



Australian Services Union
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Media Release

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Attention: Chief of Staff / News Editor

LOCAL WOMAN WINS TOP UNION HONOUR

In recognition of her commitment and activism to the union movement Central Queensland University Admin Officer and ASU Delegate, Gillian Adams won the Emma Miller Award and received the Emma Miller Hat Pin on October 5, 2007.

Gillian has worked at CQU for 16 years, joined the ASU Clerical and Administrative Branch of Central and Southern Queensland in 1999 and has been an ASU Delegate since 2002. She was also made Branch Councillor in September 2006. Gillian recently told an ASU member why she feels so passionate about the union movement and issues in her workplace.

"We keep pushing the issues of fairness, transparency and communication. It is all about showing respect for those who make up the University, staff and students, not just managers. It is often an ongoing and uphill battle to try to get senior managers to support staff through difficult processes."

CQU has recently come under public scrutiny when it decided to axe the position of 200 General Staff members. Just months before this announcement, the Vice Chancellor had received a large pay increase of \$195,000 per year. Gillian worked hard through this issue as she has done so many times before to ensure ASU members receive their full benefits and rights.

ASU Regional Organiser, Donna Webster said:

"Gillian is a fine example of an active and committed unionist, who time and time again unselfishly places the needs of our members before her own. Gillian is highly respected as an ASU Delegate and Branch Council member. She is also a true believer that working together, united as one, will achieve a better outcome."

What are the Emma Miller Awards?

Emma Miller was a strong advocate for workers' and women's rights in Queensland during the last Century. As a tribute to her hard work and pioneering spirit and to celebrate the achievements of contemporary union women, the Queensland Council of Unions Women's Committee hosted the inaugural Emma Miller Awards Dinner in 1997. The awards recognise rank and file women members for their commitment to and activism in their union. Each union can nominate one women member for special recognition. This year marks the 10th anniversary of the Emma Miller awards and as such the dinner was special commemorative event.

The Hat Pin

Emma Miller championed equal pay and equal opportunity for women and was foundation president of the Woman's Equal Franchise Association (1894-1905); urging legislation to grant women the franchise on the principle of one adult one vote; although its policy was similar to Labor's she denied the association was allied to any political party. She admired William Lane, a champion of women's rights. She became president of the Women Workers Political Organisation (Qld) after 1903. In 1908 she was one of two women to attend a Commonwealth Labor conference, only the second time a woman was a delegate. On 'Black Friday' of the 1912 strike Mrs. Miller led a large contingent of women to Parliament House, braving the batons of foot and mounted police. She reputedly stuck a hatpin into the horse of Police Commissioner Cahill who was thrown and injured.

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