

# **LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY FIFTY-FIFTH PARLIAMENT FIRST SESSION**

## **Book 12**

### **12, 13 and 14 September 2006**

#### **DOCUMENTS**

**3212 ASSEMBLY Wednesday, 13 September 2006**

#### **MEMBERS STATEMENTS John Cummins**

**Ms BEATTIE (Yuroke) —**

On Monday, 4 September, the union movement paid its last respects to a true working-class hero, John Cummins, from the Construction, Forestry, Mining and Energy Union (CFMEU).

John died after a long battle with illness. However, John was no stranger to battles. All his life he battled against injustice.

He was twice jailed for contempt of court in the 1980s for ignoring a judge's order to stay away from work sites.

For John it was an easy choice; he would never leave his workmates or his principles behind.

His funeral was held at the Regent Theatre. His procession went along Swanston Street and past the City Baths, both of which John was instrumental in saving for the people of Victoria. It then went past the CFMEU office and ended at Trades Hall.

Many of us will remember the sight of John and others leading building workers down to the docks on a very tense morning during the Patrick dispute in an action that changed the course of the dispute.

However, it was John's role as a teacher, mentor and strategist that will be his legacy to workers.

It is fair to say that John had scant regard for this place.

However, it was fitting that over 2000 workers cheered John in a final moving tribute at the workers parliament, Trades Hall.

Condolences to John's family — Dianne, Mick and Shane.

Dare to struggle, dare to win.

Vale John Cummins.