

# CFMMEU

Construction Forestry Maritime Mining And Energy Union

## STAYING IN TOUCH WITH THE RANK AND FILE

A REPORT TO THE MEMBERSHIP FROM CHRISTY CAIN

Brothers and Sisters, firstly it's my intention to put a national newsletter out from myself to the membership once a month.

It is a great honour to represent, and serve the working men and women of our Union.

We must never ever lose sight of the struggle. We must never forget that our sole purpose as a Union, is to protect and uphold the rights and interests of all our members.

We face rogue Governments openly in bed with big business, passing Anti-worker, Anti-Union laws, that make it a crime to

stand up for our basic rights. We face some shit employer's rampant wage theft, job theft, casualisation, privatisation, and automation. And as I speak, we have bosses trying to take some of our industry back to the Award!!

Unions need to understand what that means! There is a war being waged against working people.

Now, more than ever, we need to stand up together, struggle together, and fight together. Because that's the only way we can ever defend workers, against the attacks that are coming from every quarter.

— “

***From the Wharfs to the Ships, to the Mines, to the Construction Sites, to the Factories and Yards – right across the supply chain, we need to be ORGANISED!! If we don't do it, who will!***

***Wherever a single worker is deprived of their rights, wages, safety, or dignity - we respond together.***

***That's how it must be. Because that's how we WIN!***

” —





TOOLBOX MEETING VICTORIA



TOLL WHARFIES MELBOURNE



SITE MEETING SYDNEY

**Sisters & brothers, delegates, and members, firstly, I'd like to acknowledge and pay my respects to the Elders past and present. Always was, always will be Aboriginal Land!**

My new role within the CFMMEU is a massive challenge within itself. I've hit the ground running, travelling to nearly every State, meeting with the membership at toolbox meetings, branch meetings, Organisers and Delegates meetings, wharfs, ships, construction sites, and anywhere else I can meet with workers to hear your concerns.



***It's been an absolute honour to get out amongst the rank and file and discuss the important issues our Union faces, as well as to brief you all on the future ahead.***



The ability to bring this great Union together is not without its challenges. What I've seen in this short period of time is a leading union, a progressive, strong, and strategic union that

has never been frightened to stand up for the working class and its members.

Make no mistake, when we come collectively together, we are the most progressive Union in this country. We are a campaigning union, an industrial union, a Union that is feared by every employer and Government throughout the supply chain.

The ability of our organisation to deliver fantastic outcomes, in respect to safety, wages and conditions, cannot be underestimated. But that's not all we do.



***The fight is real, and it's tough. Privatisation, casualisation, labour hire, insecure work, and the relentless attacks every day by rogue Governments and employers.***



But our SUPER UNION will never take a backward step. That's something every one of us should be enormously proud of.

**ORGANISE!**

**ORGANISE!**



CRIB MEETING PERTH



SEAFARERS CHEVRON DISPUTE WA



QUEENSLAND MAY DAY RALLY



SVITZER TUG RALLY



CONSTRUCTION RALLY NSW



OAKY NORTH LOCKOUT QUEENSLAND

My father was a seaman, my mother was a shop steward in the match work factory, and my brother was one of the best union officials I've seen operate.

— “ —  
***For me, being called militant is a badge of honour and I wear it proudly.***  
— ” —

The word militancy is often given a negative label these days. The politicians describe “militant unions” as though it’s a bad thing. For me, militancy means strength, determination, and commitment. It means staying the course when things get tough, it means not caving into political pressure.

I was Secretary of the WA Branch of the MUA for 19 years. It was 19 years of struggle, fighting for wharfies, seamen and port workers, and often standing and fighting alongside the men and women of other unions that needed our support.

I’m proud to say that in that time, we delivered the best

agreements for those workers. Agreements that some people said were impossible to deliver. What those people failed to understand is the members must always come first.

The role of the union is to fight hard, every single day, for workers’ rights, safety and fair pay and conditions.

Every worker matters, every member matters, and every single attempts to cut or reduce workers’ rights, must be resisted. Because we know all too well that if you give any boss an inch, they’ll take a mile.

I often wonder what this country would be like if it wasn’t for the Union. In fact, I sometimes ask that question to trolls that want to vent on social media but have no substance and no meaningful way forward in uniting working men and women.

— “ —  
***IF YOU’RE NOT AT THE TABLE ... YOU’RE PART OF THE MENU!!!***  
— ” —

**ORGANISE!**

**ORGANISE!**



PATRICK WHARFIES MEETING SYDNEY



CONSTRUCTION SITE MEETING ADELAIDE



OFFSHORE CONSTRUCTION PROJECT



SMOKING CEREMONY MELBOURNE



BRISBANE RALLY

**Unions are behind every true social gain that working people have ever won. The banner of collective action for the common good is ours by right. While some others have lost sight of that banner, our Union proudly holds it high and marches under it. Standing together as one, to protect the rights and interests of all.**

If we do that, we'll win.

Members, this is not an easy job or a simple task that I've been given. But you will see Christy Cain on the job, discussing union issues directly with you all. I will be involving the membership and listening to your concerns.

I want to finish by thanking my family on this hard but rewarding journey. My lovely wife Anna, my daughter Emma and my brother John for their understanding, love, and support not only to me, but to this wonderful Union as well.

Finally, a big thank you to the leaders, officials, staff and rank and file members of each branch and division of our Union. I understand the faith you have placed in me.

You are the Union. And I couldn't be prouder to serve you all.

# ORGANISE!

We are a bottom-up Union. I'm proud of that. Every member has a role. But that means every member must play their part for us to win.

We must be committed. We must be active. We must be dedicated. And above everything else, we must be organised. We must back each other in 100%. Every time.

# ORGANISED LABOUR WINS!

**IF YOU DON'T FIGHT YOU LOSE! SO DARE TO STRUGGLE, AND DARE TO WIN!**

**WE ORGANISE, ORGANISE, AND ORGANISE AGAIN!!**

**Christy Cain**  
CFMMEU



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