

# THE ACTIVIST



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## QUOTE

A Bank of New Zealand commentary last week said "**Rating agencies should be pleased". The Budget wasn't boring – it was a failure of a Government's responsibility to New Zealanders**".

## TRAIN SECURITY AUCKLAND

Security on Auckland Trains received some airtime on TVNZ "7 Sharp" on May 26th, with footage shown from the Body Worn Cameras RMTU Ticket Inspector (TI) members are wearing. It is really disturbing to see how poorly behaved members of the public are when simply asked to produce a ticket to show they have paid to ride the trains.

<https://www.tvnz.co.nz/one-news/new-zealand/dont-touch-me-ill-smack-you-one-auckland-transport-body-cams-reveal-shocking-abuse-trains>

Initiatives continue to be worked on through the Security Working Group with positive reports in the change for how the TI's work at Papakura station which was suggested by the membership. More still needs to be done as a TI was punched in the chest last week. Hats off to the members who were interviewed, those who were wearing the cameras and those who assisted in those unfortunate situations, the RMTU admire you for the way you face these conditions and the way you have stood up to bring about change.

To the Greater Wellington Regional Council, we hope you learn from this and do not make the same mistakes made in Auckland if you ever decide to introduce integrated ticketing on the Tranz Metro network.

## RELIEF GS

The General Secretary Wayne Butson will be off on sick leave from 2 to 12 June recovering from a small surgery. Todd Valster will be undertaking a period of higher duties relief during Wayne's absence.

## NEW RAIL ENQUIRY OPENED BY TAIC.

The New Zealand Transport Agency notified the Commission on Sunday 29 May 2016, of a SPAD A and potential collision that had occurred shortly after midnight near the Wellington Station.



The reported circumstances are that an empty passenger train and another passenger train bound for the Hutt Valley with 79 passengers on board departed from different station platforms almost simultaneously. The Hutt Valley train had green lights for it to proceed. The empty train was to cross behind the Hutt Valley train in order to access the stabling yards, where it was

to remain for the rest of the night.

The driver of the empty train did not notice the red signal applicable to his train and proceeded past it on a track converging with the track on which the Hutt Valley train was travelling. The error was identified and the empty train brought to a stop an estimated 7 meters from the Hutt Valley-bound train

There was no collision and nobody was injured.

Since the accident we have been conducting preliminary enquiries to help understand the circumstances.

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

I have now opened an inquiry under Section 13(1)b of the Transport Accident Investigation Commission Act and appointed Mr. Vernon Hoey as investigator-in-charge and appointed Mr. Chris Asbery as the deputy investigator in charge. Vernon and Chris have already secured the necessary records and are planning for interviews and a 2nd site visit today.

## **GREENS LAUNCH SAFER, CLEANER FREIGHT POLICY TO GET TRUCKS OFF OUR ROADS**

The Green Party today announced a plan to get half of New Zealand's freight moving by rail and sea within 10 years, and dramatically reduce the number of dangerous trucks clogging up New Zealand's roads.

The Safer, Cleaner Freight policy sets a target for moving half of freight on rail and by sea within 10 years of the next election. It allows the transport budget to be used to fund rail projects, and commits to the electrification of rail between Auckland, Hamilton and Tauranga.

"National's single-minded focus on a few expensive highways is downright irresponsible, and will ultimately force more and more trucks onto New Zealand roads," said Green Party transport spokesperson Julie Anne Genter.

"National spends five times more on a few low-value motorways than it does on the entire rail network. National's pet projects will actually increase congestion and the number of trucks on New Zealand roads, meaning within a decade Kiwis will have to share the roads with an additional 1.7 million truck trips every year.

"New Zealanders are sick and tired of more and more trucks congesting their towns and cities and bearing down behind them on the road. Every year, an average of 55 people are killed in crashes involving trucks, and over 850 are seriously injured.



"Rail is our second corridor. A single train can remove 70 heavy trucks from the road. By investing in rail and shipping we will not only make roads safer, but the air cleaner, and create a safer climate for future generations.

"We will invest \$860 million to electrify rail between Auckland, Hamilton and Tauranga – New Zealand's busiest freight corridors. This will help to move freight safely off the road, and create a zero emissions freight service in 'the Golden Triangle'.

"Instead of demanding that rail return a profit, which has set rail up to fail, we'll fund it from the transport budget in the same way roads are, providing the investment needed to move freight in the most effective and clean way.

"Moving freight by rail and ship is not only safer and cheaper, but better for the environment. Shifting half of New Zealand's freight by rail and ship is the equivalent of replacing over 1.6 million petrol and diesel cars with electric vehicles.

"National has neglected rail and shipping, choosing instead to spend almost five times the amount invested in rail on new motorways every year," Ms Genter said.

## **TOLL NETWORKS**

Remit meetings for the upcoming CA negotiations continue to be held across all the depots and the face to face Bargaining dates are set down for June 22 & 23 in Auckland.

## **RMTU BIENNIAL CONFERENCE - REMIT CALL**

The Union calls for members and branches to tender any remits for National Conference 2016.

The mechanism to change or set union policy, rules and/or standing orders is by way of remit to Conference.

Remits must be moved and seconded by current financial members and passed by majority vote through properly constituted

branch meetings before submission to the National Office and then onto the Conference.

Remits are called and will close on 30 June 2016.

Union policy is a broad topic and for example covers things like the TPPA to whether we support 26 weeks paid parental leave. Currently there is no policy on either of these topics.

## KIWI RAIL – RMTU MECA RENEWAL 2016

Joint Statement - 27 May, 2016

The RMTU and KiwiRail wish to advise members and staff of the status of the renewal of the MECA.

The parties met on Tuesday 24 May in Wellington where KiwiRail presented an offer for the proposed settlement of the Multi-Employer Collective Agreement (MECA). The Union and the Company have provisionally agreed to the offer, subject to successful ratification by Union members.

The offer is:

Term - The term of the proposed MECA be for two years from 1 July 2016 to 30 June 2018.

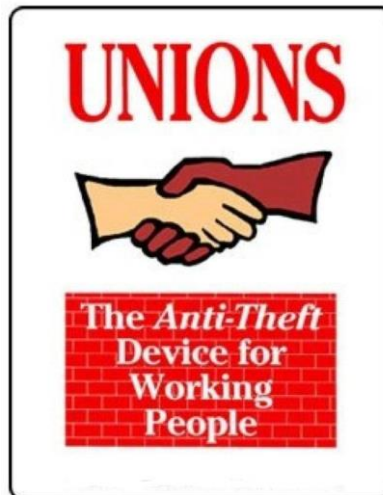
General Wage Increase - Year

One: A General Wage Increase for all RMTU members of 2.0% on all hourly rates and allowances payable from 03 July 2016.

This wage increase will not apply to existing employees in Wellington Metro Operations and Maintenance who are transferring to Transdev/Hyundai Rotem at 0200hrs on 3 July 2016

Year Two: A General Wage Increase for all RMTU members of 2.0% on all hourly rates and allowances payable from 02 July 2017

No other changes to the MECA



## JUST FAIR CULTURE IN THE WAIKATO.

Since the introduction of the Just Fair Culture in the Waikato, we have had a two day training seminar, attended by a wide variety of union members and managers.

However, trying to get the Freight managers to work thru the Just and Fair Culture as outlined in the handouts supplied at the seminars is proving pretty difficult, especially the Gathering of Facts, or PEEPO and carrying out a fair and transparent investigation involving the people covered by the policy.

Either the message is not getting thru or the managers are completely disregarding the policy, or senior managers who have not been trained are still pulling the strings and falling back on old habits! This has caused a number of blow ups and adjournments while we await the supply of the results of the investigations.

They do not get it, that the key to the policy is the investigation! Get it right and the policy will flow from there.

The other issue that has reared its head is the need to always suspend our members for no valid reason, and without any consultation, leaving members at home and highly pissed off, when they could be still at work without any problems.

## JFC SEMINAR

The last of the planned roll out two day training seminars for the KR-RMTU Just Fair Culture programme begins today in Dunedin. The feedback from these jointly run seminars have been positive by both managers and delegates alike.

## KR MCC REPORT

The minutes from the MIC held on May 18th will hopefully be produced in a timely manner, however there were some highlights worth drawing your immediate attention to;

Wagons

- Auto Coupler replacement 739 wagons have been completed out of the planned 1100, it was reported that the remaining are on track to be completed by 30th Oct 2016
- Coupler hose angle is still an ongoing issue, with especially the Chinese wagons being reviewed
- NZTA are receiving weekly updates on the Delaminating hose issue, all wagons should have been checked within 3 weeks (early June)
- Brake valves are being sent back to China for refurbishment, this did go out to tender with Intellectual Property issues stated as one of the main reasons for this out sourcing.

#### Apprentices

- 8 apprentices will start on the June 8 at the Hutt Workshops. 4 positions filled internally. A further 2 applicants have been employed in level 2 roles with a view to be considered for in future apprentice intakes.
- 2 apprentices to be sort for Westfield in the next quarter with then Palmerston North and Wellington each getting 1 apprentice the following quarter.

#### Rule 126 Lockout

- It was agreed that the working party to continue to review rule 126, for effective lockout of Locomotives, for work to be carried out safely in the depots.

#### HPHE at Hutt

- Phil Bosworth and Strachan Crang gave a positive update on the progress of the first HPHE project.

#### Rule 909

- A further review of Rule 909 is to be conducted as the new rule has continued to cause confusion and has been questioned if it is fit for use.

We would also like to express our thanks to Danny Singh for his time and input on the

MIC. Danny is one of our members who will transfer to Transdev Wellington for the Wellington Metro operation.

## REQUEST FOR ALL BRANCH AGM'S

The Union Women's steering committee requests that all Union branches pledge to;

- Get more involved in the women's network.
- Attend your AGM and take an RMTU sister with me.
- As per union rules, ensure a woman is on the local executive.
- Ask your organiser to participate in delegate training.
- Join the RMTU Women's facebook.

Together we will make a difference. For more information please contact your RMTU Steering Committee.

Ruth Blakeley - NMC Women's Representative. (027) 460-0504

Jenny Griffin - Wellington (027) 490-5255

Lisa Davidson - Palmerston North (021) 210-7197

Allana Ranui - Kawerau (021) 103-7663

Rachel Barrett - Auckland (027) 487-1436

Pare-Ana Bysterveld - Christchurch (027) 045-50736

Rebecca Hauck - Dunedin (021) 256-6486

## VDAM TRUCKS

The Union, on your behalf, submitted on the NZTA-MOT discussion paper proposing to increase the Mass of Heavy Vehicles on our roads. Longer, higher and heavier trucks for want of a better name.

NZTA have now published a submissions summary report on the 198 submissions received during the consultation period.



The submissions summary report is available on the Ministry of Transport website:

<http://www.transport.govt.nz/land/vdam/>

## SOUTHDOWN REDEVELOPMENT

KiwiRail has plans to redevelop the Southdown CT site as this part of the business grows. Currently this site is the point of operation for Toll, Metrobox and Tappers as well and the RMTU has been told it is no longer fit for purpose in its current layout. There are further mounds of dirt containing asbestos that need to be removed, truck access improved and track upgrades are required. A meeting is being organised for Local Delegates to be part of the process with KiwiRail management.

## RMTU 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](http://www.rmtunion.org.nz).

**For example – We will be issuing the KiwiRail MECA ratification voting papers over the next week or so. If we have the incorrect address info you will not get a vote as you will never receive a voting paper. Update now!**



## WESTFIELD LOCO DEPOT "JUST Do It".

To avoid getting bogged down in the Continuous Improvement Process (CIP) that came out of the MMIP, the Westfield Loco depot team have developed their own "Just Do It" team to make those improvements here and no improvements that can quickly make a difference to how the members work.

## STRATEGIC RESEARCHERS AND CAMPAIGNERS

The International Transport Workers' Federation (ITF) is a global union federation representing over 4.5 million transport workers in over 150 countries. The ITF is committed to developing innovative campaign strategies to organise workers across global supply chains and leading transport industry employers.

The ITF is looking for Strategic Researchers and Campaigners to work in the Sydney Office on a part-time and short-term contract basis to assist with the development of our priority campaigns.

We're looking for new and experienced activist-researchers: people with experience in union campaigns, community organising, or political campaigns; recent university grads, graduate students, or professionals with skills in economic analysis, industry research, financial analysis, employment law, corporate research, or investigative journalism; and people with a strong commitment to working in the labor movement.

For more information please contact or send your CV to [sydneyoffice@itf.org.uk](mailto:sydneyoffice@itf.org.uk). For more information about the ITF go to [www.itfglobal.org](http://www.itfglobal.org).

Organisation

ITF Sydney Office

Closing Date

Sunday, June 26, 2016

Closing Time

06:00 PM

Where

Level 2 365 Sussex Street. Sydney, NSW 2000, Australia

Contact Name

Shannon O’Keeffe, Campaigns Director, ITF Sydney office

Contact Email

sydneyoffice@itf.org.uk

## LABOUR AND GREENS SIGN HISTORIC AGREEMENT TO CHANGE THE GOVERNMENT

The Labour Party and the Green Party have announced today they have signed an historic agreement to work cooperatively to change the Government.

The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the parties commits them to working cooperatively to change the Government including closer work at parliament and a possible joint policy announcement or campaign.

“We are sending a clear signal to New Zealanders who want a new and better government that Labour and the Greens will work together to deliver that,” said Labour Party leader Andrew Little.

“It is our intent to build on this agreement to offer New Zealanders the basis of a stable, credible and progressive alternative government at the 2017 General Election.

“The MoU is a fresh start and a sign of newfound strength in our relationship and our mutual commitment to changing the Government.

“When I was elected Labour leader I made it clear that we would not go into another election without strong cooperation with likeminded parties to change the

Government. Today, I am delivering on that promise.

“A new Labour-led Government will focus on the critical issues facing our country. We will provide better housing, health and education and a cleaner environment while building a sustainable economy with decent jobs,” said Andrew Little.

“New Zealanders who want a better future now have crystal clear clarity about what they are getting with their vote, we are a vote for change,” said Green Party Co-leader Metiria Turei.

“It is time for a Government that puts the wellbeing of people and the environment at the centre of everything it does.

“When Labour and the Greens have actively cooperated and campaigned together, New Zealanders did perceive our parties as a credible alternative to National.

“New Zealanders want to see politicians working together. This MOU lets people see we are a strong and stable alternative to the current Government.

“We are separate parties with our own policies and ideas, but with more than enough in common to work together. We are a good match for building a better Aotearoa New Zealand,” Metiria Turei said.



**Lets Vote The Bastards Out**

**JOINT  
RMTU-  
KIWI RAIL**

## SUMMARY – KIC 31 MEETING

The following summary includes most of the agenda items discussed at this meeting and brief comments added to each item.

- Premature Decayed Sleepers (PDS) – fungus issue, removal of PDS currently on hold
- Road Bridging – presentation and site walk around Picton terminal
- Train Planning – KR seeking to simplify the domestic train planning to improve



service reliability. Proposed peak train plan to be presented at KIC 32

- Ballast Steepling on mainline – Field trip on Palmerston North – Napier line completed. Hazard warning notice issued and progress addressing this issue
- 54D Repair books – investigations to improve reporting of locomotive faults and feedback to LE's and RCO's. Triplicate 54D repair books being suggested and also seeking feedback from the new GGM Mechanical on best practice.
- In Cab Technology project team being formed by KiwiRail which includes union representation, this team will work on strategies required for current and future technology requirements
- KPI Scorecard and commentary. KIC as a governance forum will be setting KPI targets, suggestion of 30% reduction for SPAD's
- SPAD reduction – agreed initiatives and outcomes to be provided. Specific info/stats for each region to be provided to reps
- Terminal Safety – eliminate collision working group to be formed to identify all barriers to prevent collisions including range of vision and line of sight
- Call Catcher – issues with current software being out of date, KIC to investigate new options

### CT

- CT NRSS 3 medical Standards Cat 2 or 3, to be determined, likely to be Cat 2.
- CT Reefer cabling issues – to be referred to CT working group to resolve

### Terminals

- SPAD reduction training for all Terminal staff, standardised training material to be developed and timetable set.
- YL stopping issue – peer review of stop risk assessment to be updated and completed. Mechanical are project managing a resolution to the door issue
- Terminal Points discs removed following a serious injury incident at Westfield, numbers on the disc's where used for training purposes, alternative road identifiers are being investigated.
- Remote Control train brake operation – concerns that rakes are not sufficiently recharged with frequent braking and insufficient recharge time. Training to be reviewed, mechanical to provide technical information. Scope whether a training video that uses the simulator to show the need to allow for sufficient recharge.



### LE

- Radio trial (803 /804) to test latest Tait update with KIC LE reps planned, to include compressed air breathing apparatus (CABA) presentation and discussion with reps at Middleton
- Busts (excessive hours) elimination project update, first meeting of LE reps, rosters and management occurred. Presentation from that meeting to KIC 31. Next meeting to be set to close off proposed changes that aim to eliminate all busts and to remove the current perceived option to bust. Support to get LE home after maximum hours is also being investigated.
- DAS – currently 91% compliance, KiwiRail seeking to raise the 75%

compliance level to 85%. DAS utilisation still around 60%, KIC agree that the utilisation target is 95%. RMTU reps have requested a DAS free shift per month to maintain road knowledge.

**Zero Harm update** – presentation appendix to minutes

- LTI's LTIF's – tracking down, new targets to be set and agreed
- SPAD's – current SPAD incident numbers are static compared to last year, improvement required. SPAD reduction Critical Risk Network project team to meet June 2016. SPAD reduction to include LE's and Terminals.
- CT site collisions – increased collisions by 17%, CT reps to workshop strategies to eliminate collisions and agree on new KPI targets.
- The combined KIC council (RMTU elected reps and KR management), would identify the high potential risk, lead and lag indicators and any trends from the total number of incidents that occurred within the operation for FY2016, and agree jointly on the targets representing an overall reduction in incidents by 30% for FY2017. We have agreed to work within the following sectors, being CT and Terminal combined, LE's and have been tasked with providing a strategy and initiatives to support the reduction in incidents for implementation 1 July 2017.

Asset (Mechanical) Management Action items – progress update attached to KIC 31 minutes.

**Highlights include**

- Variable vigilance – all locomotives (mainline and shunt) are fitted with variable vigilance cycles except 2 DBR's.
- Incorrect Brake Set up Tranzlog modification 25/48 locomotives fitted, 11 loco's ahead of schedule
- IAB modified footsteps have been fitted to all IAB wagons and a bulletin issued to remove the no ride status
- Auto couplers – 749 of 1080 container wagons have been retrofitted with auto couplers
- DL notch 1 power reduction – 30/48 now fitted and feedback is positive from LE's.
- Catton Remote locomotive leakage test – new process being worked on to eliminate the need to do the brake pipe leakage test in remote, mechanical technical team to review.



Mechanical have provided a template to be completed for any new agreed improvements being requested, feedback on this template to be provided by KIC reps and management back to Mechanical

Next KIC meeting in Palmerston North, 24-25 August 2016

## **AIRPORT WORKERS UNITE FOR JUSTICE AND SAFETY TODAY**

Airport workers will unite across borders today, 1 June, to deliver the message that while airlines and airports are getting richer their workers are being paid less, worked more, and having their job security torn away. Workers will be flying banners and leafleting in over 30 airports around the world to deliver their message – supported by a new research report – to the public and



to the members of the International Air Transport Association (IATA), whose AGM begins tomorrow.

The research (attached and at <http://goo.gl/XB4Uy7>) shows that although the global airline industry is expected to make record profits of USD36.3 billion this year, airlines have created a race to the bottom, putting airport workers, safety and the quality of services under pressure.

The report is being released by a new union group called Airports United, which is determined to secure economic justice and job security for those helping build the industry's success. Photos from the events will be posted at <https://goo.gl/AIEw5I>. You are invited to use them.

International Transport Workers' Federation general secretary Steve Cotton applauded the new group. He stated: "Airports United is made up of the workers who are the backbone of this successful world industry. In return they're being worked harder, for less, without job security.

"More and more airline and airport services are being farmed out to subcontractors where all too often working conditions are poor. This has led to high staff turnover and an inexperienced workforce. The workers themselves tell us that this is leading to flight delays, an increased risk of security breaches – newer workers are almost twice as likely to be unwittingly involved in these – and corners being cut as workers race to meet turnaround times with fewer and fewer staff, putting personal and aircraft safety at risk."

Mr Cotton concluded: "This new emerging network represents tens of thousands of airport workers in over 100 airports globally and aims to grow significantly over the next few years. It is launching with a clear mission to improve the industry for all concerned. The ITF is proud to back it."

Following the events tomorrow, there will also be a press conference the next day,

Thursday 2 June, at the IATA AGM in Dublin, Ireland. Airport workers in work clothes from Ireland and around the world will leaflet attendees, and a press conference will be held to explain the research and Airports United's mission. The leaflet can be seen at <http://goo.gl/GXzyEZ>.

The press conference will take place at 11:30 on 2 June in the Ailesbury Room of the Clayton Hotel Ballsbridge, Merrion Rd, Dublin 4 ([www.claytonhotelballsbridge.com](http://www.claytonhotelballsbridge.com)), just minutes from the AGM.

You can also follow the events on 1 and 2 June on Twitter via the hashtag #AirportWorkers and at the dedicated Flickr site <https://goo.gl/AIEw5I>.

At time of going to press actions will be taking place at major international airports in the following countries, with more confirming later today: Argentina, one airport; Australia, four airports; Brazil, one airport; Germany, nine airports; Ireland, one airport; South Korea, one airport; Sweden, one airport; the Netherlands, one airport, the USA, 12 airports.

Airports United brings together aviation workers' unions from Australia, Germany, Sweden, the Netherlands, and the USA. The unions are the: FNV, SEIU, Swedish Transport Workers' Union, TWU, UNITE HERE, and ver.di. Airports United is supported by the International Transport Workers' Federation (ITF) and Uni Global Union.

The ITF is an international federation of some 700 trade unions in 147 countries worldwide, representing nearly 4.8 million transport workers, including over 650 thousand aviation workers. Uni Global Union represents 20 million workers from over 150 countries in the skills and services sectors.

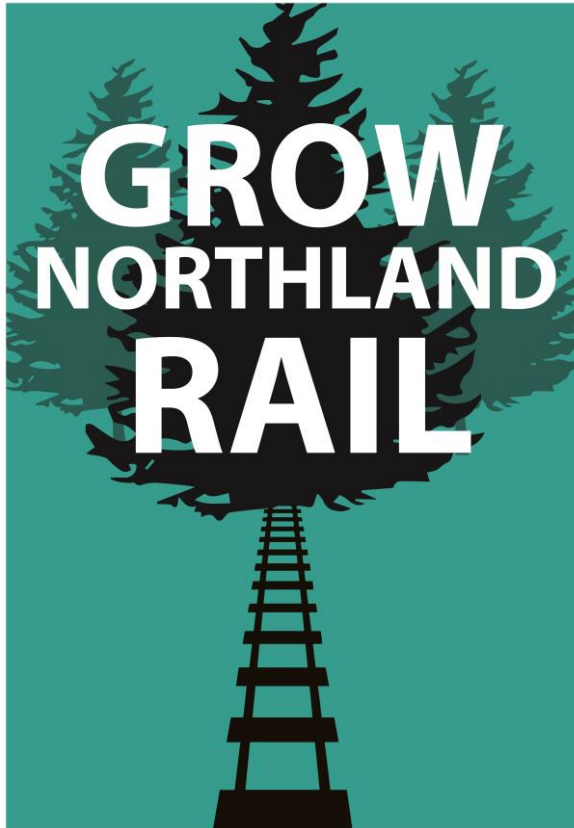
## **BITS AND BOBS**

- Wayne O'Shannessey - sadly passed away in Taumaranui last week. Wayne was a well-respected member and activist of the RMTU including a stint as



branch secretary of the King Country Branch during his time with KiwiRail based in the Taumaranui Depot. Wayne was born 15/04/1946 so recently attained the august heights of being 70 years young at the time of his passing. We pass on our condolences to Wayne's wife Zollynne and son Vaughan and his family.

- A joint KR and RMTU team from Hutt Workshops departs for Melbourne today to visit the Newport Downer Workshop facility as part of the current HPHE Review of Hutt Workshops.
- Mobil Oil was fined \$288,000.00 in the Tauranga District Court in relation to an oil discharge into Tauranga Harbour last year. Additionally Mobil had paid \$1.8m in reimbursement costs to the BOP Regional Council for the clean-up.
- The Shipping Federation has announced that it plans to make the dredging programmes announced by many of NZ's ports an issue in this year's local body elections. The RMTU has also been questioning the wanton spend of ratepayer monies by many ports to supposedly accommodate the bigger ships when many within the industry know that most of these ports will not



see them. This is a direct result of the lack of a National Ports strategy by the current Government so all ports are in this race to the bottom to attract the bigger boats.

- MOA Brewing Company has had a stunning achievement at the Australian Beer Awards by receiving medals for 14 of its 16 entrants into the awards ceremony. 1793 beers from 326 brewers across 36 countries entered.

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

**SAFETY  
FIRST!**

