

Green Ban gives Souths a sporting chance

The CFMEU has barricades at the ready to prevent work starting on the demolition of Redfern Oval, as part of a plan rammed through by the Lord Mayor of Sydney, Clover Moore. She wants to get rid of the oval, the home of the Rabbitohs. However, the union has declared a Green Ban and supports a community proposal to turn the site into a home for Souths. "The community plan is supported by the club, the Police, Citizens and Youth Club, by schools, churches and Aboriginal groups. But, no one is listening," said CFMEU Organiser Tony Papa.

More than 1000 supporters of the CFMEU Green Ban demonstrated at the Oval in January to protest against Moore's plan. "The Green Ban is really important," said Souths elder statesman, George Piggins. "The council is against us, the people trying to take over. The only people supporting our plans are the local community – and the union." Piggins said it was important for local children to have somewhere to play sport. The CFMEU is organising a community meeting to discuss the protest for March 25 at Souths Leagues Club. To find out more, or to help get involved, contact Tony Papa or Brian Parker on 9285 5222.



Tough times: APHEDA trainers conduct a workshop with Indonesian unionists as part of the aid group's commitment to improving working conditions and pay

Indonesia turns on unions

The CFMEU supports Union Aid Abroad-APHEDA to build across all sectors and industrial regions in Indonesia, an effective and democratic trade union movement, able to fight for fair wages, job security, safe conditions and democratic rights. This support is vital in ensuring industrial relations in Indonesia are free of the anti-union legacy of dictator Soeharto.

Since the fall of the Soeharto regime there has been a slow democratisation and decentralisation in industrial relations. From 2000-2003, industrial laws changed in Indonesia, allowing local governments to set minimum wages in their regions and allow workers to establish unions at an enterprise level.

However, it appears the current government, led by former military general, Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono, is intensifying its campaigns against workers trying to implement their fundamental human rights to organise and to bargain collectively. For example, in the palm-oil sector, Indonesia's largest palm-oil plantation company, P.T. Musim Mas, used hired, armed police to drive 701 families out of the plantation housing the day after Christmas because they were members of the union KAHUTINDO.

Working conditions in Indonesia are unsafe and wage levels very low; the legal minimum wage is just \$51 a month. Independent and democratic trade unions have a crucial role to play to ensure that working men and women receive just wages and can improve their family living standards.

The CFMEU through Union Aid Abroad-APHEDA supports the Labour Working Group Training Centre (LWG-TC). The LWG-TC seeks to train union trainers in areas such as collective bargaining skills, women in unions and globalisation. The Centre aims to train 96 highly skilled union trainers across the 34 democratic unions and union federations in Indonesia which participate in the program.

Each participant is required to conduct at least four training sessions in their own unions, observed by a

LWG-TC team member, before they graduate as a fully qualified trainer.

In the past year, the LWG-TC has also begun media training for unions so they can start producing union journals on a regular basis to inform their members of key issues such as EBAs, occupation health, women workers' rights, labour law, disputes, globalisation and organising methods. You can support workers overseas and join the struggle for justice, human rights, education and development by joining the Global Justice Program today. Visit www.apheda.org.au or call 9264 9343

You can also purchase and sell tickets for the Apheda annual raffle. Tickets are available from the Lidcombe office of the union.



Union Aid Abroad APHEDA
The overseas humanitarian aid agency of the ACTU
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Refugees from Burma, living in a Thai refugee camp.

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RAFFLE CLOSES JUNE 1ST, 2006. THE WINNING TICKET WILL BE DRAWN AT THE TRADES HALL, 4 GOULBURN ST, SYDNEY ON JUNE 15TH, 2006 AT 6:00PM. APHEDA INC. HAS AUTHORITY FUNDRAISE UNDER THE NSW CHARITABLE FUNDRAISING ACT 1991 NUMBER CFN12752. VIC PERMIT NO 11737/05 (ISSUED 28 DECEMBER, 2005) ACT PERMIT NUMBER NO. 06/0001.



Lauren reclaims life a day at a time

Tragedy unites union behind family: Pat and Christine Huxley, with daughter Simone, outside the rehabilitation centre at Westmead where they daily watch Lauren's slow steps to full recovery

Support Benefit for Asylum Seekers

Members can show their support for asylum seekers this month with a fundraising concert at 7pm on March 23 at Sydney Town Hall. The benefit night for the Bridge for Asylum Seekers Foundation will be chaired by ABC Radio's Julie McCrossin who will interview human rights lawyer Julian Burnside. A charity auction will be held by John Doyle of Roy & HG fame while artists including Didjeridu Dingo, Pat Drummond and Mick Hamilton will be performing. Tickets can be bought at the door for \$20 adults/\$10 concessions. The Bridge for Asylum Seekers Foundation uses all money raised to help finance the lives of asylum seekers who are released into the community without work rights, Medicare or any government benefits while their refugee claims are processed. For more information visit: www.asylum-seekersfoundation.com

Pat Huxley knows what it means to live one day at a time. The father of Lauren Huxley, the teenager who was brutally bashed, burned and left for dead in her Northmead home, has been sitting by his daughter's bed for the past three months watching as she makes the slow journey back to health.

According to Pat, he, his wife Christine and eldest daughter Simone, 22, have had the best start to the new year they could have hoped for with the 19-year-old's recovery moving ahead rapidly.

Lauren has begun walking and talking and is taking liquid foods, such as thickened pineapple juice. She greets visitors with a beaming smile and her eyes sparkle, giving a hint of the mischievous character she is working to reclaim.

"She's about at the level of a 10-year-old now," Pat said. He said doctors were still unsure of her long-term prospects, but all the signs so far were good ... "we're really pleased at how she's doing."

The extent of Lauren's injuries from the attack was horrific. Pat said her brain had been badly bruised and metal plates now held her skull together.

He said the key to her full recovery would be to get her back on solid foods and swallowing water. Once she achieved this, Lauren would be able to go home for weekends.

As part of her rehabilitation program, Lauren is on the treadmill for at least 10 minutes a day and can now walk on her own using aids. She also does occupational therapy daily to get her tongue working and to help her relearn to write.

The sense of pride in her achievement is undisguised in Pat's voice, but it is a sobering reminder of

how far she has to go when he says she can only walk about 100m a day.

"She understands everything we say and tells us things like, 'Okay', 'I'm fine', but doesn't carry on full conversations."

Lauren's sight is also returning and she is now aware of day and night and wants to know the time.

Pat said he believed the family's constant presence by her bedside was a large factor in her recovery. "In the burns unit you see those that have friends and family around make huge leaps in recovery," he said.

A union member all his life, Pat said the family had been overwhelmed by support from the CFMEU and its members and the community and could not have devoted the time needed to Lauren's recovery without that support.

"In your hour of need, the union is always there for you," he said. "They always look after members really well.

"(There is) so much good in the community and

people don't realise that." In the latest fundraising effort, workers and management on the Multiplex Parramatta Justice precinct raised \$4500 for the appeal.

CFMEU Organiser Mal Tulloch said it was an incredible effort given there were only about 150 workers on the site.

Tulloch said this was just some of the thousands of dollars that has been donated by union members and the community to support the Huxley family.

"This is what being a union member is about, making sure we stick together and help each other through hard times, like the terrible tragedy that has struck the Huxley family."

"In your hour of need, the union is always there for you"