

labour & COMMUNITY

Proceedings of
the Sixth National Conference of
the Australian Society
for the Study of Labour History



Edited by

Robert Hood

and

Ray Markey



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**Proceedings
of the
Sixth National Conference
of the ASSLH**

*Hosted by the
Illawarra Branch
Australian Society for the Study of Labour History*

*Wollongong, NSW
2-4 October 1999*

Edited by

Robert Hood and Ray Markey

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The Australian Society for the Study of Labour History

The Australian Society for the Study of Labour History was formed nationally in the early 1960s. The Society presently has active branches in Perth, Adelaide, Brisbane, the Hunter Valley, Melbourne, Canberra, the Illawarra, and Sydney. It is an organisation that brings together scholars, veterans and labour movement activists who are interested in studying, teaching, and researching in labour history. Members of the Society actively encourage the preservation of historical records (written, oral, and visual) that relate to the labour movement and its impact on society.

Membership of the Society is open to all interested individuals. Branches hold regular meetings with speakers and presentations, as well as administrative meetings that organise branch activities. The Society has an Executive Board that oversees national activities, including the biennial national conference, and coordinates with local branches.

Labour History is the Society's national journal. The Illawarra Branch also has a journal, *Illawarra Unity*.



Preface

The Illawarra Branch of the Australian Society for the Study of Labour History is proud to host the 6th Biennial National Labour History Conference over 2–4 October 1999, the last National Labour History Conference for the twentieth century. The Conference theme, **Labour and Community**, celebrates the past, but also contemplates the role of labour and community into the 21st century. It emphasises the importance of community as a basis for labour and its reproduction, labour organisation, working-class culture and labour history.

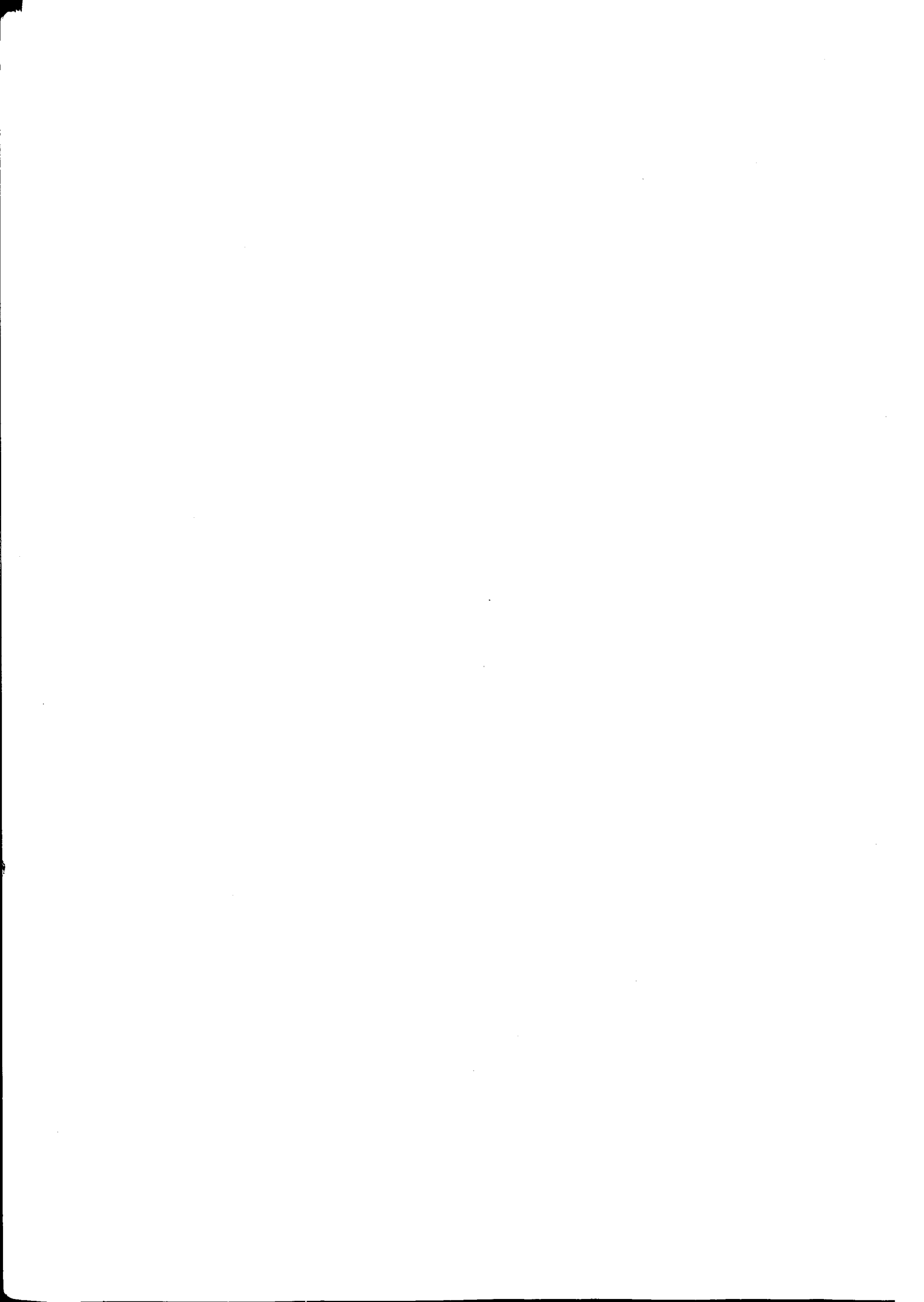
We have defined 'community' in its broadest sense to include workplace community, geographical/regional and civic community, the community within organisations such as unions and auxiliary bodies, party branches, cooperatives, friendly societies, and church groups, racial and ethnic community, republicanism and a national community, and the international community of labour – from 'workers of the world unite!' to 'globalisation'. We have been fortunate in attracting the wide range of papers contained in this volume as contributions to this theme.

We also have been fortunate in attracting so many papers of high quality. The contents of this volume are divided into two streams: Refereed Papers and General Papers. This reflects the need for many academics to produce 'DEETYA-measurable outcomes' to gain institutional funding to attend, rather than any intrinsic differences in quality between the two streams. Those who submitted papers to the General Stream merely had more time to produce them because they did not need to go through a refereeing process. I would like to

thank all paper-givers for their efforts, which have been the main basis for a successful conference.

There are many others to whom thanks are due for organising, contributing to or supporting the conference. Broadly, these include the keynote speakers, sponsors, referees, community businesses and organisations, the national committee of the Society for its support, and particularly the Illawarra branch committee for its hard work and dedication in making the conference a success. The individuals or organisations involved in these various categories are mostly listed elsewhere in these *Proceedings*. However, some individuals warrant special thanks: the Vice Chancellor of the University of Wollongong, Professor Gerard Sutton, for his warm and extensive support; David Campbell, the former Lord Mayor of Wollongong; Julie Chin and Nadyne Smith of the Department of Economics at the University of Wollongong; Lil Holmes, the administrator of the Wollongong Town Hall and Community Centre; Terry Irving; David Palmer; Susan Owen; Louise Brand, the curator of the special Labour and Community exhibition at the Wollongong City Gallery; Robert Hood, our indefatigably creative publication layout supervisor; and Robyn Troughton, our conference administrator, who cheerfully and efficiently bore most of the organising workload. Last of all, thank you to the participants as a whole who make this a successful conference.

Ray Markey
President, Illawarra Branch,
Australian Society for the Study of Labour History



Keynote Speakers

Lindsay Tanner, Federal Shadow Minister for Finance
Opening the Conference on Saturday 2 October

Pat O'Shane, Magistrate NSW and UNE Chancellor
Sunday morning, 3 October

Professor Eileen Yeo, University of Sussex
Monday morning, 4 October

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