

CEPU SA Enews

Email Newsletter of the CEPU Electrical Energy & Services Division SA Branch

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Fellow CEPU SA members,



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2015 is nearly over and it's been a big year for the CEPU Electrical and Plumbing SA Branch. The [2015 quadrennial election results](#) brought about some significant change. The branch lost three experienced officials with Jason Wilder, Doug Buchanan and Jason Smith leaving the officials team; but we have gained three new, young, enthusiastic members with Ben Jewell, Erin Hennessey and Steve Rayson taking up the challenge of working for our members. The new team is working well, learning the ropes and getting stuck in representing members in a myriad of ways. The new officials have completed Federal Right of Entry, SA WHS Right of Entry and Mates in Construction training and have commenced the ACTU organising foundations course.



Erin and Beau on site

Our National Union has been of great assistance during this time of transition. We have had visits from National Secretary Allen Hicks, Plumbing Union President Paddy McCrudden, National Legal Officer Michael Wright, Tasmanian Branch Secretary Trevor Gauld, Tassie Branch Organisers Mick Anderson and Lee Archer and Queensland Organiser Beau Malone. In the New Year union officials from the Victorian ETU and PTEU will be in SA to work with Paul and Erin in the construction sector. Also Paul and Erin will be spending some time in Victoria with their comrades across the border to share ideas and strengthen interstate communications and cooperation.

CEPU SA State Council



Since the election the governing body of our Union, the State Council, is now entirely made up of rank and file CEPU SA members democratically elected by the industry sectors they represent. The number of State councillors is based proportionally on the number of financial members in each industry sector.

State Council meets on the second Wednesday of each month (excluding January) to receive reports from officers, raise matters from members, make operational decisions and oversee union finances. The State Council elects an Executive Committee whose job it is to review union expenditure and financial accounts. The next State Council meeting will be held at 5:00 pm Wednesday the 10th of February, if you wish to attend as a visitor please let us know.

Click to see your industry sector [State Council representative](#).

Vacant State Council Positions

We currently have vacancies on State Council for the Electrical Contracting and Plumbing Industry sectors following the resignation of Jason Smith and Corey Mutton from these positions. Elections for these positions will be required in accordance with our rules. The Fair Work Commission has been advised of this requirement and, as a result, we have been in contact with the Australian Electoral Commission who are making arrangements to conduct the elections. Look out for an invitation to nominate in the mail and give us a call if you are interested or have any questions.

Delegate training



The SA Branch is working towards ensuring we have effective delegate structures in all industry sectors with delegates that are trained, supported and equipped to assist members in the workplace. We conducted a three day Union Delegate Level 1 Training course in September and a one day Union

Skills course specifically for the Construction industry on the 9th of November. More delegate training will be available in 2016; please let us know if you are interested in undertaking this important and rewarding training.

Biennial Branch Conference



An SA Branch Conference was held on the 8th and 9th of October this year. Branch Conference is held for elected Branch Conference delegates and State Councillors to debate and decide SA branch policy and direction. Branch Conference must be held at least every two years under our rules. Click here to read the [minutes of the 2015 SA Branch Conference](#).

Bob Donnelly - CEPU Life Member



Our Branch President Bob Donnelly was awarded the unions highest award at our Branch Conference - Life membership of the CEPU. Bob has dedicated his working life to our union. He joined the ETU in 1968 and has represented members as a shop steward, State Councillor, Executive member, Organiser, Assistant Branch Secretary, Branch Secretary, Branch President, Divisional Councillor, Divisional President and National Councillor. Wherever you go around South Australia our members speak highly of Bob and his work standing up for fellow union members. Congratulations and thank you Bob.

ETU National Officers Conference 2015



The CEPU Electrical Energy and Services Division held an officers conference in Adelaide on the 17th and 18th of November. Officials from all States attended and discussed, amongst other topics, national campaigns, policy and organising tactics. The conference was addressed by Greens MP Adam Bandt as well as union colleagues from New Zealand and ACTU officials.

Divisional Conference



A Divisional conference was held on the 19th of November in Adelaide. Divisional Conference delegates from all states reviewed divisional branch audited financial statements, debated rule changes and discussed national divisional policy. A change to our rules sought by SA plumbing members to restrict eligibility to plumbers when voting for plumbing organisers was referred to the rules committee for consideration as it would require complex changes. One of the issues discussed was our unions' response to the apparent rise of extreme right wing political parties in Australia and their promotion of racism and bigotry. As a result of these discussions the Victorian ETU have produced an excellent [Standing up to racism video](#) - click to check it out.

CEPU National Council

The CEPU National Council (Communications, Electrical and Plumbing Divisions) met in Sydney on the 1st of December. Divisional financial reports were approved and rules changes were debated. Those endorsed included changes proposed by CEPU SA Industrial Officer Jess Rogers to promote female participation in our union beginning with affirmative action. An MoU was agreed on the proposed merger of the Tasmanian Communications and Electrical Divisions that should see the Tassie Branch become the first fully amalgamated CEPU Branch. Like the merger of the Plumbing Division in SA 10 years ago, this is a merger bought about by economic necessity that will lead to a stronger union for both Comms and ETU members.

2015 SA ALP Convention

CEPU delegates attended the SA ALP 2015 annual convention in October. The CEPU SA Branch, along with other affiliated unions moved motions directing the ALP State government to take action on various matters of concern to our members. you can download and read these resolutions here: [CEPU 2015 SA ALP State Convention motions](#)

Logo Competition

We are looking for CEPU SA logo ideas for printing on T Shirts stubbie holders etc. get creative and send in your suggestions. The best entry received before the 29th of February will win a quickbeds holiday accommodation voucher worth \$200.

Merry Christmas from all CEPU staff and officers. Have a great break if you are having one. If you are working - stay safe and stand up for your rights at work. We look forward to seeing you in the New Year and continuing to fight for members in 2016.



This newsletter has been sent by email to reduce postage cost. We have email addresses on file for a good proportion of our membership but not all. If you know of any members who wish to receive email newsletters, get them to provide their addresses. You can download a [PDF version of this newsletter here](#) to circulate to CEPU SA members and put on noticeboards.

Check our [website](#) for union information and keep up to date with the CEPU SA [Facebook page](#)

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