



We're working for you!



The NEWSLETTER

Published by the New Zealand Meatworkers & Related Trades Union (Inc).

This issue: Jan 2006
Previous issue:
Oct 2005



From the General Secretary

The new Aotearoa Branch of our Union became a reality on 1st October, after a 94% in favour vote of the former Meat Union Aotearoa members'.

The first "one union" Conference was held at the Latimer Lodge, Christchurch on 1st and 2nd of November; with fifty plus delegates and twenty five observers the "full house" sign was well and truly up!

Delegates were assigned seating around the table drawn from the hat so it was a great chance to meet the new faces of the extra delegates. CAROL BEAUMONT, CTU SECRETARY was the guest speaker and passed on the congratulations and best wishes from the CTU affiliated unions. The occasion was further marked by a couple of drinks at the end of the day while everyone watched the Melbourne Cup.

The business of the meeting was handled in good spirits and all bids well for the Union to work in the interests of members in the future.

More recently, Graham Cooke and myself met with the CEO and Legal Adviser of the Meat Industry Association (the employers' union); this is the first meeting with the MIA for many years, we presented a prepared visual presentation highlighting the problems facing meat workers i.e. *length of season, speeds of work, increasing carcass weights, rigors of shift work, and insufficient wages and conditions.*

The presentation was well received and discussed and will, I am sure, lead to further meaningful dialogue with the MIA that hopefully will benefit members.

The Election—Labour struggled back into control of the Treasury benches by a slender margin. Thanks to everyone who supported the re-election of a worker friendly government. Our Union probably put more effort into this election than we have done previously. We were conscious of the fact that there has been legislative changes that have significantly benefited our members (i.e. the Stand Down changes, Holidays Act and changes to the Employment Relations Act) all of which were under threat if Brash, Hide and Co had won power. We should be looking ahead to the next election already if we wish to keep our deserved gains intact!

Over the next few months we will be re-negotiating agreements with AFFCO, Alliance, PPCS, and Taylor Preston as well as planning further improvements in service to members. The first meeting of the newly configured Executive is to take place in early December by which time we hope the season will be under way and members back at work.

All predictions from the farming sector point to there being increased numbers of stock available for the 2005/06 season.

- Dave

WORK DEATH TOLL FOR
2004/05 = 46

Work death toll so far for
2005/06
(i.e. since 1 July 2005)

7

*The running total has been aligned with OSH's
business year – 30 June to 1 July.
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SICK LEAVE TEST CASE FOR ALLIANCE



WE WIN!

AFFCO has been ordered by the Employment relations Authority to stop using a worker incentive scheme to fund smoko breaks. This decision means the employer must stop deducting the payments from an incentive pool set up in the lamb cut department at the Wanganui Imlay Plant.

The New Zealand Meatworkers Union brought the case to the Authority, arguing that all other workers at the plant had their smoko breaks paid for by the employer and there was no reason for those working in the lamb cuts to be treated any differently.

For the Authority, member Denis Asher also said there was no evidence that the Union had ever agreed to allow smoko's to be paid from the incentive pool, or that such a proposal was ever put to it or the affected employees. The workers' consent was an essential requirement before the arrangement could be considered legally valid.

Mr Asher ordered AFFCO to immediately stop using the incentive pool in this way and ordered the parties to discuss compensation to the affected employees.

Nb- In typical fashion, AFFCO have appealed this case and the Court hearing is set to be heard in Wanganui Wednesday 23 November 2005.

MEETING DATES : 2005

*EXECUTIVE
MEETING*

6 December 05

21 February 2006

CONFERENCE

15-16 March 2006



“We often give our enemies the means for our own destruction.”

- AESOP

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



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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Odds 'n Ends

The Kate Sheppard Memorial Award Trust

was set up to establish an annual award which would provide an opportunity for a woman holding a New Zealand citizenship or permanent residency to develop her potential by undertaking a special project or post graduate study of value to the wider NZ community

The 2006 Award value is \$5,000 and applications close on 30th June 2006. The successful recipient will be announced on NZ Women's Suffrage Day (19 September 2006).

Applications can be downloaded from <http://www.geocities.com/katesheppardaward/> or will be sent out once a stamped addressed envelope has been received by the Kate Sheppard Memorial Award Trust, PO Box 29-516, Fendalton, Christchurch.

If people want more information I am quite happy for them to contact me.

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