

UNIVERSITY OF MELBOURNE ARCHIVES

AFULE VICTORIAN DIVISION

ACCESSION NUMBER 96 63

HISTORICAL NOTE:

The AFULE Victorian Division is the oldest continuous railway union in the world. The union formed as the Locomotive Engine Drivers' Association in 1861, became The Locomotive Engine Drivers & Firemen's Association (or Melbourne Enginedrivers & Firemen's Association) of Victoria, when firemen were admitted in the 1870s. It changed its name again to the Victorian Locomotive Engine Drivers', Firemen's and Cleaners' Association when cleaners were admitted in 1902. The union became the Victorian Division of the AFULE when all state locomotive unions federated in 1920 to form a single union.¹

In the 1890's the Union was conservative and aloof from other railway unions and the union movement in general. It gave up its affiliation to the Trades Hall Council in 1890. The new century brought new political and economic conditions which directly affected the union. A long drought led to economic hardship, a change of government in Victoria and a wage cut for government employees including Locomotive Enginemen. The union drew closer to the Trades Hall Council and applied to re-affiliate in 1902.

The new Premier of Victoria, William Hill Irvine, denounced the affiliation of government employees to 'political' bodies and insisted that all railway unions withdraw from the THC. This confrontation precipitated a strike of Locomotive Enginemen which lasted from 8 to 15 May 1903, during which the strike breaking Loyalist Engine Drivers, Firemen & Employees' Association was formed. The Executive Officers of the Locomotive Enginemen's Union called the strike off after one week when threatened with Irvine's Strike Suppression Bill and lack of public support, even though strikers themselves were keen to continue. It was 1935 before the AFULE Victorian Division finally re-affiliated to the THC.

Other milestones in the union's history were the building of Locomotive Hall in North Melbourne in 1914 which served as the offices of both the Victorian and Federal Divisions, and as an active theatre.

The Victorian Locomotive Enginemen were also supporters of Federation with other state Locomotive Enginemen's Unions, and were represented at the 1899 and 1900 conferences at which the Federated Railway Locomotive Enginemen's Association of Australia was formed. This body met yearly and was the forerunner of the AFULE which took over in 1920.

¹See notes on history of Federation at the beginning of the AFULE Federal Division Collection list.

NOTE ON THE COLLECTION:

The records in the 1996 transfer were held together in the safe at the AFULE Victorian Division office. They consist of the Minute books and related records of the Central Branch of the AFULE Victorian Division, as well as legal records of the Victorian Division itself which the union officials seem to have considered vital. They were collected and part listed by Mr Norman De Pomeroy before transfer to the University of Melbourne Archives.

There is no original classification scheme or record keeping system evident for these records. Consequently they have been arranged by the archivist, and related records in previous accessions have been noted in the description of each series.

Although the AFULE Victorian Division traces its history to the formation of the Locomotive Engine Drivers' Association in 1861, there are no records for the early period in either this or previous accessions. The remaining records date from the twentieth century, beginning with a small number of documents on the 1903 strike. The AFULE Federal Division Collection should also be consulted for Victorian Division involvement at the national level, beginning with their involvement in Federal Conferences from 1899.

RELATED COLLECTIONS:

AFULE Victorian Division Collection, previous accessions and listing
AFULE Federal Division Collection
Victorian Trades Hall Council Collection
Australian Railways Union Collection

DATE OF TRANSFER: 7 August 1996

TRANSFEROR: Norman De Pomeroy, for the Public Transport Union, Victorian Branch.

DATE RANGE: 1903-1989

ACCESS: Open

LISTED BY:

Suzanne Fairbanks, Labour Archivist
from a draft by Norm DePomeroy.
Completed 13 January, 1997

INDEX TO SERIES

Series	Description
1	AFULE Victorian Division Central Branch Rough Minutes 1969-1986
2	AFULE Victorian Division Central Branch Minutes 1974-1986
3	AFULE Victorian Division Central Branch Meeting Attendance Books 1965 - 1989
4	AFULE Victorian Division Central Branch, Secretary's Correspondence Books 1977 - 1989
5	AFULE Victorian Division Central Branch Pay-in Receipt Book 1984-1986
6	AFULE Victorian and Predecessors' Published Rules and Awards 1886 - 1973
7	AFULE and Predecessors' Certified Rules and Awards, and AFULE Certificate of Registration, 1921 - 1967
8	AFULE Victorian Division Files Kept in Office Safe, c.1903 - 1980s

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Box No.	Archive No.	Description
	1	AFULE Victorian Division Central Branch Rough Minutes 1969-1986 [The Rough Minute Books in this series and the Proper Minute books in the next series are a continuation of Series 2.4.3 in the previous major listing of Victorian Branch records, although there is a gap from May 1958 - June 1969. The three series should be read together.]
1	1/1	8 June 1969 - August 1977
1	1/2	September 1977 - June 1979
2	1/3	June 1979 - July 1984
2	1/4	August 1984 - October 1986
	2	AFULE Victorian Division Central Branch Minutes 1974-1986 [The Minute Books in this series and the Rough Minute books in the above series are a continuation of Series 2.4.3 in the previous major listing of Victorian Branch records, although there is a gap from May 1958 - June 1969. The three series should be read together.]
2	2/1	7 April 1974 - 13 December 1977
2	2/2	January 1978 - May 1979
2	2/3	12 June 1979 - November 1980
2	2/4	December 1980 - May 1982
3	2/5	June 1982 - August 1984
3	2/6	August 1984 - April 1986
	3	AFULE Victorian Division Central Branch Meeting Attendance Books 1965 - 1989 [The Attendance Books in this series appear to be the only extant attendance books for the Central Branch, as no others appear in previous listings.]
3	3/1	October 1965 - December 1974
3	3/2	January 1975 - April 1981. Includes attendance for meeting of 16 February 1987 in back.
3	3/3	May 1981 - December 1989
	4	AFULE Victorian Division Central Branch, Secretary's Correspondence Books 1977 - 1989

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Box No.	Archive No.	Description
		[Record of inward correspondence received by Secretary mainly from members, and for raising at meetings. Minute series could be checked for outcomes.]
3	4/1	July 1977 - November 1978
3	4/2	November 1978 - June 1982
3	4/3	June 1982 - November 1986
3	4/4	November 1986 - November 1989
	5	AFULE Victorian Division Central Branch Pay-in Receipt Book 1984-1986
		[There do not appear to be further Central Branch financial records of this kind. Some details of their earlier financial transactions can be gleaned form Series 4.1 and 4.2 in the previous major listing of Victorian Branch records.]
3	5/1	30 July 1984 - 29 April 1986, partly completed.
	6	AFULE Victorian and Predecessors' Published Rules and Awards 1886 - 1973
		[The records in this series and the next compliment Series 1 in the previous major listing.]
4	6/1	Locomotive Engine Drivers and Firemen's Association revised rules, 1886.
4	6/2	Locomotive Enginedrivers, Firemen and Cleaners' Association revised rules and bye-laws, 1905
4	6/3	AFULE Victorian Division revised rules and bye-laws, 1923
4	6/4	AFULE Rules, certified by Commonwealth Court of Conciliation and Arbitration, 1926
4	6/5	AFULE Victorian Division revised rules and bye-laws, 1935
4	6/6	AFULE Federal Rules as revised at Federal Conference, 1937
4	6/7	AFULE Registered Uniform Rules as Determined upon at Federal Conference 1944 and Amended up to 1946 [two copies]
4	6/8	AFULE Victorian Division Schedule to Federal rules and bye-laws, 1949 [two copies]
4	6/9	AFULE Registered Uniform Rules as Determined upon at

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Box No.	Archive No.	Description
		Federal Conference 1944 and Amended up to 1953 [two copies]
4	6/10	AFULE Registered Uniform Rules as Determined upon at Federal Conference 1944 and Amended up to 1972
4	6/11	AFULE Federal Award No. 673 of 1951 (1953)
4	6/12	West Australian Locomotive Engine Drivers, Firemen's and Cleaners' Union of Workers Award No. 13 of 1973
	7	AFULE and Predecessors' Certified Rules and Awards, and AFULE Certificate of Registration, 1921 - 1967 [The records in this series and the last compliment Series 1 in the previous major listing. This series consists of copies of rules stamped and certified by the Commonwealth Court of Conciliation and Arbitration Principal Registry.]
4	7/1	AFULE Certificate of Registration with Commonwealth Court of Conciliation and Arbitration, 8 February 1921; copies of rules registered and stamped by Commonwealth Court of Conciliation and Arbitration Principal Registry, 1959, 1965, 1966, 1967.
	8	AFULE Victorian Division Files Kept in Office Safe, c.1903 - 1980s [The files in this artificial series were kept together in the office safe of the AFULE Victorian Division thus representing records which union officials considered vital. They consist of legal documents to do with the Trustees and lease of Loco Hall, election disputes, industrial disputes, in particular the 1903 strike and its aftermath, and other legal matters. The files have been arranged according to the type of transaction of which they are evidence.] Industrial negotiations, 1903-1925
4	8/1	Correspondence with Commissioners of Victorian Railways, and Corr & Corr, Barristers and Solicitors, over industrial issues ranging from the 1903 strike to seniority affected by electrification of the railways in Melbourne, 1923. Includes the following records: Transcript of deputation to Commissioners re joint rosters for motormen and guards consequent to electrification, 1 October 1923; Victorian Railways application form for position of Motorman, 1917;

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Box No.	Archive No.	Description
		Correspondence from Brotherhood of Locomotive Enginemen, Ohio, USA, 21 June 1923 with regulations from ASLEF, USA on electrification; Handwritten letter and typescript copy from Victorian Railways' Commissioner Fitzpatrick to H D Scorer, Secretary of LEDFA, re capitulation of AFULE in 1903 strike, 17 May 1903; Minutes of Grand Council meeting of Victorian LEDFCA, at Rialto, Collins Street Melbourne 3 January 1904; Corr and Corr, Barristers & Solicitors, to Union re regulations governing seniority, 14 April 1909; List of men proposed to be reinstated in railway service, [post-1903 strike?]; Balance sheet for Federal Strike Fund, 8 October 1906; attached to list of Federal Strike Fund recipients, 1906; Legal opinion from Corr & Corr, Barristers & solicitors, 28 September 1907 re opinion on the classification of Engine Drivers (reference to 1903 strike).

4	8/2	Applications for transfer, 1925. Includes application forms of Engine Drivers to transfer to North Melbourne to preserve seniority [cf. File 8/1 above re seniority].
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Union Elections, 1966-1978

4	8/3	Application for enquiry into Central Branch elections, 1976-1978. Application by John Maxwell Emmett, and Alfred Branicki & Associates, Solicitors to the Federal Court of Australia, Industrial Division, Victorian Registry, for an enquiry re Elections to the Central Branch of the AFULE Victorian Division. Copies of six legal documents.
4	8/4	Legal documents re challenge to the AFULE Rules by G R Moorhead, Rule 16 Ballots. June 1966.
4	8/5	Election of General Secretary, G Moorhead, 1970.
5	8/6	AFULE Divisional Trustees Election 1978-1979. Used ballot papers.
5	8/7	Elections of Branch Officials, 1977-1978. Includes correspondence with Victorian regional returning officers and results of local ballots. Includes petition from country regions re Victorian Railways' rent increase for staff housing.

Loco Hall and Theatre, North Melbourne: Trust Deed, Alterations and Leases, 1913 - 1986

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Box No.	Archive No.	Description
5	8/8	Correspondence with Department of Health re alterations to premises at Loco Theatre to comply with regulations. Includes judgment re costs, c.1920; plans and specifications from architects c.1955 and 1974; correspondence and copy of Certificate of Title for purchase of 47 - 49 A'Beckett Street, Melbourne, for AFULE, 11 April 1986.
5	8/9	Legal documents re Loco Hall:
	8/9/1	Declaration of Trust, Messrs BB Deveney and C Mumford [Trustees] with the Locomotive Engine Drivers Firemen and Cleaners Association of Victoria, 31 October 1913;
	8/9/2	Lease, LED & FA of Victoria to Co-operative Film Exchange Ltd., May 1919;
	8/9/3	Agreement re Tenancy of certain rooms being a portion of the premises known as Loco Hall at Victoria Street North Melbourne, between Charles Mumford and BB Deveney, with the Victorian Railways Commissioners, 21 March 1921;
	8/9/4	Agreement, Messrs. BB Deveney and C Mumford to Mr MG Giudice, 1922;
	8/9/5	Lease, Messrs. BB Deveney, F Myers & C Wake to Mr WH White, 1929;
	8/9/6	Lease, Trustees of AFULE (Victorian Division) to Mr T O'Brien, 1940;
	8/9/7	Assignment of Lease; Mrs AC Gilbert, Mr VG Bolton and Messrs. J Gault & Others, 1949, three copies;
	8/9/8	Assignment of Lease; Mr VG Bolton, Mr ER & Mrs MF Jones and Messrs. J Gault & Others, 1951, plus correspondence with Corr & Corr;
	8/9/9	Lease, Trustees of AFULE (Victorian Division) to Mr PV & Mrs PM Mulcahy, 1954;
	8/9/10	Assignment of Lease, Mr PV & Mrs PM Mulcahy to J Ashby, 1958, plus correspondence with Corr & Corr;
	8/9/11	Assignment of Lease, Damiano Galle, John Thomas Harder, Robert James Matheson, James Robert Allen and Giovanni Bosio, 1963, two copies, unsigned;
	8/9/12	Sub-lease, D Galle to DKR Watts, 1965, plus two copies of letter from Watts to Galle quitting the Cinema, April 1966;
	8/9/13	Correspondence between AFULE and Corr & Corr, Solicitors re lease of Loco Theatre to catering service, 1970;
5	8/9/14	Correspondence, Leases and Surrender of Leases, 1976 - 1982, ten documents.
		AFULE Victorian Branch Accounts and Reimbursements, 1934 - 1979
6	8/10	AFULE Victorian Branch Ledger of expenses, 1934 - 1955

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6	8/11	AFULE Victorian Branch record of attendance and payments to Executive and Committee of Management, 12 January 1953 - 22 January 1966
6	8/12	Applications for refund of levy for Darwin Cyclone victims, 1975 - 1976
6	8/13	Victorian Railways statements of levies collected for AFULE, 1975
6	8/14	Papers re names of Old Executive of Federal Fund. [Balance Sheet and Abstract not included although mentioned on envelope. Possibly belongs with Balance sheet in file 8/1 for 1906 above.]
6	8/15	Portland Picket and stand down 1979. Payments, receipts, correspondence and accounts associated with strike pay, September - November 1979.
6	8/16	South Dynon, Portland and Geelong stand down 1979. Payments, receipts, correspondence and accounts associated with strike pay, August - September 1979.
Compensation claim 1943		
6	8/17	Compensation claim for Mr W R Banner, 1940 - 1943.
Employment of AFULE Secretary, 1920-1933		
7	8/18	Legal opinions re employment of Mr Collins, Secretary of AFULE, and related documents, c.1920 - 1933.
Treasurer's files, c.1973 - 1976		
7	8/19	Divisional Council, 6 April 1974. J L Couch's file, which actually contains minutes of Council, research reports, Victorian Division Newsletters and ballots, c.1973-1976.
7	8/20	Divisional Council, 4 November 1974. Treasurer, J L Couch's file, which actually contains minutes of Council, research reports, Victorian Division Newsletters and ballots, c.1974.
7	8/21	AFULE Rules and Publications, c.1974-1975.

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14 January, 1997
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