

# UQFL467

## Jean O'Connor Collection

<b>Size</b>	4 boxes
<b>Contents</b>	Minutes, correspondence, photographs and other records of the Seamen's Union Women's Committee, Brisbane, political publications on various topics, and some material relating to O'Connor's involvement in the women's movement.
<b>Date range</b>	1957 to 2003
<b>Biography</b>	Jean O'Connor was active in the labour movement in Queensland from the 1940s. She was a member of the Communist Party of Australia and, later, the Socialist Party of Australia, and was involved in a range of industrial and political causes over many decades. On St Patrick's Day in 1948, she was conspicuous as one of the unionists attacked by baton-wielding police during a peaceful march in Brisbane over the State government's handling of the rail strike. In the 1980s and 1990s she was active in the Seamen's Union Women's Committee, serving for a number of years as its secretary.
<b>Notes</b>	Open access

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### Box 1

Volume of minutes of the Seamen's Union Women's Committee, Brisbane, Feb 1957 – Oct 1958  
Volume of minutes of the Seamen's Union Women's Committee, Brisbane, Mar - Oct 1960  
Volume of minutes of the Seamen's Union Women's Committee, Brisbane, Feb – Nov 1961  
Volume of minutes of the Seamen's Union Women's Committee, Brisbane, Feb 1962 – Jan 1963  
Volume of minutes of the Seamen's Union Women's Committee, Brisbane, Feb 1963 – Jun 1971  
Volume of minutes of the Seamen's Union Women's Committee, Brisbane, Feb 1980 – Aug 1993  
Box of 27 political badges. Box lid has a sticker attached, with the words "The Bottom Line of the 7<sup>th</sup> Generation"

### Box 2

#### Folder 1

Unbound minutes, reports and financial records of the Seamen's Union Women's Committee, Brisbane, 1961 – 1998

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## **Folder 2**

Notebook of rough minutes of the Seamen's Union Women's Committee, Brisbane, Sep – Dec 1992

Notebook of rough minutes of the Seamen's Union Women's Committee, Brisbane, Apr - Nov 1993

Meeting attendance book of the Seamen's Union Women's Committee, Brisbane, 1984 - 1993

## **Folder 3**

Lists of names and contact details of members of the Women's Committee, lists of SUA Queensland Branch 'Old Timers', and contact details for ships crewed by SUA members, 1984 - 1993

## **Folder 4**

Copies of Seamen's Union Women's Committee constitutions and rules, 1971 – 1993

## **Folder 5**

Articles, summaries and speeches relating to the history of the Seamen's Union Women's Committee, 1978 - 1993

## **Folder 6**

Correspondence of the Seamen's Union Women's Committee, Brisbane, 1975 - 1984

## **Folder 7**

Correspondence of the Seamen's Union Women's Committee, Brisbane, 1985 – 1987

## **Folder 8**

Correspondence of the Seamen's Union Women's Committee, Brisbane, 1988 – 2001

## **Folder 9**

Seamen's Union Women's Committee correspondence and photographs concerning the creation and unveiling of a plaque at the Australian National Maritime Museum, in memory of merchant seafarers lost at sea during World War 2. The plaque was commissioned by the Women's Committee and unveiled by Jean O'Connor in 1994.

## **Folder 10**

Seamen's Union Women's Committee correspondence concerning peace and disarmament, 1983 - 1985

## Folder 11

Jean O'Connor's correspondence unrelated to the Women's Committee. Includes letters about the Stones Corner Area Tenants' Association, and letters from Eugene concerning the republican struggle to end British rule in Northern Ireland, 1980 – 1990

Statement of Solidarity, issued to Jean O'Connor in recognition of her role in the campaign to save the Biala Detoxification Unit and the Wacol Rehabilitation Unit, Brisbane, 1995

## Folder 12

Contact lists for the Seamen's Union Women's Committee, Brisbane, nd

## Box 3

Pamphlets:

- *Union of Australian Women Presents An Australian Charter of Women Workers' Rights*, 1975
- *Queensland Railway Strike February-April 1948*, 1948
- *Defend Peace, Union Rights, Liberty, Defeat Barwick's Crimes Bill*, 196?
- *How the Crimes Bill Makes Hidden Attacks on Democratic Rights*, 195?
- *'Right to Work' Rort: Bjelke-Petersen's Plan to Wreck Unionism*, 1978

Leaflet published by the Socialist Party of Australia about the Whitlam sacking and the 1975 election, 1975

1 page of logos for the International Year of Peace, 1986

## Folder 1

Thank-you cards, greeting cards and invitation replies received by the Seamen's Union Women's Committee, Brisbane

## Folder 2

Thank-you cards, greeting cards and invitation replies received by the Seamen's Union Women's Committee, Brisbane

## Folder 3

Order forms, invoices, correspondence and other administrative records relating to the Women's Committee children's Christmas tree function, 1982 – 1987

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#### **Folder 4**

Scripts of speeches and verbal reports presented by Jean O'Connor for the Women's Committee and as an individual activist, 1994 – 1998. Includes a script of a speech delivered by O'Connor at an event in 1998 to mark the fiftieth anniversary of the 1948 Queensland rail strike.

Script of a speech delivered by Della Elliott in December 2001 about the war in Afghanistan.

#### **Folder 5**

Leaflets, bulletins, newsletters and other political campaign ephemera, 1985 – 2000. Issues include the SEQEB dispute, war and militarism, anti-terrorism laws, violence against women and uranium mining.

#### **Folder 6**

Leaflets, bulletins, newsletters and other political campaign ephemera, 1987 – 2001. Issues include the decline of Australian shipping, war, the nuclear arms race, anti-terrorism and oppression of Aborigines.

#### **Folder 7**

Newspaper cuttings and articles, 1980 – 2003

#### **Folder 8**

Poems by Jean O'Connor

Poem by Merle Glasson

#### **Folder 9**

Photographic prints and negatives of Seamen's Union Women's Committee functions and personnel, including of its first secretary, Connie Habardi (?), 1953 – c1993

Album containing messages of good will and photographs of an event in 1983 marking the thirtieth anniversary of the Seamen's Union Women's Committee, Brisbane. Most photographs are captioned.

Empty folder labelled 'Seamen's Union Women's Committee', with hand drawn emblem of the committee on the cover

Words and music of the song 'Freedom on the Wallaby', derived from the poem by Henry Lawson

## Box 4

### Pamphlets:

- Sinn Féin, *Robert Emmet's Speech From the Dock*. Dublin: Sinn Féin, n.d.
- Hewitt, Mark. *1798: the Year of Revolution*. Dublin: Socialist Workers Party, 1998
- *Lenin on Ireland*. Dublin: New Books Publications, 1974
- The Cork Workers Club. *Irish Labour and its International Relations*. Cork: The Cork Workers Club, nd (3 copies)
- Debs, Eugene V. *The Canton Speech*. New York: Oriole Editions, nd
- Yeats, William Butler. *A Packet for Ezra Pound*. Dublin: Exprimatur, 1973
- Bell, Geoff. *British Labour and Ireland: 1969-79*. London: The Other Press, 1979
- *The Connolly Walker Controversy: On Socialist Unity in Ireland*. Cork: The Cork Workers' Club, nd
- *The Connolly De Leon Controversy*. Cork: The Cork Workers' Club, nd
- Connolly, James. *Erin's Hope: the End and the Means*. And *The New Evangel: preached to Irish Toilers*. Dublin: New Books Publications, 1972
- *The James Connolly: Workshop Talks*. Cork: The Cork Workers Club, nd
- *The Irish Crisis*. Cork: The Cork Workers' Club, 1976
- *Australian Party Attacked*. S.I., nd

Photograph album of Seamen's Union of Australia events and personnel, 1988

### Folder 1

37 photographs of the unveiling of a plaque at the Australian National Maritime Museum, in memory of merchant seafarers lost at sea during World War 2. The plaque was commissioned by the Women's Committee and unveiled by Jean O'Connor in 1994

### Folder 2

Photographic prints and negatives of Seamen's Union Women's Committee functions, personnel and participation in rallies and protests, 1980s

### Folder 3

Greeting card from the Committee of Management of the Seamen's Union of Australia, 1986

Trades and Labor Council of Queensland leaflet: *Bjelke Sacks SEQEB Workers – You May be Next*, 1985

Australian League of Rights leaflet, *Why do some of the richest people in the world finance revolution?*, nd

*Universal Declaration of Human Rights*, 1983

United Nations Centre against Apartheid, *The Freedom Charter of South Africa*, 1979

Greeting card featuring the Eureka flag, nd

Theatre program for production of *Popular Front* by Brisbane Theatre Company, 1989

### Folder 4

Typescript of a speech, 'The Brisbane Political Scene', mainly concerned with the Women's Abortion Campaign, c1982. Includes a list of members of the Brisbane Women's Collective and their ages and occupations.

Typed translation of a letter to Seamen's Union Women's Committee from N. Koval, Chairwoman, committee representing wives of Black Sea seamen, Odessa, 23 Apr 1964

Typescript of a speech delivered to SUA stop work meeting, 1993

General letter to supporters from C. O'Shea, Secretary, Australian Tramway and Motor Omnibus Employees' Association, Victorian Branch, 5 Dec 1969

Letter to the Prime Minister of Great Britain from Jean O'Connor, Secretary, Women's Committee, 27 Jun 1984

Letter to National Secretary, Miners' Union, Great Britain, Jean O'Connor, Secretary, Women's Committee, 27 Jun 1984

Letter to Miners Union Women's Auxiliary from Jean O'Connor, Secretary Women's Committee, 28 Jun 1984

Handwritten speech notes, nd

### Folder 5

Program for the funeral service of Jean (Jeannie) O'Connor, 2010