

44th ANNUAL REPORT OF THE NZ MEAT WORKERS AND RELATED TRADES UNION INC.

Presented at the Palmerston North
NZ Conference held 21st – 23rd April 2015



Mr Chairman, Conference delegates, and observer's, I present to you my third annual report.

Finances 2013/14:

- The Consolidated Accounts of the Union nationally was in surplus \$32,397
- The National Office continues to reduce expenditure (\$49,134 since 2012/13) though not enough to match current capitation fees, loss \$53,737. One of the most significant costs being the ongoing Audit/accountancy fees associated with the Consolidated Accounts dating back to 2005 and associated legal costs.
- The Trade Union Centre Canterbury Ltd (NZMWU National Office 9%, Canterbury Branch 30%) investigated buying a property in Langdons Road, Christchurch. The TUCC has since purchased Langdons Road and expect to move in late December 2015.

The 2013/14 slaughtering's nationally:

- Lamb down -2.7%, to 20,345,102
- mutton up 1.8%, to 4,175,580
- beef up 1.9%, to 2,334,444
- calves up 9.8%, to 2,076,672
- goats down 6.9%, to 117,000
- deer up 1.2%, to 420,000

Global warming appears to be impacting on NZ seasons, with the 2nd successive season of droughts. Breeding animals have been slaughtered heavily again.

Meat and Wool export revenue is forecast to reach \$8.6 billion for 2014/15, a 6.4 percent increase over 2013/14 export earnings.

- Most of this is due to very high beef prices, driving an expected 20 percent increase in export revenue for beef and associated offal products.
- New Zealand should fill its beef quota of 213,402 tonnes for USA exports for the first time since 2004.
- Overall we expect lamb production to be down 0.5 percent compared to a year ago. The number of lambs born in 2014 is estimated to be higher, but increased hogget retention in the North Island as part of drought recovery will see lower numbers processed.

	ACTUAL 2013/14	FORECAST 2014/15	EXPORT REVENUE CHANGE YE 2015	FORECAST 2015/16	EXPORT REVENUE CHANGE YE 2016
MEAT & WOOL	\$8093	\$8611	\$518 +6.4%	\$8811	\$200 +2.3%

Productivity: The volume of meat exported per person employed has risen from 23 tonnes in 1980 to 44.4 tonnes today (2014) – a productivity gain of 93%.

Negotiations 2013/14:

Companies linked to Talley's Group Ltd

- **AFFCO New Zealand Ltd:** That Core CEA expired 31 December 2013. The NZMWU initiated bargaining 4th November 2013 to renew the CEA. AFFCO has just gone through the motions of bargaining, evidenced by no consideration to union claims but expecting the union to agree to all AFFCO claims.
- **South Pacific Meats Ltd:** Top management (same as AFFCO) have limited Union access to their two plants in the South Island (Awarua & Malvern) contrary to the principles established by an Employment Authority ruling. A second Authority Compliance ruling in September against SPM establishing this beyond doubt. The NZMWU initiated bargaining for the 2nd occasion, 9 October 2014. Access enables this union to discuss claims with members and prospective members for a CEA. Overwhelmingly the SPM workers wish to join the union and have a CEA.
- **Land Meat New Zealand Ltd:** Top management (same as AFFCO) signed an 8

month CEA from 9 November 2013, this CEA expired 1 July 2014. It appears to the NZMWU that Land Meats top management (AFFCO) expected the Employment Relations Amendment Bill to become Law by that date. Since initiating bargaining by the NZMWU on the 1st May 2014, Land Meats has failed to put up negotiators.

"AFFCO under Talley's Group direction is the most determined to challenge the status quo and test the boundaries" said Alan Barber a meat industry commentator.

Talley's Group Ltd have been anti-union since 1991 when they decided unilaterally not to allow the union onto their sites, deduct union fees, plant meetings, distribution of flyers and the rest. Nothing has changed *"it's not in our DNA"* to work with any union. Talley's are giving the appearance of negotiating, with obviously no intention of reaching a Collective Agreement at three of their subsidiaries meat companies where we have a membership.

✚ Silver Fern Farms CEA for 3 years, expiring 31 December 2016 with a 6% (1.5%, 2%, 2.5%) increase.

✚ Alliance CEA for 2 years, expiring 22 February 2016 with a 4% (1.25%, 2.75%) increase.

Meat Industry Excellence: group has embarked on a campaign to change the Red Meat Industry, putting up candidates that support MIE onto the Farmer Co-op boards, seeking funding from Beef + Lamb NZ and an information web site.

Immigration: As in Australia, Backpacker Visa's are causing grief. We are witnessing the first signs of this at SPM Malvern. Short term immigrant visa holders are working at minimal rates of pay, very long hours and at serious health & safety risks.

National Office has initiated meetings with:

- ✓ Federated Farmers President Bruce Wills (now retired) and Dr William Rolleston. FF employs 69 staff in Wellington,
- ✓ Meat Industry CEO's, ANZCO, Ovation & SFF
- ✓ Meat Industry Association (AIP Halal slaughterman),
- ✓ Animal Welfare groups (Fonterra),
- ✓ Developed closer links with the Australasian Meat Industry Employees Union (AMIEU),
- ✓ Government Department heads,
- ✓ Developed closer links with the International Union of Food Workers (IUF),
- ✓ Labour Affiliates Council and the Labour Party,
- ✓ Investigative reporters & media

Other functions of the National Office include attending the National Affiliates of the Council of Trade Unions meetings in Wellington, developing and updating Union handbooks/flyers on Delegate Training and Health & Safety, meetings with the EPMU/SFWU on a Super Union and publication of the Union News.

What I enjoy the most is attending AGM's at our Unions Sub-Branches (rank & file members) and the regular Branch meetings around New Zealand.

Darien Fenton, was appointed Director of Organising, commencing employment 22nd September 2014 on a 6 month fixed term Agreement. Her role to oversee the union's organizing and campaign strategy and delivery, with a primary focus on building the union's strength and power through campaigns such as -

JOBS THAT COUNT
WORKMATES. WHANAU. COMMUNITY.

Sherryl Haughie, our Office Manager deserves thanks from everyone for her efficient running of the office and general duties.

Regards in Solidarity,

Graham Cooke, **National Secretary**