UQFL439
Cecily Cameron Collection

Size
11 boxes, 2 parcels

Contents
Correspondence, minutes, reports, bulletins, flyers, photographs and notes relating to the Trades and Labor Council of Queensland and Alex Macdonald, who served as its Secretary from 1952 until 1969. Includes Labour Day flyers from the 1890s, anti-conscription flyers and posters from World War One, and material on industrial and political issues of the 1950s and 1960s, the Communist Party of Australia in the late 1960s, and Macdonald's own history and family background.

Date range
1889 to 1992 [most dated 1950s to 1960s]

Biography
Cecily Cameron had a thirty year association with the Queensland Trades and Labor Council. Employed by the TLC in 1953 at the age of nineteen, she worked as personal secretary to the Council’s Secretary, Alex Macdonald, until 1957, when she left to have children. She returned to her old job in 1966 and remained with the Council until her retirement in 1983. Cameron played a key role in preserving the TLC’s records and was instrumental in having them deposited in the Fryer Library. After leaving the TLC she began work on a biography of Macdonald. She co-authored the entry on him in the Australian Dictionary of Biography, but a full biography remains to be completed.

Notes
Open access
Related material can be found in UQFL118 Trades and Labor Council of Queensland Collection, and UQFL262 Toowoomba Trades and Labor Council Collection.

Series 1: Records of the Trades and Labor Council of Queensland

This series, contained in boxes 1-7, comprises material produced by the Trades and Labor Council or directly relating to TLC activities, mainly in the postwar period. The series is arranged into two sub-series: TLC material and material relating to political and industrial issues in which the TLC was involved (boxes 1-6), and material produced by or relating to the Australian Council of Trade Unions (ACTU), individual Australian trade unions and the international peak trade union bodies (box 7).
Box 1
Queensland Trades and Labor Council Records


Records relating to membership of TLC committees (1963), the ALP Queensland Central Executive (1967) and the Trade Union Social Committee (1959-1960), miscellaneous motions from unions to the TLC, and minutes of a TLC delegates’ meeting held 23 February 1966. Includes lists of trade union representatives and organisations involved in the 1959 Congress, 1962 and 1963 Cavalcades and 1963 Brisbane Conference.

Box 2

Miscellaneous TLC correspondence, mostly from affiliated trade unions and other peak union bodies, including the Australian Railways’ Union, the Building Workers’ Industrial Union, the Federated Miscellaneous Workers’ Union of Australia and the ACTU, 1964-1986. Includes inwards and outwards correspondence relating to the creation of the Alex Macdonald Memorial Library, 1969-1971

31 photographs of trade union officials, trade union members and Trades Hall, Brisbane, 1963-1975. People photographed include Alex Macdonald, Bob Hawke and Jack Egerton.

5 pieces of paper tole artwork and a painting on silk, probably from China

Newspaper cuttings of articles relating to the TLC, the labour movement and various industrial and political issues, 1962-1992

11 miscellaneous non-labour movement pamphlets and journals, including The City of Brisbane Acts, 1924 to 1951

Box 3

Bulletins, publicity material, tour itineraries, correspondence and reports relating to the postwar peace and disarmament movement. Includes tour schedules and other records relating to the 1958 tour of the Reverend Norman Anderson, President of the Assembly of Peace, and copies of the Bulletin of the World Council of Peace from 1962 to 1966.


Newspapers and newspaper cuttings relating to the war in Vietnam, 1965

Notes, programs and other records relating to the South-East Asia and Australia – Queensland Conference, University of Queensland, 30 September – 3 October 1966
Correspondence, circulars, agendas, conference papers, minutes and reports of the Conference for Left Action, Sydney, 4-7 Apr 1969. Includes papers by Pat Clancy, John Playford, Dan O’Neill, Denis Freney, Laurie Aarons, J.E. Heffernan, Brian Laver, Bob Gould, Peter Wertheim and Laurie Carmichael.

Box 4
Reports from trade union delegations to China, 1957 and 1959
Typed notes on Henry Boote’s article, ‘The Danger of Being Moderate’.
Records and ephemera relating to various political issues and campaigns, including bank nationalisation, labour in South Africa and Rhodesia, labour in Papua New Guinea, Indonesian independence, press censorship, Australian economic interests in Malaya, the Queensland Crimes Act, house prices, hire purchase, the pernicious impact of “trashy comics and books”, and Aboriginal rights. Includes a copy of ‘Reports and Resolutions Received by the 4th National Aboriginal Conference, The University of Queensland, 31 March – 2 April 1961’, and a bound file of records relating to the National Television Congress 1963-1965, Brisbane Labour Day 1968-1969, and the death of Alex MacDonald.

Agenda, standing orders and related records of the 27th Queensland Labor-in-Politics Convention, Surfers Paradise, 7 Feb 1970

Decisions of the 1974 Labor-in-Politics Convention, 1974

Box 5
Reports, analyses, articles, publications and other records relating to state, national and international industrial issues, 1940-1974. Includes various records relating to industrial arbitration and wages and wage cases.


Records relating to industrial disputes, including:
- 1956 pastoral dispute
- 1964 Charters Towers Hospital dispute
- 1966 Basic Wage Case
- Tramway Dispute, nd

Box 6
Documents relating to Mt Isa Mines dispute, 1961

Speeches and scripts of radio broadcasts, 1954-1971. Includes valedictory address by Alex Macdonald for Ernie Lane (1954) and a script for Macdonald’s radio address about his visit to China (1957).
Transcript (2 copies) of interview with Michael Healy, conducted by Brian Costar on 13 May 1975, and an article about Jack Egerton, published in The Bulletin, 16 Oct 1976

Records and publications relating to trade union training, 1969-1985


Flyers and decorative table placemats commemorating the centenary of 8-hour day (Labour Day) celebrations in Queensland, 1965

Box 7

Other Trade Union Records

1 unlabelled 7 inch reel-to-reel tape, contents unknown

Miscellaneous reports, statements and publications of the ACTU, the World Federation of Trade Unions (WFTU) and the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions (ICFTU), 1947-1983

Commonwealth Court of Conciliation and Arbitration records arising from action taken by Laurie Short as part of the struggle for control of the Federated Ironworkers’ Union, 1951

Miscellaneous financial records, reports, bulletins and flyers of trade union organisations other than the Queensland TLC, the ACTU, the WFTU and the ICFTU, 1939-1983. Includes statements of account of the Melbourne Trades Hall Council, and Building Workers’ Industrial Union material for the 1967 Queensland Trade Union Congress.

Newspaper cuttings on trade union affairs and 3 trade union newspapers: The Railway Advocate (Sep-Oct 1968), ACTU Bulletin (May 1977) and Labor News (29 May 1953).

Series 2: Prewar Trade Union History

This series, contained in boxes 8 and 9, comprises miscellaneous documents and publications relating to pre-World War Two trade union history. They are arranged in three sub-series: Queensland trade union history, Australian trade union history, and international trade union history.

Box 8

Queensland Trade Union History

Minute book of the Sports Committee, containing minutes of Committee meetings from 28 December 1889 to 25 April 1908 and Sports Committee attendance rolls.

Record book of the Workers’ Educational Association (WEA) Dramatic Company, 1922-1927

Original of La Compagnie, the WEA students’ journal, June 1922

Official program for Brisbane Eight-Hour Day celebrations, Exhibition Grounds, 1 May 1893

Official program for Brisbane Eight-Hour Day celebrations, Exhibition Ground, 1 May 1896

Research notes and secondary articles about Queensland trade union history, with material relating to the history of Trades Hall, the Trades and Labor Council, labour day and early trade unions.
Original and copies of original documents relating to Queensland trade union history. Documents include:

Reproduction of Prospectus for the Trades and Labour Hall Building Fund, c1890
Reproduction of First Annual Report of the Board of Management of the Brisbane Trades and Labour Hall and Literary Institute, 1890
Reproductions of Trades and Labour Hall correspondence relating to the construction and occupation of the new Trades Hall in Turbot Street, 1920-1923
Charts and lists of delegates, office bearers and union affiliates of the TLC and its antecedents, the Queensland Trade Union Congresses and the ACTU, 1887-1968
Newspapers and newspaper cuttings, including two complete copies of the *Brisbane Telegraph*, 17 March 1948, featuring coverage of the confrontation between trade unionists and police, and the police batoning of parliamentarian, Fred Paterson
Multiples paper copies of photographs depicting major events and sites in Queensland labour movement history, including the 1912 Brisbane General Strike.

**Box 9**

**Australian Trade Union History**

Original and copies of original documents relating to Australian labour movement history. Documents include:

Leaflet (2 copies) for Melbourne Labor (sic) Day demonstration, 3 May 1896
Flyers and posters promoting Melbourne and Sydney Labour/May Day, 1962 & 1967
Reproductions of *Cosme Monthly* and newspaper cuttings of articles relating to the Cosme community [See also Parcel 1, which contains 3 originals of *Cosme Monthly*]
10 World War 1 anti-conscription leaflets and posters
Reduced-size facsimile copies of *The Sydney Morning Herald*: 2 Jan 1901, 24 Jan 1901, 9 May 1910, 22 Jun 1911, 18 Apr 1931, and *The Daily Telegraph*: 24 Jan 1901, 9 May 1910
Newspaper cuttings concerning the 1925 seamen’s strike
Photocopies of pages of *The Red Leader*, newspaper of the Militant Minority Movement, 1930s
Original letter from C.A. Crofts, ACTU Secretary, to R.J. Mulvey, Queensland TLC Secretary, regarding the trade union movement’s campaign against the Bruce Government’s proposed changes to Federal Arbitration, 5 Jul 1929
Notes, summaries, articles and bulletins about various aspects of Australian labour movement history. Documents include:

International Trade Union History

Articles and ephemera relating to international trade union history. Documents include:

Article: ‘The Labour Movement of Japan and the Problems Faced by Sohyo’, nd
Typed copy of poem by Robert Burns, ‘A Revolutionary Lyric’
Article: ‘Britain’s Trade Union Congress’ Centenary Year’, nd
Reproduction (2 copies) of the pardon granted George Loveless, one of the Tolpuddle Martyrs transported as a convict to Australia
Three portfolios of facsimiles of documents relating to the Tolpuddle Martyrs, the British women’s suffrage struggle and the employment of children in British industry

Folder of newspapers and newspaper cuttings on miscellaneous labour movement and political topics, 1993-1995

Series 3: Communist Party of Australia

Box 10

Documents, newspapers and newspaper cuttings relating to the Communist Party of Australia and world communism, 1968-1969. The material is mainly concerned with CPA congresses and CPA deliberations over the direction of the Party and world communism, particularly in relation to events in Czechoslovakia. It includes:

• Program and report for the CPA Queensland State Conference, 14-15 Jun 1939
• Report for the CPA 30th Congress, Nov 1967
• Party and other documents concerned with the reform movement in Czechoslovakia, the response from the Soviet Union and the debate within world communism
• Documents and publications about Chinese communism
• Promotional bulletin for the ‘Four Capitals Folk Song’ Australian tour, 1959, featuring Brian Mooney and Martin Wyndham-Reade
• Notes, probably compiled by Alex McDonald, on the relationship between the CPA, the trade unions and working class youth, with reference to Brisbane’s radical youth culture and the club FOCO
• CPA ephemera on the Vietnam war and the pending execution of six Indonesian radicals
• CPA papers, letters and notes concerning the direction of the Party and communism internationally

13 audiocassettes of recordings of interviews conducted with:

• Clarrie Beckingham
• Colin Macdonald
• Ian MacAulay
• Ted Bacon
• Eva Bacon
• Gloria Penna
• Brian Laver
• Anna Anderson (Macdonald)
• Molly Macdonald
• Margaret and Lynette [?]
• Fred Thompson
• Frank Waters
• Jim Henderson
• Warren Bowden
• Wally Stubbings
• Norma Andrews
• Eileen Skea

**Series 4: Alex Macdonald**

**Box 11**

Notes, photographs, articles, genealogical records and other research material collected by Cecily Cameron in the course of researching the life of Alex Macdonald. Series includes:

- Metal signature block for Alex Macdonald
- 2 travel diaries of Alex Macdonald from his visit to China, 1957
- 17 photographs and 6 photographic negatives depicting Alex Macdonald and his family and associates
- Alex Macdonald’s membership card for the Brisbane Caledonian Society and Burns Club, 1963-1964

**Parcel 1**

*Cosme Monthly*, May-Jun 1899

[See also Box 9, Australian Trade Union History, which contains other material relating to the Cosme settlement.]

**Parcel 2**

2 plans of Trades Hall, Brisbane, showing additional offices on Wickham Street frontage, drawn by architects Conrad and Gargett, nd