

CFMEU

FEB
2024



CONSTRUCTION
FORESTRY
MARITIME
EMPLOYEES
UNION

U
A

A REPORT TO THE
MEMBERSHIP FROM

CHRISTY
CAIN



**MUA SMASH
DP WORLD! 25%
PLUS, PLUS, PLUS!**

Members, we certainly have gotten out the blocks early in 2024. DP World, you can now crawl back under your rock, you got SMASHED!! The MUA had a massive win for our members, achieving a 25% pay increase plus a sign on bonus of \$2000 dollars. There were also another 40 claims, of which I believe have been fixed up.

After 118 days of strike action, consisting of 48, 24, 12, 8 and 2 hour stoppages, plus bans and walkouts, the union managed to secure a fantastic outcome. Whilst credit must always go to the collective strength of the membership sticking together, I would like to give a big congratulations to Adrian Evans, Assistant National Secretary of the MUA for his tremendous leadership throughout the protracted dispute. If you want to see how a great Union campaign is run, then take the time to have a look in detail of how this blu was WON!

I'm a great believer in National strategic negotiations as it gives the whole membership and the Union a lot more leverage and power. It's certainly something to think about going forward. Let this also be a lesson to some of the grubs that always want to bag the union, well look at the results, they're now on the board, and can never be taken away from our collective power!

DP World pays no taxes in this Country, are corporate gangsters, but now they will have to at least pay decent wages and conditions to all our wharfies around this Country. I just hope some people learn, that when workers stick together, we **ALWAYS WIN!** It's the only way to effectively **ORGANISE!**

**WELL DONE AGAIN GUYS! DARE TO STRUGGLE!
DARE TO WIN!**

**CFMEU WA LANDS MASSIVE
WIN AGAINST MULTIPLEX**



WELL DONE MICK BUCHAN AND THE TEAM!! What another fantastic win from Mick Buchan, State Secretary and his team at the WA Construction Branch who reached an agreement with Multiplex to secure an immediate 10% pay increase ahead of further 5% per annum increases thereafter. The full log of claims include:

- 10% pay increase up front
- 5% pay increases annually
- Increases in all allowances across the board
- Double time for all overtime
- Increased job security
- RDO calendar locked in
- Restoring Delegates rights, after the abolishment of the previous building code
- Industry training levy, covering the costs of all members' training pathways under the EBA.

Whilst the bluing in the West will continue on all companies to match this iconic agreement, the crew are up for the fight! Mick Buchan spoke after the negotiations were finalised and said: "We were very clear when we launched our EBA campaign that we mean business, that we would do whatever it takes to secure increases in wages and conditions for our members in the commercial construction sector.

This sets a new standard for Western Australia. We won't take a backwards step, now the work begins to lock in the same deal across the industry.

The Multiplex agreement was rank and file driven. We could not have had a better group of bargaining reps who fought to achieve these outcomes for the industry. Our message to all members out there is - **When We Fight as One, the Fight is Won!"**

Remember **ORGANISED LABOR WINS EVERY TIME** and that's what they did. Again, well done to Mick and the team. **Congratulations!**

YESTERDAY'S LESSONS, TOMORROW'S STRENGTH: KNOW YOUR HISTORY!

"Sometimes we are fortunate to read history written by a participant, by one whose personal involvement shaped the events recounted. Sometimes we are the participants, writing our history and shaping our future."
– Dave Noonan's forward in 'Creating a Super Union' by Tom McDonald (2010)

WHERE DID OUR UNION COME FROM?

By Emma Cain, National Research Officer/Policy Advisor

While some of our members may have only recently participated in the CFMEU and MUA amalgamation process, the concept of merging unions is not something new. Read below to learn just some of the merges each division of our mighty union have undergone since establishment.

1902 The Waterside Workers Federation was formed by state-based unions including the Sydney Wharf Labourers Union, established a few years prior in 1872. This new union was created with a view to taking a national approach to addressing common concerns across the waterfront.

1906 Several unions came together to form the Seamen's Union of Australia.

1907 The Federated Sawmill Timber Yard & General Employees Association of Australasia was created. Branches around the country were established from 1905-1909.

1908 The Federated Engine Drivers & Firemen's Association of Australasia was created and deregistered almost 40 years later in 1949. In 1950, it was formed again under the same name and functioned until amalgamation with the CFMEU.



1856. 8 Hour Day Banner.

1910 A craft union for painters called the Federated House & Ship Painters Paperhangers & Decorators Association of Australasia was established. In 1915 their name was changed to the Operative Painters & Decorators Australia, and then again in 1918 to be the Operative Painters & Decorators Union of Australia.

1911 The Australian Builders Labourers Federation was created to represent building workers. The BLF quickly became instrumental in not only fighting for workers' wages and conditions but for their role in larger community campaigns. In 1972 it became the Australian Building Construction Employees' & Builders' Labourers' Federation until it was deregistered in 1974. Resuming in 1976, it lasted until 1986 when it was deregistered permanently. This varied state by state.



1900. Melbourne Eight Hour Day March.



Federated Seamens Union



1913 The Australian Paper Mill Employees Union was created and covered workers in paper mills.

1914 The Federated Furnishing Trade Society of Australasia was renamed from the Federated Furnishing Trade Societies of Australasia, formed by several state-based societies in 1909.

1916 The Sydney Wharf Labourers Union merged with state and port-based unions as the Waterside Workers Federation of Australia.

1918 The Australian Timber Workers Union was created after the deregistration of the Amalgamated Timber Workers' Union of Australia. The union extended coverage to workers in box and case factories, saw makers shops, joiners' workshops, carpenters, implement workers and wood working machinists.

1919 The Operative Stonemasons Society of Australia was formed as a result of many state-based stonemason societies amalgamating.

1922 The Amalgamated Society of Carpenters and Joiners of Australia was formed by several carpentry & joiner unions created in 1911 & 1912. Carpenters had been known for their militant activism from as far back as the 1840's.

1925 The Operative Plasterers Federation of Australia was formed. This federation originated from plasterers in NSW and TAS, and was joined later by SA, WA, & QLD plastering unions. VIC plastering unions remained separate.

1928 The Slaters Tilers & Shinglers Union of Australia was created. It changed its name to include roof fixers in 1944 and formally amalgamated with the Builders Workers Industrial Union in 1976.

1943 The Seamen's Union of Australasia became the Seamen's Union of Australia (SUA) and amalgamated with marine cooks, bakers, and the Butchers Association.

1945 The Building Workers Industrial Union of Australia was formed and was deregistered only a few years later in 1948. The BWIU eventually won federal re-registration in 1962.

1950 The WWF absorbed the Permanent and Casual Wharf Labourers' Union of Australia.

1988 The SUA merges with the Federated Marine Stewards, and merges again a few years later with the Pantryman's Association of Australasia.

1991 The WWF amalgamates with the Australian Foremen Stevedore Association and Professional Divers Association.

1991 The ATAIU & BWIU amalgamate.

1993 The SUA merges with the WWF to become the Maritime Union of Australia.

2018 The CFMEU merges with the MUA & TCF to become the new SUPER UNION - the MIGHTY CFMEU.

Source: Australian Trade Union Archives, MUA & CFMEU.





NEWCASTLE MUA SECRETARY GLENN WILLIAMS AND SIMO



MUA & CFMEU MEMBERS SUPPORTING OFFSHORE WIND!



MUA WHARFIES JOANNA TAVITA & JASMINE LOADES ON THE STUMP!



REWIRING THE NATION!

Brothers/Sisters, welcome to 2024! I hope you all had a well-rested break and have hit the ground running because your Union certainly has. We have already had rally's supporting Offshore Wind in Newcastle, endorsement from our members at heavy lift crane companies for their next EBA and genuine talks with our comrades at the ETU in working together more closely within the Renewable sector.

In the face of Australia's Renewable Energy expansion, not to forget the monumental \$200 billion investment in transmission lines connecting all the projects together, the collaboration between the CFMEU and the ETU becomes not just advantageous but of vital importance. This massive undertaking needs a united front, an alliance that puts aside our own self-interests for the greater good of all our members.

The first step of this combined effort needs to be organising EBA's that work for our members in a tough regional environment. In a time where worker rights are continually under attack and the cost-of-living crisis weighing hard on the working class's shoulders, the CFMEU and ETU must join forces to ensure fair wages and conditions for those living away from home on the transmission line projects. Collective bargaining becomes the glue that brings a combined workforce together, turning it from just a group of workers into a tight-knit community. With this collaborative approach, the agreement ensures everyone is on the same page, with shared goals, rights that have been worked out through negotiation, and a sense of strength that comes from standing united as one. But in saying that, it's all well and good to have the best agreements in place but who is going to build it?

With an ageing skilled workforce, one of the biggest challenges we face as a movement is the need for training the next generation of workers. By the CFMEU and ETU joining forces, combining their knowledge and resources, we can create world class training programs for apprentices that will maintain these projects for years to come. These courses could have the protentional not only to educate the future in this space but also upskill any current worker who wishes for a career change. Together, the unions are not only tackling the current demand but also ensuring a legacy of competence and safety.

We are making sure we pass the baton to the next generation well-prepared and capable of handling the challenges in the world of building and electrifying these lines.

As our two unions strive to organise this space, we can't forget the importance of working together and this can only be achieved with composite crews. If we start bluing over tiny little demarcations that break down our relationship, then ultimately the bosses will win. We need to integrate various skill sets from both sides of the fence. Our Union with its coverage of Labourers, Tradesmen, Crane and Plant Operators must work hand in hand with our Sparky mates who will wire, string and electrify these lines. It's our best chance of organising these massive regional projects. By this amalgamation of skills, knowledge, and experience from both unions, we can support a workforce that is adaptable, agile, and capable of overcoming the challenges of constructing and maintaining the transmission lines.

Putting the skills of a composite crew to the side for a second, it will make our combined approach a powerhouse if the bosses don't agree!

Beyond the advantages I have already spoken about, this alliance sends a strong message to the corporations that want to destroy our wages and conditions. It shows that the unions are not just advocates for their members but also support the rewiring of our nation. In the face of big corporations trying to build our transmission network for the lowest dollar, the CFMEU and ETU, standing shoulder to shoulder, become an unstoppable force where the true meaning of unity is strength comes into full play!

The \$200 billion transmission line projects across Australia present a turning point moment for the CFMEU and the ETU. By working together to organise collective agreements, training apprentices, and forming composite crews, we not only ensure the success of the next industrial revolution, but also pave the way for a brighter future for our members, our industry, and the nation at large.

**"THE TIME FOR THIS ALLIANCE IS NOW,
AND THE STAKES HAVE NEVER BEEN HIGHER!"**

In Unity,
James Simpson (Simo)

ORGANISE!