



**THEIR MEMORY LIVES ON**  
Andrew Ferguson speaks at the unveiling of the CFMEU Wall of Remembrance

## Family treasures tribute to dead

I have just been looking through your Wall of Remembrance material and felt compelled to thank you for putting the day's events on to your website for those of us who couldn't be there in person.

My brother, Ronald Shores, was killed on 29 July 2004 whilst tunneling on the Baulderstone Hornibrook tunnel project in Sydney. He is sorely missed and the circumstances concerning his death make it all the more hard to bear. It is very sad to see how many workplace fatalities there have been.

The Wall looks beautiful and I look forward to being able to see it in person. Marlene (Ron's wife) attended the dedication and told us how special it was.

I write on behalf of myself, my parents, brother and sister, in again thanking the union for the Wall, and we can only hope that your campaign for improved workplace safety and conditions is successful.

**Stephanie Shores**  
New Zealand

## Ceremony helps in healing process

Thank you for allowing us to be part of the ceremony to dedicate the CFMEU Wall of Remembrance. It helped all of us to move a little bit closer to dealing with Bob's death.

My son Luke was especially happy to have spoken to people who knew his father and could remember things about him that Luke considered important – like his red Bedford truck. The healing process is a life-long process and one that we work on every day.

I was particularly struck by the young widow, Andreia Viegas, who spoke, as her life could be ours, just 16 years later.

Luke and my daughter, Kate, were that age when Bob died and we have had many a hard battle along the way. If we can be of any help to other families let me know.

Maybe the union should use some of the information from the families to present to men on the job to get them thinking about the consequences of not taking safety seriously. Most of the names on the CFMEU Wall were there because of someone else's negligence.

More than others know that times for

unions will only get tougher while Howard is in power so if we can assist in the fight for workplace safety don't think twice to ask.

**Cheryl Romer**

Cheryl is the wife of Bob Romer, tragically killed at work in 1988.

## Veterans appreciate help

We wish to thank the CFMEU and its members for their hard work and support towards changing the situation the veterans faced at Belmore. We wrote letters to appropriate bodies, saw the article and news item re your intervention. It was fantastic!

We can only hope the veterans will suffer no more stress from the pressure the TPI Association puts them under.

**Cassandra, Mark and Carmen Jordan**  
Bronte

## Fundraiser shows need for union

We want to congratulate the CFMEU for the worthwhile and enjoyable event organised in aid of guest Indian workers, held in Lidcombe in November and for your ongoing campaign against the exploitation of guest workers in this country.

It's the sort of initiative that should clinch in any doubter's mind how important a robust union movement is to our community and the defence of its values.

After listening to the sad stories about how guest workers are exploited by their ruthless bosses in this country, we were glad that we could do our bit to help them out.

We wish you every success in your efforts to help these and other victims of Howard's harsh industrial regime.

**Jeremy Gilling and Nitasha Thomson**

## Hamper helps lighten load

First, on behalf of my wife and I, I would like to extend my gratitude and thanks for the hamper that certainly surpassed the fairy bread planned for Christmas lunch. I would also like to extend my thanks for your show of solidarity for my vigil at Botany Cranes.

I always considered that from the time I was sacked to the end of 2006 would be the danger time. If the company were to fulfil the Howard Government agenda and lower the wages and conditions of my workmates, it would have been during this period.

Although our powers have been depleted, we are far from taking the final count. We now move into the new year and I have every confidence, with the leadership of this union, we will grow in strength and be joyous in victory.

**Barry Hemsworth**  
Dare to Struggle, Dare to Win

## Barry, an inspirational example

I was sorry I was unable to attend the 100th day of Barry Hemsworth's picket at Botany

**MORE LETTERS can be viewed at the CFMEU HaveYourSay page at [cfmeu-construction-nsw.com.au](http://cfmeu-construction-nsw.com.au)**

Cranes in Banksmeadow. The struggle of the trade union movement against the injustices wrought on our nation by the Howard Government's workplace laws and policies will only be overcome by the removal of the instigators of those laws and policies.

That is what all those committed to a fairer Australia must strive for and the leadership role of the trade union movement, as the representatives of working Australians, in this campaign must be supported.

This Council is totally supportive of the trade union movement and its campaign.

Barry Hemsworth's struggle against injustice shows all too clearly the potential individual outcomes of the Howard Government's workplace laws and illustrates why they must be vigorously opposed.

**Ron Hoenig**  
City of Botany Bay Mayor

## The times they are a changing

I have lived in Europe for the past six years and returned home with my Finnish fiancée to find things a wee bit different.

Before I left Australia, at the age of 23, I was being paid a flat rate of \$19 an hour, with some good benefits. Since my return I have been trying to get a job in Newcastle.

I recently attended an interview for a casual deckhand advertising "award" wages, only to find the employer was offering a flat rate of \$15 an hour as a subcontractor, mainly working weekends, with no award or benefits.

I also attended an interview at a hotel/hostel to find the employer was offering a flat rate of \$14.20 an hour working casual hours, including weekends, with no award or benefits.

In both cases the minute I mentioned "award wage" I was rudely told I should look for work elsewhere.

When I called the Office of Industrial Relations I was shocked to find that these employers could get away with this outrage, grossly underpaying and taking advantage of workers.

Apparently we call this "workplace flexibility", but as you read here I was better off in 2000.

I remain unemployed. I realise the idea behind this was to encourage more employment and create more jobs, however in the long run this will have the opposite effect in our society, making it harder for people to meet basic living expenses.

Without protection from our government, the average unemployed person has very little choice but to take the sour deals they are "legally" offered, just to make ends meet and afford to live in the First World country we call Australia.

**Liam Thomas**  
Newcastle