

Brisbane City Council



Green Square



BCC Staff have recently begun moving to the new BCC Building, Green Square located on St Pauls Terrace opposite the Jubilee Hotel, a stones throw away from the ASU Office.

There have been a number queries in relation to staff entitlements during the move, if you would like information or assistance on this or any other issue, please contact ASU Organiser Jim Moloney on 3252 8666.

Local Government Reform

- Does not affect BCC as they are covered by the 'City of Brisbane Act 1924'.
- This means there will be no job losses as the constituent base will remain the same. If you live outside of Brisbane and want to know what affect the report will have on you contact your Organiser Jim Moloney or visit the Local government Reform Commission website:

<http://www.strongercouncils.qld.gov.au/Home.aspx>

The biggest issues facing BCC members now are the upcoming EBA7 negotiations and the effect of the Water Reform.

Delegates will soon begin consultation with members to hear your opinions and keep you completely informed.

Your Enterprise Bargaining Agreement (EBA) will expire on the 30th of June 2008 and BCC have stated that they wish to continue with the current collective framework.

However, between now and then there will a Federal election which could change the legislation and a BCC election.

Both may impact upon BCCs ability to continue collective arrangements.

There is also a court challenge underway to determine whether councils are part of the Federal or State Industrial Relations jurisdiction, which could also impact on our EBA.

All members will be surveyed next year about what they would like to see improved or added to their working conditions.

If you are interested in being a part of the EBA process, please contact your ASU Organiser, Jim Moloney.

Look out for our next Survey

ASU Delegate Mark Taylor

What is important to you about being an ASU Delegate?

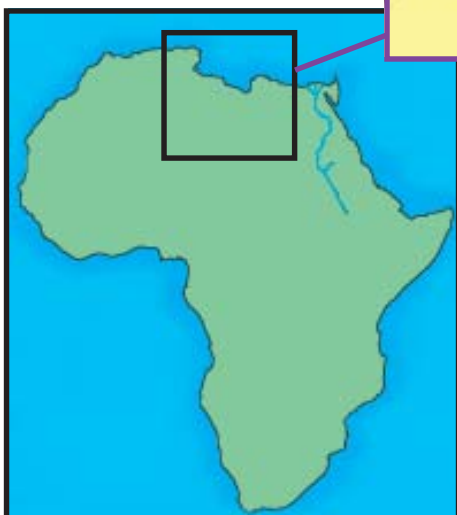
The relationships with fellow delegates and members and the great feeling that we can all make an impact when we join together to promote fairness at work. The big difference that delegates make is providing members with the confidence and security that the ASU has a presence in the workplace and therefore issues can be addressed. I always look forward to the delegates Christmas Party too!

What do you hope to achieve?

I hope I can help our members feel that they have a voice through their union and that their concerns will be listened to. Improving communication between members and officials of the union is a big focus for me. I was very impressed with Michael Crosby's book "Power at Work" which makes it very clear that we have to continue to grow our membership and communications networks in order to achieve gains for our members.

Have you travelled anywhere in the world with a culture different to our own? If so, what was it like?

Yes lots of places, but I lived and worked in Libya for a number of years. I lived in both the capital, Tripoli, and in the desert. I had a fantastic time there, mostly with British and Australian ex-pats, but I also made some Libyan friends. Arab society is strongly based on the extended family, the "tribe", which is quite a contrast to our own. Business and politics revolves around families and how influential they are. Libya is mainly Muslim but secular and women have more freedom there than in Saudi Arabia, for example. On the other hand alcohol is banned because of the Islamic religious prohibition. The culture can be different. I used to laugh at seeing policemen and soldiers kiss each other and



walk around holding hands (just good friends). But of course kissing a woman in public would be frowned upon. The Libyans are quite stylish - enjoying Italian fashions and design - the country used to be an Italian colony. Having lived in an Arab country I feel more tolerant of Islam and Arab feelings of injustice. It takes



two sides to make a conflict and two sides to resolve it.

What do you feel is important about caring for our environment?

My environmentalism comes from my grandfather who was always a great bushwalker and gardener. For me, destroying native vegetation and animals or polluting, even in the city, should always be the very last resort. If we destroy our environment, which sustains us, we destroy ourselves

- As we are starting to find out. Speaking as someone working in this field, our challenge is to create cleaner, safer and more productive living and working environments. In the long run this will reduce stress and restore some of the healthy and harmonious relationships we have lost. Although this makes me sound like a hippy, I was more into R&B/ Soul music and heavy rock in my formative years!

What can others do to help improve the environment?

Be selective consumers. Go for quality not quantity - less is more! Enjoy being and doing not having.

Why do you like Indian food?

Because it's the national food of the north of England where I grew up! At Uni in Sheffield I was initiated into the male machismo of several pints of beer followed by the hottest curry on the menu (I told you I was a selective consumer!) It is great to see so many curry houses springing up in Brisbane.

The Union movement is heavily involved in the Rights @ Work campaign to restore rights at work... What other campaigns would you like to see the union movement involved in?

I am pleased to see the union movement developing more environmental awareness but we could use more. The CFMEU TV adverts on Climate Change show that unions are starting to think more long term about their members' security, health and quality of life. I would like to see this translated into union involvement in campaigns for sustainability. I am very proud of the role of unions, through Union Aid Abroad, in helping to develop our poorer neighbours such as East Timor and Laos. It shows that unions can reflect the highest goals of Australians for mutual assistance and support.