

2013



**FUCK THE
POLICE**



Annual Report on indigenous, ecological and anti-capitalist
resistance to the colonial project known as Australia

Invasion - Colonisation - Repression



26 January 1788 - British sovereignty declared as colonial flag raised in Botany Bay
27 January 2012 - Aboriginal sovereignty asserted as colonial flag burnt in Canberra



Resistance - Insurrection - Decolonisation



FuckThePoliceFightThePowerFreeThePrisonersFireToPatriarchy

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

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

We have chosen to highlight acts of resistance to state control and authority on this territory, whether attacks on its police, its prisons or its schools and acts of resistance to the representatives of Australian capital and state overseas, whether to its Embassies, detention centres, sporting teams or mining offices.

We make no claims to the intentions behind the unclaimed actions. We simply chose to highlight acts which open possibilities for a more libertarian, less polluted future. Actions which, if generalised, have the potential to fundamentally disrupt and weaken the Australian state and its ability to govern, i.e. its ability to facilitate the exploitation of labour and natural resources.

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 project is the continuation of a publication we released last year as a response to the NSW police anniversary and the historical narrative they were promoting.

Repression is far more sophisticated than simple police violence. Repression and its legitimisation functions primarily through the direction and control of information; through the historical narratives that are taught and reproduced by the institutions of capital and the state.

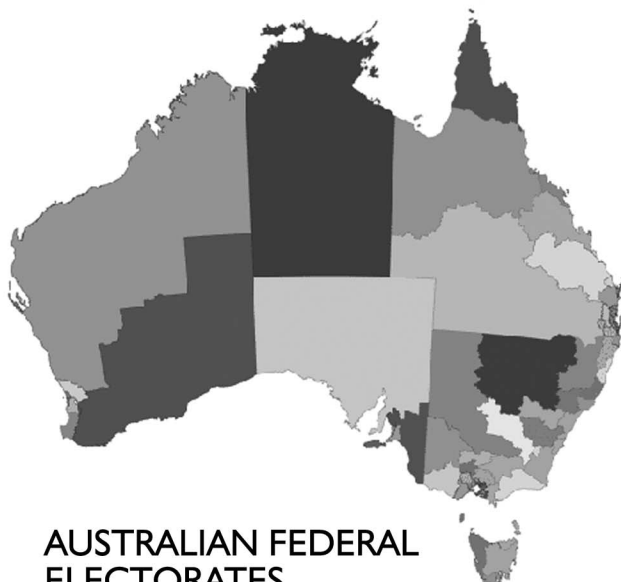
It is fundamental that we preserve the memory of past, present and future acts of rebellion and resistance to colonisation, industrialisation and all facets of state authority.

With this publication seek to challenge the narrative of 'Australia' and the illusion of social consensus on this territory in what was the 225th year of colonial occupation.

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

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

- FTP collective, January 2014



AUSTRALIAN FEDERAL ELECTORATES



ABORIGINAL NATIONS

Maules Creek: Environmentalist's hoax triggers \$314m Whitehaven share price fall



8 Jan - Whitehaven Coal shares dived nearly 9 per cent today, after a hoax press statement was released claiming that ANZ had withdrawn a \$1.2 billion loan intended to be used to develop the Maules Creek coal project.

The share price began to recover after the hoax, which at one stage had wiped over \$300 million off the market value of the mining company which is 19.4 per cent owned by troubled magnate Nathan Tinkler, who himself lost \$180 million in the share plunge

The hoax statement was released by anti-coal activist Jonathan Moylan on behalf of the group Front Line Action on Coal, which is opposing coalmining in the Liverpool Plains.

Moylan issued a subsequent email under the name of Front Line Action on Coal taking credit for the fake ANZ statement. He'd reportedly used a real ANZ release as a template, and purchased a website name and dummy ANZ email address for \$25 on the internet.

ANZ described the release as "fraudulent" and said it had not withdrawn funding from Whitehaven, of which it remained "fully supportive".

The Australian Securities and Investments Commission said it was investigating the matter.

The statement was initially reported as fact by some news outlets, sending Whitehaven shares lower. The stock traded as much as 31c, or 8.8 per cent down.

The faux statement quoted the bank's head of corporate sustainability, Toby Kent, as saying that customer complaints about the Whitehaven loan had helped prompt the withdrawal.

"The decision to withdraw our loan facility has been made after a careful analysis of reputational risks and analysis of the returns on this mine in the current climate of high volatility in the coal export market," the hoax statement quoted Mr Kent as having said.

Mr Moylan, whose phone number was placed at the bottom of the fake release under actual bank employee Mr Kent's name, answered the phone as Toby, before admitting to the prank.

Mr Moylan said the stunt was to alert ANZ's customers to the bank's investments, which clash with their self promotion as an eco friendly bank. "To then go and invest in (Maules Creek) shows contempt for their customers," Mr Moylan said.

Maylan is involved in an ongoing protest against coal mining in the Leard state forest which is the site of a proposed Whitehaven mine. He created the hoax from his campsite, using a sporadic internet connection.

Last month Whitehaven said that the ANZ funding provided certainty and flexibility for its business plan, including the development of Maules Creek in the Gunnedah Basin. The four-year line of credit was to replace Whitehaven's existing facilities that totaled \$800 million (\$225 million of which was drawn) and provides funding for general corporate purposes and capital expenditure. If Whitehaven gets federal approval for Maules Creek, it could come online in mid-2013, more than doubling the company's annual coal production.

However the destabilising presence of embattled entrepreneur Mr Tinkler's stake on the share register has contributed to a 40 per cent fall in the miner's value since April.

From his bunker in NSW's Leard State Forest, where he has been holed up for the past 159 days, Mr Moylan told reporters he had received numerous voicemails from ASIC, but didn't plan to return their calls.

Moylan said he carried out the plot with "eyes open" about the legal consequences.

The planned open-cut coal mine at Maule's Creek would clear up to 2000 hectares of the Leard State Forest, which provides habitat for koalas and other vulnerable species. It is Box-Gum Woodland with a high biodiversity value in the northern inlands, and a critical link for the biodiversity of the entire western inlands.



Media Release

For Release: 7 January 2013

ANZ divests from Maules Creek Project

ANZ today announced it has withdrawn its \$1.2 billion loan facility to Whitehaven Coal, which was primarily intended to develop the Maules Creek Coal Project.

Glenugie: Eighteen arrested as CSG protest escalates

8 Jan - Eighteen protesters have been now been arrested at an anti-coal seam gas (CSG) blockade south of Grafton, on the New South Wales north coast. About 150 people are trying to stop a Metgasco drill-rig getting onto a property at Glenugie.

Police earlier brought in a crane to clear a path to the access gate where the demonstrators have erected tripods.

One of the arrest came when a protester tried to give water to another activist, locked on to a truck in the convoy.

Police had to grind off lock-on devices to release two protesters, but one is still locked on to the truck.

The drill rig and a number of other large trucks carrying equipment and Metgasco work vehicles are still waiting to enter the site.

A spokeswoman for the protesters says around 40 officers from the police Tactical Response Unit and Rescue Squad and have set up a mobile command centre across the road from the drill site.

In a statement the Coffs/Clarence Local Area Commander, Superintendent Mark Holahan, said the protesters will be arrested if they break the law.

"Officers are working with protesters to ensure the company can lawfully access their site," he said.

"Police are concerned that some members of the group are taking action that places their own safety at risk, as well as the safety of police officers and the gas company employees."

The blockade of the Metgasco CSG site is now nearing 50 days.

Metgasco meanwhile says it has landholder and state government approval for the CSG project.

Glenugie: CSG protest continues

15 Jan - Tensions are escalating at a CSG protest site when seven men and one woman, whose ages ranged from 21 to 43, were arrested in the latest protest against Metgasco's test drilling after police were again called to the scene yesterday morning.

At around 5 this morning two local farmers chained themselves to their ute at the entrance to the site and were joined by another protestor about 8.30am to block access to the Metgasco drilling site at Glenugie.

18 protesters were arrested last week following a 48 hour blockade as they tried to stop equipment getting onto the site.

One of the protesters Daniel Peterson said other farmers have put up cattle fences around the truck to strengthen the blockade.

"I guess we're expecting some more Police Rescue equipment and officers to do something with the fencing," he said.

"It looks to me like there's trucks inside the site queued up waiting to get out.

"The passions are very high we've had all sorts of interactions with the workers throughout the night and throughout the last several days since they've been here."

Mr Peterson said but neighbours strongly oppose the CSG project.

"Local landholders are very angry are very upset, they're not sleeping properly because of the lights involved and the noise," he said.

"It's operating here 24 x 7, and of course they're very uneasy, on edge about the risk of pollution and contamination of water and land and air.

The managing director of Metgasco said he is frustrated by the protest action that is hindering work at an approved CSG site in Glenugie, south of Grafton.



Brisbane: Solidarity with squats in Athens



13 Jan - Photographs of 2 banners placed at the Brisbane Anarchist Summer School, held from 12-13 January 2013.

As far away as Australia we look to the occupied social spaces* such as Villa Amalias, Skaramagka, and the ASOEE hangout in Greece as a source of inspiration in our struggle against the existent. With solidarity as our weapon we actively resist the isolation this society attempts to impose on us. You are not alone.

Comrades from the other side of the world

*There are dozens of squatted social spaces across Greece, which for decades have been a key structure of the anti-authoritarian movement. Late 2012 marked the beginning of a wave of evictions, which formed part of a broader “law and order” operation by the recent right-wing government.

In December 2012, Villa Amalius, squatted for 23 years was evicted in a massive police operation. Following an attempted reoccupation the following week more than 100 anarchists were arrested and the nearby Skaramaga squat (first occupied during the 2008 insurrection) was also evicted.

In the same week ASOEE (a squatted faculty at Athens Business university) was raided by riot cops and more than a dozen immigrants were arrested.

On January 10 more than 10,000 people marched through Athens in solidarity with the squats under attack.



Paris: Solidarity with the revolt on Nauru

14 Jan - On Sunday January 13th, a dozen people went to Quai Branly Museum, in Paris, where an Aboriginal art exhibition was taking place.

The text below was distributed there as a leaflet and a banner was put at the entrance, blockading the access to the Museum for some time.

On the banner was written:

“L’Australie traque et enferme / Vive la révolte / à Nauru comme ailleurs” which means: “Australia hunts down and incarcerates / Long live revolt / in Nauru and everywhere”

At the Museum's 6th floor, the entrance of “Les Ombres” restaurant (see text on next page) and the elevator leading to the restaurant were decayed by spurts of a fetid mixture (on the beautiful carpeting!) and a large collection of stink-bombs.

The idea was to express solidarity with the revolt that exploded on September 30th in the Nauru detention centre. On January 14th, some of the migrants who rose up had to go on trial because of the repression of this revolt.



Australia, its beaches and its prison cells...

Australia is well-known for its surfers' beaches, its kangaroos and the Aboriginal folklore. We often forget that the Aboriginal people have been slaughtered and displaced by colonist settlers and still suffer through poverty, racism and police persecution. What we forget too, is the hunting down and imprisonment imposed on migrants today.

In August 2012, the Australian government decided to re-open a detention centre for migrants in Nauru, a small island located at 2800 kilometres from the Australian coast, giving some money and waged work in the detention centre to Nauruans.

A local company CEO said "it's going to create jobs [...] When the centre was still active, Nauruans were employed as security agents, but also in kitchens. That allowed many Nauruans to learn a profession". Basically, to learn how to handle a truncheon and how to shut up...

The Nauru centre is also co-managed by the Salvation Army, who collaborates in the incarceration using humanitarian pretexts, just another way to make money.

Since the centre has reopened, there have been numerous revolts, hunger strikes and demonstrations to demand freedom and to protest against the harsh conditions of life and unlimited incarceration time. How is it possible to think about a jailbreak in a such a small island, where most of the inhabitants think they are profiting from the detention situation?

On 12th and 13th of October 2012, different demonstrations took place in Nauru and Christmas Island detention centres, against the length of waiting for asylum seekers' claims to be processed and against incarceration in the Pacific islands.

Many solidarity actions happened, including a demonstration with 200 persons in front of another Australian detention centre a few days before.

On September 30th, 2012, in Nauru, several inmates destroyed tents, electrical material and a part of the kitchen. Following this riot, sixteen amongst them have been charged in November, accused for the destruction of \$24 000 material. On December 10th, 2012, they were on trial (except for two of them, already deported) for a second hearing. During the first one, they had refused to go out of the bus when they learnt they'd be defended by a lawyer they had never met. The next hearing will take place on January 14th, 2013... Until then, they're still incarcerated.

We want to express solidarity with these revolts, whether they happen here or there, because the incarceration of foreign people can't be separated from the world that generates it. The borders allow the efficiency of exploitation and many business companies make money from it - while the States pour out their racist and securitarian speeches.

It makes sense, for us, to make all these facts visible, here at the Quai Branly Museum, in this colonialist graveyard where everyone comes to admire the remnants of looted and slaughtered populations, and where the Elixir company makes money with Les Ombres restaurant, as they make money serving food in French detention centres in Metz and Perpignan. Because in France as everywhere else, hunting down, sorting human beings, incarceration and deportation of migrants and other undesirables are all common practices for the State, and lots of companies make money from them.

Solidarity with the revolts against the borders and their prisons!

Sabotage the mechanisms of incarceration and deportation!

Freedom for everybody, with or without ID!

Idle no more: Invasion day demonstrartions

26 Jan - Invasion day 2013 saw indigenous demonstrations in most major cities under the banner of "Idle No More", the name of the indigenous rights campaign sweeping through turtle island (Canada).

In Hobart there was a rally and march from Hobart Aboriginal Centre to state parliament.

In Melbourne there was a rally, then march to Treasure Gardens where the 'Share the Spirit' Aboriginal festival took place.

In Canberra there was a march from the Aboriginal Tent Embassy, followed by a "Memorial Corroboree that will coincide with the commemoration of 26 January 1972, in recognition of our continuing fight for Aboriginal Sovereignty...honouring our fallen warriors".

In Sydney there were two 'Idle No More' solidarity demonstrartion in the days leading up the Invasion day, including a picket of the Canadian embassy, and a march through central Sydney to the Opera House. On invasion day, activists held an "Unsettlement Ceremony" at the Occupy Sydney site and the Indigenous Social Justice Association distributed Aboriginal Passports at the Yarburn Aboriginal festival in Victoria park.

Brisbane also saw a large invasion day rally to state parliament.



Brisbane: March from Musgrave park to Parliament



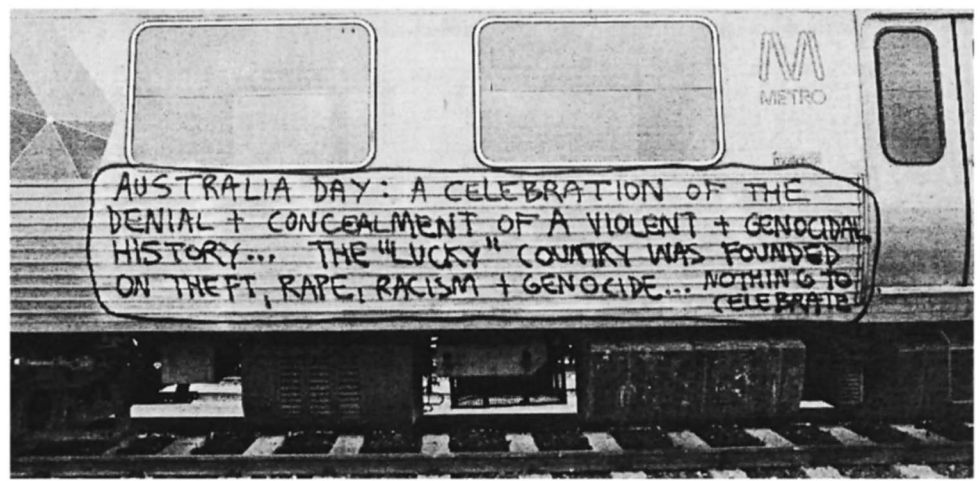


Melbourne: Invasion day protest, paint and posters

actions speak louder than LIKE buttons...



INVASION DAY 2013 WE FIGHT



DOWN WITH AUSSIE PRIDE

In this "lucky country" founded on theft, racism, and genocide...

- ★ Where militarised police and PSOs fill the streets;
- ★ Where CCTV surveils our every move;
- ★ Where immigrants are locked in concentration camps;
- ★ Where our natural environment is being pillaged;
- ★ Where we are expected to be satisfied with the alienation of work, youtube, and shopping;
- ★ Where we are persuaded to be submissive slaves to a global, exploitative, and oppressive machine;

... we oppose the state and capital's nationalism, control, and police terror with our solidarity and raging desire for freedom.

LONG LIVE SOCIAL WAR

Police Station and Court House on Palm Island, burnt to ground during uprising, November 2004.

Sydney: Anarchists against the invasion



In the early hours of January 26th we tipped a bucket of paint on a statue celebrating the First Fleet in Brighton Le Sands, Botany Bay.

We later threw numerous paint bombs at a massive statue of James Cook in Hyde Park, who according the plaque on the monument "discovered this territory in 1770".

We sprayed stencils reading: "FUCK AUSSIE PRIDE", "DESTROY COLONIAL AUSTRALIA" & "PROUDLY UNAUSTRAILIAN" throughout the city, Redfern, Newtown, Marrickville, Sydenham and at Bicentennial Park and Carss Park, where 'Australia Day' celebrations were to take place.

We paint bombed the Tempe office of the Australia First Party, a small fascist sect, which has managed to get one racist elected to the Penrith council.

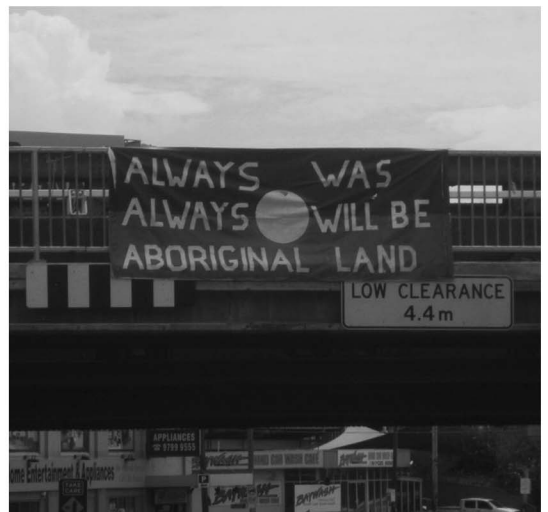
We dropped 7 banners across Sydney, five from walkway bridges and two from an empty warehouse on a busy intersection. They read:

ALWAYS WAS, ALWAYS WILL BE ABORIGINAL LAND
DECOLONISATION NOT RECONCILIATION
KILL THE COLONISER IN YOUR HEAD
225 YEARS OF OCCUPATION, 225 YEARS OF RESISTANCE
FROM PAPUA TO PALESTINE, GADIGAL TO WALLMAPU,
SOLIDARITY WITH INDIGENOUS STRUGGLES.

And an Aboriginal Flag banner.

Around midday, a few of us dropped a massive banner reading "FUCK THE FIRST FLEET" from a walkway above Circular Quay in Sydney Harbour, where thousands had gathered to watch city organised events, including a military aircraft show. A few hundred leaflets were thrown from the walkway which soon attracted a large police response.

Throughout the night we removed council banners promoting Australia Day events and set about capturing as many Australian flags as possible. Large and small flags were taken from park flagpoles, shop-fronts, fences, yards, cars and later burnt.



We are completely opposed to this nationalist celebration commemorating the date of invasion by the First Fleet. The fleet was comprised of eleven prison vessels, sent to establish a colony on the east coast to displace Britain's criminalised poor and rebellious. The colony introduced the paradigm of police, prisons and private property to a territory where land was communal, communities settled disputes and meted out punishment without recourse to incarceration or a specialised armed force constantly patrolling and surveilling everyone's behaviour.

This process of conquest and control has been consistently opposed and resisted by Aboriginal fighters, rebellious convicts, and radical migrants. Despite constant claims to the contrary, struggle against the invasion forces and its laws has not been defeated. From bushrangers to bank robbers resistance continues through daily attacks against property, law and order by mostly young vandals, saboteurs and rebels.

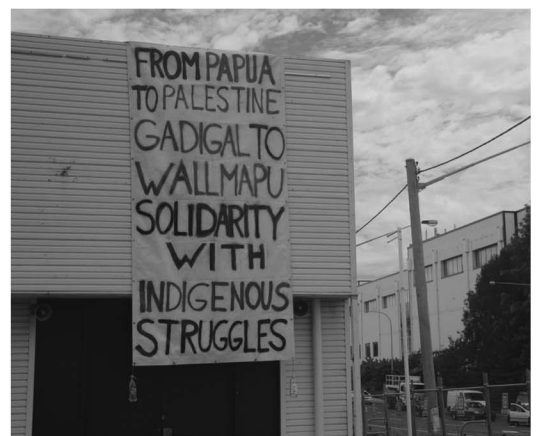
Australian colonialism is not a thing of the past. It is continued and reproduced every day through government policies such as the NT intervention, the massive incarceration rate of indigenous youths and Australian military action in the South Pacific and Afghanistan. It is reproduced and legitimised through the daily activity of everyone on this territory who upholds property rights and recognise the government's claim to this territory.

Although nationalist and militarist holidays such as Australia, ANZAC and Remembrance Day are entirely symbolic, they are intended to foster a proud colonialist mentality and unity around the state and its armed forces. From Botany Bay to Gallipoli, we encourage the disruption of any celebration of colonial occupation.

We extend a wave of solidarity to indigenous resistance struggles around the world. From Papua freedom fighters resisting Indonesian military occupation, to Mapuche communities battling the Chilean state and landowners for control of their native lands, indigenous peoples in Bolivia fighting against a massive highway through their territory. Indigenous peoples in Brazil who've been resisting the Belo Monte Dam for decades, and the first nation peoples in Canada currently mobilising through the Idle no more campaign.

We oppose any supposed 'reconciliation' between indigenous and non indigenous people while the structures of colonialism remain.

ADVANCE AUSTRALIA'S DEMISE



Sydney: Solidarity with Koori fighters

26 Jan - On the evening of the 25th of January, before the celebrations across Australia, a banner of solidarity was hung on a Sydney Uni fence facing the Yabun festival grounds.

Yabun is an annual celebration of the survival of Koori people. It is a patch in the geography of the larger space, a country that is dominated that day by celebrations that are void of the recognition of Koori struggle, the celebrated colonial nationalism of racist 'Aussie culture'.

The 1988 demonstrations against 200 years of genocide are remembered by the Yabun festival. The Koori demonstrators of 88 opposed Australia's celebration of its colonial self and announced their survival amongst the ongoing genocide that functions both institutionally and culturally.

In the past we have hung many banners on this night, but banners are just fabric and words and much more solidarity need be shown than this. This banner read:

SOLIDARITY WITH KOORI FIGHTER'S
STRUGGLES-INSURRECTIONS
PAST PRESENT AND FUTURE.

(A) (A) (A) (A) (A)

When there is struggle and fight, whenever things flare up, authority's main weakness is exposed, that it must continually assert its self and remain in control. Here is where our strongest bond of solidarity is located – those who do not wish to live within this system of oppression and exploitation can flare up together, share solidarity in these moments and spread it to other components of struggle.

This is why we talk to the intensified moments of social unrest, both of past present and future, as these flares still live in every present moment. The past cannot simply be put in the past and the rest of our lifetimes cannot be left in the hands of our oppressors. The planning and the actions we take now determine what flares can be seen in times to come.

The potential for liberating our lives has existed in all preceding moments and such paths remain open in a present and future yet to be written.



Melbourne: Captain Cook's Cottage Trashed With Paint for Invasion Day

27 Jan - The monuments and museums that fill this dead city only enrage us. They impose on public space the supplanting society's creation myth.

The creation myth of Australian society is that rather than looting, murdering, and displacing the original inhabitants, the Europeans were bringing a higher order of civilisation, economic organisation and religion to savage lands.

The denial of this brutal and revolting history is nowhere more evident than on the 26th of January, the celebration of Australia Day, the date of invasion.

This is why we trashed the absurd shrine to genocide, Captain Cook's Cottage, with paint.

The Australian state has constructed a deceitful myth of consensus. That we have all signed some kind of social contract to be good Australian citizens. Well fuck that, we don't want their bourgeois morality or their so called 'civilisation'.

We refuse to quietly submit and bow our heads to this commodified life of wage slavery.

We must act on our own behalf, directly and without mediation.

We must break with any group that seeks to limit the struggle, to negotiate, or to reconcile with the state or capital.

We must abandon the concept of appealing to the "justice" of the coloniser and instead embark on a direct path of destruction of the existing order and a concrete practice of solidarity.

SOLIDARITY TO THE ORIGINAL PEOPLES OF THIS LAND
FIGHTING BACK, FROM MUTITJULU, TO REDFERN, FITZROY,
PALM ISLAND AND EVERYWHERE
DESTROY THE COLONIAL SYSTEM THAT OPPRESSES US ALL

Melbourne: New Graffiti cleaned off Cook's cottage

February 6: Council workers hosed off graffiti from Captain Cook's Cottage in Melbourne's Fitzroy Gardens. Melbourne City Council revealed the cottage was paint-bombed on January 26, with a subsequent graffiti attack on Feb 4 in which the words, 'Cappy Cook was a crook killer liar thief' were spray-painted across the brickwork which has cost more than \$5000 to clean.

An anarchist group protesting white settlement has taken responsibility online for the previous attack designed to coincide with Australia Day.

Mayor Doyle described the incident as an "act of bastardry in the city of Melbourne."



Perth: Australia day ATM blasts disrupts public holiday shopping

27 Jan - Multiple ATMs were destroyed in Harbour Town shopping complex on Saturday night when someone timed an explosive device to blow during Perth's Australia Day fireworks.

Firefighters and police were called to the retail centre on Wellington Street at 8.15pm and found that four ATMs were wrecked in the blast.

Perth's biggest retail complex is now expected to remain closed over the major shopping weekend while repairs are carried out for significant structural damage incurred from the explosion.

Two ATMs were reportedly targeted, but an additional two were destroyed as a result of the blast.

Police say the explosion also caused additional damage to the building as a result of debris, which was flung when the explosives were set off.

Police have released CCTV footage showing the impact of the explosion which caused items in dozens of shops to fall from shelves.

Police have stated that no money was stolen and that investigations into the incident were continuing.



Sydney: Man overpowers officer, steals police patrol car

28 Jan - Police have found a highway patrol car that was stolen yesterday morning. Police are still seeking a man who they allege stole the car during an attempted arrest in west Sydney on Sunday.

The fully-marked \$120,000 patrol car was found parked in Parramatta at about 7.30pm (AEDT) on Sunday following a call from a local resident, who realised it was the stolen vehicle after viewing media reports.

Police said the man was driving along the M7 near Dean Park just before noon on Sunday when he was stopped by Traffic Strike Force officers.

Acting Superintendent Mark Cook said an officer from Mount Druitt also pulled up shortly afterwards. When a struggle ensued, the suspect allegedly broke free, despite multiple officers utilising their batons and OC spray. The suspect managed to climb into their patrol car, which he then used to ram the parked Mount Druitt police car, before speeding off.

The remaining police vehicle had been rendered inoperative and had to be towed away.

"I was told at the time it was raining," Acting Supt Cook told journalists adding that conditions were "slippery". It was "extremely rare" for such a car to be stolen, he said

"Both officers are very experienced," he said. "They were very shaken up from this incident. They certainly have bruising in relation to the altercation."

Police say they are forensically examining the car to determine if anything has been stolen or damaged.



Perth: riot in juvenile detention centre

Jan 27 - More than 70 juvenile detainees in Perth have been transferred to Hakea adult prison after a riot at the Banksia Hill Detention Centre overnight.

Corrective Services Commissioner, Ian Johnson, says the detainees armed themselves with makeshift weapons after three youths climbed onto the roof.

"Initially three detainees were not locked in their cells, it was at that time just prior to lockdown," he said.

"They got on the roof, then escalated and a number of detainees have obviously joined them and at one stage in the evening we had about 60 detainees running amok in the centre."

"No staff were injured and no detainees were; the exception of some young fellow that got a gash to his leg and got stitched up and he's fine."

Mr Johnson says it took 60 police units four hours to get the situation under control.

"It's been a terrible night and they armed themselves up with weapons, makeshift weapons, whether it be rocks or it be glass and wrapping the glass within cloth so you've got some sort of weapon to be able to use,"

More than 100 police officers, the canine squad and police helicopters were called in to deal with the riot.

The Opposition Corrective Services spokesman Fran Logan says staff were under threat.

"My understanding is there were staff from Banksia Hill who barricaded themselves into a part of the prison in order to avoid being attacked," he said.

"When you've got staff in a situation like that, they're clearly not in control of the prison."

There have been reports the inmates bashed their way out through windows in their cells but the Commissioner would not be drawn on whether building security failed.

Mr Johnson likened the riot to an out of control party. "If you think about what typically happens each weekend here in Perth with the out-of-control parties and if you could just picture the fact that we have some 206 young people and some are young men who are obviously not well-behaved," he said.

"These things typically tend to be spontaneous then they gather momentum."

Mr Johnson said over 90 cells were damaged.

"There's the issue of some cells being compromised,"

"First, and foremost for me, you've got people out on site assessing what damage has been done to cells so what can we use, what can't we use."

"We've since transferred 73 of the juveniles to Hakea Prison," he said.

"Now, obviously the concerns there would be that that's an adult prison but the 73 have been isolated away from adult prisoners."

The Prison Officers union's John Welch says moving the detainees to Hakea Prison creates more problems. "It is an extremely difficult situation for the staff and management at Hakea now," he said.

"It's a very over-crowded prison and only last week there was a report by the office of the inspector of custodial services which made serious criticisms of the prison as a consequences of the level of over-crowding and a lack of facility."

The Inspector of Custodial Services, Neil Morgan, says he has concerns about how the juveniles will be treated at the adult prison.

"Clearly, we need to understand how long they will be there, what sort of regime will be offered for them," he said.

"At the moment, within a prison, it's run by prison officers, not juvenile custodial officers."

"We need to know what education and opportunities are there for the children in the months to come."

Mr Morgan says the situation at Banksia Hill was at boiling point.

"I think it's fair to say that Banksia Hill was fragile before the amalgamation took place in October last year when they closed Rangeview remand centre and transferred the kids there over to Banksia,"

"Unfortunately, in the interim, I guess some of those fragilities have become all too clear," he said.

The former Inspector of Custodial Services, Professor Richard Harding, agrees that conditions at the Banksia Hill detention centre are not good.

"What this instance highlights is a review of why Western Australia continues to imprison/incarcerate in unsuitable conditions without any proper programs or rehabilitation efforts, so many juveniles,"

Mr Johnson admitted that he didn't know how long the juveniles will be at Hakea, but he says there will be investigations into what sparked the riot.

"I want to find out what happened and why it happened. 60-plus people caused this damage" he said. "It wasn't caused by my staff, it wasn't caused by my infrastructure, it was caused by people doing what they did."

The department is still trying to work out how the detainees were able to escape from their cells.

Banksia Hill is WA's only detention centre for male and female offenders aged 10 to 17 years old.

Geelong: Hundreds of rabbits freed

30 Jan - Hundreds of rabbits have been released from captivity at a property outside Geelong. Police believe the offenders opened an unlocked shed, which held about 1200 rabbits in cages, on the Anakie property sometime between 6pm on January 10 and 6am on January 11. Several hundred of the animals were let loose from the Ballan Road business.

* Editors note: While we greatly appreciate the sabotage of industrial machinery and the infrastructure of factory farming, out of respect for the rich biodiversity of this continent which colonisation has done so much to destroy, we do not encourage acts such as this, which introduce large numbers of non-native species into the environment.



Water police hope CCTV footage uncovers vandals

6 Feb 2013: Coffs Harbour Water Police say they want to speak to a truck driver about the vandalism of several north coast police boats. The four government owned vessels were slashed while they were moored at a wharf in Coffs Harbour on the 24th of November.

Vital equipment was reportedly stolen.

It cost police around \$100,000 to replace parts and repair the damage caused.

Officers have reviewed footage taken from nearby CCTV cameras and sergeant Donald Stewart says the video surveillance shows a truck in the area at the time of the attack.

Sergeant Stewart has condemned the behaviour of vandals who damaged the vessels in the targeted attack that rendered the police vessels 'inoperable'.



Melbourne: Solidarity with Egyptian anarchists

On the 6th of February in Melbourne, Australia, a small group of anarchists gathered outside the Egyptian Consulate on Market St in response to an international call-out for solidarity actions in support of Egyptian anarchists.

Egypt has been rocked by massive protests over the past fortnight as thousands of people in dozens of cities have commemorated the 2nd anniversary of January 25th uprising.

Egyptian anarchists have joined these demonstrations in large numbers, and in many cities formed Black Blocs for the first time.

Using fists, rocks and molotov cocktails they protected other protesters and confronted the brutality of the police and pro-government militias, inspiring not only their fellow revolutionaries but also anarchists and insurrectionists throughout the planet.

The Egyptian government has responded by declaring the Black Bloc a 'terrorist organisation' and ordered the arrest of anyone suspected of being part of the bloc. There have been 18 known arrests so far, and some ultra-conservative Salafists have even called for the execution of any accused Black Bloc 'member'

As a small act of solidarity with our comrades facing repression, we blocked the Egyptian consulate for three hours with banners, black flags and music.

This small, symbolic action still drew the attention of the Victorian and Federal Police, Public Service Officers and plain clothed police photographers.

Some Anarchists From Melbourne



Single parents protest Australia government payment cuts

5 Feb - Single parents are rallying in cities across Australia to protest against the federal government's recent cuts to parenting payments.

The cuts began at the start of this year and affect 84,000 single parents, with the majority being shifted to the Newstart allowance when their youngest child turns eight, leaving the families up to \$223 a fortnight worse off.

Families Minister Jenny Macklin said the changes are necessary to get more single parents back to work. "Unfortunately we have far too many children growing up in Australia in families where nobody's working." "The more that people go back to work, the better. It's better for the family, it's great for the kids to see mum and or dad, or both, going to work."

The Australian Council of Social Service (ACOSS) and single parent groups have organised rallies in every state and territory on Tuesday, including at Parliament House in Canberra. In Melbourne an angry crowd of protesters picketed Macklin's office.

Head of the National Council of Single Mothers and their Children, Terese Edwards, says she's not surprised that anger over the changes has turned into action.

"Many families did not know how fierce the impact would be or how much pain and loss it would cause until it became the lived reality," she said.



Single Parents Against Work (and it's world)

5 Feb – As usual, capital and the government restructure against us. As single parents, if we were ones for demanding, we would say damn right we don't want to work! Not just because raising kids is tough enough in this world, not just because of hungry mouths, crushing bills, limited choices but because no one should have to. We should be nurturing life in common instead. Lives of freedom and rebirth, not choices of shitty exploitation, crap job programs, welfare quarantines, crushing rents, maniac bosses, cops, slumlords, environmental ruin. Fuck lives of having to scam sickness benefits or studying to avoid one boss only to sit in education-factories with 'no future', welfare managers and bureaucrats.

Fuck your moral calls to work, to reorganise our lives with less to make your economy grind the gears with our bodies – your booms and busts. Fuck that.

Up with the trees, up with joy, for the sake of children and for space to create life – down with all work, capital and states. Solidarity with all oppressed and exploited, underclasses being attacked via cuts and welfare quarantining and those who revolt against work and it's world.

The space not to work when wide enough and built on solidarity and commons may be still a grim and poor place while capital and it's world of work exist but it is an important space for resistance. An attack on the lazy and the welfare scammers is attack on all our class and those who wish to unmake class and therefore destroy the flows of capital. It is an attack on social movements of the anti-state left, as well as people who are proletarianised or cast out as lumpen or surplus humanity but dream of transcending capitals definitions.

Welfare restructuring that makes it harder to raise kids and makes life more miserable is an attack to be resisted. But we will demand little of those who won't listen, rather we must conspire between ourselves against the states attempts to crush us. We dream of another world, against this world where children go without breakfast or without homes, this world of bills, of mines, of ugly buildings, shit houses and the destruction of our only home, mother earth!

From the armchair of Single p@rents on fire



Glenugie: Protester charged after 'Mad Max' blockade



6 Feb - An anti-coal seam gas protester has been charged following a five-hour stand-off at a drilling site south of Grafton on the NSW north coast.

It was the latest in a series of confrontations at the drilling site at Glenugie, where protesters have employed a range of methods to try to prevent access.

Today, a 48-year-old Lismore man cemented himself inside the cabin of a fortified car, blocking access to the property.

Two women were freed by police rescue after chaining themselves to the vehicle this morning. The protester who was inside the car was later removed and arrested.

His charges include breaching a good behaviour bond from previous protest actions at the site.

Another demonstrator, Nigel McKee, said the aim of the protest was to stop Metgasco moving drilling equipment from Glenugie to other parts of the region or elsewhere in the state.

"A Mad Max-style vehicle has blocked the main gate to the compound where the Metgasco drill is chained," he said.

"There is at least one person inside what you could describe as a fortified cage - almost like a tank. It looks like the vehicle has had some serious modifications."

Mr McKee said fire crews had hosed down the vehicle after it began leaking fuel, which was preventing police from using metal cutting tools that could create sparks.

"They've used this pressurised hose filled with fire retardant and they were flooding the vehicle in the window," he said.

The stand-off provoked an angry response from Metgasco, which sent out a media release calling for an end to the "lawless" action, along with a photo of the modified car being doused.

"It is time for the leaders of this green movement to withdraw their appeals for 'direct action' and take a

stand and stop these violent actions from taking place," Metgasco chief Peter Henderson said in the statement.

Hr Henderson added the protesters' behaviour was unreasonable, saying that "we've had people trespassing, damaging equipment, make threats against our employees, we've had a bomb hoax," he said. "It is generally very, very poor behaviour which makes an absolute mockery of any concept of peaceful protest."

Meanwhile, the NSW Rural Fire Service (RFS) has withdrawn logistical support for police at another CSG protest site near Kyogle, in the state's north, after community criticism.

Police had requested the RFS catering truck be there for local police and a tactical squad, which had been called in to protect Metgasco's drilling equipment and activities.

Don Durrant resigned yesterday in protest against the RFS's role. Mr Durrant says he has been a volunteer for almost 30 years and supporting a coal seam gas company is not what he signed up for.

"I was amazed that they would do that, that they would be called to do that and accept that task," "We do things at fetes, or whatever, at the school we do certain things to raise money for our brigades, but we don't go out and aid gas companies."

The RFS says it is a contentious local issue and should not involve its volunteers.

Superintendent Michael Brett from the Northern Rivers RFS says he is disappointed to hear about the resignation.

"People that were there were volunteers, were members of the community and they just thought that what we were doing was probably not in the best interest of the community," he said.

"The RFS being a community-based organisation has to really look at that very closely and the decision was made yesterday afternoon that we would have to withdraw our services."

Sydney: Reappropriation of the Redfern Bower Manifesto

To be constantly reminded of a death, of a riot, an injustice and a communities suffering has initiated the reappropriation of this public artwork using local resources and traditional and non-traditional techniques that reflect its heritage.

This work serves as a reminder of the 14th of February 2004, the day of the passing of TJ Hickey who was killed at the hands of the local command. TJ was rammed whilst on his bike by a police vehicle and impaled onto a fence within a two minute walk from here.

The public artwork given its structure, location and its immediacy to the police station and crime scene serves as a constant reminder of the impalement of a young man on a fence.

Whether or not the intention of the City of Sydney's commissioned public artworks was to hurt and cause pain is irrelevant as it inevitably acts as a reminder of that day and what proceeded.

What directly proceeded was an incitement of violence owing to the murky circumstances around the death of TJ. Many questions still remain unanswered about the events leading up to, during and after the "police chase" that ended in the death of a young man who was a week shy of his 18th birthday.

The last nine years have been marred by silence from those who were involved. No evidence has been brought to light on whether it was a case of racial profiling, death in custody, gross misconduct or careless police investigation.

Today, from 9.30am members of TJ's family and community march. They march for TJ, Redfern and every community who has suffered at the hands of police. They march for injustice.

The artworks plaque describes the artist's Susan Milne and Greg Stonehouse's intentions to create a contemporary sculpture that represents a bowerbird's nest. To reappropriate the story of the "Redfern bower" we impaled nine lovehearts to remember TJ's last day, his Valentine and a mother's heartache.

Our work also incorporates other elements as an offering, in representation of the Bowerbird's court-ing habits.

- 9 love hearts
- 9 dilly bags
- 9 butterflies
- 9 bikes
- 9 to represent the years he hasn't come home



Sydney: Justice for TJ demonstration

14 Feb – On the ninth anniversary of TJ Hickey's death, his parents and members of the local koori community led a passionate rally demanding justice and an end to police brutality and murder of aboriginals in custody.

The family, friends and supporters of the Hickey family initially crowded around the site of the murder in Redfern before marching to parliament house with Aboriginal flags held high, chanting "They say accidents, we say murder!"

Local Indigenous leader Jenny Munro said for too long her community has lived with "that fear of when someone's going to come knocking at your door and say, 'this is what happened to your child at the hands of the police!'"



Melbourne: Protestors & police clash at Geert Wilders anti-Islam speech

20 Feb - Ultraconservative Dutch politician Geert Wilders has triggered violent protests at his speaking engagements in Melbourne overnight as activists clashed with both police and guests attending the reactionary politician's first Australian speech.

There were verbal exchanges on Monday evening as about 200 protesters wrestled with those trying to access the venue which had been kept secret in a failed attempt to stop protesters gathering,

Protesters attempted to prevent guests entering the venue, ripping up their tickets and blocking the entry until forced to move by police. One guest was reportedly pushed to the ground while trying to push through the blockade while one of the protesters claimed to have been attacked by a guest that he referred to as a "fascist cohort".

The demonstrators chanted slogans such as "racism, no way, we're going to fight it all the way", "Here comes Nazi scum!" and carried banners with slogans such as: "Fascism is not to be tolerated — It's to be smashed."

Mounted police quickly moved in, pushing demonstrators back in an attempt to stop the scuffles.

The group Students for Palestine organised the protest, and say demonstrators did not come looking for trouble.

"We were just standing there while a number of people were charging at us, and hurting us" Yasmin, from the group said. "There are actually people here with bloody noses"

She said they organised the protest because "we oppose Islamophobia and all the things that Geert Wilders and the people who come to Geert Wilders' events preach."

The far-right politician's Australian speaking tour has been sponsored by a group called the Q Society, which is against multiculturalism.

Andrew Horwood from the Q Society blamed political correctness for the trouble. "I think it's very sad that we've got to this stage with the cloak of political correctness that's descended on this land," he said.

Security inside the function centre was tight for Mr Wilders, who told the audience that immigration by Muslims threatened the fabric of Australian life, calling Islam a 'dangerous and totalitarian ideology'.

The crowd cheered when it was announced via megaphone that Wilders' Perth speech was cancelled when no venue was willing to host the talk.

ABC website hacked following Geert Wilders coverage

27 Feb - The Australian Broadcasting Corporation (ABC) has confirmed that the website of one of its TV programs fell victim to a cyber attack after the far right Dutch politician Geert Wilders was interviewed on Lateline.

ABC confirmed the hack has exposed information relating to 40,000 users who had logged in on the website of the program Making Australia Happy.

"We do know that it has exposed the name, username and a hashed version of the password that audience members used to register on the program website," an ABC spokesman stated.

A Twitter user going by the name Phr0xenMyst has claimed responsibility for the attack.

The hacker boasted "ABC hacked for giving a platform for Geert Wilders to spread hatred".

Mr Wilder's visit to Australia sparked counter demonstrations and clashes in various cities.



Sydney: How To Have Fun At Corporatised O-Week

On Wednesday 27th February, some student dissidents and fellow rebels from Sydney University staged some O-Week counter activities. O-Week, which runs for three days in the week before semester begins, provides corporations and banks, major sponsors of the Sydney Uni "Union" who organize O-Week, the opportunity to present a friendly face to the student public at their stalls, offering games, prizes and giveaways.

In protest to this, we chalked anti-corporate slogans along Eastern Avenue. We stole and destroyed corporate and banking propaganda and expropriated dozens of show bags filled with noodles and stationary which we distributed to people in the community. We also did leafleting and chalking in support of the upcoming general strike at the uni next week, on March 7.

Apart from banks and businesses, the Young Liberals (SULC – Sydney University Liberals Society) also had a tent where they proudly displayed a life-sized cardboard figure of their idol, the former PM John Howard. To top the day off, we stole Johnny from them. One of us distracted the Libs, one of us cut the tie, and another grabbed the figure and ran. The Libs immediately set off after him. One of us tried to block the path of the head of the Young Libs, Alex Dore, and was swung at as he ran by. They were very determined and aggressive in their pursuit, and the student who took the figure had to forcefully defend himself when some of them caught up with him. In the end, rather than give him up, Johnny had to be decapitated and the Liberals were left with the cardboard body of their former leader while we took his head. Being insulted in this manner by these champagne-sipping toffs gave us a good laugh...

We hope that others that feel squeamish, overwhelmed, or impatient about the corporate spectacle of O-Week, as we did at the beginning of the day, will know that they're not alone, that some students, workers and people from our communities are willing to take action against the spread of the conservative market values and the shameless parading of a war criminal on our campus. Translating our frustration into action brought us joy and strength to continue challenging this imposed reality no matter how absolute it seems.

Sydney: anti-choice stall vandalised at university

LifeChoice Sydney is an anti-abortion student club affiliated with the University of Sydney Student Union (USU). The club's Oweek stall was vandalised overnight on February 27, with some persons or groups having torn down the booth set up by the group to recruit students.

Stickers and graffiti were scrawled across the stall, with statements such as "political freedom is bullshit if you're an arsehole" as well as other obscene and abusive words. Yellow "pro-choice" stickers were plastered all over the stall signage as well.

The trashing of the stall comes a day after a student had already vandalised the club's banner by putting large stickers on it. According to LifeChoices, due to the adhesive on the stickers, the club's banner was ruined and will now have to be replaced.



A QUICK GUIDE TO STRIKE SOLIDARITY

I really feel for the staff who are on strike, but I still need to go to uni to work and study on the strike day.

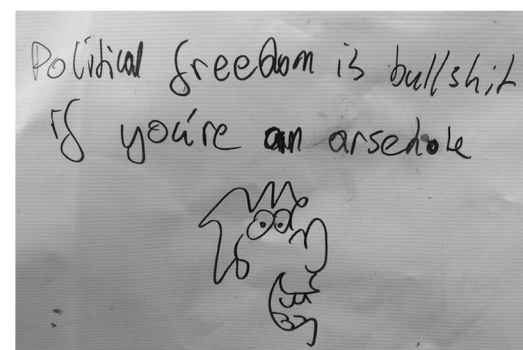
One day without work and class is a small price to pay for supporting staff, so I'm planning to not cross the picket.



OOPS! NOW YOU'RE A
SCAB



OMG! SHE GETS IT! WHAT A
CHAMPION!



Sydney vandalism rates soar

28 Feb - Vandals are leaving their mark on more Sydney's trains and railway stations with graffiti attacks up 10 percent this year and the clean-up is costing the state government \$26 million dollars a year.

Train guards have complained about being attacked or ambushed, when trying to apprehend vandals.

In 2011, there were fewer than 11,000 incidents of graffiti or malicious damage on trains, but that has jumped to more than 12,000 last year.

The Western line is the worst with nearly 16,000 reports, that's more than four a day.



Graffiti piece photographed along the Southbank, Brisbane train line in February

Shepparton: Masonic Lodge Repeatedly Vandalised

8 March - Vandals struck Shepparton's Masonic Centre on Wednesday night for the fourth time since September, causing extensive internal damage before setting fire to the building.

The attack occurred between 5pm and 7pm, which Masonic Lodge Mooroopna master Alan McCormick has described as "like a frenzy" with the words "fuck you" scrawled on the internal walls of the building.

Mr McCormick said most of the items destroyed could not be replaced, "It's absolutely shocking" he said.

"We arrived at 10 past seven and well you should have seen it. You could smell smoke, it must have been smoldering for a while, they've used some sort of accelerant.

"Everything that was there that could be damaged was; old photographs of former members pulled down and smashed and you could see they had trodden on them."

Shepparton police Detective Senior Constable Tom Young confirmed it was the fourth incident in 6 months. He said that at this stage police believe the four attacks are linked.

During the most recent incident a Molotov cocktail was thrown at the front door.

"Unknown offenders have forced their way into the Masonic hall and committed a large amount of vandalism inside the premises, including writing fuck you on the inside of the building," Det Sen Const Young said.

"They've also smashed a number of crockery sets and plates and caused a fair bit of damage, smashing lights and other things of sentimental value to the Masonic hall, before setting the place on fire in the main temple itself, which measures about 50cm by 50cm."

Det Sen Const Young said police were investigating the incident and a forensic team was on site.

"Inquiries are continuing, it is being managed and we're doing what we can to try to work out who is responsible for this," he said.

*Editors note: We understand that some conspiracy theorists believe the freemasons to be a satanic cult which rules the world and we reject any such ideas as nonsense. Nevertheless the Freemasons are an association of generally conservative, wealthy old men, and we are pleased by any attacks which hamper their ability to network and organise.



Tasmania: Police called to logging protest

20 Feb - Police have arrested an environmental activist protesting against logging in a forest marked for protection in central Tasmania.

The group Still Wild Still Threatened says the woman had chained herself to a gate on a forestry road at Butler's Gorge, which is part of an area nominated by the Federal Government for World Heritage listing. About 15 protesters remained at the scene and their spokeswoman Miranda Gibson said that a dozen police officers turned up at 3pm.

"So far they have removed the person from the front gate who has been arrested and search and rescue are currently attempting to remove the tree sitter as well," she said.

"The tree sitter's by the side of the road which is attached to a structure that is blocking the road and halting logging... This is about targeting the Federal Government and showing that these forests were actually nominated for protection and the Federal Government is still allowing them to be logged."

Ms Gibson remains in her tree-sit at Tyenna which has been in place since December 2011.

The Tasmanian Government says existing harvesting operations are being performed in a number of coupes in the area nominated for protection.

A government spokesman says they are being done to meet contractual wood supply requirements until logging schedules can be re-directed to alternative areas.



Anti-logging protesters arrested

5 Mar - Two anti-logging protesters have been arrested in Tasmania's central highlands.

It is the second time in the past month that members of the group Still Wild Still Threatened have targeted the Butlers Gorge area.

Two protesters who had chained themselves to each other across a logging road were arrested this afternoon for failing to comply with directions from police.

The group's spokeswoman Miranda Gibson says logging in the area needs to be stopped.

"This is really about putting the pressure on Tony Burke who has the responsibility and the power to stop this logging in the area that he himself has put forward as World Heritage value."

Bushfire forces end to 15-month tree-sit protest

8 March - An anti-logging activist who has spent more than a year up a tree in Tasmania's south has been forced down by a bushfire.

Miranda Gibson, 31, had been up the tree since December 2011, protesting against native logging in the state. Her supporters advised her to come down because an uncontrolled blaze was moving quickly toward the 60-metre platform.

Ms Gibson said it was a difficult decision to evacuate, but necessary. "The fire's only about two kilometres from where I am so it's quite close and potentially a high level of risk if it comes this way," she said.

She was greeted with hugs from supporters and told journalists that she is relieved to be reunited with friends and family. She didn't give many details about her 15-month experience but said isolation was the hardest part.

She stated that she'd recently had sleepless nights, with thick smoke and flames visible from the top of her tree.

Forestry Tasmania's David Brown says it started after 5pm on Tuesday but it is too early to speculate about who might have been responsible. "In terms of how the fire started, the fire is actually being investigated at the moment so I can't give any definitive answers, but it would appear that there was some suspicious activity."



North Qld: Rioting in far north indigenous communities

8 March - Heavy police reinforcements have been sent to two separate Aboriginal communities in northwest Queensland, first following a disturbance in Doomadgee in the Gulf of Carpentaria then two days later in Auruku on the Cape York peninsula.

On Sunday morning a large crowd formed outside the Doomadgee Police Station after a man was arrested for allegedly breaking an officer's nose with a torch.

The large group reportedly then smashed windows at the station using sticks and metal poles.

A number of officers from Mount Isa have since been brought in.

A 53-year-old man was charged with seriously assaulting a police officer and was remanded till March 7 to appear before Doomadgee Magistrates Court.

A 16 year old boy and 20 year old man were arrested in the days following the attack and were charged with the wilful damage of police property.

On Thursday, about 100 people marched through the streets of Doomadgee to protest police brutality and the arrest of the man accused of breaking an officer's nose.

In Aurukun a shotgun was reportedly fired repeatedly during a riot involving over 200 people on Tuesday.

In that incident the Hope Vale Mayor, Greg McLean, was also arrested after police saw him carrying a hunting spear in the street. A struggle ensued when they tried to detain him and they reportedly used capsicum spray against him.

McLean spent the night in custody, charged with assaulting police, obstructing police and affray.

A 33-year-old man who allegedly fired a number of gunshots into the air was also arrested and charged with a number of offenses including going armed to cause fear.

The town was put in lockdown after the incident, although no-one was hurt.

About 1200 people live in Doomadgee and 1000 in Aurukun.

Cairns Acting District Superintendent Rhys Newton says there is a heavy police presence in Aurukun, claiming police have had to confront street fights involving up to 200 people every few days over the past month.

Local Aboriginal elders have reportedly called for police reinforcements to leave the community, saying they have inflamed tensions.

Queensland Police Union president Ian Leavers says the union is considering advising police to completely withdraw from some Aboriginal communities over safety fears.

"We have some communities that seem to thrive on attacking police... These communities are quickly becoming a powderkeg and police safety, which is paramount, cannot be guaranteed any longer." he said.

However police Minister Jack Dempsey says officers will not withdraw from any community.



Sydney: Anarchist intervention in the USYD Strike

In the early hours of March 7 some anarchists broke into the abandoned St Michaels College building on the Sydney Uni campus and dropped a large banner off the roof which said: "WE ARE THE UNI WE CAN SHUT IT DOWN. STAFF + STUDENT STRIKE"

A 12 hour strike had been called by the National Tertiary Education Union at Sydney Uni for Thursday March 7. The first strike at the uni in over a decade, it follows months of failed negotiations regarding the university's new Enterprise Bargaining Agreement, which proposes to cut staff wage and working conditions, sick leave entitlements, reduce job security and sideline the unions as bargaining agents for the staff.

This is all part of the federal Labor government's "education revolution", a project to explicitly corporatise education institutions. At universities around the country, academics and staff have been sacked, class sizes increased and working conditions undermined.

While the university attempted to counter the strike by calling on all students and staff to attend classes, some anarchist students designed a poster that appeared to be an official university document, which declared the uni would be closed on March 7, and plastered it everywhere.

Starting at 7am, picket lines were set up at all seven entrances to the university with varying degrees of militancy.

Pickets with a large number of union officials were most eager to simply hand out leaflets and let students and scabs through, while pickets with more anarchists and militant unionists made it clear to everyone, particularly scabs, that the uni was closed. They barricaded entrances with linked arms and large banners reading "STRIKE" "NO CLASS: CLASS WAR" and another reading "SPENCE: THE ONLY CUT WE NEED (featuring a caricature of the vice-chancellor, Michael Spence and two guillotines)"

Some crews roamed the uni, focusing on the libraries and lectures. They managed to convince a number of students to leave the campus grounds and join the pickets. Over a dozen lectures were disrupted. Stickers reading "I AM A SCAB" were stuck on the doors of various professors and academic staff that chose to cross picket lines.

Corporate ads were vandalised, the library entrances were barricaded with metal fencing from a nearby construction site, and two banners were hung from the Parramatta rd footbridge entrance reading: "STRIKE OCCUPY TAKE OVER" and "STAB A SCAB CUT THE COPS". In the afternoon, there was a march of about 1000 staff and students through the university grounds.



Unsurprisingly, there were union bureaucrats who angrily opposed the actions of militants. Some unionists even colluded with police to remove the “STAB A SCAB” banner.

Throughout the strike, the NTEU was determined to block any political struggle against the federal Labor government's current assault on working conditions (carried out with the backing of the Greens). They even invited Labor and Greens senators to address the rally. The decision to give them a platform is a signal to management that the union will continue to collaborate with cuts to the conditions of its members, provided its position is preserved.

NTEU leader Doug Cameron even declared that their “wages, conditions, and career prospects” were only “short term issues” and that the major question in the strike was management’s “attack on trade unionism”, then concluding his demagogic speech by imploring all staff to join the union.

We actively participated in this strike for our collective liberation against the neoliberal policies imposed on our lives. We will not reduce our dreams to the parameters set by a collaborationist struggle for concessions; we will make no demands of Spence or his administration.

Demands are always too big or too small, too unrealistic or too rational. We have no interest in playing the game of negotiation. Rather, we recognise the strike as a potential moment of rupture with capitalist normality, a moment of class antagonism, where people faced with a picket line are forced to take a side.

We encourage strikes and pickets at every workplace, everyday. From pickets to sabotage to the occupation and reappropriation of the sites of our exploitation.

Our struggle is not for the improvement of the degree factory, but for its destruction. We will fight for the USYD territory to become a communal space for all.

We ultimately seek the complete destruction of capitalism and every social relationship that facilitates its reproduction. The university is a fundamental mechanism of the capitalist project, every year it produces qualified and disciplined workers for the mining, law and finance industries which suffocate our ability to live.

As Carlo Pisicane stated quite eloquently in 1857, “we will not be free when we are educated, we will be educated when we are free.”

The abolition of the university is only a first step toward the abolition of capital.

Fuck their degrees, decrees and masters

We want nothing less than everything.



Sydney: Queers Against Cops

9 March - Following the 2013 Mardi gras parade (the corporate gaystream shadow of a radical and militant queer protest in 1978) a video was posted online showing a young man being choked by a cop, then slammed headfirst into the pavement while handcuffed.

Outrage quickly spread across the Queer community and far beyond. Within two days, Community Action Against Homophobia (CAAH) called for a demo against police brutality on Friday March 8.

Dozens of anarchists and anti-authoritarians attended, some dressed as mock riot cops while others brought thousands of incendiary leaflets and three large banners reading: "NO JUSTICE NO PEACE FUCK THE POLICE" "ALL COPS ARE BASTARDS" and "GAY BASHING IS A NSW POLICE TRADITION".

As we marched, two banners were used to flank the side of the demo, creating a barrier between the riot police and the crowd while the other banner was used to create space between protesters and the police horses and arrest vehicles which tailed rally.

Once the crowd arrived at Surrey Hills cop shop, we tied one banner from the station balcony, while some queers held another by the cop shop entrance, while the third was used to block police horses and their arrest vehicles on Pelican St, prevent them from entering the area the rally was being held.

While speeches were being made, some of us distributed boxes of chalk throughout the crowd and scrawled anti-police slogans across the outside walls of the pig station.

Hundreds of people thanked us for the leaflets, for having the courage to carry the banners and keep the horses back. Dozens posed for photos with the banners and many people we'd never met asked if they could hold them alongside us.

This text has been written as a response to a small, but very vocal minority at the demo who aggressively opposed our messages and our stance towards the police. Some of them harassed, threatened and abused us, telling us to leave or put the banners away and one man even attempted to pull one away from us. Unsurprisingly, the only 'protesters' who confronted us were white males. Some of them accused us of "not really being a part of the gay community".

We found it quite amazing that anyone would be speaking in favour of police at a rally against police brutality. Some of these cop lovers told us that "this is only about officer 266, not all cops" or that "we're only here because of one bad officer". One person even took the rally megaphone and stated "I want to remind everyone here that this protest is not against the NSW police force... just one bad apple, officer 266 has a lot of questions to answer, but there are a lot of good cops out there, and we wouldn't be where we are today without them"

Well fuck that. We've no interest in repressing our rage towards those that harass, abuse and incarcerate us and our loved ones out of some bullshit attempt to look tame, safe and acceptable for corporate media and straight colonial Australia. We are not gay as in happy but queer as in fuck you.



This was not about one bad apple, or one single instance of police brutality. Police violence is endemic in the culture and institution of the force and they certainly do not protect us queers. Police are ultimately responsible for upholding property laws that favour rich and often white businessman and professionals. Every day cops fill the prisons with the poor and marginalised sections of the population.

One in 4 homeless youth are queer and many engage in illegal sex work to survive. As such they are systematically targeted and repressed by police and property laws. Following the Friday demo one young homeless queer, accused of swearing at the pigs was arrested, detained and charged with 'failure to comply with a police direction', 'offensive behaviour' and 'offensive language'

The reigning status quo and the illusion of social peace is upheld by a constant war on the poor. The ever militarised police act as frontline troops against the nation's internal enemies, that surplus population that exists without a stake in the market, those who fill the queues in Centrelink and outside charity vans, who live in parks, housing commissions and prison cells.

Anyone who does not have the resources to afford housing or food under capitalism will resort to theft to survive. This survival becomes a criminal offence, an offence for which they will be hunted and incarcerated by the forces of law and order. Any resistance to this oppression will result in being beaten, sprayed, tasered or shot by any and all cops.

Despite what many of the speakers claimed on Friday, the behaviour of officer 266 was not at all out of the ordinary, police violence is business as usual, especially whenever someone fights back.

Anyone who physically challenges the police and is captured is not merely restrained. For police officers it is important to punish that individual, to set an example that no resistance will be tolerated. His brutalising of Jaime was only significant in that the officer punished a far smaller individual in a large crowd that was filming him.

Despite our dreams, we do not believe police will be abolished tomorrow, to drive the police of the streets requires a mass movement of people who are sick of being policed, far more people then were at the demo yesterday.

It is important to recognise that most people who face incarceration are convicted for financially driven crimes, not white-collar crimes, but crimes that stem from the struggle to overcome poverty and marginalisation. Drug-related crimes have been at the forefront of NSW's growing prison population and despite occasional exceptions, the majority of those imprisoned are from a lower class upbringing.

Criminals are not born, but are created by capitalism and its laws. Lucrative drug markets, the primary cause of all gang wars, are a direct product of capital, criminalisation and the misery of daily life which drug consumers seek to escape.

Bank robberies, car theft, street prostitution, or shoplifting are just a few other examples of criminalised professions that stem from the class divide inherent to capitalism.

We believe in a world without such class divisions, police or private property. As the vast majority of crime stems from poverty, the abolition of property from a territory would abolish property crime and most anti-social violence associated with it.

The remaining anti-social violence, particularly oppressive violence directed at queers and women could be opposed by armed and self-organised queer and women's militias. While we always oppose incarceration, we believe that punishments for oppressive and violent actions such as rape and murder should be decided by the affected community. While we strongly believe in restorative justice and the chances of rehabilitation for violent individuals, many of us do not strictly oppose punitive or capital punishments if a community decides an individual has committed a grave and unforgivable offence against others.

We view those that aggressively tried to silence us, like queer bashers and cops, as a physical force that desires to police us into assimilation; a force that should be opposed by any means necessary.



Any growing anti-police, anti state movement that can hold territory will need to provide physical protection and a sense of community justice or the inhabitants will demand a return to state policing.

On this territory the only visible queer political 'movement' is the campaign for marriage equality. We have no part in that conservative, assimilationist struggle that legitimises the oppressive and patriarchal institution of marriage. We have no interest in promoting or reproducing monogamy, the nuclear family and refuse to reduce our relationships of love and affinity to state registered financial agreements.

It has become disappointingly clear to us that a majority of Sydney's largely middle class 'gay community' is not interested in social struggles outside of some narrow, preconceived self interests.

There were 5 demonstrations against police brutality last year in Sydney, all organised by the Indigenous Social Justice Association (ISJA). The turnout from the mainstream 'gay community' was almost non-existent.

We are freedom loving, cop hating, queer hooligans who've had enough of police oppression. Police violence is business as usual and if we seek to actually put an end to it, we must be willing to respond in kind. The only thing that could be called justice in this twisted society, is the revenge of the oppressed and our justice will be found in the streets, not in any courtroom or external police investigation.

TOWARD THE QUEER REVOLT
FUCK QUEER ASSIMILATION
FUCK THE POLICE



NZ: Queer Avengers solidarity action

9 March - Cop violence requires a response: that was the call out from activists in Sydney this week after cop attacks on young LGBTI people enjoying themselves at Mardi Gras. One young man was thrown to the ground and then stood on. A Sydney activist reports being beaten as he crossed Oxford Street.

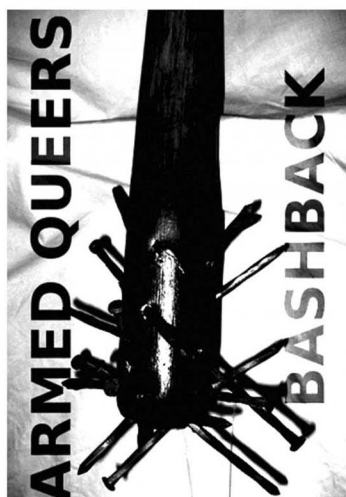
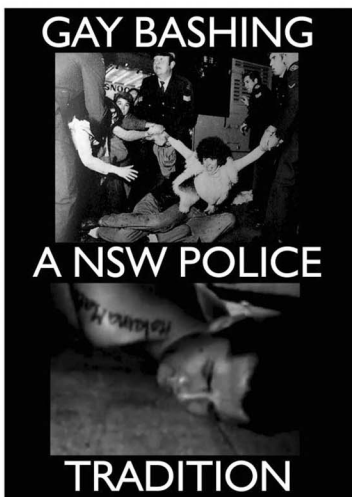
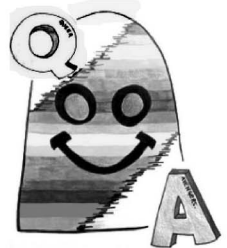
The Queer Avengers answered the call on Friday when we rallied outside the Australian High Commission in Wellington, showing solidarity with demonstrations against police brutality happening in Sydney at the same time.

The NSW police viciously attacked the first Mardi Gras in 1978, an assault for which they have never apologised. Police harassment of Aboriginal people, and deaths in custody, are part of Sydney life.

Sydney has a special place in the queer cultures of Aotearoa/NZ. Thousands of people have traveled to Mardi Gras over the years; and, in the years before NZ's Homosexual Law Reform, Sydney was a refuge for LGBTI people from Aotearoa.

Mardi Gras emerged from the Gay Liberation movement – the slogans of that era still have relevance today. Out of the closets and into the streets! End police brutality!

An injury to one is an injury to all, we are proud to stand alongside comrades in Aus. This fight is our fight.



Sydney: Solidarity with indigenous land struggles

On Friday the 22 of March, Brazilian riot police evicted dozens of indigenous squatters from an abandoned museum in the centre of Rio. For over a decade indigenous people from across the territory had occupied the large building and the surrounding area, renaming it the 'Maracana Village' as it sits besides the large Maracana football stadium.

As a minimal token of our solidarity and complicity with those who defended the village, some anarchists in Sydney entered a large office building on Clarence St (which houses the Brazilian consulate) on Tuesday March 26 and dropped a banner from a balcony on the second level which read:

SOLIDARITY WITH INDIGENOUS LAND STRUGGLES
LONG LIVE THE Maracana Village

For over a decade indigenous people have been living in the Maricana Village and used it as a safe place to stay when they came to Rio to pursue an education, sell crafts in the streets or get medical treatment. Tukano, who is from a village deep in the Amazon said that indigenous people "would come here without money, without knowing anyone, and sleep here... We made this our space."

The streets around the stadium are now undergoing a rapid and brutal gentrification process, to make the area a shopping and sports entertainment hub, complete with large parking lots. A favela where hundreds of poor locals lived has already been demolished to make way for new developments around the stadium.

The governor of Rio de Janeiro, Sergio Cabral, told a news conference in October that the building's razing is necessary for hosting the World Cup.

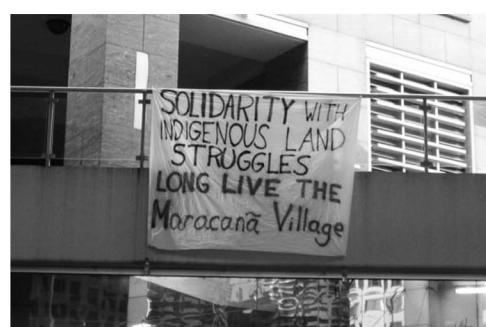
'The Indian Museum near the Maracana will be demolished...It's being demanded by FIFA and the World Cup Organizing Committee. Long live democracy, but the building has no historical value. We're going to tear it down.'

From the massacre of rebellious students by Mexican soldiers before the 1968 games, to the mass eviction of street vendors and the poor in Durban 2010 (also requested by FIFA), everywhere the Olympics or World Cup passes, the local government paves their way with repression and gentrification. Always and everywhere, these international spectacles are used by business and political elites as a celebration of unifying nationalism; rallying 'the people' around the national flag, the state, and the corporate sponsors. The 'sporting heroes' whose images we are taught to idolise, can often be seen parading with politicians and selling us everything from toothpaste to health insurance. We reject and detest these carnivals of capital, these carefully choreographed celebrations of state and corporate domination.

In Sydney also, behind the triumphantly jingoistic façade of the 2000 Olympics, large squatted social spaces were evicted, homeless people were expelled from the city centre, police were granted new 'move-on' powers, and rent prices rapidly increased. These events are not accidents or coincidences, but are coordinated policies of neoliberal restructuring which are reproduced (with different degrees of intensity) in the lead up to every cup or games.

In response to the daily onslaught of capital, we must organise towards mass, communal land occupations that can liberate territory from the forces of speculation and state order.

FOR THE DEFENCE OF LIBERATED TERRITORY
AGAINST FIFA AND ITS WORLD
ABOLISH THE IOC



Mexico: Call for Actions in Solidarity with fugitive comrade Felicity Ryder

20 Feb - Greetings to all anti-authoritarian hearts who read this, wherever they may be. We put this call out for two weeks in solidarity with Felicity Ann Ryder, an anarchist comrade who remains fugitive from the state after more than 7 months.

In the early hours of June 27th, 2012 an explosive device detonated leaving our comrade Mario "Tripa" López injured and behind bars for 6 months. Mario is now "free" on Conditional Release and has an ongoing case against him. After police and government forces found Felicity's passport, facing the risk of jail, she began life as a fugitive.

Since then we know that there has been constant harassment of her relatives in her country of birth (Australia) as well as throughout the media. This all forms part of a frame-up instigated by police forces on an international level that is used to attack the anarchist movement.

We understand the difficult situation that Felicity must be facing after all these months. Living clandestinely, despite being a better option than the cold bars of a jail cell, also becomes a form of prison in that it stands in the way of enjoying full liberty because of the constant threat of detention. This situation brings many difficulties for mobility, self-sufficiency and struggle; isolation and distance from loved ones and the abandoning of life plans.

Clandestine life as a necessity requires our solidarity. The obligation of our comrades to be constantly on the run, pushed underground and forced to dig their way to liberty, deserves our support.

From here we call on all of our forces as anti-authoritarians to participate in two weeks of activities, greetings, and gestures in solidarity with our comrade Felicity from March 3 until March 17th, to take the form that one sees fit, so Felicity knows that she is not alone and that solidarity between anarchists in struggle is not merely a written word, but a weapon that destroys power.

We also wish to remember that there are other comrades living as fugitives like Hans Niemeyer, persecuted by the Chilean State, as well as Grigoris Tsironis, Marios Seisidis, Vassilis Palaikostas, Nikos Maziotis and Pola Roupa from Greece.

No Remorse, No Defeat

Compañera you are not alone, many of us follow you in struggle and embrace your convictions

Freedom to all prisoners of the social war

Argentina: Mural for fugitive comrade Felicity Ryder



"I am proud of being an anarchist, of being an enemy of power, authority, and the state." Felicity Ann Ryder

14 March - During the week of solidarity with Felicity Ryder, we painted a mural as a gesture of affection for her and for all the rebels who are in confrontation from clandestinity and anonymity.

We are everywhere

Melb: Solidarity with Felicity Ryder

20 March - In response to a call out for solidarity with fugitive comrade Felicity Ryder some rabble rousers from Melbourne made some fun around town in the last week.

Our first target was CCTV cameras that abounds in this and every other polluting city in the world. We disabled, collected and removed at least a dozen.

A metro train was painted a flamboyant rainbow of colours from one end to the other. The trains are ours and everyone's and we'll do with them what we like – paint, sabotage, fare evade, fuck up.

A luxury car yard had upwards of a dozen cars severely damaged when given a makeover in baby blue. Fuck the wealthy and their status symbols.

Felicity lives in our hearts and minds daily. Much love and solidarity sister.

Hobart: police headquarters vandalised in solidarity with Felicity

2 April - A few days ago Tasmania Police Headquarters, in Hobart, was "re-decorated".

On the windows and around the building, the following message was sprayed:

"Cops R Dicks – Love U Flick. Until the last bank, prison & cop r burnt to ashes x x x Con amor y solidarid – A.C.A.B. – F.T.T.P"

This was done in solidarity with our friend and comrade Felicity Ryder as well as our comrade Mario Lopez. Like fire our rage must spread.

Action & statement in solidarity with anarchist Felicity Ryder

18 Mar - On a wet winter's night, we ventured out with paint cans in our pockets and the desire for a free world in our hearts.

We know that the last 7 months must have been far from easy for you, compañera, and we can only imagine that the challenges of clandestinity have required immense patience and strength from you.

However, you remain ever present in our minds, and we stand in irrepressible solidarity with you, as with all comrades who fearlessly stand up, face to face with the enemy. So with much revolutionary love we send you our warmest greetings. You are not alone, we stand beside you.

For all the snarling of this tired system; the various international operations of repression, the incarceration of our comrades, the state attacks on liberated spaces, as well as the attempts to harass your comrades & family, is part of a failed attempt to paralyze us with fear and panic. An attempt that will never succeed, because our resistance and our passion for freedom is stronger than their prison cells. Anarchists and anti-authoritarians are targeted, as all who resist are, because we pose a threat to their vapid, rancid system of exploitation. And we shall remain a rebellious threat against the existent deadening order.

So, with much love, affection and respect we salute your strength and resistance. For we recognize in you a wild desire for freedom that reflects our own struggles for liberation against a brutal and joyless system.

We stand firmly in solidarity with you compañera. We share this struggle with you and we send warm revolutionary hugs to you, wherever you may be.

Solidarity is our weapon against the enemy and the soil from which our liberation blossoms.

We send our rebel greetings also to all anarchist fighters both in and outside the cages, and to all comrades on the run.

Chile: Words for Felicity, fugitive from Power

20 Mar - Today, we want to send special greetings to fugitive anarchist Felicity Ann Ryder, in accordance with the call for days of solidarity in March 2013.

We want to add to the debate a few important necessities and challenges when addressing the clandestinity of comrades, whether we know them or not, whether we have direct contact with those who support them directly or indirectly, since all of these things are secondary when the link is a comradeship forged in the decision to struggle against authority.

One important need is to understand and salute a comrade's clandestinity as a personal decision to struggle, but not to idealize it as a superior form of confrontation, especially when this decision derives from the persecution of specific comrades for whom the enemy has issued arrest warrants, search and capture orders, etc.

Another thing that we must consider is that the enemy usually publishes the images of our underground comrades in the mass media so that the citizenry will collaborate with their capture, and as such it's our responsibility—and an act of solidarity—to remove any photography of comrades who have gone underground from any anarchist information pages or other pieces of propaganda.

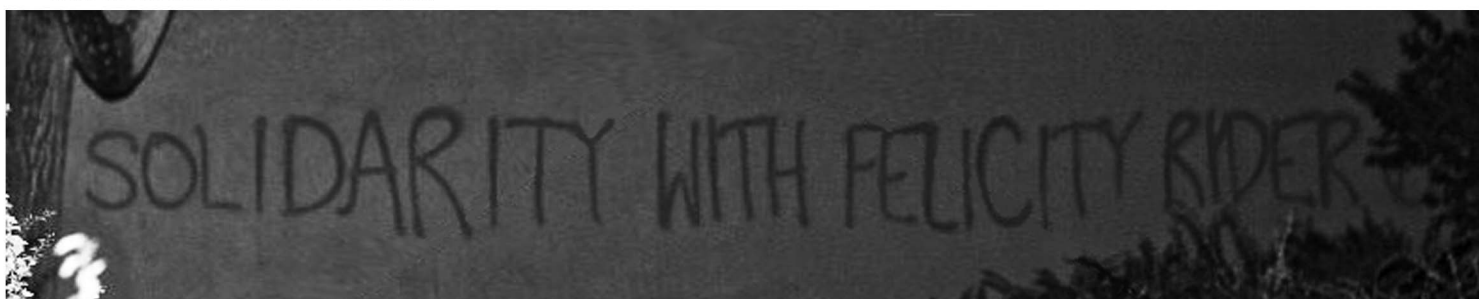
Every day that goes by without the capture of our underground brothers and sisters is a day spent laughing in the face of the enemy, and an act of antiauthoritarian propaganda against their repressive machinery. But it's also true that on each of these days our compas may have thousands of needs, like the necessity not to feel alone after having separated from their loved ones and the people/animals close to them, or from certain projects and comrades. Thus, it is tremendously important that each of us use or create our own means to maintain ties of communication with our clandestine comrades. We can contribute by generating channels of communication and feedback among comrades, rather than negating them or cutting them off, isolating our underground compas even more.

We salute the comrades of Isla Tortuga squat (in Santiago, Chile) who organized an anti-prison dinner as part of the days of solidarity with Felicity Ryder; we send them our appreciation for keeping the flame of solidarity alive, and we hope that these initiatives multiply.

Social War, anarchy and rebellion against all authority!

Sin Banderas Ni Fronteras (With neither flags nor borders)

Antiauthoritarian cell for agitation and written propaganda



Militancy and collaboration at the USYD Strike

Tuesday March 26 marked the beginning of a 48 hour strike at Sydney university. The strike was called by the NTEU with CPSU support as a continuation of the struggle against the uni administrations new Enterprise Bargaining Agreement. In the early hours of March 26, some anarchists once again broke into the City rd Catholic college and again dropped a massive banner reading “WE ARE THE UNI WE CAN SHUT IT DOWN, STAFF + STUDENTS STRIKE”

At 6.45am we joined hundreds of staff, students and socialists in picketing and barricading seven different entrances to the uni. Later that morning a contingent of riot police attempted to break a picket at the city rd car park entrance. After a brief scuffle in which the picketers managed to hold their ground, the riot pigs retreated in humiliation.

Meanwhile the parramatta rd footbridge was barricaded by anti-authoritarians. They soon came into conflict with NTEU officials who once again collaborated with police to break the picket. Militant picketers were told by NTEU bureaucrats that they had to let scabs pass or “the union could be fined for illegal activity”

From 9am on, some anarchists went about campus, passing out hundreds of anti-cop and anti-scab leaflets, writing messages on uni walls and disrupting lectures, libraries and businesses. We banged pots, drums, shouted at scabs and chanted against classes, cops and capital. We aimed to disrupt any semblance of normality on the uni grounds, to assert our right to this territory against the claims of capitalists like Michael Spence and his riot pigs.

Some members of the socialist sects marched a large group of students into a chemistry lecture. Though rather than shouting insults at the scabs, passing leaflets to students and then leaving, they decided to occupy the hall and make long speeches to the chemistry students. The police soon mobilised the riot squad which burst into the lecture hall, violently dragging out picketers and arresting two of them. A crowd of angry students and anti-authoritarians then confronted police chanting “COPS OFF CAMPUS” and “NO JUSTICE, NO PEACE, FUCK THE POLICE!” Police responded by violently pushing and dragging the crowd out the building.

The riot pigs specifically targeted students of colour and those who were filming them, arresting 3. Most militant picketers then left the uni to make a noise demo outside Newtown cop shop. While two arrestees were later released without charge, three now face trumped up charges ranging from assault to hinder police.

On the following day pickets were established before 7am. Militant picketers marched to the City rd car park entrance and blocked cars for a number of hours before the riot squad began aggressively forcing picketers back whenever a scab wanted to drive through. After a number of minor scuffles the cops started blocking the entrance with their car, to ease hostilities. Many picketers then broke away to cause disruptions in the operation of the library and coffee shops.



National Union of Students (NUS) had called for a student rally at 12 pm at UTS. The rally was just one manifestation amongst many of the National Day of Action against for-profit education. While the NUS announced the rally would march from the UTS campus to Town Hall, a large contingent of strikers convinced the students to change their route and instead march to Sydney Uni in solidarity with the strike.

As the strikers initially left Sydney uni, riot police launched an unexpected assault on a largely anti-authoritarian picket, taking another two hostages who'd been captured the previous day.

Over a thousand students from the NUS rally marched down George street onto City rd, before initiating a spontaneous sit-in on one of Sydney's busiest arteries. Police immediately freaked out but were unable to respond because of the massive number of students involved. Members of trotskyst sects attempted to convince the crowd to leave the road, using their megaphones and calling for a vote on whether people wanted to hold the street.

With riot police encircling the dwindling crowd, most militant activists decided to leave the uni to make another noise demo outside the cop shop. Police denied both comrades bail and held them overnight. The following day over 20 people showed up at the court in solidarity.

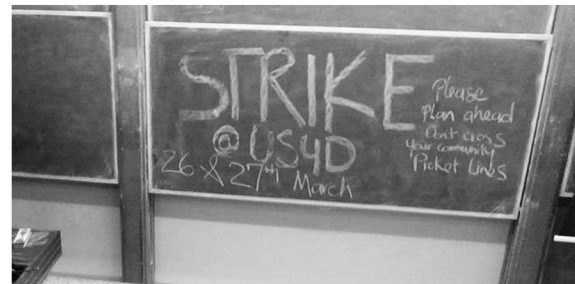
The neoliberal restructuring of the economy toward the privatisation, casualisation and generalised precarity of employment can only be enforced with batons, tasers and prison cells. The militarisation of police and the privatisation of our lives are merely two sides of a process of exclusion and exploitation. As students and workers we are hit first by higher fees, debt, casualisation and layoffs, then by police violence if we take a stand.

To take control of our destinies we cannot rely on those individuals and organisations who position themselves as our representatives. While we are willing to work with unions and student associations when it is necessary, we do not recognise their authority. We must act on our own behalf directly, breaking with any groups that seek to limit the struggle by telling us to leave the street, go back to work or class, to negotiate, to reconcile.

Instead, we call on students and workers to organise themselves collectively outside the structures of political parties or unions. We urge undergraduates, lecturers, service workers and staff to begin meeting together to discuss their situation. The more we begin talking to one another and finding our common interests, the more difficult it becomes for the administration and police to pit us against each other. To intensify our resistance, our immediate task is to create spaces of solidarity, care and freedom, where we can find one another to conspire against the conditions imposed on us by capital.

Occupations can liberate common spaces, negate existing property relations and assert the collective desire for that which is shared. We must physically expel the police and the administration from the territory of Usyd in order to create a free, open and communal university of resistance.

TOWARD THE SYDNEY UNI COMMUNE



Bunbury: Vandals ransack school

12 March: Vandals have caused an estimated \$7,000 damage to a Bunbury school over the weekend. A classroom at St Joseph's Catholic school was ransacked and 19 windows were smashed, leaving glass strewn across the floor.

Students were not allowed into their classroom yesterday, but were expected to return today. School principal Riley Horrocks says it is a senseless act. "It's extremely frustrating, it achieves nothing", he said.

Mandurah: Private boats targeted in arson attacks



20 March - Three boats were destroyed overnight in the third boatyard arson attack in Mandurah in the past two months.

Fire crews arrived after 1am to find three 6m boats on fire and more vessels scorched.

The damage has been estimated at \$100,000.

The owner of the Marine says an unexploded Molotov cocktail was later found in the yard.

Last week in Mandurah, seven yachts were completely destroyed in a fire at Yunderup Marine.

The damage was more than \$400,000.

Just weeks earlier, on February 1, two 7.5m boats were set alight at Mandurah Aluminium and Marine Fabrication on Quarry Way, Greenfields which caused at least \$150,000 damage.

Broome: Roadworks vandals leave \$10K repair bill

31 March - The Broome Shire in WA will have to foot the bill after \$10,000 damage was done at a shire roadworks site.

Vandals uprooted signs and smashed equipment, including a \$30,000 electronic message board, on Frederick Road on Saturday night.

Townsville: riot at youth detention centre

1 April - A group of youths rioted at the Cleveland Youth Detention Centre on Wednesday night. They reportedly stole staff uniforms and smashed windows, terrorising staff.

A detention centre staff member, who asked not to be named, said at least eight youths aged between 12 and 17 years were involved, breaking in to two separate parts of the centre via the air-conditioning duct.

One of the centres, a storage area which contained paint and petrol, was taken over by the youths. They barricaded themselves inside and smashed up the storage area, causing substantial damage. They also stole staff uniforms and put them on. "They also threw tools like sledgehammers and chisels at police and workers," the source said.

Police officers, including police negotiators, were called to the detention centre on Old Common Rd shortly after 5pm on Wednesday.

A Code Green was called to signal the boys had attempted to run away from their units, followed by a Code Olive signal after they climbed on top of the roof, sending the facility into lockdown.

There have since been reports that youth and staff members may have been exposed to asbestos due to damages to the building during the riot.

Tasmania: Protest halts logging

3 April - Police are attending a protest, which has halted logging operations in the Upper Derwent Valley.

Environmental group Still Wild Still Threatened says 10 people are protesting, with one conservationist in a tree-sit attached to logging machinery.

The group says four forestry machines are in the coupe in an area that has been World Heritage nominated.

Protester Miranda Gibson, who recently ended a 14-month tree sit in the Tyenna Valley, wants the Federal Government to halt the logging.

"This is a coupe that's been started within the last couple of weeks, so months after the area has actually been nominated as World Heritage by Tony Burke has this logging operation begun."

Melbourne: Mayor Doyle mobbed by protesters

4 April - More than 100 anti-capitalist protesters ambushed Lord Mayor Robert Doyle's car on Thursday night as he approached the National Gallery of Victoria to attend the 70th anniversary of the Institute of Public Affairs, a prominent right-wing think-tank. News Corporation boss Rupert Murdoch was keynote speaker at the dinner, attended by Liberal Party Leader Tony Abbott, Cardinal George Pell, Ten Network executive Russell Howcroft, News Corporation's Australian head, Kim Williams, and Australia's richest person, Gina Rinehart.

Doyle said the protesters had spotted his car as he pulled up to park outside the NGV and surrounded it, jumped on the roof, hit windows and hammered their heels against the windscreen. He said they were carrying signs that said things such as "eat the rich", and they had broken the signs into pieces and smashed the wood into his car. "They were chanting, 'whose streets our streets'."

"This wasn't just a protest, this was violent, hate-filled. I have never experienced anything like this in 25 years of public life," he said. "This was a mob that was out-of-control and violent. There was no way I was going to get out of the car into that mob."

The protesters reportedly let down his tyres and tried to wrench his car door open.

Police dragged protesters off the car to free Cr Doyle - who was trapped inside for at least five minutes.

"The police were terrific - I have the highest praise for them. They recognised what was going on and pulled people off the car and cleared a path for me."

"They let our tyres down and we had to go and get them re-inflated." Doyle said he returned to the gallery later to hear Rupert Murdoch's speech at the dinner. "I wasn't going to let some ugly mob stop me going to a function" He said Mr Murdoch's speech was "very interesting" and he praised the IPA's contribution to Australian intellectual life over the past 70 years.

Earlier, about 40 protesters forced their way into the venue, delaying the start of the event and forcing some of Australia's corporate elite to wait on the footpath.

A police spokeswoman said that protesters were pushed away from the venue and subsequently made their way to Federation Square.



Melbourne: ASIO-negative refugees begin mass hunger strike

9 April - At 2am, Monday morning (8 April), 28 ASIO-negative refugees (24 Sri Lankan, 2 Iranian and 2 Rohingya) began a hunger strike at the Melbourne Immigration Transit Accommodation (MITA) detention centre. They have gathered on the centres playground, hung banners and released a letter explaining their actions:



Letter from ASIO refugees 06/04/13



Message from the ASIO rejected refugees:

We are 29 people here at Melbourne Immigration Transit Accommodation (25 Tamils, 2 Burmese and 2 Iranian) and 56 people all over the Australian detention. We have been here for four years and more. We cannot tolerate it any longer. We need to be released to save our lives.

At 2 a.m. today (Monday, April 8, 2013) we began a hunger strike together. All 30 of us plan to keep doing this until there is solution, one way or the other.

We will gather together in the grounds of the detention centre and stay there until we get a solution. If the Australian Government does not release us, we ask that they kill us mercifully.

We have painted banners as part of our protest. There is one that shows many people hanging. That is what we want to happen to us if we are not released. There's no life here. People in here are jumping off roofs, they are going on hunger strikes, they are taking tablets, they are trying to hang themselves.....It is a cruel and inhumane environment for everyone.

We plead with you, the Australian people, to help us. We are on the edge of life and don't know how much longer we can stand it. We ask Prime Minister Gillard, Immigration Minister O'Connor, Attorney-General Mark Dreyfus, Opposition leader Abbott and ASIO director David Irvine to stop this torture of all of us..... of men, women and children, who have done nothing to warrant this cruel treatment that is destroying our minds. We ask the authorities: You say we are a threat to this nation. So if we are such people why have they now put women and children and families in here with us? We are willing to be released into the community under strict orders if they think we are threats, which we aren't. But whatever they want we will do. But we can't keep living like this. We are not in detention. We are in a cemetery.

We don't want to die. We left Sri Lanka, Burmese and Iran because we fear to die. We came to Australia to live, not die. But death would be better than the life we have.

Signed. All ASIO refugees-Australia.

10 April - The hunger strike comes after a series of self-harm and attempted suicides by ASIO negative refugees in Melbourne. These include a serious self harm incident by a Tamil refugee on 17 January, the third since Christmas 2012, and an attempted suicide on 15 November 2012.

Most of the ASIO negative refugees have been in detention over three years, some for over four years. Their sense of frustration has grown since their adverse ASIO assessment. Last year the High Court found that it was unlawful for the government to deny them protection visas because of an adverse ASIO assessment. Despite the court decision, successive Immigration Ministers have refused to act and they remain in indefinite detention.

A review of the ASIO security assessments has been initiated by retired judge Margaret Stone. She met with ASIO negative refugees in Melbourne on Wednesday 3 April and with those in Sydney on Friday 5 April. But the meetings only confirmed that the process could still take months and that Stone can only make a recommendation. ASIO and the Immigration Minister will still have the final say.

The ASIO negative refugees are denied the same appeal rights of an Australian citizen. "They are meant to receive a summary of ASIO's reasons for the adverse finding, but the statement is a joke. It is about seven lines long, simply asserting what ASIO 'believes'. There is no evidence provided for that 'belief'. It is an absolute denial of natural justice," said Ian Rintoul, spokesperson for the Refugee Action Coalition.

The Afghan and Rohingya refugees have not yet received their statement of reasons. "You can only imagine that ASIO officers are creatively working overtime, trying to make something up that could even vaguely justify its decisions. If there were substantial reasons to believe anyone was a threat to security, we would have heard about it long ago," said Rintoul. "The minister has the power to end the torment and the travesty of the indefinite detention of the ASIO negative refugees. The minister must use his discretionary power to immediately release the ASIO negative refugees."

Melbourne: Hunter strike solidarity actions

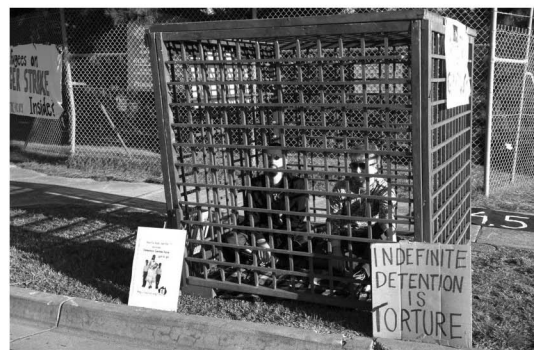
10 April - Refugee supporters are maintaining an ongoing vigil outside MITA (Broadmeadows Detention Centre.) We are here to support the 27 refugees on Hunger Strike. They are on day 6 and have expressed gratitude for the ongoing support and solidarity actions. Outside the detention centre there are daily discussions, workshops, barbecues, noise protests and vigils from 9pm.

All are welcome!

Melbourne: Hunger Strike has ended, struggle for release continues

17 April - Tonight 27 refugees at MITA decided to end their hunger strike. The group of men - consisting of 15 Tamils and 2 Burmese Rohingyas - had gone 10 days without food, and the first five days without water as well. Four had been intermittently hospitalised during this period. The hunger strike stopped after a meeting between Paris Aristotle, a representative from DIAC and the 27 refugees on hunger strike. As a result, the refugees will meet with a representative from DIAC this coming Friday.

The campaign for their release continues. There will be ongoing vigils and protests against the torture of indefinite detention, until all are released.



Sydney: Cars overturned after wild party

23 April - Officers clashed with youths after young people turned over cars and damaged fences as police broke up a wild party at Constitution Hill.

Superintendent Robert Redfern says he is outraged by the violence.

Officers were called to the home at about 8:00pm after several complaints by neighbours.

"There was about several hundred there by the time police arrived." Three teens were arrested, one was later released without charge.



Perth: Vandals deface Liberal Party boats billboard

23 April: Vandals defaced a Liberal Party billboard in Perth just hours after it was unveiled by Opposition Leader Tony Abbott.

The billboard claimed more than 600 "illegal" asylum seeker boats have arrived in Australia since the Labor Party won government.

The number has since been whited out and replaced with a zero.

Also spray-painted on the billboard were the words: "No crime to seek asylum."

The sign has subsequently been removed.



Melbourne: Squat party riot and real estate agent smashed

On the evening of Friday 26th of April, cops raided a solidarity party for anarchist prisoners at a squatted warehouse in Clifton Hill. Upon entry the pigs were immediately pelted with bottles and forced to retreat. However backup was called, and shortly afterwards the warehouse was surrounded by riot squad, regular cops, and dogs. The occupants were forced out of the building and on to the street where the cops were attacked a second time with bottles, rocks, and other projectiles while the party goers chanted "A.C.A.B!"

A police radio was stolen and used to taunt and verbally abuse the bastards. The cops responded with baton charges, pepper spray, and mauling people with their dogs. At this point the revellers disappeared into the night to party elsewhere. Many were heard to comment "best party ever!"

As a response to this police attack, and as an act of solidarity with this small rupture and an attempt to broaden its horizons we went to North Fitzroy and smashed up a real estate agent.

We also express our solidarity and warm regards to anarchist Felicity Ryder who is still on the run, and to Jock Palfreeman, antifascist prisoner in Bulgaria.



ACAB

- Corey Delaney Brigade



Syd: Alleged member of LulzSec hacking crew arrested

24 April - The 24-year-old IT worker was arrested in Sydney after he was linked to a recent cyber-attack against an Australian government agency.

The Australian Federal Police described the man as a member of LulzSec, the international hacking group – whose name derives from the term "laugh out loud" and "security" – which is an offshoot of 'Anonymous' and has been tied to attacks on the CIA, Sony Pictures, The Sun newspaper, and various police and government agencies around the world.

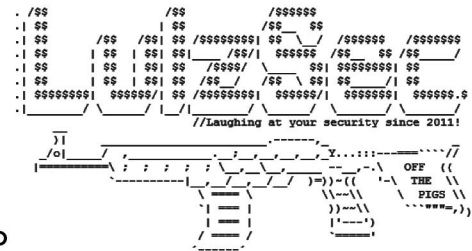
"This person known by the online identity OzShock had gained unauthorised access and caused data impairment to a government agency this month," said Commander Glen McEwan, from the AFP.

"This man is known to international law enforcement and police will allege he was in a position of trust in a company with access to information from clients including government agencies. This man's skill sets and access to this kind of information presented a considerable risk to Australian society." The man, from Gosford, north of Sydney, was charged with hacking and data modification offences and faces a maximum of 12 years in jail.

Police said the hacker used his laptop to attack a government website and created a "back door" which allowed him to remotely access the site.

Last year, an alleged leader of the group, Hector Monsegur, also known as Sabu, was reportedly found to be an FBI informant. The FBI arrested four people in New York and Chicago and said it was "chopping off the head of LulzSec".

Three British hackers pleaded guilty in April to a LulzSec attack on the News International, while another Briton linked to the group, Ryan Cleary, pleaded guilty in 2012 to attacks on the CIA and the Pentagon.



Perth: Arson causes \$1m damage

2 May - A deliberate fire has caused almost a million dollars worth of damage to a business in Henderson after a stolen bobcat bulldozer was used to smash into the premises.

Fire services were called to the electrical supply company on Zedora Turn at about 1am this morning, where they found the building ablaze. A truck with a bobcat on the back had been stolen from the nearby Naval Base and the bobcat had then been used to force the door open.

Police spokesman Gerry Cassidy said the Arson Squad was investigating and it was not known how many offenders were responsible or what had motivated the crime. Around \$600,000 worth of stock had been damaged in the fire, as well as \$200,000 worth of copper cabling as well as the building structure.

Melb: Cabbies clash with scabs, cops and security goons

3 May - Following a dispute over new working practices, hundreds of cabbies are boycotting Melbourne airport and have blockaded roads leading in and out of the complex.

Drivers say that airport authorities are exploiting underpaid drivers by its decision to stop short-fare queues. A spokesperson for the drivers said that "We work for two hours and get an \$8 fare, it's not fair. They treat us like slaves, like dogs".

Several meetings have been organised over the last few days to encourage more drivers to participate in the dispute.

Around 300 drivers occupied the pick-up/drop-off terminal, distributing literature to drivers still working, and to airport customers. Airport bosses have drafted in a large number of thugs from a private security firm to try and intimidate the driver's and to enable the scab cabs to continue working.

Following brief scuffles between the drivers, scabs, and security goons – airport bosses called the police – who sent the heavily armed 'incident response team'. Further clashes ensued as the police tried to remove drivers from the road and entrances. Further protests and blockades are being planned for the coming days.



Syd: How flexible are casual workers



6 May - Flexibility is popular with uni management – but for casual academics, it's code for employment insecurity. Yesterday a group of casual staff at Sydney University showed just how “flexible” they can be by taking part in a yoga picket outside a high-level executive meeting. Casuals are sick of being forced to bend over backwards in the name of “flexibility”.

While flexibility has become a popular buzzword in corporate management, from the worker’s perspective it is largely code for employment insecurity. University management uses the rhetoric of flexibility to shift the risk of fluctuating student numbers to staff. NTEU research published in 2012 found that since 1996, the use of casual workers to perform core teaching roles has increased by 81 per cent, with over half of all undergraduate teaching now done by casual academics.

Casuals provide flexibility to university managements because they are paid by the hour and can have their hours changed or cancelled at short notice. They are also cheap. They have no access to sick pay or holiday pay and they provide the university with massive cost savings by performing hours of unpaid labour. Casual academics are not paid extra for entering students’ marks into electronic databases, for dealing with plagiarism or for high levels of email correspondence and student consultations. In addition, one casual told us: “Last semester, the department changed our pay system. Now we have to process our own time-sheets, which can take up to an hour each fortnight.”

Casual workers are also under pressure to perform unpaid labour, such as delivering lectures or marking exams. This is not about gaining teaching experience; it is free labour.

The Casuals’ Network at USYD, like similar groups in universities around the country, is fighting back.

As workers, our strength and power in the employment relationship comes through collective action.

Love and solidarity on the picket line



14 May - Again and again and again, the police crashed into our picket lines with overwhelming force. Next to me my friends, people I had just met, and others who I didn’t even know, were shoved, trampled, choked, torn away and violently thrown to the ground. One student was punched in the head, another broke his leg, and another almost passed out after being placed in a headlock. Every time a car refused to respect our lines and tried to cross, the police would go on a rampage and attack us. Eventually, I lost count of how many times this happened.

At the time it all seemed Ok. We were getting attacked continually, but seemed to be holding our ground. Barely any cars at all were getting through. Often the cops couldn’t physically get us off the roads we were blocking, and when they did we managed to re-form our lines behind them almost immediately. I’ve never been much of a singer, but I sung picket songs with gusto that day. Then there were the people. I don’t think I can even find words to describe the sense of solidarity and camaraderie on the line that day. Those that I linked arms and fought the cops with were some of the most indefatigable, committed, militant and caring people I’ve ever met. The amount of compassion and support was astounding. Hugs flowed endlessly. Whenever someone was hurt*, people would rush over to care for them. At one point police started to drag me away and someone ran over and pulled me out of their grip. Others were just so utterly fearless in the face of the cops’ violence and intimidation that I feel like I’ll respect them forever. In many ways, the whole thing was amazing.

Be safe and take care of each other, so that we can be dangerous together

*One student had his leg broken and is currently awaiting surgery. Other students and staff have cracked ribs and one has a broken nose. Several students and staff were trampled and many others were shoved, grabbed, bruised or struck. One student who was strangled by an officer for an extended period, and had to seek medical attention.



National student protests on Budget day



On May 14 students mobilised in numbers not seen in years against the Gillard government's cuts to higher education. The national student strike was called by the National Union of Students (NUS) in response to the biggest cuts to university funding in 17 years.

The funding cuts amount to 2.8 billion dollars and include the restructuring of youth allowance, by scrapping semesterly start-up scholarships and offering loans instead, which will then have to be paid on HECS. This means that poorer students will actually be paying more HECS than rich students.

In Melbourne, 3,000 turned out to the State Library. Contingents from most of the major campuses bused in, or marched down to the library after holding morning speak-outs and rallies on their campus. The rally was angry and energetic as students marched from the library down Swanston Street to Federation Square.

In Perth, there were two rallies, one 700 strong at Curtin Uni and the other with 50 people at UWA.

In Sydney, the national student strike coincided with a strike called by the NTEU at Sydney University in response to ongoing attacks from the administration. Students began the day by helping the staff on the picket line. The administration allowed riot cops to attack the staff and students and left one man with a broken leg. Later in the day hundreds of workers and students marched through the city.

There were reasonable mobilisations, ranging from 150 to 300, in other states as well. At all of the rallies, the NTEU had a presence and gave support but the rallies were dominated by students.

The actions have been a step forward for the student struggle in Australia. Over the last few years, the state has largely corporatised all higher education and students now pay some of the highest tuition fees in the world. We've also seen the National union of Students in rapid decline through the conservative approach of the Labor party students who run it. The recent mobilisation, unthinkable a few months back show student radicalism is returning to campus.



Sydney: Students march against cops



24 May - The spirit of defiance and solidarity that marked the 14 May NTEU strike at Sydney University was recaptured on 23 May at a rally "For education quality, not police brutality".

Two weeks ago, NSW police violently attacked NTEU picket lines at the university, leaving behind a trail of injuries including a broken leg, cracked ribs and one student suffering from internal bleeding. But just as on the strike day, when we stood our ground and defended the picket lines, staff and students at Sydney Uni demonstrated that the thugs in the NSW police are not welcome on our campus. We will continue to fight.

The rally heard from a range of speakers including an NTEU militant who condemned the university's complicity in the police attacks. Earlier in the week, Vice-Chancellor Michael Spence sent a disgraceful letter to the Student Representative Council stating that the university "welcome"s the assistance of the NSW police on the picket lines.

Student speakers vowed to return to the picket lines in greater numbers and asserted that students will continue to show absolute solidarity and support to the staff in their campaign. Given the recent \$2.8 billion cuts, joint student and staff campaigning will be essential in the fight for quality higher education.

The rally marched loudly through the campus to Spence's office to deliver our message directly. Unfortunately, he wasn't in, but before the rally concluded, we left some parting messages on the outside of his office walls and door, including:

"Cops off campus!"

"All Vice-Chancellors Are Bastards"

"We're not backing down! Fuck you!"

Our quick political response allowed us to move freely to and from our target without the harassment of cop and security guard escorts.

Tara: Protesters clash with gas workers

May 22 - TARA residents have clashed with QGC's coal seam gas employees outside a work camp, with claims that car tyres were slashed and punches thrown.

The so-called 'Tara blockies' – people who live on rural residential blocks with few services – had blockaded gas workers from leaving their camp near Chinchilla, north west of Brisbane.

About 300 workers lost about three hours of work because of the blockade on Tuesday.

Protestor Dayne Pratzky said a worker took offence to being delayed and attempted to slash a protester's tyre and a scuffle broke out which was stopped by other workers.

Mr Pratzky said the worker was then ordered back on the bus and was jeered.

"We don't have a personal vendetta with any worker. Our actions are directed at QGC/BG Group.

"I wasn't shocked when the workers stepped in as most agree that we have not been treated fairly by QGC/BG Group"

Broome: Million-dollar arson spree

24 May - A series of deliberately lit fires caused extensive damage to three separate buildings in Broome overnight. One of the buildings housed a business in the light industrial area, one was a home under construction in Roebuck Estate and the third was a private residence in Old Broome.

The total damage is likely to exceed one million dollars and a 46-year-old man has been taken into custody.

Melbourne: Vandals deface statue with political slogans

10 June - Melbourne Lord Mayor Robert Doyle has lashed out at vandals of a colonial monument in Melbourne's CBD.

The Burke and Wills statue in City Square was found covered in political messages such as Occupy Melbourne, Free Bradley Manning and End the police state.

Commercial cleaners will attempt to remove the markings and it is hoped CCTV cameras may help identify the vandals.

Mayor Doyle has condemned the graffiti as a "mindless piece of vandalism."

"The people who do this sort of thing surely do more harm to their cause than good. This doesn't publicise these groups. What it does is say they're prepared to thumb their nose at the rest of us."

State Premier Denis Napthine has also condemned the vandalism, telling reporters that he believed the act was "absolutely disgraceful."

Halls Creek: Powerlines vandalism

27 Jun: Horizon Power's says it is alarmed about a spate of vandalism of its powerlines.

Twice in two weeks, the power has been cut in the Kimberley town of Halls Creek WA because people have deliberately thrown fencing wire onto the powerlines.

On both occasions, crews were eventually able to restore the power supply.

Company spokeswoman Tracey Armson says it is recording cases across the state of people throwing objects onto the wires.

Mackay: Police plead for high school vandalism clues

3 Jul: Police are appealing for information after a north Queensland school was vandalised overnight.

A police spokesman said that officers were called to Mackay State High School on Milton Street just after 11 pm and found a number of windows had been smashed but it didn't appear that anything had been stolen.

Sydney: Police attack USYD pickets



6 June - It didn't take long for the arrests to start at yesterday's strike. Barely an hour into the day's action, and an attack by massed riot police on the Carillon Avenue picket line had netted six people. No more than 45 minutes later, a further five were in police custody. Thus, within the space of two hours, the number of people arrested in the semester-long industrial dispute at the University of Sydney had tripled.

From the outset, the police were determined to make arrests. Cops on bicycles roamed around inside the university grabbing those that they could identify as activists. At the campus gates, the previous tactic of crashing into pickets and driving them off the road was abandoned in favour of dragging demonstrators into paddy wagons. Many observed police sharing photos of prominent organisers, several of whom were hit with bizarre and seemingly arbitrary charges throughout the day. One student, who had been consistently pummelled during previous strikes, was singled out for standing in the path of a bicycle for no more than a few seconds, arrested, thrown to the ground, then repeatedly stomped in the face. Others were charged whilst walking along footpaths outside university grounds. Another was arrested simply for swearing. With each action, the repression meted out by police has been steadily escalating.



The bravery of those standing on the pickets has been astounding. After the outrage following the 14 May strike, more students than ever, knowing by now full well what awaited them, flocked to the pickets to stand directly in the face of all-out police assaults. Furthermore, the strikes are clearly having an effect. Campus is now largely empty on strike days, and the university's management has backed down on a number of its demands upon staff. With each strike, the militancy of the pickets, along with the numbers prepared to take strong action, has also been growing. Many vehicles have been prevented from entering the campus and the economic loss caused by each strike has no doubt been great.



Denmark: USYD Strike Soli action



In the early hours of June 5 some anarchists re-decorated the facade of the Australian embassy in Copenhagen with messages of solidarity with the ongoing strike at Sydney University. Students and workers at USYD have faced off against the pigs of the NSW police force on numerous occasions since April this year, in an ongoing campaign against neoliberal restructuring of their uni.

We sprayed:

NO JUSTICE NO PEACE

CUT SPENCE STAB SCIPIONE

DROP ALL CHARGES AGAINST USYD STRIKERS

OCCUPY & RESIST!

A.C.A.B.

A.V.C.A.B.*

FUCK NSW POLICE

FOR THE SYDNEY UNI COMMUNE

Over the past two months NSW Riot Police have attacked and charged dozens of staff and students defending pickets and barricades of the USYD campus, some strikers have had their bones broken by the pigs. In response to these attacks, we suggest comrades in Sydney respond with fire. Any armed attack on Vice Chancellor Michael Spence, NSW Pig Commissioner Andrew Scipione and their riot thugs is justified self-defence.

From Sydney to Santiago, Stockholm to Istanbul the neoliberal paradigm is being met with increasingly fierce resistance. As the Gezi park rebels have just shown us, if we wish live outside the forces of gentrification and austerity we must collectively organise to reclaim territory from police, developers and administrators and abolish capitalism from our lives.

TAKSIM SQUARE IS EVERYWHERE

ALL COPS ARE BASTARDS

ALL VICE CHANCELLORS ARE BASTARDS*

COMMUNISE SYDNEY UNI

- Unicorn Strike Brigade



Sydney Council votes to evict Occupy site

26 June - Occupy Sydney are set to be booted out of Martin Place after nearly 18 months camping at the city's business precinct.

Sydney City Council has voted to send in the police to take down the camp, to return Martin Place to a condition that "makes it fully available to the public".

Protestors hissed and yelled "shame" at the councillors during the debate, with Lord Mayor Clover Moore threatening to shut the meeting down if protestors continued to interrupt speakers.

Occupy Sydney, part of the Occupy global movement against social injustice and corporate greed, has had a camp in Martin Place close to the Reserve Bank of Australia for over 18 months. It is only one of two remaining around-the-clock Occupy protests in the world, the other is in Hilo, Hawaii.

The motion to remove the site was proposed by Liberal councillor Chritine Forster.

"The site, which comprises structures where some protestors have been sleeping, has been an eyesore in one of the city's premier business and tourist precincts since October 2011," said Forster.

The City of Sydney has written to the Occupy Sydney protestors saying their site has been declared a public nuisance under the Local Government Act, due to alleged "risk to public health and safety, disruption to cleaning operations and alienation of the public space".

"Despite this, the City has done nothing to ensure the protest site is removed and Martin Place is cleaned up. It's time the law was enforced and Martin Place was reclaimed for the enjoyment of the residents and visitors in our beautiful city. It prevents other people from using that space," Ms Forster said.

Occupy Sydney residents say their site is Sydney's first and Australia's only known 24 hour 7 day Homeless Resource Centre' where they offer a free hot drink and usually a hearty soup to anyone at anytime.

Berlin: Australian Embassy Vandalised

On the evening of the 29th of June we took it upon ourselves to beautify a large eyesore called the Australian Embassy, in the alienated district of Mitte Berlin. This small gesture was taken in solidarity with comrades across the world, in the colonised region known as Sydney. Across its windows we painted:

VIVA OCCUPY SYDNEY
DEATH TO SYDNEY COUNCIL

On June 25 Sydney City Council voted for police to clear the encampment once and for all. The site is one of the longest lasting street occupations that sprung out of the global wave of 'occupy' protests in late 2011. The Occupy Sydney camp has been hit by dozens of police raids and evictions over the past 18 months and numerous comrades are still being dragged through the courts facing bullshit charges. We admire the determination of these militants whom have continually fought to maintain the site, with a permanent info table, library, freeshop and food service for the hungry and shelter for the homeless in the centre of Sydney's business and tourist precinct.

Over the past month in Berlin, inhabitants of the Kreuzberg district have occupied a public square in solidarity with the rebels of Taksim and against the gentrification of their neighbourhood. Over the past week in Santiago, rebel youth have occupied 30 schools which are to be the site of polling booths for the upcoming election. From Sao Paulo to Sydney politicians have failed to bring us world free from poverty and strife. The only hope for a better world lies in the collective occupation of public squares, parks, buildings and neighbourhoods, where we can directly manage our own lives through assemblies and communes.

From Mitte to Martin Place
We are everywhere

- The Public Nuisance Faction



Police brutality targets Aboriginals at Occupy Sydney Council eviction.

6 July - Colleen Fuller, a wheelchair bound Aboriginal woman and ISJA (Indigenous Social Justice Association) activist was brutally attacked by council workers and police as a result of the decision to evict Occupy Sydney.

On Friday at around 9am, two men in suits from the Sydney City Council arrived accompanied by many cops. Colleen was suddenly surrounded by the police while the men in suits pushed their way past her to grab another Occupy activist. One councilor grabbed the Aboriginal flag and threw it into the rubbish bin.

Colleen, who was attempting to leave, then called for other activists to help put the food and blankets in her car. She propped herself up in her wheelchair and went to pick the pots off the stove. At this point a police officer grabbed Colleen and knocked a pot of boiling water onto her feet.

The police blocked her path as she tried to leave and began twisting Colleen's her arms, before dragging her to the ground. The officers then twisted her arm behind her while they kneed her in the back, before asking her if she wanted to be arrested.

Colleen was later rushed to the Royal Prince Alfred Hospital. No charges were laid against her. She had received soft tissue damage to her back, right knee and right ankle.

The previous night Council rangers had fined Colleen who had come to deliver food to Occupy Sydney while other cars that were parked in the same area were not fined.

When the parking inspectors realised that Colleen was Aboriginal they specifically developed an interest in her car and then gave her the fine. Colleen is also currently fighting for the return of her stolen grandson by Department of Community Services.

One witness stated that "it was very clear this was not just an Occupy Sydney eviction of the homeless. This was an eviction of Aboriginal people. It was a racist attack from the (councillors) Christine Forester and Clover Moore."

Occupy Sydney continues to stand in solidarity with Colleen and all Aboriginal people. Occupy Sydney is defiantly reoccupying Martin Place to continuing the crime of feeding the homeless.*

*From July 4 onwards, NSW police unleashed a new wave of repression against the occupy sydney site, completely evicting the encampment every couple days, stealing all structures, food and blankets donated for Sydneys homeless. Nevertheless Occupy militants have continued to reclaim the territory and hold their ground against the constant police raids.



20 June - Occupy Sydney site



4 July - Occupy rebuilt following eviction



6 July - rebuilt again after 2nd eviction



10 July - rebuilt again after 3rd eviction

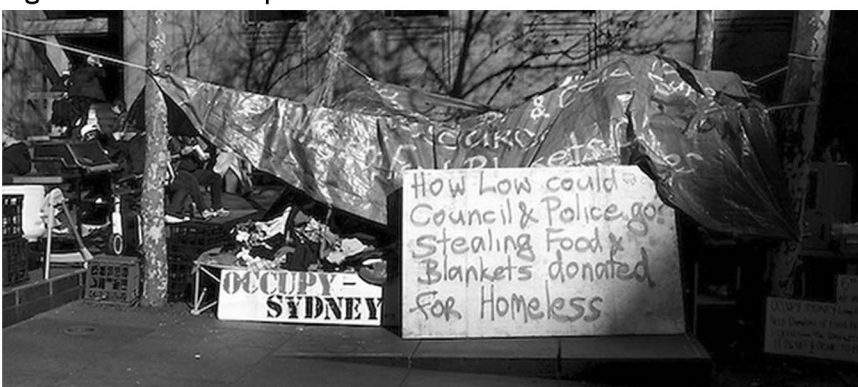


12 July - reconstructed after 4th eviction



17 July - reincarnated following 5th eviction

26 July - remade after 6 evictions in 20 days



PNG: Asylum seekers riot on Nauru

24 July – Numerous buildings have been torched as hundreds of asylum-seekers escaped detention during riots at an Australian refugee facility on Nauru, following the unveiling of a hardline new immigration policy.

The riots on Friday night, reportedly began as a protest over the slow processing of their claims before inmates took over the centre. The inmates reportedly gained access to a kitchen and armed themselves with knives and steel bars and began hurling rocks at guards and police. Most of the centre's 500 asylum-seekers then escaped and almost all the buildings were set alight.

Locals reported hearing up to eight explosions, before the flood lights outside the detention centre were smashed.

In the midst of the chaos an emergency text message was sent to every phone on Nauru, along with TV appeals by government officials calling for all women and children to stay indoors and for all fit men to head to the processing camp to be 'deputised' as Nauruan riot police were overwhelmed.

Hundreds of loyal citizens reportedly soon arrived at the detention centre armed with machetes and metal pipes, resulting in fierce clashes with rioters.

"There was lots of flying debris, flying objects, stones, anything that could be thrown by hand." said local resident Clint Deidenang.

Once the riot had been quelled, a bus carrying detention inmates away was reportedly attacked by many of the armed volunteers. More than eight asylum seekers later required medical treatment.

A spokeswoman for Australia's immigration department stated there had been "non-compliant behaviour" at the Nauru facility overnight involving about 150 detainees. "(Private contractor) Wilson Security and the Nauruan police were engaged and they assisted with a response to the incident," she told journalists.

According to local media reports, around around 300 of the 500 detainees were said to have escaped, 15 guards were injured and about 60 detainees were arrested.

The blaze reportedly destroyed all the accommodation blocks, medical facilities and company offices and caused damage worth an estimated (AU) \$60m, the immigration department reported.

A department spokesperson said that all detainee accommodation at the regional processing facility had been burned down and the centre's administration offices, medical facilities and dining room had also been destroyed.

Clint Deidenang described the scene as a "war zone-like wreckage of burned and twisted tin houses."

"Plastic water tanks near burned out buildings melted like butter. I can see one building with its entire roof caved in."

He estimating that 95% of the centre's buildings had been razed.

The department spokeswoman said that the remaining 420 asylum seekers have been transferred to tents at a second detention camp under construction on another part of the tiny island.



Immigration Minister Tony Burke is also threatening to refuse or cancel the visas of those found to be responsible, while Nauruan officials have claimed that nearly all of the 540 asylum seekers housed on the island were involved in the riot.

Nauru's resident magistrate says the asylum seekers being held over the mass riot have not yet been charged because their identity papers were destroyed by fire.

The Nauru centre is part of Canberra's punitive Pacific detention policy for asylum-seekers who travel to Australia by sea, with a second such facility on Papua New Guinea's Manus Island.

The programme was ramped up Friday with an announcement by Prime Minister Kevin Rudd, that Australia was effectively closed to any asylum-seekers arriving by boat.

All future 'boat people' will be banished to poverty stricken PNG, regardless of whether they are found to deserve a visa, under the hard-line new plan that Rudd hopes will boost his fortunes in the upcoming federal election.

The plan was condemned by refugee advocates while Opposition leader Tony Abbott welcomed it, but claimed it wouldn't work under Rudd.

Under the deal, those found to be refugees will be resettled permanently in Papua New Guinea, while those denied refugee status will be sent back to their own nations. Australia will expand the Manus Island centre from a capacity of 600 to 3,000. The centre has been criticised by the United Nations and aid groups, who say it is cramped, unhygienic and inhumane.

A number of protests in Australian cities were held on Saturday against the new asylum deal. In Sydney around 1,000 people rallied in the centre of the city and in Melbourne around 600 people were understood to have marched, with another rally held in Canberra. Events in Brisbane and Adelaide are planned this week.



Melbourne: Man doused himself with petrol in foyer of Immigration building

5 Aug: A man has been taken into custody after dousing himself with petrol in the foyer of the Department of Immigration and Citizenship. It is believed he was protesting the government department.

Witness Andrew, said he saw a translator trying to calm the man, just before a officer raised his weapon and fired on the man. "It looked like they used beans or rubber bullets to restrain him, because after that it was all over."

By 6pm the man was detained by police and transported to hospital.

Federal Election Resistance

Adelaide: Labor Party office vandalised

28 July - The Labor Party's central Adelaide office has been vandalised overnight with the message "Happy now, Kevin?" sprayed against the shopfront glass window.

The attacks comes in the wake of the latest Labour party coup, with Kevin Rudd usurping the position of prime minister only 6 week before the federal election.



Lismore: Vandals target office of Nationals' candidate Kevin Hogan

6 Aug - The Nationals' candidate for Page says he is not sure if the repeated vandalism of his Lismore campaign office is politically motivated.

Kevin Hogan says there have been four or five incidents since he opened the office just before Christmas. He says none of the neighbouring shopfronts have been attacked.

"We've had a window kicked in and we've also had some graffiti, and the latest one was defacing a photograph of me on the window," Mr Hogan said.

"I don't know if it's political... The concern about this is obviously it's a cost, it's insurance and it makes insurance premiums higher for everyone when you make these claims and the owner of the building, it's a cost for them as well."

"Maybe the CCTV cameras around that area work, I mean we think they do work which is why we want to put more out into the community, but this has been quite regular. There have been about four or five (instances) of damage to the property."



Melbourne: Vandalism attacks on MPs offices

30 Aug - A Labor and a Liberal MP have had their office windows smashed and daubed with asylum-seeker related graffiti in the latest spree of attacks on politicians' offices in Melbourne.

Labor speaker Anna Burke came to work this morning to find her office in Syndal in Melbourne's east spraypainted with the words "free the refugees". Large panes of glass on a wall shared with other offices in the block had been smashed.

In Bentleigh, in Melbourne's southeast, Coalition finance spokesman Andrew Robb's windows were also broken, with "let them in" and "no one is illegal" scrawled across the front of his office today.

Liberal MP for Kooyong Josh Frydenberg arrived at his office last weekend to find "racist polities will not be settled" scrawled across it, while Labor MP for Wills Kelvin Thomson has also had refugee-related graffiti and bricks thrown at his office in recent days.

Mr Robb condemned the attacks, telling reporters that politicians debated robustly with words in parliament, so people could avoid fighting in the streets.



WA: Juvenile inmates 'being singled out for harsher treatment' after riot

26 Aug - Solicitor claims several of her clients, temporarily being housed at Hakea adult prison, are being held under tough conditions

A number of juvenile inmates temporarily housed at Hakea adult prison in Western Australia are being singled out for harsher treatment because of their involvement in a January riot that saw their former detention centre partially destroyed, a solicitor representing a number of the children has claimed.

Anna Copeland, director of clinical legal programmes at Murdoch university in WA, claimed that a number of her clients - whom she visits regularly at Hakea - had been "singled out" for harsher conditions, including being shackled by their ankles and wrists when being transferred between Hakea and Banksia Hill, the centre where the riot occurred on 20 January, for court appearances.

She said two of her clients, who have been convicted for their involvement in the riots, were placed on "longer periods of lockdowns" when they were sent back to Banksia Hill for court appearances on a live video link-up. This meant they could not take part in activities with other boys while they were there. She added that she understood that the same treatment was being handed down to other boys in the centre who had also been charged with rioting.

She said that treating those who had rioted on 20 January differently to other detainees amounted to "continuing to punish them for what's happened".

"It seems to us there is a pervasive attitude of continuing to punish these young men, even though the proper processes through court have been dealt with, and their punishments given. Our question is: how much longer are the department for corrective services going to continue to punish them?"

Earlier in August the Inspector of Custodial Services, Neil Morgan, published a report examining the riots, which concluded that the event was "entirely predictable". Referring to the staff shortages and rolling lockdowns that preceded the riot, Morgan said: "Idle, bored children will invariably become frustrated and are very likely to act out their frustrations."

The allegations came on the same day that the department failed to meet its fourth deadline to transfer the child detainees housed in Hakea permanently back to facilities at Banksia Hill, with 107 juveniles, the majority of whom are Indigenous, remaining at the prison.

The department for corrective services said that a "return plan" had been implemented on 19 August but said that construction works aimed at making the site more secure had "been impacted by inclement weather and difficulties in sourcing steel in WA".

A "phased return" of juvenile inmates from Hakea is due to take place in the "coming weeks", with the department adding that the continued accommodation of juveniles at Hakea was "not ideal".

Rodney Dillon, Amnesty International's Indigenous rights campaigner, expressed frustration at the continued delays in returning the juveniles to Banksia. "Amnesty International is calling on the minister to commit to a date for having all the young people removed from the adult jail and given the rehabilitation and education programs they need in the appropriate juvenile centre," he said.

"It is particularly concerning that in the lead up to the riots at Banksia Hill, young people were being locked in their cells for as long as 23 hours a day and that remains an issue for the juveniles still in the adult jail.

"We would like to see the state with the worst record for jailing people, especially Aboriginal people, to commit to diversionary programs and education, rather than the tough justice that has seen kids and young people condemned to their cells in crowded and ill equipped facilities."

WA: juveniles trash prison again

30 August: Juvenile detainees have trashed their cells at Hakea Prison for adults in Perth.

A dozen teenage offenders were responsible for damage to 10 cells on Thursday night and have been moved to the management unit at Banksia Hill Detention Centre.

More than 70 juveniles were sent to Hakea Prison in January after nearly half the cells at Banksia Hill were trashed during a riot. There are currently 100 juveniles at Hakea and 60 at Banksia Hill.

Acting Corrective Services commissioner Heather Harker claimed that one boy caused a disturbance in his cell on Thursday, then encouraged others to damage their cells too.

She said youths in both units were involved in the rampage that lasted about three hours. Damage was caused to shower screens, toilets and sinks, and shelves were also ripped off walls.

Ms Harker said the offenders' behaviour would be closely monitored in the management unit until they could go back into the mainstream area of the detention centre.

Corrective Services Minister Joe Francis said he expected the youths to face charges.

Last month, five juvenile detainees destroyed sinks, toilets, shelves and mattresses at Hakea and a number of teen offenders also caused widespread damage to cells in June.

It has cost the state government more than \$3 million to repair and improve security at Banksia Hill.

Melbourne: Tecoma Eight face Supreme Court injunction

30 Aug - Eight Tecoma residents being sued by the fast-food giant have been named in Supreme court documents filed by McDonald's. The company successfully sought an injunction on July 18 to prevent protesters trespassing on the property and blockading trucks from getting in and out of the site.

McDonald's is suing the protesters for "wrongly interfering with McDonald's use and enjoyment of the McDonald's Land" and is demanding damages for delays to the construction of the controversial development.

The fast-food giant claimed it could not identify every person who had taken part in the protest and the Tecoma Eight were representative of the protest group.

McDonald's used social media, including Facebook, to identify the Tecoma Eight.

The case returned to the Supreme Court on Tuesday where Justice Emiliios Kyrrou flagged that the injunction would remain in place until a future hearing was held into the matter.

McDonald's has yet to file a statement of claim detailing the amount of damages they are seeking from the Tecoma Eight.

But in an affidavit filed with the court, McDonald's claimed that for each day the restaurant, which had been expected to open on November 15, was not operating the company was losing an estimated \$10,000 in sales and lost daily cash flow of between \$3000-\$4000

McDonald's Victorian development manager Ken Pryor said the restaurant had incurred "halted construction costs" of \$13,000 a week since work on the site stopped on July 3 when Construction, Forestry, Mining and Energy Union representatives removed workers, citing safety concerns.

Security guards at the site were costing McDonald's \$55,600 a week.

Demolition works on the site eventually began on August 6 after about 50 police surrounded the site and arrested a protester who had been on the roof of a building for more than a week.

Protesters have however refused to give up their fight and last week rallied on the steps of Parliament.

Justice Kyrrou agreed to extend the injunction against the protesters until September 20 when a further hearing would be held.

He said if anyone breached the order they could be charged with contempt of court.

PNG: Protests on Manus Island

2 Sept: Landowners on PNG's Manus Island are demanding hundreds of thousands of dollars in compensation from the Australian government or they will shut off water to the asylum seeker detention centre.

Local MP and vice minister for trade Ron Knight told AAP the landowners are demanding kina 231,000 (\$A108,000) in compensation for use of a dump site near Lombrum naval base, where Australia is currently housing about 500 asylum seekers.

The groups also want kina 21,000 (A\$9700) per month for continued use of the dump and another kina 60,000 (A\$28,000) per month to cover anchorage and waste management of Australian Navy ships.

The landowners on the weekend blocked the dump and a gravel pit being used by the Australian government and say they will shut down water if their demands are not met by Tuesday.

"That is the next step," Mr Knight told AAP. "This isn't going to be a protest. It's going to be a very, very quiet guerilla war."

Local journalist Nick Solomon reported that sewage is leaking out of the current centre onto a nearby road. "It's a major sewerage problem," he said.

He said rubbish is now being kept in containers on the base.

Mr Knight said he had been told about the sewerage leak, but had not seen it.

He said the Manus Island Chamber of Commerce is expected to meet on Monday to decide what position it wants to take on the facility.

"In 2001, we boycotted everything from Australia," Mr Knight said.

"No rooms at the hotel, no petrol at the bowsers. We made life hell. The same thing could happen again."

In mid July landowners told reporters that black flies attracted to the dump were eating some local sago crops. Sago is a staple in the PNG diet.

Immigration minister Tony Burke said at the time he was seeking advice on how to deal with the dump.

Landowner and local councillor George Lokowah said there was not enough work for Manus Islanders.

"We have engineering people who can work, but we have gotten nothing out of (the deal)," said Lokowah.

"So we tried to stop the gravel pit and the dump and we will try to block the area where (the facility) gets the water from."

The Australian government last week held a series of workshops in PNG to explain to local businesses what they can get out of the asylum seekers deal.

Australia is planning to build a 600 bed facility with room for 200 staff near a school in the Manus capital, Lorengau, as well as developing other sites inside Lombrum Naval Base.

Australia: Government won't help flotilla activists

28 Aug - Foreign minister Bob Carr has made it clear that Australia would entirely abandon the activists on the Freedom Flotilla protest boats if they are caught and tried by either Papua New Guinea or Indonesia for illegally entering their territory.

The flotilla, which has on board Australian Aboriginal and West Papuan protesters and intends to enter the contested Indonesian territory early next month, is travelling using indigenous Australian passports as well as visas from the self-declared independent state of West Papua. Neither is an internationally recognised document.

However, in a statement issued on Tuesday, indigenous activist Robbie Thorpe, on behalf of the Freedom Flotilla, reasserted the group's "sovereign authority to issue Original Nations Passports".

Mr Carr has sent a formal letter to the flotilla's organisers warning them that they face heavy penalties, including imprisonment, for breaching the immigration laws of two countries, and adding that they will get no consular assistance if they are in trouble.

"In a case like this where people have got every choice in the world and they are given an explicit warning by their government, we don't believe we're under any obligation, if they get into trouble, to have our diplomats spending whole days of their time seeing them in prison or making representations to the government of Indonesia or Papua New Guinea," Mr Carr said.

"I'm somewhat tired of seeing Australian taxpayers' money invested on a huge scale in support of people who are given warnings and then engage in high risk behaviour."

Flotilla organisers plan to land in West Papua in early September.

Asked about threats this week by the Indonesian military to move against the protest, Mr Carr said: "Indonesia will take what action it's entitled to take under its laws. It's Indonesian waters and Indonesian laws apply and we would not intervene."

A senior Indonesian minister has said he will deploy the country's navy and airforce against the flotilla of small vessels if they try to breach Indonesia's sovereignty.

Mr Thorpe said Aboriginal passports "represent a Global Safe Travel document". "Whose borders are these anyway? Why should we require the white man's documents to travel to West Papua? Our lands were once connected, our cultures entwined for thousands of years, we don't need authority from Australia or Indonesia to do as we have always done," he said.

Indonesian foreign minister Marty Natalegawa toned down his rhetoric on the subject, reassuring his country in the Indonesian language that Australia officially recognised West Papua as part of Indonesia.

The restive province has been the subject of a long-running, low-intensity insurgency by groups wanting freedom from Indonesia. More than 200,000 have been killed in the 50 years of occupation.

West Papua: Thousands Take to the Streets to Welcome the Flotilla



28 Aug - Organisers of the gathering in Manokwari estimated that 2500 people attended the event which included a public street march, music, dancing, prayers and speakers addressing the crowd, many wearing the West Papuan Morning Star flag, despite risking arrest or worse for doing so.

Banners included statements of support for the Freedom Flotilla with one showing images of Jacob Rumbiak and Uncle Kevin Buzzacott, and reading "The 7 Traditional Regions of Papuan Land Welcome and Support the Convoy for Peace and Justice"

The Freedom Flotilla also received confirmation of the second celebratory protest action in Fak Fak, West Papua in support the coming arrival of the Flotilla, where hundreds of supporters gathered under the name of the Festival of Peace and Justice for the West Papuan people.

Participants carried placards, posters and banners proclaiming, "Welcome to the Ambassadors of Freedom", "Melanesian Women's Solidarity Group Welcomes the Freedom Flotilla for Peace and Justice", "Republic of West Papua", and images including the Freedom Flotilla logo, Original Nations Passports and the Morning Star flag.



Melbourne: FAI cell claims arson



3 Sept - Last night for the first time in living memory but definitely not the last, the flames of anarchist insurrection*(1) roared high above the toxic skies of Melbourne, burning up years of local 'activist' inactivity in this city.

At approximately 7:30pm we gained entry into to Gran Turismo Autos, a luxury car dealership on Spencer St in inner-city West Melbourne via a poorly secured rear window and placed an improvised incendiary device with a pre-set timer under a desk in an office adjacent to the showroom, then fled the building via the same window.

As the target was in a high profile CBD location surrounded by surveillance cameras and many security patrols we had to get in and out of the very quickly. We had neither the time nor intention to leave any potentially incriminating slogans or communiques at the scene. The whole operation was completed in under 10 minutes and we were very careful in disguising our appearances in case CCTV footage were to be passed to media snitches by the Victorian Police Force.

*Editors notes: 1): Despite the authors' claims, we don't regard this action or any single attack by an individual or group as an act of 'insurrection'. Insurrection is far greater than mere fire and broken windows, it is a social rupture. An insurrection is a violent break with the rituals of normality and the reproduction of capitalist social relations. While we encourage acts of sabotage against state and capitalist targets, we feel there is a need to clarify and separate the notion of insurrection from isolated attacks on the social order.

2): IAF(FAI) / IRF: The Informal Anarchist Federation / International Revolutionary Front is a global network of anarchist groups and individuals focused on the practice of sabotage against the infrastructure of capitalism. The network was initiated by some Italian anarchists in 2003, though failed to spread far until 2010 when the CCF in Greece began promoting the FAI project. Over the past 4 years FAI attacks have taken place in various cities across East and West Europe, the Americas and South East Asia. In Indonesia two comrades recently spent almost two years in prison after being convicted for an arson attack on a bank which was claimed in solidarity with the struggle in West Papua.

The FAI cells communicate and coordinate their actions through communiques posted to various webpages such as 325.nostate.net.

While the network has been dismissed by anarcho-platformist groupings who favour above-ground organising, the FAI project has also been critiqued by pro insurrectionary anarchists who have criticised its tendency toward specialisation, self referentiality and focus on spectacular attacks over involvement in social struggle.

Once we had securely fled the scene and discarded our disguises we retreated to the rooftop of an inner city housing commission tower block to view the results of our handiwork.

We laughed as we watched the flames flickering in the night and the huge plume of black smoke rising into the sky, the scale of the fire exceeding even our own expectations.

No doubt this action will be condemned, not just by the authorities but also by members of Melbourne's 'activist' community, many of whom claim to be anarchists. We welcome condemnations from so-called 'anarchists' who shun direct action, and choose to participate in police chaperoned 'protests' and other useless activities.

We dedicate this action to the fugitive anarchist comrade Felicity Ryder, all cells of the Informal Anarchist Federation(2), incarcerated AntiSec hacker Jeremy Hammond(3), the imprisoned and fugitive comrades of the Conspiracy of the Cells of Fire(4) & Revolutionary Struggle(5), and to all imprisoned anarchists throughout the dying planet earth.

Last night's action is only the beginning of a new phase of insurgency never before seen on the occupied continent of Australia and we are hopeful that it will inspire similar actions not just in Melbourne, but all over Australia.

The era of useless activism is over. Let the fire and smoke of arson usher in the new era of insurrection and insurgency!

Felicity Ann Ryder Cell of the Informal Anarchist Federation / International Revolutionary Front

3) - Jeremy Hammond is an imprisoned anarchist-communist militant and hacker. In November 2013 he was given a 10 year prison sentence for dozens of cyber attacks against police, state and corporate targets claimed by the Antisec hacking crew.

'Antisec' began in June 2011 within the 'Anonymous' hacking community, and largely as a continuation of the 'Lulzsec' project which was then disintegrating due arrests. The hacker 'Sabu', an FBI informant was instrumental in the formation of the group, in what is now considered to have been a police trap.

4) - CCF are an individualist, nihilist organisation which began in Greece in 2008 and have since claimed credit for dozens of arson attacks against various state, capitalist and fascist targets. More than a dozen anarchists have since been arrested and accused of membership in the organisation. The Greek media and state have began using the CCF as an umbrella under which they claim all acts of anti authoritarian resistance falls under.

Many of the imprisoned comrades accused of membership are themselves very critical of the organisation.

In recent years anarchist groups in other countries have also claimed attacks using the CCF name and logo, some of which have promoted combative social anarchism, rather than the Greek CCF's nihilism.

5) - Revolutionary Struggle are a social anarchist organisation which took credit for major attacks on police stations, court houses and other centres of capital in Greece between 2003 and 2010.

On March 10 2010 Lambros Foundas, a member of the organisation was killed by cops in Athens during an attempt car heist. Following the murder, police raided numerous locations in Athens and arrested 5 anarchists 3 of whom took credit for participating in the organisation.

In June 2012, after all the accused had been released from pre-trial detention, Nikos Maziotis and Poula Roupa (who'd both admitted group membership) went underground with their baby son.

As of January 2014 they have not been found. We wish good luck to them.

Melbourne: Response to the agents of doubt

6 Sept - 'Anarchists claim responsibility for fire at luxury West Melbourne car dealership, but police have doubts' reads the headline of the Herald-Sun the day after our visit to Gran Turismo Autos.

Apparently 'investigators' do not believe that a 'mysterious anarchist group' were responsible, and the Herald-Scum, the de-facto mouthpiece of the Victorian Police force explicitly refused to name this 'mysterious group' or the website our claim was posted.

Well we very much doubt that the cops & Herald are being truthful. Why is it doubtful that a group of us would get together and strike out in the name of our fugitive comrade Felicity?

Apparently the knowledge that there are in fact active FAI / IRF cells in this country prepared to do something other than participate in pointless social activism and continue turning the cheek time after fucking time is just too dangerous to commit to print in their police propaganda rag?

Do the Victorian Police Force think that anarchists in Melbourne would not eventually reach the point when they are fed up of constant surveillance and brutality?

Do the media not understand the concept of solidarity? That if our comrades across the world are repressed that we will respond – not just with impotent stage-managed protests – but with direct action?

Do the cops in this bullshit country not understand that we are capable of striking again at any moment or at any time against any target of our choosing?

Do they realise how simple this action was? That it required a bare minimum of planning and only minutes to execute?

It does not take some kind of exceptional talent to cause severe damage to a building selling yuppie pollution enabling vehicles, all it takes is will.

Of course they realise – and this is why they claim to 'doubt' our communique – because they are frightened of these types of actions being replicated by other groups in other places in this city, and all over this continent – because they are impossible to predict.

So to all of the assembled authoritarian doubters we laugh in your faces and we'll leave you with one final message for now.

Do not doubt our ability to strike again – do not doubt our determination to spread anarchist insurrection in the city of Melbourne and do not doubt that we are part of an informal international network of anarchists of praxis that has finally reached the occupied territories of Australasia!

No More Useless Social Activism
No More Cowering From The Pigs!
No Retreat, Only Attack!!

For A Black International,

Felicity Ann Ryder Cell (FAI / IRF)



Melbourne: Vandalism on election eve

7 Sept - Labor MP Mike Symon has spent the early hours of election day sweeping up broken glass at his office in the Melbourne suburb of Mitcham.

Overnight his office was spray-painted with "free the refugees" and his windows were smashed in with a hammer.

The Liberal Member for Higgins, Kelly O'Dwyer, reported that both her Malvern electorate office and Hawksburn campaign headquarters were targeted by vandals.

She says windows were smashed and refugee related graffiti was scrawled on the offices

Ungovernables claim attacks

The current border policies of the ruling elite are cruel, oppressive, revanchist. Over the course of the election campaign we have vandalised the electorate offices of Kelvin Thomson, Martin Ferguson, Josh Frydenberg, Anna Bourke, Brendan O'Connor, Simon Crean, Mark Dreyfus, Kelly O'Dwyer, Mike Symon and Andrew Robb; they are complicit.

The politicians and bosses have driven wedges between us, trying to convince us there is an enemy in people from across the sea. The real enemy, of course, is those who seek to rule us. Our sisters and brothers, the 'boat people', have been asking for our solidarity for years. They have petitioned, protested, hunger-striking, self-harmed and suicided. But help has not come. The only rational response left is to riot.

We are privileged citizens in occupied land and we stand to benefit from this racist approach. But this won't do. We don't accept this reality and we never will. It doesn't matter who we are. What matters is that we resist. That we show resistance is possible.

It's the right – the only – way to act in such terrible times. In doing so we hope to inspire others to break the spell of passivity, together we can turn the world upside down.

We stand by the rioters, the 'boat people', the border-hoppers and 'illegals' in this land and throughout the world. We stand by them til all the prisons are ash and the borders finally broken.

Whoever is elected, we remain,

Ungovernable



Darwin: Anti-election actions

7 Sept - On Friday the 6th of September, as the farce of Australia's federal election came to a close, we decided to breathe some more fire into the mix.

50 + political posters with the names, faces and political parties who claim to want to "represent" us were collected throughout the night, and as we descended on a footbridge across Trower Rd we noticed some do-gooder activists had already visited.

With a banner reading "Don't vote for Abbott, preserve your lifestyle" being immediately removed, covered in petrol and blanketed in party posters we set the kindling ablaze and had 2 banners hanging over the road below it; "FUCK THE VOTE" and "FREEDOM NOW." They greeted the traffic and the authorities that arrived to deal with it. It was rather pretty when it all went up 5 metres off the ground across three lanes of traffic.

We will not vote at the ballot, we will vote with fire, we will not vote at the polls, but we'll do it with poles.

Much respect to all fire starters in Australia, we march forward with much inspiration. To all comrades imprisoned and on the run – eternal solidarity.

- Darwin Ninja League

Sydney: Police clash with protesters as Tony Abbott mobbed

7 Sept - NSW Police have clashed with protesters at a southern Sydney school, as Tony Abbott arrived to speak with voters. A journalist at the school reported that "a strong contingent of people were telling him to go back to the north shore".

He was mobbed by protesters screaming "Shame Abbott, shame", with his security detail forced to move in to push them back.

The melee happened outside Athelstane Public School, Arncliffe, in the southern Sydney seat of Barton.

Protesters rushed Mr Abbott with police scrambling to hold them back. Abbott attempted to ignore the mob surrounding him as they shouted "refugees are welcome, Abbott is not".

Just minutes after arriving, Mr Abbott was back in his car, with his security detail forcing protesters back so he could reach his car. Police had to then hold back the angry crowd so his car could drive off.



Intruder upstages Tony Abbott's victory speech in major security breach

7 Sep - The man who was tackled from the stage after Tony Abbott's victory speech is reportedly a serial pest with a history of gatecrashing private political events.

The man, Frogmonto Stokes, who identified himself as Twiggy Palmcock offered reporters jobs in the mine he said he would set up after he became the next MP for Greenway under the Coalition.

The stunt was a stunning breach of security as Stokes was able to gain access to the invite only event using a faked media wristband made out of candy wrappers. "I just walked through the front door with my yellow wrist band," he said later, claiming that security staff had been "very happy with the design of the tag".

After his speech, Abbott briefly stepped into the crowd, when Stokes approached him to ask for the Liberal Party nomination for Greenway in the next election. He stuck close and joined the family as they they mounted the stage.

Stokes shuffled backwards when security guards started reaching for his ankles, but he was then tackled by a number of guards and led away.

Denying he was a serial pest, he claimed he'd had a nice chat with Abbott, before accusing the media of being communist press.

Stokes later told reporters he was aiming to highlight "the increased coal activity and mining under an Abbott Government". "Coal extraction in Australia will be one of the greatest contributors to global climate change over the next century," he said. He also revealed his original intent was to disrupt the prime minister-elect's victory speech but couldn't get access to the stage through the media pack.

It's not the first time Stokes has disrupted an Abbott event. In November last year he interrupted Abbott by walking up to his lectern and heckling him during

a speech at the 'Securing the Future' conference at Melbourne Uni.

He also walked, unchallenged, into an invite-only Committee of Economic Development of Australia event at Melbourne's Hilton Hotel to disrupt an address by former energy minister Martin Ferguson. He was also part of a group of 13 anti-coal activists who locked themselves onto the pillars of the Victorian parliament building last year.

Stokes regularly uses his Palmcock persona to pose as a young mining executive carrying a clipboard proposing outlandish mining projects, such as a low-risk investment in a pit in the affluent Melbourne suburb of Toorak.

In a video of a previous stunts, he approached businessman Clive Palmer while he was having dinner with former foreign minister Alexander Downer.

Stokes also maintains a Palmcock Facebook page in which he claims to have sought asylum in Sri Lanka from the Rudd Government.

Recently the Palmcock character has been posing as a "Palmer United Separatist" candidate for the western Sydney seat of Greenway where the ill-fated Jaymes "Six-Point" Diaz's campaign imploded over the past five weeks.

His campaign slogans included: "More Borders for a Better Greenway! Keep the Latte Sippers out of Western Sydney! Put the Refugees down the Mines! Vote One Twiggy Palmcock for Greenway!"

The Twiggy Palmcock name comes from combining three of Australia's three biggest mining names: Andrew "Twiggy" Forrest of Fortescue, Clive Palmer, and Hancock Prospecting, Gina Rinehart's company.



Twiggy PALMCOCK 8 Point Plan



Brazil: Protesters, police clash outside Soccerroos match



8 Sept - Brazilian Independence day celebrations were overshadowed in dozens of cities by clashes between police and anti-government protesters.

Hundreds of masked demonstrators interrupted a military parade in Rio de Janeiro, while in the capital Brasilia, more than a thousand people attempted to disrupt a soccer match between Brazil and Australia.

There were more than 100 planned demonstrations across Brazil, with unions, students, anarchists and other groups participating.

Dozens of people were injured or arrested as police used tear gas and rubber bullets to scatter the protesters in numerous cities.

Outside the Mane Garrincha stadium in Brasilia, police engaged in fierce confrontations with protesters less than an hour before the Soccerroos match against Brazil.

A heavy police presence had surrounded the stadium with helicopters circling overhead in anticipation of demonstrations that kicked off at 4:15pm on Saturday.

Local media reported approximately 2000 heavily armed personnel were deployed along a 1 km radius outside the 70,000-capacity stadium, one of the venues for next year's World Cup, with dozens of mounted police patrolling the area.

Brazilians have been taking to the streets for months to protest police brutality, state corruption and the level of expenditure on new stadiums while public services like transport, health and education suffer.

Perth: Police car attacked with tomahawk and fire extinguisher

15 Sept - A police officer was treated in hospital for minor injuries after the windows of his police car were allegedly smashed with a tomahawk and he was sprayed with a fire extinguisher.

A 28-year-old Camillo man has been charged after the incident which came after police were called to a house on Midhurst Street in Camillo around 5.10pm.

As they arrived at the house, the man allegedly approached the police car armed with a tomahawk and fire extinguisher.

A police spokeswoman said that while a police officer was seated in the vehicle, the accused man then allegedly used the tomahawk to strike the car and smash two windows. He then allegedly sprayed the fire extinguisher directly at the officer.

Another police officer, who had escaped from the police car apprehended the suspect.

The police officer in the vehicle received minor cuts from the smashed window and minor injuries after allegedly being sprayed with the fire extinguisher. He was taken to Armadale Hospital.

The man has been charged with criminal damage, being armed to cause fear and with intent to do grievous bodily harm.

Queenscliff: Protesters break into Swan Island military base

25 Sept - Anti-war protesters have been arrested during an annual protest against the war in Afghanistan after breaking into the Swan Island military base in Queenscliff.

Fifteen protesters broke through a gate at the base, crossed the bridge and planted a tree, before being arrested by police.

Activist Sarah, said that "We just decided to take it up another step today...The Department of Defence doesn't want attention to be drawn to this island."

The protesters, calling themselves the Swan Island Peace Convergence, have regularly targeted the site on the Bellarine Peninsula, which is used for training Special Air Service and Australian Secret Intelligence Service officers.

Police say all 15 offenders will be questioned over trespassing.



Freedom Flotilla suspends plans to dock in West Papua

14 Sept - A boat carrying 30 Australian and West Papuan activists and Aboriginal elders is now returning to Australia. Organisers of the flotilla say they were forced to suspend their plans to dock in West Papua, after Indonesian military officials made threatening statements about navy interception.

They originally planned for a large welcoming ceremony in the Papuan port city Merauke, but the event was cancelled after local organisers had their homes surrounded by Indonesian police.

This repression forced the welcoming ceremony to take place in secret, with a small group of West Papuans.

While international attention was focused on the flotilla's one remaining vessel, The Pog, as it continued towards Indonesian waters, a small group of activists travelled to the to a remote beach off the south coast of Papua.

As well as raising international attention about the Indonesia's occupation of West Papua, the flotilla was also an important cultural meeting. Flotilla activists, including Aboriginal elder Kevin Buzzacott, presented water from the sacred springs of Lake Eyre and ashes from Aboriginal tent embassies.

John Wog, elder of the Marin tribe of Merauke, said: "In a sacred site near Merauke, I released a canoe to sail out to meet the Flotilla boat as a symbol of connecting the spirit of our ancestors.

"Thank God for Uncle Kevin Buzzacott, who already brought our ancestral spirit back to reconnect us with the land and hope for our struggle for independence."

Returning from the ceremony, Buzzacott said: "We came in peace, not like those other politicians who are coming selling arms to the Indonesian military, like the Americans who just last month sold them Apache attack choppers, those are to be used against West Papuans, and they know it."

"Our mission was to bring the sacred water and ashes as an offering of solidarity with the Indigenous people of West Papua, and to bring attention to their struggle, which against all odds we managed to achieve".

"We do think it's a major concern that action around flotilla have been shut down," spokesman Ruben Blake said.

"But what we're seeing is part of the continuing crack-down on what happens in everyday life in West Papua."



West Papua: Freedom Flotilla contacts have gone into hiding

18 Sep - West Papuans tell of anonymous late-night phone calls and visits from the Indonesian military

A group of West Papuans involved with the Freedom Flotilla say they are in hiding after receiving threats from the Indonesian military and police.

Yacob Mechrian Mandabayan, who was a key local contact for the flotilla in Merauke is now in hiding with five others and fears for his life.

"I need to inform you about the situation in Merauke – it is not safe," Mandabayan told Guardian Australia from an undisclosed location on Wednesday.

"I and my friends already evacuated and [we're] hiding in a safe place, but cannot stay long."

He said military and police intelligence officers had visited his home to ask about his involvement with the flotilla.

"The military threatened me," he said, adding that there was "ongoing surveillance around the house at night and during the day".

"They are trying to identify [whether] me and other cousins were involved directly with the flotilla or not."

He said they came to the house in person on Monday and said the border [with Papua New Guinea] was closed and they would do "sweeping" to find out who was involved in planning a welcoming ceremony for the flotilla.

Another West Papuan, who was also on board the boat that met with the flotilla, had received late-night phone calls from an anonymous caller threatening him and his family.

"Since then we have been on alert and it's just a matter of time [before] they find out about our involvement," Mandabayan said. "We've become refugees in our own country and we ask your help to expose our situation here."

Freedom Flotilla spokesperson Ronny Kareni, a West Papuan refugee living in Melbourne, told Guardian Australia that he held grave concerns that the local West Papuan participants would be targeted now that international attention around the flotilla had died down.

"My concern is that it's just a matter of time before they are identified and there are repercussions," he said.

"In Merauke, you can count the Indigenous people on one hand. There are not many of them, so they [the authorities] can identify people easily. The place where they are staying is under constant surveillance."

Kareni feared they would either be arrested or physically attacked if found. "If they don't find them it will be their families." he said.

Whian Whian: Police remove logging protesters

18 Sept – Police have reported that 12 anti-logging protesters were removed from a private property at Whian Whian on Monday. The property is being logged by the Forestry Corporation of NSW.

The protesters were at the site from 6.30am on Monday after they claim loggers breached an oral agreement between locals and loggers not to conduct felling until an Environmental Protection Authority assessment of the property was conducted.

North East Forestry Alliance member Dailan said the property, next to Nightcap National Park, is being logged so the State Government can meet its quota of supply to logging companies under Regional Forestry Agreements.

He was concerned Forestry Corporation contractors had not undertaken basic legal requirements to ensure koala habitat and other habitats were not being destroyed by logging.

Crescent Moon Protection Group's Sue James said police, the logging contractor and protesters came to an agreement on Friday that no felling would continue on Monday to allow the protesters a chance to engage the EPA.

"It can take up to two weeks for the EPA to conduct an emergency habitat assessment," Ms James said.

The following day one protester was arrested at the site.

Richmond Local Area Command Duty Officer Inspector Mick Dempsey said a 32-year-old Tamworth man was arrested this morning for trespassing.

"He was walking up towards the logging site," he said.

Insp Dempsey said this was the first arrest in relation to a small protest that began on Monday.

He said there were about six protesters near the Whian Whian Rd site this morning.

"Any encroachment on the private property is a trespassing offence."

Whian Whian: Logging machinery sabotaged at forest blockade

27 Sept - A bulldozer and excavator being used to harvest timber have been vandalised in Whian Whian overnight.

Protesters have staged demonstrations at the site for about two weeks.

The machinery is owned by a private contractor who had been commissioned by the Forestry Corporation of NSW to undertake the logging.

The contractor, Darryl Armfield said sand was poured into the motors, mufflers and air cleaners.

"One part of the hydraulics on one machine and both of them have had it stuffed down the mufflers and one's had it put in the air cleaners," Mr Armfield said.

There has also been external damage and Mr Armfield is now counting the damage bill.

"One's had the door kicked in to it and some radios stolen out of it as well, look it will probably be up around the 10 or 20 thousand dollar mark I would say at a minimum."

Mr Armfield said he was disappointed by the vandalism and claims he'll start camping by his machinery.

Mr Armfield has referred the matter to the police who he said was reviewing security footage.



Whian Whian: Police appeal for calm at logging blockade

28 Sep - Protesters are once again at the site of a logging operation near Lismore.

Yesterday police arrested a man who had climbed a tripod that was blocking an access trail on private property at Whian Whian.

Conservation groups say the area is home to a number of threatened species which are not being properly protected

Neighbour Patrick Tatum says logging vehicles rolled past his house early this morning.

"No doubt they're going to be held up by the blockade," he said.

"We are basically trying to hold them up as much as we can, but that's practically all we can do.

"Because the police, the EPA and the forestry corporation seem to (have) one objective in mind, and that is to remove these logs"

Police inspector Nicole Bruce is urging the protesters to behave responsibly.

"I'm all for lawful protesting... however, (problems occur) when people step outside of that lawful activity and place themselves in a position where they are arrested."

"And this gentleman was, he was arrested and given conditional bail not to return, and now will have to face court.

"He placed himself in quite a dangerous situation and it was a very difficult operation for police to try and get him down successfully without any injury

"It took resources away from the command when they were needed elsewhere."

Whian Whian: Logging resumed after arrests

4 Oct - Logging on private property at Whian Whian continued yesterday after two protesters were arrested on Wednesday. Police Inspector Wayne Crotty said two men were arrested on the property where the NSW Forestry Corporation had approved logging.

"A 44-year-old man from Bellingen and a 33-year-old man from Tasmania were arrested for remaining on enclosed lands," he said.

On Tuesday police from the Operational Support Group helped clear a barricade protesters had constructed to prevent seven logging trucks from carrying about 100 blackbutt logs from the site.

Logging resumed on Wednesday.

Protesters from the Crescent Moon Protection Group have staged action at the Whian Whian Rd site for the past two weeks, claiming environmentally sensitive areas were being logged.

Insp Crotty said it was unknown how long police would continue to maintain a presence at the site but they would remain as long as needed.

Whian Whian: Protesters assaulted following loggers death

A logger hit by a falling tree branch at Whian Whian on Wednesday has passed away, the Forestry Corporation has confirmed.

The man was injured when a dead branch fell from a tree during a logging operation struck him on the head.

The death has apparently escalated tension at the blockade of the operation as two protesters were allegedly assaulted by loggers near the logging site later that same night.

Inspector Wayne Crotty said police were investigating alleged assaults on two men camping near the entrance to the Whian Whian Rd logging site between 9pm and 11.40pm.

Insp Crotty said the 35-year-old man was taken to Lismore Base for treatment.

"About 11.30pm a protester was approached by an unknown person and allegedly punched in the face," he said.

Insp Crotty said the 22-year-old Dunoon man sustained a small cut near his right eye.

The 35 year old was reportedly asleep when he had his tent slashed before being dragged from the tent and assaulted..

A NSW Ambulance spokeswoman said paramedics were called to Whian Whian Rd at 9.15pm following reports a man had been injured.

"Paramedics treated a 40-year-old man for chest injuries and lacerations to his face," she said.



West Papuan activists land in Australia

25 Sep - A group of West Papuan independence activists arrived in Australia on September 24, defying the Australian government and potentially raising already high tensions between Australia and Indonesia over asylum seekers on the eve of Tony Abbott's visit to Jakarta.

Five men, one woman and a child became the first asylum-seekers to cross the Torres Strait from Papua New Guinea since the Prime Minister launched Operation Sovereign Borders on Wednesday last week.

A spokesman for Indonesian President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono said last night that Foreign Minister Julie Bishop had informed her counterpart Marty Natalegawa of the incident while they were in New York for the UN General Assembly.

"According to the information I have received, as illegal arrivals in Australia they will be dealt with by the same policy as other illegal arrivals," Teuku Faizasyah said.

Dr Faizasyah did not respond to a query about whether Indonesia would seek the return of the West Papuans.

The group reportedly eluded Indonesian police and military searches by travelling to Papua New Guinea by speedboat on Sunday, before crossing the Torres Strait on Monday night to Australia's Boigu Island, just 4km south of the PNG mainland.

A PNG villager from the impoverished Western Province delivered the family in his dinghy to the mangrove-lined Boigu Island, Australia's most northerly inhabited island, on Tuesday evening.

The group, many of whom have links with the Freedom Flotilla that travelled from Australia to near West Papuan waters, were taken to the local council chambers for the night.

Immigration and Customs officials from Thursday Island travelled to Boigu by helicopter on Wednesday and took the family into custody.

Under the Abbott government's Operation Sovereign Borders the group could be transferred to Nauru or Manus Island within 48 hours.

Immigration Minister Scott Morrison, who travelled to Port Moresby yesterday to meet PNG's Attorney-General Kerenga Kua, refused to comment, referring the matter to his weekly briefing.

The incident could have significant diplomatic repercussions for Australia's relationship with Indonesia, already under strain from the Coalition's policy to turn back asylum-seeker vessels.

The last time Australia provided temporary protection to West Papuan refugees, in 2006, a row with Jakarta erupted.

A friend of the group has told The Australian the West Papuans knew they were likely to end up in offshore detention but were "desperate" to avoid torture or death in Indonesia. The Melbourne-based West Papuan, who asked not to be named, said he had spoken to two people believed to be part of the group - Antonio Mahuze and Yacob Mandabayan - shortly before they are understood to have left by boat for Queensland on Monday night.

"I said, 'Do you know the risk you are taking, given refugees have been sent to Manus Island or Nauru?' " the friend said. "They were telling me it's better to seek protection than be hunted and intimidated or to be tortured or die in an Indonesian prison."

West Papua: Indonesian police detain activists

26 Sep - Four West Papuan community leaders were arrested on Wednesday the 18th of September, 2013 after sending a letter to the Biak police station informing them of a procession planned to welcome the sacred water and ashes delivered by the Freedom Flotilla, as well as to commemorate the 15th anniversary of the Biak Massacre. The four remain in custody and may be charged with treason.

The men were held in separate cells and interrogated without being given food from 9am Wednesday the 18th until midnight Thursday the 19th of September, 2013. They have been threatened with charges of treason, which carries a maximum sentence of life imprisonment.

Federated Republic of West Papua (FRWP) Deputy Prime Minister, Frans Kapisa and Minister of Defence, Elieser Awom attended the recent cultural exchange with the Freedom Flotilla in which they received the sacred water and ashes as part of a ceremony of symbolic reunification of the cultures and struggles of Indigenous Australians and West Papuan peoples. Kapisa and Awom intended to travel to Biak carrying the sacred offerings and the four men arrested were planning the welcoming on their arrival.

Flotilla Asylum Seekers Deported to PNG

27 Sep - A group of West Papuan independence activists has been flown to Papua New Guinea only days after arriving in Australian territory seeking asylum.

In an interview with Australian journalists, one of the asylum seekers says they were told by immigration officials they would be flown to the Australian mainland. But he says once they were on board the plane, they were told they were being flown to PNG instead.

Arakun: Police lock down community following riot

3 Oct - Fifteen men have been charged in the wake of a mob besieging the local police station in the far north Queensland Aboriginal community of Aurukun. The community on Cape York has been in lockdown for the past 3 days following the riot.

Police used a Taser on a man late on Monday afternoon, prompting a riot in the tiny community on the Cape York Peninsula.

Superintendent Brett Schafferius said police were called to the community's general store, where they attempted to arrest a man on public nuisance offences. It was there that the man allegedly resisted officers, punching one in the head.

"As a result of his behaviour a Taser was deployed," Superintendent Schafferius told journalists.

The settlement of about 1 000 people erupted after the incident, with a large number of people forcing officers to retreat to the police station compound.

Locals allegedly threw rocks at the compound, smashing the windows of police vehicles and three police houses.

No one was injured in the melee, but police have called in reinforcements from Cairns and Thursday Island.

A 33-year-old man has been charged with serious assault, assaulting police, obstructing police and causing a public nuisance.

He is expected to reappear at the Cairns Magistrates Court on Thursday.

A further twelve men and two teenage boys have been charged with a range of offences, including rioting while armed, wilful damage of police property, serious assault of police while armed, wilful damage and for entering premises and committing an indictable offence by breaking and entering.

At least seven of the men have been flown to Cairns and remanded in custody to face court at a later date. Superintendent Schafferius said indigenous elders were working with police to keep the peace following what he described as a "spontaneous flare-up".

"We'll be taking up with the council and elders in the community to discuss what's happened, and to see if there's ways that we can both work together to make sure it doesn't happen again."

Aurukun mayor Dereck Walpo was out of town and could not comment on the incident on Tuesday.

"I've been given mixed messages ... I've had a lot of people calling me," he said.

Aurukun was rocked by a riot involving up to 200 people in March this year when shots were fired and officers had to call in community elders to help calm residents.

In 2007, a riot in the community led to an attack on the police station and police vehicles. The riot was the subject of a major investigation after an officer fired a registered rifle at rioters.

The remote community, located about 800 kilometres north-west of Cairns on the western side of Cape York, is cut off by road during the lengthy wet season.



Perth: Vandals spray graffiti on war memorial

1 Oct: Police are searching for vandals who sprayed graffiti on the Joondalup war memorial.

The Police believe the memorial in Central Park on Grand Boulevard was defaced sometime between September 25 and 26.

The memorial was also targeted two years ago.

The City of Joondalup recently received a \$300,000 Federal Government grant which it says will be used to install security cameras and enhanced lighting in the area surrounding the memorial.

Gawler: Laser pointed at police helicopter

1 Oct - Police say a South Australian man who allegedly pointed a laser at a police helicopter endangered the safety of the aircraft.

Police were using the helicopter to search an area in the Gawler suburb of Evanston, north of Adelaide, for a driver wanted for traffic offences when a laser was pointed in the direction of the helicopter.

Police went to the address where the laser was coming from and reported a 28-year-old local man for endangering safety of an aircraft and possessing a prohibited weapon.

He was summonsed to appear in the Elizabeth Magistrates Court at a later date

Halls Creek: Vandals use clothes hangers to sabotage powerlines

2 Oct - Vandals wielding clothes hangers have caused three more power outages in Halls Creek WA.

The electricity supply was cut to more than 280 properties on Saturday night and again in the early hours of Sunday.

Police called to the scene found evidence of youths hurling clothes hangers onto powerlines.

Horizon Power's East Kimberley spokeswoman, Karen Ackland, says the disruptions are a major inconvenience.

The matter has been referred to local police.

Melbourne: house party ends in riot

5 Oct - Police have been pelted with bottles and fireworks during a riot after a massive party called "mayhem" in an unoccupied Melbourne home.

Up to 400 teenagers clashed with police after partygoers set off fireworks outside the Glen Waverley house. About 700 people had been invited to the party, according to a group of youths who returned to the house on Saturday.

"They called it mayhem," one teenager said of the Facebook invite.

"It's also written inside on the walls."

The youths, who didn't provide their full names, say there may be "mayhem round two".

Police officers that were first on the scene had to wait for back up to deal with a massive crowd throwing bottles and fireworks at them.

A police spokeswoman says 70 officers had to be called in to shut the party down, but not before rampaging youths jumped on the bonnet and roof of two police cars.

The youths damaged fences and a house under construction in the street during the melee, she said.

Some cars were also damaged as riot police pushed the youths up the street to get them to leave.

No one has lived in the house for about three years and it is set to be demolished.

Party organisers even cleaned up the rundown property in preparation for the party and had the power turned back on, neighbours said.

"They knew that the house was being demolished so it didn't matter how much damage was going to be done," the woman said.

Sydney: Two female prisoners remain at large

5 Oct - Two of four women who escaped from a Sydney correctional facility last month have been arrested. But police say the other two are still at large.

The four women were last seen at Bolwarra Transitional Centre at Emu Plains in the afternoon of September 14 but weren't reported missing until that evening.

The centre is a residential facility for female offenders nearing the end of their sentences who are approved for day leave.

Police said the four women were sentenced for a combination of drug, property, driving, fraud, robbery and assault offences.

After weeks at large, two of the women appeared in Moree Local Court on Saturday.

The pair were arrested on Friday by highway patrol officers who pulled over a stolen car on the Gwydir Highway in northern NSW.

The 30-year-old driver and her 40-year-old passenger were charged with escape lawful custody.

The 30-year-old woman was also charged with low range PCA and driving while unlicensed, police said.

The pair are due to reappear in Moree Local Court via video link on Tuesday, police said.

The two other women Deanne Daley, 20, and Jade Nykolyn, 30, are still missing.

Melbourne: Teens charged after police helicopter targeted with laser pointers

6 Oct - Police have issued a warning about the dangers of laser pointers after a police helicopter was allegedly targeted in Melbourne's north last night.

Three men, all in their late teens, are accused of shining the laser from a moving car about 10:00pm AEST.

Officers in the helicopter helped track the car and the men were arrested in Lindsey Street in Coburg.

The men are expected to face charges of interfering with an aircraft, conduct endangering life and possessing a prohibited weapon.

Sergeant Greg Johnson says people do not realise how dangerous laser pointers can be.

"Certainly, [when they are] used towards aircraft or other road users they're potentially blinding," he said.

"Some of these things are incredibly strong and they can have potentially fatal consequences."

Melbourne: Police hunt memorial graffiti vandal

7 Oct - Police are trying to find a vandal who drew graffiti on the Victoria Police memorial in Melbourne.

They say a black marker pen was used to deface the second pillar of the memorial in St Kilda Road.

The memorial commemorates those who lost their lives while working for Victoria Police.

It is believed the damage occurred sometime between Friday night and Sunday afternoon.

Darwin: Fives teens charged over crime spree

24 Oct - Police have charged five teenagers in Darwin with 52 property offences after they allegedly went on a crime spree worth almost \$200,000.

Two 14-year-old girls, two 13-year-old boys and a 15-year-old boy were allegedly involved in a \$196,000 property crime spree over the weekend, police say.

The kids stole two cars, including a BMW, a quantity of cash, alcohol, telephones and electronic devices, according to police.

Police reportedly arrested the teens hiding in residences in the Darwin suburbs of Gray and Wulagi.

The five were charged with a slew of offences including 17 counts of stealing, 12 counts of aggravated unlawfully entry, nine counts of unlawfully using a motor vehicle, and five counts of property damage, along with a number of traffic related offences.

"It is quite concerning for us to have groups of kids running around at night stealing cars," Detective Senior Sergeant Mark Stringer said in a statement on Thursday.

"It is surprising they have not injured themselves or others with this type of irresponsible behaviour."

The five youths have been remanded in custody.

Melbourne: Clash at East West Link site

7 Oct - East West Link protesters have accused police of using "excessive force" to break up their community picket this morning.

But police at the scene have denied the claims, saying a small group of protesters became physical and confrontational with officers.

Protester Anthony said about 50 protesters had gathered at the corner of Princes St and Station St in North Carlton from 6.30am today.

About 30 police officers were also at the scene, Anthony said, and they helped two workers into a cage to commence test-drilling as a truck drove through and disrupted the picket.

"The picket got back into place very quickly but police were able to overpower people," he said.

"The police used excessive force on the people they're dealing with, mums and dads, even some elderly people."

But Inspector Peter Ward said "police used force that was very reasonable".

He said a group of protesters "decided to be very confrontational... They were aggressive and started to push and shove the police line".

Lifelong resident Keith criticised the police after he was knocked to the ground, hitting his head on the pavement during the protest.

The 70-year-old, whose Collingwood home is in the firing line of the East West Link tunnel project and has been compulsorily acquired by the State Government, suffered a graze to his head and bruised ribs.

"They seem to be getting more and more forceful each day," he said, resting back at his home. "I was lucky enough to get my legs against the tray of the truck that arrived, otherwise I would've been crushed."

But he said he would not be deterred from returning to the picket line tomorrow.

"I'll be there every day, every week, every month,

"I'm 70 years of age and I've lived in this house for 69 years. But it's more than just my house, I'm fighting for public transport, heritage, schools and our community." Keith urged the government to scrap the \$8 billion-plus road project.

"It's just going to be one hell of a mess," he said.

Anthony said protesters were "very determined in their actions" and would "staunchly hold their ground".

"These are local people defending their neighbourhood," he said.

"We are going to continue this type of action every day until the protest is scrapped."

He said the Napthine Government faced "a very expensive exercise" to dismantle the community picket.



Melbourne: East-west link protesters blockade John Holland office

15 Oct - East-west link tunnel protesters have blockaded three entrances of building giant John Holland's Collingwood office as the group takes on the private sector in its fight against the project.

Bike chains were placed around gates at the entrance on Tuesday morning and protesters linked arms, preventing workers from entering the office and car park. Police told protesters the chains would be cut.

About 40 protesters were at the office in Trenerry Crescent, protest by 7.30am.

We will be here as long as it takes. Police will have to get more reinforcements if they want us to move." protester, Anthony said.

He further stated that John Holland Group had made itself the group's first target by its involvement in preliminary stages of the east-west tunnel project.

"This project is only about corrupt greed and not the public," he said.

Protesters chanted: "No tunnels, no way, we are going to fight this all the way."

There were angry scenes when police attacked the picket to get attempt to herd dozens of workers through the front gates. An ambulance was also called to the office after a female protester was shoved to the ground by police, slamming her head first into a parked car.

Ambulance Victoria spokesman Rob Clancy said the female protester, aged in her 20s, was taken to St Vincent's Hospital.

A photo tweeted by a fellow demonstrator later showed her lying in a hospital bed in a neck brace.

Another protester, Ben, said he was punched in the head by police. "When we saw the cops trying to get through we linked arms, strongly, and the police were pushing behind us and one punched me in the back of the head," he said.

Earlier at the rear stairs of the John Holland building, workers with police tried to push through protesters, but a protester named Mel said they backed away when media photographers arrived.

Workers eventually made it inside the building and police formed a line at the front gate.

Inspector Edwards said police tried to convey dozens of workers through the front door by forming a line and a safe cordon away from protesters as police broke the community picket line.

He said protesters confronted the workers and police, "(The protesters) tried to force their way in through the police line" Insp Edwards said. Police eventually managed to herd John Holland workers through the rear of the building.

"What we saw was police playing the role of security guards for this company ... that has embroiled itself in this project." said Anthony later. He said that John Holland, which specialises in construction contracting for road projects in Australia, New Zealand, Asia and the Middle East, had been chosen by protesters because it was bidding for involvement in the project.

Other private companies putting their hands up for a role in the road development would also be targeted in the coming weeks, Mr Main said. "This is a dispute between the state government and a community that does not want this road... Any private company that wants to involve themselves in this dispute can consider themselves a target. This is not about moral outrage, this is about hitting these companies where they hurt."

He said the strong police presence had not deterred protesters from targeting further "corporate giants" involved in the controversial road development.

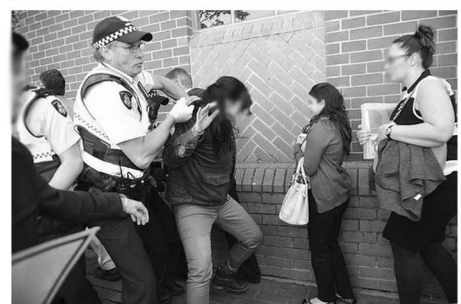
"We're putting any company that wants to be involved in this project on notice," he said.

Stephen Jolly said project management and construction company Lend Lease was also in the firing line.

"(These) two companies have been short-listed for a role in the East West project," Mr Jolly said.

"This is part of a consistent campaign by local residents to target any company which attempts to buy into this road".

Protesters claimed to have forced a premature end to work at test drilling sites with a series of pickets and stoushes across Melbourne this month.



Melbourne: Ultraconservative rally attacked

12 Oct - A christian fundamentalist rally turned into a violent confrontation in the city, as the protesters clashed with feminist, pro-choice activists.

Around 2000 people turned out for the annual 'March for the Babies' in Melbourne's Treasury Gardens, but as the group walked through the city, they were confronted by hundreds of counter protesters resulting in taunts then punches thrown between demonstrators.

As far back as 1997, feminist counter-protesters have set out to sabotage the far-right rally and the accompanying '40 days for life festival'.

This year, the christians only made it three city blocks before they were blocked by a large pro-choice contingent at Federation Square. Other pro-choice activists pushed their way through the christian flock, reportedly clashing with some far-right activists and tearing their propaganda.

One of the rally organisers, Victorian MP Bernie Finn, claimed to journalists that he was "belted in the head" and pelted with eggs, and that fellow right-wing MP Andrew Elsbury was thrown to the ground and kicked.

"What we saw today was literally a public mugging on the streets of Melbourne". Finn fumed. "We had people being assaulted, being kicked, being stomped on."

American fundamentalist preacher, Bryan Kemper claimed to be bruised and sore after a large group of feminist counter protesters attacked him and his congregation of ultraconservative activists.

Kemper, the founder of Stand True Ministries, claimed that he was thrown to the ground and repeatedly kicked, and that several members of his sect were also roughed up.

He tweeted from the demonstration: "Right now in Australia the March for Life is going on and the pro-lifers are being attacked by thousands of pro-aborts. Near riot situation we are being attacked as we march. Prayers please. Very bad. I've been hit many times already. They are surrounding us. This is the craziest thing ever. Over a thousand. This is scary."

Finn and Kemper decided to kneel down and pray, while the 14 front-line riot police formed a barrier to keep the protesters back. Both sides continued the standoff for more than 90 minutes, which resulted in traffic gridlock through the Melbourne CBD.

When the christian demonstrators finally reached their destination, they found their stage was already occupied by counter protesters. The occupiers eventually relinquished the stage once the puritanical propaganda had been torn down.

"Got bad again. They took over our stage. Ripped down banners", Kemper tweeted from the rally.

Feminist activist Liz, said the counter-rally was arranged to highlight how important it is for women to have the right to choose: "There was a scuffle and part of that was standing our ground and not wanting to be intimidated by people who want to shame women for having control over their own reproductive lives".

On the night before the march, Kemper was delivering a speech to the Youth for Life dinner. A group of womens rights activists burst into the room chanting and whistling. Kemper later reported: "Must be doing something right as my third talk in Melbourne to youth was invaded by pro-abortion activists again. This time they blew air horns and whistles in my ear as I tried to talk with them. Two of them started to converse with me until the police showed up and they ran."

Womens rights activists also undermined the fundamentalists scheme to send volunteers to heckle women at reproductory health clinics throught the month. Advice on a webpage titled 'Disrupt the 40 Days for Life' stated: "Sign Up to the Schedule. Fill Their Rosters. Every spot taken will mean one of their volunteers will NOT be at the clinic to harass women. Every spot taken is a victory for choice and for the health of women"



Kyrgyzstan: crowd attacks Australian gold mining office

18 Oct - On Friday, a crowd of about 200 people attacked the local office of Z-Explorer, an Australian company developing a gold field in southern Kyrgyzstan, in what appeared to be another violent conflict over the privatisation of the country's resources.

A subsidiary of Australian-listed Manas Resources, Z-Explorer discovered the Shambesai deposit in 2008 and in 2012 it received a licence to develop the field, which holds estimated gold reserves of 8.8 tonnes. A bulldozer on its way to the deposit on Friday was met by an angry crowd, Jyldyz Akmatova, public affairs officer for Z-Explorer, said from the Kyrgyz capital Bishkek.

The swelling crowd later moved to the company's office in a nearby village and ransacked it, looting computers and other equipment, and burning seized documents, she said. "They said they feared that our works could damage the environment and harm water supplies and their orchards," Akmatova said.

The local police confirmed the incident had taken place, but none of the protesters or the government could be reached for comment.

Violent riots over the Kumtor gold mine in the Tien Shan mountains flared up last week when protesters in the northern town of Karakol took the local governor hostage and threatened to burn him alive.

Police were later able to free the official.

Sydney: Residents rally against coal seam gas mining

28 Oct - More than a 100 residents, including many from Blacktown and Parramatta, were involved in a noisy anti-coal seam gas mining protest at a national gas conference in Sydney last week.

They are members of 10 anti-CSG community groups who assembled in front of Sydney Harbour Marriott Hotel at Circular Quay, where the East Coast Gas Conference was held.

The conference was addressed by NSW and Qld energy ministers and various mining industry representatives, who discussed plans for large scale expansion of coal seam gas extraction.

Melinda from CSG Free Western Sydney said it was not acceptable for gas companies to mine across precious water resources, food-producing areas and communities.

"It is not acceptable for our water to be contaminated by a cocktail of mining chemicals for monetary gain while ignoring the science and the impacts," she said.

'We can't let everything that makes Australia special be lost in the destructive practice of fracking and coal seam gas mining.

"If we don't stop the madness of fracking and coal seam gas mining, our clean, uncontaminated water supply will be just a story our children tell their grandchildren about."

A conference spokesman said the event was about understanding the implications of wider economic pressures on the gas industry.

Minister Chris Hartcher recently called for a co-ordinated effort by NSW and federal governments to streamline planning and environmental approval processes.

At the conference, the federal industry minister Ian Macfarlane likened critics of mines in the Hunter and other coalmining regions to people who move near airports "then start complaining about aircraft noise".

He pledged federal support for the sector in NSW that he described as beleaguered in the wake of federal Labor's carbon and mining taxes, job losses, and "increasing campaigns being run against the resources industry".



Melbourne: MP attacks protester



15 Oct- Victorian MP Geoff Shaw has allegedly assaulted a protester outside parliament.

Witnesses say the Frankston MP assaulted an elderly man who, along with dozens of taxi drivers and supporters, was picketing parliament in protest against proposed changes to taxi registrations.

Video footage was taken of the brawl between Mr Shaw and protesters from the taxi industry. The footage shows an elderly standing in front of Mr Shaw being roughly pushed to the ground, before Mr Shaw stepped over the man and continued walking into parliament.

Witness Natalia said "I just saw Geoff Shaw push an elderly gentleman, 80 years old man who was hurt," "It was a push. The elderly gentleman, he's got blood on his face as a result of Geoff Shaw's actions." she told reporters.

While Mr Shaw later claimed to journalists that he was the one to have been attacked. "As I entered the building I was initially heckled, yelled at, spat upon and hit by a large group of protestors."

When questioned about the incident, Victorian parliamentary speaker Ken Smith showed no concern for the injured protester, rather he said he was worried for the safety of politicians, like himself, entering parliament.

Mr Smith said protesters had no right to touch MPs on their way into parliament.

"Members can't be impeded and it sets a very dangerous precedent," he said.

Mr Smith said that MPs need a safe workplace and the issue of a dedicated entrance to the parliament building just for MPs needed consideration.

"If we can't get members safely in and out of the building when they are going about their proper business, or indeed staff, then we may well have to look at a separate entrance."

"The reality is, there are consequences for these sorts of incidents and inevitably our responsibility as presiding officers, the speaker myself, is the safety of members and staff. That's first and foremost."

Mr Smith stated that it is a contempt of parliament to interfere with an MP entering the building.

Wollongong: Miners strike over unpaid wages

15 Oct - Hundreds of mine workers walked off the job on Wednesday at Gujarat NRE Coking Coal mines in Russell Vale and Wongawilli on the New South Wales south coast over the non-payment of wages. Around 500 workers have not been paid for a month and are collectively owed millions of dollars in wages and other benefits.

Despite the takeover this month of Gujarat NRE operations by Indian mining giant Jindal Steel & Power and the injection \$150 million, the company has still not guaranteed to pay the outstanding wages. Within hours of the walkout the new management agreed to pay just one week's wages.

Tasmania: nurses begin strike action

17 Oct- Public hospital nurses in the island state of Tasmania have started imposing bans and limitations in a dispute over a new workplace agreement. The Nursing and Midwifery Federation has accepted a 2 percent wage rise offer for the next 12 months by the Labor-Greens state government but other issues remain in dispute.

The nurses want recruitment of more grade-four nurses to fill senior positions and administration to stop using junior grade nurses to manage wards after hours and on weekends.

Union meetings to plan action have been held at hospitals in Launceston, Devonport and Burnie. Nurses plan to take all meal breaks and will claim for all overtime. The meetings also considered nurses refusing to perform any work that falls outside of normal nursing duties.

Syd: Firefighters protest at by-election

19 Oct - Unionised firefighters are protesting cuts by the NSW government outside by-election voting booths in the city's south.

Thousands of Anti-Liberal Party flyers have been handed out by firefighters, who want to discourage people from voting for a party they say has reduced fire protection.

The by-election, in the seat of Miranda, was triggered by the resignation of Sports Minister Graham Annesley.

Fire Brigade Employees Union secretary Jim Casey says budget cuts over the past 10 months have meant fire stations in the Sutherland Shire have been closed 64 times.

Melbourne: Police use force to remove protesters

November 6 - Police say they used "reasonable force" to remove a group of East West Link protesters, who were preventing employees from entering a Melbourne construction company office.

A group of 60 people from the group Tunnel Picketers rallied against the road project in an organised protest outside the Lend Lease building on Wednesday morning.

Victoria Police Inspector Peter Ward said about 40 officers were on site and were met with resistance by the protesters.

"This morning we attempted to negotiate with the protest leaders but they firmly indicated that no one was going to be allowed into the building," Insp Ward told reporters.

"It's my opinion police used reasonable force to facilitate access to the building"

"Unfortunately, a small group of protesters were prepared to challenge police and not co-operate" he said.

Insp Ward said that police moved in at the request of a cafe owner inside the Lend Lease building.

Protesters say they targeted the construction company as it is bidding for work on the East West Link tunnel.

Protester Mel said that if the government was arrogant enough to proceed with construction, they would be met with mass community pickets.

"We are demanding that Lend Lease pull out of this project," she said.

"This community is not going to allow billions of dollars to be wasted on a toll road and tunnel that won't reduce congestion."

Insp Potter said police expected to attend further protests in coming weeks, and are unsure of the tactics protesters may use.

Protester Anthony said police were aggressive, rough and "came looking for a fight."

Anthony said some protesters had cuts and bruises. One protester was taken to hospital after a policeman stood on the back of his neck during the scuffle.

Pilliga State forest blockade continues

18 Nov - Protests and blockades are continuing near the Pilliga State forest, as locals aim to disrupt planned CSG drilling programs by gas giant Santos.

More than 20 community members blocked a road on Friday to prevent Santos from accessing one of its drill rigs in the forest.

The group says the CSG activity being undertaken by Santos will lead to lasting environmental impacts.

"We have been backed into a corner by governments refusing to listen to us or to consider the impacts of the potential loss of our groundwater if this gasfield is developed," said one protester.

"Community members are stepping up to protect our groundwater and defend this recharge zone of our precious Great Artesian Basin from CSG industrialisation."

Bundella farmer Megan Kuhn said that "here in North West NSW we are currently facing an enormous challenge that we certainly didn't ask for. Our communities, our water resources and our farmlands are all threatened by the CSG invasion."

"Santos has no social licence to operate and they are forcing themselves on concerned rural communities.

"We are standing on this road to highlight Santos' unacceptable behaviour in fencing off our crown roads for their private drilling activities," Kuhn said.

Gomeri Elder Maureen Sulter was on site on Friday and stated: "Winangaya dhawun – respect the land".

"It's a powerful time out in the Pilliga at the moment, with many people coming together from across the region to protect this place from coal seam gas mining," Sulter said.

As part of its work in NSW, Santos plans to drill 15 exploration wells in the Pilliga forest and restart existing pilots that have been shut in since Santos took over Narrabri operations in Nov 2011.

However, both projects have been at the centre of protests from the local community who say gas exploration will cause environmental damage.

Last week a cultural heritage camp and workshop was been set up near Ten Mile Dam in the NSW Pilliga State forest in protest of the Santos gasfield development.

Pat Schultz, a spokeswoman for a group of concerned residents said the local community is committed to halting exploration work in the area.

Orana: Fences Cut at Emu Farm, 125 Rescued

25 Nov - On the morning of November 21st, 125 emus were liberated from a wildlife breeding enterprise just north of Tooraweenah into the Warrumbungle mountains—which are located in the Orana region of New South Wales. Farmer reports to have recaptured majority of the birds, though their word can not be trusted.

The Henley family is imprisoning up to 1,000 emus on their native lands and farming them mainly for their oil. Each summer at 18-24 months of age they are live transported over 750km only to face a slaughterhouse at the very end.

This will not be tolerated.

Brisbane: workers rally against compensation cuts

20 Oct - Around 500 workers rallied outside the Queensland state parliament in Brisbane to protest changes to WorkCover rushed through by the Liberal National state government on October 17. Up to 300,000 workers across Queensland could be affected by the changes. The new laws will introduce a common law claim threshold of 5 percent impairment, a move that will reportedly eliminate 50 percent of common law claims and require that workers' injury and claims histories be made available to potential employers. In addition, redundancy payouts for government employees will now be capped at 16 weeks, down from the present 52 weeks.

Bunurong: Cemetery workers step up industrial action

22 Oct - Workers at Springvale Botanical Cemetery and Bunurong Memorial Park Cemetery in Victoria will step up industrial action in a dispute for a new enterprise work agreement. The Southern Metropolitan Cemeteries Trust workers began a campaign of rolling stoppages on August 16 but have now decided to extend their action to several times a week.

The cemetery workers have rejected a 4 percent annual pay increase offer over the three-year life of the agreement because they would lose public holiday allowances and 13 of their 26 rostered days off. Negotiations between the company and the Australian Workers Union remain at a stalemate.

Tasmania: meat workers on strike

26 Oct - Meat workers at Greenham's abattoir in Tasmania's north-west struck for 24 hours in a protracted dispute for a wage rise.

The 160 beef-processing workers want a 4 percent annual pay increase over the life of a new four-year work agreement. The company has offered just 2.5 percent annually and wants to cut wage rates for any new workers by up to \$200 a week.

The meat workers plan to impose work bans when they return to work. Negotiations between the Meat Workers Union and Greenham have been ongoing for the past six months.

Woolworths warehouse workers walkout

25 Oct - Angry Woolworths staff are protesting outside the supermarket giant's distribution warehouse at Staplyton on Queensland's Gold Coast.

About 170 workers walked off the job at midnight stating they are being severely underpaid by the supermarket giant.

Some protesters are abusing fellow workers who try and cross the picket line.

The workers picketing the Staplyton warehouse were in good spirits, kicking footballs and joking around, until a work colleague tried to cross the Staplyton picket line.

Many called out "go home you scab".

Similar industrial action against Woolworths is also underway in regional Victoria and at Barnawartha regional warehouse in Tasmania.

The company made over \$2.3 million profit last year.

Queensland: Striking building workers threatened with huge fines

5 Nov - The Abbott government's Fair Work Building and Construction (FWBC) watchdog has written to more than 130 workers taking industrial action on two Brisbane construction projects, warning them they could face fines of more than \$10,000 each for alleged strike action.

Newly-appointed FWBC director Nigel Hadgkiss said two John Holland projects, at Gallipoli Barracks (Enoggera) and the Queensland University of Technology Creative Industries Precinct, had been affected by work stoppages since October 28. Hadgkiss claimed that up to 220 workers had withdrawn their labour following a dispute over enterprise agreements between John Holland and the Construction Forestry Mining and Energy Union (CFMEU).

In his announcement, Hadgkiss alleged the workers were defying an October 29 Fair Work Commission order to return to work. Under the Fair Work Act, imposed by the previous federal Labor government, the workers can be fined up to \$10,200.

A CFMEU spokesman said that Hadgkiss's threat was "reminiscent of a police state" with "workers being threatened with fines by the government."

Hadgkiss's media statement boasted that in September, the Federal Court ordered 117 workers who participated in 'unlawful' strike action on a WA building site to pay penalties of up to \$10,000 each.

Police minister slams 'gutless' critics

5 Nov - Queensland Police are investigating the source of an online video which warns premier Campbell Newman to 'expect us'.

The four-and-a-half minute clip was purportedly posted by activist group Anonymous, who say the government's new anti-bikie legislation is authoritarian.

The clip, which has racked up more than 300,000 views and thousands of likes, is delivered by a person wearing the trademark Anonymous Guy Fawkes mask.

Police have confirmed they are looking into the Anonymous threat.

Police Minister Jack Dempsey says the group has crossed the line.

'They are just gutless cowards, they have to hide behind a mask,' Mr Dempsey told reporters.

'It is very disappointing and police will obviously investigate the matter thoroughly. 'I'm very confident with the police investigating the matter and we'll ensure the safety of everyone involved.'

The international group of activists has targeted governments and multinational corporations and has been accused of hacking the FBI and ASIO.



Karragullen: Party-goers attack police

11 Nov - Police dodged bottles and bricks thrown at them when they were called to an out-of-control party in Karragullen on Friday night.

A WA Police spokeswoman said at 10.30pm, about 14 police vehicles, including the riot squad, attended an address in Omeo Place after numerous reports of about 200 youths creating a disturbance.

Police declared the gathering out of control and shut it down.

The 15-year-old female host and numerous other juveniles were taken to Armadale police station.



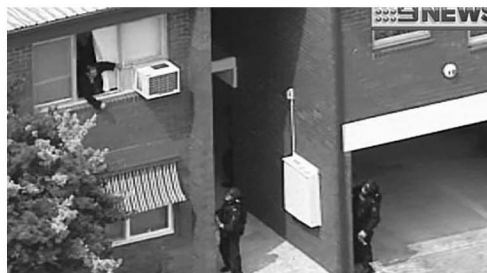
Melbourne: Policeman burnt in siege

27 Nov - Police arrived in Parkdale around 1:30pm yesterday to conduct a welfare check on a 53 year old man who then barricaded himself inside the property and threw a molotov cocktail out his window at the assembled police officers. One police officer was hospitalised when the home made petrol bomb burnt his leg.

The police reportedly placed the entire neighbourhood in lockdown for 18 hours. Inspector Tim Day justified the scale of the lockdown, stating that: "Someone was throwing Molotov cocktails at police".

During the siege, a man(believed to be a friend of the 53 year old suspect) arrived on the scene and began tearing down crime scene tape, before attacking a photographer. He was then detained by police and taken away.

Inspector Day said the suspect surrendered to police about 7.15am on Wednesday after an 18-hour stand off. He is expected to face assault charges.





Melb: Police and student clash in rowdy CBD demo

3 Nov - A rowdy student protest has ended in Melbourne with five students arrested, a police officer hospitalised and the treasurer, Joe Hockey, needing police protection from an angry, surging crowd.

More than a 100 university students were taking part in a National Union of Students (NUS) demonstration outside the Victorian parliament house, protesting against federal government cuts to higher education.

Hockey was caught up in the rally when protesters tried to confront him near the parliament, but his security team and police held back the crowd.

Police say five people were arrested as some protesters began throwing shoes and chalk at police outside the Liberal Party headquarters and burned items in the street, including an effigy of Prime Minister Tony Abbott.

A police spokeswoman claimed several officers were attacked outside Liberal Party headquarters. "Police attended to ensure the safety of all involved, and provided an escort to persons entering and exiting the building. It's alleged several police members were assaulted during the incident, including one member who was allegedly punched to the face by a protester. He is currently receiving treatment in hospital".

Many students disputed those claims, asserting that police attacked the rally without provocation. One student, Sarah said that riot cops came out of nowhere and started making arrests.

"One of the first people they arrested.. was unconscious as they pulled her towards the paddy wagon. We attempted to get an ambulance to her, but police said an ambulance would not be allowed to attend because she was under arrest. So they put her in the paddy wagon unconscious and drove away."

First Nations Students Officer at La Trobe University Jay Wymarra said he was arrested and charged with arson for burning a cardboard cutout of Abbott. "What they did was arrest me, shove me to the ground, put their knees in my neck and drag me." he said. "We as students will not stand for this." "We are going to take a stand against it. We were trying to voice our opinions. They attacked us."

"Under no circumstances should any student stand for this kind of hostile reaction from the state. No student should have to bear the brunt of some bureaucrat's decision to slash nearly \$3 billion out of education. This is our education."

Another student protester named Declan stated that the police attacks continued even after demonstrators had left Liberal Party headquarters: "Some of us decided to march down to East Melbourne police station to make a formal complaint. The police told us we were allowed to do this.

Nonetheless on the way down the police assaulted the demonstration four additional times. I think a further four people were arrested. They were clearly targeting non-white people and women who happened to find themselves on the fringes of the demonstration.

"Then, on Swanston Street, after we'd decided not to continue marching on to East Melbourne police station and we were coming up to Trades Hall, they assaulted the rally again and arrested another person. It was a clear and despicable attempt by the police, but we will not be intimidated."

He said the students planned more demonstrations.

Hackers target Australian websites in protest Indonesia spying claims

5 Nov - More than 150 Australian websites have been hacked as an act of protest, following revelations that Australian intelligence agencies engaged in widespread surveillance of Indonesian phone and internet traffic, even tapping the phone of Indonesian President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono and his wife.

A group calling itself Anonymous Indonesia has taken over 178 business websites ending in .au, turning the homepages into messages to the Australian Government.

"Stop all forms of tapping into Indonesia or we will make your internet network destroyed," one page read.

Another said: "Do not disturb Indonesia! Do you Understand?"

Some of the sites have now been repaired, but many, including pages for Queensland motels remain hacked.

Last week, NSA leaks surfaced, revealing that Australia used its Jakarta embassy as a major intelligence gathering centre.

Anonymous Indonesia hacker claims to have shut down RBA, AFP websites

20 Nov - The hacking groups 'Anonymous' and the 'Borneo Cyber Crew' have claimed responsibility for cyber attacks on the websites of the Australian Federal Police and the Reserve Bank. The AFP and Reserve Bank have both confirmed their sites were attacked overnight.

The AFP website was still down at 10.30am and Commissioner Tony Negus says the agency is investigating the attack. "We have had an attack on the open source website, not connected to secret networks, but there has been an attempt on our website this morning which is being dealt with," he told reporters.

An AFP spokesperson had earlier told the ABC the agency takes any attack "very seriously" and warned hacking is a criminal activity, not "harmless fun".

The Reserve Bank has also confirmed its website was "the subject of a denial of service attack".

The hacker used a series of Twitter posts to claim credit for the attacks, saying: "I'm ready for this war."

Mr Yudhoyono yesterday ordered all military and intelligence cooperation with Australia be suspended, until Prime Minister Tony Abbott explains the action.

Just last week 'Anonymous Indonesia' also took credit for hacking more than 150 Australian sites to protest against Australian surveillance in Indonesia.

Indonesian hackers publish Police passwords

25th Nov - An Indonesian hacking collective calling itself "BlackSinchan" has published encrypted passcodes of Australian authorities after breaking through a weakness in the national Crime Stoppers website.

Among the email passwords published were those of an Australian Federal Police sergeant, top executives from Crime Stoppers and numerous officers from New South Wales, South Australia, Tasmania, the NT and Victoria. Account info from the government pages 'Australian Institute of Criminology' and 'National Drug Law Enforcement Research Fund' were also published.

Along with the information, the group wrote: "Greetings World, we are BlackSinchan, We are here beside Indonesian Cyber Group, we will help you, and today, we got some interesting user info from Gov of Australia, with hashed password.

This is a warning for Australian government, This is the payback for Spying on Indonesia!

We Love Australia, We Love our Country!
BUT STOP SPYING ON MY COUNTRY!
AND REMEMBER THIS IS NOT FOR FAME!
THIS IS FOR PAYBACK !!!!
WE WILL BE BACK !!"

The information has been published repeatedly online.

The breach reportedly began with hackers infiltrating the government sites by exploiting a hole in the Crime Stoppers webpage. It is the second assault by Indonesian cyber-warriors in the past week, with a similar attack by an Indonesian Anonymous crew on the websites of the Reserve Bank of Australia and the Australian Federal Police.

The attack follows upon numerous angry protests outside Australian diplomatic offices in Indonesia, where protesters burnt Australian flags, and in some cases clashed with riot police.

The Australian embassy in Jakarta was targeted on multiple occasions this month, during which demonstrators threw eggs and tomatoes at the mission and defaced its facade with spray paint.

Sydney: Police attack prompts protest



27 Nov - Over a hundred people protested outside Blacktown cop shop on Sunday against police racism and brutality. The use of a stun gun by six police officers on a handcuffed, barely conscious teenager at Blacktown train station has shocked the community, sparking locals to organise a protest rally. Student Einpwi Amom, 17 at the time of arrest, was running from police who accused him of swearing at them, when he fell down a flight of stairs, knocking himself unconscious. CCTV footage shows him laying motionless on the stairs at Blacktown train station before an officer handcuffed him and dragged him down the remaining stairs while still unconscious. He was motionless for two minutes before he awoke handcuffed with six officers around him, one of whom then discharged a taser at him.

NSW Police said the use of the stun gun was within guidelines. Some Blacktown residents say they organised a protest to highlight people's outrage at police actions.

One protester said he considered the arrest of Mr Amom an example of widespread "police brutality towards youth".

"When an HSC student is tasered while handcuffed, barely conscious and surrounded by six officers, and the police issue a statement that such use falls within guidelines, you know that something is seriously wrong."

Mr Amom faced court on six charges following the arrest: failing to comply with a direction, offensive language, resisting police officers in the course of duty and three counts of assaulting a police officer.

After viewing security, phone and police camera vision of the arrest, a Children's Court magistrate dismissed all charges.



Sydney: Cops out of our lives



9 Dec - In a continuation of the struggles that have occurred at Sydney University in 2013, some workers dropped a banner from the busy Parramatta Rd footbridge declaring 'COPS OFF CAMPUS, COPS OUT OF OUR LIVES'. The timing of this action is in solidarity with those in the UK who today will take action against the brutality of the police – management's attack dogs – who have sought to crush the actions of workers and students fighting against the university's increasing role in ensuring the precarity of all our lives.

We have faced similar circumstances at Sydney University this year. Here, university workers took an unprecedented 7 days of strike action against the erosion of working conditions. In particular, they took action in response to management's unceasing drive to make us all live our lives on the very edge of certainty. They call it flexibility, we call it bullshit. Many students joined the picket-lines, seeing the relation between staff conditions and their unsettling experience of university. This experience is defined by the pursuit of qualifications in an attempt to ensure access to an increasingly insecure job market. Of course, many students are already casual workers somewhere.

Faced with such hostility, management turned to their friends in blue. Many arrests, ongoing court cases, harassment and a broken leg for a picketer were the result. We've also seen a generalised increase in police presence on campus, sending a message that they're always ready to have management's back. We take this action in solidarity with those struggling in the UK

and as a small step in forcing cops off campus and out of our lives.

Love and solidarity from Sydney.



Griffith: Teens charged with attacking police

3 Dec - Police were called to an office in Griffith in NSW's southwest on Monday afternoon following reports of a disturbance.

Upon arrival, police say the officers were ambushed by a large group of youths, who reportedly threw pieces of concrete at them, and kicked, punched and stomped on them as they fell to the ground.

Five members of the group, aged between 13 to 19 years old, were arrested and charged.

An 18-year-old man was charged with breaching bail, affray, assaulting police and escaping custody while two children, aged 13 and 16, were charged with a number of offences, including assaulting police and resisting arrest. Two women, aged 18 and 19 were also charged and detectives are still trying to identify other people involved in the incident.

Three officers received cuts and bruising, and were treated at Griffith Base Hospital.

Adelaide: Speed camera vandal charged

11 Dec - A man, 22, from Adelaide's southern suburbs is facing charges of vandalising 21 speed cameras across the city over the past fortnight.

Last week two new Adelaide Hills' speed cameras costing \$620,000 were heavily damaged just days after they were switched on. A few days earlier a mobile speed camera was stolen from Main North Rd while its operator was sitting in a car nearby.

Glass covers were smashed on more than a dozen fixed cameras in the southern, eastern and western suburbs and on the South-Eastern Freeway in the Adelaide Hills.

Authorities expect the repairs to cost tens of thousands of dollars.

Police allege they seized a crossbow and marbles from the man's house.

Brisbane: 'Operation Unite' leads to 400 arrests and 4 injured police

15 Dec - Nearly 400 people have been arrested in Queensland during a two-day crack down on late night revelers.

Nearly 700 police were involved in the two-day initiative.

While police are claiming victory, some members of the community have accused the police of brutality and others have fought back.

At 11.24pm on Saturday night bank employee Joe Ritson witnessed a police officer punch a young man in the face in a seemingly unprovoked attack outside a gay club in the Fortitude Valley.

His footage shows one of the officers unleash an unexpected blow at the young man's head, who stumbles backwards as the officers close in on him and continue the beating.

"They punched him, pushed him up against the wall and then started kicking him." Mr Ritson said.

Mr Ritson said that as the man was bundled into a police van, he tried to tell him that he'd filmed the scuffle with the officers but "one of the cops yelled 'f--- off or I will arrest you too'".

Ritson said didn't know what led to the officers confronting the man but said the heavy-handed reaction did not come as a surprise as "I've experienced police being aggressive for no reason".

"This morning they were bragging on Facebook about how many people they arrested last night as part of a crackdown on alcohol-fuelled violence but when three cops are beating up a small guy I question who is really being violent...it really questions how legitimate they really are."

The 24-year-old said he plans to leave the state amid the Newman government-led crackdown on law and order.

Some other members of the public unhappy about the police crackdown even took matters into their own hands, such as a 28 year old man, who allegedly stabbed Sen-Constable Luke Weiks while he was patrolling Santa Fe Gold club on Saturday night.

The Constable underwent surgery before being released from hospital the following day.

The alleged offender was also treated in hospital after suffering multiple injuries during his arrest.

Townsville District Superintendent Glen Kachel said that initial investigations suggested that the stabbing was unprovoked.

"He received a stab wound to the nape of his neck and upper torso and it will be alleged he sustained a wound to his hand."

The accused will face charges of attempted murder, seriously assaulting police while armed, entering a premises with intent to commit an indictable offence, possession of a knife in a public place and creating a disturbance in a licensed premises and two counts of obstructing police.

Three other officers were assaulted in a 16-hour period including an officer who was kicked in the face.

Stony Creek: Conservationists maintain stand at forest action



11 Dec - For the past two days, more than 40 conservationists have maintained a forest protest action at Stony Creek in East Gippsland. Police Search and Rescue arrived at the site this afternoon. They proceeded to tie-off cables connected to the tree sit, to release the logging machinery. Police climbed the tree-sitter's tree, removing the platform and the protester's personal belongings, including blankets, food and water. The tree-sitter remains perched on branches at the top of the tree. Two people are still at the top of tripods on the road, continuing to block access to log trucks. Logging contractors have begun felling trees within the logging coupe.

The protest action continues to stop logging operations in a stand of forest at Stony Creek, East Gippsland, home to the endangered long footed potoroo. Two conservationists remain at the top of tripods, blocking the road at different access points to the logging zone. While one person remains 30 meters above the ground in a tree sit in the middle of the logging coupe. Around 40 others remain in the area.

Department of Environment and Primary Industries (DEPI) workers attended the site at around 11 am. The DEPI workers then cut down trees in an area believed to be part of the Snowy River National Park, in an attempt to drive around a blockade tripod. Forestry workers are currently in the logging coupe, below the tree sit.

"Continued funding from tax-payer dollars to this industry for the benefit of a few private companies, like Nippon Paper, should be of concern to all. We are not only losing millions of dollars to prop up this industry, we are also losing our irreplaceable native wildlife species" said David of Goongerah Environment Centre (GECO).

"These dedicated conservationists are committed to continuing today's action as long as possible, in order to protect this precious forest from industrial scale logging. This is part of a nation-wide movement that will see ongoing actions across the country in a call for protection of our native forests" said Miranda of Still Wild Still Threatened.



Boggabri: Protesters swarm on Whitehaven mine site

16 Dec - Police have cut free and hauled off protesters who chained themselves to gates to blockade roads into a controversial coal mine project in northwest NSW.

Whitehaven Coal's Maules Creek project, near Boggabri, has been the target of sustained protests from environmentalists. On Monday, scores of activists blockaded four entrances to the site to stop trucks and other vehicles from gaining access.

They argue the Maules Creek mine will destroy irreplaceable critically endangered woodland in the Leard State Forest, draw down the aquifer used by local farmers and release thousands of tonnes of coal dust onto surrounding farms.

Protester Georgina said three protesters who chained themselves to a gate to stop trucks going in had been cut free by police, arrested and taken away on Monday morning.

She told journalists that police were on their way to deal with 75-year-old first-time protester Raymond McLaren, who was chained to an old car blocking another road into the site.

"From our perspective we see what's happening today as the beginning of more and more people coming out here to defend this forest and stop this mine, We're all determined to stop it from going ahead." said Georgia.

Earlier, Mr McLaren told reporters "the state forest out here is too precious to sacrifice, there's not much of it left." Also at the protest are local farmers and community members who read a statement from Gomeroi elders, traditional owners of Leard State Forest.

The elders are said to be angry at the loss of cultural heritage and Whitehaven's "failure to protect spiritual places of the Gomeroi".

In the most high-profile attack on Whitehaven to date, activist Jonathan Moylan will stand trial next year accused of issuing a hoax media release that wiped hundreds of millions off the company's value.

A Whitehaven Coal spokesman said that "protests at our project sites are a nuisance but they will not deter Whitehaven"

Eden: Woodchipping stopped as protesters shut down mill

17 Dec - Four conservationists have attached themselves to machinery inside the woodchip mill in Eden, NSW. This is the second protest at the mill in a week, calling for an end to Nippon Paper's ongoing role in the destruction of Australia's native forests.

"Last week conservationists halted logging at Stony Creek, East Gippsland, in a stand of old growth forest that is home to the endangered long footed potoroo. We are following the chain of destruction from the forest floor to the mill, where Australia's irreplaceable forests are being chipped and shipped offshore" said Miranda Gibson of Still Wild Still Threatened.

"Nippon Paper are an international company exploiting the destruction of Australia's native forests and pushing our unique wildlife towards extinction." said Harriet from the South East Regional Conservation Alliance. (SERCA)

"Four people are today risking arrest, climbing the woodchip conveyor belt and chaining themselves to machinery in order to send a clear message to Nippon Paper. It is unacceptable that this company continues to take wood from Australian native forests, including threatened species habitat. This follows on from actions last week, which saw three people arrested while halting logging operations in East Gippsland, Victoria." said David from Goongerah Environment Centre.

"This action is part of Fearless Summer, a national collaboration of grassroots environment groups committed to defending Australia's native forests." he said.

Boggabri: Protesters halt Whitehaven mining operations

19 Dec - Anti-mining protesters yesterday scored their biggest victory of this week's sustained campaign of civil disobedience, succeeding in temporarily shutting down a coalmine at Boggabri.

Two activists risked their lives to scale a coal crusher at Idemitsu's open-cut coalmine and unfurl a banner reading "Protect our water" in English and "Water is for everyone" in Japanese.

The demonstrators were calling on the Japan Bank of International Cooperation and ANZ to cease funding both "Idemitsu and Whitehaven Coal's destruction of the Leard State Forest".

Police were called to the mine site and the protesters were eventually removed from the equipment about 6pm. They were subsequently arrested and transported to Narrabri Police Station.

A spokesman for the mine said the company was concerned about the safety of people accessing a working mine site.

"What these people are doing is both illegal and dangerous, and it interrupts our company and our people from doing their job and making a living," he said.

East Gippsland: Forest blockade enters second day

19 Dec - Conservationists have halted logging operations for a second day today, in a controversial area of old growth forest on the iconic Errinundra Plateau, far East Gippsland. A person is occupying a tree platform positioned 40m up an old growth gum tree. The platform is attached to logging machinery and preventing logging operations from continuing.

Logging contractors arrived this morning and are endangering the life of the conservationist occupying the tree platform by tampering with ropes attached to machines.

"Until recently this area of forest was reserved as a special protection zone, it contains a number of different forest types and is of high conservation value. It also contains old growth forest and is a known site for the endangered powerful owl" said David Caldwell.

"This is another example of forest destruction in the face of evidence of threatened species. Our native forests are becoming degraded and without areas like this one, they won't be able to provide our endangered animals with a chance to survive. This is a looming extinction crisis that is being assisted by forest agencies around the nation" said Miranda Gibson, spokesperson for Still Wild Still Threatened.

Today's action is the latest in a series of actions over the last week, known as Fearless Summer, a coalition of grassroots environment groups, committed to an end to industrial scale native forest logging and export woodchipping.



Sydney: NSW parliament standoff

20 Dec - Police said a man sitting in a car parked outside the New South Wales parliament was about to ignite a container of flammable liquid with a lighter when officers brought an end to a two-hour standoff in Sydney on Friday by smashing the windows with crowbars and gassing him.

The NSW police assistant commissioner Mark Murdoch said the 58-year-old man parked a white car on the footpath outside parliament just before midday on Friday, prompting calls to the police.

Murdoch said when police arrived the man threatened to set the liquid on fire, causing Macquarie Street to be closed and parliament house locked down.

Negotiators spoke to the man for two hours and in that time he wrote at least two notes containing demands to police, Murdoch said. A police officer was seen to approach the car with his hands up and take one of the notes before walking away and giving it to tactical response police wearing bulletproof vests.

Murdoch would not go into the detail of the demands but it is believed he wanted to see the premier, Barry O'Farrell, who was inside parliament at the time.

Police were not going to meet or entertain those demands, said Murdoch. "We're still trying to get to the bottom of exactly why he did it," he said.

Negotiators maintained a distance from the car of several metres. Out of the man's sight, police approached the car with a firehose.

Murdoch later told reporters that when the man produced a lighter, officers decided to storm the car using "tactical gas" and crowbars to break open the vehicle.

Shortly after 2pm police moved the crowds back a further 30 metres before launching the assault. There were three loud bangs and then white smoke could be seen coming from the car.

Police hosed down the car and several officers opened the car, dragging the man onto the footpath before putting him in handcuffs.

The man was then treated on the side of the road by an ambulance officer before being taken to St Vincent's hospital with "minor injuries".

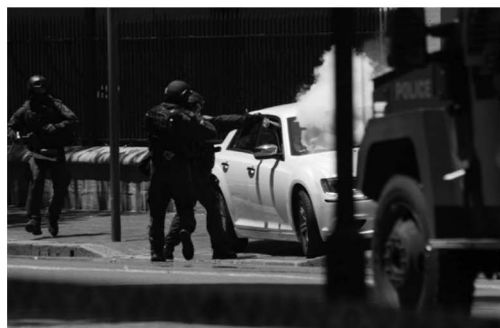
He was later released from hospital and taken to Sydney City Police Station, where he was charged with threaten sabotage, possession of explosive/article to damage property and threaten to destroy/damage property, a police statement says.

He was refused bail to appear in Parramatta Bail Court on Saturday. The 58-year-old man from Wollongong was "known to police", Murdoch said.

O'Farrell and the treasurer, Mike Baird, were both at the parliament when the threat was made and all entrances and exits to the building were sealed off with all staff told to remain inside.

"Those negotiations continued until 2:00pm at which point the man attempted to ignite a cigarette lighter."

According to the NSW police, officers from the Tactical Operations Unit, Public Order & Riot Squad, and Police Rescue & Bomb Disposal Unit attended the scene along with negotiators.



Perth: Conservationists threaten to sabotage WA's new \$1m Shark bait plan



27 Dec - The WA Government's new catch and kill shark plan will cost taxpayers \$1 million this summer. Premier Colin Barnett today revealed the operational costs, along with the locations of the 72 baited hooks to lure sharks.

From January 10, WA Fisheries will deploy baited drum lines along five locations across the coastline of the Perth metropolitan area to "keep the beaches safe".

Mr Barnett and new WA Fisheries Minister Ken Baston confirmed sharks caught by the drum lines that had not already died would be shot by firearm and discarded at sea.

Commercial fisherman will monitor the drum lines for 12 hours a day, seven days a week and will rebait hooks overnight.

The WA Government has copped harsh criticism from conservationists over its controversial new plan.

A report by Bond University for WA Fisheries in 2005 explicitly recommended against using baited drum lines or shark nets in WA because of the risk to other marine life as well as the cost.

The Department of Fisheries regional manager Tony Cappelluti has said that "this is a government policy and we support the policy and we are going to play a very big role, we are determined to make sure it works."

Mr Barnett has stated that "this is a policy decision of government and Fisheries have the responsibility of implementing it. I understand that particularly in the research community that people do not support the killing of sharks but we have to face as a government a balance of the issue."

"Seven fatalities in three years says to me and my cabinet colleagues is that we must act."

And while Mr Barnett could not reveal whether the contracted fisherman would be given a quota, he said the public would be updated on the number and types of sharks caught over the summer.

On Tuesday, the WA government called for professional shark fishermen to apply to patrol the state's waters and kill any shark bigger than three metres spotted in the designated zones.

After the death of surfer Chris Boyd in Gracetown last month, Mr Barnett said the WA government "had to intervene more directly".

Already anti-cull campaigners are threatening to sabotage the policy, many saying that they're not afraid to break the law.

Western Australians for Shark Conservation has revealed it is preparing to take "direct action" when up to 72 drum lines are deployed next month, despite the possibility of hefty fines or jail terms.

And it is urging West Australians to "take out their boats" and interfere with the baited lines.

The Department of Fisheries warned that anyone who tried to sabotage baited drum lines by either stealing the bait, hooks or interfere with contracted commercial fisherman could be fined \$25,000 and jailed for 12 months.

Despite the threat, WASC and another group, Animal Rescue Team, say they have boats and divers ready to "neutralise" the lines.

"We won't stand for the culling of endangered sharks off the Western Australian coast," WASC president Ross Weir said. "We do have members of the public coming forward who are willing to intervene and that includes myself and our crew."

Mr Weir said some WASC members were prepared to break the law and he would make any volunteers aware of the repercussions.

Only fishermen contracted by the State Government will be allowed within a 50m exclusion zone around the drum lines.

But Mr Weir said: "You can only have so many water police in Perth and the water police can only chase so many boats at once, can't they?"

"We will be asking the general public to take their boats and go out there if they believe strongly enough about it."

Animal Rescue Team member Amy said its members would take direct action against the lines.

Sea Shepherd Australia director Jeff Hansen described the baiting measures as "absolute insanity". Anti-cull rallies are already planned over the coming weeks.

Sydney: Couple make asylum-seeker statement with Christmas lights

25 Dec - An Erskineville couples immigration-themed Christmas display has lit up social media, and won them a local award for best light display.

They say that they couldn't resist the opportunity to use Santa to satirise the asylum-seeker discussion.

Placards framed by fairy lights declare "Merry Christmas Island" and "We will decide who comes down our chimney and the circumstances in which they come".

Other phrases dotted in the garden include "We grew here, you flew here" and "If you come here by sled without a visa you will not be settled in Australia".

The couple have also arranged strings of Christmas lights surrounding the yard to look like barbed-wire fencing.



Northam: Detainees escape from Yongah Hills Immigration centre

29 Dec - Two Vietnamese detainees escaped from the Yongah Hills Immigration Detention Centre in Northam, 90 kilometres east of Perth, on Friday night. It was the second escape from the facility in a matter of months.

One person was recaptured within 24 hours, but the other man remains on the run.*

Four months ago, five men escaped from the same facility, sparking a search that lasted several weeks. Four of the men were caught days later in the bush at Bakers Hill about 25 kilometres from the centre., while the final man was caught some weeks later.

Northam shire president Steven Pollard says it is a major concern to residents that the facility's security has again been breached.

"The fences themselves are fairly substantial so the fact that people are able to get over them is certainly a concern."

Mr Pollard says the latest incident indicates a need for tighter security.

"The Department feels the detainees pose no risk to the community and that was the case historically, with the last five," he said.

"But there's always a concern when people get out of a supposedly fairly secure situation and they're at large in amongst the general community."

Immigration Minister Scott Morrison says there will be an investigation into the incident and that he will be seeking answers from the facility's private contractor, Serco.

*As of mid January 2014 the other escapee has not been caught by the authorities. We wish the best of luck to him.



Lancelin: Massive police hunt ends in arrest in quiet street

24 Dec - A wanted man led police on a 'crazy' six-and-a-half hour chase after evading officers and stealing a police car in Lancelin today.

The main road into the sleepy seaside town was locked down as extra police, including a plane and helicopter, tracked the stolen vehicle.

The bizarre sequence of events started when officers tried to arrest the man in the morning.

Police alleged the offender, who was known to them and wanted on outstanding warrants, was driving a different vehicle which sped past a patrol car outside of Lancelin. The officers followed the vehicle until it became bogged near bushland.

Police claim the man fled on foot and managed to evade officers by hiding in terrain. He was then spotted and confronted by one officer who tried to arrest him. Other police swooped, but attempts to catch the man failed.

It is alleged he then jumped into a police vehicle and sped off into nearby bushland prompting a massive land and air search.

Police Airwing kept watch from above while two police cars pursued him on the ground. Road spikes were also used in a bid to halt the vehicle.

Witnesses claim they saw offender driving the

stolen police car up and down Gin Gin Road, around the local shopping centre and local streets.

Resident Lloyd told journalists that he and his wife watched the drama from their front lawn. At one stage it appeared the offender almost taunted police by slowing down then speeding up as they closed in on him around the Lancelin shopping centre, he said.

It also appeared at some stages the alleged offender slowed his car down, seemingly taunting or daring the two pursuing cars to pass him.

"The car made numerous runs up and down the main street going in both directions. He went up and down Gin Gin Road, around the shopping centre at great speed while he was being chased by two pursuit cars.

At another stage one of the lead police pursuit cars started to try and pass or get alongside him. But the stolen car veered sharply right and the pursuing police car dropped back to avoid a collision.

A WA Police spokeswoman said police managed to trap the man in a residential street.

Following a scuffle they arrested him at 3pm and put him in the back of a police vehicle with blood running down his forehead.



NSW: Learner driver leads police on 80km chase from central coast to Sydney

31 Dec - An 18-year-old learner driver has been charged following a police pursuit that lasted 80 kilometres from the New South Wales central coast.

Police say they were conducting random breath testing at Long Jetty last night when a car allegedly failed to stop when directed.

The pursuit then began along the M1 towards Sydney, with the car reportedly reaching speeds of 170 kilometres per hour. Road spikes were used at Berowra, but police say the pursuit then continued until Pymble in Sydney's north, when the police helicopter took over.

The car stopped at nearby Killara on the Pacific Highway after it caught fire and police say that two men woman ran from the car, with a man and a woman being arrested.

They say the 18-year-old learner has been charged with several offences including driving as a learner without The 20-year-old woman from the Hunter region has been charged with three outstanding warrants.

Both were been refused bail and will appear before Parramatta Local Court.

Surfers Paradise: Police station attacked, police injured

31 Dec - A group of men surrounded a Gold Coast police station and pelted it with projectiles early Tuesday morning.

Police said the violence broke out after two men were arrested for fighting early Tuesday morning, no more than 30 metres from the Surfers Paradise police station.

The arresting officers said they were followed back to the station on Orchid Avenue by a large group of men, who they described as “verbally abusive and extremely aggressive”.

Inspector Tracy Dale said the crowd gathered outside the station and began throwing cans and other projectiles at the officers. One person threw a shoe at the station.

Officers allege that some people, using the cover of the crowd, began to intervene in the arrests. They began obstructing, heckling and assaulting the police outside the station.

“The police, from an officer safety perspective, then withdrew and gathered at the police station and awaited assistance from further units,” Inspector Dale told ABC News. Officers guarded the doors to the station until reinforcements arrived.

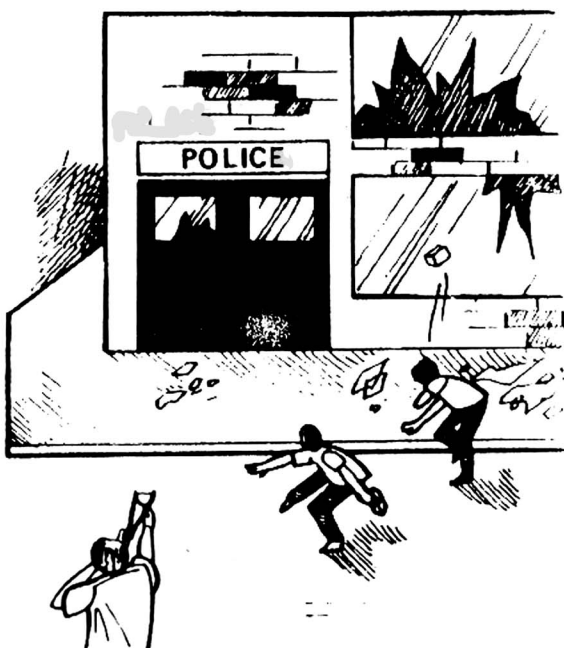
Three policemen suffered non-life threatening injuries, including one who was bitten on the lower arm. Another officer suffered minor facial injuries while a third sustained ligament damage to his arm.

Capsicum spray was used against the crowd, and it took 20 minutes for the mob to disperse. Eight men, aged from 20 to 32, have been charged over the riot for various offences, including serious assault and public nuisance.

Police said the young people involved were not linked to any outlaw motorcycle gangs, unlike the September riot outside the Southport Watchhouse, which followed the bikie brawl at a Broadbeach tapas restaurant.

“This wasn’t an organised group. This was just a group of revellers who were out in Orchid Avenue, which has some 12 or so ... nightclubs,” Acting Chief Superintendent Des Lacy said.

“It was a group of people who should have moved on but were very interested to watch the police taking action. “It seems to be some sort of entertainment for some people to watch the police arrest and struggle with a violent drunken offender. So the message there is, if you are one of those people who enjoys that sort of thing, find another interest.”



RIZKOS

Local

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australianmuseumofsquatting.org
slackbastard.anarchobase.com
disaccords.wordpress.com
melbagcg.wordpress.com
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**NO ONE IS
ILLEGAL**

**SOLIDARITY
WITH**

REFUGEE REVOLTS



From Terra Nullius to the NT Intervention

226 YEAR

OVERSTAY

SEND BACK



THE FLEET