

# THE ACTIVIST



**Published Regularly - ISSN 1178-7392 (Print & Online) 30 January 2015**

## **HAPPY NEW YEAR TO YOU AND YOURS!**

**This is the first issue for 2015. This year promises to be a very busy and full on year for us all.**

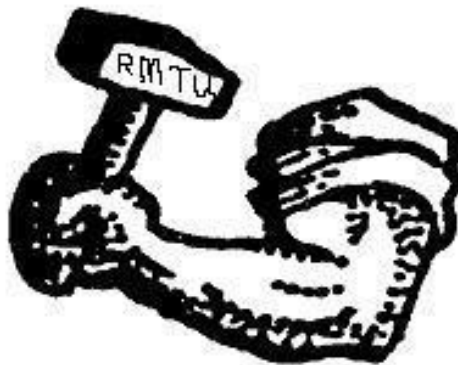
## **MEMBERS BACK ESCALATION OF LYTTELTON PORT DISPUTE: RMTU ISSUES NOTICE OF FULL WITHDRAWAL OF LABOUR**

Lyttelton Port Branch members voted on Tuesday to escalate their industrial action at Lyttelton Port. Around 200 members of the RMTU have been operating a ban on overtime since 17 December, and they have now endorsed a series of full withdrawals of labour at the port.

'Our members have voted to escalate their campaign for a just and fair collective agreement and on Tuesday we issued notice of the first full 24 hour withdrawal of labour from midday on 11 February,' said RMTU General Secretary Wayne Butson.

'We will continue to issue one notice of one day stoppages each day from now on until LPC come to the table with a reasonable offer,' he said.

'Members have also endorsed a public campaign to bring the dispute to the attention of Christchurch City Council, the owners of Lyttelton Port,' said Butson.



'The overtime ban has had a big impact on the port's operations, leading to closure of the container terminal at night for the last six successive weekends, due to the lack of safety critical maintenance staff. Whilst this has led to LPC amending their bargaining position it has not resulted in management making an offer our members could accept,' he said.

'The two sticking points are pay and coverage. LPC are offering the equivalent of a less than 2% annual pay increase and are seeking to completely exclude inland port workers in Woolston from the agreement,' he said.

'This is in the context of LPC's Chief Executive Peter Davie receiving an 18% boost in his pay packet last year taking his earnings to \$1.2m,' he said.

'The exclusion of the inland port workers, some of whom earn \$6 per hour less than our members on the waterfront in Lyttelton is

nothing less than economic apartheid,' he said.

## **MEDIATION SET DOWN FOR WEDNESDAY 4 FEBRUARY WITH LYTTELTON PORT**

LPC have agreed to meet with the RMTU and the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment next week in an attempt to negotiate a settlement of the continuing dispute with the RMTU Lyttelton Branch.

Our Christchurch Rail Branch is meeting on Monday 2 February to discuss the dispute

*This is for the information and guidance of RMTU members only!*

and plans are afoot for a demonstration at Christchurch City Council Offices if the mediation fails to resolve the impasse. Christchurch City Council is a 100% owner of LPC, through its investment arm, Christchurch City Holdings Ltd, and there are councillors on the latter's board.

The demonstration is pencilled in for 1600 on Thursday 5th February outside the Council Offices on Hereford St. Updates will be provided after the mediation on Wednesday.

## **JOBS THAT COUNT BEGINS WITH TALLEY'S**

The Meat Workers Union have launched a new campaign for job security in the Meat Industry called Jobs that Count.

New Zealand's meat workers face it all: casualisation, seasonal work and zero hours contracts in a very fractured and challenging industry. Hard won seniority provisions that guaranteed a return to work each season are coming under attack.

Union agreements and pay increases are harder to get and no more so than for the 1000 members of the MWU who work in AFFCO Talley's meat works.

Who will forget the 84-day lockout of meat workers employed by AFFCO Talley's in 2012, when workers, whanau and communities paid the price of an aggressive employer? Your solidarity made a big difference.

Three years on, AFFCO Talley's workers are again facing an uphill battle. Their Collective Agreement expired more than a year ago and despite nine bargaining meetings there's no settlement.

Negotiations are due again in February. Time is running out. Employment law changes that make it easier for employers

will start on 6 March.

That's why Jobs that Count asks you to tell Talley's workers you're on their side.

Your solidarity will make a difference to the workers, and also let Talley's know people are watching.

The link is here:

[http://www.jobsthatcount.org.nz/support\\_talleys\\_workers](http://www.jobsthatcount.org.nz/support_talleys_workers)

Also, like our Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/jobsthatcount>

And follow us on Twitter:

[www.twitter.com/jobsthatcount](http://www.twitter.com/jobsthatcount)

Thanks for your support!

## **DRIVER ADVISORY SYSTEM (DAS) UPDATE**

Talks between the RMTU and KR have been ongoing with the last all up meeting on December 16th in Wellington. At this meeting, we heard from Karl Bridges (Human Factors expert), he reviewed the recent report on DAS which included trials, training and risks. Karl Bridges did identify that if DAS was not working correctly then that would increase distraction risk. This report will be available for all LE's.

An action from that meeting was that the RMTU LE KIC reps were to be trained in DAS and undertake OJT. KiwiRail was clearly informed that DAS had to be running 100% correctly when the reps were undertaking OJT. The OJT for the central rep, Les Perrin, illuminated that there is

significant issues with the operation and efficacy of the DAS equipment in double cabbled loco's that hitherto most of us were not aware of. The reps lack of understanding, knowledge and awareness of this and other subsequently revealed DAS issues has seriously undermined and caused



a crisis of trust and confidence between the Union and company reps on the project team.

A conference call was arranged for the Union KIC LE reps to discuss this situation and to form an agreed position as to what the next steps will be for the RMTU. It was agreed that a face to face meeting needed to be convened between the RMTU and KiwiRail and this meeting will be in Wellington on Monday 2nd February.

DAS Roadshows in the Northern and Southern depots had been planned to take place from mid to late February, and at this stage those plans have been placed on hold. In our view it is very unlikely that these roadshows will go ahead as there remains too many issues and question marks with DAS.

## BRITOMART VIOLENCE UPDATE

There will be a large visible Police presence around Britomart Railway Station and on some trains this weekend for the Auckland 9's.

This is in response to the melee which occurred in December last year. There will also be additional security staff involving Maori and Pacific wardens. The report into the melee that was released by Auckland Transport played down what was a frightening experience for many of our members and passengers. Other outcomes from the review meeting that the RMTU attended, improved radio communications procedures, investigating ways to keep southern and Western travellers apart eg; have them enter Britomart from opposite ends, or use Britomart for Southern passengers and Newmarket for Western travel.

One clear message from the members is that the trains should not be used to remove drunk/intoxicated people out of the city. Air New Zealand would not have these people on their planes in this state, so why should we accept them on the trains.

## ENGLISH BREAKS HIS \$6000 WAGES PROMISE

Just one month into the New Year Bill English has already rowed back on his election promise of real wage rises for New Zealanders, says Labour's Finance spokesperson Grant Robertson.

"During the election campaign National promised Kiwis that the average wage would rise to \$62,000 by 2018. That's a \$6600 pay rise.

"But just yesterday Bill English said that low inflation means 'the dollar value of future wage increases may be smaller than previously expected'.

"That's not good enough. New Zealanders have done it too tough for too long – nearly half of Kiwi workers didn't get a pay rise last year and many haven't for a number of years. The economy is growing and some sectors are making good profits. Low inflation isn't an excuse to not give pay rises.

"Bill English promised New Zealanders higher wages. He should be encouraging businesses to give their employees a raise, not give

them excuses," says Grant Robertson.

## TRANSDEV UNIFORMS ALL TIED Up

Transdev uniform committee will meet again next week to address the unresolved issues including better footwear, suitable winter jackets. We will also be discussing a review of the suitability of the uniform for use in summer. Agreement has been reached regarding the wearing of ties, even though Transdev would prefer to see people wearing ties they accept that it is not part of the Terms and conditions of employment and so it is your choice. No one will be disciplined for not wearing a tie.



## SMALL BUSINESS VITAL TO NEW ZEALAND'S JOB GROWTH

The Labour Party will make working with small businesses a priority because they are the key to New Zealand's future prosperity, Labour Leader Andrew Little said today.

"New Zealand is a pioneering nation and it is this spirit of innovation which drives our small businesses.

"These companies generated 41 per cent of the new jobs created in the past year. That is why they are vital to our goal of having the lowest rate of unemployment in the developed world.

"Labour will work with small business owners to make sure they spend their time focussed on their business, not filling in tax forms.

"We will ensure there is training and investment capital so those who want to make a living off their own ideas and ambitions can

"Good jobs provide economic security and sustain our communities and small towns. They are a source of pride and confidence.

"Labour will put growing businesses and creating jobs on top of the political agenda. Over the next two years we will develop a programme which puts the small business sector at the centre of a long-term economic plan.

"A thriving small business sector will help New Zealand grow our wealth and grow it fairly," Andrew Little says.

## I&AM FIT 4 BUSINESS

The pilot study involving gangs in Auckland and Hamilton has been progressing well. RMTU members have put forward many really good ideas for ways their jobs could be made easier, some of the ideas being actioned are cameras fitted to hi rail vehicles to assist with getting on track, availability of an additional iPad to gangs for days Ganger is not present and provision of temporary facilities when

onsite. By listening to our members and actioning ideas, the shift report system has changed and on track time has been improved. The study has also identified changes need to be made into the way the track maintenance is planned and organised.

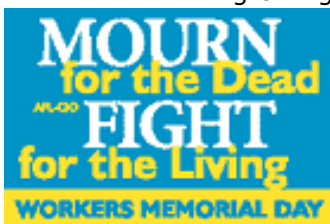
## LOW INFLATION BUT HIGH HOUSING COSTS

"Rising housing costs are a big worry for households, despite the fall in the CPI in the three months to December", says Bill Rosenberg, CTU Economist.

"The 0.2% fall in the CPI in the three months to December is not unusual because of seasonally falling food prices. This time it is being helped by falling petrol prices, but was held back by rising housing costs and seasonal food prices not falling as fast as usual," he says.

"CPI inflation for the year would have been - 0.1% instead of 0.8% if it weren't for rising housing and energy costs. And that doesn't include rises in interest rates during the year, nor the rising prices faced by first home buyers of existing homes. At almost a quarter (24%) of the expenses of an average household, housing costs are unavoidable and a big drain on incomes. It is an even greater burden for many low income and young families," said Rosenberg.

"Current low consumer price rises are not a reason for low wage increases", Rosenberg says. "People are due a catch-up in a growing economy where real wages have not grown as fast as the economy can afford. That is particularly true for low and middle income earners who have had lower increases in incomes and face higher inflation. Lower prices for petrol, diesel, vehicles, computers and other items also reduce costs for firms, making a pay rise more affordable," said Rosenberg.





## WORKERS MEMORIAL DAY – 28 APRIL

International Workers Memorial Day is 28 April 2015. The day is about remembering those workers, especially RMTU members, who have been killed whilst at work.

In 2015 the theme for the day is "removing exposure to hazardous substances in the workplace" Hazardous substances are found in almost every workplace in NZ and many workers have no protection against the possible effects, despite the fact that tens of thousands of workers have their health destroyed by asthma, dermatitis, lung disorders and cancers because of exposures.

All Branches are asked to commence formal arrangements for services at memorial sites.

All members are requested to attend a memorial service organised near them.

**As usual we ask all members to stop what they are doing at midday to "Mourn the dead – Fight for the living" and to think about how important personal safety is to us all and the importance of going home safe at the end of our days' work.**

**As usual we will be requesting Rail employers to approve all train and other operations stopping at midday on the 28<sup>th</sup> for 1 minute.**

Please advise us of all services to be held on the day?

## KIWI RAIL FREIGHT LOCO RADIOS - TAIT v51

A full resolution to the issues with the Tait Locomotive radio equipment and channel issues is hopefully on the horizon. The latest firmware version 51 is to be tested

and verified on the Midland line on Monday 9th February.

Tait radios have been a festering sore in the lives of LE's for a longtime and it has been a long and trying battle, waged by the delegates, to get these radios "fit for purpose". What has been most difficult is when some issues get resolved only to find that new issues have been created but it is our hope that this latest firmware version will finally resolve all remaining issues.

Who would have thought that getting a radio being able to enable high quality voice communication on the network for LE's would be such a challenge?

## ANNUAL INCREASE IN PRICES SLOWS

The CPI increased 0.8 percent in the year to the December 2014 quarter. This is the smallest annual rise since the June 2013 quarter.

Housing and household utilities was the main contributor in the latest year, with newly built houses (up 5.4 percent), housing rentals (up 2.1 percent), and electricity (up 3.6 percent) all increasing in price.

Cigarette and tobacco prices increased 11.9 percent, influenced by an increase in excise duty in January 2014.

Petrol (down 4.0 percent) was the main downward contributor. Prices for audio-visual and computing equipment fell 14 percent, after adjusting for quality improvements.

The CPI measures the rate of price change of goods and services purchased by New Zealand households.

## RMTU MEMBERSHIP DATABASE UPDATES

The RMTU membership database is an important tool in contacting Union Members



or ensuring members are kept up to date with the latest information. We are concerned at the number of "unknown" or "return to sender" envelopes returned to National Office as part of this year's officer elections. We remind members that if you wish to exercise their rights and participate in the decision making aspects of the Union they should ensure they inform National Office of any change of address or contact details as soon as possible. This includes any change of designation or employer.

Branch Secretaries hold "update of membership forms" that you can post or fax in or alternatively for immediate action members are reminded to utilise the update of membership details link on our website [www.rmtunion.org.nz](http://www.rmtunion.org.nz).

For example – All national Union elected positions are up for election this year and so there may be votes conducted by mail. If we have the incorrect address info you will not get a vote as you will never receive a voting paper. **Update now!**

## ELECTION FOR NEW LABOUR PARTY PRESIDENT

Two nominations have been received for the position of Labour Party President vacated with the recent resignation of Moira Coatsworth. A vote will now proceed, closing on February 26th.

The two nominees are Robert Gallagher, current Senior Vice President of the Party; and Nigel Haworth, current Policy Council representative on the Party's New Zealand Council.

The election is held under the same voting entitlement rules as Labour's Annual Conference, with around 930 votes being divided between electorate and branch organisations, people elected to public office under a Labour banner (including MPs) and affiliates. Around 75% of the voting strength is held by electorates and branches.

## TRESPASS ISSUES - NGARUAWAHIA AND TAURANGA BRIDGES

Rail corridor trespasses are a major concern to LE's that just want to drive their trains, incident free and go home again. This has not been the case in the case of the two bridges above, with trespassers using the rail bridge for recreational purposes.

These trespassers put themselves at risk and also the loco crew with the worry of being involved in a fatality incident or having rocks thrown at them or facing an angry mob on their own. KiwiRail have issued a bulletin that instructs LE's to reduce speed prior to the Ngaruawahia and Tauranga bridges and be prepared to stop short of any trespasser.

In the Union's view this unfairly transfers responsibility to the Locomotive Engineer in the event that the LE is unable to stop before hitting any trespasser. This, in our view, is a classic case of whereby the person or entity owning and controlling the workplace is not taking responsibility for providing a healthy and safe workplace for the employee in accordance with the obligations of the HASiE Act. This is like the employer saying that the machine guard should always work but occasionally it may not and so "be careful when using the machine".

The RMTU National Office has written to the Freight Zero Harm manager and asked for the bulletin instruction to be immediately removed and for measures to be put in place that ensure the track is clear of trespassers before a train approaches and crosses the bridges without placing the total responsibility on LE's as the bulletin does. In the event that KR declines this request then the Union will be approaching NZTA (the regulator) and Worksafe seeking further guidance and assistance.

## ITF REPEATS CALL FOR ROTTERDAM DIALOGUE AS DOCKERS PROTEST

The ITF (International Transport Workers' Federation) today called



for all-party talks on the future of the port of Rotterdam, as dockers refused to unload a ship loaded at the new Rotterdam Gateway (RWG) terminal. RWG, unlike other companies at the port, refuses to negotiate a collective bargaining agreement with port workers, who are represented by the FNV Havens union.

On Sunday the vessel Alsvin loaded containers at RWG, in what was believed to be a test operation. It then moved to the ECT terminal in Rotterdam to discharge them. Dockers refused to unload them.

ITF president and chair of the ITF dockers' section, Paddy Crumlin, stated: "Rotterdam is a giant among the world's ports and should be a model of good industrial relations. It is notable that all the operators there bar one have signed agreements with the union representing its workers. This is despite many previous warnings\* and widespread concern about the port's future."

He concluded: "We urge all parties, and that includes not just all operators and port authorities, but also the shipping lines, to get together to defuse this situation and reach an agreed settlement to ensure the dispute does not escalate more widely."

## **LWOP – PUBLIC HOLIDAYS (KR)**

A strange interpretation from KiwiRail's pay office is, in our opinion, disadvantaging members that take leave without pay over a period that includes public holidays. The pay office is stating that because the member did not intend to work then they are not entitled to be paid for the Public Holiday.

The RMTU/KR Collective Agreement provides for payment or an alternative day in most situations whether it was going to be a working day or not, this of course is in addition to what is provided for in the Holidays Act.

Putting that aside, in a situation where a member is on paid leave in a period that includes public holidays, they too have no intention to work the public holidays but

they are paid for them with no leave debited. We will be working on this one and are keen to hear if this has happened to you. Please contact your delegate or RMTU Organiser.

## **MIC TO MEET**

The KiwiRail Mechanical Industrial Council will next meet on Feb 12th in Auckland. Any issues of a Mechanical nature please get them to your MIC rep ASAP.

## **PUBLIC TRANSPORT TO SAVE AUSTRALIAN COMMUTERS UP TO \$10,000 A YEAR**

A national review of annual commuter costs has found that Australians could save an average of \$9,973 every year simply by travelling to work with public transport instead of owning and driving a car or purchasing a second household car.

'The Costs of Commuting: An Analysis of Potential Commuter Savings' Report, prepared by the Australasian Railway Association (ARA), identifies the annual cost to commute by car and then uses two scenarios to quantify the potential savings a public transport commuter could make by not driving a private vehicle. The scenarios estimate potential savings for those who use public transport and do not own a car or have not purchased a second household car and those who own a car but opt to leave it at home.

ARA CEO, Bryan Nye OAM, said the start of a New Year brings new resolutions, with many Australians looking for ways to save money and change old habits.

"This report highlights just how costly it can be to drive your car to work five days a week and in doing so provides a practical solution for many Aussies looking to kick off 2015 saving their hard earned money," said Mr Nye.

"A lot of people are unaware of the significant savings that can be made by selling their car or simply not purchasing a



second household car and switching to public transport. A driver of a larger vehicle, like a Holden Commodore, could save more than \$12,600 annually while the driver of a smaller vehicle, like a Mazda 2, could save about \$6,400.

"Even commuters who choose to own a car but leave it at home and take public transport can still save," he said.

Conservative calculations have been used to identify the car commuter costs. Non-compulsory car insurance has not been costed while only \$1,000 for a whole year of parking has been included.

"The potential savings are obviously dependent on individual circumstances but when you consider that Australian CBD parking costs can range from \$180 to \$750 a month or \$2,160 to \$9,000 per year, the savings that can be made by jumping on a train or bus are significant," Mr Nye continued.

"Of the 9.8 million Australians in the workforce, 60 per cent drive to work, causing road congestion in our cities that increases carbon emissions and accidents, and is also set to cost the Australian economy \$20.4 billion annually by 2020.

"An added benefit of commuting by public transport is the productive use of time that public transport offers, allowing commuters to spend time on their laptop, mobile, iPod and so on whilst in transit," Mr Nye concluded.

The Report found that Brisbane and Melbourne commuters have the highest costs to own and commute to work by car compared with those in other capital cities, the reason for this is attributed to higher registration, fuel and servicing prices. This also means that commuters in these two cities can save the most amount of money by not owning a car and taking public transport instead, saving an average of \$10,375 and \$10,778 each year respectively.

The full report can be found on the ARA website

<http://www.ara.net.au/UserFiles/file/15-01-REPORT-Commuter-costs-potential-savings-report-FINAL.pdf>

## PORT NAPIER – RECORD YEAR

After Tax net profit up by 13.5% to \$13,433 million for the 2014 year! \$19m was invested by the Port which included 2 new mobile Harbour cranes. Container volumes were up 6.8% to reach 220,048 TEU's which is a huge effort and tribute to RMTU members given the use of mobile harbor cranes versus other ports using gantry cranes.

Port of Napier is now the 4<sup>th</sup> largest container terminal in NZ behind Auckland, Tauranga and Lyttelton. The port dredging programme was completed in 2014 and now a 12.4m draft is in operation.

## LIGHT RAIL PROPOSAL MUST BE TAKEN SERIOUSLY

Auckland Transport is right to raise Light Rail as part of the solution to Auckland's traffic congestion and the proposal needs to be taken seriously, says Labour's Auckland Issues spokesperson, Phil Goff.

"Unless radical changes are made, Auckland faces traffic gridlock with its population estimated to grow by another quarter of a million in the next 10 years", Phil Goff says.

"Our motorways are already locked up during peak hours. The Ministry of Transport reported in its briefing to the new Minister in December that, 'congestion was forecast to increase significantly and increasingly spread throughout the working day affecting the majority of trips taken on the network'.

"The City Rail Link and upgraded services are critical to an effective transport system in Auckland. However these will not help those areas especially in the Central Isthmus not served by heavy rail.

"Ironically the situation is a back-to-the-future proposal, restoring light rail on many of the old tram routes short-sightedly destroyed in 1956.

"Light rail can carry two to three times more people per hour than buses and at faster speeds. It causes significantly less pollution.

"Intensification of population within Auckland must be preceded by new





infrastructure capable of coping with the pressure growth will put on services. Across from my electorate office, for example, the development of the Three Kings Quarry site will add 3000 new residents in just a small area putting an additional 2000 cars on the road", Phil Goff said.

"The real question is not the need for light rail but rather it's as yet unidentified cost and how this cost would be met. We need information on that urgently for a coherent debate on the proposal to take place.

"What we already know is that Auckland City's vision of becoming the world's most liveable city cannot be achieved without a radically improved public transport system. That relies on increasing investment in transport infrastructure, not cutting it back", Phil Goff said.

## DRUG AND ALCOHOL POLICIES

**NZ Bus** is reviewing their Drug and Alcohol Policy and seeking to lessen their obligation to provide rehabilitation to employee's and to introduce random testing.

**CentrePort** is also reviewing their Drug and Alcohol policy, currently random drug testing is done with saliva testing. CentrePort wants that to change back to urine testing for certain groups within the workforce where there have been failed tests and situations where workers have passed saliva tests but failed as urine test.

**C3** is due to introduce its random D&A policy on February 9th following a period of consultation with unions involved. Every worksite will have copies of the new policy and workers are being asked to sign a form acknowledging their awareness of the new policy.

**Port of Tauranga** - As an outcome of the Port of Tauranga Collective Agreement negotiations and the D&A consultation the Parties attended Mediation on 18 December to resolve the outstanding issues of emergency provisions, the testing procedure and rehabilitation. Agreement was reached in the mediation and this agreement will be incorporated into the Port's D&A Policy.

## \$100,000 WASTE OF MONEY BY CASH-STRAPPED NEW PLYMOUTH DISTRICT COUNCIL

The Public Service Association (PSA) and the EPMU, who represent New Plymouth District Council staff, are appalled by the revelation of a six figure contract gifted to consultant Greg Timms to lead a restructure of Council staffing.

Dolly Larkins, PSA organiser, said "that the Council can find \$100k for a contractor defies belief when it is complaining about financial troubles,"

"If the chief executive wants to save money, she should talk to her staff that deliver quality services, not look externally to expensive contractors.

"Morale is hurting and the Council only have themselves to blame," said Dolly Larkins.

Jen Natoli, EPMU organiser, said "New Plymouth needs good quality stable local jobs, and the last thing Council should be doing is getting rid of staff.

"Restructuring often ends up costing more than it saves, once the impact on morale and institutional knowledge is factored in.

"Lowering staff numbers will inevitably lead to a reduction in the services New Plymouth residents use and value every day," said Jen Natoli.

## C3 NAPIER AND MARSDEN POINT

The RMTU and C3 attended a pre bargaining meeting on 28 January in Tauranga. At the meeting it was agreed that the parties would work constructively to settle both bargaining initiated collective agreements. The next scheduled meeting is on 11 February in Tauranga.

## Bits and Bobs

- The next Auckland Branch Meeting will be held Sunday February 15th at the Athol Syms Community Centre, 11 Griffin Avenue, Epsom at 0915 to 1230. Remits for the upcoming Transdev CA will be discussed and voted on during this meeting. Transdev members are urged to attend.



- The Port of Napier crane drivers Collective Agreement is up for renegotiation in June this year. The branch and members are currently working through the claims expectation.
- The shortlisted bidders for the Wellington Metro Train Operation have been announced by the Wellington Regional council. They are KiwiRail / Keolis Downer, Serco and Transdev. This is no surprise and so we look forward to meeting and working with the bidders to establish a meaningful relationship to enable us to negotiate an orderly transfer of our members from KiwiRail to the new operator. To be fair we are getting practiced at this as we have now undertaken this

exercise a few times in the past.

- CentrePort was convicted under the Health and Safety in Employment Act 1992 following the death of a cargo handler in January 2013. The court found there was not enough space for the two men (placing labels on bales) to carry out their tasks, and there was no clear, documented procedure.
- KiwiRail has been charged with four charges under the Health and Safety in Employment Act 1992. The charges relate to incidents that occurred at Raurimu, Carterton and Masterton in 2014. The charging documents will specify a first Court hearing for the matter- likely to be late January/ early February 2015.

- New records set at Port of Tauranga by our members for the 23 day Festive Season. Largest single container lifting by weight then largest ever exchange of containers by volume and then a heavy lift record with a 73.6 tonne box. Well done guys!

- The union on behalf of its members have initiated bargaining for a collective agreement for Orica Morrinsville. The members claims are based around relativity with the Mount Maunganui collective agreement.
- Strait Shipping or Bluebridge are to retire the Santa Regina and will introduce the Stena Feronia. This means "a Stena everywhere" on the Strait with KiwiRail and Strait Shipping both operating ex Stena line vessels. The new



**Nest supports your union!**  
We'll donate \$200 to RMTU for every member who supports Nest.

## Nest Home Loans and RMTU are working together for your financial future...

### Introducing the Nest Home Loans RMTU workplace package!

Nest Home Loans is the one-stop shop for all your financial needs including mortgages, insurances, loans and Kiwisaver.

Nest has negotiated large interest rate discounts for all RMTU members on their home loans, plus market-leading insurance products that can't be beaten.

A 10-minute chat to Nest will save you thousands, in fact we guarantee it! If you find a better deal anywhere else we will beat it or we will pay you \$200 for your time. \*

Our service is nationwide.

\* You must supply Nest proof of an offer from another institution.



**Contact Jeff Kerwin** Nest's dedicated RMTU liaison  
0800 337 426 | 07 211 4537 | 027 667 2941  
jeff@nesthomeloans.co.nz | www.nesthomeloans.co.nz



**ce of RMTU members Only!**

boat will have vastly improved passenger amenities.

- Auckland has agreed to push out the start date for the City Rail Link in its 10 year budget to 2018/19. The tunnel is expected to be completed in 2023.
- The C3 BOP collective agreement is up for negotiation in December, this year. The parties have agreed to use the regular consultative meetings as a preparation base for the negotiations.
- Jim Clarke the Waikato Rail branch's immediate past president has resigned from KiwiRail to pursue other interests, We wish Jim all the best for his future endeavours.

**LET'S BE SAFE OUT THERE &  
REMEMBER.....**

**SAFETY FIRST!**







## IMPORTANT RMTU DATES 2015

Update as at 29/01/2015 2:46 p.m.

<b>International Women's Day</b>	8 March 2015
<b>Workers Memorial Day</b>	28 April 2015
<b>Pink Shirt Day: Speak Up / Stand Together / STOP BULLYING!</b>	23 May 2015
<b>RMTU BRANCH AGM's</b> (Election of Officers & Conference Delegates)	To be held in the month of <b>AUGUST 2015</b> as per our RMTU Rules & Standing Orders. (Please liaise with your Industrial Organiser and other local branches to ensure General Secretary and / or Presidents attendance at your AGM).
<b>Labour Day</b>	26 October 2015
<b>White Ribbon Day:</b>	25 November 2015 <b>Saying No To Violence Against Women</b>
<b>RMTU Executive Nominations Called</b>	<b>National President</b> <b>02 March 2015</b> <b>General Secretary</b> <b>30 March 2015</b> <i>(or 1 May 2015 if Presidents Ballot Required)</i> <b>NMC</b> <b>01 May 2015</b> <i>(or 1 June 2015 or 1 July if Pres or/and Gen Sec Ballot Required)</i> <b>Rail Industrial Councils</b> <b>01 June 2015</b> <i>(1 July or 1 Aug or 1 Sep if Pres &amp;/or Gen Sec &amp;/or NMC Ballots Required)</i>
<b>RMTU Women's Forum</b>	To be advised
<b>RMTU Ports Forum</b>	9 & 10 June 2015
<b>RMTU NMC Meetings</b> <b>National Management Committee Board Meetings</b>	<b>1<sup>st</sup> NMC Meeting:</b> 03 March 2015 <b>2<sup>nd</sup> NMC Meeting:</b> 08 June 2015 <b>3<sup>rd</sup> NMC Meeting:</b> 16 September 2015 <b>4<sup>th</sup> NMC/Staff Meeting:</b> 09 & 10 December 2015
<b>NZCTU</b> <b>Quarterly Meetings &amp; Conferences</b>	<b>NAC's:</b> 19/02, 07/05, 27/08, 26/11 Wellington <b>Runanga's:</b> 20/02, 08/05, 28/08 & 27/11 Wellington <b>Biennial Hui Hawkes Bay:</b> 18-20 March 2015 <b>Out@Work:</b> 8-9 May 2015 <b>Stand Up Conference Wellington:</b> 20-21 May 2015 <b>Women's Conference Wellington:</b> 10-11 July 2015 <b>Biennial Conference Wellington:</b> 14-15 October 2015 <i>KP to be advised</i>
<b>THE TRANSPORT WORKER: Branch Contribution Deadlines for printing</b>	<b>Issue 1:</b> 09 February 2015 <b>Issue 2:</b> 11 May 2015 <b>Issue 3:</b> 10 August 2015 <b>Issue 4:</b> 02 November 2015
<b>School Terms / Holidays</b>	<b>Term 1:</b> 26 Jan - 05 Feb to 02 April 2015 <b>Term 2:</b> 20 April to 3 July 2015 <b>Term 3:</b> 20 July to 25 September 2015 <b>Term 4:</b> 12 October to 18 December 2015