



indigenous



NEWSLETTER FOR CPSU/SPSF INDIGENOUS BRANCH SECTION MEMBERS

Welcome to the new CPSU members joining our Indigenous Branch Section, and to current members. There are lots of things going on to get involved in, and we would love to hear your ideas about what we can work on together.

ACTU Indigenous Conference

In Adelaide on Mon 19th & Tues 20th this week – CPSU was represented by Indigenous Branch Section Secretary Judy Thorne, and Convenor Stephen Walsh. Judy and Stephen will be participating in discussions with Indigenous Reps across the trade union movement, and will report back to CPSU's Victorian Branch Council as well as to our Indigenous Branch Section members in a bulletin and meetings on their return.

Check out what the ACTU and other unions are doing at;

<http://www.actu.asn.au/uniontounion/Indigenous/Indigenous.aspx>

Check out CPSU's new Indigenous Section on our website at <http://www.cpsuvic.org> where there will be info, articles, links, and anything else you might like to contribute or suggest!

Reconciliation Week: 27th May - 3rd June

CPSU says sorry is a first step, but we need respect, rights, and justice. There is a full list of Reconciliation Week Events at Reconciliation Victoria www.reconciliationvic.org.au so check it out to get involved in your local area, and particularly note CPSU member's involvement at these events:

In the lead up to Reconciliation Week:

- ✚ Fri 23rd May - Reconciliate 08: Dreaming Together - Fed Square 10am-3pm
- ✚ Aboriginal Heritage Walk (@Royal Botanical Gardens) and Public Seminar at the Shrine of Remembrance – 1pm-2pm, Bookings 9252 2429, 9661 8107
- ✚ Sat May 24th - The Long Walk to the MCG – Fed Square 2:30pm Kim 9326 2814, or online at www.thelongwalk.com.au
- ✚ Mon 26th May NATIONAL SORRY DAY acknowledges the impact of the policies of forcible removal on Australia's Indigenous populations. The date commemorates the tabling of the Bringing them Home Report in 1997 - following the National Apology to the Stolen Generations Feb 13 this year, it's time to consider the implementation of all 54 recommendations of the Bringing them Home Report.
- ✚ Tues May 27th - Let's Shake at National Gallery Victoria – public participation, plaster casts of participants shaking hands for reconciliation.
- ✚ Thurs May 29th Remembrance Service for Aboriginal service men and women – 11am Shrine of Remembrance, RSVP 9208 3262
- ✚ Sunday 1 June - Groove 4 Reconciliation – Geelong One Fire Reconciliation Group Music family oriented music gig, Maza Sisters & Ross Hannaford. 2pm Geelong Performing Arts Centre, 50 Malop St Geelong.

✚ **EXHIBITIONS**

Connecting to Country – 5 Melbourne based Koorie Artists, Annette Sax, Mandi Barton-Travis, Paola Morabito-Tang, Lee-Anne Clarke and Andrew Travis-Clarke, at Bunjilaka, Melbourne Museum Carlton Gardens until June 22

CPSU, State Public Services Federation Group, Victorian Branch

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W: <http://www.cpsuvic.org>

CPSU Reconciliation Network –

CPSU is establishing a Reconciliation Network. The network is for all CPSU members, Indigenous and Non-Indigenous. CPSU believes unions and our members have an important role to play in the process of Reconciliation and this group will be open to all interested members who wish to work together to help achieve this. Email your expression of interest in joining to Mandy at mcoulson@cpsuVIC.org .

Let's Get Organised to Win! - EBA Indigenous Working Group

CPSU Indigenous Branch Section is arranging a working group of members to talk about what issues face us across our workplaces, and our working lives. The working group will focus on how they can be addressed to improve the conditions and working lives of indigenous members in EBA claims, and Industrial Agreements, including our next claim for the VPS Agreement 2009. Everyone is welcome, no industrial experience is necessary, just an opinion about what you reckon! To participate, contact Mandy mcoulson@cpsuVIC.org or 9639 1822.

The Gathering, Coming Soon! –

The Gathering is CPSU Indigenous Branch Section members getting together, to discuss important issues, make decisions, plan, make connections and share information across all Government Departments and Agencies - and the date for the next one is about to be announced soon! So get thinking about what you want to add to the agenda, and let us know - and get ready to catch up with everyone and have some fun.

Wulunggo Ngalu Learning Centre, DoJ Indigenous Diversion Program

CPSU Officers have been discussing this project, and working conditions with the Department, and looks forward to meeting new starters to discuss their views, and industrial conditions. This project is an important step towards meeting the expectations of the recommendations of the Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody, and CPSU is determined to see industrial conditions will fully support government employees working with Indigenous participants in the program, so they are able to provide the kinds of services and support we expect, and look forward to. CPSU expects many new starters will be Indigenous workers, and wage and conditions justice must apply. Discussions have been productive to date, feel free to contribute your ideas by emailing mcoulson@cpsuVIC.org

Naidoc Week is coming soon, how would you like to celebrate? Visit www.naidoc.org.au

State Government Indigenous Employment Strategy -

Would you like to participate in a briefing CPSU is seeking to arrange with the Minister's Office about what plans the State Government has for its Indigenous Employment Strategy? Register your interest by contacting Mandy mcoulson@cpsuVIC.org , or phone 9639 1822.

Museum Victoria, CPSU, URCOT and Indigenous Members – Working together for Respectful Workplaces.

Indigenous Members at the Museum of Victoria are discussing participation in a joint project between MoV, CPSU and URCOT, a progressive research organisation, around an audit for Respectful Workplaces for all indigenous workers at MoV. This work should lead to learnings about how the Museum can improve its performance, and what is being done well now, what does a respectful workplace really mean for Indigenous members, and is it being delivered?

Upcoming Elections?

There will be a couple of vacancies on the Indigenous Branch Section coming up in the next few months, as people change their roles, so it's a great opportunity for CPSU Indigenous members to think about stepping up as a new Branch Section Rep.

You will have lots of support from the remaining Reps, from Industrial Staff at the union, access to ongoing support and training, and paid trade union training leave to attend it. If you are interested, or want to have a chat call Mandy 9639 1822, or talk to a current Branch Section Reps.

Individual Indigenous Members' Issues

CPSU has achieved Great Outcomes for a number of Indigenous Members we have been representing in individual issues recently. Industrial Officers from our Enforcement and Compliance Team (ECT, individual issues team), working together with the support of delegates from the Indigenous Branch Section, and their Industrial Officer have had some excellent wins in resolving individual indigenous members' issues.

Many members reported that it was not just the outcome, but also the support and guidance throughout the process from different parts of the union that made it possible for them to continue, and eventually achieve justice in their case, as they wound through the bureaucratic nightmare that can be Departmental Grievance or Resolution processes.

BUT remember CPSU has a pre-existing issue policy (The policy means that if you are not a member when the problem occurs, CPSU cannot assist unless both approval by the Branch Secretary and a \$600 bond, payment per hour worked on the case, plus a years back fees are paid. so

Make sure people you know don't miss out on this support and protection – are all your colleagues and mates members yet?

Talk to them about joining and feel free to given them a copy of this membership form to fill in today
http://www.cpsuvic.org/public_docs/Work-Can-Change-membership-flyer.pdf
http://www.cpsuvic.org/public_docs/memform.pdf

Indigenous T-shirts –

The new design with the addition of Veronica Barnett's eagle artwork added to the sleeve were very popular! There are no polos left, but there are some embroidered T's, at the union's subsidised price of only \$10, so get in quickly call 9639 1822 or email mcoulson@cpsuvic.org to arrange one for you, or to place an order in your size for a new run of T's or polos.

Organiser Visits ~

Would you like a visit from a CPSU Industrial Officer in your workplace, or offsite? Contact us.

Your Ideas?

Let us know what issues you would like to work on across the next year

Look forward to hearing from you all soon!

TOGETHER WE DO BETTER!

STEPHEN WALSH
CPSU Indigenous Branch Section, Convenor

MANDY COULSON
CPSU Industrial Officer, IBS Liaison



KAREN BATT
CPSU Victorian Branch Secretary

Wednesday, May 21, 2008.



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the CPSU

