

# make it safe!

Issue 18, October 2009

**Welcome** to the 18th issue of the CFMEU's construction safety newsletter, **make it safe!**

This issue takes the fight for decent OHS laws for the construction industry one step further. Construction workers are being urged to take mass action to ensure our industry does not become even more dangerous under the new national OHS laws.

Numerous incidents around the states illustrate clearly the continued need for strong laws and union backed safety activists across our industry.

**Martin Kingham**  
National OHS Officer

For latest alerts and incidents, check out our new **Safety Zone:**  
[www.cfmeu.asn.au](http://www.cfmeu.asn.au)

Disclaimer: Advertising by a company in this publication does not in any way constitute endorsement by the CFMEU of the practices of any employer or company.



## Comment on the model national OHS laws

Check out the flyer enclosed with this Safety Newsletter for objections and demands put by the CFMEU to the Public Inquiry.

Use the form on page 2 to send your submission to Safe Work Australia.

The CFMEU will continue to demand the highest standards of safety for construction workers. The campaign is still to be fought effectively and won! See page 3 for further actions.



## Time for action on construction safety

**CFMEU Construction & General has now committed to a campaign of action on federal and state government projects to ensure that OHS regulations and Codes of Practice covering our industry are not watered down, putting workers' lives at risk.**

Mining workers have recently secured agreement from Deputy PM Julia Gillard that they will keep their industry specific OHS rules. Union OH&S inspectors can stop work in unsafe conditions.

Construction ranks with mining as one of Australia's top most dangerous industries.

Construction workers are urged to get involved in the forthcoming campaigns for safe workplaces in 2010.

We owe it to our children to ensure our workplaces are safe.

**What can you do? - read more - page 3.**

## CFMEU OHS actions 2010/11

### Resolutions adopted at National Conference

The CFMEU Construction and General National Conference endorsed a number of resolutions about workplace health and safety on October 15.

The resolutions covered Workers' Compensation; Comcare; the ABCC undermining safety; the national OHS harmonisation and the Qld Workplace Impairment Policy. Key parts of those resolutions are reproduced on page 2.

The health and safety resolutions form part of a strong plan of action for your union over the next couple of years. They are reproduced here for the benefit of OHS delegates.

**See page 2 for details.**

#### INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Killed by concrete pump p2 Time for action p3 Site news pp4-5 Sun's up - does your site have heat policy? Vic plant checklist p6 UK blacklisted workers plan class action p7 Qld OHS delegates profile p8

# Conference resolutions

## 1. National Workers' Compensation Scheme to include Right to Request Certificate of Currency

Conference demands that any future Federal Workers Compensation scheme include the right for authorised trade union representatives, upon request, to obtain information about policies of insurance from employers and principal contractors.

## 2. Comcare

Conference supports the removal of Comcare licences and the permanent prohibition of companies in the private sector from joining Comcare and coming under Commonwealth OHS legislation. With an interim commitment to officials under Commonwealth OHS laws to the highest State standards.

## 3. ABCC Undermining Safety at Work

Conference notes with extreme concern the increasing rate of fatalities in the Australian building and construction industry. Federal Government statistics of 'traumatic' fatalities in construction (not including deaths resulting from occupational illnesses, cancer, asbestosis etc, or from journey related accidents or in our off-site industries) show that prior to the Building Industry Improvement Act and ABCC activities, in the financial year 2003-2004 there were 19 deaths. In the financial year 2007-2008 there were 40 deaths.

The ABCC activities, making access to our members harder around the country and their intimidation of our stewards, OH&S representatives and members, is having an unacceptable impact on the OH&S of our industry.

Conference demands the abolition of the ABCC and the Building Industry Improvement Act and pledges to continue to campaign to achieve that goal.

## 4. OHS Harmonisation

Conference notes with disapproval and disappointment the lack of success in the ACTU Campaign to achieve the highest OHS standards in the proposed in the National OHS Harmonised laws.

Conference also condemns the actions of the ALP Federal, State and Territory governments for agreeing at repeated WRMC meeting to accept the Review Panel's report which will undermine existing 'good' state OHS laws. ....

This Conference is particularly concerned that blue collar workers in historically hazardous industries will be exposed to and suffer from reduced standards of OHS under the guise of national uniformity of OHS laws.

Conference demands a retention of industry specific legislation where sought by the predominant union in the relevant industry; an enhancement of right of entry and investigation rights and powers, not a lessening; and a satisfactory outcome to the other matters outlined in the report to this meeting.

Conference supports the membership endorsed campaign of the M&E Division, which includes an industrial campaign and determines to seek to co-ordinate an industrial campaign against any reduction in OHS legislative protections applying to our membership from like-minded unions to ours, with or without the support or endorsement of the ACTU or State Labour Councils. ...

## 5. QLD Workplace Impairment Policy

Conference congratulates the CFMEU C&G and BLF branches in Queensland for developing a model workplace impairment policy for inclusion in their collective agreements with employers. It introduces the important issues of stress, fatigue, chemicals, heat and noise, into an area dominated now by employers' inappropriate emphasis on drugs and alcohol testing.



## Killed by concrete pump

**Victorian worker, Tom Kelly, 46, was killed during a concrete pour at the old Pentridge Prison site at Coburg Melbourne's north on Thursday October 15.**

Kelly was screeding concrete on a first floor slab when one of the pump's outriggers sank into the mud [pictured].

Kelly was hit by the hose, suffering serious head, chest, abdominal and shoulder injuries.

His workmates pulled him from the wet concrete but ambulance crew could not revive him.

The incident is being investigated by WorkSafe Victoria.

CFMEU officials supervised the safe retrieval of the concrete pump on the Friday and found numerous other safety problems on the site, including, incomplete scaffolds, shoddy electrical practices, poor access and general untidiness.

The concrete pump outrigger had been positioned directly over an underground pipe. The tragedy of Kelly's death might have been avoided if correct precautions had been taken.

Thirty townhouses and over 60 apartments are being built on the huge prison site, but the builder Westhomes Pty Ltd wants to call it a 'domestic' project.

For further updates on this story, check out the CFMEU Construction **Safety Zone**: [www.cfmeu.asn.au](http://www.cfmeu.asn.au)

For more photos of poor safety on the Pentridge Prison site go to the Vic Branch website: <http://www.cfmeuvic.com.au/>



Old Pentridge Prison site where a worker was killed during a concrete pour when the pump failed as above.

## TIME FOR ACTION

### The new Draft National Model OH&S Law is now out for public comment.

The CFMEU has prepared a detailed submission to the Inquiry (a summary version of which is included in this newsletter).

And I urge all OH&S representatives and members, if you haven't done it already, to send a copy of the submission to Safe Work Australia. Submissions close November 9.

Federal and state governments are set to sign off the new Model Law in early December. They then have until December 2011 to change state OH&S laws to match the model.

### Room for manoeuvre on regs

In the meantime, Safe Work Australia is continuing on with drafting up new model OHS regulations and codes of practice.

The governments will have to 'harmonise' these as well and we stand to lose standards in many states.

That's simply not good enough. These codes and regulations in a high risk industry like ours are the nuts and bolts that our organisers and OH&S representative use to make builders work safely.

It's time to get serious.

The recent CFMEU Construction and General Divisional Conference and National Executive Committee passed resolutions committing all divisions of the CFMEU to an industrial campaign to convince the



CFMEU National OHS Officer, Martin Kingham addresses the September 1 rally against 2nd Rate safety laws in Melbourne.

governments to take our views on OH&S laws seriously.

### Mining keep specific OHS laws

The coal mining industry is covered by specific mines legislation that gives legal rights to union OH&S inspectors to stop work in unsafe conditions.

CFMEU Mining & Energy Division members did not want to lose those hard fought for rights.

Meetings were held at all coal mines and members resolved to stop digging coal if they lost their safety laws because of National Harmonisation.

The Mining Division recently met with Deputy PM Julia Gillard and have now received a commitment they will be exempt from the National Model Laws and their industry specific law will continue.

### Action 2010

In the New Year the Construction Division will be co-ordinating a national industrial campaign targeting federal and state funded construction projects.



We will be keen to join with other like-minded unions to create as much pressure on the governments as possible. We call on the ACTU to get serious as well.

**Make sure you support the campaign. We owe it to our kids to make our industry as safe as possible.**



Pictured above right: Rallying for safety and the abolition of the ABCC in Brisbane on Sept 1.

Left: Canberra construction workers join the national campaign.

Right: Remembering workers who have lost their lives on the steps of state Parliament, Melbourne.



## Site news

### Prefab stairs incidents warning

Two serious incidents involving prefabricated stair units on construction sites in WA and SA in recent months have prompted demands that all such units be positioned and physically secured by use of a tool.

Site foreman, Max, was heading up the scaffold stair on the Salta Constructions Pty Ltd Hill Street office development in Perth, first thing on Tuesday August 11, when the unit became dislodged from the supporting transom. Max fell about 10 metres to the ground below.

Max has sustained permanent spinal injuries from the fall and just returned home to Melbourne where he will continue to receive rehabilitation.

‘Gravity was the only control measure keeping the Hill Street stair unit in position within the scaffold,’ says CFMEU WA Safety Officer Mick Buchan.

‘That allowed enough movement for the stair unit to become dislodged.

‘Inspections on more than 50 stair units on other sites showed the same potential hazard.

‘The WA Branch has since issued a hazard alert stating that all prefabricated stair units MUST be positioned and physically secured by use of a tool.’

[Download copies from [www.cfmeu.asn.au](http://www.cfmeu.asn.au) - OHS Alerts ]

WorkSafe WA is still investigating the incident. □

### Beware enclosed rises

ONE month after the WA incident, on September 25, there was a different kind of scaffold stair collapse on the Hansen Yuncken Pty Ltd Lyell McEwin Hospital site in north Adelaide.

‘The problem appears to have been the use of enclosed lifts on the stairs which were not adequately secured to the scaffold,’ says SA Safety Officer Darren Roberts.



Above: the temporary rectification with doubles and clips; open rises allow the wind to blow through; enclosed stairs which caused problems in strong winds.

‘A gust of wind seems to have picked up the top flight of stairs – like a sail – and sent it crashing on



The top flight of stairs appear to have blown from scaffold frame at top level and taken a lower flight down with it, as indicated above, on Adelaide Lyell McEwin Hospital site.

to the flight below and the two fell a further couple of flights.

‘Luckily, because of the wind, workers were off-site at the time.’

Union intervention has ensured the scaffolder has rectified the problem with doubles and clips to lock the stairs down on the hospital site. But the enclosed rises can’t be removed until Safe Work SA has completed their investigations.

The CFMEU is concerned, however, that the scaffolder hasn’t undertaken similar rectifications on their staircases on other jobs.

‘It’s also important to ensure that the stairs are supported by a stair transom, which has an extended lip at the bottom,’ Darren warns.

Max’s injuries in WA are a warning of the risks involved.

Any workers who are concerned about the safety of scaffold stairs on their jobs should contact the union. □

Above: the temporary rectification with doubles and clips; open rises allow the wind to blow through; enclosed stairs which caused problems in strong winds.

### Asbestos scare

ACT Branch safety officers uncovered allegedly dangerous removal of asbestos at the Pickles car auction house in Fyshwick in October.

Prompt action by the union ensured a prohibition notice was placed on the site by WorkCover and the public alerted to potential exposure risks.

‘Workers were found removing asbestos sheeting from the roof with no fall protection or proper safety gear. Piles of asbestos were found not far from drains. The decontamination unit was totally inadequate,’ says ACT Assistant Secretary Dean Hall.

‘The union remains concerned that the disposal of a large amount of asbestos from the site has still not been accounted for.’

The removalist, ATS Pty Ltd, has had its contract suspended in the ACT and the ACT Government has launched an investigation.

The National Code of Practice for Management and Control of Asbestos requires all workers who may come into contact with asbestos — not just those removing it — to be trained in asbestos awareness.

‘The ACT Branch is also calling for ACT WorkCover to mandate that all workers in the construction industry, as well as workers in buildings known to contain asbestos, undertake this training before the end of the year. Improving education is a vital step in combating asbestos exposure. If the office staff at Pickles had a better knowledge of the dangers of asbestos, this whole event may have been avoided,’ said Dean. □

More info: Safety Zone [www.cfmeu.asn.au](http://www.cfmeu.asn.au) and <http://cfmeu.asn.au/branch/act/news>

### What about Aussie standards?

VICTORIAN safety officers came across an incident where a builder was using an Alimak work platform as a material hoist.

That’s not necessarily a problem except the operator was riding the hoist, which is not allowed,



Top 1. Asbestos heap not far from drain.

2. Asbestos sheards in ute near eating utensils container.

3. The only hopper found on site.

4. Contents of the open hopper.

More photos: Safety Zone: [www.cfmeu.asn.au](http://www.cfmeu.asn.au) and <http://cfmeu.asn.au/branch/act/news>

## Site news

because there is no overhead protection, says Alex Tadic.

‘When I spoke to the builder they said they had a letter from Alimak saying it was OK to use it this way. So much for having a look in the Australian standards!’

So the lifts had to be shut down and from now the hoist will be operated from the ground as any material hoist should be. □

### Explosions and death raise OHS concerns at smelter

WORKERS at Nyrstar Pty Ltd’s Hobart smelter are again deeply concerned for their health and safety, after two explosions in the casting area and the death of a sub-contractor following an incident in the Purification Basement.

A decision by the AIRC in January revealed 650 safety incidents at the plant in the 12 months before that [see MIS April 2009 for full report].

But it seems that little has changed. ‘A 65-page doctor’s report in May shows that 17 out of 84 operators in the cell room were on workers’ compensation at any one stage. And none of its recommendations have been implemented,’ says TAS Branch Organiser Marshall Reeves.

The union is still waiting to hear from Nyrstar about its new Safety First policy.

Meanwhile job cuts at the plant are putting additional pressure on schedules and management still receive their annual bonus, 25% of which is based on safety.

Workers at the smelter and the Union are calling for a Government inquiry into safety at the plant and the restoration of union right of entry and powers to conduct safety inspections.

The 52-year-old maintenance worker died after he got pinned between a scissor lift and a floor beam in the Purification Basement.

More:  
<http://cfmeu.asn.au/branch/tas/news> □



### Darwin shockers!

TOP: 1. One of the boys and girls toilets on the 22-storey Skytower building in Darwin. There are also four or five portaloos throughout the job.

‘Oh but they get cleaned once a week. It’s the construction workers that don’t pick up after themselves that makes it so dirty,’ was management’s response. There is no lighting or sanitary disposal either.

2 - 3. Blocklayers at work on one of the federal government’s schools projects.

4. The rock breaker/excavator on the dolphin is WorkSafe approved.

‘NT Worksafe have been on holiday all year, but word on the street is they will be back at work in January 2010!’ says CFMEU Organiser Mick Huddy. □

More OHS shockers: [www.cfmeu.asn.au](http://www.cfmeu.asn.au)

### Scaffold standard cut

THIS photo was taken on the Bluewaters Power Station at Collie.

Placement of permanent handrails could not wait any longer. So scaffold standard was cut in two places to make way for production. Luckily, there were three other standards to support the 4.5 meter working platform above. Now really! □



### The dangers of nylon slings

DID you know that a major contributing factor to the tower crane collapse in New York City last year that killed seven people and destroyed much of two city blocks, was the failure of nylon slings supporting a series of manual winches from steel beams? ‘No wonder old hands hate using the things,’ says Mick Buchan.

Recently in Perth there was a lucky escape for many workers on the BGC Cement silo project when nylon slings failed when lifting a steel roof section

weighing some 11 tonnes. The site tower crane had the lift more than 20 meters in the

air when the slings failed. Lucky there was an exclusion zone and no one was underneath.

When using nylon slings remember:

- The number one cause of nylon sling failure is caused by load edge movement against the sling. Always use packing to prevent slings coming into contact with sharp edges.
- A nylon sling will lose more than 10% of its strength when wet.
- They must be inspected before each use; send slings for a proof load test at least every 12 months.
- Never use if label has been removed. □



## Rules, regs & penalties

### Crane section cracks!

A Melbourne crane crew recently noticed a crack in a tower crane lacing during jumping. They immediately stopped jumping and notified the principal contractor.

An independent engineer found the crack was possibly due to mishandling during loading or storage. But they also noticed the crack had been there for some time (from rusting visible on the surface).

The lacing was repaired on site and the repair assessed and certified by an engineer with ultrasonic testing before it was used again.

WorkSafe Victoria reminds crane owners and operators to inspect tower cranes and their sections regularly and ensure they are maintained. Any damaged components must be repaired and certified by an engineer before use.

More: [www.worksafe.vic.gov.au](http://www.worksafe.vic.gov.au) □

### Insulation warning

THE death of an insulation installer in Brisbane on October 14 has prompted the Qld Work Health Department and Electrical Safety Office to issue an alert on the danger of installing insulation near electrical equipment in ceilings.

The notice also provides guidance on how to control and identify the range of hazards found in ceilings.

A second worker received electric shock and burns in the incident.

While the fatality is being investigated, Qld Work Health says it appears that a staple, used to fix foil insulation in the roof space of a home, may have pierced an electric cable which energised the foil.

More: [www.deir.qld.gov.au/workplace/publications/alerts/electrical\\_risks/index](http://www.deir.qld.gov.au/workplace/publications/alerts/electrical_risks/index).

### Sun's up .... does your site have a heat policy?

Summer's upon us and the expectations are it may be a hot one. So construction workers need to be alert to avoiding heat stress and illness.

Employers are obliged to provide safe working environments, and that includes protection from summer heat.

They are also obliged to consult workers and OHS reps. over OHS issues. If your site doesn't have a heat policy, now is the time to draw one up.

Issues to consider are:

- type of work being performed
- sun glare
- agreed weather station for temperature checks
- radiant heat from surfaces
- relocation of workers out of direct sunlight into cooler areas
- regular rest breaks
- air-conditioned sheds for rest periods
- supplies of drinking water

### [www.bom.gov.au/](http://www.bom.gov.au/weather) [weather](http://www.bom.gov.au/weather)

If your EBA has a temperature limit, keep track of weather observations from the Bureau of Meteorology website above.

CFMEU Safety Delegates in SA and ACT receive SMS alerts when temperatures exceed limits.

Keep an eye on the CFMEU Safety Zone and OHS pages for more info as summer heats up.

**Below: SA construction workers had to be proactive on heat safety when temperatures soared above 35 and 37 degree limits last summer.**



[htm#purpose](#) □

### New high risk plant licences

THE NEW LICENSING system for operators of high risk plant is expected to commence in South Australia in 2010.

The changes bring in a new plastic card with photo type of licence that will be consistent and valid across Australia.

Forklifts are defined as high risk and operators will need to apply to convert existing tickets to the new licence. And a new class of high risk work is created for Self-erecting Tower Cranes.

Most Australian states have by now either partly or fully implemented the National Standard.

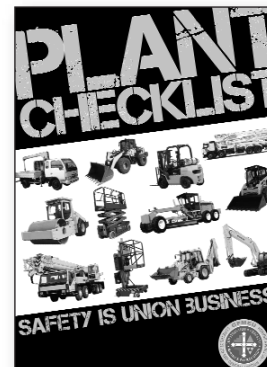
SafeSA is running information sessions from Oct 26 – Dec 8, across the State.

Go to: [www.safework.sa.gov.au](http://www.safework.sa.gov.au) for details. □

### Plant Checklist

CFMEU Victoria's OHS Unit has produced a new plant check-list as a practical on-the-job tool. It outlines the safety documentation required for all plant, including visual inspection checklists, certificates of competency and other material required to ensure the safe use of each type of machinery.

Contact CFMEU Victoria for more info: [www.cfmeu Vic.com.au](http://www.cfmeu Vic.com.au) □



### Surf for OH&S

Websites of interest for construction safety delegates are:

**CFMEU Construction** Safety Zone [www.cfmeu.asn.au/ohs](http://www.cfmeu.asn.au/ohs)

**NSW Branch** ohs site: [www.cfmeu-construction-nsw.com.au/healthand-safety.htm](http://www.cfmeu-construction-nsw.com.au/healthand-safety.htm)

**Vic Branch** ohs site: [www.cfmeu Vic.com.au/](http://www.cfmeu Vic.com.au/) Click on drop-down options.

**WA Branch** ohs site:

[www.cfmeu.asn.au/go/ohands](http://www.cfmeu.asn.au/go/ohands)  
**Hazards**, the UK OHS magazine for trade union reps: [www.hazards.org](http://www.hazards.org)  
**US campaigns**: [www.occupational-hazards.com/](http://www.occupational-hazards.com/)

All Australian State OHS Authorities have Websites, some more useful than others:

**ACT**: [www.workcover.act.gov.au](http://www.workcover.act.gov.au)

**NSW**: [www.workcover.nsw.gov.au](http://www.workcover.nsw.gov.au)  
**NT**: [www.nt.gov.au/deet/worksafe/](http://www.nt.gov.au/deet/worksafe/)  
**Qld**: [www.detir.qld.gov.au/hs.htm](http://www.detir.qld.gov.au/hs.htm)  
**SA**: [www.workcover.sa.gov.au](http://www.workcover.sa.gov.au)  
**Tas**: [www.wsa.tas.gov.au/](http://www.wsa.tas.gov.au/)  
**Vic**: [www.workcover.vic.gov.au/](http://www.workcover.vic.gov.au/)  
**WA**: [www1.safetyline.wa.gov.au/](http://www1.safetyline.wa.gov.au/)  
The **VTHC fortnightly** online safety newsletter: [www.ohsrep.org.au/](http://www.ohsrep.org.au/)

# UK action against blacklists

**Union safety activists in the UK have set up a Blacklist Support Group and are considering taking a class action against major contractors who paid for access to files on them compiled and distributed illegally by The Consulting Association Pty Ltd (TCA).**

A private investigator from TCA, Ian Kerr, prosecuted for failing to register the illegal blacklist over 15 years, was fined just £5,000 in July. The UK Information Commissioner told the court that construction firms paid TCA £478,937 between April 2006 and February 2009.

UCATT OHS rep. David Smith, who had a 36-page dossier compiled on him, told the TUC *Hazards* journal: 'Myself, along with thousands of other decent hardworking construction workers have had our lives ruined and our human rights breached by the actions of these multi-million pound turnover transnational corporations – and by the inaction of the Health and Safety Executive. There is no guarantee that we will win any kind of justice in the courts – but we will have a bloody good attempt.'

Everything in Smith's file relates to safety. 'Raise safety concerns and you were sacked and then hounded out of the industry,' he said.

About 90% of the information stored by The Consulting Association came from companies and was then shared with others.

Trading personal information under the UK Data Protection Act is unlawful. 'The Data Protection

Act clearly states that organisations must be open about how they process personal information and in most cases those processing personal information must register with the ICO,' Deputy Information Commissioner David Smith, is reported saying.

But there are no punishments available for breaches of the data protection principles, so the Information Commissioner chose only to prosecute Ian Kerr for failing to notify as a data controller.

## New laws don't go far enough

For years the UK government refused to bring in any legislation against blacklisting because they were assured by major contractors that the practice didn't occur. Legislation is now due to come in over the next few months, which would make it unlawful to deny employment to someone because they appeared on a blacklist. Trading personal details would also be subject to fines.

TCA's database has been closed down and the company ceased trading. But workers affected by the blacklisting want the construction companies involved barred from government contracts and the role of the HSE in the matter investigated.

UCATT is also disappointed the legislation contains no compensation for workers who have already been blacklisted. □

## Worker paralysed

THE operator of a crane which collapsed on to an apartment block in Liverpool city centre, UK, in July will never walk again.

Iain Gillham was catapulted out of the crane when it tipped backwards and suffered a fractured skull, spine and broken shoulder, and a brain haemorrhage. He doesn't have any memory of the incident.

'I've got too great a fear and if I ever remembered what happened, I would probably die of fear,' he is reported saying.

But he's also the sort of person who says he's got to deal with it. 'When something happens, that's it. It doesn't unhappen. I've just got to turn round and deal with it, even when it's something as serious as this, because I could as easily not be dealing with this. I could easily be dead.'

The incident is being investigated by the Health and Safety Executive. □

## Death toll rises as companies flout rules

FATALITIES at Bahrain construction sites have doubled in the past four years, according to Labour Ministry figures. Thirty-five workers have already been killed this year, despite the economic downturn, compared to 36 for all of 2008.

Most of the deaths are from falls, workers being hit by falling debris or being trapped in machinery.

There were 18 deaths in 2005, 21 in 2006 and 29 in 2007.

The Labour Ministry blames companies flouting safety rules and lack of worker supervision. Companies that hire at least 100 workers are obliged to employ a safety officer. Those with 50 or less must train a supervisor or foreman to monitor safety issues. □

**More international OHS stories: <http://www.hazards.org/>**

**Crane collapse in Liverpool, England that left operator paralysed.**



## Safety delegates profile Qld – Jack Cummins and John Panapa Chambers

**Jack Cummins hails from Ballarat in Victoria – the home of the trade union movement, as he puts it. But he's lived on the Gold Coast for 30 years, and never regretted the move north.**

'I just like the better life style up here, the climate's great and there's continuity of work - there's always another high rise to build,' he told **make it safe** recently.

Jack is the elected safety delegate on Tower 2 of Grocon's Oracle project at Broadbeach on the Gold Coast. The high rise is just 50 metres away from where Steve Sayer and Chris Gear were killed when the swing stage they were working from collapsed on the Meriton Pegasus job.

'That was a bad weekend, that one,' says Jack. 'We've had some terrible accidents up here on the Gold Coast. So we do need to push safety.'

'The Government safety department is pretty much a toothless tiger. You only see them on sites that try to do the right thing. But you go out on the back lots there — the three storey walk-ups, you never see them visit them.'

'Employers respect what unions can do and people like myself make sure they abide by the rules.'

Jack is employed on the Oracle as a carpenter but also undertakes the safety rep. role. He's starting 'swinging towards safety' as he got older, he says.

'It comes with age, I suppose. As you get older, you fight a little bit wiser.'

Now 50, he's recognised he needs to get out of the heavier work—even though he concedes, with alloy, everything is much lighter these days.

But being in the industry for 28 years also has its advantages. 'The young fellows know you've been around a while. I think they expect that you know what you are talking about. It does come across to them and they do listen, which is good.'

There have been lots of faults on



Above left: Jack Cummins at The Oracle & John Chambers on Meriton Apartments Brisbane.

the tower project, which Jack has been able to use his experience to pick up.

Conditions are good on the site because 'We've got good unions up here and they back you all the way,' Jack says. 'Otherwise, we would be getting flogged because of programs and deadlines.'

### Value those RDOs

'The worst part about the industry is the long hours', Jack says. 'I always look forward to our RDOs. They're a must. Otherwise we'd be dead on our feet.'

His days off let him make the most of the beach, where he likes to swim and watch his boys surfing and body boarding.

He doesn't surf himself, having grown up in a provincial town. But he enjoys the outdoor life. 'In Ballarat we had to stay indoors to keep warm. That's serious!' He's played Aussie rules and basketball and something that mixed up both with a bit of rugby union thrown in.

'And you often meet someone you know from work down on the beach on the weekend and can have a beer while watching the kids.'

### Cook Islands to Brisbane

**John Panapa Chambers came to Australia from the Cook Islands in 1979. He first worked in hospitality on the Gold Coast — 'then you could count the number of high rises there on your hands'.**

John moved into construction looking for a career and better money. He got involved with the

union when he was working in George Street in Brisbane, three years ago. Now he is site delegate on the Meriton apartment job in the city.

John describes his role in three words as: 'Education, safety and benefits.'

'I've worked with good and not-so-good builders. I was a leading hand for a long time and brought a lot of friends into the industry, so it's kind of like a responsibility to help make things safer,' John says.

He became a delegate 'because I felt I could use my experience to help fellow workers. In our industry, only the fittest survive. This is why I help people less experienced than me. I've seen a lot of attitudes change and once they change their attitude to wanting to be helped, good things can happen.'

Being the delegate can be stressful at times, but it's also very rewarding, John says.

'I try to make sure safety doesn't get lost in production. It's about getting things done quickly but as safely as possible.'

'It's frustrating when we get a negative response from builders because we are trying to help them too. The benefits to the builder are enormous if they work with the union. We might tell them to fix something which would have ended up killing someone the next week, saving the builder heaps of litigation.'

John's message for members is simple: 'If you've taken the time to read this, make sure you're paid up because the benefits of being in the union outweigh the contributions.'



**Advance Drillings & Sawing**  
28 Robinson Avenue, Belmont, WA 6104  
Ph: (08) 9277 7500 Fax: (08) 9277 7166

**Almo Nominees Pty Ltd**  
13 Bowen St, Woodend, Vic. 3442  
Mob: 0418 533 204 Fax: 03 5427 2900

**Auswest Painting Services**  
Domestic & Commercial  
60 Prescott Drive, Murdoch, WA 6150  
Mob: 0412 948 054 Ph: (08) 9310 8087 Fax: (07) 9310 8972

**Butera Developments Pty Ltd**  
4 Kestrel Close, Reservoir, Vic. 3073  
Mob: 0418 363 072 Fax: 03 9462 0160

**Loren Constructions**  
64 Labouchere Road, South Perth, WA 6151  
Ph: (08) 9367 6915 Fax: (08) 9367 5215

**Master Formwork**  
Steel Fixing & Concrete  
Domestic Commercial  
Bickley, WA 6076  
Mob: 0438 851 152 Ph: (08) 9293 5230

**SA Precast Pty Ltd**  
P.O. Box 30, Welland, SA 5007

**QMS PROPERTY DEVELOPMENTS PTY LTD**

Unit 2/106 Stirling Highway  
North Fremantle, WA 6159  
**Ph: (08) 9433 3626**  
**Fax: (08) 9433 5310**

ISMAKESAFE



**HINDMARSH**  
PROPERTY + CONSTRUCTION

Canberra, Adelaide,  
Sydney, Darwin

[www.hindmarsh.com.au](http://www.hindmarsh.com.au)

ISMAKESAFE

Proud to Support Safety

**Capstone Marble & Granite Pty Ltd**

- Natural Stone
- Reconstituted Stone

Over 20 years of quality workmanship  
**Ph: (03) 9364 7550**  
**Fax: (03) 9364 7578**  
27 Central Avenue, Sunshine, Vic. 3020  
Email: aldo@capstonemarble.com.au

ISMAKESAFE

Proudly Supporting Safety in the  
Building Industry

**DODD and Jevons Pty Ltd**

Unit 2/21-23 Cheltenham Parade  
Cheltenham, SA 5014

**Ph: (08) 8345 4002**  
**Fax: (08) 8345 4003**

ISMAKESAFE



**Alkene Contracting Pty Ltd**

ACN 003 497 943

Free Advisory Service  
Safe Asbestos Removal  
Qualified Professional Staff  
Re-roofing specialists  
Lic. No. 200290AS1  
Unit 4, 17 Norman St  
Peakhurst NSW 2210

**Fax: 9584 2455**  
**Ph: 9584 2233**

ISMAKESAFE

**INNER STRENGTH STEEL FIXING PTY LTD**

**Steel Reinforcing • Civil  
Commercial • Residential**

**Ph: 08 9791 5777 Fax: 08 9791 7444**

P.O. Box 157, Bunbury, WA 6231

Email: [shane@innerstrengthsteelfixing.com](mailto:shane@innerstrengthsteelfixing.com)  
Web: [www.innerstrengthsteelfixing.com](http://www.innerstrengthsteelfixing.com)

ISMAKESAFE

**NA Noel Arnold & Associates**

**Risk Management Services**

Asbestos Removal Supervision • Building Material Analysis  
Asbestos Fibre Monitoring • Occupational Health & Safety  
Fire Safety • Business Risk • Environmental • Property Risk

**Melbourne** P: (03) 9890 8811 F: (03) 9890 8911  
E: [melbourne@noel-arnold.com.au](mailto:melbourne@noel-arnold.com.au)

**Sydney** P: (02) 9889 1800 F: (02) 9889 1811  
E: [sydney@noel-arnold.com.au](mailto:sydney@noel-arnold.com.au)

**Brisbane** P: (07) 3514 9222 F: (07) 3514 9220  
E: [brisbane@noel-arnold.com.au](mailto:brisbane@noel-arnold.com.au)

[www.noel-arnold.com.au](http://www.noel-arnold.com.au)

ISMAKESAFE

**WA Ceiling Industries**

Wall & Ceiling Contractors

118 Melrose Drive  
Malaga, WA 6062

Phone: (08) 9248 8622  
Fax: (08) 9248 3177

ISMAKESAFE



We perform internal framing and  
linings, plus all carpentry fit outs.

**Mob: 0431 299 424**

**Ph: (07) 5493 2376 Fax: (07) 5493 3720**

[acky68@hotmail.com](mailto:acky68@hotmail.com)

ISMAKESAFE

**3B6® Systems "The Safe Solution"**

[www.3b6.com.au](http://www.3b6.com.au)

ISMAKESAFE

**ACTION FORMWORK**

All Aspects of Formwork  
Residential & Industrial  
Specialising in Multi-Storey

PO Box 118  
Pinkenba, Qld 4008

**Mob: 0411 174 342**  
**Fax: (07) 3260 1055**

ISMAKESAFE

**ZD Constructions 93 Pty Ltd**

10 Bowman Street  
South Perth, WA 6131

**Ph: (08) 9367 7722**

Fax: (08) 9474 3498

[enzo@zdconstruct.com.au](mailto:enzo@zdconstruct.com.au)

ISMAKESAFE



Specialising in all Trades and Labour  
Hire for the

Building and Construction Industry

**Our Scope of Service**

Labourers, Traffic Controllers,  
Scaffolders, Hoist Operators, Dogman,  
Riggers, Carpenters, Formwork  
Carpenters, Painters, Safety Officers

For further enquiries you can find the Lack Group at:

17 Connor Street Burleigh Heads QLD 4220

Ph: 07 5520 1144

PO Box 1713 Burleigh Heads QLD 4220

Fax: 07 5520 1166

email: [admin@nsservices.net.au](mailto:admin@nsservices.net.au)

[www.lackgroup.com.au](http://www.lackgroup.com.au)



**Civil & Allied  
Technical  
Construction  
(Vic) Pty Ltd**

**Civil Construction  
Contractors**

- Earthworks
- Pavement Constructions
- Concrete Structures
- Pipeline Installations
- Building Works

**Phone:  
(08) 8347 1888**

[www.catcon.com.au](http://www.catcon.com.au)

ISMAKESAFE



**SUNLAND  
CONSTRUCTIONS**

"PROJECT DEVELOPMENT & CONSTRUCTION"

LEVEL 2 480 ST KILDA ROAD  
MELBOURNE VICTORIA 8004  
TEL: 03 9867 5511 FX: 03 9867 5311

ISMAKESAFE

**Andreco Hurlll**

A Cookson Group Company

Andreco Hurlll Refractory Services Pty Limited  
A.B.N. 94 000 872 962  
Lot 2 Sturdee Avenue, Bulli NSW 2516  
P.O. Box 92, Bulli NSW 2516

**Telephone: (02) 4268 1200  
Facsimile: (02) 4268 1150**



**Quality  
Endorsed  
Company**

ISO 9001:2000  
Certificate No.:  
QEC0354

ISMAKESAFE



**hansen yuncken**

BUILDING VALUE

25 Huntingdale Road  
Burwood, Victoria 3125

**Phone: 03 9831 6500**

**Fax: 03 9831 6599**

ISMAKESAFE

**cowan and hamilton formwork**

COMMERCIAL FORMWORK SPECIALISTS

Cowan and Hamilton Formwork pride themselves on their on-site conduct, safety management systems and using advanced techniques to achieve a quality result.

[www.cowanandhamilton.com.au](http://www.cowanandhamilton.com.au)

[admin@cowanandhamilton.com.au](mailto:admin@cowanandhamilton.com.au)

PO Box 1516, Osborne Park, DC 6017

**Jess Cowan  
0402 359 878**

**John Hamilton  
0423 418 872**

ISMAKESAFE



**does your job  
measure up?  
consider a trade.  
call 1300-00-BIGA**

**biga** | apprentices  
employment & training

ISMAKESAFE



Supporting a safe  
working environment

**Ticor.**  
Setting the pace

Ticor Developments  
131 Macquarie Street Sydney  
T 02 9251 7100  
[www.ticordev.com.au](http://www.ticordev.com.au)

ISMAKESAFE



**PAYNTER DIXON**

Paynter Dixon's highest priority is safety

Paynter Dixon Constructions are one of Australia's most experienced and successful design and construction groups

**Designers & Builders since 1914**

- Services offered include:
- Project definition
  - Masterplanning
  - Details design & documentation
  - Authority approvals
  - Cost planning
  - Programming
  - Value Engineering
  - Construction
  - Facilities Management & Maintenance

**Paynter Dixon Constructions**

Phone: (02) 9797 5555

320 Liverpool Road

Ashfield NSW 2131

[www.paynterdixon.com.au](http://www.paynterdixon.com.au)

ISMAKESAFE



**PIKOS GROUP**  
Supporting safe work practices.

ISMAKESAFE

**What is ACIRT?**

ACIRT is the Australian Construction Industry Redundancy Trust. It is a national fund established as an Industry initiative for the security of Employee's Redundancy Entitlements. The fund enables employers to fund their employees' redundancy entitlements, as provided for under the various industrial awards and enterprise agreements.



**Why ACIRT?**

ACIRT differs significantly from other similar funds in Australia because:

ACIRT has contribution flexibility. Employers can contribute either the minimum necessary to fund the Award entitlement or higher contributions to fund entitlements agreed to in enterprise agreements.

ACIRT is a National Fund.

ACIRT distributes all its annual surplus income to members.

ACIRT pays the full accumulated benefit to members when they become redundant within three days of receiving a completed benefit claim form.

ACIRT does not hold any direct investments. All assets are in low risk, secure investments that are managed by professional, independent managers.

ACIRT has a corporate trustee company, which is managed by a board of directors with equal Trade Union and Employer representation. Additionally, ACIRT uses external independent professionals for Administration (AAS); Legal advisors (DLA Phillips Fox); Auditors (Ernst & Young) and Investment advisers (Mercer).

ACIRT has discretion to pay a funeral benefit of up to \$6,500 for "eligible" members.

ACIRT believes in member choice. Members can transfer into ACIRT from another approved Redundancy Fund as long as they are eligible. They only need to complete a transfer request form.

You may telephone ACIRT Administration between 8:30 AM and 5:30 PM on the freecall telephone number 1800 060 467, ACIRT's National Co-ordinator (Dennis Matthews) 02 8837 5438 or the Secretary (Steve Parker) on 03 8837 5437.

ISMAKESAFE

# FORM 700

Construction of concrete structures for multistory office and apartment buildings; and large shopping centres.

Including formwork, reinforcement supply and fix, post tensioning supply and installation, concrete supply, concrete place, concrete pumping, construction of concrete lift cores, structure safety screens and provision of other self climbing systems.

270 Blackshaws Road, Altona North, Vic. 3025

Ph: (03) 9391 3700 Fax: (03) 9391 5700

Email: [info@form700.com.au](mailto:info@form700.com.au)

ISMAKESAFE



QUEENSLAND • MAJOR • PROJECTS

**PHONE: 07 3291 5600**

**FAX: 07 3291 5699**

P.O. Box 6263  
Upper Mt. Gravatt, QLD 4122

[www.fultonhogan.com](http://www.fultonhogan.com)  
[info@fultonhogan.com.au](mailto:info@fultonhogan.com.au)

ISMAKESAFE

**De Martin  
& Gasparini**



COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL  
CONCRETE CONTRACTORS

**DE MARTIN & GASPARINI  
PTY LIMITED**

16 Hill Road, Homebush Bay, NSW 2127

Phone: (02) 9748 5100

Fax: (02) 9748 0041

Email: [dmg@boral.com.au](mailto:dmg@boral.com.au)

ISMAKESAFE



# Safe Business Is Good Business

*We all want our families to arrive home from work safely every day.*

- FACT:** \*In 2006/2007 there were 140,203 reported employment injuries  
 \* 9071 cases resulted in permanent disability  
 \* 137 deaths resulted from workplace injury or disease

**Don't Become A Statistic... Get Assistance**

## Ways You Can Get Assistance

- **Over The Phone:** Obtain information and assistance on workplace health and safety, injury management and workers compensation.
- **Face To Face:** Practical workplace safety advice and tools relevant to your business.
- **Online:** Free, simple way to determine who is a worker or a contractor. Use the anonymous online self-assessment tool OR lodge an application for a binding private ruling visit [workcover.nsw.gov.au/workerstatus](http://workcover.nsw.gov.au/workerstatus).
- **Direct To You:** WorkCover News and e-News keep you up to date with the latest news in workplace safety and injury management. Subscribe to these and other mail outs regarding WorkCover NSW information, advice, assistance, programs and activities.

For more information about how WorkCover NSW can assist you to achieve a safer workplace  
 Call 13 10 50 or Visit [workcover.nsw.gov.au](http://workcover.nsw.gov.au)



ISMAKESAFE



**Phone 07 5574 1500**

ISMAKESAFE