

D176 Communist Party of Australia - South Coast District Committee

History	<p>The South Coast District Committee (SCDC) of the Communist Party of Australia was formed sometime prior to WWII. Its function was to co-ordinate activities of Communist Party Branches and members within the South Coast region. The District Committee represented the second tier of the Communist Party structure with State and National Committees representing the highest level of Party organisation. The SCDC comprised the Branches of the Illawarra area, including industry-based branches from the Port Kembla steelworks and waterfront; coal mines, and the public service sector. The SCDC also maintained strong links with the South Coast Labour Council, with Merv Nixon - secretary of the Labour Council from 1969 to 1987 - also and active member of the district committee during this time. While the District Committee was active within Illawarra's large industrial community, influencing union politics and employee rights, it also contested local elections on a number of occasions. Throughout the 1970's, especially, Communists in the Illawarra were well organised and placed in the public affairs of the community. The SCDC's membership base, however, drew upon a largely male workforce. While a number of women were active in the District Committee, their representation on the whole was disadvantaged by the region's heavy industry workforce providing the bulk of the membership and activity. The SCDC had mixed relations with the region's other left-wing parties. By the mid-1980's the District Committee was involved in local discussions on socialist unity. Initiatives such as the <i>Broad Left</i> and cross-factional support for local political campaigns occurred, however the various parties maintained their independence. Meetings of the District Committee were held at least monthly and a District Conference was convened annually. The District Committee ceased operations in 1991 following the dissolution of the communist Party, committing itself to supporting the New Left Party.</p>
Record Summary	<p>Minutes, correspondence, District Committee newsletters, and conference papers comprise the records of the CPA - SCDC. Material from the regional CPA branches is also included. The bulk of the material is arranged in subject files consistent with the District Committee's system of records management. Apart from the subject files on International solidarity, Industry, Election Campaigns, and Broad Left Unity, these files are not compiled into larger groups. An overview of these miscellaneous subject files highlights the range of issues relevant to CPA district-level policy.</p>
Date	c. 1950 - 1990.
Quantity	3 m.
Access	Available for Reference.
Accessioned	8 January 1992.
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D176 Communist Party of Australia - South Coast District Committee

Series Listing

- 1 Minutes
- 2 Correspondence
- 3 District Committee newsletter
- 4 District Conferences
- 5 National Conferences
- 6 Conferences - Miscellaneous
- 7 National Committee
- 8 Publication *Wharfie*
- 9 Industry
- 10 International Solidarity
- 11 Election Campaigns
- 12 Miscellaneous
- 13 Bookshop Finances
- 14 Press Clippings
- 15 CPA Constitution and Rules
- 16 Tribune File
- 17 Broad Left/ Socialist Unity
- 18 Miscellaneous

D176 Communist Party of Australia - South Coast District Committee

1 Minutes 1970 - 1990

Series includes minutes from District Committee and the various industry-based branches of the South Coast CPA.

- 1 District Committee 1970
- 2 District Committee May 1978 - Aug 1984
- 3 District Committee Sept 1984 - May 1987
- 4 District Committee 1989 - 1990
- 5 Public Sector Union Branch Apr 1979 - May 1985
- 6 Steel Branch May 1981 - Jul 1984
- 7 Mining Branch Jul 1981 - Feb 1987
- 8 Wollongong Branch Jul 1983 - Oct 1988
- 9 Waterfront Branch Aug 1981 - Nov 1987
- 10 Special meetings Jul 1981 - Jun 1983

2 Correspondence 1970 - 1990

Incoming and Outgoing correspondence from the local branches and District Committee.

- | | | | |
|---|-----------|----|-----------------------------|
| 1 | 1970 - 73 | 8 | 1986 |
| 2 | 1976 - 77 | 9 | 1987 |
| 3 | 1978 - 80 | 10 | 1988 |
| 4 | 1981 - 82 | 11 | 1989 - 90 |
| 5 | 1983 | 12 | CPA Women's Collective 1982 |
| 6 | 1984 | 13 | Broad Left Correspondence |
| 7 | 1985 | | |

3 District Committee Newsletter 1977 - 1990

The Committee's newsletter was produced on a monthly basis and contained information on branch meetings as well as local issues of concern to the CPA.

- 1 1977 - 1980
- 2 1918 - 1983
- 3 1984 - 1986
- 4 1987 - 1990

D176 Communist Party of Australia - South Coast District Committee

4 District Conferences 1961 - 1988

Series includes agendas, members reports, attendance records, and policy discussion and resolutions from annual district conferences.

1	1961	9	1981
2	1965	10	1982
3	1967	11	1984
4	1969	12	1985
5	1970	13	1986
6	1972	14	1987
7	1979	15	1988
8	1980		

5 National Congress Papers 1964 - 1987

Agendas, reports, and Communist Party resolutions determined at annual national congresses. Includes file from CPA Women's Congress, 1985.

1	1964	6	1982
2	1970	7	1984
3	1972	8	1987
4	1975/6	9	1985
5	1979		

6 Conferences - Miscellaneous 1967 - 1978

Material from conferences organised or attended by South Coast District Committee members.

1	Sydney District Committee National Conference 1970
2	Australian People's Disarmament Conference 1978
3	Wollongong Migrant Education Conference 1976
4	Seminar on Living Standards 1967

7 National Committee 1971 - 1982

Minutes, reports, correspondence, and notices from National Committee.

1	1971
2	1978
3	1979

D176 Communist Party of Australia - South Coast District Committee

4 1980 - 82

8 Publication - *Wharfie* 1972 - 1991

Wharfie was a single-page weekly newsletter published by the local CPA. As the title suggests, Port Kembla Waterfront branch of the CPA provided substantial production and distribution input.

1 1972 - 1980

2 1981

3 1982

4 1982 - 85

5 1986 - 87

6 1988 - 89

7 1990 - 91

8 Jim Healy Tributes

9 Industrial

Items in this file cover the CPA's involvement in the local steel industry unions, including a number of Communist publications for industrial workers.

1 Federated Ironworkers Association "Rank and File" history 1967 - 1970's

2 CPA publicity on steel and coal industry, including press clippings 1964 - 1979

3 Steel industry c. 1980 - correspondence, reports, press clippings

4 *Blast*

5 *The Miner*

6 *Coppertag, Newcastle Steelworker*

10 International Solidarity

Correspondence, seminars, and notices of events comprise the Miscellaneous item. Other items in the file relate to specific international issues and CPA solidarity work.

1 Miscellaneous

2 "Peace 88"

3 Mozambique

4 East Timor

5 Poland/ *Solidarity*

6 South Africa

D176 Communist Party of Australia - South Coast District Committee

7 Uranium

8 Namibia

11 Election Campaigns c. 1950 - 1988

Material covers CPA involvement in local, state, and federal elections. Correspondence, press releases, and policy.

1 Federal Elections c. 1950's, 1966, 1969, 1972, 1977

2 Federal Elections 1979, 1983

3 State Elections 1965, 1971, 1988

4 State Elections 1968, 1978, 1981

5 Local Elections c. 1950 - 60, 1968, 1985 - 87

12 Miscellaneous

Material grouped into small files for reference and research purposes, these files also contain commentaries by CPA members and some correspondence. Industrial and peace issues feature in much of the subject files. The variety of sources indicates the areas in which CPA membership was active. Date range varies.

1 "A strategy for the 1980's in the metal industry" Produced by CPA metal workers. Includes speech by G Harrison - Asst. Nat. Secretary AMWU

2 Wollongong Workers Research Centre (incorporating Wollongong TNC). Papers on:

- Kwinana Steel Plant Western Australia

- Report to South Coast Labour Council on transport of coal to coal loader Nov 1979

- "Coal production and transportation on the South Coast" CPA Feb 1982

3 Documents of the Bolshevik Tendency - No. 2 (June 1975). Steve Haran and Doug Fullarton: charged by the CPA for anti-party activity. As members of the Left Tendency (CPA) they formed the Bolshevik Tendency

4 Tribute/obituary to CPA members Harry Pollit and Eddie Robertson

5 "Defend Trade Unions" - Resource kit produced by West Australian Left Action Coalition (Tax issues, New Right, Employment)

6 Maritime Waterfront issues

7 Technology conference Oct 1967 Newcastle

8 National Fightback Conference Jul 1986

9 "Trade Unions Demand Price Control" Pat Clancy, BWIU Nov 1965

D176 Communist Party of Australia - South Coast District Committee

- 10 The Accord, ACTU, Industrial Arbitration - miscellaneous 1980's
- 11 Republic for Australia campaign 1988
- 12 Peace and Disarmament - correspondence and documents by Hiroshima committee, Ant-Bases Coalition, Australian Peace Committee
- 13 Communist Party in Australia - issues related to formation, structure, and operation of CPA in Australia. Includes brief on "Doc. J" Petrov Affair, CPA - Marxist Leninist Congress
- 14 Denis Kevans - poems
- 15 Press Clippings on foreign investment
- 16 *Tribune* clipping April 18 1971 - CPA industrial policy
- 17 United Kingdom Miners' Strike - pamphlets, photocopies, etc.
- 18 May Day 1980 - posters, leaflets, and correspondence
- 19 "Violence Must Stop" Builders Labourers Federation (BLF) dispute over Sydney Police Centre, 1984 - Press clippings, correspondence, etc.
- 20 CPA Marxist education school, 1980's Includes correspondence and syllabus information
- 21 Joe Howe folder. Contributions by Joe Howe, CPA member
- 22 Community Health Association - Correspondence, minutes, notices, reports etc.
- 23 Resources and Energy issues:
 - Includes reports by CPA Energy committee
 - "Fuel for Unrest", paper on La Trobe Valley resources
 - "The Oil Industry in Australia" paper by FED & FA
- 24 Peace and Disarmament issues:
 - "A to Z of Australian Arms Control" Dept. of Foreign Affairs
 - "Australia: the New Pacific Policeman" published by the Socialist Party of Australia
 - "Beyond War"
 - "Can Nuclear War be Just?" University thesis by South Coast Branch member Mark Rix
 - International Symposium on Nuclear Destruction, 1987 Sponsored by the Japanese Communist Party
 - "Peace and Disarmament News"
 - "US Bases" a paper by South Coast Branch member Bev Symons
- 25 M Fackender memorial
- 26 "Joe Hill" Scripts of a musical play by; Frank Wheatley
- 27 Workers Research Centre paper - Kern developments, 1984
- 28 "Occupational Safety" a paper to NSW government by SMWSU and FED & FA 1980

D176 Communist Party of Australia - South Coast District Committee

- 29 Illawarra Regional Plan - leaflets on development proposals for the region
- 30 Plant Diversity Protection Committee - Plant Variety Rights, seminar paper 1981.
The committee was part of the Total Environment Centre
- 31 Post Office Inquiry - submission by Sydney CPA, 1973
- 32 CPA policy documents:
- "Towards Socialism in Australia" Program of the CPA 1985
 - "on the Road" CPA educational kit on branch development
 - "Capitalism and Revolution" CPA article
- 33 A A Parish memorial lecture, Oct 1968. Australian Institute of Management Illawarra Branch
- 34 *The Recorder* Nov 1984 Australian Society for the Study of Labour History
- 35 Repetitive Strain Injury - a booklet by S Cornelly 1985
- 36 South Coast Labour Council Annual Report, 1987
- 37 Socialist Workers Party file. Includes SWP constitution, resolutions Program of the Party, background papers by Pete Cockcroft (CPA) and Mike Donaldson (CPA) on relations between the SWP and the CPA
- 38 Tax reform (CPA publications):
- "A Case for Radical Tax Reform"
 - "Tax Reform - Social Justice or Just Kidding"
 - "A Tax Package: A Summary of the Left's Tax Position" May 1985
 - "Reject Keating's Tax Package"
- 39 Employment:
- Dept. of Industrial Relations Review on Employment, 1976
 - "On Workers Control" CPA publication
 - "Facts on Wollongong Employment"
 - "Workers Rights and Unemployment" May 1976
 - "Unemployment in the Illawarra"
- 40 Education:
- "Draft Education Program" CPA 1979
 - Human Rights Commission - Community Education Grants, 1986 - 87
 - "the Case for and Education Commission" Public Service Board, 1959
 - "CPA Tertiary Students Draft Program"
 - "Public Education in a Modern World" CPA 1969
 - Extracts from the *Illawarra Mercury* for the NSW Teachers' Federation 1966

D176 Communist Party of Australia - South Coast District Committee

- 41 Young Communist League, England - Publications and Information
- 42 Youth and Unions:
 - Union youth Week 1965 - 67
 - Constitution of the Eureka Youth League
 - *Student Underground* - High School Publication against Vietnam War, 1969
- 43 Christianity and Marxism:
 - "Christians and Social Change" CPA publication
 - "Catholics and the Italian Communist Party" CPA publication 1980
 - "Christian Marxist Dialogue in Australia" Australian Council of Churches

- 13 Bookshop Finances
Records form CPA's Intervention Bookshop. Includes annual reports, stock inventories, etc.

- 14 Press Clippings
Clippings collected by the CPA dealing with party-related issues. 2 folders, 1 book

- 15 CPA Constitution and Rules
 - 1 22nd Congress, 1970 issue
 - 2 26th Congress, 1979 issue

- 16 Tribune File
Includes correspondence, notices, and articles for the *Tribune* from Party members.
 - 1 1977
 - 2 1977 - 84
 - 3 1985 - 87

- 17 Broad Left/ Socialist Unity
The Broad Left was a monthly information newsletter supported by the CPA, as well as the region's other left-wing parties and community groups. The file also contains material on procedures to establish unity among the South Coast leftist groups. From the 1980's.
 - 1 - Issues of Broad Left, 1987 - 1991
 - Correspondence on Left Unity
 - Resolutions and draft proposals on Left Unity

D176 Communist Party of Australia - South Coast District Committee

- "Socialist Renewal" - Resolution of 29th CPA National Congress
- 3 Socialist Renewal - New Left Party Preliminary material
- 19 Miscellaneous
 - 1 environment
 - 2 Truxton Warship
 - 3 Tertiary Education/ Wollongong University
 - 4 "Rich Scab Dies" South Coast CPA position death of Lord Mountbatten. From *Wharfie*
 - 5 CPA party journals 1969 - 70
 - 6 Lucas Aerospace Corporate Plan
 - 7 Newport Electrical Plant, 1977
 - 8 CPA Goulburn Branch
 - 9 Community Relations - " Project Australia. Correspondence, 1980.
 - 10 CAP Melbourne Branch
 - 11 "Towards Socialism in Australia" (draft) 1979
 - 12 Young Communist Movement, Sydney, 1978 - 79
 - 13 CPA Newcastle Branch
 - 14 Inner Party discussion, South Coast, 1977
 - 15 Foreign Policy 1977
 - 16 "New Course" discussion, 1977 - socialism in Australia
 - 17 Cannabis (1976)
 - 18 *Praxis*, 1975 - 76 CPA theoretical journal
 - 19 Miscellaneous Leaflets
 - 20 Miscellaneous Leaflets
 - 21 Aboriginal issues
 - 22 Cultural Collective
 - 23 Coalition for a Just Society
 - 24 CPA newsletters - other districts
 - 25 CPA historical material
 - 26 "Miners Next Step" CPA proposal
 - 27 Wollongong Workers Research Centre (TNC)
 - 28 Socialist Party of Australia material
 - 29 Committee in solidarity with Central American and Caribbean (CISCAC)

D176 Communist Party of Australia - South Coast District Committee

- 30 Coal policy
- 31 Chilean Solidarity Committee
- 32 Aboriginal Rights
- 33 Australia - Vietnam Friendship Society
- 34 Australia - Cuba Friendship Society
- 35 Czechoslovakia
- 36 CPA newsletters - other branches
- 37 CPA newsletters - other branches
- 38 TRADE Union collective, 1986 0 87
- 39 *Hard Times* - South Coast CAP bulletin
- 40 Australian Marxist Forum, 1983 (conference)
- 41 ACTU 1982 - 87
- 42 Illawarra Community Radio material
- 43 Eureka Youth League, 1984
- 44 CPA 60th anniversary dinner