

THE ACTIVIST



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LATEST STATS – UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFIT

Latest statistics released shows that at the end of March 2009, 37,000 working aged people (aged 18-64 years) were receiving an Unemployment Benefit. Over the year to March 2009, the number of recipients of an Unemployment Benefit increased by 18,000, or 95 percent. The link to the info sheet is;

<http://www.msd.govt.nz/documents/about-msd-and-our-work/newsroom/factsheets/benefit/2009/fact-sheet-ub-09-mar-31.doc>

MAY DAY

May Day is celebrated and recognized as the International Workers' day, chosen over 100 years ago to commemorate the struggles and gains of workers and the labour movement. Most notable reasons to celebrate are the 8-hour day, Saturday as part of the weekend, improved working conditions and child labor laws. But these gains were not attained without the solidarity of workers.

As workers, we must recognize and commemorate May Day not only for its historical significance, but also as a time to organize and speak out around issues that are impacting working-class people today.

May Day dinners and other events are being held around NZ to celebrate this most famous day for working class men and women.



SHAREHOLDERS ELIGIBLE FOR COMPENSATION FROM TRANZ RAIL CASE

A list of the shareholders who are eligible for compensation from the Tranz Rail insider is available from the following Securities Commission of NZ website link;

<http://www.seccom.govt.nz/tranz-rail-share-refund.shtml#K>

Shareholders on this list can contact Geoff Brown on (04) 471 8295 or email geoff.brown@seccom.govt.nz for information about how to claim their compensation. Claimants will need to verify their identity and shareholding details. They should contact the Commission no later than 24 July 2009 so that compensation can be paid.

PORTS FORUM

An interesting and challenging programme is in store for delegates attending the 2009 National Ports Forum in Wellington on 5 & 6 May 2009.

Notable guest attending and speaking at the forum include MUNZ officials to discuss the application of the ITF's Ports of Convenience campaign to Port Tauranga, Port Tauranga CEO Mark Cairns, Port Napier CEO Garth Cowie. A DVD address from the ITF will also be played to delegates at the forum.

TOLL NETWORK TRAVEL PRIVILEGES

Our Toll Networks (Toll Tranz Link) members are experiencing difficulties in obtaining privilege travel fares from their boss. It appears that some TN managers are

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

demanding payment of the full fare before the travel is booked and then our Union member must await the reimbursement of the monies. This is not what has been agreed between the parties and is a barrier for many of our members to use the travel privs. We contacted TN HR and the national HR manager responded as follows;

"I confirm that the following options are given to employees on the collective for claiming travel benefits:

1. Purchase the ticket and claim back the benefit through the expense claim process (turnaround 1 week), or;

2. Complete the Travel Benefit Request form which is available from HR and was sent through to all branches last year in July/August (will be available on the intranet when the IT split with KiwiRail is completed.). Travel will be booked and available dates confirmed with employee. For a discounted ticket the branch will be notified of the cost and the employee will then be required to pay this discounted rate before the ticket is issued.

If your members are in doubt or are being told otherwise then I suggest they get in touch with the HR Administrator (Khurs) and she will sort it out for them."

The forms are also available from the Union offices or your branch secretary.

RMTU NATIONAL PRESIDENT ELECTION

Nominations were called in accordance with Rule 24 of the Rules & Standing Orders of the Rail & Maritime Transport Union nominations for the position of National President. At the close of nominations two (2) nominations had been received. Phil Bosworth and Jim Kelly have been duly and correctly nominated and so ballot is required. A postal ballot of all financial members will be conducted and papers despatched from the National Office during week ending 9 May 2009. The ballot will close 29 May 2009 and a result declared shortly thereafter.

The cost of the ballot is in the order of \$3500.00 and so all members are urged to exercise their democratic right to cast a vote.

MAKE SURE YOU VOTE!

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS KIWI RAIL NETWORKS (FORMERLY ONTRACK) INDUSTRIAL COUNCIL!

The Union calls for nominations for the following positions from members who fall

within the categories of representation;

Infrastructure – Ganger/Foreperson

- If you hold a position of ganger (foreperson) in any area of KiwiRail Networks operation then you are eligible for nomination for this position.

Operations – Signalpersons

- If you are employed as a Signalperson within KiwiRail Networks then you are eligible for nomination to this position.

Nomination forms are available from the Union's Website www.rmtunion.org.nz or National Office by calling 04 4992066, fax 04 4710896 or by email to jharrison@rmtunion.org.nz

Nominations must be moved and seconded by current financial Union members who are employed within the same area for which the nominee is being nominated for and an acceptance of nomination signed by the nominee.

Correctly completed Nominations must be received in the Unions National Office by 1700hrs 8 May 2009.

TRANSPORT WORKER ISSUE 2 - 2009

The deadline for all branch notes, letters to the editor or other contributions (including photos) is 8 May 2009.



Contributions from Branches who have been absent to date would be particularly welcome as would individual letters from members on topics they feel strongly about.

Remember it is YOUR magazine.

CONFERENCE 2009 REMITS

A reminder that Remits for conference close on 31 July 2009 but late remits are frequently accepted and conference delegates also have an opportunity to table "notices of motion" at conference to be debated on the floor as well.

It is essential that early advice is given/received for remits which seek to achieve major change within the Union or the way it conducts itself as the delegates need to be able to obtain a mandate on how to vote at conference.

All remits to conference MUST have been passed by a majority vote at a duly constituted Union branch meeting.

FINALISTS DECIDED IN ANNUAL SAFETY AWARDS

The finalists in the NZ Workplace Health and Safety Awards for 2009 have been decided from among the more than 130 entries received. The winners in each of the 10 competitive categories, and a supreme winner, will be announced at a gala dinner at SKYCITY Convention Centre in Auckland on 6 May. The awards are organised by Safeguard magazine and proudly supported by the Department of Labour. The awards dinner is timed to coincide with the Safeguard National Health and Safety Conference. Safeguard managing editor Peter Bateman says "Health and safety people are the unsung heroes of the New Zealand workplace and thoroughly deserve one night of celebration each year." Too often, he says, health and safety issues feature in the media only after a workplace fatality. The awards are an opportunity to celebrate the good news about health and safety, and to share knowledge about



initiatives that have worked well. The category finalists, in alphabetic order within category, are:

Air New Zealand best initiative to address a safety hazard

- Humes Pipelines, Auckland
- KiwiRail Tranz Metro, (Mechanical Depot) Wellington
- Paper Reclaim, Auckland

Department of Labour best initiative to address a health hazard

- Air New Zealand, Christchurch
- Royal New Zealand Air Force, Whenuapai
- Total Bridge Services, Auckland

OfficeMax best initiative to improve employee wellness

- Air New Zealand, Auckland
- Manukau City Council, Auckland
- Metrowater, Auckland

NZ Safety best initiative to encourage engagement in health & safety

- Department of Labour, Auckland
- KiwiRail Corporate, Auckland
- Otago District Health Board, Dunedin

SICK best design or technology initiative

- NZ Steel, Glenbrook
- Site Safe New Zealand, Wellington
- Transfield Services, Whangarei

Impac best health and safety initiative by a small business

- Manmac Ltd, Rotorua
- PJ & MJ Olsen Ltd, Tokoroa
- Troake, Silverdale

Transfield Services best significant health and safety initiative by a large organisation

- Foodstuffs (Auckland)

- Northern Gateway Alliance, Auckland
- WPI, Tairāwhiti

ACC best leadership of an industry sector or region

- Leighton Contractors, Huntly
- NZ Forest Owners Association, Wellington
- Otago District Health Board, Dunedin
- Super Air, Hamilton

Safeguard health and safety practitioner of the year

- Keith Johnson, Leighton Contractors, Huntly
- Mark Taylor, Fletcher Construction, Tauranga
- Paul Reyneke, Foodstuffs (Auckland)

Ross Wilson – NZCTU most influential employee

- Andy Holyer, Clearlite, Auckland
- Kaye Young, The Warehouse, Auckland
- Michelle Scarf, Otago District Health Board

The judging panel of five included representatives from the Department of Labour, ACC, the NZ Council of Trade Unions, Safeguard, and the winner of the health and safety practitioner from last year.

NDU RELEASE: LWR - THE WORST NIGHTMARE

The National Distribution Union says poor management at Lane Walker Rudkin should not be allowed to cost 500 workers their living and the country their skills.

"This is our worst nightmare" says Maxine Gay, Secretary of the Clothing and Textiles Sector of the National Distribution Union.

"Hundreds of jobs are at stake and we are sure that poor management is at the heart of the problem. Westpac's receivers need to

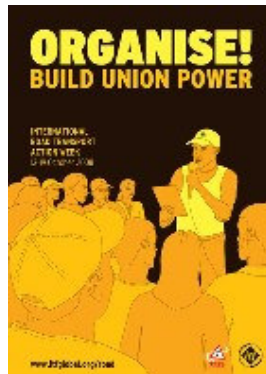
keep trading, work with the workers and the union and seek the help of industry organisations in this salvage operation."

"The receivers should start by picking up the phone and talking to us. The workers we represent have plenty to say and will be partners in sorting out this mess," said Maxine Gay.

KIWI RAIL PRESSURING TOLL

KiwiRail is in heavy negotiations with Toll Networks (Toll Tranz Link) to lift cartage rates. Mainfreight Managing director Don Braid has been widely reported within media asking why Toll is not being charged market rates for its freight hauled by KiwiRail. Toll Network is easily KiwiRail's largest freight forward customer.

RMTU's Wayne Butson has expressed concern at the possible implications of Toll taking its business elsewhere or electing to move it all by using its own trucking resources. "If Toll did move its freight from rail it would cost us jobs within KiwiRail Freight" said Wayne.



67 REDUNDANCIES PROPOSED AT C.I. MUNRO

The Engineering, Printing and Manufacturing Union has been advised of a proposal to make 67 redundancies at Caravans International Munro in Hamilton.

The EPMU is entering consultation with the company to seek alternatives to job cuts, including the possibility of a nine day fortnight, and has requested for this consultation to be extended.

So far the company has only committed to the minimum one week's consultation required under the collective agreement.

CI Munro is a subsidiary of Tourism Holdings Ltd and produces caravans and camper-vans for the tourist market.

BITS & BOBS

- NMC have determined that General Secretary Wayne Butson and National Vice President Aubrey Wilkinson will

attend the ITF Asia Pacific Regional Conference in Kuala Lumpur in June 2009. Wayne is the ITF NZ Country Convenor and the Asia Pacific Railway Section chair at present.

- KiwiRail Freight is planning to do a roadshow around NZ to educate members/workers on the effects on the business of the current economic situation. RMTU Organisers will be attending the briefings also where possible.
- It has been reported that the NZ Road Transport Forum gave \$95000.00 for access to Politicians.
- Phil Goff, Maryan Street, Stuart Nash and Darren Hughes visited Port Napier to check out progress on the Port's \$47m wharf development.

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

**"WE'RE STRONGER
TOGETHER"!**

