



PUBLIC PERSPECTIVE

A Publication of the Community & Public Sector Union / Victorian Branch

www.cpsuvic.org

Harvie and Oscar go Public

"Harvie Krumpet was a 100% taxpayer funded production, and this Oscar belongs to you as much as it does to me". With those words, Victorian filmmaker Adam Elliot unveiled a new public display at the Australian Centre for the Moving Image (ACMI) of the plasticine star of the film and his Academy Award for animation.

"We're lucky to have any government support, in the USA they don't get any." Adam told Public Perspective.

"The support of Film Victoria is crucial, and I feel connected to the organisation. We are part of them and they are part of us."

Keep supporting public services says Oscar winner

"We need to keep supporting public institutions like ACMI and Film Victoria. Harvie and Oscar wouldn't be here without them." said Adam Elliot.

Harvie Krumpet producer Melanie Coombs agrees. "Organisations like Film Victoria are an absolute necessity. If you got rid of the funding bodies, there'd be no film making in Australia."

"We have to acknowledge its part of our love of films and film making. If you want to have storytellers, telling Australian stories, you have to pay for it." said Melanie.

"Harvie is one of those uniquely Australian stories that says something about who we are. It's a story about the migration experience, about how we deal with difficult subject matter, and difficult circumstances. If we had to rely on private funding, films like Harvie wouldn't be made." Melanie told Public Perspective.

"Our futures are meshed. Film Victoria's



Adam Elliot and Melanie Coombs at the unveiling ceremony at ACMI

future is tied to our future, and vice versa."

Kim Montgomery, ACMI staffer and CPSU member Kim said of the new display "It's fantastic! It will be great for young kids coming through, and will get them interested in our animation programs."

ACMI staffer and CPSU delegate Gary Simmons welcomed Harvie and Oscar to their new home. Gary is running a workshop on

"blue collar heroes" Homer Simpson and Harvie Krumpet at the Victorian Association for the Teaching of English in July. Adam Elliot is also a guest speaker at this conference.



ACMI CPSU delegate Gary Simmons welcomes Harvie and Oscar to their new home.

FILMED IN VICTORIA

- Strange Bedfellows (2003)
- One Perfect day (2003)
- Take Away (2003)
- Love's Brother (2003)
- Ned Kelly (2002)
- Bad Eggs (2002)
- Crackerjack (2002)
- The Hard Word (2001)
- The Bank (2000)
- Queen of the Damned (2000)
- Chopper (1999)
- The Dish (1999)
- The Wogboy (1999)
- Disney's Dinosaur (1998)
- The Interview (1998)
- The Castle (1997)
- Romper Stomper (1991)
- Proof (1990)
- The Big Steal (1990)
- Evil Angels / A Cry In The Dark - US (1987)
- Malcolm (1986)
- The Man From Snowy River (1981)
- Mad Max (1978)
- The Devil's Playground (1976)
- Picnic At Hanging Rock (1975)

Victoria leads on Adoption Leave

For Kyabram Soil Scientist and CPSU member Kerry Greenwood the timing of the new adoption leave provisions was perfect. On June 30, Kerry and her husband Terry Gras will be traveling to India to meet the daughters they have waited 3 years to adopt.

"The adoption leave improvements under our new Agreement are like a gift of an extra 6-7 weeks to spend getting to know our children". Kerry told Public Perspective. "If I hadn't been a union member, I don't think I would have found out about it." "It's fantastic to have these conditions."

Contact with the girls, Puja and Pushpa, has been limited to an exchange of photos, and an email from the head of the Delhi orphanage currently caring for the sisters.

"We've sent the girls a teddy each, but we don't know if they're allowed to play with them yet."

"We've also sent them photo albums with pictures of us and the house we'll be bringing them home to."

The couple have no family members in Victoria, so their network of colleagues and friends from the Department of Primary Industries is very important to them.

"One of my workmates from DPI Tatura, who I go to Soil Science Society meetings with, has become the girls' unofficial uncle," says Kerry "His heritage is Indian too, and he's excited about the new additions to our family and the fact that we're taking a big interest in Indian culture." "He has a photo of the girls at his desk."

"Another friend from work is picking us up at the airport when we return to Australia." "All our friends at DPI have been really supportive and are very excited for us."

After graduating from the University of New England in Armidale, NSW, Kerry has been



Kerry Greenwood and Terry Gras at their Kyabram property.

with DPI for 7 years, working as a soil physicist, researching soil compaction, root growth and water use efficiency for forages.

One of the conditions of overseas adoption is that one of the adopting parents provides fulltime care for the children for the first 12 months. As Kerry's is the family's sole income, new adoption leave provisions mean she can be with her husband and daughters for 13 weeks without loss of pay.

Prior to CPSU reaching a new agreement with government, the paid adoption leave entitlement was 6 weeks. The paid entitlement increases to 14 weeks from 1 March, 2005.

AT A GLANCE

Paid Adoption Leave around Australia

Victoria 13 weeks /
14 weeks from 1 March 2005

NSW 9 weeks

SA 4 weeks

WA 6 weeks

Qld 3 weeks

Tas 12 weeks

Movie Rewards

We all know there are good reasons for being a union member. Here's your chance to receive even more benefits from your union membership. CPSU is offering members a FREE movie voucher for every new member recruited.

Having new members is good for all of us. It gives Victorian Public Sector employees improved bargaining power. It gives your work colleagues the added security of 24 hour a day industrial protection, and it gives you FREE access to the latest movie releases.

Here is a review written by a movie reward recipient. Another movie voucher will be sent to our reviewer.

Never underestimate a grandmother!

The Triplets of Belleville: Canadian animation. Quirky, moody and observant. This is the sort of movie that you'll have to get on DVD so you can pick up something new each time you watch it. Great villains and a truly original heroine (grandmother Madam Souza) coupled with a good jazz soundtrack and bizarre sequences involving frogs make for a worthwhile experience.

- Peter Knight, Victoria Police



Public Perspective is a publication of the CPSU (Victorian Branch), authorised by Karen Batt, CPSU Victorian Branch Secretary.

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What's On

8 June – 12 September

2004: Australian Culture NOW, ACMI

10 June – 10 October

Outlawed, Melbourne Museum

17 June – 26 September

The Impressionists, National Gallery Victoria

July

2 July – 19 September

The Age of Cartooning, State Library Victoria

6 – 7

CPSU Negotiation Skills Training (VPS)

6 – 13

NAIDOC Week

11 – 17

National Diabetes Week

12 July

CPSU Negotiation Skills Training (Museum Victoria)

13 July

CPSU OHS Reps Conference

14 – 15

CPSU OHS 5 Day Training (Days 1 & 2)

18 – 24

National Glaucoma Week

21 July

CPSU Prevention of Workplace Bullying Training

21 July - 8 August

Melbourne International Film Festival

28 – 30

CPSU OHS 5 Day Training (Days 3,4,5)

August

1 – 7

National Healthy Bones Week

2 August

CPSU Activating Health & Safety Training (Day 3)

4 August

CPSU Stress in the Work Environment Training

10 August

CPSU Prevention of Workplace Bullying Training

17 August

CPSU OHS Basics Training

20 August

Daffodil Day

22 – 27

Hearing Awareness Week

25 – 26

CPSU OHS 5 Day Training (Days 1 & 2)

September

8 – 10

CPSU OHS 5 Day Training (Days 3,4,5)

16 – 26

Royal Melbourne Show

19 – 25

Alzheimer's Awareness Week

20 – 26

National Stroke Awareness Week

22 September – 10 October

Melbourne Fringe Festival

25 September

AFL Grand Final

Bugs Alive! Melbourne Museum

When the Bugs Alive! exhibition opened on March 9, 2004 at Melbourne Museum it was the pinnacle of Peter Lillywhite's career at the museum. The Entomology and Arachnology Collection Manager and CPSU Vice President has worked in the field for 25 years, and this is the first exhibition Peter has been involved with that solely concentrated on his area of expertise and interest.

"I have contributed to other exhibitions, but this was so much more exciting because it's about our specific thing." Peter told Public Perspective.

"Leading up to the opening we were filled with nervous anticipation, even though we were sure everyone would love it." Peter said.

The prediction proved correct. Visitor feedback has been overwhelmingly positive and there has been an 80% increase in visitor numbers. The number of repeat visits has significantly increased, particularly visitors with children.

The new pricing structure introduced last year has resulted in more people visiting the Museum. "But we like to think Bugs Alive! had something to do with it as well" said Peter.

A live bug exhibition was first suggested for the opening of new Museum in 2000 but these plans were shelved. Luke Simpkin (Bugs Alive! Project Leader), another long time CPSU member, resurrected the idea, put a team together which came up with the new format and flavour of Bugs Alive!

The Project Leader and Producer were joined by text writers, designers, carpenters and lighting experts. Most models for the exhibition were made in house, and specimens exhibited are from the existing entomology and arachnology collection. A team of 5 workers under the guidance of Senior Entomologist, Dr Ken Walker (another long term member) and some volunteers decided which specimens were to be exhibited.

Live specimens were obtained specifically for the exhibition, and species not found in Australia were donated by the Australian Quarantine Inspection Service from confiscated items.

"Because these species should only be into Australia under controlled conditions, we're only allowed to have one sex of each specimen so no breeding occurs. Most of the specimens in the exhibition are females, as they tend to live longer." Peter told Public Perspective.



CPSU Vice President Peter Lillywhite in the Entomology Collection storage room.

Adding live specimens has certainly proved popular with most visitors, although there have been some hairy moments.

"We had one woman who came to the exhibition to deliberately face her fear of spiders, who didn't cope well at all."

"It's interesting watching the area around the orb spiders. You see visitors leaning forward, fascinated by the display and showing no fear, then the penny drops that there's no glass between them and the spiders and they quickly take a few steps back." said Peter.

Another vital member of the Bugs Alive! team and CPSU member is Alan Henderson. Alan and the Live Exhibits Unit are responsible for husbandry of the live specimens, including breeding, field collection, research and constant display maintenance. Currently the Museum has over 100 species of live invertebrates, the largest and most diverse collection in Australia.

Peter Lillywhite said "Some insects and spiders

don't live that long. There may be a fungus that infects a colony. It's a continual challenge when you have live specimens on display."

Melbourne Museum is open 7 days a week, and there is no additional cost to enter Bugs Alive!. Children are admitted free. For more information about Bugs Alive! or other Museum Victoria exhibitions and collections, visit their website at www.museum.vic.gov.au.

Our Pick ... websites

Medicare Marauders

The Medical Marauders want to knock down the Australian health system one brick at a time. And they want to stop you from building a bulk billing medical centre. They will throw cuts at the Australian health system and it's up to you to stop them. <http://www.workingfamilies.com.au/marauder/game.htm>

PublicService Lifestyle (UK)

OK, so it's not a whole lot of use to those of us not jaunting around the world, but check out this UK website. <http://www.publicservantlifestyle.co.uk/>

LabourStart

"Where Trade Unionists Start Their Day" A worldwide trade union website with the latest in union news from just about every nation you could imagine. Well worth a visit. <http://www.labourstart.org/>

VICNET

Victoria's network. Everything you need to know about what's happening in Victoria. www.vicnet.net.au

CPSU Victorian Branch

Our website! For the latest news, campaigns and agreements. www.cpsuvic.org



Peter Lillywhite making sure everything is in it's correct place.



The Federal Election is coming. Do you know a young person who hasn't enrolled to vote yet? Remind them to enrol so they can have their say at election time.

It's an honour

Steve Warren got his first taste of life in the State Emergency Service in his teens while training with his older brother for the Murray River marathon. Training kept getting interrupted so his brother, an SES volunteer, could join searches for missing people. Fifteen year old Steve went along too, and was hooked.

Twenty five years later, Steve Warren's service to our community has been recognised. The Manager of State Operations was awarded the Emergency Service Medal in the 2004 Queen's Birthday Honours.

"It's not something you expect, or work for but it's pleasing to be recognised for the work I do." Steve told Public Perspective.

"It's really recognition for what my family put up with."

After 10 years as a volunteer, Steve joined the ranks of the SES paid professionals. He started as a Training Officer, then moved into emergency management.

In a distinguished career with SES, Steve had emergency management responsibility for the City of Melbourne, including Melbourne Airport and went to Adelaide to set up emergency management for the Formula One Grand Prix.

He won an SES scholarship to study dam safety in the US, and nominates his career highlight as his secondment to an AusAID mission in Mozambique in 2000 when the country experienced massive flooding.

"Although many lives were lost and there was massive infrastructure damage it was very rewarding to be there helping out with capacity building by training and co-ordinating non-government organisation representatives in Mozambique." Steve Warren said.

Steve has spent the last 3 years State Operations Manager.

"It's always different and challenging. I get to make decisions and I'm given great responsibility. Volunteers expect the best resources and equipment, and I work hard to supply it." Steve said.

"It's very rewarding to support the front line emergency workers, and I think I make a difference by managing how the organisation responds to emergencies and by supporting volunteers and the public." he said.

Steve credits his family support for his success. His wife and children live in Buninyong, near Ballarat, while Steve lives in Melbourne during the week due to the demands of his job.

"They put up with a lot, but they know I'm passionate about what I do."

Steve was surprised to receive a letter from the Governor General's office two months ago, informing him of his award. Since appearing in the honours list Steve has been overwhelmed by the number of congratulatory letters and emails he has received.

Notably, he has heard from the Premier, the Victorian Governor, the SES Director and CPSU Branch Secretary Karen Batt.

Steve was a Metal Trades union delegate for ten years in his former occupation, and is a long time CPSU member.

Steve will receive the Emergency Service Medal later this year, and will proudly wear it



Steve Warren first started as a volunteer at 15.

alongside his 25 Year Service Medal from SES and his National Medal for Service to the Community.

"I'm lucky, because I wear a uniform and attend official functions, I will have the opportunity to wear the medal. There must be a lot of people in the community whose awards rarely come out of the cupboard." said Steve.

There are 5,500 SES volunteers in Victoria. CPSU has negotiated paid leave for SES volunteers in the Victorian Public Service to attend emergencies. Visit www.ses.vic.gov.au or ring 9684 6666 to become a volunteer and for Action Guides and Safety Tips. Ring 9696 6111 to report windstorm or flood damage. For all other emergencies ring 000.

Happy Pay Day

CPSU members in the Victorian Public Service celebrate receiving the first 3% pay increase backdated to 1 March 2004 arising from CPSU's negotiated Victorian Public Service Agreement 2004. This increase and its back pay amounts to hundreds of extra dollars for employees.

Hear from some happy members.

Thank you all for your great efforts, much appreciated.

Teresa – Department of Sustainability & Environment

Thanks Karen,

Your hard work is much appreciated. Now, how do we collect a bargaining fee from those non-members who just sit back and take all the good things the CPSU does for granted?

Regards

Bob – Department of Primary Industries

Dear Karen

Congratulations to you and all those involved at CPSU on an excellent result and outcome for CPSU members!

Kind regards

Rachel – Department of Human Services

Great to get it finally. Congratulations to you all.

Kath – Department of Human Services

Dear Karen

I can only say a really HUGE THANK YOU to you and your team for what you have achieved for us. That extra money was wonderful to receive and I felt so good going to the bank



The Happy Pay Day cake.

yesterday afternoon, no sooner the money went in, in order to access the funds and make some payments I was battling with. The extra amounts of pay fortnightly will help towards paying for my daughter's driving lessons and I can proceed now to engage an instructor. I shall look forward to the regular increments from now on and the next 3% on 1 October too. Thanks heaps and best wishes and good luck to all of you in the work you do for us and your other endeavours.

Shiranee – Department of Human Services

I would like to say thank-you for all the efforts of all involved, that lead to the pays translation and standardisation of pays across our system. I have been with this department since 1989 and this by far has been the most significant advancement I have witnessed. I look forward to the next adventure.

Shane – Corrections