

THE ACTIVIST



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CALL FOR NOMINATIONS – RMTU NATIONAL PRESIDENT

In accordance with Rule 24 of the Rules & Standing Orders of the Rail & Maritime Transport Union nominations are hereby called for the position of National President.

Nominations must be in writing and contain the signed consent of the candidate. Nominations shall be proposed and seconded by financial members (Rule 1).

Nominations must be received at the Union's national Office by the Returning Officer no later **than 8am on Wednesday 29 April 2009.**

- Nominations are open to all financial members of the Union
- The term of the office is for 2 years (Rule 24.2)
- This is an honorary position and NOT full time
- Duties are as contained in Rule 27 of the Union's Rules & Standing Orders.
- All nominee's (the person being nominated) **MUST** be financial members of the Union at the time of nomination – Rule 24.5
- The nominators and seconders must all be current financial members of the Union
- Nomination forms are available for download from the Union website or by contacting National Office on 04-499-2066.
- The incumbent advises that he shall be seeking re-election.
- Should a ballot of members be required (if there are more than 1 nomination after the date of nominations closure)

then it will be conducted under 42. This will be a full postal ballot of all financial members of the Union.

- The Returning Officer for the election shall be the General Secretary.

REMEMBER WORKERS MEMORIAL DAY 28 APRIL

RMTU members are asked to once again stop work (wherever you are) at midday on the 28 April to remember workers here and internationally who have been killed and seriously injured in work accidents.

The RMTU will be joining millions of workers around the world who are also commemorating this day. The key theme of this year are;

- Address the causes of occupational and environmental cancers at the workplace, and;
- Demand safety and health standards and enforcement, and;
- Build on Global Union campaign activities on banning asbestos and HIV/AIDS
- Say NO to Violence in the workplace

Some RMTU Branches will be conducting commemorative meetings at the memorials unveiled in previous years. We have been advised of;

- Christchurch's Workers Memorial Day is 28 April at Science Alive Reserve from 11.30 -12.30
- Hutt Workshops on 28 April starting 1200hrs at the memorial garden. Helen Kelly (CTU), Ross Wilson (KiwiRail and ACC Boards) will be speaking.

Please advise National Office if you are holding a ceremony in your area. If you wish to invite a National Office speaker then do so now.

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

We must continue to remind ourselves that we lose real workmates and working men and women in these accidents and not let them become simply statistics!

POSTERS WILL BE DISTRIBUTED TO BRANCHES SO MAKE SURE YOUR NOTICEBOARD HAS 1 OR 2 OR 3....

PORTS FORUM

An interesting and challenging programme is in store for delegates attending the 2009 National Ports Forum in Wellington on 5 & 6 May 2009. The Forum will continue some of the themes of previous forums;

- Organising mapping for growth and power
- unity of the RMTU members on the waterfront,
- bargaining and core term discussions,
- health and safety matters of particular concern to waterfront workers,
- ACC past/present & future,
- effects on New Zealand Ports caused by the recession and the demise of the Seachange Strategy will be outlined
- Discussion on the ITF and MUA approaches to the recession
- Discussion and report on the Port Tauranga "Port of Convenience" issue

Port branches are urged to ensure they are well represented at the Forum, an opportunity to keep abreast of the latest developments affecting port workers, network with comrades at other ports and make the most of an industry specific conference which is just for port workers.

Port branches MUST advise the National Office who their delegates will be, as soon as possible so that all arrangements can be made.

Registration forms are available from your branch secretary or contact Julia at National Office on 04-4992066 or julia@rmtunion.org.nz.

Once bookings are made any subsequent alterations which incur additional cost (air travel particularly) will be invoiced to branches.

EVERYTHING EXCEPT ROADS CUT

The Ministry of Transport has selectively released a public document for stakeholder comment called "Amending the Government Policy Statement on Land Transport Funding 2009/10 -- 2018/19".

In this the ranges for spending on cycling and walking infrastructure are going down by \$5 million per year. The range in the original document Labour led Government <http://www.transport.govt.nz/assets/Images/NewFolder-2/GPS-final-5-August-2008-2.pdf> > was \$15m to \$30m. Under the new national led Government proposal this will drop to \$10m to \$25m over fiscal years 2009/10, 2010/11, 2011/12.

Meanwhile public transport infrastructure is going to take a significant hit. FY 2009/10 range will go from Labour's \$120m - \$200m to National's \$20m - \$70m. For Years 2010/11 goes from Labour's \$120m - \$200m to National's \$20m - \$70m.

Coastal shipping takes a major hit as well with all funding under the "seachanges" programme cut.

This document appears to have been released on 19 March and sent to selected "stakeholders" on 20 March. Selected we say, as the RMTU was not considered a stakeholder and didn't get a copy direct from the Minister or the Ministry. Bizarre really as we get all of the MOT's other documents like survey forms of rule changes etc. All feedback must be with the Minister's office by 5.00 PM Wednesday, 25 March 2009 for a document to go to the Minister by Thursday 02 April 2009.

RMTU MEMBERSHIP DATABASE UPDATES

The RMTU database is an important tool in contacting Union Members or ensuring members are kept up to date with the latest information. National Office staff is concerned at the number of "unknown" or "return to sender" envelopes returned to National Office and reminds members that if they 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 and 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 rail industry employment agreements expire in 2008 and so there will be ratification votes conducted by mail. If we have the incorrect address, employer info you will not get a vote as you will never receive a voting paper.

Update now!

HOLIDAY BUY BACK THREATENS WORKPLACE & FAMILY WELLBEING

National's plan allowing employers to buy back workers' holidays undermines workplace productivity and threatens the wellbeing of workers and their families.

"At this time of recession many employees will opt to take a payout for their fourth week of leave," Green Party Industrial Relations Spokesperson Sue Bradford said today.

"For a lot of workers it will be very hard to actively hang on to the fourth week when they are offered the choice of an extra week's pay.

"While the Government talks about the holiday buy back as a matter of choice, in many cases the economic imperative will rule, and a lot of employees will end up back with three weeks' leave again.

"Even with four weeks leave, New Zealand lags behind other OECD countries, ranking 14th out of 21 countries.

"One in five New Zealanders already work more than 50 hours a week. To have annual holidays reduced back to three weeks will put us way behind.

"The Green Party supported the 2007 shift to four weeks holiday for all as employees are much healthier and happier if they have more time off, and workplace productivity improves at the same time.

Now National's holiday buyback plan has the potential to undermine that vital gain for workers, Ms Bradford said.

"Children benefit hugely when parents can take more time off during school holiday periods.

"I also fear the pressure this move will place on relationships between partners when one or both are presented with the three week option. They then have to try and sort out what is best for the family, choosing between relieving financial pressure and having badly needed time off for rest and recreation.

"The Green Party will oppose the buy back every step of the way, while continuing to push for a much needed rise in the minimum wage as a better way of relieving the financial pressure on low income workers."

- Leave Trading: The Pitfalls for workers (The Age)
<http://www.mbs.edu/home/jgans/papers/Age-Entitlements-05-09-26.pdf>
- Open All Hours (New Zealand Listener article)
http://www.listener.co.nz/issue/3496/features/8767/open_all_hours.html
- A comparison of leave and holiday in OECD countries
http://www.law.harvard.edu/programs/lw/p/papers/No_Holidays.pdf

SLIPPERY BUSINESS

In April last year an RMTU member named Bill Rewanata was sacked by Toll Tranz Link (a subsidiary of Toll NZ Consolidated Ltd). The reasons are not particularly relevant to this article, suffice to say the RMTU believes the dismissal was grossly unfair and immediately lodged a personal grievance on Bills behalf.

A date for mediation, as the first step in resolving the dispute, was received from the Department of Labour, and then the slippery behaviour began. Subsequent to Bill being sacked the government brought back the railways, leaving Toll with what had been the trucking part of the business (Tranz Link). The part actually that had sacked Bill. On being notified of the mediation date the RMTU was advised by Toll Networks (the corporate name for Toll Tranz Link) that they considered the liability for dealing with the

dismissal to now rest with KiwiRail, who had nothing to do with sacking Bill!

It's hard to imagine more slippery behaviour, you sack someone on dodgy grounds and then try to dump the responsibly onto another party who had nothing to do with the original sacking decision.

Fortunately KiwiRail are not mugs, and have refused to be landed with this dispute. Currently the matter is being sorted out, and we are sure the liability will land where it deserves. In our view - right back on the plate of Toll Networks.

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS KIWI RAIL NETWORKS (FORMERLY ONTRACK) INDUSTRIAL COUNCIL!

Following the extensive disputation between the Union and the company arising out of the "Building Our Futures" booklet debacle an agreement was signed between the parties which created a single joint entity made up of elected RMTU members and management reps to deal with workplace industrial and relationship issues. Formation of the group was delayed by the difficult wages negotiations and latterly by the work of the wagheround agreed Working Parties. A decision has now been made to now implement the new structures without further delay by the RMTU National Management Committee. There are 5 infrastructure positions and 3 Operations positions on the Council for RMTU reps. Union policy as determined by Annual Conference requires that any member of the Union's National Management Committee (NMC) who is eligible for nomination to a position on an Industrial council shall be deemed to have been elected to that position. As a result Albert Barr will fill the **Infrastructure Track worker position** on the council and **no** nominations will be called for that position.

Accordingly we now call for nominations for the following positions from members who fall within the categories of representation;

Infrastructure – Ganger/Foreperson

- If you hold a position of ganger (foreperson) in any area of KiwiRail Networks operation then you are eligible for nomination for this position.

Infrastructure – Signals, Comms, Traction

- If you are employed within the Signals, Communications, Traction specialised areas of KiwiRail Networks then you are eligible for nomination to this position.

Infrastructure – Bridges and Structures

- If you are employed within the Bridge gangs or structures specialised area of KiwiRail Networks then you are eligible for nomination to this position.

Infrastructure – Mechanical Group

- If you are employed within the track machine groups and mobile mechanised gangs, plant fitter specialised area of KiwiRail Networks then you are eligible for nomination to this position.

Operations – Train Controller

- If you are employed within the Train Control specialised area of KiwiRail Networks then you are eligible for nomination to this position.

Operations – Signalpersons

- If you are employed as a Signalperson within KiwiRail Networks then you are eligible for nomination to this position.

Operations – Clerical Admin

- If you are employed within the clerical, administration, codes and standards and technical areas of KiwiRail Networks and paid under the clerical, administrative, team leaders, supervisory, professional and technical employee's pay scales then you are eligible for nomination to this position.

Nomination forms are available from the Union's Website www.rmtunion.org.nz or National Office by calling 04 4992066, fax 04 4710896 or by email to jharrison@rmtunion.org.nz



Nominations must be moved and seconded by current financial Union members who are employed within the same area for which the nominee is being nominated for and an acceptance of nomination signed by the nominee.

Correctly completed Nominations must be received in the Unions National Office by 1700hrs 10 April 2009.

In the event that there is more than one nomination received by the closing date for any position then a postal ballot of current financial members employed within the area for which the nomination was received will be conducted. Nominees are warned that in the event of a ballot being held a photograph and short "why vote for me" story of 150 words is required from each candidate ASAP.

CTU WANTS MINIMUM WAGE LOOPHOLE CLOSED

The CTU has reiterated its support for the Minimum Wage and Remuneration Amendment Bill which would ensure contractors doing work such as leaflet delivering were paid at a rate at least equivalent to the minimum wage.

"People should not be allowed to use contracting arrangements to get around statutory minimum rates of pay," said CTU Secretary Peter Conway. "This kind of sub-contracted work is on the increase, exploiting more and more New Zealanders with contracts where they cannot possibly earn a living wage in the number of hours required to complete the job. That loophole has to be closed."

The CTU has contributed to the re-drafting of the Bill which now defines particular types of work which would be covered. The Bill, which will be debated in Parliament for the third time tomorrow (25 March), targets some of the most vulnerable workers in society who are being deprived of basic rights by the technicality of their employment status.

"None of the arguments against this bill seem to acknowledge that we have agreed a socially acceptable minimum rate of pay in this country," continued Conway. "By farming out low-skilled work to individual

contractors who have little or no choice about the work available to them certain businesses are knowingly evading the law on minimum wages and it should not be allowed to continue."

IF YOU HAVE AN A&D PROBLEM ASK FOR HELP!!

The RMTU is concerned that members are testing positive for alcohol and/or drugs post incident or reasonable cause within our industries. Our advice is if you think you might have a problem with alcohol or drugs then ask for help. Help is available through Employee Assistance Programmes or by contacting the Union.

Members in the rail industry can enter into voluntary rehabilitation, which is not disciplinary, but rather aimed at helping people sort out their problem with A&D. Some Port employers operate similar systems.

For further details contact your Union organiser.

NMC ALTERS FOR 2009 ELECTION

A discussion paper was tabled for consideration and adoption by the members of the National Management Committee (NMC) of the RMTU at the 11 March meeting. The paper outlined a number of options for this year's NMC election. The representation options can be summarised as being;

1. Status Quo – 2 Port, 2 Non Core rail and 2 Core rail
2. A move to sectoral representation based upon occupational lines
3. The alteration of the distribution of positions between core and noncore rail to reflect the movement of members back into the Core category with the renationalisation of rail. This would mean 3 core rail, 1 noncore rail and 2 Port reps on NMC.

A major consideration was whether a major change like option 2 could and should be done by the NMC outside of Annual Conference and it was felt that it was not appropriate as the membership should be

given the opportunity to determine such a major change. It was felt that the status quo would be nonsense as this would mean there were 2 positions to represent 646 members in noncore whereas there would be 2 for 2818 in core rail.

NMC resolved to adopt option 3 above for the 2009 election.

NMC nominations will be called for the positions later this year with the National President position being called on 1 April 2009. The National president and NMC positions have an office term of 2 years and the General Secretary is 4 years.

LOCOMOTIVE ENGINEER SAD FUND INVITES PROSPECTIVE MEMBERS

The New Zealand Locomotive Engineers' Sickness, Accident & Death Benefit Fund secretary Julia Harrison will visit Auckland and will be based at the Britomart Station and Westfield depot on Wednesday 15 & Thursday 16 April 2009 to talk to LE's about the Fund and answer any questions or aid in finalising applications.

Confirmed dates and times will be posted on RMTU notice boards in the next week. If you have any questions or queries make sure you drop in and have a chat with her.

The LE SAD Fund is jointly promoted by the Rail and Maritime Transport Union and KiwiRail Group and provides benefits to Fund members in the event of medical retirement due to loss of certificate or death. The Chairman and Trustees continue to welcome prospective members to apply for membership. Benefits paid out include a range of benefits for Loss of Certificate based on age at joining and age at date of loss, continuation of a Death Benefit and your contributions are company subsidised and tax free!

Applicants must:

- Be a full time Employees of KiwiRail Group, Veolia Transport Auckland Limited, or Taieri Gorge Railway Limited
- Hold a current Locomotive Engineers Qualification and Certification having completed their OJT, and

- Have completed an Hx medical examination within four (4) months of application.

Note there are no changes for Existing Fund Members (Pre 2004 members) who continue with their current arrangements and receive benefits as detailed in the First Schedule of the Trust Deed (see your most recent Annual Report) and note Trustees have no plans at this stage to complete the detailed and costly investigations on the transfer of existing members to the new Fund.

In the meantime for further information or an application form to join the Fund contact Julia on (04) 499-2066 or email julia@rmtunion.org.nz.

NATIONAL RULEBOOK - A STEP FORWARD FOR RAIL

A revolutionary development (for Australia at least) in rail has occurred with the release of a national rule book for rail safety in Australia. Entitled, "The Australian National Rules and Procedures" (ANRP), the rulebook was developed by the Rail Industry and Safety Standards Board (RISSB). "After 150 years we have finally done something," said Bryan Nye, CEO of the Australasian Railway Association. The rulebook is the first of two rulebooks. The ANRP is designed for use by all safety rail workers working on the railway or 'working the track' as it is commonly known in the industry, in areas such as track maintenance and improvements. The second stage of the ANRP will address those rules and procedures associated with operating trains on the network. "We are aiming for approval of the second rulebook by this time next year," said Nye.

NZ has of course had one industry rule book for a very long time, "Slow to catch up them Aussies". We think that the number of Kiwi's going over to work on their rail system is finally having an effect.

CTU CALLS FOR RETHINK ON NZAID DECISION

The Government's decision to take direct control of NZAid back into the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade and other signals on overseas aid priorities jeopardise New

Zealand's reputation in the Pacific islands, said the Council of Trade Unions today.

'New Zealand is seen in the Pacific as an important enabler of broad-based development programmes not linked to trade or other foreign policy interests,' said CTU Secretary Peter Conway. 'The Government's move takes NZAid back to where it was in 2002 when a review recommended its autonomy to avoid precisely such conflicts of interest.'

'Our view is that NZAid is already operating as a successful "hand-up" to Pacific nations. The proposed changes put that success at risk and thereby risk damaging our standing with our Pacific neighbours.'

UNITED NATIONS APPOINTMENT AN HONOUR FOR NEW ZEALAND

Green Party Co-Leader Jeanette Fitzsimons today welcomed former Prime Minister Helen Clark's nomination by United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon to head the United Nations Development Programme.

Once confirmed by the UN General Assembly, it will be the highest diplomatic post ever held by a New Zealander.

"We congratulate Helen Clark. It's an honour for New Zealand as well as for her," Ms Fitzsimons said.

"It's an opportunity to use her very great experience of International Affairs and we wish her all the best in the job."

The RMTU also congratulates Helen Clark on this very important appointment and thanks her for her strong support for the RMTU whilst Prime Minister for 9 years. Helen was very supportive and empathetic of the plight of working New Zealander's and will bring those same skills to her new role.

CTU LAUNCHES WORKPLACE LITERACY INITIATIVE

The CTU last night launched its expanded Learning Representatives programme which will encourage employers to support language, literacy and numeracy education for workers.

The literacy initiative is part of the NZ Skills Strategy and is a government-funded

programme run by a dedicated staff team at the CTU, including a literacy adviser. The scheme has been piloted in a number of workplaces over the last three years involving a total of 177 representatives so far.

'At this time of a deepening recession, the literacy initiative will assist both workers and employers,' said CTU Secretary Peter Conway. 'The programme centres around training for learning representatives who act as advocates for workplace learning, as well as providing specific advice on literacy options.'

At the launch last night, speakers included CTU President Helen Kelly, Hazel Barnes (Director of the Literacy and Numeracy Implementation Unit, TEC) David Timms (General Manager Human Resources, IHC - IDEA Services), and Tamara Levine, a literacy educator from the Canadian Labour Congress.

SACKED FRENCH WORKERS TAKE TO 'BOSSNAPPING'

Bosses across the world are having to break bad news to employees as companies go under. But that can be a risky business in France, where some furious workers have taken to holding their managers hostage to demand better pay-offs.

In the latest outbreak of "bossnapping", workers at a pharmaceutical factory were holding their boss in his office for a second day to force him to improve their redundancy packages.

"This action is our only currency. But there is no aggression," said union representative Jean-Francois Caparros. The detention came less than two weeks after workers held the boss of Sony France hostage for a night and barricaded their factory entrance with tree trunks. They freed him only after he agreed to reopen talks on their pay-off.

In neither case did police intervene to free the managers, in a tacit recognition that such radical tactics were part of negotiations and that no harm would come to the bosses.

"It's true that this might seem surprising abroad, but it's less surprising in France, where we're more used to this kind of situation," said a Sony spokeswoman.

There have been several other cases of executives being held hostage over the past year by French workers outraged at learning that their jobs were being slashed.

And last week, in another sign of growing labour unrest, angry workers from the Continental tyre firm burst into a management meeting in the Champagne town of Reims and pelted their bosses with eggs to protest at the closure of their plant.

Outside their colleagues hung effigies of managers and threw shoes and other projectiles at them.

"This sort of thing will inevitably happen again," said Bruno Lemerle of the CGT union in the Peugeot car plant in Sochaux, France's biggest factory.

"Those who sow misery reap fury. The violence is done by those who cut jobs, not by those who try to defend them," he said.

There is a growing sentiment, here as elsewhere, that the business elite caused the crisis but it is the workers who are paying.

"Basically we (the French) have a hard time loving business and not thinking that employers are exploiters," said Francis Kramarz, an economics professor at the elite Ecole Polytechnique in Paris.

CONFERENCE 2009 REMITS

A reminder that Remits for conference close on 31 July 2009 but late remits are frequently accepted and conference delegates also have an opportunity to table "notices of motion" at conference to be debated on the floor as well.

It is essential that early advice is given/received for remits which seek to achieve major change within the Union or the way it conducts itself as the delegates need to be able to obtain a mandate on how to vote at conference.

All remits to conference MUST have been passed by a majority vote at a duly constituted Union branch meeting.

MAYDAY @ BLACKBALL

"without our brain and muscle not a single wheel will turn"

It is intended to commemorate the Mayday event in Blackball as usual. This is an 'early warning' notice of the event.

Draft programme for 2009 Celebration of 1908 Blackball Strike.

- Friday 1st May 8.00pm, The Hilton - Songs of working people
- Saturday 2nd May 10.00am, Working Men's Club - Forum: The legacy of neo-liberalism. Can we think the system or does the system think us? What should we be talking about?
 - Workers rights? Money?
 - Social dysfunction? The planet?
 - Food? Revolution? Culture?
 - Housing? State surveillance?
 - And what action should we be taking?

Saturday 2nd 2.00pm, Working Men's Club - Workshop on '08 Strike Memorial Project

Saturday 2nd 8.00pm, Blackball Church. Theatre: The Curator of Baghdad, a story from Guantanamo Bay (with Paul Maunder, Caroline Selwood, Garyth Bensley)

Lunch, Dinner and Accommodation available at The Hilton bbhilton@xtra.co.nz

Further information: wkultur@ihug.co.nz or www.blackballmuseum.org.nz or 037324010

TRANSPORT WORKER ISSUE 2 - 2009

The deadline for all branch notes, letters to the editor or other contributions (including photos) is 8 May 2009.

Contributions from Branches who have been absent to date would be particularly welcome as would individual letters from members on topics they feel strongly about.

Remember it is YOUR magazine.



1 APRIL 2009

From 1 April 2009 the Employment Relations Act 2000 entitles employees to paid rest and meal breaks and employers will be required to provide facilities for employees who wish to breastfeed at work. This amendment moves the minimum expectation for breaks. Your CA may contain provisions superior to this minimum and so the impact of the legislation within our membership will be limited but it is a major gain for all non union worksites.

Rest and meal breaks

Employees will be entitled to:

- one paid 10-minute rest break if their work period is between two and four hours;
- one paid 10-minute rest break and one unpaid 30-minute meal break if their work period is between four and six hours;
- two paid 10-minute rest breaks and one unpaid 30-minute meal break if their work period is between six and eight hours.

If more than an eight hour period is worked, these requirements automatically extend to cover the additional hours on the same basis.

The timing of rest and meal breaks is flexible and can follow any arrangement agreed between employer and employee.

If an agreement can't be reached, the rest and meal breaks should be spread evenly throughout the work period.

For more information, visit: www.ers.govt.nz/relationships/breaks.html

Breastfeeding at work

Employers will be required to provide appropriate facilities and breaks for employees who wish to breastfeed or express, as far as is reasonable and practicable - taking into account both their operating environment and available resources.

The breaks are unpaid unless the employee and employer agree otherwise.

The breastfeeding breaks are to be provided in addition to the standard paid rest breaks and unpaid meal breaks.

For more information, visit: www.ers.govt.nz/parentalleave/infantfeeding.html

Minimum Wage

The minimum wage rate increases today to NZ\$12.50 per hour.

BITTERSWEET FOR WORKERS ON APRIL FOOL'S DAY

April 1st will be a bittersweet day for workers says the CTU.

CTU Secretary Peter Conway says that there is good news and bad news: 'There is good news in the modest increase in the minimum wage, the increase in employer KiwiSaver contributions to 2 percent, rest breaks and rights to breastfeeding breaks for mothers, an independent earner tax rebate for some low-paid workers, inflation adjustment to benefits, and the implementation of a subsidy where reduced working hours are in certain circumstances agreed as an alternative to redundancy.'

'However, the bad news is that workers on \$40,000 or less and already receiving Working for Families will get no tax cut, whereas someone on \$100,000 a year will get an extra \$1,260.'

'In addition the changes to KiwiSaver mean that although workers can now opt in at 2% without their employer's agreement, the removal of the employer tax credit means that employers are looking for offsets against wage increases. According to actuaries the combined effect of capping the employer contribution at 2% and other changes means that someone on \$50,000 a year will save \$143,263 less by age 65 years than under the scheme in place last year.'

Peter Conway said the outlook for workers is not positive with the Government signalling attacks on ACC, holidays, and public sector jobs. In addition the Government needs to speed up implementation of measures to create jobs, retain jobs and support workers made redundant.

ACC WILL SUFFER WITHOUT WORKER REPRESENTATION

The lack of worker representation on the new ACC board announced today is a severe shortcoming, said CTU President Helen Kelly.

'We are extremely disappointed that both Wayne Butson and Ross Wilson have been removed from the ACC board,' said Kelly. 'The loss of their vast experience and knowledge of the scheme will be a great disadvantage to the management of ACC.'

'Expert opinion has completely discredited the Government's claims that ACC was badly managed and that costs were out of control. Today's announcement only serves to confirm our belief that the criticism of the chair and board was politically motivated, and that the removal of worker representation paves the way towards partial privatisation and the reduction of claimant entitlements.'

NEW ORGANISER

The Union is very pleased to announce that an offer of employment has been made to George Laird and he has accepted the challenge of working for the RMTU and representing the interests of members. George comes to us from the CTU where he is employed as Organiser Educator for the Learning Reps Programme. George will start with the RMTU on 20 April 2009. George will slot into taking responsibility for Wellington, Nelson/Marlborough and the West Coast geographically and will take responsibility for education including the H&S rep programme.

BITS & BOBS

- We have received reports that late last year a UGL (now KiwiRail mechanical) Manager sent EF Shockies to an outside company rather than have them refurbished at Hutt Workshops. We believe that Hutt's price for doing the work was considered "too expensive". When these refurbished shockies arrived at Hutt Workshops they were tested and they all failed the specified

requirements necessitating them having to be repaired. If Hutt was too expensive in the first instance what now the price per unit? Surely it is not good business sense to pay twice for an item we ask?

- We have also received reports that 24 DX snubber's have been sent to the same contracting company to be refurbished. We are reliably informed that once again the price for Hutt to do the work is too expensive. Let's hope they refurbish them properly as the snubbers determine the ride of the loco and so they are a key component to affect the working life of Locomotive Engineers. We will watch out for them.
- A dispute is developing in Port of Tauranga between Unionised and Non Unionised labour involving ourselves, the ITF and MUNZ. This arises out of the Port Company's decision to shift the onboard ship work from NZL to ISL. NZL is a MUNZ union party employer and ISL is Non Union. The ITF has become involved as the ITF Dockers policy is to oppose the loss of Unionised work to Non Union labour. The RMTU preference is for the work to go to C3 which is fully unionized rather than to ISL. An alternative solution is for ISL to become Unionised. MUNZ is meeting with the Port Branch on Thursday in a meeting facilitated by the President of the CTU Helen Kelly to determine the way forward for both Unions.

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

**"WE'RE STRONGER
TOGETHER"!**

