

# FEDERAL PRESIDENT'S REPORT

## GRANT COURTNEY



### WORKERS' COLLECTIVE BARGAINING RIGHTS RESTORED

The Meat Workers Unions priority agenda is to ensure all meat workers who have been stood over and exploited in the last decade have an ability to get back some of the conditions lost due to the liberal parties NO WORKCHOICE LAWS.

Many meat companies over the last 10 years have got away with stripping back workers wages and conditions to the point that now those same companies are screaming out to the federal government so they can access more temporary immigrants, that is (457 visa holders and backpacker 417 visa holders) due to labour shortages.

The reason these employers are seeking temporary international labour is due to the poor wages and conditions they offer and Aussie workers won't work for peanuts, we say there is no skill shortage just poor wages and conditions have driven our skilled workforce out of our industry.

Our union welcomes permanent residency for our international friends however we do not support a bastardized bonded labour market where these international workers are exploited to 3<sup>rd</sup> world standards. Those shameless employers out there know we are watching and they should be mindful the immigration department might be knocking on there door soon.

With the introduction to the Fair work bill in

July this year those grubby employers whom have locked out unions from negotiating on behalf of there members are about to be enlightened.

Workers now have access and the protection of genuine collective bargaining with out the threat of being sacked. Unions now can access workplaces and the boss cannot refuse to sit down and negotiate with the workers representatives, yes the union.

If the boss refuses to talk to us we can take him to court for an arbitrated agreement. This means he or she will either negotiate with the workers representatives, yes the union or they will be told by the court to do so or they can be convicted of an offence.

The most powerful tool we can use in future negotiations is union density. The more members we have in your workplace the better wage outcome and conditions we can secure.

After all your employer is a member of their association (the bosses union). The meat workers union represents workers so why not join as our fees are 100% tax deductible.

We look forward to representing you in the future.

**"grubby employers"**

*In unity—Grant Courtney*



Congratulations  
Certificate of Merit Recipients  
Dennis Moller, David Dark,  
Stephen Jones,  
Warren Luckey (pictured right)  
& John Lavercombe (pictured left)

