

# THE ACTIVIST



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## ANNUAL CONFERENCE 07

Branches are reminded that the annual delegates' conference (AC) is being held at the Porirua Police College 30, 31 October and 1 November 2008. AC is the governing body of the Union and is the forum where we debate what we have achieved during the year and set the direction and priorities for the Union for the following 12 months. For example;

- It's where membership fees are set and where remits are debated and are won and lost on the force of logic of speakers.
- The Unions rail sector ratification process for collective agreements within the rail sector is a hardy annual for debate as another example.

**Branches need to elect their conference delegate at the forthcoming AGM's (see Union rule 23). It is essential that National Office is advised ASAP of the name(s) and details of conference delegate(s) so that we can obtain early travel bookings to get the cheapest fares.**

**NOTE:** Should arrangements need to change after the initial bookings are made then any cost of travel alteration (including name change of delegate) will be at the branches expense (a debit on your branch account).

See Union Policy rule 111 for (sub) branch allocations for delegates to conference. National Office pays all costs for one delegate from a branch and any additional observers are funded entirely by the branch (a debit on your branch account).

Various distinguished speakers including international guests from the MUA, RTBU and TWU will be speaking at conference. **We have just been advised that Deputy Prime Minister Dr Michael Cullen is now unable to be the opening speaker and the Hon. Harry Duynhoven Minister for Transport Safety will instead speak for the Government and give Dr Cullen's speech.**

See you there!

## UPDATE FROM ONTRACK

Ontrack have provided the following to the RMTU, in response to last issues story on EWR communications progress, for publication.

### Good progress on radio communications for EWR work groups

*ONTRACK believes that it has been making good progress on determining the feasibility of radio communications for EWR work groups following the fatal accident at Ohinewai. For that reason, it was disappointing that a misunderstanding between the RMTU and ONTRACK led to comments in the 31 August issue of the ACTIVIST that ONTRACK had been silent on the matter. This was not correct.*

*At the working party meeting in July it was agreed by all parties that, along with a number of other actions - which have been completed - a separate working group would investigate the feasibility of radio communications for EWR work groups. We agreed on identifying a solution by the end of September and reporting back to the EWR Working Party members by mid October.*

*That investigative work has been undertaken and a possible solution has been identified. The misunderstanding arose because we didn't make it clear to RMTU officials that the*

*proposed solution would be reviewed by ONTRACK management – and that is in the process of happening – before it would be given to the RMTU members of the joint working party.*

*Ontrack is pleased with the progress to date and believe that we are well within the agreed schedule to report back to the working party - by mid October. If the solution is approved by the joint Working Party, it would be subject to a pilot scheme to gauge its effectiveness.*

## UNION ORGANISING MAKES THE DIFFERENCE AT McDONALDS

“Union organising in fast food has made a huge difference in lifting the low wages of thousands of young workers,” CTU secretary Carol Beaumont said today.

Unite and McDonalds have reached agreement to scrap youth rates altogether at McDonalds restaurants from March next year. The move comes days after Parliament passed a Bill ending youth rates for 16 and 17 year olds after the first 200 hours or 3 months, whichever is the lesser.

“This is great news for young workers in fast food, and didn’t come out of the blue. It was the result of a two year campaign of dedicated union activism in fast food industries,” Beaumont said.

“Unite Union’s SuperSizeMyPay campaign lead the charge on youth rates, and thousands of young workers and students got behind this campaign.”

“Young workers, their unions, school students, community groups and politicians all played a part in getting us to where we are today on the abolition of youth rates, and young workers will see significant pay increases and recognition that the work they are doing is valued and respected.”

“I have no doubt that unions will continue to make improvements for young workers through collective bargaining,” Carol Beaumont said.

## CONTAINER CARGO SAFETY

In May 2007, dockers and truckers joined forces at an ITF meeting on Container Cargo Safety held in Oakland (US) to establish an agenda for action following numerous reports of accidents involving unsafe container cargo. Discussion at the meeting led to a decision to share information on the issue; to lobby international organisations for a cross-sectoral safety regulation; and to carry out awareness raising programmes during the ITF International Road Transport Week in October 2007. The ITF Road Transport Workers’ Section and ITF Dockers’ Section are coordinating their activities on this issue.

As a follow-up to sharing information on this issue, please be advised that the ITF has created an area on container cargo safety on its webpage (<http://www.itfglobal.org/road-transport/ContainerSafety.cfm>)

By using this area of the ITF webpage, visitors will be able to access and share information from affiliates and other sources on issues related to container cargo safety transportation.

Information that is available so far is as follows:

- History of ITF activities: Chronology of activities organised by the ITF on this topic since 1994
- Resources: Information from the ITF, unions and other organizations relating to container cargo safety transportation
- Image Library: Images of problems concerning transportation of containers

The ITF hopes you will find this resource useful. Please keep checking the pages as information will be updated on an ongoing basis. If you have any material that you may wish to be included on the page, please send it to the ITF Secretariat ([urata\\_mac@itf.org.uk](mailto:urata_mac@itf.org.uk)).

## HELP US TO FIND THESE LOCO ENGINEER'S PLEASE!!!!!!

The following ex members left the Loco Engineers Trust fund and they are entitled to a refund of contributions. Anyone knowing the current contact details for any of the persons listed below please contact them and urge them to contact Julia @ RMTU National Office on 04 499 2066.

- Francis Keith, Amy, 13/03/82
- Jack Barry, Ellis, 02/01/82
- Donald Stewart, Fraser, 27/03/82
- Frederick B V, Groves, 05/07/85
- Leslie Arthur, Koschel, 14/04/79
- James Allister, MacLean, 06/04/84
- Patrick John, Page, 03/03/87
- Geneva Morgan, Pongia, 10/03/84
- Les John, Rabone, 16/12/84
- Michael T M, Ryan, 15/06/85
- Grant Gordon, Wild, 21/09/85

## SETTLEMENT RECOGNISES VALUE OF NURSES - CTU

"The settlement announced yesterday between District Health Boards and the NZNO is a reflection on the value that the public hold in the work of nurses, midwives and health-care assistants in our public health system," CTU president Ross Wilson said today.

"If we want a high quality health system we need to value the workers providing those services. This collective agreement does just that."

"Yes this settlement comes with a financial impact on District Health Boards. But recruitment and retention is an issue that faces health like it does many other industries, and it was critical that this agreement kept up with pay relativity for nurses."

"The settlement also makes good use of the 2+2 KiwiSaver transitional provision for employers and employees to initially share the minimum 4% contribution."

"The requirement for a 4% worker contribution can be deferred until 2011 in that situation, and we would expect other employers and workers to come to agreements before April next year to make use of this provision."

"Yesterday's agreement shows the value of working people negotiating collectively in unions on an industry wide basis through multi employer bargaining to address their conditions of work."

## NMC NOMINATIONS CALL - RESULT

At the close of the call for nominations for all positions on the RMTU National Management Committee (NMC), in accordance with Rule 24.2 in the policy of the 2003 Annual Conference and as amended in 2004:

**North Island Ports** (A member of any North Island Port branch)

There was one candidate, Mr Aubrey Wilkinson, and therefore he is declared elected unopposed. Congratulations Aubrey!

**South Island Ports** (A member of any South Island Port branch)

There was one candidate, Ms Ruth Blakeley, and therefore she is declared elected unopposed. Congratulations Ruth!

**South Island General** (A South Island branch member not employed within Toll NZ Consolidated Ltd or a port branch member eg, United Group Rail, ONTRACK, Veolia Transport Auckland, Stagecoach, Cityline, Taieri Gorge Rail etc)

There was one candidate, Mr Tim Spence, and therefore he is declared elected unopposed. Congratulations Tim!

The term of office is 2 years (Rule 24.2) commencing at the conclusion of Conference 2007 and the duties are as contained in Rule 27 of the Union's Rules and standing Orders.



Forthcoming Ballots:

1) **North Island Rail** (A North Island Branch member employed by Toll NZ Consolidated Ltd eg. Toll Rail, Toll Tranz Link, Wellington Tranz Metro, Tranz Scenic or Hillside workshops)

There have been two nominations received: Wally Wallbutton (incumbent), Toll LE Palmerston North & Steve Peacock, Toll LE Hamilton.

2) **North Island General** (A North Island branch member not employed within Toll NZ Consolidated Ltd or a port branch member eg, United Group Rail, ONTRACK, Veolia Transport Auckland, Stagecoach, Cityline, Taieri Gorge Rail etc)

There have been two nominations received: Phil Bosworth (incumbent), United Group Rail Team Leader, Hutt and Albert Barr Ontrack Track Worker Hamilton

"In accordance with Rule 42.1.1 these two elections will be by Secret Ballot."

3) **South Island Rail** (A South Island Branch member employed by Toll NZ Consolidated Ltd as per North Island Rail)

There have been three nominations received: Doug Blakie, Grant Donaldson & Marty Duncan.

"In accordance with Rule 42.4 this election will be by Secret Ballot Preferential Voting."

Wayne Butson Acting Returning Officer.

### Bits & Bobs –

- UGL has not filed an appeal to the Employment Authority decision in the Kasia Kurene case. Accordingly the case is at an end and we look forward to UGL paying over the sum awarded.
- The Union and 3 Waikato based Locomotive Engineers are attending mediation in Hamilton on 8 October. Toll is questioning the coverage provided to operating staff members by the indemnity provisions within the Collective Agreement. This approach by Toll is very surprising and is of grave

concern as it has serious implication for any operating employee of Toll who may be subject to a third party investigation following an incident.

- The Transport Worker September issue is now with Branch Secretary's so if you haven't seen it start nagging to get it.
- NMC at it quarterly meeting reviewed the policy relating to the holding of Port Forums. One port forum per annum will be held at the beginning of the year from now on, with the likely date being in March. Holding the forum in November clashed with the Annual Conference too much.
- Some branches are getting in early with remits and claims for the Toll NZ CA talks in June/July next year being received in National Office. It appears expectations are high.

**Let's be safe and look after one another!**

**Remember – Unity will ensure success!**

