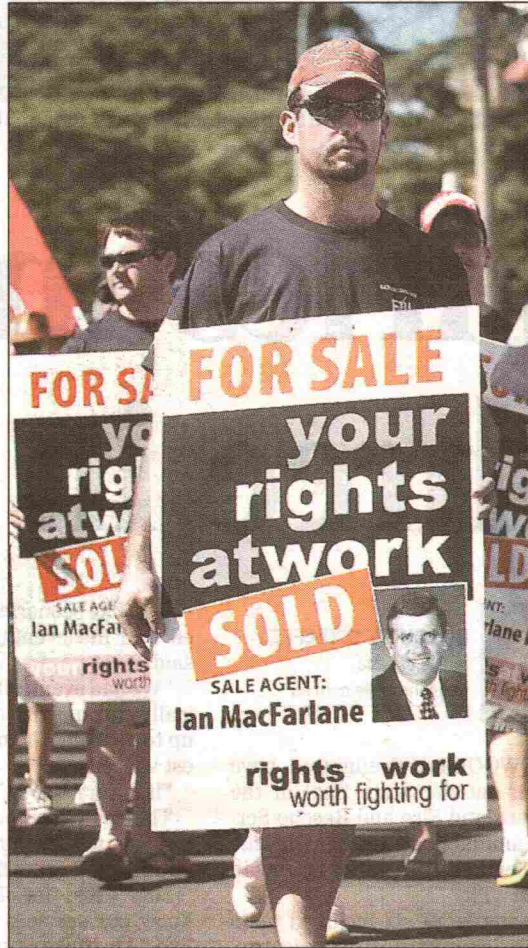


ACTU boss leads march in city



Senator Claire Moore, Senator Joe Ludwig and Attorney-General Kerry Shine lead the Labour Day march along Victoria Street.



Shane Macdonald, of the ETU, takes part in Saturday's march.

PICTURES: SCOTT FLETCHER

Workers rally for IR rights



By SARAH BALDERSON
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THIS year's Labour Day march has taken on a greater significance, Australian Council of Trade Unions (ACTU) president Sharan Burrow said in Toowoomba at the weekend.

Ms Burrow spoke to more than 1200 marchers involved in the Labour Day rally on Saturday to protest against the Government's workplace relations laws and urge voters to throw out Prime Minister John Howard at this year's federal election.

It was Ms Burrow's third visit to the city in the past 12 months.

"I am here to support the work-

ers of Toowoomba," she said. "I am so proud of this community.

"This year people get a chance to vote against a set of laws that will rob our children of a decent future.

"Leading up to the election, there's a stark choice for people right across Australia and that's to get rid of the IR laws and put the Government on the backbench so we can see rights of work reinstated."

At the march, Member for Toowoomba North and Attorney-General Kerry Shine was joined by Queensland ALP senators Claire Moore and Joe Ludwig.

"Today is a very important Labour Day march, particularly with the upcoming federal election," Mr Shine said.

"It is a great opportunity for workers to publicly demonstrate

their opposition to John Howard's WorkChoices."

Queensland Council of Unions representative Michael Irvine said the key to this year's event was to show community solidarity.

"Rights are worth fighting for," Mr Irvine said. "Ten years ago a Labour Day march would get 200 people. To get this number, it shows the depth of feeling against the industrial relations laws.

"It also shows that people of Toowoomba are voting with their feet."

The Labour Day march was started traditionally with the raising of the Southern Cross flag at the civic square.

After the march, hundreds gathered at the Toowoomba City Bowls Club for a family fun day and barbecue.