

# CFMEU CONSTRUCTION WORKER

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Winter 2017 Issue 2



## UNITED & STRONGER



**STATE CONFERENCE • LABOR VICTORY • LABOUR HIRE**

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Check out our pictorial feature on pages 28 & 29. Are you there?



# MAY DAY 2017

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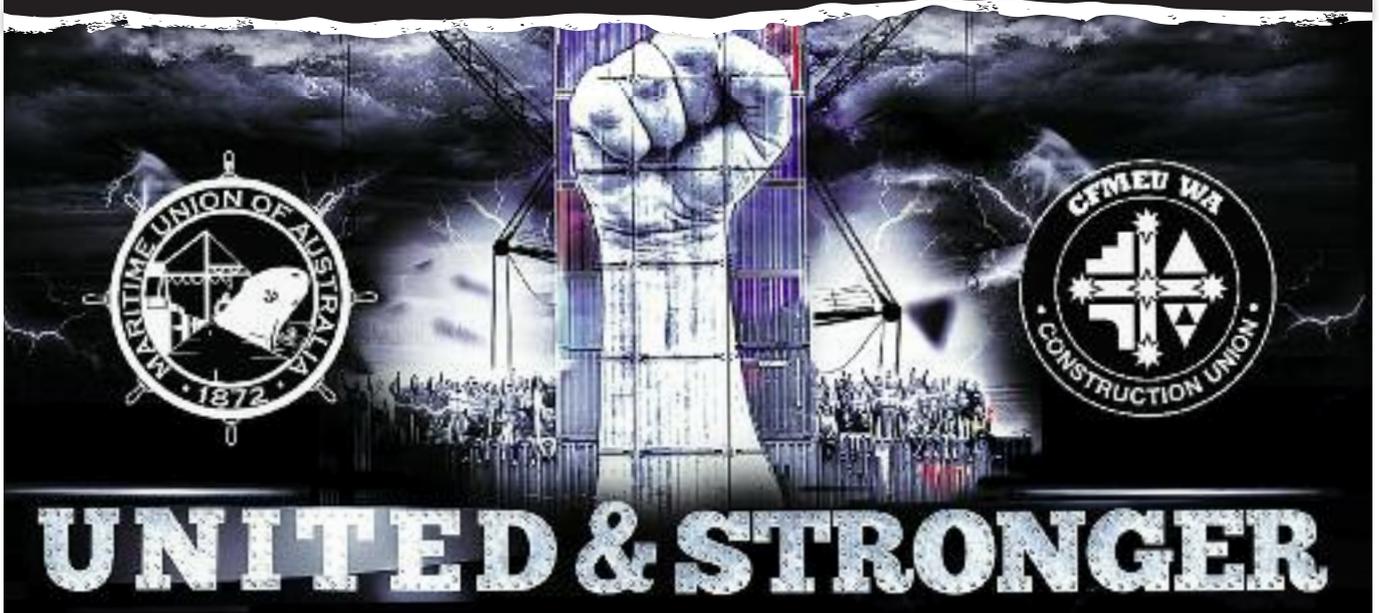
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**MEMBERS LETTERS TO THE EDITOR Email : editor@cfmeuwa.com**



## **FIRST EVER JOINT STATE CONFERENCE**

The first ever joint State Conference of the MUA - CFMEU WA branches was a massive success. More than ever our 2 great unions are united as a stronger force to represent the interests of all our members. For many years now our struggles have had more in common than not. We have stood shoulder to shoulder supporting each other. I would like to thank all those for their hard work in putting the conference together and to all the local, national and international delegates and speakers who gave us their unique insights throughout the week. It was especially good to see our youth get involved – the future is looking rock solid. The strength of our two unions carried on over to May Day when we marched as one unit for the first-time, with the biggest turnout of all unions on the day. The feeling was magic, marching side by side demonstrating that we ARE here to stay, here for the blue and we are not going anywhere.

## **STATE ELECTION**

What more can be said about the magnificent Labor Victory at the state election. We can now expect a state government more empathetic to the needs of workers. It was especially great to see our

own Matt Swinbourn, with Kyle McGinn, Barry Urban and Simon Millman get over the line. As a union we need to be at the forefront of battles on both the political and industrial landscape. If they are bad laws we need to change them So, I ask all CFMEU members to consider joining our branch of the ALP in WA. The more members we have the more we can do. (See election wrap this issue)

## **EBA'S**

More and more agreements are progressively coming on line with subbies now coming to us to lock agreements away. Our industry needs this platform to promote surety going forward and it will also give our members something more to build on in the future. In the not too distant future we will be seeing whole of site agreements with proper delegate and safety structures in place. There is a lot of large project work being planned to start over the next 12-24 months. So stick fat, and be paid up and proud.

## **LEAVING US**

I am sad to report that we have had several departures from our office. I just want to say how much I appreciated the efforts of Peter Joshua, Brendon Kerkvliet and Darren Roberts, who will all be moving on within our industry. All have worked extremely hard during trying times in our industry and their

efforts will be missed by the union and all the workers they were able to help as organisers. I also want to thank Mia Onorato-Sartari for her efforts, as Strategic Co-ordinator, in helping to bring attention and some solutions to mental health issues associated with FIFO rosters and also helping to build our branch within the state Labor Party.

Luke Bowman has also been a diligent employee as our Membership Officer. Luke came to us as a graduate of the Chris Evans Labor Programme, something our union has always supported. Mia has gone to work with Fran Logan and Luke with Matt Swinbourn as part of our new state government team. Good luck and thank you all.

## **MONTHLY MEMBER MEETINGS**

I urge all members to attend our monthly members meetings on the second Wednesday of each month. Keep up with all the news about our industry. Let's hear your voice and views! Meetings take place at 5pm at Trades Hall, 80 Beaufort Street Perth. See you all there at the next one!

Sincerely,

**Mick Buchan**

State Secretary, CFMEU WA





# First ever joint State Conference a huge success



The MUA and CFMEU had their first combined State Conference which brought together union members and leaders, not only from across the country but around the world. It was a huge success!

Speakers included ACTU Secretary Sally McManus, MUA National Secretary Paddy Crumlin, CFMEU National Secretary Michael O'Connor, TCFUA National Secretary Michele O'Neil, ITUC General Secretary Sharan Burrow and ILWU International President Bob McEllrath.

MUA WA Branch Secretary Christy Cain said the conference was a reminder to members of all unions to stand up and fight back, particularly after recent law changes such as the ABCC and Building Code from the blatantly anti-union Turnbull Federal Government.

"It is important to understand the history of

our unions, how we got here and what makes our unions' fighting culture so well within the movement and the community.

"The MUA and CFMEU have both come from a long line of amalgamated unions and the planned merger is merely the next step in our path. This is about knowing the past and owning the future," Cain said.

CFMEU WA Branch Secretary Mick Buchan said that in the current tough climate for unions it was important to stand up and fight back.

"Both of our unions have never taken a backwards step when it comes to standing up for decent pay and conditions and safety on the job for our members," Buchan said.

Both unions have this week embraced Progressive Labour in WA in order to best represent union members.

"As unions we believe that the needs of our

members must always be our first priority," the statement from Progressive Labour says.

"For our members we seek well paid, secure and safe employment, dignity and security in retirement, and the ability to participate as full citizens of our society. These are proper and worthy goals for which to strive.

"As proud unionists, we pay respect to the generations of men and women who went before us in the union movement and who helped to create an equitable and prosperous society.

"We believe that unions have a fundamental role to play in ensuring that society continues to uphold the values of equity, respect and tolerance.

"We also believe that Unions, through their work in raising wages and conditions, contribute to a vibrant middle class and as a result, a fairer and more powerful economy."



# STRONGER





# UNITED



# Time for Labour Hire to be

The Queensland Labor government will introduce new legislation by the end of this month that will require labour hire companies to be licensed from 2018. This sets a standard that other State Governments must aim to implement.

The recently elected McGowan Labor Government needs to put this licensing system on their agenda if we're to properly deal with the continual rorts that plague our industry. We need to have a strict set of laws that penalise rogue employers who exploit workers for profit, abuse the work visa system and offer no job security whatsoever. Under the proposed legislation, labour hire companies operating in Queensland will need to:

- Pass a fit and proper person test (hopefully as stringently as union officials are tested);
- Comply with workplace laws, including compliance with Awards, Enterprise Agreements, Workers' Compensation, Superannuation and Long Service Leave provisions;
- Pay a license fee;
- Report regularly on their operations; and
- Divulge the number of employees they have engaged, including the number of those on work visas.

Imagine the shake up the licencing of labour hire firms would create in the WA building and construction industry. We would see a shitload of dodgy labour hire outfits scurry for cover. The equally dodgy builders who use these labour hire outfits would be forced to engage legitimate labour hire firms who comply with the law. No doubt we'll see the Master Builders Association protest about builders having to pay more to workers as a consequence of the thieves, cheats and

## The recently elected McGowan Labor Government needs to put this licensing system on their agenda if we're to properly deal with the continual rorts that plague our industry.

rogues being forced out of business.

Typical of the labour hire wage claims I am dealing with, is a claim for a member who spent the best part of 18 months working on the Built Environs Project, the Perth Airport Terminal 1 Domestic Pier and International Departures Expansion. The member was casually employed through Network Recruitment Group for the duration, and at no point was he offered full-time employment – despite working full time hours.

This is a basic entitlement under our Award (clause 14.8) but given Network Recruitment Group's form I'm not surprised.

This company seems to be a serial offender when it comes to ripping off Western Australian construction workers.

Let me give you a breakdown of what working for Network Recruitment Group looks like and what the Award clearly stipulates you're entitled to as a casual labourer (CW1):

- \$25 p/h ordinary time up to 38 hours p/w (\$25.73 p/h)
- \$27.85 p/h time and a half first 2 hours (\$36.02 p/h)
- \$40 p/h double time (\$46.31 p/h)
- No travel allowance (\$17.43 per day)
- No Special allowance (\$7.70 per week)
- No Industry allowance (\$28.98 per week)
- Sporadic superannuation contributions (9.5% weekly of ordinary time earnings)

The list goes on...

This particular member has a decent amount of back pay to claim and the CFMEU intends

to ensure he receives every last cent he's entitled to. .

Builders who engage Network are being put on notice that they are using a company which has systematically ripped off workers to supply labour to Western Australian builders and subcontractors. Builders who turn a blind eye to construction workers being ripped off are no better than the dodgy labour hire firms who underpay workers.

Our members have had enough of being ripped off and it's time to take back our hard won rights and entitlements. Who would've thought in 2017 we'd still have to fight to maintain award provisions?

I'm astounded at the level of underpayments that continue to go on, especially on government funded projects. One that's been highlighted to me recently is happening right under our noses at the New Perth Museum being constructed by Brookfield Multiplex.

Delta Group has been engaged to do the demolition work and have subsequently brought in labour hire to supply the majority of their labour. The labour hire company Delta Group has decided to engage is a mob called AWX. If you thought the rates Network Recruitment Group paid their labourers was shithouse you haven't seen the worst of it.

- \$24.73 p/h ordinary time
- \$29.70 p/h time and a half
- \$39.60 double time
- No travel allowance or any other allowance for that matter

# licenced and regulated

**DODGY LABOUR HIRE FIRMS ARE RIPPING OFF WORKERS  
THE TURNBULL LIBERALS ARE DOING NOTHING ABOUT IT**



**PUT THE LIBERALS LAST**

**CFMEU**

When I spoke to Delta Group senior management about the issues the response I got was "we've had a lawyer look in to your claims and we're doing everything right, so we'll continue operating as such". Piss poor effort by their lawyers if you ask me. So we'll do what we do and pursue Delta Group and AWX for members' entitlements for as long as it takes. And Brookfield Multiplex if that's what's required.

When the licensing legislation is in effect in Queensland any breach will be met with harsh penalties and for the more serious offenders like Network Recruitment Group, criminal prosecution. The Government will establish a compliance unit to check license holders for ongoing compliance with their license conditions, and to investigate complaints. Such licensing schemes have been successfully implemented overseas in

Canada, Germany and to a limited extent the UK. I think it's about time Western Australia implemented the same legislation and what better time than now under a State Labor Government.

***If you're working for a labour hire company and you feel you're being underpaid or just have an issue you need help with, call or email Luke Collier on 0407 817 413 or lcollier@cfmeuwa.com***

# NO Ticket

## BRINGING BACK

**For nearly 20 years, the ABCC and right wing politicians have frothed and bubbled about the idea that freeloaders should pay their way and become financial members of the CFMEU. A key part of this ideological war on unions has involved the passing of legislation which promotes the de-regulation of the labour market.**

This de-regulation has led to the introduction of common law contracts and sub-standard non-union (base-line) enterprise agreements and ultimately results in trade work being done by non-trade qualified workers.

We need to bring back "No Ticket No Start", not just for all workers who enjoy labour standards won through the blood, sweat and tears and industrial struggle of trade unionists, but also for any worker performing trade work or sub-trade work on commercial construction sites in Western Australia. The first ticket is a Union ticket. The second is the trade ticket for doing trade and sub-trade work in the building and construction industry.

### **DE-REGULATION AND THE DECLINE IN TRADE STANDARDS**

There is clear evidence of the link between a de-regulated labour market and deterioration in trade standards on building and construction sites in Western Australia. The CFMEU and other construction unions are the only organisations in the country standing up for the rights of tradespersons and skilled labourers. This includes protecting the integrity of their trade and sub-trade qualifications.

The decline in trade standards is pretty evident on Hanssen Pty Ltd projects where transient workers such as backpackers and labour hire employees are used as a cheap and expedient workforce. The same goes right throughout the commercial building and construction industry, where builders have turned a blind eye to quality assurance and couldn't care less whether trade work is done by ticketed tradespersons.

Apprentices must ask themselves time and time again why they bother getting out of bed for \$15 per hour when they see backpackers and non-qualified workers swarming across building and construction sites like a plague of locusts.

The same goes for ticketed and experienced

scaffs who drive past building sites with scaffolding built by inexperienced or unqualified scaffolding contractors who clearly have little or no understanding of the Scaffolding Regulations or applicable Australian Standards. We need sub-trades such as scaffolding and steel fixing to be formally recognised. This will help drive the shonks out of the industry and protect the integrity of this work.

### **CFMEU PUSHING FOR TRADE STANDARDS ON COMMERCIAL CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS**

With the end of the Barnett regime in Western Australia, there is real opportunity for the McGowan Government to clean up the mess which Barnett left behind on building and construction sites. We want legislation which prevents a repeat of the Doric debacle at the Busselton Hospital where a bricklaying contractor was awarded a ceiling fixing contract and ended up with collapsing ceilings adjacent to the hospital emergency ward.

Or the Pact Apartment job in Burswood where not one of the painters had a trade ticket, or the Multiplex job at the Crown Towers where less than a quarter of tilers

# NO Start!

# TRADE STANDARDS

were trade qualified, or the Perth Children's Hospital job where John Holland employed hammer hands through West Coast Formwork. The list of dodgy builders using non-qualified tradespersons goes on and on and on.....

**The CFMEU will be seeking to move a motion at the ALP WA State Conference on 26/27 August 2017 that trade work in the commercial building and construction sector should be done by trade qualified workers. Similarly, it will be pushing for the recognition of sub-trade work such as scaffolding and steel fixing.**

The Union understands the need for a phasing in of licensing to allow those

workers who have genuine on-the-job experience and qualifications to apply for a Tradesperson's Right Certificate from TAFE Colleges (the private sector should be kept out of this process to stop the rotting that exists with the Construction White Cards).

## **SUB-CONTRACTING FIRMS SHOULD ALSO BE LICENSED**

At a recent meeting between ceiling fixing sub-contractors and the CFMEU, there was universal support for the licensing of sub-contracting companies tendering for trade work. Legitimate sub-contractors are fed up with dodgy subbies using sham contract arrangements and no quality control, winning tenders from builders who turn a blind eye to trade standards.

The same position applies right throughout

the commercial building and construction sector. Legitimate sub-contractors want to end the race to the bottom and introduce sub-contractor licensing. If both sub-contractors and workers are licensed, we can start implementing proper trade-quality control measures on WA building and construction sites.

The only voices lining up to oppose the introduction of licensing are the thieves, cheats and rogues who have made a living by ripping off workers, not to mention the poor punters who have purchased their poorly constructed apartments, offices, hotels and shopping centres.

When the time comes, the CFMEU will be asking its members to back its position of ensuring construction work is done by qualified construction workers.

**UNION  
BUILT**

**AUSTRALIAN  
STANDARDS**

# STOP THE WAR ON WORKERS AND JOBS!



***Over the past few months we have been rallying against the WAR on WORKERS. The Federal Liberal government is doing everything it can to take away your rights, to reduce your pay and make you slaves to a low wage/company rich economy. Are you just going to stand there and cop it – or stand up?***

Working people and families are under attack from the Turnbull government. It seems everything is done for the big end of town and nothing for anyone else. The attack against young people is a disgrace and all will not be forgotten.

We've seen the Federal Government reintroduce the ABCC. This is how it impacts on jobs, opportunities and workers' rights.

- The ABCC promotes casualisation in the workplace – NO Limits. NO permanency or job security.
- Dodgy Labour Hire companies now have open slather on federal projects. Union agreements voted for, are watered down or torn up. Workers go without basic conditions.
- There can be no quota for Apprentices and Women workers on construction sites
- Safety comes last. Under the last ABCC regime 330 workers died, the ABCC investigated none! Too many people die doing their job through no fault of their own. Worker's rights to be represented and protected by unions are stripped away.
- 457 Visa workers can be imported to take jobs. It is will a race to the bottom at a time when companies are making record profits and workers go without.



**We will continue to Rally against the WAR on Workers – right up**



***On top of that we have seen the Turnbull government support massive...***

Penalty rate cuts, cuts to pensions and cuts to training.

Wage growth is at a standstill yet companies make record profits and banks increase interest rates outside of the Reserve Bank.

Wage theft is rife – young people (your kids) are being massively underpaid and ripped off.

Poor people on welfare have been hounded to repay huge debts, in cases where debts don't even exist, driving many to the point of suicide.

Through bad laws and anti-worker legislation workers have had their rights greatly diminished.

We are in a period of having Work Choices introduced by stealth. The pendulum has swung too far and too much power has been invested into the hands of employers and politicians.

***Enough is enough.  
Get active. Get loud.  
Be union proud.***



**until the next federal election. Join us. Stand up and Fight Back**

# THE CFMEU 2016–2020 ENTERPRISE AGREEMENT

**BRINGING BACK UNION STANDARDS TO THE WA CONSTRUCTION**

## **ONCE UPON A TIME.....**

Multiplex used to be a decent builder. They supported the Union position that sub-contractors working on their sites paid workers properly, that their building sites should be safe and that sub-contractors got paid in full and on time.

The Fiona Stanley was the last project built by Multiplex to those standards. Union Built Quality Built!

Over the past few years, Multiplex and John Holland have been at the forefront of the multinational builder queue kicking Western Australian building and construction workers. One would think Multiplex wouldn't be so stupid as to mimic John Holland but in Western Australia, this is exactly what they've done.

Multiplex are a company which has abandoned its relationship with workers in pursuit of short term profit gouging. Wage theft and sham contracting is the

employment model adopted by many of the sub-contractors working for Multiplex. The rip-off of workers on Multiplex projects is driven by contract managers who screw the subbies in a tendering process that can only be described as highly questionable.

## **EXPLOITATION ON MULTIPLEX SITES**

The failure of Multiplex to apply due diligence in awarding contracts to sub-contractors appears unethical and in breach of Brookfield's Code of Conduct. I reckon that this outfit are morally bankrupt. Under the noses of the Multiplex bosses, bricklaying sub-contractor BVM ripped \$100,000 off 3 CFMEU members on Multiplex's South Tower job. Even after Multiplex agreed to sort out the CFMEU wage claim, they paid BVM's retention money back to the subby whilst giving the "F\*\*\* You" salute to our members along the way. The irony of this is that it

occurred on the Brookfield Towers Project which is the corporate headquarters of Multiplex and their multinational owner Brookfield.

Multiplex have allowed foreign backpackers to work on their sites for \$4.50 per hour (Dockers Stadium and Bus Port), engaged tilers on dodgy pyramid-contract arrangements (Crown Towers) and have cleaning contractors on their projects paying workers \$18 per hour. Not to mention the debacle of the Mandurah Forum where Multiplex has shown they are no better than a third tier builder.

Companies which have sham contract arrangements are welcome on Multiplex projects, as are those who engage in tax avoidance, the non-payment of workers compensation, superannuation and long service leave. All of this under the nose of the ABCC who spend all of their time stalking union officials rather than holding dodgy



# UNION BUILT IS QUALITY BUILT

## INDUSTRY WHILST DEALING WITH MULTIPLEX BASTARDRY

builders such as Multiplex and many of their sub-contractors to account.

### ENDING THE RACE TO THE BOTTOM & GETTING OUR CONDITIONS BACK

Despite the de-regulated clusterf\*\*\* that occurs on Multiplex and John Holland projects, the CFMEU is working with a large number of legitimate builders and sub-contractors who support proper employment standards and a regulatory environment which promotes training, safety and increased employment opportunities.

The 2016-2020 Enterprise Agreement is steadily gaining traction amongst members and sub-contractors who want to end the race to the bottom. Construction workers want decent wages; leave conditions redundancy pay, income protection and inclement weather provisions.

They will only get this through a union

Enterprise Agreement.

The CFMEU currently have over 30 new industry-standard EBA's which have been either registered in the Fair Work Commission or are currently going through the voting process. The Union is in active negotiation with another 40 sub-contractors for an EBA and will continue the bargaining process until we have a regulated industry with decent wages and conditions on every construction job in Perth.

By the end of 2017, it is expected that the majority of formworkers, steel-fixers and ceiling fixers will be working for sub-contractors with a union Enterprise Agreement. There are a number of other trades which are calling out for proper regulation and the CFMEU will extend EBA's to all construction trades and occupations that fall under our coverage.

We are increasingly going to find that those subbies left with dodgy non-union, non-

compliant 'base line' Enterprise Agreements (that fall below Award and NES standards) will be exposed as racketeers who don't want to be part of a regulated labour market. The cash-in-hand gangsters and the flat rate rogues who make their living by exploiting workers and not complying with union and National Employment Standards (NES) are going to be exposed for what they are. So will the builders who use them.

The new industry Enterprise Agreement will increasingly be seen as the benchmark for all builders and sub-contractors working in the building and construction industry in WA. The alternative is the de-regulated mess that occurred on John Holland's Perth Children's Hospital Project and the Multiplex jobs built after the completion of the Fiona Stanley Hospital. Let's get active, involved and be proud of being part of the struggle to restore workers' rights in our industry.

**BE PAID UP AND PROUD!**

# Time for Government and Developers

# THIS ISSUE'S DODGY

Certain builders are getting away with using safety standards below legal requirements and it's about time the government and developers took workers safety seriously and stopped giving these builders work. Here are some examples from this issues' dodgy builder DORIC which suggest they build on "Weak Safety Principles".



Why should workers have to pour columns off illegal, incomplete scaffold and put themselves at risk? Cost cutting, just get the job done! Who's at risk?

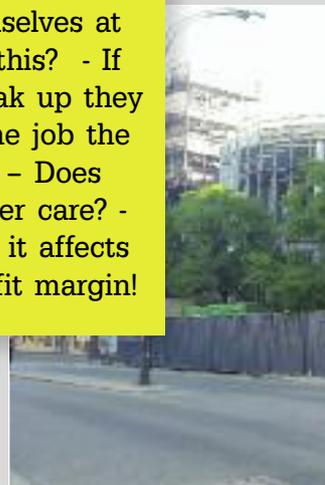


Noncompliant penetration cover. Workers have died falling through incorrectly covered penetrations - DORIC obviously don't care!

Again, a supervisor watching a soak well with an unsecured lid being unloaded in a public area - A worker was crushed to death in Karratha by a soak well lid as a result of a bad lifting design and he was blamed for the incident - His family got nothing!



Why do workers put themselves at risk like this? - If they speak up they are off the job the next day - Does the builder care? - Not until it affects their profit margin!



# to take Responsibility

# BUILDER

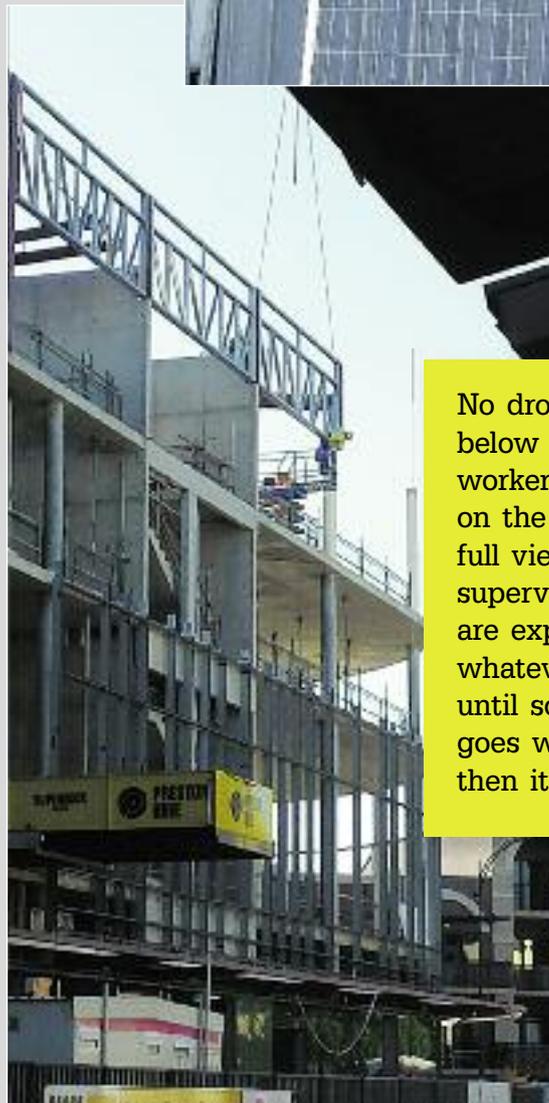
The boss can blame workers all they want but the reality is they use labour hire companies and 457 visa workers so they can use workers up as they wish and if you speak up they will get someone else to replace you. This is also a form of intimidation and pressure on direct employees.

Don't accept these cost cutting measures by builders. You are the one at risk of injury or harm not your supervisor or the managing director. If something goes wrong the first thing your boss will say is he was not supposed to be doing it like that and if it results in a serious injury or fatality, WorkSafe will also blame the worker and your family will get nothing.

This issues' dodgy builder DORIC have been rewarded for their lack of concern for workers safety by securing the \$150 million Midland Gate Shopping Centre Project. When are the government and developers going to take some responsibility and consider builders safety performance prior to awarding projects?

It's time to make a stand and stop being put at risk, if you need help call the CFMEU on 9228 6900 or email photos of dodgy safety practices and safety complaints to [safety@cfmeuwa.com](mailto:safety@cfmeuwa.com)

Noncompliant access, why? Because it saves time and money. Who's at risk?



No drop zone below and the worker is standing on the mid rail in full view of the supervisor - you are expected to do whatever it takes until something goes wrong and then it's your fault!!



# Reserve Bank Governor says workers need a good pay rise!

***It's not often we agree with bankers but the head of Australia's Reserve Bank, Dr Philip Lowe has got it right when he says that Workers deserve a good pay rise. WE couldn't agree more. Unfortunately, the Turnbull Liberal government doesn't share the same view.***

All they have given us is no wage growth and a stagnant economy devoid of ideas, innovation and jobs. Where's Jobs and Growth?

Speaking at a forum in Canberra, Reserve Bank Governor Philip Lowe pointed to record-low wage growth and labour's declining share of national income as major economic threats.

He said workers haven't been asking for more money, because they fear losing their jobs to "the foreigners and the robots."

Dr Lowe also acknowledged that the "labour share of national income is in decline".

This was a reference to the fact that Australia's latest gross domestic product (GDP) number showed that the share of GDP going to wage earners fell in the March quarter to 51.5 per cent, the lowest level since 2009.

The result was perilously close to a 53-year low. Before 2009, the wage share of national income hadn't been so small since it hit 51.3 per cent in 1964.

Meanwhile, the share of national income going to profits rose to a five-year high of 27.5 per cent.

Record low wage growth confirms the Turnbull Government is wedded to the fortunes of big corporations not the livelihoods of working Australians.

The latest figures from the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) showed the wage price index increased 1.9% for the year to December 2016, the lowest on record.

While real wages have stagnated for many years, corporations have pocketed soaring profits rather than reinvest in their staff.

As a result, we have seen record low wage growth and productivity growth has not been passed on to the workers who generate it.

The Libs however don't give a toss. They have taken penalty rates from



those who need them most, attack young workers and students. Wage theft is rife with workers getting ripped off left right and centre.

With less money in the pocket, no wonder the economy is in dire straights. The time will come when workers will feel they have nothing left to lose and they'll take action and rally in every street of Australia. You can only attack working people and families and bleed them dry for so long.

The Libs don't even offer hope.

Remember this at the next federal election, especially in WA. Give all Federal Liberal members a pay cut and sack them at the ballot box.

# Barry is bolted on, are you?

## TALK ABOUT BEING PAID UP AND PROUD!

Long-time member Barry Bolton has every one of his union members tickets since first joining the union way back in 1979, when he was signed up by Jim Bacon who went on to become Premier of Tasmania.

Since then Barry has been in the thick of it as a union member and steward. Never one to back down, he has always stood up to be counted, never backing down or away from what's right.

Like the time he was threatened as a steward on a job in Murdoch, and then a week later his shed was cocktailed. Or when he was bashed by anti-union bullies on a job in Maylands. Barry has always been there fighting for workers pay and conditions.

A favourite memory of his was when he sat roof tiler workers in the shed on a site in Midland and he and Vinnie Molina got back \$70,000 in SUPER for the members.

All through the years Barry Bolton has stuck fat with the union, during good times and bad.

## JOIN THE UNION – PAY YOUR DUES

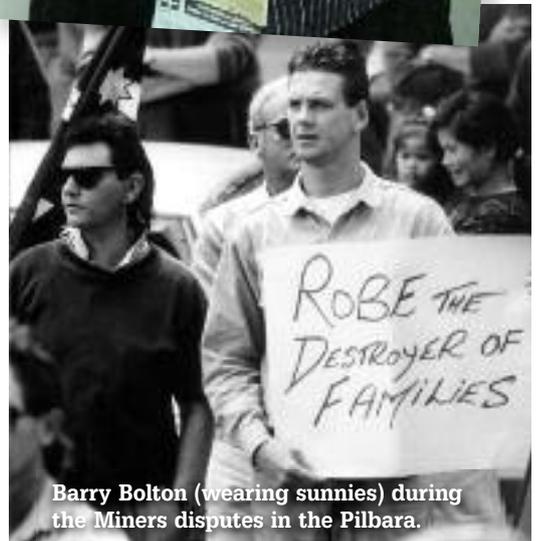
It's the commitment of workers like Barry that has built our union. Union means we look after our workers. We fight for what's right. And sometimes that means you have to stand up and stand strong.

As a member of the CFMEU workers get a barrow load of great benefits, for them and their family.

- Free Travel Insurance
- Ambulance Cover
- Journey Cover
- Funeral Cover

But being a union members is not just about benefits it's about standing by your workmates and giving a them a helping hand. It's about taking the lead in the workplace for better safety, wage and conditions.

*So, join up with your CFMEU union organiser or see our website at [www.cfmeuwa.com](http://www.cfmeuwa.com)*



Barry Bolton (wearing sunnies) during the Miners disputes in the Pilbara.

# BE PAID UP AND PROUD – 100% IN 100% WIN

# If we want real change, WE have to make it happen

These days we have to make change happen by taking up the fight politically as well as industrially. Where there are bad laws, we have to change them. Where they are injustices, we have to make them right.

ALL CFMEU WA Members can help the fight.

Our own CFMEU WA ALP branch has worked hard to frame policy to achieve better outcomes for construction workers and their families. Already we have seen some positive decisions with Local Jobs and content. More needs to be done.

We need to focus on changes to Labour Hire operations, workplace safety and training outcomes.

We can achieve that by having more CFMEU members join our WA Labor branch from as little as \$20 per year.

Call our CFMEU WA Political Organiser Steve Catania now on 9228 6900 or email [Scatania@cfmeuwa.com](mailto:Scatania@cfmeuwa.com)

Every member we have can help to make real change happen.

## LOCAL CONTENT – WA LABOR GETTING THE JOB DONE

***The Construction of the Perth Stadium Footbridge has been BROUGHT BACK TO WA.***

The McGowan Labor Government has announced that it will have the Swan River Pedestrian Bridge built locally, creating about 250 jobs in Western Australia.

The steel deck and arch components of the bridge were being fabricated in Malaysia, but it was plagued by delays, with the Malaysian subcontractor repeatedly failing to meet delivery timeframes. None of the arches have yet arrived, despite numerous assurances.

The McGowan Government has engaged with the head contractor over a series of meetings, to gain more control over a timely delivery of the project, after the previous approach left the State virtually powerless.

After announcing the decision, Premier Mark

McGowan said:

*"This is a significant win for Western Australia and the best outcome for our local economy. We're securing new local jobs and have renegotiated a complex contract to give us the best chance to have the bridge delivered in time to coincide with the opening events of the stadium. My Government was elected to put WA jobs first, and that's exactly what's happening here."*

## LOCAL JOBS – MCGOWAN GOVERNMENT DELIVERS COMMITMENT TO PRIORITISE WA WORKERS

The McGowan Government has delivered its election commitment to keep Western Australian jobs in WA. During the State election campaign, WA Labor promised to tear up the list of occupations that fast-tracked overseas workers to WA.

The 2016 Western Australian Skilled

Migration Occupation List (WASMOL) included 178 occupations such as engineers, bricklayers and nurses. These workers could be sought from overseas despite WA's soaring unemployment and, in many cases, local workers who are capable of carrying out the work.

***Premier Mark McGowan has announced that a new list has been developed that contained 18 occupations where there is a genuine need to attract overseas workers.***

The Premier said: *"In the current economic climate, it's more important than ever that we maximise employment opportunities for Western Australians. Our policy will ensure that, whenever possible, Western Australians will be given first preference on WA jobs. It doesn't make sense to fast-track workers from overseas when there are unemployed Western Australians who are capable of doing the work."*



Progressive Labor meeting at Trades Hall

## PROGRESSIVE LABOR HAS COME ABOUT FROM THE HOPE THAT THINGS CAN BE DONE BETTER - THAT THINGS MUST BE DONE BETTER.

### PROGRESSIVE LABOR HERE TO STAY – JOIN OUR WA ALP BRANCH

As you may have heard in the media, the CFMEU has decided to leave the Broad Left faction of the WA Labor party and enter into a new alliance with other unions in a new group that is known as Progressive Labor. Progressive Labor has come about from the hope that things can be done better - that things must be done better.

Formed with union leaders from the MUA, TWU, SDA, AWU, RTBU and other like-minded unions, Progressive Labor is a group

of progressive and disciplined WA Labor members who champion traditional Labor values, organised labour and encourage and support candidates for electoral success who respect and advocate for all members of the community.

The Progressive Labor values are as follows:

1. To promote fairness and equality
2. To fight against injustice and inequality
3. To defend worker and labour rights
4. To promote and encourage free and open democracy
5. To create economic opportunities for all Australians

In addition, Progressive Labor takes a truly consultative approach. Progressive Labor works on a consensus model, which means that those who are affiliated will first try and reach an agreed common position, and in the event that this cannot be achieved, each group is free to act and vote in a manner that is consistent with the interests of those that it represents.

The CFMEU is of the view that its involvement with Progressive Labor will assist in the fight to bring about better, fairer and safer working conditions for its members. So we ask you for your support by joining WA Labor and Progressive Labor.

**JOIN THE CFMEU WA ALP BRANCH TODAY**

# Historic WA Labor VICTORY

What a tremendous victory it was on Saturday 11 March against the WA Liberals and their tired leader.

Prior to 'Election Day' there were many who thought that Labor would win, very few however predicted the enormous scale of the victory. It just goes to show the amount of pent-up frustration that was let loose on 11 March.

The result here in WA also hit Turnbull's Federal Libs like a Tsunami! It's a feeling we all need to take into the next federal election. For 8 and half years Western Australian's had endured the inequity and financial mismanagement of a conservative government led by Colin Barnett. West Australians could not afford 4 more years of Barnett and his cronies' attacks on working people. They overwhelmingly rejected the WA Libs anti-worker agenda and voted for a progressive Labor government that promises to deliver WA jobs, local content, save our public assets and provide training opportunities for our kids.

The size of the victory however, does not disguise the hard road ahead and what needs to be achieved, no thanks to the mess the WA Libs and the new Liberal leader Nahan left our state in.

It's important to note just how significant this victory was. Labor not only won a record amount of votes and seats to win government, the influence of One Nation was also minimised.

This election was fought on the issues that matter to working people, including jobs and putting a stop to privatisation.

***We are especially proud that the landslide result saw Matthew Swinbourn, Simon Millman, Barry Urban and Kyle McGinn elected to parliament. This is a testament to their hard work on the campaign trail.***



***We know that they will continue to stand up for workers and the interests of working people as they take their place on the hill.***

The commitment shown by our candidates and the hundreds of volunteers and rank and file members who worked tirelessly and gave Barnett and his out of touch government the boot was nothing short of outstanding. I thank everyone for their efforts; we were a force to be reckoned with and one that will continue to be harnessed right up until the next federal election.

***We congratulate, but the struggle goes on. Malcom Turnbull take note you are next...***

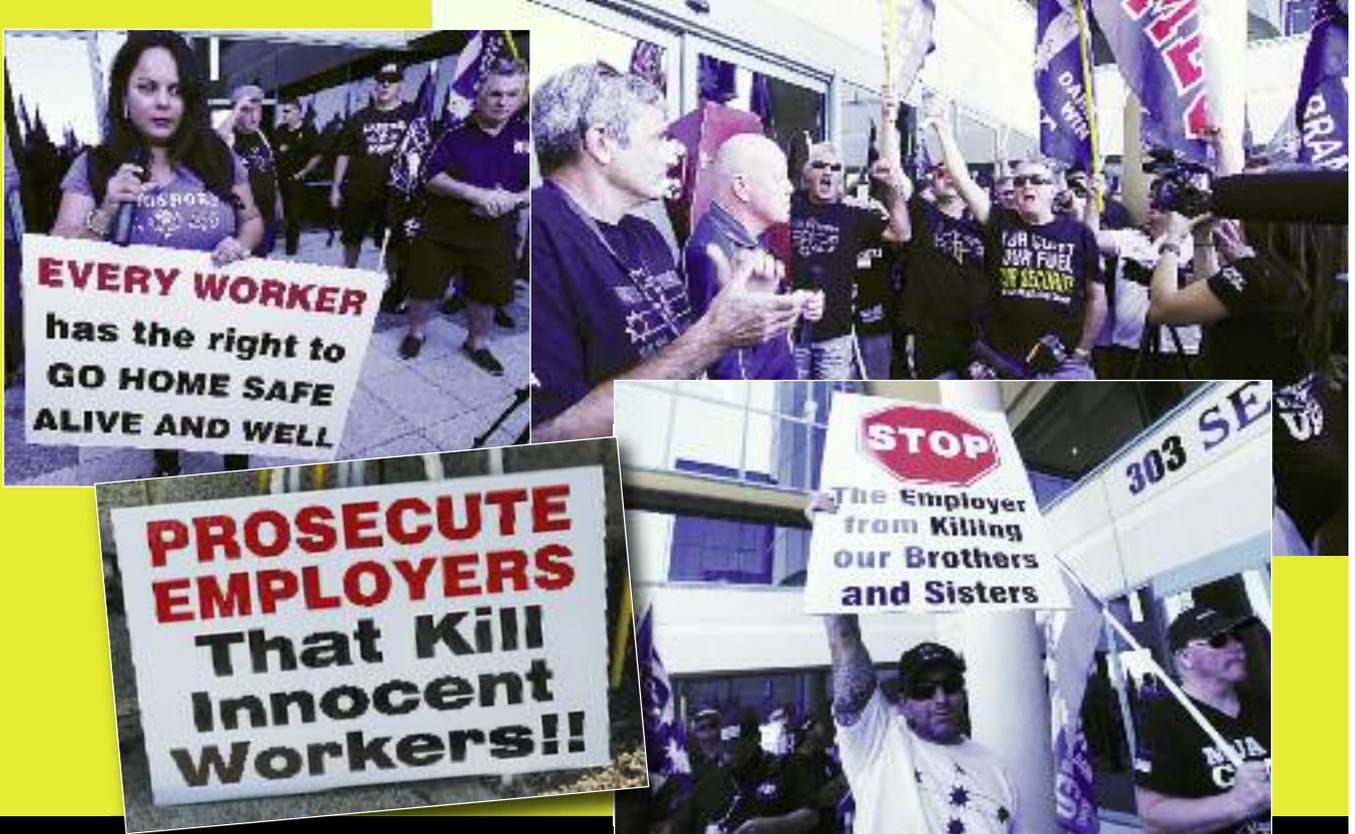
Having said that, it's now time to get on with

the job of repairing and diversifying our local WA economy to create more jobs and opportunities for all West Australian's, to get WorkSafe sorted out and to build a stronger community.

Looking forward, it must be said that we need to build on our continuing membership within the WA ALP. We have to keep fighting on both an industrial and political front to create real change for the benefit of working people.

***The result of 2017 is just the beginning. Join the CFMEU WA and the ALP and let's contribute to making real change happen on both an industrial and political front.***

# Every 19 days there's a worker fatally injured in a WA workplace



**“As part of the recent joint State Conference we took action with a rally against Worksafe at their offices. I can tell you they certainly GOT the MESSAGE. Enough is enough and things have to change to save lives. WHY?”**

## THE STATS DON'T LIE

Under the watch of Worksafe WA, workplace deaths and injuries have increased to unacceptable levels. Worksafe has become reactive not proactive, response times to complaints and investigations into the cause of deaths take far too long. Penalties are inadequate allowing employer's to get away with murder.

Do you know 19 days is the average number of days a person is fatally injured in a workplace in Western Australia? Over the past 10 years there have been 199 work-related fatalities in WA.

In Western Australia over the 2015/16 financial

year there were 22 work-related deaths and 9 so far for the 2016/17 financial year.

Of the 9 in 2016/17, 5 were as a result of falls from heights, 27 falls from height fatalities in the last 10 year period and 4 since last July. All could and should have been prevented simply by ensuring that adequate training and controls were in place and enforced.

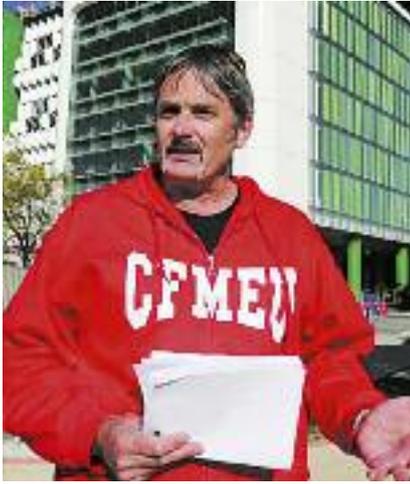
What makes these statistics worse is that suicide by fly in fly out workers, often caused

by work related stress is not included in these figures.

If lives are to be saved, Unions need unhindered access to do their job and Worksafe WA needs to be properly resourced and operate proactively to enforce better safety standards with the support of harsher penalties against those who ignore safety and cause preventable workplace related fatalities.

***Safety is union business. CFMEU***  
**Stand up. Speak out. Come home.**

# Fined for what?



***Sally McManus was right when she said; "Australia has been built by working people who have had the courage to stand up to unfair and unjust rules and demand something better."***

There is no better evidence of that than at the new Perth Children's Hospital. Arguably Australia's greatest public building disaster.

In the fight to demand something better our union officials have now been collectively fined thousands of dollars.

This a project that is running nearly 2 years over schedule, is millions of dollars over budget, at taxpayers' expense, and full of genuine public safety fears.

For several years, the CFMEU has been battling at the site with John Holland over safety, equal pay, proper payment of sub-contractors and the use of inferior products not up to Australian standards.

From the very beginning the Children's Hospital site has been an ideological race to the bottom. Cheap tenders led to undercutting, poor product selection and continual variations to the original tendered price. The Barnett Government tried to get a cheap Children's Hospital.

We tried to highlight the systemic problems on the site which have now come to fruition

with the hospital enduring thousands of defects including faulty doors and window cladding, lead contamination in the water, asbestos, collapsed ceilings and the latest revelations of defective firewalls.

All of this doesn't happen by accident. John Holland's poor management of the project is first felt by those on the 'Coal-Face', the workers, long before it hits the media

The concerns of workers, sub-contractors and ourselves fell on deaf ears and blind eyes. Government ignored the situation. John Holland swept them under the carpet. Anyone who tried voice their complaints were dismissed and punished by wage theft with subcontractor payments withheld and delayed, costing the life, in one tragic case, of a major contractor, Ross McGinn.

Not once did the ABCC investigate or refer our complaints to appropriate authorities against John Holland. Safety issues became a game of pass the parcel between Comcare and Worksafe WA.

All along the way we have been hunted, hounded and hindered by the ABCC and its predecessor the FWBC.

Our protests and meetings on the site to

discuss the issues have seen our union, its officials and workers charged and in our belief, wrongly fined, for trying to do something to fix the problems. We tried to be the bugle while Hollands just bungled.

CFMEU WA Branch Secretary Mick Buchan, said that our industrial laws had becomes unbalanced, and favoured employers over employees.

"It's not just union bosses being fined here, we had 53 union members fined over a thousand dollars each for attending this peaceful protest," he said.

"These workers were rightly concerned about the race to the bottom that predatory contracting practices on the site had started. We held a rally to discuss that, and other concerns bubbling up from the workforce."

***"It says a lot about this Government's priorities that they're prepared to chase and fine workers for simply attending a meeting, they're prepared to go back four years and charge union officials over the same meeting, but they're not prepared to look at the head contractor at all. It's a disgrace. That is the real tragedy highlighted by this project."***



# Kicking goals for our members

## ALMOST HALF A MILLION RECOVERED IN 5 MONTHS

Since January 2017 CFMEUWA has recovered a total of \$480,000 for members. This includes \$114,000 for unfair dismissal, \$117,000 in individual wage claims and \$249,000 in collective wage claims.

Current individual wage claims still in progress is estimated to be worth \$376,000, while there is an estimated \$2.3 million worth of collective wage claims currently in progress.

### SPOTLIGHT WIN\*

In August 2016, three CFMEU WA members contacted their organiser Vinnie Molina, regarding a wage claim enquiry. They had been employed for the last eight months with a structural trade company and did not receive any superannuation. The members contacted the employer directly with an enquiry about this, and were told that since they were employed on an ABN as a "Sole Trader", they were not entitled to superannuation. Sound familiar?

These members performed work under direction; they were told what hours to work; they were of the understanding that their employment was ongoing and not for a particular job; they were paid on an hourly rate on a regular basis (fortnightly); they paid their own tax and were paid on an ABN. Considering all of this, Vinnie established that the members were entitled to superannuation and contacted the employer to recover this for them. Unfortunately, the employer refused to budge and stayed true to their "Sole Trader" argument when Vinnie called them to discuss it. Ultimately he had no other option but to escalate the matter to CFMEU Lead Organiser - Doug Heath.

Doug emailed the employer and explained to

them that just because someone is employed on an ABN that is registered as a "Sole Trader" does not exclude them from receiving superannuation, requesting that the amount outstanding get paid in full to avoid escalating the matter to the Legal Team. The employer responded to Doug's email with their continuing refusal to pay the members as they were employed under their own ABNs.

As a result, the wage claim found its way to CFMEU WA's Wage Claim Officer's desk – Trista Saville. She reviewed the elements of the claim in detail and the legal obligations stipulated by legislation.

She sent a letter to the employer that clearly laid out their obligations, the law and the legal authorities regarding the matter, and the legal consequences of not complying. She demanded that the outstanding amount (approx. \$15,000) be paid to the members within 14 days, or she would file an application to the courts to prosecute.

One week later the employer agreed that the members were entitled to superannuation and agreed to pay it immediately.

If you believe you are in a similar situation, contact your organiser, or if you don't know your organiser, contact the office.

*\*Specific details are restricted due to confidentiality.*

### WHEATSTONE

The Union's lawyers recently filed an Unfair Dismissal against Bechtel after they sacked one of their workers on the Wheatstone Project for his alleged behaviour during an overnight in Onslow. After a two day hearing the Dismissal was found to be unfair and the

worker was ordered to be compensated and reinstated to his previous position.

It won't surprise those of you familiar with Wheatstone that over the life of the job, there have been 128 workers sacked for breaching the Community Code of Conduct, 29 of those in the past 12 months. We're pretty sure that everyone knows someone who's been punted for letting off a bit of steam after spending weeks trapped in camp.

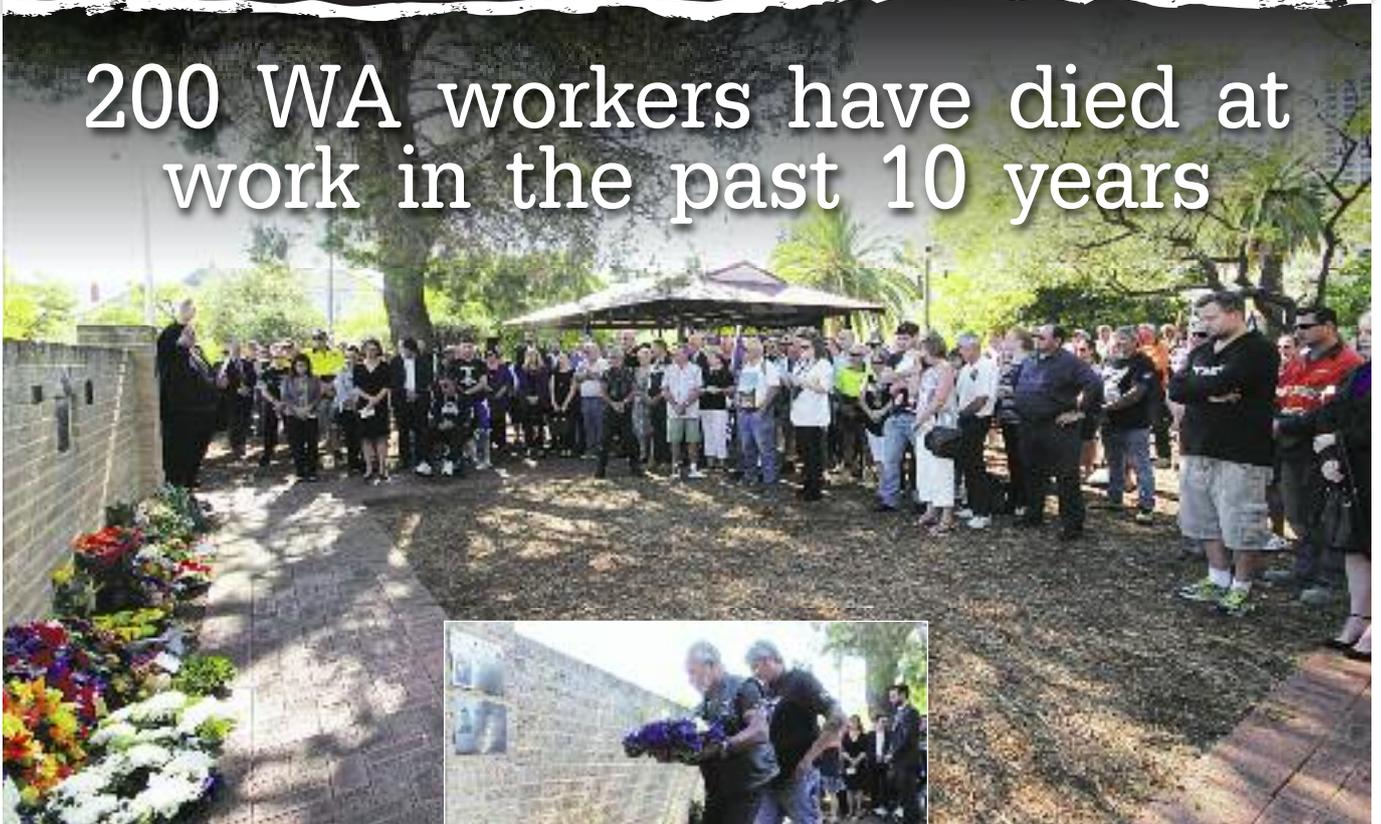
This decision doesn't mean that behaviour outside of the job can't lead to you being sacked, but it does mean that you shouldn't just accept it. Just because Bechtel says it's so doesn't make it so. Too many workers have been the victim of a heavy handed approach by Bechtel, and others, in circumstances where a little bit of common sense and empathy would have gone a long way. Hopefully this decision will get them to pull their heads in a little, and treat those building their plant as adults and not school children.

If you've been into town and there's been an incident, make sure you talk to the Union at the earliest possible opportunity.

If there's a solution we know it, and we can give you that advice. Remember that you have rights, and definitely don't let Bechtel or anyone else intimidate you into walking away if you don't want to.

***Think you've been unfairly dismissed and you're a financial member of the CFMEU? Get on the phone, make an appointment with one of our lawyers and find out what your options are.***

# 200 WA workers have died at work in the past 10 years



## **WORKSAFE WA ISN'T WORKING. LAWS HAVE TO CHANGE.**

April 28th saw a big attendance at this year's Workers Memorial Day at Solidarity Park. There are far too many workplace deaths in Western Australia.

Over the 2015/16 financial year there were 22 work related deaths, 5 of which were as a result of falls from heights. All could have been prevented simply by ensuring that adequate training and controls were in place. What makes these statistics worse is that they don't include FIFO suicides as a result of roster stress.

Under the watch of Worksafe WA work place deaths and injuries have dramatically increased.

Worksafe WA has become reactive not pro-active, they don't respond to safety complaints initiated by our union, follow up reports of any action in response to the complaints are never received. Investigations into workplace deaths take far too long.

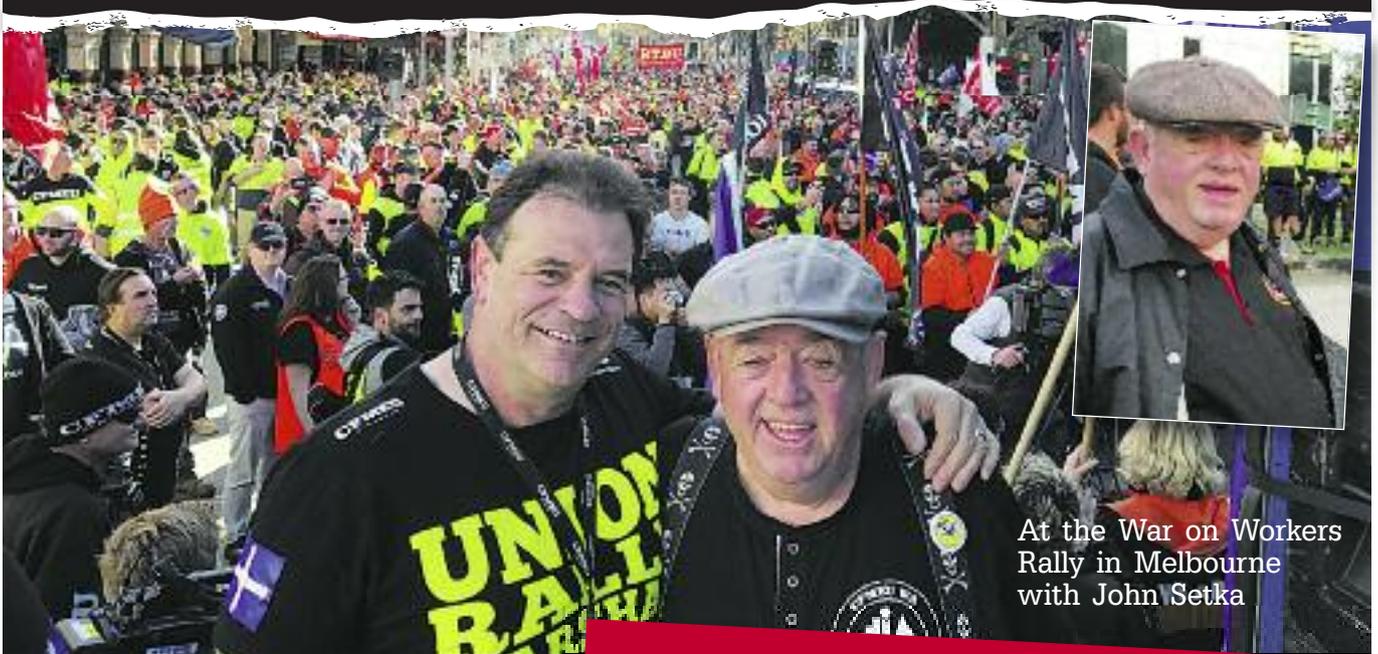
Murder case investigations are wrapped in less time. It is not unusual for families of workplace victims to wait in excess of 3 years for any findings to be handed down. It is a cruel and inept process.

Adding to these dire statistics is employers using labour hire companies who place ill-equipped, unqualified people on to construction workplaces. Back packers are especially at risk.

Over the past 10 years a worker in WA has been killed every 19 days. Most, if not all of those deaths were preventable. The CFMEU is calling for tough new industrial manslaughter laws to penalise those employers who put workers lives at risk and a complete review and restructure of Worksafe WA with more funding and resources. Unions should also be unhindered seeking right of entry to worksites and be allowed to do their job. Statistics show unequivocally that union sites are safer sites.



**CFMEU WA State Secretary Mick Buchan rams home the message, at the Worker's Memorial Day, that enough is enough! WA is seeing too many deaths. Even one death is not acceptable let alone an average of one death every 19 days. 200 in the past decade. Harsher penalties and new Industrial manslaughter laws need to be introduced to deter employers from providing unsafe working environments. The CFMEU will hold the government to account. Too much is at stake for things not to change.**



At the War on Workers Rally in Melbourne with John Setka

# WE ARE UNITED



It's been great to go round the county and see that the unity of our union is as strong as ever. We are all standing strong against the Turnbull government's attack on workers.

I was proud to stand shoulder to shoulder with the workers of Myrtleford Carter Holt Harvey Plywood Mill in northeast Victoria. The workers have been locked out since mid -April for seeking a 9% pay rise over 3 years. Most of their initial 32 claims had been compromised or knocked back, and the company is not interested into entering into fair negotiations. Watch this space.

From site meetings in Queensland to Myrtleford we are taking it up to the establishment. Militancy is alive and well if you stand up and fight back.

It was unbelievable to see two giant firsts recently. The first ever joint MUA/CFMEU WA State Conference and the first ever joint march with CFMEU and MUA members together as one at May Day. Both were a huge success. We are not going anywhere. We are only going to get stronger and provide real strength, representing our member's interests. The future is looking good.

On another note it was a tremendous victory for Labor and our candidates at the state election. Congratulations to Matt Swinbourn, Simon Millman, Barry Urban, Kyle McGinn and all the rest. A win for Progressive Labor!



***On October 13th I will be retiring my final position as National President, so it was especially pleasing for me to outlast Colin Barnett. He's gone and we are here to stay!***

# UNITED! MA



# DAY DAY 2017





# Asbestos & lead in children's hospital

## Dangerous imported building products.



If asbestos products can find their way onto a children's hospital project it can happen anywhere and expose anyone to fatal diseases. How did this happen and what needs to be done in the future to safeguard the community and building industry workers against dangerous imported building materials?

These and other matters were part of submissions to the Senate Economics References Committee public hearing for its inquiry into non-conforming building products.

The CFMEU made a submission focussing amongst other things on the sources of illegally imported products containing asbestos.

Industry supply chains, workplace and public safety, more effective screening of imported

products, compliance and enforcement of tougher penalties. Non-conforming building products touch nearly every part of our daily lives. From Asbestos that kills to cheap glass that explodes, to flat pack kitchens reeking of formaldehyde. The CFMEU, in partnership with other Unions and asbestos disease support and advocacy groups, will be campaigning for tougher penalties for those companies found to be breaking the law, better training for workers to identify asbestos product, and a strengthening of border protection against these harmful cheap imports.

With the signing of the China Australia Free Trade agreement the federal government failed to think through the consequences, even though they were warned by our union and others. It has now become open slather

for dangerous imported products to cross our borders and on to building sites and in people's homes.

In 2015 the WA Chamber of Commerce and Industry informed all WA builders not to trust overseas certificates that imported products were free of asbestos and builders were urged to conduct their own testing to ensure materials were safe. Obviously this either hasn't happened, testing procedures are faulty – or somebody's not telling the truth. The recent Building Code attached with the ABCC legislation will only make it harder for highly trained union officials to police and identify asbestos products on building sites.





# Some important wins in the North West

**Well now that the WA State election is over, and what a great victory it was for the WA Labor Party, we must remind ourselves that was the easy part. The hard part is getting the ALP to fulfil its promises to the people of WA and affiliated Unions.**

In the North West I would like to congratulate Kevin Michel (Pilbara MLA), who knocked off the Nationals Brendan Grills, Kyle McGinn and Stephen Dawson (Mining & Pastoral MLC) on their election into parliament. The massive victory in the Pilbara was largely due to the contribution of the CFMEU & MUA. Financial funding, countless hours of letterbox drops, door knocking, phone canvassing and helping out on Election Day itself. My thanks go out to the CFMEU, but most particularly to the MUA rank & file, who came out in numbers to help.

On the shop front, Wheatstone is pushing ahead with Train 1 in commissioning stage and CB&I are now no longer on site. Some of the CB&I crew have been picked up by Bechtel but site numbers have dropped to around 6500. Chevron/Bechtel continues to do their best to push the boundaries and their interpretations of the Wheatstone Agreement. Unfortunately when there is a disagreement and no agreement on the interpretation of a clause in the agreement

we have no avenue other than take it to arbitration. To take matters to court we need witnesses. These witnesses are the workers affected. Unfortunately this is where we hit a stumbling block; workers are not keen to be a witness whilst they are still currently working on the project. Keep this in mind as there is a statute of limitations of 6 years with disputes, so consider this if you are keen to pursue a case after you have served your time at Wheatstone.

## **A WIN FOR WORKERS**

Another matter the CFMEU has pursued was with Mammoet. An eagle eyed member of the CFMEU noticed on his pay slip late last year that Mammoet were only paying 32 hours PSL each swing instead of the Agreements 34 hour. After 6 months of talks Mammoet conceded there was an underpayment and they went back through each employee's records and have now back payed a substantial amount. Rough estimates put it at half a Million dollars.

Last year Monadelphous asked its maintenance workforce at the Karratha Gas Plant to vote up a 15% pay cut to its existing Agreement on the basis that they remain competitive in the renewal of its maintenance contract.

As a matter of goodwill the majority of the workforce agreed to this. Now it seems that Monadelphous is trying to register a dodgy agreement to replace the current agreement. The CFMEU are looking into this and are looking at lodging an appeal to the registration of this agreement.

UCJV continue to set the low standards at the Karratha Gas Plant with any payroll queries coming back with a standard response of the Set Off clause contained in their bullshit Ridgebay Holdings Baseline Agreement and top up letter of employment. This agreement even stipulates a pay rise based on the FairWork Commission yearly review but it only applies to the Baseline Agreement.

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That being the case it will be 2050 before UCJV workers get a pay rise.

Although I have had some limited success with resolving minor issue with MGJV they also don't get off scot free. Contained within the MGJV agreement is the yearly review of pay rises linked in with CPI figures. Now this agreement covers MGJV across the whole of Australia but in their wisdom MGJV are only giving a 0.5% pay rise to its Karratha Gas Plant workers, approximately \$0.25 per hour, as opposed to the national CPI figure of 1.3%. Not that I agree that pay rises should be based on CPI figures as they do not truly reflect the cost of living. Do workers that live in Perth truly believe that their cost of living has only increased by 0.5% this last 12 months??? I would think not.

RCR at Cape Lambert should be winding up the latter part of this year with some workers being mobilised to Silver Grass or the Lithium Plant projects. RCR have started at Silvergrass and have its workforce on RCR North West Agreement that they said they would never use to cover Construction work. Silver Grass

worker will now need to stand up and assist the Union to bargain for a new agreement and make sure the wording about where it applies is very carefully worded so RCR can't misuse the agreement again. RCR will very shortly be mobilising workers at the Lithium Plant which is approximately 120Kms from Port Headland. Again I am lead to believe that they will be working on their North West agreement. On a brighter note this agreement expires in October this year so hopefully we will get an opportunity at a significantly better agreement than the one in place now.

### UPCOMING PROJECTS

The Balla Balla Project (BBI) looks like its picking up some legs with a \$6 Billion Port, Rail and Mine some 130 Kms north of Karratha. This project is headed up by the Todd Family from New Zealand. At peak construction it is estimated that 600 construction workers will be needed for the Port, 1000 construction workers needed for the Rail and 1800 construction workers will be need for the mine itself. 3400

construction workers at its peak. A much needed construction project for the Pilbara.

The project is currently scheduled to start the first Quarter of 2018 and the CFMEU are seeking to meet with the consortium to negotiate a site framework agreement.

The CFMEU will also be seeking commitments for indigenous and a local workforce employment component to the project.

An 800 person camp is currently being put together at the Rio Tinto Koodaideri Project just north of Yandi. I have been told that this will be a major project for Rio but will not start till the Silvergrass Project is completed.

If you have not seen me at your site or would like to catch up after hours feel free to call me on my mobile 0419 812 864.

If you're not a members of your Union please sign up. It only takes 6 easy steps to join up online and all union dues are tax deductible.

You can also sign up for direct debit on line <https://wa.cfmeu.org.au/join>

There are a range of great Union benefits available for members...check them out at:

<https://wa.cfmeu.org.au/member-benefits>

## ▶ CFMEU : SOUTHERN AREA REPORT

with Peter Joshua

***Hi all, hope everyone had a great May Day.***

On the work front things are still a bit tight in the south and sadly the subbies and builders who are picking up the work seem to be doing so at the cost of the work force.

The amount of substandard agreements and labour hire rogues out there is mind boggling and making it nearly impossible for our members to make a fair days pay for a fair days work. If you are being forced to work on an ABN, prolonged casual engagement or a shitty all up rate contact your Union and stand up for your workplace entitlements.

Down at the Mandurah Forum things are ticking along at full steam on stages 3 & 4. In

**The amount of substandard agreements and labour hire rogues out there is mind boggling and making it nearly impossible for our members to make a fair days pay for a fair days work.**

spite of the substandard rates of pay on the job, the workforce are doing their union proud with the quality of work.

The crew at the Mandurah traffic bridge has

also done a stand up job as the new bridge approaches the other side. With such a complicated build it goes without saying that Georgiou could not have done it without the level of experience and professionalism our members have showed down there, yet Georgiou refuse to pay redundancy because of a technicality in their crappy non-union agreement. Amazing how these big builders can ride on the backs of our members when it comes to getting the job done, and still shit on them every day industrially.

Down at the Lithium Plant the 2nd stage (concrete works) has commenced with MSP

*continued over*

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Engineering as the builder who subbie to Georgiou who subbie to Melchor (an old sparkie company who bought formwork) who subbie to Allbrook and various others. It looks like at least 3-4 pyramid arrangements before any of the money flows on to the workers who are actually doing the work. In Fremantle there is still no official word on

who is going to be the builder on the King Square Project. I believe that it's down to either Probuild or Georgiou. Let's hope whoever wins it that it ends up with good union contractors/agreements on the project. Early works have commenced at Booragoon Shopping Centre with GMF doing a road diversion which is due to be finished by the end of the year, and all things going well the

shopping Centre should kick off early 2018.

I just want to close by saying I am moving on from being an Organiser with the union. I want to thank all those workers who have stuck fat with the union and supported my efforts to help them during my time on the job.

I will see you around the traps no doubt.

**STAY SAFE AND PAID UP AND PROUD.**

## ▶ CFMEU : NEW ARRIVALS

with Mick Buchan

# New Arrivals



### **KIVRAJ SINGH** Industrial Officer at CFMEU WA



Comrades, "I am Kivraj Singh, and I am very pleased to be the new Industrial Office at the CFMEUWA, Construction & General Division. I am looking forward to working with all the officials and members shortly. Although I was born in Eldoret, Kenya my family migrated to Perth when I was still a toddler. Consequently, I have had the privilege of growing up in Perth. After finishing high school, I decided to study law and commerce. I was very fortunate when in my third year of university I was employed as an Industrial Officer by the Australian Rail, Tram and Bus Industry Union, WA Branch (RTBU). Working with the RTBU exposed me to the greater union movement, and I have never looked back. After working for the RTBU a little over three years and graduating from Murdoch University, I went and worked for Chapmans Lawyers for a little under a year, when the opportunity to work with the CFMEUWA came up. To say I am pleased to be back working in the union movement is an understatement and I look forward to the times ahead and to helping our members"

### **TRISTA SAVILLE** Wage Claim Officer at CFMEU WA



"It's great to be aboard. I am to here to help with underpayments and wages owed to members. I grew up in Port (South) Hedland, spending some time on the mines as an electrician and boiler maker's TA. I eventually completed my SignWriting Trade Certificate and furthered this qualification with Graphic Design. I am union through and through. I have been a member of AMWU, SDA, ASU, CFMEU and United Voice as well as performed the role of Delegate. In 2012, I started work at United Voice (Miso's) doing various positions including organising, before finding my passion working with members on individual issues within the industrial realm. I enrolled at Murdoch to complete my law degree. In January 2017, I joined the CFMEU WA Legal Team. Since then, I have recovered \$56,000 (approx.) for individual members while managing group claims expected to recover just over \$2 million for members. I have enjoyed the time I have spent with members so far. You are defiantly a distinct bunch of individuals, and I look forward to what comes next."

### **STEVE CATANIA** Political Organiser



"I am excited to come on board and work for the CFMEUWA as the Political Organiser. I have a background as a lawyer but am proud to say I was also a former Grano worker. As a result, I have been exposed to the success the CFMEUWA has had in fighting for wages, and working conditions in the construction industry in Western Australia. In addition, I have been passionately involved with the WA Labor Party since I was 16. Over that time, what has become clear to me is that a strong Labor Party, underpinned by the involvement of union members, can provide better outcomes for its members and their families. In saying that, now that WA Labor is in Government, it is critical that the CFMEUWA hold the Government to account to achieve better, fairer and safer working conditions for its members. This will be my job, and I plan on giving it everything I've got. I look forward to meeting as many members as I can and hearing their views on how we can not only fight on both an industrial and political level. I believe by working together we can achieve real change where it matters. Dare to struggle, dare to win."

**We also welcome Luke Jensen on Reception and welcome back Michelle Kavanagh as our Membership Officer.**

# City on the way back!

## EBA PROGRESS

The city block is a mix at the moment with some good jobs starting to get out of the ground (still early days) and others which could have been a lot better now finishing off.

The economy is hardly booming as we know but the industry EBA is starting to take shape as a new platform on which to move forward. Probuild, Central Reo is on board, with CASC and GMF also at Elizabeth Quay. Night shift has started – ask us for details. It will also be happening at the refurbishment of Forrest Chase with both day and night shifts on the go.

There's a few issues happening with labour hire on sites and your union is working hard to try and get workers on direct hire. Labour hire has to change as it has in Queensland (see story this issue).

Your union has also been working hard to make sure workers are getting paid correctly. Go2 were recently found to be underpaying and I'm delighted to say we have got the workers back pay and a \$400 week uplift. If you are not being paid correct weight, let us know and we can do something about it. That's what being in the union is all about, so stick fat!

It sickens me how security companies are being employed as Gatemen. It didn't play out well at Yagan Square with the security company down there going broke. We want to see experienced construction workers back on the gate at every job; it's the only way to go.

## ABCC STOP WORK MEETING?

It was a turd of an act to see that the ABCC had been invited to discuss with workers, at the BUILT QT Hotel site, the 'wonderments' of the next building code – did the ABCC take



Mick Buchan and Dave Noonan meet with workers at Elizabeth Quay

a kind of industrial action by having this meeting which was allegedly supported by G&N, Strategic Human Resources and dodgy Labor Hire companies. Workers are Jack of it! If we had called a stop work meeting to discuss the ABCC and the coercive nature of the new building code we would have probably been charged and fined. As they say, every dog has their day!

Built has been caught dumping concrete slurry into the drains on Murray Street, which empty out into the Swan River. Not to mention the potential clogging up of a major city drain way.

They need to clean up their act in more ways than one.

Jobs around the city include the Raine Square and QV1 refurbishment being done by BUILT, The Fragrance Apartments in Murray Street by Probuild, the Perth Museum by Brookfield Multiplex and new student accommodation apartments by BGC in Stirling Street.

A lot of other projects have been mooted, especially in the media but until the dirt is actually turned over on site, which for many

is a long time from happening, we can't get too excited. But if it all comes together over the next year or so, things will be looking a lot brighter.

In the meantime, stick with your union. Encourage other workers on site to join up. Remember, strength in numbers.

At the end of the day there's no one else on your side except for us!



## CUMMO GOLF DAY

The John Cummins Golf Day is coming up with a good slice of the proceeds going to help local people in need this year.

Please contact me for any information on 0427 244 141 about playing or providing prizes and sponsorship.

# Shopping for work in the North?



NEW Innaloo Shopping Centre: Looking forward to a full on site EBA

The Northern Suburbs is like a lot of areas at the moment, with projects planned but not all happening at once, projects are being staggered.

Smaller jobs are wrapping up with good EBA jobs on the way this year.

Several HUGE Shopping Centre Developments are planned. The first stage of Whitford's is due for completion; stage two, much bigger in scope, is planned but will happen later down the track in 2019.

It's also early days for Karrinyup Shopping Centre with a multi-million dollar redevelopment planned, although Multiplex have a few sheds on site now, it's not expected to ramp up until later in the year. Innaloo Shopping Centre, will have a full on site EBA and is another project that will be a while before it reaches peak workforce. By Christmas we should have an idea of what's happening with all the major SC projects.

Stirling Cross Apartments next to IKEA will soon be completed. Membership on site has been rock solid with Ceilcon, Vercon GCS and Probuild Direct, Slewrig and OSE 100%. Probuild have commended the safety on the job which is a credit to our delegates and the workers. Other builders should take note. Good safety = less time loss + higher morale on the job. Well done to all!

At the Claremont Football Oval Apartment Development, Advance Formwork is also all 100% with the new EBA.

Morley Galleria, a Lend Lease project will be a massive project due to start in the next 12 months.

At the SAS Barracks Rob Pearson has been doing a great job as our delegate, with good cooperation from Lend Lease. It augers well for the future with Lend Lease about to have a much bigger footprint in our city than in previous years. Who Dares Wins!

Subbies are now coming to us to discuss and sign up to the new Industry Agreement. Positive comments are being made about reshaping our industry to make it better going forward. You union is also doing a lot of work tackling casualisation, but we all need to stick fat.

Soon we will weather this economic storm that the Liberals have put us in both in WA and federally. On the other side things WILL pick up. As they say there is some light on the hill.

WE are also working hard on wages claims, checking underpayments and compliance on entitlements, so if you think you being short changed, give me a call. 0488 770 857. In the meantime, get along to the monthly members meetings on the second Wednesday of each month at 5pm for more info on these upcoming projects and more.

**Stay safe and stay paid up and proud.**

# Carousel – Union Agreements way to go



Sally McManus with the CFMEU after a meeting at the Stadium

The Perth Stadium is more than half way finished, with around 1400 workers' shirt fronting deadlines to be ready for the first sporting event early next year. The so called friendly builder Multiplex has also been a challenge for the workers.

The visit to the Perth Stadium by ACTU Secretary Sally McManus on Friday 19th May was warmly received by all workers on site but particularly by several of the female workers. The CFMEU proudly supports women getting involved in non-traditional occupations and actively campaigns for equal pay for equal work for women employed in construction. We loudly and proudly say CFMEU Women Rock!

## CAROUSEL STARTS UP

The Scentre group has begun construction of the Carousel Shopping Centre in Cannington. The two-stage extension is underway with contractors such as CASC,

Sanwell Plumbing and Civil, GMF, Focus Demolition, SPT, Total Reo and Tyrone Bricklaying. Most workers on site will enjoy the benefits of a union agreement with good wages and conditions. Unfortunately, some of the workers are missing out on these benefits as their employers are still using non-union agreements to rip out even higher profits at the expense of workers' pockets. Another reason to be organised, proud to be in the union and refuse free loaders on site.

New jobs are coming up in the Eastern suburbs with the Midland Gate Shopping Centre being awarded to Doric Constructions. We were hoping that it would be another builder with higher standards in relation to having a Union Agreement, paying site allowances, employing people on the books rather than using labour hire or subcontracting out.

Fortec Australia has begun the maintenance and repairs of the Heritage listed Garratt Road Bridge over the Swan River in Ascot – built in 1935 (southbound) and 1975 (northbound). The project involves repairs on more than 200 jarrah timber piles and replacing the fender system. This is another WA Government funded project.

The Airport Link is cranking up with around 90 workers currently on the job.

The \$2 billion project will be the biggest active job in Perth after the Perth Stadium finishes.

A reminder to all, if you want to enjoy better wages and conditions you need to join your union and hold the flag tall for the future of our industry and families.

Don't hesitate to visit our website [www.cfmeuwa.com](http://www.cfmeuwa.com) or give us a call on 9228 6900 or 0419 812 872 for more information on jobs in the area.

# VALE Sam McCullough



Sam McCullough and his Dad Cam atop C2 - BHP headquarters

Crown workers show their respect



## A TERRIFIC YOUNG MAN GONE TOO SOON

Many of us had the pleasure of being a friend and work colleague of Sam McCullough. He was a young man successfully making his way in the big wide world. As a young form worker with Crown, Sam was respected for his hard work and sense of humour on the job. His Crown workmates donned black arm bands as a mark of respect across sites in Perth. Like many young Australians Sam had ventured to the UK, looking to take on new forms of carpentry to hone his skills and have some fun along the way, and by all accounts he certainly did that, making a lot of new friends who came out to remember him fondly at a function in London attended by Sam's family.

Sam left an indelible print on all he met and his memory will always mean so much to us all. The massive turn out at his funeral was testament to how many people he had touched, and had touched him throughout his life.

He was a character, a larrikin, hard worker and successful young man, but most of all a much loved Son, Brother and friend. Rest in peace.

***Our condolences to Cam, Jules and family.***

## Construction, Forestry, Mining and Energy Union of Workers (CFMEUW) – Notice of Intended Rule Change

On 12 April 2017 a General Meeting of the CFMEUW passed a motion approving the following amendments to the Rules and the making of an application to the Western Australian Industrial Relations Commission authorising the application to change the rules:

**1. In Rule 2 – REGISTERED OFFICE, delete the following:**

*27 Moore Street, East Perth*

and insert in lieu thereof the following:

*Trades Hall, 80 Beaufort Street, Perth*

**2. In Rule 13 – FINANCIAL YEAR, delete the existing rule and insert in lieu thereof the following:**

*The financial year shall commence on and from 1 April each year and end on 31 March of each following year. Provided however that a retrospective transitional period shall apply from 1 January 2017 to 31 March 2017. For each year thereafter, the financial year for the Union shall, commence on and from 1 April each year and end on 31 March of each following year.*

The purpose of the amendments is to mirror the recent changes made to the Federal union's rules on the financial reporting periods, changing the financial reporting period from 1 January – 31 December to 1 April – 31 March, with a transitional period. The effect of the change is that the state union's financial reporting period will be the same as the federal union's financial reporting period. The proposed alteration to the address in rule 2 will update the rule to show the union's current registered office address.

The CFMEUW will apply to the WAIRC for the registration of the proposed amendments on 26 June 2017. Any member may object to the making of the application for the proposed amendments and/or object to the proposed amendments by forwarding a written objection to the Registrar of the WAIRC. Objections should reach the Registrar no later than twenty-one (21) days after the date of the receipt of this notice.

For further information, please contact Kathryn Wilson at the union on (08) 9228 6900.

# Fly the Flag 2017: September 14th

The MICWA Program works by empowering ordinary workers to safely manage conversations with their MATES who are doing it tough, and to refer onto appropriate help. It IS OK to seek help!



Each year in September, Mates in Construction nationally partner with R U OK?/World Suicide Prevention Day to showcase MIC's national "Fly the Flag for MIC" event.

For the past 2 years, MIC Flags have been flown from makeshift flagpoles, cranes, scaffolding, and displayed on site fences and in offices Australia-wide to symbolise the building and construction industry coming together as a community, to make suicide everyone's business.

Last year, the flag was seen on over 250 small and large sites nationally – from Onslow WA to Sydney CBD, from the Master Builders Association offices across Australia, to the CFMEU National Conference on the Gold Coast, and was even flown at Parliament House in WA. This means that close to 20,000 workers saw the MATES in Construction flag flying proudly on building and construction sites last year.

Now, in 2017, we are once again calling on building and construction sites, offices and industry workplaces to 'Fly the Flag for MIC' and demonstrate your sites commitment to reducing the high levels of suicide in our industry.

To register for 2017, contact MICWA Office - Peta on 08 9463 6664 or email: [adminwa@micwa.org.au](mailto:adminwa@micwa.org.au)

**TOGETHER WE ARE CHANGING OUR INDUSTRY!**

## THE MATES LUNCH 2017

The third annual MATES Lunch was this year opened by WA Deputy Premier and Minister for Mental Health, The Honourable Roger Cook, MLA, and was attended by representatives from building and construction companies, various unions including the CFMEU, peak bodies and apprenticeship schools, as well as mental health agencies, small business owners and government departments.

A total of 250 people sat down to lunch. Thank You!

The Minister for Mental Health, Roger Cook spoke confidently about his commitment to supporting workplace mental health initiatives, especially in the building and construction industry, and about the work of MATES in Construction WA (MCWA).

The MICWA Program works by empowering ordinary workers to safely manage conversations with their MATES who are doing it tough, and to refer onto appropriate help. It IS OK to seek help!

Of course, it wouldn't be a 'MATES Lunch' without some fundraising!

Through sponsorship of the event itself by Cbus, our Gold and Silver tables; the many other industry tables and individual tickets, as well as the live and silent auction – the industry collectively raised \$58,000 towards the prevention of suicide.

**To you all – Thank You!**



### MATES StandBy Service WA

*The Mental Health Commission WA announced recently that it will be providing two years funding for the MATES StandBy Service WA, starting 1st June 2017.*

*The MATES StandBy Service WA is unique to WA and provides grief & trauma support to WA building and construction workers and their immediate family who have been bereaved or affected by a suicide, or a suicide attempt. If this describes you or someone you know, then please call the MATES StandBy Co-ordinator WA, Mon – Fri 0409 996 260 (after hours and weekends MIC 24/7 1300 642 111). The service is a FREE and Confidential.*

# What's NEW at the CSTC

Get quality  
trained **NOW!**

CFMEU  
MEMBERS  
**20%**  
DISCOUNT

## Tower Crane courses will recommence in July after the installation of a refurbished Tower Crane at CSTC's training centre.

The Construction Skills Training Centre is now training the Nationally Accredited Traffic courses.

These courses are run over three days:

- Day 1:** Pre-requisites RIIWHS201D – Work Safely and follow WHS Policies and Procedures; and RIICOM201D – Communicate in the Workplace.
- Day 2:** RIIWHS302D - Implement Traffic Management Plan.
- Day 3:** RIIWHS205D – Control Traffic with a Stop-slow Bat.

For the convenience of our members, the CSTC is excited to announce that we will be offering Saturday training from June 2017, the courses that will be over a Saturday periods are as follows:

- RIIWHS204D Work Safely at Heights
- RIIWHS202D Enter and work in confined space
- Work Safely at Heights and Confined Space Refreshers (conditions apply)
- CPCCCM1016A Identify requirements for safe tilt up work
- RAL001 Restricted Asbestos
- CPCCCM2009A Carry out basic demolition
- CPCCCLHS3002A Licence to operate a materials hoist
- RIIHAN309E Conduct telescopic materials handler operations

**NEW! NOW RUNNING SELECTED COURSES ON SATURDAY**



**CSTC**  
Construction Skills Training Centre  
**QUALITY TRAINING**

Please contact CSTC for dates and times the courses listed.  
Call the CSTC to make a booking on (08) 9358 6501  
check our website for more courses [www.cstc.com.au](http://www.cstc.com.au)

**REMEMBER : FINANCIAL CFMEU MEMBERS GET AT LEAST 20% DISCOUNT – BOOK NOW**

## Safety needs to improve on the Link

The Forrestfield link run by NRW-Salini Impreglio is a state project, but fails to deliver the basics in safety.

We have a worker who nearly had an arm torn off when a conveyor belt was turned on, and two men were in a steam room when the hydraulic doors shut, where an apprentice had been working moments before without any lockout procedures in place. After this major safety concern management still took an hour to let the union go on site to investigate the breach. Before Easter a worker broke his leg on-site before work and NRW Salini excuse for it not being a lost time injury, was that it was before work started.

At the Bayswater site work had already commenced with no smoko facilities in place, Belmont Station has no running water with only one stinking toilet where women are also on site. The union continues to have meetings with Salini about dodgy agreements signed by 3 workers. Stay tuned.

As you may know I have left the union and taken a role back on the job – thanks to all I've met and helped along the way. Be paid proud up and proud.

# The Pilbara: From the Deserts Profits Come

**Following from his renowned book *Hard Ground about unions in the Pilbara* – Professor Bradon Ellem has written a new book – *From the Deserts Profits Come* – a must read!**

Once, the Pilbara's iron ore industry was a union heartland – and everyone knew it. It had a far higher level of union membership than the rest of the country. Now it's even lower than that average. How did this happen?

When the first exports of iron ore were shipped in 1966, the Pilbara was on the way to becoming a place that workers and, soon, their families made their own. It was a different world from today's: governments required basic union recognition and made the companies build towns. The companies had to work with unions.

None of that made it inevitable that the unions became powerful. Nor did the tough conditions and the isolation. Those things could just as easily have made workers grab the money and run, not caring about unions.

What happened was that workers, their unions and communities set out to make the Pilbara into their kind of place, driving improvements in wages and conditions, and winning an almost unparalleled say over daily work. These unions, many thought, were prophets of a new way of doing things. They were ambitious and active.

In the 1980s, everything changed. With anti-unionism emerging globally and locally, the mining companies fought back and governments gave them the laws they needed to break unions.

The Pilbara hit the national stage with the

lock-out of the workforce at Robe River in 1986. Over the next few years, the power that the unions had achieved there was crushed. In the 1990s, the other operators, Hamersley Iron and BHP, followed with their own de-unionisation plans.

Having subdued the unions, the companies changed the whole of the Pilbara. Fly-in-fly-out and longer working hours weakened communities and neutralised them as sources of union power.

So, was union strength more apparent than real? In some ways, it was. Three problems lay below the surface – and the lessons are clear:

- When pressure came on, unions often became divided among themselves.
- 'Outsiders' including other union leaders let local workers down. They saw Pilbara workers as too militant and often cut them adrift.
- This might seem odd but in a sense the unions were not militant enough. Winning better wages was one thing, but rarely did they use their power to try to make bigger changes.

Then as now, what happened in the Pilbara reshaped the country. The companies, not the unions, were the prophets with a gospel of individual contracts. Anti-union strategies were copied in workplaces far from the

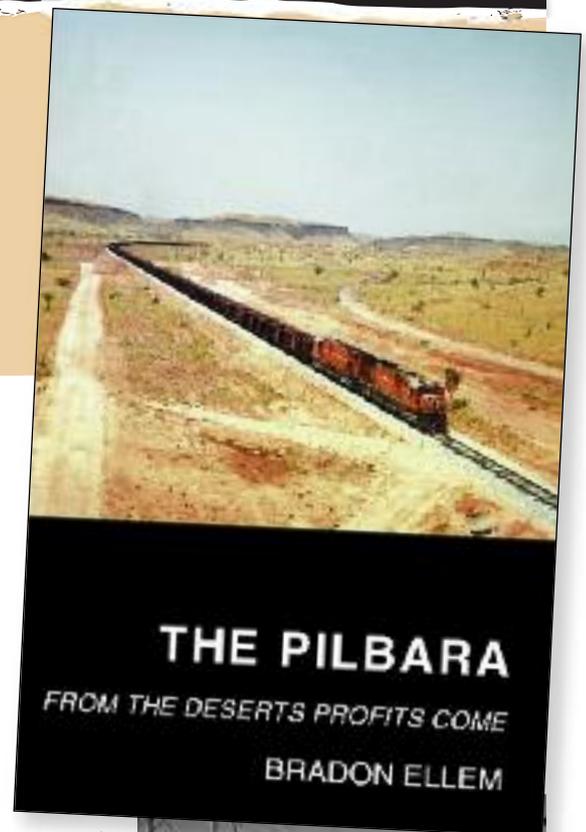
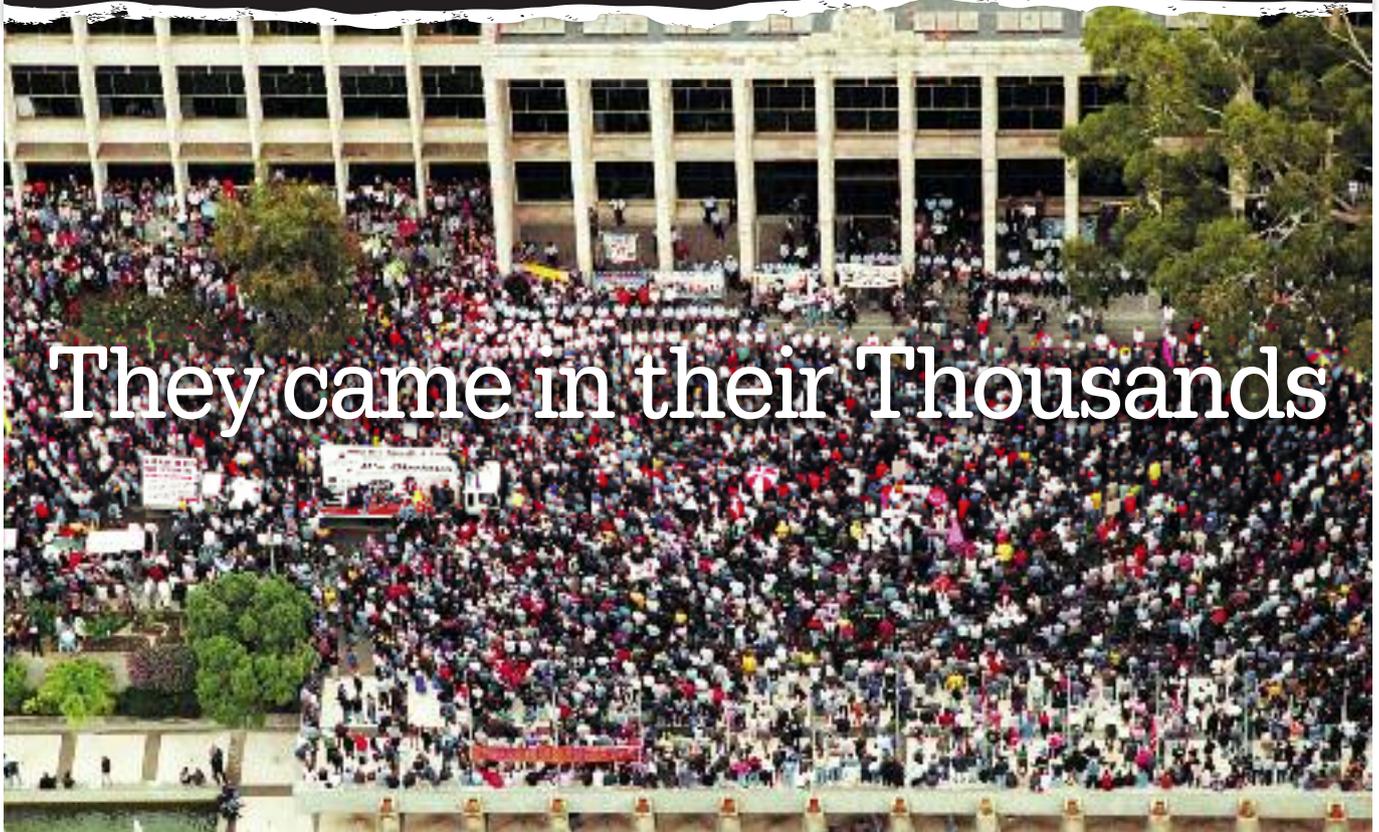


Photo: Making the Pilbara: Gangers laying track at Nelson Point, 1969. (Aerial Surveys Australia; State Library WA, 267374PD.)

Pilbara. The companies influenced national politics, driving changes to the law that affected high and low paid workers alike.

But nothing is ever clear-cut: today Rio's train drivers are on a collective agreement and the crane operators are pushing for one. Across the pits, ports and towns, die-hard men and women still hold union tickets. They still carry the dream of the Pilbara as a different kind of place and vibrant unionism as vital to their working lives.

**Bradon Ellem's book *The Pilbara: From the Deserts Profits Come* will be published in the first week of July, retailing at \$39.99. The book can be bought from University of Western Australia Publishing at [www.uwap.com.au](http://www.uwap.com.au)**



# They came in their Thousands

The 29th of April 1997 marked the biggest ever union rally ever seen in this state. Called the Third Wave rally it was the culmination of various other campaigns which harnessed the good will of the entire WA Community along with all unions and their members.

It was reported by media, that on this day, well over 30,000 marched and stood shoulder to shoulder at Parliament House.

Today we find history repeating itself, workers and families are under attack and need to wake up from their slumber before all that has been fought for, is taken off them. We need this type of community and union member support to rid ourselves once and for all of the draconian Liberal government laws and their almost maniacal hatred at seeing working people rise up from being slaves to corporations and their greed for profit.

## THERE WERE IN FACT 3 WAVES TO THE CAMPAIGN

"The first wave, in the Workplace Agreements Act of 1993, provided for the introduction of workplace agreements; the second wave

**It was like Woodstock – everyone you ask says they were there on that day!**

restricted the right of union officials to enter workplaces to service their members, deal with workplace issues and organise collectively with the effect that they could only enter workplaces where there were already union members; and the third wave dealt with pre-strike ballots, limited state award coverage where unions sought federal awards as well and limited political expenditure by unions."

In 1997 the Richard Court led government was re-elected and subsequently introduced the 'third wave' of the legislation. Tony Cooke and the TLC initiated a great campaign of strikes, media saturation coverage and a public education campaign which included a website. As the government had only just over a year to introduce the legislation into parliament before they lost a majority in the

Legislative Council, both sides of the conflict stepped up plans to fight until that date. The Labour movement used tactics, such as a picket line on Parliament, and in return the Liberal Party used a guillotine tactic in Parliament to minimize any debate on the issue. This all culminated in a public rally on the 29th of April 1997 where an estimated 30,000 PLUS people (one estimate was as high as 50,000), marched from the city to Parliament House to protest the laws.

Tony Cooke, who was the Trades and Labour Secretary, (now Unions WA) and Stephanie Mayman were at the forefront of the campaign. Both were awarded Life Membership to Unions WA for their roles in the campaign at a special ceremony to mark The Third Wave 20th anniversary.

*NOTE: The Third Wave also gave birth to Solidarity Park which was supported and built by many of our own members. It was opened in November of 1997. We will have a special celebratory feature telling the story of Solidarity Park in our final issue of the year, to coincide with its inaugural completion.*

# Campaign for the release of Simon Trinidad

The International Campaign for the freedom of Simon Trinidad has been ramped up in Colombia and abroad with an open letter written by campaign organisers. Simon Trinidad, a FARC commander, was captured by the Colombian army and then extradited to the United States on charges of terrorism and drug trafficking. He was sentenced to 65 years in prison but his comrades claim his freedom as part of the Peace deal signed by the FARC and the Colombian government which includes the release of all political prisoners.

The campaign letter outlines the feelings of pain, sadness, anger and outrage when the Obama administration denied his pardon. The organisers are themselves ex and current political prisoners so they speak with some authority. In their words, they have also suffered from oppression in the narrow limits of a cell, without the right to time for sun, pale and bruised. They describe long hours, days or weeks of punishment in high security jails. They tell of their resolve not to succumb to the crushing loneliness of solitary confinement.

They recognise the resistance Simon Trinidad maintains, despite his unjust incarceration in exile.

In their open letter to Simon, they write of the US government who have sponsored war in Colombia for more than 25 years. They make a commitment to continue to fight for freedom for Simon and other political prisoners; a call for solidarity and for the formation of standing committees in solidarity to be set up.

Solidarity has before broken what seems to be the impenetrable walls of prison and most recently saw the release of the Cuban Five in



2014 after 16 years in US prisons, Puerto Rican independence fighter Oscar Lopez freed mid-May after 34 unjust years in jail. In reality the peace process in Colombia will never be complete without the liberty of Simon Trinidad and all other Colombian political prisoners. In closing their letter, they end with a hug that goes beyond walls and that can't be contained. It is signed just 'Sincerely, Political prisoners of war of the FARC-EP Prisons of Colombia'

## CFMEU CONGRATULATES THE PNG PEOPLE ON THE FORMATION OF THE ALLIANCE.

The Construction, Forestry, Mining and Energy Union (CFMEU) Western Australian Branch congratulates the PNG Land owners, the Maritime Transport and Energy Unions on the launch of the Alliance.

The ground-breaking Alliance has been set

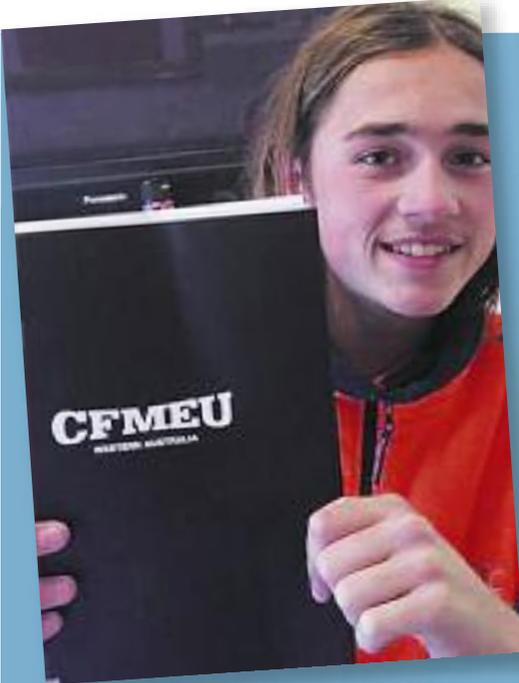
up in the Oil and Gas resource sector to ensure lucrative LNG developments give back to local communities, ensuring everyone gets a fair share of the benefits.

It is only with alliances between the traditional owners of the land and unions that communities can achieve a benefit from the exploitation of their natural resources to create employment, education and training for their people.

The Alliance is a way to return full control of the land to the traditional owners. In the same way here in Australia, Aboriginal people must have the right to veto any proposed exploitation of natural resources on the land. Land rights will ensure the environment is protected and helps ensure the Australian community benefits from the exploitation of our natural resources.

We support the Alliance's seven key demands on the project operators and the PNG Government, which are;

- Alliance members have full and transparent engagement in the preparations and development of the LNG Project in Gulf Province, PNG.
- LNG Project Development and plant and infrastructure to be built in the Gulf Province.
- Training, starting in the school system, and jobs – including preparation for employment in the LNG Project.
- A share of 30% of wealth and returns for long-term regional development.
- Downstream employment in infrastructure including the supply chain and shipping.
- Health and safety regulations for all workers.
- Protection of the environment.



## THE FAMILY WHO STICKS TOGETHER...

We have always been proud to have a lot family members in the union. The latest addition to our CFMEU Family is James Robert Lawless son of Christopher Samuel Lawless. James is currently an apprentice with Cubic. Welcome aboard.

*Did you know apprentices can join at a reduced rate? Call our office 9228 6900 or see your organiser for details*

# CFMEU KIDS

Hey Kids enter our colouring in competition on the back of this issues cover sheet – you can WIN prizes.



# PET PICS COMPETITION

SEND US pics of your favourite pet and we'll publish them in the next issue: 'Scaffy' will be the judge – Best pic wins a prize!

**Email your pics to: [editor@cfmeuwa.com](mailto:editor@cfmeuwa.com)**

**with your name, contact details and**

**pet's name, or send to our facebook page at [cfmeuwa](https://www.facebook.com/cfmeuwa)**



## \$SAVE \$SAVE \$SAVE

WITH HBF –  
NEW MEMBER  
BENEFIT



Great news! You can now save on Health Cover and other Insurance with HBF (see story about benefits in this issue)

## JOIN OR RENEW ONLINE

Just a reminder that you can renew your dues easily on line and also join up. Just click the tab at [www.cfmeuwa.com](http://www.cfmeuwa.com)



## Where's Scaffy?

Scaffy was hiding in our last issue on page 35, helping with our Christmas Collection Drive. Can you find him in this one?

**Look Closely!**

