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Your Health & Safety - Worth Fighting For!

Tragedy strikes timber workers



Union Members may be aware that January was a tragic month for our Union.

CFMEU FFPD member, Michelle Cooper 35, a mill hand at Carter Holt Harvey in Morwell was crushed when a two-tonne timber pack hoist fell striking her. Michelle was removing a

blockage from a jammed lifting device when she was killed.

This followed a fatality that occurred on January 3rd when logger, Steve Jamieson, from a well known timber industry family, was killed when his bulldozer rolled while clearing a firebreak in steep country.

Steve, in his forties, was working as a contractor to the Department of Sustainability and the Environment (DSE) at the time of the accident.

The Union extends its deepest sympathy to the family and friends of both Steve and Michelle. WorkSafe is currently running a statewide

campaign targeting safety work around machines undergoing maintenance, repair, installation, servicing and cleaning. This type of work accounts for nearly one-third of workplace deaths.

The CFMEU FFPD Victorian Forestry Branch is supporting this campaign through the ongoing work of our organisers on OH&S issues and our dedicated Health and Safety Representative Support Officer, Max Diamond.

If you have any concerns about OH&S issues in your workplace, please contact your organiser (see back page for contact details).



RECRUIT A WORKMATE
GET YOUR WORKPLACE 100% UNION

CALL US ON (03) 9274 9215
 OR 1800 060 556 OR CONTACT YOUR ORGANISER

Contact details on back page

How will Labor's New IR System work?

Labor's Transition to Forward with Fairness Bill passed

"..the first handful of dirt in the grave in which we are burying WorkChoices"

Julia Gillard Minister for Employment and Workplace Relations



The New IR System

Labor's first industrial relations bill has been passed by Parliament, signalling the end of the Howard Government's extreme and unfair WorkChoices.

The transition bill ends the use of AWAs and creates temporary contracts for some workers until Labor's new system starts in 2010. The Bill also directs the Australian Industrial Relations Commission (AIRC) to begin modernising awards.

The Bill is the first part of two stage process to get rid of WorkChoices and create fair and consistent national workplace relations system. The Transitional Bill has come into effect and the Substantive Bill will come into operation on 1 January 2010. A draft of the Substantive Bill will be released later this year.

What the Transitional Bill does

- Prevents the making of new AWAs
- Establishes transitional individual agreements while award modernisation takes place

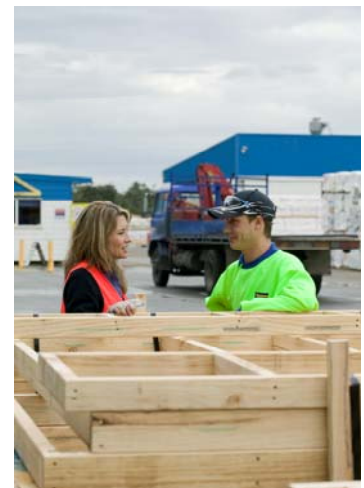
- Introduces a genuine No Disadvantage Test for new collective agreements
- Provides a decent fallback for employees where their agreement is terminated
- Superannuation clauses in the award have had their life extended and will no longer expire on 30 June 2008

The 10 National Employment Standards

1. Hours of work
2. Parental leave
3. Flexible work for parents
4. Annual leave
5. Personal, carer's and compassionate leave
6. Community service leave
7. Public holidays
8. Provision of information in the workplace
9. Termination of employment and redundancy
10. Long service leave

What the Substantive Bill will do

- Provide for genuine freedom of association and the right to be represented
- Promotion of collective bargaining, information and consultation at the workplace
- Equal pay and no discrimination
- Good faith bargaining, including the right to take industrial action
- Unfair dismissal rights
- The establishment of Fair Work Australia
- The ongoing maintenance of the safety net
- Enforcement and compliance



WorkChoices on the way out but Construction Industry workers still live in fear

Despite the Rudd Government's swift moves to get rid of WorkChoices, one of the worst aspects of Howard's laws continues.

The Australian Building and Construction Commission (ABCC) has sweeping powers. Workers and their representatives can be fined and jailed; union meetings can be secretly recorded and legal representation can be denied.

No other body in Australia has those

powers. No other workers, apart from those in the construction industry, are faced with this sort of undemocratic and heavy handed assault on human rights .

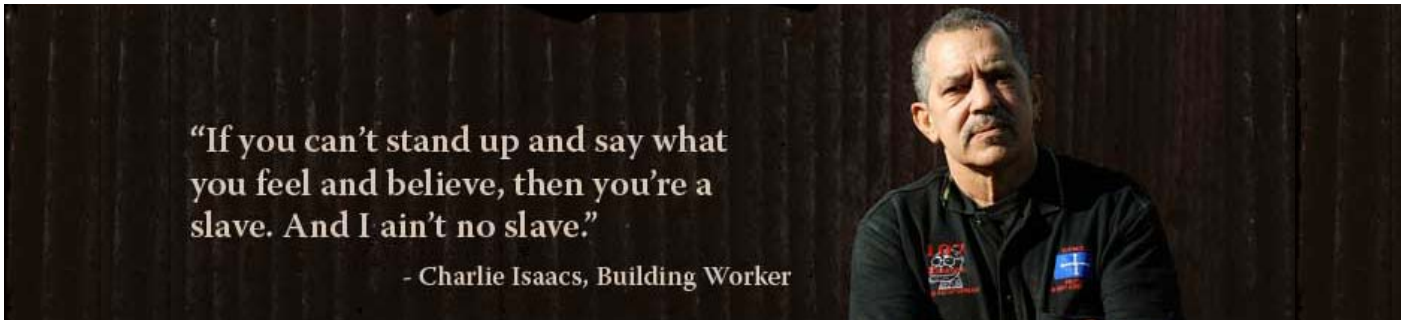
The ABCC has the power to compel people to attend interrogations under the threat of jail . Workers have no right to silence, cannot refuse to go and cannot speak publicly about the what is discussed in the interrogation.

The CFMEU FFPD is standing side by

side with the CFMEU Construction and General Division in fighting the profoundly undemocratic powers of the ABCC.

Construction and General National Secretary, Dave Noonan summed up the situation by saying;

"We find it amazing that the Rudd Labor Government, elected to restore Australian rights at work, should care so little about the rights of 900,000 construction workers in this country."



Tribute to

Michelle (Shelley) Cooper

4 - 10 - 1972 — 17 - 01 - 2008

CFMEU FFPD Member CHH Morwell

At work Michelle would always do her best at whatever task she was given.

Michelle was always willing to learn more.

For us who knew her well we tried to encourage her, cheer her up, and help her move through that difficult time.

No words can express our feelings for Michelle.

All the memories you left behind with us in the brew room will be dearly missed.

We could not say our last farewells, or even say goodbye.

You were gone before we knew and all we can ask is why?

Union Collective Agreement Updates

<p>Negotiations underway:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ITC Alexandra Hardwood Sawmill • Bunnings Truss and Frame plants • AKD Softwood sawmill • SPE Chip Mill • Calco Truss and Frame 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Midway Chip Mill • UDM Door Plant • Stegbar Door and Window • Loscam Pallet manufacturer • Laminex • McKay Joinery • Shugg Joinery 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stolar Joinery • CV Palleton • Greenfreight Logging Myrtleford <p>Finalised Agreements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RE Spence Door and Window • Bowens • Mathews Timber
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Super Funds Merger

TISS, FIRST Super and PPWSF (the pulp and paper workers' fund) are merging on 1 July 2008. The name of the new fund is FIRST Super. This name was chosen because it represents what the new fund is about – putting members first.

All three funds are industry funds where profits go to members. This won't change. And by coming together as one fund, most members will get more.

The new fund aims to:

- Take the best of each fund
- Improve benefits and member services

- Keep costs low over the long term

What the merger means for TISS members

- ◇ **More options from 1 July 2008** as the new fund takes the best of each of the three funds
- ◇ **TISS is the successor fund.** This means members and assets will move from the two other funds into TISS to form the new fund
- ◇ **New name and logo** to reflect the change in membership. The name of the fund will change to FIRST Super and there will be a new logo.

- ◇ **Same dedicated customer service** from an expanded team. Additional staff will join the existing TISS member service team to administer the new fund.

Information about the merger has already been sent to TISS members with the next Member Merger Update outlining further details on the new fund benefits.

If you have any questions or want more details, call TISS on

1300 360 988 or visit

www.myfundmerger.com.au



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Pulp & Paper Workers'
Superannuation Fund

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CONTACT YOUR UNION

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