

## Heat put on Lib MP

**Grassroots members** in the western suburbs of Sydney are paving the way to reinvigorate the union's ties with the community, while making life difficult for the local Liberal MP.

The Western Suburbs Rank and File Workers Group, led by committee members Gary Flynn, Dave Milutin and Danny Pilarinos, along with CFMEU Organiser Rebel Hanlon, has been raising the union's profile locally with great success. After starting from scratch with no interest, monthly rank and file meetings are now averaging 40-odd members and an email alert system has almost 100 members.

Hanlon said members from the Blacktown to Penrith area were using the meetings to voice concerns about their, and their children's, working future. "It's an excellent opportunity for rank and file members to speak one on one with organisers or CFMEU representatives about any issues," he said. Hanlon said the group's success was getting rank and file members politically active. Members were also being encouraged to join the ALP.

"For far too long workers have sat

on the fence, but you can't change anything from the outside. Workers have to take control of the ALP again and get it thinking about working-class policies," Hanlon said.

The Blacktown group has been dubbed "The Chasers" by local media for embarrassing local Liberal MP Louise Markus by flying the CFMEU flag behind her at press conferences and functions. In March, the group set up a *Your Rights At Work* stall opposite Markus's stall at the Blacktown Show. It also plans to march in the June Doonside Festival.

"We're trying to show the trade union movement is active in the community and to hold these people (Liberal MPs) accountable for what the Howard Government is doing to western suburbs families," he said.

**The group will hold a Fightback Ball at Mt Druitt Workers Club on August 12 as a fundraiser for the ACTU campaign against WorkChoices changes. Big Brother finalist Tim Brunero will be guest MC. For tickets contact Gary Flynn on 0404 812145 or Dave Milutin on 0418 385233.**

## Get active! Rank and file meeting dates

**In these dark days** of Howard's IR attacks it's even more important for the rank and file to get involved. The union has scheduled evening meetings in many suburbs of Sydney, Newcastle, Wollongong and regional towns allowing members to get news and raise questions or problems. Our success depends on you, so mark the dates and venues in your diary now, and tell your mates!

**Wed, 7 June 2006**

**Wed, 6 September 2006**

**Mount Druitt:** Mount Druitt Workers Club, 247 Woodstock Avenue, Dharruk. Meeting starts at 6.30pm and are held on fourth Thursday of each month. Next meeting June 29. Contact Rebel Hanlon on 0404-095693.

**Gosford:** Central Coast Leagues Club (Crystal Room), Dane Drive, Starts 5pm.

**Liverpool:** John Edmonson VC Memorial Club, 185 George St. Starts 5pm.

**Gymea:** Sutherland District Trade Union Club (Bass and Flinders Room), 57 Manchester Rd. Starts 5pm.

**Wollongong:** Wollongong Trade Union Centre, 1 Lowden Square. Starts 4.30pm.

**Sydney:** CFMEU City Office, Level 10, 377 Sussex St. Starts 6pm.

**Newcastle:** Newcastle Trades Hall (Ground floor), Devonshire Lane. Starts 4.30pm.

**Penrith:** Penrith RSL Club, Tindale St. No June meeting. September meeting from 6.30pm.

## Meet a member



**Gary Flynn, 49, carpenter**, married with two teenage daughters, has been a union member for 30 years and is now a delegate and on the committee of the western suburbs rank and file group.

### What has motivated your activism?

I've always been an active union member, but the new industrial relations laws have really motivated me lately.

### Who is your inspiration politically?

The rank and file when they stand up to have a fight.

### What is your greatest fear for the future?

That we leave our children a legacy of low wages and shit conditions

### What should the union be doing?

We all have our ideas, but we need to have faith in our leadership and be supportive of our leadership. I think Andrew Ferguson is doing a very good job. In terms of the movement I think the right and left wing unions need to meet in the middle because this is a struggle for all of us.

### What should the rank and file be doing?

Blokes are all getting a fire in their belly and want to do something and I tell them the biggest thing they can do about it is to vote these bastards out.

### How can you get rank and file to be more active?

Education is the big thing and the construction union has done well at that, but people need to lose something before they realise what's going on and that is just starting to happen, so I think we'll see more rank and file getting involved from here.

### What's your biggest complaint?

Rank and file come along and say what's the union doing and the union shouldn't have allowed this to happen. But we had a 12-month campaign before the last election telling workers not to vote for Howard and about one-third did, so they are now paying for it.

### If you were prime minister for a day what would be your first act

To put John Howard and Peter Costello out of the country. (Preferably in a leaky boat)