

Biennial Conference 2015
BOB GERAGHTY HOUSE
312 South Road, Richmond SA 5033

Minutes – Thursday 8th October 2015

Day 1 Session 1: 9:15am - 10:30am

Branch President B Donnelly opened the meeting at 9:15am and welcomed the delegates to the 2015 Biennial Conference.

CREDENTIALS: Brendan Raets, Ron Paulus, Chris Paproth, Graham Hearnden, Russell Schutz, Ronnie Leighton, Pascal Labhart, Jason Harrison, Rodney Mills, Wayne Weekes, Andrew Nagel, Michael Heffernan, Daniel Ramm, Tristan Hyde, Bruce Chambers, Anthony Borg, Darren Brenton, John Adley, Bob Donnelly

Moved: B Chambers Seconded: D Brenton **CARRIED**

APOLOGIES: Jim Morrison, Scott Pryor, Barry Grimes, Keith Smith, Carl Muegge, Jarryd Sweeney, Geoff Birrell, Doug Buchanan, Corey Mutton, Glen Dighton, Peter Simpson, Troy Grey, Steve Butler, Trevor Gauld, Les McLaughlin.

Moved: B Chambers Seconded: D Brenton **CARRIED**

OBSERVERS: Allen Hicks, Dave Mier, DaveMcKinley , Jess Rogers, Simon Pisoni, Bill Mitropoulos, Erin Hennessy, Ben Jewell, Paul Scudds, Steve Rayson, Peter Weber, Gordon Penhall.

Moved: C Paproth Seconded: R Mills **CARRIED**

DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Jason Harrison to be deputy Chairman

Moved: R Mills Seconded: G Hearnden **CARRIED**

PROCEDURE: Agenda

Wednesday 8th October Session 1 9:15am – 10:30
Morning Tea 15 minutes
Lunch 30 Minutes
Conference Dinner 6:30pm at Fedora's (Hilton Hotel)

Moved: G Hearnden Seconded: A Borg **CARRIED**

Expenses:

\$90.00 per day will be paid to conference delegates to cover expenses

Moved: B Chambers Seconded: M Heffernan **CARRIED**

Minutes of 2013 Conference:

- C Paproth made comment on name of conference that it should be called the Divisional Branch Conference rather than the Biennial Conference.
- R Mills does not appear as an attendee in the 2013 minutes.

Moved: C Paproth

Seconded:

W Weekes

CARRIED

Business Arising:

Business arising from the 2013 minutes:

- Noted that State Council cited Official Reports
- Mark Butler and Tom Koutsantonis both speaking
- Request for Communications Division to speak
 - C Paproth – asked about solar panels for CEPU building
 - D Brenton – is it worth revisiting due to falling costs of solar panels
 - B Donnelly – Communications Division now in building as tenants. The Hurtle Square building sold for \$3.9 Million.

Moved: A Borg

Seconded:

D Brenton

CARRIED

OUTGOING PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

Good to see Bob in the Chair and good to see so many rank and file members attending. He also made comment that Officials are guests and not state councillors as in the past, which is a positive development.

Moved:

B Chambers

Seconded:

W Weekes

CARRIED

PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

Bob Donnelly thanked Jason Harrison for all his efforts over the years. The 2015 Election was the first full blown election since 1987, where all paid positions were contested. He congratulated the successful candidates. Bob advised that this is the first time that a paid officer, except the State Secretary, is not on State Council or the Biennial Conference. These governing bodies are now made up of rank and file members.

Moved: T Hyde

Seconded:

D Brenton

CARRIED

NATIONAL SECRETARY REPORT:

Allen Hicks thanked the CEPU for the invitation. Allen provided an update on the National office, this included:

Michael Wright who is the National Legal Officer, supported by the State Industrial Officers.

Lachlan Williams, the Communications Officer is going to highlight issues (i.e. CHAFTA). Allen mentioned that a new website would be up in early 2016.

Lance McCallum, the Policy Officer, who will be helping Branches with issues affecting members and working on lobbying Politicians.

The Compliance Officer, Annette Moran, who will be dealing with changes in rules, elections and governance and compliance issues in the future.

Mark Burgess, the new Apprentice Officer, will be encouraging branches to increase apprentice membership and work at improving the rate of apprentices dropping out before completion. The Council then began discussion on how to eliminate myths surrounding membership fees and how to encourage companies into taking on more apprentices.

Suspended: 10:13AM
Moved: J Harrison Seconded: B Chambers **CARRIED**

Resumed: 10:27AM
Moved: R Mills Seconded: B Chambers **CARRIED**

Allen resumed with how the National Branch was working toward cost savings for Branches and offering assistance as needed. He then moved onto the CHAFTA debate, stated it was a signed deal but needed to be enabled in parliament. He then stated the TPP could be worse than CHAFTA with full details not known at this stage.

The Master Electricians group are trying to attack apprentices by trying to front end load training by doing their training in two years, with no contract of training unpaid. Allen then moved back onto the CHAFTA debate, stating other countries could sue Australia if it affects their business (ISDS). He then moved on to encourage people to contact their local MP's with their concerns.

Allen then touched briefly on the Uranium Policy and ALP Affiliation.

Moved: A Nagel Seconded: A Borg **CARRIED**

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Day 1 Session 2: 11:00am - 12:30pm

UNION SHOPPER PRESENTATION: Presented by David Lang

Moved: B Chambers Seconded: D Brenton **CARRIED**

RESIGNATIONS:

J Adley stated the total resignations in the last couple of months, since the election, were 43 and most were work related due to lack of work in the industry. He advised that 5 were known to be due to the recent quadrennial elections.

MEMBERSHIP Graph circulated:

Jess Rogers explained graph, blue being 2013 and red being 2015.
Total membership was listed at 3400 in 2013 and 3800 in 2015.

Moved: G Hearnden Seconded: P Labhart **CARRIED**

GRAHAM LORAINE:

Graham, president of the Communications Division, thanked the CEPU for the invitation to attend Branch Conference. He then gave a brief history of his work and mentioned working closely with both Bob Geraghty and Bob Donnelly, and John Adley. Spoke about moving into CEPU office and the sale of the Hurtle Square Building for \$3.9 Million earlier in the year.

Graham then spoke on the drop in CWU membership with Telstra Nationally from 90,000 to 30,000 over the past years.

He advised Australia Post would be having significant changes in the future, with the introduction of the 2 Speed Post Service starting next year. The ACCC still needs to approve the increases in pricing with letters to be posted at \$1 for delivery within 3 days and \$1.50 for next day delivery.

Parcels are doing well, letters business is running at a loss. Graham then stated Australia Post wholly owns Startrack Express (parcels).

Graham then went on to speak about potential future amalgamation with the Electrical and Plumbing Division of the CEPU, after the Tasmania Office Merges. He is hoping to merge within the next three to four years, with membership sitting at below 2000, 70% being Post and 30% being Telco.

Moved: C Paproth Seconded: W Weekes **CARRIED**

DAVE MEIR:

Spoke about project in New Zealand, EPMU to ETU. Advised 7,000 to 9,000 Philipino's currently in Christchurch at this stage and none were union members. A Philipino organiser has been employed to represent these members.

CEPU and CFMEU are currently in the process of helping New Zealand Unions to organise better, as work conditions are unsafe and little is known about dangerous substances. Right of Entry permits are not needed in NZ, Union's have not been active over the past decade.

Australian/New Zealand standards are used as a guideline only in New Zealand.

Moved: J Harrison Seconded: B Chambers **CARRIED**

JASON HARRISON TOOK THE CHAIR

Moved: A Nagel Seconded: A Borg **CARRIED**

BOB DONNELLY LIFE MEMBERSHIP: Presented by Allen Hicks

Allen awarded Bob Donnelly his CEPU National Life Membership, awarded by the National Council. Gordon Penhall then spoke about Bob's history in the Union movement. Jason Harrison stated how well deserved it was.

Allen Hicks, Jason Harrison, John Adley and Gordon Penhall all thanked Bob for his work and efforts over his career in the Union.

Bob received a standing ovation.

Bob Donnelly thanked everyone for their support and was genuinely shocked to receive such an honour.

Moved: M Heffernan Seconded: R Paulus **CARRIED**

12:30PM LUNCH

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Day 1 Session 3: 1:15pm-5:00pm

ME Bank PRESENTATION: Presented by Peter Kelly

Moved: C Paproth Seconded: D Benton **CARRIED**

DAVE MCKINLEY:

Dave McKinley, The Assistant Secretary of the NSW Branch, spoke about recent job losses at BHP in Port Kembla and privatisation of the distribution network. Advised total job losses of 2300 with job prospects in New South Wales not looking so good in the future.

Moved: D Ramm Seconded: B Chambers **CARRIED**

OFFICER REPORTS:

John Adley:

Welcomed everyone and thanked them for their support and commitment to the Union. He then encouraged everyone to participate in the discussions at the conference. John then spoke about the election results and thanked the National Office for their support and assistance after the election. He then spoke about the need for improved training for delegates in the future.

Moved: D Ramm Seconded: J Harrison **CARRIED**

Simon Pisoni:

Thanked everyone for their support in the election and advised of his new role as Assistant State Secretary, and his further role in looking after the Defence, Gas, Water and Manufacturing Industries.

Moved: B Chambers Seconded: M Heffernan **CARRIED**

Jess Rogers:

Spoke about the training she has completed since the Biennial Conference held in 2013, advised of how much more experience she has gained in the FairWork Commission i.e. Unfair Dismissals, Underpayment of Wages and Majority Support Determinations.

Jess then spoke about WIMDOI and what has been happening of late regarding CEPU female members.

Moved: A Borg Seconded: R Mills **CARRIED**

Ben Jewell:

Thanked everyone for their support and gave a brief history of his employment throughout the years. Advised he is now the official looking after the Power Industry. He also spoke about upcoming redundancies in his area including Alinta Energy.

Moved: J Harrison Seconded: B Raets **CARRIED**

Paul Scudds:

Congratulated John Adley on his success with the Election and stated he gave his full support. Then went on to advise he is now the Official for Electrical Contracting, Construction and Electrical Fire Protection.

Paul advised work is currently limited; the majority of work being government funded i.e. NRAH. Spoke about the 36 week hour being under threat, and then encouraged members in the Construction Industry to become more active and engaged.

Moved: D Ramm Seconded: C Paproth **CARRIED**

Steve Rayson:

Thanked everyone for their support in the election and advised he is now the Official for the Metals and Manufacturing Industry. Spoke about his past history in the Automotive Industry.

Moved: B Raets Seconded: D Ramm **CARRIED**

Erin Hennessy:

Thanked everyone for their support and gave a brief life history. Erin advised she is now the Official for Plumbing, Fire Protection, Sprinkler Fitters and Plumbing Construction. Spoke about the attack on the 36 hour week by employer groups and Erin stated since the success of the election she has been visiting as many sites as possible and making as much contact with members as she can.

Moved: M Heffernan Seconded: B Chambers **CARRIED**

BRANCH POLICIES: Tabled for discussion.

Moved: D Brenton Seconded: A Borg **CARRIED**

MARK BUTLER MP:

B Donnelly introduced Mark as the Federal member for Port Adelaide, Shadow Minister for the Environment, Climate Change and Water.

