

THE ACTIVIST



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WOOLSTON INLAND PORT COLLECTIVE AGREEMENT SETTLED

Members employed by Lyttelton Port Company who work at the inland port in Woolston are meeting 23 October to vote on whether to ratify a new collective agreement.

Members will remember that one of the reasons for the dispute with LPC over last Christmas and the New Year was our claim to collectivise inland port members. Whilst these members are still on a separate collective agreement to those working in Lyttelton the deal we have just negotiated delivers a wage increase that averages over 17%, significantly rebalancing the wage rates between the inland port and the waterfront.

"The RMTU negotiation team has worked hard with management on a progression system that provides wage increases for recognised skills, meaning our members get rewarded and LPC gets increased productivity," said South Island Organiser John Kerr.

"Full credit to delegates Simon Gillard and Darryl Haines for their commitment during these talks, now it's up to the members to vote," he said.

"The contrast in the atmosphere in these discussions and that during the dispute earlier this year couldn't be more stark; this is testimony to the work that both the RMTU and management have put in to rebuilding the relationship," he said.



NEW ASBESTOS REGULATIONS

Worksafe's new draft Asbestos regulations will require employers (PCBU's) to take a more proactive approach identifying and managing asbestos. The new regulations are part of a suite of Regulations that will underpin the new Health and Safety at Work Act that comes into effect in April 2016.

UNION FEE INCREASE

The September meeting of the National Management Committee (NMC) considered and approved the Unions financial budget for 2015/16 which included a recommendation for a \$0.10 increase to the National Union weekly membership fee. The increase will apply from 1 November 2015.

CALL FOR SUBMISSION ON WORKER PARTICIPATION H&S REGULATIONS

The RMTU will be submitting on the draft Regulations for Worker Engagement, Participation and Representation. The new Regulations underpin the new H&S at Work Act and set out the requirements for Health and Safety Reps and H&S committees. Submissions close 30 October.

QUALITY MARSHALLING NEGOTIATIONS PROGRESSING

Our Union is very close to finalising a collective agreement for members who work for Quality marshalling Ltd in Timaru.

Readers will remember that many of the members employed by Prime Port Timaru were made redundant and re-employed by QM in

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

the aftermath of Port of Tauranga buying a 50% stake in Prime Port.

Since then the RMTU has been working to establish a collective agreement and we're at the point where we're now working through the fine print. The deal delivers secure terms and conditions and regular wage increases over a three year term.

We hope to be in a position to hold a ratification vote in the next couple of weeks. Further details will follow.

FOREIGN BUYER REGIME

From 1 October any foreign buyer of property, must have a New Zealand IRD number and a current bank account with a local institution. In order to obtain a NZ IRD number, details will have to be provided on the applicant's tax position in their local jurisdiction. Obtaining a NZ bank account is not straight forward - two pieces of ID are required, as well as proof of a residential address. This will stop some investors from buying property here. We believe this new law can still be circumvented by using nominee and shell companies, trusts and buyers of convenience. It will be interesting to see how far the enforcement agencies will go, to ensure these new laws are not circumvented.



UPDATE YOUR MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

TRANSDEV ROSTERS

Auckland Ticket Inspectors will get a proper Master Roster for the first time. This has been consulted with Transdev after the Branch became aware the TI's were effectively operating off fortnightly mini Rosters only. Thanks must go to all the delegates involved in this process.

BRIGHTLINE TEST

This is a capital gains tax. From 1 October 2015 if you sell a property, which is not your residence, within a two year period (as defined by the Act) you will be taxed. The tax amount is the lower of 10% of the sale

price, or 33% of the gain. When a property is sold, the seller will have to complete a tax return. For most, if it is the family home, it will be a nil return. For certain property investors, tax will have to be paid at the time of sale. This will involve more work for solicitors and clients will, no doubt, be charged accordingly.

TRANSDEV A&D

Delegates on the D&A Working Group spent Wednesday this week negotiating changes to the D&A policy with Transdev management. There was robust discussion on many issues and it is believed a good outcome was achieved that will be communicated with the members when the draft document has been finalised.

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.

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!**

CAF NEGOTIATIONS

CAF is the Basque (Spain) train manufacturers in Auckland and they have the maintenance contract operating the Wiri Electric Depot. The RMTU is recruiting actively, there is a number of new NZers in the workforce as CAF seems to prefer to import its workers.

Continuing progress has been made on behalf of our CAF members this week as we worked through the parties claims in more detail. Both parties have supplied suggested wording for matters under negotiation for when we meet again on Tuesday Oct 27th.

We have also had 2 more members sign up and hope others will follow.

TRANSDEV CA

It has taken quite some time to finalise the wording of the Terms of Settlement (TOS). We thank members for their patience. As you know we cannot hold ratification meetings until we have the finalised wording for the TOS and the proposed Collective Agreement so that it is available to members for study prior to voting. This is the law.

We need to finalise the discussion on the D&A Policy as well. It is planned to have the TOS, draft CA and draft D&A policy out to members to read as soon as possible to give time to read before attending a ratification meeting.

CLIMATE CHANGE MARCH

This is a very topical issue given the release of the Governments first environment report in 7 years. The report is a damning indictment on the John Key Governments policies (or lack of them actually) in this area.

The RMTU is one of many unions, NGO's and other organisations involved in Organising and sponsoring Climate Change Marches across New Zealand on the 28th-29th November.

Information can be found at <http://www.peoplesclimatemarch.org.nz/> for what is happening in Auckland,

Wellington, Hamilton, Christchurch, Dunedin and many other towns, alternatively you can check out the facebook page. <https://www.facebook.com/peoplesclimatemarchnz?fref=ts>

Real change to climate targets will create many green collar jobs and as you will see (if you visit the website) from the pages there is a very diverse group of organisations prepared to join together to march for what can be seen as the issue of our time. It is planned that Union members would all march together as a group so if you are interested you can sign up to register your attendance online or offer to get more involved on the day. Should you have more specific questions please contact RMTU Auckland Organiser Stuart Johnstone sjohnstone@rmtunion.org.nz

BLOATED UBER-MINISTRY CONTINUES SPEND UP

MoBIE is living up to its acronym with bucket loads of taxpayer cash being spent on media monitoring and news tracking services, Labour's State Services spokesperson Kris Faafoi says.

The Ministry of Business Innovation and Employment has become a bloated caricature of itself, wallowing in extravagance and having a whale of a time at the expense of taxpayers.

"We've had a \$26,000 sundeck, \$140,000 televisions and a \$75,000 reception desk. Now we find almost \$800,000 has been paid out over the last two-and-a-half years to two companies to monitor news clippings and radio and television transcripts.

"Media monitoring can be a useful tool and obviously government departments need to stay informed. However MoBIE has spent more than twice what the Ministry of Foreign Affairs forked out to monitor the same media sites and almost as much as the entire cost of news tracking across 18 government agencies in the eight months to March.

"Steven Joyce seems to have lost control of spending at his Ministry. Millions of dollars are being freely spent on TV screens, flash furniture, and expensive signage. At the same time staff are preparing to strike because Steven Joyce is ignoring their calls for fair pay increases," Kris Faafoi says.



SUCCESSFUL DELEGATE TRAINING IN CHRISTCHURCH

Well trained delegates are a vital component of the RMTU's success in promoting our members' interests. The calibre of RMTU delegates is second to none, in part because our delegates tend to remain in the role for a long time and gain a great deal of useful experience, but also because we make delegate development and training a priority.

Nine delegates and active members from the Christchurch Rail and Port Branches attended a one day seminar, run by our South Island Organiser, on 15 October at the offices of the new private sector union E Tu.

Topics covered included the organising cycle, a strategic approach to health and safety and how to represent members in both individual and collective situations.

The RMTU regularly runs these seminars and encourages interested members, not just delegates, to attend.

YOUNG WORKERS TELL MP'S ZERO-HOUR CONTRACTS MUST Go

Stand Up, the youth union movement, told MPs today that zero-hour contracts are unacceptable and must go, during select committee hearings on the Employment Standards Legislation Bill.

Stand Up is the youth wing of the Council of Trade Unions, representing tens of thousands of young union members including fast food workers, teachers, public servants, food and factory workers, nurses and others.

Asher Wilson-Goldman, Stand Up Co-Convenor, said "You can't pay rent with uncertainty, and supermarkets don't accept a lack of hours as an excuse for your EFTPOS card being rejected."

"The Government promised to end zero-hour contracts but they have failed with this law.

"Flexibility cannot exist without job security – we need to have enough hours of work to cover our expenses before we can think about anything else.

"Zero-hour contracts send a message to young people that they don't matter, and that work is a kind gift from our bosses, rather than something we are all entitled to.

"The Government needs to fulfil their promise, and get rid of zero-hour contracts," said Asher Wilson-Goldman.

RED CARD FILM A HIT WITH NZEI

NZEI, the union which represents primary school and pre-school teachers and support staff, have been using screenings of our film of the recent dispute with Lyttelton Port Company, 'The Red Card', in organizer and Union support staff training in recent weeks.

Our General Secretary Wayne Butson and South Island Organiser John Kerr have been involved in sessions facilitated by NZEI Education Organiser Katy Watabe in both Wellington

and Christchurch. The screenings have involved an analysis of the strategy employed by the RMTU during the dispute and have been well received.

There is a clear message here – all working people, regardless of whether they are 'white collar' or 'blue collar', working in a predominantly male or female dominated industry, working with their hands and/or brains, have common interests and going home safe at the end of the working day is one of the most fundamental of those common interests.

BITS AND BOB'S

- The Maritime Union of Australia's Quadrennial National Conference will be held on the Gold Coast Queensland, Australia from 29 February to 4 March 2016
- Labour Party Conference in Palmerston North 6-8 November 2015.

