

honour the struggle



## WANPA-RDA MATILDA OUTBACK EDUCATION CENTRE

The Australian Workers Heritage Centre boasts its own Outback Education Centre - 'Wanpa-rda Matilda', idyllically located within its grounds.

In 1997, The Workers Heritage Centre established and built this unique excursion centre with attached residential facilities, providing the perfect backdrop for authentic educational opportunities right on Wanpa-rda's doorstep.

Within this museum style complex, students can journey through exhibition space which celebrates the extraordinary legacy of working Australians and tells a vitally important part of our nation's history through its working life via interactive displays, film, photographs, artworks, artefacts and recreated historical work settings.

Today's students, particularly in urban areas, live in and experience a fast-paced, technological society, where the traditions and heritage of Australia can often be overlooked. We believe it is vital that today's generation are aware of and experience the history of our great nation and appreciate Australia's distinctive path of industrial, social, economic and political development. This knowledge and understanding is essential for informed and active participation in Australia's diverse society.



Australian  
Workers Heritage  
Centre

*a place in history*



*Australia's biggest classroom!*

BARCALDINE

QUEENSLAND

*All Australians will benefit from this ongoing project. It is based upon the history, contemporary concerns and future ideals of one of the great strands of Australian culture - Our Working Life.*

*"I try to think of the Labour movement, not as putting an extra sixpence into somebody's pocket, or making somebody Prime Minister or Premier, but as a movement bringing something better to the people, better standards of living, greater happiness to the mass of the people. We have a great objective - the light on the hill - which we aim to reach by working for the betterment of mankind not only here but anywhere we may give a helping hand. If it were not for that, the Labour movement would not be worth fighting for"*

Ben Chifley - 1949 ALP Conference

[www.wanpardaeec.eq.edu.au](http://www.wanpardaeec.eq.edu.au)

## Continuing the proud tradition...

The Australian Workers Heritage Centre, was opened on May 4th, 1991 by the then Prime Minister Bob Hawke. A tribute to the working men and women of Australia, it stands as a signpost of great significance. In one it marks the past, gives a sense of renewal to the present and points the way to the future.

We are dedicated to continuing the proud traditions of Australian workers, their families and supporters who have made an invaluable contribution to our Nation and its resources. They created unique social, political and industrial movements which were to reform, reshape and continue to influence our National character and all it stands for. Few of the things accepted today as being part of the Australian way of life, would exist were it not for this long and proud contribution of workers.

In the same way the Labour Movement works tirelessly to improve the quality of life of all Australians, the Workers Heritage Centre aims to enlighten and educate today's and future generations about the history of that movement. An invaluable lesson in history that is vital for the future of a decent and compassionate Australian society.

This legacy continues today, as we strive in partnership to further build and sustain our society and ensure the extraordinary contribution of today's working Australians and those of the past, has a seamless connection with our collective vision for the future.

## A place of reflection...

The Australian Workers Heritage Centre and its on-site Outback Education Centre Wanpa-rda Matilda have the potential to significantly contribute to the growth and development of cultural tourism in Australia and undoubtedly the capacity to become a significant philosophical resource for the present and future generations of all Australians.

## The extraordinary legacy of working Australians...

Work engenders a sense of national pride and lends dignity and yet it is seldom spoke of in terms of the invaluable contributions it makes and workers make to Australia, nor do we as workers stand up and celebrate our worth, as we continue to build and sustain our nation.

Our vision is to pay tribute to the lives of these extraordinary people who built our nation and fought fearlessly to defend the freedom that all Australians enjoy. The continuity and further development of a national monument recognising their past achievements and ongoing commitment to their country, is crucial in helping to preserve this vitally important part of Australian heritage and culture.

## The challenge...

The Australian Labour Movement has a continuing dream for a better Australia. The Workers Heritage Centre is an expression of that dream, but the picture is far from complete.

Our combined challenge today and in the future is to work in partnership to develop our Centre to ensure that our working history is relevant to today's Australians, play our part in educating, informing and engaging with all Australians and providing them with an intimate ownership of the critical watershed of Australia's history - *Our Working Life*.

The history and the stories that will be recorded today and in the future will be those of your fathers, mothers, grandparents and ancestors, they will also be your stories...

## A centre for all Australians...

## Take your place in the working history of a nation...

Ownership of the Australian Workers Heritage Centre is held in trust by our current honorary Board of Management on behalf of all Australian Workers.

The Workers Heritage Centre is at a defining crossroad and in order for us to meet the significant challenges we currently face in continuing to develop the Centre and our planned associated projects, it requires the combined Labour Movement Australia wide, to lead the way and support our crucial national fundraising campaign, commencing immediately.

Our succession planning for the future, relies very heavily on completing the necessary urgent refurbishment and extension of Worker Displays, developing alternative income streams and further ultimately reaching independent financial viability.

With independence comes strength and choice - which we must achieve to ensure our continuity and future aims and objectives.

The Australian Workers Heritage Centre aspires to immortalise an important chapter of this country's past, present and future industrial, social and political history.

Working history is more than a record of sacrifice and achievement where the ideals of organised labour were played out - cooperation, mutual support and solidarity; it is an account of that experience and a precious resource in today's landscape by helping to mobilise support for the trade union movement as it responds to the continuing vicious attacks on the very right to organise and represent workers.

We urgently need your help and support by means of committing your Union on behalf of its members towards an annual contribution at a level you feel is appropriate for your organisation.

Alternatively, if your Union is not in a position to commit to an annual contribution, you may like to consider a donation.

Please see the attached form which outlines the details.

We would encourage you to give favourable consideration to this most worthy and deserving cause; it is fitting, timely and absolutely justified.

We must all feel compelled to safeguard and take complete ownership of our past history, and future aspirations for our nation. If we fail to do so, history has proven, others will bastardise both.

Yours fraternally,

Robert (Bob) J. Gleeson, AM  
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ABN 76 160 175 042  
DGR 900 357 771

## Trade Union Annual Contribution ✓

- \$20,000.00
- \$15,000.00
- \$10,000.00
- \$5,000.00
- \$2,500.00

### Donation

We are not in a position to commit to an Annual Contribution but would be pleased to make a donation

Name / Organisation: .....

Address: .....

Phone: .....

Email: .....

### Payment options:

Cheque  Direct Deposit

Account Name:  
**Australian Workers Heritage Centre**

Bank: **Westpac**

BSB: **034000**

Account No: **206426**

Amount: \$.....

*Thank you for your most generous contribution  
Please return your subscription form to:-*

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All donations to the  
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