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AWUNZ

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AWUNZ Logo

The *Executive* of the Northern Amalgamated Workers Union has endorsed a proposed change to the logo. The “AWUNZ” will remain unchanged, but the wording around it will be different. We have decided to remove the “*Amalgamated Workers*” and replace it with “*Construction, Infrastructure*”. This is a bold step that clearly defines who we are and who we represent in the majority of our sites. This does not impede us from branching out into other industries, where it either makes sense or a new industry where there is growth potential. Nor does it stop us from representing those companies that do not readily fit that description.



Michael Kyriazopoulos

It is with great sadness that this Union reports the passing of one of our Union Organisers; Michael Kyriazopoulos.

Michael worked for this Union since 2007. Mike left the Union in 2013. We wish his wife Joanne the best during these very trying times.



WELCOME LEIGHTON'S CONSTRUCTION

We have initiated bargaining with Leighton Construction. They are building a domestic workforce in this country in the civil sector. This is potentially good for the industry as they can foot it with Fletcher Infrastructure and as long as we can negotiate a good ‘*Collective Agreement*’.

They are a *Tier One* company along with *Downers, Fulton Hogan, Fletchers* and will be treated accordingly. Also *Leighton's* and *HEBB* have been awarded the ‘*Transmission Gully*’ Roding contract. They beat a very aggressive bid by *Fulton Hogan* and *Fletchers*. This is a long overdue infrastructure project which will open up the lower North Island economy to the port of Wellington.



NZ MEDIA'S NEW MORAL CLOCK

Although we are starting a new and exciting year, I feel I have to make a strong comment on the front page editorial in the New Zealand Herald (December 2013). The article demanded that the mayor of Auckland Len Brown resign. It was also supported by their "NO NAME" business journalist, who cited the need for the Mayor to be held to account.

For the record we do not condone the Mayor's behaviour; in fact you could say he was a '*bloody idiot*'. This article was run the same week as a government department (MBIE) had announced that it was not pursuing a prosecution of the manager of PIKE RIVER. Part of their reasoning was that the company had offered a payment. What sort of message does that send to workers in this country? *If you've got MONEY, you've got JUSTICE?*

Back to the Mayor and his behaviour; did he kill one person due to his silly behaviour, or in fact 29 people (like Pike River)? If not, then why has the only major paper in this country failed to be consistent and demand that someone or some people including government departments be held to account, just like their demand on the Mayor of Auckland?

Why is it that the death of workers does not rate the priority it deserves over the shenanigans of the Mayor, unless the paper has its own ideological agenda. You almost get the feeling they are the unofficial PR Company for the current National-led government and seem to avoid criticising the government, or is it that we now live in a society where a worker's life no longer counts for much, which normally runs hand in hand with a low-wage economy. It is a sad day for this country, where the New Zealand Herald appears to have lost their moral compass and has lowered their standards, which appear to be strongly out of kilter with main street New Zealand.



CHRISTCHURCH REBUILD



The Civil part of the re-construction is starting to taper off and the vertical construction is starting to gain momentum. Your *Union* will be part of that phase of the re-build. We are also investigating a strident '*Heat*' policy. We have had at least two cases of workers overcome by heat exhaustion. That is two too many and the idea that it is the workers responsibility to stop is nothing short of the employer or the principle contractor trying to offload their responsibility to those workers.

We are also part of a *safety project* at the Blood Bank site. This vertical construction project is being managed and built by *Hawkins Construction*. We have committed fully to the project and hope anything we learn out of this can be carried on to other sites. *If it makes it safer, then it has to be good. PROUD TO BE UNION PROUD TO BE SAFE!*

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