

Hardhat EXPRESS

CFMEU
CONSTRUCTION
AND GENERAL



ISSUE 01 / Mar'10

THE NATIONAL NEWSLETTER OF THE CONSTRUCTION AND GENERAL DIVISION OF THE CONSTRUCTION FORESTRY MINING AND ENERGY UNION.

Insulation tragedy — demand strong laws for OHS and training



The deaths of four young workers on insulation projects has focussed attention on the importance of safety awareness and training in construction.

Every workplace death is a tragedy for the family concerned and the CFMEU has extended its condolences to the families of those four workers.

"I am also sickened by the political posturing that went with the collapse of the Home Insulation Scheme," says Construction National Secretary Dave Noonan.

Neither of the two major political parties would back a Greens' Senate motion for OH&S Laws to include industrial manslaughter provisions. Labor's proposed national laws don't include industrial manslaughter and undermine workers' safety rights in many respects, including safety reps' rights.

The CFMEU will not stand silent as hard won rights to a safe workplace are sacrificed on the altar of corporate greed.

FOR MORE / GO TO www.cfmeu.asn/news

CFMEU Construction National Office has also produced a new YouTube video, with tips on your rights to a safe workplace — check out the website for links to the video.

Welcome to our new national newsletter

CFMEU Construction National Office is replacing our quarterly newspaper **Hardhat** with this newsletter from 2010. **Hardhat Express** will be printed and handed out on construction sites in the same way. But it will appear more often — every couple of months from now, in April, June, August, October and late November.

CFMEU delegates will continue to receive copies in the post. And an electronic version will be sent to members who wish to receive it by email.

We're making this change because the union recognises that more and more of our members are using the Internet for news. Many of the stories here have links to pages on our website.

You will also notice links to Join, Pay your Dues, RDOs. If you haven't been on the national website yet, check it out today!

As always, feedback is welcome. So let us know what you think: queries@fed.cfmeu.asn.au

CFMEU looks after its members

Wideform, Akron, Austruc ... a spate of construction companies collapsing in the past few months has left hundreds of workers and sub-contractors in the lurch with millions of dollars owing.

But CFMEU Branches in Queensland, NSW, ACT and Victoria are working to ensure union members' entitlements are secured and wages paid.

It pays to belong

The CFMEU secured more than \$6 million in NSW and \$3.5m in QLD for 700 Wideform workers. The union also assisted members to find work with other subbies.

The Victorian Branch is representing around 60 members affected by civil contractor Akron's demise. Unpaid wages and entitlements in VIC and the ACT are estimated to total around \$2.5 million. Creditors meetings are continuing, along with the search for about \$28 million, so far unaccounted for.

Workers standing together with their union ensure everyone gets paid.

INSIDE

Celebrate women in construction March 8

Crane collapses wake up call

Union members stand with Alyawarra people

Dare to dream - Todd Philpott

PLUS OHS, News, Training Briefs

Celebrate women in construction on March 8

The CFMEU likes to welcome women into the construction industry. The union frequently argues that the employment of more local women would help cut skill shortages across the industry.

To mark International Women's Day, March 8, 2010, we've posted photos and comments from proud and successful women, working at different jobs in construction, on our website homepage.

Women like Natalie (pictured) - who was a wool classer in NSW and is now carving out a career path on resources jobs in WA - thanks to training opportunities at the union's CSTC Skills Centre and a union negotiated EBA.

Listen to the women's stories:

www.cfmeu.asn



"The union is supportive to everybody. You always know they are only a phone call away," — Natalie.



Crane collapses — a wake-up call

A spate of tumbling cranes in WA over the past few months, has again highlighted the need for strong attention to OHS in plant operation.

The jib collapsed on a Favco 330 tonne SWL tower crane, during load testing, at the BHP Worsley Alumina project near Collie on January 13. The jib damaged a mobile crane, change room facilities and other plant in its fall. Workers were sent running for their lives, but fortunately no-one was injured.

A couple of days earlier, on January 11, a crane lifting 24 tonne outrigger pads, fell over in Lampson Pty Ltd's yard at Bassendon in Perth. The jib took out power lines as it fell into the street in the busy industrial estate at 3pm.

On December 16, a 160T Demag fell over at an HR Troons' site in Jandakot, Perth, taking out the corner of a toilet

block and tilt up panel placed earlier.

Investigations into all these incidents are continuing.

"Safe Work Australia and the State WorkCover Authorities should let these incidents be a wake-up call on the dangers of high risk plant," says Lindsay Fraser, Assistant Divisional Secretary and National OHS Officer.

"The current review of the plant standard must ensure that there is no watering down of safety standards in this dangerous part of our industry.

"Otherwise, it is only a matter of time before someone is seriously injured or killed in this kind of incident."

Know your rights to a safe workplace. Keep up to date on safety incidents as they occur and alerts about plant and equipment at the CFMEU Construction Safety Zone: www.cfmeu.asn.au

SAFETY ZONE

John Holland fined for Dalrymple death

John Holland Pty Ltd has been fined \$180,000 over the death of Mark McCallum last year on Dalrymple Bay Coal Terminal project. The court said the dangers were obvious but unrecognised and unaddressed.

[FOR MORE / GO TO](#)

www.cfmeu.asn/ohs/incidents

Latch locks for Alimak doors

Latch Locking for Alimak Doors #9042.755.000 should be fitted to all Alimak Scando products with vertical two part doors to ensure the doors are held closely together, according to the company.

[FOR MORE / GO TO](#)

www.cfmeu.asn/ohs/alerts

Ban on Cantilevered Chariots

Following the death of a worker in South Melbourne on January 15, Cantilevered Chariots have been banned to prevent further falls.

[FOR MORE / GO TO](#)

www.cfmeu.com.au/downloads/ohs-alert



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www.cfmeu.asn.au

Union members stand with Alyawarra people



Alyawarra people and their supporters at the half-finished 'protest house' near Ampilatwatja. More photos and stories: www.cfmeuvic.com.au/news & www.cfmeu.asn.au/your-union/photo-galleries; www.cfmeu.asn.au/SA/news

CFMEU members from Victoria, South Australia and New South Wales backed the Alyawarra people's protest against the Government's NT Intervention by helping them build a community house on their lands.

The CFMEU joined other unions and volunteers to build the house. A hand poured concrete slab was the first task. Then there were the logistics of getting the pre-fabricated house from Adelaide to the site - 350 kilometres north-east of Alice.

Members of the Alyawarra community received training and assisted with the construction - impressing CFMEU activists with their thirst to learn.

Alyawarra elders have been protesting against the disempowerment and discrimination of the NT Intervention since

"We need practical assistance like housing, training and jobs, not Government intervention."

Richard Downs
Alyawarra spokesperson

July last year. They want proper consultation, to live in their own lands and practical assistance - not intervention.

"We estimate it would take about two weeks to pour a concrete slab and put up a prefab building, training Indigenous people along the way," says SA Organiser Mark Garva who participated in the project. "It can be done."

NEWS BRIEFS

ILO slams Aus construction laws for the 7th time

The ILO is asking the Rudd Government to ensure the ABCC replacement body will protect workers' rights and conditions and not act in a way that favours employers over workers.

FOR MORE / GO TO

www.cfmeu.asn.au/News

Gorgon LNG Plant Agreement

Construction workers on Barrow Island in WA will earn wages equal to the best in Australia. But they'll also work and live in tough conditions on the ecologically fragile island. If you are thinking of heading there, download the CFMEU negotiated Gorgon Greenfields Agreement and contact the WA Branch.

FOR MORE / GO TO

www.cfmeuwa.com

Wages up by 4.5%

Thanks to the latest union EBA pay rise which took effect on March 1 in Victoria.

FOR MORE / GO TO

www.cfmeuvic.com.au

QLD not for sale - Rally

Construction workers joined the 80% of Queenslanders telling the Bligh Government their State is not for sale with a march on Parliament House on Tuesday, March 9 from 10.30am.

FOR MORE / GO TO

www.qld.cfmeu.asn.au

Asbestos Scandal - Adelaide Defence housing site

Workers are demanding answers following revelations of contamination and improper disposal.

FOR MORE / GO TO

www.cfmeu.asn.au/SA

CAMPAIGN UPDATE

Ark Tribe in court June 15 -18

The date for Ark Tribe's trial on charges brought by the ABCC is now set for June 15, 16 & 18. In the meantime, you can still send Ark messages of support at: www.rightsonsite.org.au and watch for news of campaign actions around the construction laws.

Don't risk 2nd rate safety

CFMEU Construction & General will be coordinating a national industrial campaign in 2010 to ensure there's no reduction OHS laws protecting workers. The CFMEU will join with like-minded unions to make this effective. Keep in touch for details: www.cfmeu.asn.au/CAMPAIGNS

**FIND YOUR
RDO'S**

www.cfmeu.asn.au



In our communities ...

“Discipline is less painful than regret. Dare to dream”



World champion hand cyclist and former construction worker, Todd Philpott is on the road again — training to qualify for the 2012 Games in London.

Todd won his two events in Tasmania in February against the best in the country. “The only way I can repay the workers and CFMEU members faith in me is to be as fast as I can in competition.”



Todd spends a lot of time inspiring other amputees, especially young people. He also drops into construction sites occasionally to talk about the importance of safety and his own struggle to get back on track after his motor vehicle accident.

NSW Branch Organisers Rob Kera and Rebel Hanlon helped raise \$7000 from jobs towards his bid to qualify for the Games. Todd is picture left with them and CFMEU members from the BLL site at Darling Harbour.

Todd will compete in NSW qualifiers in March and in the nationals in QLD in April.

TRAINING BRIEFS

Make a ‘wise move’ in construction in 2010

Listen to some of our members’ stories about how they got training to develop a career in the industry. There are a variety of options to choose - from traineeships through apprenticeships to upgrading your skills as an adult.

[FOR MORE / GO TO](#)

www.cfmeu.asn/training/member-stories

High risk license conversion

Workers on high risk plant with old style national or state Certificates of Competency issued between 1 Jan 1999 to 31 Dec 2001 are reminded they need to be converted to the new National High Risk Licence by June 2010.

[FOR MORE / GO TO](#)

www.cfmeu.asn/training/cfmeu-trainingschools

Community - CFMEU-backed basketballer champs

Victoria Metro took out the 2010 Ivor Burge National Basketball Championship, in Gawler, SA on February 20-27.

The union helped kit out the team. Congratulations to the boys and their coach, CFMEU member Garry Barker.

[FOR MORE / GO TO](#)

www.cfmeuvic.com.au

UNION UPDATE

FAREWELL & THANKS

National Senior Vice President **Albert Littler** retired from the CFMEU National Office at the end of 2009.



The CFMEU thanks him for his tremendous contribution to the union movement since joining the OPDU in 1964 and particularly for his contribution to the amalgamation of that union with the CFMEU in 1992.

Read Albert's story:
www.cfmeu.asn.au/your-union/farewell-thanks

FAREWELL & THANKS

Assistant Divisional Secretary **Martin Kingham** resigned from the CFMEU National Office in December to pursue other interests.



The CFMEU thanks him for his long contribution to the union, both in the VIC Branch and nationally. Martin led the Victorian breakthrough for shorter hours and campaigned continuously around safety for construction workers.

Read Martin's story:
www.cfmeu.asn.au/your-union/farewell-thanks

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QLD Builders Labourers Divisional Branch
Greg Simcoe
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PAY YOUR DUES
www.cfmeu.asn.au

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