



THE UNIVERSITY OF
MELBOURNE

THE UNIVERSITY OF MELBOURNE ARCHIVES

NAME OF COLLECTION	Workers' Sports Federation, Victorian Section
ACCESSION NO	1995.0019 inc 1995.0032
CATEGORY	Labour, organisations
ACTIVITY	Communists
DATE RANGE	1938-1942
SIZE OF COLLECTION	2cms
HISTORICAL NOTE	<p>The Workers Sports Federation was initiated in Sydney in the early 1930s. In 1935 one of its leading organisers came to Melbourne and, with the support of the Young Communist League, formed a Victorian Section. It initially attracted large numbers of suburban members, but these branches didn't last due to lack of experienced leadership. The WSF eventually specialised in workers' holiday camps held in different locations twice per year. The Young Communist League and the WSF eventually formed the League of Young Democrats and, after a period of illegality for all Communist related organisations, they formed the Eureka Youth League.</p>
ACCESS CONDITIONS	Access: Open
DESCRIPTION	<p>Compilation consists of thirty-two photographic proofs and negatives of WSF camps from Daylesford, Christmas 1938 to Inverloch, Christmas 1941. Also three WSF advertising leaflets; newscuttings of WSF events and of Eureka Youth League gymnastic events.</p> <p>Compilation consists of 14 negatives and proofs of WSF camps and activities, as well as 4 photographic prints. These photographs complete those from an earlier WSF accession no 95 19. They were selected from originals owned by Grace Gale, of Auckland NZ. Also included is correspondence between Bruce Armstrong and Mrs Gale and other contributors and an account of the Federation by Alex Opie, one of its earliest organisers.</p>

WORKERS' SPORTS FEDERATION - Victorian Section

The photographic collection was made possible through the generous support of:

- # Pearl and Jack Cuthbertson, 18 First Avenue, Aspendale, Victoria.
- # Nancy and Bill Irving, 31 Connell Street, Glenroy, Victoria.
- # Grace Gale (née Taylor), 102 Cobham Crescent, Kelston, Auckland 7, New Zealand.

Mr. and Mrs. Cuthbertson provided the majority of the photographs copied for the project. Mr. and Mrs. Irving contributed numbers 12 and 13 in the set. Mrs. Gale provided numbers 33 to 46.

The photographs are complemented by the ephemera which was donated by the Cuthbertsons.

- # Full page photographic montage from 'The Leader' of 31 December 1938 showing scenes of the Daylesford W.S.F. camp.
- # Leaflet advertising the Cowes camp '4 perfect days for 25/-' [twenty-five shillings].*
- # W.S.F. luggage label for the Cowes camp.
- # Leaflet advertising the Inverloch camp 'Easter at Inverloch, everything for 29/-' [twenty-nine shillings].*
- # Christmas camp at Inverloch 'Come to the sea with the W.S.F. for 10 days'.

The W.S.F. was closely aligned with the League of Young Democrats (L.Y.D.). The ephemera includes two items showing the young women gymnasts of the L.Y.D.; page 6 of the 'Australian Women's Weekly Pictorial', 23 December, 1939, and a photograph from the Melbourne 'Sun' of 3 November 1939.

On the W.S.F. and L.Y.D., see the document titled 'Notes on the development of the Eureka Youth League and its predecessors' by Audrey Blake, pages 26-27, which is held in the Eureka Youth League file of the University of Melbourne Archives.

- * The currency of the times - with metrication of the currency in 1966 one shilling equalled ten cents.

LEGEND TO ACCOMPANY PHOTOGRAPHS OF WORKERS' SPORTS
FEDERATION.

1. CRESWICK CHRISTMAS 1941 - Children's Group, Hyrell Waten (nee Ross) at the rear on the right.

THE FOLLOWING PHOTOGRAPHS WERE TAKEN AT THE W.S.F.
CHRISTMAS CAMP, HELD AT DAYLESFORD, 1938.

2. The forage caps were originally worn by members of the Young Communist League (Y.C.L.). The Y.C.L. was superseded by the League of Young Democrats (L.Y.D.) which was closely associated with the W.S.F.
Left to right, Syd Spicer, Pearl Cuthbertson (nee Madden), Nancy Irving (nee Smith), Stuart Baxter. Stuart Baxter's mother was later to be known as Madame X in the Victorian Royal Commission into Communism in 1949.
3. Panorama Camp, DAYLESFORD, 1938.
4. Panorama Camp, DAYLESFORD, 1938.
5. Panorama Camp, DAYLESFORD, 1938.
6. Nancy Irving (nee Smith), DAYLESFORD, 1938, Male Section tents.
7. Left to right, Nancy Irving (nee Smith), Melva Gribble, Pearl Cuthbertson (nee Madden).
8. Campers. DAYLESFORD, 1938.
9. Don McGuinness - expelled from the League of Young Democrats (L.Y.D.) for suspected provocateur activities. DAYLESFORD, 1938.
10. Left to right, Bill Parker, Pearl Cuthbertson (nee Madden), Nancy Irving (nee Smith), with W.S.F. pennant. DAYLESFORD, 1938.
11. Left to right, Ted Bull (became secretary of the Waterside Workers' Federation after World War Two), three unknown, Stuart Baxter, one unknown. DAYLESFORD, 1938.
12. Left to right, Jean ? , Pearl Cuthbertson (nee Madden), Nancy Irving (nee Smith) Lesley Helmshaw, Violet ? , Nancy Horne. DAYLESFORD, 1938.
13. Left to right, Nancy Irving (nee Smith), Melva Gribble, Coral Bennett (nee McKissack). DAYLESFORD, 1938.

14. Left to right, Pearl Cuthbertson (nee Madden), Nancy Irving (nee Smith), Joan Herbert. DAYLESFORD, 1938.
15. Left to right, Nancy Irving (nee Smith), Hyrell Waten (nee Ross), Pearl Cuthbertson (nee Madden). DAYLESFORD, 1938.
16. Left to right, Stuart Baxter, Syd Spicer, George Thorpe. In front, Nancy Irving (nee Smith). DAYLESFORD, 1938. Syd Spicer had a lot to do with organising the sporting activities.
17. Coral Bennett (nee McKissack) and Pearl Cuthbertson (nee Madden). DAYLESFORD, 1938.

THE FOLLOWING PHOTOGRAPHS WERE TAKEN AT W.S.F. CAMPS AT LOCATIONS AND TIMES AS INDICATED.

18. Facing camera, Don McGuinness, ? Brabazon. W.S.F. Christmas Camp, COWES, 1939.
19. Joyce Madden and Jack Howard. W.S.F. Christmas Camp, CRESWICK, 1941.
20. "Killara" ferry from Stoney point to Cowes. W.S.F. Christmas Camp, COWES, 1939.
21. Left to right, ? , Jean ? , Pearl Cuthbertson (nee Madden), ? .
- 21A. W.S.F. CHRISTMAS CAMP, DAYLESFORD, 1938. Camp Panorama.
22. W.S.F. CHRISTMAS CAMP, COWES, 1939. Names unknown.
- 22A. Left to right, ? , Coral Bennett (nee McKissack), Pearl Cuthbertson (nee Madden), Ella Wheeler, Jean Motherwell, Dulcie Miller/ later Stefanou (nee Hillman), Rhoda ? . DAYLESFORD W.S.F. CHRISTMAS CAMP, 1938.
23. Left to right, Noel Darbyshire, Vic Marks, Rhoda ? , Harley Forster. W.S.F. CHRISTMAS CAMP, COWES, 1939.
24. Stuart Baxter and Dora ? . W.S.F. CHRISTMAS CAMP, COWES, 1939.
25. ? , Marion Bennett, ? . W.S.F. CHRISTMAS CAMP, COWES, 1939.
26. LUNCH QUEUE. W.S.F. CHRISTMAS CAMP, COWES, 1939.

27. Pearl Cuthbertson (nee Madden). W.S.F. EASTER CAMP, INVERLOCH, 1941.
28. Right to left, Solly Marks, Joyce Madden, Marion Bennett. W.S.F. CHRISTMAS CAMP, COWES, 1939.
29. Left to right, Shirley ? , Alice Bennett, Amy Bennett, Marion Bennett. W.S.F. CHRISTMAS CAMP, COWES, 1939.
30. WORKERS' SPORTS FEDERATION BUILDING NEAR TOP OF MT.DANDENONG, VICTORIA. Left to right, Nell Old, Jack Cuthbertson, Hyrell Waten (née) Ross, ? , Verne Mooney, Marion Bennett, Joyce Madden. Circa 1940. This photograph was of individual campers, and not taken at an organised W.S.F. camp. The land was owned by the W.S.F. and buildings had been erected with a view to a permanent camp site. Ruth and Maurie Crow had a lease on the restaurant nearby.
31. Jack Cuthbertson. W.S.F. EASTER CAMP, INVERLOCH, 1941.
32. GYMNASTS - EUREKA YOUTH LEAGUE, circa 1942 ?
Left to right, Ruby Leonard, Joyce Madden, behind Joyce - Nancy Marks (nee Green).
33. CRESWICK, CHRISTMAS 1940. Back row, Left to right, Flo Watson, Ailsa Farrell, Bobby McPhee, Eileen Farrall, Mrs. Watson.
Front row, Left to right, Grace Taylor, Con Watson, Mr. Watson.
34. COWES ? Left to right, ? , Grace Taylor, Ron Tilley, Dorrie Forfar, ? .
35. COWES ? Alf Lorbach, gym instructor.
36. COWES ? Eric Ogden, camp concerts compere, sister Ruth.
37. CRESWICK, CHRISTMAS 1940. Back row, Left to right, ? , Grace Taylor, Ralph Fisher, Sylvia Watson.
Front row, Left to right, Ralph Andrews, Bobby McPhee, Con Watson, Flo Watson.
38. CRESWICK, CHRISTMAS 1940. Chariot race entrant, "Ben Hur".
39. CRESWICK, CHRISTMAS 1940. Left to right, Flo Watson, Grace Taylor, Sylvia Watson, Bobby McPhee.
40. MAY DAY MARCH (MELB.) CIRCA 1940, Stilt walker, "Tiny" Wellard, member of W.S.F. and L.Y.D.

41. COWES, CHRISTMAS 1938, Left to right, ? ,
Dorrie Forfar, Grace Taylor, ? .
42. MAY DAY CIRCA 1940, W.S.F./League of Young
Democrats contingent, marshal - Danny Garland.
43. Location uncertain, circa 1940. Strongman
Paul Anderson, alias "Young Apollo".
44. COWES, EASTER 1940, Hired musicians 'Mayfair
Orchestra'.
45. DAYLESFORD, CHRISTMAS 1938. 2,000 under canvas,
great success. Daylesford township in the
distance behind tents.
46. PROBABLY DAYLESFORD, CIRCA CHRISTMAS 1938.
The "Clothing Trade Union Girls".
Left to right, Dorrie Forfar, ? ,
? , Grace Taylor, ? .

3rd November 1939. 'The Sun' newspaper.
League of Young Democrats Gymnasium Group.
Left to right, Vera Sharpley, ? , ? ,
Ruby Leonard, Pearl Cuthbertson (nee Madden),
Lesley Helmshaw, ? , Audrey Blake,
Nancy Hall. Back row not known.

LIST OF W.S.F. CAMPS

Easter	1938	Cowes
Christmas	1938	Daylesford
Easter	1939	Cowes
Christmas	1939	Cowes
Easter	1940	Cowes
Christmas	1940	Creswick
Easter	1941	Inverloch
Christmas	1941	Inverloch

WHEN THE W.S.F. MEMBERS TRAVELLED BY CHARTERED TRAIN TO
A CAMP, THEY HAD THEIR OWN RAILWAY LUGGAGE LABELS
PRINTED WITH THE W.S.F. NAME.

Photographic material collected and reproduced, with
legends, by: Bruce Armstrong