

# PTEU



AUTUMN EDITION 2014

## WA Journal



# Your New Union WA Branch

1st Floor, Unit 24, 257 Balcatta Road Balcatta, Western Australia 6021  
Ph: 08 9440 3522 Fax: 08 9440 3544



# Secretary's Report

I'm proud to inform you that as of March 28 the West Australian branch has been re-established. I've been elected Secretary, and a Committee of Management has been appointed, which is as follows:

Gerald McDonald	James Daley	Colm Costello
Steve Ahern	Nathan Hancock	Glenn Brandis

I'm honored to be the newly elected Secretary of the PTEU WA branch, a branch steeped in history. As Secretary of your Union, my aim is to build up the branch and bring a real sense of pride back to the trade.

Our primary focus in the last few months has been working through EBA's, which unfortunately limits our ability to visit members as regularly as we'd like. With many of these EBA's renewed or in the final stages of negotiation, we can now concentrate on increasing our membership.

We've recently appointed a new Official to the WA branch, Matthew Rose, who is profiled on page 6 of this Journal.

It's an exciting time in our state, as the WA building industry continues to boom. We have a large trade base to draw upon and I believe we all have an important role to play in talking to our mates, apprentices etc, and reminding them that being in the union isn't 'old school'. Unions play a vital role in helping to protect your rights and conditions. It shouldn't be forgotten that many of the entitlements our members now have, were hard fought for over many years.

For the cost of a couple of beers a week, which is fully refundable at tax time, why wouldn't you be a member of a union. Ours and other unions of course do much more than simply protect employment conditions, unions give a voice to workers at the industry level which is too often dominated by employer groups or lobby groups whose primary focus is self interest, rather than protecting the trade and by definition, our livelihood.

Our union has a diverse membership, with many ideas and philosophies amongst the ranks, which at times has made things challenging. One thing you can be assured of is that we're all united by our trade, industry and the best interests of our members.

In the coming months we will be pushing full throttle to boost our membership to a level that will help deliver real change, real choice and give us a real voice. I feel more than confident that with your support, we can rebuild again and be even more influential in our industry.

**Brian Bintley**  
PTEU WA Branch Secretary

# President's Report

## The History of our Union

We have a very long history of plumbers in the Doherty family dating back to the early 1700's, with the trade having been handed down from father to son over many generations. As a proud Irishman, the skills that I have acquired through the plumbing trade have taken me around the world, settling in Australia in 1974.

I think it's really important that we remind ourselves what an important job we do. We should never forget that plumbers play a vital role in maintaining public health through the installation and maintenance of safe water supplies and sanitation systems.

Our Union started its life as the Western Australian Plumbers and Sheet Metal Industrial Union of Workers in 1901.

At some point the Sheetmetal workers were transferred into the Amalgamated Metalworkers Union (AMWU). The Union then changed its name to become the Australian Plumbers & Gasfitters Employees Union Western Australian Branch, covering workers in plumbing, gasfitting, pipefitting and domestic engineering work.

The West Australian Branch joined the Federal Union in 1916.

The Union has a long and proud history. In 1975 there was a campaign for a Federal Award, with a bitter dispute ensuing. The Union was openly attacked by the Liberal government of the day with the open use non Union labour at the Wanneroo Hospital and Sir Charles Gardiner Hospital building sites, in which our members stood strong firm and united.

In 1986 I became the Union Shop Steward, at a time when the BLF were trying to force Plumbers to have labourers as part of our conditions. We refused as we already had Plumbers Union Trades Assistants in our award. It became a nasty vicious battle which became known as the WACA Dispute.

We won the battle for site allowance, the introduction of the OH&S Act and on-site amenities. The main strategist for the Building unions at the time was clearly our State Secretary Bob Bryant, with an alliance between the Building Trades Association and our Union putting us in a position of strength.

In the early 1990's we purchased an office with the Painters Union in East Perth, building even closer relationships with our comrades within the building trades group.

After a combined employer and union building industry visit to Canada in June 1991, many new ideas were brought to the table. The most successful outcome was construction of the innovative Plumbing and Painting skills centre in Maylands, the first industry skill centre in Australia.

By 1993 we had entered into amalgamation discussions with the ETU and over the following year our Branch reached an agreement to formulate the CEPU which originally was the EPU (Electrical and Plumbing), and was later to include the Postal Workers.

In conclusion may I say we make our own history every day and your Union in West Australia has a proud history of looking after members and their interests. We now have a modern regenerated Union with a leadership group that is working very hard on your behalf.

Your membership is critical to the ongoing success of your Union.

**Seamus Doherty**  
PTEU WA Branch President







# Federal Secretary's Report

In 2009 the National Office embarked on a consolidation of some of the smaller states, as we saw our members and trade licensing were under threat in the states where we weren't as strong. States such as Tasmania, Northern Territory, South Australia and WA were under a lot of stress, so we sought a consolidation with electricians who were facing the same challenges.

It worked in a number of states and cities, but not in Perth. We thank the electrical division for the work they have done with us over the last few years, but we both feel it is now appropriate that plumbers are best served by plumbers and electricians by electricians.

The National Office is funding the re-establishment of the WA branch of the PTEU and we are there 100% with resources and the support that the WA branch may need. We have full confidence in Brian Bintley who has worked for the CEPU for the last 4 years, impressing us with his great passion for the industry. We look forward to a long and prosperous relationship into the future.

Moving forward our Union will need to adapt to the significant changes happening around us. With the roll-out of initiatives such as broadband across the country many of the communications and electrical branches are amalgamating to become one body. Where this happens the plumbing division, a stand-alone trade with our own set of work practices, will maintain a separate division.

We also need to be ready to up-skill our members in readiness for new technologies that come with the manufacture of new products, which has already been happening in some states.

In Victoria the State Government has abolished one of the sprinkler fitter schools, with the Union stepping in to administer the training in partnership with the National Fire Industry Association. We are now in discussions with South Australia about overseeing the Fire Protection Industry program being delivered in Adelaide, and hopefully by the end of the year all the trade schools for fire protection throughout the country will be overseen by the Union.

In the coming year the National Office will take a more active role in supporting the individual branches across the country to achieve the best outcomes and as a group we'll work together to maintain a vibrant and relevant Union.

Another benefit for our members in the West is that our National Office have people on the National Curriculum body, National Licensing Boards, and on all National peak bodies. This means the voice of our trade and our skillset will always be protected and represented, which in the West, up until now has been lacking.

**Earl Setches**

PTEU Federal Secretary

# Federal President's Report



As Federal President of the plumbing divisions in QLD, NSW, Vic, and WA since 2012, my role is to assist the states. Especially now, with wall to wall Liberal governments, we need to ensure all state entities are viable and operate effectively.

As the National body, we provide support and assistance where needed, looking after the Award and your safety net, ensuring that all apprentices and tradesmen are covered. The local state branches look after their own enterprise agreements, which are different in every state.

We will provide backup and financial support for the re-establishment of the plumbers stand alone union in Western Australia. This new division in WA will be called the Plumbing Trades Employees Union Western Australia and will cover sprinkler fitters, plumbers, refrigeration mechanics, mechanical plumbers, gasfitters and roofers.

Politically we have a very volatile environment, with state governments in Victoria, NSW and QLD, and the Federal government threatening the rates and conditions of working class people, including plumbers. With the Abbott governments announcement of another Royal Commission, we're sure to see continued attacks on construction workers, insinuating links with bikies and organized crime, which the plumbers have never been involved with.

In Victoria the government have introduced anti-protest legislation to move people on, limiting their ability to protest. This is an appalling attack on peoples democratic rights.

The Liberals have a track record of de-regulation, calling training and licensing 'red-tape'. But you can be assured that the National Office has your back. The Federal government's recent push for a National Licensing Authority was vehemently opposed by the National Office of both the plumbers and electricians. We were instrumental in blocking the National Licensing proposal, which we believe was going to reduce regulations and standards to the lowest common denominator.

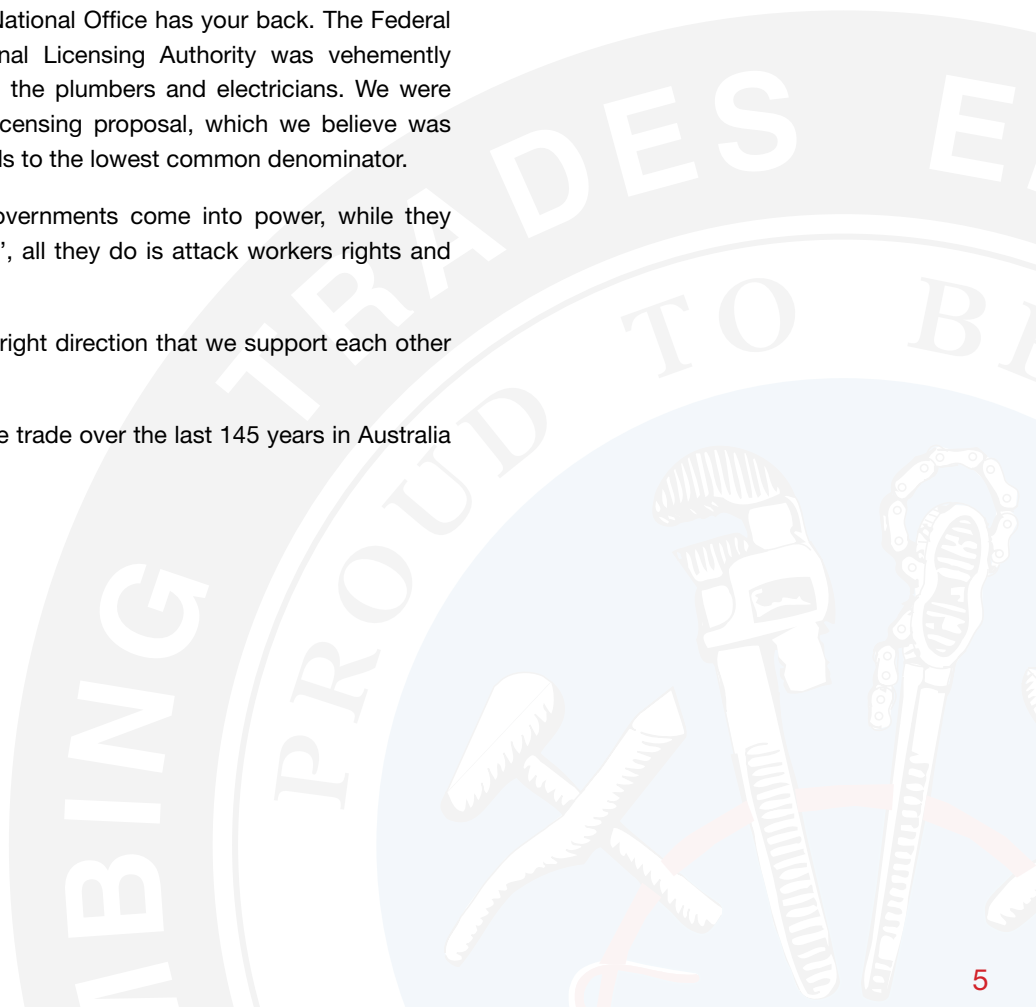
Nothing changes when conservative governments come into power, while they say they're here to govern for 'everyone', all they do is attack workers rights and conditions.

We think it's a really positive step in the right direction that we support each other nationally.

We have a proud history of protecting the trade over the last 145 years in Australia and we believe we have a strong future.

**Paddy McCrudden**

PTEU Federal President



# YOUR ORGANISERS



## **Organiser & PTEU WA Secretary Brian Bintley**

I was born in Belfast and came to Australia in 1989. I have worked in Perth for a number of different companies, from home maintenance, to commercial through to new housing.

In 2009 I was given the opportunity to come on as an Organiser with the CEPU, working for the plumbing division. I've been in the union since my days in Ireland, so it was quite apt that my fellow Irishman Seammus Doherty signed me up in Australia. My region covers the city, southern suburbs, and south west.

Being a unionist is often a challenge, but it is a role I am immensely proud to play. As a unionist we are advocates for the less fortunate in our society and for a fair go and it's important that we continue to stand up for what we believe in.



## **Organiser Matthew Rose**

I've been working in the industry for over 10 years, and have been a member of the union since the beginning of my apprenticeship. I undertook my apprenticeship in Victoria and moved to Western Australia 5 year ago. Both my father and brother are plumbers and strong union men, with my dad instilling in me the importance of being part of the union.

I took on the Organisers role 6 months ago, covering the northern suburbs and the city. While there's certainly many challenges facing us in the current political climate, I'm excited to be working with the PTEU WA team and look forward to servicing and growing our membership base.

# AROUND THE TRAPS

There are several major developments and projects currently being undertaken in Western Australia.

Here are just a few, with our boys featuring front and centre.

## Crown Casino Towers

The Crown Casino Towers project is expected to exceed \$550 million, with a 500 room luxury hotel planned, which will make it the largest hotel in Perth. The Towers will also include VIP gaming rooms and high-end retail and convention facilities.

Work has commenced on site, with construction anticipated to be completed in less than three years on the Brookfield Multiplex project.



Edmund and Blake Plumbers

## Perth Children's Hospital

This \$1.2 billion upgrade to the Perth Children's Hospital will include a 298 bed hospital, tertiary-level health services, inpatient and outpatient care and ambulatory care services.

This John Holland project will replace the Princess Margaret Hospital and is due for completion in 2015.



Mick Simpson, Christopher Contracting



Construction at Perth Children's Hospital

## St John of God Midland Hospital

Construction has commenced on the new St John of God Midland Public and Private Hospitals, the first new major hospital facilities built in the Midland area for more than 50 years.

This Brookfield Multiplex project is due for completion in 2015, with an additional 307 public and 60 private beds and an expanded range of services.



Artists impression of St John of God Midland Hospital



# AROUND THE TRAPS

## Kings Square Precinct - KS1 & KS4

Cooke & Dowsett have been appointed as the hydraulic contractor on the KS1 which is a full D&C 20 level office tower for JHG. This will include completion of the design and installation of all hydraulic services.

KS4 is an 11 level office tower for Broad Constructions with ground floor retail which Cooke & Dowsett have also been awarded hydraulic works for.

These are 2 of the 7 towers to be built in the Kings Square Precinct which will form part of the State Government's Greater \$5.2 billion Perth City Link Project.



Pail Callaghanings



Mark Michelutti

## May Holman Centre

The May Holman Centre is set to undergo a \$100 million transformation. This established property within Perth's premier address for financial and commercial activity will undergo a significant redevelopment.



Artists impression of the May Holman Centre

## Kalgoorlie Hospital

These new works are for the existing hospital, which will provide purpose built areas for Allied Health Services including Physio, Occupational therapy, Podiatry and other services. Cooke & Dowsett will provide hydraulic works throughout the Pindan Constructions project.



Justin Crabtree and Dean Robertson



**There are several major developments and projects currently being undertaken in Western Australia.**

## **The Old Treasury building redevelopment**

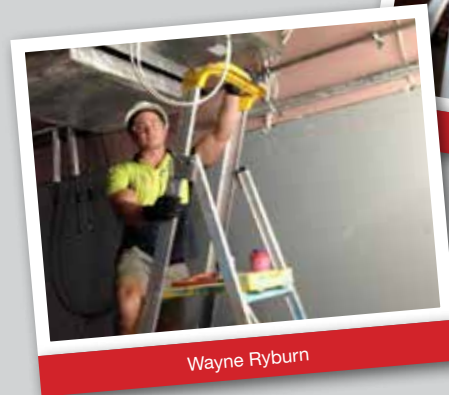
The Old Treasury building is undergoing a \$580 million redevelopment, including a six-star hotel and a 35-storey office tower.

The 135 year old, heritage listed Treasury Buildings on the corner of St Georges Terrace and Barrack Street will be restored into a mix of hotel, hospitality and retail uses. Work is scheduled for completion in 2015 on the Mirvac project.



## **Old Treasury Hotel**

This building is one of Perth's most significant properties. Originally built in the early 1900's, it is undergoing a full refurbishment and restoration which will transform the building into a premium 6 star boutique hotel, with 48 suites, bars and retail outlets. This \$50m project is being undertaken by Built Constructions.



## **Perth International Airport**

Perth Airport is in the middle of huge changes, with a major \$700 million redevelopment underway. This includes an expansion of Terminal 1, a new Terminal 2 short term carpark and plans for a third runway.



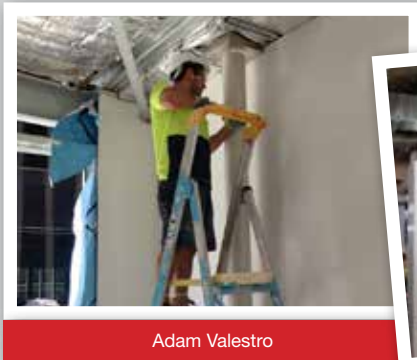
Artists impression of the new Perth International Airport

Construction at Perth International Airport

# AROUND THE TRAPS

## Cloisters on Hay

This \$60m project is the redevelopment of Cloisters Arcade for Probuild, which runs from Hay Street through to St Georges Terrace and incorporates retail and restaurants on the ground level as well as an additional 10 level office tower.



Adam Vaestro



Kim Toms & Zac Vanrossi



Artists Impression

## Oceana Apartments Scarborough

This is a Diploma development located on West Coast highway in Scarborough, incorporating 7 levels of 48 apartments. Cooke & Dowsett are undertaking all hydraulic and fire aspects of the project.



Luke McGee



Richard Thompson

# OFF WORK DUE TO INJURY OR ILLNESS?

## YOU MAY HAVE A CLAIM

THE PTEU AND MAURICE BLACKBURN SHARE A PROUD HISTORY OF FIGHTING  
FOR UNION MEMBERS.

### PTEU MEMBER BENEFITS:

- Free telephone legal advice to members & families
- Free first consultation

### EXPERTS IN:

- WorkCover
- Asbestos Law
- Road Accident Injuries
- Superannuation & Insurance Claims
- Medical Negligence
- Public Liability
- Faulty Products
- Comcare



Contact or visit your local office today:

1 / 328 Carrington Street, Hamilton Hill, Perth | 9331 1120 | No win - No fee\*

\* CONDITIONS APPLY





Jason Boyle,  
Cbus Member



# cbus

## Join Online

**Cbus has now made becoming a member even easier.**

Forget all the paperwork; you can now become one of Cbus' more than 700,000 members by joining online.

**Simply visit**

**[www.cbussuper.com.au/join](http://www.cbussuper.com.au/join)**

Read the relevant Cbus Product Disclosure Statement to decide whether Cbus is right for you. For a copy: Call Cbus on **1300 361 784** or visit **[www.cbussuper.com.au](http://www.cbussuper.com.au)**

Cbus' Trustee: United Super Pty Ltd ABN 46 006 261 623 AFSL 233792  
Cbus ABN 75 493 363 262.



Construction & Building  
Industry Super

