



We're working for you!

The NEWSLETTER

ΕΡΕΒΝΑΚΑ
5002

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ACC claims

- The legislation requires that the ACC or accredited employer makes a claims decision within 21 days of receipt of a claim application.
- You must report all injuries and have all injuries and near-hits recorded in an accident register.
- You are entitled to have a union representative with you whenever you meet with your case manager or employer in relation to your claim.
- You are entitled to seek **medical treatment** from the provider of your choice.

HSNO

Confused about some of the terms being used in relation to the Hazardous Substances and New Organisms Act?

ERMA—the Environmental Risk Management Authority, the agency is responsible for administering (not enforcing) the HSNO legislation;

Test certifier—a person authorized by ERMA to inspect premises where hazardous substances are made, stored or handled;

Approved handlers are those with day-to-day responsibility for the safe handling of hazardous substances in a work situation

STAND DOWN PERIOD UNDER REVIEW

Last year the Associate Employment Minister, Rick Barker, unveiled a new policy that will allow unemployment benefit applicants to be able to choose an income assessment of either 26 or 52 weeks for the initial stand-down period (expected to come into force 1st May 2005).

workers to leave the Meat Industry and look for full time employment.

“Obviously by using the previous 52 weeks it should in most cases at least halve (for seasonal workers) stand-down before they get support.” he said

This intended new law is part of the Social Security (Social Assistance) Amendment Bill, which is currently in the hearing of submissions stage.

Your union has worked hard over a long period of time to achieve these changes.

NZ Meatworkers Union Otago/Southland Secretary, Gary Davis, said excessive stand down periods of up to 10 weeks had forced many



WORK DEATH TOLL FOR 2003/04

61

The running total has been aligned with OSH's business year – 30 June to 1 July.
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Work death toll so far for 2004/05

25

From the General Secretary—*Dave Eastlake*

AMIEU Conference Report – October 2004

In the first week of September I attended the Australasian Meat Industry Employee's Bi-Annual Federal Council Meeting in Brisbane.

Graeme Cooke the Secretary of the Meat Union of Aotearoa was also in attendance as was Maewis Watson Meat Union of Aotearoa Health & Safety Officer.

The Federal Council comprises of Ross Richardson (President), Tom Hannan (Secretary) and three representatives from the seven state councils, that is from West Australia, South Australia, Victoria, Northern and Southern New South Wales, Queensland and Tasmania.

The New Zealand delegation was warmly welcomed by the Federal Officials who pointed out the obvious links between meat workers in NZ and Australia and also that the last New Zealander to attend a Federal Council was Wes Cameron (so it was a few years ago).

The main business of Council was to hear and receive reports from the State Branches. All of these reports were presented in a very detailed and open manner and attracted a wide variety of questions from the Delegates. I will abbreviate and highlight the reports as presented and as I saw them.

Firstly though we were given time on the second day to address Council on the structure, problems etc of our New Zealand Unions.

I spoke first and passed on the best wishes of our membership to our comrades in Australia, I also took the opportunity to enlighten Delegates of some of the colourful Australians that I had worked with at Makarewa and of those we had exported to work in Australia. Delegates showed interest in the structure and history of the NZ Meat Workers Union that was presented and appreciated copies of our information booklet. As I informed them of the clo-

sure of works in New Zealand and the turnover of workers etc, it dawned on me that it pales into significance to what has happened in Australia, where live sheep exports and continuing droughts have decimated the Meat Industry.

Graeme Cooke's presentation covered New Zealand Employment Laws, National Government policies – 1991, Labour Government policies 1999 onwards, the need for one Union in New Zealand and closer links with Australia.

Australia has very different Employment Laws to that which we are used to; employees can be hired and paid under the following systems.

- Federal Awards (set by Federal Government)
- AWA's Australia Workplace Agreement (State Law Agreements)
- Enterprise Bargaining Agreements (negotiated between Employers and Unions)
- Individual Agreements

It seemed to me that the Industrial Laws kept things very regulated and Employment Courts in all states were used daily.

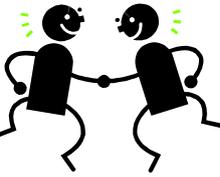
To summarise attending the Federal Council was worthwhile from the point of view that I gained an insight into the Australian Union that I previously did not have. Although they are heavily involved in supermarkets through boning, packing and poultry, the bulk of their high density sites are meat plants similar to ours.

Tom Hannan who was the Federal Secretary and who had been actively involved with the Union for over 40 years retired at completion of Conference and gave an enjoyable recollection of some of his colleagues and enemy's at a function held in his honour. He is to be replaced by Ross Richardson the current Queensland Secretary.

NEXT NEWSLETTER I will publish the AMIEU Branch reports from the meeting.

MAKAREWA FREEZING WORKS RE-UNION

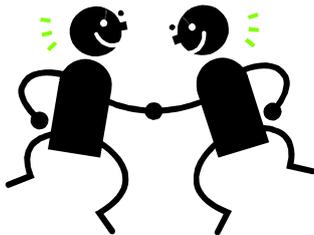
CALLING ALL ex-Makarewa Freezing workers!



A reunion is to be held in Invercargill EASTER 25/26 March 2005

All those interested are urged to register now, forms available by contacting the following:-

Sam Walters (03) 216-7198 or



Alison Knowler
021-250-1710

From the courts

- **Canterbury Meat Packers** was fined nearly \$20,000 and ordered to pay two workers injured at the mid-Canterbury plant compensation totaling \$5,500. A contract cleaner caught her arm in a rotating offal auger while the other worker (an employee of CMP) hurt his hand on the conveyor belt mechanism of another machine. The cleaning company was also fined \$5000 under section 6 in relation to the incident involving the cleaner and ordered to also pay \$4000 in reparations.
- **RICHMONDS LTD** was fined \$39,000 under s.6 and ordered to pay \$50,000 in reparations following the death of a cleaner at the company's Oringi meat works. The dead woman was cleaning round a conveyor when a piece of mutton cloth that she had draped around her neck caught in the chain drive, strangling her. The guard on the drive had worn through, exposing moving parts.
- **RICHMONDS LTD** was also fined \$23,000 (plus \$27,000 in reparations) on a second s.6 charge in relation to a separate cleaning incident at the same plant.

MEETING DATES : 2005

NZ EXECUTIVE MEETING

17 March

9 June

ANNUAL CONFERENCE

27/28 April

"Shallow men believe in luck. Strong men believe in cause and effect"

Ralph Waldo Emerson



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We're on the web!
Nzmeatworkersunion.co.nz



NZ Meatworkers Union
- working for you



Comments, articles and/or photographs are welcome from members.

Please contact Amanda at the address on the left if you wish to contribute to this newsletter.

The Newsletter is published on an "as required" basis through out the year.

The Union reserves the right to edit submissions.



National Office personnel:-
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Health & Safety: *Amanda*



Odds 'n Ends

- Union members are reminded that they can obtain motel accommodation discounts at various motels around New Zealand.; the offer is only available to New Zealand Meatworkers Union members and their families, and is subject to the availability of rooms; when making a booking it MUST be disclosed in advance to the property concerned that the booking is made under the MANZ/ NZ Meatworkers Union Accommodation Arrangement. Failure to do so may result in the guest being required to pay the full tariff; the Motelier may ask for proof of Union membership at the time of booking, or on arrival, in order to be assured of eligibility for the offer. SEE YOUR SITE SECRETARY OR DELEGATE FOR DETAILS ;
- HOLIDAYS ACT 2004—the new Holidays Act introduced in April 2004 is still creating a lot of work for the Union. Employers are constantly looking for loopholes to avoid payments identified in the Act. The Union has had several cases before the Labour Inspector's and have been successful on your behalf in these. We are currently waiting a date from the Employment Court for a hearing that affects a number of members in regard to sick leave payments.