



# NEW TEAM GETS RESULTS

In line with the commitment given by the new leadership 12 months ago, the Union continues to be revitalised through the democratic participation of rank and file members.

The 'Taking up the fight' team has stuck to the pledge given to members a year ago to develop stronger links with members across all industries, and to represent and fight for industrial and social issues affecting workers in the many sectors where the Union has representation.

## MEMBERSHIP GROWTH

A crucial part of this strategy is membership growth. The Union's membership has grown significantly. The Union will ensure that members in non-union establishments are visited regularly to encourage

workers to join the Union and gain access to the many

benefits of being part of a Union that's committed and prepared to 'Take up the fight'.

As well as our industrial strength gaining momentum day-by-day, our industrial representation continues to increase as well.

Significant wins in the industrial relations commissions and on-the-job have proved that with the new mix of experienced industrial staff and the recruitment of new organisers, the Union is on track for the next year.

The year 2003 will be a time for significant improvement. Enterprise bargaining agreements in most major industries will be up for renegotiation in the early part of 2003. Consultation with the membership on the wages and conditions in the EBAs will be a priority.

Discussions with employers in the glass industry to join Co-Invest could lead to industrial action should those employers not see the justice of the Union's claim. Co-Invest is a portable long-service scheme that provides full entitlement



**By Leo Skourdombis – Branch Secretary**

after 10 years and pro-rata entitlement after seven. Already employers in the carpet laying industry have seen the merit of the claim and agreed in principle to be part of Co-Invest.

The Union will continue its commitment to the network development of shop stewards and OH&S reps, every workplace needs

this vital representation. We want genuine trade unionists to step forward for the task.

## ORGANISERS ACTIVE

Organisers are active again in country areas where employers have been able to take advantage of significant unemployment rates by exploiting the awards and failing to pay correct wages and offer proper conditions.

The Union is committed to wipe out these practices and urges country members to be vigilant and work in conjunction with country organisers.

The social impact of unemployment in rural areas combined with the eroding of award provisions highlights the need for unity between country and city members also.

Union members in all industries should be reminded the Union is only as strong as its members. The message – don't hold back, get involved with the new 'Taking up the fight' team at the FFTS and we can look forward to a proud future.



## United we stand

FFTS members and officials stopped work with other unionists to defend union members' rights to privacy and oppose the Royal Commission's attack on workers' rights. CFMEU Construction Division Secretary Martin Kingham has refused to hand over private details of CFMEU members to Abbott's fishing expedition. The Government is threatening him with jail for defending CFMEU members.

**2** YOU CAN'T RELAX WITH MAAX

**3** 22% A WEEK WIN AT BAX GLOBAL

**4** UNITED WORKERS HAVE WIN AT PILKINGTON

**5** PETER DAICOS TAKES UP THE FIGHT 

**8** ORGANISED! Taking up the fight against corporate cowboys.

# Why you can't relax with Maax

According to the glossy spa brochures, 'you can relax with Maax'. But if you are a worker at Maax Spa, or if you care about the health safety of fellow Victorians, then **'You can't relax with Maax'**.

The workers at the Croydon spa factory recently called in the FFTS to assist them with their wages and conditions. This is a routine event that happens in factories every day. However, nothing had prepared our Union organisers for the dangerous shambles that was the Maax Spa factory.

## FACTORY OF FILTH

What confronted the Union officials was a factory of filth. The ceiling of the factory was collapsing, and there was epoxy spray paint, resin and fibreglass everywhere. The factory looked like a bomb had hit it. This sloppy, disorganised work environment might have been a joke, except that this mess concealed a deadly secret: the chemicals found in this mess kill workers.

## LETHAL CHEMICALS THAT KILL AND CRIPPLE

Maax Spa pools are made from fibreglass (a dangerous material), resin (also very dangerous when inhaled) and epoxy-type paints (again, very dangerous when inhaled). Despite the presence of these dangerous materials, there was woefully inadequate ventilation. That's right, no extraction fans of any kind. Effectively, the whole factory was like a poison chamber. If you keep human beings locked up with these dangerous chemicals, with inadequate ventilation, year in and year out, then eventually you may well kill people.

Maax Spa showed no sign of caring about its workers' lives, and no doubt will have made a packet by the time its workers finally succumb to devastating work-related diseases including fibrosis of the lungs.

## FORGET THE TV ADS – WORKSAFE IS WORKSLOW

Workers who were concerned about the lack of safety in this factory called WorkSafe. The WorkSafe response was 'Oh no, not Maax Spa again!'. They already knew the place well. Despite their slick advertising claims, WorkSafe did not treat the 'Can't Relax with Maax' factory as if their own son or daughter worked there. In fact WorkSafe's response to this health and safety hot spot was to say they would try to visit there after 20 days. Not good enough. That's enough time for a tip-off and for the company to conceal shonky safety practices.

If this is how WorkSafe looks after their own kids, then their kids haven't got a big future. Death traps like the 'Can't relax with Maax' factory should have been shutdown. WorkSafe shouldn't just wait for workplace deaths before it investigates.

## MINISTER'S RESPONSE

We received a letter from the Minister responsible for WorkSafe, Bob Cameron, and he pointed out some facts about Maax that confirms the Union's grave concerns:

- *I am advised by WorkSafe Victoria... that the Inspectorate at the local office in Mulgrave have been actively engaged in assisting the employer to achieve compliance with OHS legislative requirements.*

- *I am advised that a considerable number of visits have been made by WorkSafe Victoria since 1999 and that as recent as August 2002, Maax Spa Factory Outlet Pty Ltd was prosecuted for failing to comply with Improvement Notices.*

The Union believes that it is totally unacceptable that workers were subjected to these conditions for one day, let alone for years and years.

## Looking up in the Maax Spa factory – is this a collapsing ceiling or Third World ventilation system?



Workers are exposed to toxic chemicals with shocking ventilation and no protective masks.



## Kenyon Kitchens – members take up the fight!

The Union's membership continues to grow, reflecting belief and confidence in the new leadership. Union and non-union members all feel confident that when they contact the FFTS, they'll get immediate assistance. The new feeling among the members is that they are part of a strong and committed Union prepared to fight on their behalf.

An example of the Union's commitment was seen when the workers at Kenyon Kitchens contacted the FFTS because of their concerns about wages and working conditions in the company's factory.

The Union investigated the issues raised by the workers, specifically discrepancies in the payment of overtime. The Union found that the workers had been underpaid by close to \$20,000.

Once the workers joined the Union, negotiations began with the company to address the issue. The result was that the unpaid overtime was distributed among the members.

As a final outcome, the Union began the process of negotiating an enterprise agreement that resulted in the workers receiving an additional 5% increase this year, to be followed by another 5% increase in 2005. The Agreement also included a rostered day off per month. Overall, the average increase for workers was \$2,600 over the life of the Agreement.

The management of Kenyon Kitchens displayed a fair and reasonable attitude to the Union's demands, and should stand as an example to other industry employers when confronted with award breaches and negotiations for enterprise bargaining agreements.

## Rorts are rife

**Some employers find it very hard to understand the concept of a fair day's pay for a fair day's work. The Awards that apply in this industry set out rates of pay and conditions that should be easy for all to understand, even employers. Yet every day we continue to see massive abuses of the Awards and underpayment of wages.**

Workers need to be more vigilant! In the last edition of FFTS Union News we exposed underpayments of thousands of dollars due to Union members – money which was rightfully backpaid to them. It seems as though no lessons have been learnt, as the Union continues to recover money due to FFTS members (see page 8).

### Non members robbed

Imagine how non-union members fare! It's a fair bet that people who work in non-union shops are not aware of all their rights and entitlements, and are being robbed one way or another. Union organisers come across people every day who know that their wages are being robbed from them each week, but say they are happy just to have a job.

Well, that's not good enough – get organised now!

Remember, the money that your boss is stealing from you now will come back to haunt you sooner or later. It could be your mortgage or rent. Maybe even your kids – 'Why can't I go on the school excursion?', 'Why don't I get any Christmas presents?' or even, 'I'm hungry!'.

Don't let your boss take the food out of your kids' mouths. Get what's legally yours. Stand up for yourself and join the Union.

## Is your Super being paid on time?

FIRST Super has a simple policy when it comes to superannuation: Pay It Right, and Pay It On Time

**FIRST Super policy demands that all employer super contributions be made on a monthly basis.**

Offending employers are continually reminded of their obligations in writing if payment is outstanding. As a final step, legal action will be sought if outstanding contributions are not made immediately, including payment of all interest lost as result of the delay.

Unfortunately, a recent spate of company liquidations has seen some outstanding superannuation contributions go down with the company. This is why we maintain a strict procedure on outstanding payments, and why you should as well.

It is crucial that employees are vigilant in ensuring that superannuation payments are being made. If you are worried that your super contributions are not being made, there are several easy ways to check.

1. Contact the FIRST Super hotline on 1300 366 543 to get an update of super payments immediately, or to request an up-to-date statement.
2. Visit [www.firstsuper.com.au](http://www.firstsuper.com.au) to check your account online through the Member Access facility. You will first need to call the FIRST Super hotline on 1300 366 543 to get your password.
3. Contact the Victorian FFTS Union Branch on (03) 9329 1577, or ask your Union Organiser.
4. Contact your FIRST Super Client Services Manager, Adam Howard personally on (03) 9329 4700 for any queries regarding your superannuation.

**Remember our simple philosophy:  
Pay It Right, and Pay It On Time**

## Under the Spotlight

In an attempt to improve the shocking wages and conditions paid to workers in the window furnishing industry, the Union recently entered into negotiations with the Spotlight group of companies for an enterprise agreement.

Negotiations took place with representatives of the company over a number of months. The Union put forward some powerful arguments why union members employed by Spotlight should begin to receive wages and conditions that properly reflect the skill and craftsmanship which go into making its expensive window furnishings.

Spotlight management chose to reject the enterprise agreement put up by the Union. That's how little the bosses recognise the value of our members' work or the contribution that they have made to Spotlight's success.

Next time you buy curtains and blinds, remember that the wages paid to employees in his industry are disgraceful and the conditions are minimal. Unless people in this industry start to show some solidarity, their wages and conditions will reflect the attitude of management at Spotlight.

## Level the playing field

**Over the past few years, South Australian joinery and furniture manufacturer IJF has been successfully tendering for work in the building industry on the basis that the wage structure in South Australia is inferior to that of Victorian workers. They were also ably assisted by the South Australian Government, which provided subsidies to the company to transport its goods into Victoria.**

In the last edition of FFTS Union News we reported that IJF had been kicked off a building site in Geelong and told not to come back across the border unless it was prepared to operate on a level playing field.

When IJF came to the Union's attention, it was also in the process of de-unionising its workforce. IJF had reduced membership from well over 100 to about 40, and was paying its factory workers well below other workers in the building industry.

It's no wonder that IJF was winning so many contracts in this state. So, with new blood in our veins and a team of FFTS officials prepared to Take Up The Fight, we used some old-fashioned persuasion to turn the invader's thinking around.

We restored union membership in the factory, and renegotiated wages and conditions to reflect those of Victorian workers.

We took up the fight – and levelled the playing field.

## UNION WINS STACKS AT BAX

The value of being part of the union was demonstrated during the recent dispute at Bax Global. Only a few short months ago the 12 workers at Bax were on skid-row wage rates and conditions.

Their prospects of improving their lot were worse than Saddam's chances of convincing George W. Bush that Iraq was not manufacturing 'weapons of mass destruction'. Then, along came FFTS union organiser and Vic Branch President, Joe Patti.

Joe stressed the importance of being in the union and working together to achieve real improvements in wages and conditions.

On joining the union, the boys

elected as their shop steward the fearless Roma Betlazar-Masih. With Joe and Roma leading the charge, and with the support of a unified, determined membership, the sky was the limit.

The only real way to lift their rates was by campaigning for an EBA. And, what an EBA they achieved!!! After many talks, a strike and a picket line, as well as a hearing in the IRC, the boys from Bax did themselves proud. Their new EBA guarantees wage increases in the order of 22% over 2 years; the introduction of RDOs; redundancy entitlements and other improvements.

What a win! Well done to Roma and the boys. They know the value of being part of the union.



Joe Patti (front) with members at the Bax Global picket line.

## Union campaigns against child labour

**Around the world every day, at least 250 million children who should be playing or at school are working.**

In the main, they live in developing countries in damaging and difficult industries like forestry, brick-making, charcoal-burning, mining and explosives manufacture.

Every day, some of these children die, fall ill or are injured by industrial disease and accidents.

Child labour takes away from children one of their most fundamental rights – the right to a childhood.

Child labour exists even though it is illegal in almost all of the countries where it is prevalent. For example, there are more than 100 million child labourers in India alone.

For several years, the CFMEU's Forestry, Furnishing, Building Products and Manufacturing Division (and now the Child Labour Schools Company) has funded the operation of three schools in India for child labourers. The schools are based in areas where child labour is rampant.

Our aim is to get these children out of the workplace and into schools.

With that in mind, the Child Labour Schools Company was formed by a group of people concerned to address this issue with more than just good intentions. It works from a model established by the CFMEU and its partners in India.

On 29 August 2002, the Child Labour Schools Company organised a fundraiser in Adelaide supported by the Hon. Mike Rann, Premier of South Australia.

FFTS Victorian Branch Secretary Leo Skourdombis and Assistant

Secretary Frank Vari attended the function to donate \$5000 to this worthwhile cause.

More, however, is needed. Anyone who is touched by this article is urged to contribute and make a difference.

**For more information, contact the Child Labour Schools Company Limited, 10th Floor, 500 Swanston Street, Carlton VIC 3053 or phone 9349 2488.**



A VICTORY FOR COMMON SENSE

# Pilkington members win

In a victory for common sense and a display of working class solidarity, FFTS members employed at Pilkington Laverton and Geelong have won their dispute, which will have major implications for the glass industry.

Disputation at both plants took place over two issues – the elimination of labour hire at Laverton and the introduction of income protection insurance at Geelong.

## PILKINGTON GLASS DOUBLE STANDARDS

Assistant Secretary Frank Vari claimed that the management of Pilkington engaged in double standards by recently granting themselves bonuses of \$100,000 whilst denying ordinary working people the right to protect their livelihoods.

'The bosses said that they couldn't afford to protect our members against accident or illness, but they could afford to pay themselves bonuses and fund overseas junkets.'

The members saw through the hypocrisy and demanded to be treated fairly.

The settlement will be drawn up as a new Enterprise Bargaining



Pilkington shop stewards Damien Cooke and Alwin Seneviratne discuss tactics with Frank Vari and Leo Skourdumbis.

Agreement that is to run concurrently with the current EBA. This tactic is entirely legal and was used to great affect by the members at Pilkington.

State Secretary, Leo Skourdumbis, was delighted with the efforts of the members and looks forward to supporting other members to do the same.

'I look forward to members in

other factories following the example set by the members at Pilkington in 'taking up the fight' to the bosses for better conditions.'

Twelve months into the new leadership this victory will stand as a shining example of what can be achieved by workers and their union when they are prepared to take on the employers in a united way.

## What's the Alternative?

**The workers at Alternative Glass Company in Kilsyth should take a long hard look at the wages and conditions paid to other workers in the glazing industry.**

**With a minimum hourly rate of at least \$17 and a 38-hour week, glaziers at this company are selling themselves far short of the industry standard. Thirteen rostered days off each year, in particular, has been the norm in the industry for years.**

### ...WAIT, THERE'S MORE

**With an enterprise agreement, the workers at Alternative Glass would also have round-the-clock income protection of up to \$1000 per week in case of personal injury or sickness. Other advantages of an enterprise agreement include increased superannuation and a cash payout of unused sick leave each Christmas.**

### PUT YOUR HAND UP

**While the boss has got his hand in your pocket, put yours up and vote to join the Union.**

## Happiness comes from a union membership

These men are on-site glaziers. They're happy because they are members of the Union and are covered by an enterprise agreement.

Their conditions include:

- hourly on-site construction rate of \$20.70
- 13 rostered days off per year
- 17.5% loading on annual leave
- penalty rates for working on public holidays
- first Monday in December as a Union Picnic Day (a paid holiday)
- travelling allowance of \$21.70 per day (if travelling directly to your site)
- improved superannuation payments of up to \$80 per week
- redundancy payments between jobs through Incolink
- trauma insurance, which covers you 24 hours a day, 7 days per week. If members are injured out of working hours, they are guaranteed wages up to \$1000 per week for 2 years.

### THE BENEFITS OF UNION MEMBERSHIP

All these conditions and many more are covered by the enterprise agreements negotiated by your Union.



They are far superior to those paid to non-union members.

Non-commercial glassworkers get the Federal award as a minimum.

If you have an enterprise agreement negotiated by the Union, your wages will be higher than the award, your conditions will be better than those of non-union workshops, and you will have the protection and strength of the Union.

If you are in a non-union workshop, you could be earning as low as \$13.51 per hour.

**GET ORGANISED NOW!**

## FFTS continues the fight to get members into COINVEST

**With most enterprise agreements expiring in the next 12 months, the Victorian FFTS Branch will be making its claim for portable Long Service Leave (LSL) entitlements to be provided to glaziers and floor layers. Members have been disadvantaged for far too long. It's not right and it's not fair.**

Over the past 12 months, the Union has challenged the COINVEST Board to make our members part of the scheme. Discussions will continue until we gain acceptance.

### Employers split

The employers, through their representatives, are split on the issue. FAV, the organisation that looks after bosses' interests in the floor laying industry, have given the OK, but their friends in AGGA, the glass industry equivalent, are holding out. They are a long way from the mark if they think this issue is going to go away.

### Raise your voices

For the Union to be successful, we need all members who are suffering from this exclusion to raise their voices in support of this right. Tell your boss that you expect them to sign up to the fund, that the Union's on the job and that we mean business.

This inequity has gone on for far too long. Let's make sure it doesn't continue!

### More information

If you have any questions or require any further information, contact the Union on (03) 9329 1577.



Glazing shop stewards at the Co-Invest meeting unanimously endorsing the union campaign.

## Glaziers' Picnic – a great day



FFTS members and their families enjoyed a relaxing paid day off at Albert Park for the 2002 Union picnic day.

## The Glass'ole of the Year award

The 2002 Glass'ole of the Year award must go to Relax with Maax Spas (see page 2), who just got the nod ahead of Regency.

Despite fines for health and safety breaches and ongoing investigations by WorkSafe, this company exposed employees to toxic substances with zero protection and no proper ventilation.

When WorkSafe most recently caught up with Maax Spa, it offered the feeble excuse that the unsafe conditions were only temporary as they were planning to move to new premises.

The fact is that no worker should be subjected to dangerous fumes for even a day, let alone years and years.



Shop Steward Jason Brewer has increased Union membership by 150% since his appointment as delegate at Contract Blinds in Bayswater. Jason is looking forward to Shop Steward training courses to be undertaken by the new leadership as part of the promise to involve Delegates and Rank and File members in all facets of the new Union.



Even former Collingwood legend Peter Daicos wants to take up the fight - he joined FFTS Secretary Leo Skourdombis and Andrew Vandramini at the Union sponsored VFL Preliminary Final Day.

# This man cannot show his face

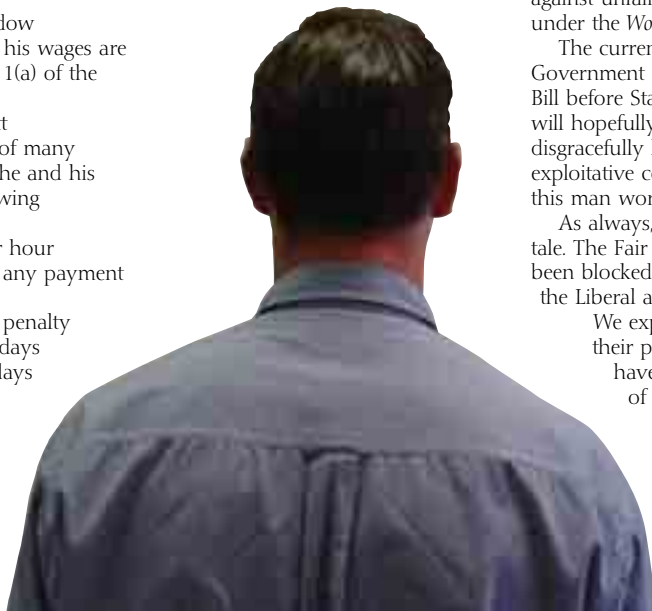
He is a 24-year-old married man with two children who currently rents the flat that he and his family live in.

He works in the window furnishing industry, and his wages are covered under Schedule 1(a) of the Victorian *Workplace Act*.

Thanks to the Kennett Government's abolition of many Federal awards in 1992, he and his family exist on the following conditions:

- he earns \$ 11.50 per hour
- he does not receive any payment for overtime
- he does not receive penalty rates for public holidays
- he receives only 5 days sick pay each year
- he does not receive a 17.5% loading on annual leave
- he is not a member of the Union, and the

company he works for does not have an enterprise agreement.



The reason he can't be identified is because his boss would sack him, and adequate laws to protect him against unfair dismissal do not exist under the *Workplace Relations Act*.

The current Bracks Labor Government has a Fair Employment Bill before State Parliament, which will hopefully address the disgracefully low wages and exploitative conditions under which this man works.

As always, there is a sting in the tale. The Fair Employment Bill has been blocked in the Upper House by the Liberal and National Parties.

We expect Labor to live up to their promises now that they have control of both houses of Parliament.

The Liberal's motives are clear – increase the already bulging profits of multinational companies, whilst denying Australian

working class families the right to exist on a decent living wage.

These are the conditions that Tony Abbott would like to impose on all working people, and especially those working in the building industry.

Shame on the Liberal Party for opposing the Fair Employment Bill, and shame on the likes of Tony Abbott and Royal Commissioner Terry Cole for attempting to break down workers' wages and conditions under the guise of their Royal Commission.

*If you are working in the furnishing industry without the protection of the Union and without proper wages and conditions, call the Union to get the conditions and protection that you are entitled to.*

# The Victorian furniture industry: a home to corporate cowboys!

The Victorian FFTS Branch has been overwhelmed and disappointed by a flood of furniture industry companies going into administration or receivership.

These 'procedures', as prescribed in the Corporations Law, almost always seem to lead to the liquidation of a company and its assets. It is in the company's interests to employ an independent body (such as an accountant) to help find a way for the company to survive. But so often the winding-up of these firms is considered the best result for all involved - except the workers, of course.

Since June, four significant Victorian employers in the industry have hit the wall. They have either gone into voluntary receivership to stem the tide of insolvent trading, or have been placed there through the appointment of receivers by their banks or other 'secured creditors'. The net effect on the directors of these companies is the same. They are able to hide behind the veil of incorporation - an impenetrable legal wall of defence, which would appear to absolve them of any responsibility for the state of the company, and more importantly, the obligations they have to workers.

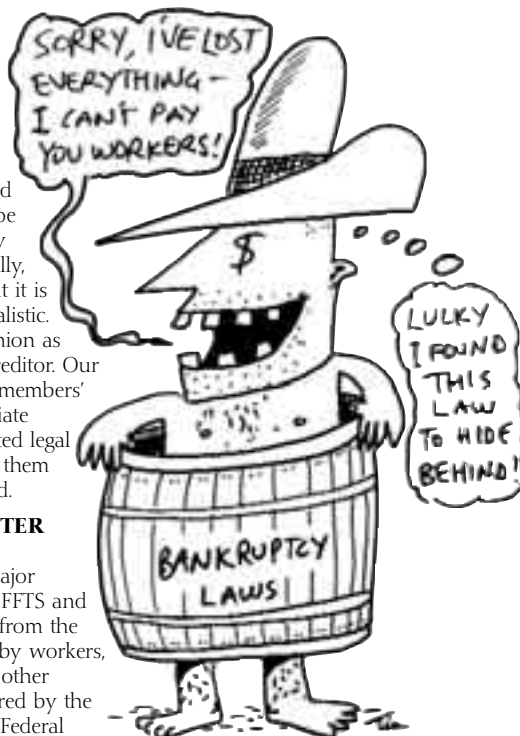
## LAW WORKS AGAINST CREDITORS AND WORKERS

Because of the outrageous costs involved when recovering money, and the 'bankruptcy' escape clause, creditors rarely seek full justice. Morally, they may want to, but it is just not practically realistic. This applies to the Union as much as any other creditor. Our interest lies with our members' welfare in the immediate future, not in protracted legal disputes that may do them more harm than good.

## FIGHT FOR A BETTER SYSTEM

So what are the major repercussions for the FFTS and our members? Apart from the potential money lost by workers, redundancy pay and other entitlements not covered by the GEERS program (the Federal Government fund to cover minimum entitlements), there is the fact of letting those responsible get away with ruining people's livelihoods.

Far too often, this Union has witnessed directors bending the Corporations Law in their favour, closing a business to avoid liability, and then reopening twelve months later under a new name with new



staff. Legal threats rarely work, and anyway they don't compensate those affected. Unscrupulous company directors know that. They also know that the 'watchdog' (ASIC) is a toothless tiger.

## GOVERNMENT INACTIONS

In principle, the FFTS supports the Government's commitment (however

## IT PAYS TO BE IN THE UNION

### Monies recently recovered on behalf of union members:

Ken Allan	Burgess	\$9,248.92
John Siapantass	Burgess	\$147.14
N. Nicolaou	Burgess	\$45.41
S. Webster	Burgess	\$692.46
D. Hodge	Burgess	\$50.19
L. Nardella	Burgess	\$19.98
J. Ratskos	Burgess	\$10,501.61
T. Amromovic	Burgess	\$5.73
D. Carroll	Burgess	\$1,507.22
G. O'Hanlon	Burgess	\$256.87
C. Dikes	Burgess	\$302.40
Confidential settlement	Sunshine	\$4,600
J.P. M	Mitcham	\$12,000
Z. Gorgiovski	Paradise Kitchens	\$6,254.74
O. Duke	Flair 500	\$2,369.55

If you think you've been underpaid, then call the Union

**9329 1577**

honest it may be) to legislate for workers' entitlements to get priority in these situations. But we also need to explore the wider issue of justice. Otherwise, society will continue to breed the cowboys in medium-sized businesses who flout the law or use it to their advantage. We need to ask:

- how serious is the Government about this? and
- what practical steps can it take to round up the culprits and stop these immoral practices?

## Welcome back Dick

After an absence of nearly five years, experienced Industrial Officer, Dick Lowe has rejoined the ranks of the FFTS.

He has been the Senior Industrial Officer of the Firefighters Union since leaving the FFTS in 1998. Over 20 years experience as a full-time union official is reflected in Dick's vast knowledge of awards.

Dick first came to Australia from the Land of the Long White Cloud in 1979 having been the Canterbury Branch Secretary of the NZ Labourers Union. He also had a stint at the NZ Trade Union Training Centre.

We look forward to Dick putting out many fires on behalf of the new leadership.

## ...and so they can keep on killing...

**The FFTS believes that we need to punish death or injury in the workplace in the same manner that we treat death on the roads or in our community.**

A proposal for new laws to bring negligent employers to account for the deaths of workers, the Industrial Manslaughter Bill, was blocked in the Victorian Upper House by the Liberal and National Parties.

### Flaws tragically highlighted

One case in 16 years of an employer being found guilty under

existing laws only highlighted the flaws in the current legislation.

### Life swept away

A labour hire firm dropped off Anthony Carrick and his mate for their first day at work at Drybulk containers in Footscray. Neither of these young lads was provided with training. They were just told to pick up a broom and sweep in front of several 5.5 tonne cement walls.

To cut a tragic story short, a wind gust hit the concrete slabs, causing them to fall on the boys. Anthony

was killed instantly, while his mate received serious crush injuries. Anthony was dead on his first day at work and his mate will never fully recover.

### Now you see us...

Drybulk was fined \$50,000 in court, but immediately went into liquidation, never paid the fine, and then re-opened using another name under which it still operates.

There ought to be a law against it! Thanks to the Liberals, there still isn't one.

## YOUR OFFICIALS



**NORTHERN AND WESTERN**  
Joe Patti  
0417 557 136



**EASTERN SUBURBS AND CONSTRUCTION SITES**  
Mick Doran  
0417 031 662



**SOUTHERN SUBURBS AND PENINSULA/GIPPSLAND**  
Darren Hanisch  
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**INDUSTRIAL OFFICER**  
Dick Lowe  
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**EASTERN AND SOUTHERN**  
Denis Evans  
0419 201 466



**CONSTRUCTION SITES**  
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**NORTHERN DISTRICTS**  
Gary Winstanley  
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**GEELONG AND WESTERN DISTRICTS**  
Rick Maher  
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