

Economics for the 99%: Co-operatives in Victoria

Cardijn Community Australia invites you to a Saturday Morning at Trades Hall for a series of snapshots of the past, present, and future of the co-operative movement in Victoria.

We will hear brief reflections and commentaries from pioneer activists and present scholars of the post-Second World War co-operative movement. Some cutting-edge co-operative start-ups will then be showcased. Our review of contemporary co-operatives will be followed by an opportunity to put forward your ideas in a general discussion.

When 8:30am–12:45pm Saturday 11 August 2012
Where Trades Hall Council, Corner Victoria & Lygon Streets, Carlton
Cost \$10 (waged), or by donation
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PROGRAM

8:30 Welcome

Session 1 The Past

- 8:45 Stefan Gigacz *Cardijn and the Christian Co-operative Tradition*
Some perspectives from current research into Cardijn archives in Belgium and pioneering movements in France.
- 9:05 Bob Maybury *Working in the YCW Co-operative Movement*
From the 1940 to the 70s the Cardijn YCW established co-operative housing societies and credit co-ops, the foundation of the Victorian Association of Credit Societies.
- 9:25 Des OConnell *Maryknoll Living Co-operatively*
Maryknoll, founded in the 1940s, is a Christian rural co-operative whose vision of community, the land, and small industries partially anticipated the 1970s “back to the land” counter-culture.
- 9:45 David Griffiths *Post-WW2 Co-operative Movement in Victoria*
Activist and scholar, David has worked in State Government, Brotherhood of St Laurence, Co-operatives Victoria and Co-operatives Australia.
- 10:05 Race Mathews *A Strategic Perspective*
Prominent former State and Federal ALP politician, distinguished scholar of mutualism and author of *Jobs of Our Own*, Dr Mathews will conclude this session with his thoughts on the co-operative movement in Victoria since WW2, and the challenges and opportunities ahead.
- 10:30 Questions & Discussion for Session 1

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11:00 Tea Break

Session 2 The Present

- 11:15 Dave Kerin Creating Green Jobs of our Own**
The Earthworker workers co-operative, endorsed by the ACTU, will manufacture solar hot water units for union members and the community to aid transition to alternative employment in the LaTrobe Valley, and alternative energy.
- 11:45 Shelley Marshall The Homeworkers Co-operative**
A lecturer in the Department of Business Law and Taxation at Monash University, Shelley will outline a proposed project to empower Australian clothing workers and outworkers.

Session 3 The Future

- 12:15 Kristen Hobby (facilitator) Co-operatives Ahead**
This will be an open discussion on ideas for local community development and enterprise and building a potential network for a mutual and co-operative economy in Victoria.

12:45 Close

You are invited to join us for lunch at a nearby venue.



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Presenters' talks will be videoed and uploaded onto YouTube.

Thanks to the Victorian Trades Hall Council for providing the venue.
And to the following organisations which have endorsed this event.

