

# CPA 13th National Congress

# To the People



The 13th National Congress, which took place in Sydney on December 1-3, was a resounding success and saw delegates enthusiastically confirm the Party's commitment to the task of "Taking the Party to the People". Three days of reports and discussion revealed a picture of a Party growing in numbers and confidence. At the end of the Congress, some minor changes to the Party's Constitution, several updates to the Party Program and an analytical document – the Political Resolution (see page 12) – were endorsed by delegates. Ambitious targets were set and a new Central Committee elected to guide the CPA through what promises to be an exciting period of even more rapid growth.

The public event for the opening of Congress had the Party's commitment to an independent working class agenda and internationalism on display. Guests included representatives of the embassies of socialist countries – the Lao People's Democratic Republic, the People's Republic of China and Cuba. The Cuban Ambassador, Jose Galego Montero, thanked the CPA for dedicating the work of the Congress to the memory of Lenin and the Great October Socialist Revolution and Fidel Castro and the Cuban Revolution. First Secretary of the Chinese Embassy, Dr Jiang Lin, read a greeting from the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China.

Entertainers from Chile, Iran and Australia gave reinforcement of the internationalist theme of the night. Unity was the other major theme. Lindy Nolan of the Communist Party of Australia (Marxist-Leninist) spoke and expressed her Party's satisfaction with the developing working relationship with the CPA.

In his address to the event, CPA General Secretary Bob Briton said:

"Maybe you're not convinced that socialism is a viable alternative or that the sacrifice needed to achieve it is worth it. That's OK. In that case you might be better off working for better policy within the ALP or the Greens. We don't agree with that conclusion but we realise our responsibility.

"We need to sharpen our arguments and find the language necessary to persuade you. We need to have the policies and the vision to demonstrate that socialism – working class state power – is necessary if we are ever to get the social priorities and guarantees we need as workers and others currently denied control over our own lives ...

"One of the big lessons our Party and our history teaches is that we will work with everybody genuinely committed to defending and advancing the interests of the working class. I see promising examples of this joint work all over the country and I'm heartened to see a closer relationship between ourselves and the CPA-ML developing. We must continue

to deepen our working relationship with these comrades and others, regardless of party affiliation or other difference because, in the fight that is unfolding, we will need allies with a common aim to defeat our enemies in the war on workers.

"The Communist Party remains convinced that a decisive factor in building a new and just society is the building of a bigger and more influential CPA showing leadership in the many key areas of this struggle. We need to pursue an independent working class agenda. If ever you become convinced of this conclusion, and we will keep working to achieve this change of heart, you will be most welcome in our ranks."

A feature of the Congress was the increased representation of women and, in particular, younger members. A meeting of young members took place on the last day of Congress. Comrades exchanged ideas about the development of CPA Youth, which is now an affiliate of the World Federation of Democratic Youth. Delegates from the CPA reported about their recent attendance at the 19th World Festival of Youth and Students held in Sochi, Russia, in October. Around 30,000 young people gathered under the slogan "For peace, solidarity and social justice, we struggle against imperialism. Honouring our past, we build the future!"

The work of Congress was carried out in a spirit of unity. A lively Party-wide

pre-Congress discussion resulted in support for all the changes to the main documents including the Political Resolution. This was supported unanimously. The Political Resolution and the amended Program and Constitution will appear on the Party's national website soon.

There were many contributions from delegates and observers to Congress. Their contributions complemented the main report from the General Secretary and confirmed that the Party is growing in influence and activity in the trade unions, in the workplace and the community.

The increase in CPA membership since the last Congress led to decisions to expand the numbers on the Central Committee, its Executive and Secretariat. The main positions on the Central Committee remain the same as before. Bob Briton from SA was re-elected to the position of General Secretary, Vinnie Molina from WA is the National Secretary, Andrew Irving from Victoria is the Assistant General-Secretary and David Matters from Queensland is Party Vice-President.

Members at the Congress observed tradition with a strong rendition of the Internationale at the close of proceedings. They left with a better awareness of the strengths and shortcomings of our collective work and a sense of awesome responsibility to live up to the slogan of the Congress; that we must get busy "Taking the Party to the People" ★

**CPA 13th National Congress  
Guardian Special Edition**

This is the last issue for 2017.  
The *Guardian* will be back  
in 2018 on January 24.



## Guardian

Issue 1806

December 13, 2017

### For those who arrived late Welcome to the Cold War

The Australian government has sparked off a war of words with China, in part based on an attempt to manage the growing upheaval and disfunction in government ranks, and in the larger scheme of things to carry out the government's role as toady to the US in its strategy to "contain" China's ever-expanding influence in world affairs.

The anti-China/Communist rhetoric has escalated in inverse proportion to the Turnbull government's re-election strategy debacle. The jingoism comes with legislation claiming to "protect our way of life", as Turnbull puts it. And into the mix of patriotic claptrap has been inserted the word "treason": the war drums are beating.

The laws being introduced are also meant, among other objectives, to silence voices opposed to government policies, targeting GetUp! and other active groups, using as a pretext any financial support from overseas-linked sources.

These activities will be covered by a new offence, "intentional foreign interference", "economic interference" (15-year jail sentence), and upgraded espionage, sabotage and treason offences that come with punishment that includes life imprisonment.

Of course, contradictions abound, including the foreign military bases around the country with the ultra-secret US Pine Gap spy base, and a growing foreign military force in Australia's north. The wide net of accusation has caught various types, including former Labor Foreign Affairs minister Bob Carr, who is involved in a China-Australia group promoting business and trade.

Carr responded that there are think tanks promoting "consistently pro-American positions receiving funding from US companies including armament makers". Carr also pointed to a former staffer of deposed PM Tony Abbott, who is "on the payroll of a US think tank in Washington, and gives regular advice for Australia to adopt a pro-US policy position".

In fact the accusations and innuendo have very much the echo of Tony Abbott's "Team Australia" – if you are not with us, you are against us. An important propaganda tool in the Cold War was the branding of people as "traitors" collaborating with "sinister Communist" forces. For those who arrived later on the scene, welcome to the Cold War.

As the Tudeh Party of Iran's analysis on global developments notes in its greeting to the CPA 13th Congress (see page 7):

"What we are witnessing is the implementation of an openly aggressive gunboat diplomacy by the US administration and its reactionary allies in the region through the fanning of tensions between Iran and Saudi Arabia – all under the pretext of 'fighting terrorism', with Iran being declared by Trump to be the main sponsor of that terrorism.

"Even though, on the surface, the policies and discourse of the Trump administration are often perceived to be unpredictable and chaotic, at their core exists a coherent trend towards the continuation and protection of US dominance.

"The fact remains that the foreign policy of the United States under Donald Trump has been designed to serve the interest of the oil and military cartels in USA supported by the most extreme circles of warmongering neo-conservatives – and to ensure that the energy resources and minerals from the Middle East are denied to Russia and China, the US's chief rivals, regardless of any rhetoric to the contrary."

#### PRESS FUND

The Turnbull government has rejoiced in the passing of marriage equality legislation, even though it procrastinated to the Nth degree, wasting millions of dollars on a totally unnecessary survey to confirm what everyone knew already. Now it wants to introduce legislation to prevent charities from criticising government policy or from receiving donations from overseas, and is actively fomenting hostility towards China. The coming year looks like being a very busy time for us! Don't forget, over the festive season you can still send in contributions, which we depend on to cover our operating costs. We look forward to your continuing support and offer our sincere thanks to this year's Press Fund contributors – and of course, to those who contributed this week, as follows:

C Greer \$50, K and Bozo \$50, MM \$10, "Rough Red" \$5, "Round Figure" \$15, E Seymour \$25, T Costa \$20.

This week's total: \$175 Progressive total: \$7,160

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# Congress Special Appeal

The 13th National Congress of the Communist Party of Australia has come and gone and judging by the feedback has been a resounding success, especially with the enthusiastic participation of so many younger members. In part its success is due to the many financial contributions from CPA supporters and *Guardian* readers that was used to subsidise delegates from interstate and the many other costs involved.

The opening night was well attended and a very enjoyable occasion with great food good speeches and entertainment. On the night there was a collection to raise funds for Congress that brought in over \$6,000 – a truly great result. We wish to express our appreciate to the following for their contributions on the night and since for which we are very grateful:

MUA Sydney Branch pledges its support for parties like the CPA that are loyal to the working class and support their struggles \$1,000.

Port Adelaide Branch CPA \$600, D McLaren \$100, Democritus League Melbourne \$150, KM \$15, Tony Pashos \$50, BN Sudarshan \$50, Max Callahan \$100, J Doyle \$100, DigiRed \$100, J Ayres \$50, Alex \$20, Harmen \$50, David M \$50, Iranian comrades \$150, Andrew Irving \$100, Maritime Branch CPA \$2,000, T & D Sarelas \$300, Peter Mac \$150, MT Smith \$50, Melbourne Branch CPA \$800, Carlos \$50, Tom Costa \$100, CFMEU officials \$1,000, other contributions \$210.

This week's total: \$7,345. Cumulative total: \$8,360.



President of the CPA Vinnie Molina addresses the Congress. (Photo: Anna Pha)

## Ads highlight lock-out

The Mining Division of the CFMEU is taking out ads in the *Courier Mail* and three regional Queensland newspapers over the Christmas period, drawing attention to the plight of almost 200 Oaky North miners who have been locked out by multinational mining giant and corporate tax cheat Glencore.

By Christmas, the miners would have been locked out of work by Glencore for over 150 days. The CFMEU has launched an appeal to support the workers this Christmas.

The dispute over the Oaky North enterprise agreement has been running for most of the year and is showing no signs of resolution, with Glencore refusing to negotiate.

At the most recent meeting between the union and Glencore,

company representatives said it would not allow the miners back to work unless they caved in to the company's demands.

CFMEU national mining president, Tony Maher, said Glencore was treating Australia's industrial relations system with the same contempt it has shown for paying tax.

"The Oaky North workers and their community, the town of Tieri in Central Queensland, are hurting. They face a bleak Christmas as Glencore behaves like an out of control dictator.

"The company clearly thinks it is above the law. It makes mega profits from Australian coal operations and uses offshore tax havens to avoid paying tax in Australia.

"Glencore clearly aims to bypass the industrial relations system in the same way it does with paying tax.

"In closed door meetings, they have told the workers that they will never back down on their position, and that the workers will only be allowed back in if they agreed to all of the company's terms.

"That is not how enterprise negotiation works in this country.

"And it is also at odds with Glencore's public statements. They say one thing to the media and a completely different thing to workers and their representatives behind closed doors."

The ads will appear in the *Brisbane Courier Mail*, the *Mackay Daily Mercury*, *Central Queensland News* and the *Rockhampton Mornington Bulletin* over a four-week period. ☘

### QUOTE OF THE WEEK

“

If you see a banker jump out a window, jump after him. There's sure to be a profit in it.

”

Saying from the Great Depression (1929-39)



# Broome Jail conditions "inhumane, degrading"

Conditions at a rundown Western Australian regional prison, where most of the inmates are Aboriginal, are "inhumane and degrading", with some inmates in crowded cells forced to sleep on mattresses on the floor and potentially come into contact with vermin, a scathing report has found.

WA Inspector of Custodial Services Neil Morgan said the ageing Broome Regional Prison was unfit for purpose, describing conditions in the male maximum-security unit as degrading and the worst in the state.

The report found prisoner numbers in the unit regularly exceeded 35, despite having only 28 beds, and inmates were confined to the unit 24 hours a day with no personal space and poor hygiene due to sub-standard showers.

Inmates should only be held there for short periods but at the time of the inspection, five men had been held for more than 90 days and another three for more than 60 days.

"The only alleviating factor was that almost all of the prisoners were Kimberley men, in-country with fellow countrymen," Morgan said.

"They showed remarkable grace and tolerance of conditions that would not be accepted in Perth. But even their goodwill was wearing thin."

One prisoner commented in a survey: "Make it bigger so I don't have to sleep on the floor among other prisoners' rubbish, cigarette butts, body odour etc."

The prison manages male and female inmates of all security levels from across the Kimberley region, and is the oldest prison in the state.

The facility had been in



limbo after the previous government announced it would close by December 2015, following years of neglect, then backtracked without firming plans for its future.

The Labor government recently announced a \$2.7 million upgrade, which will include new security measures, a reception area, larger recreation spaces, beds and new women's cells.

Acting Commissioner of Corrective services Tony Hassall said the department shared Mr Morgan's concerns, but claimed the upgrade, which would be done in

stages next year, addressed many of the issues.

Mr Morgan said he remained concerned about long-term planning, particularly for East Kimberley prisoners.

Key findings of the inspector:

- The conditions in the Broome maximum security unit are inhumane and degrading. Cells are crowded, with some prisoners sleeping on cell floors.
- No rehabilitation or voluntary programs.
- No education available.
- Staff levels too low to safely

manage the prison population. Security processes also appear disorganised and present a risk.

- Few female officers, and sexist behaviour and language among staff.
- Women are marginalised and confined to their unit. They also have limited work opportunities and their visiting area is unsuitable.
- Work, education, programs and skills development courses are limited or non-existent.
- No prison support officer to assist with welfare concerns and

no equivalent Aboriginal visitor scheme.

- Prisoners feel staff do not understand their culture. Staff feel their training is unhelpful in understanding and managing Aboriginal people.
- Failure to recognise Aboriginal cultural relationships, particularly when prisoners apply to attend a funeral.
- Nursing coverage has improved but there is no visiting doctor, health education, dental service or ancillary services.

Koori Mail ☘

## From the Archives

The Socialist, February 1984



## LENIN

One Step Forward,  
Two Steps Back

### One Step Forward, Two Steps Back

Paperback – 232 pages by Vladimir Lenin **\$10**

Another classic in which Lenin studies the speeches of delegates and the political divisions at the Second Party Congress, drawing comparisons between the Bolsheviks and Mensheviks (opportunists). There are many lessons to be learnt from the ideological struggle which are relevant today.

## LENIN

Articles  
and Speeches  
on Anniversaries  
of the October  
Revolution

### Articles and Speeches on Anniversaries of the October Revolution

Paperback – 98 pages by Vladimir Lenin **\$8**

A collection of speeches given by Lenin between 1918 to 1922, taken from his *Collected Works* (Corrections in accordance with Fifth Russian edition).



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# Against neo-liberalism

## CPA Politics in the Pub in Perth WA

Richard Titelius

On October 25 the Communist Party of Australia (WA Branch) held a Politics in the Pub on the issue of “Neoliberalism and Mental Health” at 43 Below in Perth. The meeting’s chair Dr Fayeza Khan, introducing the controversial topic said, “In recent times there has been a weakening of workers’ rights which have undermined people’s happiness and well-being.” Neoliberalism – which is the ideology of capitalism – forms the basis for the organisation of our economy and society and “produces a fertile ground for many of the mental health problems being experienced in Western Australia and indeed around the world.”

The first speaker was Dr Christopher Crouch, Marxian artist and academic who stressed that a solution to the problem lay in the development of good theory and a progressive praxis of ideas. He noted that Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels raised three issues in *The Communist Manifesto*, fundamental to which is that social relations between people are being displaced by economic ones. The consequence of which is that “all which is solid melts into the air” as traditional values of human interactions are seized by capitalism and smashed asunder.

Under a neo-liberal organisation of society, people are made to see others as means to an end rather than ends in themselves. We see others only in terms of what they can do for us or get for us and we see ourselves only as functions of the economic system where our worth is determined by what we can buy and sell or what we can earn in order to consume and thereby validate the capitalist system and our place within it.

The third fundamental issue which Marx raised in *Manifesto* was that capitalism destroys the environment in order to make a profit and will continue to exploit the environment until there is nothing left to exploit and the balance of nature begins to crumble – as has begun to occur with anthropomorphic climate change.

Crouch said of social and cultural relations, that we as people are embedded in material and emotional relations within society. However, under neo-liberalism art and culture have often become an extension of the economic system and people have “begun to feel dislocated from the world they are supposed to engage with – they become dispirited, lose interest and become depressed.”

Under the capitalist system there was never a pretence to have full employment as capital needs to have a “reserve army of the unemployed” to help keep wages down. Today with the discourse of austerity, neo-liberalist governments have abandoned any pretence to community building. An example in WA is that country people are having to travel many kilometres into the cities for health services instead of keeping the rural health centres open.

Melissa Warner, an organiser from the Health Services Union, spoke of the impact neo-liberalism was having on the provision of mental health services from the perspective of the union whose members work in the sector. Warner began by describing cuts to funding and services which led to long waiting lists for access to mental health services and accommodation.

This had manifested itself in increased rates of suicide and of workplace violence being experienced by her members. In WA there was three times the demand for



Dr Fayeza Khan, Andrew Douglas, Melissa Warner and Dr Christopher Crouch.

existing services than what could be provided. WA’s suicide rate was twice as high as the national level and in the Kimberley region, with its high Aboriginal population, the suicide rate was three times national levels. The State Coroner had earlier this year conducted an inquest into the high rates of suicide amongst Aboriginal youth in the region.

For people able to access mental health accommodation, they could expect an average stay of four months and there was a 6-8 week wait till someone could access a mental health service. The manner in which the system is funded is also problematic and works on a three-year funding cycle whereby each mental health service provider has to apply for funding through the National Partnership Agreement. This produces insecurity, not only for

those who need the services, but also those workers employed to provide the services.

A new system is being developed called Social Impact Bonds which is seen as privatisation by stealth as it seeks to establish a bidding war among providers over who can be the least costly and possibly deliver a profit into the future. In regard to crisis care hotlines currently manned by clinicians, these are being replaced by, “Warm Support Lines” of peer workers who are seen as being cheaper than using qualified clinicians.

The third speaker was recently retired social worker Andrew Douglas who said that part of the problem with the crisis in mental health is that a lot of people don’t understand what constitutes mental or psychiatric illness. What is often

not realised is that people are more likely to harm themselves than to harm others when they have mental health issues. Douglas said that the mental health crisis had been aggravated by the closure of mental health institutions and the reduction of staff and especially full-time clinicians at these institutions.

A lively Q and A followed and raised further issues such as to improve mental health we needed to look for meaning and value rather than be led by money or economic issues. Bullying comes from the way we organise our society and even our education system. We needed to stress cooperation rather than competition to solve the problems and eradicate the violence which we often feel in our lives or see affect others. ✪

## Rally to save jobs

Richard Titelius

Last week over 120 Education Department clerical support staff rallied in Wellington Square at lunchtime in Perth to demand certainty over their jobs in the face of calls for continued austerity from Labor Party Education Minister Sue Ellery.

Minister Ellery had announced plans to abolish 188 positions and was seeking 200 staff to take up the Voluntary Targeted Severance Scheme (VTSS – which the government was using to abolish 3,000 positions over the entire WA public service).

Against this backdrop, Toni Walkington, branch secretary of the Community and Public Sector Union Civil Service Association, reiterated, “We gave our support to the Labor Party prior to March 2017, and were given undertakings about privatisation, outsourcing and contracting out. Now we have been advised by the government of their intention to cut the public sector jobs of the Aboriginal Education Support Staff and the jobs to be given to the Not for Profit Sector”.

Walkington continued, “Education is the key to a better society and communities as a quality public education will provide knowledge and skills as the gateway to better training and ultimately jobs.”

Pat Byrne, secretary of the State School Teachers spoke next, saying, “Cutting backroom jobs will definitely have an impact on the ability to teach students as it will cut resources required to support teachers in their work.” Byrne emphasized she was aware the state government was in a financial mess courtesy of the financial mismanagement of the previous Barnett Liberal government,

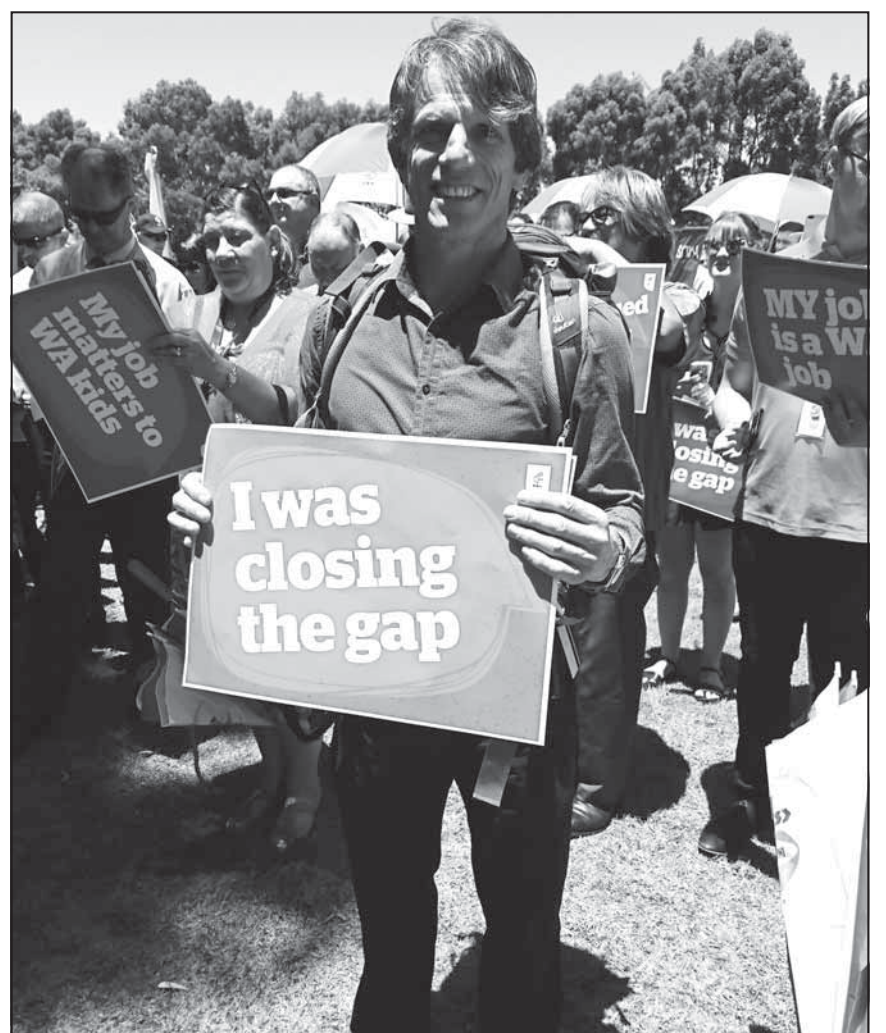
however, experience has shown that austerity does not work.

Karma Lord, assistant secretary of United Voice, the union which covers Education Assistants, said that the cuts to her members who worked as Aboriginal Support workers, will make closing the gap on education outcomes that much more difficult to achieve. It was the Aboriginal Education Support workers which helped Aboriginal families to keep their children in school. Karma said it would be union solidarity and resolve which would help save jobs and preserve quality public education for all.

The rally also moved a motion that if there was not a significant change in the government’s position on the proposed job cuts then the union members would undertake a campaign of industrial action to coincide with the commencement of the school year on February 1 next year.

Following the rally, the workers marched onto the nearby Education Department building entrance with chants calling for action to preserve education jobs now. The timing of the march coincided with the union delegates attendance at their joint union-management consultative committee meeting at which the proposed job cuts and VTSS offers would be discussed.

The Communist Party of Australia supports the united call by the union leadership of members in the education support sector, for the Labor government of Premier Mark McGowan to end its call for austerity measures to be imposed on the WA public sector. The Party supports the need for quality public education which is adequately resourced and includes the important jobs of the Aboriginal Education Support workers. ✪



Richard Titelius at the rally.



# Special Congress Resolutions

The resolutions on this page were adopted by the 13th National Congress of the Communist Party of Australia in solidarity with struggles in Australia and overseas. They range from trade union, Indigenous, to international struggles against imperialism and anti-communism.

## First Nations Workers' Alliance

**All workers deserve the opportunity to have a good steady job and dignity of work, at least.**

The Turnbull government's Community Development Program (CDP) is depriving tens of thousands of people of that opportunity. It is punitive, heavy-handed and racially discriminatory and the union movement is determined to see it removed.

### The Problem

CDP workers are not actually classified as workers. They get well below the minimum wage (the dole pays \$11.60 per hour or \$290 per week) for working for 25 hours a week for non-profit and now for-profit businesses.

They are not covered by the Fair Work Act, they don't have Federal protections or workers compensation and they can't take annual leave or care's leave.

Those under the CDP are forced to work up to three times longer than city-based jobseekers to receive welfare payments. Since July 2015, less than 3,500 Indigenous workers found full time or work lasting six months or more.

CDP workers have 70 times the financial penalties imposed upon them than non-remote Dole scheme workers.

Fines for missing activities under CDP – which covers a tiny fraction of the population – account for more than half the total penalties across the entire welfare system.

### What is the union movement doing about it?

We are working with CDP workers and the community to give a voice to these workers who are being exploited.

The First Nations Workers' Alliance (FNWA) is a new organisation which will campaign to end the CDP and replace it with a program that works for Indigenous people rather than enslaving them.

CDP workers join for free. Indigenous union members can get a \$26 per annum membership and non-Indigenous people can become a supporter for \$52 a year, and corporate membership (Union organisations) for \$500.

### Resolution:

That Congress encourages the CPA membership to consider becoming supporters of the FNWA.

## Greetings from Iraqi Communist Party

**The Communist Party of Australia received greetings from more than 40 fraternal parties from around the world at its 13th National Congress held from December 1-3 in Sydney. The following is the greeting from the Iraqi Communist Party.**

We convey the warmest greetings of the Iraqi Communist Party to the 13th National Congress of our fraternal party, the Communist Party of Australia.

This important event in the life of your Party acquires special significance for the just struggle of the Australian and working class against the aggressive capitalist agenda, the rise of the right and racism, the attacks on the welfare system and restrictions on trade unions; in defence of people's rights and their legitimate aspirations for a free dignified life. In this crucial battle, your Party has an important role in revitalising the struggle through providing leadership and initiative.

We are confident that your 13th Congress, which is held under the slogan "Taking the Party to the People", will strengthen the Communist Party of Australia and its role in the ongoing struggle to defend the fundamental rights and freedoms of the Australian people and workers.

Your 13th Congress is taking place in a world climate that is still suffering the consequences of the deep crisis of globalised



13th National Congress of the Communist Party of Australia – singing the "Internationale". (Photo: Anna Pha)

capitalism, and the vicious onslaught by the ruling classes, posing enormous challenges to the working people in Australia and all over the world.

This situation has fuelled tensions and contributed to increased aggressive tendencies of imperialist states; instigating conflicts and wars in many areas around the world, including the Middle East. It has produced a fertile ground for the growth of extremist right-wing, fascist and ultra-reactionary terrorist movements, gravely threatening world peace.

The united action of progressive forces in Australia and internationally will contribute to the fight against fascism, racism, neo-liberalism, capitalist exploitation and imperialist schemes, as well as promoting socialist ideas and goals. This is closely interconnected with strengthening international solidarity against the warmongering policies of imperialism, and the need to provide genuine support for ongoing struggles all over the world for peace, freedom, democracy and social progress.

Your Congress also comes soon after celebrating the 100th anniversary of the Great October Socialist Revolution, which has given new impetus for Communists and progressive forces all over the world to intensify their struggle for the lofty objectives of socialism.

The 10th National Congress of our party was held in Baghdad at the end of last year under the theme "Change. For a Civil Democratic Federal State and Social Justice".

Since then Iraq has been facing challenging times. Significant military victories have been achieved against terrorist Daesh during recent months, including the liberation of the city of Mosul and other areas in western Iraq. But the country is still suffering the consequences of an ongoing deep political crisis, further complicated by the negative repercussions of the recent referendum in the Kurdistan federal region.

In this respect, our Party has called for dialogue on the basis of the Constitution to resolve the outstanding issues between the federal government and the Kurdistan regional government. It also warned against inflaming the sentiments of chauvinism and nationalist intolerance.

While reaffirming its principled position on the right to self-determination for all peoples and nations, big and small, our party has pointed out that the federal formula, as stated in the Constitution, can still provide a solution that is satisfactory to all the parties and ensure the rights and interests of the Kurdish people and other social constituents in the Kurdistan region and the whole of Iraq.

The Iraqi Communist Party is an active participant in the ongoing mass protest movement that has been continuing since July 2015 against corruption and sectarian politics. This protest movement has shaken the foundations of the sectarian-ethnic quota system that was installed by the US occupation authorities after the war in 2003.

But putting an end to this political system is a big challenge. Our party firmly believes that the legitimate demands of the people for real political reform and change can only be achieved through developing and intensifying popular

pressure, in order to bring about a change in the balance of forces to achieve the democratic alternative in a free, unified federal democratic Iraq.

In this difficult struggle and current complex conditions, we look forward to wider support and international solidarity with the Iraqi people and their democratic forces, including our Communist Party, in the fight to defeat terrorism and sectarianism, achieve societal reconciliation and national unity, and build a civil democratic state based on social justice.

Finally, we seize this opportunity to express our appreciation for your Party's internationalist solidarity with the Iraqi people and the Iraqi Communist Party. We look forward to strengthening and developing the internationalist ties between our Party and the Communist Party of Australia, in the joint struggle for freedom, peace, democracy, social progress, and socialism.

Long live Internationalist Solidarity!  
See page 7 and 8 for more greetings.

## Oaky Creek North Solidarity Resolution

**The CPA 13th Congress expresses its complete solidarity and support with the Oaky Creek north coal miners and the CFMEU Mining and Energy Division who are now in their sixth month of being locked out by multi-national miner Glencorp.**

We condemn Glencorp's lies and vicious attacks on the workers. We condemn the threats and intimidation dished out by state forces, private security and the media. We condemn Glencorp's attacks on workers' rights and safety conditions which have seen the re-emergence of black lung disease.

The CPA stands by you comrades recognising your struggle is also the struggle of our Party and the broader working class.

We stand with you and your slogan:  
One Day Longer – One day Stronger  
Solidarity Forever!

## Cuba – Lift the blockade

**The 13th Congress of the CPA condemns the recent backward steps by the Trump administration towards relations with Cuba.**

In particular the recent vote in the UN General Assembly against the Resolution tabled by Cuba against the cruel inhumane Blockade. This blockade affects every man, woman and child in Cuba and adversely affects the American people who are unable to access many of the medical treatments developed by Cuba.

The vote in the UN was 191 to 2 in favour of the Cuban resolution.

We call on the Trump administration to lift the blockade.

### Honduras – respect the wishes of the people

The 13th Congress of the CPA calls for the incumbent government to respect the outcomes of the recent elections and the call by the people for change.

We condemn the use of state forces against the people and call on the outgoing government to halt these aggressive tactics.

We call also on the US administration to not interfere with the election processes and respect the wishes of the people of Honduras.

The 13th Congress of the Communist Party of Australia stands with the people of Honduras in their struggle for democratic change.

### Poland – solidarity with the CP of Poland

Under legislation that gives notice to Polish local governments to remove communist imagery from public spaces, the Polish courts have re-commenced prosecution of the Communist Party of Poland's newspaper and website under charges of propagating communist ideology.

The 13th Congress of the CPA condemns the attack on the history of the revolutionary Marxist movement in Poland in general, and in particular the present attacks on the Communist Party of Poland (CPP).

The Congress offers its solidarity with the CPP alongside the other 67 Marxist and Workers' parties who have already done so. ✪



General Secretary Bob Briton and President Vinnie Molina. (Photo: Anna Pha)



# Congress impressions

The *Guardian* caught up with some of the delegates and observers after Congress to ask them about their expectations and impressions of the 13th National Congress of the CPA before they returned to their states. There were a number of relatively new members who attended Congress for the first time, reflecting a recent interest in the Party. So before asking about the Congress itself, the *Guardian* spoke to one of these observers from Adelaide about how she came to join the Party.

**Tamara Alexandra Otello** is from Adelaide in South Australia. She came to Australia from Germany as a young mother with a 15-month-old son, her own mother was already living here. While living in the west of Germany she had frequently visited the German Democratic Republic (East) to see her grandparents.

“That made an impression on me. I was living in the West but had regular contact with the East. Politics was never discussed in my family. My mother always voted Liberal and still does.”

Ironically her parents had fled communism.

“When I went to university I studied social work, I studied sociology, psychology, politics. I became quite interested in politics and so I joined the Communist Party in the 1980s.” (The present CPA was the Socialist Party then – Ed)

“I’ve had a long career in social work – in domestic violence, in health, and other areas. That will always be my interest, that and the Cuba Friendship Society.”

“I was always involved in left causes – anti-nuclear, Roxby Downs, the women’s movement, we had a women’s contingent that went to Roxby Downs.”

It was Tamara’s strong interest in Cuba and a trip at the end of last year on a Brigade to Cuba that led to her joining the CPA. The Brigade leader was CPA national president Vinnie Molina.

“I was exposed there and saw how it worked.” She already knew a number of party members from her activism and not long after her return, CPA general secretary Bob Britton asked her to consider joining the Party which she did.

Today, in “retirement” Tamara is involved in the Anti-Poverty Network. They have been campaigning for an increase of \$100 per fortnight in the NewStart Allowance, against the Basics Card and also do some advocacy work for people dealing with CentreLink.

As for the Congress, Tamara said, “I was quite pleased to hear one of the young members saying we cannot just dismiss the disabled, the mentally ill, aged pensioners and the unemployed as lumpen proletariat because they are not workers.”

“I don’t think we can’t just focus on workers in that sense. We need to think about everyone.”

“I would also like to see more women in the Party. Congress has been great. I have met people I chat with from Facebook.”

**Andrew Rayment** is a 25-year-old student from Newcastle in NSW who was also attending his first Congress as an observer. He is studying biotechnology.

“I didn’t come with any expectations but was pleasantly surprised with the discussions that were going on. It was good to hear about the struggles from around the country that others are involved in. It was great to put faces to names or meet people involved in other political activity or have written articles for the *Guardian*.”

“It was nice meeting so many young people in the Party and getting to know them and talk to them about the Congress and what they felt the role of the youth in the Party could be. I think it will strengthen the links between the youth around Australia.”

“From what I’ve heard, I think the Congress was inspiring for most people who attended. It will give them a direction over the next four years. It gives us a policy platform for where we are heading over the next four years with the incoming Central Committee.”

**Romina Beitseen**, a member and treasurer of the Melbourne branch of the CPA. She has been in the party for just over 30 years, having joined soon after she came to Australia in 1986 from Iran. It is her second Congress, the first was in the early 1990s.

“I hoped to see more younger members of the Party at this Congress which I have. It was beyond my expectations, it was really great. They are all involved and active and that is a really good, positive thing for the party.”

Comparing this Congress with the first one she attended, Romina said, “it shows that we have grown as a party. We had a lot of older members at that time who were very active and had lots of experience.

“It was the same at this Congress, with a lot of capable, experienced comrades who are active in a lot of areas. I guess it is a larger Congress this time with a lot of the younger generation. So it’s a positive thing for it shows that we are growing as a party.”

Romina is very active in the peace movement and is secretary of the Campaign for International Cooperation and Disarmament (CICD). She is also involved with The Independent and Peaceful Australia Network (IPAN), the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN) and the Medical Association for the Prevention of War (MAPW) as well as being a member of the Cuba Friendship Society.

“Especially at this time I believe we should all be involved in the peace movement and try to get people to see what is really happening with US aggression and also to support IPAN to have an independent, peaceful Australia and not follow the US into every war.”

After the Congress, Romina hopes that the Party will be involved in more peace activities. “I’m hoping that the Party will be a leading force in the peace movement. ‘Peace to the people, land to the peasants’ was the battle cry of the Russian Revolution. Lenin was a strong advocate of peaceful coexistence between nations.”

“I would like to see this Party lead the peace work in Australia.”

**B N Sudarshan** is a lawyer and a member of the Sydney Central branch of the CPA and attended Congress as an Observer. He migrated to Australia from India where had worked in the trade unions and had been a member of the Communist Party India-Marxist. He retired a year ago.

“Listening to the deliberations of delegates I understood one thing, that they participated with enthusiasm. I am impressed with the theme of the Congress, ‘Taking the Party to the People’, because the Communist Party is the vanguard of the working class and the working class have to lead the nation.”

“The working class are the majority in society. Unfortunately the working class is not in government. Australian society is governed by the capitalist parties, whatever their name – Liberal Party or Labor Party. The Labor Party does not represent the working class in Australia.”

Sudarshan pointed to the existence of exploitation in Australia which is a class society and how rising prices are reducing the share of the wealth generated being distributed to the working people who generate it. “People do not have a share of the economic growth.”

On the question of what we do following the Congress: “We have to deliberate further on the theme of the Congress, have workshops at all levels of the Party to develop a methodology on how to take the Party to the people. What are the issues to be taken? What means are to be adopted?”

**Wayne Sonter** is the secretary of the Western Sydney branch of the CPA and former secretary of the Sydney District Committee. He has attended a number of Congresses and has been an activist in the union movement, around the shorter working week and a number of solidarity movements.

“I think new personnel are coming in and the old guard is gradually coming to pass, but it is being managed in a generally orderly manner. The Party’s ideological continuity is being largely maintained as this process unfolds.”

“Congress will give us an impetus for our work, but this is in rapidly changing times. Our supreme task is to keep up with and ahead of these changes as they are affecting the masses, if we are to build the Party in building the movement. We must continue to motivate ourselves and to find inspiration in our work throughout the next four years. The Congress is just the start of that process,” Wayne said.

As for this work, “As a branch secretary, I see there is a lot of work to do to grow our branch, extend its profile and connect to what is a more general upsurge among the masses outside the Party, that we need to connect to if we are to ‘Take the Party to the People.’” ★



Tamara Alexandra Otello.



Andrew Rayment.



Romina Beitseen.



B N Sudarshan.



Wayne Sonter. (Photos: Anna Pha)



# Greetings from the Tudeh Party of Iran

The Central Committee of the Tudeh Party of Iran would like to take this opportunity to salute all delegates to the 13th Congress of the fraternal Communist Party of Australia.

We wish your Congress every success in realising its full program in discussing, formulating and ratifying the policies before it and for renewing the tactical and strategic tasks in the struggle for peace, progress and socialism in Australia.

We would also like to take this opportunity to restate our profound commitment to the long-standing fraternal relations between the Communist Party of Australia and the Tudeh Party of Iran. We fully appreciate and thank the CPA for the consistent solidarity it has extended towards Iran's working class and their party – the Tudeh Party of Iran – in their struggle for peace, democracy and social justice.

Your Congress is taking place at a time when the world is still gripped by the impacts of the global multi-faceted economic and monetary crisis. Capitalist forces internationally are trying to shift the burden of this systemic crisis onto the shoulders of workers and ordinary people with the dangers of instability, war and imperialist intervention becoming ever more widespread.

Australia, as an advanced capitalist country, has been demonstrating the same tendencies. While the austerity policies adopted by the successive Australian governments have made the lives of the working class and poor in your country more desperate, the rich have become richer and more ruthless in their drive to extract more wealth and surplus value at the expense of the disenfranchised and the environment.

The military doctrine of the Australian government is directed against peace and the struggle for socialism. Although Australia is not formally a member of NATO, its governments have played an enthusiastic part in the adventures of NATO in various parts of the globe – in particular in Afghanistan and in relation to the US "Pivot to Asia" strategic policy.

## Middle East

The Middle East is going through a very dangerous chapter in its history. The people of the region are faced daily with imperialism's attempts to spread war, terror, and destabilisation, in order to coerce them into accepting its domination. The Middle East has been the target of the carefully designed attempts by imperialism to consolidate their hegemony in the strategically important region and to ensure the unrivalled control of the flow of oil and gas, the ability to freely plunder the region's resources and to exploit its markets.

The election of Donald Trump as the 45th President of the US has laid bare the manner by which the US operates in the Middle East. Donald Trump has in effect auctioned the foreign policy of its administration to the highest bidder and to those who are prepared to finance US coffers through the purchasing of billions in dollars of advanced military hardware and services. US support for ruling circles in Saudi Arabia, Turkey and Egypt is compounding the crisis in the region.

In his visit to Saudi Arabia in May 2017, the US President signed an agreement to sell US\$300 billion worth of armaments and military equipment to the Saudi Kingdom and inaugurated the launch of an "Islamic NATO" consisting of military personnel from 39 reactionary Arab and Islamic countries. This army is led by Raheel Sharif, the former Chief of Staff of the Pakistani Army who earlier this year was appointed by the Saudis as the Chief of a 39-nation Islamic Military Counter Terrorism Coalition, financed and controlled by Saudi Arabia.

What we are witnessing is the implementation of an openly aggressive gunboat diplomacy by the US administration and its reactionary allies in the region through the fanning of tensions between Iran and Saudi Arabia – all under the pretext of "fighting terrorism", with



Iran being declared by Trump to be the main sponsor of that terrorism.

Even though, on the surface, the policies and discourse of the Trump administration are often perceived to be unpredictable and chaotic, at their core exists a coherent trend towards the continuation and protection of US dominance. The fact remains that the foreign policy of the United States under Donald Trump has been designed to serve the interest of the oil and military cartels in USA supported by the most extreme circles of warmongering neo-conservatives – and to ensure that the energy resources and minerals from the Middle East are denied to Russia and China, the US's chief rivals regardless of any rhetoric to the contrary.

The first speech of US President Donald Trump at the UN General Assembly (GA) on Tuesday, September 19, 2017, exhibited before world public opinion the deeply reactionary, interventionist, and warmongering nature of the US administration, and thus the grave risks to world peace. Using abusive and threatening language in his speech at the UN GA, the US President referred to Iran as a "rogue" state and called on the international community to confront the "destabilising activities of the murderous regime" of Iran.

Of course, Trump tried to portray himself as a friend and well-wisher of the Iranian people and stated that the "Iranian government masks a corrupt dictatorship behind the false guise of a democracy."

The Tudeh Party of Iran is seriously concerned about the provocative statements and threats emanating from US Imperialism that have taken on a very dangerous dimension since Donald Trump visited Saudi Arabia and then Israel in May 2017. This has encouraged Saudi Arabia and its Persian Gulf allies to pursue a policy of change to the balance of forces in the Middle East.

## JCPOA not violated

Our party is anxious that war under any pretext would have catastrophic consequences in Iran and the region. We advocate resolution by negotiation of all disputes between the countries of the region based on international law and within the framework of the UN Charter.

The Tudeh Party of Iran is gravely

concerned about developments over recent months regarding the stance of the US administration towards the JCPOA [Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action – Ed] international accord, reached with Iran in 2015 with the support of all five permanent members of the UN Security Council, which brought more than ten years of wrangling and knife-edge tension regarding the country's nuclear program to a close.

The new US administration led by Donald Trump has not cited any violation of the agreement on the Iranian government's part but has instead predicated on the US administration's strategic designs for the containment of Iran and an unopposed, uninterrupted sphere of control encompassing the whole Middle East. The party believes that the JCPOA is a multilateral international treaty and that the US has no legitimate right under international law either to unilaterally declare it void.

In recent years there has been increasing talk in imperialist circles of the inevitability of a redrawing of the maps of the region. The Tudeh Party of Iran is seriously concerned that if the forces campaigning for peace and progress are not soon able to mobilise an effective and united campaign for an end to the bloodshed in Syria, Yemen and Iraq, the political map of the region could undergo massive alteration. This will have dire consequences further afield, including in both Asia and Europe.

## Medieval dictatorship

Our country, Iran, is going through a very complex period in its contemporary history. The country is ruled by a medieval dictatorship that has sacrificed the human, natural and strategic potential of the country for the sake of its brutal and damaging rule and in pursuit of its own particular interests.

The ruling regime is politically repressive and its social outlook is frighteningly backward and reactionary, while at the same time its economic approach is based on neo-liberal policies.

Although the relations between Iran and the US have suffered certain setbacks as a result of the bizarre way that Donald Trump has reorganised the foreign policy priorities of his administration, the regime is still intent on

the continued normalisation of its diplomatic and trade links with the US.

The fact that [President] Hasan Rouhani's term of office was renewed for another four years in May 2017 is an indication of this continuation in the regime's foreign policy approach towards the US and the EU. In the view of the leaders of the theocratic regime in Iran, better and friendly relations with the US administration – as enjoyed during the Obama years – are invaluable for the perpetuation of the theocratic dictatorship in Iran and indeed its survival.

They are more than prepared to play a "constructive" role in the final implementation of the US's "New Middle East Plan", as proved over the course of the previous US President's term of office.

## Struggle for democracy

The Tudeh Party of Iran continues its efforts to organise the masses and believes that through the creation of a united movement of opposition forces – including the social movements and, crucially, the working class, women and the youth – the path for fundamental, democratic and progressive changes can be paved.

The people's struggle for democracy in Iran is aimed at creating the conditions for the building of a genuine anti-imperialist popular movement and this in turn is related to our principled position in resisting imperialist plans for our country and the wider region. The regime is resorting to brute force and open repression in order to frustrate our efforts.

The Tudeh Party of Iran, through this message to your 13th Congress, assures you of our commitment to the furtherance of our bilateral fraternal relations. We believe that the success of our global struggle for peace and progress will demand the broadest unity of all forces that fight for peace and progress globally. The communists globally have an irreplaceable role in this struggle and in achieving this unity.

We are confident that our common struggle for real and durable peace in the world will be successful and that human and democratic rights will prevail.

We salute you in your struggle for peace, progress and socialism. May victory be yours! ✪



# Greetings from Fraternal Parties

The 13th National Congress of the Communist Party of Australia (CPA) had received greetings from more than 40 communist and workers' parties from around the world. Below are extracts from a few of those greetings:

## Communist Party of Venezuela

**The PCV values as highly significant the contributions that the Communist Party of Australia has given to the class struggle against our common enemy, capitalism, today in its superior imperialist phase. We accompany you in your efforts to advance globally towards the conquest of socialism-communism.**

We are sure that this congressional process will continue to strengthen political and organisational unity of the Communist Party of Australia and the revolutionary and progressive forces, face the new challenges posed by the current geopolitical scenario in the context of the multifaceted offensive that developed capitalism in the world.

The PCV is grateful for the consistent solidarity that the CPA has always shown with the struggle of the Communist Party of Venezuela and the Venezuelan people. At the same time, we reaffirm our commitment to continue consolidating the ties of unity and joint work of our organisations, within the framework of proletarian internationalism.

## Communist Party of Britain

**Your party, like ours, faces a harshly neo-liberal government intent on dismantling welfare provision, attacking trade union rights and forcing the costs of capitalist crisis on to working people. Like us, you also face a government using right-wing and racist ideology to maintain its political base.**

In face of these attacks your response, again like ours, is to stress the importance of mass work, of intervening wherever people are most exposed to attacks on their living standards and dignity and to do so to win wider unity, an understanding of the need for class solidarity and ultimately socialism.

## Progressive Party of the Working People (AKEL)

**The main slogan of your Congress "Taking the Party to the People" is by itself indicative of the CPA's emphasis on mass work, activism and campaigning with the people, on developing unity in action and forging a broad coalition of forces capable of challenging big business and the establishment.**

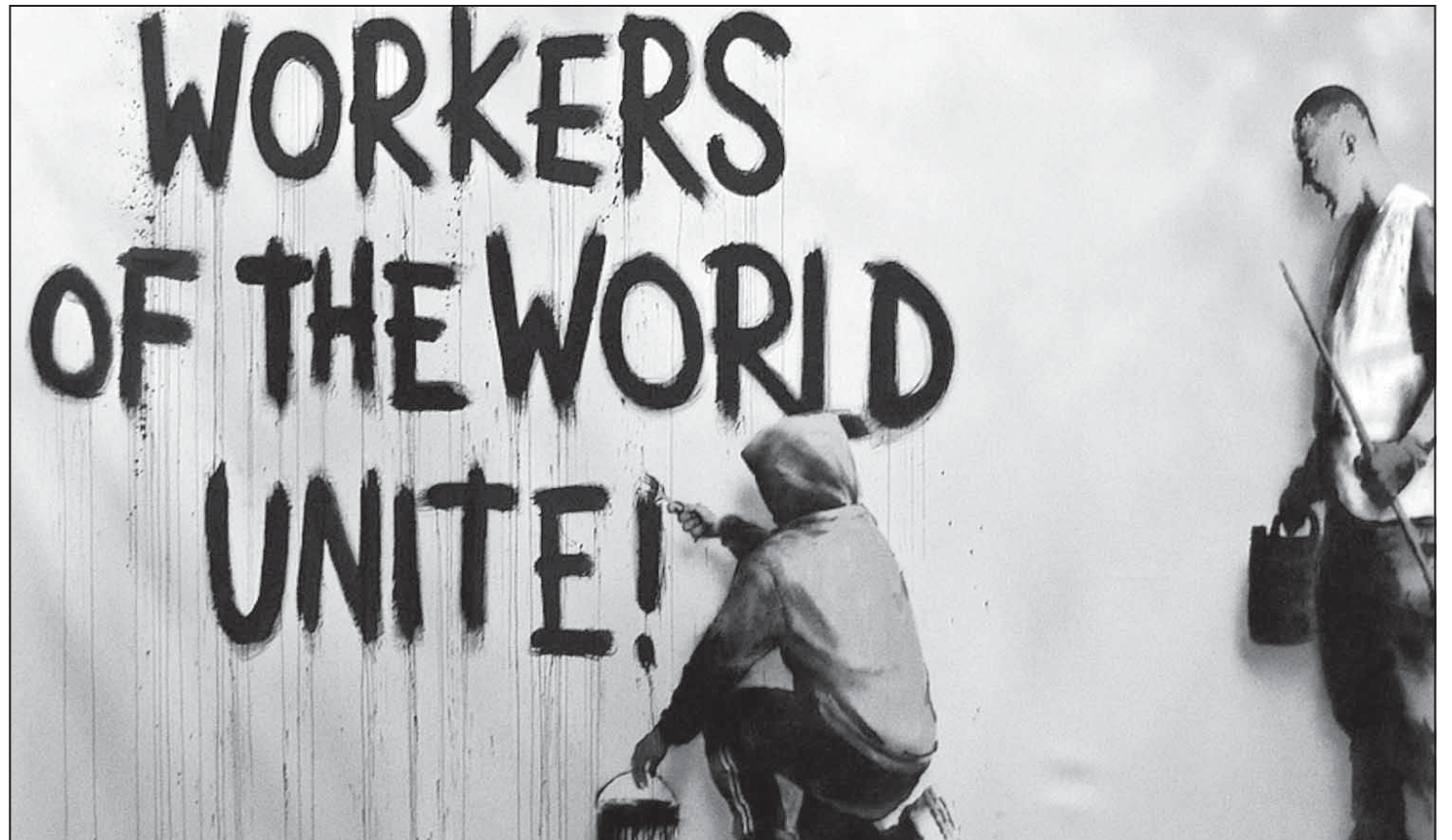
We believe that the communist and left movement has a decisive role to play particularly today in mobilising the broadest masses of people and to chart a way out of the neo-liberal capitalist deadlocks and militarisation of international relations.

The Cypriot people have been struggling to liberate Cyprus and our people from the Turkish occupation and the attempts to consolidate partition, for the reunification of our country and people under a bizonal, bicomunal federation and to turn Cyprus into a bridge of peace and friendship and not into an aggressive launching pad against the peoples of the region. We are sure we can count on your own principled international solidarity with our people's struggle.

We take the opportunity to thank you for the consistent solidarity with the struggle of the Cypriot people and AKEL.

## Communist Party of Canada

**Your convention has the vital task of determining the way forward to break the stranglehold of monopoly and imperialism on the working people of Australia, at a time when US imperialism is threatening war and invasion in Venezuela, DPRK, Syria, Afghanistan, threatening the government**



**and people of Cuba with "regime change", and assisting internal reaction to overthrow progressive governments in countries all over Latin America, and beyond.**

The threat of global nuclear or conventional war – started deliberately or by mistake – is urgent, with reactionary, militarist and fascist forces guiding foreign policy in the US White House. Similarly the US decision to withdraw from global environmental agreements aimed to stop and reverse climate change, and to declare climate change "a hoax", threatens further catastrophic climate change. Building a mass global movement for peace, nuclear disarmament, and environmental justice is more urgent today than at any time in the last 50 years, we believe.

In Canada, we are working hard to build up the Canadian Peace Congress, affiliate of the World Peace Council, which we see as crucial to awaken and mobilise the broad peace movement and the public into action.

## Alternate Revolutionary Common Force – FARC

**As revolutionaries, as communists we continue to have the unstoppable task of structural social change in opposition to the great voracious capital that destroys the environment, which destroys life as it feeds off war and casts more and more misery into a contingent of already impoverished people.**

We need to continue gathering rebellions, strengthening ourselves in proletarian internationalism, finding ourselves in solidarity that takes us away from the harshness of everyday life and brings us closer to tenderness, through acts of love for the people. May hard times be just to temper our convictions.

The FARC, as a revolutionary party, yesterday raised in arms and today again in political legality after the signing of the peace agreement with the Colombian government of Juan Manuel Santos, we recognise in you our natural allies, we reiterate our gratitude for your gestures and solidarity and political actions towards our organisation in the recent past, during the peace process and now as a new political party.

## Communist Party of Chile

**To the Chilean communists, the slogan that will preside over your Congress that calls "Take the Party to the people" seems of the utmost importance. This slogan faithfully portrays the struggle of communists**

**around the world in the sense of not being a party between four walls, but on the contrary, a mass party that fights and develops among the people, among the people, among the workers.**

Consequently, we salute the decision of the Australian Communists to turn their work – with even more force – towards the masses in the struggle against the increasingly anti-popular measures of the government of Malcolm Turnbull, a faithful reproducer of the ultra neo-liberal and warlike policies of Donald Trump.

From Chile, and in the midst of the second round of the presidential election, in the struggle to get our country to continue deepening the great reforms initiated in the government of President Michelle Bachelet, we reiterate our greetings to the Communist Party of Australia and its 13th National Congress with the best wishes for political and ideological strength.

## Communist Party of Greece (KKE)

**In Australia, in Greece, in all the countries, the bourgeois governments serve the interests, the profitability and competitiveness of capital, independently of the type of administration they implement, neo-liberal or social-democrat; they intensify the exploitation of the working class, abolish working class' and people's rights.**

The experience from the destructive work and the lies that the SYRIZA party has carried out in Greece and the cruel anti-people policy of the SYRIZA-ANEL government serves as a typical example of the role of social-democracy in the service of big capital and the imperialist unions, and confirms the need for communists to maintain a principled position, of continual confrontation with the political representatives of the capital, whoever they are.

It has been demonstrated in practice that it is capitalist barbarism that makes the working class and the popular forces suffer all around the planet; creates exploitation, wars, and presents serious duties for the Communist Parties, for the reinforcement of the class struggle, the strengthening of internationalist solidarity.

This year we honour the 100 year-anniversary of the world-climactic event of the Great October Revolution and we believe that this year and the next ones can be used in favour of the defence of historical truth, of the achievements of socialism and of the invaluable contribution of the USSR to the people's struggle around the world.

The teachings of the Socialist Revolution of October comprise a solid foundation from which we can draw valuable conclusions on the strengthening of the struggle of the Communists, of the working class movement, for the defence and projection of the scientific positions of Marxism-Leninism, opposed to bourgeois ideology and opportunism, in order to strengthen the anti-monopoly, anti-capitalist struggle for the overthrow of capitalist exploitation, for socialism that is both necessary and timely.

## Communist Party USA

**We follow your party's affairs closely and have read some of the very interesting materials you have prepared for your Convention.**

We note with great interest the attention you are paying to the disgraceful treatment which the Australian government continues to mete out to the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples. Alienation of land, broken promises and shoddy treatment overall reminds us very strongly of the similar manner in which the US ruling class treats our own Indigenous population. Racism plays a major part in both countries.

Under the current President, Donald Trump, many of the worst practices of the past are being revived or intensified. Recently, Trump's administration announced the imminent privatisation of vast areas, especially in the Western United States, that are considered sacred to numerous Indigenous US tribes, and which the environmentalist movement is also trying to protect from the depredations of the mining, stock raising and other powerful industries.

The Trump administration, closely connected to the extractive industries that also bedevil Australia, has protected oil and mining interests who are directly colliding with the aspirations of our indigenous populations, as for instance in the recent confrontation in North Dakota.

On the question of the rights of migrants, also, we see an unfortunate parallel with what is going on in our country also. The Trump administration has created a campaign of slander and hatred against non-European immigrants here, and is cracking down on working class families with shocking force and cruelty.

Finally, the intensifying imperialist threats to world peace in the current situation in the Asia-Pacific region make us very happy that Australia has such a strong and active Communist Party! ✪



# US rolls dice of war

Conn Hallinan

With the world focused on the scary possibility of war on the Korean Peninsula, not many people paid a whole lot of attention to a series of naval exercises this past July in the Malacca Strait, a 550-mile long passage between Sumatra and Malaysia through which pass over 50,000 ships a year. With President Trump and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un exchanging threats and insults, why would the media bother with something innocuously labelled “Malabar 17”?

They should have.

Malabar 17 brought together the US, Japanese, and Indian navies to practice shutting down a waterway through which 80 percent of China’s energy supplies travel and to war game closing off the Indian Ocean to Chinese submarines. If Korea keeps you up at night, try imagining the outcome of choking off fuel for the world’s second largest economy.

While Korea certainly represents the most acute crisis in Asia, the diplomatic manoeuvres behind Malabar 17 may be more dangerous in the long run. The exercise elevates the possibility of a confrontation between China, the US, and India, but also between India and Pakistan, two nuclear-armed countries that have fought three wars in the past 70 years.

This tale begins more than a decade and a half ago, when then-Under Secretary of Defence for Policy, Douglas Feith – one of the most hawkish members of the George W Bush administration – convened a meeting in May 2002 of the US-India Defence Policy Group and the government of India.

As one of the founding members of the Non-Aligned Movement, India traditionally avoided being pulled into the Cold War between the US and the Soviet Union. But the Bush administration had a plan for roping India into an alliance aimed at containing China, with a twist on an old diplomatic strategy: no stick, lots of carrots.

At the time, India was banned from purchasing uranium on the international market because it had detonated a nuclear weapon in 1974 and refused to sign the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT). There was a fear that if India had nuclear weapons, eventually so would Pakistan, a fear that turned real in 1998 when Islamabad tested its first nuclear device.

Pakistan also refused to sign the NPT.

Under the rules of the Treaty, both countries were excluded from the 45-member Nuclear Suppliers Group. While the ban was not a serious problem for Pakistan – it has significant uranium deposits – it was for India. With few domestic resources, India had to balance between using its uranium for weapons or to fuel nuclear power plants. Given that India is energy poor, that was a difficult choice.

When the Bush administration took over in 2001, it immediately changed the designation of China from “strategic partner” to “strategic competitor.” It also resumed arms sales to New Delhi despite India’s 1998 violation of the NPT with a new round of tests.

Then Washington offered a very big carrot called the 1-2-3 Agreement that allow India to bypass the NPT and buy uranium so long as it is not used for weapons. This, however, would allow India to shift all of its domestic fuel into weapons production.



Malabar 17 brought together the US, Japanese, and Indian navies to practice shutting down a waterway through which 80 percent of China’s energy supplies travel. The exercise elevates the possibility of a confrontation between China, the US, and India, but also between India and Pakistan, two nuclear-armed countries.

At the time, Pakistan – which asked for the same deal and was rebuffed – warned that the Agreement would ignite a nuclear arms race in Asia, which is precisely what has happened. India and Pakistan are busily adding to their nuclear weapons stocks, as is China and, of course, North Korea.

The 1-2-3 Agreement went into effect in 2008, although it has not been fully implemented.

Complicating this whole matter are ongoing tensions between India and Pakistan in Kashmir, over which the two have fought three wars, the last of which came close to going nuclear. Rather than trying to defuse a very dangerous conflict, however, the Bush administration ignored Kashmir. So did the Obama administration, in spite of a pre-election promise by Barack Obama to deal with the crisis.

It would appear that a quid pro quo for India moving closer to the US is Washington’s silence on Kashmir.

In 2016, the Obama administration designated India a “Major Defence Partner,” made Japan a permanent member of the Malabar exercises, and began training Indian pilots in “advanced aerial combat” at Nellis Air Force Base in Nevada.

The Trump administration has added to the tensions between India and Pakistan by encouraging New Delhi to deploy troops in Afghanistan. While India already has paramilitary road-building units in Southern Afghanistan, it does not have regular armed forces. From Islamabad’s point of view, Indian troops in Afghanistan will effectively sandwich Pakistan, north and south. So far, India has resisted the request.

The government of Prime Minister Narendra Modi has also rolled out a new military strategy called “Cold Start”, which allows the Indian military to attack and pursue

“terrorists” as deep as 30 kilometres into Pakistani territory.

The danger is that a “Cold Start” operation could be misinterpreted by Islamabad as a major attack by the far larger Indian army. Faced with defeat, Pakistan might resort to tactical nuclear weapons, a decision that Pakistan has recently delegated to front-line commanders. Since India cannot respond in kind – it has no tactical nukes – New Delhi would either use its high yield strategic nuclear weapons or accept defeat.

Since the latter is unlikely, the war could quickly escalate into a general nuclear exchange.

Such an exchange, according to a recent study by *Scientific American*, would not only kill tens of millions of people in both countries, it would cause a worldwide nuclear chill that would devastate agriculture in both hemispheres. In terms of impact, as scary as the Korea crisis is, a nuclear war between Pakistan and India would be qualitatively worse.

During his recent Asia tour, Trump used the term “Indo-Pacific” on a number of occasions, a term that was originally coined by the right-wing Prime Minister of Japan, Shinzo Abe. Japan is currently in a tense standoff with China over several uninhabited islands in the East China Sea, and Abe is trying to dismantle Japan’s post-World War II “peace” constitution that restricts Japanese armed forces to “self-defence” operations.

Abe is also closely associated with a section of the Japanese political spectrum that argues that Japan was simply resisting western imperialism in World War II and denies or downplays its own colonial role and the massive atrocities committed by the Japanese army in China and Korea.

Asia looks like a pretty scary place these days. A right-wing Hindu fundamentalist

government in India and a revanchist Japanese Prime Minister are allied with an increasingly unstable administration in Washington to surround and contain the second largest economy in the world.

There are some hopeful developments, however. For one, following the recent Communist Party congress, China seems to be looking for a way to turn down the heat in the region. After initially threatening South Korea for deploying a US anti-missile system, the THAAD, Beijing has stepped back and cut a deal: no additional THAAD systems, no boycott of South Korean goods.

The Chinese also dialled down tensions in the mountainous Doldam region on its border with Bhutan with an agreement for a mutual withdrawal of troops. There has been some progress as well in finding a non-confrontational solution to China’s illegal claims in the South China Sea, although Beijing is not likely to abandon its artificial islands until there is a downsizing of US naval forces in the region.

And in spite of the tensions between the two, India and Pakistan formally joined the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation this past summer, a security grouping largely dominated by Russia and China.

The danger here is that someone does something stupid and things get out of hand. There are those who point out that in spite of similar tensions during the Cold War, all concerned survived those dark times. That, however, ignores the fact that the world came very close to nuclear war, once by design – the Cuban missile crisis – and several times by accident.

If you keep rolling the dice, eventually they come up snake eyes.

People’s World ✪



Sydney

**VIGIL DEMANDING  
THAT THE USA  
STOP THE BLOCKADE  
ON CUBA**

12:30 pm Sunday December 17 Sydney Town Hall

Also to stop the subversion of funds against Cuba  
and return Guantánamo to the Cuban people

Sydney

**2 Years No Justice**

“I can’t breathe” – Last words from David Dungay Jnr when being restrained by the riot squad  
**Rally to remind Sydney who killed David Dungay**

**Friday December 22**

5.30pm Corrective Services – 20 Lee Street near Central Station

**Friday December 29**

11am Meet at Bilga Crescent and Anzac Parade March to Long Bay

Organised by Dungay Family and supported by Indigenous Social Justice Association

More info Ken Canning 0423 732 094 or Raul Bassi 0403 037 376



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## LAWS increasing the "arms-race"

The logic of LAWS or lethal autonomous weapons systems, or better described as killer robots, is an additional research driven capital investment in what can only be described as the military-industrial complex (MIC). Whilst the USA has the biggest MIC, Russia's President Putin recently suggested LAWS was the future of warfare.

And all the world's cashed up militaries know that there are designers who are confident that robots will be useful in dealing with the human soldier's 3D; that is, dull, dirty, dangerous missions like dealing with mines, or nuclear, biological or chemical exposure, or the lifting and carrying of heavy loads or the tedium of surveillance or protection.

Israel's RoBattle is an auto-controlled seven-tonne, six wheel-drive vehicle (with gun turret) convoy protector and Samsung's SGR-A1 is a South Korea guard, by way of immediate example.

As part of the system on the Korean north/south border the SGR-A1 can detect a moving target at four kilometres, as well as recognise voices, passwords along with the difference between animals and humans and order them, the latter, to surrender if they cross the demarcation line – if they put their hands up it doesn't shoot.

The robot guard has a 5.56 mm light machine gun and a 40 mm grenade launcher. "The decision to open fire is made by a human being at command post, but the SGR-A1 also has an automatic mode ... [and] as with drone there [is] ... no multilateral regulation

of the development of these weapons" (p.16 *LeMonde Diplomatique*, June 2017).

What does the UN/Geneva Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons have to say, which reportedly met this past November 22/23? Will Australian citizens be informed and allowed to debate our military's/government's position?

Graham Drew

## Abbott's grenade

**Equality advocates and legal academics have raised alarm bells about a motion from Tony Abbott that will weaken anti-discrimination laws for same-sex and other couples. Mr Abbott has lobbed a grenade into the marriage equality debate that will legitimise and encourage discrimination.**

If Parliament backs Mr Abbott's motion it could be used in court to knock out cases taken by same-sex and other couples who have experienced discrimination. It could also be used by religious bodies to apply for special exemptions under anti-discrimination legislation.

Most of all, Mr Abbott's motion, if

successful, will also send the message that discrimination against same-sex and other couples has the tacit support of Parliament.

The last thing we want to see is wedding businesses, marriage registrars and welfare agencies believing that discrimination is okay because Parliament has given them a defence in court.

When same-sex couples experience discrimination they should be confident they have the same legal protections as everyone else.

There is no justification for cherry picking or privileging one conscientious view over all other views. This motion may be relied on by judges in interpreting anti-discrimination acts and will increase the possibility of litigation. I am concerned this motion's wording may be used to justify discrimination in relation to same-sex marriage.

Rodney Croome  
Just equal spokesperson  
Anja Hilkemeijer  
University of Tasmania  
human rights law lecturer

As the *Guardian* went to press the Same Sex Marriage Bill had passed without amendment, with the Governor General signing it into law.

# Culture & Life

by Rob Gowland

## A dystopian future?



*The Handmaid's Tale* is concerned with fascism as a social phenomenon rather than as a cause of nuclear war.

When I was a child in the late 1940s, one of the comic books in my collection was set after nuclear war had devastated Earth (a hot topic in the '40s and '50s when America's leaders were belligerently threatening to "nuke" any country that defied their *diktat*). I remember the main health consequence of the "atomic war" in the comic was blindness caused by "the flash".

Since then, of course, we have had an enormous number of dystopian novels, plays, radio plays (remember them?), films and television programs. Some have been basically pessimistic, reflecting the writer's fears for the future of the human race. Not surprising given the catastrophic nature of the subject. Others however, in fact the majority, choose a dystopian subject as a warning to the rest of us, showing what could happen – or would happen – if vital lessons are not learned.

*The Handmaid's Tale*, recently on television, falls into that category. Written in 1985 by Canadian author Margaret Atwood, it is concerned with fascism as a social phenomenon rather than as a cause of nuclear war, but its depiction of a dystopian future is grim indeed. And extremely topical.

Speaking in Frankfurt, where she received this year's Peace Prize

of the German Book Trade, Ms Atwood, declared that "it's a moment of turmoil everywhere" and that with the election of Donald Trump, "It feels the closest to the 1930s of anything that we have had since that time."

"People in Europe saw the United States as a beacon of democracy, freedom, openness, and they did not want to believe that anything like that could ever happen there," she said. "But now", she continued, "times have changed, and, unfortunately it becomes more possible to think in those terms."

The head of the German Book Trade, Heinrich Riethmueller, said the 77-year-old Canadian was receiving the accolade for "political intuition and clairvoyance when it comes to dangerous underlying trends and currents."

Elisabeth Moss, the star of the television adaptation, said the work had "always been timely. It's just that now there are actual things happening with women's reproductive rights in our own country that make me feel like this book is bleeding over into reality."

The television adaptation, which was awarded eight Emmys, was dubbed by Rolling Stone as "TV's Most Chilling Trump-Era Series". And Cecile Richards, the president of Planned Parenthood USA, said,

"It's fitting that the author of *The Handmaid's Tale* is being honoured at a time when women's rights are under attack like never before."

Trump, of course, has constantly shown that he couldn't care tuppence for women's rights.

Talking of Trump, have you noticed how his debacles have succeeded in making George W Bush look Presidential, a task we once would have said was impossible?

Apparently under the impression that the USA can single-handedly get rid of any international agreements he personally doesn't like, Trump announced that he will not recertify the agreement that denuclearised Iran in return for international guarantees and economic concessions. But that agreement was signed not only with Iran but with Britain, France and Germany, all of whom, in Bernie Sanders' words, "continue to support the agreement and have consistently said that it is in their own national security interests." Even Trump's own national security team said the Iran deal was working and should be upheld.

"Breaking the Iran agreement would not only free Iran from the limits placed on its nuclear program," declared Sanders in a statement, "it would irreparably harm America's ability to negotiate future non-proliferation agreements. Why

would any country in the world sign such an agreement with the United States if they knew that a reckless president might simply discard that agreement a few years later?"

"It's up to us to stop this drift toward war. We should listen to what virtually the entire national security community is saying – that this deal is working – and protect it."

The Trump administration's debacles continue to pile up, however: their attempt to dismantle Obamacare, thereby denying affordable health care to millions of Americans, was too much even for arch Republican John McCain who publicly refused to support it.

Trump's overtly racist immigration policy combined with his pointed refusal to condemn racist cops killing Black Americans and his very public acceptance of endorsement by the Ku Klux Klan is taking the USA back to the worst days of Jim Crow, to the days before the Civil Rights movement.

His administration's grossly inadequate response to the hurricane that devastated the US territory of Puerto Rico, even while he boasted of his administration's success, and his war of words with Puerto Rico's mayor when she had the temerity to take him up on his false claims, exposed him as ill-informed at best and a liar at worst. His clownish

performance tossing paper towels to hurricane survivors and attempting to pass off their catastrophe as "not a real" crisis exposed him as a global oaf.

And, as indicated above, his attitude to women's rights is generally recognised as abysmal. He entered the Presidential race not because he had a serious political agenda, but because he knew it would enhance his business profile and enable him to boost the profits of his assorted resorts, property deals, etc.

No wonder that, as the debacles pile up, a group of US mental health experts recently hosted a dozen "town hall meetings" to publicly canvass the question of whether Trump is merely a moron, or whether he is in fact mentally ill? Claiming that they had a "duty to warn" about the danger Trump poses to the USA, the health professionals were only one more example of the breadth of the appalled reaction to letting a fascist loose in the White House.

On everything from war and peace to protecting the environment or moving the American economy (and hence the world) towards a green, renewable future, Donald Trump is a dangerous, reactionary aberration who is putting us all at risk. ☹



# Film Review by Jaime de Leon

## Coco



*Coco* is the story of young Miguel's adventure into the world of the dead, where he goes in search of his great-great-grandfather, "the greatest Mexican musician of all time." The movie achieved a level of authenticity and accurate cultural representation rarely seen in animated features set in a specific cultural context, by hiring a few Mexican Americans (and I emphasise, few) for the writing and consulting on the film.

Typically, in animated features made by Disney/Pixar or other movie companies, the culture feels like a backdrop. There's little effort to develop the ethnic characters or to explain characteristics of that ethnicity. It's usually watered down or just plain offensively lazy, full of funny accents.

But simply comparing *Coco* to other animated movies trying to depict a particular culture is not doing the movie justice. It's better

than most animated movies because it did not follow an uber-formulaic mould that we have become accustomed to: no cute little girl as a love interest, no school bullies or fat kid as the main character's sidekick providing cliché comic relief. And thank goodness, the family in *Coco* did not own a Mexican restaurant that is prioritised over a smart daughter's college education. Sound familiar?

The movie is visually stunning. The main town in the "world of the living" is depicted with such detail, it could easily be San Cristobal, Chiapas, or Oaxaca City. "Mama Coco," the oldest living matriarch of the family has wrinkles so convincing, she looks like the photo of Maria Sabina smoking a joint.

The bolero and ranchero style songs were key because music is such an important storyteller of Mexican culture and history. The song "Recuérdame" is genuinely moving and "Poco Loco" is fun.

About three fourths of the way in, there's a lull that slowed the pace and rhythm down a bit, which is my only complaint about the Disney/Pixar gem.

The story does its best to avoid predictability, and for the most part succeeds with a couple of somewhat surprising turns near the end. Every character has a real purpose, even Miguel's pooch, a Xoloitzcuintli. The hairless Mexican dog serves a more pivotal role than one would expect.

The greatest achievement by the movie was the personal connections it made with so many Latino audience members whose lives parallel the themes and characters. For example, my mother is named Socorro, so she's known as "Mama Coco" to her 12 grandchildren. My mother's father played the violin and was an absent father for a large part of her life. I can go on. Writing a screenplay that your audience personally relates to is the goal of most films,

but *Coco* is different because for once the story is not told through the lens of an Anglo world.

*Coco* is the first movie experience that my 76 year old mother and my 5 year old son both thoroughly enjoyed. I was reminded of the power of seeing yourself on the big screen, as a child, when I heard my son say, "Miguel looked like me!"

Overall *Coco* is a beautiful story, meticulously executed, that elicits pride, affirmation, wonder, and raw emotions. It's unrealistic to think that *Coco* is the solution to a gaping absence of Latinos in Hollywood, in front of and behind the camera.

However, now that Hollywood sees the enormously successful results of pursuing cultural authenticity by including Latinos as contributors in the storytelling, maybe it's a start.

People's World ✪

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Sydney

### Commemorate 100 Years of the Great October Revolution

The event will include a memorable exhibition of posters documenting the life and times of the Communist Party of Australia and the Russian Revolution.

**4:30 pm Sunday January 14**  
**Addison Road Community Centre**

Greek Theatre Space

142 Addison Road Marrickville

*Great Food (spit roast BBQ) and music*

\$25 (food and drinks included) – Tickets purchased at door

Presented by Beloyiannis Branch CPA

More info – Dimitra 0411 415 400



# Political Resolution: "Taking the Party to the People"

## Educate Agitate Organise

Finalising the main document of the 13th Congress – the *Political Resolution* – was a mighty collective effort on the part of the whole membership of the CPA. Drafted and then circulated by the Central Committee at the end of May, it received close attention and discussion by Party Branches right through to the end of August. Over 200 amendments to the draft were received from Branches, State and District Conferences. Two large discussion journals were circulated with contributions from members keen for the Party to make the most of the opportunities presented by the crisis of capitalism.

The Central Committee then considered the amendments and submitted the final document to the Congress. Members whose amendments did not go forward are encouraged by the Party's Constitution to pursue their proposed changes to the floor of Congress if they so choose.

In the end, the document presented by General Secretary Bob Briton was unanimously endorsed. Comrades' involvement and contributions have produced a document the Party believes effectively summarises the political environment we work in, reviews the work of the Party since the 12th Congress and maps the way forward for what promises to be a period of even stronger growth for the Party.

### War on workers

In the document, the Party recognises the enormous task it has set itself – to provide coherent leadership to the fightback against the attacks from its class enemy. The escalation of these attacks is now commonly and rightly referred to in the trade union movement as the "war on workers".

"Through class struggle the working class accumulates valuable experience that contributes, in combination with the political-ideological work of Communist parties, to the development of class and political consciousness. The political and ideological work of Communist Parties is a critical factor in the development of this political consciousness.

"The Communist Party of Australia must be built into a party capable of organising, educating, leading, uniting and fighting alongside all politically progressive forces in building a broad people's movement for real change led by the working class. The essence of this movement must be anti-imperialist, anti-capitalist and democratic."

The attacks on the working class in Australia have an international context, they are part of an agenda pursued by all

capitalist governments. The *Political Resolution* makes it clear that, unless an effective fightback is organised, the situation is set to deteriorate.

### Global context

The international backdrop to the Party's Congress received considerable attention in the *Political Resolution*. The election of Trump as a signal for an escalation of US imperialism's drive for global dominance was explained. Tensions in the region, involving the threats against the People's Republic of China and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea were placed in this context. So was the theft of resources from the Australian people with the Turnbull government's commitment to spend \$1 trillion on military equipment to assist the US administration's plans.

"Capitalism is in crisis and its impact is being felt in every part of the globe, including Australia. The present crisis threatens the stability of not just the global financial system but the capitalist system itself. The full impact of the crisis has not yet been felt in Australia. The crisis has its roots in the capitalist mode of production, in globalisation, in the massive amounts of accumulation and concentration of capital that are the product of monopoly capital's growth and penetration of world production and markets. The largest of these transnational corporations have assets far larger than those of the many countries they dictate to.

"The situation has been compounded by the growth and domination of parasitic financial institutions which have diverted billions of dollars from the productive sphere into highly speculative activities and outright gambling."

The many wars and threats of wars made by imperialism make grim reading, as does the description of the climate emergency, the refugee crisis and the many other related crises of capitalism. The *Political Resolution* is written with a sense of urgency about the tasks of the Party.

### Party is key

Ideological clarity, the need for action and education were emphasised in the *Political Resolution*. The Party doesn't encourage "activism" without priorities and overall purpose.

"Unity is based on knowledge of what we are trying to achieve. In developing this leadership, we need to develop our own sense of humility and be prepared to learn, study and practice. We must avoid the pitfall of arrogance that sees us as the ones with all the answers and instead practice fraternity with our own comrades and those we seek to work with. This means learning from them as they learn from us.

"Discipline is also essential in how we behave and work. Our goal is the creation of a society that will set about eliminating the problems inherent in capitalism – war, exploitation, environmental destruction, oppression, poverty, unemployment, ignorance, bigotry, racism, discrimination and the lack of access to services and rights."

The toxic climate promoted by the ruling class through its media and elsewhere is explained. The main targets are the organisations capable of resisting the ruling class agenda, chiefly the trade unions, but division is also promoted between men and women, Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal Australians, people of different sexual orientations and different religions. Unity in struggle is vital as is the building of the Party that can unite the different struggles taking place.

### Build the Party at the base

Consistent hard work on the part of every member and every Party Branch is demanded in the document. There is a need for more professional materials and a respectful approach to others in mass work.

"All Party organisations must focus their work over the next four years around building Branches as centres of political activity and campaigning in the mass movement in the interests of workers for socialism. In this process attention to education, recruitment, finance, and the *Guardian* is essential. Party Branches should be centres of political activity in the industry or locality in which they work. This means carrying out campaigns, developing contacts with others who are struggling around similar issues in a way that builds each Branch into a respected political force in these areas.

"To effectively achieve its aims, the CPA and its members must be an integral part of the day-to-day struggles of the working class and community. The Party's leadership capability can only be developed and proven by putting it into practice in the people's struggles consistently over many years.

"Occasional involvement in local issues will not help the Party win the leadership of the working people in their locality or workplace. We need to recognise the big changes that have occurred in composition of the working class in Australia. Over the last three decades most large manufacturing enterprises have disappeared from our suburban landscape making it more difficult to organise people in their place of work."

Prospective members and people willing to be mobilised will need to



Aaron Beardsell – delegate from Perth Branch. (Photo: Anna Pha)

be found in our communities, as well. Promising examples of community/union solidarity need to be nurtured and replicated.

### Campaigning with the end goal in sight

The *Political Resolution* points out that Party activists should never lose sight of the end goal of the many struggles for improvements in the lives of working people. That is socialism – the power of workers to replace the dictatorship of capital.

"If people are prepared to mobilise for progressive demands, Party members have the duty to actively support them. But they also have the duty to ensure that the struggle for immediate demands contributes to the development of the working class's understanding of its power

and ability for victories at all levels of political power. Our campaigning must be for goals that reflect the broadest concerns of the working class – jobs, wages, democratic rights, social services, public education, public health, housing, affordable living costs, etc.

"We campaign for reforms to improve the situation and further the rights of the working class but that they are not be limited to these improvements. Temporary victories cannot be allowed to divert workers from the class struggle. At each stage the Party needs to be clearly explaining that reforms must be used to develop the class struggle to win fundamental change.

The full text of the 13th Congress' *Political Resolution* will be available soon on the Party's website [www.cpa.org.au](http://www.cpa.org.au)



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