

# CFMEU FFPD Victorian Forestry District Newsletter Spring 2009



CFMEU FORESTRY AND FURNISHING PRODUCTS DIVISION

## Union Agreements - THE ONLY WAY TO GET A PAY RISE

### Award wages frozen

The Australian Fair Pay Commission has frozen the wages of 1.3 million low paid workers. In its final decision the Commission has ruled out any increase in the minimum wage.

The average award worker will lose about \$16 a week until the next wage decision is due in July 2010.

### Union Agreements the Only Way to Go

The decision means that unless workers are unionised and organised at the workplace level and have a collective agreement in place, they will not receive a pay increase in the next 12 months.

Real wages of low paid workers have gone backwards since the Commission was established by the previous Liberal Government. This decision is another attack on their living

standards and underlines the need to have your workplace 100% unionised, because without the Union your pay would be frozen.

### The Decision

In its 2009 general Wage-Setting Decision the Commission decided to:

- maintain the standard Federal Minimum Wage at \$14.31 per hour (\$543.78 per week); and
- maintain the adult rates of pay in Australian Pay and Classification Scales (pay scales) at their current levels.

The decision also applies to junior employees, employees to whom training arrangements apply, employees with disabilities, casual

employees and employees receiving basic piece rates of pay.



CONTACT THE UNION ON OUR NATIONAL FREECALL NUMBER: 1800 060 556

OR VISIT OUR NEW WEBSITE [www.cfmeuffpd.org.au](http://www.cfmeuffpd.org.au)

# First Super follows the Union's lead in using 100% Australian paper MADE BY UNION MEMBERS



First Super has over 80,000 members and 5,000 participating employers and staying in touch means that the fund uses a significant amount of paper products in its operations.

As a strong supporter of the industry First Super is committed to using 100% Australian made paper to make sure First Super supports the people

who support the fund.

In addition to being 100% Australian made, First Super has also moved to carbon neutral paper use.

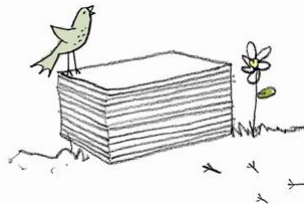
The "carbon neutral" paper used by First is certified Greenhouse Friendly by the Australian Government.

This means that the carbon emissions from the production lifecycle of the

paper have been measured, verified, reduced and then offset.

The "envi" range of paper from Australian Paper is made in Burnie Tasmania to international standards and independently audited and verified.

Most importantly it's 100% Australian made by First Super and CFMEU FFPD members.



## Union Moves on Log Exports

The CFMEU FFPD has successfully sought amendments to the national platform of the ALP at the party's National Conference, to facilitate improved value adding and downstream processing for the timber industry.

CFMEU FFPD Tasmanian District Secretary Scott McLean said the amendments will allow development of a comprehensive forest plantation strategy and a national review of the impact of log exports, to ensure the long term future of forest industries.

"We are working towards an end to whole log exports

from Australia."

The Union is passionate in promoting value adding and downstream processing in Australia and improving Government engagement in the industry via a national review.

The CFMEU FFPD is pushing for better Government support for the industry and these policy amendments provide a platform through which this can occur.

We will continue this campaign on behalf of workers and the industry and continue to encourage downstream processing and value adding, so export of the raw timber resource is minimised.

### Union Dues from 1 November 2009

Enterprise Agreement Level 1	\$10.80
Enterprise Agreement Level 2	\$9.50
Award	\$8.75
Life Member	\$0.00
Unemployed	\$0.00
Parental Leave	\$0.00
Supported Wage	\$1.50
Junior/Apprentice	\$3.00
Part time less than 32 hrs pw	\$4.50
Workers Compensation - no make pay	\$4.50
Workers Compensation - Full Rate	As per standard adult rates

## Delegates Deliver!

### *Monsbent Particle Board Agreement*

CFMEU FFPD Members at the Monsbent Particle Board plant at Benalla have recently negotiated a new 2 year agreement that provides for a 3.5% wage increase.

This agreement has been achieved after 10 months of negotiations and an enormous effort from our delegates on site, Wayne Roberts, Rory O'Brien and Scott Woodstock.

Congratulations to all our members and special thanks to the CFMEU FFPD Delegates on site who put in an amazing amount of work to secure this agreement for members at Monsbent.



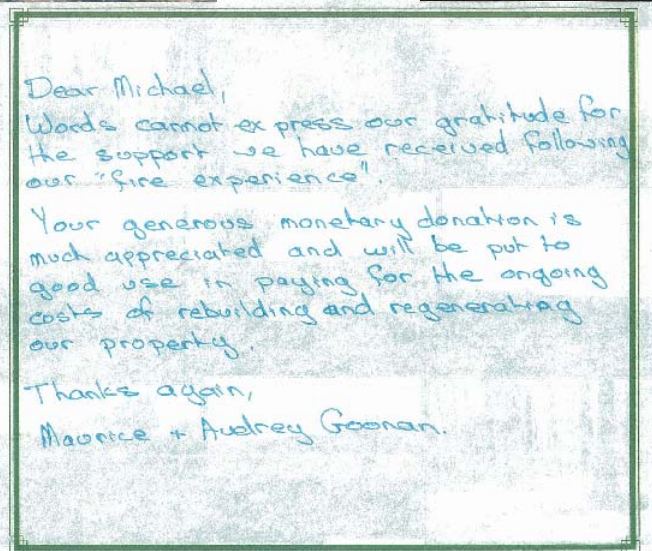
CFMEU FFPD Monsbent Delegate, Wayne Roberts, whose hard work, along with Monsbent Union delegates Rory O'Brien and Scott Woodstock secured the new agreement.

## Fire survivors thank Union Members for their support

Following the disastrous 2009 fires in Victoria and the Union's successful appeal, we received this letter from the Goonans of Mudgegonga.

Maurice and Audrey are not seeking any publicity but did want to pass on their thanks to our members for their wonderful display of generosity and solidarity in supporting CFMEU FFPD members who have been so severely impacted by the fires.

The CFMEU FFPD wish Maurice and Audrey well in the hard task ahead of them and thank them for taking the time to express their appreciation.



## Contact your Union

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Forestry and  
Furnishing Products Division



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# CHECK OUT THE UNION'S NEW WEBSITE

[www.cfmeuffpd.org.au](http://www.cfmeuffpd.org.au)



**FIRST  
SUPER**

An Industry SuperFund



ABN 42 053 498 472

## Where's my Super Statement?

### 2008-2009 ANNUAL STATEMENTS

Members' annual statements will be completed and mailed to over 80,000 members in First Super, once the Fund has finalised its annual statutory accounts and declared and applied final investment return rates.

This process will be completed around September or early October.

Investment returns for 2008/09 will unfortunately be negative for the Growth (default), High Growth and Conservative Growth options, and positive for the Capital Stable option due

to market returns.

We will provide further information on the returns with your statements.

Members who want an estimate of their account balance can do so by accessing their account through firstonline at:

[http://firstsuper.com.au/online\\_access.htm](http://firstsuper.com.au/online_access.htm)

or by contacting our Call Centre on 1300 360 988 to request a Benefit Quote.

Please remember that this quote may change when the final rate is applied to your account.

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