

**your rights @ work - worth fighting for...**

The Workers Heritage Centre is proposing to develop an exhibition titled "The Worth Fighting For Project".

The *Your rights at work* campaign galvanized the union movement and the community, and restored a passion for the rights of working people. It woke up the electorate and

contributed mightily to the defeat of the Howard Government. It was one of the great victories of the labour movement.

The central theme of the exhibition will be the achievements of ordinary people working through their unions in overturning the *WorkChoices* legislation.

One of the central elements in the exhibition will be Greg Combet's *Your rights at work* car, in which he toured the country during the campaign - which has now been generously donated to the AWHC by the Queensland Teachers Union.

The display will celebrate one of the most successful union campaigns in modern Australian history.



Greg Combet on the Campaign Trail



On the road again - heading to the Workers Heritage Centre



Finally home on display at the Workers Heritage Centre - Barcaldine

The Workers Heritage Centre does not receive any operational funding support from any level of Government - Local, State or Federal.

The Australian Workers Heritage Centre holds the status of a not-for-profit, non-political, independent incorporated association with Deductible Gift Recipient Registration securing all assets under Deed of Grant in Trust based on freehold land title on behalf of all Australians.

Our sole source of operational income is derived from admittance fees, our retail outlet, associate membership, generous donations and sponsorship from our supporters.

The Centre is managed by a Board consisting of nine honorary members and independent auditors appointed by the Board in accordance with the association's constitution.

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*A Centre for all Australians!*

*Workers Building a Nation!*

*Field & factory. heart & hands!*

Welcome to the



**A TRIBUTE  
TO THE  
WORKING MEN  
AND  
WOMEN  
OF  
AUSTRALIA**

a seamless connection between the past,  
the present & the future

BARCALDINE

QUEENSLAND

[www.australianworkersheritagecentre.com.au](http://www.australianworkersheritagecentre.com.au)





Paul Howes & Bill Ludwig  
at the Workers Heritage Centre



from Solidarity, Passion & Commitment - big things grow...

## STATEMENT OF SUPPORT

The Australian Workers Heritage Centre has provided a great opportunity for Australians to learn and reflect on the history, contemporary concerns and future ideals of Australian workers since its opening in 1991.

The struggles and achievements of hard working men and women is a shared history that all Australians can be proud of.

The AWU has a proud 128 year history and as an organisation we have witnessed and taken part in many historical movements that have shaped the landscape of workers in this nation. As such, we are very supportive of ventures such as this.

Although life was first breathed into our union on June 16<sup>th</sup>, 1886 at Fern's Hotel in Ballarat, Victoria, the heart and soul of the AWU has always been in Queensland, at the site of the great Shearer's Strike of 1891.

In 2011, The AWU leadership celebrated its long history – a history longer than Federation. To mark our 125<sup>th</sup> year of existence, the National Executive travelled to Barcaldine and used the opportunity to donate the Shearers' Hall that has long served as an icon for our organisation. This event demonstrated the passion that our organisation shares with the Australian Workers Heritage Centre.

The 22 members of our National Executive paid their respects to the union's heroes at the Australian Workers Heritage Centre in Barcaldine, taking the time to remember the values shearing pioneers created here in a remote part of Australia. These are the values now widely accepted as being at the core of the Australian character – mateship and a fair go.



In the early 1980's a group of workers met beneath the Tree of Knowledge in Barcaldine, Central Western Queensland. Amongst them were Shearer - Bob Gleeson, District Secretary AWU - the late Alf Kain, Publican and former Railway Guard - Pat Ogden, then President of the Trades and Labour Council Queensland - the late Harry Hauenschild, the Secretary ETU Qld - the late Neal Kane, and Railway Carpenter - the late Rocky Ryan.

The meeting resolved that Australia needed a fitting tribute to its workers. Barcaldine's place in the nation's working history made it a fitting venue. With the support of others they went on to become foundation members and the prime movers behind the establishment of the Australian Workers Heritage Centre.

Progress to develop the Centre was hampered through lack of funds and general support, however in 1987 a monument to the Shearers' Strike was unveiled beside the Tree of Knowledge.

Signifying protruding shear blades, it recognised the stalwart working men and women of the outback whose struggles in 1891 were to spearhead the many reforms which were to result in a vastly improved way of life for Australians generally.

On September 12th, 1989 the inaugural meeting of the Australian Workers Heritage Centre was held in Brisbane where the aims and objectives of this proposed "Centre for Workers" began to evolve.

In 1989, The Australian Workers Heritage Centre acquired the former Barcaldine State School site and set about transforming the five acre site from a barren landscape into an outback oasis featuring a museum styled attraction to celebrate Australia's working history.

Many of the original structures were re-invented into exhibition space and in doing so; the architectural style of the era has been preserved and used in a practical way.

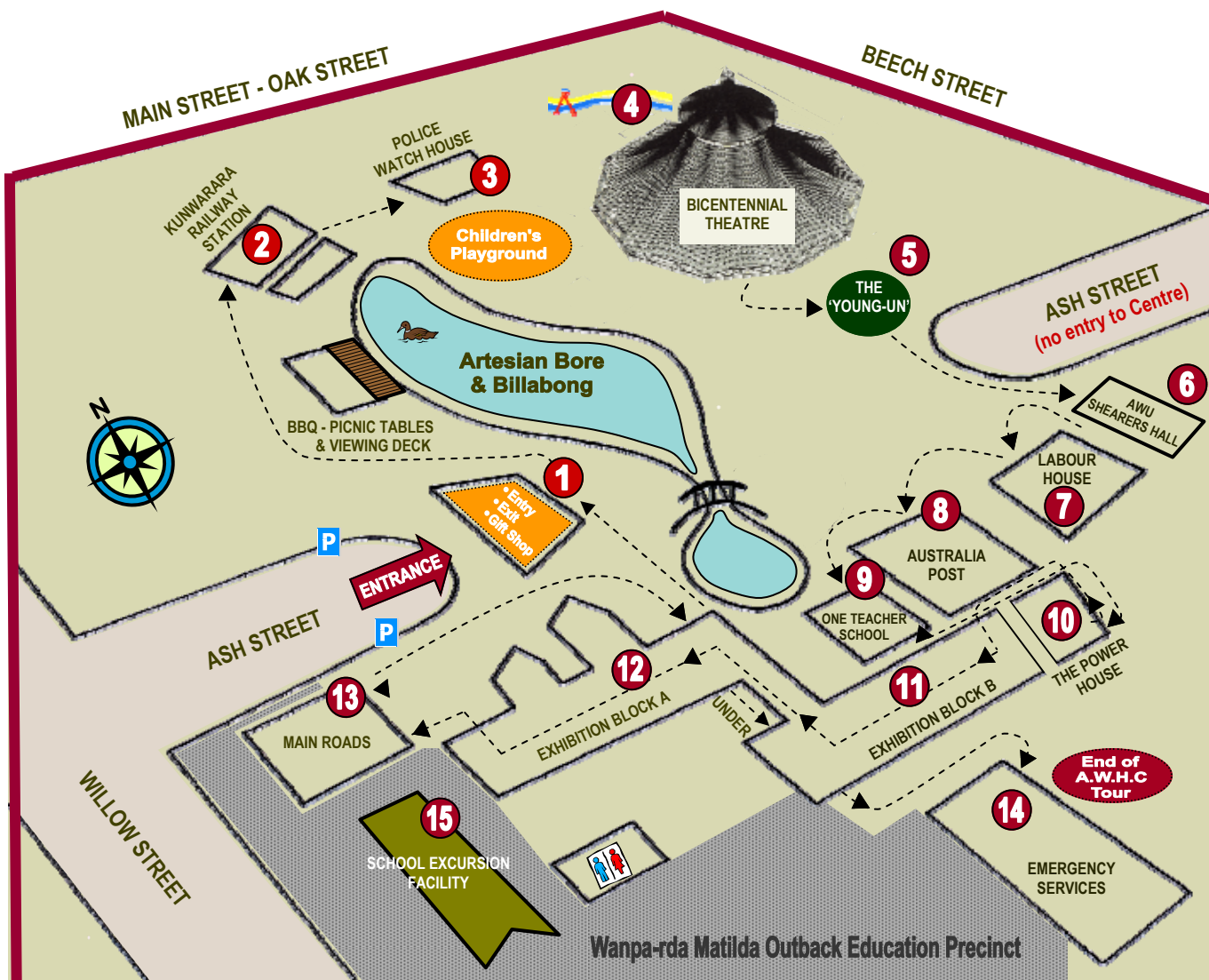
Finally when Stage One of the Australian Workers Heritage Centre was opened by the then Prime Minister - Bob Hawke on May 4th, 1991 the seeds of a vision sown a decade earlier had begun to bear fruit.

The Centre now proudly takes its place as a major draw card on the Matilda Tourist Route as one of the 33 Queensland Heritage Trail Network attractions.

Help preserve important Australian History...



# C E N T R E M A P



## Our facilities include:

- ▶ Retail Outlet
- ▶ Undercover Barbeque area
- ▶ Bore fed billabong
- ▶ Five acres of landscaped gardens
- ▶ Shaded modern children's playground
- ▶ Wheelchair access & disabled facilities
- ▶ Sporting field

*We encourage visitors to bring their own food to picnic or BBQ and enjoy our beautifully landscaped gardens*

## Orientation Centre & Retail Outlet:

The Orientation Centre is your point of entry to the Workers Heritage Centre. It provides an introduction to the Centre and its themes, and houses our retail outlet.

1

## Kunwarara Railway Station:

The newly refurbished Kunwarara Railway Station was built in 1915 and relocated here in 1994. Comprises the original station, platform, loading crane and a workers' campervan carriage from that era. The exhibition tells the story of Australian railway workers and passengers.

2

## Police Watch House:

Honouring the work of police across the country, the Watch house was relocated from Toogoolawah, and tells the story of the struggles of the constabularies to protect lives and properties in a harsh and hostile environment.

3

## Celebration Theatre - 'The Tent':

Originally part of Australia's Bicentennial Celebrations, the Celebration Theatre houses several exhibits of interest including a court house scene, a recreated isolation cell from St Helena Prison, a photographic exhibition of the Shearers War from the strike of 1891, Your Rights @ Work Display and a display honouring Aboriginal and Islander workers.

4

## The 'Young Un' (Tree of Knowledge Offspring):

An Enduring Legacy.... Planted on site on May 2nd, 2005 the Australian Workers Heritage Centre is home of the 'Young Un' the only direct descendant of the Tree of Knowledge. {Sponsored by the Electrical Trades Union}

5

## AWU Shearers' Hall:

The latest addition to the landscape at the Centre is the AWU Shearers' Hall - Australia's oldest union office and hall. The 'Shearers Hall' was generously donated and re-located from Longreach to our site by the Australian Workers Union. The hall has been refurbished and transformed into a quality exhibition space presenting and interpreting a highly valued and unique chapter of our working history.

6

## Labour House:

The display comprises a collection of photographic and textual information about the history of labour in politics.

7

A display of cartoons from the newspaper 'The Worker' 1893 - 1930. The 'Workers Wall' is a photographic display of Labour Representatives - State and Federal.

## Australia Post:

This comprehensive display depicting an historic Post Office is dedicated to all postal workers. The display also includes a miniature replica of a Cobb and Co coach.

8

### One Teacher School:

This historic one teacher school from Torrens Creek is typical of rural schools in the early 1900s. This exhibit also houses the Queensland Teachers' Union display.

9

### The Power House:

Power to the nation - thanks to the power workers - from the men and women who built the Snowy Mountains scheme to the story of the husband and wife team who ran this diesel generator - to the scientists working on the power of the future.

10

### Exhibition Block B:

This block contains various exhibits, including a recreation of Queensland's Legislative Assembly, a Country Hospital Ward, Golden Casket, Apprenticeship and Training, Lands Department, Public Works and Queensland Electoral Commission displays.

11

### Exhibition Block A:

The first stage of this major project, "Women in Australia's Working History", is the fascinating exhibition - "A Lot on Her Hands" - curated by the Queensland Museum. Celebrating the lives of the working women of Australia, the exhibition reveals the extraordinary stories of some famous and not-so-famous Australian women through photographs, objects and audiovisual materials. You can also view the moving documentary about Australia's working women, "Unsung Heroes".

12

### Main Roads:

A celebration of the workers who built the vast network of roads throughout our nation, overcoming extreme isolation and connecting our communities.

13

### Emergency Services:

This section recognises the work of emergency workers - take a seat up front in an old ambulance or see the fire trucks from earlier times and learn about the expertise and community spirit shown everyday by over 85,000 committed volunteers serving communities right across Queensland, which is a mirror of the dedicated work carried out by volunteer Emergency Service personnel throughout our nation.

14

### Wanpa-rda Matilda Outback Education Centre:

The Workers Heritage Centre's own unique Outback Education Centre provides a wonderful residential learning facility for school groups from around Queensland and interstate.

15

# A USTRALIAN W ORKERS H ERITAGE C ENTRE



## *A place of reflection...*

Developed in the grounds of the former Barcaldine State School, visitors can journey through numerous exhibition spaces and historical work places of yesteryear - capturing the spirit of our nations workers and where the stories of Australia's working history come to life through objects, art and multi-media presentations.

Set in over 5 acres of beautifully landscaped gardens surrounding a sparkling bore fed billabong, creating a cool outback oasis, complete with picnic and BBQ facilities and children's playground.

At every turn, visitors to the Australian Workers Heritage Centre are confronted by reminders of how our pioneers struggled to shape the quality of life and freedom that we all enjoy today.

