unrest flared about their fate under the Australian government's hardline policies.

Australian Immigration Minister Scott Morrison said there had been a rolling series of largely peaceful protests, starting a few weeks ago, that culminated in the violence of the last two nights.

Monday's unrest began when detainees pushed down internal barriers in the camp and the riot "escalated quickly with several hundred transferees" rushing to dismantle external fencing.

Security staff used shields to push back the mob while PNG police mobilised to capture those who had escaped, and fired live ammunition at detainees, Morrison has said, before order was restored.

"The news of a death is a great tragedy," he said, adding that the man died from a head injury en route to hospital.

"This is a tragedy but this was a very dangerous situation where people decided to protest in a very violent way and to take themselves outside the centre and place themselves at great risk."

Of the 77 injured, 12 remain in a serious condition, mostly with head injuries including one with a fractured skull. Another suffered gunshot wounds to the buttocks. Morrison said it was not yet clear how they received the injuries.

Manus Island is one of two remote Pacific camps used by Canberra in its punitive offshore detention policy.

Under the scheme, aimed at deterring people-smugglers, any asylum-seeker arriving by boat or intercepted at sea is transferred to Manus or Nauru for processing.

If they are judged to be genuine refugees, they will only be offered permanent resettlement outside Australia.

The United Nations refugee agency has condemned the camps as "harsh" facilities that "impact very profoundly on the men, women and children housed there".

Morrison said that despite the unrest, the immigration centre had not been destroyed and was still operating.

Ian Rintoul from the Refugee Action Coalition said tension with groups of locals, who oppose the camp, had been building throughout the day. He said the attacks began after power was cut to the detention centre.

He stated that the perimeter fences were breached, after staff were evacuated, by locals armed with machetes, pipes, sticks and stones who carried out "savage attacks".

"If there are asylum-seekers outside the perimeter fence it's because they've fled for their lives late last night from those attacks," Rintoul told journalists.

"It must be clear now that asylum-seekers cannot live safely on Manus Island. They should never have been taken there. Asylum-seekers must be brought to Australia," he added.

The riots followed a tense meeting between detainees and officials from Papua New Guinea's immigration and citizenship authority to discuss their fate if they were found to have a genuine refugee claim.

They were informed they would be resettled in PNG and "a third country option will not be offered".

"They will have frustrations about being in a centre they don't wish to be in because they wanted a very different outcome than being in either Manus Island or Nauru," Morrison said. "There will be those who will seek to take down our policies, to take down our processing centres, to try and destroy the regime we have put in place."

Sydney: Antifascist Actions

18 Feb - On the 26th of January in Brisbane, a few members of a fascist sect called the 'Australia First Party' attempted to disrupt the annual invasion day march held by the local indigenous community.

On the same day in Canberra the fuehrer of the party, Jim Saleam (former leader of 'National Action' and 'Australian Nazi Party') gave a podium speech at a protest against the new Bieke laws in Queensland.

Back in December the party held a small rally outside the Greek consulate in Sydney in support of the ultra-nationalist Golden Dawn party.

In the early hours of February 16 we responded to those provocations by vandalising the 'Australia First' headquarters in Tempe, Sydney. We cracked the front windows and stained the glass with paintbombs and etching fluid and sprayed 'FUCK AUSSIE PRIDE' and 'DEATH TO FASCISM' across the facade.

A week earlier on the 6th of February another small nationalist sect called the 'Party for Freedom' had attempted to host an 'African crime forum' in Newtown. They were forced to change venues twice after community pressure led venues in Redfern and Chippendale to cancel the event. At the last minute they had to change the venue to the business premises of party member Sergio Redegalli, known locally for the islamophobic murals he constantly repaints on the exterior walls of his building.

On the night before the forum Sergio's racist mural was paint bombed once again and in the days leading up to the event the party webpage suffered constant DDOS attacks rendering it completely unavailable.

The forum was largely disrupted, as a crowd of anti-fascists gathered outside the building, playing loud anti-racist music, heckling those attempting to enter and distributed a couple thousand fliers in the area denouncing fascism and Australia's brutal border policies. Most of the racists who showed up turned back once they saw the crowd outside and less than six of them managed to enter, with an escorted from the NSW riot squad.

Then a few days later on the 10th of February, Sergio was confronted outside his business and hit with a glass bottle.

Any attempts by these fascist groupscules to recruit and promote their poison cannot be tolerated.

We must organise to autonomously and effectively counter all racist groups and their ideas.

We also mustn't forget that the state with its prisons, cops, screws and politicians inflict more harm to migrants and indigenous people than these sects ever could.

We look to rebellions from Palm Island to Naru as inspiration in the struggle against the colonial state and its border regime.

Solidarity with recently imprisoned antifascists in France, Sweden, Austria and Catalunya.

Solidarity with refugee revolts



Boggabri: Batgirl Shuts Down Coal Mine

18 Feb - Activists dressed in bat suit costumes have shut down Idemitsu's Boggabri coal mine after using harnesses to suspend themselves upside down on the site's coal loader.

According to environmentalist group Front Line Action on Coal, activists dressed as bats scaled the coal loader early this morning and unfurled a banner that read 'Save the Leard'.

The mine has been shut as a result of the action with police forced to remove the protesters after they refused to descend from the loader after more than nine hours.

The activists say they are protesting against Idemitsu's expansion plans into Leard State Forest.

"Globally, there is only 0.01% of critically endangered box-gum woodland left in good condition, of which the Leard State Forest contains the largest remnant," they said.

"It is time for JBIC and ANZ to stop funding coal projects. It is not worth investing in, especially considering the swell of resistance from local and broader communities."

Idemitsu Australia Resources CEO, Rod Bridges, confirmed police were called to the site.

"Ongoing instances of civil disobedience are both illegal and dangerous, and are a deliberate waste of local police resources," he said.

"We are working with police to ensure the community and staff at Boggabri Coal Mine remain safe, and normal mining operations can continue."

Protests at the Boggabri site are not uncommon, with activist groups promising to do what they can to hamstring the development of a number of coal projects in the area.

Late last year the coal loader was scaled by the same group, forcing the company to cease operations for over 6 hours.

In October activists stopped trucks entering the mine site, while two men who broke into the mine last year were convicted in July.

A spokesperson for the group has said that it "will not give in until this forest is protected."



Tasmania: Forest Defender Sent to Prison

29 Feb - Nishant Datt will spend one month in jail after breaching a suspended sentence whilst participating in a protest at the Huon Valley Ta Ann mill. He was also sentenced to a further one month imprisonment wholly suspended for 18 months.

Huon Valley Environment Centre's Jenny Weber said, "Nishant Datt has been a defender of the wild forests of Tasmania for seven years. The newly listed World Heritage value forests are the places that he has worked tirelessly to defend from logging."

"Those people who are aware of environmental destruction are morally compelled to highlight this. In the face of Government ineptitude and a short-sighted industry, this often calls for non-violent protest in order to prevent the loss of unique forests," Jenny Weber said.

"If it wasn't for people like Nishant, the Upper Florentine Valley would have been riddled with 15 clearfells, and instead remains an intact ecosystem of tall eucalyptus forest that is World Heritage listed," Jenny Weber said.

"The State Liberal Party is proposing new laws for mandatory sentences and big fines for protesters and conservation organisations if they are elected to government. This type of disproportionate, heavy-handed crackdown on the environment movements is designed to push a political agenda. People will remain committed to being on the frontline defending the environment as long as it is being destroyed," Jenny Weber said.



Melbourne: G4S headquarters attacked

29 Feb - In the early hours of the morning of Friday the 28th of February 2014, the corporate headquarters of G4S – 441 St.Kilda Road Melbourne, were attacked by people outraged by the recent events on Manus Island. G4S was the contractor responsible for 'security' on Manus Island. G4S' huge global profits are made through their worldwide work in security, prisons, surveillance and 'logistics'.

Their oppressive operations need to be destroyed.

Paint flew sky high and glass shattered to the ground surrounding the words left blazing in paint on the building: 'G4S – murderers'.

Solidarity to all those in detention struggling for freedom.

We encourage everyone to take action : fight back! riot! destroy!

No borders, no detention centres, no prisons!



Sydney: Antifascist actions

On Friday the 28th of February a tiny sect of Australian nazis and some expat Greek ultranationalists gathered outside the Greek consulate in solidarity with the fascist scum of the Golden Dawn. The event was not promoted online, and antifascists were only alerted to the event a couple days prior by the appearance of posters in Earlwood. The nazi posters were torn down, followed by antifascist graffiti painted around Earlwood, Turrella, Sydenham and St Peters. The Australia First party HQ was also vandalised for the second time in just over a week and anti-racist posters were pasted around Newtown and Enmore.

When the Nazis gathered in front of the consulate, a dozen antifascists insulted and heckled the Nazis with slogans in English and Greek, and were pushed back across the road by NSW and Federal police. A couple banners were held and hundreds of leaflets were distributed in the area denouncing racism and the fascist sects in Greece and Australia. Fascism and the organisations that promote it must be opposed and attacked wherever it appears.

From Sydney to Greece, fascists off our streets



Seven Hills: From Sydney to Nantes, resistance & sabotage

24 Feb - : On the evening of the 22nd of February we vandalised the local headquarters of VINCI and their subsidiary company 'Advitam' in the Seven Hills industrial zone in western Sydney.

Some windows were cracked, and the slogans: "AGAINST VINCI AND ITS WORLD" & "THE ZAD IS EVERYWHERE" were painted.

This small act was made in response to a call for actions in solidarity with the monumental struggle in Notre-Dame-des-Landes, France, against an airport which Vinci has been contracted to build.

For the past two years people have occupied and defended the fields designated for the project. The autonomous region now known as the ZAD has repelled vicious police assaults and constructed hundreds of log huts and gardens, which have housed and fed thousands of zadistas and international supporters.

Vinci is a global development company engaged in projects across the planet, including the construction of a highway through some of the last remaining forests in Khimki, Russia which comrades have been fighting to defend.

Around the world capital seeks to commodify and industrialise the last remnants of wild nature. From airports to highways, coal mines to high speed rail lines, any level of ecological destruction and community displacement is acceptable for a project deemed important for 'economic growth' and the increasing flow of commodities.

At this moment businessman and politicians from the major parties here are feverishly discussing plans for the expansion of Sydney airport with two new runways in Botany Bay, the construction of a new airport in Badgerys Creek in far western Sydney and also the construction of a high speed rail line linking Canberra airport to Sydney.

Across the territory claimed by the Australian state, industrial development, from uranium to CSG mines are expanding at an exponential rate. Ignoring any local concerns about destruction of water tables and air quality, and global concerns about the climate, industry bosses and their politicians can only offer greenwashing campaigns and the pathological prospect of jobs. The only way to defeat these developments is through our collective and combative struggle against capital in defence of our common land base.

From Botany Bay to Heathrow
From Badgerys Creek to the ZAD
From Canberra to Val Susa
From the Tarkine to Atenco
From Boggabri to Hambacher
From Goongera to Girona
From Roxby Downs to Northern Karelia
From Nauru to Lampedusa
From prison to prison

Resistance and Sabotage!

Toowoomba: Kids vandalise school, smash computers and bake cake

29 Feb - Sweet-toothed juvenile delinquents have had a run-in with the law after breaking into a Toowoomba school, smashing windows and laptops and trying to bake a chocolate cake.

Toowoomba Police sergeant Greg Wheeler said officers nabbed a nine-year-old boy and a girl, 11, who broke into Clifford Park Special School about 3.45pm on Sunday.

The not-yet-seasoned vandals set off intruder alarms when they forced entry to the school's swimming pool complex. They had smashed a glass-panel door to gain entry before busting a hole into the pool's cover and going for a dip.

Police arrived at 4.15pm and a chase ensued before they managed to apprehend the young offenders and assessed the mess left in their wake.

"They had broken a number of laptop computers and an iPad," Sgt Wheeler said.

The home economics block was also vandalised, kitchen utensils thrown across the classroom and a hole punched through a door using a wooden hammer.

"They also tore open a chocolate cake mix and tried to blend it with an electric mixer," Sgt Wheeler said. "As a result, it was spread throughout the room."

Sydney: Queer and Feminist Vandalism

8 Mar - Queer and feminist militants vandalised numerous 'beauty' and cosmetic shops throughout the Inner west in early March. On the evening of March 7 feminist slogans were sprayed across dozens of walls including the courthouse and Copshop in Newtown.

While a week earlier on Mardi Gras night, a gang of masked queers painted pink and purple anarchist and anti-cop slogans across dozens of walls, banks, billboards and police vehicles throughout Surrey Hills and the CBD.

Four sickening GAYTM's had the screens covered in paint and preaching Christian homophobes were attacked and had their propaganda destroyed.

These actions were done openly in front of large crowds. While most Mardi Gras revelers merely watched passively or cheered, some homoconservative vigilantes attempted to intervene and ended up sprawled on the pavement for their efforts.

- some proletarian queer feminists

Casino: Teen to face court over \$656,000 train vandalism

11 Mar - Four teenagers have been charged after more than half a million dollars worth of damage was done to a train workshop at Casino.

Police from the Richmond Command posted on their Facebook page that four youths, aged 16, 17, 18, and 19, have been charged over the incident and more arrests are likely.

Three of the youths, the 16, 18, and 19 year-olds have been accused of causing serious damage at the 'Aurizon-Interail' locomotive repair facility at Bent Street, Casino.

Police say the youths caused a total \$656,000 in damage to five diesel locomotives and other property. Police say some items were stolen from the workshop and they have so far recovered two cylinders containing 23 explosive track warning devices.

The 17-year-old was not charged in connection to the damage to the trains or the facility, but was charged with receiving goods suspected of being stolen, possessing an explosive without a permit, and cultivating and possessing a prohibited drug.

Alice Springs: Police urge business owners to report graffiti

17 March - Northern Territory police are urging business owners targeted by a serious graffiti spree in Alice Springs over the weekend to come forward.

Officers say a large number of businesses in the Todd Mall have been significantly damaged, as well as council property.

Police were called to the mall about 11:00pm on Saturday and are still investigating.

You can not domesticate a unicorn, neither our dreams

10 March - This is a communique from some of the individuals involved in the creation of the milkcrate unicorn at the University of Sydney; we don't speak in the name of everyone that participated in the action.

Before anything else, it would be good to clarify that yes! the unicorn made out of milkcrates at USYD on the 3rd of March is as queer, gay, trans, lesbian, bisexual, and intersex as it can get and we stand with anyone that fights against oppression and therefore those oppressed by this patriarchal heteronormative society.

The unicorn was created, however, not for Mardi Gras as hypothesised in a couple of online articles, but to represent our capacity to dream wildly. The unicorn, like Mardi Gras in 78, was conceived through collective struggles against oppression in this society – as was made clear in the leaflets that originally accompanied the unicorn.

After we had exhausted our leaflets, we left the unicorn on campus, without permission, to reclaim that space and in defiance of the management scum of USYD. Management has done its best to silence dissent in the university with riot pigs and security thugs, banning students and other people to restrict them entering campus and prosecuting students and others through legal avenues. But we run this place and we won't be silenced.

We were not interested in the material existence of the unicorn, so much, but in our and everyone's capacity to dream wildly and the possibility this creates for our lives. We were delighted, momentarily, to see that, to our surprise, some students, unknown to us, had worked together to save the unicorn. However, since then, the purpose of the unicorn and what it represents has been miscommunicated, the focus has been on the physical being of the unicorn, which whilst beautiful, is not as beautiful as the fact that some friends, ordinary in every way, made it together with love and dedication, because we wanted to.

It was nice that it was saved from destruction from the USYD security guards, but it was left there in defiance, and now there are plans to get permission to house it in a business, when the rationale behind it was anti-authoritarian and anti-capitalist. We would rather that it had been destroyed. The unicorn was not an idol or a pet. In the same way that all art loses its beauty and social importance when it is commodified and integrated into a system of value and prestige. In the same way that Mardi Gras, which began as struggle for liberation, has degenerated into a corporate spectacle.

The unicorn was misunderstood, used and repackaged like everything else in this obsolete machine that consciously or unconsciously discipline us into the unfulfilling routine of normality.

We hope the unicorn brings you joy, but we don't think it will bring you as much joy, as having untamed dreams and building them with people you love, reclaiming our spaces and our lives.





This university, this factory, employs the dominant 'rationality' that makes people redundant. A rationality that constructs scarcity to administer it to the benefit of the few.

Little by little, the flexible, atomised worker/student is conditioned to conform. Without collective memory or dialogue we are pushed to accept the dominant 'rationality', internalising it, so it rules and transforms our desires.

Budget cuts, redundancies, the creation of debt through HECS and fees, corporate patronage, and

the discourse of rationalism used to control our classes and work against our wishes are all

The university, this factory, thrives on domesticated dreams. Tinkered and tailored and tamed to fit. It doles out prestige and encourages competitiveness in both staff and consumers/students. It encourages a pragmatism that derides fulfilment whilst speculating in a non-existent future, the first of many compromises made to chase the carrot on the stick towards the shallow spectacle of success to wield against the unsatisfactory now.

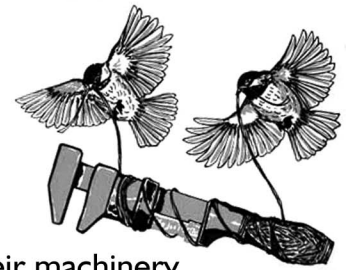
examples of the contemporary chains that the corporate university shackles us with.

In these pre-packaged uni experiences, restructuring means further isolation from each other. Look away from the provided channels—they are there to be managed. Who can you trust with that part of you that makes our lives worth living and what can we do together?

Wild dreams of spaces and lives reclaimed.
Of milk crates made into unicorns.
Of collective freedom and the opposite of 'rationality'.

Toolangi: Police investigate anti-logging sabotage

18 March: Police are investigating a suspected sabotage on logging machinery in Toolangi last week, with the owner saying a serious accident could have been moments away.



On Thursday 13 March, Robin McKinnell and his team started up their machinery in a logging coupe in Toolangi, shortly before one of the machines – a skidder – broke down. After checking all of the machines, the group realised the fuel tank had been opened and filled with water, while attempts had been made to open the fuel tanks of other machines.

The damage from the breakdown, which resulted in four hours of lost work, is estimated to be about \$4000. The incident was reported to Kinglake Police and Leading Senior Constable Paul Roberts said this was the latest in a monthly series of incidents, which included oil contamination in another logging coupe.

Mr McKinnell said the fuel tampering could have caused a serious accident if the motor had broken down minutes later, when working on the 30-degree slope at the coupe. He said the brakes for the machine ran from the engine, and not manually. An engine failure would have cut the brakes, potentially causing a serious accident. “When the motor stops, you’ve lost everything,” he said. “If the motor had have stopped going down a 30-degree hill, it would have been serious.”

McKinnell said the machine in question was not locked, due to a long-standing custom of leaving one machine unlocked, in case vandals attempted to break in overnight and steal petrol.

He said the group would lock all machines from now on, and were considering setting up a rotating camp in the logging coupe, to ensure their machinery was not tampered with. A VicForests spokesperson said that current logging coupes were within public safety zones, and were therefore off-limits to people not working in the coupe.

“Unauthorised members of the public are not permitted to enter these zones for their safety and the safety of our staff and contractors,” they said. “The safety of VicForests contractors and staff is the organisation’s number one priority”.

“Any damage to equipment can be a serious safety risk.”

Fitzroy Valley: Students told to stay home after school vandalised

19 March - Six children have been charged over the vandalism of a High School in a remote part of Western Australia's Kimberley region. For now students have been asked to stay home after vandals caused \$10,000 worth of damage to the school.

Police allege the group forced open a gate at Fitzroy Valley District High School at night and smashed more than 20 windows with a hammer, set-off fire extinguishers and tried to steal a vehicle.

The vandals also forced their way into the TAFE building next door, where they smashed more windows and damaged property.

The damage to the school is too extensive to allow students in, Senior Sergeant Andrew Stevens said. “The amount of damage that was done was mindless with no end result for the offenders - they were just on a spree,” he said.

Two girls and four boys are due in court next month charged with various offences including aggravated burglary, stealing, criminal damage and attempting to steal a motor vehicle.

Six other children have been issued with juvenile cautions, while another boy is under the age of criminal responsibility.

Police say most of the children are students at the school.

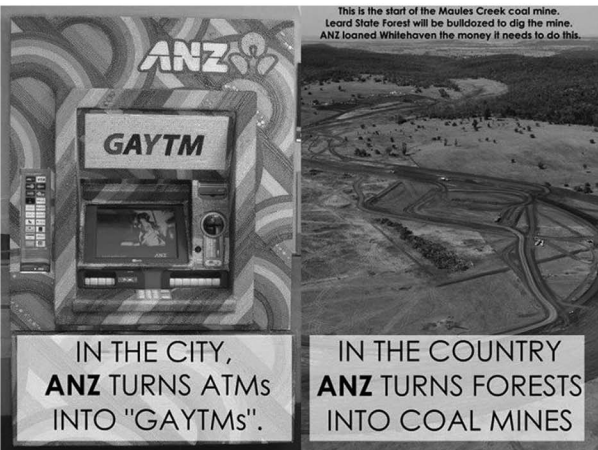
Sydney: Solidarity and Sabotage for Leard State Forest

27 March - Throughout February and March 2014 dozens of ANZ billboards were vandalised across Sydney. Numerous ANZ branch facades were painted with slogans denouncing Whitehaven coal and the destruction of Leard state forest while their ATM card slots were glued shut. During the Mardi Gras festivities numerous ANZ "GAYTM's" were vandalised with paint and in the days following the parade two of the pink-washed machines on Oxford St were damaged with a crowbar.

ANZ is the primary investor in the Whitehaven coal project, which is currently devastating the once pristine forests in Maules Creek. Whitehaven is in deep financial straits and is only being propped up on ANZ loans. By specifically and intensively targeting ANZ for their support for this project across the country we can force them to review the profitability of their investment.

We wish solidarity and strength to all those at the Leard blockade, but we hope to remind them that the struggle against eco destruction should not be stymied and restricted by the terms of environmental NGO's and their media strategies. Effective resistance incorporates all modes of struggle, from letter writing and street protests, to lock-on's and sabotage.

While we've heard sloganeering about "NVDA (non-violent direct action)" preached like scripture at blockades, we must ask, which is more violent, the massive deforestation of native forests or a few burning bulldozers



Sydney: Protesters arrested praying in Morrison's office



27 March - A group of nine protesters occupied the office of Immigration Minister Scott Morrison to hold a vigil against Australia's refugee detention policy. Five of the protesters were arrested when police raided the office.

One of the arrestees told journalists that "locking children up indefinitely is wrong. There is no moral framework that could justify putting children in detention."

"There is overwhelming evidence that detention beyond a limited period is a 'factory for mental illness', self-harm and suicide attempts, especially among children. We know this but do it anyway. The deliberate and wilful infliction of mental injury on innocent children for the purpose of deterring others from seeking our protection is bipartisan policy."

"Our group was made up of committed Christians from Catholic, Uniting, Quaker, Churches of Christ and Hillsong churches...we stand alongside many other allies in this movement in a shared vision of compassion and welcome for asylum seekers. We are stronger for standing together, each acting out of our strengths."

"What form this action will take will depend on your life circumstances and the people you are able to influence. But act you must. One person or group acting in isolation will achieve little. But thousands of people acting boldly out of a shared commitment to justice and compassion can move mountains. "



Melbourne: Co-ordinated attack on Transfield and Toll buildings

30 Mar - In the early hours of the 28th of March we co-ordinated an exhilarating attack on both the Melbourne St.Kilda road headquarters of Transfield, and a South Melbourne branch office of Toll.

Paint and glass was hurled, sprayed, thrown all around, and the words 'Burn the Prison Industrial Complex', 'Fuck Transfield', 'Get out of Nauru' and so on were painted on the walls of the buildings.

We have specifically targeted these corporations and workplaces because we think its fucked that anyone can profit off the indefinite detention of human beings in Australia and offshore.

We will not accept that the Australian government, and the private companies contracted by them, can get away with criminalising, detaining, torturing and killing people who are trying to seek refuge.

We believe that people have the right to cross any border anywhere to seek refuge from war, oppression, colonialism and economic hardship. We understand that Australia has, and continues to play a leading role in creating those same conditions of war, oppression, colonialism and economic hardship that many people are fleeing from.

With this point we also say to the Australian Government : You do not have the authority to refuse people entry and refuge on a land that was never ceded. You cannot refuse people refuge on land that you stole!

Solidarity to all people in detention centers and prisons everywhere!



Boggabri “Dozens of Protesters” Arrested Taking Direct Action

31 March - Protesters in Australia say more than 70 people have walked onto the Maules Creek open cut coalmine near Narrabri and immobilised machinery in an “unprecedented” protest against the project.

Leard Forest Alliance representative Helen War said that more than 30 people had been arrested at the mine on Monday.



Ms War said three protesters who had locked themselves to machinery had been “cut down” by police.

She said those arrested included a farmer and a 92-year-old WWII veteran.

The NSW Minerals Council has criticised the protest, saying the protesters were ignoring the law and putting lives at risk.

Minerals Council chief executive Stephen Galilee said Maules Creek had undergone an extensive assessment process and would go ahead regardless of any protests.

“Everyone has the right to protest, but it should be done according to the laws that keep people safe and protect the property of others,” Mr Galilee said.

“Construction sites are potentially very dangerous places for trespassers. These reckless actions must stop before someone gets killed.”

Ms War said the protesters wanted federal Environment Minister Greg Hunt to revoke federal approval for the project in light of a new climate change report released today.

“The people getting arrested here today are not your usual protesters,” Ms War said.

“The fact that so many ordinary Australians have come down here to stop this mine is testament to the growing public concern about the impacts of climate change.”

The latest Intergovernmental Report on Climate Change was unveiled in Japan on Monday and contains substantial amounts of information about Australia.

Ms War said the coal coming from Maules Creek would emit 30 million tonnes of carbon dioxide a year, which was as much as “New Zealand’s entire energy sector”.

Mr Galilee said the Maules Creek activists wanted to “sit in judgment over the rest of society” but were “not prepared to play by the rules that apply to the rest of us”.

“What right do protesters who choose to commit dangerous illegal acts have to judge the social licence of others?” Mr Galilee said.

“While the rest of us are prepared to abide by the law, a small group of radical activists have decided they are above the law.

“If you choose to ignore the laws and norms of society that apply to everyone else, then you also forfeit your right to judge the social licence of others, particularly those operating within the law and by the rules.”



Karratha: Teens charged over bus theft

19 March - Four teenagers have been charged with stealing and vandalising a bus from Karratha. The 12-seater hire bus was allegedly stolen in the Karratha suburb of Baynton early yesterday morning. It is alleged the keys were taken from an unlocked share house while the occupants were sleeping.

Police later found the bus, which had allegedly been covered with graffiti, in bushland in South Hedland.

Two boys and two girls have been charged with aggravated burglary, stealing, stealing a motor vehicle and criminal damage.

Three are due to appear before the Children's Court, while one of the girls was issued with a juvenile caution.

Bogangar: Man charged with smashing shop windows

26 March - A 46 year old Bogangar man was charged with malicious damage to property after smashing shop windows around Bogangar on Sunday night.

Tweed Insp Darren Steel said police received multiple calls to the incident about 11 pm.

Insp Steel said four businesses had windows damaged.

"After a number of patrols, police located a male" said the Inspector.

Insp Steel said the man was arrested and taken to Tweed Heads police station before being charged.

Hamilton: Police hunt vandals over graffiti spree

31 March - More than 20 cars have been vandalised with oil and water-based paint in Hamilton in south-western Victoria.

Hamilton police are looking for a person or group who painted 22 cars, several fences and a house early yesterday.

Acting Sergeant Pam Nix says it appears the damage happened in the early hours of Sunday morning, with the vandals painting tags or obscene words.

"We have had the crime scene desk come up, so there might be something forensically that comes out with them," she said.

"You would think someone carrying large cans of paint around would have been noticed but again it was very early in the morning and there is not a lot of traffic around.

"The vehicles were painted, hand-painted, some with tags, some with offensive words and one was actually almost covered in paint, including the registration plates, the roof, the bonnet, everything, basically."

Northern Grampians: Mayor attacks race track poisoning

2 April - A western Victorian mayor has condemned vandalism which has led to the cancellation of a major horse racing event for the region.

The Stawell Racing Club has cancelled its Easter Sunday Gold Cup meeting.

Police are investigating the deliberate poisoning of 1,000 metres of track.

The Northern Grampians Shire Mayor Kevin Erwin says the event would have provided a boost for tourism in the region, which is still recovering after fires earlier this year.

"With all the spin-offs from the race meeting, it would be hundreds of thousands and it's worth a considerable amount to the club too and will set them back a considerable amount," he said.

"So hopefully people support their Sunday day and the club can resurrect something out of what is a devastation for them.

Sydney: Ten arrested in Villawood Detention Centre protest



3 April - Eight people have been arrested outside Sydney's Villawood Detention Centre in a protest over the transfer of asylum seekers.

Scuffles broke out between police and around 40 protesters who blockaded the gates to the centre. The protesters managed to hold up two buses carrying 83 asylum seekers for several hours in an attempt to try stop their transfer to the remote Curtin Island Detention Centre in Western Australia

"No one's illegal," the protesters shouted as they pushed forward against a line of police and security staff.

A 21-year-old Usyd student said the protest had been peaceful until a portion of the group refused to comply as buses full of asylum seekers tried to leave the centre.

"People refused to move away from the road, interrupting the buses, not allowing them to leave," she said.

"Towards the end, things got very violent."

Police escorted ten people into police vehicles and at least three of the protesters were crying when they were removed. The buses left the area shortly after the arrests, carrying handcuffed refugees.

Those being transferred are taking part in legal action against the Federal Government after all their personal details were published on the Immigration Department website in error back in February.

The detainees are saying the breach exposes them to persecution from authorities in their home countries if sent back.

Supporters say they are now being transferred to isolate them from legal advice.

The Federal Circuit court yesterday refused to intervene to stop the transfer.



Syd: Villawood asylum seekers declare mass hunger strike

3 April - Villawood asylum seekers began a mass hunger strike this morning in protest against the forced transfers from Villawood to Curtin and Yongah Hill.

The first group of around 40 were transferred to Curtin this morning after police broke a blockade attempting to stop buses taking asylum seekers from Villawood to the airport.

A second group, mostly Vietnamese, is scheduled to be forcibly transferred to Yongah Hill in Western Australia, on Saturday.

Asylum seekers have also spelled out "HELP" and "FREEDOM" in large letters on the lawn area inside the detention centre.

Up to 50 asylum seekers at Villawood have begun a sit-in protest inside the detention centre against the forced transfer of asylum seekers from Villawood to Curtin and Yongah Hill detention centre.

The sit-in follows early morning attempts by refugee relatives and supporters to blockade the gates of the Villawood detention centre to prevent buses taking the first group of around 40 transfers being sent from Villawood to Curtin detention centre this morning.

Asylum seekers are being separated and cut-off from the network of families, relatives, community and legal support that has allowed them to survive in detention.

One Iranian man scheduled for the transfer this morning was not transferred after barricading himself in his room and then self-harming after Serco officers forced entry. He remains in Villawood detention centre.

Many of the 50, among them many Vietnamese asylum seekers, who have now begun the protest are those who have been scheduled to be transferred from Villawood to Yongah Hill, this Saturday, 5 April.

Around 150 asylum seekers have been scheduled for transfer from Villawood to more remote detention centres, although the new accommodation buildings at Villawood, which have 150 beds, are being opened in a few week's time, in May.

Sydney: Protesters and police clash at Villawood detention centre



5 April - Protesters have again clashed with police on the driveway of Villawood detention centre as they tried to block the transfer of detainees to Western Australia on Saturday.

A group of protesters is camped outside the Villawood detention centre in Sydney's west in a bid to try and stop the transfer of more asylum seekers to Western Australia.

Activists have been camped out overnight and it is believed there were about 150 of them outside the gates.

Activist Clo says the asylum seekers are being removed from their social and legal support networks "in a deliberate attempt to isolate the detainees and avoid public scrutiny of the conditions".

Riot squad officers stood guard at the entrance and faced a line of protesters for most of the morning, chanting slogans such as "When refugees are under attack, what do we do? Stand up fight back" and "Close the racist prison, deport the politicians". At one point both sides shoved up against each other in a tussle that threatened to escalate.

"They had me by the neck," a man, who gave his name as Dan, said. Dan was visibly shaking as he demonstrated how an officer had pulled his head back. Another man named Evan said he had been crushed under protesters and police.

"I fell the first time and tried to get up but they just kept pushing and pushing," he said. "About five people fell on top of me and I heard people yelling and screaming."

Evan said he was stuck until others managed to drag him out from under the crush of people, leaving him grazed.

A young woman named Amy said she'd spent a sleepless night at the centre's driveway, keeping watch since 12am on Saturday.

"We really didn't want a situation where people could be snuck out in the middle of the night and there's no one here to see them."

She said there was a group of about 40 protesters overnight and that they were reinforced by more who arrived at 6am.

"We may stop the buses for some hours but we're not going to be able to stop it forever," she said. "But we want to send a message to these people that we stand with them."

Officers detained three people at the protest for a "breach of the peace", a police spokesman said, adding that they were not charged and had since been released.

A fourth person, named Marlene, escaped arrest after an officer accused her of stealing his cap during the clash. "He told me that I was under arrest for stealing his hat," she said. "

The buses eventually left the complex at about 10:30am.



Pilliga: Man locks himself under truck to protest Santos mine

5 April - A man has locked himself under a coal seam gas rig truck headed towards the Pilliga forest in north-west New South Wales on Saturday morning.

Simon Pockley was among 10 protesters at Santos' proposed Narrabri Gas Project, and one of seven who attached themselves to Santos CSG equipment in two locations.

Six farmers have locked themselves on gas drilling rig machinery at a gas drilling compound in the Pilliga forest.

A rescue team sent by the police was on its way about 10.30am to unhook the six protesters at the Pilliga site, before they attend to Mr Pockley in Bellata.

Mr Pockley crawled on the dirt underneath a stationed truck and wedged his arms in an L-shaped pipe looped through the vehicle about 7.45am.

The 64-year-old said he aimed to slow down Santos' operations, which he believes could affect his drinking water if they began operations in the Narrabri area.

"They'll have to cut me free, which will be quite difficult without cutting my arms off," he said.

"I'm not sure how they're going to do that and I'm quite happy to be here indefinitely and hold up Santos.

"It looks like I'll be here all day."

Santos was fined \$1500 by the NSW Environment Protection Authority in March for contaminating a groundwater aquifer with uranium products.

Mr Pockley said he had written to Santos CEO David Knox to determine how they would respond to the contaminated aquifer, but had received no response.

Santos spokesperson Chandran Vigneswaran said the contaminated aquifer did not threaten anyone's safety as it was not connected to deeper aquifers used by farmers.

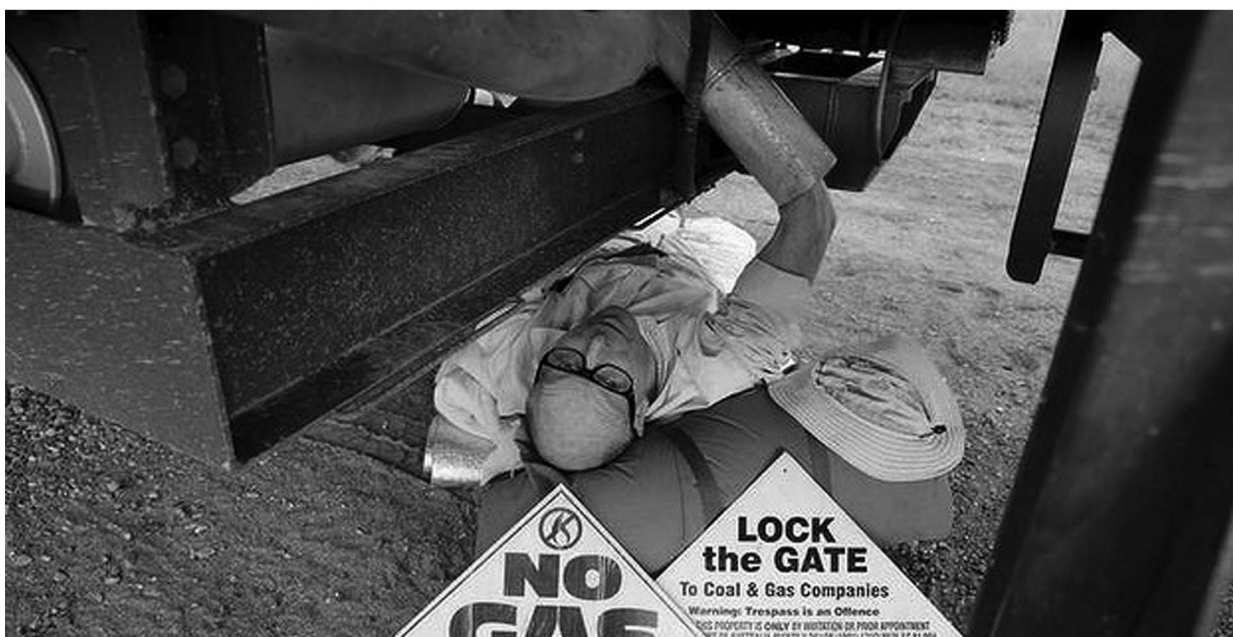
He said the protest could slow down the company's operations and impact the safety of both workers and protesters.

"It's irresponsible behaviour," he said. "In the past, these protesters have done it while the vehicle is moving – they dive under the truck and sometimes the activists can be dragged on a dirt road.

"In the past, certainly these activities slow us down, it impacts the project, our suppliers and has a financial cost to our business."

The blockade follows the arrest of protester Pat Shultz in the Pilliga forest on Friday night.

The Armidale grandmother was arrested for attaching herself to a coal seam gas rig truck for several hours on Friday.



Sydney: Far right leader targeted in Greystanes shooting

5 April - One of the leaders of an anti-Muslim extremist group has been targeted in a shooting at his home in Sydney's west.

Nathan Abela, 24, was in his Greystanes unit around 11pm last night when he heard a knock at the door.

He has told police he went to the door and someone called out his name, and when he replied "yes", shots were fired.

"They said, 'Nathan, is that you?' And I just straight away said yes, and the minute I said yes, I knew I had to dive to the other side of the room," he said.

"At that instant it was like, as soon as I said yes, it was bang, bang, bang, bang."

No one was seriously hurt but Mr Abela was treated at the scene for a shoulder injury.

Mr Abela is the Sydney west charter president of the Australian Defence League.

In an online video posted in reaction to the shooting, the group said he was in high spirits and he would "be back fighting again soon, stronger and better than ever".

Witnesses have told police they saw a silver Audi drive away from the scene.

Officers believe the shooting was a targeted attack and have appealed for anyone with information to contact them.

Superintendent Scott Whyte said police were warning Mr Abela's group not to retaliate.

"Police will not tolerate any criminal act or any repercussions in response to a criminal act..."

Anybody who acts outside the law will be feel the full force of the police force."



Melbourne: Vandals target police



12 April - A police van has been set alight and another vehicle has had its window smashed during an anti-police vandalism spree in Melbourne's north.

Fire crews were called to Edward Street, Reservoir, about 9pm on Friday to extinguish a small fire in the divisional van, which was parked near Reservoir police station.

Police believe someone broke the van's passenger-side window and set fire to the passenger seat.

A police sedan parked at the rear of the station also had its window broken.

Darebin Crime Investigation Unit has released an image of a man they believe can help with their inquiries.

Perth: Vandals hit War Cemetery

12 April - Thieves have attempted to remove two bronze swords from the Perth War Cemetery, an act of vandalism that has angered WA RSL president Graham Edwards.

Vandals used a crowbar to try to remove the Swords of Sacrifice on either side of the four-metre high cross in the cemetery overnight between March 29 and 30.

Mr Edwards reacted emotionally to the attempted theft of three-metre swords from a stone cross at the cemetery in Nedlands, just three weeks before Anzac Day.

"This is not just an attempted theft for profit, it's an attempted theft of the heritage of the Anzacs and it sacrilegiously disturbs the peace of all those who are buried here and the peace of mind of all Australians," Mr Edwards told the Western Suburbs Weekly.

Sydney: ANZAC Day Militarism & Repression

26 April - In the early hours of April 25 a group of anti-militarist activists gathered in Martin Place. They carried a number of banners and placards which bore slogans such as "NO WAR BETWEEN NATIONS, NO PEACE BETWEEN CLASSES" "FIGHT THE RICH NOT THEIR WARS" and "SUPPORT THE DIGGERS WHO SHOOT THEIR OFFICERS".

They handed out a couple thousand leaflets to veterans and supports who came to attend the ANZAC dawn service. Some of the fliers were produced by the antiwar veterans groups "Peace Bus" and "Stand Fast". Other fliers commemorated the Aboriginal warriors who were slaughtered in the frontier wars, and the diggers who went on strike and rioted for days in Sydney in 1916 against their authoritarian officers.

Around 5.30am, after the protesters left Martin Place without conflict, three comrades were chased down by a large group of pigs and forced to the ground in Hyde Park. After being threatened for half an hour, one comrade was accused of taping a poster to a nearby pole, then detained by police and held for the next 16 hours.

The poster in question was a reprint of a hundred year old anti-war poster which was plastered around Sydney throughout WWI by members of the revolutionary union, the I.W.W.

The poster read "To ARMS! Capitalists, Parsons, Politicians, Landlords, Newspaper Editors, and other Stay-at-home Patriots. Your Country needs you in the trenches! Workers, Follow your masters!"

In 1915 a number of our past comrades were arrested accused of producing this same poster. One of the arrestees, Tom Barker, the editor of the I.W.W. newspaper Direct Action, was eventually convicted and spent 6 months in prison, forced to undertake hard labour.

Anzac Day 2014 saw the Australian population saturated with nationalist propaganda from every organ of the mass media. Despite the demagoguery of the various politicians who preached about soldiers dying for 'our freedom', opposition to their official narrative continues to be repressed.

There was once a strong tradition of protesting against the militarism of April 25 which has sadly died off over the past decade. From the late 1960's to the mid 90's, ANZAC day celebrations were regularly challenged or disrupted by feminist and anti war protesters.

On the eve of the 100 year anniversary of the invasion of Gallipoli, there has never been a more pressing time to challenge the nationalistic myth of World War I and of all imperialist slaughters.

Abbott perfectly summed up the purpose of the glorification of WWI and its millions of casualties with his expression of hope that "we might find it in ourselves to rise to the supreme challenge, as they did, should we ever be put to the test."

The state and media are undertaking an enormous propaganda campaign to cultivate a hysterical atmosphere in which the youth can be enlisted to kill and be killed for the economic interests of the elite. It is up to us to oppose it.

To Arms!

**Capitalists. Parsons. Politicians.
Landlords. Newspaper Editors and
Other Stay-At-Home Patriots.**

**your country needs
YOU
in the trenches!!**

WORKERS
Follow your Masters

Darwin: Prison disturbance

26 April: As many as 50 prisoners at the Berrimah Prison are in lockdown after a "disturbance" forced the highly trained Immediate Action Squad into a show of strength.

Department of Corrections spokesman David Harris said prisoners from C Block had been locked in a dining area on Friday while guards conducted a routine search of the cells.

A group of them — between 40 and 50 — then began to shout and bash on the windows, triggering a swift response from the IAS, who assaulted the mob and dragged the offending prisoners back to their cells.

Mr Harris played down the incident claiming that "it was just a group... refusing to follow directions"

Justice Minister John Elferink said the matter was still under investigation. "It was just a bit of push and shove between the fellows from Port Keats," he said.

The prisoners have been placed in lockdown, which means they are confined to their cells with limited release.

While not as seen as a major incident, Mr Harris conceded the IAS was rarely called upon in Territory prisons. The IAS is made up of specially-trained guards fitted out with riot gear.

It is assumed the prisoners had taken umbrage to the cell search, but Mr Harris said to the best of his knowledge nothing illegal had been recovered.

C Block houses a total of about 120 prisoners who are on remand.

Urunga: Vandals wreak havoc at Public School

30 Apr - Parents at Urunga Public School have been asked to donate computer monitors, after a vandal attack caused thousands of dollars in damage to classrooms over the school holidays.

Three young children broke into the school in the early evening of Friday April the 11th, shortly after school had wrapped up for the Easter holiday.

According to the school newsletter, the three children, including two who were enrolled at the school, damaged computers, iPads and interactive whiteboards.

The two enrolled students have not been allowed to return to Urunga Public, and the vandal attack has been reported to the police.

In the school newsletter the Principal Trevor Mulligan asked the community to loan monitors to the school until the broken equipment is replaced.

Harvey: Teenager charged over war memorial vandalism

3 May - A 15 year old girl has been charged over damage to a war memorial in the West Australian town of Harvey.

Police allege at some point between 4:30am on April 25 and 6am on April 26, floral wreaths and a large cross were stolen from the Harvey District War Memorial on Young Street.

Flowers and parts of the wreaths were found scattered around various locations in the small South West town.

A 15-year-old girl has been charged with stealing and unlawful damage over the incident and is due to appear in the Harvey Children's Court next week.

The Harvey Returned and Services League branch secretary, Trish Rumball, said the behaviour was disappointing and had shocked many in the close-knit community.

"I think it sort of shocked quite a few people because this is such a quiet sort of town," she said. "It's disappointing that it's happened. When I was a kid you didn't say boo ... but now things have changed. Who knows what's going through their minds."



Brisbane: Anti-fascists chase Golden Dawn supporters out of the CBD

2 May - Anti-fascist protesters outnumbered their far-right opponents more than 20 to 1 in Brisbane's CBD on Friday.

Police officers put themselves between the opposing groups as they gathered on Queen Street outside the offices of the Consul-General of Greece about midday.

Members of the Australia First Party called for a rally in support of the Greek neo-Nazi party, Golden Dawn (GD) whose founder, and several other GD MPs have been arrested and charged with forming a criminal organisation following the murder of an anti-fascist Greek rapper Pavlos Fyssas in September last year.

"We shall call on the Greek government to release from gaol the illegally imprisoned GD Members of Parliament," the Australia First Party said on its website ahead of the protest. "This action is about nationalists supporting nationalists, about patriots helping patriots."

But less than a dozen nationalists were in attendance from a number of tiny nazi groups, which began outside The Greek Club on Edmonstone Street, South Brisbane.

Their protest was overshadowed by the counter, anti-fascist rally staged by over 200 unionised construction workers and antifascist militants.

The two groups first confronted each other on opposite sides of Edmonstone st. with anti-fascist protesters yelling, "Immigrants are welcome, Nazis are not!"

As the fascists made their way to the offices of the Greek Consulate under heavy police guard, a stream of workers walked off nearby construction sites and joined the anti-fascist contingent.

Though separated by a line of riot police, minor clashes broke out as some anti-fascist workers managed to confront the nationalists and seized their Eureka flag.

After a brief standoff, the Australia First Party members were whisked away in a maxi-taxi to the cheers of the anti-fascists.

Later in the afternoon, the nationalists had retreated to a hotel in Woollongabba, when half a dozen anti-fascists reportedly stormed the venue and launched an assault upon the assembled nazis. Several blows were landed and the antifascists fled on foot. A number of the nationalist patrons were later taken away in an ambulance.



Melbourne: Arsonists burn pavilions in Royal Botanic Gardens



17 May: The director of Melbourne's Royal Botanic Gardens Dr Tim Entwisle is devastated after three pavilions were torched in an arson attack on Saturday morning.

Fire crews were called to the South Yarra gardens after it was reported that one pavilion was on fire before they discovered two more buildings burning nearby.

Dr Entwisle said the William Tell Pavilion was completely destroyed, while the Lake View Rest House pavilion, circa 1920 and among the state's oldest, was extensively damaged.

"It's horrible to walk into the gardens this morning and smell the smoke and just see the ash where we had these wonderful shelters. The William Tell shelter is one that people would picnic in. Our harpist would play in it, on the lake. It was a beautiful shelter.

"The other building that burnt was a new toilet block built on the lakeside. The third shelter was an older style heritage shelter which was nestled in above The Terrace cafe."

"I suspect it needs a complete rebuilding as well. It dates back to the early times of the gardens, it'd be about a century old. It's one of the older-style shelters of which there's probably a handful of them around."

Mr Woodward said setting fire to the log cabin-type structures would have taken a concerted effort. "These people were determined. They didn't do it once, they did it three times... It's disappointing that someone or some people have taken to lighting these pavilions up.

Detective Senior Constable Megan Macinnes said police would examine CCTV footage.

"Patrols were conducted this morning and also a complete search of the gardens was undertaken. Obviously, it's very disappointing and it's difficult to establish what possible motive there could be at this stage, so it's very disappointing and it's possibly a pointless crime."

Melb: Colonial Buildings Torched

This is to claim responsibility for the complete destruction by fire of three colonial structures at the so-called Royal Botanical Gardens in South Yarra, Melbourne in the small hours of May 16.

We put these filthy monuments of colonial oppression to the torch in the name of indigenous & anti-colonial resistance both here in Australia & in all other parts of the world & to spit in the faces of all those who seek to tame what is wild into sterile botanical prisons.

We also send greetings of fire & smoke to imprisoned resistance fighters everywhere!

Fire Wolves Cell

International Revolutionary Front

Syd: 3 Luxury Cars Torched



In the early hours of Sunday, May 18 we went for a walk through the streets of the predominantly rich Sydney area of Woolahra looking for suitable targets for us to express our rage upon. It didn't take long for us to find what we were looking for!

We set fire to 3 luxury cars – a BMW and a Nissan X-Trail on Queen St and a Lexus on Moncur St.

We left the scene quickly as the flames of rebellion lit up the early morning sky.

We dedicate this action to our comrades from the Fire Wolves & Felicity Ann Ryder Cells in Melbourne, to all FAI / IRF fighters everywhere & to all imprisoned anarchist & insurrectionists fighting for dignity behind the walls of injustice!

For The Total Destruction Of Existence!

Anarcho Wildlings Cell

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Sydney: Angry student protesters confront Education Minister Christopher Pyne

22 May - Riot police were deployed at one of Sydney University's oldest colleges to protect Education Minister Christopher Pyne from a mob of angry student protesters on Thursday night.

Pyne was at St John's College to adjudicate the John Howard Debating Cup, a yearly showdown between four Liberal clubs.

Unable to gain entry to the college on Missenden Rd more than 30 anti-Budget protesters resorted to heckling the colleges' boarders.

Cries of "smoking Joe, f**k no" were replied in kind by St John's boarders with one telling the group "go home you bunch of pelicans".

The Federal Education Minister was whisked out of the building amid heavy security, with traffic stopped for his convoy, as it raced down Missenden Rd at 8.45pm.

A few dozen protesters remained yelling "no cuts, no fees" and "shame" against a wall of riot police lining the road.

Sydney University Liberal Club President Alex Dore labelled the protesters a "violent fringe group of students on the extreme left".

"I'm sure all Australian students stand with me in condemning this unprovoked and violent riot," he said on the group's Facebook page at 8pm.

"The extreme left students' chants of 'Chris Pyne f**k you, Pyne is a wanker' is offensive and has no place in civil society.

"This riot was organised by the usual suspects from Sydney University's extremist rent-a-crowd, who have nothing better to do than to disrupt civil debate with their militant tactics."

Police at the scene said no arrests had been made after the protest had started at 6pm. The majority of protesters left the rear of the college at 8pm.

Protesters said the deregulation of the tertiary education system would make higher education unaffordable and accused the police of heavy-handed tactics.

They said Attorney-General George Brandis and former NSW Premier Barry O'Farrell were also inside the college.

Student Representative Council member Sonia Feng, 22, said she was allegedly groped on the breast as she was manhandled during violent confrontations outside the college.

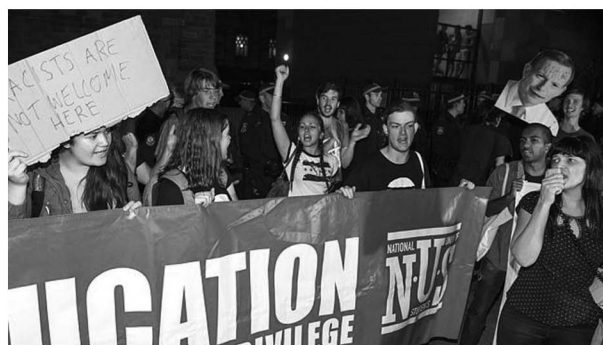
"They were very, very violent. One of them pushed my dress up and touched me on the breast. They were indiscriminately brutalising students," she said.

"We just want our voices heard."

The West Pennant Hills Arts student said students would be worse off under the Federal Government's proposed reforms to remove caps on fees.

"If you deregulate higher education more commercial interest goes in. You will have elitist universities," she said.

"I was one of the Q & A protesters. From then protests across many universities have happened. There is growing dissent and anger.



Two 'Anonymous' men arrested for hacking

22 May - Two men police claim to be members of online group 'Anonymous' have been arrested in Perth and Sydney for allegedly hacking into Australian and international websites.

The Australian Federal Police (AFP) said the men were arrested after searches of their homes in Penrith, NSW and Scarborough Western Australia.

Several computer hard drives and other equipment were seized, and it is expected that it will take several months to analyse the items due to the amount of information stored on them. The AFP said it would be alleged in court that the men knew each other online and targeted organisations including a large internet service provider and web servers hosting Australian and Indonesian government websites.

The 40-year-old Scarborough man was charged with aiding the unauthorised modification of Melbourne IT Ltd's computer network in Brisbane to cause impairment and unauthorised modification of Indonesian government web servers to cause impairment.

The 18-year-old Penrith man was charged with unauthorised modification of data to Net-speed ISP in Canberra to cause impairment, and unauthorised access to and modification of restricted data belonging to the ACT Long Service Leave Board in Canberra.

The AFP said people claiming to be members of Anonymous had targeted Australian government and corporate networks for the past two years.

The attacks had resulted in theft of personal data, defacement of websites and distributed denial of service attacks, causing websites to drop offline, the AFP said.

A distributed denial of service attacks is one in which a multitude of compromised systems attack a single target.

"These acts can cause serious disruption to government and business networks, which in turn can be catastrophic for people who rely on these networks to run their small business or administer their entitlements or personal finances," AFP national manager of high tech crime operations Tim Morris said.

"The impairment or disruption of communications to or from computer networks is a criminal act and can have serious consequences - it is not harmless fun."



Boggabri: Clearing Begins

29 May - The first major clearing of Leard State Forest for the controversial Maules Creek coal mine began on Wednesday morning but was quickly halted by protestors suspended from some of the trees that are threatened with clearing, the website frontlineaction.org reports.

Maules Creek woman Roselyn Druce, speaking from the protest said, 'Things are going to come to a head quickly if they keep trying to clear this forest during winter: they shouldn't be there, and we will be doing everything in our power to stop them.'

'The NSW environment minister, Rob Stokes, needs to intervene and give the wildlife of this forest a fighting chance.'

The company behind the mine, Whitehaven Coal, acquired the project during a merger with Nathan Tinkler's Aston Resources in late 2011.

The chairman of Whitehaven, Mark Vaile, was chair of Aston during the time when Maules Creek was first proposed. He was also the deputy prime minister and leader of the federal National Party during the Howard years.

Fronting ICAC last week, Mr Tinkler denied telling associates to donate to the NSW National Party to the maximum allowable limit to bypass disclosure laws.

A blockade of the site has been underway for four months and over 150 people have been arrested, holding up work on the coal project. Protestors object to the impact the mine will have on Leard State Forest and Aboriginal cultural heritage, and the contribution the coal export industry makes to global climate change.

Koala and Treesits Sustain Blockade

31 May - On Saturday a man in a furry grey suit chained himself to a large truck in the Leard State Forest as part of an ongoing blockade against the Maules Creek mine.

"He was there to highlight the threat to koalas that are hibernating and how winter clearing will affect different animals," Leard Forest Alliance spokeswoman Helen War told journalists.

Whitehaven is spending \$767 million developing Maules Creek mine in Leard State Forest and is progressively demolishing around 1660 hectares of native woodland to extract coal by early 2015.

The alliance says its protest has intensified in the last week after forest clearing began.

"It's been very intense and a passionate week or two for the people here in camp," Ms War said.

Alongside the cranky koala, who Ms War says a number of protesters have been suspended in trees for more than 24 hours.

Freya Harvey admits being strung to a tree is far from comfortable but she is willing to be there as long as it takes.

She said she could see trucks clearing trees from her spot 15 metres above the ground. "It's a bit daunting and not the nicest feeling to see it happening,

The tree-high activists take turns sleeping in a suspended cargo net and hammocks and use a portable bucket toilet when nature calls.

Whitehaven Coal had expressed a preference to avoid winter and early spring land clearances to avoid the "key breeding/hibernation seasons for threatened bat and bird species".

But the government recently approved a revision to the firm's biodiversity management plan (BMP).

Whitehaven's plans include using machinery to shake inhabited trees to "encourage" creatures to leave before "gently" bulldozing and leaving them overnight to allow remaining animals to escape.

"These measures are comprehensive, and address issues associated with clearing in cooler months and at other times," a Whitehaven spokesman told AAP this week.



Christmas Island: Hundreds on hunger strike

1 June: Around 75 asylum seekers who began their protest in solidarity with Reza Barati last Tuesday are in their sixth day of hunger strike – having slept Saturday night outside their compounds, in the rain.

In response to the protest, Immigration and Serco have locked down the whole of the detention centre, confining hundreds of asylum seekers inside their compounds.

Now the outside hunger strikers have now been joined by up to 300 other asylum seekers, Iranian, Iraqi and Rohingya, in the locked down compounds. Hundreds are into their fourth day of hunger strike as the anger and frustration grows.

Seven Iranians in Gold and Green compound have also stitched their lips shut.

The protesters have been on the island for 10 and 11 months.

“We are getting tired with no activity. But they are always warning, you will be sent to Manus Island or Nauru. We need freedom. The people outside in the rain are calling for freedom,” an asylum seeker said from inside the detention centre.

Many of those outside, some of whom are also refusing liquids, are having difficulty walking, are beginning to feel weak and unwell.

Some asylum seekers are being denied their daily medication because of the lockdown.

The protesters, both inside and outside are calling for contact with the media and the UN to inspect the camp.

“The situation is deteriorating badly on Christmas Island,” said Ian Rintoul, from the Refugee Action Coalition.

“The asylum seekers on Christmas Island are collateral damage; the on-shore victims of a failing system of offshore processing. Their mental health is already declining, yet they face many more months, perhaps even years, in detention.”

Christmas Island: Hunger strikers attacked

3 June - Australian Federal Police dressed in riot gear have forcibly suppressed the protest on Christmas Island.

Around 11.00am yesterday, the riot squad attacked the group of 75 asylum seekers who had been protesting on hunger strike in green zone since Tuesday last week. The seventy-five had remained outside the compounds braving pouring rain to continue their protest which started to mark the 100th day since the Iranian asylum seeker Reza Barati was killed on Manus Island.

Asylum seekers on the island describe brutal scenes when the riot squad attacked the hunger strikers in the green zone of the detention centre. The protesters were forcibly taken to the high security Red Compound and then to White compound where they were locked in their rooms.

There are reports of asylum seekers being injured ambulances being sent to the detention centre in the afternoon. It is not known if the hunger strike is continuing.

It is also not known if the protest of hundreds of asylum seekers inside the Red, Blue, Green and Gold compounds was continuing, although some reports say that police had also attacked some of those in the compounds in an attempt to end their protest.

The protest had escalated last week, with hundreds inside joining the hunger strike after Serco and the immigration department locked down the whole of the Christmas Island detention centre isolating all isolation seekers inside their compounds, curtailing activities and even access to medication.

Asylum seekers who witnessed the baton-wielding, helmeted riot squad attacking the protesters said they saw people whose faces and shirts were covered in blood.

They have told that besides the six transported out of the detention centre, other injured asylum seekers are being treated at the detention centre's medical clinic.

One of the asylum seekers injured remains in hospital with a broken hand/wrist after the riot squad re-broke his hand with such severity that a surgical pin from a previous operation was broken through the bone.

The asylum seekers report seven protesters have had their wrists ‘broken’ – although this may refer to a combination of actual break and those with injuries requiring support bandaging.

One of the asylum seekers reported that the riot squad was “...bashing them, hitting them with sticks and twisting their hands and putting them on the ground one by one.” At least one other asylum seeker was x-rayed for suspected broken ribs following the bashing by the riot squad.

Six asylum seekers remain in the high security Red Compound while the others involved in the protest have been isolated and locked in the White compound. Some of the asylum seekers, including two epileptics, are still being denied their daily medication.

Castlereagh: First Fleet pioneers' graves sprayed with pink graffiti

5 June - The National Trust of Australia has been called in to help clean up the tombstones of First Fleet officers after the graves were sprayed with pink graffiti by vandals.

A total of five tombstones in the historic western Sydney township of Castlereagh were spray-painted on May 17 at the cemetery in Cranbrook near Penrith.

Penrith City Council spokesman Carl Spears says it was a disgraceful event.

"It's sad that there are people who don't appreciate the importance of these sites" he said.

The Castlereagh cemetery is one of the state's oldest graveyards, established by the Governor of NSW, Major-General Lachlan Macquarie in 1811.

Mr Spears says Penrith City Council, the trustee of the burial ground, reported the incident to police, and now has begun the delicate cleaning process.

"These are heritage graves ... they have historical significance. We just can't go in and blast the graffiti off, it needs to be done sympathetically." he said.

Due to its isolation and accessibility, this is not the first time the graveyard has been the target of vandalism. In 2010, the graves were also covered sprayed with graffiti.

A year later, the council responded to protect the site by erecting a high security fence around the perimeter of the cemetery.



Kingscliff: Senior vandal targets police station

11 June - A 61 year old vandal led police on a 300m chase on a toy scooter after allegedly scrawling graffiti across the Kingscliff police station.

Police intercepted the man a few blocks from the station after spotting the 61-year-old spraying 'Kinky Boyz Rule' and other illegible slogans in orange paint on the building early yesterday morning. Despite his age the man put up quite a fight, injuring two officers while they tried to arrest him, with Detective Inspector Brendon Cullen saying one officer suffered a shoulder injury.

"One of the officers will be off work for one week with a shoulder injury and the female officer suffered some grazes to her hand," he said.

"The reasons why he went to these lengths I'm not completely sure, but needless to say the actions we are alleging are quite irrational, particularly with police being in the building at the time... It's not our usual type of graffiti suspect, at that age."

Police said there was no CCTV footage of the incident, as the man had spray painted all cameras prior to committing the offence.

Police have charged him with multiple offences including resist arrest, malicious damage and two counts of assault police.



Redfern: Block grannies vow to stay



14 June - They're called the grandmothers and the Block has been their home for generations.

Kay Hookey grew up in number 98, a narrow terrace in the "black heart of Redfern". Joan Bell's mother was the first official tenant of the Block when the Aboriginal Housing Company (AHC) was established in 1973.

Now, they are fighting their own people to retain the sacred piece of land.

Three weeks ago, the grandmothers pitched a tent embassy under the shadows of towering apartments to oppose the Aboriginal Housing Company's plans to redevelop the area into student accommodation.

On Saturday, 200 more people joined them for a subdued protest to campaign for affordable housing.

Placards read "always was, always will be Aboriginal land" and "this is not private land".

Under the leadership of Mick Mundine, the Aboriginal Housing Company has somehow lost its way, causing a bitter fractures in the community, tent embassy organiser and "grandmother" Jenny Munro said.

The company has declared the Block is now private land and Mr Mundine said on Saturday it was impossible to source finance to build affordable housing for the Aboriginal community.

Ms Munro told the small gathering the tent embassy will remain on the Block until Mr Mundine meets their demands. The crowd vowed to be there when bulldozers come in on July 7.

"You used to walk around the streets down here and there'd be people out everywhere. It was a great place for adults, a great place for kids to run wild and free," said Ms Hookey.

"Now, there's a lonely feeling because no one is there. We were against the land being sold because it's no one's land, it belongs to the community."

Ms Bell said the Block meant more to her than anyone could imagine. "It's not a big [piece of land] but to us, this land is everything,"

The AHC has accused the tent embassy of setting up illegally on the Block and defacing a historical Aboriginal flag in the area.

Protester Jenny Munroe is "worried that all we will end up with here is the commercial development and student accommodation and no housing for our people".

"The Aboriginal Housing Company was set up with the mandate to provide low income housing for our community," she said.

"Whatever development goes on here, it should be housing for our people first, not last on the list. [Mundine] is actually dispossessing us again.

"If there is no black housing developed first, there will be no development here, no commercial or student enclave."

Protester Joan Bell, who helped set up the AHC 40 years ago, told reporters that:

"This is our land, we fought hard for this >"

In 1973 the Whitlam government provided money for the AHC to buy homes in the Block.

By 1990, up to 300 Aboriginal tenants lived in the area but as the local community became overwhelmed by drugs and crime and many houses fell into disrepair.

As the old houses were knocked down, local property prices soared. Today The Block is regarded as prime real estate.

A source from the former NSW Labor government told journalists that money had been withheld from the Aboriginal Housing Company because of concerns that re-building affordable homes in The Block would create a new crime and drug problems.

The source said that 62 dwellings for Aboriginal tenants was far too many and that the area would work better with art galleries, cafes and a weekend market.

But Ms Bell told reporters The Block has been a meeting place for Aboriginal people for more than half a century, as people travelled from country towns to Sydney, and the area had become synonymous with land rights.

She said the tent embassy protesters would stand their ground.

"It will be lost, it will be gone, if we allow them to turn the ground, it's gone," she said.

Canberra: Sabotage and vandalism against the kangaroo cull

18 June - Government staff are bracing for more vandalism in the wake of two incidents this week protesting the kangaroo cull.

Territory and Municipal Services media manager Geoff Virtue said no incidents of vandalism were reported on Wednesday, though staff members expected further property to be damaged in coming weeks. "It's guaranteed we'll get more vandalism before the cull is over," he said.

"We've had a history of it during previous culls and it wouldn't surprise me at all."

Animal activists broke through fences at the Parks and Conservation depot overnight on Monday to slash the tyres and smash wind-screens of 10 government vehicles, before damaging the building itself and leaving a note declaring their opposition to the kangaroo cull.

The vandalism came after 18 sections of wire were cut open at the Jerrabomberra Grassland West Nature Reserve at the weekend, one of the planned locations for the kangaroo cull.

Mr Virtue said the vandalism significantly disrupted operations as staff attention was diverted to amending the vandalism at the depot.

Territory and Municipal Services Minister Shane Rattenbury said the "senseless act of vandalism" was disappointing.

"It's not a protest against the cull. All it's done is destroy government property and it will have no impact on whether the cull takes place or not," he said.

"This all costs the government and it's an unfortunate additional expense."

Meanwhile, the community legal centre that represented Animal Liberation ACT's unsuccessful challenge of the kangaroo cull in the ACT Civil and Administrative Tribunal has declined to condemn the vandalism at the Parks and Conservation depot on Tuesday.

An Animal Defenders Office spokeswoman said the legal centre "encourages members of the community who wish to protect animals to pursue legal avenues of challenge".

The spokeswoman said the non-profit organisation had no knowledge of who carried out the vandalism, which included the graffiti anarchist symbol on at least one government vehicle.

"Regarding the instances of property damage you refer to, we are not aware of any evidence linking the damage to any particular groups or individuals," she said.

"Any conclusions regarding the damage should wait until police investigations into the matter are complete."

The spokeswoman said she was disappointed that the ACT Civil and Administrative Tribunal had approved the cull despite evidence of serious animal welfare concerns, including the livelihood of young joeys.

"The tribunal admitted that as a small jurisdiction, the ACT should accept lower standards in terms of the administrative checks and balances in place to ensure the integrity of the culls," she said.

"The Animal Defenders Office maintains, however, that the size of the jurisdiction should not affect government decision-making standards in sensitive matters such as deciding whether or not to kill thousands of healthy wild animals on public land."





**THE CUTS
WE NEED**



**NO MORE PETITIONS
KILL THE POLITICIANS**

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