

You beauty: a lucky prizewinner is presented with his Guessing Competition cheque by CFMEU President Peter McClelland.



BRIEFS

CFMEU Guessing Competition Winners

During May and June 2006 the union ran a Guessing Competition. Funds raised will be used in our campaign against the Howard Government's unfair work-place laws. The winners were:

First Prize \$12,000

Manuel Fernandes

Second Prize \$5500

Julio Machado

Third Prize \$2500

Tony Figueras

Congratulations to all the winners and thanks to all who supported the competition.

Could you have guessed right?

Fill in the missing letters:

KICK HOW_RD O_T

Tax guide

Most people hate doing their tax, so to help take some of the pain out of it, the CFMEU has produced a tax guide for the latest financial year. It includes all the latest information on what you need to do and what items to claim for. You can get a copy of the guide from our offices or online at www.cfmeu-construction-nsw.com/taxreturnstaxguide.htm

New union staff

Welcome to **Dave Noonan**, the new National Secretary of the Construction and General Division of the CFMEU. He takes over from John Sutton, who has become CFMEU National Secretary.

In the NSW branch, there have been a number of changes. The union is sorry to farewell organisers **Joe Brcic**, **Steve Dixon** and **Malcolm French**, who served us well and have moved on to other careers. Although we are sorry to farewell these popular and hard-working Organisers, we are pleased to welcome in Apprenticeship Officer **Brad Parker** (see story, page 19) and **Gye Hillsley**.

Bridging the gap

On March 19th 2007 there will be a celebration to mark the 75th anniversary of the opening of the Sydney Harbour Bridge in 1932. While there will be much pomp and ceremony, it's also an opportunity to commemorate the 16 bridge workers who were killed during the construction of one of Sydney's and Australia's most recognisable structures.

If you have any stories about the Sydney Harbour Bridge, contact CFMEU Organiser Tony Papa on 9285 5222.

Union training

The ACTU Education & Campaign Centre has launched a number of cutting edge initiatives in union education. Go to www.educationonline.asn.au for online training or contact us by phone on 03 9664 7360 for further information on all courses.

Tune in, turn on, get active

If you want news that's independent of the commercial mainstream media and focuses on the needs of ordinary people, Workers Radio Sydney is a union

radio broadcast that happens Monday to Friday between 5.30am and 9am on 88.9FM.

Hear the latest news and views from the workers' perspective and have your say. Tune in and listen, email us on workersradiosydney@hotmail.com or give us a call on 9550 9552.

Christmas shutdown

All CFMEU offices will close at midday on December 22. The offices will re-open on January 2, 2007. Organisers and industrial staff are back on January 10.

Ansett workers shafted

The fifth anniversary of Ansett's collapse passed recently with many of the airline's former workers thousands of dollars out of pocket. While the Howard Government pretends the workers have received what they were entitled, this is untrue.

The Special Employees Entitlements Scheme was reluctantly established by the Government in 2001 after pressure from Ansett employees, the unions and the ALP. The scheme capped redundancy payments at eight weeks. Many employees were entitled to more than this.

This saw a \$110 million gap develop between the \$760 million total that Ansett's employees

were entitled to and the \$650 million they actually received. The Government contributed \$380 million to the SEESA scheme, of which \$320 million was later refunded by administrators. This meant the Government effectively contributed \$60 million to the Ansett employees.

Meanwhile, the Government's Ansett ticket levy reaped about \$280 million which was funnelled straight into consolidated revenue – creating a \$220 million surplus. This huge bucket of cash could be used to pay the \$110 million outstanding entitlements that Ansett workers are yet to see, and may well never see.

Union holiday units available

The CFMEU has holiday units available for union members and their families. These fully furnished, self-contained units are located at Fingal Bay (North Coast) and Sussex Inlet (South Coast).

The application form can be found on our website – or by calling in to your nearest union office. You must be a financial union member to take part in our ballots.

Holiday units are available for one week periods only – from Saturday to Saturday – at the rate of

\$407 per week (for Christmas 2006 holidays and Easter 2007 holidays). The rates for the July 2007 and October 2007 holiday periods will be announced during 2007.

Ballot

27/10/06
28/02/07
15/05/07
15/08/07

Holiday Period

Xmas 2006/New Year 2007 holidays
Easter 2007 holidays
July 2007 holidays
September/October 2007 holidays