



CSIRO staff cuts: sacrificing the future

Graham Holton

CSIRO (the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation), is Australia's leading science and research agency. It has announced it will cut 350 science research roles across Australia. The government cited rising costs as the organisation faces long-term financial sustainability challenges due to the rising cost of running the science agency, when the government is dealing with imminent budgetary restraints.

CSIRO chief executive, Doug Hilton, said the organisation had to adapt to achieve the right balance of research. "CSIRO's reason for being is to deliver the greatest possible impact for the nation through our research." He added, "we have a responsibility to make decisions that ensure we can continue to deliver science that improves the lives of all Australians for generations to come." Prime Minister, Anthony Albanese said there were more jobs created before this round of redundancies.

The CSIRO estimates it will need to invest up to \$135 million each year over the next ten years into essential infrastructure and technology. This includes repairs and maintenance on existing sites, research equipment, cyber protection and technology. Nearly 80 per cent of the CSIRO's more than 800 buildings are approaching their end-of-life cycles and the agency would need \$135 million each year to replace or renovate them.

The cuts announcement was slammed by the CSIRO Staff Association. These "devastating cuts" come on top of the 800 research and science job losses in the past 18 months. Ed Husic oversaw job cuts to CSIRO administration and support teams when he was the science minister in 2024. Now Husic has challenged his own government

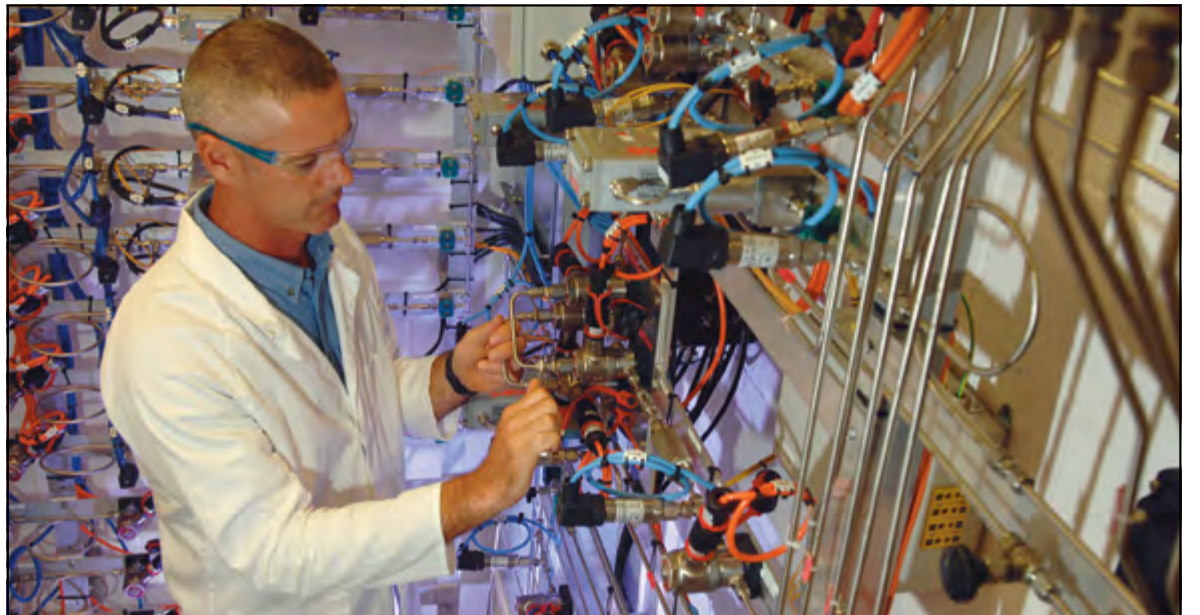
to "pry open the jaws of Treasury" to boost funding for Australia's national scientific agency. Husic said that "Treasury and finance" saw CSIRO's funding as a budget cost, and not an investment in the future. Husic told the ABC, "If you do value science, you need to stop looking at science and research as a cost, and see it as an investment in the future, wellbeing and capability of the country."

The cuts have been condemned by unions. STA (Science and Technology Australia) CEO Ryan Winn called the job cuts "a step in the wrong direction for Australia's research system." Winn added, that CSIRO also needs to invest an additional \$80 to \$135 million per year, and said that it's "crucial these facilities receive sustained funding."

Australian Academy of Technological Sciences & Engineering (ATSE) President Dr Katherine Woodthorpe said, "Australia and the world have greatly benefited from the work that CSIRO has done for more than a century." Woodthorpe said, "We need long-term planning, strategy and investment for CSIRO ... and we need the ongoing financial commitment to match government's promise of support for science and research."

Professor Chennupati Jagadish, President of the Australian Academy of Science, said that funding "has gone down during the last 15 years or so. ... We need to invest more in R&D and change the direction of this downward slope so that investment is moving in a positive direction. ... We also need to ensure that research is seen as an investment, not as a cost."

Certainly CSIRO inventions and innovations have had an amazing economic impact on Australia and the world. Wi-Fi (Fast Wireless LAN) was invented by CSIRO, adding tens of billions annually (via mobile commerce, teleworking, logistics, IoT) to national productivity. Another major invention is the



Australia's first fully automated, around-the-clock, synthetic fuels research facility. CSIRO Perth, 2010.

Photo: Darryl Peroni/CSIRO – wikimedia.org (CC BY 3.0)

polymer banknote, with revenues from international licensing at \$500 million since the 1990s. CSIRO has improved varieties of wheat, barley, cotton, and canola, an increase of \$12 billion in productivity over thirty years. Overall, CSIRO has added \$1.1 billion in patent licensing revenue just in Australia.

The invention of 'gene shears' (early gene-editing technology) has had a global economic value of billions of dollars in research tools and therapies. Global sales of CSIRO's patented material Extended-Wear Contact Lenses exceeds \$15 billion. There's also Aerogard insect repellent which generated hundreds of millions of dollars in retail sales in Australia and the Asia-Pacific.

The CSIRO Total Wellbeing Diet has added \$10 billion per year to the national economy. Even its Radio Astronomy Technologies have attracted hundreds of millions in international investment into Australian engineering and infrastructure, and the spinoff technologies in signal processing

have improved defence and telecommunications industries worth hundreds of millions more.

Overall the government's cuts are very short-sighted and will directly impact Australia's important international scientific position. What the CSIRO has done so far has been world-changing.

It's impossible to list what the CSIRO would do if properly funded, but we can have an idea of the cost. Using the standard economics Present Value of a Growing Annuity Formula gives the worst-case scenario of a 30 per cent cut at \$21 billion loss over 10 years. With a modest 5 per cent reduction in CSIRO's economic contribution gives \$3.5 billion in lost economic value over 10 years. These projections show how cumulative lost economic output can add up under plausible assumptions, underlining the importance of the CSIRO's output.

PM Albanese defended the announcement, saying his government was a "friend of science" compared to the Liberal-National

Coalition government led by Abbott, Turnbull, and Morrison. It's true that Labor is not as bad as the Coalition was. Between the 2012-13 and 2015-16 federal budgets, the agency cut 659 staff, leaving a total of 5,056 staff. Under the Albanese government, staffing rose to 6,050 in 2024, before the expected 555-person reduction this year.

Parliamentary library analysis commissioned by ACT Senator, David Pocock, showed that annual funding as a percentage of GDP is now at its lowest since 1978.

The cuts are surprising, as the Labor Party does have a number of scientists amongst its ministers and senators. Julian Hill (MP for Bruce, ALP) holds a Bachelor of Science (Chemistry). Dr Michelle Ananda-Rajah (Senator, ALP) is a medical doctor and researcher holding a PhD. Before politics, she was a clinician-scientist in infectious diseases with many scientific publications.

Continued on page 2

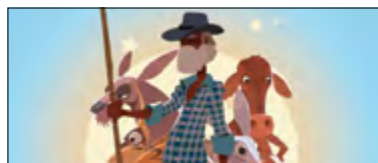
stop looking at science and research as a cost, and see it as an investment in the future of the country

3



COP30. 'End the era of fossil fuels'

4



Niyiyaparli Widi

6



Queensland transport: so many gave so much

14



Japan's Takaichi: be alarmed

Guardian

Issue 2173

1 December 2025

Don't forget Gaza

Here are some figures. It's more than two years since 7 October 2023. In that time, Israel's military have killed over 68,000 civilians. It's one month since the ceasefire was announced. In that month, two children have been killed every day in Gaza.

The Nakba, the violent dispossession of Palestinian people, happened 77 years ago. It's still happening. On the occupied West Bank, attacks against Palestinians have never stopped, and have intensified recently. In October this year, there were more than 260 such attacks.

It's understandable that some people feel Gaza'd out. The topic has been in the news a lot over the last two years. Australian media has talked about Gaza a lot, as well as trying energetically to demonise or dismiss those who have marched calling for peace and for an end to Australia's complicity. Thousands of people have marched in protest against the genocide, week after week for two years. There has been a lot of Gaza.

It's understandable that people might want to cling to the recent announcement of a ceasefire. Understandable but mistaken. Palestine needs our attention and our action.

That so-called 'ceasefire'? It's being so badly kept that it should really be called "the next phase of the war." On 11 November, *Al Jazeera* estimated that Israeli attacks in Gaza had killed at least 312 Palestinians and injured 760. Remember, the ceasefire signing ceremony was conducted in the absence of Israel and Hamas. Of course, Hamas is not the only Palestinian organisation, but since they're mentioned in the ceasefire agreement, it's not very reassuring that neither they nor Israel were there.

Trump's 'peace plan' is really a takeover bid, in partnership with Israel. It's a recipe for more violent colonisation with US backing. Israel has not given up on the 'Greater Israel' dream.

Australians who follow the news might wonder why they should care. Many look around their life here and don't see either Israel or Palestinians. However the reasons why we should care are right in front of us.

Do you pay tax on your income? Congratulations, your taxes have funded a \$917 million defence contract with Israeli military company Elbit Systems. They made the drone that killed Australian aid worker Zomi Frankcom. Your taxes also support the Pine Gap signals surveillance base that provides intelligence to the US and Israeli militaries. Do you have a Superannuation account? It's highly likely your super fund invests in the Israeli economy.

Australia is complicit at the government level too. Apart from the money the Albanese government has handed out to Elbit, and our role in making parts for the F-35 fighter-bomber jets Israel uses to bomb civilians in Gaza, this country maintains diplomatic relations with Israel.

Some argue that it doesn't matter what Australia does about the ongoing genocide. They say it's too far away, and we can't change it. They're wrong. If what this country does or says doesn't make a difference, why did the Israeli PM bother to berate the Albanese government for recognising a Palestinian state?

Palestine matters because the attack on its people and land are part of the system of US capital-driven global dominance, that Australia is a part of.

Palestine is closer than you think, and the fight for Palestinian freedom is a fight against a global bully that oppresses Australian working people. Their fight is a part of our fight, for an independent Australia that puts its people first.

Don't forget Gaza. Don't forget Palestine. Pressure your super fund. Keep up the pressure on the politicians. If you can, join a solidarity organisation.

CSIRO staff cuts

Continued from page 1

In defensive mode, PM Albanese said, "we want to make sure that every single dollar of funding for scientific research is going in the right direction." The Coalition is trying to get mileage out of the cuts, by criticising the choice of areas to cut, but the truth is there's plenty of blame to go around. Chief Executive Hilton has said that the CSIRO's funding hasn't kept pace with inflation under both Coalition and Labor governments. Chronic below-inflation funding, he said, "just doesn't keep up with the cost of doing science."

PROFIT AND USE

Profits from the commercialisation of CSIRO inventions stay in Australia. If the research is sent overseas using foreign labs it would mean this economic value is exported. CSIRO also does research which is only possible in Australia. Critical technologies such as biosecurity, environmental monitoring, nuclear technologies, and vaccines require domestic

control. If agricultural research is done overseas it would be done within a foreign climate, regulatory system, and market-specific region which would have to be adapted to Australian conditions greatly increasing costs.

PRIORITIES

The negative economic impact of funding cuts will be felt medium-to-long term. The consequences are the reduced capacity to innovate, leading to lower productivity gains. Without reversing the cuts, Australia will weaken its scientific base, which will reduce high-growth, high-value industries such as biotech, clean energy, and advanced manufacturing.

It's worth comparing CSIRO funding to that of AUKUS. When it comes to science, the Prime Minister talks about making sure that "every single dollar" is going in the right direction." When it comes to funding nuclear-powered submarines that will work to the USA's benefit, the Labor government didn't hesitate to commit to

an extra \$6 billion on top of \$12 billion spent so far to encourage the US to stay the course.

The AUKUS spending will make Australia's future more dangerous. The CSIRO cuts will sacrifice Australia's economic and environmental future.

To protest the cuts, contact your ALP Senators and local member. You can also sign the petition at www.proudtobepublic.org.au/csiro or use the QR code below. ✳



Quote of the Week

"Flat out saying that we just don't feel like it's worth protecting our citizens from this particular time of harm."

Environmental writer, Ketan Joshi, describing the Coalition's attitude to cutting carbon emissions. He's not a fan of Labor's climate inaction either.

Congress Appeal

From 27 February to 1 March 2026, elected delegates representing Communist Party organisations from all over Australia will gather in Melbourne for the 15th National Congress of the Party. There will be an opening on the Friday night, 27 February, to which all *Guardian* readers, their families and friends are invited. (Details will be provided in a future issue of the *Guardian*.)

Over three days, delegates will discuss the work of the Party, make any amendments to and adopt a Political Resolution. In the lead-up to the Congress, Party members are discussing and submitting

amendments to the draft Political Resolution. In January 2026 the Central Committee will consider these amendments and finalise the draft to be put to Congress.

Congress will elect a new Central Committee to lead the work of the Party until the next National Congress. As the highest body of the Party, it can also amend the Party's Program and Constitution and adopt other resolutions as its delegates may determine.

The CPA has launched a Special Appeal to help defray the costs associated with holding a National Congress. These are considerable with delegates coming from as far away as Perth, the printing of documents, etc.

We are appealing to Party members, organisations, and all friends and supporters of the Party, including *Guardian* readers, to help us reach our \$10,000 target as soon as possible.

To contribute, please fill in the form below or write your details on a separate piece of paper to send with your contribution. Payment by credit card can also be phoned in on 02 9699 8844 or use the direct credit details.

All contributions will be acknowledged in the *Guardian*, with the names of contributors unless otherwise requested. We look forward to your support for this important occasion. ✳

Direct credit details

BSB 062006

Acct 00802169

or use the QR code.

Include "Congress Appeal" with transaction. If you want to be acknowledged in the *Guardian* (give name as it should appear).



15th CPA Congress \$10,000 Financial Appeal

I, (Name)

Address.....

wish to contribute \$..... to the above Appeal.

I enclose a Cheque/Money Order/Cash for that amount (made out to "CPA").

For Credit Card payments fill out the information below:

Credit Card minimum \$20 ☐ Visa ☐ Mastercard

Name on the card

Signature:

Card Number

Expiry Date ____/____

I agree/disagree to having my name published in the *Guardian* in acknowledgement of my contribution.

Send to 74 Buckingham St, Surry Hills, 2010 or phone through on 02 9699 8844.

COP30. 'End the era of fossil fuels'

M Santos

"COP30 will go down in history as the deadliest talk show ever produced," Harjeet Singh of the Satat Sampada Climate Foundation said at the conclusion of COP30 UN climate talks in Belém, Brazil. Time has almost run out. The world is heating to the point of reaching irreversible threats (tipping points) to the future of humanity and life on our planet as we know it.

Mohamed Adow, director of the Power Shift Africa think tank, said: "With an increasingly fractured geopolitical backdrop, COP30 gave us some baby steps in the right direction, but considering the scale of the climate crisis, it has failed to rise to the occasion. Despite calling themselves climate leaders, developed countries have betrayed vulnerable nations by failing to deliver science-aligned national emission reduction plans."

"The main task of COP30 is clear: to end the era of fossil fuels and accelerate the transition to a clean, low-emission energy matrix in all economic sectors and countries," said Paulo Artaxo from the University of São Paulo said.

In regard to this main task, COP30 failed, instead ending with a watered-down Mutirão decision. Mutirão is an Indigenous tradition bringing people together to help each other, usually in rural or Indigenous communities. The 194 participating nations failed to reach consensus in support of global collective interests of the people, omitting any direct reference to the need to phase out fossil fuels.

The Arab states and Russia were the main blockers.

Consensus could not even be reached on the science which requires a "transition away from fossil fuels" as had been included in the final resolution at COP28 in 2023.

BACKDROP

The UN's *Emissions Gap Report 2025: Off Target* notes that less than a third of the world's nations (62 out of 197) had sent in their climate action plans, known as nationally determined contributions (NDCs) under the Paris agreement. The US, the biggest emitter per person, has withdrawn from the international agreement and did not send official delegates, but there was no shortage of toxic US fossil fuel representatives (see page 7).

The world's 100 largest fossil fuel companies increased their projected production in the year up to March 2025, which would lead to carbon dioxide emissions three times those compatible with the Paris climate agreement target of limiting heating to 1.5°C above preindustrial levels.

Commercial banks are supporting this expansion, with the top 40 lenders to the fossil fuel sector collectively investing a five-year high of \$611 billion in 2024. Their 'green sector' lending was lower at \$532 billion.

Despite the rapid increase in renewables, greenhouse gas emissions are still rising, with coal hitting a record high in 2024. Energy consumption continues to rise with AI making hefty and increasing demands on energy sources as well as water.

The past 11 years are set to be the 11 hottest years on record. Tipping points (irreversible changes) are being reached with glaciers melting, forests disappearing, and wildfires, floods, and droughts becoming ever more destructive.

The planet is heading for 2.6°C -2.8°C heating.



Photo: Ricardo Stuckert/PR – flickr.com (CC BY-SA 4.0)

THE SCIENCE

Climate scientists at COP30 made it clear. As economist Michael Roberts said, "we need to start, now, to reduce CO2 emissions from fossil-fuels, by at least 5% per year. This must happen in order to have a chance to avoid unmanageable and extremely costly climate impacts affecting all people in the world."

"We need to be as close as possible to **absolute zero fossil fuel emissions** by 2040, the latest by 2045. This means globally no new fossil fuel investments, removing all subsidies from fossil fuels and a global plan on how to phase in renewable and low-carbon energy sources in a just way, and phase out fossil fuels quickly." (Emphasis added)

More than 80 countries, including major fossil fuel exporters such as Norway, Brazil, and Australia, presented a plan to build a roadmap to phase out fossil fuels. Australia's position was hypocritical to say the least, with ongoing approvals of fossil fuel projects through to 2070 and beyond.

The Arab Group of countries, Russia, India and others blocked any mention of fossil fuels in the final, watered-down document.

Instead, decisions were made by groups of countries outside the UN process. The most important of these being a conference to adopt a road map for the phasing out fossil fuels to be held by Colombia and the Netherlands in April 2026.

Close to 90 countries from Africa, Asia, Latin America, and the Pacific, including Australia joined with EU member states and the UK in support of the conference.

JUST TRANSITION

However, there was agreement on a just transition mechanism (JTM), a plan to ensure that the move to a green economy takes place fairly and protects the rights of all people, including workers and Indigenous people.

"The adoption of JTM was a win shaped by years of pressure from civil society," said Tasneem Essop, the executive director of Climate Action Network International. "This outcome didn't fall from the sky: it was carved out through struggle, persistence and the moral clarity of those living on the frontlines of climate breakdown."

Brazil's initiative to adopt a roadmap to halt deforestation and protect existing tropical forests was blocked. A new fund was launched, the Tropical Forest Forever Facility (TFFF), but this was also outside the official UN process. It has secured US\$9.5 billion (A\$14.7 billion) in funding pledges.

"The TFFF reflects a growing recognition that climate integrity and forest protection are inseparable," said Dr Fernando Barrio, at Queen Mary University of London. "Whether it will be effective depends on its design. But the political signal is important because there is no path to 1.5°C that does not involve ending deforestation this decade."

FINANCE

Teresa Anderson, global lead on climate justice at ActionAid International, said: "A lack of climate finance is throwing a spanner in the works of climate progress. Global south countries, already carrying the costs of the climate crisis they have not caused, desperately need support from rich countries if they are to take on any more commitments. Nowhere was this more stark than on the issue of fossil fuels, where specific text once again ended up unfunded and on the cutting-room floor."

Oxfam Australia Policy and Advocacy Lead Josie Lee said: "If Australia is serious about standing with the Pacific and showing leadership in our Presidency role [in 2026], we must announce our new climate finance goal for 2025-30 and ensure it includes funding for adapting to climate change impacts and recovery from the losses and damages. One of the clearest ways to raise this funding is to ensure the big coal and gas companies that have driven the climate crisis finally pay their fair share."

Developing countries must have sufficient resources to carry out their energy transition and meet mitigation and adaptation targets as well as address the impacts of climate change on their daily lives.

PROFIT-DRIVEN

Energy companies go where they can make the maximum profits from their investments. At present the rate of profit from fossil fuels is far greater than from

renewables. Until that changes they will have little incentive to phase out fossil fuels.

This situation could be turned around by a number of measures including making them pay high taxes, ending fossil fuel subsidies, nationalisation, and through legislation. It is a question of governments such as Australia's having the political will to back their words with concrete action.

COP31

Türkiye and Australia have agreed to share responsibilities for COP31 to be held in the Turkish city of Antalya, with a pre-COP event to be held in the Pacific.

Australia would appoint a 'president of negotiations' who will have exclusive authority over negotiations from the end of COP30 through to the conclusion of COP31.

Australia, in partnership with the Pacific, will set the agenda for the pre-COP summit, with the intent to give importance to the risks of climate change on low-lying islands. Roughly 24 hours after Minister for Climate Change Chris Bowen signed up to the Belém declaration away from fossil fuels, PM Albanese contradicted him and confirmed the government has no plan to wind down its fossil fuel exports or stop approving new projects.

Australia must now set a timeline for the phase-out of coal, oil and gas, including exports. Climate change is global and the solutions lie with global cooperation. Australia's actions impact people and the environment around the world.

To avoid the most catastrophic consequences of climate change and for the survival of humanity a global plan based on public ownership of resources and technology is needed along with an end to capitalism.

The climate crisis knows no borders. Only strong international cooperation, based science and binding agreements, will enable us to tackle a global challenge such as global warming. 🌱

Australia's position was hypocritical, with ongoing approvals of fossil fuel projects through to 2070 and beyond.

Tapping into culture: the mobile game reviving Nyiyaparli

Esther Colman

Doom scrolling, binge watching and brain rot gets to us all these days, especially the younger generations. It's hard to find meaning in watching yet another below average Netflix series or swiping through an endless stream of content that leaves you feeling more empty than entertained.

But what if spending your precious time playing a game was actually making a difference ... Think *Duolingo* (without the scary angry bird) meets *Angry Birds* and *Extreme Fishing*, and you get *Nyiyaparli Widi*; a game that aims to revitalise a language from the brink of extinction.

The Nyiyaparli language stretches back over 41,000 years, yet only eight fluent speakers of the language remain. The language was quickly vanishing in front of our eyes, like many others, with the number of senior language speakers dropping from eleven to eight over just eighteen months.

To prevent the language from disappearing completely, they took the initiative to harness technology for cultural preservation and created *Nyiyaparli Widi*, a game for the next generation to learn from.

Simon, the Executive Producer of the Nyiyaparli Living Language Project, told *Ngaarda Media's* Esther Colman:

"The goal of the Nyiyaparli Living Language Project is to keep the language alive forever. It's a community-led grassroots language program. So it's been designed by the community."

While most games are built to distract, this one is designed to connect. Instead of consuming yet another hour of brain rot, kids are using their screens to explore Country, hear the voices of their Elders, and pick up words that have travelled through 41,000 years of culture.

It flips the idea of screen time on its head as every minute spent playing is another step toward keeping a language alive.

Nyiyaparli Widi ("widi" meaning game in Nyiyaparli) is set across real Pilbara landscapes from the 14-Mile stockyards and Fortescue Marsh to Ethel Creek Station and Newman.

Players travel through Country completing cultural missions and collecting "Paathupaathu Points," or respect points.

Every object collected unlocks a Nyiyaparli word, building a digital dictionary as players go. Instead of just tapping at a screen, kids are learning the sounds, stories, and meanings of their ancestors' language.

Leonard Michael Stream, a member of the Nyiyaparli Living Language Project Cultural Working Group said, "We keep telling kids to get off their phones – but here's a story where staying on the phone might just help save a language and the cultural knowledge it unlocks."

Nyiyapali Widi is available on both the Apple App Store and Google Play, plus you can learn more about the Nyiyaparli Living Language Project by visiting <https://nyiyaparli.live/>

Ngaarda Media 🍷

NSW: Outsourcing betrays local kids

The United Services Union (USU) has condemned Winge-carribee Shire Council for its closed-door decision to outsource the long-standing Out of School Hours Care (OOSH) service – warning that the move will cause real and immediate harm to local children and their families who depend on stable, affordable, community-run care.

At a confidential meeting on Wednesday 19 December 2025 Councillors voted to hand over the OOSH service, which has operated for more than 30 years, to private providers.

The decision puts at risk the quality of care provided to around 130 Highlands children and undermines the routine, stability, and trust that local parents rely on every single day.

The decision also means any future decision to close the service, or to jack up prices, is out of Council's hands.

USU Organiser Rudi Oppitz said the Council's decision shows a complete disregard for local kids whose wellbeing should have been the first consideration.

"This isn't just a service on a spreadsheet, these are real kids

who need safe, familiar, consistent care," Oppitz said.

"Haven't we learned from newspaper headlines in the last few months that the safety of our children in child care can't be taken for granted?

"Parents drop their children off every morning, trusting the Council to look after them. Instead of strengthening the service, Councillors have secretly voted to pass our kids into the hands of private providers focused on profit."

Families are already under pressure following the earlier outsourcing of Family Day Care, which left many without adequate childcare options. Council had promised at the time to invest in and promote its OOSH service to ensure families weren't left behind – but instead delivered no strategic planning, no marketing, and no support to ensure the program could grow.

"Council failed these families twice – first by cutting Family Day Care, and now by gutting the only remaining Council-run childcare option," Oppitz said.

"Parents are being left to scramble, wondering where their kids will go and whether they'll still get the same level of care."

The USU warns that privatising

OOSH could lead to higher fees, reduced availability, and more uncertainty for parents already struggling to juggle work, school schedules, and household pressures.

"Parents need stability, not a revolving door of private operators," Oppitz said.

"Kids need continuity, trusted staff, and a service that puts their wellbeing first. Outsourcing puts all of that at risk."

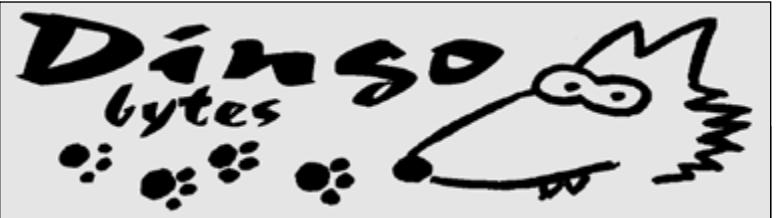
The union is calling on the General Manager and Mayor to urgently rethink the decision and to consult directly with families, educators, and the broader community before making changes that will reshape daily life for so many households.

"Council should be supporting local kids and giving families certainty – not making life harder through secret votes and short-sighted decisions," Oppitz said.

"It's not too late for Council to listen to its community and protect this essential service."

The USU will continue to stand with local families and workers to fight for a strong, publicly delivered OOSH service that puts the needs of children first.

United Services Union 🍷



ABC offer 'insulting'

Staff at the ABC have voted to reject management's insulting enterprise agreement offer, which sought to undermine previous wins, threaten to stall careers, and worsen job insecurity.

Members of the Media, Entertainment & Arts Alliance (MEAA) at the ABC are not only fighting for fair pay and conditions but for the future of the national broadcaster.

MEAA Chief Executive Erin Madeley said staff would not stand by and accept the ongoing mismanagement of the ABC.

"Australians deserve for our ABC to be run in the interest of the public, not in the interests of a select few," Madeley said.

"For that to happen, journalists and content makers need secure jobs and sustainable careers, in both regional and metro areas. Management's backwards offer attempted to cut job security and access to career progression.

"It also ignored staff calls for ethical and accountable use of AI in the workplace, respect for the MEAA Journalist Code of Ethics, and an audit into racial and disability pay gaps.

"We applaud the brave and principled MEAA members at the ABC, who will not back down in their fight for workers' rights, journalism and a sustainable national broadcaster."

The ABC MEAA House Committee said: "Instead of respecting the needs of staff who are dedicated to serving their audiences, ABC management tried to bypass their union representatives at the bargaining table and force through cuts to conditions and pay that won't keep up with inflation.

"Over the past two years, ABC management has wasted millions of dollars on a failed defence of its illegal termination of an employee due to her political opinions, and it continues to act in contravention of the Fair Work Act in relation to its abuse of rolling, short-term fixed contracts.

"It's time for management to get its priorities right and commit to proper good faith bargaining with its staff in the interest of the Australian public."

PARASITE OF THE WEEK: the Albanese government and its failure to commit at COP30 in Brazil. The Australian Conservation Foundation has welcomed Australia signing the *Belém Declaration to Transition from Fossil Fuels*, but says when it came to securing a strong formal agreement decision at COP30, Australia was missing in action.

Despite the lack of a formal COP30 outcome on fossil fuels and deforestation as the summit concluded in Brazil, ACF welcomed the Brazilian Presidency's commitment to deliver roadmaps for both by the next COP.

"We welcome the Albanese government's decision to join dozens of countries to sign the *Belém Declaration on the Transition Away from Fossil Fuels*," said ACF's climate and energy program manager Gavan McFadzean from COP30 in Brazil.

"The declaration is a commitment to transition energy systems and exports from fossil fuels to renewable energy in a just and equitable way, and for wealthy countries to assist developing countries to bypass fossil fuels and adopt renewable energy as their economies develop and energy needs increase.

"When leadership was needed in the final days to stand with Brazil to deliver strong language for a fossil fuel phase out as part of the formal COP30 decision, Australia sat on its hands.

"With a lead negotiation role secured for COP31, Australia needs to show stronger leadership than this.

"Signing the declaration alongside the formal negotiations is significant, but it's disappointing Australia didn't advocate publicly for a fossil fuel phase out in the formal COP30 decision. When countries needed to stand up for global climate ambition, Australia watched on as the decision was weakened.

"Pacific nations and vulnerable communities in Australia, already reeling from climate fuelled extreme weather, need the Albanese government to lead on climate action when it matters, not go MIA in the final days of negotiations."

www.cpa.org.au

CFMEU fights Kangaroo Court Royal Commission

Graham Holton

The Royal Commission into Trade Union Governance and Corruption (2014–2015) was established by the LNP Abbott government, with former High Court Judge Dyson Heydon as commissioner. It investigated allegations of ‘slush funds,’ intimidation, cartel-like behaviour, and corrupt payments. The final report found ‘widespread and deep-seated’ misconduct and possible criminal action. This encouraged those who wanted to widen their attack against the CFMEU to also target superannuation and redundancy funds.

The *Ravbar & Anor v Commonwealth of Australia* (High Court file S113/2024) case was the central constitutional challenge to the 2024 administration law, that placed the Construction & General (C&G) Division of the CFMEU (Construction, Forestry, Maritime, Mining & Energy Union) into administration. Their arguments included: claiming the law is not supported by a valid head of Commonwealth power; the legislation infringed implied constitutional freedom; and the administration regime took control of CFMEU property and rights without just compensation. In essence the Administration robbed CFMEU members of their union.

By challenging the factual basis of specific claims, the CFMEU wanted to limit the scope of what is ‘established’ in the inquiry. Even if not all legal arguments succeed, raising due process and fairness concerns would help the union in its public message, of being unfairly tried in a public forum. The High Court rejected these challenges. This loss meant that the forced administration stands, weakening one of the constitutional arguments and making the inquiry more threatening. Procedural and evidentiary challenges remain a key line of defence. The decision is also a loss for the entire trade union movement as it can be applied to any other union in the future.

The ‘Violence in Queensland CFMEU’

report by Geoffrey Watson SC, 17 June 2025, claims there was a ‘toxic culture’ within the Queensland CFMEU, using violence, threats, and coercion. That the union may be operating in ways that go beyond traditional industrial negotiation and may rely on aggressive and illegal tactics. The investigation was commissioned by CFMEU administrator Mark Irving KC. The Business Council of Australia explicitly renewed calls for a ‘CFMEU royal commission’ on the basis that existing oversight is not enough. Concerns were raised about whether the inquiry was politically motivated, as a former Liberal Party-linked lawyer, Stuart Wood AM KC, was heading it.

Watson recommended significant accountability for delegates, employees, and members who engaged in abusive or criminal conduct, saying they should face discipline, possibly termination. The findings were referred to Queensland Police for possible criminal investigation. The administrator, Mark Irving, was committed to “fundamental change,” replacing the old culture with one based on accountability, respect, dignity, and worker rights. In July 2025, the Queensland Premier David Crisafulli announced a Commission of Inquiry into the Queensland branch of the CFMEU. The Commission’s final report is due by 31 July 2026.

The removed former Queensland CFMEU secretary, Michael Ravbar, reacted strongly to the Watson report’s findings, calling the report “offensive and untrue,” and that it was “riddled with errors, based on selective and untested accounts.” Ravbar said, “Under my leadership, the union fought tirelessly for all workers and delivered significant gains, including initiatives that empowered women across male dominated industries.”

Conflict between the CFMEU and AWU (Australian Workers’ Union) played into the Royal Commission. The disputes over which union should represent construction workers on heavy industry sites and ‘raiding’ the other’s members was used by the Commission. The AWU was investigated over ‘AWU Workplace Reform Association’ donations

involving Julia Gillard, and concerns about sweetheart deals with employers. The AWU has long-standing ties with the Labor Right faction, and used the hearings to present itself as a more cooperative union compared with the CFMEU. The CFMEU claimed the Commission was a political attack on militant unions, and framed the AWU as aligned with employers and the Liberal government’s narrative. It accused the AWU of using the Commission to undermine the Left faction.

The Royal Commission intensified the conflict, providing a national stage where the CFMEU was framed as aggressive and unlawful, and the AWU contrasted itself as responsible and cooperative. The outcome was that the CFMEU’s reputation suffered due to sustained media coverage of alleged

misconduct, while the AWU positioned itself as a cleaner alternative. Despite the adverse publicity, the CFMEU remains one of Australia’s most powerful unions while the AWU retains influence within the Labor Right and political branches. The result has been a deeper divide inside the union movement, with greater political scrutiny, and renewed government regulatory pressure.

Unions must have strong internal democratic structures to deal with any allegations of corruption or bad practices, ultimately their members are the only ones who have the right to elect or remove their leadership.

CFMEU members must remain united and take control back of their union moving forward. ✱



Doctors warn on nature laws

Medical experts warn the Albanese government’s proposed nature laws – now being debated in the Senate – will allow major coal and gas projects to be approved without any assessment of their health impacts, costing Australian lives.

Medical group Doctors for the Environment Australia, says that the draft reforms, the Environment Protection Reform Bill 2025 and six other related bills, do not include human health effects when defining what is an “unacceptable impact.”

This effectively allows the Environment Minister, Senator Murray Watt, to approve a proposal

without assessing the risk it poses to public health.

DEA’s Executive Director Dr Kate Wylie says, “To prevent foreseeable harms from known hazards, we need to use the available science that can measure the toll on our communities from individual fossil fuel projects.

“We call for health impact assessments for all energy projects and for death and disease data to be included in the definition of unacceptable impacts.

“Surely if a project causes death it cannot be deemed acceptable? What price a life? What price our health?

“Just like every cigarette is doing us damage, every tonne of

carbon added to the atmosphere damages us too. And just as medical professionals called out the health harms of tobacco which led to comprehensive regulation, we are now calling for regulation of fossil fuels.

“Clean air, clean water, healthy soils capable of producing nutritious food, shelter and a stable climate are fundamental to the health of us all. Yet the environment on which we are totally dependent on for these things is in deep trouble, and the reforms we have been waiting for years to fix the problems show a terrible lack of concern.”

“The Senate now has an opportunity to amend the legislation to include human health and protect

our communities from harm,” Dr Wylie says.

Fossil fuel-induced climate change is the biggest health hazard humanity faces. Climate impacts that doctors are seeing right now in their surgeries and in Emergency Departments include:

- Heat-related illness and mortality during extreme heat events.
- Bushfire smoke exposure causing respiratory and cardiovascular harm.
- Mental health impacts including anxiety, depression, and post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) from climate disasters.
- Injuries and deaths from

extreme weather events, such as extreme heat, bushfires, floods, and storms.

- Food insecurity from agricultural disruption and water insecurity.
- Vector-borne diseases such as dengue fever and Japanese encephalitis which are likely to increase, as they’re climate-sensitive.
- Healthcare costs for treating harms and also due to disruption during climate disasters.

Doctors for the Environment Australia ✱

Forced to work public holidays? Check again

Mining and Energy Union (MEU) members at a coal mine in Queensland have won a landmark court case against their employer.

The Full Federal Court ruling found that BHP broke the law by forcing the mineworkers to work on Christmas and Boxing Day, instead of asking them.

The case may only be about 85 workers, but the precedent ruling sends two clear messages to every worker across the country:

Employers must comply with Australian

workplace law. Union power is how we hold them accountable. Australian workplace law does not enforce itself.

NO CONSULTATION OR AGREEMENT

In 2019, 85 workers at Daunia coal mine were ‘selected’ to be required to work on Christmas Day and Boxing Day (by drawing their names out of a hat).

The MEU filed a court case against BHP

for breaching the Fair Work Act, which says that employers have to request workers to work on a public holiday, not command.

The case was originally dismissed, but the union successfully appealed the decision. In the final ruling, the judge noted the “inherent power imbalance” between employers and employees, and said the law requires there be a “request, rather than a unilateral command, to prompt the capacity for discussion, negotiation and a refusal.” The judge also gave merit to MEU’s argument that BHP’s

motivation for having the employees work on Christmas was “purely for the purpose of profit.”

The outcome means that BHP has been ordered to pay a fine, as well as thousands of dollars in compensation to the affected workers.

Australian Unions ✱

OP-ED: Rare earths deal

RJ Harris

Western imperialism, aka the rules-based order, is supply chain dependent on its strategic rival China. This is the context for the recently announced increase in state-sponsorship of rare earth element (REE) extraction and processing between USA and Australia.

The two states have announced they are to invest \$1 billion USD by end April 2026 with a concomitant mining promotion meeting. Already there is significant state investment in REE and critical minerals activity in Australia, as the private companies who conduct this activity are addicted to public handouts while they post profits in the billions. Nystar cries poor at its Hobart, Tasmania and Port Pirie, South Australia smelters while its parent company Trifigura

(Singapore) made \$2.8 billion net profit last year.

Reserve Bank Australia (RBA) notes in their Bulletin of October 2025 lithium projects in Australia suffered delays due to a fall in prices last year. The stated intent of the REE announcement is to increase production of REE and flood the market. US President Trump expects the value to fall as their supply greatly increases. This is known as “oversupply.”

The announcement states that the USA and Australia will protect their domestic markets from “non-market policies and unfair trade practices.” They will do this through dumping. This is a major contradiction in the announcement.

“Unfair trade practices for thee but not for me!” Another rules-based order mantra.

This announcement by the United States of America and Australia is an aspirational market

signal to increase investment in REE extraction, processing and sale. First there will need to be a large amount of expensive research conducted. During this time activity at existing plants like WA-based, US-owned Alcoa will expand.

REEs are generally produced as by-products of other mining activity. Gallium is a byproduct at Alcoa’s bauxite and alumina mines which threaten Perth’s water supply. Investment into the processing of gallium by states which have agreed in their framework to “accelerate, streamline, or deregulate permitting timelines and processes” will be bad for the workers who have to live with the consequences.

We have form: Australia remains a quarry economy. “Our” resource giants are majority-owned by foreign entities – see the Liquid Natural Gas boom. Albanese’s announcements that we won’t just be “digging things up” but also

processing amounts to a green river of radioactive chemicals next to the giant hole.

All of this is desecration of stolen land, otherwise known as the common good of Australia. New sacrifice zones will be created here so Lockheed Martin can manufacture more Precision Strike Missiles, the US government can give them to their friends at the East Mediterranean Sea and Israel can fire them at children.

However, like most of the announcements from the West, this one is heavy on bluster and light on substance. REEs are abundant in their unmined and unprocessed form. Extracting REEs at scale requires not only large and ongoing investment but technical expertise and capabilities. Off-shoring jobs (labour arbitrage) for higher corporate profits (capitalist productivity) has led to a dearth of capabilities. In other words, we sent jobs overseas

to save money, so now we don’t have people here who know how to do those jobs. Money supplied to the private sector today will increase share prices and share buybacks. It will not put a new shovel in the dirt, as there is not the capacity to do so.

China is restricting the supply of REEs as leverage over strategic rivals. Gallium is an REE used in advanced warfighting and surveillance systems. China will not grant Lockheed Martin et al. a licence for this REE due to self-interest. This is an obvious conclusion.

Readers will be reminded of when the Waterside Workers’ Federation wouldn’t load military production material on the Dalfram for export to Japanese factories. Then the Australian government was fine with exporting pig iron to a fascist Japan which would soon be using it to make shells. China has no intention of making the same mistake. ✖

Queensland transport: so many gave so much

David Matters

There is a long history of union activism and militancy in Queensland transport.

I recently attended a 100th anniversary event for the Brisbane city council transport. It was a marvellous day, with buses from previous eras on display. I’m a veteran bus driver, and the day brought back memories. As usual I talked about union struggles past and how union members had been behind so much progress in so many areas. Someone once protested to me, saying “you always talk about the union.”

I answered them by saying “What you want from me is silence.” My life for the last four decades has been the union.

Often disputes have been about safety, with transport workers having to mount sustained campaigns to achieve safety from horrendous temperatures. We had to fight for air conditioned cabins, meal rooms, and water bottles for drivers, who had sometimes been working in temperatures of over 40 degrees.

In 1968 the union entered the fight of its life when the Brisbane city council decided to close its tram network. A five-week strike ensued to win the right of Brisbane Tramway workers to operate the new bus network and maintain it under public control. There were divisions between unions, with the Road Transport Association (now the Transport Workers’ Union) attempting to close out the Tramway Union. The

Tramway Union’s victory in holding the routes and the jobs also meant a victory against privatisation.

In the 1980s Brisbane was the centre of resistance to the totalitarian Bjelke-Petersen government and the bus system was underfunded.

From the 1980s onwards, privatisation was in the air. The Hawke-Keating Labor government introduced a National Competition Policy to overcome resistance to selling off publicly owned assets that had been built up over decades and paid for by working people. Government-owned enterprises such as Qantas and Telecom (Telstra) were sold off.

Privatisation has been attempted many times in Brisbane. In the late 1990s, there was an attempt to break up the transport system into 12 separate franchises.

The Bligh Labor government succeeded in privatising ports, forests, and railways, but was defeated in attempts to sell off the council buses. Before Bligh, Peter Beattie succeeded in privatising electricity in the state.

The Brisbane transport system has been in public ownership for 100 years. I think it is something worth celebrating. We wouldn’t be able to have these celebrations if it wasn’t for the sacrifice and struggle of thousands of union members and the millions of Brisbane residents who supported us. It’s a custom that when most passengers get off our vehicles they thank the driver. I think we should say thank you to all those who sacrificed so much to make this possible. ✖



Trolley Bus, Brunswick Street, Fortitude Valley, Brisbane, 1968.
Photo: John Ward – flickr.com (CC BY-NC-SA 2.0)

Support
the *Guardian*
by donating
to Press Fund
www.cpa.org.au/press-fund/

‘World-first’ deal to give delivery drivers better pay

Olwazi Mangun

Under a draft agreement, still to be approved by the Fair Work Commission, delivery drivers will be paid a minimum \$32 an hour from July 2026. Riders will get at least \$31.30.

Delivery worker Utsav Bhattarai said it was a win “for every worker who can now take sick leave, who can now work 40, 50 hours and

stay home, spend some time with their families.” He added, “We’re not talking about a decent pay, we’re talking about minimum wage.” Until now delivery drivers and riders have had no safeguards ensuring they are paid above minimum wage.

For some time, unions have argued that gig economy workers have been exploited by rideshare apps, without the limited entitlements enjoyed by the rest of the

workforce, such as leave, injury insurance and union representation.

Now drivers and riders will also get access to accident insurance and more transparency around pay and dispute resolution processes.

Transport Workers’ Union national secretary Michael Kaine called the deal a reward for workers who have fought since 2017 to change their lives. ✖

COP30: Fossil fuel lobby-fest

While there were no official US representatives at the COP30 United Nations climate talks in Brazil following President Trump’s withdrawal, there was no shortage of representatives of US fossil fuel polluters including Chevron and ExxonMobil. Trump has encouraged and opened the door to an expansion of fossil fuel production and use.

These two alone sent a combined total of 13 executives to the talks as well as sponsoring events for delegates and having pavilions.

Around 1,600 people – one in 25 attendees – represented the fossil fuel industry from fossil-fuel producing nations according to an analysis by Kick Big Polluters Out (KBPO).

KBPO is an alliance of climate and justice organisations campaigning to remove fossil fuel companies and their lobbyists from influencing climate negotiations and policy-making.

KBPO reports: “Despite growing calls for a rapid and just transition away from fossil fuels, the industry continues to expand operations, with close to US\$250 billion (AU\$390 billion) approved for new oil and gas projects since COP29 last year.

“Several Global North countries included fossil fuel representatives within their official delegations – France brought 22 fossil fuel delegates, with five from TotalEnergies, including CEO Patrick Pouyanné; Japan’s delegation contained 33 fossil fuel lobbyists,

among them Mitsubishi Heavy Industries and Osaka Gas; and Norway snuck 17 into the talks, including six senior executives from its national oil and gas giant Equinor.

“Fossil fuels are the biggest contributors to the climate crisis, and Exxon and Chevron are among the worst 57 polluters that are directly linked to 80 per cent of the world’s global fossil CO2 emissions since the 2016 Paris Agreement.

“Two years ago, the COP28 summit in Dubai ended with a historic call to ‘transition away’ from fossil fuels to meet climate targets, but emissions from polluting fuels are on track to hit a record high this year,” KBPO pointed out.

“No Big Oil executive can claim their objectives align with the UN’s multilateral climate treaty,” Colin Rees of Oil Change International said.

“These companies continue to drill, pollute, and profit from the destruction of our planet and communities. Fossil fuel executives are the arsonists of the climate crisis. They cannot be trusted to help extinguish the fire.

“The Trump administration has played a critical role in opening doors and creating an environment where people are looking to do these kinds of deals,” Colin Rees of Oil Change International said.

Rees called for fossil fuel companies to be denied access to the talks. 🇺🇸

PEACE NOTES

Military lobby in Australia

Denis Doherty

Traditionally since its inception the RSL has been a focus for pro-military spending forces in Australia. Today it is no different. When outgoing RSL President Major General Melick spoke at the last Remembrance Day event, he called on the government to increase defence spending. Former PM Paul Keating responded correctly but not diplomatically, calling Melick a “dope” and accusing him of wanting to drag Australia “into a military exchange with the Chinese.” Keating has got all the Defence academic clique terribly upset, and they are calling for respect for veterans and a better understanding the issues about our current strategic position.

Jennifer Parker a pro-military academic at ANU with connections to the Lowy institute said, with no awareness of the irony, that it would be “prudent and responsible to have a national conversation about how we prepare for the changes outlined in the Australia’s National Defence Strategy.” We all know that there is no conversation about these issues because only the pro-military perspective is canvassed!

The other major lobby for more spending on the military comes from former high ranking Australian military officers who have gone through the revolving door from active military service to high paying jobs with rapacious arms corporations. The Aerospace Maritime Defence and Security Foundation, the organisation that coordinates the arms fairs such as the recent Indo Pacific Expo is headed up by a retired Vice Admiral Tim Barrett. It is not just the politicians that get their snouts in trough of big money from weaponry.

The Military Industrial Complex plus

There seems to be a change coming down the track about how we think of the people behind the rush to war in various parts of the world. Previously we simply said the military-industrial complex is behind this war or conflict. The introduction of AI into the battlefield seen in the Gaza massacre, and the massive increase in surveillance of all types has necessitated the use of huge cloud resources to store information. Hence the arrival of Silicon Valley companies in the weapons industry, with Google providing cloud space, Palantir provided AI targeting software with advanced and powerful targeting capabilities for the IDF.

An example of their work with an Australian connection, the murder of Aussie aid worker Zomi Frankcom, is the targeting of three well-marked and fully approved aid vehicles belonging to World Central Kitchen, killing their seven occupants and ensuring that the food would never reach those dying of starvation. The targeting was precise – placing missiles dead centre in the aid agency’s rooftop logos.

Israel and arms fairs

It’s good to see reports that Israeli arms companies have met opposition at arms fairs in South Korea and Dubai. The so-called “ceasefire” in Gaza has yet to ease global criticism of Israel. On 20 October dozens of pro-Palestinian activists staged a protest outside the exhibition pavilions of Israeli defence companies participating in the ADEX aerospace and defence exhibition at Seoul Airport in South Korea. Dubai Airshow has withdrawn registrations for all six Israeli defence companies due to take part in next month’s biennial arms show after a “technical review.”

The approach of Dubai to Israeli arms companies shows it is possible to stand up to Israel, and it puts Dubai in stark contrast to the pathetic response of the NSW and federal governments to the Israeli presence at the Indo Pacific Maritime Expo.

Guerilla Woman

The night is shorter than the road
its path more intricate than the tiny lanes
that curve the surface of my baby daughter’s palm.
Yet I will wound this land, our own, with trenches,
with pits for the French when they march this path,
beds for the French to sleep in,
groves in the land for the enemy of the land.
The ditches must go deeper than my hatred.
the work must fly faster than my tears ...

You can drown the calls of my children,
but you can never hush the rhythm of my naked hands
clawing the frozen mud that will contain you

To Huu (1948)



Sydney Vigil

**STOP
USA BLOCKADE
ON CUBA**

4:15pm till 5:00pm

Wednesday 17 December

USA Consulate, 50 Miller Street North Sydney

Call 0418 270 885

SHOP PROGRESS

Looking for gifts or something to read over the summer holiday period? Go no further than Shop@CPA (cpa.org.au/shop/)! We have a great stock of books ranging from the Marxist-Leninist classics through to Australian history on offer. We also have revolutionary t-shirts, badges, and other gifts at the best of prices.

REVOLUTION

The iconic work, *Ten Days that Shook the World* by John Reed, is a first-hand riveting description of the extraordinary events that occurred in the lead-up to and during the Revolution that resulted in the Bolsheviks seizing power. The book was first published in March 1919, and this edition was published for the centenary of the Revolution. It includes Lenin's introduction written at the end of 1919, the preface written by M K Krupskaya in 1923 and a new foreword by David Laibman. There is also an interesting piece about the author John Reed by Howard Lawson, which raises some questions for today.

International Publishers, 430 pages, \$42

The Communist Manifesto is a must for all communists and others interested in learning about and understanding Marxism. *Birth of the Communist Manifesto* contains the full text of the *Manifesto* and a great deal of other material which contributes to an understanding of the document. This volume includes an introduction by Dirk J Struik which provides the social and intellectual milieu in which the historical document was conceived and written. This greatly assists in understanding the *Manifesto* itself. It also contains the prefaces by Marx and Engels, two preliminary drafts by Engels (one only recently found) and other supplementary material.

International Publishers, 224 pages, \$23

The concept of the state is fundamental to understanding capitalist society and the revolutionary process. *State and Revolution*, by Vladimir Lenin clarifies what Engels and Marx said about the conditions in which the state exists and its role in class society. Lenin counters the distortions that are propagated by capitalist writers and explains the well-known term "withering away of the state."

International Publishers, 103 pages, \$20

WOMEN

The Emancipation of Women contains selected writings by Lenin on a wide variety of topics related to the problems of women in society. The origins and persistence of discriminatory and oppressive practices and modes of thought, the family, the important role of women in social movements and the need to combat prejudicial hangovers from the past are discussed. "My Recollections of Lenin" by Clara Zetkin is also included in this volume. Of particular significance for today is the thought Lenin gave to the need for women to have special demands and organisations of their own, within the movement for socialism and the true emancipation of women by way of victorious class struggle.

International Publishers, 136 pages, \$25

POLITICAL ECONOMY

Imperialism

One hundred years after it was written, the classic Marxist theory of imperialism is articulated in Lenin's *Imperialism, The Highest Stage of Capitalism*, which remains the best framework to understand capitalism's international political economy. Subsequent capitalist development shows the key aspects of Lenin's thesis to be correct. An essential starting point for understanding the main international developments today.

International Publishers, 128 pages, \$20

Capital, also known as *Das Kapital*, is one of the most iconic works by the great revolutionary Karl Marx and fundamental to understanding capitalism and Marxist political economy. It revealed and substantiated the source of surplus value and exploitation of workers, the true source of private profits. *Frederick Engels on Capital* by Frederick Engels provides a clear outline of the essentials covered in *Das Kapital*.

International Publishers, 108 pages, \$15

Modern Political Economy: A New Coursebook by Cheng Enfu & others, provides a comprehensive study of political economy in the present day context. It encompasses the latest research in the political economy of China and abroad with sections on capitalist political economy and also on socialist political economy. An invaluable resource for anyone seeking to extend their knowledge and understanding of political economy.

Canut Publishers, 564 pages, \$60

ETHICS

There is a widespread misconception that Marxism is limited to material facts, mostly economic in nature, and does not and cannot delve into the realm of values and value judgements. Yet, as the author, Willis H Truitt, of *Marxist Ethics: A Short Exposition* points out, Marx condemned the injustices of capitalism in moral language. The volume covers ethical concerns that were deemed important by the young Marx; the question of determinism in Marx's writings; justice and workers' interests; integration of needs and rights of the individual with that of whole society; the intersection of the arts and morality; and much more. An extremely valuable addition to any bookshelf.

International Publishers, 119 pages, \$25

STRATEGY & TACTICS

Another popular work by Lenin is *What Is To Be Done?* It takes up some of the same issues as "*Left-wing*" *Communism: An Infantile Disorder*, and other burning issues of the communist movement, which are just as important today. Lenin analyses the organisational principles of and the tasks facing a revolutionary party and the differences between it and a party of social reform, and struggles based on 'economism'. Essential reading for any revolutionary.

International Publishers, 206 pages, \$25

PHILOSOPHY

Reader in Marxist Philosophy – from the writings of Marx, Engels and Lenin contains a selection of edited writings from Marx, Engels, and Lenin, with introductions and notes, by Howard Selsam and Harry Martel. It covers materialism versus idealism; dialectics and the dialectical method; theory of knowledge and philosophy of science; the materialist interpretation of history; religion; and ethics. It draws on many well-known writings of Marx, Engels, and Lenin, and is well referenced with a useful bibliographical index.

International Publishers, 384 pages, \$20

ENVIRONMENT

Fighting for the Future by Dr Hannah Middleton is a call to action to save our planet and humanity. It argues that humanity is at a crossroads. The insatiable drive for profits by capitalism is surging towards irreversible and catastrophic climate change. Capitalist governments – and the giant corporations they work for – are refusing to act on the warnings of the great majority of the world's leading scientists. A popular movement for change is growing around the world. The stakes in the bitter class war that is taking shape are immense and arise from the nature of capitalism. Capitalism is an unsustainable system. The booklet insists that we must confront the reality that what we do now will forever alter the course of humanity and all life on Earth. Now more than ever we must fight for a better system. Our lives are more important than their profits.

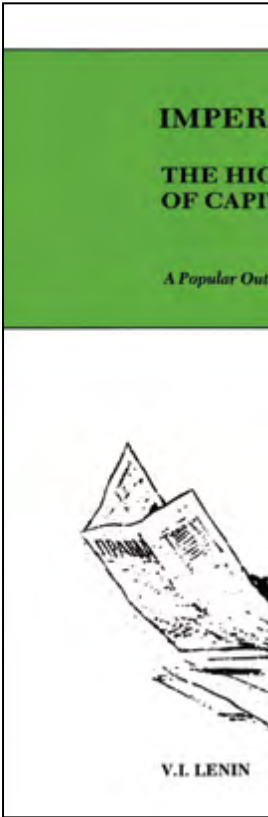
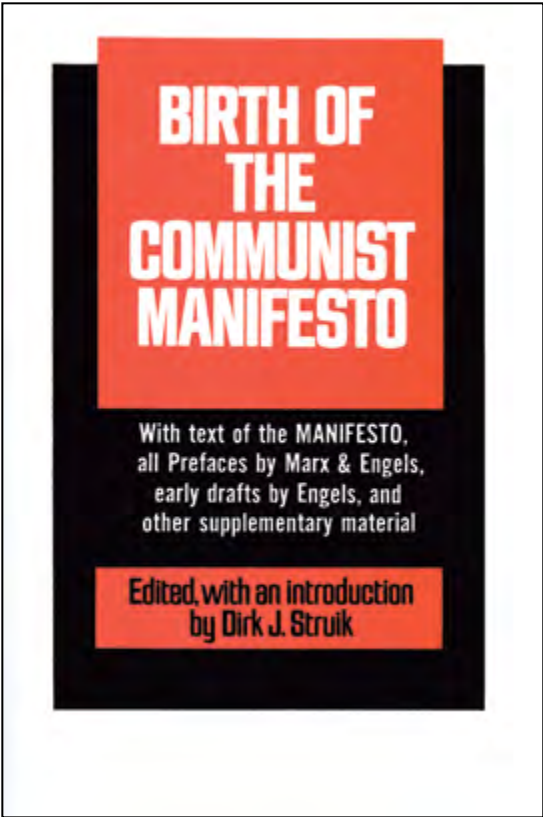
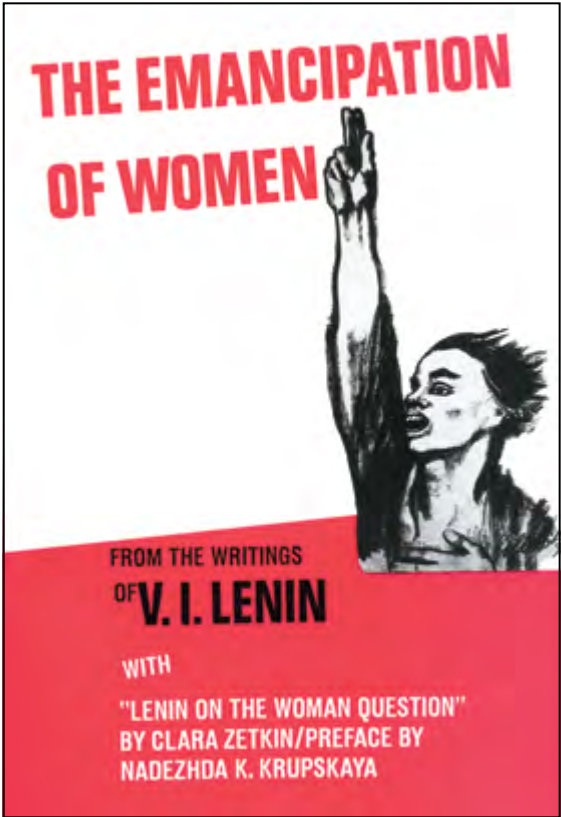
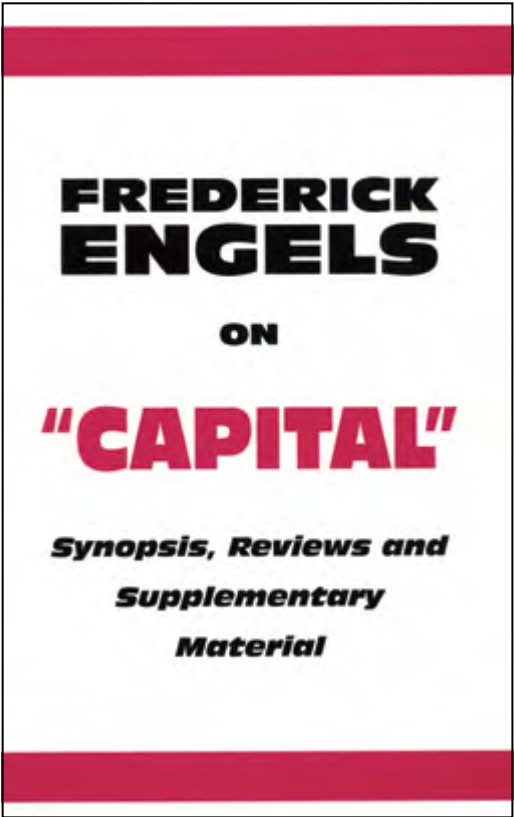
New Age Publishers, 44 pages, \$10

Green Strategy: Path to Fundamental Transformation by Marc Brodine links environmental issues to other struggles and applies lessons from past struggles. It explores the interwoven environmental problems caused by the imbalance between humanity and the natural world on which humanity depends. The roots of our environmental crises are identified as lying in capitalism. Brodine puts forward a number of positive proposals for building the necessary coalitions and alliances with other movements. A very interesting and useful contribution towards the understanding of the complexity of climate change and its all-encompassing impact on every aspect of life.

International Publishers, 293 pages, \$36

MUGS

A must for *Guardian* readers! You like drinking tea, coffee or some other fluid. You like reading *Guardian*, the *Workers' Weekly*. Enjoy a hot drink while reading the workers' weekly – \$25
Also, other mugs on the themes of peace, climate, and one with a hammer and sickle.



LIVE!

T-SHIRTS

T-shirts make excellent and welcome gifts. We have a range of designs, colours and sizes.

Just in, CPA Congress t-shirts:
Men's in black or olive green in sizes S, M, L, XL, 2XL & 3XL
Women's in black or bright green in sizes 12, 14, 16, 18, 20 & 22
\$30 including p&h

Che Guevara – red or white / black image
Lenin – red or grey / black image
Marx – white / black image
CPA – red / Party logo.
Eureka flag – blue / white cross.
T-shirt sizes come in M, L, XL, XXL, XXXL.
\$25 each including p&h.



TEA-TOWELS

The “How to Spot a Communist” tea towel is a popular and humorous item, which has a practical use or can be hung in the kitchen or somewhere else. It gives a rich insight to spotting a communist by the frequent use of such expressions as “increase wages,” “fix prices,” “unity is strength,” and “peace not war.” \$15

RED FLAG

Fly the Red Flag with the CPA’s red flag with hammer and sickle. Take it on marches and fly it proudly wherever and whenever you get the opportunity \$15.

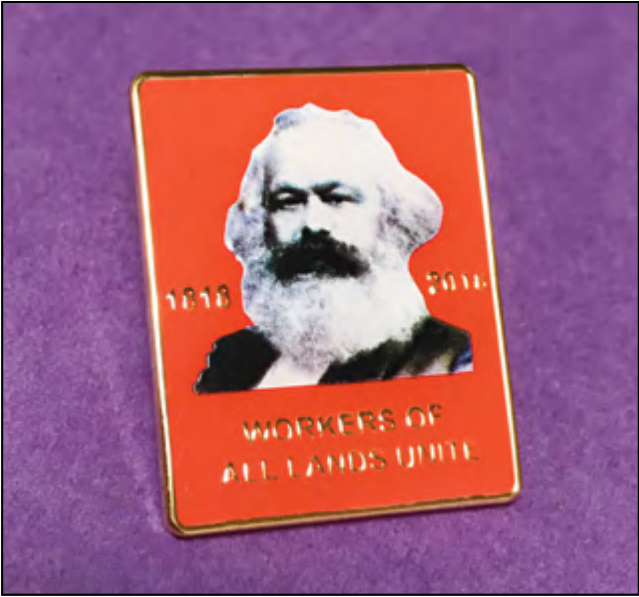
BADGES

The CPA produced a metal badge to honour the bicentenary of the birth of Karl Marx. It carries the slogan: “Workers of all lands unite” and the years 1818 and 2018 on either side of Marx’s image.

We have other badges, for full details visit www.cpa.org.au/shop. Badges are \$6 each including packing and postage. If ordering more than one badge then please ask for a price.

ALL PRICES
INCLUDE POSTAGE
WITHIN AUSTRALIA

Phone 02 9699 8844
Post to 74 Buckingham Street, Surry Hills, NSW 2010 (include payment details)
If you do not see what you are looking for or wish to order online (payment using PayPal), visit www.cpa.org.au/shop



HOW TO SPOT A COMMUNIST

1. A Communist talks very earnestly against war. This is clever and really hides the fact that what he wants is peace.

2. Communists make a great noise about being in favour of socialism. This is really diabolically clever because it hides the fact that they ARE in favour of socialism. Also it proves that they will stop at nothing. Also it gets people frightfully tangled and makes them easy marks for talk about “nationalisation”, “full employment” and “peace”.

3. A Communist can be spotted by his frequent use of foreign phrases like “increase wages”, “fix prices”, “unity is strength”, “peace not war”, etc.

4. All Communists do their secret work openly. This is very confusing.

5. Communists pay their union dues promptly. This proves they are getting Moscow gold through their local savings bank.

6. Communists led the fight for the 40-hour week; for higher wages; for penalty rates. They didn't really want these things, which accounts for why they fought so hard to get them.

7. Communists carry secrecy to really ridiculous lengths. Communists insist on being elected

by secret bullets under closest supervision with all manner of safeguards. This proves that secrecy is a mania with them.

8. A Communist moves resolutions seeking better wages and conditions for himself and his fellow workers. This is merely to bewilder them and obscure the fact that he IS a Communist.

9. In demonstrations, with rare exceptions, it is always Communists who are arrested. This proves that the Police are Communists intent on making martyrs of their fellow members.

10. Communists never join Fascist organisations, New Guards or bosses' unions. This means that they are fellow travellers with others who don't join. And this is very clever because it throws people off the scent.

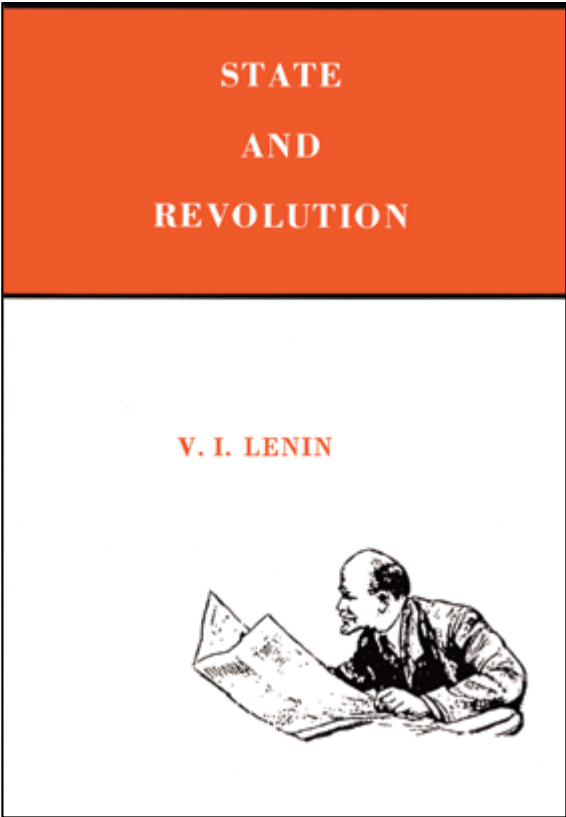
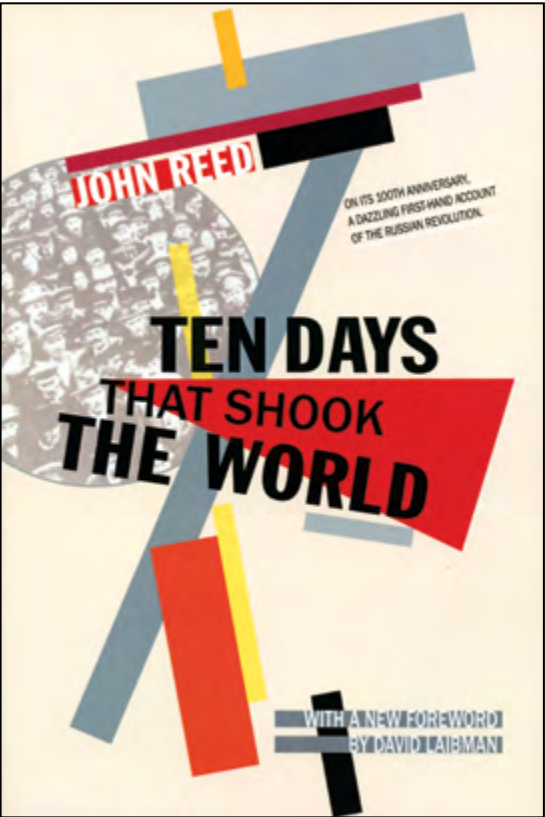
11. Communists get resolutions passed against anti-democratic measures and against atom bombs and threats of war. This proves that communists are sly, subversive and in favour of violence, and shows just how low Communists will stoop in order to be Communists.

12. A Communist attends all union meetings punctually. This is disruptive because it annoys the sane, conservative, non-dominated members and shows that the Communist can tell the time.

13. A Communist constantly uses the word “Australian”. This word is derived from the Russian “Australanovitch”. This proves he is Russian dominated and under orders from a foreign power.

14. Communists who are members of the Communist Party are probably Communists. Communists who are not members of the Communist Party are probably Communists. Communists who admit they are Communists are probably Communists, and Communists who deny they are Communists are probably Communists. All Communists are probably Communists. All people who are not Communists are probably Communists.

Then, all you have to do is to keep your eyes open and you will be able to pick a Communist at first glance – or even earlier.



Media: Hasan Piker: Socialist, Revolutionary, and Democrat?

Callum D

Hasan Piker is one of the most successful leftist media personalities of the past decade. He commands a vast online audience with his unapologetic socialist critique of American capitalism and empire. From his studio, the 34-year-old former co-host of *The Young Turks*, an online video broadcast on YouTube and Twitch, leverages his platform to dissect the news through a self-proclaimed Marxist-Leninist lens, a persona that has earned him both a devoted following and the label “the Joe Rogan of the left.”

Twitch, for those who don't know, is an app originally designed to let people record themselves playing computer games and commenting as they play, but has morphed into a popular platform for home made videos.

Yet Piker's rise to prominence, reportedly earning more than AU\$150,000 a month a month from

subscriber donations, has created a central and defining tension. Can a multi-millionaire effectively champion the revolutionary proletariat while operating within the system he seeks to dismantle?

Piker's influence on the global north's modern left is undeniable. He is often credited with introducing political theory to a generation of young viewers, popularising Leninist critiques of imperialism, and providing a platform for a new wave of leftist creators. His stream often serves as a real-time political education for his audience, breaking down current events through a dialectical framework. However, in the transition from theoretical to material, Piker's rhetoric has been tested by a series of pragmatic political endorsements that have put him at odds with the principles he promotes.

His political journey from *The Young Turks* exposes a consistent pattern of aligning with the Democratic establishment. An early endorsement of social democrat Bernie Sanders was criticised by

some in his audience as a capitulation to imperialist tendencies. This was followed by a tepid endorsement of Joe Biden in the 2020 election, which Piker defended not as an ideological victory, but as a necessary act of “harm reduction” against the threat of Republican control. Piker cited Lenin's “*Left-Wing*” *Communism: An Infantile Disorder* in support of this policy. Lenin does advocate pragmatism in the pursuit of revolutionary objectives, but he does not argue for giving up on those objectives altogether.

However, the contradictions of this supposedly pragmatic approach have become evermore apparent with Piker's most recent endorsement of state Democratic Senate candidate Graham Platner. Platner, a retired veteran with service in Afghanistan and Iraq under both the US military and Blackwater, initially attracted Piker's support with a set of social-democratic policies, as well as leaked Reddit comments where he voiced anti-capitalist sentiments, declared that “all cops

are bastards” and called himself a communist.

However, Piker's endorsement swiftly backfired. Platner has called for an expansion of the US military and higher wages for soldiers. Recently, he's posted comments online defending sexual assault in the military. He's also been photographed with a Nazi-approved tattoo on his chest. While Platner claimed the tattoo and comments were products of youth and drunken confusion, he remains unrepentant about his military career defending US interests abroad, a stance that directly contravenes the anti-imperialist struggle central to Piker's own brand.

There has been growing discontent among Piker's followers. When challenged by viewers he dismissively labels them “pamphlet communists.” Piker has repeatedly shouted down dissent, creating a rift between the streamer and a large segment of his audience.

Piker is not alone – other progressive content creators such as *The Majority Report* and *Chapo*

Trap House have also voiced support for Platner. For critics, the endorsements from these platforms are not anomalies, but a symptom of a deeper contradiction within the left of the imperial core.

The incident has ignited a fierce debate over Piker's own class interests.

While he espouses a Marxist critique of capitalism, Piker is in practice a successful capitalist. He runs a lucrative business and employs staff. He's hosted on a subsidiary of Amazon. He advocates for advocating for bourgeois interests: owning a means of production (his brand and channel), employing a staff, and managing a substantial revenue stream.

Hasan has found success appealing to a neoliberal democratic structure. Time will tell how far he's going to move to the mainstream for what passes for the left in the USA, and how much of his original audience will stay with him. ✱

Blowback – uncovering the American Empire

C Bartholomew

The world of podcasts is infamously inundated with conservative conspiracy slop, lazy true crime, and the stereotypical genre of two guys talking about nothing. *Blowback*, hosted by Brendan James and Noah Kulwin, sets itself apart from the white noise by presenting a well-produced and extensively researched programme on the history of US imperialism. With the release of season six earlier this year, now is a great time for new listeners to venture into the *Blowback* catalogue.

Each season of *Blowback* presents a ten-part narrative of a particular time in history. The show began in 2020 with coverage of the Iraq War, investigating the beginnings of Western interests in the region all the way up to the lingering consequences of imperialist intervention in the present day. This first season established the format used throughout the series, weaving news clips and even humour into the storytelling. Season one also established the show's detailed and research-backed critique of US imperialism, taking apart the lies and mythologies used to claim justification for Western intervention, and which continue to help the US and its allies escape accountability. This high standard is maintained throughout each season.

Blowback continued with its second season (and my personal favourite) focusing on US interference with Cuba both before and after the Cuban Revolution. This season marked a noticeable improvement in *Blowback*'s production quality, adding in scholarly interviews, first-hand accounts, and an original soundtrack. This quality is maintained throughout the rest of *Blowback*'s seasons, covering the Korean War, Western intervention in Afghanistan, the US bombing of Cambodia and the rise of the Khmer Rouge, and in the most recent season, the Angolan struggle for independence and the role of Cuba, South Africa, the US, and the USSR.

Each season of *Blowback* is available



for free, though new seasons release early for paid subscribers. Those who financially support the show are also able to access ten bonus episodes for each season, usually guest interviews which provide deeper insight into specific topics. The main narrative episodes themselves are compelling and detailed enough to even make a second listen worthwhile and enjoyable for those especially interested in a season's subject.

Right-wing podcasts dominate the genre, especially when it comes to history and the topic of US imperialism. Even the CIA has its own podcast! While there are several great left-wing options out there, it is easier for fascist, conservative, and liberal shows funded by advertisers or billionaire investors to flood platforms with anti-communist and pro-imperialist messages. *Blowback* stands out because it rigorously challenges these messages and presents a telling of history that stands with those oppressed by empire. It does all this while maintaining a standard of production quality that can largely keep up with its better funded competitors.

If you've got any interest in modern history or the US empire, *Blowback* is well worth a listen. Seasons two and three (Cuba and Korea) are must-listens. ✱

Solutions to Crossword

Guardian 24 November 2025 #2172

Across

- 3 EDIT – Put the BBC in Trump's sights
- 4 FILES – Trump wants to keep them locked up
- 5 APOLOGY – 3 people died, but Optus/Singtel gave us this
- 6 REVOLUTION – October, but in November
- 7 ASBESTOS – Shuts schools in ACT and Aotearoa
- 9 PRESS – Fund for helping the Workers' Weekly

Down

- 1 GERALD – First name of the world's largest warship
- 3 INFORMATION – Labor wants to free us from it
- 7 AUKUS – Underwater waste of money
- 8 TIME – Adult goes with adult crime, for Vic Labor

OP-Ed: Mamdani and the task ahead

A Carruthers

Undoubtedly Mamdani's victory over Cuomo to take the mayoralty of New York City is progress, and the joy and momentum from it should be relished and exploited to the hilt. However there are two question marks that need addressing.

Mamdani has accused Cuba of being a "dictatorship" yet Cuba has precisely delivered on most, if not all, of the policies Mamdani espouses. Cuba has revolutionised home ownership and communal aid, delivered on healthcare, education. It has done this through the tried-and-tested organisational ability of the Communist Party of Cuba and the famous Committees for the Defence of the Revolution and other community groups.

It has even done so under the boot of a crushing US embargo. Mamdani can sign documents and make decrees, but to carry out these policies requires personnel. Mamdani doesn't have that. In the US there is this idea that the leader that is voted in can just snap their fingers and deliver on policies. But enacting policies requires people. NYC, and the US in general, is disorganised and does not believe in local committees or even an organised political force like a Communist Party and local revolutionary committees.

Socialist democracy is not just top down. It's also bottom up. Authority from above is complemented from below. So how Mamdani can actually carry forward these policies is anyone's guess. His approach in a sense is too dictatorial; as if policies of top-down state welfare alone can fix it.

Public ownership and state-led works are good. If Mamdani can implement his policies in this area, it will be a step forward

for NYC residents. However, to pull it off, Mamdani will need people in the billionaire class, like Governor Kathy Hochul, to sign off on legislation. In countries like Cuba and China, billionaires are often getting in trouble with the government, thus the government "cracks down" on capital expansion and even jails, or executes billionaires.

As a 'democratic' socialist operating in the US Mamdani can't just pursue no-tolerance policies for billionaires. Yet precisely for him to succeed he will need to neutralise the power of the billionaire class and assert the role of the state in allocating funding for working-class policies. He will need to control the means of legislation.

Unfortunately given how Mamdani interprets democracy, it is unlikely that he will pursue a full-scale corruption crackdown. In Brazil this was carried out for Bolsonaro, who is now serving a lengthy jail term. Mamdani does not have that kind of working-class power over the billionaire class.

We will be wishing Mamdani all the best. He has a massive task ahead of him. But to summarise, he will need to deliver. He will need to establish from existing networks local committees and create new mass working groups to organise and sharpen the delivery of policies.

He will need to assert control over the state and over the means of legislation, rather than trusting the 'democracy' of the US system. Only when the working class forces assert power over the state can it bend it towards the people and establish a true socialist democracy.

The United States is not a democracy. It's a dictatorship, a brutal dictatorship of the billionaire class. We wish Mamdani all the best in building momentum over time to overthrow this class. ✖



Zohran Mamdani. Photo: Karamccurdy – wikimedia.org (CC BY-SA 4.0)

'Gaza bleeds infants'

FK

In a recent statement, the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine has highlighted a fresh revelation about the Israeli Army's conduct in the war on Gaza. The statement is headed "Gaza Bleeds Infants ... Genocide Written Before Birth."

Interviewed this November, Navi Pillay, former head of the United Nations Commission of Inquiry on the Occupied Palestinian Territory, revealed a shocking crime committed by the Israeli army in

January 2023, when it targeted the "Al-Basma Fertility Clinic" in Gaza City, destroying in a single moment four thousand Palestinian embryos preserved in nitrogen tanks.

Pillay confirmed that the strike was not an error or an accidental act, but a deliberate attack aimed at preventing births among Palestinians, an attempt to erase a future generation before it is born. She pointed out that the Israeli army intentionally targeted the building that housed the embryos, in conduct that clearly falls under the definition of genocide: "preventing births within a national or ethnic

group," as stipulated in Article II of the 1948 Genocide Convention.

The killing of embryos and the targeting of pregnant women is not merely a violation. It is a full-fledged war crime, and part of the broader genocidal policy practiced by Israel against Palestinians.

The World Health Organization confirms that more than 60,000 pregnant women in Gaza are living under catastrophic humanitarian conditions. One-third of these cases are classified as "high-risk pregnancies," while around 130 babies are born every day, 27% by caesarean section and 20% prematurely.

Behind these numbers lie countless stories of pain:

– Women giving birth in shelters and under rubble, without anesthesia or medical tools,

– Mothers holding their newborns under bombardment or in the open,

– The occupation deliberately blocking the entry of supplies for caesarean deliveries, medicines, antibiotics, infant formula, and surgical sutures – turning childbirth into a battle for survival and making every Palestinian mother a witness to repeated death: once when she loses her unborn child,

and again when she realises the world sees her and does nothing.

The statement finishes:

Gaza is bleeding, but it does not break.

And Palestine, intended to be buried beneath the rubble, will rise again from the ashes, as life always does.

And the flag of Palestine will be raised over its land, free and sovereign, untouched by occupier or coloniser.

Review: Breeze – Live at Trades Hall (21 September 2025)

RJ Harris

Breeze are a pop-rock band based in Naarm/Melbourne who write political songs about surfing, the ennui of Australian coastal living and how the beach is not chill. In 2024 they released their debut *The Search* and in September this year opened the "Cancel AUKUS! No War!" forum, organised by Anti-AUKUS Coalition, with a four-song set. This forum was part of a national day of actions against militarism and subservience to United States of America combined with the United Nations annual Day of Peace (see *Guardian* #2164: "Naarm anti-AUKUS event").

Live at Trades Hall is the recording of the performance, featuring two songs from their 2024 debut *The Search*, the 1950s retelling of the Shearers' strike *Ballad of 1891* and a

version of Redgum's 1978 hit *Servin' USA* updated to the current political climate. The album was recorded live-and-loud onstage and released pay-what-you-want on Bandcamp in contemporary do-it-yourself style.

Sea Change is written about Australia's progress from colonial outpost to industrial centre to deindustrialised leisure zone with extensive suburban sprawl where the crowning delight and solitary pastime is "a weekend away every day." *Ballad of 1891* recounts the struggles of the unionised shearers' against the efforts of the employers to push the increased costs of production onto the workers in a wider context of declining wool prices. The crowd can be heard singing along to this union classic.

Long Bored is a vignette of coastal living. The Returned Services League, the Rotary Club and now AUKUS – a new submarine base ruining access to the point and

destroying what is left of the steel industry in Wollongong unless it can be resisted. *Servin' USA* describes the servile behaviour of our governments and media towards the USA. The choruses are a list of American military outposts in our country. This live version features patriotic sloganeering followed by the thesis: "If you were a patriot in this day and age you'd say 'get out of our country' to the United States."

This document can be filed with the growing chorus of calls to cancel the AUKUS pact. This opaque agreement between the three parties represents further subordination of the defence of Australia to United States foreign policy, more aggressive and irrational in that country's flailing decline. The record can be heard at the unfortunately-named address <https://breeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeze.bandcamp.com/album/live-at-trades-hall> (that's Breeze with 20 'E's.) ✖



Fascism's legacy still haunts Spain

"Spaniards, Franco has died," came the announcement 50 years ago on Spanish TV. Most Spaniards held their breath on 20 November 1975, fearful of what might happen next. After decades of brutal dictatorship, reactionary forces dominated the country's institutions. The generalissimo had boasted that everything was being left "well tied up."

Confounding expectations King Juan Carlos appointed a government that steered Spain towards free elections in 1977. In 1981, he helped face down a coup attempt by die-hard army and civil guard units, who briefly seized the Spanish parliament.

In the following year, the PSOE (Spanish Socialist Workers Party) – the dominant party in the Spanish Republic's Popular Front government of 1936-39 – won the general election.

Juan Carlos abdicated in favour of son Felipe in 2014. His autobiography praises Franco's "intelligence and political sense." But it says nothing about the victims of Franco, or the scars that the Spanish Civil War left on Spanish society.

The memoir comes at a time of heightened political tensions. In half-a-dozen autonomous regions, the far-right Vox party props up right-wing administrations fronted by the more mainstream Popular Party (PP) – itself a haven for Franco apologists.

The anniversary of the dictator's death has also seen anti-immigrant fascist groups on the streets of Madrid giving Nazi salutes, singing Francoist anthems, and waving SS-inspired flags.

Many have applauded Juan Carlos' role in Spain's transition to democracy. They often overlook the tide of popular agitation that forced his hand.

Hailed as a triumph of peaceful top-down politics, the "Transición" was far from bloodless. Hundreds died in political violence, including terrorist attacks by a far-left group now known to have been heavily penetrated by Francoist secret police.

Among the worst atrocities was the assassination in 1977 of five Communist lawyers by fascist gunmen in Madrid's Atocha Street. More than 100,000 people attended their funeral. This was followed by strikes and displays of solidarity across the country. Weeks later the Communist Party of Spain (PCE) was legalised.

The blood on Franco's hands never



Hitler and Franco meet at a French railway station near the French-Spanish border, 1940. Photo: Heinrich Hoffmann (Public domain)

dried. After launching the military uprising that sparked the country's civil war in 1936, he climbed to power over the dead bodies of more than 150,000 summarily executed Republicans, leftists, and trade unionists.

Victory in 1939 was secured courtesy of troops, aircraft, and weapons sent by Hitler and Mussolini.

Even when the war ended, the systematic torture and killings continued in Franco's vast network of penal camps. In 1940 in Madrid alone, there were 30 prisons housing 100,000 Republican prisoners, a quarter of them on death row.

And so it went on, with the terminally ill Franco signing the last five death warrants as he was about to climb into his deathbed.

There had been a glimmer of hope at the end of World War II that Franco's regime, by then an international pariah, might be toppled. The US rode to the rescue, finding in Franco a dependable anti-communist stooge during the Cold War. Generous long-term loans began in 1950, and the US was handed Spanish air and naval bases in exchange for more economic and military aid.

Spain today is a vibrant, open society with all the familiar social problems of advanced Western liberal democracies. Scratch the surface, however, and historic divisions

open up, and old attitudes forged by 40 years of censorship and the dictatorship's lies re-emerge.

It wasn't until the start of this century – a full 25 years after Franco's death – that the unofficial pact of silence that accompanied the return to democracy was broken.

Younger people began asking what had happened to their grandparents during the war, why they didn't have a grave, and why no one dared speak about it. Soon they found out the awful truth that Spain is a country covered with mass graves of Republicans. There are still thousands of them – including ones with remains of International Brigadiers whose bodies were dug up and dumped after Franco won the war.

The man who initiated the first exhumation was Emilio Silva. He was trying to find the remains of his grandfather in the village of Priaranza del Bierzo in northwest Spain. But in the process, he launched a social movement of Spaniards demanding to know the truth about the past.

"I wanted to bury him with my grandmother and go back to my life as a journalist," Silva recalled in a recent interview. "I thought I was going to return to how things were before finding the mass grave, but everything became unstoppable."

Thousands of murdered Republicans have since been given proper burials, though the remains of more than 100,000 of Spain's "disappeared" still lie unidentified in the Spanish soil.

Propelled by this mass movement for the recovery of historical memory, the PSOE-led governments of José Luis Zapatero and current prime minister, Pedro Sánchez, have tried to help Spain come to terms with the crimes of Francoism.

Memory laws have acknowledged old injustices and addressed the issue of mass graves. Streets glorifying fascists have been renamed. Franco's body was removed from the grotesque mausoleum he built for himself with Republican slave labour. Exiles, International Brigadiers, and their descendants have been welcomed as Spanish citizens.

Unsurprisingly, Vox and the PP have resisted all these moves, with regional authorities led by them rolling back memory laws and refusing to identify and protect mass graves. Yet, as one historian has pointed out, Spain is the only country in western Europe where it is possible to randomly dig a hole in the ground and run the risk of unearthing human remains.

People's World ★

Venezuela advances grassroots democracy with communal projects

Venezuela has celebrated its fourth National Popular Consultation of the year, an unprecedented democratic exercise that strengthens participatory democracy from the grassroots level.

The process mobilised 5,336 communal circuits for citizens to choose from 36,674 local development projects. Defence Minister Vladimir Padrino commented on the election, calling it a "great democratic and popular festival." Despite economic difficulties and constant external threats, said Padrino, Venezuela continues to consolidate a model of People's Power, even with 15,000 US soldiers off its coasts.

President Nicolás Maduro extended an invitation to "all neighbours, all communities" to actively participate. He described the vote as a "genuine democratic exercise" that will determine the foundations of

the people's government, expressing confidence it would be another victory for Venezuela's socialist and democratic model.

LOGISTICS AND INTERNATIONAL OBSERVATION

The election was a massive undertaking. A total of 9,963 polling stations were set up in 8,630 voting centres nationwide, overseen by 19,926 electoral commissions made up of community volunteers. The process was witnessed by 79 international observers.

"These people will inform their countries, their people, about what they are seeing today in the 9,963 polling stations, in the 8,630 electoral centers enabled to carry out this popular consultation," Minister Prado said on Venezolana de Televisión.

Days earlier, the National

Electoral Council (CNE) activated a website where people could check their voting location and review the community projects available for selection in their areas.

HIGH TURNOUT AND GRASSROOTS FOCUS

The voting process began at 8:00 am and was scheduled to end at 6:00 pm. Due to high voter turnout, closing time was extended by one hour to 7:00 pm. The council noted that "it is guaranteed that all polling stations where voters remain in queue after that time will remain open until the last person exercises their right."

The scale of the initiative reflects popular commitment. Of the 36,674 proposals shortlisted in grassroots assemblies, citizens chose 10,662 projects that will receive direct state funding. These

will be added to more than 23,000 projects approved and successfully implemented in the last year and a half, demonstrating the effectiveness of the model of communal power.

Prado explained that 50% of the initiatives (18,337) focus on improving public services, showing where the interest of the Venezuelan population aims. The remaining projects voted on cover fundamental sectors such as healthcare, culture, educational infrastructure, sports, recreation and the promotion of the communal economy, aligned with the Chavista project.

He recalled that President Nicolás Maduro said if these 30,000 projects had been assigned to state and municipal governments, "perhaps there wouldn't have been enough time and the bureaucracy would have overwhelmed us." In contrast, the projects completed within the framework of the three

previous Popular Consultations were carried out directly with the people. "With grassroots organisation, with the people who love their neighbourhoods, who want to solve problems ... The people did it with love, they did it well, the resources have been very well optimised, and they have had a great impact."

This participatory mechanism, which allows citizens to directly choose which projects are implemented in their communities, strengthens the connection between different levels of government and grassroots organisations. The projects chosen will be accompanied by a network of Bolivarian Committees of Integral Bases, sealing the commitment to the collective construction of the country's future.

Orinoco Tribune ★

Uyghurs in Xinjiang: What's the story?



Uyghurs' cultural dancing in Xinjiang. Photo: Liang Li – wikimedia.org (Public domain)

W Varga

In the early 1990, rates of terrorism in Xinjiang China began to increase, with several notable terrorist organisations being founded. Over the decade, numerous brutal terrorist attacks were carried out in the region.

In the 2000s, terrorist attacks began to subside before again increasing in response to the 2008 Beijing Olympics. Rates of terrorism then rose until the mid 2010s when the Chinese government implemented its current counter-terrorism strategy in the region.

According to data from the Global Terrorism Index, terrorism rates across China have plummeted since 2015. In 2015, China's overall terrorism index score was 5.89. As of 2024, it was 1.86. For reference, in 2024, Australia's terrorism index score was 1.97, the USA's 3.52, and Pakistan's 8.37.

Terrorism in Xinjiang has significantly harmed the region. It has caused severe economic damage and has devastated the lives of thousands of ordinary people.

Despite these harms and the clear effectiveness of China's counterterrorism strategy in Xinjiang, Western media and political commentators have grown increasingly eager to depict China's response as genocide. They have accused Chinese authorities of detaining up to 1 million innocent Uyghurs in "re-education camps." They have claimed the Chinese government is attempting to erase

Uyghur culture through re-education and restricting religious practice. They have even accused authorities of forcibly sterilising Uyghur women. All of these claims are false.

Discussion of the situation in Xinjiang first rose to prominence in 2018 around the beginning of Trump's trade war with China. The claim that upwards of 1 million Uyghurs are detained in Xinjiang stems largely from the work of Adrian Zenz.

Zenz has been described as "[a] fundamentalist end-time apocalyptic Christian, fiercely opposed to homosexuality and gender equality," who supports the physical punishment of children. Zenz has links to the first Trump administration, and is also employed by the Victims of Communism Memorial Foundation. In producing the '1 million Uyghurs detained' figure, he relied largely on reports from Istiqlal TV and Radio Free Asia. Istiqlal TV has links to terrorist groups in Xinjiang.

Radio Free Asia was founded by the CIA and is still directly funded by the US government. The claims of forced sterilisation hinge on the fact that birth-rates have declined drastically in Xinjiang. Birth-rates have declined dramatically all across China over the past decade. The Xinjiang region is not an exception to this trend, but that does not mean forced sterilisation is being carried out there.

The centrepiece of China's counterterrorism strategy in Xinjiang has been its network of

Vocational Education and Training Centres. Individuals detained in these centres are provided with language, vocational, and civics education along with psychological help aimed at deradicalisation.

The language, vocational, and civics education they receive is designed to increase their employment opportunities and to help them better participate in Chinese society. People in the centres are not detained indefinitely and there are numerous success stories of former extremists being de-radicalised and going on to live prosperous lives in Xinjiang.

The centres have been a massive success overall. Since the beginning of China's current counterterrorism campaign in Xinjiang, rates of terrorism have plummeted across the region.

It should come as no surprise that some of the loudest critics of the Chinese government's actions in Xinjiang are silent when it comes to the ongoing genocide in Palestine. These voices do not care about Uyghurs. They do not care about the people of Xinjiang. They do not care about the truth. If they genuinely cared about the rights of Uyghur Muslims, they would just as loudly criticise Israel's actions in Gaza.

The fact that they do not reveals their true motivations. They do not care about what is really happening in Xinjiang nor about Uyghur Muslims. They are solely interested in helping advance US interests in the region by spreading baseless accusations. 🇺🇸



Global Briefs

HUNGARY: The current corruption scandal in Ukraine is "one of the most serious corruption scandals in the history of European politics," the Hungarian Foreign Minister said. "We demand that Ukraine show how it used European money. And we demand that Ukraine account for how much of European taxpayers' money has fallen victim to the corruption network. How much money the military mafia has taken from the European people, how much of EU subsidies has the corrupt system of power in Ukraine consumed."

VENEZUELA: The Venezuelan parliament has approved a 15-year extension of joint ventures between state company PDVSA and a Russian oil firm. The extension allows the joint ventures operating oil fields in western Venezuela to continue until 2041. The move follows a broad strategic partnership agreement signed by presidents Putin and Maduro.

REPUBLIKA SRPSKA: Milorad Dodik, leader of the Alliance of Independent Social Democrats, the ruling party of the Republika Srpska of Bosnia and Herzegovina, announced the victory of his candidate, Sinisa Karan, in a snap presidential election.

UAE: The Russian aerobatic team, the Russian Knights, paid tribute to an Indian Air Force pilot who died in a crash at the Dubai Airshow. The Russian formation team performed their "Missing Man" maneuver routine in tribute to Namansh Syad, calling him a "brother in the sky."

FINLAND: The Finnish Navy began the "Freezing Winds 25" military maneuvers in Estonian territorial waters and in the waters of the Gulf of Finland. The maneuvers involve 20 warships and about 5,000 troops from 11 NATO countries – Germany, Belgium, Denmark, the United States, Estonia, France, Latvia, Lithuania, the Netherlands, and Poland.

UN: UN Women, the United Nations entity that promotes gender equality and the empowerment of women, warned of the increase in abuse on digital platforms. Artificial Intelligence and anonymity are contributing to the rise in digital violence against women in a world where less than 40 per cent of countries have laws against cyberbullying. UN Women noted that 1.8 billion women and girls lack legal protection against online harassment and other forms of aggression facilitated by technology. The "No Excuse," a 16-day campaign (November 25 to December 10) against violence and in favour of the implementation of urgent measures serves to highlight the problem.

ECUADOR: Ecuadorians rejected a package of referendum measures that would have allowed foreign military bases in the country. The result is seen as a serious political setback for President Daniel Noboa, a right-wing leader and President Trump's ally.

IOC: The International Olympic Committee (IOC) has urged governments to preserve sport as a politically neutral space, stressing that every eligible athlete must be able to compete without discrimination. IOC President Kirsty Coventry called on host countries and sports organisations to "guarantee access for all," framing sport as a "beacon for hope" and a "neutral ground."

INDIA: India is planning to launch an air cargo service with Afghanistan to boost trade between the two nations. The Taliban has been seeking access to grain, medicines, and industrial goods since its border with Pakistan was shut following military clashes between the two countries in October. India backed Afghanistan in its latest conflict with Pakistan. India has also reopened its embassy in Kabul after a four-year gap.

Germany: The German government announced that it's lifting its restrictions on exports of military equipment to Israel. Chancellor Friedrich Merz said in early August that Berlin wouldn't authorise any exports of military equipment that could be used in Gaza until further notice." The resumption of the military supplies is taking place despite renewed Israeli attacks.



Something to say?
Write to the Editor!

editor@cpa.org.au

Japan's Takaichi: be alarmed

David Matters

Australians have been presented a benign view of the new Japanese Prime Minister. Our Prime Minister has posed for photo ops. The reality is that Takaichi is pursuing the Taiwan issue, and fears of China as an excuse to militarise and prepare for war.

The reality of the Asian region though is completely different. The greatest threat in Asia has been the rearmament and re-militarisation of Japan. It was Japan that invaded much of Asia and was on its way to Australia when our troops intercepted them on the Kokoda Track. The much-famed battle of the Coral Sea was a naval battle that intercepted an invasion fleet.

One response is to point out that World War II was a long time ago, to say "that was then and this is now." That would be a reasonable view if Takaichi was not an outright supporter of the return of Japanese Imperialism.

Takaichi, like many of her predecessors as Japan's PM, is itching to get out of the constraints of Japan's peace constitution which was the outcome of WW2. After the Japanese surrender, the USA allowed many war criminals to go free. They allowed Japan to keep a monarchy which had been a mascot for Japan's imperialist aggression. The country was given a constitution with a peace clause, workers were allowed to form unions, and there was a free press. However the unions that were formed were enterprise unions that

Japanese workers have struggled to turn into genuine workers' unions.

The Liberal Democratic Party was set up to effectively operate as a one-party dynasty, and has been in power almost continuously since 1947. Takaichi joined the Liberal Democratic party in 1997 after attacking a former Prime Minister for a very rare apology for Japan's war time role.

Takaichi has a long history of active denial of Japanese war crimes, and dismisses the facts about 'comfort women,' mainly Korean women who were used as sex slaves during WW2. This horrific practice was also used on Chinese women in Japanese-occupied Taiwan. The same island that they claim they now need to "protect."

Western media has gushed about her admiration for Margaret Thatcher, and her 'first woman PM' status. However, there has been little mention of her visiting the Yasukuni shrine, a Shinto shrine famous for being the resting place of Japanese Class A war criminals.

Previous Japanese Prime Ministers have played this game, visiting the shrine as a dog whistle to ultra-right Japanese who would like to see the wartime fascist culture return, usually pretending they just dropped in to pray. Every Japanese suburb is dotted with shrines where people can pray. Doing it ostentatiously at Yasukuni is all about sending a message. Imagine the reaction if there was a church dedicated to Nazi war criminals, and German politicians walked past more ordinary churches to pray there. ✖



Photo: mofa.go.jp – wikimedia.org (CC BY 4.0)

When Ecuador said no

Jesus Rojas

This November, Ecuadorians have voted in a referendum on allowing the return of foreign military bases. The referendum was proposed by President Daniel Noboa, a right-wing authoritarian who has led a military crackdown on criminal gangs. The proposal was defeated with a decisive 64 per cent majority.

The outcome of the referendum can be seen as a historic victory for national sovereignty over US interventionism. This decision by the citizens was a demonstration of civic maturity that thwarted the plans of President Daniel Noboa's government and the administration of Donald Trump.

On one side was the United States – and particularly the figure of Trump – as a sort of "Big Brother" with a transactional view of international politics, eager to reclaim the prize of restoring bases in a strategic location. On the other, the government of Daniel Noboa a weak and compromised actor, accused of seeking a "quiet capitulation" of national sovereignty. Standing against them, the Ecuadorian people were the collective hero of the hour. Their resounding No vote was an act of conscious and legitimate defiance.

This was not merely a question of security policy, as Noboa tried to frame it. It was a struggle between self-determination – embodied in the constitutional clause of a "Territory of Peace" – and the risk of becoming a "military colony" serving foreign interests. There is both triumph and caution over this reality check for US interventionism. Triumph for standing up to the US but caution that Washington could resort to darker, more stealthy means to impose its agenda.

The message is clear and aimed at those with anti-imperialist, nationalist, and left-leaning sympathies, who value self-determination over security frameworks promoted from abroad. Although Noboa is president for now, the vote hearkens back to 'Correísmo,' the beliefs of former socialist president Rafael Correa, who resisted foreign entrapment and stood up for Ecuadorian independence. Correa drew Ecuador closer to the ALBA alliance and to Venezuela, led by Hugo Chavez.

In conclusion, the referendum result is a popular and ideological victory that also serves as a warning of potential future threats. ✖



Ecuadorian President Daniel Noboa. Photo: Asamblea Nacional – flickr.com (CC BY-SA 2.0)

Fears of ethnic cleansing over mystery Gaza-South Africa flight

The arrival of a chartered plane carrying 153 Palestinians from war-torn Gaza to South Africa – many without the required travel documents – sparked activist speculation about an Israeli ethnic cleansing scheme facilitated by the unverified humanitarian organisation 'Al-Majd Europe,' an Al-Jazeera investigation reports.

After nearly 12 hours of uncertainty, the government permitted the passengers to disembark as the charity organisation Gift of the Givers offered to provide accommodations.

The Palestinians were charged a significant fee by Al-Majd, which claims on its website to coordinate "evacuations from conflict

zones." Johannesburg's intelligence services are currently investigating the incident.

Israeli outlet *Haaretz* revealed that Tomer Janar Lind, a dual Israeli-Estonian citizen, heads Al-Majd Europe. The newspaper reported that Lind had previously been involved with an Israeli military unit responsible for the forced relocation of Palestinians from Gaza, assisting in organising several such flights. This unit, known as the Voluntary Emigration Bureau, was established in early 2025 by the Israeli Ministry of Defence to implement a policy aimed at expelling Palestinians from their homeland. Although Lind acknowledged his role in arranging these flights, he refused to provide further details.

"This is very much part of a long colonial pattern, very systematic dispossession of indigenous Palestinians that has been perpetuated by Zionist Israelis, and they want to empty the land from its indigenous people, using multi-faceted approaches," said Oroub el-Abed, associate professor in international migration and refugee studies at Birzeit University in Ramallah.

The *Al-Majd Europe* website claims it was established in 2010 in Germany, and features a pop-up warning about individuals impersonating its agents, offering contact details for 'legitimate representatives.' However, the site provides no physical address or phone number, only listing a location in Sheikh Jarrah in occupied East Jerusalem.

Al Jazeera was unable to locate any office at that address.

The investigation reveals that the domain *almajdeurope.org* was only registered in February 2025 and many links on the website lead to dead ends. The listed email, *info@almajdeurope.org*, bounces back an automated message indicating it does not exist. The domain registrar, Namecheap, has been flagged in several cybersecurity reports for facilitating online fraud due to its low-cost and easy sign-up process.

The Qatari channel has also learned that many people were told to pay via bank transfers to personal, not organisational, accounts.

Telesur ✖



CPA greeting to the 41st Convention of the Communist Party of Canada

Elizabeth Rowley
Leader
Communist Party of Canada

Dear Comrade Elizabeth,

We are inspired and energised to see the progress made by our fraternal brothers and sisters of the Communist Party of Canada. You have 104 years of working-class struggle behind you in building for a socialist future for the people of Canada and we know this will continue until you reach that goal.

The neoliberal capture of the Canadian state calls for a heightened battle against finance capital. Your aim to bring real, socialist democracy to Canada through unions and asserting the leading role of the working class is also our aspiration for Australia. We support one another knowing we work towards the same goals. Bringing together the anti-monopoly and anti-imperialist movements is our common aim.

We are learning how to innovate, how to draw from history, how to harness scientific socialism and defeat capitalism and imperialism in our respective countries. Canada and Australia play a negative role in the subjugation of the nations of the Global South, and the attempted Cold War against China. Both Governments have recognised Palestine but continue to support Israel’s genocidal regime. In our countries we are also tasked with wiping out the scourge of settler colonialism that has decimated First Peoples.

Peace is our common priority. In a world where genocide and war are becoming once again the norm, peace work is more necessary than ever before.

We wish that your 41st Convention is a resounding success, that it forges sharper unity and refines your campaign goals in the next period.

Long live proletarian internationalism!

Long live the Communist Party of Canada!

International Department
Communist Party of Australia, CPA

24 November 2025



Half the Sky

The tradwife hustle

Ash B

Women who spend a lot of time on social media are regularly exposed to a lot of harmful content, and little of it is more insidious than the tradwife movement.

Tradwife (traditional wife) ideology is sold as “a return to traditional values.” It has a huge emphasis on traditional gender roles, framing women as submissive and dependent, and men as the leaders and providers. It comes with claims that being “more feminine” will make women calmer and happier. The aesthetic is clean and pleasing, and it sits atop a worldview of obedience, hierarchy, and erasure of women’s autonomy.

Algorithms aggressively, push us toward this content and the path from feminist posts to videos that centre men can be subtle and fast. It often targets women who are tired, burned out, and disillusioned from the era of “girlboss feminism.” Girlboss culture told us that our power would come from professional success. Tradwifery, on the other hand, tells us that we don’t need power, we need husbands. The two ideologies have one key similarity. They place the blame for women’s unfulfillment solely on the individual.

Tradwife influencers often take the ‘choice feminism’ angle, which can be a more palatable path into this narrative. They use rhetoric of women making *the choice* to prioritise domestic labour over independence and self-actualisation.

Choice means nothing without material freedom. We have to ask, who benefits from this choice? It’s not only the men who have a wife at home performing all the domestic labour, the ruling class are the true beneficiaries of this model. Single income households are in a far more precarious situation than two income households, and employers benefit from men being locked in desperation. This solidifies the capitalist dream of the ideal male worker: obedient, overworked, and never needed at home.

The trend is also steeped in hypocrisy. The most popular tradwives earn substantial income from their content, and some are even the primary breadwinners in their households. They preach reliance on men while building financial independence for themselves. It’s a performance. The image they present is not a realistic representation of being a stay-at-home mother in working-class families, and better resembles the lives of the well-off. It’s a stream of *The Donna Reed Show* interspersed with smiling women in 1950s home appliance ads. Like all fantasies of a bygone era, tradwifedom erases what actually kept those households running: the unpaid or underpaid labour of black, Indigenous, and migrant women.

Even the accounts that display a more ‘authentic’ life, with the occasional tantrum or mess, collapse under material reality. The single income family is a remnant of the past, only available to the dwindling upper middle class. This structure only “worked” in the 20th century when any job, even what many would consider “menial labour,” could comfortably cover the cost of living. It didn’t work for everyone. Now, it’s a myth.

The rising popularity of this movement is a symptom of capitalist breakdown. These nostalgic ideologies flourish when people’s basic needs are not being met. When you scratch the surface, all you will see is the same old reactionary project: restore hierarchies, restrict freedoms, and roll back rights. Gender norms are just one playing field.

This isn’t just lifestyle content, it’s a battle over the direction of society. The tradwife resurgence forces us to confront what sort of future we are willing to fight for. In 1919, Lenin said “In the sphere of sexual relations and marriage, a revolution is approaching.”

If we are in the midst of a gender revolution, we cannot afford to let reactionaries choose our destination. The future will be written by the women who refuse to be pushed back to the past.

Subscription to

The Guardian

☐ 12 months: \$150 (solidarity price) ☐ 12 months: \$100 (concession)
☐ 6 months: \$100 (solidarity price) ☐ 6 months: \$75 (concession)
☐ Special offer: 10 issues for \$20 (new subscriptions only)

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

POSTCODE: _____

Pay by ☐ Cheque ☐ Money order (Payable to “Guardian Publications”)
Phone on 02 9699 8844 or info@cpa.org.au or send to:
Guardian Subscriptions, 74 Buckingham St, Surry Hills, NSW 2010
or by credit card: ☐ Mastercard ☐ Visa *\$20 minimum on cards

Card# _____

Amount: _____ Expiry Date: ____/____ Date: _____

Signature: _____

Guardian

Editorial Office
74 Buckingham St, Surry Hills, 2010
Ph: 02 9699 8844 Fax: 02 9699 9833
Email: guardian@cpa.org.au

Editor:
Floyd Kermode

Published by
Guardian Publications Australia Ltd
74 Buckingham St,
Surry Hills, NSW, 2010

Printed by
Spot Newspapers Pty Ltd
26 Hume Hwy,
Chullora, NSW, 2190

Responsibility for electoral comment
is taken by T Pearson,
74 Buckingham St,
Surry Hills, 2010

Freedom for Palestine!

Statement from the Egyptian Communist Party

The Egyptian Communist Party condemns in the strongest terms the UN Security Council's vote on the draft resolution submitted by the US administration, which was passed by a majority of 13 votes, with Russia and China abstaining.

The party affirms its complete rejection of this resolution, as it seeks to impose US guardianship over the Palestinian people and their just national cause, serving the interests of the Zionist occupation and absolving it of its ongoing crimes against the land and the people.

It is unprecedented that a UN resolution has been issued that contains such ambiguity and vagueness in many of its provisions, whether in defining the UN's responsibility to monitor its implementation by the parties concerned, or in determining who will form the peace council that will rule and administer the Gaza Strip against the will of its people, or in forming international forces and precisely defining their tasks.

In fact, it has given them executive tasks that will be interpreted as disarming the resistance, even though this is contrary to international conventions and norms! Furthermore, the resolution does

not stipulate the immediate withdrawal of the Zionist occupation forces from all the territories of the Strip.

The imposition of US guardianship on the international community in this manner, under the cover and with the approval of the United Nations, would not have been possible without the inability of the Palestinian Authority and Arab and Islamic countries to take a clear position rejecting this resolution or amending it substantially to ensure that it is not so blatantly biased towards Israel, as well as the silence of the major powers.

Although this resolution makes a vague and non-binding reference to the unity of the West Bank and Gaza and to the possibility of establishing a Palestinian state, in practice it deliberately separates Gaza from the West Bank politically and geographically due to the difference in administration and form of government between them.

This resolution does not reflect the will of the international community, but rather embodies the complete bias of the United States toward the Zionist enemy and its attempt to impose coercive solutions that empty the Palestinian resistance of its substance and ignore the roots of the conflict and



the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people.

Foremost among these is their right to resist occupation in all its forms and their right to self-determination, the right to establish a fully sovereign Palestinian state with Jerusalem as its capital, and its right of return, as rights guaranteed to the Palestinian people and supported by numerous United Nations resolutions and charters.

This resolution also makes the United States – the main adversary of the Arab peoples – a mediator and the sole sponsor of peace, even though it is a hostile party that colludes with the occupation and provides it with political cover to carry out its bloody uprooting of a people from their land.

It also gives the Zionist enemy justification to renege on its

commitment to United Nations resolutions and international legitimacy, and gives it the opportunity to achieve through it what it has failed to achieve in two years of war, destruction, and genocide against the Palestinian people.

The Party believes that any attempt to bypass the Palestinian resistance as the true representative of the will of the people to protect their land and rights is an attempt to reproduce the American-Zionist approach of dictates, which the people have rejected and exposed through years of aggression, starvation, and siege.

The Party also stresses that a just solution cannot come through Washington, but rather through full recognition of the rights of the Palestinian people, an end to aggression, an end to occupation

and settlement, and the launch of a genuine political process based on international legitimacy and the right of peoples to self-determination, free from any domination or guardianship.

The Egyptian Communist Party, reiterating its unwavering support for the resistance and steadfastness of the Palestinian people, calls on progressive and labour forces and popular organisations around the world to raise their voices against this dangerous encroachment on Palestinian rights, and affirms that the struggle for freedom and justice in Palestine is an integral part of the struggle of peoples against imperialism, subjugation, and backwardness.

Glory to the resistance! Freedom for Palestine! ✳

Palestine update: Only one side uses airstrikes

Peter Farmer

The situation is changing all the time, but UNICEF has been very clear about the facts of life for people in Gaza:

- 67 children have been killed since the ceasefire started.
- A total of 280 Palestinian people have been killed.
- Families in Gaza are facing extreme food shortages.
- About 4,000 children need urgent medical evacuation.

UNICEF spokesperson Ricardo Pires said that "there's only one party to the conflict in Gaza with the firepower to do airstrikes."

Doctors without Borders has reported that a nine-year-old girl is receiving treatment for facial wounds following gunfire from quadcopter drones.

100 TRUCKS

Abeer Etefa, Senior WFP Spokesperson for the Middle East, North Africa and Eastern Europe called the resumption of aid trucks into Gaza was "a step in the right direction." 100 trucks is about two-thirds

of the World Food Programme's (WFP) daily target amount. Commercial deliveries into Gaza have resumed, but Etefa noted that because of the Israeli system of border crossing points, the possibility of food going bad after long days at checkpoints is high.

After two years of genocide, Gaza's exhausted people are craving something other than canned food and dry rations. However WFP Head of Communications Martin Penner has said that prices are still out of reach for most people. Many still rely on food aid, food parcels, and bread from bakeries.

One mother told Penner that she did not take her children to market "so they won't see all the food that's available." Another spoke of buying one apple and dividing it between four children.

HEALTH CRISIS

Healthcare provision in the Gaza Strip remains devastated and inadequate to treat trauma victims and those requiring specialist care. Pires spoke of children who need surgery that can't be done in Gaza, as well as of children with shrapnel wounds, spinal

injuries, as well as children with cancer who have lost months of treatment.

KILLINGS AND EXPANSION

The killings continue. Israel has recently struck five sites, killing 22 Palestinians in retaliation for an "armed terrorist" crossing the "yellow line" Israel has drawn around the Strip as part of the 'peace plan.'

Israel has had a flexible approach to the yellow line, pushing it westward in what has been called an attempt to create more 'facts on the ground.' As Zinaida Miller, professor of law and international affairs at Northeastern University has pointed out, Israel's 'Yellow Line' is meant to be temporary, but "history suggests otherwise." The map of Palestine has been getting smaller since 1948. Almost 6 per cent of Gaza is behind the Yellow Line.

Israel's occupation of Palestinian land is illegal under international law. Military occupation has to be temporary to be legal, but Gaza and the West Bank have been occupied since 1967. The excuse is that Israel will stop the occupation when security is guaranteed for the apartheid state. The International Court of Justice has found Israel's settlements

in the West Bank and the time it has spent occupying the territory mean that Israel is planning to permanently annex the territory. That's illegal.

Australian politicians like to talk about a 'rules-based international order,' but although Australia recognises that the West Bank is in fact occupied, it's done precious little else about Israel's disregard for international law.

NEIGHBOURHOOD BULLY

Israel has attacked Beirut for the first time since June, killing at least one person and wounding 21 according to Lebanese officials. Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu said that the Hezbollah chief of staff Haytham Ali Tabatabai was the target. The attack was on a busy neighbourhood, Haret Hreik in the south of the Lebanese capital.

Israel continues to attack southern Lebanon, despite the so-called ceasefire.

With no evidence at all, Israel has claimed that Hezbollah is trying to rebuild its military capacity in southern Lebanon. The Lebanese government denies these claims. ✳



Communist Party of Australia

www.cpa.org.au

cpa@cpa.org.au

Head Office (Sydney)

74 Buckingham St,
Surry Hills, NSW 2010
phone: 02 9699 8844
email: info@cpa.org.au

General Secretary

Andrew Irving
andrew@cpa.org.au

Party President

Vinnie Molina
president@cpa.org.au

Media guardian@cpa.org.au
amr@cpa.org.au

Canberra

act@cpa.org.au PO Box 35 Dickson ACT 2602

Darwin

Vinnie Molina darwin@cpa.org.au 0419 812 872

Melbourne

Andrew Irving cpavic@cpa.org.au

Box 3 Trades Hall, Lygon St, Carlton Sth, Vic 3053

NSW State Comm

Christian Goopy nsw@cpa.org.au 02 9699 8844

Perth

Elly Hulm perth@cpa.org.au 0421 113 343

PO Box 98, North Perth, WA 6906

Qld State Comm

0499 476 540 qld@cpa.org.au

SA State Comm

sa@cpa.org.au 0411 805 356 PO Box 56, Royal Park, SA 5014

Tasmania

Andrew Irving tas@cpa.org.au 03 9639 1550

