



Delegates Jeff (Demons) & Ken (Bombers) Coundon retire after 38 years at Hume City Council

IDENTICAL TWINS RECEIVE *life membership*

Being identical twins is certainly not the only thing ASU delegates Ken and Jeff Coundon have in common.

Both started work with the Shire of Bulla in 1971, both have been with the same employer - known as Hume City Council after the amalgamation - ever since, and now both, after 38 years of service, have retired.

The Australian Services Union paid tribute to the tireless work the brothers have contributed not only at their workplace, but with towards the union as delegates, by offering both Life Membership.

ASU Life Membership is handed out to those who have made significant contributions to the ASU and the union movement in general, something both Ken and Jeff can certainly attest to.

ASU Assistant Secretary Igor Grattan congratulated the Coundon brothers for 38 years of service to the Council.

"You don't find too many people staying with the one employer for 38 years. Even though both Ken and Jeff did take on a number of different tasks within the same council, it is still an amazing feat. It is an honour to have the twins as Life Members, and I can certainly say it is a first for this union."

Community Infrastructure Program good for communities - *Parkinson*

ASU Branch Secretary Brian Parkinson has lauded the Federal Government's Community Infrastructure Program, saying that many Councils, including those in regional areas, will benefit from some of the new initiatives mentioned below.

"The list below outlines a number of initiatives that come out of the Federal Government budget which, according to the ASU, not only supports the future of our members and the roles that they play but also supports local communities not only in Victoria, but nationally."

"In itemising some of these dot points it is clear that local government - through the community and infrastructure program - is a significant winner for future employment initiatives in a time when job security is paramount."

The following is a list of allocated budgetary focuses:

- \$1.9 billion for Financial Assistance Grants to local government nationally;
- Confirmation of \$550 million over two years for the Regional and Local Community Infrastructure Program - Strategic Projects;
- Roads to Recovery at \$350 million per year for the next five years;
- \$79.3 million in the next four years for a Disaster Resilience Australia Package to strengthen efforts to combat man-made and natural threats and disasters across Australia;
- \$72 million for Healthy Communities to fund the rollout of lifestyle modification programs focusing on poor nutrition, physical inactivity, smoking and excessive alcohol consumption;
- \$715.3 million to continue to support drought affected farmers, farm families, small business and rural communities;
- \$8.5 billion for nationally significant transport infrastructure projects across Australia;
- \$3 million for 2009 - 10 to up-grade remote area airstrips identified under the Remote Air Service Subsidy Scheme - requiring priority work;
- \$5 million over four years for Rural National Broadband Network Coordinators to encourage local government, community and business usage of broadband opportunities;
- \$15 million for the ABC to encourage the development of user generated content and to establish websites creating 'visual town squares' for communities to share experiences;
- \$156.6 million over three years for remote policing and substance abuse initiatives;
- \$10 million over four years to support the expansion of the Sporting Chance Program to improve education, life skills and employment prospects for Indigenous students

WANTED: ASU members keen to make a difference for Youth Workers

Are you an ASU member who is keen to help develop both the industrial strength and the professional identity of Youth Workers in Victoria?

If the answer is yes, then we need you to get involved with an ASU Youth Workers Sub-Branch to liaise with the Youth Workers Association Development Committee.

Beginning last year, the Youth Workers Association (YWA) Development Committee has been meeting monthly and have put together a lot of information and done a lot of work to make the launch of a Professional Association for Youth Workers.

The ASU has been liaising with the Committee and interested union members, regarding how we can work together with the Association to ensure the best outcome for Youth Workers and ultimately young people.

Some of the main aims of the YWA are to advocate for the professional development of Youth Workers, increase professional standards, deepen the understanding and promote a professional identity for Youth Workers and improve outcomes for young people

A model for how the Association will operate has been developed and will be presented at the YACVic conference later this year.

The ASU wants to hear from members who are keen to be involved in establishing a formalised Sub-Branch of union members to further develop the relationship with the Association, in order to ensure the industrial interests of Youth Workers are both protected and advanced, and work in collaboration with the Association!

To register your interest, contact Lisa Darmanin via ldarmanin@asuvc.com, or 9342 3470.

NEW MATERNITY LEAVE SCHEME

what does it mean for ASU members in local government?

In this year's Federal Budget, the Rudd government announced the provision of 18 weeks paid maternity leave, funded by the government, for all new mothers giving birth from January 1, 2011. But what does this mean for the many ASU members in the local government sector who already have maternity leave schemes provided by their employer?

ASU Women's Officer Maria Kaplanis announced that the



Regional Delegates Conference wrap

The Australian Services Union held Regional Delegates Conferences throughout June, visiting the areas of Ballarat, Bendigo, Geelong, Morwell, Mildura, Kerang, Shepparton, Wangaratta and Warrnambool.

The conferences are an opportune time for ASU members to interact with each other, speaking about the issues they may face at their particular workplaces, with the ASU then given an opportunity to help resolve any issues that may arise.

Assistant Branch Secretary Igor Grattan once again praised those who attended the conferences across Victoria.

"Once again the conferences were really successful. We concentrated on taking members through the important issue surrounding the new Fair Work legislation.

ASU members – despite it sometimes being hard to get through every detail of the new legislation – were very appreciative of the time spent trying to explain it, understanding the need to go through the new conditions that could be in place. Also, in local government, we were looking at issues that may form the basis for an industry-wide campaign, where we came away with some positive outcomes."

WHAT SOME OF OUR MEMBERS HAD TO SAY...

The conferences were a good opportunity to find out what's happening in industrial relations at a local and national level

Wayne Parry

The conference was concise and detailed in explaining what stage we are up to with the Fair Work changes

Ashley Smith

It's always good sharing your concerns and issues with other ASU members

Rob Johns



new 18-week scheme provided by the government will be available to all new mothers after January 1, 2010, and will be in addition to any leave they already receive via an enterprise bargaining agreement.

"Say an employee already receives 16 weeks maternity leave from their employer, they

will still receive 16 weeks at whatever their enterprise agreement states and another 18 weeks on top of that, funded by the government, at the minimum wage of \$544 a week.

So, in actual fact, this example suggests that they will have access to 34 weeks of maternity leave if they have given birth after January 1, 2011."
