

NEWSLETTER



BERT wishes you a prosperous 2016!



The BERT Team

2016 CIP Charity Lunch - SAVE the DATE



Last year's 10th annual CIP Charity lunch was a huge success raising a further \$60,000+ for prostate cancer research, taking our total amount raised to over \$490,000.00, and we are looking forward to making this year bigger and better.

Paul Spinks

SAVE THE DATE: Friday 8 April 2016
Victoria Park Golf Complex

This year CIP will bring you Guest Speaker Paul Spinks, a Paramedic and State Trauma Councillor, speaking in the areas of health and well-being and inspiring change to bring about purpose, direction, retention and meaning into the workplace and to individuals for 2016.

CIP, in conjunction with the Mater, continues to maintain its commitment to raising awareness and money towards research for prostate cancer and encouraging education into men's health and wellbeing to help kick this dreadful disease.

A formal invitation will be sent shortly. Feel free to check our [website](#) for more updates.



BERT Welcomes Donna Harrington



BERT is pleased to announce Donna Harrington as the Services Sector Coordinator.

In her new role Donna will be able to provide invaluable assistance to all Employers and Members bringing with her a wealth of knowledge to greatly assist the Services Sector. Donna intends to make regular company and site visits with all of the Funds' Employers providing guidance, information and important industry and Fund updates. Please contact Donna with any enquiries on 0434 143 222 or via email on dharrington@bert.com.au.

Two months into the administration of STQ Contributions BERT is pleased with the transition and would like to take the opportunity to recognise our staff for their expertise, prompt delivery and professionalism in the transition to the new process. This is supported by the complimentary feedback from Employers using the system, who state the new process has saved valuable time and simplified their monthly contribution processing.

Members can now also see their STQ contributions from November 2015 onwards in their **BOBB** account. If you have not already registered with BOBB please do so by visiting bobb.bert.com.au.

Photo: Bill Wallace and Donna Harrington

2015 - The year in Review

Bill Wallace, General Manager BERT, BEWT and CIP reflects on the year that was 2015.

2015 was another busy yet successful and fulfilling year for the Funds, our staff and myself personally.

To name just a few highlights from the year:

- QMCA transferred the 50% share of ownership to Master Builders
- Our very own Business Engagement Manager, Amanda Arrowsmith did us proud when she trekked Kokoda for the second time with Myself, Ray (MIC) and Mick (BTF) joining her.
- Collection of \$2.6 mil from the ATO for outstanding GST payments
- BERT hosted the MIC Kokoda Trek breakfast launch - raising \$5,000 donations to MATES in Construction (MIC)
- The inaugural Golf Day was a huge hit - raising another \$40,000 for MIC
- Commencement of the administration and collection of STQ Contributions late in the year
- 30% reduction in the receipt of redundancy claims throughout the year in comparison to the previous year (2014).



The Funds continue to flourish with the below information and statistics.

BERT Fund has:

- paid out \$420 million to over 150,000 members for redundancy benefits
- contributed over \$40 million to assist upskilling the industry via BTF
- paid out over \$88 million for the betterment of the industry

CIP Fund has:

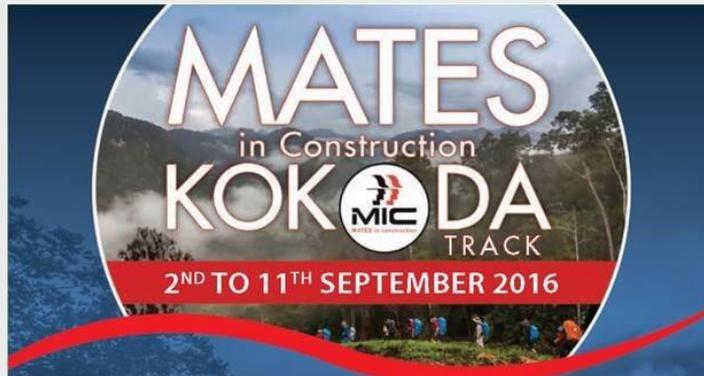
- paid out in excess of \$68 million to over 4,700 members - assisting these members with dignity in their time of need.
- saved the industry in excess of \$65 million due to the banking of portable sick leave and the subsequent not taking of sickies at the end of a project.

We continue to recognise and commit to our industry and aim for 2016 to be another successful year for the BERT, BEWT, CIP and STQ Funds.

Photo: Bill Wallace and John Crittall

BERT / CIP Supporting MATES in Construction

Kokoda 2016



Are you up for a challenge, some amazing history, beautiful scenery and a chance to experience a country, its people and culture first hand? Journey with MATES in Construction and Aurora Adventures to walk in the steps of heroes and be a part of a team raising funds & awareness for suicide prevention in our industry.

For a taste of what is to come in this great adventure watch this short [2016 Trailer](#)

Taking place from 2 - 11 September 2016 for \$5,500 per person you or your staff could be involved in a truly life and industry changing experience. If this trek is for you, lodge your expression of interest by clicking [here](#).

If you would like more information on how your company can sponsor trekkers please email Amanda Arrowsmith on aarrowsmith@bert.com.au

BERT Board up to the challenge



The BERT Board has approved the funding for four (4) participants to trek Kokoda in September 2016.

We are now seeking expressions of interest from members and contributing Employers who would like to take on the challenge and have their spot on the trek sponsored. BERT will pay for the costs associated with the trek including flights and accommodation, excluding trekking gear.

HOW DO I APPLY?

Simply email Amanda Arrowsmith on aarrowsmith@bert.com.au with the following details:

- NAME
- CONTACT NUMBER / EMAIL
- EMPLOYER NAME
- REASON for WISHING to PARTICIPATE in the 2016 TREK.

All expressions of interest must be received by BERT no later than COB Friday 11 March 2016. The four lucky winners will be notified in the week commencing 14 March 2016. Please note this decision will be final.

BERT Training Fund 2016 Annual Achievement Awards

Nominations for the BERT Training Fund 2016 Annual Achievement Awards are now open!



The 2014 award winners

The BERT Training Fund manages a series of Annual Achievement Awards to acknowledge the enduring contributions of Construction Training Queensland (CTQ) to the development of the building and construction industry. These awards are open to all existing workers and employers within the Queensland Construction Industry. The award categories are:

- **The Patrick Hoiberg Award for Distinction in Mentoring** - (Award value up to \$5,000)
- **Award for Merit Despite Adversity** - (Award value up to \$5,000)
- **Academic Encouragement Award** - (Award value up to \$5,000)

Further information can be found on the [BTF website](#).

News from Regional QLD and the Top End

2016 looks set to be a promising year for Regional QLD and NT Building, Civil and Major Projects with the below projects locked in for the year.

Regional Queensland Building:

- Cairns Casino (estimated at approx. \$5 billion) set to commence 2016
- Lend Lease Townsville Willows Shopping Centre (\$100m) continuing 2016
- Lend Lease Townsville University Upgrade (\$70m) continuing 2016
- Gladstone Stocklands Shopping Centre (\$100m) commencing 2016

NT Building

- Lend Lease Darwin Hospital

South East Queensland Civil:

- Lend Lease Gateway North Upgrade - GUN Highway (\$1.4 billion) - early works have commenced - continuing 2016

- Lend Lease Kingsford Smith Drive Upgrade (\$640 million) - commencing early 2016
- Acciona Toowoomba Range Second Crossing (\$1.7 billion) - commencing early 2016

Major Projects:

- NT
 - Ichthys LNG Project ongoing for approximately 2 more years
- QLD
 - Curtis Island has approximately 6 months left to completion of the job

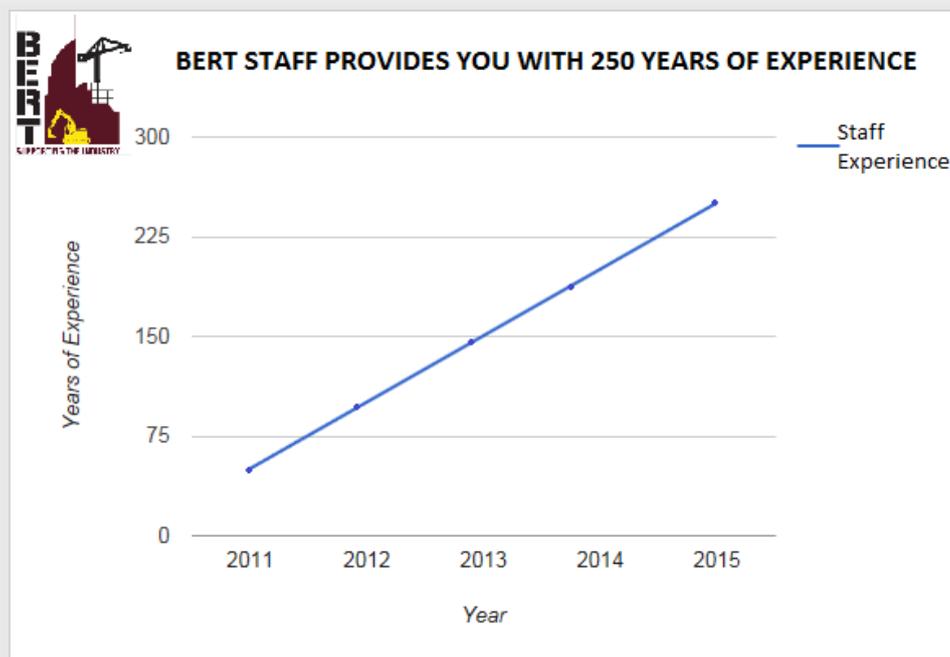


Queensland Coal Mine Projects Adarni and GVK Coal are currently in the process of gaining approvals with the latest updates suggesting they will both go ahead in 2016. **All great news for BERT and CIP!**

BERT Staff Experience

Did you know BERT offers in excess of 250 years of experience?

Since taking over self administration in 2011 to date, our team has an accumulative total of over 250 years of experience, knowledge and expertise in the Building and Construction Industry. This means Members and Employers are able to draw on this experience and knowledge of our people and the services we offer. The BERT Team is always happy to help, so please do not hesitate to contact us at any time, for any query. Contact us on 1300 261 114.



BERT Supports the appointment of the Workplace Impairment Officer



Amanda Arrowmsith, Bill Wallace, Ross Davidson, John Crittall, Martin Belfield

The BERT Board has agreed to the appointment of Ross Davidson, Workplace Impairment Officer for three (3) years commencing August 2015.

Ross started in the Industry in 2004 as a labourer, completing his carpentry apprenticeship and working as a Carpenter until April 2013. He then became a site delegate for Pradella up until August 2015 when he commenced his current position as the Workplace Impairment Officer.

As well as his Certificate III in Carpentry, Ross also holds a Certificate IV in Building and Construction, a Certificate IV in Workplace Health & Safety, and a Certificate IV in Training and Assessment.

In his new role Ross will continue to build relationships with service providers and attend sites to talk to members about the Impairment policy and answer any questions arising from it. It is Ross's intention to continue site visits and address workers and builders to raise awareness and understanding of the policy. He further intends to start the training and awareness program during 2016.

The training program consists of two (2) elements. Firstly the Workplace Impairment Training (WIT) aimed at all personell on site, including the builder and their staff; and secondly the Preliminary Impairment Training (PIA) aimed at the Safety Manager, Site / Company Delegate and the elected HSR within the company or Health & Safety Committee on the job site.

Look out for Ross and say G'day if you see him around on site!

Redundancy Claim Criteria

As a member you are eligible to lodge a claim for redundancy if you have money in your BERT account, have been terminated from employment and your Employer has indicated on your separation certificate that you have been terminated due to:

- Redundancy;
- Shortage of Work;
- End of Season or Contract; or
- Unsuitability for the type of work.

To make a redundancy claim from the BERT Fund, please complete and return the following required documentation:

- Claim Form



- Separation Certificate issued by your previous Employer; and
- Bank Statement (for EFT payment).

You have the option to make a claim for the total balance amount or for a partial withdrawal of your balance. Please indicate this on your claim form.

The tax rate you pay on your claim is dependant on you supplying us with your tax file number (TFN), and if you are over the preservation age. Please refer to our website for our rates. You have the choice of whether or not your quote your TFN. If you decide not to quote your TFN, then tax will be deducted from your benefit at the highest personal tax rate plus Medicare levy (currently 49%).

Please refer to our website www.bert.com.au or contact the office on 1300 261 114 for further information.

CIP Weekly Contribution Rates and Benefits

Benefit Increase

The member benefit and rate for the Building Scheme is increasing for claims post 1 March 2016*. The new benefit is 85% of pre-disability earnings up to a maximum of \$1,300.

Sector Rates

The weekly contribution rate is set to increase effective as of March 2016. The new rates are as follows:

Building Industry

- From March 2016 contribution period - **\$29.60** per person, per week (including GST)

Civil Industry

- From March 2016 contribution period - **\$29.60** per person, per week (including GST)

Major Projects

- From March 2016 contribution period - **\$44.50** per person, per week

Please review the table below for all future rates and benefits and effective dates. While the Board is confident that these new contribution rates can be sustained over the period outlined, these amounts could be varied for unforeseen changes in the market.

Building Industry	Contribution Rate	Benefit * **
March 2016	\$29.60	\$1,300
March 2017	\$31.70	\$1,400
March 2018	\$35.00	\$1,500
March 2019	\$39.30	\$1,600
Civil Industry	Contribution Rate	Benefit * **
March 2016	\$29.60	\$1,400
March 2017	\$31.70	\$1,400
March 2018	\$35.00	\$1,500
March 2019	\$39.30	\$1,600
Major Projects	Contribution Rate	Benefit * **
March 2016	\$44.50	\$2,750

* For any injury / illness prior to 1 March 2016 the weekly benefit applicable at that time will apply.

** Please note these benefits are 85% of pre-disability earnings to a maximum of the rates above subject to condition and exclusions of the policy

To download a copy of the brochure visit our [website](http://www.bert.com.au).

BERT / BEWT Weekly Contribution Rates

BERT/BEWT rate increase

The following rates are applicable from the January 2016 contribution. Please note this rate should be applied for all weeks of the January period. Please check your online contributions for your period start and end dates and update your employer payroll system accordingly in preparation.

January 2016	BERT	BEWT
Adult	\$100.00	\$13.00
1st year apprenticeship - 45%	\$45.00	\$5.85
1st year apprenticeship - 40%	\$40.00	\$5.20
2nd year apprenticeship	\$55.00	\$7.15
3rd year apprenticeship	\$75.00	\$9.75
4th year apprenticeship	\$90.00	\$11.70

A number of contractors have agreed via EBA negotiations to the following rate increases over the coming years:

Effective Period	BERT	BEWT
January 2017	\$105.00	\$13.50
January 2018	\$110.00	\$14.20
January 2018	\$115.00	\$14.90

EMPLOYERS ONLINE - Tips to Avoid Duplicate Members

When processing a contribution and adding new members, try our quick search facility to see if the member already exists in our records.

The screenshot shows a web form titled "Add member". The form has several input fields: "Member no:" (empty), "Given names:" (containing "K"), "Surname:" (containing "Fitzgerald"), "DOB:" (containing "02/02/1990"), "Phone number:" (empty), "Email address:" (empty), "Street:" (with sub-fields "1:" and "2:"), "Suburb/Locality:" (empty), "State:" (empty), and "Post code:" (empty). At the bottom, there are three buttons: "Clear search", "Search", and "Cancel". The "Search" button is highlighted with a red box. Additionally, a red box highlights the "Given names", "Surname", and "DOB" fields.

Simply use the members given name / surname / date of birth and select Search. If an existing record matches the member's details you have entered it will display on screen for you to select. If no existing member is found the you can add the new member.

Please ensure when adding new members you include their address and either a mobile number or email address or both if available.

BOBBs YOUR MATE

Save time and check online - anytime - day or night!

- Check your current balance - review your redundancy entitlements and CIP Portable Sick Leave days
- Check your employer's payments are up to date for BERT, CIP and STQ
- View / Save / Print your Payment Summary (ETP) for end of year tax
- Update your address and contact details
- Add a nominated beneficiary
- Payment Estimate Calculator (after tax)
- Send us an enquiry



BOBB provides you with 24/7 access to your BERT, CIP and STQ accounts. All you need to register is your name and date of birth. [Join your mates and register now!](#)

SWITCH YOUR CTP FOR YOUR MATES

Did you know?

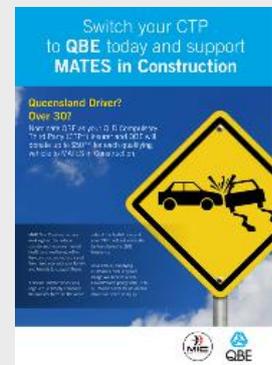
Just by switching your Compulsory Third Party (CTP) Insurance to our Industry partner QBE they will donate \$50* to Mates in Construction.

Simply [click here](#) to complete the electronic nomination form.

More information can be found on the [MATES website](#).

State law restricts this offer to Queensland residents only and Terms and Conditions Apply

* This donation only applies to your next registrations renewal in the event of a qualifying customer transferring their CTP cover to QBE through MATES in Construction



Portable Sick Leave

Important Information for Employers!!!

DON'T FORGET ... When a worker ceases employment with you, it's your obligation to ensure the CIP Termination form is completed via the online contribution system or print and complete the [Form](#). (Available on the [CIP website](#)). **Not applicable for casual workers.**

Upon termination, unused sick days are transferred to your workers CIP account at no cost to you as this is included as part of the CIP insurance product.

Keep your contribution advice clean by terminating members in the month they cease employment and indicate their employment period and sick days taken.

Workers can register and login to BOBB anytime to check their account and ensure their employer has transferred any unused sick days back to their CIP account.



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