

# Dublin celebrates its protest past

JARRAD DELANEY

THE Dublin History Group is celebrating the power and passion of local residents and to push back against controversial decisions as part of a display for South Australia's History Festival.

The group has organised the exhibition 'Power of the People' at the Dublin Institute on Sunday, May 21 which will explore protests in the area, dating back to 1876.

These protests include the push back against a local landfill, and the associated protest sculptures that were erected along the Port Wakefield Highway, which is the most well known of the local protests.

However another big pushback was seen in the 1980s when residents took a stand against Parham being included in the extension of restricted land used by the Australian Defence Force.

While these protests saw victories, Parham did not get included, and others did not, the landfill would be established, it showcased the passion of the locals to stand up for their area they called home.

History group president Philip Brow said there had been a long history of the residents standing up for Dublin and communities like Parham, Middle Beach and Thompson Beach, protecting what is there for all.

He said there had been many examples of locals taking the stance of NIMBY (Not In My Back Yard)

against actions from federal and state governments among others.

"Many people are unaware of what is here and think they can just take over, but the people living here don't seem to be accommodated," he said.

Other protests featured in the exhibition includes against heavier land taxation in 1886, District Council of Dublin protesting Federal Parliament members voting for an additional £400 per year to their own salaries in 1920, and an effort against beaches below Port Wakefield being used as gunnery and bombing ranges at weekends in 1954.

The exhibition will include historic photos, news coverage, signage and historical information on about 10-15 different protests, as



well as an effigy of one of the protest sculptures, the Tin Man.

There will also be guest speakers, one of which is expected to be Stephen Jones, who constructed the protest sculptures, as well as a video display.



PHOTO: JARRAD DELANEY

All his-

toric items have been documented and recorded for preservation.

The history group has been actively involved in the history festival in the past 10-15 years, with displays on topics including shops in the area, and the iconic jinkers.

Mr Brow said this year's display was a big one that shined a spotlight on some important periods of local history, and the people who were there.

The event will take place at the Institute on Sixth Street from 1pm to 4pm, with donations welcome on entry.

Dublin History Group president Philip Brow and Coalition of Coastal Communities secretary Alvin Jenkin next to Ned Kelly and the Rat, two of the famous sculptures erected to protest a local landfill. INSET: A photo from April 3, 1986 of Parham residents protesting Australian Defence Force plans.