

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

# Feeling unwell?

Sad and depressed? Are you anxious?  
Worried about the future?



You might be suffering from  
**capitalism**

Symptoms may include homelessness, unemployment, poverty, hunger, fear, apathy, boredom, feelings of powerlessness, cultural decay, loss of identity, extreme self-consciousness, loss of free speech, incarceration, suicidal or revolutionary thoughts, death.

**Don't risk staying on board. We can help each other build a new world based on freedom, cooperation and equality.**

# FTP



# IV.

## **FuckThePoliceFightThePowerFreeThePrisonersFireToPatriarchy**

Welcome to the issue 4 of FTP zine, our bi-annual report on anti-colonial, anti-state resistance, compiled within occupied Gadigal territory.

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

The entirety of the content in this publication was found as public information online, and later compiled for this zine. Nothing here is the original content of those who may or may not be responsible for this project.

The contents include communiqués, media releases, photos, and posters which have been found on self-publishing pages (such as indymedia.org.au), or radical blogs (such as disaccords.wordpress.com). The remaining content has been culled from the websites of corporate newspapers and TV stations. Many texts have been condensed for reasons of space.

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

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

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

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

- FTP zine crew, January 2015



## Sydney: Protesters gather to 'blockade the Block'

July 6 - Opposition to the construction of commercial housing at the iconic Block in Redfern is building.

Aboriginal activists in Sydney have claimed a victory – however short term - in the most recent skirmish over plans to redevelop the iconic area of Redfern known as 'The Block'.

Over 200 activists, tenants, elders and students gathered early Monday morning to blockade the block against construction on the controversial Pemulwuy project, which would see commercial developments for non-Aboriginal people built on The Block.

Protesters occupied the rooftops of two adjacent buildings owned by the Aboriginal Housing Company and dropped 4 banners reading: "Always was ALWAYS will be Aboriginal Land", "Black Land, Black Law", "Hands Off The Block", and "Sovereignty Never Ceded". Police quickly taped off the street, and by 9am it had become clear no construction teams would be arriving. Protesters eventually agreed to come down without incident.

Wiradjuri Elder and Redfern Tent Embassy organiser Jenny Munro stated that the protest had prevented work from beginning and that "We certainly had a moral victory here today".

Opposition to the Pemulwuy project has been building in recent weeks, with a tent embassy erected and opponents of the plan claiming it would continue the evacuation of Aboriginal people from the iconic spot, granted to the Aboriginal Housing Company (AHC) in 1972.

The AHC website contends the project will "redevelop the land into a mixed used site" with "a gymnasium, commercial and retail space, a gallery, student accommodation for 154, a childcare space for 60 children".



Jenny Munro, however, is skeptical of the project's capacity to deliver affordable housing for Aboriginal people. "The commercial development is guaranteed, money for the student accommodation is guaranteed [but there is] no money, no answer for where the money for Aboriginal Housing will come from," she said.

While private investors have fully backed the construction of student housing and commercial and retail space, the AHC has not managed to raise a cent for the affordable housing it has pledged to build. The government has also expressed it will not back the project. "Federal funding... is not for construction but rather operational costs, once the properties are built and filled with eligible tenants," Indigenous Affairs Minister Nigel told reporters,

Munro told journalists that Aboriginal land shouldn't be used to help the University of Sydney find accommodation for students. "I'm definitely in opposition to the commercial precinct and I'm also opposed to the student accommodation. I think it's extremely arrogant for the University of Sydney to impose their housing needs upon this community. We're the poorest community anywhere in the country."

Munro helped set up the embassy on May 26 this year, to oppose any commercial development on The Block.

The Block sits wedged between Redfern Station and Eveleigh Street. It's a sparse green oval resting on a grey concrete slope. On first glance it's as unassuming and ordinary as its namesake would suggest. But the tents have only catalysed the political discontent and community activism that has boiled below the suburb's surface for years. The Block is still a significant site for many Indigenous people due to its rich history of Aboriginal resistance and self-determination.

"We're here for the long haul," says Lyall Munro, a Kamilaroi man and veteran political activist, referring to the dozen or so tents propped up along the hill.



*AHC Director Mick Mundine argues with Redfern Tent Embassy activists on Monday*

**Blockade for The Block**

Opposite Redfern Station on Eveleigh Street

"On July 7th, the development of new housing is set to occur at the Block in Redfern. The bulldozers will attempt to roll in to erase centuries of Aboriginal occupation, and four decades of Aboriginal social housing. An Aboriginal Tent Embassy stands in their way, and mob are calling for our support. You can visit or stay at the Embassy at anytime, but a specific invitation has been made for your support on Sunday 6th and Monday 7th of July. Let's resist the enclosure of the Block as another shopping mall, as another block of flats that people on low-incomes can't afford to live in."

**Help save The Block**  
**July 6th & 7th**

**BLACK HOUSING ON BLACK LAND**

Fuck THA POLICE

WELCOME TO THE BLOCK

**YUPPIES, RACISTS & PROPERTY SPECULATORS  
OUT OF REDFERN, OUT OF OUR LIVES!  
WE DEMAND HOMES FOR ABORIGINAL PEOPLE**



## Basendean: Rolf Harris plaque vandalised with graffiti

6 July - Vandals have destroyed a commemorative plaque placed outside Rolf Harris' childhood home amid anger over his crimes.

The word PEDO has been daubed in white paint across the metal tribute.

## Slew Of Cars Damaged By Vandals

July 21 - Murray Bridge Police are seeking information from the public after five cars were damaged over the weekend.

Sometime between Friday night and Saturday morning, five cars were extensively damaged.

Cars parked in Kintore Ave, Roper Road and Hirt Ave, had windscreens and rear windows smashed, mirrors broken and in one instance a Ford Falcon in Hirt Ave was damaged after vandals walked over the roof of the car.

## Launceston: Vandals target former Gunns chief

July 22 - John Gay, the former chief of the controversial wood pulp company Gunns has again been the target of vandalism.

The front fence of Mr Gay's lavish East Launceston home was spray-painted by vandals on Sunday night with the words "Sorry about your wall Mr Gay," accompanied by obscene depictions of male appendages.

Mr Gay said yesterday that while he was not sure of any motive for the crime, he did have some suspicions.

"Why would they? I think it's my past history, probably, at Gunns," he said.

This is the third time Mr Gay's home has been targeted, after the fence was vandalised two weekends in a row in 2009.

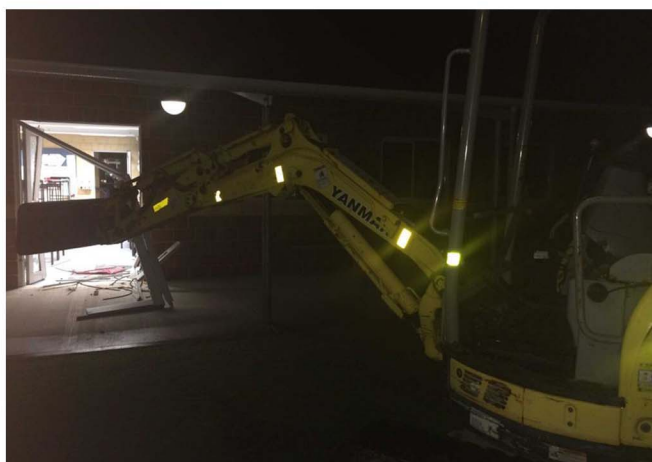
A smoke bomb was left on his front doorstep during the second incident.

Mr Gay said that the graffiti would not be covered by his insurance.

Mr Gay was convicted of insider trading in August 2013, after selling 3.4 million Gunns shares in 2009 while possessing price sensitive information.

He is being pursued by the Commonwealth Director of Public Prosecutions under the Proceeds of Crimes act.

## Perth: Vandals hijack excavator, smash through school



26 July - Vandals have hijacked two large earthmoving machines and used them to smash into a wall and doorway at a primary school in Perth's south-east.

Alarms were tripped at the Riverton Primary School on Corinthian Road East, in Riverton, about 11pm on Friday.

Police arrived to find a large excavator had been used to smash into the entrance to the school's art department.

Metal struts were bent out of shape, and glass was strewn on the ground in front of the building.

Part of a mural at the school was also smashed, with painted bricks and rubble strewn around the site.

## Melbourne: Protesters blockade Broadmeadows detention centre



23 July - Protesters blocking traffic at the Broadmeadows Detention Centre, to try prevent a Rohingya family's imminent deportation.

## Canberra: Anti-kangaroo cull vandals hit another depot



22 July - Territory and Municipal Services spokeswoman Jane Carder said the damaged vehicles are used to clean shopping malls in Canberra's south and the vandalism will cause significant delays and inconvenience in coming days.

This latest incident of vandalism comes just a month after the vandalism of 10 government cars at the Parks and Conservation depot in Farrer.

Since then, signs alerting the public to park closures have been stolen and vandalised by animal activists, with TAMS management expecting taxpayers to bear the cost of several thousand dollars in damages.

Ms Carder said vandals entered the Holder depot at about 3am by cutting a large hole the size of a door in the depot fence.

The attack was captured on CCTV and footage has been supplied to ACT Policing, which will now investigate the vandalism.

Ms Carder called on the offenders to end their rampage of vandalism as it was not beneficial to anyone.

"This was a total surprise to us. Stop these senseless acts, they are not getting anybody anywhere," she said. "There's no advantage in damaging our maintenance vehicles that help keep the city clean."

Ms Carder said damage was estimated at \$8000, although that would depend on the cost of replacing windscreens and tyres.

No graffiti was left on the cars by vandals at the Holder depot, which was the case in the earlier attack at Athllon Drive, where anarchist symbols were drawn on car doors. Ms Carder said the "senseless vandalism" meant cleaning would be limited in the coming days.

"We won't be able to get out and clean the shopping centres and toilets at this stage," she said

"We are doing the bare minimum and have borrowed other vehicles but generally we won't be able to get into the city or the Woden Weston region."

Ms Carder said the act was a waste of taxpayers' money. "When I first heard this in the morning I just couldn't believe it because it's such a senseless act of vandalism." Ms Carder said workers were disappointed they could not carry out their work on Tuesday.

ACT Chief Minister Katy Gallagher said the government expected vandalism, but it would be useless in stopping the cull.

"We know that there are very strong opinions around the cull of kangaroos and the extremes people will go to try and disrupt the cull that has been legally authorised to occur," she said.

"It costs money, we have to pay for it and the cull still goes ahead, so I am not sure it actually delivers an outcome for anyone."

"We can try and do whatever we can to minimise the chance of it but every year it seems to be a bit of a theme of 'this is what happens with the kangaroo cull,'" she said.

The vandalism at the Holder depot comes after the discovery of threatening notes left for workers carrying out the kangaroo cull over the weekend.

One note labelled the rangers as "killers for hire" and warned them that "your time will come".

A TAMS spokesman said activists have also cut fences at nature reserves closed for the kangaroo cull during the past month.

One Canberran discovered the notes along with vandalised fences at Mount. Painter nature reserve when she visited over the weekend.

She said the paddock contained up to 20 horses which were put at risk by the vandalism of the fences.

"If the horses had wandered up into that area of the paddock, they would have been easily able to get out, and from there been exposed to roads and members of the public as it is a popular walking track," she said.

## International Day of Solidarity with imprisoned antifa Jock Palfreeman

25 July - Jock Palfreeman is an antifascist from Sydney serving a 20-year sentence in Bulgaria. In 2007 he was travelling in Bulgaria when he defended two Roma men being attacked by a gang of nationalist soccer hooligans; in the ensuing fight, one of the attackers was killed under unclear circumstances. After a biased trial, Jock was convicted of murder, and the Bulgarian authorities refuse to transfer him from the notoriously run-down prison he is held in to Australia, without paying a huge fine. While in prison, Jock helped form the Bulgarian Prisoners Union, and has been beaten by guards in retaliation for his activism.

As part of a global day of solidarity with Jock, anarchists in Brisbane held a picket at noon on Friday 25th of July at King George Square with banners, made speeches and distributed info about Jock's case.



In Sydney some anarchists pasted up a large number of Jock solidarity posters in various suburbs, and dropped a large banner from a highway overpass declaring "Freedom for Jock Palfreeman, Antifascist prisoner of the Bulgarian state"

Further south, the Melbourne Anarchist Club held a benefit gig and info night for Jock. All money raised was sent to the Bulgarian Prisoners' Rehabilitation Association.

Solidarity events also took place in Chicago, USA, Brighton UK, and a number of other cities around the world.



## Darwin: Inmates break out of prison then return after getting drunk



28 Jul - At least four prisoners in Darwin are suspected of repeatedly escaping the prison, getting drunk, then voluntarily returning to the facility in the hope no one would notice.

The ABC understands authorities were checking whether low-security prisoners have repeatedly escaped from a work release centre at Berrimah jail for a few hours after a 7pm headcount.

"It would appear that a couple of prisoners have jumped the fence but returned," a spokesman for NT Department of Correctional Services said.

Authorities were believed to suspect that the group, and possibly other prisoners, were from time to time jumping a cyclone fence, getting picked up from a main road by partners and given alcohol and marijuana, before breaking back into prison a few hours later.

The deception was eventually discovered in the early hours of Sunday July 20 when five drunk prisoners were found fighting over a mobile phone.

"It is alleged that four of the prisoners had earlier climbed a perimeter fence to retrieve contraband items from someone on the outside," the department spokesman said.

He added the group "may have been out for a while" but that would become clear only after a police investigation.

An internal departmental investigation was also underway, the spokesman said.

"They [police] will come back with recommendations as to what charges will be laid. It will be up to police to determine what constitutes an escape," he said.

A search of the work release centre uncovered several other items of contraband including two empty bottles of alcohol, five mobile phones, phone chargers, a small quantity of a "green leafy substance", a cigarette lighter and rolling papers.

The men have since been transferred to the prison's maximum security section.



# Sydney: The Hat Factory Social Centre Evicted by Riot Police

31 July -- A well known squat in the territory known as Sydney has been evicted.

Some courageous occupiers and supporters made the decision to barricade and defend as much as they could a space full of history, dreams and resistance.

The autonomous, liberated social centre known as the Hat Factory has for over at least 12 years hosted hundreds of events and people in its quarters – encouraging creativity, mutual aid, rebelliousness and respect.

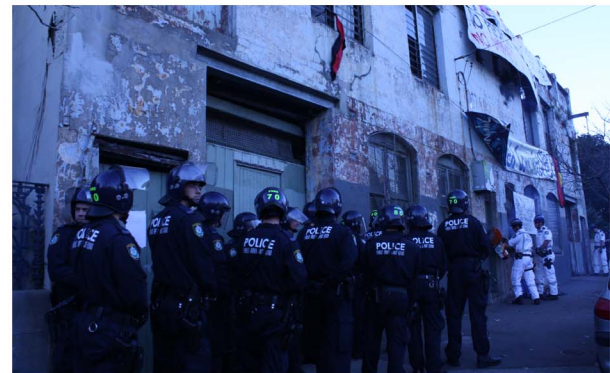
At the time of its eviction, the Hat Factory was known for its great fundraisers, library, its free shop, where people could come and find free clothes and a whole array of tools and facilities to take care of spaces and each other.

In its beautifully people's built kitchen, food that otherwise would have been wasted by this fucked up society, was cooked and given away for free, for people's kitchen and many other events or just to friends that would come over to hang out. It also hosted a variety of gigs, skillshares, discussions and movie screenings. It hosted people from all over the world, as well as those permanently living in Sydney, often when they had nowhere else to stay.

All that was built, all that was created under this banner of total freedom is attacked by the state because of the danger this material representation of our dreams mean for the status quo of the failing ideology of competition, infinite economic growth, selfishness and mistrust.

In a society where we have never been closer physically and never been further away socially; the Hat Factory stood as a bastion of social resistance, because its material existence stated clearly the uncompromising desires of all loving folks.

Our accumulated rage, those that participated in this space and the infinite network of views, efforts and associations around them its what's dangerous for the state and for capital; no matter how many riot cops they bring, those relationships and qualities can't be evicted.



## Darwin: Teenage asylum seekers flee immigration detention

31 July: Two teenage asylum seekers have fled from detention in Darwin, the Immigration Department has confirmed.

The ABC understands the two are unaccompanied Vietnamese boys, both aged 16, who were moved by the department to Darwin from Adelaide a month ago.

The pair had previously been living in community detention in Adelaide and attending Woodville High School.

Woodville principal Meredith Edwards said staff and students were devastated that the boys had been sent to Darwin.

"These are 16-year-old boys and up until now, they've committed no crime," she said.

She has been told the boys ran away while they were attending classes at Sanderson High, a school in Darwin's northern suburbs that teaches many asylum seekers detained at the Wickham Point detention centre.

"I can only imagine how desperate and under duress they felt that they would take this alleged action. I just want our boys back," Ms Edwards said.

"We don't know where they are, we don't know how safe they are.

"There's not a big Vietnamese community in Darwin."

A spokesperson for the Minister for Immigration said the pair were being accommodated at the Wickham Point Alternative Place of Detention.

"The Minister shares public concerns about the whereabouts of the individuals who have absconded and encourages the individuals to present themselves to an immigration office [or] officer," the spokesperson said.

"The Minister has been advised that the Department of Immigration and Border Protection's compliance field officers are conducting a thorough search to locate them."

Meanwhile, a group of 15 other asylum seekers from Adelaide, including children, are still on the run after more than a month. It is believed the group has sought refuge somewhere in Melbourne.

## Darwin: Teens on the run after detention centre break out



4 Aug - Two teenagers remain on the run after a group break-out from Darwin's Don Dale detention centre in which staff were threatened with gym equipment.

The five boys, aged between 14 and 17, escaped from the centre about 8pm on Saturday.

"Five of the youths decided that they would break out of the place," said Senior Sergeant Robert Jordan.

"In doing so, one of the youths armed themselves with some gym equipment and threatened staff while the others went over the fence."

Police rounded up three of the teenagers on Sunday in the suburbs of Moulden and Woodroffe, in Palmerston, but two boys aged 14 and 15 were still on the run.

"The last sightings were in the Palmerston area and that is where we are going to focus on at the moment," Senior Sergeant Jordan said on Monday.

Police were investigating whether car thefts and a ram raid at a hotel were connected to the escape.

Northern Territory Correctional Services Minister John Elferink said the Don Dale centre was already at capacity and faced challenges.

"In this year's budget we've already made provisions for some changes and there will be announcements out shortly," Mr Elferink said.

Senior Sergeant Jordan urged the escapees to turn themselves in and warned that anyone found helping the escapees would face charges, and claimed that police had concerns for the welfare of the teenagers.

## Port Hedland: Council counts cost of airport vandalism

8 Aug - The Town of Port Hedland says it will cost about \$300,000 to replace and fix stolen and damaged paid-parking infrastructure at the local airport.

Last Saturday, an offender stole a ute from the airport car park and used it to ram boom gates and a number of ticket machines.

One of the machines was then loaded onto the back of the car before being robbed of its contents. It was then dumped and set alight.

Police have security footage of the incident and are investigating.

The Town says it is tired of having to deal with senseless acts of vandalism and damage and work is underway with police and external agencies to address the problem.

It says the damage means airport parking will be free until further notice, which will impact revenue that would otherwise be reinvested in the airport, its operations and redevelopment.

## Wyndham Vale: Bike vandal slashes tyres on more than 100 cars

10 Aug - Police believe a man on a mountain bike slashed the tyres on more than 100 cars in an early morning attack in Melbourne's southwest.

A large number of Wyndham Vale residents woke on Sunday morning to find their car tyres slashed. Police believe just one man is responsible for the damage.

Detective Senior Constable Adam Sharp says officers spent Sunday doorknocking homes and reviewing CCTV footage to try to track down the offender.

"We've only managed to obtain limited footage," he said.

"But the footage shows basically a man on a mountain bike riding past a car using a tool to slash the tyres before briefly riding off."

He says tens of thousands of dollars in damage has been caused.

"I can't see the point in it at all," he said.

"It's obviously planned due to the massive scale and the large area. It's wanton destruction and there's no logic or rational thought to it."

## Kelso: School security upgrade following new vandalism attack

12 Aug - Another vandalism attack at Kelso Public School near Bathurst has prompted the NSW Department of Education to promise it will improve security.

Police are investigating the weekend vandal attack involving a break-in at the School's canteen as well as into several classrooms.

The damage from the attack which happened sometime between 5.30 on Saturday evening and 10.30 on Sunday morning could be as high as \$200,000.

The offenders smashed televisions, computers and smart-boards.

The Department of Education says a security upgrade is a matter of urgent priority. The upgrade will involve the installation of an electronic alarm and CCTV system and what the Department describes as a significantly increased security presence.

In a statement, the Department has praised the response of principal, Lance Cooper, and school staff in cleaning up the damage and removing broken equipment to minimise disruption to students.

One parent has been lobbying for a new fence at the School says her case is strengthened by yet another break-in.

Kristy Paine has been lobbying education authorities and politicians for the replacement of the current low level fence at the school with a higher one.

She says it's been broken into 20 times.

Meanwhile, police in Bathurst have expressed concern about three break ins at three separate educational facilities in the city over the weekend.

In addition to the vandal attack at Kelso Public School, vandals broke into the Bathurst Primary School on Friday night and caused damage to a school building.

Police say early Monday morning, there was a break in at the Bathurst campus of TAFE New South Wales but no property was stolen.

It's unclear at this stage if there is any links between the break-ins.

## Darwin: Last escapees caught, detention centre to move

9 Aug - The last two teenaged offenders who broke out of Darwin's Don Dale juvenile detention centre on the weekend have been captured after being on the run for four days.

Five teenagers escaped from the centre on Saturday night, and the last, a 15-year-old, has been arrested in the Darwin suburb of Nakara.

The breakout has prompted the Northern Territory Government to speed up plans to move youth offenders to the nearby Berrimah Prison.

Don Dale is less than a kilometre from the prison that is about to close, sending adult inmates to the new jail at Holtze in Darwin's rural area.

NT Attorney General John Elferink said the announcement was prompted by the five teenagers' escape.

"recent events have highlighted some of the shortcomings of Don Dale, which is why we've brought it forward," he said.

He defended the budget allocated to turn an adult prison for men into a detention centre catering to both genders and several different age groups.

"\$800,000 is going to be enough, and we are quite certain it will be a more secure facility and more able to meet the needs of the Territory population," he said.

The move has infuriated the North Australian Aboriginal Justice Agency's Jared Sharp.

He said the previous Labor government and the current Commissioner of Corrections Ken Middlebrook promised to demolish Berrimah Prison and replace it with a housing development.

"In 2011 the Commissioner of Corrections told a coronial inquest the only improvement he could make to Berrimah was with a bulldozer," Mr Sharp said.

"Now nothing has changed to the facility since then except it's deteriorated further."

He said there was no way the amount allocated would turn the jail into a suitable place for juvenile offenders.

## Darwin: Teens tear-gassed in clash at Darwin's Juvenile Detention Centre



23 Aug - Tear gas was used to subdue six teenagers who escaped their cells, armed themselves with glass and smashed windows and light fittings, the NT Corrections Commissioner has revealed.

The clash started about 5:30pm on Thursday at the Don Dale Juvenile Detention Centre.

The boys, aged between 14 and 17 years, also attacked and injured a prison officer.

"(The screw) received a laceration to his upper arm when the detainee threw a sharp object, it was a nasty cut," claims Corrections Commissioner Ken Middlebrook.

He said as the stand-off escalated, extra prison officers and a police dog were brought in. The teenagers were reportedly in the secure section of Don Dale and at least one detainee had armed himself with a fire extinguisher.

Then, tear gas was used on the teenagers.

"Staff were at risk and without placing them at any further injury, the decision to use the chemical was made," Commissioner Middlebrook said.

"They were able to use building materials and fixtures in the cells to fashion them into weapons.

"The young people were given directions to lay down weapons and lay on the floor. They refused. In fact they had barricaded one of the two exits which made it hard for us to get into the facility.

"When these things happens the most appropriate action is to use a small bit of chemical.

"They were interested in smashing the facility and unfortunately other detainees were starting to get involved, belting doors, banging doors," he said.

Commissioner Middlebrook says he believes the teenagers were protesting being housed there.

"I think they were trying to create as much damage as they possibly could to disable those cells so that they couldn't be kept there," he said.

The six boys will be moved to the brand new prison in Howard Springs, while the rest of the Don Dale detainees will follow them there next week, and Don Dale will be permanently closed.

## Darwin: Amnesty International calls for independent inquiry into tear-gassing

6 Sept - Human rights group Amnesty International is calling for an independent inquiry into the tear-gassing of six teenagers in Darwin's juvenile detention centre last month.

The boys - aged between 14 and 17 - were tear-gassed last month and a member of the dog squad was called in to help subdue them, after they damaged a cell block, armed themselves with broken glass and confronted prison officers.

Amnesty International's Indigenous Rights Adviser Rodney Dillon says it was a shocking and cruel decision to use tear gas and the circumstances surrounding it need to be examined.

"This is extreme... to put tear gas on kids," said Dillon. "there needs to be an inquiry as to why it got to this stage."

Soon after the children were gassed, Corrections Commissioner Ken Middlebrook defended its use.

He said the young people were given a number of directions to lay down their weapons and lie on the floor, which they refused, and one barricaded an exit.

"I gave the order to deploy a short quantity of gas, which certainly distracted him long enough for the officers to move in and remove him and the other detainees," Middlebrook said. "It was, I felt the only option,"

But Mr Dillon has called for an inquiry that is independent of Correctional Services, saying that the children involved must have had reasons for their actions.

"The kids don't get up in the morning and say 'we are going to destroy everything here today'," he said.

He said that if Australia had ratified the Optional Protocol to the Convention Against Torture (OPCAT), the detention centre may not have been able to use tear gas on children.

Australia became a party to OPCAT in May 2009, but has not yet ratified the agreement.

"Who gave the permission to use tear gas on kids and is that what we want to be seen to be doing in this country?" Mr Dillon asked.

He said tear gas was not used anywhere else in Australia and questioned why it was used in the Northern Territory.

Mr Dillon also questioned putting children from the Don Dale centre into the adult prison at Berrimah, which has been occurring since a new adult prison opened recently.

"This prison wasn't good enough for adult prisoners, so we are going to spend \$800,000 on it, put some paint on it and it will be good enough for kids?" he said.

## Darwin: Teenagers escape prison cells

14 Sept - Two teenagers escaped from their cells at the new prison in Darwin's rural area but did not get out of the prison precinct. Police said the 16 and 15-year-old males broke out of their cells around 3:00am and were found sitting on the roof of the prison. Duty Superintendent Rob Burgoyne said the pair came down from the roof after an hour and were returned to their cells.

The NT Government decided to move juveniles out of the Don Dale juvenile detention centre after a break-out in August, when five teenagers escaped, with two remaining on the run for almost four days.

A few weeks later tear gas was used against six teenagers who escaped their cells, armed themselves with glass and smashed windows and light fittings. Corrections Commissioner Ken Middlebrook said he believed the teenagers, aged between 14 and 17 years, were protesting being placed in the secure unit after five of them had escaped earlier.

"I think they were trying to create as much damage as they possibly could to disable those cells so that they couldn't be kept there," he said.

After that, juvenile offenders were transferred temporarily to the mental health facility at the new \$500 million prison at Holtze on the city's outskirts.

In the wake of the break-out the NT Government announced plans to turn the old Berrimah prison into a juvenile detention centre after adult prisoners are transferred to Holtze.

The North Australian Aboriginal Justice Agency has argued against using the old prison.

In 2011 the Correctional Services Commissioner Ken Middlebrook argued the Berrimah jail should be bulldozed but more recently he has said it can be used as a juvenile detention centre.

## “Australia”: Blackfellas Breeze Through On Aboriginal Passports



16 Sept - Four radical Aboriginal warriors have returned from a pilgrimage overseas as part of their 'war on ignorance'.

#notpartofteamaustralia

Australia claims to have some of the toughest border security measures on earth, courtesy of a war on asylum seekers that we've been waging for well over a decade.

But it seems we don't always get to decide 'who comes here and the circumstances under which they come'.

Earlier today, a group of First Nations youth returning from a tour of Aboriginal communities in Canada successfully entered the country using their Aboriginal passports.

Nganyaywana man Callum Clayton-Dixon, Gamilaraay man Boe Spearim, Gunnai woman Meriki Onus and Goenpul woman Peki Ruska spent a month visiting First Nations communities across Canada as part of a delegation of the Aboriginal Provisional Government (APG).

The APG has been around since the early 90s and is spearheaded by Tasmanian lawyer Michael Mansell, with representatives and offices across the nation. It issues Aboriginal passports "as part of its policy of acting sovereignty".

"The act of presenting an Aboriginal passport to airports in other countries and when re-entering Australia shows you are committed to the principle that the Aboriginal nation is a separate nation from the Australian nation, and that Aboriginal people have inherent independent rights, including having a separate passport," Mr Mansell says on the APG website.

Mr Clayton-Dixon and Mr Spearim entered Brisbane international airport on Aboriginal passports at 11:15 am this morning, although they were first held up for 15 minutes of questioning by customs officers.

Ms Ruska was hassled for 25 minutes in Melbourne when she arrived last night, but was eventually let through on her Aboriginal passport.

The passports weren't stamped, but the youth activists were let through without having to produce official Australian documentation.

Mr Clayton-Dixon told New Matilda the customs officers were perplexed at the passports, but that "these are the documents for Aboriginal people returning to our own country".

He cited the case of Mohawk man Kenneth Dear, who regularly travels overseas on a Haudenosaunee passport, which have been around since 1977 and are used by the Haudenosaunee confederacy, made up of six tribal nations – the Mohawks, Oneidas, Onandagas, Cayugas, Senecas and the Tuscarora.

"It's the same thing the Mohawk said when we went through the protocol – they are not Canadian, they have the right to political independence, they have the right to their own passport," Mr Clayton-Dixon said.

"It's exactly the same. We're not Australian, we are Aboriginal people with our own tribal groups, and we have our own passports."

## Mount Isa: Council counts cost of vandalism attacks

16 Sep - The Mount Isa City Council says vandals have caused more than \$25,000 worth of damage to council infrastructure in the past few days.

Mayor Tony McGrady says vandals have targeted council vehicles, the local pool and tourism centre.

He says it is a bad look during the tourist season and costly for the community to repair.

"All that damage has to be paid from one source and that is the ratepayers but not only does it mean having to pay the damage that is being done, it also means places like the pool are closed while the repairs are carried out," he said.

## Sydney: Squatters evicted from Millers Point



16 Sept - They had stocked the kitchen with food, hauled in crate-loads of belongings and even brought their tortoiseshell cat.

But the two-month long rent-free bliss enjoyed by a group of squatters at Millers Point ended abruptly on Tuesday, as the state government pushed ahead with its plan to empty the harbourside suburb of vulnerable residents.

The small group of 20-somethings left the Argyle Place property about midday after being ordered out by police. The Argyle Place property “is being prepared for sale”, officials said. Banners draped from the balcony read “Millers Point Not 4 Sale” and “Communities Not Commodities”.

Tayce, a 27-year-old squatter who declined to give her last name, said the eviction was a “farce”. “I’m homeless – there are so many people on the waiting list for [public] housing and this house was empty for two years,” she said.

“There is nothing wrong with the house, it’s beautiful. I don’t think houses should be sitting empty.” The house was connected to electricity and, despite a bit of mould, was otherwise “amazing”, Tayce said.

About four squatters had occupied the terrace house after finding the back door unlocked and the property empty. Squatters are also known to be occupying other homes in the area.

Scores of properties at Millers Point are lying idle as the government embarks on a two-year program to evict public housing tenants and sell hundreds of homes. The first four sales well exceeded price guides and netted the government \$11.1 million.

The government says the homes are too expensive to maintain, and sale proceeds will be reinvested into the social housing system.

However, welfare advocates question why all properties must be sold, rather than letting some elderly and long-time residents stay on in the area.

Millers Point community spokesman Barney Gardner said the squatters evicted on Tuesday had not caused a nuisance, and should have been allowed to stay until the property was ready for sale.

“The property has been vacant for some time and will remain vacant for some time. These people ... are not damaging the property, they are just living there,” he said.

“They haven’t had anywhere to live and now they are being turfed out on the street again.”

It is understood no charges will be laid, because the squatters left voluntarily.

Independent Sydney MP Alex Greenwich said the vacant properties at Millers Point “should have been used to house people in need”.

He said public housing residents had previously raised concerns about different squatters, but the government was only taking action now the sell-off had begun.

A spokeswoman for the Department of Family and Community Services said the Argyle Place home had been vacant since late 2011 “and is being prepared for sale”.

“The government has continued to carefully monitor the safety and security of vacant Millers Point properties and any illegal occupancy or squatting will continue to be subject to action by NSW Police,” she said.

# Sydney: real estate agency vandalised and Hat Factory sold

26 September: The battle over the derelict Newtown squat that sold for \$1.725 million last weekend has broken into a bitter war of paint and posters with inflammatory messages posted across the building.

Warnings aimed at the new owners have been spray-painted across the facade with the words "Be careful what you bid for" and "Yuppies, developers, investors beware".

Buyers were warned to "expect resistance". Posters featuring masked figures with weapons saying "If you plan to buy this building, prepare for retaliation" have also been plastered all over the building.

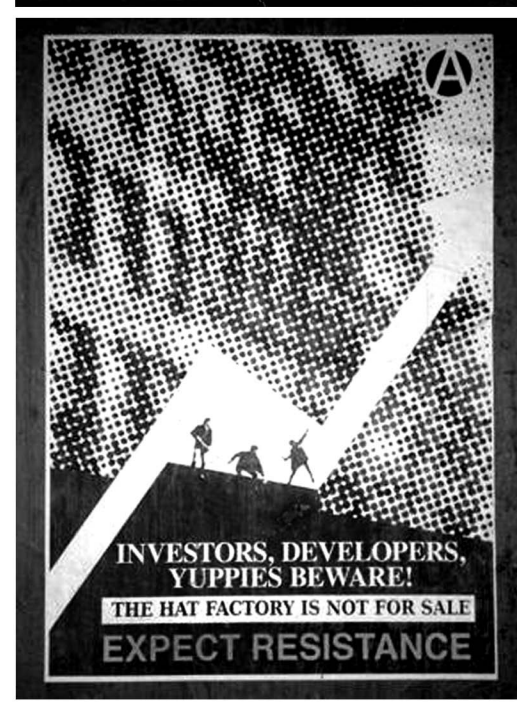
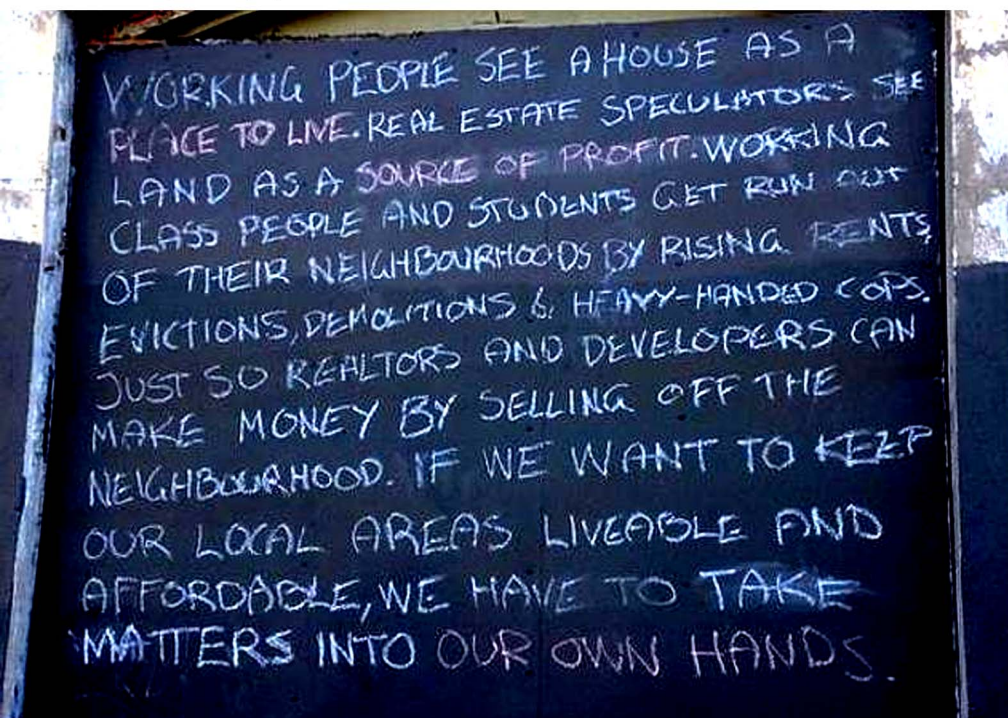
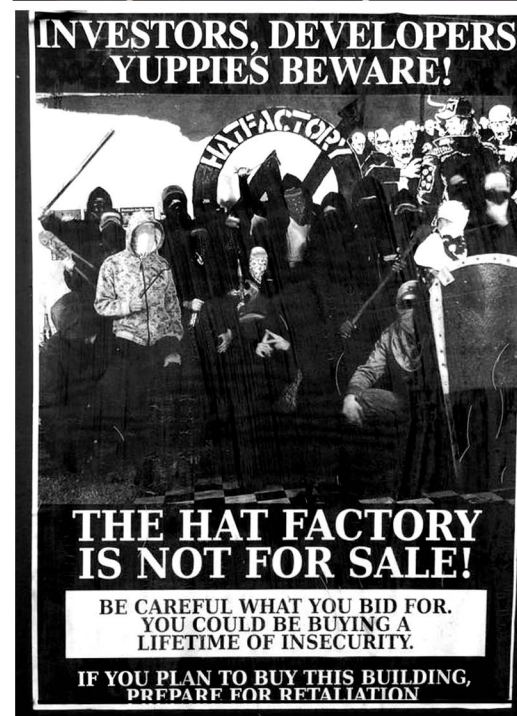
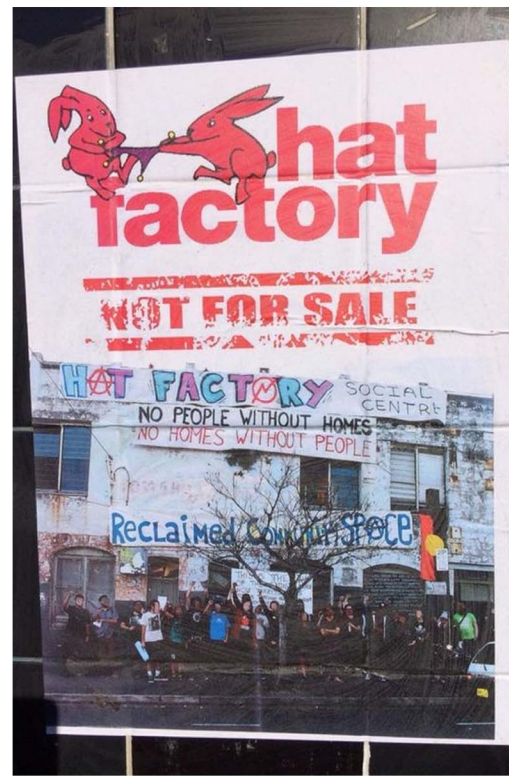
The Hat Factory had been a well known squat for 13 years until the squatters were dramatically evicted in July by police wearing riot gear after the owner decided to sell the site. For many years it also functioned as a free community centre with a library and open kitchen.

The painted threats on the building coincide with a graffiti attack on Cooley Auctions house in Double Bay, believed to be linked to the sale of the former squat and the controversial sale of public housing properties in Millers Point.

Ben Hall, a former squatter at the Hat Factory said he did not know if the events were linked but understands the community's frustration over the auctions.

"This used to be a working class area. Just because you have money, why do you have the right to force people out of their homes?"

Newtown, like much of the inner west, has experienced rapid gentrification in recent years, with house prices in the area rising sharply.





As a result, some long-term residents have expressed concerns about the changing nature of the once bohemian suburb with a blackboard at the site spelling out their concerns that working class people are being forced out.

Though one self-proclaimed neighbour has hit out at the squatters, taping a letter to the building decrying the recent spate of vandalism as a “dummy spit.”

Mr Hall was unaware of that letter but said: “People who are annoyed about squatters at the Hat Factory are the same type of people now complaining about the homeless in Wentworth Park: People who have money and think they have the right to everything money can buy.”

“Loads of rich upper class people moved to the area and they are not all sympathetic with having a squat nearby.”

Mr Hall said the Hat Factory incident isn't unique and that this kind of action is happening across Sydney, with social demographics changing and working class areas gentrifying.

Despite the rising tensions and the previous tenants, auctioneer Damian Cooley from Cooley Auctions said investors were not deterred. He said 37 bids were received and the property sold for \$1,725,000.

At some stage the night before the auction, “Evict the rich” and “Developers fuck off our city” and “SCUM” were spray-painted across the windows of the Cooley Auctions headquarters in Double Bay. The locks of the office were also filled with super glue.

Damien Cooley, from Cooley Auctions admitted the incident was probably related to the Hat Factory.

“As well as spray-painting all sorts of colourful words they also spray-painted a symbol,” Mr Cooley said of the vandals. He said the symbol, an O with a zig-zag through the middle, also featured on a banner that appeared outside the Newtown squat.

Marketed as an “abandoned parkside warehouse” with “limitless redevelopment options” it sold to a wealthy couple who “loved the facade and the historical nature of it and the character and want to bring it back to life,” said agent Anthony Puntigam. “It was possibly the most keenly sought-after property I've had for a long long time”.

On early Monday morning a man was arrested after allegedly planning to vandalise real estate agencies affiliated with the government sell-off of public housing at Millers Point. He was reportedly chased and eventually arrested close to the head office of McGrath Estate Agents in Edgecliff by detectives from the Rose Bay proactive crime unit.



## Cambodia: Protesters clash with police outside Australian embassy



26 Sept - Cambodian protesters clashed with police outside the Australian embassy in Phnom Penh, as Immigration Minister Scott Morrison prepared to sign a deal in which the impoverished South-East Asian country would resettle Australian-bound refugees.

At least one protester was injured by police, suffering a head wound and was dragged away, as more than 100 Cambodians demanded Canberra scrap the agreement.

Mr Morrison said the government was committing \$40 million of aid over four years to the country, but claimed this was not tied to the resettlement deal.

"The most important thing we're giving them is our expertise," Morrison told journalists.

"Cambodia wants to be a country that can resettle refugees properly and they're seeking our advice and expertise on how we can do that. But in addition to that, and it's not driven by this I should stress, the Australian government will be providing over four years \$40 million to support various overseas development aid projects."

But the plan has provoked growing criticism in Cambodia where dozens of people protested outside the Australian embassy on Friday.

A coalition of 21 Cambodian organisations promoting human rights called the agreement a cynical deal that will commit refugees who have already endured harsh conditions to further uncertainty and hardship.

The rights organisations said the agreement contravenes the 1951 Refugee Convention because Australia cannot ensure that once the refugees reach Cambodia they will be afforded any of fundamental human rights protections.

In Sophy, a mother of four from Kampong Chhnang province, told journalists that Cambodians deserve a better and decent life.

"We are poor people." she said.

Eighty-three families from Kampong Chhnang travelled to Phnom Penh to protest, many of them victims of land grabs by powerful and wealthy Cambodians.

Human rights activist Yom Bopha demanded the Cambodian government take responsibility for its own people who are "suffering."

Mao Pises, president of the Federation of Cambodian Students, said he believed that "greedy government officials" will corruptly siphon Australian money that is supposed to help the refugees.

The protesters left a petition at the embassy that said many Cambodians do not have enough rice each day to fill their cookers.

"The Cambodian government is not able to make its own people happy so why does it dare sign an agreement with Australia to accept refugees?" it read.

International aid agencies and church groups have also questioned how the money offered will not be pocketed by the Hun Sen regime.

"The \$40 million being paid to the Cambodia government will end up in the pockets of the senior ministers who have done this secret deal with Australia, not for the resettlement of refugees nor for aid projects," Misha Coleman, the spokeswoman for the Churches Refugee Taskforce said.

Opposition immigration spokesman Richard Marles has repeatedly called for more detail on the deal to be released.

Greens spokeswoman Sarah Hanson-Young says the plan could see children and women refugees become victims of sex and labour trafficking, which is rampant in the country.

"My primary concern is for the young, unaccompanied girls on Nauru who simply won't be safe. Human rights organisations have said the incidence of rape and sexual exploitation is on the rise in Cambodia."

Mr Morrison rejected criticism about the plan on Friday, saying his domestic opponents were prematurely judging the deal before seeing the detail.

"They have adversely judged this arrangement before even knowing its contents," Mr Morrison said. "As always, we will just get on with the job, and focus on getting results. The merits of this arrangement will best be assessed on its implementation."

# Maules Creek: Coordinated Direct Action against Mine Suspends Work at Several Sites

2 Oct - Activists protesting against a coal project have disrupted mining operations at several sites in the Gunnedah Basin, in northern New South Wales.

Today 150 anti-coal militants have targeted six locations, shutting down four mines and a coal loader operated by Whitehaven Coal, which is building a highly contested mine at Maules Creek.

Opponents, including environmentalists and farmers, have said the project and associated forest-clearing pose significant environmental threats to biodiversity and water required for agricultural use.

Four protesters chained themselves to access points to the Maules Creek project and two scaled the coal loader at the Werris Creek mine and unfurled a banner.

At the Tarrawonga mine at Boggabri a protestor climbed a tripod structure to block access to the site while three others chained themselves together across the road.

Two protesters chained themselves to a gate at the Rocglen mine near Gunnedah and another pair chained themselves to a gate at the Gunnedah coal handling plant.

Police from Barwon Local Area Command said at least six people were arrested.

They included a 27-year-old environmentalist who chained himself to a rail line near Newcastle.

Police rescue officers had to cut the man free and he was likely to be charged with trespass.

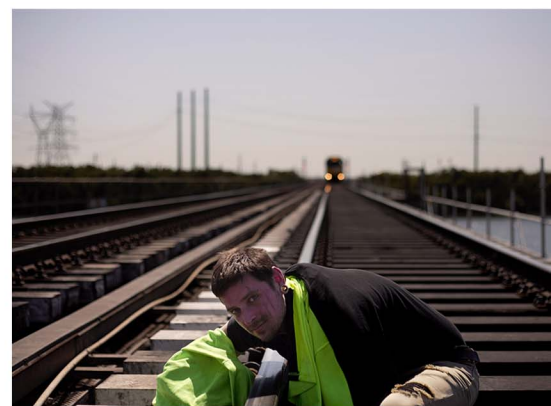
The Australian Rail Track Corporation confirmed the protest had disrupted rail operations.

The rail line, which is used to transport coal into the Port of Newcastle for export, was blocked for more than two hours. Protesters demand inquiry into 'flawed approval processes'

Helen War, from the Front Line Action on Coal group, said the protesters wanted an inquiry into how the Maules Creek project was given planning approval.

"They're calling for an immediate stop to work at the Maules Creek mine and for the New South Wales Government to conduct a full inquiry into the flawed approval processes," she said.

Whitehaven Managing Director Paul Flynn said the protests caused little disruption at Maules Creek, but there were delays at the company's other active mines. "The police have been called for each of these activities," he said.



## Sydney: Woman sets Australian flag alight at War Memorial

1 Oct - A woman set alight an Australian flag at the ANZAC War Memorial in the centre of Sydney on Wednesday afternoon.

NSW police were called to the historic memorial in Hyde Park at midday after reports that a fire was burning inside the building.

The flag caught on fire after the woman lowered the flag into the memorial's Flame of Remembrance. She is understood to be of caucasian appearance and aged between 35 and 45 years old. The burning of the flag was captured on CCTV and police remain in the Sydney CBD searching for the suspect.

The Minister for Veterans' Affairs Victor Dominello condemned the act. "Not only is this criminal behaviour, it's deeply disrespectful of the Memorial and all it represents," Mr Dominello said. "It is deeply concerning that any person would seek to desecrate the Australian flag. Doing so on this sacred site makes it all the more reprehensible."

The memorial remained closed throughout Wednesday afternoon as police investigated the incident.

## Alice Springs: Kids arrested after pool complex trashed

6 Oct - Two children have been arrested after a break-in at the Alice Springs swimming pool early this morning.

Alice Springs police allege the 10 and 12 year olds broke into the swimming pool complex about 12:30am.

Police allege the boys used a fire extinguisher to smash the window of the canteen.

The pair then allegedly broke into the maintenance room where they activated fire extinguishers and sprayed petrol around the shelves, before the alarms went off.

Officers allege the same boys caused more than \$2,000 worth of damage to the library early on Saturday morning.

The chief executive of the Alice Springs Town Council says a spate of vandalism is costing rate-payers more than \$2,000 a week in repairs.

Rex Mooney says combined with the daily removal of graffiti from the John McDouall Stuart statue, vandalism is putting pressure on the public purse.

## Nauru: Hunger strike starts as protests spread

6 October, RAC: The protests by asylum seekers and refugees on Nauru that began on Thursday 25 August are continuing, and have now spread to the single men's camp, OPC2.

The daily protests inside the family camp show no sign of slowing down. Every evening, between 300 and 500 asylum seekers gather to protest against proposed Australian government policy that would see them left doubly discriminated against and facing a life sentence on Nauru.

Around 90 asylum seekers, mostly Burmese, Bangladeshi and Iranian, have been on hunger strike for the last three days. Hundreds are maintaining a 24 hour protest and vigil at the gates of OPC 2.

Yesterday, Sunday 5 October, around 60 of those found to be refugees held another demonstration in front of the Save the Children offices.

The refugees have rejected Morrison's claims that Save the Children workers have been involved in coaching asylum seekers to make false complaints or encourage self-harm. "The government accuses everyone, to try and save themselves," RAC was told.

Under the proposed temporary protection visa legislation, asylum seekers who arrived on the same boats as those sent to Nauru and Manus Island, will be processed and resettled in Australia.

The asylum seekers have been enraged by recent Immigration Department promises to improve the conditions, such as food and water, in the family camp. "They think they can deceive us," one asylum seeker told the Refugee Action Coalition, "It is hypocrisy to say they are improving services while denying our future."

Yesterday, the immigration department sent extra food to the refugee camp to celebrate Eid. But the refugees refused the offer and sent the food back. Meanwhile the unaccompanied minors released from the family detention camp after protests and self-harm incidents inside the camp, have been warned by the immigration department not to become involved in any protests outside the detention camp.



**YOU ARE ENTERING  
A BULLDOGS AREA**



**RACISM, SEXISM  
& ISLAMAPHOBIC  
SCAREMONGERING  
WILL NOT BE  
TOLLERATED**

## Sydney: Football fans abuse Abbott and the cops



6 Oct - Around 3pm a demonstration against racism and Islamophobia gathered in Lakemba before travelling to Belmore where thousands of Bulldogs fans had already amassed for the grand final.

When the demonstrators arrived in Belmore they marched through the crowd carrying banners that said "Side by side against racism" and "Stop State Terrorism", while chanting against racism, and police

Police immediately moved to shut down the protest, with large numbers of cops attempting to confiscate banners and detain protesters.

Clashes and confusion erupted as protesters evaded the police attack by fleeing into the mass of Bulldogs supporters and police angrily but fruitlessly pushed through the crowd.

Later that evening in Belmore as thousands of supporters spilled on to Burwood rd, the situation became tense again when a pedestrian sign was ripped out of the ground. Fans jumped up and down on the sign when police forced their way through the fans.

As about riot officers surrounded the area, the crowd started chanting "Fuck the police, fuck the police".

Officers put their backs to the wall of a restaurant as the fans moved face-to-face with them. The officers took one person's details and eventually left. No arrests were made.

If there was one highlight of the historic NRL grand final it was the deafening boing received by Prime Minister Tony Abbott from football fans.

It's customary for the PM to appear at a Grand Final game to congratulate players. But things took an unexpected turn as Abbott was introduced in the post-game ceremony, the crowd quickly reacted with a tremendous chorus of boos, obviously unimpressed with his presence.

## Canberra: Vandals target school

6 Oct - The Chapman Primary School has been targeted by vandals in Canberra, with the damage bill estimated to be in the tens of thousands of dollars.

The vandals broke 30 windows with a star picket and trashed the kindergarten room, smashed a projector, ripped keys from a piano, destroyed school projects and emptied a fire extinguisher inside.

Windows were also broken at the nearby Noahs Ark Family and Community Centre.

Police called on the public to help identify the group of youths behind the spree.

Sergeant Louise Denley said the vandalism was senseless.

"It defies belief that people could be so heartless and destructive. We are hoping that someone saw this group of youths as they moved from one place to another, causing this damage," she said.

## Cunningar: Vehicles torched at duck farm construction site

14 Oct - Early morning Monday 13th October, the Animal Liberation Front and Earth Liberation Front decided to pay a visit to Pepe's Ducks construction site at Linden Rd. Cunnigar, NSW.

Targeting Pepe's business was an easy choice for us, given that they are the biggest Australian supplier of factory duck meat to the masses. But as the human population grows, and Pepe's \$400,000 bill in 2012 for being a fraud has to be paid, it's no surprise they are seeking to destroy more land and more lives in order to keep themselves on top.

A storm was moving in, and the skies had opened up by the time we reached the site, but without hesitation we decided to act. Incendiary devices were strategically placed and accelerant spread on 3 of their earth destroying machines, and with just a spark, smoke began to fill the sky as we made our departure.

For all those suffering at the hands of their domesticators.

Commodified, but not forgotten.



## Whyalla: Miner issues warning after debris put on train track

14 Oct - Arrium Mining says their staff were put at risk over the weekend when members of the public placed debris on a train track outside the Whyalla mine site.

A driver noticed the track was obscured on Saturday night and stopped the train, which was then vandalised.

Arrium said the debris had the potential to derail the iron ore train.

The company reminded the public that interfering with trains was dangerous and had significant legal consequences.

There were operational delays as a result of the incident.

Arrium has reportedly increased security at the section of track since the incident.

## Melbourne: Monash students lock themselves up for fee protest



15 Oct - Students staged a sit-in protest at Monash University on October 16, 2014, over planned changes to university fees.

Two of the students locked their necks to railing inside an administrative building, while three others linked their hands through lengths of PVC pipe.

They released the following statement:

"#FreeEducation Students have locked on inside @MonashUni Admin building NOW. Unis: demand free education NOW"



## Sydney: Whitehaven Coal's Sydney office occupied

20 Oct - 50 people have descended on Whitehaven Coal today, with 10 people occupying the Sydney office.

Milañ Loeak, a Pacific Climate Warrior from Marshall Islands who has joined the action, has welcomed the support of Australians for their cause.

“Climate change has had very real impacts on people’s lives in my country,” she said. “When I was a child the sea was a constant a steady feature of island life. But with climate change is now a force to be feared. The Islands are frequently buffeted by impacts of climate change with the sea level rising, droughts affecting the northern islands and king tides flooding homes in the south.”

“The Pacific Climate Warriors came to Australia to stand up to the fossil fuel industry that is recklessly destroying our homes.

“But we know we can’t do this alone. That is why we welcome the support of our brothers and sisters in Australia who are participating in this action today.”

Helen War of Front Line Action said they targeted Whitehaven Coal due to their reckless approach to climate change.

“Whitehaven is currently building the largest new coal mine in Australia. This mine, sitting in the environmentally sensitive Leard State Forest, will result in the same amount of emissions as the entirety of New Zealand’s energy sector every year for the next thirty years. Whitehaven is exporting climate chaos on the Pacific Islands.

## Melbourne: Eco-activists occupy ANZ offices

22 Oct - 80 people occupied the Melbourne offices of ANZ in support of the Pacific Islanders at risk of losing their homes to climate change. The group comprises Melbourne residents and representatives from a group of Islanders who have come to Australia to oppose the fossil fuel industry.

The action follows a high profile blockade of the Newcastle Coal Port last Friday, and a series of occupations of offices including Whitehaven Coal in Sydney, the Minerals Council of Australia in Canberra and Buru Energy in Perth earlier this week.

Mikaele Maiava from Tokelau one of 30 ‘Pacific Climate Warriors’ representing 12 island nations joined the action said: “At home in Tokelau, climate change is threatening our food security, our culture, our land and our identity. The fossil fuel industry and Australia’s continued commitment to its expansion, is directly increasing that threat.

“We have come to ANZ to highlight the damage and loss that they are causing by pouring billions of dollars into the Australian coal and gas industry.

Protester Nicola Paris said that ANZ was chosen because of their contribution to dangerous climate change.

“ANZ is the largest commercial funder of fossil fuel projects in Australia. Enough is enough. We will not stop until this bank removes all funding from fossil fuel projects and stops exporting climate chaos on the Pacific Islands. Actions like this will continue until the big polluters start facing up to the reality that is climate change.”



# Maules Creek: Days of Action Against Whitehaven Coal

4 Nov – In the early hours of October 30, a in a batman outfit scaled a tripod, and blocked access for trucks trying to leave Tarrawonga coal mine. This came as people from around the country began to converge at the Leard Blockade.

Two days later a young woman locked herself to the inside of a car, blocking the main access point for Maules creek mine. Meanwhile, the railway line being built inside the mine site has been blocked by a woman suspended in a tree with the rope going across the construction site.

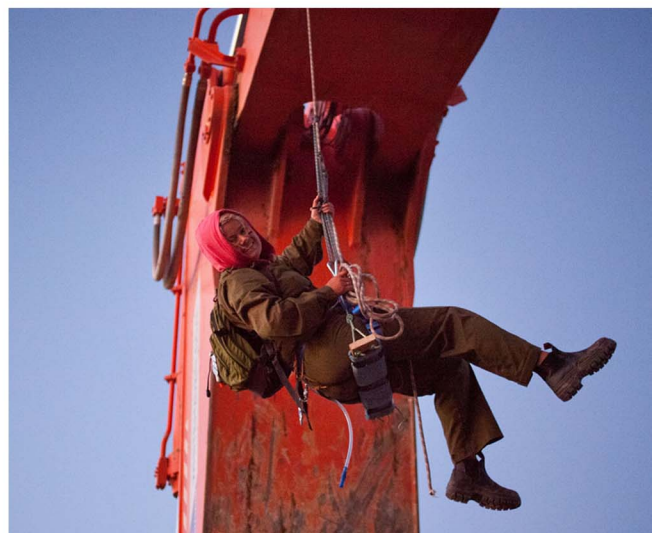
Then on the 3rd of November a young woman scaled the super digger while another woman locked herself to the huge machine, while at least eighty people set up separate blockades on and around the construction site of the controversial Maules Creek mine, near Narrabri.

On November 4 two people locked themselves to a conveyer belt in the Whitehaven-owned Narrabri North underground mine, immobilising the belt. The action halted mine operations for the course of the morning.

Then on the 5th of November another person dressed as Batman has scaled Whitehaven's largest excavator, the Hitachi Super Digger. Today is the fourth consecutive day of the Release the Bats Act Up stopping work on Whitehaven sites. The Hitachi ex8000 Super Digger is a key piece of 'ultra class' mining machinery with an 800 tonne scoop capacity.

“Whitehaven will face no charges and will accept no responsibility for their destruction unless people stand up,” said Emily Rose, from Leard Forest Alliance.

There have been over 270 people arrested as part of the campaign to defend the Leard State Forest.





## Fitzroy Crossing: Kimberley High School closed after vandalism

30 Oct - Community leaders in Fitzroy Crossing say urgent action is needed after a school was trashed twice by children in a week.

The Fitzroy Crossing School has been closed by the Education Department for some days.

Police said last week four children, three of them under the age of 10, broke into the Kimberley school and stole hammers which they used to smash dozens of windows.

Senior Sergeant Andrew Stevens said there was another break in on Tuesday night, by a group of about 12 children, at least some of them aged under 10.

"They've smashed a lot of computers, pushed over filing cabinets, thrown food, drink and paint around the school," he said. "We believe the damage is more than \$50,000 worth.

"The children that we've spoken to seem to be acting out of boredom or anger and they're channelling that anger at the school...for no particular reason.

"We'll be talking a lot with the community, first to make them aware of what is going on and then to ask the community to come up with solutions as to how this problem can be addressed."

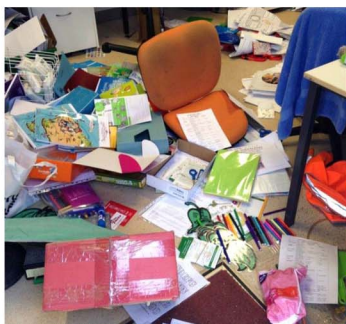
Aboriginal community leader Patrick Green said the town needed to examine why local children were so angry.

"We need to get everybody to get together to talk about this problem, this incident is the sixth for the year – when is enough enough?," he said.

"All I am is a concerned Aboriginal, who came in here and saw damage to computers, to projectors, to classrooms, and I'm sick in the guts when I look at it all.

"We need to address the concerns of Fitzroy Crossing. What have we got to assist our children in after-hours?"

"We need to look at our problem areas and work out what we're going to do to address it."



## Mundijong: Feedlot arson attack



12 Nov - A truck and trailer were set on fire at a Rural Exports and Trading\* cattle feedlot near Mundijong (Western Australia) during the night of November 10-11. "Stop live exports" was spray-painted on a shed at the property.

According to news reports, in June at the feedlot a tractor was vandalized, and tires slashed on a livestock carrier, causing \$30,000 damage.

Another feedlot, Wellard Rural Exports in Baldivis, also reported that its facilities and trucks have been vandalized. In April, hydraulic and brake lines were cut on trucks, forklifts, tractors and trailers. Dozens of electrical cords were also cut.

## Horizon says vandals risking death damaging power infrastructure

13 Nov - Horizon Power is urging people to steer clear of its infrastructure, after yet another incidence of vandalism this week.

On Monday night, two South Hedland mini-pillars, the small, green boxes outside houses and businesses, were damaged.

Up to 70 mini-pillars have been damaged in Karratha and Port Hedland in the past 12 months.

Horizon's Rachel Clarke said it could be costly and time consuming to replace them but there was also a high risk of electrocution.

"With Horizon Power our main priority is safety, so leave our assets well alone," she said.

"If you notice any of the assets damaged or if you notice someone near the assets we certainly encourage you to give us a call.

"Mini-pillars can provide power for up to two blocks of households so they certainly contain a lot of electricity and can very dangerous if damaged.

"So I would urge the public to certainly steer clear and if they notice any of our infrastructure damaged to certainly report that."

# Sydney: Flood of left-wing anarchist street posters make waves in inner city

7 Nov - A war of words is being played out on inner west walls as tensions between far left and far right activists heat up.

Over the past months a flood of posters preaching anti-fascist and anarchist messages have been plastered around Marrickville, Enmore, Newtown and other suburbs across Sydney, including provocative ones urging readers to kill capitalists and fascists.

Only a few months ago racist posters, authored by the Australia First Party and another nazi group named Squadron 88, were stuck to a number of left-wing and anarchist bookshops in Newtown and Ultimo. Anti-foreign student, and anti-jewish literature was also mass letterboxed throughout the inner west and eastern suburbs.

Tensions further increased after Australia First members pasted anti-asian posters around Redfern, which they claimed were authored by Aboriginal people. The party has recently announced their leader Jim Saleam would be contesting the Marrickville Council by-election being held on November 15.

One local resident, who asked to remain anonymous, told journalists he has taken offense to the latest round of posters calling on readers to 'kill capitalists' with images of guillotines and a man in a suit with a rifle target on his head.

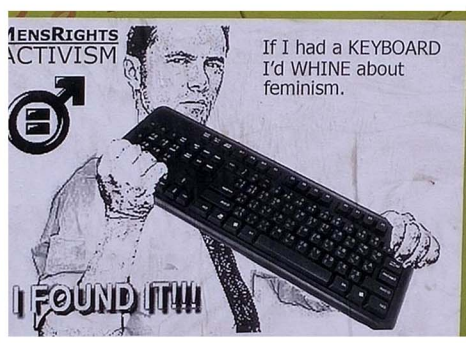
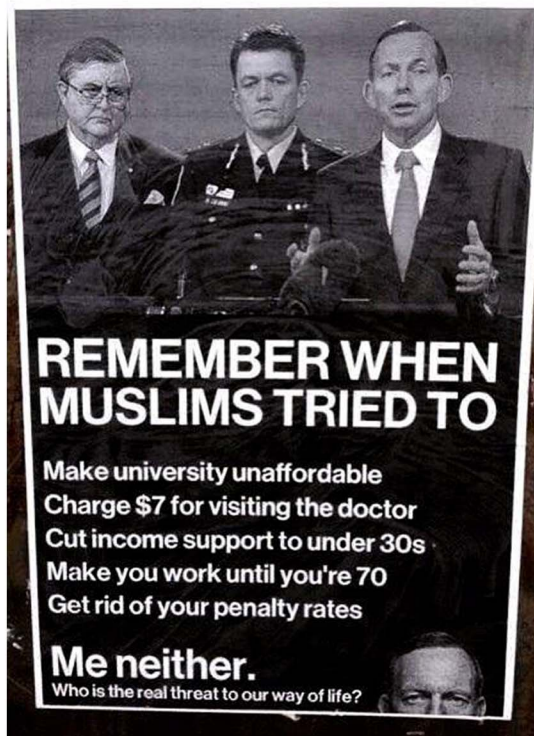
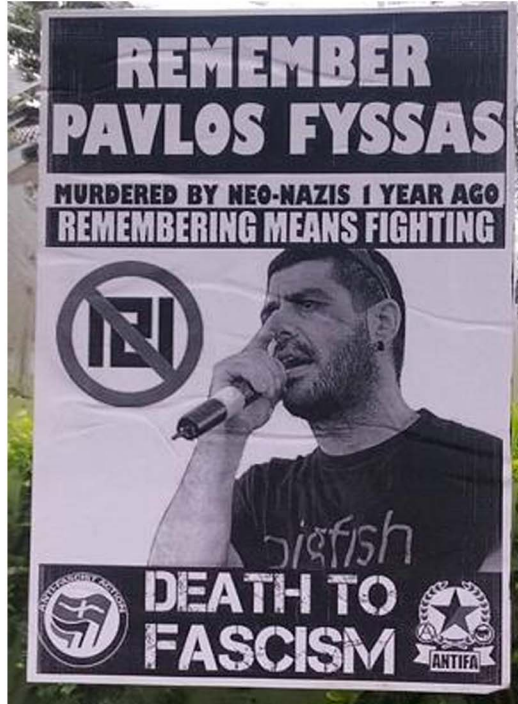
He posted photos of the posters on Reddit asking for an end to the aggressive slogans.

Reddit users have responded to his post with some agreeing with him and others not seeing the harm in the posters. "Violence isn't always physical, what's wrong with wanting to fight back?" one user wrote.

A marrickville council spokeswoman told journalists that "If they were judged to be 'offensive', then council's graffiti crew would be instructed to remove them."

She also said the council had not received any complaints regarding the posters and as to whether they are offensive "I think that's a matter of personal opinion".

University of Technology's Associate Professor James Goodman, who conducts research into social change and global politics, said the latest string of posters were acting as a counter-balance to a rise in extremist right-wing organisations and public fear.



These include the Australian Defence League, a far-right wing group waging a vicious anti-Muslim campaign on social media, and has been accused of repeatedly harassing Islamic women in public.

"It seems there is a push from the Australia Defence League to capitalise on current fears about Islamic State being voiced by western governments... Anti-fascist groups have sought to counter this, not surprisingly" Mr Goodman said.

Mr Goodman said the left-leaning activist groups have had a good response, "as most people understand the difference between Islam and authoritarianism, and can see how the government is exploiting the situation to serve their own agenda".

He added that the war of words on inner city streets wasn't new.



## Sydney: Two arrested at Villawood Detention Centre transfer protest

12 Nov - Two more people have been arrested in the second day of protest outside Villawood Detention centre in Sydney's West over the transfer of immigration detainees to Western Australia.

The pair were taken into custody after refusing police orders to move on while locked together in a blockade of the centre. Both were later released without charge.

The protesters had been blocking the centre's entrance after receiving information 65 people would soon be transferred.

The largely student based protesters stated that 65 detainees are due to be taken, against their will, from Villawood Detention Centre to the remote Northam facility in WA.

In April, protests over the transfer of hundreds of detainees resulted in eight people being arrested for blocking buses.

Scuffles broke out between police and about 40 protesters who attempted to block two buses that were transferring 83 asylum seekers from the centre to the Curtin facility in WA's Kimberley region.

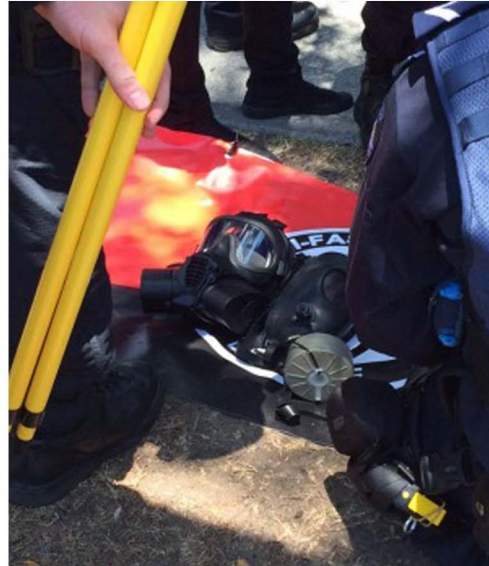
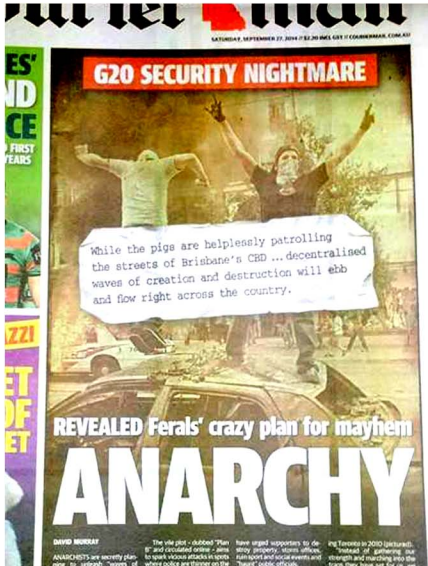
Students Thinking Outside Borders member Sonia Feng said the transfers were part of a deliberate strategy by the Federal Government.

"Transferring all these asylum seekers, silencing them and moving them away from the public eye is indicative of how much they want to hide the issue of refugees, and how contentious it is, how much public support there actually is for refugees."

"Even though asylum seekers are being forcibly transferred and they're out of sight, they're not out of mind," Ms Feng



# Brisbane: G20 anarchist protesters caught with knife and gas masks



15 Nov - A woman charged with possession of prohibited items in Brisbane's G20 declared area condemned her arrest as "ridiculous".

The 25-year-old was one of two women arrested at protest rally in Roma Street Parklands and taken to the Queensland Police headquarters just before midday.

She is expected to be the first person to face the special magistrates court set up for the G20.

The pair's belongings were laid out on the floor of the police headquarter's lobby and meticulously examined and photographed.

A rubber gas mask could be clearly seen alongside a medical kit, towel, a phone, cables and other possessions.

A three metre long red-and-black banner, featuring "Brisbane Solidarity Network" on one side and "Anti-Fascist Action" on the other, was taken away.

Police also allegedly seized a leatherman knife, a multi-purpose device similar to a Swiss Army Knife.

As the woman was led to a waiting police van, she was asked what she thought of her predicament.

"It's ridiculous, I'm being charged for a multi-tool," she said.

She exclaimed "It's ridiculous" a second time as the doors of the van closed after her.

The 20-year-old woman was let go without charge, but was excluded from the declared area in the centre of Brisbane city.

"I'm just going to the border...of wherever I'm supposed to be," she said when quizzed by media as she walked up Roma Street away from the city.

The 25-year-old woman will also be added to the exclusion list.



## Brisbane: WAR declared at G20 indigenous gathering



14 Nov - A march through Brisbane's fortified streets to protest Aboriginal deaths in custody has ended with the unveiling of a new activist movement.

At the conclusion of the march, held to coincide with the G20 leaders summit, a collection of young activists introduced themselves to the assembled crowd of about 500 as the Warriors of Aboriginal Resistance.

The group spoke, one after the other, in quick succession to the audience gathered around a ceremonial fire.

"The only justice we'll see is the justice we'll take," one woman loudly declared to the cheers of supporters.

The Warriors of Aboriginal Resistance, or WAR, led the crowd in a chant: "Resist, revive, decolonise."

Another speaker took aim at the G20, which would be held less than 300 metres away at the Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre this weekend.

"I want to know why we haven't got someone in there with all those leaders," he said.

"...Until there's equality in this land, there'll be no heaven for the bluebloods."

WAR spokesman Boe Spearim, from the Brisbane Sovereign Embassy at Musgrave Park, said the G20 offered a rare opportunity to get their message out to a global audience.

"It gives us the opportunity to put forward our issues and that does shame the Australian government," he said.

"But it's not about us shaming anybody – it's about us coming up with solutions to all those problems that have been imposed on us since 1788."

Mr Spearim said he hoped WAR would bring together indigenous youth in Australia around a common cause.

"There's a lot of Aboriginal people talking about independence and there's a lot of Aboriginal people talking about treaties," he said.

"The steps that we're going to take is going to galvanise our people and that's where we're going next."

Just what form Aboriginal independence could take was unclear, although Mr Spearim said the group had some inspiration from overseas.

"It's like the independence Scotland was going for recently," he said.

"We want an Aboriginal parliament and proper Aboriginal representation. ... If you look across the board, there are no Aboriginal ministers.

"It's us they can control and it's us identifying the issues that we face, because a lot of other people assume they can come in and save the poor Aboriginal people.

"But it's us that have got to liberate ourselves."

With many of the world's leaders already in Brisbane, and with television sets in their hotel rooms, Mr Spearim said their message was as much to them "and the people they're oppressing" as it was to Australian governments.

"(Indigenous people across the world) are getting kicked in the guts and they're at the end of the river, just like we are," he said.

"(Indigenous people) might make up 3 per cent of the people here, but globally indigenous peoples make up a large number and their so-called leaders are oppressing them just like they're oppressing us."

Mr Spearim said he wanted to be in dialogue with indigenous people around the world

"Whether you're Maori in New Zealand, whether you're Native American, whether you're Aboriginal in Canada, whether you're a native in South Africa, whether you're Irish or Scottish, we want to have discussions and dialogue with you," he said.

"Because we feel the exact same yoke of oppression, just like you do."

## G20 protesters burn Australian flag in rally on indigenous rights

16 Nov - There's been uproar on the last day of G20, with indigenous protesters burning the Australian flag on camera, cranking up the heat on an already scorching day.

Papier mache effigies of Aboriginal representatives Warren Mundine, Noel Pearson and Marcia Langton were also torched while the crowd chanted "sell outs", calling the trio an "elitist group who had sold out their people".

At few hundred people were present as, many with fists raised in the air chanting "resist, revive, decolonise".

One protester named Woolombi, told journalists the act was a direct response to Prime Minister Tony Abbott's comments on Friday that Australia's pre-white society was "extraordinarily basic and raw".

"This land for 67,000 years was the greatest biodiversity land management estate ever seen on the face of the world.

"We can't afford to have that removed from our genetic memory."

Mr Abbott's comments at a breakfast with British counterpart David Cameron on Friday drew criticism from Indigenous activists at the time.

"As we look around this glorious city, as we see the extraordinary development, it's hard to think that back in 1788 it was nothing but bush," the Prime Minister said.

Woolombi said while he understood the burning of the Australian flag would be controversial, he was unrepentant.

"Imagine having your whole history erased. Imagine having the elected leader of your country getting up and saying you didn't exist. That's an insult." he said.

The demonstrators also said regional communities were being ignored and damaged by government policy.

"They're privatising our communities so they can set up an elitist class," a man leading the protests called to onlookers.

Queensland premier condemned the protests, saying while he respected the right to demonstrate, he didn't accept the burning of the Australian flag.

Police kept a close eye on proceedings but appeared to refrain from intervening for fear of inflaming the situation.

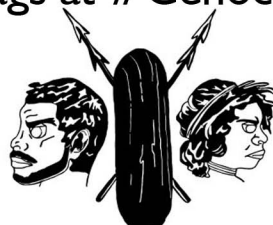
Indigenous activist Wayne Wharton later told reporters the demonstrators were furious at Abbott's representation of Australian history.

"He welcomes the world leaders and tells them there was nothing. So we have to resort to symbolism to show our disgust in your colonial leadership."

G20 protests had up until now been relatively calm, with hundreds of police present on the final day of the summit.

There were just four arrests and 24 people banned from the security zone yesterday.

## Why WAR burned six Australian flags at #Genocidal20 protests



**WARRIORS  
OF THE  
ABORIGINAL  
RESISTANCE**

**RESIST · REVIVE · DECOLONIZE**

20 Nov - Australia's national flag is a symbol of colonization and all the evils accompanying it – the genocide, the dispossession, the blood shed by our ancestors. The Warriors of the Aboriginal Resistance (WAR) hold no affinity to this flag.

On November 16, members of WAR burned six Australian flags in an act of defiance against the colonial state, a message to the Australian government and the Australian public that we will continue our resistance against the onslaught of colonization, the invasion of our lands and lives. The Australian flag represents the pillars of colonial ideology – greed and racism. This ideology was alive in Tony Abbott's recent comment that this continent was "nothing but bush" prior to invasion in 1788.

**RESIST ● REVIVE**



**DECOLONISE**

**I DON'T ALWAYS FLY  
THE AUSTRALIAN FLAG**



**BUT WHEN I DO  
IT'S ON FIRE**

In the month running up to the G20 summit in Brisbane, four Aboriginal people died in police custody, many more Aboriginal children were forcibly removed from their families and mining companies continued to devastate sacred Aboriginal lands. Aboriginal people are incarcerated at five times the rate of Blacks under apartheid in South Africa, Australia leads the world in linguicide, our life expectancy is still more than 10 years below that of Australians, and John Howard's racially discriminatory intervention into Northern Territory Aboriginal communities has been extended for another decade. We remain a fourth world people residing within the borders of a first world nation. Our people live in third world conditions and have had our self-determination suppressed by the colonial state. Consecutive Australian governments have failed us, and consecutive Australian governments blame us for our predicament. The Australian flag does not represent freedom. But burning the Australian flag is an act of defiance, a symbol of our fight for freedom. The burning of the Australian flag is our message to Australia and the world to say that we are still here, that the denial of our basic human rights continues, and that radical change must occur.

Like its predecessor the Union Jack, the Australian flag is a bastion of colonial arrogance. Burning the Australian flag is an act of anti-colonial resistance. We do not wish to coexist with the colonial state. Our ultimate goal is to bring an end to colonial control of our lands and lives, the restoration of tribal sovereignty. We resist colonization just as the Natives of North America, the Maori of Aotearoa and the Indigenous peoples of South America. Like Scottish nationalists and the West Papuans, we fight for freedom and independence. We will fight to rid our people and our communities of the interfering and oppressive hands of the colonial Australian state. We are shifting to an agenda of asserting our fundamental rights and responsibilities as Indigenous peoples. We will no longer ask for justice from the colonizer, we will simply take it.

WAR member Ruby Wharton (Kooma/Gamilaraay) set fire to one of the six Australian flags on November 16 at the final Aboriginal protest against the #Genocidal20 summit. "Every action has an equal and opposite reaction," says Ms Wharton.

"Mr Abbott asked for his nation's flag to be burned when he publicly insulted the Aboriginal people. The Australian government asked for us to burn their flag when they stole our children and killed our people. We wouldn't have done it if there was no reason."

Meriki Onus (Gunnai/Gunditjmara), another founding member of WAR, says she burned the Australian flag because of how colonization has impacted on her family and community.

"We've been denied the knowledge of our traditions, culture and language as a direct result of the massacres of our ancestors and the herding of our people into missions in so-called Gippsland (Victoria). This happened under the Australian flag. Today, the Australian nation benefits directly from those acts of genocide. I now encourage everyone, Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal, to burn the Australian flag in an act of resistance to what it truly stands for."

Effigies of handpicked Aboriginal so-called 'leaders' were also burned at the rally. WAR rejects that this was an act of 'lateral violence'. This term is often used by a minority of Aboriginal people to detract from the wrongs they commit. Noel Pearson, Marcia Langton and Warren Mundine have become part and parcel of the colonial machine, perpetuating the oppression of Aboriginal people and dispossession of our lands. Burning their effigies was an attack on their selling out of our people, not an attack on their right to identify as Aboriginal.

Bogaine Skuthorpe-Spearim (Gamilaraay/Kooma/Murrawarri) says we as Aboriginal people "must always question the motive behind the words and actions of those who have taken so much from us".

"We as Indigenous peoples always had the responsibility to pull our own mob into line if they did wrong, and we still have that responsibility today. Warren Mundine, Noel Pearson and Marcia Langton have and continue to work hand in hand with a government guilty of forcing us off our lands, kidnapping our young ones, killing our brothers and sisters in prison, cutting off water in our communities and demonizing our people in the public eye."

- Warriors of the Aboriginal Resistance.

## Brisbane: Video showing arrest of amputee sparks outrage

19 Nov - Footage of Queensland Police pinning and punching a disabled man with half of his legs missing has gone viral, sparking outrage and allegations of unreasonable force.

In the five-minute video, three officers are seen arresting the 20-year-old man and a woman, 18, who were suspected of attempting to steal wine at the Sunnybank shopping centre, in Brisbane's south, on Saturday.

The footage was uploaded to Facebook by Declan Liu and has had at least half a million views, with hundreds condemning the officers for using too much force.

In the video, two officers are seen pinning down the man, whose prosthetics legs have come off.

The man is put in a head lock, and two officers wrestle to handcuff him, at which point one is seen punching the alleged offender four times.

"Get off me," the man repeatedly yells, in between expletives.

The woman is also pinned by a policeman -while on the ground.

She begins wailing, and is hauled to her feet by her handcuffed wrists, at which point she hits a table, sending a plate flying.

"We haven't even done anything wrong," the woman yells.

"I care for him, he's disabled.

"Get off me, get off me. You are hurting me. My arms are hurting so much. Stop it."

Police were approached for comment on whether too much force was used but did not comment specifically.

Crowd in disbelief and angered by arrests  
A large crowd had gathered during the arrest, becoming outraged at the pair's treatment.

Mr Liu uploaded his video to Facebook on Saturday, which was viewed almost a million times.

"Police handled the situation terribly," Mr Liu said. "They went way too far. It was a pretty horrific scene."

Terry O'Gorman, vice-president of Queensland Council of Civil Liberties, did not want to prejudge police, however said it was a worrying video.

"It appears to show significantly unjustified force," Mr O'Gorman said.

"This is a matter that has alarmed many people."

The Queensland Police Union president Ian Leavers supported the actions of the officers.

"We know everything is under CCTV; we have nothing to fear," he said.

"These people had an opportunity to either comply with police and we know that is not the case and they acted up for the cameras."

A spokesman said the service was aware of the video and were "looking into the circumstances".

The Queensland Police Union defended the officers, accusing the alleged offenders of acting up for the cameras.

The man and woman will face the Holland Park Magistrates Court on December 4 on three charges, including stealing.





# Sydney: Antifascists clash with Islamophobes in Penrith

24 Nov - On Monday Penrith City Council held a meeting to discuss a development application for a Muslim community centre and prayer hall. A previous council meeting on the issue attracted a hostile crowd of racist locals, egged on by far right Councillor, Marcus Cornish. Appeals from the local Islamic community for support were answered by a crowd of mostly young people from across Sydney, determined to stand against racism and challenge the pervasiveness of Islamophobia in Australian society.

What's happening in Penrith is part of a national right wing strategy seeking to fragment communities along ethnic and religious lines. The far-right is attempting to channel the populist anti-Muslim bigotry peddled by politicians, talkback radio demagogues and tabloid hacks into more localised expressions of exclusion and marginalisation.

The process begins with challenges to development applications, outrage whipped up online by ostensibly respectable, well-funded organisations like the Q Society. These campaigns often escalate to the staging of volatile displays of apparently 'grass-roots' opposition.

From the early afternoon, anti-racists from Sydney's west, together with anti-fascists and students from universities across Sydney, gathered at the site in solidarity with members of the local Muslim community planning to attend the meeting.

Not long after arriving, two or three local 'anti-Islamists' turned up dragging a huge stack of placards. A bloke wearing a 'Royal Australian Infidel' t-shirt and a Strayan rag around shoulders, produced a copy of the Quran and ranted about the evil contained within. He gave his name as James, and informed us that he's a proud Army reservist. He'd die for the flag, for Straya, and for Penrith.

James makes for a convincing 'concerned not racist local', his resentful ethno-nationalism posing as feel-good patriotism. It's a seemingly positive politics, concerned with the promotion and celebration of the inherent virtues of Australian society.

The narrative is a familiar one, beloved as it is by politicians and media. It functions to twist anger about undeveloped local services into an active, festering resentment of "undeserving" minorities. Just claim it all in the name of a core Australian value, in this case 'the fair go' (or variously 'ANZACs', 'freedoms' and 'our way of life') to make it sound more positive and legitimate.

James went through this routine a couple of times, but his mate who was rather more forthright about his feelings about people of colour, came over to have a go and was swiftly relieved of his placard. Shortly afterwards, James tried to seize an anti-racist banner and lost his flag in the scuffle.

Shortly afterwards, anti-racists noticed they were being filmed, discreetly by a couple some 50 metres away. The couple were approached and asked why they were filming. They were instantly defensive, but soon enough they packed up and told us to go back to our Greenie heroin squat as they bugged off. No one was surprised when they both joined the racist mob later on. Though this may seem a rather trivial, it does highlight the need for security precautions at anti-racist mobilisations.

It was about this time we noticed some familiar faces mixing with the anti-Mosquers. A few were identified immediately as supporters of the Australia First Party. A few other faces were recognised as regular attendees at Islamophobic events in Sydney, though they are more likely rallied by anti-Islamic Facebook groups.





Later on, they all started coming across the square towards the entrance. Anti-racists moved to block their path but were too outnumbered to prevent them. Both sides clashed for some minutes before the handful of police on the scene forced us apart.

The anti-Mosquers focused their attention on personally threatening anti-racists and ranted about the global caliphate that would be sure to emerge if Penrith's Shia population was able to build a community centre.

Jim Saleam, captain of Team Australia First, soon arrived with his bonehead buddies including Ross "The Skull" May and about five of his goons from neo-Nazi groupuscule Squadron 88. Unsurprisingly the arrival of actual neo-Nazis was not met with disavowal or even unease by the local 'non-racist concerned citizens', indeed, some were enthusiastic. Maybe there were a few in the crowd who weren't entirely comfortable with associating with a bunch of swastika-lickers, but they were silent.

As a few boneheads in unseasonable bomber jackets threatened and jeered at anti-racists from behind police lines, the Skull performed his 'white power' routine for the crowd and a couple of nearby TV cameras throwing in a few rants about 'mud races' to 'Jewish conspiracies', 'Chinese masters' to 'illegal refugee scum'. He singled out a young woman of African descent for particular attention. He loudly taunted her, calling her "nigger" and accused her of having AIDS and Ebola, while he made monkey noises. A sizeable chunk of the local "anti-islamists" laughed in approval.

Nick Hunter-Folkes, the public face of the (not racist but..) Party for Freedom, was the last far-right shit-stirrer to arrive.

Though Nick and his mob aren't exactly beloved by the Australia First Party, there was no indication of acrimony between the various far-right camps. Whatever beefs they had with one another were set aside in favour of collectively whipping up as much fear, anger and racial resentment as possible. Those who argue for ignoring these groups underestimate how much that serves to embolden them, particularly in the wake of the first time in recent memory the far-right have been able to appear in public without being quickly dispersed by anti-fascists.

Though opinions about the police clearly differ amongst militant and liberal anti-racists, the experience of Monday night should make clear that they cannot be relied upon to protect demonstrators from racial harassment, physical intimidation or even assault.

When some students asked for protection in leaving the area, the police response was hostile and dismissive. If you consider the number of police deployed to any even vaguely progressive protest in Sydney, and contrast that to the three public order officers and handful of regulars available to protect Penrith's Muslim community and its supporters from hundreds of hostile racists, you must conclude that they are not neutral actors. When we understand them as such, we are better equipped to ensure our collective safety.

Despite all their big talk and chest thumping, they made no genuine attempt to physically confront anti-racists, and while we stayed together it would have been difficult for them to try. Though the threat of nationalist violence loomed over anti-racists for much of the night, everyone got home safely, not because of the cops but because we stood together.





### Fitzroy Crossing: Tourist centre trashed in latest vandalism attack

25 Nov - Emotions are running high in the Kimberley town of Fitzroy Crossing after another spate of break-ins and vandalism.

Three weeks after the local high school was trashed so badly it had to be closed for two days, vandals have broken into the town's visitors centre and recreation centre.

The Shire of Derby-West Kimberley is waiting for its insurers to assess the sites but has confirmed computers, doors and furniture have been extensively damaged.

Chief executive Stephen Gash said a 'Fitzroy Futures' meeting was scheduled for Wednesday, which would be an opportunity for the town to regroup and discuss solutions.

"It's more continuing the conversation, I think it's a time for cool heads," he said.

"There's a lot of emotion but we need to get together and really plan and coordinate our strategy forward.

"Everyone's frustrated. We know there'll be a lot of emotion around this but we want to look at how we address this, [we] want to get people together and look at ways we can get together and talk about the future."

### Ararat: Police hunt School vandals

4 Dec - Ararat police are searching for vandals who caused more than \$5,000 worth of damage at the Ararat North Primary School at the weekend.

Thirty-seven air extractors, seven skylights and a television antenna on the roof of the school building were damaged beyond repair.

### Tuncurry: Vandals deface new war memorial

5 Dec - A newly constructed war memorial at Tuncurry has been defaced by vandals, police say.

Manning Great Lakes police are investigating after the memorial in Lone Pine Park, which is yet to be officially opened, was sprayed with orange graffiti.

The vandalism was discovered about 6am on Friday.

### WA: Chickens released from egg farm

5 Dec - 50 chickens liberated from western Australia battery hen facility and now all in happy homes :)

2 Dec - Brisbane cricket club redecorated in memory of Philip Hughs. The graffiti reads: "RIP HUGHS + NON WHITE NON RICH VICTIMS OF STATE VIOLENCE. RIP MS DHU! NO MORE DEATHS IN CUSTODY, RIP REZA BERATI! INSENSITIVE? SO IS SOLONIAL GENOCIDE + REFUGEE CONCENTRATION CAMPS! TAKE ACTION!"



## Oberon: ALF Arson attack



3 Dec - "Public notice: As of 02/12/14 the Oberon NSW slaughterhouse will be out of order.

"Maintenance work began around 2:00am on the 2nd of December in the roof over the plants main building. Early work was successful, leaving behind only a shadow of the killing machine that originally stood above us. We moved quickly and work best at night anyway, so by the time those who showed up to appreciate our work arrived, we were already on to our next job. We do this for the love of it, the love of liberation, so no payment or gratitude necessary.

"Surely this will cause an inconvenience to profiteers of animal abuse, and for this we generously offer any future services to those affected free of charge. No need to leave your name and address, chances are we already know you.

"\*\*All workmanship is guaranteed, if for any reason the owners decide to rebuild, we will return to complete all original work.\*\*"

"Best wishes and happy holidays from your local handymen.

ALF"



## Gunnedah: Anti-Coal Lockdowns



4 Dec - Sustained protest against Whitehaven Coal's controversial Maules Creek mine in the Leard State Forest continues as two men chained themselves to a concrete barrel at Whitehaven Coal's Gunnedah coal handling and preparation plant. 31 year old Maules Creek farm-hand Adam Ryan and 37 year old, Sydney lawyer, Matthew Brockman have taken action to protest against what Brockman describes as the 'lax approval processes' that allowed the scandal-plagued mine to go ahead.

Mr Ryan, born in nearby Wee Waa, cited concerns about mining impacts on water and the subsequent effect on the local agricultural industry, saying "this mine is destroying the community that I have known my whole life. The time for standing by has passed, we have to stand up for our community."

Mr Brockman said, "The whole process between what goes on in parliament and what goes on in industry is not transparent – there is no way the public can know what's going on. There is not a great deal of room for input from the public in this system – if there was we would already be moving away from coal and into renewable energy."

At 4:30pm both men were been arrested and taken to Gunnedah police station to be charged.

Whitehaven Coal's share-price fell to new lows this week dipping to \$1.07 on Tuesday.

## Sydney: Police brutality sparks anger



5 Dec - A video showing 3 Sydney police officers brutally beating a young woman has gone viral, with over a million views online. During the clip, the victim is repeatedly hit with a baton and appears to be kicked in the head by a male officer.

Police brutality has recently generated mass demonstration in the US, but now it seems outrage against police violence is making its way to Australia. The woman in question, Claire Helen, who works as a model and actress and was on the receiving end of recurring police blows, said: "It was the most frightening and humiliating experience of my life."

Law enforcement officers allege that Helen punched a policewoman in the mouth, as well as resisting arrest – an action that the model stringently denies.

"They pushed me down. They hit me and kicked me. They pulled my dress over my head," she said, speaking to journalists.

Onlookers could be heard shouting, "Let her go," and, "She's not resisting arrest."

Helen, who is 1 meter, 60 centimeters tall and weighs 55 kilograms, insists she was just enjoying a quiet night out when she was accosted by law enforcement officers, who were much bigger than her.

"We weren't drunk. We'd been with people playing soccer and went out to have a few drinks. I'm not the sort of person who goes out getting pissed on a Wednesday night."

The incident happened in the Kings Cross which is home to a number of bars and nightclubs, after Helen and a group of friends haggled over a taxi fare, according to police.

## Darwin: Interstate ATM gang caught



8 Dec - Four men have been arrested after a covert operation targeting what NT police say is an interstate ATM crime gang.

Detective Senior Sergeant Karl Day said the men, aged 31, 33, 37 and 41, were tracked by interstate law enforcement agencies to the NT earlier this month.

"We will allege these men have been responsible for up to 65 cases of theft from ATMs in four states."

The NT police operation over the weekend involved heavily armed Tactical Response Group (TRG) members stopping the men's vehicle on the busy Stuart Highway after covert observation at Coolalinga, 29 kilometres from Darwin.

Sen Sgt Day said the men were "acting extremely suspiciously for more than an hour".

When police stopped the car, Sen Sgt Day said police found breaking implements, dark clothing and scanning equipment.

Police allege the men arrived in the Territory last Tuesday and had been driving around Darwin.

He described the alleged method used by the men as highly sophisticated, with "various means of entry, various means of opening ATMs... and leaving the tools where they used them".

"This gang is well trained, highly disciplined, highly sophisticated and that's part of the reason why they've been so successful."

"The detection and arrest of such a sophisticated interstate crime gang operating in the Northern Territory will hopefully act as a deterrent for others who may incorrectly consider the NT to be an easy target."

Sen Sgt Day said his interstate colleagues were keen to speak with the men, who remained in police custody and who are expected to face court this week.

# Sydney: Kemps Creek prayer hall approved as rival groups protest



9 Dec - Plans for an Islamic community centre and prayer hall at Kemps Creek, in Sydney's west, have been given the go-ahead at a meeting that followed clashes between up to 100 protesters.

At a special meeting of Penrith Council on Monday night four councillors put forward a motion opposing the new prayer hall, but it was defeated by 10 votes to four.

The planned community centre, approved last month, has attracted angry protests in recent months and led to repeated clashes outside council chambers.

Outside council chambers before the meeting there were angry exchanges between a group opposed to the prayer hall and another group against anti-Islam racist sentiments.

About 180 people then packed into the public gallery and there were several interjections throughout proceedings.

Three community members in favour and three against the Islamic prayer hall development addressed Mayor Ross Fowler and councillors about their concerns. All those speaking in support of the prayer hall were yelled at by members of the public gallery.

The mayor had to remind people sitting in the gallery several times to keep calm and respect the speakers.

Greens Councillor Michelle Tormey also told the meeting that on her way inside the building said she had been threatened by an anti-Islam protester who said he would "stab her in the stomach" if she voted in favour of the prayer hall development.

More than a dozen police officers and a large security presence separated the protesters who exchanged insults.

Several protesters against the prayer hall held up signs with Nazi symbols or slogans such as "Islam a crime against humanity", "White Pride Worldwide" and "Anifa is worse than Ebola". Others carried an Israeli and nazi flag.

However, the group in support of the hall said Muslims and the prayer hall were welcome in the area.

They carried signage with slogans such as: "Racism – the enemy of freedom", "Smash the attacks on Muslim and non-white communities," and "Don't keep calm, fight Islamophobia".



## Newcastle: Protest halts first coal train from Maules Creek mine

15 Dec - A blockade has halted the first train load of coal coming from the Maules Creek mine to Newcastle's Kooragang Island coal export terminals this morning.

A group of 22 people blocked the tracks, while another 8 have occupied the train and are refusing to leave.

The train was stopped during the night and delayed for over 6 hours by a protestor who locked onto locomotives needed to push the coal over the Great Dividing Range. The 58 year-old protestor, Bruce, from Northern Rivers, has been arrested. Speaking about why he took action, Bruce said:

"Australia's response to climate change is headed completely backwards. "If we can stop this new coal mine we set a precedent for the rest of Australia to stand up."

Jono Moylan from Frontline Action on Coal said, "Over the last twelve months, hundreds of people have been arrested slowing down construction of the Maules Creek mine. The fate of our country, and people everywhere, depends on coal being left in the ground. Ordinary people have taken extraordinary action to stop this mine.

"A growing number of people are standing up to the coal industry's plans to ship increasing volumes of coal and fuel dangerous climate change. Doctors, people of faith, IPCC scientists and earlier this month, former Wallabies captain David Pocock, have all taken action to halt construction at Maules Creek".

Local Newcastle mother, Vanessa Wiebford said, "I want my daughter to have a future without the horror of extreme heat and fire, and uncertain water and food production. I am bitterly disappointed in Australia's political leadership and their unthinking support for expanded coal exports at a time when we're already seeing alarming signs of dangerous climate change.

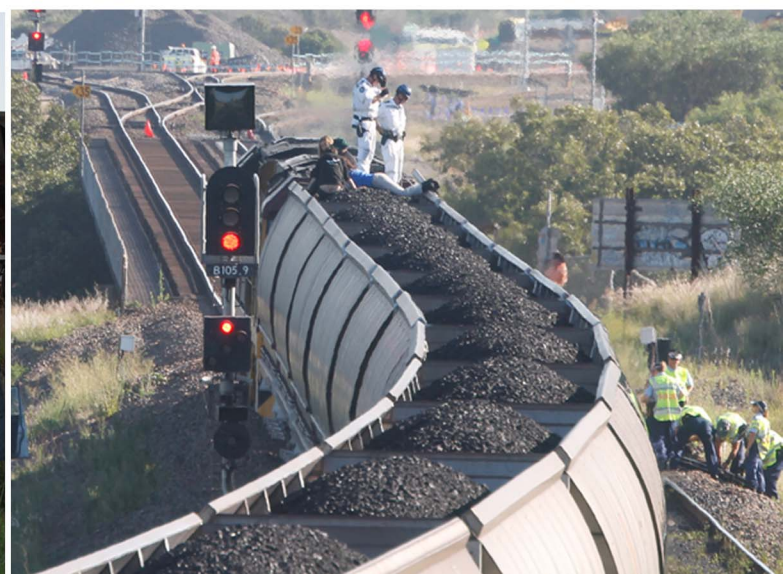
"If they're not going to act to prevent this, then all parents have a duty to risk arrest to try and stop it ourselves.

2014 is now expected to break the record as the hottest year in Australia's history. Heat-wave conditions were observed in many parts of the country during our hottest spring on record this year, and the Bureau of Meteorology is predicting a return to El Nino conditions at a time when much of Queensland and parts of New South Wales are already drought declared.

The burning of coal exported from Australia is this country's biggest single contribution to climate change, and production and export of coal increased in the last 12 months.

"With the international climate negotiations in Lima failing to deliver the scale of action needed, people around the world will have to take their future into their own hands like never before. Ordinary people are stepping up to do what it takes to stop the fossil fuel industry's dangerous expansion plans," said Moylan.

Five activists were later arrested and charged by police.



# Sydney: Pilot refuses to fly after plane protest by cuffed asylum seeker

20 Dec - Last night, the pilot of an Air China flight carrying a Chinese asylum seeker made a last minute decision to abandon the take off and returned to the terminal to unload the asylum seeker after he staged a dramatic on-board protest.

Wei Lin, a Chinese asylum seeker, was taken directly from the Federal Court to the airport, under escort of four Serco guards, following failed last minute legal action to prevent his deportation.

Around 6pm, refugee activists went to Sydney airport to distribute leaflets to passengers on the Air China flight to raise awareness of the Wei's deportation and to request their support to prevent the forced deportation

At the airport he was tightly handcuffed and a mask placed over his head. Wei was placed between two Serco guards of the last row of seats on the plane.

Around 9.00pm, with around 80 per cent of passengers boarded, Wei was able to move to the front of the plane and address the passengers after being escorted to the toilet.

Wei showed passengers that he was cuffed and said, "I am a political asylum seeker. The Australian Immigration Department forced me to come the airport & board on the airplane against my will..."

The plane had begun to move to taxi to the runway, but after about 20 minutes the pilot announced that the incident was 'unresolved', and the plane would return to the terminal.

Some passengers, both Chinese and Australian, clapped for Wei as he was taken from the aircraft at 9.50pm. He was subsequently returned to the high security section of the Villawood detention centre.

Steph O'Donnell, a passenger on the plane, in transit to London, was among seven passengers who refused to take their seats as the pilot taxied the plane onto the runway following an on-board protest and appeal for help by Wei Lin, the Chinese asylum seeker, on board the flight.

After passengers maintained their protest, the pilot abandoned the take-off and the plane returned to the terminal gate. As Wei and his four guards left the plane he was confronted at the gate by people assumed to be Chinese air marshalls.

"The passengers' action came after activists from the Refugee Action Coalition distributed leaflets, in English and Chinese, at the check-in counter explaining how passengers could help stop forced deportations by 'standing up for asylum seekers'.

"The passengers protest has shown how ordinary people can make a difference in the face of the government's cruel treatment of asylum seekers.

"Action by passengers has been known on European deportation flights, and we have previously leafleted airports, but this has taken action to stop forced removals to a new level," said Ian Rintoul, spokesperson for the Refugee Action Coalition.

"There is a growing awareness of the injustice meted out to asylum seekers, and every reason to expect more protests on the planes. There are too many asylum seekers deported into danger. Airline companies should refuse to co-operate with forced removals.

"The new Immigration Minister should call a halt to the government's forced deportation regime."

Meanwhile, a 33 year-old Iranian asylum seeker re-detained in August is on his 48th day of hunger strike.

The man is one of a number of Iranians re-detained since August, although the Minister well knows that the Iranian government will not accept forced deportations from Australia.

"This man was re-detained in spite of the fact that the government knows he cannot be sent back to Iran. The government is using the threat of indefinite detention to coerce him and others into 'voluntarily' returning to Iran. It is a pointless form of torture," said Rintoul.

"We have serious concerns that he may have already have suffered permanent organ damage. The Minister is literally playing with this man's life.



## Sydney: Homebush auctions turn violent

22 Dec - Auctions turned violent in Sydney's west on Saturday, with police called to break up a scuffle that broke out between protesters, buyers and even the auctioneers.

"One of the protesters actually grabbed a buyer, and grabbed one of our staff members," auctioneer Ricky Briggs said.

"He actually grabbed his collar and tie and scrunched it up just below the throat line ... that's when security guys jumped in and police were called."

The incident occurred during the auction of 12 homes in Homebush West, several of which were tenanted by people paying as little as \$500 a month. It's understood that some of the protesters were relatives of the mostly elderly tenants.

The houses sold for between \$840,000 and \$915,000 - as much as \$200,000 above their written reserve price.

"(The buyers) thought they got them cheap," Robert Pignataro, of Strathfield Partners, said.

"We had 350 people there, minimum, and we were just going from house to house."

After the scuffle at one of the final auctions, Mr Briggs said three police officers arrived "within minutes" and soon called for back up. "A lot of the buyers were scared," he said. "We ended up having 12 police there and two detectives."

The auctioneer said a female police officer had stepped in after the main protester - who was there with six of his friends - again "went for the same staff member".

"Basically she got in between those two ... and she literally picked him up and threw him backwards".

Mr Briggs said that police evacuated two streets following the incident. "They kicked everyone out as soon as the last auction finished - they removed everyone."

Mr Pignataro said he was selling the Federation homes on behalf of a private investor who had purchased all of them on November 21 from the Sydney Olympic Authority for \$5.8 million.

"And we resold all of them in less than a month for \$10.5 million," Mr Pignataro said.

"We gave one a coat of paint and polished the floors and put some furniture in there - that was the extent of what we did."

He said that some of the tenants had been living in the houses for as long as 66 years in houses built for local abattoir workers.

"Some were prescribed lifetime tenancies," Mr Pignataro said.

Mr Briggs said he was happy to have achieved strong results for the properties. The three-bedroom Federation home at 14 Welfare Street that had been spruced up for the auctions sold for \$200,000 above the reserve.

But he was annoyed that some of the tenants had turned violent. "They went to great length to interrupt the auctions and bring disrepute to the crowd," he said.

"They were screaming over the top of me saying we were being fraudulent."

Mr Briggs said that the main protester was holding up a piece of paper. "It was a photocopied piece of paper - it looked like it was from the 1960s or something - and he said it proved he had bought this house for a couple of hundred dollars," he said.

"But I just boomed back that this gentleman's names were not on the contract and they had told me to sell."

Mr Pignataro said that collectively, the properties went \$1.4 million over the reserve. Some of the buyers had purchased more than one property.

Seven of the homes hadn't been lifetime tenancies and were people paying normal rents of about \$500. They had already moved out. He said the unrenovated properties would rent out for \$550 a week and the renovated homes up to \$750 a week. "No problem - if we put them on the market, the next couple of days we will have tenants," he said.

Strathfield police said that none of the protesters had been arrested or charged with any offences. None of the protesters could be contacted for comment.

## Sydney: Raid on Redfern Aboriginal Tent Embassy - "Australia's racism unabated"



22 Dec - Press release from the Freedom Movement - "the Aboriginal struggle and our voices will be reclaimed, January 26"

The 'Aboriginal' Housing Company's deplorable action in intending to orchestrate the eviction of the campers on The Block's Redfern Aboriginal Tent Embassy should be seen for what it is – an attack on the rights and hopes of First Peoples. This morning the police called in to The Embassy. This follows on the back of the controversial 'Aboriginal' Housing Company's commercial development partner recently advertising the removal of Aboriginal people from nearby districts as an incentive for prospective renters.

The Freedom Summit's Freedom Movement heralds today's arrest of one of their delegates, and Embassy stalwart, Wiradjuri woman, Jenny Munro, as a clear sign that First Peoples in this country are held without any respect for their rights, cultural and otherwise, and that their dignity as human beings does not matter. They have only one choice offered to them – assimilation.

The Freedom Movement condemned the arrest of Ms Munro.

The Freedom Movement's Arrernte Elder, Rosalie Kunoth-Monks said, "Jenny having just lost her mother should not have to go through the indignity of losing her mother earth simultaneously. If it is a Black on Black action, I ask those Black people who are coming from the other side to take a good hard look at themselves. Jenny is one of the champions of the movement of people who are asserting their prior occupancy of this country.

We say we have never given away this land and to be assaulted by other black people is unforgivable. Jenny can rest a little easy knowing she is a champion of the black cause. To be given the truth and justice, it is now time to talk Treaty. We must let Jenny know she is the much loved black struggle of Australia!"

The Freedom Movement's Narrunga Elder, Tauto Sansbury said, "That is a nice Christmas for First Nations People being evicted off your own land. It is shameful, shameful, deplorable and ongoing racism. It does not end, but it will end. This racism, along the racism of homeland community closures, world record incarceration rates of our peoples, the removal of our children, the smashing of our cultures, of our right to be who want to be is why we are converging on Canberra on Invasion Day. It is why there will be national actions in every region of this continent on that day."

Freedom Movement stalwart, Kamilaroi Elder, Dr Marcus Woolombi Waters said, today in regards to the attempted shut-down of the Redfern Tent Embassy, "This action today highlights two things - 1) that the division between Middle class Blacks defining our culture down to pennies and profit in wanting to sell our souls remains our greatest obstacle. Remember this is the same development company that advertised "The Aboriginals have moved out of Redfern" in its advertising campaign.

And 2) What happens when we turn up on mass as word spread across social media on what was happening - if we unite and show our voice in numbers we will win, just as we won in Redfern today and in Brisbane two weeks ago with Musgrave park. This is why as many as possible should get to Canberra and unite in our major cities, Brisbane, Sydney and Melbourne on Australia Day to mark a National Day of Action. We need to come together and show we represent the hundreds of thousands of our mobs and show them we have a voice..."

The embassy stands as evictions are to be held off for now.



### Callous police raid on the Redfern Aboriginal Tent Embassy

*“We must always maintain the knowledge of who our true enemy is and it is certainly not a group of people who seek to take back ownership of that which we fought for and continue to fight for right through to this day.”*

24 Dec - Ghillar Michael Anderson, Convenor and Joint Spokesperson of the Sovereign Union and Head of State of Euahlayi Peoples Republic, said from Goodooga today that the police raid on the Redfern Aboriginal Tent Embassy at such a time of year shows the callous disregard and disrespect for the right to protest by Aboriginal people on an issue that is near and dear to their hearts. I am surprised that the Aboriginal Housing Company committed this action against the Redfern Aboriginal Tent Embassy at this time of year.

People are suffering in every quarter of our society from callous, uncaring and bigotted governments, which insist on eroding our rights and placing fear into the hearts and minds of the general community over matters that are of their own making.

For the Aboriginal Housing Company to approve of the removal of the Embassy without dialogue on issues that are worrying the people is just plain silly. The whole purpose of establishing the original Redfern Housing Company was to deliver low cost housing to an impoverished community. It was intended to lift the people out of the despair of poverty and squalor.

I acknowledge that the Aboriginal Housing Company, in working with the government of the day during the Sydney Olympics, made a significant contribution to relocate, with better housing, the former tenants of The Block, as many of the tenants relocated were housed back in their home towns or in other parts of the Sydney Metropolitan region.

It can be understood why the Redfern Aboriginal Housing Company seeks to enter into a commercial world, as governments are forcing Aboriginal people into the new world economy and this means that if the Housing Company seeks to fit into this world, then they should do so without having to resort to establishing confrontations between our people and the police over the Block that was acquired for the purpose of improving our lot.

We must avoid attacking each other. This fits right into the concepts and expectations that mainstream have with regard to Aboriginal Peoples. There are other ways to solving problems, other than calling upon the NSW Police.

We must always maintain the knowledge of who our true enemy is and it is certainly not a group of people who seek to take back ownership of that which we fought for and continue to fight for right through to this day.

I ask the directors of the Redfern Aboriginal Housing Company to rethink their aggressive mode of operation and to enter into dialogue in a diplomatic manner.



*Jenny Munro, founder of the Redfern Tent Embassy*



*Mick Mundine, CEO of the original Redfern Housing Company*

## Melbourne: Man fined for crashing drone over police operation

18 Dec - A man in Melbourne has been fined \$850 after crashing a personal drone over a police operation and coming close to injuring one of the officers.

During a police operation in south-west Melbourne the man was flying a "recreational drone" above police before it crashed into power lines and fell to the ground, "narrowly" missing one of the police officers involved in a stand-off below, according to the Civil Aviation Safety Authority.

The fine was issued by CASA which regulates the use of drones. In this incident, the man was fined for bringing the aircraft within 30 metres of people, a contravention of regulations surrounding drone use.

While CASA does not require drone users to carry a permit for flying, it does stipulate a number of rules relating to use including, "keeping drones more than 30 metres from people at all times, not flying over crowds or gatherings of people, not causing a hazard to aircraft and having the drone in line of sight at all times".

## Glenugie: Man sparks three chases accross NSW before hitting police car

21 Dec - A driver who sparked three separate police pursuits within two hours along the Pacific Highway in New South Wales has been arrested and charged after colliding with a patrol car.

About 4.50pm on Saturday police saw a yellow Hyundai Accent speeding at Allgomera and chased it. They stopped the pursuit for safety reasons.

About 5pm police saw the same vehicle speeding at Coffs Harbour and began a chase which, again, was terminated. The car was then seen again about 5.20pm and pursued for a third time at Halfway Creek.

This time, however, police use road spikes at Glenugie. One of the car's tyres deflated before the pursuit was terminated for safety reasons.

Shortly afterwards the car was found under the Harwood Bridge, at Harwood.

Police said that as officers approached the driver tried to drive away but his car collided with a police vehicle.

A 28-year-old Queensland man was arrested and was charged with using a weapon to avoid apprehension, larceny, unlicensed driving and three counts of driving dangerously to avoid police. He was refused bail.

## Maules Creek: No Coal for Christmas



24 Dec - A man has suspended himself from a rail bridge crossing the Namoi River blocking a coal train being loaded at Whitehaven Coal's Maules Creek mine from leaving the site. The train blocked at the Maules Creek mine is believed to be the first containment of coal from the site after a test train – twice disrupted by activists – left the site last week. The rail bridge also services Idemitsu Resource's Boggabri Coal mine.

Leard Forest Alliance spokesperson Phil Evans said, "We need a stop to this farce immediately – stop work and then have a good long, hard look at how successive NSW governments, embroiled in mining related corruption, have allowed the Maules Creek mine approval to stick."

Both Whitehaven Coal's Maules Creek and Idemitsu's Boggabri mines have approval to expand into the critically endangered Leard State Forest this February – sparking this warning from the protest group.

"They have a battle on their hands. The forest, water, climate and culture are all too precious to lose – and we won't take this lying down."

## Bendigo: Vandals are taking aim at Christmas displays

24 Dec - Bendigo has seen a spike in the destruction of public Christmas displays in Bendigo. A reindeer was decapitated on Tuesday night, while vandals have taken aim at drummer boys which border the Christmas tree in Rosalind Park.

Last year, vandals removed Christmas ornaments and smashed baubles, with council forced to fork out about \$1000 to repair the tree's damage.

Gabby Brook, who lives in Regent st, said she was alerted to the vandalism by a neighbour. She said it was the minority who were ruining the Christmas spirit.

"It's a low act. I don't know why people feel the need to do what they do," she said.

"It's definitely not in the spirit of Christmas. I am disappointed."

Ms Brook said she knew of other neighbours in her street who had decided not to decorate their homes this year because of the likelihood of vandalism.

"If it continues to happen more and more people are going to stop putting up (decorations)." Meanwhile, this is the second consecutive year vandals have targeted the Rosalind Park display.

## Ipswich: Police officers assaulted, teenagers arrested at 'out of control' party

27 Dec - Two police constables were assaulted and four teenagers have been charged following an out of control party involving about 120 people overnight at Ipswich, west of Brisbane.

More than 20 police crews, along with the Polair Two police helicopter, were called to the address on Henty Drive, Redbank Plains.

A Queensland Police Service (QPS) statement said officers went to the address just after 11pm, following several calls from the public complaining about the behaviour of people at the event.

When police arrived at the property they issued an out of control event direction and about 120 people, most aged in their teens, dispersed out onto the road.

"When police apprehended one person for their behaviour, the crowd became aggressive and began to throw bottles at police," a QPS statement said.

"Two female officers were assaulted during this time, however sustained no physical injuries." District duty officer senior sergeant Gareth James said Henty Drive had to be closed while police cleared people from the scene.

"We spent about an hour and a half pushing them out of the area and clearing the streets."

He said the assaulted officers suffered minor bruising.

Four people, aged 14 to 17 years, were transported to the Ipswich watch house and charged with various offences such as public nuisance and assault or obstruct police.

A further three teenagers were issued with infringement notices for public nuisance. Investigations are continuing.

## Bicton: Gas mask man sprays speed camera cop

28 Dec - A WA police speed camera operator has been sprayed with paint by a man wearing a gas mask.

The alleged attacker used a screwdriver to take the rear number plate off the officer's vehicle in Bicton. When the officer confronted him the man sprayed aerosol paint in the policeman's face before running off.

He was later caught and arrested after a lengthy chase.

A 21-year-old has been bailed to appear in Fremantle Magistrate's Court next month on charges of assaulting a public officer, unlawful damage, stealing, disguising to commit an offence and hooning.



# Police officers injured, hundreds arrested as riots mar celebrations

1 Jan - Riots have marred New Year's Eve celebrations in Western Australia, with 268 people arrested in Perth alone.

One of the riots was sparked when police were called to the Pingelly Hotel, 160 kilometres south-east of Perth, after a drunk man was asked to leave the premises.

Police allege that a 53-year-old began to verbally abuse officers outside the pub and resisted violently when he was arrested.

He allegedly grabbed an officer by the hair as he fell to the ground, hitting their head on the road, before he punched the officer. A second officer then tasered the man.

Police said the Taser had no effect and they were forced to use pepper spray as well. That is when they estimate 50 to 60 people came out of the pub and surrounded the two officers as they put the 53 year old in the back of a police car.

The car was pelted with stones, smashing the windscreen, badly denting the front passenger door and ripping off a side mirror.

Backup officers from Brookton police station also had rocks thrown at them.

Publican Rod Paterson said he was holding a karaoke night at the pub with about 50 to 60 people "having a good time".

He said about 1:00am police asked him to remove a man who they thought was drunk.

The publican said the the man left and he then heard a commotion outside.

"I came out and there was fighting in the street between the police and a lot of the locals and Aborigines," Mr Paterson said.

"There was punching and yelling, people getting pushed over, it was all on."

Mr Paterson said he was pepper-sprayed during the altercation despite taking no part in the melee. He said other bystanders were also pepper-sprayed.

The injured officer, was later discharged from hospital shaken up and with a black eye. Another injured officer was also hospitalised, and both are now recovering at home.

The 53 year old arrestee was charged with assaulting and obstructing a police officer and disorderly conduct.

Meanwhile, police in riot gear were pelted with rocks and beer bottles while dispersing a mob in the Perth suburb of Hamilton Hill.

The mob was reportedly partying in Dadley Street and refused to leave.

In central Perth, four people were charged with assaulting a police officer, 12 were charged with assault and 46 had disorderly behaviour charges recorded against them.

Meanwhile in Sydney, a wall of more than 50 Public Order and Riot Squad police shoved and shouted their way up George St at 2am, pushing members of the media and public alike with little warning.

A New Zealand tourist said he was prevented from going to his hotel on George St, because of the police push.

"The way police have acted is very rude, confronting and intimidating," he said.

But Assistant Commissioner Mick Fuller said the city must go on, saying he gave the order for a "soft push".

"There are shopkeepers who start to come into the city to be trading in the morning, and they have got a right to be coming into a city that is cleaned and ready for business."

Two men were arrested for assaulting a police officer in St Clair at 12.30am Thursday, while a 16-year-old male was caught with knuckle dusters in Coogee at 7.30pm Wednesday evening.



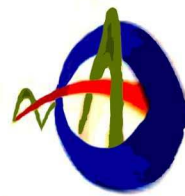
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