

ARTISTS AGAINST WAR

Victorian Trades Hall Council Banner Project

During the 1917 anti-conscription campaign The Victorian Trades Hall Council demonstrated its opposition by hanging large Banners over the full width of the Trades Hall Building.

In opposing the current Gulf War VTHC has again endorsed the idea of hanging large anti-war statements from the building in order to convince the passing public of the need for a negotiated peace.

The cost of fabric on the scale intended would be considerable and the total weight of canvas needed for painted banners could prove a problem to an ageing building so we propose to recycle light weight clothing as a source of materials and as a symbol of the ordinary lives being devastated by the bombing in the gulf.

Several artists have volunteered to assist in designing and constructing the banners. Their initial ideas include a quick response hanging using adult & childrens clothing to remind the public that the targets in the gulf war are people. This could be put up quickly while more permanent designs are constructed.

The key task is to prompt doubts about the war in the few seconds that the banners will be visible to people as they drive past. A pithy overall theme can be repeated in different languages to engage all sections of the community in thinking about the issues.

We will be calling for volunteers to assist with working bees to assemble the banners.

Most urgently we are appealing for donations of colourful used clothing (of light weight, preferably cotton), longer lengths of fabric and/or any sewing thread you can spare. Very useful materials would include any kind of netting, shade cloth etc. in bulk if possible, and quantities of rope or cord and toggles for attaching the banners.

Donations can be left at the Arts Office, VTHC.....preferably on Thursdays or ring Daphne Stitt on 662 3511.