



Victorian Farmers
Federation



Court Reference:1137/2009

28 October 2010

Phillip Brown
Coroners Registrar
Coroners Court of Victoria
Level 1, 436 Lonsdale St
MELBOURNE VIC 3000

Dear Mr Brown,

Re: Kalon Tippett - Response to the Coroner's recommendation

I refer to your correspondence dated 6 September 2010 and respond accordingly.

Recommendation

"Pursuant to Section 72(2) of the **Coroners Act 2008**, I make the following recommendation connected with the death:

1. "Agencies such as Workcover and farmers' organisations should continue with safety campaigns to increase farmer awareness of safety, and need to implement strategies to avoid tragic and preventable deaths."

The unfortunate death of Kalon Tippett was a tragic loss to the farming community. Safety should be a number one priority at any workplace, with agriculture being no different with respect to safety.

The VFF believes that: the Coroner's recommendation has or will be implemented.

The VFF is involved in a number of safety initiatives.

VFF is a party to the FarmSafe Alliance.

The FarmSafe Alliance is made up of the representatives of the Victorian Workcover Authority, Australian Workers Union, Department of Primary Industries and the Department of Health and the Victorian Farmers Federation.

The FarmSafe Alliance's objective is to work co-operatively to achieve a reduction in injury and death resulting from farm activities. In order to achieve this, a number of initiatives are developed through the Alliance including delivering safety messages to the farming community. With the funding from the Victorian WorkCover Authority, Department of Primary Industries and the Department of Health, Farm Safety Managers are engaged to communicate with and inform key stakeholders in rural communities about health and safety on farms, develop and support the implementation of solutions which improve health and safety on farms, develop the partnerships the FarmSafe Alliance has, and build on the complementary strengths and capabilities and link local communities and groups to increase awareness of occupational health and safety issues on farms.

The FarmSafe Alliance has been in operation for a number of years providing valuable safety messages to the farming community.

Victorian Farmers Federation Farm Safe Victoria Committee

The VFF has a committee devoted to farm safety. The VFF FarmSafe Victoria Committee comprises various representatives from the VFF itself, Country Women's Association, the Country Fire Authority, the Country Australian Doctors Association, Department of Health and Primary Industry and Monash University and the Alliance Managers and officers. The committee meets four times a year to discuss safety and health in relation to the farming community. The chairman of Farm Safety Victoria is a VFF member.

The VFF members and staff have a commitment to safety. When there is an opportunity for safety training to be included as a compulsory unit in a teaching syllabus the VFF support or submit for it to be included. This is to ensure that safety is given a high focus at the workplace.

The Chairman of the Committee after seeing small children on a quad bike in The Weekly Times on 22 September 2010, wrote to the paper explaining that there are no excuses for ignoring safety and noting that for many years the Victorian FarmSafe Alliance has been trying to change farmer attitudes towards safety on the farm. When the opportunity presents itself the committee will speak out about the need to change the negative attitudes towards safety on the farm. A copy of both the original photograph and the Chairman's response is enclosed.

Vic Farmer Magazine

The VFF has and will continue to write safety messages in the VFF Vic Farmer Magazine to increase farmer awareness of safety.

Yours Faithfully,



Andrew Broad
President

Weekly
Times 22 Sept 10

Farm invention pushers the limit

CERTAINLY not one we'd recommend you try at home. *Back Paddock* came across this unique "pram" recently, although we are not so sure of its safety merits.

The owner assured us it was safe "provided you don't do silly things. And the kids love it."

Of course we've all heard the stories of how to keep an eye on little ones while working on the farm.

Back Paddock hears of one old timer whose parents stood him in a cream can when he was a youngster, with his head popping out the top, so he couldn't get into trouble while they milked the cows. Or the woman who refused to buy a tractor a few years back because there was no room for the baby capsule.



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The Editor,
The Weekly Times,
P.O. Box 14999,
Melbourne 8001



PHONE: (03) 9292 1584

FAX: (03) 9292 2697

E-MAIL:

letters@theweeklytimes.com.au

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No excuses for ignoring safety

WHILE amusing to some, the picture with the article "Farm invention pushes the limit" (WT Sept 22), I feel that having two children on a quad bike is inherently unsafe and against the manufacturers' specifications.

For many years, the Victorian FarmSafe Alliance has been trying to change farmers attitudes towards safety on the farm.

While the *Weekly Times* acknowledges the doubtful safety merits of the modification, it is quite clear that the modification is unsafe and clearly outside the manufacturers specifications. Therefore, under no circumstances should it be acceptable as a child restraint for quad bikes.

**Alan Bowman,
chairman, Victorian
Farmsafe Alliance**