

THE ACTIVIST



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WORKERS MEMORIAL DAY – 28 APRIL

International Workers Memorial Day is 28 April 2014. The day is about remembering those workers, especially RMTU members, who have been killed whilst at work.

All Branches are asked to commence formal arrangements for services at memorial sites.

All members are requested to attend a memorial service organised near them.

As usual we ask all members to stop what they are doing at midday to "Mourn the dead – Fight for the living" and to think about how important personal safety is to us all going home safe at the end of our days' work.

As usual we will be requesting KiwiRail to approve all trains stopping at midday on the 28th for 1 minute.

RMTU is participating in Services being held at Hamilton, Mount Maunganui, Napier, Palmerston North, Hutt Shops, Wellington, Christchurch, Dunedin and Invercargill. See your local noticeboards for more information.

The Invercargill service will see a new memorial unveiled and Wayne Butson will be attending.

ANZAC DAY - PETONE CEREMONY

The Petone Community Board extends an invitation to all members to attend the Flag Ceremony at the ANZAC Memorial Flagstaff,

Petone Railway Station, at 7am on ANZAC Day, Friday 25 April 2014.

The RMTU National Union and the Hutt Workshops Branch will, as is our usual custom, lay wreaths which recognises and honours railway men and women who laid down their lives during wars.

ASBESTOS LOCOMOTIVES

Report back meetings have been held in Westfield, Te Rapa (Hamilton), Mount Maunganui and Kawerau this week to fully brief LE's and Mechanical Engineers in these locations of the agreed framework for returning "clean" Gen II DL locomotives to service.

At the time this is written 1 DL locomotive has been approved back into full manned service. The in cab air borne tests are proving challenging because the filters in the test equipment are becoming clogged with Diesel Particulates. Further testing is to occur to identify the amount of diesel particulates coming into the cabs and whether the presence of the particulates poses any risk to

LE's.

Members at the meetings have thanked the RMTU delegates for their work during this challenging time for us all.

TOLL BARGAINING – SOME WORK TO DO TOGETHER!

The deadline for remits to National Office for Toll Tranzlink Bargaining is 30 April. RMTU Organisers in Auckland and Christchurch are working with Toll to arrange membership meetings for the week of 14 April.



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

In addition to thinking about remits all members in Toll should be doing their bit to sign up any of their workmates who have not yet joined the RMTU.

Your collective agreement expires on 30 June and we will be initiating bargaining in early May so don't put yourself in the position that you don't know what is going on. Get to a meeting if you can, make sure your contact details are up to date with National Office and make sure all your workmates are in the RMTU!

PRIME PORT TIMARU DEAL RATIFIED AMIDST CHANGING TIMES IN THE SOUTH ISLAND PORTS INDUSTRY

The RMTU at Prime Port in Timaru has settled and ratified an 18 month collective agreement with expiry in mid 2015.

The deal delivers an immediate 3% increase to all paid and printed rates and allowances backdated to expiry in January and the re-introduction of a 'time bank' to allow members who regularly work more than their guaranteed hours the option of taking some of these in the form of leave.

Given the turmoil at Prime Port over the past few years, with two re-structures and a partial buy out by Port of Tauranga, the RMTU negotiation team felt this was the best we could do in very difficult circumstances, especially as the CEO could not guarantee continued work under the current structure beyond June this year.

The port industry in the South Island is going through a period of change with the confirmation of plans by Port of Lyttelton to develop an inland metro port at Rolleston, and Port of Tauranga's partial acquisition of Prime Port Timaru. With both Port of Lyttelton and Port Otago collective agreements up for re-negotiation this year it promises to be an interesting 12 months.



KEY DUCKS BUT CAN'T AVOID HIGH COURT SLAP

The High Court's slap in the face to John Key and his Government over Chorus has left it with no option but to accept the Commerce Commission's lawful process in deciding the price of copper, says Labour's associate ICT spokesperson Clare Curran.

"John Key was forced today to effectively rule out any further threats of legislating against the final Commission decision expected at the end of the year due to lack of support from coalition partners, a concerted push from the tech industry and a consumer backlash.

"This is good news for an industry which has been riddled with uncertainty created by a stream of threats, intimidation of a regulatory body, the likelihood of households paying too much for broadband and a Prime Minister intent on propping up the profits of its corporate mate Chorus.

"John Key, Amy Adams and Steven Joyce have all contributed to one of the major botch-ups of the National Government.

"It will be up to an incoming Labour Government to get the critical broadband infrastructure programme back on track and deliver an economic upgrade in ICT.

"ICT today plays a role similar to the railway in the 19th century. It is the infrastructure that opens up new markets and new supply chains. We will be left behind if this Government keeps stuffing it up," says Clare Curran.

AB608 PASSCHENDAELE LOCOMOTIVE DEDICATION

Steam Incorporated is holding a short ceremony to rededicate the Passchendaele memorial plaques and to mark the completion of the restoration of Ab608 on Friday 25th April 2014, 2.15pm at Paekakariki Railway Station

Car parking is available at the station car park off Tilley Road, accessed through

Paekakariki Township via Beach Road and Wellington Road

wbutson@rmtunion.org.nz or Box 1103 Wellington.

TE KUPENGA MAHI ANNUAL HUI 2014.

Te Kupenga Mahi invites RMTU members to attend its annual hui in June 2014. Te Kupenga Mahi is the Rail Industry Maori Network, which was established in 1989. While we focus on things of particular relevance to Maori, we invite participation by all peoples. We aim to provide a safe space, where one can explore the Maori World, learn a little about how it operates and gain an understanding of the values behind the Maori world view.

Participation at Te Kupenga Mahi events is open to all KiwiRail & Toll Staff and their families; we also welcome former Rail Industry employees and their families. We encourage you to take up this opportunity.

Thursday 12 – Sunday 15 June 2014

Venue: Orongomai Marae, Upper Hutt, near Wellington.

Welcome (Powhiri) 1400 hrs on Thursday 12th

Saturday Programme from 0830hrs. Saturday 14th

Celebration Dinner 1830hrs. Saturday 14th

Farewell (Poroaki) by 1500hrs. Sunday 15th

Please email tkm@kiwirail.co.nz or call: Sam Kahui on 021 2426055 or Kim Williams on 027 943 6503 for further information about; TKM, the Hui or to Reserve Your Place.

This year we celebrate 25 years of Te Kupenga Mahi and we are looking for a BIG turnout of New and Familiar faces

RMTU TRANSPORT WORKER DEADLINE

The deadline for contributions to issue 2 for 2014 our flagship publication "The Transport Worker" is 1 May 2014. Please send all branch notes, letters to the Editor and pictures (in high resolution) etc to

NEW MINIMUM WAGE RATES TAKE EFFECT FROM 1 APRIL 2014

The new adult minimum wage rates (before tax) that apply to employees aged 16 or over will be:

\$14.25 per hour, which is

\$114.00 for an 8-hour day, or

\$570.00 for a 40-hour week.

The Starting-out wage rates and the training minimum wage rates (before tax) will increase to:

\$11.40 an hour, which is

\$91.20 for an 8-hour day, or

\$456.00 for a 40-hour week.

The Starting-out wage applies to:

- 16- and 17-year-olds in their first six months of work with a new employer (or until they are training or supervising others)
- 18- and 19-year-olds who have been paid a benefit for six months or longer, and who have not completed six months of continuous work with any employer since starting on benefit (or until they are training or supervising others)
- 16- to 19-year-old workers in a recognised industry training course involving at least 40 credits a year.

The training minimum wage applies to employees aged 20 years or over who are doing recognised industry training involving at least 60 credits a year as part of their employment agreement, in order to become qualified.

KR MECA WAGEROUND REMIT CALL CLOSED

The call for remits has closed.

The RMTU negotiation team composition is yet to be determined but will operate under the oversight of the members of the KiwiRail



Industrial Council's with the lead negotiator being Wayne Butson the General Secretary.

The remits will be prioritised by the negotiation team. Regular updates will be disseminated to members once bargaining commences.

AUCKLAND EMU'S

As the introduction of the new EMU's is fast approaching (April 27th) delegates are working diligently to make sure all concerns and training requirements are completed on time. There has been a series of consultation meetings held over the last two weeks with Transdev to understand and rectify these outstanding issues.

HOME OWNERSHIP LEVELS

Over the past twenty years, there has been a steady decline in those owning their own homes. According to the latest census figures, 49.8% of people own, or partly own, the home in which they live, compared with 53.2% in 2006. There are several reasons for this. In certain regions, such as Auckland, dwellings have become increasingly expensive to purchase.

Cheaper towns such as Gisborne and areas such as Northland, which also have declining home ownership rates, have seen a decline in a number of higher paying jobs in industries such as forestry, the wharves and in the freezing works. Other industries in these areas have moved out to the larger populated areas. There is a trend with younger people, to delay house purchases, so that they can have increasing work and lifestyle flexibilities. We see a role here for KiwiSaver to play in the future. Already savers can withdraw funds to assist them with their deposits - this is good. KiwiSaver should go further, in providing say second mortgages, to assist their members to fund the 80-95% portion of their first house purchases.

NON-RESIDENTS SHOULD BUILD

There are a number of non-residents of this country, who are interested in purchasing residential property. This is, no doubt, having an effect on the supply and so some local people, particularly first home buyers,

are missing out. The solution is to follow what has been adopted in Australia, Singapore and Hong Kong - that non residents can only purchase brand new properties.

This has several advantages: it has a stimulatory effect on the construction industry, which will be able to employ more locals, plus it increases the supply of properties available. In the medium term, this may actually decrease rents. The other advantage is that the used market is only available to residents, which will include many first home buyers. They will, of course, have access to brand new properties as well. We should adopt this initiative.

30TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE DEADLY WELLINGTON TRADES HALL BOMBING

A booby-trapped suitcase left in the hall triggered a bomb that killed hall caretaker Ernie Abbott, who was president of the Wellington Caretakers and Cleaners Union. No one was charged in the killing. "The bombing of the hall was a direct attack on democracy in New Zealand, aimed at destabilising the union movement and the values it promotes," said Council of Trade Unions president Helen Kelly.

"While the nature of attacks on workers' rights to organise may have changed, the underlying theme of reducing rights for workers in New Zealand has continued at pace." Abbott paid the ultimate price for his belief that everyone should have the right to work safely with decent pay and conditions, the Council said.

An event was held at the Trades Hall to commemorate the anniversary where a moment of silence was observed at 5:19 p.m. when the blast occurred.

SUCCESSFUL DELEGATE TRAINING ON THE WEST COAST

The RMTU has just run some long overdue delegate training on the West Coast for a mix of experienced and new delegates in rail.

South Island Organiser John Kerr and National Health and Safety Organiser Karen



Fletcher arranged a course at the beginning of the month that was a refresher for the old hands and an introduction to some of the basics for our new delegates.

'The commitment and enthusiasm of the delegates was inspiring', said John Kerr, 'often people are intimidated from putting their hand up to be a delegate because they see the great work RMTU delegates do and think they couldn't match that standard, but 90% of the job is keeping the flow of information going and knowing when to ask for help.'

Karen Fletcher ran a session on Health and Safety, looking at the coming law changes and running an exercise that started with an analysis of how incidents occur and then applying this to real life situations on the Coast. Once again, the delegates' input was tremendous: 'it's great to see that we have people in our union like these,' she said, 'it's always a privilege to come over to the Coast and meet the members'.

LVR RESTRICTIONS MAY BE RELAXED

After being introduced around six months ago, the loan to value ratios are having an impact on mortgage lending. These restrictions and the prospect of higher mortgage rates have reduced the number of first home buyers in the market. We have always said that this is not a good policy, as we should be encouraging first home buyers into the market.

Most of these buyers are between 25-35 years of age, with many years working ahead of them. Home ownership is part of most peoples' superannuation, in this country. Having a freehold house in retirement, means you need less income on which to live, plus it does give you options about trading down to a less expensive property. Later on this year, the Reserve Bank may start to ease back on the loan to value restrictions.

RSW TRUST HOUSE OCCUPANCY – A REMINDER

The RMTU has received advice from the Trust that a number of rules breaches have occurred with Group C (members of the RMTU who are not employee's of KiwiRail or its subsidiary's) category members of the Trust. The rules breached are;

- At NO time is the number occupying the unit permitted to exceed the maximum shown on the inventory sheet for the unit being occupied, and;
- The member and/or member's spouse/partner must be in attendance throughout the period of the tenancy. Family/friends etc are not permitted to occupy units without one of these persons being present.

Group C category membership of the Trust is a privilege NOT a right. Any breaches of the Trusts rules will be dealt with seriously and they additionally

do not portray the RMTU as an organization in a good light.

Please obey all of the Trust's rules when occupying Units?

FISHING SLAVERY LAW

MUNZ National Secretary Joe Fleetwood called on the New Zealand Parliament to pass its fishing slavery laws as a matter of urgency. "The bill has now been pushed number 27 on the parliamentary bills list, placing it in real danger of not being addressed before the upcoming national election," Fleetwood said.

Two years ago, the government concluded a ministerial inquiry into the use of foreign charter boats after national and international charges of slave labour in New Zealand waters. Legislation to implement the recommendations, which include a requirement that all vessels be New Zealand flagged by 2016, has yet to be passed.

A US State Department report released in mid-2012 on New Zealand's use of cheap labour on fishing boats was labelled "21st century slavery". The report cited conditions of forced labour, including debt bondage,



imposition of significant debts, physical violence, mental abuse and excessive hours of work aboard vessels in the country's waters.

ECONOMY IS LESS ROBUST

There seems to be conflicting information about how well the economy is performing. Bank economists are all optimistic but we are seeing a slightly different story. Sure Auckland is growing, and construction activity is occurring in Christchurch. Elsewhere, in most provincial areas, things are quieter and unemployment remains high. The recent fall in dairy prices will not assist these areas, and so house prices there are likely to remain flat. If we are correct, this will be picked up by the Reserve Bank, and as a result there may be fewer interest rate rises than are currently anticipated.

LYTTELTON PORT LOGISTICS OFFICERS' BARGAINING GOES TO MEDIATION

After rejecting a 2.5% for 12 month deal our LOs at LPC waited a month for the employer to come up with a revised offer. What we got was a worse offer!

The revised offer was rejected unanimously by the LOs who also gave their negotiation team a mandate for a campaign in support of their claims, including, but not limited to industrial action if necessary.

The port company and the RMTU are now seeking an urgent mediation.

The RMTU would much rather be discussing operational issues and productivity but until we resolve this wage round and get the agreement settled we're not going to be able to engage in the working party that both our union and the employer agree is a way forward on those matters.



ESSENTIAL SKILLS IN DEMAND LIST REVIEW

The Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment has completed its annual review of two of the Essential Skills in Demand (ESID) Lists – the Long Term Skill Shortage List and the Immediate Skill Shortage List. These changes take effect from 24 March 2014.

Long Term Skill Shortage List (LTSSL)

The LTSSL identifies occupations that have an absolute (sustained and ongoing) shortage of skilled workers both globally and throughout New Zealand. Migrants who gain employment in one of these occupations may be granted a work visa under the LTSSL Work to Residence or Essential Skills instructions. Migrants applying for residence under the Skilled Migrant Category may gain bonus points towards their application if they have an offer of employment, work experience or qualifications in an area of absolute skill shortage identified on the LTSSL.

The occupations which have been removed from the LTSSL are:

- Audiologist
- Dietitian
- Hospital Pharmacist
- Industrial Pharmacist
- Internal Auditor
- Medical Diagnostic Radiographer
- Midwife
- Occupational Therapist
- Osteopath
- Retail Pharmacist
- Conductive Education Practitioner
- Specialist Manager not elsewhere classified
- Speech Language Therapist
- Urban and Regional Planner

Immediate Skill Shortage List (ISSL)

The ISSL identifies occupations that have an immediate shortage of skilled workers either

throughout New Zealand or in certain regions. Migrants wishing to work in occupations on the ISSL may be granted work visas under Essential Skills instructions if they meet the specified qualifications and/or experience requirements.

One occupation has been added to the ISSL:

- Registered Nurse (Mental Health)

The occupations which have been removed from the ISSL are:

- Café and Restaurant Manager
- Dispensing Optician
- Internal Auditor
- Motor Mechanic (General) (Automotive Technician)
- Truck Driver (General)

Other Changes

There are also a number of changes to the qualifications and experience that a migrant needs to satisfy in using the lists. The changes include removal of some obsolete qualifications, addition of new qualifications and clarification of the requirements.

Where registration is required for an occupation in New Zealand, the type of registration and name of the registration body are specified. For some occupations the requirements for using the lists now rely on registration (rather than both registration and a relevant qualification). There are also a few changes to the names, codes and experience requirements for occupations to align with the Australian and New Zealand Standard Classification of Occupations.

Other Immigration Options

Removal from a skill shortage list does not mean that migrants cannot come to New Zealand. There are other immigration options that may be appropriate where an employer cannot find suitable New Zealanders for a position. These include:

Essential Skills work visa policy (subject to an employer demonstrating that they have

tried to recruit New Zealanders for the position and been unsuccessful)

Accredited Employer - facilitating recruitment of skilled workers from overseas where the salary is at least NZ\$55,000 per annum. This option provides a pathway to residence.

Approval in Principle - where a number of migrants are being sought

Skilled Migrant Category - under which migrants can apply for residence in New Zealand.

In addition the Canterbury Skills and Employment Hub can facilitate employment of New Zealanders in Canterbury, and if there are no suitable applicants, can facilitate visa applications for migrant workers. Also, the Canterbury Skill Shortage List contains some occupations in shortage for the Canterbury rebuild (in addition those on the ISSL and LTSSL).

FORMER KIWIRAIL CEO APPOINTED TO LYTTTELTON PORT BOARD

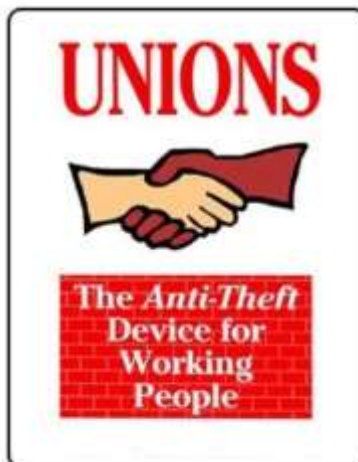
Jim Quinn, the recently departed CEO of KiwiRail, has been appointed as a Director of the Port of Lyttelton according to the National Business Review

<http://www.nbr.co.nz/article/ex-kiwirail-boss-becomes-lpc-director-ch-154067>

Mr Quinn is familiar with Lyttelton's operation, as rail is a vital lifeline for the port, moving coal from the West Coast for export from Lyttelton via the Midland Line, and shipping milk products from a purpose built line from Fonterra's Darfield plant.

Mr Quinn is also well known to the RMTU after his years at the helm of KiwiRail where he oversaw the closure of Hillside railway workshops in Dunedin and mothballed north island rail lines. On the plus side he led KiwiRail during a long overdue \$1.4 billion capital expenditure programme and saw the growth of \$100m of freight business.

It will be interesting to see what impact he has at Lyttelton Port.



DOCTOR COST

The cost of going to a doctor has jumped by 24 per cent since National took office, Labour Party Health spokesperson Annette King said, leading to an increasing number of people going to costly emergency departments rather than their GP.

"Under Tony Ryall's oversight, the cost is spiralling. Combined with the increase in prescription charges it is a recipe for more people turning up to emergency departments or putting off visiting their GPs and is no doubt why I'm receiving regular reports of ordinary New Zealanders struggling to meet living costs," King said. She pledged the next Labour Government would make affordable primary health care a priority.

AUTOMATED BRISBANE TERMINAL TO START IN MAY

After the successful go live of its new semi-automated terminal in February, DP World Brisbane has set its sights on full use of the new facility by 30 April 2014.

DP World Australia managing director and CEO Paul Scurrah said "We are targeting the end of April as the point at which all of our Brisbane volume will be handled under automation," Mr Scurrah said.

"This project is an important initiative that will bring a significant boost to our terminal capacity, both in terms of the volume that we are able to handle as well as the efficiency of our landside and quay line interfaces.

As with most projects of its complexity, the change in operations has not been without implementation issues. Despite running the systems for some months in a test environment, Mr Scurrah says there have been "inevitable teething problems", which have at times impacted both landside and vessel operations.

Mr Scurrah says "Over the next few weeks, we will be increasing the number of vessels that we work under automation as the initial system glitches are eliminated.

"We appreciate our customers' patience and understanding during this period, and we will be working closely with vessel operators whose vessels are worked under the new mode.

"We will do everything within our power to mitigate operational delays to both vessels and road operations.

On 6 February 2014, the Kota Lestari was the first ship to be serviced as part of a transition to semi-automation in Brisbane.

The existing terminal will remain operational until the full transition is completed.

Under the new system, containers are transferred by manned shuttle carriers from the quay crane to a waterside exchange area at the front of a module serviced by automated stacking cranes (ASC). Brisbane will have seven operating modules, each serviced by two ASC.

The overall annual capacity of the seven operating modules is around

900,000 TEU.

CHINA BECOMES WORLD'S BIGGEST OIL IMPORTER, SURPASSING USA

The US Energy Information Administration says that in September 2013, China's net imports of petroleum and other liquids exceeded those of the United States on a monthly basis, making it the largest net importer of crude oil and other liquids in the world. The rise in China's net imports of petroleum and other liquids is driven by steady economic growth, with rapidly rising Chinese petroleum demand outpacing production growth.

US total annual petroleum and other liquids production is expected to rise 31% between 2011 and 2014 to 13.3 million barrels per day, primarily from tight oil plays. In the meantime, Chinese production will increase at a much lower rate (5% over this period) and is forecast to be only a third of US production in 2014.

On the demand side, China's liquid fuels use is expected to reach more than 11 million barrels per day in 2014, while US demand hovers close to 18.9 million barrels per day,



well below the peak US consumption level of 20.8 million barrels per day in 2005. US refined petroleum product exports increased by more than 173% between 2005 and 2013, lowering total net US imports of petroleum and other liquids.

China has been diversifying the sources of its crude oil imports in recent years as a result of robust oil demand growth and recent geopolitical uncertainties. Saudi Arabia continues to be the largest supplier of crude oil to China and in 2013 provided 19% of China's 5.6 million barrels per day. Because production levels from Iran, Libya, and Sudan and South Sudan dropped since 2011, China replaced the lost shares of crude oil and other liquids imports from these countries with imports from Oman, Iraq, the United Arab Emirates, Angola, Venezuela, and Russia.

BOXSHIP FINED FOR SPILLING OIL INTO HARBOUR

German-owners of boxship Liloa [IMO 9264245] have been convicted and fined NZ\$30,000 for leaking an estimated 1000 litres of heavy fuel oil into port of Tauranga harbour. Top of Form

Owners of the "Jule" Schiffahrtsgesellschaft, pleaded guilty to a charge of discharging a harmful substance into water in the coastal marine area, according to the Bay of Plenty Regional Council (BOPRC).

REC FISHERS LOSE OUT WHILE SANFORD AND CO WIN

Big fishing companies are the winners and average Kiwi fishers the losers out of changes to snapper fishing limits and bag sizes that come into force today, Labour's Fisheries spokesperson Damien O'Connor says.

"As always with National it's their mates the big fish that win. It's no different with snapper.

"From today rec fishers have to take home smaller bag sizes and throw back more fish because the size limit has increased.

"What's changed for commercial fishers? Nothing. That's because National is good mates with fishing companies, especially Sanford where National Party President Peter Goodfellow is a director.

"Labour wants to preserve our snapper fishery for future generations but in doing so we will put the interests of recreational fishers first," Damien O'Connor says.

GAP BETWEEN RICH AND POOR GROWS

The gap between rich and poor has increased under six years of National government, said nearly three-quarters of New Zealanders in a new survey by Herald-DigiPoll. In addition, two-thirds feel like they are no better off or have gone backwards. Of 750 New Zealanders surveyed this month, 44 percent also believe the gap between rich and poor has widened over the past six years. Labour Leader David Cunliffe said the poll results show that people "really know in their heart-of-hearts that the gap has widened too far. It's borne out in all the data and there's no hiding it and it's a terrible thing for New Zealand.

It undermines the New Zealand way of life, New Zealanders know it and they're not going to vote for more of it. That's why things like a capital gains tax and a lift in the top marginal tax rate will provide resources that can be given to give a hand up to the more vulnerable and help close up some of those gaps," he said. Labour Party finance spokesman David Parker added income inequality in New Zealand remained above the international average, "and we know that the income measure of inequality excludes capital gains, which are unusually untaxed in New Zealand."

LABOUR MPs VISIT MIDDLETON YARD

Labour transport spokesperson Darien Fenton and local Wigram MP Megan Woods



visited RMTU KiwiRail Christchurch members at Middleton Yard last month.

There was a good turnout over members from across KiwiRail in Christchurch, including I&E, Freight and Passenger. The MPs spoke briefly about the challenges of election year and forming a Labour led government. The central message was that under MMP the Labour-Greens vote, taken together, will mean this election will be very close. The media are still reporting the polls as if we were in living in the days of the old first past the post system, yet if the centre left get out the vote the National Government is heading to where it deserves to go – the dustbin of history.

Members put the MPs on the spot with some very searching questions and a good discussion ensued. It was great to see the participation from our members and to have two MPs who fronted up and were prepared to listen as well as tell us how they saw things.

Now we just have to work together to get the vote out and that means volunteering to do our bit – whether it's delivering leaflets or putting up billboards or just encouraging our family and friends to vote.

BITS AND BOBS

- Gibbo's Fishing Competition is on this weekend in Tauranga. This is a fishing comp which is sponsored by the Port of Tauranga and is staged as in

<http://www.political-kiwi.com>

remembrance of our BOP Port Branch Chair John Gibson. The fact the port company stages the competition is in recognition of the high respect that John was held in by both members and boss. Our General Secretary, a keen fisho, will be there to wave the rod on behalf of the National Union, so to speak.

- Last year hard coking coal sold for US\$164 a ton and has fallen almost US\$2 a day since then to be US\$110 a ton now. Rumours abound that at this price it is unprofitable for Solid Energy to mine due to extraction costs. We have heard that the poor price is the reason Bathurst Coal will not mine its coal. They are apparently waiting for the coal price to pick up. Solid Energy need to cut costs in all areas of the business and will be making it a priority so the email I sent you about contractors and staff will be the first casualty I suppose. There is also a rumour circulating amongst Solid Energy staff (do not know how true) that the Indian outfit that was involved with Pike River is interested in buying Solid Energy so watch this space I suppose.

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

SAFETY FIRST!



Lets Vote The Bastards Out On September 20th, 2014!



11/04/14

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