

THE ACTIVIST



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TANGIWAI MEMORIAL

On Sunday 7 May 2017 the Charles Parker and Lancelot Redman Memorials were unveiled witnessed by 1000 people. Steam trains had brought guests from Glenbrook and Palmerston North. The Southern train had to be assisted by a class 30 electric loco to Tangiwai after the Jb developed problems.

The day was a resounding success and the families finally have closure and a place to come and mourn the loss of these two loco crew heroes.

The RMTU acknowledges and is truly grateful for the tireless work of our two reps on the organising committee - Loco Engineers Tim Kerwin and Les Perrin. Thank you lads!

The only thing that remains to be done is to have the Tangiwai memorial site designated as the National Memorial site for the tragic events of 24 December 1953 which saw 151 killed including the loco crew who fought to save the train until the end.

A full report of the day will be in Issue 2 of The Transport Worker magazine published in June.

WHEN DOES COMPULSORY NOT MEAN COMPULSORY?

The answer is when Transdev Auckland have a consultation process titled "Consultation for Compulsory Use of Body Worn Cameras by Ticket Inspectors" The use of Body Worn Cameras is a proven

success and was reflected in Transdev's own consultation document "Over the past 3 years there have been 27 Ticket Inspector assault however only 7 of these have been to staff wearing cameras" but in the decision our members are being told "With the current numbers there will be very few occasions where a TI will not have a camera available". So even though the use of these cameras is so successful, our members are being asked to accept that "you" are today's designated person to be at more risk than your colleagues and by the way who gets to decide today's designated person?

Despite some suggested control methods - "if this were to happen then a work instruction will be put out that staff will be required to shadow their colleague who will be with a camera" - the RMTU finds this completely unacceptable as all our members have the right to feel safe at work, compulsory safety

equipment should be for every member and as reminder you all have the right to say no to unsafe work!!

Members are reminded that the Union will back any member who pulls the Red Card on this matter.

THANKS FOR YOUR HELP WITH THE DEMOCRATIC PROCESS!!!!!!

A sincere shout out of "thank you" to the Wellington Rail Branch members who gave up their time to support the printing, folding, stamping, stuffing and posting of the ballot papers to date. Members on light duties, as required, and those who were booked on earlies (3-4am starts) came over at the end



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

of their shifts to help out. And some on late shifts came in early to lend a hand or two. To date we have issued 7201 ballot papers and there is remains the KiwiRail Industrial Councils to go.

We also wish to recognise the help of Ronnie Harrison, Paul Aitken and Chris Ball, thanks guys.

Please think of the effort that went into getting you the voting form and respect the volunteers by casting your vote!

We still have 81 members in the database that we hold no address information for.

WORKERS' MEMORIAL DAY CEREMONIES WELL ATTENDED

AUCKLAND

WMD ceremony was held at Westfield Railway Depot for the first time. This was well supported by our members and we were joined by other unions (NZNO, Unite, First, Etu and the CTU) together with a large number of KiwiRail managers. At a branch meeting held on Sunday May 7, members were thanked for their attendance and it was agreed to build on the success of 2017 to hold future events to spread the message further that "we Honour the dead and fight for the living".

KAWERAU

The Kawerau Workers Memorial Day ceremony was held in conjunction with the whanau of Hairama Peter Jones Tai, aka Hiram who did not return home from work on 7 June 1989. The Reverend Tom Tupe opened the ceremony with a Karakia, with Tua Clarke KiwiRail Depot Manager as the MC.

The guest speakers were Wayne Butson Union General Secretary, Rob McAlpine, GGM Operations KiwiRail and the Mayor of Kawerau Malcolm Campbell.

The Unveiling and Blessing of the Kohatu and Plaques was conducted by the Reverend Tom Tupe, the Mayor and Novia Tai, Hiram's daughter. After the blessing Henry Tai, Hiram's brother, spoke on behalf of the Tai whanau and passed on

some great stories about Hiram which were much appreciated by all.

The Reverend Tom Tupe then conducted the closing prayer and everyone retired to the KiwiRail Depot rooms for a well-deserved kai.

Many thanks to Allana Ranui, Kelvin Collings and Tua Clarke and to all of the members/staff involved in the working bees and to the Network guys for transporting the memorial rock to the Depot, it was much appreciated by all who attended, and thanks to Norm Lee for the photos.

DOWN SOUTH

Members in Southland, Otago, Christchurch and on the West Coast all attended ceremonies in their towns to mark Workers' Memorial Day. RMTU members employed by KiwiRail, Port Otago, Lyttelton Port, Toll Networks and Dunedin Railways members were all present.

In Invercargill a new plaque was unveiled in the Networks Depot; in Christchurch and Dunedin joint rail and port branch stop-work meetings allowed hundreds of members to honour the dead and reaffirm their pledge to fight for the living; and in Greymouth our members gathered to hear about the latest chapter in the fight for justice of the families of those killed at Pike River. Both the Dunedin and Christchurch events were organised local union umbrella organisations and we give our thanks to the support of Unions Canterbury and Unions Otago.

A fuller report on all of the WMD activity will follow in the June edition of *The Transport Worker*.

PORT TIMARU BARGAINING TO BEGIN NEXT MONTH

Our two year deal with Prime Port expires in July so members should be turning their mind to what they want out of this year's wage round. At our ports forum in June we will be doing some further work on a co-ordinated approach to bargaining. With all three major South Island ports up for negotiation this year there are both threats and opportunities for our members.



INSOURCING IN AUCKLAND

62 Union members face an uncertain future as Auckland Transport (AT) take over the Ticket office work across Auckland and the Gateline work at Manukau and New Lynn stations. Our Customer Service Officer Members will have their roles disestablished this will also see Station Team Leader roles reduced by 2 by the 30th July 2017. The proposal sees AT only offering a 33% redundancy to those who get a job in one of their newly created Customer Service Centre role. In addition Transdev Auckland have agreed to holding positions open for those affected that wish to stay with Transdev and have also agreed to taking expressions of interest from 8 other roles for a transfer of redundancy as another option for those who may wish to stay, The Auckland Branch will continue to work very closely to support our members by attending meetings, text message updates and 1-1 conversations, 2 of whom have already obtained new roles within Transdev. The RMTU is also continuing to talk with AT and Transdev to secure the best deal possible for all involved. This is a very stressful situation and messages of support would be greatly appreciated, these can be sent to our Auckland Branch secretary or Auckland NMC member Bill Sweeney



agreements that go over and above the contractual requirements that outline our mutual obligations in the event of the boss thinking of using so called "outside resource". And that's why we hit the roof when we hear of major projects being contracted out after the fact – projects that have a real impact on our members and their work.

So last week, on the back of hearing about three examples in the space of a few days where work had gone to outside companies, the RMTU networks delegates decided to put on hold any involvement in High Performance High Engagement projects in I & E. To put it

bluntly, we can't be expected to play nicely in one sandpit when we're being treated badly in another.

We don't know if what happened was deliberate or just a mistake. The truth is we don't much care – we just want it to stop. That's why Contracting Out is top of the agenda at our Industrial Council meeting on 24th May. Everybody has worked hard at restoring good relations in I&E since the departure of the previous General Manager. It would be shame if that work was to be wasted. That's why we have to put in place a bullet proof process that will guarantee that KiwiRail will meet its obligations.

And don't even get us started on "straight and true"...

CONTRACTING OUT IN I & E CAUSES RUCKUS

Next to safety the issue of most concern to our members in I&E is contracting out. However you look at it, from the perspective of a front-line worker contracting out is a threat to his or her job security and terms and conditions of employment. It also has a safety implication as well as we know that it leads to a loss of control and accountability that workers end up paying for with their lives and limbs.

That's why we have strong clauses in our collective agreement that require consultation if contracting out is being considered. That's why we negotiate

LYTTELTON PORT BRANCH CALLS FOR REMITS

The Branch has distributed a form for remits for the 2017 collective bargaining round. At our seminar on 6th April delegates agreed the only remits that would go forward as claims in negotiations would be those that are deeply and widely felt. In other words, supported by a large number of members who are prepared to take action if necessary. The deadline for remits being lodged with the Branch Secretary is 31 May 2017.

Make sure that you spell out your remit clearly and that it is signed by as many members as possible. If you need help drafting a remit do not hesitate to ask.

HPHE PROGRESS AT HUTT

One of the larger HPHE projects at HUTT is the Auxiliary Components Project (ACP). This is a multi-stage programme that essentially sees the traction motor overhaul operation compressed into one half of the building it currently occupies, which in turn will make way for a new wheel set overhaul facility that will be installed in the freed-up half of the building. Concurrent to this is the reintroduction of the lean production board process but with a new name of Visual Management Control (VMC) board(s).

The primary purpose behind this is to provide a self-explanatory visual update of the work being undertaken, by whom, where it's at, and all the allied issues that impact upon production. This also encourages individual ownership of the daily activities required to meet the production targets. A supporting sub-process is the SQDCP board which provides a similar update of issues concerning Safety, Quality, Delivery, Cost and People. This project has been very resource-intensive requiring a heavily-focused team of management and staff coming together in stages to provide oversight, governance, guidance and technical input with a generous helping of creativity. This new way of doing business has been given a good airing by all and has begun to 'deliver on the promise', so much so, that the staged roll-out to other parts of KiwiRail have already produced gains and successes in quick-time. Further detail and pictures should appear in the June edition of The Transport Worker".



delegates from around New Zealand to discuss issues facing us all and planning work that we can do back on our sites. We are preparing a packed programme that includes:

- A National Bargaining Strategy
- Technology & Automation: It's Not Just About Ports – The Future of Work in the 21st Century
- Political Guest Speakers
- Fatigue & Safe Rostering
- Organising Around the Holidays Act: Progress on Enforcing the Law
- Using the Red Card: 'When You Stop Running, They Stop Chasing'
- International Organising in the Pacific: the Maritime International Federation

There will be other items to discuss arising from last year's National Conference and Branches should be giving some thought to who they wish to attend what promises to be a stimulating and thought provoking two days.

National Office will cover the cost of one Women Delegate attending the Women's Forum and One Ports Delegate attending the Ports Forum. All

costs (Wages, travel and accommodation) for Observers will be the responsibility of the Branch they represent.

Branch Secretaries are asked to formalise their representation and to advise numbers of attendee's to National Office as soon as possible.

PORT OTAGO BARGAINING ABOUT TO KICK OFF

The RMTU has just initiated bargaining with Port Otago for the renewal of the RMTU-MUNZ collective agreement with the Port.

Members should be working in their branch on claims and organising their bargaining team in preparation for the first scheduled negotiation meeting on 24th May. Given that Port Otago is the first cab off the rank in

HEADS UP - BIENNIAL FORUMS 2017

Women's Forum 13 June 2017 and Ports Forum 14-15 June 2017

Building Organisation on the Waterfront and at the Inland Ports is the theme of the Ports Forum scheduled for 14-15 June in Wellington. The forum brings together ports



2017 both our Timaru Port and Lyttelton Port Branches will be keeping a keen eye on developments down south.

The work we're doing on pattern bargaining should be part of every port branches strategy going into this years talks.

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.

For example – All national Union elected positions are up for election this year and so there may be votes conducted by mail. If we have the incorrect address info you will not get a vote as you will never receive a voting paper. **Update now!**

"UNKNOWN" IN OUR MEMBERSHIP DATABASE

Can the following members please provide postal address details to us ASAP?

Transdev Auckland

David Brielly- Locomotive Engineer
Jonathan Guy- Locomotive Engineer
Levi Hopomata-Customer Service Officer
Ian Paes- Station Assistant
Jason Parkes- Locomotive Engineer
Parvez Singh- Train Manager

C3

Wiki Holloway-Casual Lasher
Joseph Hudson-Casual Log Scaler
Gareth Morgan- Cargo Handler
Tautara Ohia- Driver Operator
Katieli Peleti- Log Scaler
Joe Seymour- G.W.E. Stevedore
Jordan Taitoko- Log Scaler
Piripi Taniwha-Casual Stevedore
John Taumateine- G.W.E. Stevedore

CAF

Walid Khellaf- Warranty & Maintenance Technician
Sergio Rojas- Warranty & Maintenance Technician

CentrePort

Upokotea Ponini- Cargo Handler

Grey District Council

Gregory O'Donnell-Port Service Worker

KiwiRail

Graeme Archer- Locomotive Engineer
Murray Brosnan- Track Worker
Joseph Broughton- Container Terminal Operator
Denise Bryant-Part time Station Attendant
Joseph Carpenter- Structures Worker
Raymond Collings- Rail Operator
Iain Colliss- Track Worker
Gregory Dempsey- Locomotive Engineer
Nicholas Dempsey- Locomotive Engineer
Darryl Dodd- Locomotive Engineer
Brendon Drabble- Rail Operator
Paul Durno- Signals Maintainer
Morgan Field- Rail Operator
George Fry- Track Ganger
Duane Greyling- Operational Safety Advisor
Kohe Habberfield-Short- Network Planner
Thomas Hingston- Rail Operator
Steve Lelilio- Ferry Terminal Operator
Ronald Lutui- Linehaul Logistics Co-ordinator - Stow
Poasi Ma'afu- Container Terminal Operator
Adrian Martin- Track Machine Operator
Tane Nikora- Track Worker
Mathew O'Regan- Traction Line Mechanic
Stephen Pope-Team Leader
Angus Riddle- Locomotive Engineer
Frank Seumanu- Track Worker
Dean Shields- Track Ganger



David Simpson- Container Terminal Operator
 John Skinner-Leading Hand Rail Weld Operator
 Peter Speechley-Level 1 Serviceperson
 Gregory Thomas- Remote Control Operator
 Louise Vickery- Business Intelligence Specialist
 Nicholas Vince- Business Support Analyst
 Semi Vuatalevu- Track Worker
 Timothy Waetford- Network Control Manager
 Ernest Wegener- Locomotive Engineer
 Dylan Wickenden- Track Worker

Lyttelton

Brendon Hannah- Electrician
 Dion Parsons-Hill- Electrician
 Anthony Peoples- Carpenter

Life Member

David "Dusty" Miller- Life Member

Napier

Dwayne Ewart-Heavy Plant Operator
 Steven Hill- Diesel Mechanic
 Kevin Keegan-Casual Reefer Care
 David Oliver-Casual Truck Operator
 Peter O'Neill- Container Crane Operator
 Brian Price- Cargo Handler
 Robert Scott- Forklift Operator

Northport

David Lane- Security Officer

Nelson Port

Penelope Elder- Security Officer
 Paul Grant-Casual Cargo Handler
 Paul McKenzie-Casual Stevedore

Tauranga Port

Simon Karl - Diver

Otago Port

Peter Davis-Relief Engineer

Taranaki Port

Wayne King-Gatehouse Security Officer

Toll Networks

Jillian Davern- Gate In Officer
 Day Ikinofu- Freight Operator
 Soane Latu-Team Leader
 Derrick Lee-Lo-Leading Freight Operator
 Elizabeth Ngatai-Grade 2 Freight Operator

Update your details -

http://www.rmtunion.org.nz/update_details.php

TRANSDEV WELLINGTON AND AUCKLAND BARGAINING UPDATE

The Union has issued bargaining notice to Transdev Wellington and Hyundai Rotem. The employers should have posted on noticeboards advising that they have received such notice by now. A finalization of claims meeting is scheduled in Wellington for Tuesday 9 May and it is hoped that a mutually convenient date can be set for the parties to commence dialogue on a Bargaining Process Agreement (BPA) and to simultaneous exchange of claims. Members will be kept informed through the process.

Transdev Auckland and the RMTU have discussed changing to Interest Based Bargaining for our 2017 CA negotiations. 2 days training will be given next week to the bargaining teams by an agreed external facilitator who will then also facilitate bargaining sessions. Claims have been discussed and voted on by our members so we understand what the deeply and widely felt issues are. Ratification will change to a postal ballot as agreed at the RMTU biennial conference last year.

MENTAL HEALTH WAITING TIMES A GROWING CONCERN

There is new evidence that the Mental Health system is under increasing strain with waiting times for young people to be seen by mental health and addiction services lengthening says Labour's Health spokesperson David Clark.

"Following yesterday's seat of the pants announcement by Jonathan Coleman that he is going to Cabinet to seek funding in the few weeks left before Budget, the Government's own data shows that last year nearly 1500 children and teens waited more than eight weeks to be seen for the first time.

"This shows the system is close to breaking point with an increase in waiting times for children and teenagers. Last year alone, teens that had to wait more than eight



weeks for counselling rose from 607 in 2015 to 708.

"There has been a 60 per cent increase in people accessing mental health services since National took office but only a 28 per cent increase in funding.

"The Minister has finally panicked and scabbled together a low-key review of mental health services that is going to come out of existing baselines.

"The Government has to accept that restoring the \$1.7 billion dollars of funding that has been lost to health in the last six years has to be part of the solution," says David Clark.

RESPIRATORY PROTECTION FOR OTIRA TUNNEL WORKERS

Rail operations and track workers have opted for two different types of respiratory protection for emergency escape whilst working in Otira tunnel. RMTU reps for loco engineers, on-board staff and track workers were involved in risk assessments to determine the right breathing apparatus for use in an emergency escape, such as fire in a tunnel. Loco engineers and on-board staff are going to be provided with compressed air breathing apparatus (CABA) and track workers have opted for Self Contained Self Rescuers (SCSR's). Both provide oxygen in the event of a fire.

ITF CALLS FOR TUNA TRANSSHIPMENT MORATORIUM

The ITF (International Transport Workers' Federation) is calling for a moratorium on high seas transshipment by tuna long-line vessels in the Indian Ocean, Gulf of Thailand and South China Sea until companies implement fair labour standards throughout their supply chains to protect fishers and seafarers.

Transshipment is the process where fishing vessels transfer their catch, supplies, and in some cases fishers on the high seas, generally in international waters, far from land and any national or international

inspectors or law enforcement officials. This practice allows fishing vessels to spend months or even years at sea without oversight, and is the type of unregulated situation where illegal fishing, human trafficking, extreme labour abuses, debt bondage, serious injuries, safety violations, and even murder can and do happen.

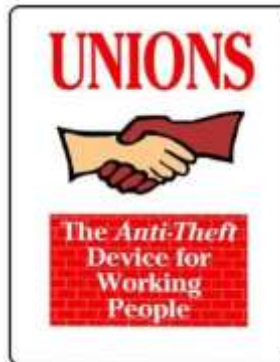
"Fishers of all nationalities deserve to have basic safety and health protections, work in an environment free from physical or mental abuse, and have the right to organise/freely associate to protect themselves. Too often, fishers are beaten or even killed for asserting their rights, and it's time for us to take action against transshipment to protect everyone on the high seas," said ITF fisheries section chair and Norwegian Seafarers' Union president Johnny Hansen.

ITF president and Maritime Union of Australia national secretary, Paddy Crumlin, commented: "There should be a moratorium on transshipment until companies agree to force every vessel in their supply chain to abide by fair labour standards."

Tuna long-line vessels currently operate with minimal supervision – most do not even have an observer on board. This limits the ability to determine the numbers and species of tuna caught, allows transshipment to occur, and contributes to a system that allows captains and companies to violate labor rights with impunity.

The ITF states that until there is more monitoring, control and surveillance of long line tuna fleets throughout the supply chain, Thai fishers and their migrant counterparts from Myanmar, Cambodia and Laos unnecessarily face poor working conditions and egregious human and labor rights violations. Transshipments allow fishers to be kept at sea for long periods of time, sometimes in sub-standard vessels where they, together with observers, have no way to report abuse or escape.

"Fishers should not be forced to risk their lives and endure extreme labour abuses or slavery at sea so that multinational companies can make massive profits supplying the tuna consumers enjoy," Mr Crumlin added.



Current regulations and penalties have minimal deterrent effect, and are generally unenforced. This allows human and labour rights abuses to continue unabated, facilitates IUU (illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing), and impacts on the conservation of tuna stocks, sharks, and other species. Transshipments reduce and even eliminate the reliance of industrial fleets on local port services and local processing facilities, and limit the capability of national enforcement systems to effectively monitor and remedy the situation.

NZTA – KIWI RAIL AUDIT UNDERWAY

The NZTA annual safety assessment is underway. The NZTA auditors are visiting Te Rapa, Kaimai Tunnel and Christchurch. They're auditing the following,

- mechanical maintenance of rail vehicles including a process for escalating repeated defects
- investigating incidences and checking that investigation outcomes are shared with front line staff
- a just fair culture is promoted
- contractor competency – Christchurch
- inter-operability with private sidings- Mainfreight, Barbush private siding
- the critical risk networks are properly supported

RMTU representatives are participating in the audit to provide a front line union perspective on safety systems.

LABOUR TO BUILD AFFORDABLE HOMES IN HAMILTON

Labour will build 200 affordable KiwiBuild homes and state houses on unused government-owned land as the first steps in our plan to fix Hamilton's housing crisis, says Leader of the Opposition Andrew Little.

"We will build new houses to replace the abandoned state houses at Jebson Place and on the site of other run-down state houses, as well as new developments. It's a disgrace that National has left this site rot for years on end in the middle of a housing crisis.

"These will be the first of thousands of good, modern, affordable homes Labour will build in Hamilton. Prices for KiwiBuild homes will vary from \$200,000 for one bedroom units to \$350,000 for three-bedroom terraced homes.

"There were 219 people on the Housing New Zealand waiting list for homes in Hamilton, as of March this year, but all National is promising is just 43 state houses at a time of desperate need. Labour's plan will fill the need for more state houses and provide more affordable homes for first home buyers.

"Hamilton needs more houses, simple as that. House prices and rents are rising beyond the reach of families. Young couples are seeing the Kiwi dream of owning their own place slipping away. Overcrowding and homelessness are on the rise.

"When we've got a housing crisis, the Government needs to step up and build some houses. National won't do it. Labour will.

"Labour will work with Hamilton Council and Waikato Tainui, who have the right of first refusal on these blocks of land. I know the Council and Tainui are both committed to more affordable housing; it's time the Government played its part, too.

"It's time for action. Rolling up our sleeves and fixing the housing crisis will be the top priority of the next Labour-led Government.

"We'll do that by building affordable homes for first homebuyers, cracking down on speculators who use our houses as gambling chips, and building state houses for families in need," says Andrew Little.

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

SAFETY FIRST!

