

Ark Tribe has widespread support

by NK

About 300 people assembled outside the Magistrates Court in the northern Adelaide suburb of Elizabeth on a cold Tuesday June 9 morning. Their hearts were warm with feelings of solidarity for building worker Ark Tribe who had to front the court on charges laid by the cold-hearted ABCC on behalf of its masters, the building industry monopolies.

Ark has been charged with refusing to attend an interview with the ABCC, which it wanted to conduct to coerce him to do on his mates. In this way the ABCC and its monopoly masters hoped to break the unity of building workers and to destroy their catch-cry "attack on one is an attack on all".

However, on this occasion at the Elizabeth Magistrates

Court, as on so many occasions in the past, the building monopolies and their ABCC "lifted a rock only to drop it on their own feet"!

Not only did over a hundred building workers turn out to support Ark, but the support for him and for the general struggle against the ABCC took a memorable leap forward. Another 200 people from unions and communities joined the building workers outside the court, chanting "one law for all" in a sea of colour – yellow t-shirts in support of Ark, the proud colours of at least 10 other unions, all interspersed with the blue and white of many Eureka flags.

While the CFMEU and SA Unions spoke words of unwavering support for Ark, it was the people's recital as one of the Eureka Oath – *'We swear by the Southern Cross to stand*



truly by each other to defend our rights and liberties' – that dealt the verbal blow against the ABCC on this occasion.

Sometimes words are not quite enough to express the people's high level of solidarity with an individual or group under direct attack by the big

business class. So, as the time for the court case drew near, those present formed an 'arch of honour' with Eureka and union flags for Ark and his lawyer, as they walked proudly into the court.

Not unexpectedly, the court adjourned the matter until Tuesday August 11, so this particular struggle

will continue and grow.

The new cheer squad for the building monopolies, Rudd and Gillard, will no doubt go away and practice their chorus as it was definitely not heard on Tuesday June 9 2009, not only outside the Elizabeth Magistrates Court in South Australia, but throughout the land of the Southern Cross!

Community fights profiteering developers

by Alice M.

Local communities in Melbourne are bracing for a long fight with corporate developers and the state government. Under the pretext of job creation, big developers and the Victorian state government have joined forces.

Recently, the state government tried to give itself powers to override local government planning controls and community consultation, to facilitate and fast track unimpeded profiteering by big developers.

On Sunday June 28, 800 residents of Williamstown, an inner western suburb of Melbourne, and their supporters, rallied under large banners, *Save Williamstown from Greedy Developers* and *Save Williamstown for all Victorians*, to protest against a proposed high rise development. Driving this development is a new and aggressive developer, Evolve Development. Ron Walker, the notorious rich mogul of big business, including Grand Prix chief, Chairman of Fairfax Press and many other major big business operations and projects, holds 50 percent direct ownership. Like all big

business, it's widely known Walker has a deep tangle of connections to the two main parliamentary parties, whether they are in office or in opposition.

The proposed high rise upmarket residential development adjoins the Point Gellibrand Public Park, with its large tracts of open space along the foreshore. The area has important historical significance; Shelley Beach, the first convict quarry and cemetery; the old railway line; and the Time Ball Tower, where Ned Kelly was held before his trial.

For all these reasons, the local council's zoning on the proposed development site allows for a maximum height of three storey buildings only. The developer wants the council to change the height limit that would allow up to 16 storeys, with more than 400 apartments and 700 car spaces. In fact, the developer indicated it would prefer the council to hand over the decision to the state government, which can override council's planning regulations, and exclude community consultation.

The local community is up in arms arguing that the infrastructure will not be able to

cope. Residents are also angry that they will not be consulted on their views and knowledge of their local community.

Ron Walker and the state government have a big fight on their hands if they proceed with this development.

The local community has many years' experience of struggle around these same issues of inappropriate development and destruction of the environment.

Twenty years ago, the Williamstown community fought the state government and developers against a housing and boat marina development on the pristine Rifle Range. They knocked off the boat marina to preserve the natural Jawbone marine environmental park. Not long after the Rifle Range fight, they rose again to fight for preservation of Point Gellibrand public space against upmarket housing, and won again. There have been other struggles to save the railway line, against the local Mobil refinery and oil and petrochemical installations surrounding the residential area.

In all of these, the community pulled together and fought off the profiteers. This fight will not be any different.



Business Council never satisfied

by Bill F.

The corporate multinationals that dominate the Business Council of Australia already have Rudd and Gillard on a string, keeping the bulk of anti-worker laws in place with the 'Fair Work Australia' legislation.

You would think they'd be happy and grateful with the Labor government for toeing their line on policing and intimidating the working class? But, no. They recognise the weakness of the government before the power of international capital and are pushing for changes to the taxation system to feather their nests even more.

The Business Council of Australia is now demanding an increase in the Goods and Services Tax (GST) and for it to be applied only to the consumption of goods and services, not to the production side. Furthermore, they want business taxes halved to 15 percent, so the people pay even more.

There is no limit to their greed and their contempt for the Australian people. They are the face of imperialism in this country and must be exposed and resisted.