

Labour History Society (SA) Public Meeting

Remembering Australia's Longest Strike: *The 1946 Pilbara Strike 80 Years On*

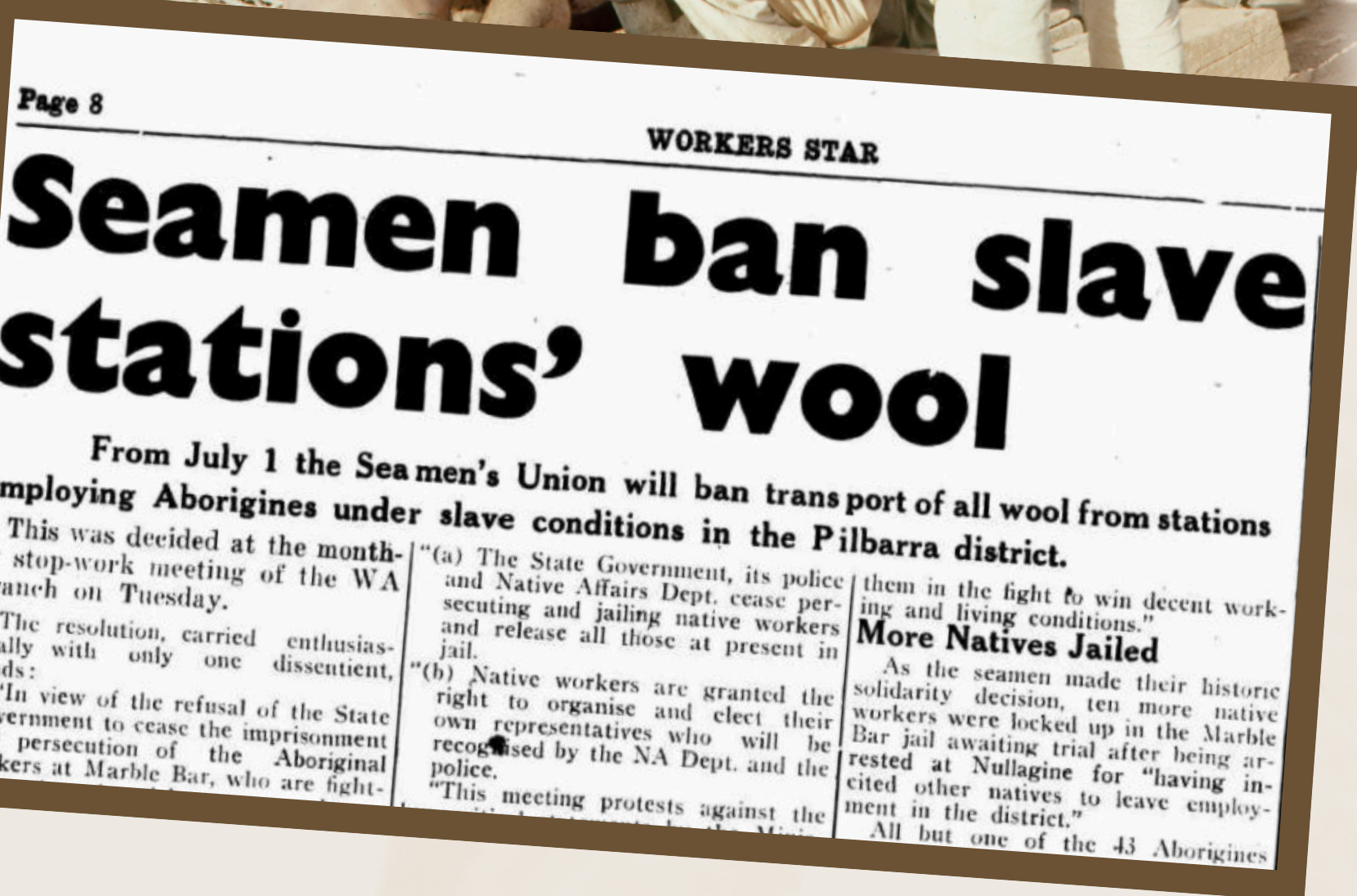


On May Day 1946, hundreds of Aboriginal pastoral workers walked off stations across Western Australia's Pilbara region, demanding wages, decent conditions, freedom of movement, and the right to choose their own representatives.

For decades, Aboriginal workers had endured extreme exploitation, often paid only in rations under near-slavery conditions. The strike challenged both pastoralists and the wider colonial regime of control.

Lasting over three years, it became Australia's longest strike, gaining national union support, including Seamen's Union bans on shipping Pilbara wool. Even after the strike formally ended in 1949, many workers refused to return, instead forming mining cooperatives that created new forms of independence.

This talk draws on oral histories and original research to explore the Pilbara Strike and key figures including Dooley Bin Bin, Daisy Bindji, and Don McLeod.



Sunday 12 July 2026, 2pm

Box Factory Community Centre, 59 Regent St South, Adelaide



Leila Clendon is a socialist activist, teacher, and researcher whose Honours thesis examined the history of the Pilbara Aboriginal cooperative movement. She has been active in trade union and community campaigns and was the SA Socialists candidate for Enfield at the recent South Australian election.