



# The Cutting Edge

RECRUIT A WORKMATE - GET YOUR WORKPLACE 100% UNION - CALL 08 8 219 9000 OR 08 8 725 9966

## Union Action Saves 100 Jobs

**C**FMEU members took cross-border solidarity action last month at a timber mill in our nation's capital city Canberra to secure their jobs and protect their redundancy pay.

South Australian South East Organiser Travis "Little Fella" Lawson was flown up to the ACT for two weeks to maintain a 24 hour union picket line or peaceful protest outside the mill site when receivers announced 100 members would lose their jobs.

### No retrenchment pay and no job

To make matters infinitely worse receivers said workers would get no retrenchment pay as the company's funds had all dried up. The closure was due to a government decision to not renew a log supply contract.

Just prior to the dispute the NSW Branch Organiser Dusty Miller had broken his ribs and wrist in a horse accident and needed help to drive and was in serious pain.

With that knowledge, National Secretary Mick O'Connor called SA Assistant Secretary Brad Coates to get Travis released to assist the ACT workers.

NSW Secretary Craig Smith flew down from Sydney to head up negotiations with Michael, Dusty and Travis. Cheryl Hampton, CFMEU site delegate also negotiated the deal.



National Secretary Michael O'Connor, SA Branch South East Organiser Travis Lawson, injured ACT Organiser Dusty Miller and NSW Branch Secretary Craig Smith at Darryl's Diner on the ACT timber mill two week picket line that saved 100 jobs! Well done to all union officials and the members of the CFMEU Australia wide who supported the action.

### Govt forced to act

Workers are back on the job with a 2.5 year log contract, a \$4 million grant from the federal government and payroll tax relief from the ACT government of \$900,000.00.

*"I am very proud of the membership up there for sticking together on the picket line. If they had all dispersed into the suburbs we would not have achieved this result,"*

said Travis, now back in Mt Gambier, speaking to The Cutting Edge.

*"The fact is that members in South Australia helped members in crisis in the ACT and that means the Union is becoming more than the sum of its parts."*

*"In the so-called "me" generation union members are looking out for their collective interests,"* said Brad.

Local pizza shops and food stores donated food and drinks and the CFMEU Construction Division kept the picket plied with eats as well. The media covered the issue in great detail as the mill is in Eden-Monaro, one of Australia's most marginal seats.

## Call your Union for Service and Advice

Members can contact the Union from Monday to Friday between 8.30am and 5pm for assistance, support and advice on safety, wage, redundancy, general industrial, enterprise bargaining and workers compensation matters.

If an office is unattended please contact officials by mobile phone - see page 3 for contact details.



# Union News Briefs

## Super Union Office Signs Up

The new Adelaide Office of the CFMEU Forestry & Furnishing Products Division, TISS super and FIRST Super is at: Unit 2, 191-195 Melbourne Street Adelaide 5006.

*"Some members complained that it was hard to find so new signs have just been put up for the CFMEU FFPD, FIRST Super and TISS Super who also share the offices. The union has put the signs up because members wanted them. If you have other ideas to make the union run better call us and let us know,"* said Adelaide Office Desktop Organiser/Workers Compensation Officer Michelle Ingley-Smith who arranged the new signs.



FIRST Super State Manager Jackie Weston and CFMEU Secretary Dave Kirner outside the new combined FIRST/CFMEU/ТИSS office in Melbourne St, North Adelaide.

Drop in sometime for a coffee and a chat or to rollover those five super funds that are clogging up your drawers at home.

## Big Win at CHH - Union Member Back On the Job



Brad Coates Assistant Secretary

Members at CHH Radius have won back the job of long time CFMEU member Trevor Pettingill who was terminated for an alleged breach of isolation in the mill where they plane timber.

After an investigation the company decided to terminate Trevor who has worked with the company for 26 years with no disciplinary breaches in that time. The union then organised a petition of 260 signatures - a majority of members on site to call for his reinstatement.

The union met again with CHH and went through the facts of the investigated and after consideration CHH conceded they had made a mistake

and reinstated him.

Assistant Secretary Brad Coates said the power of union members' means sometimes you do not have to take industrial action to get outcomes.

*"Congratulations to Radius CFMEU members for supporting a comrade when he needed their help,"* said Brad.

## Gunning for Auspine

Publicly listed giant of the timber industry John Gay's Gunn's Group who are seeking to build a major new pulp mill in Tasmania are also trying to gain shareholding control of ASX listed entity Adrian de Bruyn's AUSPINE Group.

Both companies employ hundreds of Union members and sign off on Union collective agreements. At printing time the Gunn's Group appears to have gained control after small shareholders were urged to accept the Gunn's offer.

National Secretary Michael O'Connor said he was hopeful that the takeover would not result in lost employment.

*"We are monitoring the situation closely on a day by day basis,"* he said.

Adelaide Organiser Mark Nicholls and Secretary Dave Kirner have also met

with AUSPINE members at Gillman and Assistant Secretary Brad Coates has held meetings at AUSPINE South East sites to discuss issues and membership concerns.

## \$10.26 Award Wage Rise

**The Australian Fair Pay Commission has announced its 2007 wage deal for award based workers. The new rates will increase award wages from the first pay date after October 1<sup>st</sup> 2007 by \$10.26 per week for rates up to \$700.00 per week. A first year apprentice would get 42% of this or \$4.30 per week extra.**

*"The Fair Pay Commission basically has little to no idea about the issues of a living wage,"*

said Branch Secretary Dave Kirner.

*"Members should get the Union down to their site to negotiate an EBA or look at classification reviews to make sure payments reflect work value and experience. Certain bosses tend to be greedier during boom times and try to limit wage rises and take conditions off workers."*



## MEET THE SHOP STEWARDS

### Le Cornu Furniture

\$60 for Bronson



Tony Rossi and recently accredited tradesperson and work-mate Bronson

Tony Rossi has been a staunch member of the Union at Le Cornu for over 20 years and recently won a \$60.00 pay rise for his apprentice Bronson.

Bronson has just finished his apprenticeship and through the actions of Tony and other members he has scored a level 3 classification.

Tony called in the Union and members across the site are now claiming a wage increase across the board, uniforms, payment of industry allowance to on-site furniture workers and maintenance of RDOs.

"You need to get the Union on site to make sure people are aware of their entitlements," he told Cutting Edge.

The Company has backed down on removing RDO's,

agreed to uniforms, paid Bronson \$60.00 and are considering safety and other matters.

Tony believes "that the award rates are pretty pathetic" and he wants the Union to do something about it.

"Home affordability on award rates is not a possibility," he said.

### Wingfield Timber

Morgan will talk to your wife

CFMEU Forestry and Furnishing Division shop steward Morgan Brunt from Wingfield Timber told Cutting Edge he is happy to talk to prospective member's wives about the importance of workers joining the union.

"The collective is important and when recruiting members it is important to assist and educate people to make the right choice and help them rationalise it," said Morgan.

A union collective agreement has recently been negotiated on site and the union is finalising payment of a \$250.00 sign on bonus, a 3% pay rise has been paid.

Morgan has also completed an analysis of workers for a multi-skill wage increase of an extra 2%.



Morgan Brunt CFMEU Shop Steward at Wingfield Timber has signed up 12 new members into the union in August 2007. He is pictured here with a fellow worker.

## CONTACT YOUR UNION

**Adelaide Office** Unit 2/191-195 Melbourne St North Adelaide 5006 SA Phone no: 08 8219 9000 Fax no: 08 8219 9011

<b>David Kirner</b>	Secretary	0403 062 251	<a href="mailto:dkirner@cfmeuffpd.org.au">dkirner@cfmeuffpd.org.au</a>
<b>Mark Nicholls</b>	Adelaide Organiser	0418 740 110	<a href="mailto:mnicholls@cfmeuffpd.org.au">mnicholls@cfmeuffpd.org.au</a>
<b>Les Birch</b>	Senior Workers Compensation Officer /Advocate	08 8219 9022 0411 744 610	<a href="mailto:lbirch@cfmeuffpd.org.au">lbirch@cfmeuffpd.org.au</a>
<b>Vanessa Yardley-Langridge</b>	Workers Compensation Assistant	08 8219 9000	<a href="mailto:vanessa@cfmeuffpd.org.au">vanessa@cfmeuffpd.org.au</a>
<b>Michelle Ingley-Smith</b>	Desktop Organiser/Workers Compensation Officer	08 8219 9028 0438 632 439	<a href="mailto:michelle@cfmeuffpd.org.au">michelle@cfmeuffpd.org.au</a>

**South East Office** 40 Percy Street Mount Gambier SA 5290 Phone no: 08 8725 9966 Fax no:08 8724 9377

<b>Brad Coates</b>	Assistant Secretary	0418 838 338	<a href="mailto:cfmeuseo@bigpond.net.au">cfmeuseo@bigpond.net.au</a>
<b>Travis Lawson</b>	South East Organiser	0417 247 999	<a href="mailto:tlawson@cfmeuffpd.org.au">tlawson@cfmeuffpd.org.au</a>
<b>Yvonne Todd</b>	Desktop Organiser/Workers Comp Officer	08 8725 9966	<a href="mailto:ytodd@cfmeuffpd.org.au">ytodd@cfmeuffpd.org.au</a>



Aspect Packaging CFMEU members have recently completed negotiating an EBA with the help of Adelaide Organiser Mark Nicholls. Pictured here are Marjan Murray, Karen Sutcliffe, John Murray and Steven Bonney

## Horn Goes To China - 8 jobs lost

In a sombre note local Adelaide sewing machine manufacturer Horn Australia will lose another 8 jobs as they outsource their machining to China.

CFMEU shop steward Bob Moulden has worked with Union Secretary Dave Kirner to arrange jobs for union members on other sites and volunteer redundancy packages. They are down from 50 jobs a few years ago to 3 warehousing and 8 assembly jobs.

## Work Cover Do Nots

By Yvonne Todd SE Workers Compensation Officer

- Do not sign any documents without checking first with the union
- Do not go to a meeting without representation
- Do not trust employers to act in your best interests
- Do not trust what employers say is true and accurate when it relates to workers

compensation

- Do not act on advice from friends or family members.
- Always get professional advice from the union!

## Life Members

### Leggett, Leggett!

**Eddie Leggett, a notorious Australian glazier, has been made a life member of the union after his retirement from Construction Glazing.**

Eddie was about to go on a holiday to Queensland to help a mate set up for rock'n'roll concerts in the north, when we gave him the good news about life membership.

Eddie exposed the Chevron Glass underpayment of superannuation benefits scam and the union took the company and the MBA to the court to retrieve the underpayment of wages to workers who were not being paid superannuation whilst on workers compensation.

Chevron were forced to back-pay thousands of dollars.

The union is now investigating breaches of allowances payments, withholding of superannuation whilst workers are on long service leave,

refusals to honor the SAGMA agreement on payout of sick leave on retirement and the company taking site allowances from workers.

## Get Active

### Union Gets Share Active

**National Secretary Michael O'Connor says the union has bought limited shares in a number of publicly listed companies.**

Doing so means the union gets all shareholders reports and also can attend meetings of shareholders.

So far shares have been purchased in Fantastic Furniture, FEA, Futuris, Pacific Dunlop, Brickworks and Woolworths.

## Music to our ears

**CFMEU members who make music or play in bands are welcome to send in their original CDs to:**

Travis Lawson  
C/O The Union Radio Show  
40 Percy Street  
Mount Gambier 5290

The union is very keen to get recorded music from Boral bagpipe guru Ron Nesbitt and the Latin Swing sounds from IJF. 'Wobbly Boots' members of the CFMEU John Hartley and Martin O'Malley also have a long list of potential listeners waiting for them to release a CD. So send in your CD and we will give it a whirl on the union radio shows.

## Federal Election

**A number of members have enquired about how they can help in the federal election Your Rights at Work Campaign.**

The union has badges, stickers and leaflets that you can

distribute at your workplace or on your community.

Call Michelle Ingley-Smith on 08 8 219 9000 to have materials sent to you.

Key marginal seats that the ALP must win from the Liberal Party to win government are Makin, Kingston and Wakefield.

## Event Horizon

### Union Picnic Day

**Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2007**  
Bonython Park Opposite Coca Cola/West End Brewery  
10am - 2pm  
Tickets available from the union office \$20.00

**FIRST Superannuation Join an industry fund today Free Financial Planning Seminar Tuesday 30 October 2007-08-29 6.30-8.00pm**  
Tea and coffee provided  
The Lion Hotel  
161 Melbourne Street  
North Adelaide 5006RSVP by Tuesday 16th October 2007  
Call Jackie Weston on 0411883759

## Send in your articles

Members are encouraged to contribute to The Cutting Edge. Please email photos and articles to

Jane Hollingshead, Editor SA Cutting Edge at:

[janeh@cfmeuffpdnational.org](mailto:janeh@cfmeuffpdnational.org)

## Next Edition

- H2O in the SEO
- Get Out of Town FEA
- Life on The Shop Floor Under Work Choices - A Delegate's Tale
- How Do Your Wages Stack Up With The Factory Next Door?
- Work Out for Union Services How to Buy from Union Workplaces
- Deceased Members