

Trade and craft unions, and worker political associations, began forming during the 1850s in South Australia, essentially in response to campaigns for the 8 hour day. Later, labour societies also formed over the same issue following similar moves elsewhere in the colonies.

The United Tradesman's Society was at the forefront of the 8 hour campaign in South Australia; an issue finally accepted by many employers in 1873. In 1874, 16 trade unions met to form a new Labour League of S.A., which pursued industrial and political activities to further benefit its members.

As workers became more politically organised, there appeared a need to unite craft unions and labour associations, which eventually led to the creation of the United Trades and Labor Council in Adelaide during January 1884, representing 13 unions. This became part of an Australia-wide congress of trade union bodies. The Council became a focal point for workers struggles, with the intent of exerting political influence and advancing the cause of social and economic justice and civil liberties on their behalf. The U.T.L.C. supported candidates for Parliament and sponsored the formation of the Labor Party in 1891. The Council desired greater political influence specifically through direct representation, and has provided the main organisational and financial support for the Australian Labor Party. Nevertheless, as the two are separate organisations, the relationship has not always been cosy.

The post-WW1 era saw an immense increase in industrial activity in South Australia, which provided the labour movement with a strong base; however, the economic Depression and resultant unemployment witnessed drastic reductions in membership. The effectiveness of the Council to influence events was much diminished, and there was great disillusionment with the State Labor government of 1930-33.

After the Second World War began, many unions initially were not keen to make patriotic sacrifices nor have civil liberties infringed, nonetheless, as Australia became heavily involved in the Pacific, the Council was far more in accord with the war effort. In the post-war period, unions were determined to achieve social and economic advances following much sacrifice, although the federal Labor government was not particularly cooperative with these aims. Later, the more militant and radical unions found themselves targeted in campaigns by conservative State and Federal governments.

More recently, the Council's emphasis has moved beyond the blue collar trades to embrace a wider cross-section of the community and broader issues affecting it. Such issues included the Vietnam war, the 35 hour week, wage justice, worker safety and compensation, uranium mining and equal pay for women.

In 1984, the centenary year of the Council in South Australia, there were 86 affiliated unions representing over 170,000 workers.

C.Read April 1996

| | |
|--|---|
| Minute books of Council meetings 1884-1993. 2.8 metres. 45 volumes See Special List for Series 1 for details. | 1 |
| Minute books of Executive meetings 1927-1996. 1.8 metres 32 volumes See Special list for Series 2 for details. | 2 |
| Rough Minutes of Council and Executive meetings 1943-1985. 40 cms 14 volumes. | 3 |
| Financial records 1886-1986. 85 cms. 10 volumes Cash books, ledgers, and loose papers. See Special list for Series 4 for details. | 4 |
| Letters Books 1886-1907. 22 cm Volume 1 : 8/2/1886 - 16/7/1890 Volume 2: 27/2/1890 - 7/7/1891 Volume 3 : 9/7/1891 - 22/2/1898 Volume 4 : 28/2/1898 - 17/3/1900 Volume 5 : 22/3/1902 - 5/12/1903 Volume 6 : 8/12/1903 - 4/5/1907 Letter removed from Volume 6 from President, Cooperating Trade Unions in Denmark relating to establishing 8 hour working days in Denmark. 20 October 1906. | 5 |
| Affiliated Unions Analysis Book 1981-1982. 2.5 cm | 6 |
| Delegates Attendance Record Books 1980-1983. 5 cm Volume 1 August 1980-July 1981 Volume 2 August 1982-July 1983 | 7 |
| Minute Book of Interstate Trades & Labor Council Congress 1913-1920. 2.5 cm Meeting of Interstate Congress held Trades Hall, Adelaide 10-14 November 1913, and 11-14 May 1920 at Trades Hall, Adelaide. Includes newspaper cuttings and two loose telegrams removed from Volume. | 8 |

-
- Minute book of Port Lincoln Combined Unions Council 9
1957-1970. 2 cm
From inaugural meeting held at Waterside Workers Hall, Port Lincoln, 9 December 1957, with delegates named, to meeting of 2 July 1970. Two letters loose from the volume have been separately housed.
- Cash book of Port Adelaide District Trades and Labor Council 10
1892-1948. 4 cm
- Minute books of Port Adelaide District Trades and Labor Council 11
1915-1947. 16 cm
Volume 1 : 19/2/1915 - 31/3/1922
Volume 2 : 21/4/1922 - 21/7/1925
Volume 3 : 15/2/1929 - 29/1/1932
Volume 4 : 12/2/1932 - 8/8/1947
- Rough minutes book of Port Adelaide District Trades and Labor Council 12
1944-1948. 1.5 cm
From special meeting at Storeman and Packers Hall, 20 October 1944 to 15 October 1948. Two loose items from volume housed separately.
- Minute books of Peterborough Council of Trade Unions and affiliated bodies. 13
1950-1964. 5 cm. 2 volumes.
Volume 1: Rough minutes 30/7/1950 - 9/8/1964
Volume 2: Minutes 30/3/1952 - 25/6/1961
- Minutes of Eight Hour Day Celebration Committee 14
1883-1975. 34 cm. 11 Volumes
Volume 1 : 10/8/1883 - 27/5/1885
Volume 2: Minute book - first discernible date 18/7/1894 - 5/8/1897. Beginning of volume has rules of the Amalgamated Eight Hours Celebration Union of South Australia. Over half the volume's pages have competitor's tickets, invitations, ball passes, luncheon, dressing room and bandsman's tickets etc pasted over the handwritten minutes. Beginning of volume has rules of the Amalgamated Eight Hours Celebration Union.
Volume 3: 31/8/1911-25/5/1925 (minutes of two undated meetings at end of volume)
Volume 4: 5/5/1904 - 20/6/1912 (General Committee). Minutes of the 2/5/1912 meeting list the results of the election of officers, including President Mr. F.W. Lundie, Vice President Mr. F.M. Standish, Past President Mr. F.C. Hahn, Treasurer Mr. W.C. Taylor, Secretary J.B. Merry, Assistant Secretary Mr. S. Winwood, Trustees Messrs. J.D. Brown, W.P. Jackson, C.R. Baker, W.E. Ware, J. D. Bristow, H.J. Pudney, A McGregor Dey and M.J. Stanley, Tyler Mr. S.J. Smith, Official Collector City and City of Port Adelaide Mr. H. Garland, Sports Committee Messrs. J.E. Stephen, W. Fitzgerald, J. Sparshott, J.P. Howard, A. Rankine, J. Shaw, R. Millington, J. Graves, A.J. Beresford, W.H. Brown, H.

Godden.

Volume 5: Sports Committee 28/7/1898 - 19/9/1910.

(See also part Vol 2 above)

Volume 6: Subscription Secretary Henry Jenkin's Ledger (recording ticket sales). Index at front by name of member; possibly used for one year only -July to August - no year given.

Volume 6: Box 173/ item 1: Labor Day, Minutes of the Executive Trustees Book 2 November 1904 – 31 August 1911, 8 hours campaign including names of members present (presidents and chairmen, etc. including H.J. Hoad, Thompson Grun, Thomas Montgomery, J. Jelley, R. Blundell, F.C. Hahn, F. Lundie).

Volume 7: Box 173/ item 2: Labor Day Executive Minute Book of the Labor Day Celebration Committee from 15 June 1922 -. Includes correspondence pasted in and a flier re Eight Hours Celebration Union Jubilee Exhibition Grounds, Tuesday September 1, 1908 listing Amusements including Skipping Rope contests, Fife and Drum Bands Competition and prize for best essay on the topic "Why is cigarette smoking injurious?"

Volumes 8-10: Box 173/ item 3-5: Labor Day Celebration Committees (bound volumes) Minutes
Vol. 8 1937-1948, Vol. 9 1949-1963, Vol. 10 1964-1975

| | |
|--|----|
| Ledger of Eight Hours Celebration Sports Committee 1886-1910. 2.5 cm | 15 |
| Printed rules of Amalgamated Eight Hours Celebration Union 1887. 0.5 cm | 16 |
| Parliamentary Committee Minute Book 1891-1892. 2 cm Minutes of Legislative Council Elections Committee, Queensland Strike Committee, Fitzgerald Reception Committee, Parliamentary & Vigilance Committee, Organising Committee. | 17 |
| Papers of the Boards of Industry ca.1921-1957. 70 cm 21 Volumes See Special List for Series 18 for details. Papers relate to the enquiry into adult and female living wage. | 18 |
| Council Circulars 1977-1993. 1.1 metres 16 volumes In bound volumes, one per year each with index of contents at front. | 19 |

| | |
|--|----|
| Motion Picture | 20 |
| n.d. 28 minutes. Film titled "Art Work" produced for the Council, relating to Union Arts. | |
| UTLC (SA) executive and council papers | 21 |
| 1983-1993 2 metres 27 volumes UTLC Secretary's bound copies of Executive meeting minutes, agenda, correspondence and Council papers. Minutes are those found in series 1 & 2. Volumes 1-3 :1983; volumes 4-7: 1984; volumes 8-10: 1985; volumes 11-13: 1986; volumes 14-15: 1987; volumes 16-17: 1988; volumes 18-19: 1989; volumes 20-21: 1990; volumes 22-23: 1991; volumes 24-25: 1992; volumes 26-27: 1993. | |
| Migrant Workers Program | 22 |
| 1981-1999 3.01 metres Large variety of papers re Migrant Workers Program within different unions, groups, government departments and trades. Many files identify author Noeline Rudland. | |
| Aboriginal Peoples & Unions | 23 |
| 1984-1997 1.10 metres Papers re Aboriginal Peoples & Unions including NUCAM and ACTU actions. Comprising committee minutes and correspondence, papers re the 1967 Referendum, land rights and lands council miscellaneous and papers re Peter Robin. | |
| Worker's Compensation | 24 |
| 1984-1990 0.34 metres Papers re Worker's campaign committee, submissions, Health and Safety Legislation and miscellaneous papers. | |
| ACTU and Council various papers | 25 |
| 1960-2000 21.57 metres Comprising papers re Bills, disputes and corresponding cases with local South Australian content, some of which have Crown Copyright, ACTU Disputes and related papers, Mr. Gregory files re his work on ACTU disputes, International Labour Organisation (ILO) and various interstate and remote council including the Yorke Peninsular and Riverland Trades and Labour Councils. | |
| ACTU/UTLC Congress | 26 |
| 1991-1995 0.34 metres Papers re ACTU/UTLC Congresses | |
| Trades Hall and Committee | 27 |

| | |
|--|----|
| 1960-1996 1.37 metres Papers re Trades Hall Constitution papers, Committee and Management Committee papers, circulars and Opening of Trades Hall Speech by Premier Don Dunstan 23/2/1972 (original archival ¼ inch magnetic open reel tape recording. Use copy available). | |
| Scrapbooks and newspapers clipping volumes 1922-1966, 1976-1987 2.62 metres Papers re UTLC scrapbooks, some annotated. | 28 |
| External Committees 1985-2001 0.51 metres Papers re Domestic Violence Council, Celebrating Diversity Coalition, Work Cover re Violence at work, OHSW and Work Cover claims. | 29 |
| Equity Matters 1983-1999 1.10 metres Papers re Sexual Harassment Support Service Management Committee, National Women's Health Conference, SA Health Commission Task Force for Women, Unions & Affirmative Action, Review of SA Equal Opportunity Act 1985-1994, Working Women's Crèche, Childcare, Pregnancy Inquiry, Families and employment matters. | 30 |
| Working Women's Standing Committee 1983-2000 6 metres Papers re Working Women's Standing Committee and associated committees including; Working Women's Centre, Women's Migrant Worker Program and Women in Trade Unions Network. | 31 |
| Disabled workers 1936-1947, 1988, 1991-1993 0.68 metres Papers re Issues for Disabled Workers Standing Committee, Tom Garland papers and Collection (Secretary Federated Gas Employees Union; UTLC President 1936-1937; UTLC Secretary 1946-1949) and a ledger also containing news clippings re significant UTLC world events and photographs (SRG 1/32/1/1-6). | 32 |
| UTLC employee Mr. Gregory's ACTU working papers 1950-1979 7.48 metres Files re employee Mr. Gregory's work on ACTU disputes and work experience matters. Gregory was the Assistant Secretary of the Labour Council and Organiser of the Amalgamated Metal Workers' Union. | 33 |
| UTLC (SA) 1952-1999 6.12 metres General papers re various UTLC working parties and standing Committees including; correspondence, minutes of meetings, | 34 |

| | |
|---|----|
| policy papers, legal papers, claims, papers re industrial agreements, court, arbitration and various worker Acts. Part correspondence refers to Mr. R.J. Gregory. | |
| Legal and Law Reform | 35 |
| 1992-1997 1.02 metres | |
| Papers re Social Justice Research Foundation (SJRF) (UTLC external committee), Industrial Relations Advisory Committee (IRAC), SA Public Sector Reform, Industrial Law, Tariffs and the Privatisation and sale of ETSA. | |
| Industrial and Commercial Training Commission | 36 |
| 1980-1985 0.51 metres | |
| Papers re formal offices of the group including Regulatory Development Committee, minutes, agendas and other formalised apprenticeships and training groups relating to SA. | |
| State Transport Authority | 37 |
| 1981-1983 0.34 metres | |
| Papers re State Transport Authority matters including notice of meetings, minutes of meetings, related correspondence, books and pamphlets , agendas, training and items relating to SA and including papers of Mr. Robert Gregory. | |