

Today the Students, Tomorrow the Workers!  
Radical Student Politics and  
the Australian Labour Movement 1960-1972

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PhD

1999

## CERTIFICATE

I certify that this thesis has not already been submitted for any degree and is not being submitted as part of candidature for any other degree.

I also certify that the thesis has been written by me and that any help that I have received in preparing this thesis, and all sources used, have been acknowledged in this thesis.

Production Note:  
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**Lani Russell**

### Acknowledgements

I would like firstly to thank my supervisor Ann Curthoys. Ann has contributed many hours of unpaid labour to the production of this thesis since she left UTS several years ago, not to mention helping me in lots of other ways. I'm very grateful for all she's done. Ann also kindly allowed me to use material regarding the February 1965 "Freedom Ride," found while I've been working for her on her forthcoming book on the subject. I'm also grateful to Helen Irving of UTS, who earlier acted as my supervisor for six months while Ann was away.

I would like to thank those former student activists I interviewed, for giving me their time and their trust. Numerous other participants have supplied me with snapshots of their experiences. Those who provided me with valuable sources, contacts, information and advice include Tom Bramble, Luke Deer, Phil Griffiths, Andrew Honey, Judy McVeigh, Tom O'Lincoln, Ian Rintoul and Crispin Walker. Ken Mansell, who has been preparing a similar thesis, has been warm and helpful, and gave me permission to use an unpublished article of his. Steve Irons helped me with my computer.

Over the course of the thesis a lot of people have given me personal support. Mum and Dad especially have been there throughout, offering a listening ear (and lending me money!) whenever it was needed. I also want to thank my sister Wendy, Susie Latham, Diane Fieldes, Rick Kuhn, Rachel Davies, Billie Weymouth and Linda Parmenter. Your support has been so important to me. Thank-you also other friends and comrades in Sydney and Canberra. Finally, this thesis is dedicated to radical students and workers of the future. Good luck to you!

## Table of Contents

List of Illustrations	v
Abstract	vii
Abbreviations	viii
Introduction	2
Part 1. Students:	
1. Theoretical Issues: Students and "New" Social Movements	16
2. Never Had it So Good? Contradictions of the Postwar Boom	39
3. "Conscience" Politics: Student Anti-Racism 1960-1964	68
4. "Ho Ho Ho Chi Minh. Vietnam is gonna win". A Single Spark: 1965-1967	102
5. The Fire Last Time: Australian Student Radicalism 1968-1969	134
6. Petrol Bombs and a Thousand Flowers Blooming 1970-1972	170
Part 2. Students and Workers:	
7. Riders on the Storm: The ALP and Student Radicalism	213
8. Multiple Personalities: Coat-and-Tie Communists Meet Che Guevara	252
9. Looking to Paris: China-liners and Trotskyists on the Campuses	294
10. Humanism, Self-Management and the Student "New Left"	333
11. Today the Students, Tomorrow the Workers?	368
12. "The "New" Trade Union Movement	402
Conclusion	445
Appendix	466
Bibliography	472

*List of Illustrations*

No Conscripts for Vietnam	1
I'd like you to bear in mind	66
It's Menzies, the Academic	67
Student Action; Students Mourn Victorian Education	99
Commem. Day, Sydney, 1964; SAFA	100
Monash University newspaper front page, 1963	101
Girl Rebel. Amazing LBJ Scenes	131
You students ought to knuckle down	132/3
The girl	166
July 4 demonstrations	167
More freedoms?	168
If its in the news	169
Macquarie university staff supporting the Moratorium; The Great Escape	208
Victoria Lee Sit-in	209
Whose laws	210
Violent protests, 1972	211
Student protest; Tons of bombs	212
Stick to killing fish, Harold	250
Cairns at September 1970 Moratorium; It's time	251
The Communist Party is behind	292
The French Revolution 1968	293
Fight for Socialism, join WSA	330

Resist Police Violence	331	vi
Albert Langer; Take him away	332	
Brian Laver; Mike Jones	366	
Our most experienced and active comrades	367	
You think you've got problems; mind you	400,400a	
Freedom Day advertisement	401	
Damn reds!; Blitz the real speedsters	455	
We appeal for conscience.	456	
Smash penal powers; unions pledge strength	457	
Education for all, not just the rich	472	

*Abstract*

This thesis provides a national overview of Australian student politics between 1960 and 1972. It explores firstly the ways in which student movements have been understood theoretically, especially the idea of student protest as an early "new social movement". To establish context, I discuss structural and cultural changes in the tertiary education system during the 1950s and 1960s and some relevant aspects of the politics of the postwar boom. Several chapters are then devoted to an analytical narrative chronicling the rise of student protest from 1960 onwards. They explore the rise of student protest in opposition to racism in the early 1960s and the politics of the groups involved; then the particular role of students in the development of the anti-Vietnam war movement and other social movements which arose in this period. The growth of student radicalism over particular on-campus issues is also canvassed. The second part of the thesis focuses particularly on the relationship between the student movement and the labour movement. The course and nature of the interaction between radical students and the Labor Party and Communist Party is analysed. The politics of radical students is then discussed, in relation especially to Maoism, Trotskyism, Humanism, Self-Management and the New Left, with particular emphasis on ideas about the relationship between students and the working class. Some key episodes of student/worker cooperation are then examined, and the final chapter outlines the rise of a new, more militant trade union movement over the course of this period. The conclusion discusses the implications of this thesis for social movement theory and how the "sixties" is remembered today.

## Abbreviations

AAM	Anti-Apartheid Movement
ABSCHOL	NUAUS support section for Aboriginal students
ACTU	Australian Council of Trade Unions
AEU	Amalgamated Engineering Union
AICD	Association for International Co-operation and Disarmament (NSW)
ALF	Action for Love and Freedom
ALP	Australian Labor Party
ANL	Australian National Line
ANU	Australian National University
ARU	Australian Railway Union
ASIO	Australian Security Intelligence Organisation
ASLF	Australian Student Labor Federation
AUC	Australian Universities Commission
AUS	Australian Union of Students
AVCC	Australian Vice-Chancellors' Committee
BIT	Bendigo Institute of Technology
BLF	Builders Labourers Federation
BWTU	Building Workers Industrial Union
CAE	College of Advanced Education
CAMP	Campaign Against Moral Persecution
CICD	Congress for International Co-operation and Disarmament (Vic)
CMF	Campus Military Force
CND	Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament
CPA	Communist Party of Australia
CPA(M-L)	Communist Party of Australia (Marxist-Leninist)
CSM	Contemporary Social Movement
CUF	Campaign for University Freedom
DEET	Department of Employment, Education and Training
DLP	Democratic Labor Party
DRM	Draft Resistance Movement
DRU	Draft Resisters' Union
EU	Evangelical Union
EYL	Eureka Youth League



FCAATSI	Federal Council for the Advancement of Aborigines and Torres Strait Islanders
FMWU	Federated Miscellaneous Workers Union
GLF	Gay Liberation Front
MAS	Monash Association of Students
MLC	Monash Labor Club/Member of the Legislative Council
MULC	Melbourne University Labor Club
MUTA	Monash University Tiddlywinks Association
NCC	National Civic Council
NLF	National Liberation Front (Vietnam)
NMC	New Middle Class
NSM	New Social Movement
NUAUS	National Union of Australian University Students
PAC	Public Affairs Committee (Monash University)
RAR	Royal Australian Regiment
RMIT	Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology
RSA	Revolutionary Socialist Alliance
RSSA	Revolutionary Socialist Student Alliance
SA	Student Action
SAFA	Student Action for Aborigines
SARS	Student Action for the Rights of Students
SCM	Student Christian Movement
SDA	Students for Democratic Action
SDS	Students for a Democratic Society
SHAC	Socialist Humanist Action Centre
SLL	Socialist Labor League
SOS	Save Our Sons
SMG	Self-Management Group
SPA	Socialist Party of Australia
SRC	Student Representative Council
US	United States
SWAG	Socialist Workers Action Group
SWP	Socialist Workers Party
SYA	Socialist Youth Alliance
TLC	Trades and Labour Council
TUDC	Trade Union Defence Committee
UK	United Kingdom
UN	United Nations
UNSW	University of New South Wales

UQ	University of Queensland
UWA	University of Western Australia
VAC	Vietnam Action Campaign
VCE	Victorian Central Executive (ALP)
VDC	Vietnam Day Committee
VMC	Vietnam Moratorium Committee
WAP	White Australia Policy
WL	Women's Liberation
WWF	Waterside Workers Federation
WSA	Worker Student Alliance
YCAC	Youth Campaign against Conscription
YCL	Young Communist League
YLA	Young Labor Association
YSL	Young Socialist League