



Campaigning in a Cost-of-Living Crisis

Although these times are difficult, they're not unprecedented. Activists in the past have organised, fought and won changes that made sure people had access to what they needed in times of crisis and soaring costs of living. The Labour History Project is organising a Symposium to bring past struggles into conversation with current organising.

Saturday 18 March, 9.30am start, Loaves and Fishes, 2 Hill St, Thorndon, for more information see: <https://www.facebook.com/events/1150135739020913>

Sliding scale: Well-waged \$50, feeling the cost of living crisis \$20, low/unwaged free. Payment on the day CASH ONLY.

Timetable: Labour History Project Symposium: Campaigning in a cost-of-living crisis – then & now

9.30am: Welcome – Grace Millar

9.45am: Wage Bargaining

- 9.45am: Gordon Anderson: 'When the valve starts hissing – state wage fixing under economic pressure'
- 10am: Toby Boraman: 'Success and failure in the struggle against declining living standards in the long 1970s'
- 10.15am: Lyndy McIntyre: 'Building Community Power For The Living Wage: Why It's Important Ten Years On'
- 10.30am: Tali Williams: 'Fair Pay Agreements and opportunities for organising'

10.45am Kōrero

11.15 – Morning tea

11.30am: Benefits

- 11.30am: Tony Simpson: 'Mr Micawber's Outcome - the origins and experience of 1930's unemployment and welfare in New Zealand'
- 11.45am: Sue Bradford: 'Jobs & a living wage for all: Unemployed & beneficiary campaigning in the 90s'
- 12pm: Brooke Stanley Pao: 'Remembering our worth with Liveable Incomes for all'

12.15pm Kōrero

12.45pm Lunch

1.15pm: Fighting Price and Rent Rises

- 1.15pm: Elinor Chisholm: 'The way to end housing problems': tenant protest in New Zealand in the 1970s'
- 1.30pm: Cybèle Locke: 'Campaign Against Rising Prices, 1966-1973'
- 1.45pm Ashok Jacob: 'Renters United'

2pm Kōrero

2.30pm Afternoon tea

2.45pm: Universal services

- 2.45pm: Barbara Brookes: 'Small beginnings with large consequences: the Waitaki Hydro Medical Association and the advent of a free hospital service.'
- 3.05pm: Mika Havel: 'Fighting for Free Fares: Cost of living and Climate'
- 3.20pm: Esther Willing: 'Titiro whakamuri, kōkiri whakamua - Looking back to look forwards towards free access to GPs and dentists'

3.35pm Kōrero

4.05pm: Reflection

4.30pm Ends

Symposium speaker biographies

Wages session:

Gordon Anderson is an Emeritus Professor of Law at Victoria University of Wellington. He has written numerous academic articles on a variety of aspects of New Zealand employment law, particularly on personal grievances, the legal and industrial relations restructuring of the last two decades and the introduction of a good faith obligation into New Zealand labour law in 2000.

Toby Boraman is a politics lecturer and historian of strikes.

Lyndy McIntyre has over forty years activism in unions and the community. She has been involved in many union campaigns to lift low pay. She was involved in initiating the Living Wage Movement in 2011 and the launch in 2012. She was employed as a community organiser in the movement for five years. Lyndy is a proud life member of E Tū and an Associate Fellow of NZEI Te Riu Roa. She is currently writing a book on the story of the Living Wage Movement Aotearoa NZ.

Tali Williams is a long-time trade unionist. Currently she is the Campaigns Director for the NZ Nurses Organisation.

Benefits session:

Tony Simpson is one of New Zealand's best known social historians. He has published widely on cultural and political affairs and was until recently a senior public servant. His latest book, a collection of essays *The Scope in New Zealand Literature* was published in 2022.

Sue Bradford was an organiser in unemployed & beneficiary groups from 1983-1999, based at the Auckland Unemployed Workers Rights Centre and Auckland Peoples Centres. She went on to become a Green MP for ten years before leaving Parliament and helping to set up Auckland Action Against Poverty in which she was active 2010 - 2016. She now works for Kōtare Research & Education for Social Change in Aotearoa.

Brooke Stanley Pao is a Nesian Mum, community organiser and activist with the best crew at Auckland Action Against Poverty, a big fan of Indigenous remembering and loves listening to the epic Erykah Badu. Her politics and practices are centred and grounded in Love as being the GOAT.

Fighting Prices and Rent Rises session:

Elinor Chisholm wrote her PhD about the history of tenant activism in Aotearoa New Zealand, and the challenges to improving housing here. She currently works as a researcher at He Kāinga Oranga, the health and housing research programme at the University of Otago, Wellington.

Cybèle Locke is a Pākehā historian who foregrounds working-class narratives in her work. She is a senior lecturer at Te Herenga Waka Victoria University of Wellington, active in her union and the living wage movement.

Ashok is a housing activist and commentator, as well as an organiser with the PSA.

Universal Services session:

Barbara Brookes is Professor Emerita in History, University of Otago. She is the author, among other things, of the Ockham Award winning, *A History of Women in New Zealand* (Bridget Williams Books, 2016).

Mika Havel is a student at Te Herenga Waka, Victoria University studying history, law and politics. He is the Sustainability Officer for VUWSA and one of the Organisers for the Free Fares campaign. Mika has been campaigning for reduced fares and better public transport for two years with the Free Fares campaign, and is a passionate advocate for a better, more accessible and more climate friendly transport system.

Dr Esther Willing (Ngāti Toarangatira, Ngāti Koata, Ngā Ruahine) is a senior Lecturer in Hauora Māori and Director of Kōhatu Centre for Hauora Māori at the University of Otago in Dunedin. She is passionate about supporting the health workforce to better meet the needs of whānau Māori and changing health policy and health services in Aotearoa New Zealand to improve Māori health outcomes.



Labour History Project

AN INJURY TO ONE IS AN INJURY TO ALL