



CFMEU FFPD Disaster Recovery Fund – Victorian Bushfire Appeal

March 2009



CFMEU Forestry and Furnishing Products Division

Union Members Go All Out in Support of Bushfire Survivors

Members of the CFMEU FFPD have shown their true colours in the amazing response to the Union's \$1million appeal.

The response from members throughout the country has been extraordinarily generous.

The union has been particularly impressed by the efforts made by some of our retired members who have made contact with the Union to make donations of \$20 or more.

Union members Australia wide have heeded the call for assistance at a difficult time - particularly given the global financial crisis and the impacts on workers.

Once again Unionists have proven that they know the importance of sticking together when times are tough.

We will continue to keep members informed about the progress of the appeal and wish to pass on our thanks to all members who have supported the appeal so generously.

CFMEU FFPD Member and CFA Tanjil Brigade Captain Dick Harrison on the front line

CFMEU FFPD Member and kiln operator at Carter Holt Harvey Morwell, Dick Harrison has been a member of the Country Fire Authority (CFA) for 16 years and is the captain of the Tanjil CFA Brigade in South Gippsland.

On January 29th a major bushfire broke out at Boolarra in Gippsland in which at least 29 homes, 80 outbuildings and at least nine cars were lost. The Tanjil tanker and its crew was deployed to Mirboo North and worked on asset protection and back burning to assist in controlling this blaze. During this period Dick worked 5 shifts which ranged from 12-18 hours long.

On Black Saturday, February 7th the Tanjil tanker and its crew headed out to Labertouche at 7am where the crew were working at the airstrip.

Dick said, "we could see the fire approaching and when it came out of the bush it was like nothing I've ever seen."

One of his CFA colleagues had fought the Ash Wednesday fires in 1983 and he commented at the time that Ash Wednesday "looked like a BBQ compared to this."

Once the fire came out of the bush Dick said that; "Within ten minutes everything you could see was black.

The flames came through at waist height"

Dick continued working until 2.30am putting out grass fires and continuing asset protection and back burning.

The community now requires ongoing support to replace houses, sheds and fencing.



The Bunyip State Park bushfire claims a house at Labertouche in Gippsland on February 7, 2009.

Together we are Stronger

Great Response to Bushfire Appeal from Union Members Across the Nation

New South Wales

- Members at the Boral sawmill in Nowra have put up their hands to assist fire victims and have supported the levy.
- Union members at Carter Holt Harvey Wood Panels in Tumut showed fantastic support for the appeal.
- Members at Hyne and Son's Tumbarumba sawmill have all backed the motion to support fire victims.
- Unionists at Boral Kyogle have shown fantastic support and are contributing to the appeal.
- Members at Sealy and Sleepmaker have passed the resolution and shown strong support.
- Union members at Carter Holt Harvey MDF in Oberon have all shown great support for the appeal.
- CFMEU members at Big River Timbers have expressed their support for the appeal and are in the process of arranging to participate.

Tasmania

- The Tasmanian Branch has collected a 40 ft container full of donations for the bushfire victims. Donations filled the boardroom to the ceiling. Members' children have also come in to the Union office to donate their bikes to the appeal.
- All 8 Gunns sites in Tasmania, McKay Timber, Forestry Tasmania sites at Camdale, Smithton and Geevestown, ITC Timber, Ta Ann, Coppers Logs and a range of other workplaces have all supported the motion for the bushfire appeal.

South Australia

- Members at Corinthian in SA have donated one day of their annual leave pay to the appeal.

- Union members at Carter Holt Harvey Nangwarry, CHH Lakeside, CHH FutureBuild, CHH Pine Panels sites at White Avenue and Lakeside and the CHH Sawmill Jubilee Highway East sites have all shown great support for the appeal and have supported the levy.
- Members at Gunns Tarpeena and Kalangadoo have also shown their strong support for the appeal.

Victoria

- Members at Canterbury Windows took up a collection and \$2500.00 was raised from workers on the floor.
- Union members at CHH Myrtleford have all been fantastic in their support and management have also contributed at this site.
- Bunnings Benalla and Bunnings Hallam members have shown strong support and all contributed to the appeal along with management.
- Great support has been shown by members at D&R Henderson and Monsbent in Benalla, Victoria.
- Members from AKD in Colac did not hesitate to assist and showed strong support.

Strong support from members Australia wide

Union members from a large number of workplaces have not hesitated to help out and have passed the motion of support.

The response from members across the nation to this important appeal has been extraordinary and underlines the importance of the appeal catchphrase:

Together we are Stronger

South Australian Jeld-Wen Members Whip The Hat Around

Jeld-Wen Stegbar SA members are donating to the CFMEU Disaster Relief Fund. \$100.00 was rustled up and put into the kitty.

Around Australia Stegbar, Corinthian and Regency Group members have donated over \$2,000.00.



TRIBUTE TO CFMEU FFPD MEMBER HARLEY MORGAN

MARYSVILLE RESIDENT, CFA MEMBER AND WOOD CARVER

The CFMEU FFPD was devastated to hear that Union member Harley Morgan and his wife Errol died in the fires of Black Saturday at their home in Marysville.

Harley worked at the ITC mill in Alexandra and was an engaged and active Union member.

In his spare time - when he wasn't out fighting fires with the CFA - Harley's hobby was wood carving.

He was a talented chainsaw wood carver who loved to take visitors on guided tours of the sculptures in his garden.

He is remembered by friend Joanne Duffy;

"He was such a selfless, caring sharing man."

A committed unionist who understood the importance of OH&S, he is pictured on a chainsaw carving internet message board in full safety gear.

"That was Harley. He was very safety conscious, he always wore the right gear. "

Tributes posted on the internet recall Harley's commitment to Marysville tourism and his gregarious and friendly nature.

His co-workers at the ITC mill in Alexandra have posted the following tribute to Harley.

MORGAN—Harley. A long term, valued employee of ITC Timber (previously J.L.Gould Sawmills) for 12 years. 5 days off retirement and starting your new life. A true craftsman with a chainsaw, and passion for timber.

Timber was in your blood and you loved what you did. You will be sadly missed by all your co-workers, especially your fun loving nature which is what we remember. Died with his wife in his much loved Marysville. We would like to offer our condolences to his family.

Your mates at the Green Mill:

Leo, Robert, Warren, Dean, Vinnie, Jason, Matt, Trevor, Jamie H, Stewy, Andrew, Mark, Steve, Will, John R, Jamie M, John W, Sam, Wes, Neil, Yogi, Bryan, Ray and the rest of the team at ITC.



Pallet manufacturer Dormit's log dump at Marysville was completely wiped out by the Black Saturday fires

Contact your Union

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THE CFMEU DISASTER RECOVERY FUND
2009 Victorian Bushfire Appeal



Together we are Stronger

**Contact your organiser or the union office to
arrange for a vote to donate to the appeal at
your workplace**

Fire impact on CFMEU FFPD Members

- One CFMEU FFPD member and his partner died in the fire (see tribute on page 3)
- The partner and children of a mill supervisor died.
- The houses of 8 CFMEU FFPD members have been confirmed as destroyed, with two more damaged.
- An additional 12 lots of outbuildings and vehicles, and 7 lots of livestock, belonging to CFMEU-FFPD members have been confirmed as destroyed by the fires.
- 3 sawmills have been completely destroyed.
- An additional two sawmills have been damaged by the fire.
- There has been significant loss of both native forest and plantation resource which will put jobs under threat. It is not known how much of the burnt forests are able to be salvaged.