



Merry Christmas & a Happy New Year

# Union News

In Loving Memory of

## MEAT WORKER PRODUCTIVITY

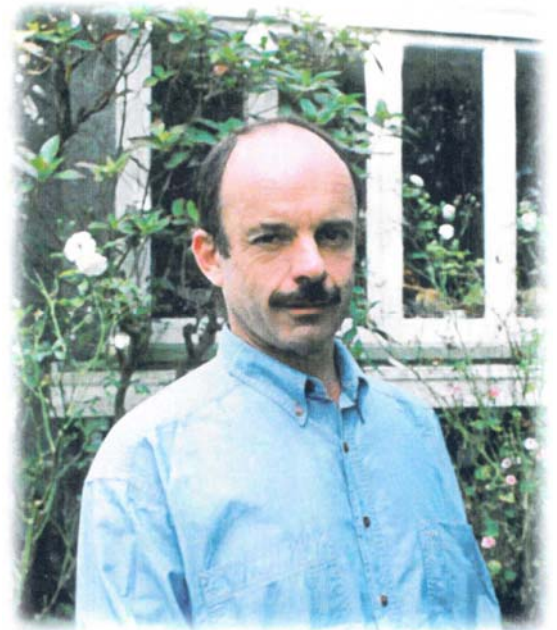
The volume of meat exported per person employed has risen from 23 tonnes in 1980 to 38.1 tonnes today - a productivity gain of 66%

- ➔ 1980  
23 tonnes per person
- ➔ 1990  
29.3 tonnes per person
- ➔ 2000  
33.4 tonnes per person
- ➔ 2005  
36.6 tonnes per person
- ➔ 2007  
**38.1 tonnes per person**

## Meat worker wages have fallen in real terms

- ➔ Meat worker wages have failed to keep up with the pace of inflation (Consumer prices) See below 2 examples of the meat industry
  - ✓ A mutton slaughterman at Lorneville should now earn \$389.79 rather than \$199.51.
  - ✓ A beef worker at Affco Horotiu should now earn \$284.41 rather than \$206.35.
- ☑ Meat worker wages have dropped behind other occupational groups, such as
  - ➔ Dairy factory workers
  - ➔ Cleaners
  - ➔ Store workers
  - ➔ Super market check out

On Sunday 30 November Paul Wintringham died suddenly and peacefully at home. The funeral service in Palmerston North was very well attended with some very glowing accounts of Paul's past experiences. Paul was a great unionist who battled all his life to see that workers were treated fairly. Paul also had a large collection of antiques. Paul will be missed by this Union as he worked tirelessly on legal issues, Accident Compensation issues, represented the Union on issues with Relevant Daily Pay (Holidays Act), minute secretary, updated the union rules and also the Unions trainer and Educator. Further to those duties he was required to negotiate agreements and provide support for a number of our sub-branches in the Aotearoa Branch.



**Paul Wintringham**  
5 May 1945 – 30 November 2008

**Affco Profit \$60 .1 million for the year ending September 30, '08, last year loss of \$1.7 million.**

**Alliance Group Ltd profit \$33.5 million for the year, last year \$3 million**

**Silver Fern Farms Ltd profit \$37.6 million for the year, last year loss of \$79 million.**

**Farmers have received transport, pool rebates in excess of the above figures . We are informed other meat companies have had a good year.**

## NEW ZEALANDER'S NOW HAVE A NATIONAL - ACT LED GOVERNMENT. 2008 - 2011 DOES NOT LOOK GOOD FOR WORKERS

- ➔ 90 day "Fire at will" is back. Workers have no rights for a personal grievance. The Government had no intention of going through the democratic process of Select Committee hearings where the public has a say on the Bill before it was passed into Law.
- ➔ Holidays Act - 'Relevant Daily Pay' is your earning rate on the job being paid for Sick Leave, Public Holidays and Bereavement Leave. The Holidays Act is to be reviewed. This is because all the Meat Industry Employers want to save money on your wages to enable them to spend more at the farm gate for sheep/lambs

New Zealand Meat Workers and Related Trades Union

**CONTACT YOUR MEAT UNION ORGANISER IF YOU WANT ANY RESOURCE MATERIAL**