

ARC UP

FIRE INDUSTRY

The ETU has been successful in keeping parts of the fire industry on par with the major construction EBA's. Unfortunately though some of the other players have started to slip behind.

Time for that to change. The Union has managed to arrange for a number of these companies to begin talks on a new agreement. As with the mechanical sector we will end up with a minimum standard in the industry that keeps everyone on a level playing field.

The only way we can make a serious change in the construction industry is by having all sparkies paid at the same minimum rates regardless of where they work. As you can see by the outcome of the Black Friday Lock Out this only achievable when the members all stick together.

Once again though our members need to be actively out there encouraging the sparkies in the fire sector to join the ETU. It's the only way to win better wages and conditions.

All workers in the fire sectors are urged to contact Stewart Edward on 0419 210 442 to get involved in the campaign.

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CONSTRUCTION OFFICIALS

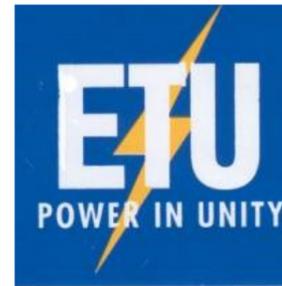
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ACTIVE MEMBERS MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Make sure your workmates join the union



ARC UP

May 2013



BLACK FRIDAY ANNIVERSARY

Twelve months ago the NECA group of companies took the extraordinary step of locking you blokes out. This was supposedly in response to the ongoing industrial action that had been endorsed throughout the industry. In reality but it was an attempt to break the Union and introduce inferior conditions to the EBA.

Fortunately though you held the line and stared down the bosses. They withdrew their lock out action and the agreement was finalised very soon after.

Time and again the ETU has been forced into taking industrial action to get an agreement through and time and again you blokes have delivered. Last year was a little different though. The bosses had a plan to introduce the tiered agreement and they tried their hardest to do so. Non-Union agreements were put out for a vote and the membership resoundingly rejected them. The Lock Out occurred and you fought on.

Well Done All of You! Never forget what your bosses are capable of.





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SECURING AGREEMENTS

Over the past few months the ETU has put a large chunk of time into the electronic security industry. This is an area that is growing in the construction industry but has been left behind in wages and conditions.

The Union has been talking to security technicians whom now realise their rates are well below the EBA's of major contractors. Many of these technicians are working for companies where they miss out on entitlements such as RDO'S, Top Up Insurance and MERT. Their hourly rate can be as low as \$22 per hour.

Just as we are in the Fire and Mechanical sector the ETU has begun a campaign to improve the conditions for those in the Security area. We have recently managed to secure agreements with some of the major contractors in the industry delivering significant increases in the hourly rate as well as achieving a classification system that is based around skills and knowledge. This is a significant outcome as many of these companies have a haphazard system of wages that reflect relationships with the boss rather than ability at the job.

Whilst we are currently negotiating with other Security contractors there are plenty more out there that need to come on board. With commercial construction work beginning to increase in Sydney following the last few years decline now is the perfect time for security technicians to become part of the Union. This is where you, as a Union member, can help. More than likely there are security techs working on your job right now. Speak to them about the benefits of Union membership and the improvement in wages and conditions that you have won over the years. All they need to do then is call Brad McDougall on 0438 777 653 and we will start the process of getting them onto a much better agreement than they already have.

MECHANICAL SECTOR

At long last electricians in the mechanical sector appears to be on the verge of some good news in respect of their pay and conditions. Following action by the ETU and widespread support, talks are finally taking place to bring industry standards to all sparkies in the air con area.



Major players in the mechanical sector have for too long been pushing the line with their employees that they can't afford to implement arrangements similar to those enjoyed by sparkies with electrical contracting companies. Those same employees are finally saying enough is enough and demanding agreements that deliver the same wages and conditions that other sparkies are getting on the same site.

One of the largest companies in the sector is currently negotiating a new agreement that we hope will form the standard for the mechanical electricians. As with any agreement though it won't come easily. The employees of all mechanical electrical companies need to band together to ensure the best possible outcome is achieved. The only way to successfully do that is by joining the Union.

All workers in the Mechanical sectors are urged to contact Stewart Edward on 0419 210 442 to get involved in the campaign.



Become an ETU member by joining online today at www.etunsw.asn.au



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