

THE ACTIVIST



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KIWI RAIL CA UPDATE

The talks were very productive and a proposed settlement has been agreed for presentation to members. The wider negotiating team voted unanimously for the Union to recommend to members that the proposed settlement be ratified.

The parties are finalising the Collective Agreement wording, the Terms of Settlement and updating the Memorandum of Understanding which will form part of this settlement

Currently the parties are jointly developing the briefing material to be presented to members. The locations for report back meetings are expected to include; Whangarei, Auckland, Hamilton, Taumararui/Taihape, Bay of Plenty, Kawerau, New Plymouth, Whareroa, Palmerston North, Napier, Wellington, Picton, Blenheim/Kaikoura, Westport, Greymouth, Christchurch, Ashburton, Timaru, Oamaru, Dunedin and Invercargill. It is expected that members in outlying locations will be able to travel to their nearest location to attend a meeting.

Week commencing 17 November 2014 is being targeted for the meetings and for the dispatch of the ratification materials from National Office.

RMTU ANNUAL DELEGATES CONFERENCE BRIEFING

The Union held a very successful delegates Conference 14-16 October 2014 at the Kingsgate Hotel Wellington. This was the first biennial Conference as agreed at the 2012 Conference.

A range of speakers and varying subject matter ensured that the delegates have

gone home with a wealth of knowledge to pass on to branch members.

The Conference is the supreme governing body of the Union and so a number of key decisions can only be made by this group in accordance with the rules and standing orders of the Union.

Headline items from Conference are;

- National Union Fee to increase by \$0.20 per week from 1 November or pay period nearest, (see table below for full increase outline).
- Excellent addresses from the candidates seeking endorsement of the Leadership of the New Zealand Labour Party,
- An inaugural National Women's Forum to be held between April & June 2015,
- A National Women Representative Role to be included in the 2015 NMC Elections,
- Delegate reports on branch activity and event attendance,
- International Guests speaking of issues and campaigns in their Country and what it means to have RMTU solidarity & support that is reciprocated.

A more comprehensive report will be contained within the December issue of The Transport Worker. The next Conference will be held in 2016 with the inaugural National Women's Forum & National Ports Forum in 2015.

RMTU WOMEN'S FORUM 2015

The RMTU is currently planning for an inaugural Women's Forum in Wellington early 2014. Up to 30 paid places are available for RMTU women to attend. The Forum will be one full day and two half days either side.

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

Final dates of March or April are soon to be confirmed.

The purpose of the Forum is to bring together active and keen RMTU women to begin empowering women to take a greater leadership role within the RMTU at all levels.

The Forum will:

1. Nominate a Women's Candidate for NMC Elections due to be held in 2015.
2. Prior to candidate endorsement the role of the Women's Rep will be presented to the Forum who will discuss, amend if required and agree on the role of the NMC Women's Rep for submission to and final approval by the NMC.
3. Preferably the Forum will agree on nominating and endorsing one candidate, however democratic process must be allowed and there may be more than one candidate nominated out of the Forum.
4. A Women's RMTU Communication network will be developed at Forum – an agreed group of women who will begin the process of being and creating a support and communication network for RMTU active women – e.g. the Women's Branch Representatives, NMC rep, women delegates, branches that don't have women – how to support these groups.

Amongst the anticipated lively debate and decision making will be speakers, education sessions, and an evening meal on the first night and lots of strong union women to get to know and build networks with.

If you are interested or know any RMTU women who would be keen then register your interest by emailing Julia Harrison, Administration Assistant jharrison@rmtunion.org.nz and Libi Carr, RMTU Lyttelton Branch Secretary rmtul@xtra.co.nz.

UNION FEE CHANGES EFFECTIVE 01/11/2014

The Biennial Conference is the supreme governing body of the Union, key decisions can only be made by this group in accordance with the rules and standing orders of the Union.

Conference unanimously adopted a remit to increase the national Union fee by \$0.20 per week. The effect of this is that the fee from 1 November 2014 is

- \$8.40 per week for full-time members
- \$16.80 per fortnight for full-time members
- \$36.40 per month for full-time members
- \$1.35 per day for daily casuals
- \$4.20 per week or \$8.40 per fortnight for part-time employees working less than 20 hours per week
- \$4.20 per week or \$8.40 per fortnight for trainees/apprentices earning remuneration below a determined amount.
 - \$30.00 per year for Honorary Membership (which is defined as having been a continuous member of the Union for no less than five (5) years which then entitles the Honorary Member to receive:-
 - ❖ The Transport Worker – mailed out quarterly; and
 - ❖ Group C Membership of the Railway Welfare Trust Fund for which a separate application & fee of \$30.00 per year needs to be paid.)

Effective 01/11/14

KIWRAIL CA POSTAL BALLOT ... HAVE YOU MOVED AND UPDATED RMTU NATIONAL OFFICE??

The week commencing 17 November 2014 will be planned for the dispatch of the KiwiRail Ltd Collective Agreement ratification materials from National Office as per the Unions Rules & Standing Orders. If you have moved please check that you have advised National Office by completing the online form on our website: http://www.rmtunion.org.nz/update_details.php

Or call National Office 04-4992066 or email Admin@rmtunion.org.nz.

A reminder that in 2015 ALL RMTU National Executive Positions and Rail Industrial Council positions will be up for elections so



please make sure you let us know if you move, AND if you change designations so we can make sure you get the correct ballot paper.

INFLATION MEASURES ARE A JOKE

Statistics New Zealand has announced a low inflation figure of 1.0%, for the year to September 2014. Is this really correct? If you look at house prices, rents, rates, power, water bills, transport costs and basic food items, they all seem to be going up by an amount greater than this. Our inflation basket measures a wide variety of items, but many are discretionary, such as televisions, CDs, clothing, and household furniture.

These items have been getting cheaper due to our higher dollar, as most are now sourced from countries with lower labour costs than ours. Should we not be measuring inflation using only the basic everyday items outlined above? This would make our inflation rate several times higher and more accurate, as any person living on a fixed income can tell you.

MORE PAPERWORK IS REQUIRED

If you are depositing money with or obtaining mortgage finance from any financial institution, more paperwork is now required. This is due to the tough anti-money laundering laws that now exist. Borrowers and depositors must now confirm their identity and this must be certified. This means sighted and signed by a JP, lawyer, registered medical doctor or chartered accountant (amongst others).

Trusts must provide a certified copy of their trust deed and details about the source of funds or wealth of the trust. ID for each trustee is required, as well as for named beneficiaries if the trust is non-discretionary. Most borrowers and investors, particularly if they have a long history with an organisation, do find this annoying and unsettling.

This is the law and the best course is to be prepared for more questions to be asked and to have suitable identification always available (a passport is best). There is more paperwork to do but this is a sign of the

times.

BITS AND BOBS

- Port of Auckland reported a 90% increase in net profit after tax. Container throughput increased by 18% to 968,741 TEU's.
- Port of Auckland, Port of Napier and Icepak are to open in a joint venture an inland port in Palmerston North.
- The Auckland Metro maintenance and servicing team (AMMS) will get further briefings from Kiwi Rail about timeframes around the fleet transition, there are still many members wishing to stay with the Rail family, the RMTU will continue to be part of this process and support our members in what is quite an uncertain time for many.
- Our Members at C3 Marsden Point have avoided the need for any redundancies due to the downturn in log volumes. Retraining to become digger operators working inside the ships which includes travelling around to different Ports (suitcase stevedoring) was seen as a viable alternative.
- The exact nature of the fault in the electrification system in Auckland is unclear but it did postpone the introduction of EMU services to Manukau. Hopefully Transdev will be in a position to give an update shortly to avoid any impact on the Timetable change now due in November.
- POTL negotiations have concluded with a 3 year deal agreed and the scheduled increases being 3.3%, 3.3% and 2.85%. Well done all!
- Port Napier also settled for 3 years with the scheduled increases being 2.85%, 2.95% and 3.30%. Well done all!

We're Stronger Together!

