

Common Cause.

November 2025



HARD-FOUGHT WIN AT RIX'S CREEK

After seven weeks on the picket line, Rix's Creek miners have won a breakthrough agreement that delivers every claim they set out to achieve, including a 17 percent pay rise and major improvements to accident pay.

Backed strongly by the local community, it was the longest mining strike in the Hunter in 25 years and a powerful demonstration of what a united and organised MEU workforce can achieve when they stand together!

PUBLIC HOLIDAY WIN

The MEU has secured a decisive court win that puts employers on notice that they cannot force workers to give up their public holidays. Our case exposed BHP's labour hire operator for forcing workers to work on Christmas and Boxing Day by pulling their names from a hat, and the Federal Court agreed that workers must be asked, not told, to work a public holiday.

It is a big step forward for every worker in the country and a clear reminder that when employers overreach, the MEU is ready to take them on and win.



FIND OUT MORE



UNIONS TAKE ON GLOBAL CHALLENGES

1000 trade unionists from over 100 countries gathered in Sydney in November to tackle the big challenges facing workers: growing inequality, precarious work, energy transition and unbridled AI.

The 4th Congress of IndustriALL Global Union saw representatives from mining, manufacturing, shipbuilding and textiles unions come together and develop an action plan for the next four years. The MEU was proud to be one of the Australian host unions.



SEE MORE PHOTOS



NZEA UPDATE

The NZEA has applied to the Fair Work Commission for the first Community of Interest determination for power station workers at Torrens Island B gas-fired power station in Adelaide.

Meanwhile, consultation for a Community of Interest for Yallourn power station has kicked off this week, while a determination regarding Eraring power station is expected before Christmas. A Community of Interest is the first step towards an Energy Industry Jobs Plan which gives workers affected by power station closures support for retraining and redeployment.



SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS OPEN

Applications for 2026 Mine Workers Trust scholarships are now open. Twenty scholarships of \$7000 each will be available to MEU members or their dependents for further study next year. Applications close on 6 February.



APPLY NOW

Use the QR code or visit meu.org.au/mineworkers-trust-2026-applications/



FIGHT NIGHT FOR A CAUSE

The 2025 MATES in Mining Fight Night wrapped up after another powerful and well-supported event, with the MEU proud to be a sponsor. The night raised vital funds to help MATES in Mining continue putting boots on the ground to deliver mental health and suicide prevention training and support across our industry. Raffle and auction proceeds also went directly to the families of Shane O'Hearn and Craig Hugo, honouring two mineworkers who tragically died last year.



Find out more: meu.org.au



BROTHERS BLITZ ROOF BOLTING COMP

Brothers Shane Beasant from Springvale Colliery and Troy Beasant from Clarence Colliery in Lithgow dominated the roof-bolting competition at the Australian Roof Bolting and Coal Shovelling Titles held in Blackheath in early November.

The annual event is sponsored by our South Western District. Well done Shane and Troy!



THE MEU PODCAST WITH GLEN MPUFANE

Get inspired with this month's podcast guest Glen Mpuwane – a South African mineworker who fought to overthrow apartheid and has dedicated his career to justice for all mineworkers. As Glen retires from his role supporting global mining unions at IndustriALL, he reflects on an incredible lifetime of activism.

**LISTEN TO THE MEU PODCAST
HERE:**



Find out more: meu.org.au

