

# Breathing gear for the man who beat Hardie

## Moore means less weekend family time

*Sydney Lord Mayor Clover Moore has voted with her right-wing mates to oppose our campaign to prohibit work on long weekends. The CFMEU and other building unions have successfully negotiated for 80 per cent of the building industry to close down on the public holiday long weekends. Unfortunately a small number of anti-union builders and developers refuse to co-operate. In response the CFMEU has persuaded a large number of Sydney councils to place in all development approvals a prohibition on building work on long weekends. The ALP, Greens and Independent councillors have supported our Quality of Life Campaign. On two occasions Moore has used her casting vote to oppose Sydney City Council placing the prohibition in DAs. According to local residents, the Lord Mayor is more interested in the rights of shonky developers than the rights of buildings workers and residents to a rest on long weekends. If you live in the area – the CBD, Redfern, Alexandria, Erskineville – ring Clover Moore on 92659229 or go to [www.cfmeu-construction-nsw.com.au](http://www.cfmeu-construction-nsw.com.au) and send her and all councillors a protest email.*

**BUILDING UNION MEMBERS** have donated money to provide state-of-the-art breathing equipment to West Pennant Hills local Bernie Banton, the man who shot to national fame when he led the campaign to force disgraced asbestos producer James Hardie to pay compensation to victims.

Throughout the campaign Mr Banton was forced to carrying an endless supply of oxygen bottles, but when members of the Construction Forestry Mining Energy Union recently heard about new equipment that provided the oxygen without bottles, they set about fundraising on site to buy one.

CFMEU NSW Secretary Andrew Ferguson said Mr Banton's brave campaign to assist current and future asbestos victims had made him a hero in the building industry, an area where many former workers suffer from asbestos-related diseases.

"Members of the CFMEU on a range of building sites across Sydney were involved in raising the funds to purchase this lightweight portable concentrator for Mr Banton that will improve his quality of life, and help him as he finalises negotiations with James Hardie," he said.

The manufacturer of the concentrator, Air Liquide, generously sold the equipment for half price. "Bernie should be treasured as a national hero for his efforts, and the CFMEU will continue to support him all the way as he leads the fight for justice for people exploited by the greed of large multinational companies," Ferguson said.



**Take a breath** Asbestos campaigner Bernie Banton during an occupation of James Hardie's offices.

## Australian first: construction course for Indigenous women

THE CFMEU is helping indigenous women enter the construction industry with a culturally specific course, unique in Australia, turning out its first 10 graduates.

The 'Women in Construction' course, jointly run by the CFMEU and Miller TAFE, was designed to help overcome the obstacles faced by many indigenous women seeking employment in the building sector.

CFMEU Indigenous Liaison Officer Les Tobler said he organised the course after the great success the CFMEU had with previous courses that provided skills, training and contacts in the building industry, designed for unemployed indigenous men from disadvantaged areas.



"This is the first course of its type in the country," he said. "It involved five weeks of intensive training in a range of skills, with proper testing, so that at the end of the course every one of these women had the skills and the qualifications to get a job in the construction industry."

"The women who took part all showed exceptional drive and commitment, pushing themselves to learn a large range of new skills in a very short period of time, and I am confident that they will all excel in their chosen fields as they enter the construction industry."

"The men's course that this was modelled on has had wonderful results with 80 per cent of the students who took part going from being unemployed to having long term secure and fulfilling work in different parts of the construction industry, and we expect these women to fare as well. This shows what can be done when unions, TAFE, employers and the government work together to identify a need, and to help remove some of the roadblocks that occur in the industry for many people, especially indigenous women."

## Chipping in to help hospital

Workers and management on Barclay Mowlem's mental health unit at Liverpool Hospital have contributed \$10,000 to help the hospital buy vital equipment. CFMEU delegate Jimmy Magee said the money was raised through the sale of soft drinks on site, holding lucky draws and running Saturday barbecues. "We raised around \$7,100 and Barclays topped it up to make \$10,000," Jimmy explained. "It's a good cause. The money will go to the pregnancy unit and the brain injury unit. You can't get much more deserving than that."

Labourer Tony Sabato, who lives in Casula, said it was great to be able to make a difference to somebody's life. Co-delegate Alan Hennessy said the money raised showed the generosity of the workers. Liverpool Hospital general manager Teresa Anderson thanked the workers and Barclay for their efforts. "The fact you guys are making this contribution is fabulous," she said. Barclay's NSW building general manager, Mike Frost, praised the efforts of the union workers. Adeline Hodgkinson, director of the Brain Injury Rehabilitation Unit, summed up what the fundraising was all about. "These wheelchairs will help people start out life again."



## Clover sees red over green ban

The CFMEU has imposed a "red and green" ban on the demolition of Redfern Oval. It happened when Sydney Lord Mayor Clover Moore announced plans to flatten the oval – with little or no consultation with the local community. The oval is a key part of the local community and the traditional home to the Rabbitohs. The union has called for proper consultation and consideration of community needs before it will allow any redevelopment of the site. There are several alternative proposals in place. The CFMEU calls on all supporters of the ban to go to [www.cfmeu-construction-nsw.com.au/takeactionsupportedredfernoval.htm](http://www.cfmeu-construction-nsw.com.au/takeactionsupportedredfernoval.htm) and send an email from our web page.

## Changing public perceptions

**THE PUBLIC'S PERCEPTION** of the union movement is often distorted and misinformed. Through an often hostile mainstream media, unions are portrayed as thuggish organisations dedicated to self-serving officials.

However, the reality is very different. To counter common misconceptions, former National Secretary of the BWIU Tom McDonald has produced a book and CD-ROM Changing Australia: The Union Story, about the positive role of unions in Australia's industrial and social history.

The book has 23 chapters that outline the roles unions have played in areas such as green bans, the anti-apartheid movement, superannuation, workplace safety and equal pay for women.

It is primarily aimed at students in Years 7-10, but is of general interest to all in the community.

"These stories are about the hope, sacrifice, struggle for justice and victories that helped make Australia a better place," McDonald said.

The publication is on sale at the Lidcombe office of the CFMEU for only \$5.



### Union Shopper offers big savings for union members.

Decide what you want to buy and be ready to purchase. Call us with your union details. Tell us the brand name, model number and best price you can find. For some products and services, you will be referred directly to a supplier.

We will call you back, usually within 24 hours, to let you know the best price available at the time.

Once you have ordered with Union Shopper, our preferred supplier will contact you to arrange payment.

Call now and start saving

**1300 368 117**

Or online at [www.unionshopper.com.au](http://www.unionshopper.com.au)

**UNION SHOPPER**

BIG SAVINGS FOR UNION MEMBERS