



A•S•U

# Delegate Focus

▶ Issue Twenty ▶ March/April/May 2009

AUSTRALIAN SERVICES UNION • CENTRAL & SOUTHERN QUEENSLAND BRANCH

## Annual Delegates Conference 2009

**A**round 130 ASU Delegates came together on 27<sup>th</sup> February in our biggest Conference yet!

Delegates heard from Tim Lyons Assistant Secretary, ACTU, first-hand about the current economic crisis facing workers in Australia and what the ACTU sees as the key issues for workers. Besides putting job security at the top of the list, Tim echoed calls from ASU Secretary Julie Bignell to limit senior executive pays and bonuses in companies receiving government assistance, and to review our banking system to ensure that mums and dads can't be encouraged to borrow more than they can afford to repay.

On the question of cooperation with other unions, we heard from Alex Scott, General Secretary of the Queensland Public Sector Union, and Gary Bullock, Secretary of the Liquor Hospitality and Miscellaneous Union about their key campaigns at the moment and how members are fighting for jobs particularly in the public sector where the LNP has promised to slash jobs.

Delegates also heard from a range of speakers on Sustainable Building and how better designed workplaces can benefit not only workers and bosses, but also the environment. We've enclosed a message from the Environmental Protection Agency representative who attended on the day,

with an offer to all Delegates to sign up for further information.

We got an update on the progress of the new federal legislation, the Fair Work Bill directly from the union's lawyers, Slater & Gordon. And we heard from Andrew Dettmer, Secretary of the Australian Manufacturing Workers Union about the appalling problems for workers in the building industry due to the Howard government's ABCC legislation which the Rudd government continues to fail us by keeping.

Finally, we had presentations to long-serving Life Members as well as our fabulous nominees for the Bernie Banton AM Delegate of the Year Award. The vote was as hotly contested as always, and the winner is Stewart Beattie, Delegate at Qantas Holidays. Stewart is an outstanding Delegate who works tirelessly for the benefit of ASU members at Qantas Holidays, who are unfortunately now facing redundancy.

Overall, we received great feedback from Delegates who attended this year's conference.

**If you haven't yet made it to our Conference, why not consider coming next year?**

*Below: Delegates group photo - ASU Annual Conference 2009.*



All  
Stand  
United

[www.qld.asu.net.au](http://www.qld.asu.net.au)

## From The Secretary Julie Bignell



## State Election Exposes Big Differences Between The Major Parties

It's one of the most anticipated elections for a very long time, and one which could produce an historic first for Queensland – the first elected female State Premier. It's also a very tough time for any aspiring politician to be seeking support. Usually election campaigns are marked by big spending promises as the pollies try to outdo each other. Now we find ourselves facing the reality that the state budget is going to be seriously affected by the global financial crisis (GFC), and any promises made will have to be supportable in the new environment.

That's why our Union is concerned about statements made about how election funding is to be found over the next term. You may be aware that Lawrence Springborg's LNP has promised to cut \$3 billion dollars out of the public sector. Departments like Queensland Health will also lose admin staff from day one, as vacant positions won't be filled in these "non-essential" areas. I have written

to Mr Springborg asking for more information about how workload and workflow would be dealt with under this proposal, and for his view of where most of these "non-essential" positions currently are.

And whilst Mr Springborg says jobs won't be cut, if every agency suffers a cut in funding of 3% each year, clearly they'll have to find the money from somewhere. Even if positions aren't filled as people leave, that will only save \$657 million.

We can't see any way of achieving \$3 billion in savings unless jobs are cut. That would be another 9000 jobs each year that would have to go, or services be stopped or downgraded.

Economists around the world are urging governments to spend their way out of the GFC, but not at the expense of jobs. The single most important buffer to further economic hardship is keeping people in jobs. Adding tens of thousands of workers to the dole queue won't get us through a recession – it will make things worse for everyone.

I urge all ASU members at this state election to choose the political representative best equipped to get us through this crisis and keep Queenslanders working. A vote for Anna Bligh means a commitment to jobs and infrastructure, and keeping good IR laws in Queensland. The Liberals are the party for WorkChoices.

We've just spent 3 years working towards overturning these laws federally. Queenslanders don't need to go backwards.

## Inter-Union Cooperation On The Agenda

**Delegates at this year's conference were advised that we have been approached by two other unions working in the same or complementary areas of coverage who would like to work more closely with the ASU.**

The QPSU and LHMU have expressed a desire to explore how our 3 unions can work better together and eliminate obstacles to our members getting the best outcome. Branch Conference Delegates agreed that the 3 unions should commence discussions about how this can be achieved.

Members will be advised of progress and workplace meetings will be convened when enough work has been done for further discussion. How do you think our 3 unions could work together better in your workplace or industry? Can you see benefits? What are the obstacles or key issues that you believe ought to be addressed in these discussions?

**Send your comments direct to Julie Bignell, Branch Secretary and they will be taken into account when we start discussions.**

[julie.bignell@qld.asu.net.au](mailto:julie.bignell@qld.asu.net.au)

## EPA ecoBiz

**Thank-you for the opportunity to present at the Annual Delegates Conference 2009, I hope that the ecoBiz program may assist your organisation to engage in the benefits of eco-efficiency.**

As discussed, I am pleased to attach the link to the February ecoBiz Bulletin (<http://www.vision6.com.au/ch/1w9cbc6/651257/5e412gccq.html>), with some good stories, training and tips, and more information about the ecoBiz program.

To subscribe to the bulletin and receive it every second month, please click on 'subscribe' just below the title banner. You will be directed to a website, where you can enter your details. Please feel free to contact myself or the ecoBiz team if we may be of any assistance.

**Kind regards,  
Cameron L'Estrange**

Business Partnerships Unit | Sustainable Industries | Environmental Protection Agency  
07 3224 2716 • PO Box 15155  
City East Queensland 4002 Australia  
[www.epa.qld.gov.au/ecobiz](http://www.epa.qld.gov.au/ecobiz)

## Help Pass The New IR Laws

**The Australian Government is set to introduce its new IR laws, known as the Fair Work Bill, but your help is needed to get these new laws passed by the Senate.**

### Background

There is overwhelming public support for the immediate introduction of new industrial relations laws that boost rights and legal protections for working Australians during the economic downturn.

Australians want the Rudd Government to keep its election promise to get rid of Work Choices and the Parliament should pass the new, fairer IR laws as soon as possible.

Australians are worried about their own jobs and those of their family in the current downturn. Increasing the rights and protection of working people through new IR laws is more important than ever. And quite rightly, Australians want the security of stronger IR laws that protect their rights at work.

This week Parliament will resume, giving the first chance for the Labor Government's proposed new 'Fair Work' laws to be presented to the Senate. The recent Senate Inquiry recommended the laws be passed without delay.

However, we can't forget that the Liberals were the party of WorkChoices. In fact, the Liberals want to take WorkChoices further.

This week they will have to decide whether they are going to put big business before working people again and oppose Labor's Fair Work Bill in the Senate.

The worsening economic situation means it is vital that we get rid of what remains of WorkChoices.

To get these new laws passed we need your help!

### What can you do?

Workers need the new IR laws to be passed to get rid of WorkChoices and deliver better rights and protections for workers in the downturn. The new laws will help to restore fair and balanced workplaces.

You can help by sending an email urging Senators to pass the new IR laws without delay.

Send your email today – visit <http://www.rightsatwork.com.au/campaigns/passIRlawsaction>

You can also help by sharing this action alert with your friends, family and co-workers.

To support this campaign the ACTU has launched a new television advertisement. You can watch the ad at: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BuCO68Oe2kw>

### Need more information?

If you need more information please visit <http://www.rightsatwork.com.au/newIRlaws>

## Mortuary Benefit

Delegates may be aware that current Retired Members' families are entitled to access a small benefit in the event of death to assist with funeral expenses.

The Branch Executive has determined to cease offering this service to members seeking Retirement Membership from 27<sup>th</sup> February 2009.

**All current Retired Members will retain the benefit.**

## Organisers Wanted

**Applications are invited from those interested in working with a dynamic and enthusiastic team of professionals dedicated to the implementation of the Organising Model in the clerical and administrative industry.**

Successful applicants will be able to demonstrate a commitment and ability to empower members to achieve change in their workplaces, as well as being creative in campaigning and recruiting. The ability to motivate and support individuals and groups will be essential. Previous experience in an industrial capacity is considered beneficial, and negotiation skills will be highly regarded. The position is a full-time position, however applicants seeking part time work or job-share will also be considered, as would proposed secondment opportunities. The position will be based in Brisbane, however some travel within South East Qld may be required from time-to-time.

The ASU covers a wide range of industries by virtue of our occupational grouping, in both the private and public sectors. Successful applicants work in a team-based environment. Portfolios may change in accordance with Branch priorities, and the successful applicant may expect to gain a wide grounding across industries and be given the opportunity to grow and develop within a progressive organization. An attractive salary package is available depending upon, and commensurate with experience.

Please send your application, marked "confidential" to:  
Julie Bignell, Branch Secretary  
Australian Services Union  
(Clerical and Administrative Branch)  
PO Box 478, Fortitude Valley Qld 4006  
or e-mail to:  
[julie.bignell@qld.asu.net.au](mailto:julie.bignell@qld.asu.net.au)

**Applications will not be accepted after Friday 27 March 2009.**  
All applications will be treated in the strictest confidence. Enquiries should be directed to Julie Bignell on 07 3252 8666.

## Telephone Organiser Wanted

Applications are sought to fill the above position in the Australian Services Union Central and Southern Queensland Branch, based in our Brisbane Office.

The successful applicant will be able to take inbound calls in a busy environment as part of our ASU Assist service to members, and to perform ancillary administrative tasks such as outward correspondence, preparation of industrial documentation, capture and updating of membership records, and handling membership enquiries, work associated with Delegate support such as training and the provision of information.

The key role will be to assist Industrial Officers in the provision of advice and support to ASU members and Delegates about a range of industrial matters.

This will involve initial gathering of information and assessment of issues, and liaising with members under the supervision of the Industrial Officer, as well as following up enquiries from potential members.

Confidential enquiries should be directed to:

Branch Secretary,  
Julie Bignell  
on 07 3252 8666.

Please send your application, marked "confidential" to:

Julie Bignell  
Branch Secretary  
Australian Services Union  
(Clerical and Administrative Branch)  
PO Box 478, Fortitude Valley Qld 4006  
or  
e-mail to [julie.bignell@qld.asu.net.au](mailto:julie.bignell@qld.asu.net.au)

**no later than Friday 20th March 2009.**

All applications will be treated in the strictest confidence.

## ASU Women Have Spoken!



### Don't be too polite girls!

Over 600 women from across all States and Territories completed our first online survey directed at hearing the views of ASU women. These views embraced women in their workplace, their homes, activism and community.

We thank each and every one of you who contributed to the survey and took the time to tell us what you think.

- Who were the respondents? Women of all ages but predominantly in the 40 - 54 age bracket.
- Where were they from? All States and mainly from capital cities.
- 99% of respondents declared equal pay a vital issue.
- 94% of women called for the introduction of government funded paid parental leave scheme.
- More than half of the respondents had to take carer's leave using other forms of leave.
- Many women said they are treated equally with men in their workplaces yet they also said men get promoted over women.
- Women are seeking the union to campaign on women's issues, climate change, ending violence, bullying and harassment and many more.

**The results of the survey are being further collated and will be made available soon.**

## New Phone System For ASU Office

**The ASU office recently upgraded our phone system. The new system allows for better management of calls into the office, including the direct connection to your Organiser via their extension number.**

Organisers will endeavour to return your call within 24 hours.

Urgent matters can still be referred to ASU Assist by following the prompts.

We have been experiencing some technical problems with the set-up, so we apologise if you have had any problems calling in.

Next time you need to call in, why not dial your Organiser direct on **07 3252 8666** and the extension number as listed >>>>

Organiser's Name	Extension
Aaron McLachlan	219
Cindy McMillan	217
Craig Dunn	202
Irene Munro	223
Jason Lipscombe	211
Jennifer Hobson	222
Jenny Slebba	220
Jo Justo	203
John Kelly	229
Kevin Place	224
Lisa Marshall	227
Mary-Anne O'Neil	205
Mick Hogan	212
Nick James	213
Sandra Leggieri	216
Sharon Millman	214
Valda Graham	218

## Delegate Profile

### STUART BEATTIE Qantas Holidays

**Stuart Beattie has been an inspirational Delegate this year due to the trials and tribulations of all that has happened to Qantas Holidays in 2008/09.**

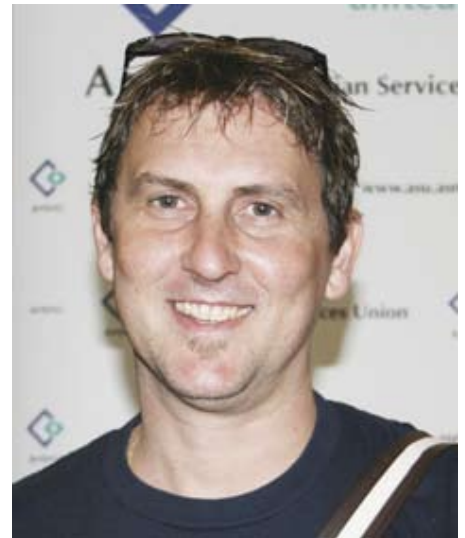
*Sale of Qantas Holidays and merger with Jetset Travelworld Group*

Stuart was not going to go down without a fight.

He was instrumental in helping to organise and run a sustained campaign against the merger, liaising with colleagues and recruiting to raise membership from 30% - 90%.

Stuart started and ran a petition to present to Qantas management in IR meetings and attended IR meetings in Sydney. He ran member meetings to inspire colleagues to stand united together to fight for the rights of his fellow workers.

When closure of Brisbane office was announced he was a pillar of strength for his fellow ASU members by ensuring that all aspects of the EBA 8 Redundancy provisions were met to the satisfaction of members.



*Above: Stuart Beattie  
Delegate of the Year  
2009 Annual Conference*

## Training Dates

### Private Sector

Introductory Delegates OH & S  
Training 7th April and 16th Sept 09

### Private Sector

Introductory Delegates Training  
27th May and 26th August 09

### Qantas National Delegates

Conference 25th – 27th March

### Brisbane City Council

Delegates Bargaining and Planning  
Conference 29th April

### National Airlines Delegates Conference 20th – 21st May

ACTU Congress 2nd – 3rd June

QHealth Conference 13th August

Higher Education Conference  
8th July

Call Centre Conference  
29th July

### Energy Delegates Conference 5th October

*More training will be announced in  
during the year and information on  
the above courses will be advised as  
it becomes available.*

**Please note that training can be  
arranged at individual workplaces.**

To arrange a date, please ring  
Mary-Anne O'Neill on 07 3252 8666.

To register for any of the above  
courses please ring 07 3252 8666  
or email [info@qld.asu.net.au](mailto:info@qld.asu.net.au)

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# We Need Your SUPPORT!



A•S•U

Redcliffe  
Rotary Club

**All over Brisbane ASU women are joining the cause to contribute to the Rotary Bra Collection. You too can join in and contribute to the Bra collection by giving your old bras to your Delegate.**

Bras collected from ASU members will be forwarded to the Redcliffe Rotary Club who will organise their distribution to women in PNG.

Your generous donations will provide women in the Pacific with much needed assistance as many go without what we would consider an absolute necessity.

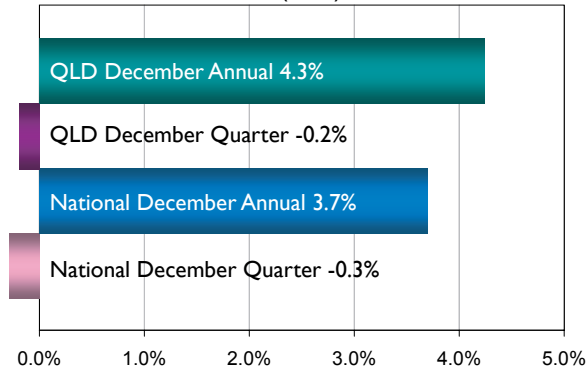
Like us, PNG women and girls come in all shaped and sizes, so all donations will be much appreciated. Let's get involved in supporting this great community initiative by giving our old bras a new owner. Please let your friends and co-workers know about this very worthy cause and support the women of PNG!



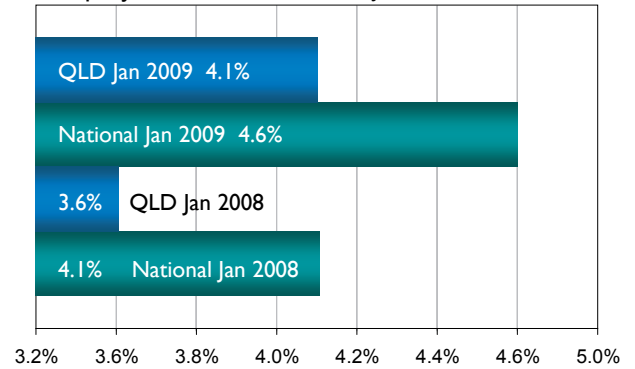
# Latest Bargaining Trends And Economic Indicators

Source: OESR

Consumer Price Index (CPI) December 08 Quarter



Unemployment Rate % January 09



## Bernie Banton AM Memorial Delegate Of The Year Nominations 2009

The following Delegates were nominated for the Bernie Banton AM Memorial Delegate of the Year Award, with the winner being voted for at our 2009 Annual Conference.

Stuart Beattie was voted as our Delegate of the Year 2009.

We would like to thank all members for their nominations and congratulate Stuart on his success.

This award recognises outstanding performance from our Delegates on behalf of members and also pays tribute to Bernie Banton in his long running battle for compensation for victims of asbestos related illnesses.

### Nominees

MANDY FISHER  
UQ St. Lucia

BRONWYN FYFFE  
Allamanda Hospital

STUART BEATTIE  
Qantas Holidays

LYNDA HODGES  
Redcliffe Hospital

LORRAINE FLEMMING  
Prince Charles Hospital

ZELDA DIGIROLAMA  
Robina Hospital

MARTA WOOD  
Logan Hospital

IAN HARRIS  
Air New Zealand

SEAN RYAN  
Energex Ltd

DIANNE RICHARDSON  
Unitab Gold Coast Telebet

We look forward to our Annual Conference in 2010, so as to recognise the efforts of Delegates in standing up for members rights.

## Senate Committee Releases Report On Fair Work Bill

The final report from the Senate Committee reviewing new federal industrial relations legislation has handed down a 210 page report.

The committee reported that the Bill should be passed without delay with a number of minor amendments. The Coalition minority on the committee issued their own minority report arguing the opposite, and the Greens also issued a minority report seeking that the Bill go further in restoring workers' rights.

The ASU and several other unions made extensive submissions and we have received due notice in the committee report. You can view the committee report here at <http://www.workplaceexpress.com.au/nav?id=38902&no=342687718&stream=>

(Please copy hyperlink into your web browser)



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# REMINDER

# Labour Day 2009 May 4

For more information and regional dates and activities please visit our website [www.qld.asu.net.au](http://www.qld.asu.net.au)