

Hardhat EXPRESS

CFMEU
CONSTRUCTION
AND GENERAL



ISSUE 02 / Apr'10

THE NATIONAL NEWSLETTER OF THE CONSTRUCTION AND GENERAL DIVISION OF THE CONSTRUCTION FORESTRY MINING AND ENERGY UNION.

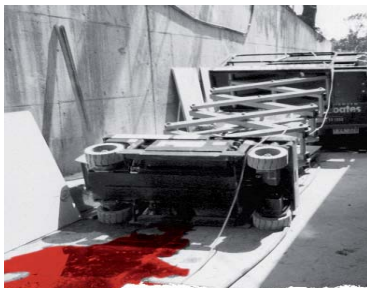
Take a stand for your Safety on April 28

Bad laws cost lives. Seeing a mate killed or seriously injured at work is too common an experience for construction workers.

Funerals; dealing with the after-shocks of a safety incident; supporting families of mates who have been killed or injured – they're all, tragically, part of working in this industry.

And laws which make it harder for unions to ensure sites are kept safe only make things worse. Bosses continue to cut corners on safety. One worker is still being killed, on average, each week.

The number of deaths has gone up, since Howard's construction laws and the ABCC came in during 2005. (See facing story)



**BAD
LAWS
COST
LIVES.**

THE ABCC UNDERMINES SAFETY.
TAKE A STAND ON INTERNATIONAL
WORKERS' DAY OF MOURNING.

RALLY APRIL 28

MORE INFO AT CFMEU.ASN.AU - RIGHTSONSITE.ORG.AU



Ask your organiser for this poster & stickers.

Yet the Rudd Labor Government is dragging its feet on promises to repeal those laws and abolish the ABCC. Opposition leader, Tony Abbott, backs employers who don't want the laws changed.

It's time to take a stand

April 28 is International Workers' Memorial Day. Across the world, workers, their families and unions take time to remember mates lost through workplace incidents or illnesses.

CFMEU members are this year reflecting on the impact of poor workplace safety on our lives. Everyone has a story to tell.

The union is inviting members to post messages for lost or injured mates on our website, as you join rallies or hold site safety meetings to demand better safety on construction sites.

Take a stand for safety on April 28.

FOR MORE / GO TO www.cfmeu.asn.au

April 28 actions

ACT: Site meetings on safety and ABCC – talk to your delegate for details.

NSW: Over 6000 workers will participate in site meetings. Rally at Darling Harbour Memorial at 12pm.

QLD: 10am Rally at Roma Street Forum with unveiling of Memorial. Respects paid to 12 QLD workers killed in 2009/10. March to Parliament House to protest planned changes to WorkCover attacking workers' rights.

SA: 10.30am Memorial Service at St Stephen's Church Wakefield Street, followed by a rally in Victoria Square, Adelaide at 12pm.

VIC: 10am Rally begins at Memorial Rock, Trades Hall, Lygon st.

WA: 10.30am Service at Solidarity Park. Perth Bell Tower tolls at 12pm for each worker killed this year in WA.

The ABCC is bad for safety

Construction workers know the impact of the ABCC on safety from your own experience.

Workers who take a stand over poor safety can be threatened with fines, interrogations and imprisonment. Just look at what happened to Ark Tribe.

The ABCC never takes an employer to court over poor safety.

The number of deaths and serious injuries have risen on their watch.

3.14 per 100,000 construction workers were killed in 2004 (before ABCC and construction laws took effect).

4.48 per 100,000 construction were killed workers in 2007, and 4.27 per 100,000 were killed in 2008.

Enough is enough. Join the rallies and site safety audits on April 28. Take a stand against the ABCC and construction laws that rob you of your right to a safe workplace. Your life depends on it.

FOR MORE / GO TO www.cfmeu.asn/campaigns

INSIDE

Commemorate a lost mate

Asbestos dump danger

New awards for our industry

May Day Rallies

CFMEU member to climb Mount Everest

Plus... OHS, News, Training Briefs

Commemorate a mate

Many construction workers have experienced a mate being seriously injured or killed on site. This has a big impact on us and our families. It's never easy to deal with.

For this year's International Workers' Memorial Day, some CFMEU members are sharing those experiences, on video and on our website. You can also leave a message on the website Bad Laws Cost Lives campaign page.

Words begin actions; actions stop injuries or death.

Watch the video. Listen to the stories. Leave a message for a mate.

Then join the rallies and actions to demand better safety at work.

FOR MORE / GO TO www.cfmeu.asn.au/campaigns



“It was just an everyday sort of job. One of the fellows I was working with didn't come home that day.” — Kym



Asbestos Dump Danger — authorities must be held accountable

Two recent exposures have highlighted the dangers of previously dumped asbestos.

On the Bovis Lend Lease project at Russell in the ACT, in late 2009, workers were exposed to asbestos when it was discovered that landfill on the site included an asbestos dump.

Workers on the Edinburgh Air Force base in Adelaide were also exposed when a toxic waste dump containing asbestos and other contaminants was uncovered in February this year.

This is simply not good enough. Land owners and government authorities must be obliged to keep proper records of any landfills and their content. Details should be provided to building contractors before work commences.

FOR MORE / GO TO www.cfmeu.asn.au/branch/sa

And all asbestos should be removed safely from sites; not simply buried and covered with a car-park to be unearthed by other workers in years to come.

The asbestos removal standards exist because it is a lethal product. Workers and the community should not be put at risk from exposure to dust or particles of asbestos being uncovered by earth works.

If you are unsure of the content of any uncovered landfill, contact your CFMEU Branch immediately.

For more information on the SA Edinburgh RAAF site or ACT Asbestos stories follow the links below. The SA Branch has also launched a confidential register for members who are concerned they may have been exposed to asbestos – copies of the form can be downloaded from the SA Branch website as below.

www.cfmeu.asn.au/branch/act/news/archive

SAFETY ZONE

Swing-stage checklist

CFMEU VIC Environmental & OHS Unit has put together an OHS Checklist for swing-stage scaffolds – suspended scaffolds that can be raised or lowered when in use. Download the checklist from the national website.

FOR MORE / GO TO

www.cfmeu.asn.au/ohs/alerts

20kg safe limit on tile packs

The CFMEU has launched a campaign to address worker injury from handling boxes of wall and floor tiles weighing 30kgs-40kgs.

The campaign demands a limit on tile packages to 20kg. The union is working with the Australia Tile Council on promoting the limit among subcontractors and suppliers.

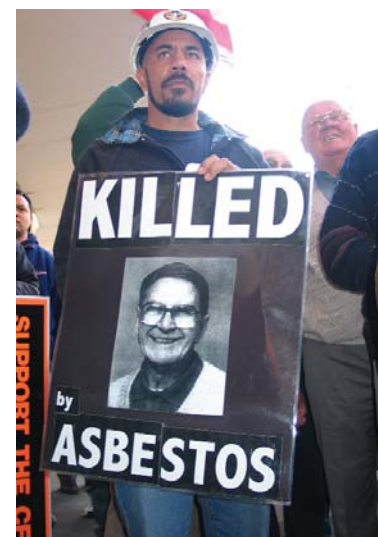
A national flyer will be circulated shortly and posted on the website Safety Zone to assist members handling of tiles on site.

Tower crane window alert

An incident in which workers were showered with glass from a shattered tower crane window has prompted a call for laminated safety glass to be installed into all tower crane cabins.

FOR MORE / GO TO

www.cfmeu.asn.au/alerts



JOIN THE CFMEU
www.cfmeu.asn.au

NEW Awards for our industry



The new Modern Awards for work done by CFMEU members are now complete. Copies of all the Awards have been posted on the national website. Printed editions of the three main awards for construction members will be in all Branches by the end of May.

The new Building and Construction General On-Site Award 2010 covers CFMEU members in building, civil and mechanical engineering construction. The Award provides one classification structure, one set of (junior) apprentice rates, and adult apprentice rates. It keeps the industry redundancy arrangement.

The Master Builders tried hard to cut these hard-won standards but the union successfully resisted their moves.

This Award will be the safety net for the industry and the standard for all EBAs.

“The union successfully resisted MBA moves to cut standards.”

The Joinery and Building Trades Award 2010 covers off-site manufacture and the glass and glazing industry. It’s an occupational award for carpenters, joiners, painters, plasterers, stonemasons and signwriters. It keeps redundancy pay for small businesses where it currently exists.

The Mobile Crane Award 2010 retains the industry redundancy standard of 3 weeks per year of service and brings in classifications based on the new high risk licenses.

Wage rates that will apply to the construction industry from 1 July 2010, under the new National Awards, will be posted on the CFMEU national website and updated as changes are made.

May Day Rallies 2010

NSW: Sat May 1 – 11am march from Hyde Park North to First Fleet Park, Circular Quay, Sydney. ‘Repeal all anti-worker laws’. Speakers include Ark Tribe.

NT: Mon May 3 - 4pm March from Trade Union House to the Esplanade for concert and fun for the kids.

QLD: Mon May 3 – 10am CFMEU Branches

celebrate the BLF Centennial and lead the march from Spring Hill to the Exhibition Grounds for festivities and kids’ fun.

SA: Sat May 1 – 10.30am march from Victoria Square, Adelaide to Torrens Parade.

WA: Sat May 1 - 12pm Fremantle Esplanade rally & entertainment. Free CFMEU tees for adults & kids.

NEWS BRIEFS

RightsatWork campaign video takes top international prize

A CFMEU-inspired short video has won top prize at the global Labourstart union video competition. Initiated by the CFMEU Mining and Energy Division during the WorkChoices campaign, ‘What have the Unions ever done for us?’ was the only entry from Australia to be selected by an international jury. The film has received over 200,000 hits on YouTube. View it and the other five finalists on Labourstart as below.

FOR MORE / GO TO

www.labourstart.org/lvoty

All Wendy has are the photos

One of the CFMEU’s responses to the insulation tragedy has been to produce a short video with Safety Tips for construction workers to protect their lives on the job. Your union says the insulation tragedy shows the need for tough OHS laws and stronger protection for workers’ rights to a safe workplace.

FOR MORE / GO TO

www.cfmeu.asn/news/all-wendy-has-are-the-photos-tips-for-your-safety-video

Govt supports bosses limiting right of entry for unions

The Federal Government’s support for employers challenging a Fair Work Australia decision on right of entry for unions is a danger to workers and an attack on workers’ rights.

In particular, the Minister’s singling out of the construction union is unfair and unwarranted. It will help employers make construction workplaces less fair and less safe.

FOR MORE / GO TO

www.cfmeu.asn/news

FIND YOUR RDO’S
www.cfmeu.asn.au



In our communities...

CFMEU member to plant our flag on Mt Everest



Excavator Dan Marino, will be spending April and May climbing Mt Everest to fly the CFMEU flag.

When asked why, Dan simply replies, "The union's always looked after me."

The union is supporting Dan's dream and he says this will help drive him on when temperatures drop to minus 50.

"It's going to help me get up the mountain for sure" he says. "When you get close to the summit it can be hard emotionally and when I think to myself I've got all those guys backing me, that's going to help. You need these things to help push you on."

Tough stuff

Dan, 38, started rock climbing when he was 16 and for the last seven years has been a serious mountaineer. He has experienced the Himalayas before, having climbed 7,124 metres to the top of Mount Pumori, a neighbour of Everest, in 2004. But at over 8,850 metres, Dan knows this will climb will be tougher.

"Even at base camp people die. Close to the summit, there's a third of the oxygen in the air that you get at sea level. There are avalanches, crevasses you cross on old rope ladders and the cold."

All up, Dan will spend 47 days between base camp at 5,500 metres and the summit. It's certainly not for the faint-hearted. "It might seem strange why someone would want to do it but something inside keeps you going," he says.

Dan Marino (left) with Nepali construction workers and CFMEU Mining's Gavin Vickers who is also on the Mt Everest climb.

FOR MORE / GO TO www.cfmeu.com.au/news

TRAINING BRIEFS

Koori Job Ready course places filling fast

Places have been filling fast for the second Koori Job Ready Course in Construction of 2010, which starts on April 19 at the Yaama Dhiyaan Training Centre in Darlington, Sydney. The 8-week courses cover OH&S (Induction Card), Senior First Aid, Carpentry, Formwork, Plastering, Concreting, Bricklaying, Scaffolding and Forklift Operations.

FOR MORE / GO TO

www.cfmeu.asn.au/member-services/member-benefits/indigenous-workers

Training/members' stories

'A lot of people don't like going to tech with the young guys, but I got on famous with them all,' – listen to Peter's experience of doing an adult apprenticeship, and other members' stories, on our website Training/Member Stories pages.

FOR MORE / GO TO

www.cfmeu.asn.au/Training

CFMEU sponsored 'Dance for Chile' benefit a huge success

Hundreds turned up to Sydney Town Hall on Saturday night, April 10, for the Dance for Chile benefit. The extravaganza, featured plenty of latino music and dance and was in support of the victims of the recent earthquake. All monies raised will be sent to Chile via International Humanitarian Aid Agency.

FOR MORE / GO TO

www.apheda.org.au/news/1268977953_15452.html

PAY YOUR DUES
www.cfmeu.asn.au

UNION UPDATE

FAREWELL & THANKS

The amalgamation of the former Brick Tile and Pottery Industrial Union of Australia with the CFMEU will be complete by the end of April. The Branch will then be dissolved.

BTPIDB members were transferred to the Victorian, NSW and Queensland branches of CFMEU Construction & General on April 1, to coincide with the new ticketing year.

In the early 20th century the BTPU was one of the largest manufacturing unions in Australia – when building materials were predominantly clay bricks and pipes. But the arrival of cheaper building products, imported tiles and vitreous china products has led to significant job losses in the



Steve Roach



Shayne Stiff

industry. This has affected the membership level and a separate national industry branch is no longer financially viable.

BTPIDB Secretary Steve Roach and President Shayne Stiff will maintain their National Executive and Conference Delegate positions in an honorary capacity for the remaining 3 years of their terms. Both express their thanks and appreciation to the many CFMEU officials, employees and members who have assisted the BTPIDB and its members over the last 12 years.

Many of the gains for BTPIDB members would not have been realised had it not been for the CFMEU's support over this time.

National Office
Dave Noonan
(02) 8524 5800

ACT Branch
Dean Hall
(02) 6267 1599

NSW Branch
Andrew Ferguson
(02) 9749 0400

NT Sub-Branch
Mick Huddy
(08) 8981 5280

QLD C&G Divisional
Michael Ravbar
(07) 3236 2355

**QLD Builders Labourers
Divisional Branch**
Greg Simcoe
(07) 3236 2633

SA Branch
Martin O'Malley
(08) 8231 5532

Tas Branch
Tony Benson
(03) 6228 9595

VIC Branch
Bill Oliver
(03) 9341 3444

WA Branch
Kevin Reynolds
(08) 9221 1055

CFMEU
CONSTRUCTION
AND GENERAL

