

NEWS LETTER

WORK INJURY and REHABILITATION

WORK INJURY?

The Union is having several instances where the employer is challenging whether or not an injury occurred in the workplace.

Workers need to ensure that they report ANY INCIDENT, no matter how trivial it may seem as this greatly enhances your chances of having fewer problems gaining cover and entitlements.

**REPORT! REPORT!
REPORT!**

WORK DEATH TOLL SO
FAR IN 2006/07
(SOURCE—Safeguard Magazine)


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Too many of our Union members are continuing to meet with their case managers and/or employers **WITHOUT** a support person of their choice.

- The Union recommends that all Union members ensure that they have a Union representative with them when ever they meet with management about their ACC. Claimant's are entitled to have a support person with them and they should exercise that right.



• Don't be fooled into having "just a quick word" without someone with you.

- If you are not happy with any aspect of your rehabilitation plan, **DO NOT SIGN IT OFF** until you have had it checked with either your support person or your Union rep. You can even get your doctor to check the plan with you if you want to.
- Rehab plans should be a negotiated document and should be reviewed on a regular basis. 
- Problems need to be brought to the Union's attention as soon as possible to enable corrective action sooner rather than later.

PARTNERSHIP PROGRAMME AUDITS

- Please note that the ACC Partnership Programme requires employers to notify **ALL UNIONS** representing employees in their workplaces, of the dates and sites for any upcoming independent audit.. This means unions should have the opportunity to participate in the audit and be involved in the focus group and "close out" sessions.
- If the on-site union officials have not been advised **IN ADVANCE** of the proposed audit, please contact the Union's Health & Safety Co-ordinator, Amanda Stephens in the National Office as soon as possible.

General Secretary—Dave Eastlake



Well, the 2006/07 Export season is rapidly heading towards a close and has been overall pretty much as expected with a good start and an even kill period through the first part of the year. The only real surprise being the length of end of season kill in the deep south, and the shortage of beef at times in the North.

Rumours are in full swing as to the future of likely Co-operative mergers and of a more country-wide approach to marketing of meat products next season.

Against all early season predictions the currency exchange rate has continued to climb and is at this point of time at a record high, financial experts now say it will remain high in the foreseeable future, so let's hope the Meat Company's have found a way to compensate this unexpected position!

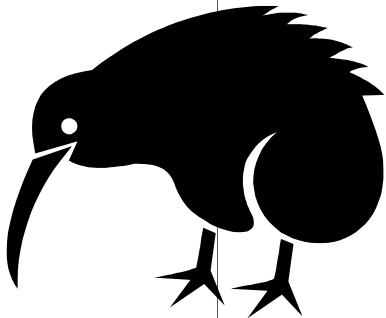
July has brought the introduction of the Government sponsored "Kiwi Saver"; information about this scheme has been delayed time and again as changes were implemented at the point of the scheme commencing. A lot of the issues within the scheme have not been passed into law so one can as-

sume further changes could be put into place.

The Union has concerns as to the effects Kiwi Saver will have on our current MISS and NPF superannuation funds. We are awaiting the view of the employers who contribute to these schemes so we can assess where is the best for our members; in the meantime another satisfactory result is predicted for the year by MISS (7.08%).

With a bit of snow about and more rain than we have seen for awhile we have passed the shortest day of the year. Let's hope its all up hill from here with a mild spring, a good lambing and plenty to look forward to next season.

**DAVE EASTLAKE,
GENERAL SECRETARY**



DRUGS AND ALCOHOL



If you think you, or someone you know, might have a problem with alcohol or drugs, there are many ways to get help. You don't need to wait until the threat of losing your job or family.



• Help is available NOW. Most employers have access to an Employee Assistance programme where you can get expert help, at little or no cost. Most employers will respect a worker "self referring for help" before it becomes a work problem, however Alliance and PPCS and CMP already have drug and alcohol policies which allow for this "self referral" to occur. Don't let drug or alcohol problems ruin your life or the lives of those you love.

See your Union delegate or contact Amanda at the Union's national office for more information.



LEPTOSPIROSIS STUDY

- Massey University is hoping to continue with a study into Leptospirosis, with the assistance of employer and employee groups.
- So far, PPCS Richmonds has agreed to one of its Plants being part of the study and the Union is supporting this, provided that all study volunteers are free to make their own medical arrangements for treatment or advice should they return a positive test.
- Further information will be given out at inductions in November.

How can I tell if I Lepto? How do I get it?

- You might think you have the 'flu, dreadful headaches, severe and persistent high fever, sensitivity to light, sweating, nausea and/or vomiting, muscle pain, loss of appetite, back pain, mood changes. You may also have jaundice (from liver damage), breathing problems, vision problems, diarrhea; it can come on very rapidly. Leptospirosis can incubate for up to 21 days although there are also instances where people feel the effects within 2 days after exposure.
- You can get Lepto from an infected animal via cuts, sores, abrasions on your skin or from a urine/blood splash to your eye(s), nose or mouth. You do not have to come into direct contact with the urine or infected tissue of an infected animal even a splash or fine aerosol spray or indirect contact with water contaminated with urine (eg water used to clean down a stockyard) can spread the disease.
- If you think you have Lepto, make sure you explain this to your GP and insist on a test; take the test BEFORE you start antibiotics.

NEW ZEALAND
MEATWORKERS UNION

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TUC BUILDING
199 ARMAGH STREET,
CHRISTCHURCH

Website:
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Bits 'n' Pieces/Odds 'n' Sods

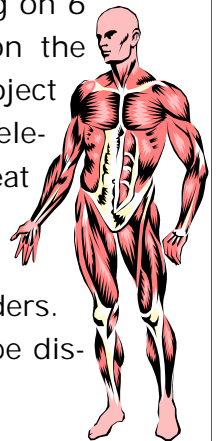
Elected health & safety reps

- PLEASE ENSURE that if you are having to issue a hazard notice for any reason that you send a copy of the notice to the Health & Safety Co-ordinator in the Union's national office as soon as possible, either prior to or as soon as has been issued to the employer. Notices can be copied to Amanda Stephens via fax (03) 379-7763 or posted to her at P.O. Box 13-048, Christchurch.

- ALLIANCE GROUP LTD was fined \$10,000** under s6 of the HSE Act and ordered to pay \$12,000 in reparations to a worker who suffered burns to his chest, arms, neck and face when he fell into a vat of hot tallow. The tallow, at a temperature of 115°, had just been transferred to the vat from a neighbouring cooker. The victim slipped from the work platform beside the equipment as he reached across a gap in the platform to clean the cooker door seal.

He suffered second degree burns which required six days of hospital treatment (Invercargill DC, Dec 7).

- MUSCULOSKELETAL DISORDERS** report One of the authors of the above report, David Tappin, gave a presentation to the Otago/Southland Branch Executive meeting on 6 June 2007. The report is based on the findings from the 2004-2006 project addressing work related musculoskeletal disorders in the New Zealand meat and seafood processing industries, and is looking at feasible interventions for addressing those disorders. When the report is finalised it will be distributed to all Union sub-branches.



(pictured left, David Tappin discusses his report at Canterbury Branch Executive meeting in June 2007)