THE ACTIVIST



Published Regularly - ISSN 1178-7392 (Print & Online) - 3 April 2008

REMEMBER WORKERS MEMORIAL DAY 28 APRIL

This year's workers' Memorial Day theme is "Good Occupational Health for All Workers". The purpose behind Workers' Memorial Day has always been to "remember the dead: fight for the living" and unions are asked to focus on both areas, by considering memorials to all those killed through work but at the same time ensuring that such tragedies are not repeated.

This can best be done by building trade

organisation, and campaigning for stricter enforcement with higher penalties for breaches of health & safety laws. RMTU members are asked to once again stop work (wherever you are) at midday on the April to remember here and internationally who have been killed and seriously injured in work accidents. The RMTU will be joining millions of workers around the world who are also commemorating this day. Some RMTU Branches will be conducting commemorative

meetings at the memorials unveiled in previous years. Please advise National Office if you are holding a ceremony in your area. If you wish to invite a National Office speaker then please do so now.

We must continue to remind ourselves that we lose real workmates and working men and women in these accidents and not let them become simply statistics!

WORK CHOICES KILLED OFF

The Australian House of Representatives passed the last amendments to Labor's first industrial relations bill about 11.40am on 20 March 2008.

The Prime Minister called it a historic day and offered a roll call of the seats Labour secured in last year's election and put their electoral success down to the Coalition's workplace laws. "Today we declare AWAs to be dead and buried," Prime Minister Rudd said. "Today we declare this shameful

chapter in the history of Australia's workplace relations to be dead and buried."

"We come to bury Work Choices. We are putting the tombstone on it that says 'Rest in peace'. We want to find out if the Opposition wants to exhume it," Deputy Prime Minister Gillard said.

Labour has delivered on its election promise to begin building a new industrial system.



ILO -World Day

TOLL – VEOLIA MECA

The Union is planning to renew the above Multi Employer Collective agreement this year.

No secret ballot of members is required as the replacement MECA will meet the requirements of Section 48 of the ERA 2000. These essentially are;

- The MECA will replace a MECA that is in force
- The same parties are involved
- The scope of coverage clause is the same.

The Union will initiate bargaining with Toll – Veolia 60 days before the expiry date of the current CA (30 June 2008) in accordance with Sec 41(3)(a) ERA 2000. This will occur on 2 may 2008.

PORTS FORUM

The 2008 RMTU Ports Forum will be held in Wellington on 4 and 5 June.

The union is keen to hear ideas from port branches on what they would like to achieve at the Forum, but proposals so far include:

- An analysis of the Napier dispute what happened and why
- Progress on the Government's transport strategy
- Reports on the round of port negotiations under way at present
- Methyl bromide
- Maritime NZ's Operation Afloat activities

Port branches should tell the National Office who their delegates will be, as soon as possible, so that bookings can be made.

BREASTFEEDING ACCESS AND MEAL BREAKS MOVE STRENGTHENS NZ'S CORE WORK RIGHTS

"Increased provisions for workers for meal and refreshment and breastfeeding breaks are good steps in continuing to improve the minimum work rights that New Zealand workers can expect," Council of Trade Unions secretary Carol Beaumont said following a government announcement today.

"Time and access to facilities will be a welcome move for breastfeeding mums at work, and brings New Zealand into line with the 92 other countries who have signed up to this international obligation."

"Breast feeding mums need to feel confident that workplaces have policies in place and a culture that supports them and their babies in the workplace. Some

employers have recognised the need for this, and a guaranteed work right will help ensure this is more accessible."

"These provisions build on steady progress to improve the lives of working people, including better annual leave provisions, 14 weeks paid parental leave, the right to request flexible work, and a \$12 minimum wage coming into effect next week."

"The distinctions between political parties on work rights are becoming clear, with today's improvements contrasting with announcements earlier in the month from National which included entrenching a 90 days No-Rights period," Carol Beaumont said.

A CALL TO ARMS

Here at National Office we get many emails from members. An increasing number are received from Loco Engineers about cab seating. Here is one we received recently slightly abridged for decency...

"For some time now we have listened to Toll Manager's talk about their concerns of the health and safety of staff. With respect, "what a load of shit" it's really "health and safety as long as it does not cost". We have raised concerns about the state of the track and rolling stock and the effects on the bodies of Loco engineers. In the last few months we have received many reports from loco engineer's that they seem to have problems with their backs. The seating in most of the Toll NZ locos has a lot to do with these back problems. These seats are not air assisted and they tend to bottom out all the time with the rough track and the many many mud spots which cause a hell of a jolt on ones lower back. We have been trying to get all locos fitted with air seats for some time but to date only some of the milk locos have been done. It is getting to the point where we have had enough! It should not be taking years to have these seats fitted to all loco's. It seems to us that the only way we can get things done is to place a ban on all main line locos which are not fitted with the agreed standard of seating, an air assist seat."

We would suggest that it is time for Toll to act NOW.



CLAIMS REMIT CALL FOR – TOLL NZ & VEOLIA TRANSPORT

Branches and members are asked to commence discussion on remits for the forthcoming wage round with the above two companies. The MECA expires 30 June 2008. All remits MUST come through the

RMTU Remits branch. comina direct from members will be rejected and sent back to the local branch secretary. The remit must have a branch stamp on it and have been passed at a properly

"Over 9 years in the 1990s National increased the minimum wage by only 14 per cent, less than a dollar, and the wage gap with Australia increased by 50%."

"Over 9 years under Labour led governments, the minimum wage has increased by 71 per cent, or 5 dollars an hour, and the wage gap with Australia has increased by only 1.4%"

constituted branch meeting.

We urge members to give serious consideration on remit claims and only claims that members are willing to mount industrial action to achieve should come through.

Remits for Toll NZ and Veolia Transport will close on 1 May 2008.

ONTRACK INFRASTRUCTURE UPDATE

This week has seen meetings held throughout NZ at ONTRACK worksites with RMTU officials and delegates accompanied by ONTRACK Managers to distribute an agreed bundle of documents relating to the "Building Our Futures" booklets and to discuss seek a mandate for a joint wages working party.

The meetings have gone very well with members strongly endorsing the commencement of the working party and the delay of the ONTRACK MECA discussions until 1 June so as to coincide better with the ONTRACK core CA expiry of 30 June 2008.

ONTRACK have given a commitment of full backdating of any settlement for Infrastructure members employed under the CA.

WELLINGTON SYSTEM 70 YEARS OLD IN JULY

Transport 2000 reports that on July 3 1938 electric multiple units started service on the railway between Wellington and Johnsonville. Seventy years later, EMUs of the same design (although slightly later

manufacture) still operate the line.

The Johnsonville Line opening marked the birth of the suburban electric rail system in Wellington – and the effective end (so far) of rail infrastructure development within what is now Wellington City. The rail system is now the spine of the public transport (PT) system and

provides 70% of the total service (measured as passengers x distance carried). As such it is a birthday worth celebrating.

The form of the commemoration has not yet been worked out, but I hope that it would be used to look to the future and the need to complete the Wellington rail system, as well as celebrate the foresight of our grandparents.

Minimum Wage Increase

The minimum wage rate is increasing on April 1 2008. The new adult rate will be \$12.00 per hour before tax.

The minimum youth rate is being replaced with a minimum 'New Entrant' rate for 16 and 17 year olds. Youth who are supervising other workers are entitled to no less than the adult minimum rate from the outset. Otherwise, youth can enter the workforce at \$9.60 per hour until they have worked 200 hours, or been in work for 3 months (whichever comes first). After the time threshold has been reached, all youth are entitled to be paid no less than the adult rate.

Employees engaged in industry training programmes of at least 60 credits per year can be paid a minimum of \$9.60 an hour before tax.



For more information, please see the Department of Labour website: www.dol.govt.nz/new-entrants

ROAD TRANSPORT WORKERS IN INDIA WIN WAGE DEAL

Thousands of road transport workers in India will benefit from a settlement negotiated by a number of trade union federations and the government of Tamil Nadu state.

The agreement, which was reached at wage negotiations in Chennai, involved several union federations – including the ITF-affiliated Tamil Nadu Road Transport Workers' HMS Federation - the Minister of

Transport, the Transport Secretary, the managing directors of seven corporations and government officials. The agreement, which is effective from September 2007 until September 2010, is set to improve the pay and conditions of some 150,000 workers. It includes: a 12 per cent wage increase; a 50

per cent increase in the annual increment level; improvements in pension provision and a range of other allowances, such as those for night shift work. There was also a commitment to discuss and resolve other outstanding issues as soon as possible.

Mahendra Sharma, ITF Deputy Asia-Pacific Regional Secretary, commented: "We welcome this long overdue agreement. It has been achieved following long and drawn out negotiations and threats of industrial action. We hope that this agreement will now set a trend in other state transport corporations."

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL TRADE UNION BODIES CONDEMN REPRESSIVE MEASURES METED OUT AGAINST TRADE UNION LEADER MAHMOUD SALEHI

Amnesty International, the International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC) and the International Transport Workers' Federation (ITF) are calling on the Iranian authorities to immediately and unconditionally release Mahmoud Salehi, the former leader of the Saqez Bakers' Union, who was imprisoned in 2007 for the pursuit of legitimate trade union activities.

Mahmoud Salehi, who has serious long term medical concerns, is now on a total hunger strike and there are serious fears for his safety. He went on hunger strike after he was summoned to appear for questioning by Branch 4 of the Sanandaj Courts on 17 March 2008 when, after a prolonged wait, new charges were issued against him.

He has reportedly been accused of 'communicating with those outside prison for the purposes of issuing messages of solidarity' for other individual prisoners on hunger strike and students facing arrest. The new charges appear intended to justify Mahmoud Salehi's continued detention

beyond his scheduled 23 March 2008

release date, when he will have

completed a one year prison sentence.

Amnesty International, the ITUC and the ITF are concerned that the new charge may have been brought against Mahmoud Salehi in response to the international mobilisation on 6 March 2008 by trade unions and Amnesty International members around the world to demand his release and that of his fellow trade unionist, Mansour Osanloo.

Mahmoud Salehi, former President of the Bakery Workers' Association of the city of Saqez, was arrested after a peaceful demonstration to celebrate May Day 2004. He was imprisoned on charges of 'acting against national security' after his final appeal hearing on 11 March 2007, and he began a one year sentence, with another three years' suspended, on 9 April 2007.

Mahmoud Salehi is a prisoner of conscience and has long-term medical needs.

Guy Ryder, General Secretary of the ITUC said:"It is deplorable that Mahmoud Salehi should have been imprisoned for participating in a May Day rally – a show of worker solidarity that should be a cause of celebration rather than repression."



SPOTLESS HOSPITAL WORKERS ON STRIKE

The lowest paid workers in our health system have given two weeks' notice of strike action because their employer, Spotless Services, is refusing to pay out the wage rise negotiated last year.

The Service and Food Workers Union Nga Ringa Tota, which represents more than 800 kitchen workers, cleaners and orderlies who work for the multi-national contractor, issued the strike notices for Wednesday, April 2.

SFWU Industrial Co-ordinator Shane Vugler says a \$14.25 minimum pay rate was negotiated as part of new national agreements covering workers employed by District Health Boards and three other contracting companies.

"It's been nine months since Spotless locked our members out of their workplace for nine days over their wage negotiations. That lockout was resolved on the basis of agreement on wages, penal rates and overtime that Spotless workers would receive. Now Spotless is refusing to pay out because of 'funding issues' with its clients, the DHBs."

Mr Vugler says Spotless workers have settled and ratified their Collective Employment Agreement and they should be paid out the agreed rates.

"Spotless is using its workers as pawns in their funding dispute with the DHBs. These workers are going to have to lose more wages to be paid what has been agreed to and what has already been funded by the Labour-led Government. This is not acceptable."

The workers are employed at Kaitaia Hospital, Bay of Islands Hospital (Kawakawa), Whangarei Hospital, North Hospital, Waitakere Hospital, Middlemore Hospital, Manukau Superclinic, Pukekohe Hospital, Franklin Hospital Tauranga Hospital, Rotorua (Waiuku), Hospital, Gisborne Hospital, Palmerston North Hospital, Wanganui Hospital, Hawkes Bay Hospital, Kew Hospital, Wairarapa Hospital, and Timaru Hospital.

WELCOME PHIL!

7 April is the first day at work for new Bay of (BOP) RMTU Organiser Spanswick. Phil was previously the BOP branch secretary for the Maritime Union of NZ. Phil is a very experienced organiser and negotiator and will be an able addition to the RMTU National Staff team. Phil commence his work with the Union by an induction at the Wellington National Office and then will begin work in the area. Phil will deal with all matters and employment issues arising from the membership in the Bay.

STOP THE ATTACK ON TRADE UNION RIGHTS IN SASKATCHEWAN

The first act of Saskatchewan's brand new government was to introduce two union-busting pieces of legislation.

The Essential Services Act (Bill 5) will take away the right to strike of almost every public sector worker, and even allows the government, at their own whim, to deem private sector workers as essential. Bill 6, amendments to the Trade Union Act, will allow employers to use threats and intimidation to communicate their opinions about unionising and the business of the union. It will also move organising from automatic certification to secret ballot votes, which is far less democratic and will result in a halt to union organising in Saskatchewan.

The Saskatchewan Federation of Labour and its affiliates have launched a public relations and mobilisation campaign to have Bills 5 and 6 withdrawn. We are also challenging the legislation in court, arguing that they violate the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms, the Human Rights code, and international law, including the International Bill of Human Rights and several UN and ILO Conventions:

http://www.labourstart.org/cgibin/solidarityforever/show campaign.cgi?c= 350

MEAL-BREAK LAW ABOUT FAIRNESS

The new meal-break law will make a huge difference to tens of thousands of New



Zealand workers says the Engineering, Printing and Manufacturing Union.

While nearly all unionised workers already have paid breaks and lunch-hours written into their collective agreements many working New Zealanders don't have the same enforceable rights and have been missing out for years. EPMU national secretary Andrew Little says there is plenty of evidence that workers are missing out on decent breaks.

"One of the biggest problems we hear of from non-members that call our support centre 0800 number is lack of breaks. "Just last week we had a call from a non-union worker at a BP franchise who was working a seven hour nightshift with no breaks whereas EPMU members at BP-owned sites get a minimum of two short paid breaks and a half hour lunch-break that is paid or unpaid depending on circumstances.

"Unfortunately, too many employers have the attitude that if it's not in the law they don't have to provide for it."

"The old Factories and Commercial Premises Act used to provide for breaks during the working day, but that went in 1992 under the previous National government and there was nothing put in its place. The proposed new law marks another win by union members for every working New Zealander.

"Getting a decent break time is an issue of fundamental fairness and of healthy work practices, and the employer groups that are whinging about this legislation frankly are protesting too much. They would do better to educate their members about fair treatment of workers – if they know how."

SPOTLESS WORKERS STRIKE AFTER COMPANY RENEGES ON AGREED DEAL

Spotless workers are telling their employer to get out the chequebook or get out of our public hospitals.

More than 800 hospital cleaners, kitchen workers and orderlies are so angry that Spotless is refusing to honour a pay deal reached last year, they are going on strike for 24 hours next Wednesday, April 2.

Mediation between Spotless Services Ltd and the Service and Food Workers Union yesterday failed to avert a strike. The Union is calling on Auckland unionists to join pickets starting at 6am at Middlemore, North Shore and Waitakere Hospitals.

About 200 workers from these hospitals will later rally from 11.30am outside Spotless Headquarters at 600 Great South Rd, Green Lane

SFWU Industrial Co-ordinator Shane Vugler says that although Spotless has agreed to a minimum \$14.25 hourly rate, the multinational contracting company is refusing to pay the new rates because of a funding dispute with the District Health Boards.

"Spotless and the DHBs have had nine months to sort out the funding issues and now they are using their low-paid staff as scapegoats for their own mismanagement. They are putting patients at risk as a consequence."

Vugler says it is totally unacceptable that low-paid workers in our public hospitals are being forced to lose income because Spotless and the DHBs can't do simple arithmetic.

Yesterday Spotless announced to the Australian Stock Exchange a multi-million dollar takeover bid for the property services company Programmed.

The workers, many of whom are on the minimum wage, are employed at hospitals from Kaitaia to Invercargill. Pickets will be held around the country.

UGL Propose Time Clocks

The Union has contacted the NZ Nurses Organisation and the Service and Food Workers Union, after being invited to do so by UGL, as Unions who have experience with the Kronos system that UGL propose to install into the rail workshop and selected depots in New Zealand. The Nurses reported "that their members hated the system" and the SFWU pointed us to a Wellington Employment Court decision that they had won which related to a company called OCS who had tried to install the system.

The Union has advised UGL that following receipt of this information our recommendation to members at the round of



meetings nationwide will be to reject the system. The Union has also lodge late claims with UGL in the wageround to prevent the system being installed during the term of the Collective agreement.

UNION CAMPAIGNING TO LIFT LOW WAGES PAYS OFF

"Workers campaigning in unions to lift low wages are paying off," CTU secretary Carol Beaumont said, ahead of the \$12 an hour minimum wage coming into effect next week.

"Unions campaigned for a \$12 an hour minimum wage, and through agreements between Labour with both the Greens and New Zealand First, this has now fully delivered on it."

"And with the abolition of youth rates from April 1 also, 16 and 17 year olds will see their minimum wage rise from \$9 to \$12 after 200 hours or 3 months, whichever is sooner."

"National frequently talks about the wage gap with Australia but has so far failed to come up with any meaningful solutions. We know that they are on record wanting to cut workers' conditions, which will reduce wages, but they need to put their money where their mouth is and say how they will lift wages."

"Over 9 years in the 1990s National increased the minimum wage by only 14 per cent, less than a dollar, and the wage gap with Australia increased by 50%."

"Over 9 years under Labour led governments, the minimum wage has increased by 71 per cent, or 5 dollars an hour, and the wage gap with Australia has increased by only 1.4%"

"Unions are organising workers through collective agreements to lift wages sustainably across industries, but regular increases in the minimum wage floor are critical to lifting wages also."

The CTU argues for a three-pronged approach to address low pay, which in addition to lifting the minimum wage to \$15 an hour includes strengthening the rights for workers to be covered by industry wide employment agreements and ongoing

investment in skills, infrastructure and modernising work practices, Beaumont said.

WOMEN'S PARTICIPATION CENSUS A VALUABLE TOOL

The Council of Trade Unions has congratulated the Human Rights Commission's latest census on women's participation, saying it is a very valuable tool for tracking progress on gender equality.

The Commission's will later today release their third Census of Women's Participation. This is the second release that includes data on trade unions.

"It is important we continue to have a regular stock take and scrutiny of women's participation in areas of public life, including the union movement," CTU secretary Carol Beaumont said.

"Achieving equality is not just a women's issue it is an issue for all people, and specific measures need to be taken to ensure gender equality and promote full participation of women in all avenues of society."

"For our part, unions are serious about wanting to increase women's participation in unions and are part of a global campaign on this. Last November the International Trade Union Confederation launched its action programme on achieving gender equality in trade unions."

NATIONAL HAS NO CREDIBILITY ON WAGES - EPMU

National's continued attempts to portray New Zealand's low wages as a tax issue is politics at its most cynical, says the Engineering, Printing and Manufacturing Union.

The call follows today's claim by National Party Finance spokesman Bill English that tax cuts are the answer to the trans-tasman wage gap.

EPMU national secretary Andrew Little says National's previous attack on Kiwi workers' incomes leaves it with no mandate to speak on their behalf.

"When the National Party fronts up to New Zealand workers and explains it was that party which took away overtime rates of pay,



penal rates and shift allowances then we will be in a position to have an honest debate about why wages are such an issue in New Zealand today.

"Bill English has tried to claim tax cuts are a 'dividend' for working New Zealanders but the real dividend comes from getting a fair share of the record profits we've seen over the last ten years and from getting the benefits of productivity which management needs to work harder at.

"People should not forget that National created the wage gap in the 90's with their attacks on New Zealanders' wages and conditions and have consistently opposed every move to raise wages while in opposition including a failed attempt to introduce law that would have taken workers' rights from them.

"The National Party has no credibility on the issue of working Kiwis' incomes and until they come clean on their policies on employer contributions to KiwiSaver, protection against unfair dismissal, collective bargaining rights and a proper plan to increase productivity then they can't expect to be seen as anything other than what they were the last time they were in power - the party of low wages."

When National were last in power real average weekly earnings grew by just 0.3% over nine years, while at the same time the trans-tasman wage gap blew out from 18.9% to 28.4%.

CONSENSUS FORECASTS PUBLISHED BY NZIER

The consensus forecasts were updated in March 2008.

| MARCH YEARS PERCENT | 2008 | 2009 | 2010 |
|---------------------------|------|------|------|
| GDP | 3.0 | 1.7 | 2.4 |
| CPI | 3.4 | 3.0 | 2.8 |
| Wages (QES) | 4.1 | 4.1 | 3.7 |
| Employm ent | 1.5 | 0.7 | 0.9 |
| Unemplo yment | 3.7 | 4.0 | 4.3 |

NZ ECONOMIC SNAPSHOT

Consumer prices rose 1.2 percent in the December 2007 quarter, and were up by 3.2 percent annually. The next CPI update is on 15th April 2008. Food prices rose 0.8 percent in February 2008, and increased 5.2 percent over the past 12 months. Grocery food prices have risen 9.0 percent in the last year. Unemployment is at 3.4 percent. Māori unemployment is 7.3 percent and Pacific peoples' unemployment is at 4.7 percent, compared with 2.3 percent for European/Pākehā.

Ordinary time wages, as measured by the Quarterly Employment Survey (QES) for December 2007, were up annually by 4.2 percent (4.0 percent in the private sector and 5.0 percent in the public sector). The QES showed that the average ordinary time hourly wage is now \$23.29 (\$21.73 in the private sector and \$29.49 in the public sector).

The next update of wages data is on 5th May, 2008. Economic activity increased by 1.0 percent in the December 2007 quarter, compared with 0.5 percent in the September 2007 quarter. In the 2007 calendar year the economy grew by 3.1 percent, up from 1.5 percent growth recorded in 2006. The Official Cash Rate (OCR) remains at 8.25 percent.

MIGRATION

In the year ended February 2008, there were 83,300 permanent and long term arrivals, up 1 percent from the February 2007 year. There were 78,700 departures, up 13 percent. As a result, net migration was 4,600 in the February 2008 year, down from 13,200 in the February 2007 year. There was a net inflow of 6,900 migrants from the United Kingdom, down from 10,500 the previous year. There were also net inflows of 4,200 from India, 3,200 from the Philippines, 2,600 from Fiji, 2,100 from South Africa, 1,900 from China, and 1,600 from Germany.

The net outflow to Australia was 29,600 in the February 2008 year, compared with 22,200 in the February 2007 year. This is the highest annual net outflow to Australia since the July 2001 year (30,000). 4700 people left New Zealand to live permanently in Australia in February, of whom 4300 were New Zealand citizens. The flow in the other



direction from Australia to New Zealand was 1200, of whom 742 were New Zealanders returning. The net result was a flow of 3500 migrants from New Zealand to Australia.

ACC SCHEME IS WORLD LEADER

"The jury is in – ACC is a world leader and brings both economic benefits and social benefits to the country. The case to retain this core asset is now clear," CTU president Helen Kelly said.

ACC this week published an independent report conducted by Pricewaterhouse Coopers (Sydney) on the social and economic impacts of the scheme.

"All New Zealanders benefit from ACC. Workers and employers have cheaper premiums than overseas privatised schemes offer, non earners including children and older people are covered, sports people are covered. For all these groups their cover is better, and for workers, they are back at work on the job earning their full wage quicker."

"In Australia for example, workers pay on average \$2 in every \$100 towards their worker compensation scheme. In New Zealand, under ACC, it is 78 cents per \$100 – and this is for better cover!"

"The report also found that ACC offered broader coverage than every other scheme in the world, and other schemes are generally more fragmented, complicated and more narrowly focused."

"Given the demonstrable economic and social benefit to New Zealand, National should tell voters why ideology should rule when it comes to their policy of privatising one of New Zealand's best assets," Helen Kelly said. A copy of the report is here: http://www.acc.co.nz/about-acc/news-information/PRD CTRB076598

BITS AND BOB'S

Consultation has started on a firm

proposal for extension Christchurch Tramway through the High Street and City Malls. As a heritage and tourist-oriented operation, Christchurch Tramway is, of course, a different concept from the 'regional rail network extension' model for light rail in Wellington (though revival of the Waterfront Tramway/downtown circulator idea as well is not far away here, either), but it admirably demonstrates the versatility, environmental flexibility and affordability of the traditional technology that both concepts are based on...

- Ontrack has been granted a 3 month extension to their exemption to the driving hour's legislation as LTNZ is pleased that Ontrack is making good progress with its fatigue management process. The exemption will now expire 1 July 2008.
- Maritime Union of Australia executive meeting next week in Sydney. VP Aubrey Wilkinson and SI ports rep Ruth Blakeley are attending as RMTU reps. In a world of globalisation ever increasing international links growing are The Napier dispute importance. in December 2007 highlighted the benefits of global solidarity.
- Port Chalmers wage talks continue this week.
- We await the appointment of a mediator to assist the parties in the Lyttelton Port CA negotiations.
- On Monday of this week the Union and Port Tauranga negotiation teams met as part of the renewal of the Collective Agreement.
- 81.2% of TSSA members in London Underground vote for strike action on safety issues

LET'S BE SAFE AND LOOK AFTER ONE ANOTHER!

STRONGER TOGETHER!

