

GUIDE TO COLLECTIONS OF MANUSCRIPTS  
RELATING TO AUSTRALIA

SN 036005

MS K7/955

NAME	Oliver Simmonson
TITLE	History Research Papers
INCLUSIVE DATES	
QUANTITY	17 cm. (1 box)
LOCATION	University College of Central Queensland
FORM IF NOT ORIGINAL	
LOCATION OF ORIGINAL	
ACCESS CONDITIONS	Available to researchers
NOTE	Presented by Oliver Simmonson, January 1989 The author graduated B.A. 1988. His history research grew from his experience as a meatworker over 20 years.
DESCRIPTION	Correspondence, newscuttings, taped interviews, reports, surveys, bibliographical lists and miscellaneous papers on three major strikes at Fitzroy River Abattoir - 1974, 1984 and 1986. Include select A.M.I.E.U. periodicals (1987-1988), papers on disputes at Lakes Creek, Townsville, Mudginberri and elsewhere. Extracts from articles on the Meat Slaughtering Industry, the history of Trade Unionism (Queensland and Australia), and on the contemporary economic situation, government policies and industrial relations.
FURTHER DESCRIPTIONS	Descriptive list available.

**OLIVER A. SIMMONSON**  
**RESEARCH PAPERS**

K7/955

Authorized by School of Humanities and Social Sciences, C.I.A.E. to research and compile an analytic history of major strikes at the Fitzroy River Abattoir, now Australian Meat Holdings. These papers cover three major strikes, 1974, 1984, 1986, together with the background material and history of the Labour movement in Australia.

955      .1      Correspondence and papers re thesis; format and research

- a)      Format of thesis (outline notes).
- b)      Letter O. Simmonson 26 March 1988 to J. Hughes requesting assistance in research and compilation of thesis. With academic record and enrolment details C.I.A.E.
- c)      Letter O. Simmonson 26 March 1988 to L. A. Day requesting meeting and access to AMIEU records for research purposes (2 copies).

1 folder

.2      Newsclippings - industrial disputes [largely 1974: 35% Wage claim]

1965, Nov. 1973 - Dec. 1974. Photocopies.

The 1974 strike was virtually Australia wide with Fields among the forefront of union action.

Include:

- Union labour force and conditions at C.Q.M.E. Co. 8 May 1965.
- Disputes (pre strike negotiations etc.) 1973.
- Strike action at Queensland abattoirs.
- Negotiations and awards.

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Correspondence, reports and miscellaneous papers re: 1974 Dispute

Background negotiations, strike actions, settlement. With papers on the boning sections C.Q.M.E. Co. and Fitzroy Works.

Include:

- Letter E. C. Porteous 3 June 1971 to T. E. Maxwell (Central District Sec). re recommendations [Boning Room] to state executive from members Fitzroy River Abattoir.
- Report on results of negotiations with T. A. Field Group and the Union's Negotiating Committee re new agreement covering Bremer River Abattoir, Fitzroy River Abattoir ... 7 May 1974, (Wage claims & 36 hr.wk). 2 p.
- Letter T. E. Maxwell 4 July, 1974 to F. T. Hall (Federal Sec.) re C.Q.M.E.Co. refusal to pay waiting time to boners.
- Decisions of AMIEU Federal Executive re wage demands etc. 6 June 1974 - 4 July 1974. With resolutions, notification and reports on strike actions at Queensland abattoirs.
- Newsletters 26 June 1974, 19 July 1974, 15 Aug. 1974.
- Terms of settlement: Field Group and AMIEU industrial agreement 23 Aug. 1974. With wage rates incorporating 22% increase and negotiations re same.
- Field Group : Basis of calculation of value of boning a forquarter 15 Oct. 1974, 3 June 1975. Also report on same by L. A. Dennis 7 March 1975.
- Letter F. T. Hall 7 Jan. 1975 to T.E. Maxwell re dismissed boners at Lakes Creek.
- Circulars and extracts re future negotiations on instalment of boners etc. Jan-Feb. 1975.

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955 .4 Correspondence and papers re AMIEU and ALP  
(Branch support) 1974-1975

Include:

- List of ALP contributors to election campaign 18 June 1974 [Fitzroy River Works].
- Circular - Queensland Branch Executive resolution 12 Nov. 1975 re 24 hr. stoppage - action in support of Labour Party and reaction to Whitlam sacking.
- Letter T. E. Maxwell 31 Dec. 1975 to C.A. Maxwell (Acting Sec. AMIEU), re. funds raised for member for Capricornia.

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.5 Correspondence and papers re 1984 Dispute:  
Metro Meat Ltd. takeover of T.A. Fields

Include:

- T. A. Fields notice to employee's representatives re closure of meat processing operations 3 April 1984
- Letter Keith Wright 10 April 1984 to Jack Ware requesting re-employment of T. A. Field Workers at Fitzroy River Abattoir.
- Press statement (AMIEU Central District) re violence at picket line at the Fitzroy River Abattoir 11 March 1984 (with notes on same).
- Letter B. A. Enders 16 March 1984 to R. A. Anear (State Sec. AMIEU) re commencement of Metro Meat Ltd. meat processing operations and conditions of employment (T. A. Field Award, Federal Meat Industry Award).

With letter from Doug Everingham 15 May 1984 re same (2p).

- Letters M. Russell (Central District Sec.) to editor of The Meatworker' on outline of 84 dispute, 24 July 1984 and end of dispute 30 Aug. 1984. (2 papers).

- 955 .5 - Letter R. A. Anear to Bill Hayden re meat workers - employers attempts to smash the price and income accord.
- Notes (on cards) outlining events in the dispute 26 April 1984 - 15 Jan. 1985 and exerts from Board of Control file on Metro tally dispute.
- 1 folder.

.6 Newsclippings re 1984 dispute 16 Dec. 1983 - 15 Jan 1985. (Photocopies).

Include:

- Take over bid: Metro Meat Pty. Ltd. purchase of T. A. Fields, Fitzroy works.
- Reports on Metro Meat dispute with Union on award conditions
- Stoppage of plant operations - laying off of 350 men.

1 folder.

.7 Correspondence and papers re: Mudginberri Station Abattoir, N.T. Dispute over contract labour

17 July 1985 - 22 July 1986.

Include:

- Notes on Fitzroy River AMIEU members support for Union at Muginberri 17 July 1985, 23 July 1985 (mass meeting).
- Notice from Jack O'Toole 30 Aug. 1985 to Bill Kelty and R. Anear re bias of news coverage given by the 'Australian' re the Muginberri dispute. With copies of letters to the papers editor containing AMIEU responses for publication.
- Telex Bill Kelty (Sec ACTU) July 1985 to Jack O'Toole stating ACTU support for employees action to protect National Award Standards.
- G. Sutton telegram 29 Sept. 1985 notifying of 24 hr. national stoppage in protest against introduction of contract labour. Also Newsletter 4 Oct. 1985 re: planned strike and Supreme Court Order to prevent Union action in Queensland.

- 955 .7 - Newscippings (Northern Territory News 19 July 1986 - 22 July 1986).
- Reports on AMIEU picket ban, national strike, CQ action on contract labour systems and Federal Court Orders, including AMIEU payment of damages to J. Pendarvis of Mudginberri Abattoir Co.
- Letter L. A. Day 11 Sept. 1986 re AMIEU involvement with ACTU in Mudginberri dispute and request for financial assistance in demanding the repeal of Sections 45D and 45E of the Trade Practices Act, 2 P.
- .8 News release: Australian Meat Processors co-operate in plan to improve and strengthen and competitiveness of Queensland Beef Industry
- 29 July 1986
- (On formation of Australian Meat Holdings Pty. Ltd.)
- Merger of four Queensland operations: F. J. Walker Ltd., Metro Meat Ltd., Tancred Bros. and Smorgen Consol. Industry, to be operated by AMH Pty. Ltd.
- Includes plans for employment and marketing with location map. 6p.
- 1 folder
- .9 Newscippings re: 1986 dispute, Australian Meat Holdings
- 25 June 1986 - 10 Dec. 1986, 23 Jan. 1988 - 3 Feb. 1988.
- Include:
- Reports on 12 week dispute (commenced 12 Sept. 1986) at Australian Meat Holdings Abattoir, Fitzroy River and disputes at Lakes Creek.
  - Union negotiations, sackings and labour conditions.
  - A. M. H. takeover bid Borthwick & Sons (1988)
  - Employees risk of disease (1988).
- 1 folder

955 .10 Papers re 1986 dispute and employment at  
Australian Meat Holdings

(a) Australian Meat Holdings

Notice of termination of employment - D. J. Simmonson 12 Sept. 8 Oct. 1986. Also letter D. Ferguson (AMH) 27 Nov, 1986 to D. J. Simmonson offering employment.

(b) [D. J. Simmonson]:

Notes on AMH, compiled in first few days after AMH victory (Daily record: 9 Dec. 1986 - 11 Dec. 1986 re safety problems, work standards etc). With brief explanation of notes written 15 Dec. 1988.

1 folder

.11 Taped interviews (with notes) and  
questionnaire on disputes and industrial  
relations, Fitzroy River Abattoir 1974, 1984  
and 1986

(a) Tape: Side B. O. Simmonson interview  
with Les Parker (Manager A.M.H.)

26 July 1988, on disputes 1974, 1984 and 1986 with interview questions re background in the industry, qualifications and role in negotiations, (wage deal 1974), destruction of company records on Metro takeover, 1984 dispute and picket, industrial relations AMH and employees and personal role in 1986 dispute.

Side A. \_\_\_\_\_ John  
Hughes (Consultant A.M.H, Manager  
Dinmore)

28 July 1988, on 1986 dispute at Fitzroy River Abattoir and the aftermath. With interview questions re background in the industry, training union factionalism and blacklisting/re-employment after dispute. (Continued in 11(b)).

(b) Tape: Side A & B \_\_\_\_\_  
(continued) 28 July 1988

- 955 .11 (c) Tape Side A & B [O. Simmonson, Interview with Les Day (State Secretary AMIEU) 14 July 1988, on Fitzroy River Abattoir dispute 1986.  
With interview questions re qualifications and experience in industrial relations, and management, views on union strategy; co-operation with employees and AMIEU assistance in dispute action.
- (d) Interview questions: O. Simmonson interview with Kevin Henderson.  
(ex Personnel Officer F.R.A.)  
12 July 1988 (Include answers) re: formal training, 1974 slump in the industry and 35% wage claim, 35 hour week. isposal of documents on Metro takeover, unrest at Fields 1974-1984, Fields offers to Union.
- (e) Questionnaire: \_\_\_\_\_ to Bill [Rolfe] (Staff member T.A. Fields).  
  
Request for assistance in research.  
With questions (answered) re: T.A. Field - industrial relations and 1974 dispute. (5 leaves).  
  
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- .12 - Papers, publications, extracts of reports and  
.17 miscellaneous articles providing historical and background information on industrial disputes, the state of the industry, trade unionism and contemporary economic policies and conditions in Australia.
- .12 Papers on the Townsville Meatworkers strike: 1918-1919
- (a) Jane Ann Phillips The Townsville Meatworkers strike: a perspective on social conflict in Queensland, 1918-1919. (photocopied extracts).
- (b) Terrence Cutler Sunday Bloody Sunday in Strikes: studies in Twentieth Century Australian Social history. Edited by John Iremonger, John Merritt and Graeme Osborns (Angus & Robertson). Photocopy of Chp. 4. on Townsville strike including reference to CQME Co.  
1 folder.



- 955 .13 - Reports, letters, articles and surveys on the  
 .14 state of the Meat Slaughtering industry [ca  
1881] - 1986

.13 Queensland Meat Industry [ca 1881] - 1986

- (a) The Queensland Meat Slaughtering  
industry [ca 1881-1963].

(chp. 8 photocopy from source unknown  
 60p). On pattern of industrial  
 relations, organization of the industry,  
 including history, policies and awards.

- (b) Letters T. E. Maxwell

(AMIEU Central Sub-branch Sec.) Jan.,  
 Feb., 1975 to H. T. Hall (Fed. Sec.).  
 On total union membership for Central  
 District July-Dec. 1974 and statistics  
 on beef production Lakes Creek, Fitzroy  
 River and Maryborough 1973 - 1974.

- (c) The present state of the Queensland beef  
industry:

Background information July 1986.  
 (photocopy extract 3p). Statistics and  
 details for period 1975 - 1985.

- (d) G. R. Stewart

Professional experience programme,  
 Brisbane 16 Feb. - 1 Aug. 1986 -  
 abstract. Report on research into the  
 industrial relations history of CQ meat  
 industry undertaken as part of Bachelor  
 of Business degree, CIAE (8p photocopy).

1 folder.

.14 Australian Meat Industry [1882] - 1980.

- (a) A. E. Davies

The meat workers unite [1882-1930's].

On early activities, federation, shop  
 committee rules etc. (photocopy  
 extracts 16 p.)

955 .14

- (b) AMIEU [State of industry survey, 1974].

Statistical details (by Branches), on union members employed in the industry and operations during the depressed circumstances of 1974 (7p. photocopy).

- (c) Interviews with F. Hall

(AMIEU Federal Sec.) [and] Wal Curran (Victorian Sec.). in 'Inside Australias' top 100 trade unions. Edited by Pat Huntley, 1976 (extract photocopy 2 p). On strikes in Victoria and N.S.W. in 1975 and union action and problems in general.

- (d) Pat Huntley

Inside the meat industry - an industrial relations hell in Australian strikes: major confrontations, settlements and solutions. (chp. 13 photocopy). On the contemporary situation 1979 - 1980.

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.15

AMIEU publications and letters re same [Sept. 1986] - July 1988

- (a) Circular, Les Day (AMIEU Qld. Branch Sec.) to members 26 Sept. 1986 requesting written articles about their experiences in the industry for publication in the 'Meatworker'.

- (b) G. R. Sutton (Central District Sec.).

The shackles of anti-union legislation - letter to the editor, the 'Meatworker' Journal. On Fraser Government Legislation, its restrictions on union action and benefits to members (as exemplified by CQME Co. and AMH). 2 p.

- (c) The Meatworker, AMIEU Journal Autum 1988.

The Meatworker, official newspaper of the AMIEU, Queensland Branch Vol. 16. no. 6. (1987), vol. 17 nos. 1-3 (1988).

955 .14

(d) Pat Huntley

Inside the meat industry - an industrial relations hell in Australian strikes: major confrontations, settlements and solutions (chp. 13 photocopy). On the contemporary situation 1979 - 1980.

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- (c) The Meatworker, AMIEU Journal Autum 1988.

The Meatworker, official newspaper of the AMIEU. Queensland Branch Vol. 16 no. 6 (1987), Vol. 17 nos. 1-3 (1988).

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.16

Papers and articles on trade unionism in Australia - Historical perspective

- (a) A pictorial history of the Australian labor movement. (Extract, 3 leaves).

- (b) Elizabeth Jensen

The effects of the depression on the trade union movement in Queensland 1929 - 1931. Thesis presented for B.A. University of Queensland, 1971 (photocopy extracts 6 leaves).

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955 .17 Journal and newspaper articles on Unionism, national wage case, arbitration, economic policies and conditions etc. [1972 - 1988]

Articles from the Bulletin

Include:

- Wages policy of Whitlam Government (1973/5)
- Gough Whitlam on reform during the recession (1978)
- Farmers financial crisis and action to smash union power (1985-1986)
- Robe River industrial dispute (Aug. 1986)
- Labour prices and income accord (1985).
- Federal budget issues (Hawke Govt. (1986) include: trade deficit, 'the J-curve', wage cuts and labour productivity
- Elders pale rider: John Elliott and BHP (1986)
- \$3.9m package for award restructuring (Labour market reform 1988)
- J. T. Ludeke: Commonwealth and state industrial powers in Industrial relations in the 1970's. Edited by D. E. Thomson (photocopy).
- E. J. Sykes: The employer, the employee and the law. (extracts photocopy 4 p).

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