

THE ACTIVIST



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COVID 19 VACCINATION STARTS FOR BORDER WORKERS

Auckland quarantine and border workers will start receiving the long awaited Pfizer BioNTech vaccination to help protect them and their families against the COVID 19 disease. The roll out begins this weekend and 12000 border workers will be offered the vaccine nationally over the next 3 weeks. The vaccine has been approved by NZ's Medsafe and has met the international and national standards for safety and quality.

The Ministry of health said over 2 million people world-wide have received the Pfizer BioNTech vaccination to date. The vaccine is shown to help prevent severe illness from the disease, however

researchers are unsure whether vaccinated people will still be at risk of transmitting the virus if they catch it. Because of that unknown vaccinated border workers will still be required to follow all the current systems of preventing spread of the disease. Including weekly or fortnightly COVID-19 tests, wearing PPE and observance of the physical distancing and hand hygiene rules.

The Ministry of Health will not offer the vaccine to people under 16 years or pregnant women because the clinical trials did not include those groups. Anyone with specific health concerns that may exclude them from receiving the vaccine are urged to speak to their GP's to get more information.

The vaccine was developed using new RNA technology. The Pfizer vaccine doesn't use inactive (or dead) parts of the virus to generate an immune response like typical vaccinations. It uses RNA technology which teaches the body to recognise the virus and fight it if you are infected. The vaccine cannot give people the virus.

TOLL NETWORKS - BARGAINING UPDATE

Your negotiating team will be back at the bargaining table on 5 March. We are starting to come to a point where we will have to make decisions about what we will agree to and what industrial action, if any, we are willing to take. As a reminder, we still have a 0% wage offer on the table with no claw backs on terms and conditions.

We have found out that FIRST Union, after having taken industrial action, have been offered a 1.5% pay increase for the year. There is no reason why we should not be offered at least that too.

Just to remind you, the offer from the Company is remains a NIL WAGE INCREASE.

KR MECA 2020 WAGE ROUND UPDATE

Today we have received back from KiwiRail's CEO the signed Terms of Settlement and so we have an agreed package that can now be taken out to members for ratification within KiwiRail. Planning has commenced on finalizing the ratification ballot which we hope to have despatched to members by the close of business 26 February 2021. The ballot will be a postal ballot to members home addresses as listed within our membership database. In other words the mailout is only going to be as good as the information you have supplied us. If you have moved house or address LET US KNOW by calling emailing or using the update form on the Union website.

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

The Ratification report back joint meetings are being organized for the week 6 to 10 March 2021 and the schedule will be released when finalized. Please ensure you attend a meeting to hear and debate the detail. Copies of the Terms of Settlement and proposed MECA will be available on the Union Website from 26 February 2021.

CENTREPORT BARGAINING

Bargaining between CentrePort, Etu, MUNZ and the RMTU to renew the current CA that expired in October 2020 continues. There is still a large gap between the expectations of the combined unions members and what is being offered. The unions are preparing for report back meetings to outline the current positions and to discuss where to from here.

HPHE - NATIONAL TRAIN CONTROL CENTRE

The HPHE NTCC working group met on Friday 12th February at the Wellington Railway Station. This meeting was a reset to focus on the big issues ahead and separate other work that needs to be done in smaller work groups. For the HPHE group, the future locations for the Wellington NTCC and the Auckland development remain. Other issues – Pay and Progression, Traction team concerns and a review of the recruitment processes will go to smaller work groups using the interest based problems solving approach. Workforce planning and succession, training, a review to introduce meal breaks and the ROM/Rosters were classed as business as usual. The work on the ROM/Rosters is nearly complete and will be subject to ratification by the affected members. Two joint communications have been compiled and sent out to NTCC

members. This HPHE working group will meet again March 3rd and April 1st.

PORT TARANAKI CA

Bargaining is due to commence with Port Taranaki, the current CA's term ends March 31st. A well-attended claims meeting was held last week and it is fair to say, members are seeking a reversal to the decline in terms and conditions during the last 4-5 years.

HEALTH AND SAFETY REP TRAINING - HOW TO REGISTER FOR A COURSE

Following the Union AGM's, new Health and Safety Reps who've recently been elected to Health and Safety Committees are required to register for H&S Rep training. H&S Reps attend 2-days paid training per year paid for by the employer.

To register on a course, go to www.worksafereps.co.nz

SAFEGUARD ANNUAL SAFETY SURVEY

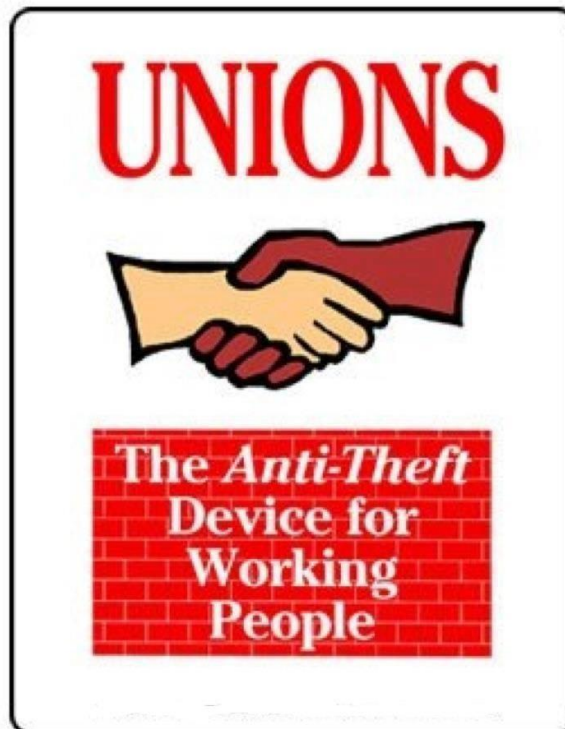
It's that time of year where Safeguard seeks respondents to our annual

State of the Nation survey – it will be the sixth time we have run it. The survey closes 22 March.

Safeguard magazine's annual State of the Nation survey is designed to be taken by people based in New Zealand and who belong to one of these groups:

- Health and safety practitioners (including occupational health nurses)
- Health & safety reps
- Business owners/senior executives

All questions are multi-choice except for one optional question at the end. The survey



takes less than two minutes to complete and is anonymous. The results of the survey – which looks at trends in perceptions of health & safety over time – will be published in the March/April edition of Safeguard magazine.

You also have the option to ask for the survey results to be emailed to you.

If you fall into one of the three categories above then please do the survey [here](#).

TAURANGA BARGAINING

A mammoth task was undertaken to tidy up the Port of Tauranga collective after the 2019 negotiations. Branch Chair Kelven Martin has been an integral part in ensuring a smooth transition was made from Phil Spanswick to Dasha Van Silfhout and ensuring the rewrite was still on track.

The new collective is now in front of all the sections of the business to triple check everything is correct before we call a stop work meeting in March to ratify it before bargaining for the next wage round commences in March.

The RMTU have also initiated bargaining with Ixom, Mount Maunganui where we are working on deciding on our team and collating our claims. We will initiate negotiations with C3 (Stevedores) next month.

RMTU/KIWI RAIL (FREIGHT) INDUSTRIAL COUNCIL

The next KIC meeting is in Wellington, 4 – 5 March. Brendon Smith, Northern LE KIC rep has stood down due to him taking a management role and Deb Brown will fill this position until the elections of industrial council reps later this year. Thanks go to Brendon for the work he did representing the Northern KR LE's during his term and welcome Deb.

LOWER NORTH ISLAND LOCAL INDUSTRIAL COMMITTEES

The LNI LIC's have been going through a transformation to provide better structures and processes so these LIC's are effective for members and KiwiRail. HPHE training has been provided and members of the HPHE team are assisting and facilitating the changes. What was a regional LNI LIC has been split to a Wellington LIC and a regional LIC including Reps from Palmerston North, Taranaki and the Hawkes Bay. The next LIC meeting in Wellington is set for April 12th, this meeting had to be deferred due to the current workload in Wellington Terminal. The other LIC will meet in Palmerston North, March 15th.

QUALITY MARSHALLING MEMBERS IN TIMARU MAKE PROGRESS

Activist readers will recall from our last issue that members working for Quality Marshalling at Timaru Port were under pressure due to high volumes of work and a need for better planning and communication around rostering. A membership meeting was convened and delegates took the issues identified to management.

As reported, there was an acknowledgment from management of the need to move away from a reactive to a more planned approach and for better communication. We are pleased to report that National Office received a call last week from one of our key delegates to say the situation had improved in the short time since this meeting with better communication, including the use of both text and e-mail, to ensure members were aware of roster issues.

The roster committee, as agreed in the terms of settlement for the 2020 bargaining has met and is starting to address medium and long-term issues.



The lesson here is that it is important to raise issues with your delegates and officials and to support them in seeking to resolve these with management. We will keep members informed as events unfold.

MEMBERS APPRECIATING MEMBERS

Last month, Massey Laing, a Port of Tauranga worker, posted on the branch facebook page his appreciation for a group of members that have retired from the Port of Tauranga.

"Lyll Reid, Kev Merrie, Lindsay Girvan, Phil Davey, Ken McNicholl, Gerry Trask and Gordon May. 284 years of experience and knowledge RETIRED. Goodluck Gentlemen and it was an absolute pleasure working with you all. Peter Regan you are an absolute legend who couldn't make tonight's festivities and would've tipped the numbers over 300 but you will never be forgotten. LEGENDS!"

Lyll and Ken have been RMTU members for 36 years and 34 years respectively. We wish them all the best in their retirement.

WAKA KOTAHI/NZTA DIRECTIVE FOR KIWIRAIL REGARDING ALIGHTING MOVING RAIL VEHICLES

After receiving many concerns raised following the Waka Kotahi/NZTA directive to KiwiRail to ban alighting from moving vehicles, RMTU H&S Organiser wrote to Waka Kotahi/NZTA to arrange a meeting with them and frontline terminal worker reps. This meeting is set down for March 3rd at 1400hrs. The purpose of this meeting is to discuss members concerns and explore other options for how the risk can be mitigated to an acceptable level.

LINES SUPERVISORS AT LYTTTELTON PORT NEGOTIATE MID TERM PAY INCREASE

We are pleased to announce that some of our lowest paid members at Lyttelton Port have been successful in negotiating and agreeing a mid-term pay increase after a remuneration review was undertaken by LPC in conjunction with the membership. This delivers an immediate \$2250 salary increase effective from 1 February plus a training allowance in line with training rates in the Cargo Handling Schedule. This is in addition to other negotiated pay increases as part of the current RMTU-LPC Collective Agreement.

A fuller report will be included in the Branch notes in the March issue of the Transport Worker.



PORT OTAGO CAMPAIGN REVS UP WITH DEMO SET DOWN FOR NEXT WEEK

Readers will recall that the membership of both the RMTU and MUNZ employed at Port Otago are fed up with management's aggressive and disrespectful approach to industrial relations at the port. As outlined in the last issue of The Activist another stop-work meeting will be held next Wednesday 24 February outside Otago Regional Council Chambers during the Council meeting scheduled for that afternoon.

The intention is to present the petition that is circulating at the port to the Regional Council, who is the shareholder of Port Otago. The petition calls upon the Council to 'use its influence and good offices to effect a change in the aggressive and confrontational approach towards industrial relations that management is taking at the port'.

Obviously, the nature of the demonstration will be contingent on any COVID Alert Level restrictions that may be in place at the time.

LYTTELTON PORT MEMBERS PAY INCREASE DUE 14 MARCH

Members covered by the RMTU-LPC Collective Agreement will receive a 3% pay increase from 14 March. This is the second of three increases negotiated as part of this agreement. The next is due on 13 March 2022. The document expires on 10 March 2023.

Given the events of the past twelve months, and the challenges unions (including the RMTU) have faced in negotiating pay increases with many employers in the face of COVID19 disruption to business the RMTU-LPC deal is proving to be something of a landmark agreement.

WEST COAST BRANCH MEMBERS CALL FOR POLICY ON JUST TRANSITION

As reported in the last issue of the Activist, the recent protests in

Dunedin by environmental activists against KiwiRail transporting coal prompted a great deal of discussion amongst members, not least those based on the West Coast.

This culminated in a very well attended Branch meeting on Friday 12 February which passed a unanimous resolution calling upon the RMTU to develop a policy for a 'just transition' for members whose jobs are dependent on the transport of coal, and in the meantime to continue advocate for the retention of these jobs until such a time as a viable alternative for coal is developed. A Branch Sub Committee was formed to work on this comprising Branch Chair Ian Coates, Branch Secretary Ron Nijssen, Don Hibbs and Andrew Oliver.

Support is being provided by our South Island Regional Organiser and the RMTU is

already looking at sending a representative from the Branch to a seminar being held in New Plymouth on the economic future of that region in the light of the running down of the oil and gas industries. We have also contacted the environmental activist groups to see if there is any potential for a meeting to discuss the concerns members have around the nature of protest action and to see if we can secure support for a just transition for workers as part of their advocacy.

The Branch will also reach out to other RMTU Branches who have members whose jobs are dependant on the transport of coal prior to the March meeting of the RMTU National Management Committee with a view to seeking endorsement of the call for a policy on this issue.



LYTTELTON PORT FATIGUE RISK MANAGEMENT GROUP UPDATE

This group, involving representatives from LPC and all the unions, met again on Tuesday 16 February. The last issue of the Activist

highlighted the complexity of the issues being worked on. At our meeting it was agreed that regular updates for members are necessary and the aim is to publish these and to hold briefings at shift change times with the opportunity for questions and answer sessions. To reiterate, any proposed changes to hours of work clauses in collective agreements arising out the work for this group can only occur with the consent of members through the democratic process for ratification of such change.

**Remember – be
Safe at all
times!**