

**THE SCHOOL OF BUSINESS AND
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY**

PRESENTS

**A FREE
PUBLIC LECTURE**

A WORLD FIRST

THE CENTENARY OF THE HARVESTER MINIMUM WAGE CASE

1907-2007

**BY
DR BILL ROBBINS**



THURSDAY 18 OCTOBER 2007

AT

CHARLES STURT UNIVERSITY

NOWIK AUDITORIUM 2

ALBURY CAMPUS

6 PM

**PLEASE JOIN BILL ROBBINS AND OTHERS AFTERWARDS FOR
A CSU WINE & CHEESE SUPPER**

A WORLD FIRST

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Q. What do Pope Leo XIII, Justice Higgins and John Howard have in common?

A. They each contributed to a radical reform of Australian industrial relations.

Work Choices is not the only radical change in the history of our system of industrial relations, it is simply the most recent. The first industrial relations revolution began in October 1907 with the Harvester case. This created a legal decision which became one of the most famous in the industrial, social and political history of Australia. It was also introduced the world's first significant minimum wage.

An Australian reform that was a world first.

The principles behind the Harvester case were a sudden departure from the nineteenth century free market model of supply and demand wage fixing. Instead, it asserted the right of working people to earn a wage that would keep them and their family 'in frugal comfort'; a wage that people could live

on, raise a family on, could even save money for the future.

On the centenary of the Harvester Living Wage case, it is worth reflecting on how industrial relations can affect the quality of life of the majority of Australians.



Justice H.B. Higgins

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This public lecture will be given by Dr Bill Robbins.

The content of this lecture is based on the extensive research that has been conducted by Dr Robbins and Dr Ian Harriss.

An article of theirs which analyses the making of the Harvester decision will be published in November 2007 in a special centenary edition of *Labour History* – the journal of the Australian Society for the Study of Labour History.

The world famous Sunshine Harvester



Bill Robbins is a Senior Lecturer in Management and Industrial Relations with the School of Business & Information Technology of Charles Sturt University.

He has researched the management of Australian labour from our convict origins through to the contemporary Work choices environment.



For catering purposes please RSVP Teresa on 60 519782 or email tvankesteren@csu.edu.au

Nowik Auditorium is located on the Albury Campus enter via Guinea Street car park.

Please refer to the map enclosed.