CRAM 2014

The CRAM guide is made with the generous contribution of the writers, photographers and 3CR programmers.

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As many thousands of people across the country mobilise against the Abbott government, 3CR Community Radio is asking its listeners and supporters of independent media to join the resistance by donating money to the station during our annual Radiothon.

Community radio may have been spared in the Budget - for now at least - but it still represents a disaster for workers, Indigenous people, the elderly, young people, students, Medicare, people with a disability and the unemployed. No doubt the fight is on and the scene is set for a tumultuous few years.

When you have a government that is aggressively pursuing 'austerity' measures, dissent and community expression are increasingly strangled. In such a climate, the democratic function of community radio becomes even more important. In turn, we rely more and more on our listening community – to both maintain our financial independence, and build our strength as a voice of dissent.

3CR is well placed to provide a serious account of what’s happening in the world, because our broadcasters are active participants in it. Our broadcasters are West Papuan freedom fighters, CFMEU officials, disability activists, and East-West tunnel picketers. Our independence means we are able to provide news and analysis from the ground up, without worrying about what advertisers will think, or what the ratings or opinion polls say. People in the community determine the issues we cover on-air.

In the pages that follow, you will see what makes 3CR so effective at sowing the seeds of dissent as we explore a sample of life at the station. We hit the road with the Radioactive Exposure Tour, join the picket line against the East-West tunnel link, reflect on the protest against Monsanto, and show you how to make your very own resistance balaclava!

We introduce you to the Concrete Gang – a program presented by the CFMEU – and reflect on the crucial role that unions have played in building the station, both figuratively and sometimes even literally. In this vein, we also reflect on the Waterfront Dispute in 1998, and 3CR’s crucial role in not only reporting what was happening, but helping to build the picket line as well.

We welcome the Campaign for International Cooperation and Disarmament back to the airwaves after a long break, and introduce Viv Malo, presenter of the Black Block, to the 3CR airwaves for the first time.

Most importantly, we celebrate 3CR as a site of resistance, and we ask that you join us. By listening to our programs, by telling your friends what you've heard, by calling talkback, and by making a donation to this year’s Radiothon. Your support, as always, is greatly appreciated – and greatly needed.
The Black Block is an hour of Aboriginal political, spiritual, and everything in between discussion, interviews, debate, music and commentary related to the Black struggle, local, national, past, present and future, through the eyes of Viv Malo, Gooniyandi woman, born, living and broadcasting on the lands of the Kulin Nations.

With a fire in her belly and a passion for truth, justice and freedom, Viv completed the 3CR Broadcasters training course in 2013. Viv applied for a show with the hope of contributing to the shift in consciousness required to create a society and a world that benefits all and not just a few, by speaking her truth and offering a platform for others to share their thoughts and understanding of our situation, and our way out.

Black Block will highlight the hypocrisy and dissect the madness of the current paradigm, whilst empowering the listener to think bigger and outside the box; to remember who we are, and for the new people to acknowledge the truth of who they are; to get about dismantling the imposed systems and the structures of oppression, and breathe life again, into the way of being that sustained us all for so very long. Join Viv and guests, midday Mondays, and get decolonising.

LISTEN: The Black Block, Monday 12-1pm

Leanne McLean, 3CR Training Coordinator

3CR recently received funding from City of Yarra for a radio training project for local Aboriginal women.

Marj Thorpe, Arika Onus, Lubby Moore and Savanna Kruger participated in a four day intensive training course learning all aspects of making radio including how to use a studio panel, editing audio and presentation techniques.

The training was delivered by experienced 3CR broadcasters Shiralee Hood (Beyond the Bars) and Viv Malo (Black Block and Beyond the Bars). Long term 3CR trainers, Nicky Stott and Dale Bridge provided additional training support.

The training culminated in everyone going on air with Viv during her program Black Block – and what a great program that was! All trainees were very confident presenting live on air and each person operated the studio panel for part of the program. Congratulations all round! Participants have since been paired with experienced 3CR programmers to mentor them in exploring further involvement in 3CR. Marj has already been out and about recording public events and rallies with the portable recorder, and we look forward to hearing more from Lubby, Savanna and Arika on air in the future when they produce a new wave of deadly radio for 3CR.

3CR would like to thank the City of Yarra for their financial support and thank the trainers and participants for their enthusiasm and passion in making this such a successful project.

Viv Malo, Black Block programmer

The Black Block is an hour of Aboriginal political, spiritual, and everything in between discussion, interviews, debate, music and commentary related to the Black struggle, local, national, past, present and future, through the eyes of Viv Malo, Gooniyandi woman, born, living and broadcasting on the lands of the Kulin Nations.

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LISTEN: The Black Block, Monday 12-1pm
Hip Sista Hop presents women’s and Indigenous hip hop, spoken word, RnB, reggae, soul and dancehall. We focus on conscious hip hop from local artists and from around the world. The music we play is generally not what you’ll hear on commercial stations. We like artists who tell stories and send a message through their music, who support other women in the industry and who express their struggle against colonialism, racism, sexism and homophobia. From soulful sounds to uplifting beats, we’re supporting resistance culture through hip hop. We’ve also been known to dance in the studio.

One of our key aims is to support women and Indigenous people within hip hop through airplay, promotion, exposure and awareness. Women and Indigenous people in hip hop are often sidelined, ignored, or vastly underrated by mainstream DJs, radio programs and promoters. This means listeners often miss out on some of the most dynamic and exciting music out there. Hip Sista Hop is actively challenging this status quo and honouring the voices of women and Indigenous people in hip hop.

The show is part of a broader movement challenging gendered and racial inequality that plays out in the music industry and in the media in general. We disrupt structures of power not only through the music we prioritise, but also through the way we organise. Hip Sista Hop is made up of women artists and young women – many of whom are women of colour. In the process of producing the show, we gain radio broadcasting and production skills that we share with others.

Hip Sista Hop has a long history on 3CR. Fionn and Bree started the show in 2005, followed by Phoebe Barton and Bec Smith who hosted from 2007 until the end of 2011. For the past two years Hip Sista Hop has been organised, programmed and presented by five different women: Sista Zai, Muma Doesa, Emma Dust, Modern Isis and Lorena Solo. As a team, we’ve brought multiple and diverse interests, perspectives and music to the show.

Sista Zai grew up listening to RnB, neosoul, reggae and hip hop. She expresses her love for Africa by playing contemporary African music alongside spoken word from around the world. Emma loves nerding out researching new music from women MCs, Australian Indigenous hip hop artists, and queer and political hip hop. Muma Doesa is an MC/vocalist, sometimes DJ, and event manager of the Caribbean Cookout. Her commitment to equality and Black Power shines through in her music – she promotes Indigenous hip hop, underground artists from the U.S. and reggae dancehall artists, as well as attending a lot of local gigs and bringing in artists for interviews.

Over the past few years we’ve interviewed local artists including Meriki Hood, Ruth Rogers-Wright, Quashani Bahd, Michelle Norbido and Netti Servello (from Sisters on the Mic), Candy Royalle, Birdz, Abe Ape and many more, as well as plenty of international artists. We’ve also presented special features on air, such as the New York Special by Muma Doesa and the Caribbean Cookout Mixtape Vol 2 by Sista Zai. In 2013 we took out the 3CR award for Best Music Programming! Our listeners and everyone who voted for us deserve big thanks. We’ll keep the best of it coming in 2014…

LISTEN: Hip Sista Hop, Monday 1-2pm
Latin America in the last two decades has experienced some important changes and seen an upsurge in social movements which continue to mobilise, decolonise and resist the neo-liberal paradigm.

Kwakwaka’wakw warrior and anarchist Gord Hill, in his excellent book 500 Years of Indigenous Resistance, writes that before colonisation the only reference to “the Americas” as a whole was Turtle Island, Cuscatlan or Abya-Yala.

However, after the Europeans invaded and embarked on half a millennium of genocide, slavery & plunder, the “Latin American” states were contrived and oriented towards the imperial power. Internal disintegration occurred from the existence of class sectors of extreme wealth and privilege. The power holders, often “white” and distinctly European (later USA) in character, were comprised of a highly propertied local elite colluding with international investors. Amongst the lower classes there was misery, oppression and division. Yet, there has also been a long and inspiring history of struggle which has culminated in some impressive victories for the political left and new sparks in the belly-fire of grass roots resistance. The most striking development is the recent surge in the mobilisation of indigenous resistance movements.
The prominent Zapatista (EZLN) movement in Chiapas, the 1996 peace accords in Guatemala and the pan-American movement in Ecuador foreshadowed Aymara and Quechua mobilisations in Bolivia, demands from Caribbean communities, Mapuche organising in Chile, indigenous peasant movements from the Andes and Mesoamerica and tribal resistance movements such as the Garifunas of Honduras, the Tawahkas of Mosquitia, the Sumos, Ramas, and Miskitos of Nicaragua, the Ashaninka of Peru, the Kunas of Panama, and the Shuar of Ecuador. Much of the ecological devastation of Latin America is taking place on indigenous land, and women are in the forefront of the battle for natural resources. Women account for nearly sixty percent of the fifty million indigenous people in Latin America and they face triple discrimination as women, as indigenous and as poor.

3CR’s Mujeres Latinoamericanas current affairs program is hosted by Mapuche resistance fighter, feminist and activist Marisol Salinas. She describes Mujeres Latinoamericanas as a very political program which is open to the activist community with a focus on indigenous grass roots struggle and women’s voices – and men are welcome too! “Women in Latin America were particularly oppressed [by colonisation] and this changed because of the grass roots movement. Women are at the forefront of the struggle against mining. Indigenous women are strong in the struggle, leaders are often women and gender equality is actively promoted.”

Regarding the unjust policies of the hard right-wing, neo-liberal Chilean government against her people Marisol says, “Mapuche are facing anti-terrorist laws. But they are fighting and they’re not going to stop...even though they know that if they go to the street they could be shot or killed.”

Latin American women have historically proved themselves formidable opponents of tyrannical governments, even under the most oppressive regimes such as the dictatorships in Chile and Argentina. Indigenous women played an important role in Bolivia’s progressive gains. Women voted in large numbers for Venezuela’s Chavez and supported the revolution in Cuba. More than half of Latin American republics have moved toward the political left since the 2000s. In the process have come economic and social reforms, a number of which have benefited women. Statistics show about forty percent of the Latin American workforce are women, most states have passed laws guaranteeing property rights for women, divorce is now legal and many women are agitating for legalising abortion (in most of the region abortions are a crime).

Violence against women is a serious problem all over the world. Approximately one in three women in Latin America has experienced violence from an intimate partner (Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) 2006). Since 1990 most countries in Latin America have taken some action to outlaw violence against women, however reportedly conservative courts often choose not to rule for women - especially in cases of family violence.

Gender inequality in resistance movements is sometimes, reportedly, a problem in Latin America as much as anywhere else in the world. However, we continue to see women ferociously engaged in key organising roles in many significant contemporary resistance movements such as the Cocaleros (cocoa farmers) in Bolivia and Peru, the landless rural workers movement in Brazil, Afro-Columbians resisting displacement by the Colombian army and foreign investors, the ‘Piquetero’ urban poor and workers movement in Argentina and mobilisations against water privatisations and gas pipeline investments in Bolivia - not to mention cross-border and migrant movements, mobilisations against free trade agreements and Bolivarianism.

Inherently, despite that after five hundred years Latin American resistance fighters continue to endure many ongoing problems and cultures of oppression, it seems likely that ongoing resistance movements have enough determination to sustain themselves for as long as necessary.

Meanwhile 3CR Community Radio will continue to provide inspiring news and updates to Latin American communities and their supporters in Melbourne and all over the world.

LISTEN: Mujeres Latinoamericanas
(Mapundungun & Spanish) Thursday 6.30pm
Mafalda (Spanish) Friday 6.30pm
Voice of Chile (Spanish) Friday 7.30pm
Latin American Update (English) Sunday 10.30am

“It is better to die fighting than to die of hunger”
–Comandante Ramona, EZLN
You've been involved at 3CR for over 15 years now in various paid and unpaid roles. You're obviously passionate about the station, but what keeps you wanting to put in the long hours and hard work at 3CR?

The diversity. I know, I know - it sounds clichéd, but where else would you find the range of groups sharing a space and working together the way we do at 3CR? And I’m not saying it’s always amicable because it’s not, but it is truly diverse and challenges us all to be better people. You really have to check your privilege here at 3CR, examine your bias, and communicate with integrity.

The content. Really...where else but 3CR? We have over 130 different programs. Just stop and think about that number – it’s truly AMAZING. Check the grids of other stations and compare this number. It’s something to be really proud of and is a direct result of the many creative, dedicated volunteers, staff and committees here at the station. I’ve never worked in an organisation quite like it and feel extremely privileged do so.

What is the main thing you are looking forward to this year as PC?

3CR programmers are a creative and engaged bunch, so I’m looking forward to the collaboration of activism that occurs here on a daily basis, all the things mentioned above and the fact that everyday is a new surprise of sorts (please remind me of this when I’m grumpy and deadlines are looming!)

When people question 3CR's relevance what is your favourite response?

I was going to say 3CR was immune to fashion but you might take it the wrong way. We’re extremely fashionable in our own way :)

Seriously though, I find the question of relevance is often raised by those who forget what it’s like to not have a voice, and generally reflects their own aspirations of influence. 3CR’s been around for a long time and will continue to be so because we’re a community in the true sense of the word. Our strength is in our commitment to providing a voice for those not represented in the mainstream. The station doesn’t court ‘experts’, nor wait until a group have developed a media profile before inviting them on air. We are part of the very fabric that builds communities. That’s powerfully relevant stuff.

How did you first hear about 3CR?

I moved from Ballarat to Melbourne in 2009, the good mateship between Dr Joe Toscano, convener for West Papua Independence Movement Rent Collective, and Jacob Rumbiak, West Papua’s Foreign Affairs Coordinator of Federal Republic of West Papua, a representative transitional government, enlightened and inspired me about 3CR Community Radio. Since then, I am so grateful to be part of the great activist hub and meeting awesome programmers, generous volunteers and supportive staff at 3CR.

What do you think is important about 3CR's Current Affairs coverage?

3CR’s Current Affairs coverage is unique, it is broadcast by programmers from Indigenous, trade unions and grassroots communities who are able to tell their stories first-hand and be empowered. 3CR covers issues that matter to us as human beings, coordinated by grassroots campaigns, direct actions and is supportive of community events.

What keeps you strong in your fight for a free West Papua?

The survival of the land and the deprivation of Indigenous peoples’ dignity is the cornerstone that inspired me to keep fighting for a free West Papua. If not me, then who will continue the aspiration of the generations gone before and to come after me, to tell the untold stories of the forgotten people of West Papua? It is a land in crisis and the last colony in the world. Located about 150 kilometres north of Australia, and is the western half of New Guinea, the world’s second largest island. On 15 August 1962, after decades of Dutch colonialism, Papuans constituted 99% of the population. Under Indonesian administration since May 1, 1963, they are now 47% of the total population.

Time is of essence for West Papuans. If the ongoing trend of ignorance by foreign governments and silence by ordinary people continues, it will lead to the extinction of Indigenous people of West Papua.

What is your favourite show on 3CR?

I should not be biased, but the Voice of West Papua is my favourite show! Any music or Indigenous shows are my favourite shows on 3CR. But all the shows on 3CR bring different voices and dreams together.
In 2016 3CR turns 40. And like anyone who’s approached that milestone, we’re engaged in some serious self-reflection and a stock take of what’s been achieved to date. It’s also a time to acknowledge the amazing foresight and achievements of our “parents”; to think about the social and political era we were born in; and to contemplate the vast, and ongoing, influence of the extended community that’s involved in our life.

Researching 3CR’s history is a fascinating activity that could literally take forever. Not just because it’s so interesting, but also because there are so many different experiences, and diverse memories, and also because history is so subjective. Therefore early on we acknowledged that there would never be a single version of 3CR’s history, and that anything created for the 40th birthday should inspire others to also contribute to documenting the rich life of the station.

The first official meeting of the Community Radio Federation (CRF) arguably marks 3CR’s conception date. The meeting was held on 23 June 1974 at the Pram Factory in Carlton, and included representatives of the Waterside Workers’ Federation, Gay Liberation, the Women’s Electoral Lobby and 13 other community organisations. At that meeting the CRF was officially formed, and to this day it’s the peak decision-making body at the station.

During 1974 and into 1975, the CRF was engaged with a massive lobbying effort. The campaign centred on demanding that the government open up the airwaves for community radio stations, and community voices. The CRF helped organised huge public meetings, made submissions to government inquiries and continued to gather member organisations to prove their broad community support. On 10 October 1975 the CRF was granted a commercial broadcasting license authorised by the Federal Minister for Media, Dr Moss Cass.

The months that followed were some of the most tumultuous in Australia’s political history with the dismissal of the Whitlam Government. The station jumped into action in November 1975 with members agreeing that: “In the light of the present political situation, in defence of democracy and for Australia’s independence, the Community Radio Federation will commence test transmissions in a fortnight” (CRF News 21/11/1975).

As to our actual birth date – well, after a considerable gestational period, the station began regular test broadcasting on 840khz on 1 May 1976 from a warehouse at the back of 1112 High Street, Armadale. Later that year the station lifted its cap on member numbers (initially 100) to facilitate the increasing interest from the Melbourne community. New affiliates in late 1976 included the Armenian Radio Program Group, the Victorian Jazz Club, Animal Rights and the Australian Union of Women taking membership to nearly 150. On 1 July 1976, 3CR was granted a full license for a five-year period.

From its creation just two years earlier, the CRF had created and implemented a functioning community radio station, with a huge diversity of support and programming interest, along with a unique and highly democratic organisational structure. If we fast forward to 2014, 3CR continues to have the very same characteristics.

The station has many ideas about how to mark its four decades – a book, an exhibition, a festival, radio documentaries, a big party … the list goes on. Certainly we’ll be keeping our listeners and wider community up-to-date with our 40th plans, and look forward to significant celebrations.

3CR welcomes input into documenting and celebrating the history of the station. Juliet Fox is researching the history of 3CR as part of her PhD at Melbourne University. She welcomes suggestions and feedback and can be contacted via email j.fox@student.unimelb.edu.au or c/o 3CR.
Join the station community online to have your say, share event details, catch up on what's happening on and off air, and connect to the 3CR community.

Facebook: 3CRmelbourne
Twitter: 3CR
Connect: 3cr.org.au

Sign up for the 3CR eNewsletter, subscribe to a weekly podcast, listen to live streaming from anywhere in the world, donate online to keep the station going.

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You can subscribe:
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- Call 03 9419 8377 (credit card payments only)
- Visit the station at 21 Smith Street, Fitzroy (cash, credit or cheque)
- Post your cheque/money order to PO Box 1277, Collingwood, 3066

Lest we forget
Tunnerminnerwait and Maulboyheener

Compiled by Meg Butler, Promotions Coordinator

On the 20th of January 1842 Tunnerminnerwait and Maulboyheener, two Indigenous freedom fighters, were executed on the corner of Bowen and Franklin Streets in Melbourne. A quarter of Victoria’s white population came in carnival mood to see the killings.

Every year on the 20th of January, 3CR hosts a live commemorative broadcast from the execution site. The broadcast is hosted by Joe Toscano from Anarchist World This Week. Joe is also the National Convenor of the Tunnerminnerwait Maulboyheener Commemorative Committee which has had recent success in their campaign for a memorial on the site. “Without 3CR’s live broadcasts we wouldn’t have been able to achieve the establishment of the memorial.” Joe Toscano.

For more information about the Tunnerminnerwait and Maulboyheener Commemorative Committee and related struggles visit anarchistmedia.org or 3cr.org.au

Listen:
Anarchist World This Week, Wednesday 10-11am
All prospective parents know about the worry and apprehension that accompanies their decision to start a family.

However, when you are permanently trapped in the 40-degree-plus heat, poor hygiene and bare-bones medical facilities of the punitive Nauru detention centre, it is more than worry. It is sheer terror.

So great was this terror that six-weeks pregnant Salima Motiur and her husband, Mamun, 24, decided that the only thing they could do was abort the child. According to their lawyer, she was flown to a Brisbane hospital and given some tablets which brought on the termination. Mamun was quoted as saying: “The child has no future. So we decided to take an abortion.”

This life-and-death circumstance confronting parents-to-be on Nauru has been played out more than once. In November 2013, Latifa, a Rohingya asylum-seeker from Burma, was refused permission to stay with her premature new-born baby in the neo-natal clinic of a Brisbane hospital after being flown from Nauru to give birth because the facilities on the island were inadequate for her medical needs. The former Liberal leader, Dr John Hewson, described Immigration Minister Scott Morrison as arrogant and said the treatment of Latifa and her baby was inhumane.

It seems even more shocking given Morrison’s public revelations about his own family. He and his wife, Jenny, spent more than 14 years trying to conceive their first child. A devout Christian, he said of his wife in his maiden speech to Parliament in 2008; “God remembered her faithfulness and blessed us with our miracle child...” And he added: “Family is the stuff of life and there is nothing more precious.”

The disconnect between personal attitudes and the deliberate cruelty dished out to asylum-seekers is not the sole preserve of the Coalition, although it set the standard under the Howard government between 1996-2007. Labor, too, descended into callous inhumanity with its policies when its front bench was full of people always declaring the importance of family. Chris Bowen, when he was Labor Immigration Minister, tweeted on Christmas Eve about the joys of being with his children around the tree – while, at the same time, keeping about 1500 children locked behind razor wire, many of whom had been diagnosed with depression and anxiety, were self-harming and had even attempted suicide.

The health of these children, parents-to-be and every other asylum seeker coming here by boat is always a secondary consideration because suffering is the point of it all. Without suffering, there would be no deterrence, which has been the key pillar of the Labor and Coalition policies.

It’s why they build offshore hell-holes like Nauru and Manus Island, why they want to dump our responsibility to provide asylum on poor countries such as Papua New Guinea, and, possibly, Cambodia, why they create poverty traps by refusing to allow many asylum-seekers to work, why they lock up children and why they make life so unbearable for pregnant women.
As the Coalition now takes this policy of deterrence to another level, refugee advocates, who have fought so long and hard for almost 20 years, have to gather their strength again, knowing they face another enormous challenge to turn around the vicious, racist populism that is at the heart of the Abbott government’s attitude to asylum-seekers.

Once the Labor government capitulated to ballot box fears after its initial attempts to display some morality and human decency, the two major parties entered a race to the bottom. It is a contest now being won hands down by Morrison, the son of a Sydney police commander who epitomises the current strain of jack-booted zealouusness that dominates most Coalition policy.

Even as asylum-seekers are murdered, have their throats slit and are shot in detention centres, this is a government that celebrates its capacity to brutalise people. In a March 2014 interview with the local newspaper from his Sydney electorate, Morrison was asked about his controversial reputation. He bragged that residents keep on urging him to “give to ‘em.” About the same time, Prime Minister Tony Abbott reassured Australians that Morrison was a strong but decent man. He also told us that you do not need wimps running an asylum-seeker policy and Morrison, to be sure, was no wimp.

I have interviewed several asylum-seekers who told me after the Coalition came to power in September, 2013, things toughened up in on-shore detention centres. They say their small children have had their lunch boxes and school bags searched as they leave detention each day for school.

They are also often bullied and teased about living in a jail by their classmates who see them escorted to school by security guards. One parent also told me that his children had been asked to stand aside from a school photo last year because they were refugees.

It was instructive to observe both Morrison and Abbott as they expressed condolences to the family for the murder of 23-year-old Iranian asylum seeker, Reza Berati, in the Manus Island disturbance in February, 2014. They both emphasised the fact that there had been no significant damage to the detention centre. This, they said, was in sharp contrast to the end result of riots at other centres, such as Villawood and Nauru, under the Labor Government. With a look of considerable satisfaction, Morrison announced that “breakfast was served” the very next day.

The damage done to human beings was a different matter. Their eagerness to make the political point about infrastructure betrayed a conviction that Reza Berati, as unfortunate as his death may have been, was collateral damage in the war on those people in leaky boats who dare cross our borders in search of their legal right to protection.

LISTEN: Refugee Radio, Sunday 10-10.30am
For the last thirty years, the Radioactive Exposure Tour has taken hundreds of people across Australia’s nuclear landscape. The Rad Tour of 2014 took off for sixteen days and over 6,000km into South Australia and the Northern Territory, with forty people packed with their swags, bags and instruments in five vehicles. Three of those were powered with vegetable oil, picked up from fish and chip shops and service stations along the way.

The Rad Tour resists the exclusion of voices in the nuclear debate. It’s a tour that hopes to build human relationships, strengthening the connection and commitment of the broader anti-nuclear movement in Australia. Those that go on the tour will learn by seeing, listening and creating.

The tour shows the realities of radioactive racism and the underbelly of the nuclear industry. It takes people to see the environmental damage mining causes, and lets participants experience the beauty and significance of that country and listen to what Aboriginal people say and offer solidarity.

Tour organiser Hannah Walters says “We respect the stories of the Traditional Owners we visit and are fortunate enough to sit with them on country, and hope that they realise that people from faraway places support and will continue their struggle.”

This year’s Tour explored the nuclear chain at several levels including atomic testing, radioactive waste dumping and uranium mining. “It’s impossible to look at the nuclear industry without drawing the connections to the broader systems that support it, including colonialism, radioactive racism, corporate capitalism and the Northern Territory Intervention”, said Radioactive Show presenter and tour organiser Gem Romuld.

The Rad Tour is organised by a collective and the tour group itself is a temporary community that encourages collective organising and shared responsibility. It’s an experience that changes lives and creatively resists the mainstream nuclear dialogue by forging its own path and experiences.

Some highlights from Rad Tour 2014:

- Talking to Mrs Eileen Wingfield, Kokatha elder, about her struggles against the radioactive waste dump proposal in South Australia (success!) and against the Olympic Dam uranium mine
- Hearing from nuclear veteran and whistle-blower Avon Hudson about his time working at Maralinga
- Lunar eclipse on Arabunna country over Lake Eyre
- Camping at Walatinna Station, the home of Yankunytjatjara man Yami Lester, and hearing his story of the Emu Field nuclear test in 1953 that blinded him.
- Protesting at Pine Gap, the Joint US/Australia Defence Facility with Aranda woman, Mitch
- Learning about the NT Intervention from local heroine and resident of Mt Nancy town camp Barbara Shaw
- Hitting the road to Tennant Creek with Uncle Kevin Buzzacott, defender of Lake Eyre and the beautiful Arabunna country north of the Olympic Dam mine
- Hearing Dianne Stokes continue to fight against the nuclear waste dump and inspire the Rad Tour group to “go back and rattle the city!” as we sat on her traditional lands
- A bush trip, roo-tails and starlight with the Muckaty mob, defending their country from the proposed radioactive waste dump, which will be in court in June 2014

The Rad Tour provides an amazing collection of talks, sounds and songs for the Radioactive Show to be broadcast on 3CR. Rad Show presenters are always on the Tour and an episode or two are often played on the bus or around the campfire.

To donate to the Radioactive Exposure Tour head to http://www.givenow.com.au/foeantinuclear

LISTEN: The RadioActive Show, Saturday 10-10.30am
In 2013-2014 3CR continued to bring you current affairs, music, and community language programming you just don’t hear anywhere else.

There were 132 programs on 3CR in 2013-2014. We trained, supported and prepared nine new programs to join the 3CR grid and bid farewell to eight programs, including, Local and Live, Wednesday Hometime, After Party, Virasat Radio, Talkin Blak, Hararian, Girt by SEA, and 3al Hawa.

NEW PROGRAMS

CALD COMMUNITY LANGUAGE PROGRAMS:
Turkish Women’s Show Wednesday 10:30pm

SPECIAL ISSUE AND CURRENT AFFAIRS:
Feminist Focus Thursday 6pm
Radical Australia Wednesday 4pm
Refugee Radio Sunday 10am

ARTS/MUSIC:
Ancestor’s Echo Wednesday midnight
Hitstrumental Wednesday 11pm
Music Matters Friday 12pm
Radio Chori Monday midnight

INDIGENOUS:
Black Block Monday 12pm

SPECIAL BROADCASTS

Through our amazing diversity 3CR continues to demonstrate there is strength in collective action. Everyday brings something to celebrate on air at 3CR, here are just a few of our programming highlights.

Updates from the East West tunnel picket
Daily updates from Annie McLoughlin (Showreel, Stick Together and Solidarity Breakfast) featuring a broad community coalition concerned about the proposed East West Link impact in Abbotsford, Collingwood, Fitzroy, Carlton and Clifton Hill.

The campaign is now mobile, visiting Victorian towns to build support for public investment in public transport.

LISTEN 3cr.org.au/episode/east-west-tunnel-picket

Tunnerminnerwait Maulboyheener outside broadcast
20 January 2014

Live commemoration broadcast from the site of the hanging of two Tasmanian Indigenous freedom fighters who were the first to be publicly executed in Victoria.

Survival Day
26 January 2014

Indigenous activism has been part of 3CR from the year we began in 1976. This year included five hours of special programming from 11am-4pm featuring coverage of Survival Day rallies and celebrations across the country, along with campaigns to right past wrongs, interviews and deadly music.

Sustainable Breakfast
24 - 28 March 2014

3CR Breakfast broadcast LIVE all week, from Friends of the Earth Food Cooperative in Collingwood discussing sustainable alternatives from outside the mainstream, live music, local events and delicious food cooked especially by Friends of the Earth Coop.

LISTEN 3cr.org.au/sustainablebreakfastseries

International Women’s Day
8 March 2014

3CR celebrated IWD with 24 hours of diverse and dynamic radio. Girls Radio Offensive kicked us off with an exploration of the multi-faceted and expansive moral universe, followed by current affairs, protest music, and the fight against the ever expanding nuclear industry. Then there was Intersectionality: The Interactions of Oppression, Freedom of Species, the Victorian Jazz Club and the day culminated with ‘Women of Rock’ a free music festival extravaganza LIVE from The Public Bar.

LISTEN 3cr.org.au/iwd

Talkback with McAttitude
1 August 2013

Talkback with Attitude broadcast live from outside Victoria’s McDonald’s HQ. A technical feat in itself, the broadcast gave the public the opportunity to share their views about the “David and Goliath” struggle for communities like Tecoma who resist the McDonaldisation of their home towns. The broadcast team won a coveted 3CR award for their effort.
Where the Heart Is
21 March 2014

A live outside broadcast from the Homelessness festival in Edinburgh Gardens presented by Roominations. Where the Heart is an annual festival set up specifically to provide an enjoyable day out for Melbourne’s homeless community.

Brainwaves Mental Health Week
7 – 13 October 2013

We supported Brainwaves to produce two special segments highlighting the creative achievements of people with mental illness, in celebration of Mental Health Week. These were also distributed nationally by the Community Radio Network. The segments were produced in partnership with Mental Illness Fellowship Victoria and Wild@heART Community Arts.

Eureka Rebellion
3 December 2013

As the sun was rising in the early hours of the morning 3CR broadcast (4-6am) from the Dawn Ceremony at Eureka Park to celebrate the 159th anniversary of the Eureka Rebellion. Hosted by Joe Toscano, and thanks to Michael Smith OB technician.

Disability Day
3 December 2013

‘Welcome to Our World’ was twelve hours of programming by and for people with Disability for International Day of People with Disability.

LISTEN 3cr.org.au/disabilityday2013

Sovereignty and Struggle for Independence
Human Rights Day Forum
8 December 2013

The forum aimed to increase awareness and build support for sovereignty and independence in Australia, Sri Lanka and West Papua. Presenters discussed ongoing issues related to Aboriginal Sovereignty, the plight of Tamils in Sri Lanka and West Papuan Independence as well as the interlinked nature of these struggles. The forum was broadcast on 3CR on Human Rights Day, December 10.
On International Women’s Day, 3CR took part in the national broadcast of Girls To The Mic, a digital pop-up station created by the Community Broadcast Association of Australia. Girls to the Mic brought together International Women’s Day content from many community radio stations across the country. 3CR contributed programs from Women on the Line, Accent of Women, Stick Together, as well as a live simulcast from 3CR’s Women of Rock festival at the Public Bar. Listen to songs from Women of Rock at:

LISTEN: 3cr.org.au/wd/international-womens-day-2014


The station was also recognised by the community radio sector’s peak body, the Community Broadcasting Association of Australia, with Beyond The Bars winning Outstanding Contribution to Indigenous Broadcasting.

3CR radio awards

For a second year in a row hosted a Radio Awards night in November 2013. There were 10 award categories with nominations and voting open to all programmers and volunteers at the station. Congratulations to the winners and all those nominated.

Best New Program: What’s the Score Sport
Special broadcasts: Beyond The Bars
Outstanding Radiothon show: Concrete Gang (CFMEU)
Pursuit of Truth: Jessie Boylan, RadioActive
Community engagement: The Freedom Flotilla
Bloopers award: James McKenzie, In Ya Face
Trainers award: Dale Bridge
How to make trouble: Freedom Flotilla “pogcasts”
Music programming: Global Intifada
Spirit of 3CR: Nicky Stott
The show has been on air for nearly 2 years now and I am not sick of it. So, that is good as I can go off things after a bit. No really - I love the show.

I have the pleasure of interviewing a wide variety of people - some I know, some I don’t - but all of them have been a pleasure. Are You Looking At Me? is a show that has a common connector of disability. All my guests have some reason to be talking about disability, whether they work in disability, have a disability or care about disability matters. I wanted to talk to people who might change preconceived notions.

Some of my guests have incredibly different opinions and beliefs to me. Part of the challenge and drama for me as an interviewer is chatting on air unscripted and being surprised by information that unfolds. Because I am firmly committed to equality whatever that really means. To me it means all things being fair, we should all have the same opportunities.

Over the past couple of years everyone has been very generous with their time and in coming along to the show and sharing sometimes quite intimate stories. It is sometimes confronting when I am having conversations with people with disability and during the chat you find out that they aren’t living an equal life, having the same choices and perhaps being brought up in a particular way that they wouldn’t even see that they are oppressed.

All my guests have to choose some music that is significant to them. Some find it easier than others. Some people think there is a right or wrong choice to make which is quite funny because I say ‘Please choose some music that is significant to YOU (not me)’ I am good at picking music I like.

Doing the show live at Fed Square on Disability Day 2013 was a pretty nice gig. That was a great day with such good bands - Bearbrass Asylum Orchestra, the Hackkets and Heidi Everett and Phil Heuzenroeder. It was more like hanging out with some friends in another friend’s backyard. We all had a great time. 3CR puts on awesome events.

This year I am doing a few more produced shows. It is so I can get some stories to air that may be a bit difficult in the live to air format. One is with deaf performer and artist Asphyxia and her partner Paula. I want to make sure that Deaf and hard of hearing people are also featured on the show too.

There are so many people still to interview really.

5 things you need to know about Liz Wright

Name 3 significant songs that have changed your life?

Gloria – Patti Smith. How could that not change a teenage girl’s life in the 70s? Living in a small town, watching every girl lining up to get married before they left school and watching the guys play footy and listening to all the sexist shit that was talked about. You could say Patti came as relief that there was something else out there.

One Sunday Morning – Wilco – I have come to Wilco late in life (thanks Tania) but I love this song and I am on a discovery trip with the band and their members now.

Miss You – Rolling Stones – Just because it is always good to hear. Always and because they are great

What is your favourite disability?

My favourite disability is the one I have got. It took me such a long time to get to know and like myself and to not feel ‘flawed’ I could hardly bear to think of liking another one. I think I have got really good at having low vision now. I get how it works, it doesn’t get in my way and it takes up very little of my thinking time. (This will probably prompt a whole lot of ‘Uh-huh’s’ but I don’t care)

Favourite international guest

Barbara Arrowsmith Young was a lovely guest. She squished me in when she had a very full schedule and she took the time and effort to be very present. I love that in a person. Too many people spend their time thinking of the next best thing. She was very sweet and passionate about her life’s work. Good sense of humour.

Comfort foods to have when sick, hung over or tired?

Tinned tomato soup. Cheese (any sort), Ice cream (preferably vanilla) Earl Grey tea in a pot.

Why would I ‘Join the Resistance’?

Why would I not join the resistance is a better question. I love 3CR. I walk in weekly and something is always going on. When I come in I can always find someone to have that conversation with. Where else is there a weekly show on disability stuff that isn’t hampered by politics, funding requirements, obligation to organisation or anything else. ‘Are You looking At Me?’ is a show where a frank conversation can take place. Because I am not attached to any one disability organisation I can talk with anyone without having to stick to message. It is a great freedom. I LOVE IT

LISTEN: Are You looking At Me, Thursday 4-5pm
3CR’S WOMEN OF ROCK
3CR’s Women of Rock Festival and broadcast was held March 8 at The Public Bar as part of International Women’s Day celebrations. As the dinner crowd gathered for a Southern American feast at Miss Katie’s Crab Shack, technical crew and musicians rolled in, the afternoon light flooded through old wooden windows as did the sound of people on the street. Already, a sense of community was apparent, strangers sitting down at the same table to eat, thoughtful of musicians loading in and vice versa…everyone working together to build an event that was to reflect the great diversity and common ground among us all.

Viv and Jody kicked off the official broadcast, playing some acoustic numbers and expressing why IWD is important to them as strong Aboriginal women. Their voices projecting through the venue and resonating with many.

Darts were up first in the band room. They performed a solid set of catchy songs with ease, making everyone in the room want to pick up an instrument.

Presenters Dale and Liz caught up with band members in between sets as She’s the Band sound checked for what would be an energetic and inspired set of punk songs. Many in the crowd singing along as front woman Elsha McGill screamed out reasons to question and join them in resistance.

The Villenettes filled an important role of house band, commanding the attention of punters and blasting through three sets of pure rockabilly goodness in the front bar.

Renae and Jane kept listeners up to speed with the broadcast inviting masters of psychedelic, riff-driven rock, Dead River to the stage.

They were followed by Ninetynine who performed a set of songs spanning almost a decade, drummer Cameron Potts solid as Laura MacFarlane, Meg Butler and Iain McIntyre switched instruments, weaving intricate and catchy melodies.

Emma and Areej saw out the remainder of the evening after Ninetynine’s set was broadcast nationally on pop up station ‘Girls to the Mic’.

Hip Hop act Bahdoesa, featuring Mama Doesa and Quashani Bahd, delivered an energetic set. Their message was positive and a perfect end to the evening, making way for DJs Kira Puru and Long Dong to keep the crowd dancing.

While International Women’s Day is indeed a celebration of women, it cannot go without saying that a group of dedicated women and men, artists, staff and punters were involved in making 3CR’s Women of Rock Festival the event that it was. Whether you’re man or woman, the night was about celebrating diversity, encouraging women to be up on stage, talking on air and performing technical duties and coming together in resistance of typical gender roles and expectations.

And, of course, having a blast doing so!

This project was supported by the City of Melbourne 2014 Arts Grants Program.
Done By Law has been broadcasting for over two decades and is sponsored by the Federation of Community Legal Centres. The program is an independent space to discuss the social justice and human rights limitations within our legal systems that impact on our communities.

Done By Law also attempts to give a voice to people who have experienced first-hand the various limitations of the legal system. The program is an independent space to provide a more in-depth understanding of legal strategies that impact on civil liberties, environmental issues, the rights of refugees and asylum seekers and human rights.

The program also explores community projects that empower people to use the law or to advocate for improved laws so that they are more progressive.

Done By Law, like all other 3CR programs, attempts to cover issues that are ignored by mainstream media. Examples include interviews with former asylum seekers and refugees about their lives in Australia, the way that people with mental health issues are discriminated against in the criminal justice system and various social justice projects that are being run by community legal centres.

The program is sponsored by the Federation of Community Legal Centres, which is the peak body for community legal centres in Victoria. Community Legal Centres often have a poverty law focus and work with communities who don’t ordinarily have their rights and interests promoted. Done By Law promotes and discusses the work of community legal centres as well as creating a space to highlight and enact our empowerment role.

While the program is sponsored by the Federation of Community Legal Centres, the presenters on the program are from a variety of backgrounds, and most of us are practising lawyers from community legal centres, private practice, Victoria Legal Aid, the Bar or government.

As lawyers, it can be immensely challenging and discouraging to experience the confines of the legal system. Whilst we must advocate within the legal system, we often see systemic inadequacies within the system, and outcomes that are actually unjust.

Done By Law provides an opportunity for our presenters to express our frustrations with the legal system in its application to our communities. It is a wonderful space to critique and analyse laws and legal processes. We also welcome the opportunity to be transparent about the limitations of our legal processes in being able to support each other and our communities.

LISTEN: Done By Law, Tuesday 6-6.30pm
The recent announcements of major job cuts at Qantas and of the planned closures of the General Motors and Toyota car factories, were a stark reminder that we now live in an integrated global economy where workers and markets are interconnected, spanning countries and continents.

The economic crisis of the 1970s was a turning point in recent times, with companies escaping the crisis by finding new markets, cheaper raw materials, and less organised workers who could be paid less. This shift led to the rise of global companies operating and trading in tens, if not hundreds, of countries.

Using this global reach, companies unleashed a global ‘race to the bottom’ where production and services were relocated to countries with the least organised working class, the lowest wages and the lowest health and welfare costs. Last year’s Rana Plaza collapse that killed around 1,200 garment workers – who were producing clothes for the world’s biggest fashion houses – was the inescapable end result of this inexorable race to cut costs and maximise profits.

For workers, this new global world has meant that the old ways of resisting by fighting for our rights and jobs at our workplace has now become inadequate. The world has changed. Companies now think and operate at a global level. This is where we, and our organisations, must also go.

Australia Asia Worker Links (AAWL) has for over 30 years linked Australian workers, and their organisations, with their counterparts in the Asia Pacific region. Where once awareness campaigns and solidarity visits between workers in struggle were seen as radical, we know that in our interconnected world we have to do more. We all face the same pressures at work regardless of where we live.

Thus, a new area of work is the building of coordinated international activities and campaigns around issues that affect workers across a company or a whole sector. For instance, after a two-year fight, over 2,000 workers at Philippine Airlines were able to defeat their company’s attempt to outsource and casualise them. This was achieved by developing an industry-wide campaign among airline workers in a number of countries against outsourcing and casualisation. While this dispute finished last year, the campaign is still developing as workers at other airlines, such as Qantas, are facing further attacks.

This method of work – organising campaigns at a global level – is an exciting new area where we are still learning and developing new tactics and strategies. We are also investigating similar global campaigns in the automobile and garment sectors.

AAWL has produced the weekly Saturday morning program of Asia Pacific Currents (APC) for almost 30 years – now also available as a podcast and live on the web. We see radio as one of the best mediums for activists to discover new ideas, share their stories, and build awareness and solidarity.

So keep listening to APC to keep in touch with the issues affecting the labour movement in our region, and learn how we are organising and fighting back together.

LISTEN: Asia Pacific Currents, Saturday 9-9.30am
MUSIC COORDINATOR: PAUL ELLIOT

3CR’s new Music Coordinator Paul Elliott would like to say hello to Cram Guide readers and tell you a little about himself.

Paul’s alter ego “Dr Gonzo from Planet X” volunteered for the Government’s MK Ultra experiments in the mid-sixties. Participants were unknowingly given massive doses of pure LSD to see how they’d react. The Government’s experiments were designed to investigate if mind-altering chemicals could be used against enemy soldiers in warfare.

As part of Dr Gonzo’s MK Ultra experimentation he wasn’t allowed to sleep and was blasted with high volume psychedelic music 24 hours a day. Paul has retained a passion for all kinds of Psychedelic Rock since then.

Kidding aside, I’ve had a love of music since hearing my parents old ‘78s as a child, listening to music is as important to me as eating. My musical tastes have always been fairly broad. The best music communicates feelings and thoughts that can be difficult to express, songs about joy, anger, love, pain, politics and mundane life.

Dr Gonzo presents Planet X on 3CR Thursday nights @ 11.30 every other week alternating with Simon Strong. We both play obscure eclectic sounds with occasional guests dropping in who’ve included Tav Falco, Barry Adamson, Obnox & local high flying personality Ethel Chop.

I also help out with Music Matters on Fridays 12–2pm with Renae Paradise, Jane Brownrigg & Dr Gonzo. The show presents interesting new releases, interviews, gig guides and live sessions. We’ve had some great people on the program such as Mick Turner, Courtney Barnett, Charles Jenkins and New Dub City. I’d like to encourage you to listen to 3CR’s array of terrific music.

LISTEN: 3cr.org.au/programs
If you care about where your food comes from and what you’re actually eating, then you’ve no doubt heard of the Monsanto Corporation. Although Monsanto is not the only corporation producing pesticides/herbicides or manufacturing Genetically Engineered (GE) or Genetically Modified (GM) products, they are often seen as the representation of these industries. For a corporation that is reported to own 95% of all soybeans grown in the US, it’s not surprising they stand out as the major player.

Monsanto states their objectives are to help feed the ever-growing world with their new GM products, as conventional production cannot remain sustainable. In reality, they look to control the production and supply of food across the planet with unproven and untested technologies. Technologies that are neither scientifically peer reviewed, nor independently tested by food safety authorities, like our own Food Standards Australia New Zealand.

Understanding the noticeable correlation between the introduction of GE food products and the increase in food allergies and intolerances, as well as reading the numerous independent studies that indicate serious health risks associated with GM food, one might ask why these products are even available for public consumption. Well when there are as many ties between government regulators and Monsanto, it seems corporate desire to make profits will come well before food safety.

Former Monsanto employees are regularly appointed to positions within Federal Government agencies directly related to the safety of food and approval of new food products. In fact Michael Taylor, former Monsanto Vice President of Public Policy, is the current Deputy Commissioner for Food at the FDA (Food and Drug Administration) in the US.

One of his primary goals according to the FDA website is to “develop and carry out a prevention-based strategy for food safety”.

This is very important to consider, especially when Phil Angell, Monsanto’s director of corporate communications stated “Monsanto should not have to vouchsafe the safety of biotech food. Our interest is in selling as much of it as possible. Assuring its safety is the FDA’s job.” Easy to accomplish when it’s a former employee in that role.

Thankfully Food Fight and community organisations like MADGE (Mothers Are Demystifying Genetic Engineering) and Gene Ethics, as well as many others around the globe, are fighting the corporate propaganda Monsanto and their government puppets produce. We work tirelessly to uncover the truth and continue to pressure governments to look after our health and wellbeing before corporations make their massive profits.

In May 2014, a worldwide day of action was organised to bring these issues to the public’s attention. The ‘March Against Monsanto’ rallies were held in over 50 countries around the world with massive public interest. Food Fight was there at the Melbourne rally, along with many other community organisations, and we spoke to the thousands of people who turned up to learn about what’s being done to their food.

Sadly though the fight is far from over. The greatest tool in our battle is education, something 3CR’s Food Fight will continue to deliver each Tuesday evening at 5:30pm

LISTEN: Food Fight, Tuesday 5.30-6pm
A core group of 30 community members, mostly residents of Collingwood, Fitzroy and Carlton, have been getting up at 5.30am to picket against the East West Link. Your intrepid 3CR reporter joined them to bring our listening public a ring side seat to what has become a major issue in the lead up to the November Victorian State election.

When the Victorian Napthine government dusted off an old VicRoads plan from the 1960s for a tunnel to bring traffic from the east across to the west of Melbourne, local residents began a resistance campaign. For more than six months their aim has been to delay the tender process for the East West Link by holding up work at the drilling sites set up by the Linking Melbourne Authority (LMA) in these inner city suburbs to collect core samples.

Their constant presence with their mantras “Take it to the election Napthine”, “No Toll Roads More Public Transport” or “Toot for Trains” has meant the government has been unable to brush under the carpet the truth of the houses to be lost, the chewing up of public land including parts of Royal Park and the $8-15 billion which will be taken out of the State’s budget for this single project, which reports have shown will barely make a dent on the congestion it is supposed to be solving.

In the early days of the campaign the drill sites were unprotected, but courageous members of the community climbed the drills and in some cases locked on. This tactic ensured that the work would be consistently delayed for hours as Search and Rescue was needed to remove them.

However, as the dispute continued, the Government response escalated with the sites being surrounded by cages and the introduction of up to 100 police to guard the sites from picketers.

Bolstered by the fact that the deadlines for drilling given by the LMA have been constantly revised, the picketers maintained their determination that a government which had been elected on a public transport ticket can be held to account.

3CR has been bringing daily updates of voices from the picket which are available online in the podcast section under protests from 3CR’s website. The importance of community radio was never more evident. Months of the Herald Sun depicting these community members as ‘serial pests’, ‘a rent a crowd’ or ‘confused pensioners’ is directly combated by giving a consistent and continuing platform for their voices of dissent. Recent polls have shown little public support for the East West Link and a huge response for the support of public transport. It appears the people are leading the government.

LISTEN: 3cr.org.au/episode/east-west-tunnel-picket

NO TUNNEL NO WAY

Annie McLoughlin, Stick Together programmer
If there’s a Liberal government in Canberra, you can be sure it’s time for a royal commission into unions, to be followed by a series of attacks on workers’ wages and conditions.

With the setting up of Abbott’s ‘Royal Commission into Trade Union Governance and Corruption’ we’re being treated to a hysterical witch and warlock hunt for corruption in unions, lapped up by the mainstream media. You can find corruption anywhere, if you look hard enough – within Australian governments, companies, bosses, unions and workers. But the Abbott government is only looking in one direction.

First in the firing line, as usual, is the Construction, Forestry, Mining and Energy Union (CFMEU). Never mind that more than 40 construction workers died on the job in Australia over the last two years, with many more injured. There’ll be no royal commission into workers’ deaths or protecting their health and safety.

We’ll hear plenty about slush funds – never mind that corrupt companies are fraudulently moving cash and assets into new ‘phoenix’ companies at a cost of more than $3 billion annually, including up to $655 million of unpaid workers wages and entitlements. There’ll be no royal commission into that either.

In a reboot of the Howard government’s battle plan, we’re getting the Cole Royal Commission Mark 2. That took two years and cost $66 million of workers’ taxes, with no convictions for criminality by the end of the saga.

What Cole did achieve was to lay the foundations for WorkChoices and for the creation of the Office of the Australian Building and Construction Commissioner (ABCC), a body given extraordinary powers to coerce construction workers into secret interviews, which constrained workers’ access to legal representation.

This power was demonstrated most savagely in the case of Ark Tribe, a construction worker who raised safety problems on a site in Adelaide. For allegedly failing to comply with the ABCC’s secret interview process, Ark Tribe was dragged through the courts for 18 months, before being found not guilty in 2010.

And now, while hundreds of jobs are being lost each week, workers, unions and their supporters have to fight this battle all over again.

We can believe everything we hear through the mainstream media about corruption in unions, or we can understand that attacks on the CFMEU and other unions are just the beginning of the Abbott government’s campaign to erode all workers’ rights and protections.

For nearly 40 years 3CR has been a voice for workers, broadcasting uncensored union programming with programs like The Concrete Gang, Solidarity Breakfast, Stick Together and Fire Up, as well as coverage of industrial issues in our current affairs shows.

Resist the anti-worker, anti-union agenda – keep listening to 3CR!

LISTEN: 3cr.org.au/programs
1998
WATERFRONT DISPUTE
Coverage of the iconic Melbourne waterfront dispute is a highpoint in 3CR’s union reporting. It highlights the station’s ability to play a crucial role in worker and union struggles – a function that remains critical in the present political climate. It’s a role that’s made possible by the station’s ongoing financial independence, and firm commitment to social justice concerns.

Just before Easter in 1998 the Patricks Company sacked its entire waterside workforce around the country, sparking a massive response from unionists and community supporters. The result was the set up of community assemblies at Webb and East Swanson Docks to support the struggle of the Maritime Union of Australia and to defend union and worker rights.

Coverage began on Friday 17 April with an interview by Station Manager at the time, Jan McArthur, with former Victorian Premier Joan Kirner who had come down to join the picket. From then on the station broadcast hourly updates, often breaking into regular programming to provide continual, live coverage. 3CR also provided vital information about how to get down to the dock and join the peaceful assemblies. Program Manager at the time, Jay Estorninho, wrote: “As the reports sounded more and more desperate, numbers grew at the protest”.

Friday evening programming on 3CR is predominantly Spanish-speaking, and long time station volunteer Theresa Grima organised for a Spanish speaking unionist to do regular reports direct from the picket. “Many of those who came to join us and link arms were Latin Americans who responded to the call they heard on 3CR.”

With rising numbers of community members, unionists and police, tension grew. “I’ll never forget it,” says Denis Evans, who at the time was the station’s Chairperson, and currently is a regular guest on Left After Breakfast. “I’ve worked in the Balkans at the height of the war filing live for 3CR and it was nothing compared to the fear we all felt that night - hundreds of police, helicopters buzzing overhead shining spotlights onto us. I felt safer in Kosovo than in Melbourne that evening. We didn’t know what was going to happen. It was eerie.”

The crowd linked arms for hours at a time waiting in anticipation of the police action. There was huge relief to see nearly two thousand building workers arrive at the picket, effectively blocking the police in a pincer movement which stopped their advance and lead to a hasty retreat.

While the community and unions were victorious in holding the line at the community assemblies back in 1998, the conspiring forces of big business and government continue to attack workers’ rights and community protests. In fact attacks are growing in both their intensity and their breadth under current conservative governments; alongside the expanding influence of big business over government policies and agendas.

3CR continues to stand strong alongside the struggles of unions and the community for workers’ rights. We use our unique independence and community spirit to bring first-hand reporting and detailed analysis to the wider listening community. With attacks on building workers, nurses, teachers, childcare workers etc etc there’s no shortage of issues to cover.

Juliet Fox, Projects Coordinator and Denis Evans, programmer and photographer

HERE TO STAY

MUA
Late last year 3CR staff hatched a plan to take the Breakfast Shows to the streets. The plan came to fruition with the help of a grant from the City of Yarra and Sustainable Breakfast was born …

At the end of March the mics were lined up at the Friends of the Earth Food Cooperative in Smith Street Collingwood. Each morning listeners and café guests were served up an amazing array of campaigners and musicians. There were FoE campaigners with updates on the Renewables and No Coal campaigns, and Nick Ray from the Ethical Buyers Guide. Information on how you can get involved in the Local Harvest Challenge, along with Felicity Milner, from the Environmental Defenders Office. Patrick Lawrence about Asylum Seeker Resource Centre’s Food Justice Truck initiative dropped by, as did Amandine Evans from Food Not Bombs. Sharelle Polack from Cultivating Community shared her vision as did many, many more.

"It’s always great to take radio to the people," said Gab Reade, 3CR Program Coordinator. "It is especially great to work with a group like FoE who, like 3CR, have been working for 30 years to make a difference to community values through the work they do." FoE Food Cooperative created delicious free sustainable breakfasts every day of the broadcast.

Each morning the broadcast finished with a dose of live music to lift the spirits of our listeners and those early bird supporters who came down to join us. Black Orchid from West Papua gave us a musical introduction to their love of country, Les Thomas reminded us of the world around us and the plight of refugees, Luke Sinclair from the Plastic Knife Band reminded us of the flight of imaginations of a truly creative spirit; Michelle from the Rising High Studios gave us a rap that was to die for, and Laura McFarlane reminded us of things close to home with her protest song against the East West Link project.

The Sustainable Breakfast Series brought together interviews, great food and live music from activists and community organisers working toward a sustainable future. We look forward to similar special programming in the future.

LISTEN 3cr.org.au/sustainablebreakfastseries
In late 2013 we lost a much-loved member of 3CR’s community, Holly Hutchinson. Arriving at 3CR in July 2010, Holly soon got involved in many ways around the station: as volunteer receptionist, Friday Breakfaster, Earth Matters presenter, CRAM contributor, Awards Night organising committee member and as a general volunteer. 

Originally from Towradgiin NSW, Holly was the beloved daughter of Terry and Jude (dec). Loved sister of Mischa, Elise and Brooklyn.

Some recollections from Holly’s 3CR Colleagues:

Holly seemed to have boundless energy and enthusiasm and a killer dark sense of humour. I’m so sad that she’s gone. (Jenny D)

Working alongside someone, in the same space as someone, is always a special kind of intimacy. It was great to sit with Holly in the National Programmers Office, sometimes in a comfortable silence, sometimes bursting into chat, sometimes discussing the programs we were putting together. I admired Holly’s dedication, commitment and skills. She was friendly, serious and opinionated and felt like a central part of the 3CR community. (Aoife)

We honour the wonderful woman we got to know during her three years at the station, and remember the incredible energy and enthusiasm she had for 3CR. Holly was so many things: vivacious, at times outrageous and always meticulous with her work.

Holly is fondly remembered by many colleagues at 3CR, we share our favourite memories of Holly to carry with us. We remember the wonderful woman she was and the people and places she loved. Rest in peace Holly you are sorely missed.

With much love and respect, your 3CR community.

BEYOND THE BARS

3CR’s live prison broadcasts

Connecting Aboriginal prisoners to the wider community in a remarkable radio event that gives voice to the experience of Aboriginal inmates serving time in Victorian prisons.

NAIDOC Week July 7-11, 2014

Mon 7 July 11-2pm
Dame Phyllis Frost Centre, Deer Park

Tue 8 July 11-2pm
Barwon Prison, Lara, near Geelong

Wed 9 July 10-12pm
Fulham Correctional Centre, near Sale, Gippsland

Wed 9 July 12-2pm
Loddon Prison, Castlemaine

Thu 11 July 12-4pm
Port Phillip Prison, Laverton

Fri 12 July 11-2pm
Marngoneet Correctional Centre, Lara, near Geelong

LISTEN: 3cr.org.au/beyondthebars

HOLLY HUTCHINSON
Step 1: Choose your aesthetic

Pussy Riot chose neon balaclavas to lighten the mood of their actions – to knit your revolt use pink & red to mess with the gender connotations of those colours. Even if you’re from Melbourne & you’re planning to rob a bank, black is so last season. Mix it up.

Step 2: Hack

If you’ve got the skillz, knit from scratch. But revolution doesn’t usually want to wait for neat stitches so grab a kids jumper, a hot-water-bottle cover or a tea-cosy. Cut some eyes, whack it on your head & you’re good to go!

Step 3: Style it up

That said – ugly revolts make for ugly regimes. As Emma Goldman said, “If I can’t dance to it, it’s not my revolution.” So insert some stuffing, add some pom-poms & rhinestones, crochet around the eyes & you’re ready for disco-revolt.

DIY RESISTANCE BALACLAVAS!

Knit Your Revolt

A network of rad crafters sticking their needles to misogynistic knit-wits & extreme conservatism