



THE ACTIVIST



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KIC BALLOT RESULT

We have twice in the history of the Union, to my knowledge, had tied votes in preferential ballot votes. The Locomotive Southern is the second and the first was a track position earlier this year. Bizarre, but then it is 2013. However, we press on and so the Locomotive Central ballot will be run off again with the 2 tied candidates being the only nominees so the ballot will revert to a "first past the post" process due to the two candidates.

My congratulations to Marty Duncan on his successful election to the Southern Terminals position. My sincere best wishes for the future and heartfelt thanks for the past work goes to Doug Blakie. Doug has been a KIC rep since the beginning of the councils and has worked hard on behalf of his peers and his knowledge and passion will provide big shoes for Marty to fill. I am confident Marty will rise to the challenge.

We urge all central LE's to vote in the ballot and may the best man win! Ballot Papers will be posted today and the ballot closes on 1 November. (Full Results later in this issue).

H&S REFORMS ANNOUNCED

In the wake of the tragedy at Pike River and two critical reports, the Government has released Working Safer: A blueprint for health and safety at work, which sets out a significant reform to the health and safety system. It proposes a new Health and Safety at Work Act, a new regulator and a series of measures, including enhanced worker participation. This is a great opportunity for workers and their unions to have safer workplaces



New law

The Government has decided to

overhaul our workplace health and safety law and will introduce a new Health and Safety at Work Act based on the Australian Model Law (which is aimed at getting consistent health and safety law across all the Australian states). Among other things it will clarify who is responsible for health and safety (this is expanded beyond the employer to include any person conducting a business or undertaking (PCBU)), provide greater protection for H & S reps and a greater range of penalties for the regulator and courts. The PCBU concept means that the person or legal entity best placed to manage H&S in the workplace will have the responsibility.

A New Regulator

From 1 December, workplace health and safety will now be regulated and led by a new agency – WorkSafe NZ. This is great but the government didn't agree to have union reps on the board as of right. The new agency will have many major tasks including: the development of comprehensive set of standards, to support the new Act; co-ordination of health and safety research and information; developing work programmes on occupational health, and high hazards. The standards work is a priority and unions need reps to be involved in their development.

Worker Participation

Worker participation in health and safety will be strengthened. There will be a new duty on employers to involve workers in health and safety and protect them from discrimination for raising health and safety matters. Employers will also have to consult with H & S reps and give them paid time for training. The reps will also have new powers - to direct unsafe work to cease and issue provisional improvement notices (PINs).

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



LABOUR RISE'S

Labour Party support jumped in the first public poll taken since David Cunliffe became Leader. The New Zealand Herald-DigiPoll released September 25 also showed Labour could form a coalition government. The polls further marked a sharp decline in the popularity of John Key to the lowest point since he became Prime Minister.

In the poll, Labour gained 6.8 points to 37.7 per cent of decided voters, which would give it 48 seats.

Most of Labour's support came at the expense of National, down 5.1 points since the June poll, which had them at 43.7 per cent support. Key's support as preferred Prime Minister has fallen to 55.8 per cent, a 9.4 per cent drop. When asked if the Government was moving in the "right direction," the percentage of respondents answering "yes" dropped 5.5 points and the "no" responses increased 5.9 points.

PORT OF TIMARU PARTIAL SALE GETS THE NOD

The Timaru Council has agreed to the partial sale of Prime Port to the Port of Tauranga. This will allow the Port of Tauranga to buy 21.43% of PrimePort's shares from Timaru District Holdings Ltd (TDHL), the council's holding company, and the 28.57% that Port Industry Holdings Ltd, a group of local investors, holds.

The RMTU attended Prime Port's AGM last month and was gratified to hear the CEO report that the staff had done a great job in very trying circumstances over the past 12 months. We were interested to hear that the he considered the port 'the most flexible and adaptable in New Zealand', a fact that was largely due to the staff and their 'great skills' and 'can do attitude'.

It's no secret that our members at Prime Port have been through the mill over the last couple of years, most recently when they were made redundant after Maersk and Hamburg Sud announced they would stop calling at Timaru last year. It's also no secret that the business model for the industry is broken with the lack of a national ports strategy allowing foreign

owned shipping companies to call the shots.

The Tauranga deal is evidence that the industry is attempting to restructure itself in the absence of a national strategy led by government. Our concern is that without central planning, the interests of New Zealand as a whole takes second place to that of what are, in effect, competing businesses, although most of these are wholly or partially owned by ratepayers.

We're initiating bargaining for the renewal of our collective agreement with Prime Port next month and fully expect the Company to come to the table with some tangible benefits for our members who have been so supportive of their employer in recent times.

LE ROSTERS – ROM S3

Several years ago issues were raised about the At Risk Shifts matrix in the Rail Operating Manual Section 3 (ROM S3) and mix of At Risk A & B shifts being treated differently for "Master Roster Construction" versus "Day of Operations" since the 2005 update of the Freight ROM S3.

The RMTU LE Reps on the KiwiRail Industrial Council (KIC) insisted that the requirements for mandatory time following a series of A & B shifts is the same in both scenarios. A compromise was reached whereby LE Rosters would trial the safer threshold, Master Roster Construction, in both scenarios and provide feedback to KIC if the trial severely disrupted rosters and the running of trains. No feedback was received so we rightly believed there were no issues.

From time to time the Roster Centre would slip back to the "Day of Operations" arrangement but when the issue was raised with delegates and the union office we would repeat the understanding and agreement reached at KIC and the Roster Centre would correct the rostering to the Master Roster Construction threshold – that was up until last week when KR refused.

During a conference call with the Soren Low, National Freight Manager Aaron Temperton, Waikato Rail Branch Secretary John Marsh and Todd Valster last Friday, we were surprised to find out that what was agreed at KIC in regards to the mix of A&B's/Master Roster Construction threshold was not well understood in the Roster Centre or by Soren.



Immediately after the call, Soren Low put out the following to the rosters team –

"Team,

Aaron Temperton is currently reviewing the use of the "Day of Operations" column in the ROM3 At Risk Matrix with the RMTU.

Effective immediately, can you please note the following:

- *Covering shifts using the Day of Operations provisions is only to be used as an absolute last resort*
- *Should you encounter a situation where you need to use this, please e-mail me with the basic details (who / what / when) and the impact if this was not done*
- *Please also note that the use of this may mean that some LE's feel unable to complete some shifts due to fatigue, if this occurs can you please also drop me the basic details in an e-mail*

Over the next few weeks we will be doing more work around the circumstances under which we have applied this to better understand the business impact of removing the Day of Operations provisions. This is likely to involve a national review of several fortnights to identify the where / when / impact.

I am also interested in your general feedback around any thoughts that you have about removing the Day of Operations column from the matrix.

The intent is to get to a position reasonably quickly where we can clarify this situation once and for all.

Let me know if you have any questions or queries regarding this."

This issue shows that persistence pays off, the delegates who relentlessly raised this issue are to be praised for doing so. We commend Waikato Secretary John Marsh for the final push!

TAIERI GORGE RAILWAY BARGAINING SETTLED AND RATIFIED

Thank you to all our members, particularly those of the Otago Rail Branch, who

supported the efforts of the RMTU to successfully negotiate this year's wage round in TGR.

The agreement was settled and ratified earlier this week and delivers a 2.2% wage increase over 12 months backdated to 9 August. All but our lowest paid members in TGR did not receive a wage increase last year so this increase, which is in excess of inflation over the last couple of years, offsets that.

In addition we successfully negotiated around the company's desire to move all the workshop staff on to 5x8 hour shifts by agreeing to ensure there was cover during the critical 0600-0800 period. Our members who are on 4x10 hour shifts will remain on those.

It took us a while to get to a point where both parties could agree but the Company was reasonable in the end. Hard work on behalf of delegates Joe Carson, Lyall Kelpie, Ammay Watt and Otago Branch Secretary Tim Spence, backed by the wider membership made all the difference. We are also indebted to the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment's mediator Walter Grills who provided the benefit of his experience and greatly assisted the negotiation process.

CALLING FOR KIWI RAIL HEALTH AND SAFETY REP ELECTIONS

Nominations are now being sought for the KiwiRail Health and Safety Reps. Find the Health and Safety Rep election kit on the RMTU website which includes posters, nomination and election forms.

<http://www.rmtunion.org.nz/KiwiRailHSRepElections2013.php>

The elections are part of a rejuvenation campaign for the Health and safety Action Teams (HSATs). It's a good opportunity to re-confirm your HSAT members through the nomination and election process or provide an opportunity for new people to step into the role and receive training.

With the new changes to the Health and safety legislation and strengthened worker participation provisions this is an interesting time to be a Health and Safety Representative. H&S reps are



provided with paid time and resources to undertake the role, this includes paid H&S rep training.

KiwiRail working with RMTU has revised its Terms of Reference for the HSATs so reps are encouraged to participate in 'portfolios' such as incident investigation, risk assessments or hazard assessment including new equipment or arrangements.

Nominations are now being sought for the KiwiRail Health and Safety Rep Elections.

Get the H&S Rep election kit from the RMTU website which includes posters, nomination and election forms. <http://www.rmtunion.org.nz/KiwiRailHSRepElections2013.php>

- KiwiRail / RMTU Employee Participation Agreement (2.3Mb)
- Health & Safety Rep Election Information (128Kb)
- Health & Safety Action Teams Terms of Reference (96Kb)
- Health & Safety Rep Nominations Form (134Kb)
- Health & Safety Rep ballot template (136Kb)
- Calling for Nominations Poster (300Kb)

Anticipated timeline for elections

- 30 September-7 October

RMTU Branch Secretaries meet with Local Area KiwiRail Managers and determine what areas and types of work require representation on the HSAT. Branches will receive election publicity material to put on noticeboards by the 8th October

Note this is also an opportunity to review the effectiveness of HSAT configuration and merge or reconfigure groupings where safety benefits can be gained.

- 8 October- 31st October

Call for nominations - KR Manager & RMTU Rep both distribute nomination forms and promote participation. Once nominations are in they are jointly counted by the KR Manager and RMTU Reps. The RMTU Branch (in consultation with the KR Manager) may call for nominations during a meeting of the members such as an AGM

if there is such a meeting that coincides with the election timeframes.

If only 1 nominee is received to represent an area he/she is awarded the position if endorsed by the employees and or the local Branch Executive of the RMTU. If not endorsed more nominations are to be called for.

- 4th November

Call for election (if required e.g. more than one person in nominated for one position). If more than 1 person is nominated for an area then elections are held for nominated candidates. Only the persons working in that area can vote for their nominated candidate

- 15th November

Close election and send names of H&S reps to RMTU to be registered for Health and Safety Rep training

COLLINS OUT OF TOUCH

Recent comments by ACC Minister Judith Collins that there is not a health and safety issue in New Zealand workplaces were roundly criticised by unions. Council of Trade Union President Helen Kelly said Collins' remarks are "so unbelievable and so out of touch that she should either resign or the Prime Minister should dismiss her."

Collins told the National Business Review the job safety situation in New Zealand workplaces is acceptable because the cost to ACC of non-work accidents is higher than workplace accidents. Kelly pointed out there are 207,000 workplace accident claims made to ACC each year. The recent Government commissioned Independent Taskforce into Health and Safety also acknowledged major reform is needed in the nation's approach to workplace health and safety "because of our appalling record in this area," Kelly said.

"That anyone after Pike River can suggest we are doing OK, let alone the Minister for ACC, shows a total disrespect for workers and their families and cannot be left in a position like the ACC Minister, which collects huge levies from workers and their families for coverage," she said.



CENTREPORT D&A

CPL has advised the combined unions – RMTU, MUNZ, EMPU, AMEA and MSG that they wish to review the D&A policy following a series of failed drug tests. This D&A policy was introduced in December 2008 and revised to include random saliva test 2 years ago.

RMTU and MUNZ reps met with Cargo members on Monday this week and stressed the importance of being drug free and also for members to raise their hand for rehabilitation if they believed they would fail a drug test.

WORKERS' MEMORIAL INVERCARGILL

Southland Branch Chair Gavin Mortimore has been working hard together with the CTU in Invercargill and the local City Council to get a permanent Workers' Memorial established in NZ's southernmost city.

Gavin sent through a picture mock up of a very tasteful stone tablet and a photoshopped illustration of where it will be located in front of Invercargill City Council's offices earlier this week. (The pictures will be printed in the December issue of *The Transport Worker*).

The aim is to have the memorial in place for next year's Workers' Memorial Day on 28 April.

Well done Gavin for all the work you've put into this project over the past few months. It's never easy negotiating your way through local bureaucracy but you've demonstrated that persistence pays off.

CTU REPORT FINDS OVER 635,000 NEW ZEALAND WORKERS IN INSECURE WORK

The CTU releases its report into insecure work, *Under Pressure: Insecure Work in New Zealand* at its Biennial Conference – Fairness at Work, held today in Wellington. CTU President, Helen Kelly says "whether we call it casualisation, precarious work, temporary, or non-standard work – it means that workers have worse conditions,

less security, less say and are more vulnerable. That may suit the boss – but it is unfair and does not work for workers."

"Our report shows that at least 30% of New Zealand's workers – over 635,000 people including 192,000 temporary workers – are in insecure work. We believe it may well cover 50% of the workforce because we know that 95,000 workers have no usual work time, 61,000 workers have no written employment agreement, 573,000 workers earn less than the Living Wage and almost a quarter of a million Kiwi workers say they have experienced discrimination, harassment or bullying at work. Some of these will add to the 30% level."

Helen Kelly says "insecure work for most people means their lives are dominated by work: waiting for it, looking for it, worrying when they don't have it. They often don't have paid holidays – which can mean no holidays at all. They lose out on family time. They often don't have sick leave. They are vulnerable if they try to assert their rights or raise any concerns. They are exposed to dangerous working conditions and have to accept low wages. They can't make commitments – to family time, to sports teams, to community or church activities, to mortgages, or even to increasing their skills, this is not the kind of working life most kiwi's want."

"The stories from workers in our report show that when there are no guaranteed hours or protections of secure work, workers are often fearful that they may lose hours or even lose their job if they stand up for their rights. This kind of work often leaves workers feeling they are not wanted, not valued, not really needed. It is damaging for them, for their families and for our communities."

Helen Kelly says we need to change to make working life decent and secure for more Kiwi workers.

"We need to have more legal protections to prevent people being trapped in insecure work. We need to make sure our income support mechanisms are working for insecure workers and that employers agree to a Living Wage with more security of hours. We need the Government to step up around procurement so that big public

projects engage workers in a way that they have job and income security and, we need to strengthen union campaigns and bargaining to support secure work."

The summary report ***Under Pressure: Insecure Work in New Zealand*** can be found on the NZ CTU website.

HOURS OF WORK WEST COAST INFRASTRUCTURE & ENGINEERING

KNIC Track Supervisor Rep and West Coast Branch Chair John Bannerman has had his hands full in Greymouth recently dealing with all manner of issues, not least of which is a proposal to change hours of work for the track maintenance gangs to maximise the time they can spend on the track during Tuesday's when, in theory, there are fewer trains running.

As is always the case with this sort of proposal there are a myriad of matters to take into account from individual circumstances around childcare, to health and safety and access to overtime.

The RMTU, largely through John, has been working with the affected members to try and ensure the Company hears all these concerns and addresses them. Consultation closes on Friday 11 October and we will await the Employer's decision with interest.

THE COAL SAFE - FOR NOW

The EPMU expressed "hope for the future" following the deal announced by the government to restructure the debts of Solid Energy. The deal includes a \$25 million cash injection and another \$130 million in loans. The union said the arrangement between the government, Solid Energy, and its backers is a relief to mine workers. "This agreement gives workers who are still employed with Solid Energy some much-needed security," says Ged O'Connell, EPMU acting national secretary. "It has been an incredibly difficult time for them and their families. We are very pleased with the comments of Solid Energy chairman Mark Ford, who has committed to re-establishing the company as a major employer in communities that have been devastated by job cuts." Seven

hundred jobs have already been lost in the past year while remaining Solid Energy workers have had to accept reductions to keep the company financially viable.

25 NOVEMBER 2013 – UN DAY FOR THE ELIMINATION OF VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

25 November is an important day for ITF affiliates worldwide. It marks the day that the ITF family campaigns for the elimination of violence against women. The message remains the same: 'NO to Violence Against Women'.

Why are we doing this?

Violence perpetrated at work or in the home, continues to be a major issue for women transport workers worldwide. Over the last few years an ever growing number of ITF affiliates have reported to the ITF incidents of physical, emotional and sexual violence against women members than ever before. UN research shows that one in three women suffer from violence during their lives. Unions and union members can implement strategies to work towards eliminating violence against women.

NO to Violence Against Women

Declaring NO to violence against women is the first step in dealing with the issue. What needs to follow is strategic and coordinated union action – activities, collective bargaining outcomes, union and workplace policies and procedures, support networks, facilities for women, appointing Women's Officers, creating Women's Committees and networks and many other actions. Transport unions across the globe have and continue to respond to this issue. It is a collective union responsibility that requires a collective union response.

What can you and your branch do?

ORGANISE AN ACTIVITY: We urge branches to consider what activity they can stage on 25 November to highlight the issue.

CAMPAIGN MATERIALS: RMTU National Office will be distributing poster and ribbons to branches before 25 November.

VISIT THE CAMPAIGN WEBSITE at www.unionsagainstviolence.org



DRUG & ALCOHOL NON NEGATIVE TEST RESULTS

We've had a few of these on the South Island lately, both in Rail and in our Port Branches. It's very hard to defend a 'non negative' (positive as we used to say) result when employers have D&A policies that mean that if you're a regular user of drugs that leave traces in your system for days and even weeks after you've partaken, you will eventually get caught out.

KiwiRail's D&A policy provides for rehabilitation for the first offence in anything but the most exceptional circumstances and most Port Companies have similar clauses in their policies. It's much better however, to sort out the problem before testing positive – there are plenty of people and agencies ranging from your doctor to EAP that you can turn to for help. If in doubt give us a call, we'd rather you didn't test positive in the first place.

LEGISLATIVE SOLUTIONS NEEDED TO IMPROVE LOT OF INSECURE WORKERS

Job insecurity is now so entrenched that only legislative changes will bring any real change for the hundreds of thousands of Kiwis who face the threat of it every day says Darien Fenton, Labour's associate spokesperson for labour issues.

"A CTU report, released today confirms the reality for many workers. They may have a job, but it is often casual, temporary or contracted, where a weekly pay check is uncertain, hours of work go up and down and long-held rights to breaks and paid holidays are meaningless.

"Employees have no stability and are often employed in low-wage industries. Many will have to hold multiple jobs to get by.

"Labour has proposed a number of legislative solutions in recent years, including bills that would have given protection to casual and temporary labour hire workers, minimum remuneration for dependent contractors, employment protections for young workers under 16, and minimum redundancy rights.

"Rather than being open to ideas to address a rapidly changing labour market, the National government has voted down anything proposed by Labour, and instead adopted new employment laws that make the already vulnerable even more so.

"Having laws that provide better security don't compromise good quality management, and we don't buy into the usual employer nonsense of trade-offs with jobs.

"Labour is continuing to press for law changes, with a new member's bill (attached) in the ballot in my name that would require individual and collective agreements to have specified hours and wages scales included."

HX MEDICALS CAUSE STRESS

HX Medicals have caused concern for a number of Transdev LE's recently. LE's had been instructed of the need to fast for 10 hours before blood tests and not to fast while on duty. Transdev appear to have unreasonably refused to pay members for undertaking these tests on RDO's. This is a big impact to some drivers who in addition to the fasting have to drive some distance to get to a nominated blood collection clinic. We hope to have a meeting early next week to confirm appropriate compensation for the time.

NZ WIDENING TRADE DEFICIT

The country's trade deficit widened to \$1.19 billion in August from \$771 million in July, New Zealand's biggest ever trade deficit in almost five years. The news caught many experts off guard because the economy had started to pick up growth and consumer sentiment was beginning to turn positive. The economy experienced a surge in imports for the period, attributed to the one-off arrival of a drilling platform from China that is due in New Zealand waters in the coming months. The value of imported goods rose 9.7 per cent to \$NZ4.5 billion while exports rose by 0.6 per cent to \$NZ3.3 billion. Though the imports have surged unprecedentedly, the underlying picture of the economy remains strong, observers said.

PORT NELSON

Port Nelson is currently consulting with the RMTU over the company's proposal to alter the employment arrangements for who performs the Launch and Tug Deckhand roles. The proposal could have a significant impact on our members if it goes through. A meeting was held with the affected members last week with feedback on the proposal back to PNL being compiled.

KIWI RAIL WORK RELATED INJURY - TIMESHEETS

Recent examples of members not being paid correctly when they have had a work related injury and are unable to do their role for a period have revealed that timesheets were not being completed correctly either by the member concerned or the members manager. Payroll have advised that the correct hours of work timesheet entries need to be the days and shifts the member would have worked had they not been injured. This will ensure the member is paid correctly.

KIC – SOUTHERN TERMINALS AND LE CENTRAL BALLOT RESULT

LE central representative: There were four nominations received for the Locomotive Central Representative position and in accordance with Rule 42.4, a postal Ballot using the 'Preferential Voting' system will be conducted between Ben Goodin, John Millward, Leslie Perrin & Telai Sefesi. The voting was as follows: FIRST COUNT

Nominees	1st Count	
Goodin, Ben	*6	6.98%
Millward, John	9	10.47%
Perrin, Leslie	39	45.35%
Sefesi, Telai	32	37.21%
Invalid	0	0.00%
TOTAL VOTES RECEIVED	86	100.00%

Following the first count, no nominee received at least 50%+1 of the total votes returned. As Ben Goodin had the least amount of votes (*6), his votes were removed and his SECOND PREFERENCE votes were distributed accordingly between the remaining nominees.

SECOND COUNT

Nominees	2nd Count	Subtotal	51%
Goodin, Ben			
Millward, John	2	*11	12.79%
Perrin, Leslie	0	39	45.35%
Sefesi, Telai	4	36	41.86%
Invalid	0	0	0.00%
TOTAL VOTES RECEIVED	*6	86	100.00%

Following the second count, no nominee received at least 50% +1 of the total votes returned. As John Millward had the least amount of votes (**11), his votes were removed and his THIRD PREFERENCE votes were distributed accordingly between the remaining two nominees.

THIRD COUNT

Nominees	3rd Count	Subtotal
Goodin, Ben		
Millward, John		
Perrin, Leslie	2	41
Sefesi, Telai	5	41
Invalid	4	4
TOTAL VOTES RECEIVED	**11	86

Following the third count, the voting was tied with both Leslie Perrin and Telai Sefesi receiving 41 votes.

The Ballot is deemed tied and therefore will be re-run between the highest polling candidates Mr Leslie Perrin and Mr Telai Sefesi.

Papers will be issued from National Office on 11 October 2013.

**TERMINALS
REPRESENTATIVE:**

There were two nominations received for the KFIC Terminals Southern Representative position and in accordance with Rule 42, a postal Ballot using the 'First Past the Post' system was conducted between Doug Blakie and Marty Duncan

Ballot Papers Issued	144
Ballot Papers Returned	83
Doug Blakie	37
Marty Duncan	46
Invalid	0

Marty Duncan is declared elected to the terminals southern representative position on the KIC

Hearty congratulations to Marty Duncan who has been elected. Thank you to all of the unsuccessful candidates who stood for election.

Signed: Howard Phillips

NATIONAL RETURNING OFFICER**BUY-BACK DESPERATE
ATTEMPT TO PROP UP MRP
PRICE**

Mighty River Power's \$50 million share buyback is an act of absolute desperation and shows the total folly of the Government's asset sales programme, says Labour's SOEs spokesperson Clayton Cosgrove.

"The asset sales programme has been a shambles from start to finish. It is the act of a desperate board that is trying to prop up its falling share price, just five months after listing. Clearly the Board could see the writing on the wall and knew the share price would fall even further. "This is market interference, pure and simple. The Government will be very happy with this act as the falling Mighty River Power share price is scaring prospective Meridian investors away.

"The entire float was a shambles and the Government got it wrong from the beginning. It was clear within a week that

the listing price was far too high. National was plain greedy.

"John Key and Bill English have long touted that selling off our SOEs will 'deepen capital markets'. Surely an SOE spending \$50 million to rescue its own falling share price isn't what they meant. If MRP hadn't been sold off that money could have used for the benefit of all taxpayers.

"This asset sales programme was a failure from the beginning, this is yet another nail in the coffin of this debacle.

"This shambles shows how important it is that New Zealanders vote in the upcoming referendum and put the asset sales programme out of its misery," says Clayton Cosgrove.

**SPAIN TO INCREASE RAIL
SPENDING BY 21% IN 2014**

Rail will remain Spain's top transport priority in 2014 according to the Ministry of Public Works and Transport's draft budget published last week, accounting for 51% of the total planned investment of €8.98bn. Rail spending will increase by 21% from €3.78bn this year to €4.58bn in 2014.

The bill will allow the government to invest €3.2bn in the high-speed rail network. With more than 1200km of new lines still under construction. However, the high-speed budget is insufficient to bridge the widening gap between Spain's ambitious plans to extend the network simultaneously towards the 15 mainland regions, and the budgetary constraints imposed by the country's deepest economic crisis in decades.

BIC TO CLICK NO MORE

Bic, the pen manufacturer, confirmed that it will lay off 19 workers in Auckland and import pens from overseas instead of making them in New Zealand. "We are very disappointed that the company has not reconsidered the closure, and also that it has refused to properly compensate its workers," said Anita Rosentreter, the EPMU's organiser for Bic. The workers have only been offered six weeks' pay in redundancy compensation. Some of them have been with the company for more than 30 years. "Some of these workers have literally given decades of loyal

service to Bic, and now they're being shown the door. This isn't good enough," Rosentreter said. The union said the nation's manufacturing sector "has been devastated" over the past four years and called for Government action "on the crisis across our manufacturing industry."

JOIN US IN CELEBRATING 100 YEARS!

The PSA is 100 years old this year and we've been celebrating with events around the country.

We are drawing these celebrations to a close in Wellington on Tuesday 22 October with a lunch-time procession of PSA members, colleagues and friends. It will be a shared celebration of our history which is so closely aligned with that of New Zealand's public sector.

PSA members will be led by our beautiful new banner, specially commissioned to mark our centenary and to demonstrate our pride and identity.

We warmly invite you and others in your organisation to be part of our procession.

The procession will start at Midland Park at 12.30pm and walk to Parliament. From 1pm, there will be a picnic in Parliament grounds, short speeches and entertainment. We will be organising light refreshments but people are welcome to bring their lunch.

In the unlikely event of bad weather, an alternative venue has been organised. Police clearance has been arranged for the walk from Midland Park.

Bits and Bobs

- **Primeport Timaru** has recorded an after tax profit of \$1.68m for the year ending June 2013. This compares to last years \$7.4m loss.
- **Port Nelson** has recorded a net profit after tax of \$7.1m for the year ending June 2013.
- The Business consortiums hoping to re-open the Napier/Gisborne Line are running out of time to have the line back in use in time for next year's producing season. KiwiRail will not

commit to making the \$4m investment in repairs to the line north of Wairoa as a result of the storm in 2012. The group is trying to meet the Transport Minister to get central government funding support.

- **Port Nelson** has had a win in getting the lion's share of the \$80m repair of the damaged floating oil storage ship "Raroa" which is usually moored off the Taranaki Maari Oilfield.
- **Port Marlborough** is considering building a \$30m replacement for the Waitohi wharf which is "100 years old and rotten" according to David Oddie a district councillor.
- F&P have launched a new **sleep apnoea** mask. The new product is called the Pilairo Q Nasal pillows mask. This will add more choice to other recent launched products like the Eson nasal mask and the Simplus full face mask both of which have performed exceptionally well for customers.
- RMTU was at the **NZCTU Biennial Conference** this week. Howard Phillips, Wayne Butson, Andy Kelly, Manu Barclay (Runanga) and Telai Sefesi (Komiti Pasifika) were our reps. All of them reported that Labour Leader David Cunliffe's and Greens Co leader Metiria Turei speeches were inspiring in their speeches and gave confidence that this current John Key Government is in its death throes.
- **Port of Tauranga** has declined to establish a relationship agreement with the RMTU. Cairns states he is a bit old fashioned and subscribes to Stephen Covey's notion of a "relationship Bank". It appears the RMTU remains in overdraft and the bank manager continues to pull the strings!

Let's Be Safe Out There & Remember.....

"WE'RE STRONGER TOGETHER"!

