

Illawarra Unity - Journal of the Illawarra Branch of the Australian Society for the Study of Labour History

Volume 2
Issue 4 *Illawarra Unity*

Article 2

January 2001

Noticeboard

Bev Symons
University of Wollongong

Follow this and additional works at: <https://ro.uow.edu.au/unity>

Recommended Citation

Symons, Bev, Noticeboard, *Illawarra Unity - Journal of the Illawarra Branch of the Australian Society for the Study of Labour History*, 2(4), 2001, 4-5.

Available at: <https://ro.uow.edu.au/unity/vol2/iss4/2>

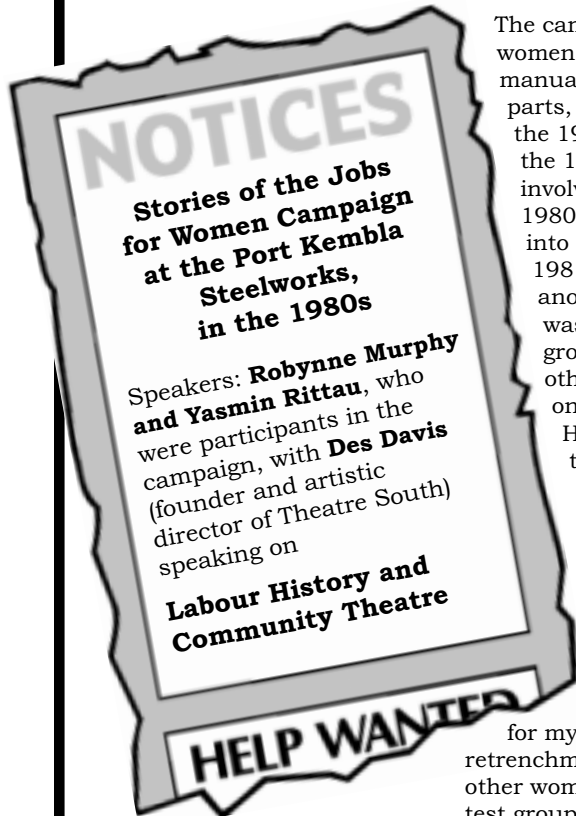
Research Online is the open access institutional repository for the University of Wollongong. For further information contact the UOW Library: research-pubs@uow.edu.au

Noticeboard

Abstract

The campaign to gain jobs for women at the steelworks in manual jobs had two distinct parts, spanning the decade of the 1980s and continuing into the 1990s. Firstly, I became involved in the campaign in 1980 which embarrassed BHP into giving women work in 1981. I gained work with another 32 women in what was supposed to be a test group – the idea being that other women would follow once we gained jobs.

NOTICE BOARD



2 pm Sunday,
23 September 2001.

Piano Bar, Master
Builders' Club,
Wollongong.

\$3.50 members;
\$5.50 non-members.

Contact: Ray Markey,
President;
Ph. 02 4267 4434;
email:

ray_markey@uow.edu.au

The campaign to gain jobs for women at the steelworks in manual jobs had two distinct parts, spanning the decade of the 1980s and continuing into the 1990s. Firstly, I became involved in the campaign in 1980 which embarrassed BHP into giving women work in 1981. I gained work with another 32 women in what was supposed to be a test group – the idea being that other women would follow once we gained jobs.

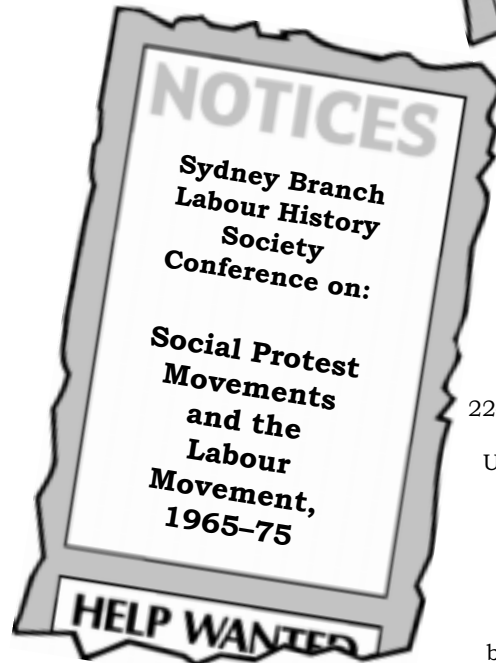
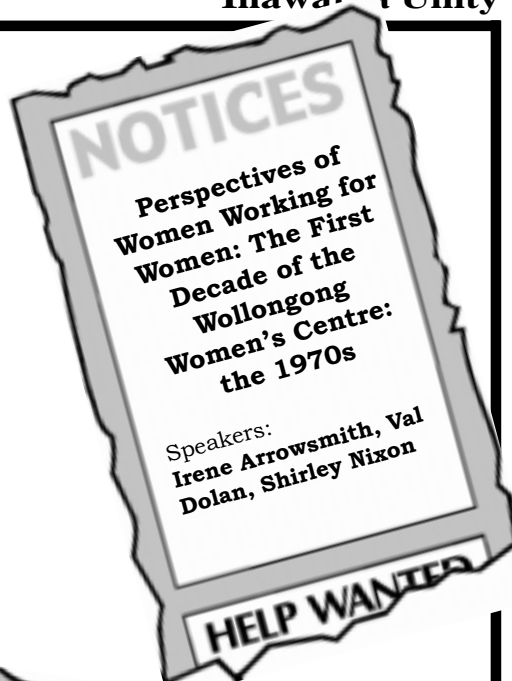
However, BHP didn't hire the other women. In any case, I worked at the steelworks for 2 years from 1981 until my retrenchment in 1983. Secondly, I became part of a compensation case against BHP in 1983 and was eventually awarded compensation for my premature retrenchment, along with the 32 other women from the supposed test group, in 1988. However, the compensation case continued until 1994 when BHP finally made an out-of-court settlement to a further 700 women who applied for jobs but weren't hired due to BHP's discriminatory hiring practices. The campaign in 1980 was the most visually exciting part of the whole process. Heaps of written material in all sorts of forms was produced and many discussions with all sorts of groups were held.

Yasmin Rittau

21 November 2001
Piano Room,
Master Builders' Club,
Wollongong.

\$3.50 members;
\$5.50 non-members.

Contact: Ray Markey,
President;
Ph. 02 4267 4434;
email:
ray_markey@uow.edu.au



22-23 September 2001.
Women's College,
University of Sydney.

Contact:
Beverley Symons,
Secretary
Ph. 02 9799 6943;
email:
bsymons@ar.com.au