



Respect!

Youth Union Movement Newsletter

July-September 2003

www.union.org.nz/yum



YUM Camp 2003

In July, a group of about 20 young members of 7 different trade unions got together for a weekend to learn about union activism and organising. We got some good work done, and found time to have some fun as well.

We've all sometimes felt isolated as young union members, so it was good to meet people from a lot of different unions who were dealing with the same issues on the job.

We were all there to learn how to get more involved in our union. We talked to each other about

our experiences at work and in the union, and what we'd like to make better. Then we talked about what we could do about it, and what barriers we'd have to get over.

We did a lot of practice in talking to people about the union, and using anger, hope and action to motivate people to get involved.

We all got some great ideas for stuff we can do in our union to get more young members involved, and we're going to keep in touch to make sure it happens!

YUM In Action

YUM members are getting involved in spreading the word about unions. We're talking to our workmates, using the organising skills we learnt at the YUM camp. We're also planning workshop presentations to take to high schools in our regions. In Auckland, YUM is having a stall at the Careers Expo.

We are working on setting up another training course for youth union members who want to get involved in YUM. Talk to your union organiser or contact the CTU if you'd be interested

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COUNCIL OF TRADE UNIONS

Campaigns

Demand Respect for Young Workers.

Youth Rates

Why should young workers be paid less than everyone else? We work in some of the hardest jobs. We work odd hours to fit around school and family. And we work hard. We should get paid the same rate for the same work.

Unions have won several victories in recent years. In 2002, the adult minimum wage was raised to \$8.50, and the age at which you get this rate was dropped to 18 from 20. The level of the minimum wage for 16 and 17 year-olds was also raised to \$6.80, or 80% of the adult rate, up from 60%.

Unions are now campaigning to get rid of the youth rate and to increase the minimum wage for all workers to at least \$10 per hour.

Solidarity

Being a union member means standing up for fellow workers and sticking together to get the best deal for everyone.

If everyone joins the union and works together, then everyone gets a better deal. But it can be hard to explain this when the boss is telling people they'll get all the benefits the union negotiates, even if they don't join.

This is what unions call freeloading. It's a problem we have to find ways around in organising our workplaces. But it's made worse by bosses acting in bad faith and undermining unions. With the government's review of the Employment Relations Act coming up, now is the time to put the pressure on to stop freeloading.

To find out more, and join the campaigns, go to www.union.org/yum

Young Workers' Council

The Young Workers' Council is YUM's representative body within the Council of Trade Unions (CTU). We have our say and a vote on all CTU policies

Each union will be represented on the council by one young worker (under 25 years-old).

To find out more and get involved, talk to your union organiser, or contact Chris: chrisw@nzctu.org.nz.

www.union.org.nz/yum

YUM has its own section on the Council of Trade Unions' website. These pages are being updated with stories and news about young union members and YUM events, issues and campaigns. There's also a message board where you can keep in touch with other YUM members.

If you want to see your writing, photos, drawing or cartoons on the site, contact Nick: nickh@nzctu.org.nz.