

# CFMMEU

CONSTRUCTION FORESTRY  
MARITIME MINING & ENERGY UNION

MAY  
2023

A REPORT TO THE MEMBERSHIP FROM

CHRISTY CAIN



CFMEU & MUA TURNOUT IN  
BIG NUMBERS FOR MAY DAY!  
CONGRATULATIONS!

## Members, Delegates, Brothers, and Sisters,

What a fantastic turnout around the country for May Day! It's always been my view that May Day should be a day of celebration, and the union movement should push for a day off as a sign of respect to our forefathers who marched, rallied, and went on strike to achieve the principled 8-hour day. I must add that if you ever get the chance to visit Queensland on May Day, it's a remarkable sight to see the thousands of trade unionists marching together and proudly representing their unions on the streets.

That is what unionism is all about!

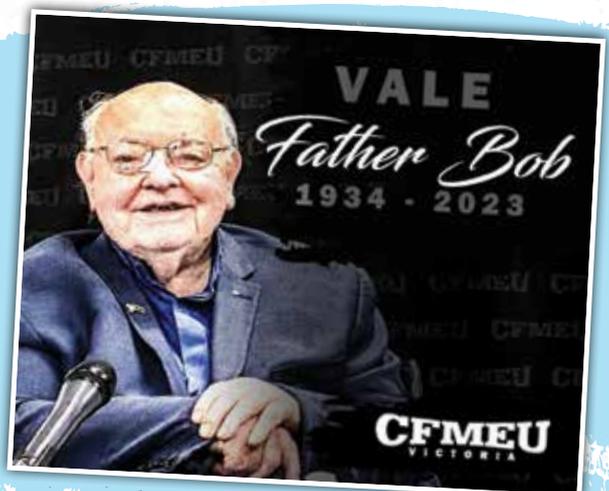
**MARCHING TOGETHER! FIGHTING TOGETHER!  
WINNING TOGETHER! WELL DONE TO YOU ALL!**



## VALE FATHER BOB

A "Social Justice Warrior" and great friend of the CFMMEU has passed this month. Father Bob was the epitome of progression, recognising everybody as equal and committing his life to helping those in need.

His loss leaves a gaping hole in the hearts of the community and union movement. We send our condolences to the family and friends of Father Bob.



**ORGANISE!**

**ORGANISE!**



WA COST OF LIVING CRISIS RALLY

# WA UNIONS AND COMMUNITY RALLY TO EXPOSE **COST OF LIVING CRISIS** (NOW AT 8%)

Members, it is very alarming that, once again, interest rates, electricity, gas, fuel, rent, and grocery prices have gone up and are out of control.

Workers are doing it tough as it is, and once again, will cop more of the same shit sandwich while the big end of town makes record profits!

We are seeing people being evicted from their homes because they can't afford their rent or mortgage! What comes with pressure like this are serious mental health issues, separations of the family unit, divorces, and, ultimately, suicides. **Enough is enough!**

Throughout Covid, maritime and construction workers and other unions have kept the Australian economy going. The time is approaching to lock in decent EBA's that reflect the cost of living crisis, and we need to fight collectively to achieve this.

**If it means going on strike, then so be it! That is the beauty of having strong and well-educated delegate and member structures, and as the CFMMEU SUPER Union – we will support you every step of the way!**

**“ TAKING THE MEMBERS WITH YOU IS THE ONLY WAY TO ORGANISE EFFECTIVELY, AND THE ONLY WAY TO WIN! ”**

## SHOP STEWARDS LEAD THE WAY IN THE CFMMEU

Having just come out of the delegate's meeting in Melbourne, everyone, including myself, is fired up around some major issues in the construction industry.

The executive each gave their reports, and the delegates had plenty of time to contribute and have their say.

I come away from meetings like this knowing that this union is in good shape, achieving membership growth and supporting well-educated men and women while on the job. Congratulations to all who continue to attend these meetings.

To Elias, you are not forgotten, brother. We send you well wishes for a swift and strong recovery.

# ORGANISE!

# ORGANISE!



CFMMEU BRANCH ASS. SEC. ELIAS



LEADING THE WAY: CFMMEU CONSTRUCTION DIVISION



NSW MUA SEC. KEATO, SIMO & CFMMEU SEC. DARREN

## VESTAS NOW AGREES TO SIT DOWN AND DO HEADS OF AGREEMENT

Without saying too much about this mob everyone knows the union didn't get off on a good note. It looks as though Vestas have had a change of heart, and I am now waiting for confirmation that an ongoing meeting will take place with the CFMMEU.

Let's hope that common sense will prevail and that this Multinational employer understands that the CFMEU/MUA/CFMMEU will be at the table doing what we do best for our membership and the broader Australian trade union movement.

A big shout out to the organisers who played a massive role to make this happen.

“**IF YOU'RE NOT AT THE TABLE YOU'RE A PART OF THE MENU!**”



## QUBE WHARFIES MEET NATIONALLY TO DISCUSS LOG OF CLAIMS

Delegates from every port in Australia met this month to discuss their log of claims for the upcoming National Qube EBA negotiations. Qube is one of the most anti-union and anti-worker outfits in Australia.

As always, when it comes to bargaining power - unity is key. So, it is fantastic to see all delegates unite, determined to fight collectively for a decent EBA outcome!

## THE IMPORTANCE OF MAYDAY



Brothers/Sisters, We're already 5 months into 2023, and one of the most important days on the Union Calendar has arrived, Mayday! For some states, it's not embraced as much as it used to be, but for others, it's a public holiday and a day of celebration for the Union movement and the struggle for workers' rights.

Mayday highlights the Union movements struggle not only here in Australia but across the world, be it the 8 hour movement in Victoria when Stonemasons working on Melbourne University in 1856 downed tools and marched to Parliament demanding a better work/life balance, the Haymarket Martyrs in Chicago, where 7 union activists were sentenced to death after a rally supporting striking workers for the 8 hour working day or the Tolpuddle Martyrs from Dorset, England who were convicted and transported to Australia back in 1834 for starting a Union. There are many stories to be told, but these are just a few.

The bosses never gave the wages and conditions that we all enjoy today. If the generations who came before never stood up, struggled, and fought back all those years ago, we wouldn't have the things we take for granted. Be it penalty rates, crib huts, redundancy, long service leave, superannuation, or even the weekend! **Everyday basics that a lot of people who are not in unions still benefit from were hard fought and won by workers worldwide decades before.**

As we should never forget how far we have come in this struggle, we should also look towards the future with the challenges that everyday workers face today. The rise of the gig economy providing services has diminished conditions for the workers who offer their labour for these companies, and the likes of

automation on wharves has and will continue to be a significant risk for our members in the MUA.

As the world is more globalized and companies are becoming more powerful than ever before, we need to reflect on the history of workers and their challenges to reignite the fire that made the generations before survive their struggle. This is why Mayday is so important. It reminds us of how far we have come, not only in Australia but as workers worldwide, and is also a powerful reminder of how far we still need to go. The worker's struggle has no borders. When we stand together as a collective power we can't be beaten. **When workers are united, they will never be defeated!**

So, on Mayday, remember where we have come from but never forget the struggle continues! **"WORKERS OF THE WORLD UNITE!"**

In Unity, **James Simpson (Simo)**

# ORGANISE!



MAY DAY RALLY

# GALLERY



MAY DAY SA: MARCUS & ROBBIE



AUSSIE OFFSHORE WORKERS HONOURING ANZAC DAY



CHRISTY & DARREN



QLD MAY DAY



SITE MEETING MELBOURNE



WA MAY DAY

## OUT AND ABOUT

It has been another busy month celebrating May Day and attending National Secretaries meetings, Delegates meetings, Organisers meetings, Safety meetings, and mass rallies on behalf of the CFMMEU membership around the country.

I want to remind all our members that this time of year always hits a little harder as we pay tribute to working Australians who have lost their lives due to work-related accidents, incidents, and diseases.

Any death at work is unacceptable! We all deserve to go to work and come home every day, and we must continue to fight for the best health and safety conditions in every workplace.



### International Workers Memorial Day – April 28th

Thanks once again for your continued support on behalf of myself and the National office team. We salute you all!!

**"YOUR STRUGGLE IS OUR STRUGGLE!"**

In Unity,

**Christy Cain**

CFMMEU - General National Secretary