

NEWS FROM THE FEDERAL OFFICE NOVEMBER 2014

Venue confirmed for Officers Forum 2015

Victoria's Torquay has been earmarked for next year's National Officers' Forum. The township is 21 km south of Geelong and is the gateway to the Great Ocean Road.

"The World Needs a Pay Rise" Brisbane's L20

Federal Secretary Chris Watt recently attended The L20, a major summit bringing together leaders of organised labour from around the world. The L20 aims to provide G20 leaders with the perspectives of workers internationally. Organised each year by the International Trade Union Confederation and the Trade Union Advisory Council of the OECD, this year's conference, held in Brisbane, was chaired by the ACTU President Ged Kearney. Speakers discussed a range of issues affecting the world's workforce including rising inequality in egalitarian economies and the need for more relevant skills; more and more people are being trained in unneeded skills. Speakers included OECD Secretary General Gurria and International Labour Organisation's Sandra Polaski.



A venue has been confirmed for the National Officers' Forum 2015

Speakers noted that unemployment was still higher than before the Global Financial Crisis, and that evidence pointed towards a need for more jobs with better pay *before* economic growth could increase, calling for a reversal of economic action previously understood.

IEU joins voices calling for an end to violence against women

Violence against women is a serious problem in Australia where one woman, on average, is killed every week as a result of

intimate partner violence, domestic and family violence is the principle cause of homelessness for women and children, and one in five women experience harassment in the workplace. IEU officers this year joined the White Ribbon social media campaign. "The IEU is addressing this issue not just through White Ribbon, but industrially, as we are seeing an increasing number of agreements providing leave for domestic violence," Federal Secretary Chris Watt said.





Organisers' Workshop Sydney 2014

Earlier this month the IEU Organising Campaigning Committee conducted a workshop for IEU organisers.

The workshop explored challenges faced by organisers during bargaining campaigns.

A session by Robert Seal on current legislation underpinning collective bargaining gave organisers a sound knowledge base from which to work.

Organisers identified that it is essential that Chapter Reps are provided with support, regular organising visits and up-to-date information, so that they understand the status of the campaign and feel confident to take action.

Assistant Secretary Christine Cooper said the workshop provided an opportunity for organisers to refresh and strengthen their communication

skills.

"Allaying fears and addressing member concerns during bargaining campaigns is a major communication task for IEU organisers," Ms Cooper said.

Excerpt of the week

Regressive laws being pursued by the new Tasmanian Government are revealing troubling social and economic impacts. In response to planned industrial action by school teachers, a letter to the editor by Richard Corry appearing in the *Hobart Mercury* reads:

"The union gave us two weeks notice of a two-hour stop work meeting, and teachers had arranged supervision for any children who had to come to school during...



IEU Member Rod Towns of St Patrick's College reminds members to **VOTE NO** against the Catholic Education Office's non-union agreement!

“The Minister, on the other hand, sprang a student-free day on us with only two days' notice, leaving very little time for parents to make alternative care arrangements for their children.

“Furthermore, the Minister decided that teachers would use this day as one of their allotted professional development days for next year. It is my understanding that teachers usually plan professional development activities weeks or months in advance, so as to make the most of these precious opportunities.

“Giving our teachers only two days to plan their professional development will mean that this time it has essentially been wasted.

Photo Awards Runners-up

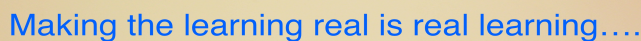
IEU members submitted photographs showing **Quality Education** in action as part of our ongoing campaign. Here are some of the state finalists...

More from Tassie

The Federal Executive discussed pending Tasmanian Protest Laws, currently before the Upper House. The laws target those who support a protest and are found to be “hindering business activities”. Penalties include a \$50,000 fine and five years imprisonment. Executive has condemned these laws as an attack on Rights and Freedoms of Australians in supporting community issues.

Executive noted:
This meeting expresses its deep concern at the move by the conservative Tasmanian Govern-

ment to silence legitimate protest. The Bill introduced, euphemistically entitled the Workplaces (Protection from Protesters) Bill 2014, is a move to criminalise participation in the democratic right to protest. It places an onus on police to move on or arrest citizens for doing nothing more than publicly expressing their views where this creates even the slightest inconvenience to a workplace. .. making the convenience of workplaces supreme and the right to protest, in every practical way, illegal.



Left:

NSW Belinda Stone, New England Girls School, "Finger Fossils, Real Learning"



SA Tom Coultas, St Aloysius College, Enjoying Speaking and Technology