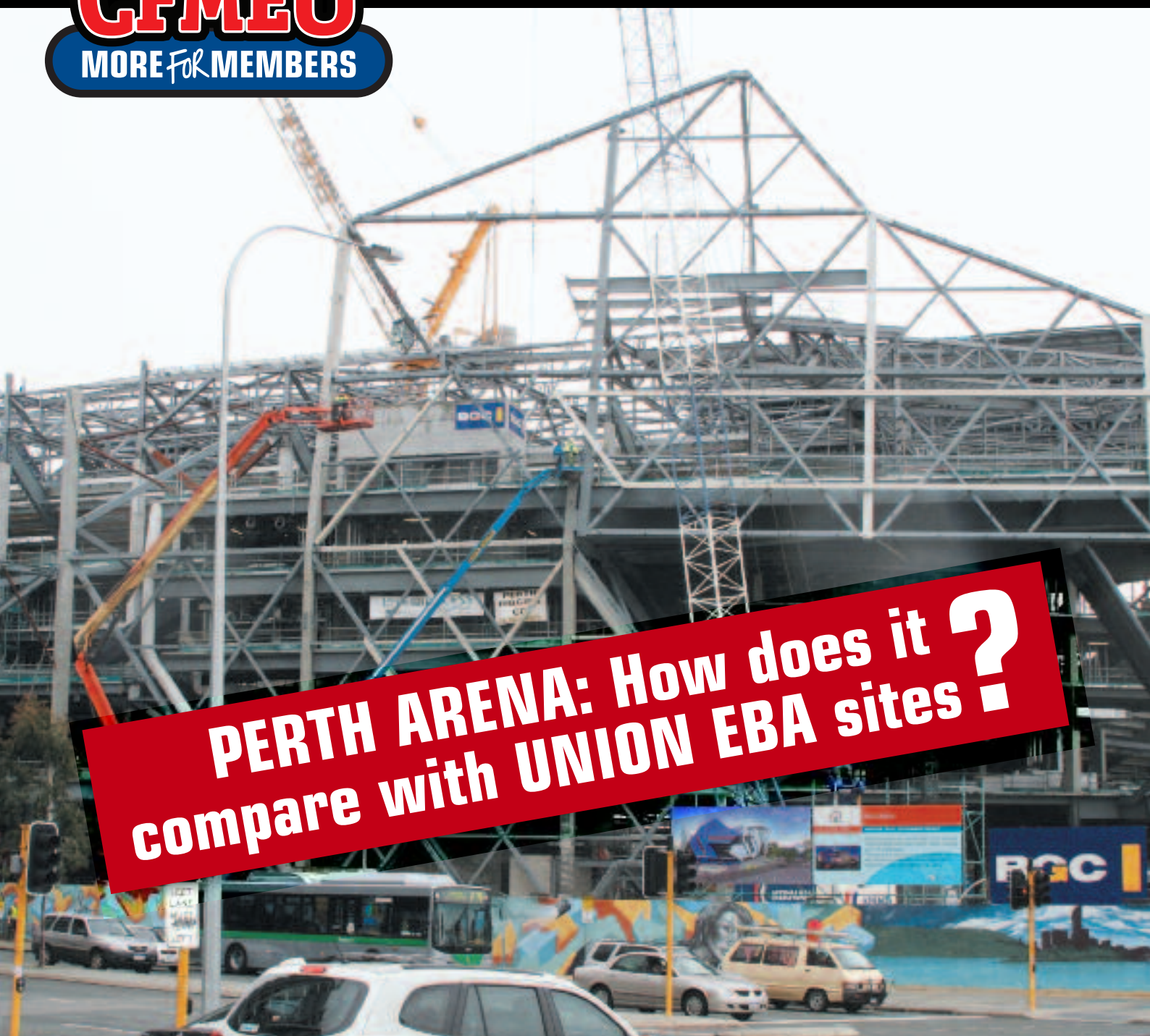




# Construction Worker

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Winter 2011 Issue 2



**PERTH ARENA: How does it compare with UNION EBA sites ?**

**CFMEU COLLECTS OVER \$1.7 MILLION IN BACK PAY**

**WE EXPOSE PERTH'S WORST LUNCH SHED**

**WORKSAFE OR WORSTSAFE?**

**NORTH WEST BIGGER THAN SNOWY RIVER?**

**FEDERAL GOVERNMENT ABANDONS TRAINING LEVY**



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**HAVE YOUR SAY IN THE JOURNAL**

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



## 'Low act Builders' living high life at workers expense.

There's a despicable trend that is seeing builders not passing on payments to contractors who in turn are not able to pay their workers. Unpaid labour is being used by builders to underwrite their developments. Make no mistake, your union is on to this and taking action where possible. Our advice to workers who get caught up in non payment of wages and entitlements is to make sure you are financial in the union so we can act on your behalf.

Call us NOW if you are suffering from no progress payments and wages not being paid. Workers shouldn't have to go home every week with no money on the kitchen table. Their partners and children are put under awful stress that can cause a whole host of social issues to surface from relationship breakdowns to even suicide.

If you are under acute stress because of this situation please call the office and our counselling service provided by WACIRF on 1800 337 068 – it's a free service to members. Builders who don't pass on appropriate progress payments, on time, for work done are pariahs feeding off the hard work of others, while they live the high life!

### **EBAs**

A new round of EBA negotiations will start soon. Let me say the union will be fighting hard for a better deal for all our members in the face of massive cost of living increases. I urge all members especially those on smaller sites and in the yard areas to take a

stand and fight for an EBA with your union –remember that 'Protected Action' is always an option! Builders out there should also take on board that EBA sites are more productive than those that aren't – a happy workforce is a productive one! You only have to look at the progress of some major EBA sites in Perth to see they are running on schedule and on budget compared to those that are not. EBA sites are generally safer and attract a higher quality and more stable workforce during the life of the project.

### **ATO AFTER SHAM OPERATORS**

Sham Contracting is still an issue on too many sites. As is using Tourist Visa workers on ABN's at the expense of giving jobs to locals who live here and can provide the skills needed. The Australian Tax Office in the last Federal Budget announced a major crackdown and new reporting requirements which will hopefully help bring an end to those who are genuinely exploiting the workforce.

### **FUTURE JOBS**

With a few jobs coming to a close in the city, new projects are starting to take shape (See Story this issue). I ask all members to stay strong as they join other projects both in the city and elsewhere in WA. The SW has a couple of major projects coming on stream and the NW is booming along, although not according to Colin Barnett! Financial members looking for work can get a list of contractors from our office.

### **TRAINING FOR OUR FUTURE**

The Federal Government's decision to abandon plans for a \$5000 training levy on employers who import semi-skilled workers for major projects will deny young Australians the chance of a job or training. (See story this issue) When will they ever learn? Training is our future! In the meantime at least CFMEU members can get a discount at the CSTC – or free courses if their employers are contributing to the CTF. Check out the CSTC website [www.cstc.com.au](http://www.cstc.com.au)

### **THANKS PETA!**

In the last issue of the Construction Worker I announced my impending retirement. It would be remiss of me not to thank our Office Manager Peta Arnold for all the help and support she has given to me, the union and our membership during my time as State Secretary. Peta has rung up 25 years of service with the union. Well done Peta! (See story this issue) Feel free to call her at the office with your thanks!

### **MAY DAY**

A big thanks to all our members and their families who attended May Day. May Day should be about celebrating the victories and achievements of the working class. It's not a dog show. However, construction workers led the way and livened things up a bit by barking a few well aimed chants.

Remember, be paid up and proud.

**Kevin Reynolds**

State Secretary, CFMEU C&G WA





# MAY DAY: Great day soured by pettiness



Kevin Reynolds proudly leads our May Day parade

May Day this year was a great day. As usual the CFMEU had the greatest number of workers and families, which has become the norm over many years. This union has always heavily promoted May Day, not just as an event but primarily its core values. The reason why we all meet on May Day is to celebrate the achievements and success of the working class and how far we've come, in our case those involved in the building and construction industry over the past 160 years.

This year, all be it a little late because of impromptu circumstances, our WA State Secretary, Kevin Reynolds who has

given 40 years of his life to the union movement, wasn't even given 10 minutes to address not only his members but the wider union fraternity, which he also represented as a past President of the TLC – now called Unions WA. From feedback even the ACTU was appalled!

Now, events such as May Day have a schedule to run to, but to be inflexible and not find just 10 minutes on the centre stage for someone of Reynolds ilk to say a few words about his life in the union movement and what he sees for the future, was a churlish disgrace. When the request was put forward the message came back that he

**If we don't respect our own, how can we expect others to do the same?**

**MICK BUCHAN**

was not getting on the stage, but could have a meeting in the roped off CFMEU area and speak to his own members. This he accordingly did on the back of a work vehicle with a loud hailer. As a show of support and respect the MUA and AMWU had their members join in. If we don't respect our own, how can we expect others to do the same?

**NOTE:** To see a video of Kevin Reynolds rousing May Day speech go to You Tube or Google and do a search for cfmeunion you'll find it there.



## FROM THAT...

*Lunch shed for 40 workers: No expense spared! Latest plastic sheet roofing to protect workers on their break from the elements, designer chairs, luxury flooring.*



## ...TO THIS

*Fully enclosed and undercover with proper lunch tables, chairs, fridge, microwave, clothes hooks, fresh water and first aid storage areas.*



## UNION SORTS OUT LUNCH SHED MESS

Your union and its members have fought bloody hard for years to achieve better working conditions and site amenities. So when we recently came across a site that had third world lunch shed conditions we weren't about to let years of progress go by the wayside. The conditions at this Wickham Street unit site in East Perth were amongst the worst we had ever seen. Over 40 workers were supposed to eat and have breaks in what was little better than a pigsty – correction, we have seen better pigsty's! After a meeting with NW Constructions we made it very clear that workers do not have to put up with unhealthy crap like this in the 21st century – it's Perth, not Bangladesh! Within a couple of weeks the workers had a purpose built lunch shed and toilet in the underground car park. Safety was a major issue as well, the scaffold was a wonky mess and it basically had to all be pulled down, re based and started again.

There are too many smaller sites in Perth getting away with this sort of crap.

***If you work on a grubby site, don't put up with it – contact us on 9221 1055.***







# The Money Pit...PERTH ARENA: Over \$38,000 for a



***The Perth Arena: Why has it dragged on for so long since the project was announced in 2007, all at the taxpayer's expense?***

In the time since construction actually started at Perth Arena in 2008, the \$2 billion Fiona Stanley Hospital, the largest building infrastructure project ever undertaken by the State, is currently on schedule and C2 – City Square the new HQ for BHP, is currently on par with its construction schedule – the top floor has been completed. Although differing in design from the complex nature of Perth Arena these two projects are not without their own complexities in design. Fiona Stanley Hospital is massive in its scope; up to 9 tower cranes on site give you a visual impact of the enormity of its scale.

**FIONA STANLEY HOSPITAL FACTS:**

- **Size equivalent of four city blocks**
- **150,000sqm of floor space over five main buildings**
- **6,300 rooms**
- **783 beds, including 140 rehabilitation beds**
- **Over 10,000 doors**
- **State-of-the-art technology into every level of the hospital**
- **More than five hectares of natural bush land, landscaped parks, internal gardens, courtyards and plazas**
- **3,600 basement, ground level and multi-storey car parking bays.**

C2 or City Square, as it is also known, will be the one of the tallest buildings in Australia when completed. Plans include the highest lobby ceiling in Perth at 38 meters with over 70,000 square metres of floor space. Central Park, another massive Perth Skyscraper which successfully utilised an untried new modular building system, was built in 4 years between 1988 and 1992.

Whoever says that union sites are not productive need look no further than both the Fiona Stanley Hospital and C2. When workers are on good EBA wages and conditions with a strong delegate and safety rep structure in place to ensure good lines of communication, proper safety and clean and orderly run worksites, you get productive results.

BGC, Diploma, Doric, Broad, John Hollands, etc., are well known for being anti-union on their sites and they cannot hide behind the worn out chestnut of union hold ups and lazy workers anymore. The world has changed.

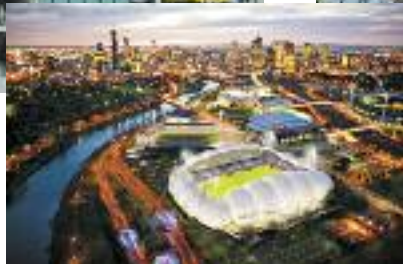
Questions need to be asked about why Perth Arena is both over schedule and way over budget at taxpayer's expense. It also goes to the tender process and what if any lessons can be learnt to lessen the burden on the poor old WA taxpayer in relation to any major future projects built in WA. Eg: A new AFL football stadium.

# seat! Who says Union EBA labour isn't productive?



**Fiona Stanley Hospital: Massive and complex, on schedule.**

**AAMI Stadium: Complex design built in less than 2½ years.**



**C2 : One of Australia's tallest buildings nears completion – on time.**

**Central Park: New Design innovations didn't stop it from being built on time.**



## WOULD YOU PAY \$38,000 FOR A SEAT?

When Perth Arena was initially floated the cost was going to be \$160 million, that cost has now blown out and is thought to be presently in the region of \$535 million. (Bets are on it will be above \$600m). As a 14,000 seat arena that works out to be around \$38,214 for each seat. That's a lot of tickets to be sold in each seat to just recoup costs. Leighton, John Holland, Doric and Grocon along with BGC looked at submitting tenders. There was discussion and a warning from the CFMEU at the time about the bid going to the lowest tender, that it didn't always work out well going for the cheapest.

Department of Housing and Works Spokesman John Coles said at the time, which in retrospect now sounds like a farce, that all government tenders were awarded on the basis of providing the best

value for money for the State. Best value for money? You're joking!

Pensioners and poorer families will freeze this winter due to huge power cost increases, families are sleeping in cars due to a lack of social housing. What might have been? Grocon for example, one of the original bidders in the mix for Perth Arena (but pulled out), built AAMI Stadium with a capacity of 30,050 in Victoria in just under two and half years with a budget of \$267.5 million.

Delays at Perth Arena have allegedly been blamed on everything from the design team being separate to the builder (BGC), to the situation of the giant roof being jacked up on top without infrastructure going into to roof at a more workable level beforehand. There have even been rumours of water leakage causing delays in the underground car park.

Len Buckeridge, the boss of BGC, has come out in the WA press and

said that constructing the Perth Arena Entertainment Centre was like trying to build a squashed beer can! One has to wonder, with that view, why they took it on in the first place and whether they are up to building projects of such a complex engineering nature? Why were BGC awarded the tender? Did they have previous experience with similar type scopes?

The opening date is now planned for 'sometime' in 2012 rather than the original January 2009 opening date – 3 years behind schedule! We'll believe it when we see it! At a cost of well over half a billion dollars they'll be no standing ovation from WA taxpayers and suffering families who are helping to re-fill government coffers with increased taxes and charges when the ribbon is finally cut.

**Entertainment centre or money pit? You be the judge...you're paying for it!**





## 457 visa compliance still a major concern

The recent Federal Court decision to slap a record fine on unscrupulous employers who were underpaying foreign workers shows why unions are so concerned about the 457 temporary worker visa systems.



Slave workers paid \$3 per hour...Bullshit!

### MASSIVE FINE

The Federal Court fined Kentwood Industries Pty Ltd in Malaga \$123,000 and ordered them to pay \$307,000 in back-pay and interest to Chinese nationals on 457 Visas who had been paid as little as \$3 an hour for skilled work.

CFMEU Construction Assistant National Secretary Frank O'Grady said that the case, brought before the court by the Fair Work Ombudsman, showed a pattern of deliberate underpayment and a cynical disregard for workers' rights. "But workers continue to be ripped off on 457 Visas in all States and companies playing by the rules find it impossible to compete."

"Employer compliance, monitoring and enforcement are still grossly inadequate. In the 2011-12 Budget the Federal Government allocated an extra \$10 million for faster

processing of 457 Visa applications – but not one extra cent for 457 Visa employer compliance," Mr O'Grady said.

"With 457 Visa applications up 40 per cent on last year, and fast-track Enterprise Migration Agreements approved for resources construction projects, this is inexcusable.

"And on top of that, employers can get 457 Visa workers without having to show that qualified Australian workers were not available. That must be changed."


CFMEU WA's Mick Buchan said: "The question needs to be asked – how were these 457 Visas were issued to begin with. There's labour available with these qualifications across WA, especially in country areas. Our Branch recently employed an organiser who can speak fluent Chinese to help us out in that area. We get workers speaking up who are absolutely

being ripped off. Chinese companies are ripping off Chinese workers or Korean companies ripping off Korean workers. It's a disgrace!"

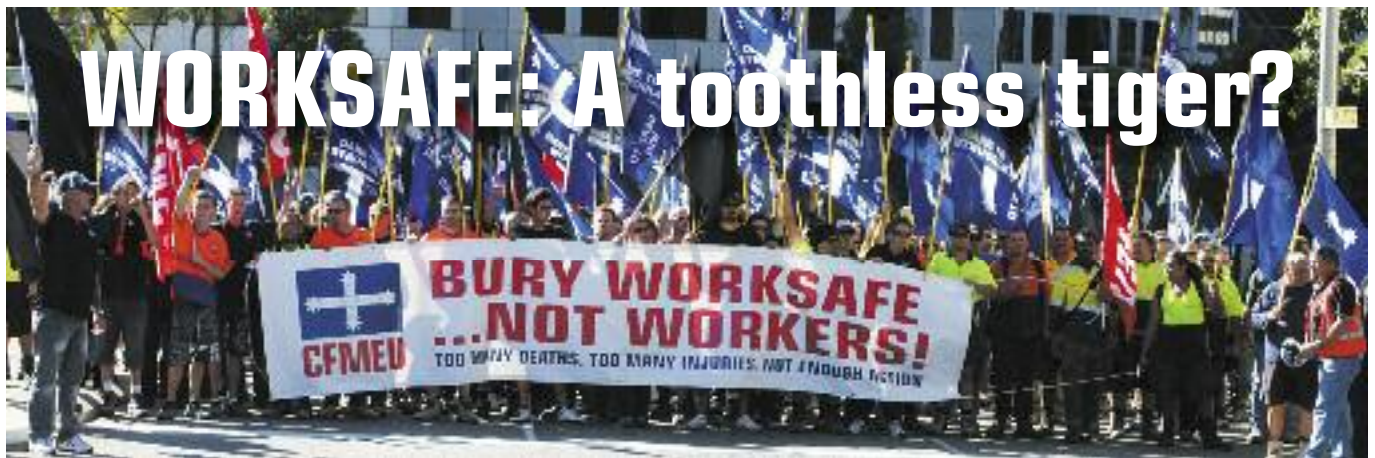
Mr O'Grady said that despite the case the CFMEU still had serious concerns about 457 Visas.

"Even though 457 Visa holders should legally be awarded the same pay and conditions as Australians, in reality they are unlikely to complain if they get short-changed," Mr O'Grady said.

"These are people who owe their Temporary Visa and prospect of future residency to their employer, so they'll keep quiet about being underpaid or about dangerous conditions."

"This can't be blamed on the guest workers. It's the fault of employers and middlemen who exploit them and of the government for not ensuring proper compliance." 





# WORKSAFE: A toothless tiger?

## Builders are developing a culture where money in the safe is better than being safe.

Worksafe WA was created out of a script for Yes Minister. There's a problem, so let's be seen to be doing something, even if it really means we aren't really doing anything. At least the perception can be created that we aren't doing nothing. Straight from the mouth of Sir Humphrey Appleby! Classic 'Poli-Speak'!

When Worksafe WA was launched it was heralded with a big government advertising campaign. Remember the 'Spot the Hazard – Think Safe Sam' TV commercials featuring Glen Jakovich in a perfect piece of miscasting? He may have flown high to take spekkie marks at Subi but rarely did he do it atop of a dodgy scaffold structure! At least under Gallop, and to some extent Carpenter, Worksafe had some profile. Under Barnett it has slipped down the public service ranks to almost become a government quango. Funding is inadequate resulting in not enough inspectors out there on the job. Even so there seems to be a culture driven from the top down that sees Workforce

as a reactive organisation rather than proactive. It's easy to take the view that they sit back and wait for accidents to happen, the focus is too much on prosecutions after the event rather than prevention. Then there's the question of knowing what to look for – how to identify safety hazards, to see things before they happen, which comes down to quality of the inspectors. When recruiting, 'industry experience' is often last on the list of priorities resulting in a sub-standard inspectorate. There are also allegations of disharmony within the organisation itself with internal bullying issues and a go-easy attitude with so called friends of friends caught up in investigations. Response times, when Worksafe is called to dispatch inspectors on sites with safety issues, take far too long. In many cases they don't even turn up. This only adds to the frustration felt within the construction industry. As a consequence Worksafe continues to suffer a lack of respect and credibility from those whom it is

supposed to serve.

In today's market, with increased competition between the lower tier builders, the amount of time and resources being spent on safety is spiraling down at an alarming rate. One site supervisor told me recently that on his current project (approx \$40million) he was allocated a paltry \$350 to spend on OHS and his company OHS Officer is an ex school physical education teacher, which will be handy when he is running up the road when things go pear-shaped. I think that paints an all too familiar picture out there and to make things worse...the regulatory authority is missing in action.

In the meantime lives are unduly put at risk and lost. Builders ignore safety codes of practice and by cutting corners in a relentless drive for profit, too many builders are developing a culture where money in the safe is better than being safe.

***If you have any safety issues and concerns on your site please contact Steve McCann on 0488 102 297 or email [smccann@cfmeuwa.com](mailto:smccann@cfmeuwa.com)***



# IT'S TIME TO GET ANGRY

**The rich stuff their pockets and the rest can get stuffed.**

**Workers get paid peanuts in comparison**

The next time someone has a go at construction workers for wanting a pay rise they should take these new figures on board. The top 20 corporate bosses in Australia are paid 110 times greater than average weekly earnings. Now far be it from me to begrudge anyone a decent quid, but this goes beyond a joke. Worse, a lot of these so-called 'leaders of industry' are paid ridiculous bonuses and given massive golden handshakes even when their companies fail to perform. The average worker now earns more than \$1000 a week. The average weekly pre-tax income in 2010 was \$1035, this means that the top 20 bosses are earning on average \$113,850 per week or nearly \$6 million dollars a year!

Granted these figures equate to only the top 20 bosses in Australia but what it does show is that there is an unhealthy spirit of disparity from those who are supposed to set an example and in the process they are widening the 'us and them' gap. The rich stuff their pockets and the rest can get stuffed.

For the average worker and their family you can understand why there is a feeling of more social inequity in Australia than ever before.

**The top 20 bosses are earning on average \$113,850 per week or nearly \$6 million dollars a year!**

**Remember this when you want a pay rise!**



WA State Premier C.O.L (Cost Of Living) Barnett has hit families hard with big cost increases on energy, water, transport, motor vehicle licensing. Not to mention spending 26 million dollars on a new office, the list goes on.

The Federal Government seems to have the view that the rich get richer, the poor get poorer and people in the middle can pay for it all.

Amidst all this, workers have the right to stand and up fight for a better deal. None more so than those currently being massively

ripped off by Sham Contractors. It's bad enough for workers not earning what they are worth by current industry standards, but to be underpaid by sham contracting, earning pathetic low flat rates of pay with no entitlements is a disgrace.

Recently the union was able to get over \$40,000 in back pay for a worker ripped off under a Sham arrangement. (See story this issue) If workers are being ripped off they have every right to get angry, get even and to take action.

**Don't stand for it. Stand up!**





## PETA ARNOLD: Still strong after 25 years

They say every army needs someone to hold the fort; well at the CFMEU that person would have to be Peta Arnold. Peta recently celebrated 25 years of service at the union. During that time she has seen it all. From the halcyon days of the BLF, through all the various mergers to become the CFMEU and even a Royal Commission. Peta has been a rock of dedication at the union office and to the members.

Peta is the first one in every day to open up the office and often the last one to turn off the lights. She has done a tremendous job over the years in helping me, the union and the members. Peta has also done a lot of hard work making the CSTC the success it is today. She has the respect of all our delegates and members. The union movement would be better off with more loyal people who have shown the same dedication over a 25 year period. There aren't many members that Peta hasn't helped out, either in person or over the phone, in the past 25 years.

When not fronting the union office Peta has a 'Crackerjack' time at the Nollamara Bowling Club, looking after her garden and spoiling her grandkids. Well done Arnie!

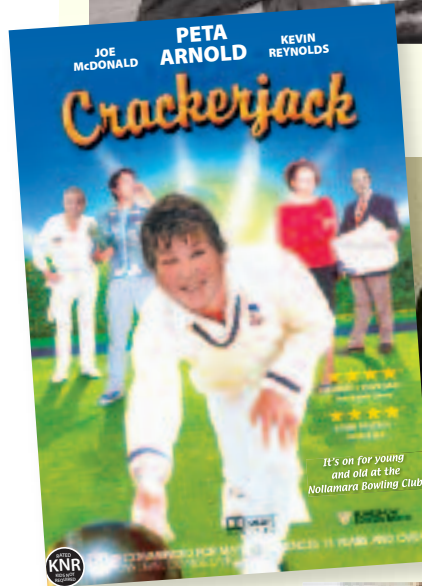
**There's always been a Pete's Page in the Journal with tidbits and goings on around the traps.**



**Peta: An ever present at May Day!**



**Cutting of the special 25 year Eureka cake.**



*It's on for young and old at the Nollamara Bowling Club!*



**Kevin Reynolds congratulates Arnie.**

**Loves havin' a crackerjack time at the bowls club!**



**Peta and family celebrate.**





# Stick together for an EBA. Get a better deal.



*Anten Crane Crew with Joe McDonald: Stayed strong and won. How about you?*

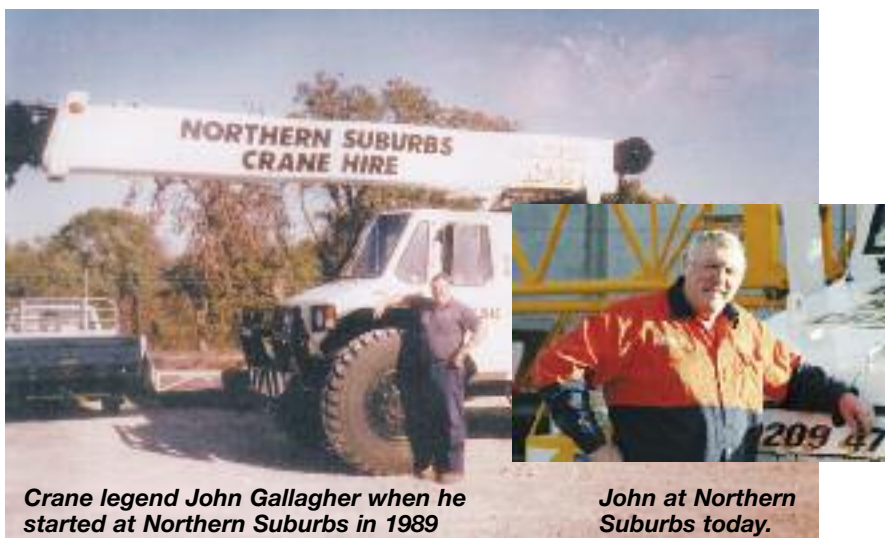
**You CAN get better!**

I'm now getting around to as many yards as possible to see our members. If you'd like me to visit your yard just call me on 0459 135 033. A lot of yards have some of the most dedicated CFMEU members. EBA's are coming up and everyone can take a leaf out of Anten Crane's book – they stuck together, bargained in good faith and reached an impasse with their employer. Protected Action was taken and the boys got an EBA with better pay and conditions by staying strong! Remember, Protected Action is your right. So, let's all stick together and get a better deal for all the yards. First, make sure you and your co-workers are paid up and proud. Once again, if you'd like any information about negotiating an EBA or Protected Action just give me a call. You can also email me on [PHeathcote@cfmeuwa.com](mailto:PHeathcote@cfmeuwa.com)

## Congratulations to John Gallagher

Northern Suburbs Crane Hire one of the best operators in the business is about to farewell one their best in John Gallagher. John is about to take a well earned break caravanning on long service leave and then retire.

John has been at Northern Suburbs since 1989 and shop steward for over 21 years. He first came out to Australia



*Crane legend John Gallagher when he started at Northern Suburbs in 1989*

*John at Northern Suburbs today.*

for Antrim County in Ireland back in 1964. His Da still lives there at the ripe old age of 98, his longevity put down to daily nip of Bush Mills – so we expect John to be around for a while yet! John first started on a Fowler crane in SA in 1966 and has been a top crane operator ever since. In the late 1980's he worked on a special committee with Joe McDonald and others to help steer the merger of Federated Engine Drivers (FEDFA) into what we now know as the CFMEU. (The crane operator's union). A lot of you will know John as the crane driver who has led the way in many of our May Day parades driving his Northern Suburbs mobile crane. He's seen a lot of changes throughout the years and has a few words of wisdom to pass on the younger generation of workers now making their own way in the construction industry. He says; **“Stick to your principles. Don't take your working conditions for granted”.**

If it wasn't for the union you wouldn't have anything. Stay safe, resist the pressures put on you from hire companies – and don't ever be afraid to stand up and have a go!” We'll miss you Johnny. Thanks for your dedication and support and enjoy your retirement. Have a few Bush Mills on us!



# Time for the Snowy to make

**The workers, a lot of whom we are proud to call our members, will one day have a mighty story to tell their grandkids. "We built the North West!"**

The construction of the Snowy Mountain River Scheme in Australia during the 1950's has taken on the status of almost mythical proportions in the Australian psyche.

Books, articles, poems, songs, newsreels, documentaries, even a television mini-series have been dedicated to our national engineering wonder.

It's become an icon associated with the ingenuity, hard work and tolerance of all who worked on the project. So much so, most Australians still revere it today and you'll often hear lamenting comments like: "Why can't we build things like the Snowy anymore?" It's become a reference point for all things built big in a big country.

Many Australians still believe that nothing of national consequence on



**The Snowy River project: Folklore in our conscience.**



such a massive scale and of such enormous importance to our national economy has ever been built since the Snowy Mountain River Hydro Electric Scheme.

Maybe it's time more Australians got out of their armchairs and visited the North West. The media could also do more in relaying the magnitude of what is happening in the most isolated region in Australia. If they did, they would see that the North West and the workers who are pulling it all together deserve to leap frog over the 'Snowy' and take their own special place in our national conscience as new heroes who are building the most dynamic and important projects in Australia's history. *If the Snowy was the making of modern Australia, then the North West is the making of future Australia.*

However, like the Snowy the wonder of the NW is in the workforce. Men and women working in their heavy work boots and head-to-toe orange coloured work gear toiling 12 hours

a day, 7 days a week in the stinking heat and humidity. Most are FIFO workers and the time they get off including long travelling time back home is too short by half.

These workers miss the birthdays of their kids and partners, the school assemblies, sports carnivals, weekend sports. They're often not home when their kids and loved ones are sick and many workers are not allowed to have a mobile phone on the job so communication with home is all after hours back in the donger at odd times.

People in the city seem unaware and even unappreciative of the sacrifices the workers in the NW make on a daily basis. Sacrifices which keep this country afloat and our economy a driving force. The media certainly doesn't give them the recognition they deserve.

Sure they get paid more than for similar work in the city, but they give up far more. There seems to be a general misconception in the wider community that the NW is full of

# way for the North West?

opportunists who fly in for a couple of years to make it rich and then go and live on an exotic island in semi retirement for the rest of their life. Not so.

These workers are pioneers. They've had the courage to leave their comfort zone to work hard to get ahead. Yet, if a pay rise or better working conditions is mentioned in the same breath as NW workers, the media and their public are all too quick to misjudge and criticise them for being a lazy, greedy and overpaid mob. All said as critics drive in flash cars made for the iron ore they dig up, eating meals at home cooked on gas they pipe, watching plasma TV's from the minerals unearthed and living in an economy that's not in a dire recession like Europe and the USA. Let's not forget also that whilst employers make and bank billions, the workers are the most important resource.

The townspeople who do a wonderful job to support and service the workforce do it tough too.

Land supply for accommodation is limited as much of Karratha is on a flood plain and the Pilbara region is the most cyclone prone area in Australia. As a result rents exceed well over \$2,500 per week and many homes cost over \$1 million dollars. The cost of basics like fuel, power, water, food and even the humble coffee is extraordinarily high.

Unfortunately unlike the Snowy Scheme, a lot of work is now being farmed out to temporary work visas in the face of a skills shortage. The Snowy Scheme was built by Australians and immigrants who settled in Australia forming lifelong friendships with the people they worked with. Many settled and helped to populate small towns along the route of the Snowy River and their skills were employed for generations to come. Whereas Temporary and also Tourist Visa workers are here for up to 4 years or less and then gone.

So, perhaps comments like, 'Why can't we build things like the Snowy anymore' still have relevance. Gillard could do worse than to take

a leaf out of Arthur Caldwell's book and focus more on permanent immigration. The government needs to put more resources into training our young people and indigenous people in remote areas.

Collectively, what is being built in the NW, which includes Gorgon, is one of the engineering marvels of the past 100 years.

Perhaps it's time for the Snowy to make way for the Pilbara as a new chapter in Australia's industrial history – written by a workforce with red dust, blood, guts and sweat

The workers, a lot of whom we are proud to call our members will one day have a mighty story to tell their grandkids.



**NW workers: Australia's new construction heroes**





# A trip to the CSTC could have saved a leg ...and massive \$120,000 fines.

**DID YOU KNOW? About 180 WA workers are injured in incidents involving forklifts every year, and five workers had died in forklift incidents since 2004.**

Two companies have been fined a total of \$120,000 for failing to provide adequate work safety standards after a worker's lower leg was amputated following an accident.

Beds Plus was fined \$80,000 after pleading guilty in the Perth Magistrate's Court to failing to ensure a safe workplace under a labour hire arrangement and thereby causing injury to an employee.

Labour hire company Flexi Staff pleaded guilty to the same charge and was fined \$40,000.

Flexi Staff supplied two labourers to the Beds Plus warehouse in Kewdale, in Perth's south, in February 2008.

The men, who were British citizens on a working holiday, did not have qualifications to operate forklifts but after two or three weeks at Beds Plus, they were given a lesson and told to operate a forklift.

In March, one of the men unloaded a sea container and brought a pallet inside the warehouse using a forklift. He did not lower the forks and mast before driving towards the roller door, which was raised up to six metres.

When the mast struck the roller door and began to tip over, the labourer tried to jump from the falling forklift, but his right leg became trapped between the rollover protection



**A simple trip to the Construction Skills Training Centre (CSTC) for a forklift operators license might have saved a workers leg and \$120,000 in fines.**

structure on the forklift and the concrete floor.

Another forklift was used to lift the fallen forklift from the man's leg, which had to be amputated below the knee.

WorkSafe WA Acting Commissioner Lex McCulloch said the case was a reminder that labour hire companies and host employers were responsible for ensuring a safe workplace.

About 180 WA workers were injured in incidents involving forklifts every year, and five workers had died in forklift incidents since 2004.

## SEE THE CSTC NOW...GET TRAINED, BE SAFE.

All workers, contractors and labour hire companies should book into the CSTC for a Forklift Operators course. Call (08) 9358 6502. The CSTC also offers over 45 courses including • Crane Driving • Dogging • Scaffolding • Rigging • EWP • Hoist • Traffic Control • Forklift • VOC • Demolition • Confined Spaces • Tilt Up • First Aid • OH&S • White Safety Card.

CFMEU members get **HUGE DISCOUNTS**. If your current employer has a registered EBA Agreement in WA and is paying the training levy, courses are **FREE**. White Card Safety courses are **FREE** to all members. For more information see [www.cstc.com.au](http://www.cstc.com.au)



## CFMEU membership gets workers over \$1.7 million

*Over the past 18 months the Union's wages and entitlement recovery service has collected over 1.7 million dollars for workers who were ripped off by unscrupulous employers. That's a lot of hard earned money back in the pockets of workers for them and their families that they otherwise wouldn't have.*

### LABOURER GETS \$42,000 IN BACK PAY.

CFMEU member Richard Goldsmith, a Plasterwise labourer was a victim of Sham Contracting, he was paid a low flat rate with no allowances and entitlements. He came to our office with his concerns and we got on the trail to sort things out. It didn't take long to realise that Richard had been ripped off deluxe between 2003 and 2009! In total he was owed \$42,000, and we helped him to get back every single cent. When presented with his cheque at our office Richard was extremely grateful for the hard work done by the union and it reaffirmed to him that it does pay to be a CFMEU member.

### TILERS GET BACK \$91,500

You may remember Auskor tilers on the ICBC job in the city from a story in our last journal, were ripped by their boss who paid them one amount and then forced them to hand back a whack of their wage



*Rod Reynolds presents a happy Richard Goldsmith with his cheque for unpaid wages and entitlements.*

*Site delegate and Rod Reynolds with Auskor crew after settlement*



**Members get more!**

each week! The 6 tilers involved ended up being owed a total of \$91,500. This was one of the worse cases on exploitation we have ever seen in the construction industry, and if left unchecked without any justice, who knows who could have been the next victim – maybe you?

All the money has been repaid. If you are a financial member, and you feel you are a victim of unscrupulous employer, contact us immediately.

### WHAT TO DO IF YOU THINK YOU ARE BEING DUDDER.

If you suspect your pay isn't correct, contact your union organiser, shop steward or call me, Rod Reynolds, at the office on (08) 9221 1055.

**IMPORTANT:** Although we can go back 6 years for wage claims, individuals making a claim must have been a financial member for the period of time they want checked.

### SHAM CONTRACTING

If you are caught up on the wrong end of Sham Contracting, phone our office now or visit our website at [www.cfmeuwa.com](http://www.cfmeuwa.com) and see the last issue of the journal (Autumn edition 2011) in the NEWS section.

**BE PAID UP AND PROUD** *Getting MORE for you.*





# APRIL/MAY 2011: 3 CFMEU MEMBERS



**During April/May 2011, 3 CFMEU members took their own lives. As a fellow member, you need to know the warning signs and help. More Australians die by suicide than on our roads, but we hardly talk about it. Many men make the decision to suicide quickly, so you need to respond fast.**

## IMMEDIATE FIRST AID – SUICIDE PREVENTION

First Aid is the initial care of the ill or injured. Consider a suicidal crisis like an injury for the person. The role you will play is similar to that you play as a First Aider. You can't treat a heart attack – you would support the person until they got assistance from a medic. In the same way, your aim is to support the person until they get assistance from a mental health professional.

FIRST AID	MENTAL HEALTH FIRST AID
Assess the situation quickly	Talk to the person. Consider Risk Factors / Warning Signs. Is there Imminent Risk /Tipping Points?
Identify the nature of the injury or illness	Ask "Have you been thinking of suicide?" Maintain the person Don't leave. Check on promptly and appropriately how they're feeling. Check if they will be safe.
Arrange for emergency services to attend	Contact emergency services, family and friends. Get them professionally assessed.
Stay with the person until handing over to a professional	Keep them safe, continue to observe and listen, get advice and support.
Give further help if necessary	Follow up. Provide support. Get others involved.

## STEPS

- 1. Talk to the person.** Tell them what you noticed that worries you. Ask them if they are considering suicide. Don't think that by asking someone about their suicidal thoughts that you will tip them over the edge – it won't.
- 2. Don't leave.** Spend time with them. Ask them how they are feeling. Show respect and take them seriously. Work out who they can call for help.
- 3. If suicidal, keep them safe.** Persuade them to remove themselves from danger. Do help remove any hazardous items. Don't wrestle a weapon away from someone.
- 4. Encourage them to seek help.** Discuss together what to do. Enlist the help of others (e.g. wife, partner, parents) to persuade them to get help. By telling these people, you will better guarantee they get help.
- 5. Follow up.** Suicidal thoughts don't just disappear. Your involvement shows them you care and will help speed their recovery. Encourage others to provide support too.



# TOOK THEIR OWN LIVES – HELP NOW...

## SUICIDE TRIGGERS

How do you recognise a person at risk of suicide? Look for

Risk Factors	Warning Signs	Tipping Point	Imminent Risk
Mental health problems	Increased alcohol or drug use	Relationship ending	Expressed intent to die
Gender – male	Hopelessness	Argument at home	Has plan in mind
Family discord, violence or abuse	Feeling trapped – like there’s no way out	Death or suicide of relative or friend	Has access to lethal means
Family history of suicide	Withdrawing from friends, family or society	Debilitating physical illness or accident	Impulsive, aggressive or anti-social behaviour
Alcohol or other substance abuse	No reason for living, no sense of purpose in life	Suicide of someone famous or member of peer group	
Social or geographical isolation	Uncharacteristic or impaired judgment or behaviour	Loss of status or respect	
Financial stress		Being abused or bullied	
Bereavement		Media report on suicide or suicide methods	
Prior suicide attempt			

**Don't forget: Knowing someone is there can make all the difference.**

### HELP? Emergency Numbers:

24 Hour Mental Health Emergency Response  
Line **1300 555 788**

CFMEU/WACIRF member counseling  
(suicide response advice) **1800 337 068**

*Reach out and talk to someone.*



Extracts from Australian First Aid,  
St John Ambulance Australia;  
[suicidecallbackservice.org.au](http://suicidecallbackservice.org.au)  
[livingisforeveryone.com.au](http://livingisforeveryone.com.au) and  
[convergeinternational.com.au](http://convergeinternational.com.au)



# JOIN THE REVOLUTION ON DISABILITY

**Help make it right for Australians with a disability, families, carers and your family if you ever need it.**

## WHY SHOULD YOU READ THIS?

**Because** Australians with a disability are hurting. **Because** of an ad hoc scheme that is different in every state and that doesn't have enough money. Very few are automatically entitled to anything but need to line up in a queue to apply for a limited pool of support and services. **Because** as a group they are more likely to live below the poverty line, not finish their education, be unemployed, and struggle with high rates of physical, emotional and financial stress. **Because** as the population ages the number of people with a disability will increase and the unpaid carers willing and able to provide support will decrease. **Because** it could be you and your family if you have an accident, acquire a condition or have a child with a disability. **Because** the government's own Productivity Commission have blasted the current system and outlined a solution.

## WHAT'S THE FIX?

The best idea that's been put forward in years is an NDIS, National Disability Insurance Scheme. That's not individual insurance but the Federal Government insuring us all against disability. It's estimating the numbers affected by disability, which we can do, and making sure



Please fill in this card which came with your journal and post it – IT'S FREE to post and will help so much.

there is a secure pool of funding not subject to annual budgets. It's about giving more control over funding and services to the person with a disability and planning for a lifetime. It's about providing what they need when they need it, and making it the same across the country.

## WHY ARE WE ASKING YOU?

The CFMEU has a proud history of stepping up when something isn't right and rolling up their sleeves. The Every Australian Counts campaign it will help us build a critical mass of people that the government cannot ignore as just another interest group.

## WHAT ARE WE ASKING AND WHEN?

This is not about money. We want you to count yourself in as a supporter by **SIGNING UP** online

[www.everyaustraliancounts.com.au](http://www.everyaustraliancounts.com.au) or by **FILLING IN** the free (postage paid) postcard in this magazine and posting it back or giving it to someone who will, or both.

**SENDING** the website link to all your contacts. **PUTTING** our bumper stickers on your car.

We have 30,000 supporters so far. We need 100,000 and more when the government receives the final Productivity Commission report and responds to it after August. We need this now.

## WHO IS BEHIND THIS?

The National Disability & Carers Alliance (National Disability Services, Carers Australia and the Australian Federation of Disability Organizations) and 30,000 Australian organizations and individuals.

**Thank you for joining us. We are stronger together.**











# WYDAY 2011

**If you don't fight, you lose.**



# NEW ARRIVALS



## STEVE McCANN

Steve McCann is union through and through and has Eureka blood flowing through his veins. Steve is our new, highly credentialed OH&S Officer. Most recently he worked for Multiplex as a senior safety coordinator on both the C2 and Fiona Stanley Hospital sites. Steve has Cert 4 in OH&S and also in training and assessing, as well as Diploma in OSH. Steve has worked in the industry as a scaffolder and rigger in Perth, the NW and SW, had experience working with Worksafe in the construction division and with Probuild as their WA OH&S State Manager. Steve has a strong union pedigree, in his words "It feels right being here". His uncles are well known union member and safety rep Pat McCann, former BLF Organiser John McCann and Mal Peters, one of the 107 heroes. His granddad John McCann senior was a staunch union man all his life. Steve is a passionate Celtic supporter, loves his cricket, fishing, camping and 4-wheel driving. He's looking forward to working with Mick Buchan and all the organisers as he works to ensure that all sites are 'CFMEU safe'. If you need any help please call Steve on 0488 102 297.



## MATT BALDE

Matthew Balde formerly with the ETU has come on board as a new CFMEU Organiser currently servicing members in the CBD with Matt Waters. Matthew is a qualified 'sparky' and is well known around town due to his work with the ETU. He's looking forward to getting things done and making sure that every worker is paid up and proud and getting looked after by the union. If you need to speak with Matt, please call him on 0405 081 874.

# Special Offer for CFMEU Members/Families



Keep your glowing skin this winter.

**\$15**  
spray tan

Aviva Labs Professional Spray Tan has been tried, tested and loved by many of Australia's top selling women's magazines & lifestyle shows, now it's your turn to enjoy a bronzed UV-free tan all year round!

Book your \$15 tan with Lyndsay Field in Karrinyup. Call her on 0411 157 368.

Present this coupon to redeem the fantastic offer.



Valid until August 31st - Subject to availability - One voucher per person  
24 hours notice required for booking changes/cancellations or voucher is voided.

Cut out this coupon and bring with you to your appointment





# COBRA'S FAIL TO STRIKE

**Up there CFMEU,  
in there and fight,  
Out there and at 'em,  
Show 'em your might.  
....Er, well, not quite.**

The CFMEU lost its second annual challenge match for the CFMEU Cup against Daffy's Black Ducks. The CFMEU Cobras were beaten by a margin of 2 pints – sorry, 2 points – by the Black Ducks. Final scores were Black Ducks 12.4 to the CFMEU 11.8. Controversy reigned supreme in the final moments of the game, with the result up for grabs. A 'goal' that was initially thought to be touched was given as a goal by the goal umpire. (We know where you live!) CFMEU coach Matt Waters had to be restrained from making any disparaging comments at the post match press conference for fear of being fined by the ABCC. Black Ducks Coach, Daffy (Kieron Van Ross) said his team was 'yikes and away' the best performers on the day. This year the games were played as a knockout carnival, Multi's Madmen were knocked out in the earlier rounds and failed to make the final.

This year also saw the introduction of the inaugural Kevin Reynolds Medal for the best player on the ground in the Grand Final. Congratulations go to winner Mick Wheelan from Daffy's Ducks.

## CFMEU COBRA'S BEST:

Lee Skilton, Zac Edwards, Tyson Bell, Deano Damasco,

## BLACK DUCKS BEST:

Mick Wheelan, Paul Nason, Chris King, Daffy (Kieron) Duck and the Goal Umpire!

The match was played at Claremont Oval on Sunday March 27th and the big winners on the day were the 6 Gosnells volunteer fire brigades, who courageously fought the Kelmscott bushfires, with \$2870 raised. Well done guys – you're the true champs!

There is no truth in the rumour that Matt Waters has been sacked as coach after 2 unsuccessful attempts to win the Cup. His contract has been extended and he looks forward to rebuilding his team during the off season for another crack next year.

**Anyone interested in playing please call Coach Waters on 0419 812 875.**



**Mick Wheelan Proud winner of the Reynolds Medal as B.O.G.**



**Master Coach Water's last minute motivation instructions almost won the game; "Get out there, whack him in the head, knee him in the balls, kick his shins or you'll work on a Hansen site!"**



**Coach Waters takes his eye off the ball to read his new contract**



**The Cobras in a line up!**



# IN CFMEU CUP.

*Daffy's Ducks - Winners of the CFMEU cup.*



*The CFMEU Cup - worth fighting for!*



*Troy Smart shows us how many kicks he got all day!*



*Pete Joshua and young Cobra fans got all day!*



*Bursting through the 6 pack*



*At least we had some winners in the kitchen.*



*Skin - a fantastic job as goal umpire! If he'd been at both ends we would have won!*



*Matt and Daffy square up before the big game!*

**SPECIAL THANKS TO:** Claremont Football Club and staff. Carol from Multi's for the flyer. Jezza from Mad Dogs for the lift. Pat Keating, Paddy Reilly and Tony Kelly for donating the balls. Brad from Sports Specialists. Mick and the cooks for organising the food. Maria for first aid. All the umpires and the volunteers. Chris, Harry and Hawkey. 96FM for the free plugs. All the players, coaches, water crew and the crowd.



## Safety right of entry a right, NOT a privilege!

In December 2010 two of our Organisers, Peter Joshua and Pat Heathcote were driving past Hanssen Pty Ltd's Fairlanes development on Adelaide Terrace. What they saw stopped them in their tracks, there were blokes standing on top of columns 25 metres in the air with no work platform and inadequate fall protection – in other words a serious accident, which could have resulted in death, just waiting to happen.

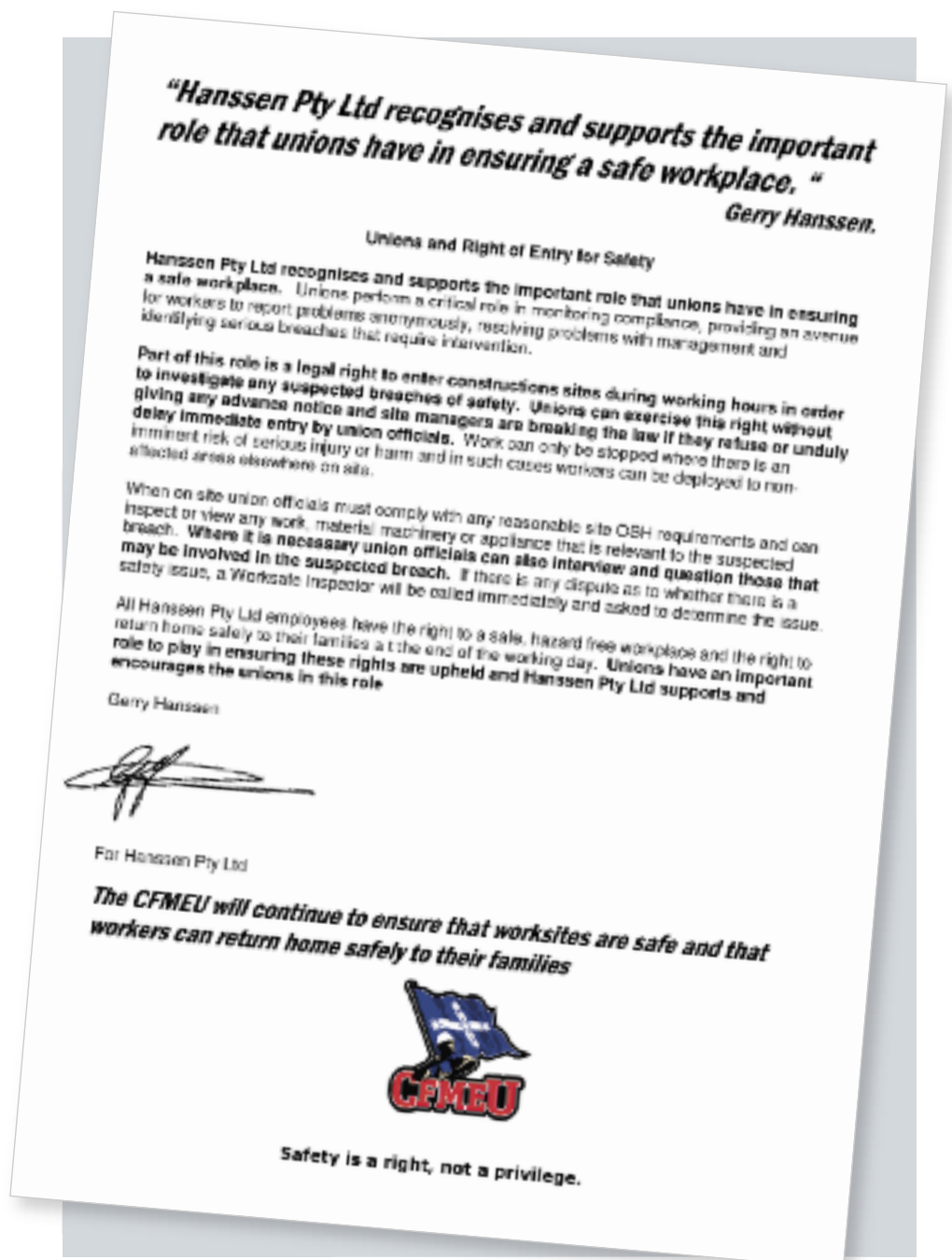
Of course the first thing they did was go to the front of the job, show their right of entry and told the site supervisor that he had some serious safety issues and that they were coming on to investigate. He told them to “F\_ \_ \_ off”!!!

Well, to cut a long story short, this led to us taking Hanssen Pty Ltd to the Federal Magistrate Court and Hanssen Pty Ltd agreeing to issue a statement which clearly outlines the CFMEU's right to come on to any site, without notice, where we suspect there are breaches of health and safety legislation. Hanssen Pty Ltd also agrees that the CFMEU performs a critical role in ensuring site safety and that they recognise and support this.

### **At right is a copy of the statement signed by Hanssen Pty Ltd...**

Let's be clear, one of the most important roles that the CFMEU plays is ensuring that workers get home safely to their family at the end of their shift. We will never back down from highlighting unsafe practices and unsafe sites and we'll use all of our legal rights to back this up.

If you see something that's not safe or if you're asked to do something that's not safe, then stand up for yourself and your work mates and highlight the problem. If you need to report this anonymously, then give us a call and we'll come on site and give you a hand. As Hanssen Pty Ltd has recognised, you have a right to a safe workplace and the CFMEU has a right to help you ensure that happens.







## No levy means less jobs and training for Australian workers

*The Federal Government's decision to abandon plans for a \$5000 training levy on employers who import semi-skilled workers for major projects will deny young Australians the chance of a job or training.*

Semi-skilled jobs include riggers, scaffolders, excavator drivers and truck drivers.

CFMEU Construction National Assistant Secretary Lindsay Fraser said the Federal Government must ensure that proposed Enterprise Migration Agreements included ways to train Australian workers.

"A levy is a simple way to ensure that employers do not dodge their responsibility to provide training so that Australia has skilled workers in the future," Mr Fraser said.

"The Resources sector has a very poor training record. Its apprentice training rate is only half the national average, according to the Government's own resources report. "We need to ensure resource companies take training of Australian workers seriously instead of resorting to the quick-fix alternative of importing workers."

"Temporary visa workers who depend on their employer for their visa are left in a position where they cannot raise safety issues or object to the lowering of wages and conditions, without jeopardising their job prospects."

Mr Fraser said the Government was sending mixed messages about training.



**Young workers need to be supported!**

"After a budget which took some long overdue steps to increase training opportunities we now see a decision to effectively axe the training levy on resource projects which is a step backwards," Mr Fraser said.

"One of the main reasons we have a skills shortage is because employers haven't done enough to train young Australians. If they can't afford it in the middle of a resources boom when will they ever be able to?"

"Taxpayers should not have to foot the total national training bill. Employers must contribute.

"We will continue to push the Federal Government to ensure that Enterprise Migration Agreements give Australian workers their right to skilled and semi-skilled jobs on these projects and include ways of

increasing training opportunities and making sure employers pay their share of training costs."

Mick Buchan from the CFMEU in WA says that both state and federal government projects should have as mandatory a generous quota of apprentices and trainees attached to their projects as part of the tender requirements for builders and contractors. That's just one way we can ensure young workers are coming through the system. Governments used to do this years ago, why not now? There also needs to be greater pressure on employers to ensure Australian based workers are given job opportunities on major projects ahead of guest programs. Our union has 457 and Tourism Visa rorts right under the microscope! Watch this space.





# High rise in Irish 457 workers

Australian companies are sponsoring more Irish people than a year ago.

New immigration figures to April show 4,500 grants of 457 visas to Irish citizens in the past ten months. The figures show a 59 per cent increase in the number of such Visas granted to Irish citizens, over the comparable period last year.

With the financial 2011 year passed, Australia has already surpassed the total number of 457 grants for 2009-10.

There were 4200 applications for primary 457 visas, pushing the total to 42,872 for the year so far – 4000 more than the total number for 2009-10.

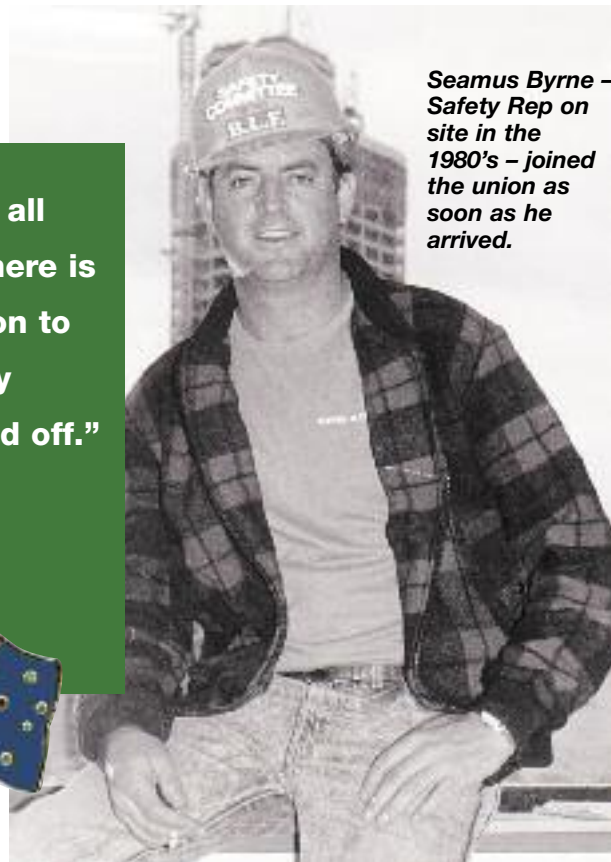
Primary visa grants are 37 per cent higher than at the same time last year.

The number of Irish citizens granted 457s in Western Australia has doubled, from 350 to 700. Irish citizens accounted for almost a tenth of successful 457 Visa grants in WA in this period.

CFMEU Organiser Seamus Byrne who emigrated from Ireland in the early 1970's says: "In the last year there has been a massive increase in working holiday and 457 Temporary Visa workers coming in from Ireland and the UK. Many of these workers are being blatantly ripped off by shonky subbies by being underpaid and forced into Sham Contracting arrangements. Regardless of whatever visa you come here on, you have legal rights. Don't allow yourself to be ripped off.

**"My advice for all Irish workers here is to join the union to make sure they don't get ripped off."**

**SEAMUS BYRNE**  
CFMEU Organiser.



**Seamus Byrne – Safety Rep on site in the 1980's – joined the union as soon as he arrived.**

It's important for members to let these visa workers know the benefits of becoming a union member."

Other states continue to report an increased Irish uptake with; Queensland (33 per cent), Victoria (72 per cent) and New South Wales (43 per cent). The construction and mining industries' hunger for overseas skilled workers continues unabated. Respectively, they accounted for 12.5 per cent and 7.4 per cent of all 457 grants to primary applicants.

The Australian government recently revealed 185,000 visas would be the country's net migration intake target for the next financial year. Over

125,000 of those places will be reserved for skilled migrants, including 16,000 for "regional areas".

It also said it would fast-track permanent residency for 457 Visa holders who have spent two years in regional Australia in cases where their employer will continue to sponsor them for a further two years. This will make it easier for 457 Visa holders to remain in the region where they have been living and working.

**NOTE: If you know of any visa workers getting ripped off ask them to call Seamus on 0419 812 866.**





## QUEEN'S VISIT WILL SLOW CITY DOWN

With the end of the financial year, two of the cities larger construction jobs, ICBC Equus apartments and Probuild's Raine Square have all but come to a close. Thanks to all the workers who stayed strong and to our delegates. Another job on the go within the CBD is the NW Construction job on Wickham Street East Perth. With the work done there between myself and Peter Joshua, the site and its safety are starting to take shape along with the construction of a more adequate lunch room facilities for those of our members on site. Showing the importance of not only the representation of union organisers within the construction industry but also the importance and power of active union members who stand up! (See story this issue)

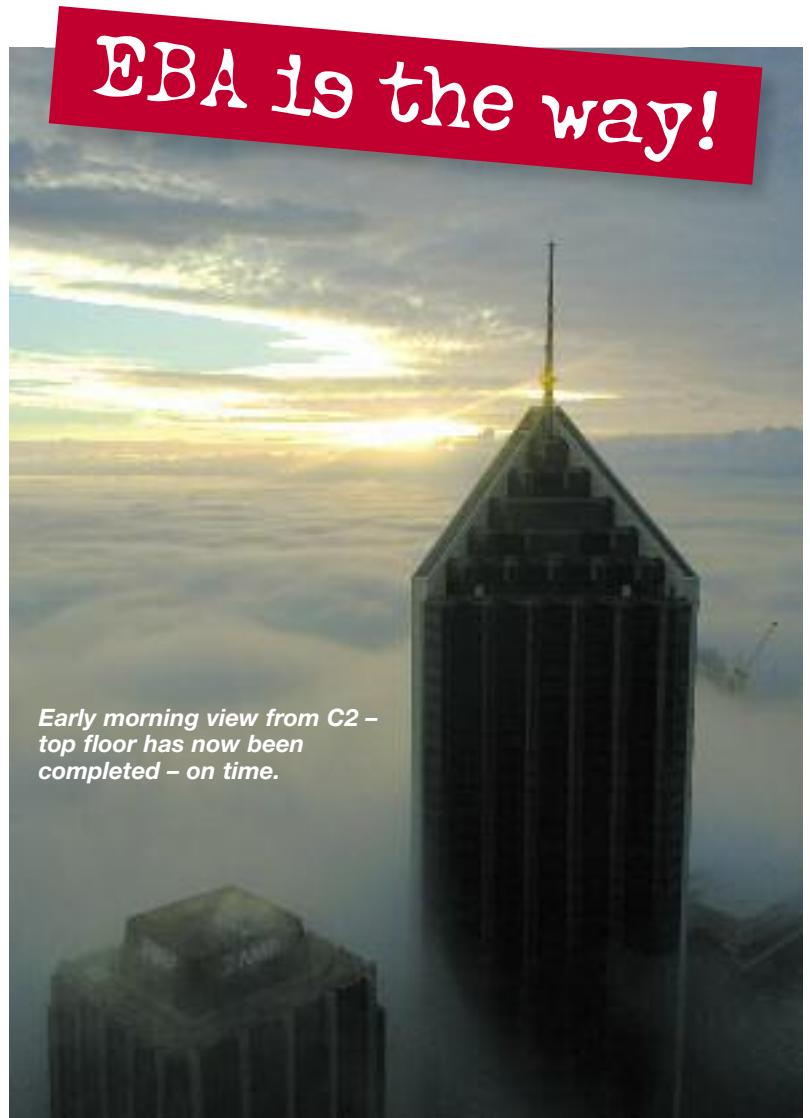
This is also evident at the Northerly construction job on Lime Street in East Perth with all the blokes from Structures W.A. putting their hands up and joining the union. This gives them 100% union density within the company and greater peace of mind. Not only with union benefits for themselves and their families but also representation and a strong a voice to sort out any issues

Northbridge's new Police Complex is well underway, being constructed by BGC. Although

not a larger scale job this should be going for a decent period of time, although probably not as long as the Perth Arena! Cooper and Oxley seem to be the company of choice for the redevelopment of the Melbourne Hotel as we await the final decision on that. Contractors will be chosen to take on what seems to be a difficult task with its location. The May Holman site is still awaiting the go ahead for construction to start as well as many other sites through out the CBD which already have approval. But the ability to start will be hampered by the arrival of all involved in the CHOGM as the state government has taken the position that the city is to remain at a standstill and all nice and tidy for the Queen, until the conference is over. However, even her Maj wouldn't be wrong in thinking that a city full of tower cranes and construction sites shows that WA and the city is on the move!

The recent movement of Peter Joshua out of the city block and into a position in the fast growing southern suburbs has brought Matt Balde into the city block with myself. Formally an organiser with the electrical union, Balde has spent the past few weeks getting around the city with myself. His background as a licensed electrician and experience as an organiser is sure to be an asset to the CFMEU and our members as we continue to service our growing membership and branch out further into all areas of the construction sector within WA.

**Be Paid up, Be Proud and when it comes to safety Be Heard – SPEAK UP.**



*Early morning view from C2 – top floor has now been completed – on time.*





## Construction healthy in Northern Suburbs

With the start of a new financial year the Northern Suburbs continues to be an area for construction projects based around health or education!

It is no secret that the busiest part of the area is the QEII Medical Centre in Nedlands. There are currently four sites up and running with more to come hopefully by the end of this year. BGC are continuing their work on their two sites, the Cancer Centre and the Pathwest Laboratory. Greenmount Concrete and Professional Reinforcing are currently working on the Cancer Centre with Bregmar Formwork and WACO Scaffolding on the Pathwest site. In between those two jobs Doric have begun work on the WAIMR Facility with GMF Contracting doing the earthworks and Vibropile doing the piling. The formwork will be done by the Doric's direct formworkers with Swift Fix tying the steel and Westcrete pouring the concrete. Not far from these three sites is the new Central Energy Plant being built by Brookfield Multiplex with the assistance of D and Z Constructions, G and N Conform, Controlled Demolition and Northern Suburbs Crane Hire all proudly flying the union flag.

Outside of this busy hospital precinct there seems to be a health theme running with Cooper and Oxley building a new medical centre and chapel in Joondalup with GMF Contracting, Fineform and Professional Reinforcing all on site and work is still going on the John



*The D and Z and Global crew from Multiplex's CEP Project at the QEII Medical Centre.*

Holland Joondalup Hospital with Advanced Formwork and Ceiling and Wall Contractors on site. Elsewhere, Perkins are completing the Niola Private Hospital in West Leederville with the help of Fineform, further down the road Built Environs will soon commence another medical centre project on the corner of Railway Parade and McCourt Street also in West Leederville. And if it's not healthcare its education with Emco completing an addition to the Ashdale Senior High School in Darch with Cowan and Hamilton doing the formwork. Niche Constructions are building two new primary schools in Aveley and Malvern Springs, both subdivisions in Ellenbrook. Pindan will also soon be starting work on

the new Butler Senior High School. Other jobs around the Northern Suburbs include the Solid Waste Treatment Plant in Shenton Park being built by Monadelphous, apartments in Highgate built by Pyramid with Conastruct and HD Projects on site. There are also various office blocks being constructed by BGC, Pact and Glen Warlock Constructions in Osborne Park as well as many other projects all over the northern suburbs.

***If you have any questions about work in the northern suburbs please don't hesitate to call your northern suburbs organisers.***

***We're just a phone call away!***

***Aaron Mackrell 0403 432 221***

***Seamus Byrne 0419 812 866***







Panels, cranes and earthmovers. It's all going up at Jandakot City Business Park – except for concrete slabs on the floor. CIP is going on full steam ahead with the GE Oil and Gas project with the 1st building done, 2nd with 25% to go and the 3rd coming up soon. Our delegate Muffy is having the time of his life there.

Highline Constructions are going on with building Emergency Response and Safety Training for ERGT. H.Troon Building Company has been getting lots of staff from over east as they say it's cheaper than tradesmen here! Bullocks!

On another note, Viridian Glass Project by P.S. Structures is ending soon, so our union boys in Myaree will be moving in hopefully by August.

The "Wall of Shame" Award goes to Vespoli Construction where no proper amenities were provided to the workers. (See photo) No crib hut, drinking water, washing facilities and proper toilets were provided by the builder and complaints of people having gastric problems. There was a lack of supervision while lifting panels. The bosses reply to the union was that the Supervisor was on holiday. FFS! The Airport is slowly picking up with small projects by Broad, Badge and Southern Cross at both international and domestic terminals.

P.S. Structure is turning it up at Cannington with the City of Canning Multipurpose Leisure Centre on Seven Oaks Street hosting more than 50 workers everyday. TriMark, AVP Pools and Perth Formwork. Unfortunately in this place, people



**Vespoli Site**

**SHAME AWARD:**  
**No Decent Amenities**

do not know their right on inclement weather. Blimey!

Midland is waiting for the tender winner for the District Hospital while Pindan has started its work on the GP Super Clinic which is the old communist workshops there and also the Governor Stirling Senior High School, where Crown Construction is hitting it hard when it's not raining. Emco Construction has just started the \$15 million Guilford Grammar Project with DiTrento Demolition currently doing the earthworks.

The \$74 million MacMahon Great Eastern/Roe Highway Interchange is going great. Congratulation to the

BOYS who wore the purple bra on the 17th of June for breast cancer. Mundaring Weir Water Treatment Plant will bear Brookfields Multiplex's name pretty soon and that will mean lots of jobs for all the lads.

At Burswood Entertainment Centre, P.S. Structure and Doric are there doing great things. CFMEU welcomes Mandurah Direct Painting to the fold at P.S. and thankfully Probuild will be starting there soon.

**If you need any assistance in the eastern suburbs please call Vinnie Molina on 0419 812 872 or Kevin Hau on 0427 244 147**





# CFMEU bedding fund, helping the poorest people in North Bali

*I know a lot of our members enjoy going to Bali, I think you'll agree the local Balinese are wonderful friendly people. However, not all live as well as we do back here in WA. If you or workers on your site can spare just a few dollars to help this worthy cause it would be greatly appreciated.*

The Helen Flavel Foundation (HFF) is a not-for-profit Foundation registered in Australia. Since its inception in March 2004, it has given Educational Sponsorships to 730 students and built over 700 basic homes for the poorest people living in North Bali. HFF also became aware that thousands of people who could not afford bedding and slept on a mat on the ground. This was not by choice, but due to the tiny amount of money they earned working in the rice fields or as labourers.

These people have little or no education and their wages only cover the cost of food and little else. The HFF decided four years ago to start a Bedding Fund to help as many people as possible. This can only be achieved by the generosity of others. The CFMEU heard about the plight of these people and gave the HFF their support by donating monthly to the Bedding Fund. Due to their amazing kindness, three families are given a bed, mattress, blanket, pillows and linen each month.

A family of Mum, Dad and two children will sleep in the one bed which is a little smaller than a double bed. It's wonderful to see their brilliant smiles and tears of joy when the HFF tray top Ute arrives and their bedding is unloaded.

Many of the families and elderly people who are in need live in the



**Some of the families helped by the CFMEU – can you help?**

mountainous areas where it gets extremely cold at night. Some months the HFF can only help four or five families.

If you would like to help the HFF with the Bedding Fund please email Helen: [helen@flavel.com.au](mailto:helen@flavel.com.au) or phone 0408 827 476

**So little means so much...**

- \$45 will buy one bed
- \$45 will buy one mattress with pillows
- \$20 will buy one blanket
- \$20 will buy sheets and a bed cover

# NEW JOBS COMING UP

*with Joe McDonald*



**Here is a list of some new projects that have just started or are due to start in the near future. Be sure to be paid up and proud on these sites. If members need any more lists on current worksites – a list is available to current paid up members only from our office – including NW and SW sites.**

BUILDER	PROJECT
MX	Energy Centre QE11 Hospital Shenton Park
MX	Mundaring Water Treatment Plant
MX	20 storey Westralia Square Site Perth
MX	32 Storey Apartments St George's Tce. Perth
Doric	WAMAR QE11
BGC	QE11 Science Buildings
BGC	Police Complex Northbridge
Diploma	Fremantle
Jaxons	North Fremantle
Broads	Northbridge

BUILDER	PROJECT
<b>Tenders:</b>	
WAMAR	Murdoch
TWA	Perth International Airport
WACA	New Units Cricket Ground
	PMH Hospital Shenton Park
	Midland Gate Shopping Centre
	St John of God Hospital Murdoch
	Melbourne Hotel Perth New Units
NW Constructions	Northbridge 2 x 8 units

**For more information: Contact your CFMEU Area Organiser or call the office on 9221 1055**





# THE HUMAN FACE OF SOLIDARITY

On my recent visit to Colombia I visited Colombian trade unionist Liliyany Obando. She has been held at the Buen Pastor Women's Prison in Bogota for almost three years.

The visit is gruelling; arriving to line up for the visit at 7am is not early enough. It took four hours of processing before I saw Liliyany through the window in Yard 6.

You are searched by dogs and questioned. If you bring food stuffs, it must be searched thoroughly. You are weighed, pass through the metal detector and take your shoes off before entering a small room where you are searched again. Finally you are asked who you are visiting. Liliyany is in the 6th yard where political prisoners are held. When they learn that, a whole new round of processing begins.

After a not so pleasant search, ID or passport and two fingerprints are taken. The food is returned and you are walked to another building where another fingerprint is taken. At each of these checks your arm is stamped; you end up with an armful. There is still another metal detector and search before getting to the door of yard 6. Again you are asked to give your ID, name and address. Finally the prisoner who has been waiting since 8am gets to see their visitor.

Liliyany was charged with one count of rebellion and one count of fundraising for a so called 'terrorist' organisation. Rebellion is a 'catch all' charge aimed at the political opposition, trade union and human



*Union members in Canada support Liliyany.*

rights activists. Under normal circumstances Liliyany and other political prisoners charged with rebellion have their cases quashed due to irregularities in due process including the use of fabricated evidence.

However because the latter charge must be heard by a specialized anti terrorist judge, Liliyany's charges come under a much more complex process and the judge has greater leeway in imposing harsher sentences – up to 40 years.

Liliyany and I spent 3 hours talking about her case and about international solidarity. She thanks the international solidarity for being instrumental in breaking the silence and providing a voice for the 7,500 political prisoners currently in detention, so their stories can be taken beyond the walls.

At 2:45pm I heard the whistle that signals visits are over. It was time to line up to leave the premises by 3pm.

Liliyany thanks all those in Australia and around the world whose solidarity keeps her revolutionary spirit high.

She looks forward to her freedom having already spent three years behind bars, despite her innocence. These three years have left serious scars on the life of her loved ones.

I also had the opportunity of spending a few lovely days with her mother and children. They welcome seeing a human face of solidarity and I value learning their story. Koalas and kangaroos are cherished toys in that household.

Liliyany would like to thank the CFMEU, Kevin Reynolds and all the members for their support. You have no idea how much it means to her and her family to know people like us, all over the world, are supporting her quest for freedom. It puts a human face to solidarity.

**For more information visit:**  
[www.inspp.org](http://www.inspp.org)





# Money Saved: United! We will never be defeated

Having spent several months working with the administrators, the AE&E workers down at Worsley finally got all the money that was due to them. The CFMEU, AMWU and CEPU worked together on this one. This coupled with the strength of the workers on site, made sure that there was no back peddling from those holding the money.

This is in sharp contrast to the AE&E office workers over in Sydney, who trusted that the right thing would be done, and now find themselves with no assurances and facing many months of chasing to try and get their money.

Once again the lesson to be learned is that only by sticking together and fighting will you get what you are entitled to. No one is going to hand it to you on a plate!

Well done to our CFMEU legal team! Suffice to say the workers down at Worsley were pleased to be rid of those AE&E shirts off their backs and showed this in the traditional manner!

United we will never be defeated!

## **PAY DOCKED FOR LEAVING 6 SECONDS EARLY!**

At the Worsley Refinery some strange and funny shenanigans are going on.

Cop this. They're trying to dock workers for leaving work 6 seconds early. Yes, you heard it right...6 seconds early! Go figure. The Public Relations department needs to be sacked! Haven't they heard that a happy workforce is a productive one!



**GOOD RIDDANCE!**

## **THERE'S NO SAFETY WORKING IN THE RAIN.**

With winter upon us, John Holland want workers to work in the rain. Also a 'docking' memo was issued by JH relating to making a career defining choice – you've all seen it and it reeks of intimidation. Stick Fat! Just remember the Worsley slogan 'the year of delivery'? Does that mean year 1, 11, or 12?

Boddington, Desal and Ravensthorpe are all nearing completion – thanks to all the CFMEU members on these jobs.

Kemberton moving all slowly with imported still done wrong delaying its progress.

RCR, PMS are manning up soon. Albany Hospital has started with Advanced Formwork there.

Urea plant due to start late this year. Other jobs in the pipeline are:

- Grange Resources Albany, 3.5 billion
- Kemberton Silicon plant stage 3, 200 million
- Desal stage 2, 200 million
- Esperance Port
- Bunbury Port
- Bluewaters 2 & 3.

Stay strong in the South West. Remember to encourage all workers to be paid up and proud.

**If you need any help or advice call Troy Smart on 0419 812 871**



# Local assistance when you need it

**At Cbus, we want our members to have someone they can speak to face to face, to answer any questions and explain the ins and outs of super.**

Allan Hughes is based in our Perth office and is here to answer any questions you may have about your Cbus membership.



**Contact Allan:**

Call 9463 3942 or  
0419 939 071

You can also arrange for Allan to come and visit you on site.



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Read the Cbus Product Disclosure Statement to decide whether Cbus is right for you.



## REMINDER: HIGH RISK WORK LICENCE

A reminder to all those who are working within the construction and mining industry that still currently hold the old style OHS Certificate of Competency seen at right:

Please make sure you check the issue date indicated on the card, with the below WorkSafe Western Australia table, as there is a scheduled conversion date when you must convert your old card to a Licence to Perform High Risk Work.



Date of issue of the O.H.S. Certification Australia card and Western Australian 'State' Certificate of Competency	Date that certificate must be converted
Western Australian 'State' Certificates of Competency issued prior to 1 July 1994 and O.H.S. Certification Australia cards issued from 1 July 1994 to 31 December 1995	Expired on 30 September 2008. Please contact WorkSafe for more information
Between 1 January 1996 - 31 December 1998	Expired on 30 June 2009. Please contact WorkSafe for more information
Between 1 January 1999 - 31 December 2001	30 June 2010
Between 1 January 2002 - 31 December 2004	30 June 2011
Between 1 January 2005 - 30 September 2007	30 June 2012



All construction workers need to be aware that **Failure to convert your OHS Certificate of Competency before the specified time frame will most likely result in the individual needing to undergo a Reassessment for each class indicated on their expired OHS Certificate of Competency.**

For further information regarding High Risk Licensing, contact WorkSafe Western Australia on 1300 424 091.







## Too many dead and injured workers



Joe McDonald, Mick Buchan and Graham Pallot pay their respects.

April 28 is International Commemoration Day for Dead and Injured Workers.

This year workers who were killed or injured in WA were remembered at Solidarity Park.

In the past year in WA, too many workers have come home injured or not at all.

For a wealthy boom state, this is not good enough.

On top of this the WA State Government has refused to sign up to all areas of the new national safety laws. This means that from the 1st of January 2012, when the new harmonised national safety laws take effect, WA workers will be left with the weakest safety laws in the country.

### KNOW THE FACTS:

- Each year, more than two million women and men die as a result of work-related accidents and diseases.
- Workers suffer approximately 270 million accidents each year, and fall victim to some 160 million incidents of related illnesses.
- Hazardous substances kill 440,000 workers annually – asbestos claims 100,000 lives.
- One worker dies every 15 seconds worldwide. 6,000 workers die every day. More people die whilst at work than those fighting wars.



# ABN AND SUPERANNUATION WAKE UP!



Just because you're working on an ABN basis doesn't mean that you're not entitled to superannuation payments.

The legal definition of what an employee is, for the purposes of determining whether superannuation needs to be paid, is fairly broad. As a rule of thumb, if you answer 'YES' to the following three questions then there's a fair chance that you should be getting paid superannuation:

- 1. Are you paid just for your labour and skills and someone else supplies the materials for the job?**
- 2. Are you paid an hourly rate and not a fixed price, and do you get this regardless of what happens with the job?**
- 3. Do you have to do the work yourself and you cannot delegate it to someone else?**

Just think about how long you've been working on an ABN and how much you've earned in that time. Now think about what 9% of that amount of money is – that's what potentially you should have been paid in superannuation!

If you think this applies to you and you're paid up on your ticket then give the office a call and make an appointment with one of our lawyers who'll let you know where you stand.

Think about what all those thousands of dollars will be worth by the time you retire and do something about it now.

# ERMS 'BLACKLIST' UPDATE: TIME IS NEAR!

Mick Buchan recently met with Eric Ripper, the Leader of the State Opposition, and other politicians and made it very clear the problems that are being caused by ERMS. Mick let the polities know that whilst the mining industry is complaining of a lack of skilled workers there are numerous good people out there struggling to get a decent start because ERMS is blocking them from doing so.

We are going to be working with the other unions and the politicians to try and rid the industry of this system that continues to batter working Australian families – watch this space for more news.

In the meantime you need to make sure that when you're filling in EOI's that the information you put down is consistent and matches the ERMS database. If you're not sure what information ERMS is holding on you then you can ask them for it and they are bound by law to provide it.

**Note: If you need a hand with this and you're a member then call the office and we'll get the paperwork sent out to you.**







## WHAT TO DO WITH OLD UNION SHIRTS...

Ever wondered what happens to old union shirts? Danny Skodt has been a strong member of the union since the BLF days and has worn quite a collection of union shirts. Rather than throw them out, his wife Yvonne, a renowned quilt maker decided to put them to good use and made this sensational quilt cover. In an age where people throw things out it's great to see these shirts being recycled and given a new lease of life. Yvonne entered the quilt into the Quilt-West show at the Perth Convention Centre and won 2nd prize. We reckon you were hard done by Yvonne, you should have won first prize for sure! Thanks for a tremendous effort.



**NOW DANNY CAN ALWAYS BE IN BED WITH THE UNION!**

## Thanks for making MaY Day



It has never ceases to amaze me how we get so many union faithful turn up for May Day. This year was no exception, it was great to see so many families enjoy themselves. Thanks to all those who came along and bought some union gear on the day.

Thanks to all the union staff for

helping to set up, John Gallagher on the crane and to Les Wellington and the crew at the CSTC for setting up the portable 'cold room' – the beer went quicker than a scab escaping from Bob Olsen.

## STRIKERS IN THE NORTH WEST

Brad Upton our NW organiser and crew participated in a whole day of netball to raise much needed funds for junior netball in Karratha. Playing as the CFMEU 'Strikers' there was much huff and puff up and down the court. As Strikers there were no arrests but nearly a few cardiac ones! Our union sponsors a junior team, but the club desperately needs some more sponsors to promote junior sport, community spirit and activities in the town. So if you can help please call Brad Upton on 0488 770 857.



## JOIN A MEN'S SHED

The Men's Shed organisation is for blokes who would like to be part of a supportive club environment. It's a place to share ideas and thoughts and to discuss any problems. The Men's Shed has proved an ideal club / venue for FIFO workers who can feel a bit lonely or depressed away from work and family. Having said that, anyone can join – so give it a go. The Shed actively engages in various projects. There's now over 500 Men's Sheds in Australia and plenty in WA. If you would like more info or to join see their website at [www.mensshed.org](http://www.mensshed.org) or call Alan Greenhalgh 0412 440 333.



## GIVE ME A GO!

Don't forget that ME bank is THE bank for union members, so if you need a loan please give them a call now on **13 15 63**.

*A picture says a thousand words.*

