

THE ACTIVIST



Published Regularly - ISSN 1178-7392 (Print & Online) 12 April 2013

GREEN PARTY LAUNCHES MAJOR CAMPAIGN TO BUILD AUCKLAND RAIL LINK



The Green Party is launching a major campaign in Auckland to build pressure on the National Government to help fund the proposed Auckland City Rail Link (CRL).

The campaign, 'Reconnect Auckland', aims to directly engage tens of thousands of Aucklanders in pressuring the Government in Wellington to build the CRL to give Aucklanders real transport choices and transform the city. The campaign will be **launched this Sunday** at the Green Party Auckland office, a potential site for the K Road station once the CRL is built.

When: 2:00pm - 4:00pm, Sunday 14th April 2013

Where: Green Party Auckland office, 17 Mercury Lane, Auckland

"Getting the City Rail Link built is a priority for the Green Party," said Green Party Co leader Dr Russel Norman.

"It is time for the Government to make the major investment needed in smart green transport solutions that Aucklanders want," said Dr Norman.

Details of the event:

<http://www.greens.org.nz/events/reconnect-auckland-transport-campaign-launch>

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, Monday 25 April 2011.

The RMTU will, as is our usual custom, lay a wreath which recognises and honours railway men and women who laid down their lives during wars.

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS – RMTU NATIONAL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE (NMC)

In accordance with Rule 24.6 of the Rules & Standing Orders of the Rail & Maritime Transport Union "the Union" calls for nominations from current financial members for the position(s) of:

- North Island Ports (A member of a North Island Port Branch of the Union)
- South Island Ports (A member of a South Island Port Branch of the Union)
- Northern North Island Rail (A member employed within KiwiRail Group - e.g. Freight, Infrastructure, Passenger, CT Sites and Mechanical (Incl Westfield AAM and Loco/Wagon depots). The Northern Rep covers all KiwiRail Group worksites north of a straight horizontal line drawn across the North Island at a point of the Porotarau Tunnel,
- Central NZ Rail (A member employed within KiwiRail Group - e.g. Freight, Infrastructure, Passenger (incl Tranz Metro), CT Sites and Mechanical (incl EMU Depot, Hutt Shops and Loco/Wagon depots). The Central NZ Rep covers all KiwiRail Group worksites south of a straight horizontal line drawn across the North Island at the Porotarau Tunnel and north of a horizontal line drawn across the South Island at Seddon.

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

- South Island Rail (A member employed within KiwiRail Group - e.g. Freight, Infrastructure, Passenger, Tranz Metro, CT Sites and Mechanical (incl Loco/Wagon depots). The Southern South Island Rep covers all KiwiRail Group worksites south of a straight horizontal line drawn across the south Island at Seddon.
- General (A member not employed within KiwiRail Group or a Port branch member). The General Rep is a member of the Union employed within NZ in any area not covered by the Rail or Port representative positions on NMC (eg. employed by Veolia Transport, Toll Networks (Tranz Link), NZ Bus - Go Wellington, Cityline Hutt Valley, Taieri Gorge Rail, Orica NZ Ltd, Gough Forklifts, Halls Refrigerated Transport etc).

Nomination Forms are available from the RMTU National Office by contacting Julia on 04-499-2066, fax 04-471-0896 or julia@rmtunion.org.nz.

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

Correctly completed nominations must be received by the duly appointed National Returning Officer at the National Office of the Rail & Maritime Transport Union, PO Box 1103 Wellington 6140 **no later than 0800 hrs. on Friday 10 May 2013.**

The term of office is 2 years (Rule 24.2) and the duties are as contained in Rule 18 of the Union's Rules and Standing Orders.

For the information of members -KiwiRail employed NMC members will be appointed to an applicable KiwiRail Industrial Council upon election to NMC eg. A Mechanical Engineer will be placed onto the Mechanical Council filling one position on that Council.

Wayne Butson

Appointed National Returning Officer for this election.

HEADS UP – NATIONAL PORTS FORUM

The RMTU Ports Forum is being held in Wellington mid-year. Port Branch Secretaries are asked to formalise their representation and to advise numbers of attendee's to National Office as soon as possible.

Suggestions for agenda items are encouraged from branches.

WORKERS MEMORIAL DAY – 28 APRIL

International Workers Memorial Day is 28 April 2013. 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.

The services (that we have been informed of to date) will be held at;

Dunedin - the memorial garden 1150hrs

Christchurch - service held in the Reserve behind where Science Alive building used to be 11.30am -12.30pm with refreshments served at the NZNO across the road afterwards. A cabbage tree will be planted in memorial of all workers who died or were injured on the job in 2012. Wreaths to be laid at the Memorial Stone by families, unions, and workers. Barrier arm comes



down on the adjacent level crossing at noon and bells ring for a minute's silence.

Hutt Shops – 28 April Service to be held by the Elizabeth Street entrance starting at 1150hrs at the workshop memorial garden. During which we will launch a new book by Hazel Armstrong chronicling NZ rail safety history from 1974 to 2000. Also unveiling relocated (from Gracefield) Jack Neha Memorial.

Port Napier – Friday 26th April a ceremony at the memorial wall at the eastern entrance to the port. 1000 hrs start.

Hamilton - Sunday 28th branch meeting will be held at 1000hrs followed by WMD remembrance service at 1200hrs, followed by a pig on a spit, all at Te Rapa depot.

Tauranga/Mount Maunganui - Memorial Service at 1130 hrs, at the memorial stone at the Rata street gatehouse

Auckland - Sunday 28th, Maritime Club in Auckland (68 Anzac Ave) at 12pm. Followed by lunch at 1pm. Special focus on Forestry death rate.

Please advise us of all services to be held on the day?

KIWI RAIL NETWORKS INDUSTRIAL COUNCIL

Is scheduled for 17 April. In the aftermath of last year's job cuts there are several matters that need to be addressed including the impact the redundancies are having on the network and the use of contractors.

Please can members contact their KNIC delegate with anything they wish to have raised ASAP? Also, please can delegates and contacts around the country make sure

that we have your up to date contact details.

With the resignation of Scott Wilson, South Island Organiser John Kerr has picked up responsibility for the KNIC. Your representatives are Phil Kearns, Eddie Dargaville, Jerry Hohepa, Hopa Bell, Kevin Jones, Geoff Young and Lou Watene.

NO SELF LOADING BY SHIP'S CREW

All RMTU members are reminded that;

- Dockers work is done by dockworkers
- Seafarers work is done by seafarers
- It's that simple!

Dockers work is all cargo handling. This includes lashings. No ship is to be allowed to sail without all cargo lashings having been completed by Dockers. We have had a

number of reports of ships putting to sea without all of the cargo lashing having been done and the ship's crew being directed by Captains to undertake the work – usually just to meet the tide.

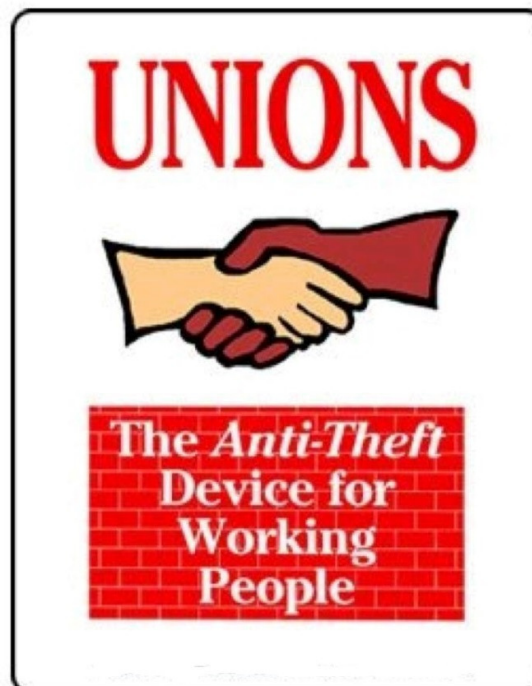
This must cease.

GOVT ALL AT SEA WITH BAN ON PROTEST VESSELS

The National Government must re-think its ill-conceived ban on protesting against oil and gas exploration in the Exclusive Economic Zone in light of legal advice released today by Greenpeace, says Labour

Energy and Resources Spokesperson Moana Mackey.

"The legal opinion provided by International and Environmental lawyer Duncan Currie raises serious concerns about consistency with New Zealand's international obligations and the Bill of Rights Act.



"Because the Government chose to hold off announcing the proposed changes until the Crown Minerals Amendment Bill was reported back from the Select Committee, there has been no opportunity to check their consistency with our international obligations and the Bill of Rights. As the bill was only reported back on the 18th of March, we can only assume that this was done deliberately to avoid scrutiny.

"This is not about safety as the Minister claims. If it was then he would follow the advice of the High Court which recently ruled on this matter and simply extend the Maritime Transport Act, which deals with this issue in our territorial waters, into the Exclusive Economic Zone.

"And it would cover dangerous and reckless behaviour by all vessels, not just protest boats.

"How can the Minister's proposed changes fix a legislative gap in our international obligations under the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), as the Minister claims, if it doesn't cover all vessels and all dangerous behaviour? UNCLOS has no special protections for deep sea drilling - which is what the Minister's SOP targets.

"This is incoherent law-making at its very worst. Minister Bridges needs to come clean with the public about whether these provisions were requested by the industry in return for promised investment in deep sea oil and gas exploration.

"At the end of the day it is the Government's own handling of controversial deep sea drilling proposals that has led to protest and public backlash. Trying to legislate away opposition to the Government's plan to dramatically increase offshore drilling is a massive over-reaction," says Moana Mackey.

ABBOT – GOVT FUNDING IS FOR ROADS NOT RAIL

Tony Abbott has announced that if he is elected, a Coalition government would cut off funding for urban rail across Australia.

"The Commonwealth Government has a long history of funding roads," Abbott told a group of reporters in the south Melbourne town of Frankston last Thursday.

"We have no history of funding urban rail," Abbott continued. "I think it is important that we stick to our knitting and the Commonwealth's knitting when it comes to funding infrastructure is for roads."

YOUTH WAGES SET TO BECOME LAW BY 1 MAY

The Employment Relations (Starting Out Wage) Amendment Bill will be passed into law in the next week so it can become law from 1 May. This is despite 522 submissions opposed and only nine in favour. The change will reintroduce youth rates for 16 and 17 year olds, and for 18 and 19 year olds who have been on a benefit.

IDLE BOX FLEET REACHES HIGHEST LEVEL FOR A YEAR

The world's idle containership fleet has grown to its highest level in more than a year, according to the latest data from Lloyd's List Intelligence (LLI). Figures show the idle

fleet reached 705,994 teu last week, which represents more than 4.3% of the total global fleet and is an increase of 34% year on year.

PM'S WORD ON ILLEGAL SPYING CAN'T BE TRUSTED

New Zealanders are losing trust in John Key's word after revelations he knew Kiwis may have been illegally spied on but failed to put a stop to it and covered it up for months, says Labour Leader David Shearer.

"In his own press statement, John Key revealed that he was told about a 'potential issue' relating to legality in July last year. At the time, he shrugged it off and told his chief spy to just 'keep me informed'.

"What he should have done was immediately shut down the spying until the legal position was crystal clear. The fact he did not do that is a dereliction of duty.



"The Prime Minister has sole democratic oversight of our spy agencies. He is responsible for protecting New Zealanders' right to freedom and privacy. He has let them down.

"Bill English's excuse today for John Key's behaviour was that while there were red flags, the spies were confident they hadn't broken the law. But that doesn't make sense. If it was okay to keep snooping, why did they suddenly suspend operations in September when in the Prime Minister's own words the issue of legality was still 'unresolved'?"

"The Prime Minister only acted when the political heat went on over the Kim Dotcom debacle. He has failed to be upfront with New Zealanders. He knew about the illegal spying concerns for nine months but only told the truth about it yesterday. He covered it up and is now trying to do a snow job on New Zealanders by ramming through legislation to allow GCSB to conduct the same questionable spying in future.

"A quick fix band aid approach won't work. It won't restore New Zealanders' confidence in our spy agencies. A thorough independent review of all our intelligence agencies is necessary before any reform takes place," said David Shearer.

PRIME PORT TIMARU

South Island Organiser John Kerr visited Timaru this week and met Branch President Naylor Young and Secretary Mike Nijssen. After the dramas of last year the Branch is in good heart and is looking forward to sharing ideas at the forthcoming Ports Forum. Members are also thinking ahead to early next year when the collective agreement is up for renewal.

The recent news that the Government is considering bringing Shipping Companies under the auspices of the Commerce Act led to some wry comments. Our members at Prime Port can take a considerable amount of credit for getting this on the political agenda with the very high profile campaign they led last year against the

actions of Hamburg Sud in pulling out of Timaru and the National Government's failure to intervene to save jobs.

CALLING ALL TOLL TRANZ LINK DELEGATES

We are hearing many rumours that Toll is not meeting its obligation to offer new employees the terms and conditions of the RMTU-Toll Networks Collective Agreement and is, instead, offering inferior terms and conditions. In fact, the employer is obliged to employ new staff at Toll Networks under the terms of the collective agreement for the first thirty days of their employment and once those workers join the RMTU their terms are secured after that.

Whilst we are checking with Toll management if these rumours are true we need our delegates to approach any new employees and check to see if they have been offered the terms and conditions of the collective agreement and also to sign these workers up to our union.

The threat of new workers being employed on inferior terms is that it eventually undermines the collective agreement and wages and conditions we have fought so hard for. We all stand to lose out if this is happening.

So, delegates, please be relentless in checking whether or not new members have been

offered the terms of the collective agreement and in signing them up to our union. If you need membership forms or brochures contact your local organiser.

KR SICK LEAVE

In the wageround it was agreed between the parties that deduction of sick leave when members take sick leave would be in accordance with the MECA. That is to say "if you take 1 day off sick then 1 day sick leave will be deducted". In the past if you took a 10.5hr shift off you had 1.5 days leave deducted. This was ridiculous and not in accord with the MECA.



We are keen to hear that KiwiRail are in fact only deducting 1 day's sick leave for each day (shift) of absence.

Contact the National Office if you believe that you are having more than 1 day's sick leave deducted for a single shift (day) absence of any duration eg. 13.5hr shift = 1 days leave deduction.

EXPECT DIRTIER RIVERS AND LAKES UNDER WATER PROPOSALS

Parliamentary Environment Commissioner, Dr Jan Wright's latest comments on the government's proposals for Water Conservation Orders are as scathing as her remarks on its RMA changes, says Labour's Environment spokesperson, Maryan Street.

"The idea that Water Conservation Orders, which protect our most significant water bodies, should be devolved to local authorities that have never supported them is a dangerous signal for protection of our lakes and rivers.

"Dr Wright has condemned the proposals on Water Conservation Orders as ultimately destructive to any national standards for water quality in our rivers and lakes which everybody enjoys and which most people want restored.

"How many times does the PCE need to criticise the government's proposals before they wake up and realise their agenda will destroy our environment, not preserve and enhance it?" Maryan Street said.

ATC MIDLAND LINE REVIEW

This was prompted by the resignation of Barry Drummond, the Cass Ganger, AKA 'Rambo'. RMTU delegates Ian Walker, John Bannerman, Mike Morgan, Mike Williams, and Fred Miles together with South Island Organiser John Kerr are working through the issues with management.

We have a draft document which is being checked by national office as we go to press. The final document will need to be ratified by KIC.

JOB LOSSES AT SEALED AIR IN ROTORUA

Plastic packaging manufacturer Sealed Air has told workers at its Rotorua plant it intends to phase down production and close the plant by mid-2014. The proposed closure would affect 112 staff, though many are expected to be offered alternative employment at Sealed Air's expanded Hamilton operation.

The EPMU's manufacturing industry organiser Louisa Jones says "Sealed Air has engaged closely with the union and has indicated it would offer a number of workers re-employment at its Hamilton plant, with a generous relocation package to ease the transition.

"For workers who do lose their jobs there'll be a union-negotiated redundancy package to help soften the blow."

Ms Jones says the loss of the jobs is bad news for Rotorua, which has one of the highest unemployment rates in the country.

"There aren't a lot of other jobs in Rotorua at the moment, and the loss of these good, secure manufacturing jobs would be a real blow to the local economy.

"Increasingly the few jobs that are around are casual, part-time or poorly paid. The Government needs to act now to stop the decline in manufacturing and create good quality jobs in places like Rotorua."

New Zealand's manufacturing sector has lost 17,000 jobs in the last year alone.

BANNING OF LOCOMOTIVES WITH DISCONNECTED FIRE DETECTION SYSTEM

It has come to our attention that the recently installed fire detection system on the DX locos has proved troublesome and modifications are required. Unfortunately it appears a number of locos have had the system disconnected without LEs being notified. This equipment was a high priority recommendation arising out of the Oira Tunnel Review.

Our information is that DX 5287, 5431, 5425, 5483 have the system disconnected.

Accordingly, it is your union's view that this places members at immediate risk of serious harm if they operate these locos. We therefore advised KiwiRail that these locos were to be banned until the system is modified and re-connected.

We understand a further two locos are in Hutt Workshops being modified this week- 5172 and 5241.

NOTE: KiwiRail has advised that until DXC 5287, 5431, 5425 and 5483 have the modification installed reactivating the fire detection equipment they will not operate on the Midland Line.

MRP BROKERS GET COMMISSION DOUBLED IF SHARES SOLD OFFSHORE

The Government's three major brokers will get their commission doubled if they sell shares to overseas investment companies rather than New Zealand institutions, says Labour's SOE spokesperson Clayton Cosgrove.

The Mighty River Power share offer document says the joint lead managers, Goldman Sachs, Macquarie and First NZ Capital, will get 0.4 per cent commission for selling shares to New Zealand institutional investors but get 0.8 per cent commission for share sales to overseas institutional investors.

Clayton Cosgrove says: "National keeps telling us they're putting New Zealanders at the head of the queue. As usual it looks like they're being economical with the truth.

"The three priority brokers will get twice the commission if they sell shares to overseas investors rather than New Zealand institutions.

"The brokers at Goldman Sachs, Macquarie and First NZ Capital aren't stupid. They will put all their effort into selling the shares offshore so they can double their return.

"John Key has assured New Zealanders that 70 per cent of Mighty River Power shares will remain in New Zealand hands. But we now find out he's providing double the incentive for brokers to sell shares offshore.

"With the massive risks surrounding the sale becoming apparent with Tiwai Point, the Government is worried that Kiwis will run scared. National's sole concern is getting a good price for the sale, that's why they're encouraging brokers to sell more shares overseas to keep the price up. That puts more shares in foreign hands.

"We all know that eventually most of these shares will end up overseas. The Government's nonsensical policy appears designed to hasten that outcome," says Clayton Cosgrove.

KR PPE REVIEW

KiwiRail has begun a review of PPE across all the business units.

The primary objective(s) of this project is to identify how PPE is managed including how PPE is identified, what PPE is available, how it is procured, issued and controlled and

reviewed.

The RMTU will be asked to provide input and the report will be presented to the GM Safety and People and Health and Safety Manager by the 31 May 2013.

IAN LEES GALLOWAY AND RUTH DYSON MEET LYTTTELTON PORT DELEGATES

Labour's new Transport Spokesperson, Ian Lees Galloway and Port Hills MP Ruth Dyson met members of the Branch Executive this week. The MP's had had a tour of the port courtesy of management and came to hear our views about issues relating to LPC. The discussion was wide ranging and very useful.

The question of LPC's employment practices at its inland port in Woolston, the so called 'City Depot', was canvassed especially as there has been much media comment about waiting times at Lyttelton and the prospect of an expanded inland port and the potential

**KEEP
OUR
ASSETS**

impact this would have on port workers. We also discussed the threat of local public assets like the port being sold if the National Government gets its way, a threat that our members take very seriously indeed and are prepared to mount a public campaign opposing it, should it ever come to pass.

The MPs were very interested in our thoughts about a national ports strategy and what that might entail. There seemed to be a consensus that the current model is not working and that the foreign owned shipping companies had the whip hand when dealing with New Zealand ports that are forced to compete for trade. That led to a wider discussion about coastal shipping and the notion of an integrated transport strategy that would benefit all New Zealanders, not what we currently have which seems to only benefit the National Government's mates in the road transport industry and shipping companies.

The RMTU has some very articulate and well informed delegates who know that you don't just influence politicians by moaning – you do it by demonstrating you have a broad understanding of the issues and the solutions and you know the value of organising to apply pressure at key points in the political system. We feel that Ian and Ruth were left with the impression that the RMTU can mobilise to fight on the key issues of asset sales and workers' rights and that we also appreciate how the politicians can help us and how we can help them.

Thanks to Andy Kelly, Bruce Baldwin, Stu Marsh, Ray Spain, Paul Dennis and Libi Carr for taking the time and the trouble to meet Ruth and Ian and represent our members' views so well.



ITF – RELEASE TURKISH TRADE UNIONISTS!

The ITF has called for the release of Turkish trade unionists detained under unsubstantiated terrorism-related charges. The detainees, who are due to face their first trial hearing in Ankara tomorrow, include Yunus Akil the former

President of the ITF's bus union BTS and international affairs officer Osman Isci.

The trade unionists were detained in one of several operations targeting members of trade unions affiliated to the public sector union centre KESK, which peacefully supports the basic rights of Kurds. They were arrested alongside 67 other union activists during early morning police raids on 25th June 2012, and have been in custody ever since.

ITF Acting General Secretary Stephen Cotton today declared: "There is no evidence or legal basis for these cases. The four and a half million transport workers in the ITF strongly support their sister unions in Turkey and their eyes are on the Turkish authorities. We urge them to ensure justice is done today, by releasing the detainees. We additionally call on the Turkish state to live up to its obligations, as a member of the international community, and to guarantee the respect of trade union rights and all human rights in Turkey."

A delegation of international trade unionists is in Ankara to observe the trial, including representatives of the ITF's sister global and European federations.

"We send a strong message of support and solidarity to our affiliate BTS, to Yunus Akil and Osman Isci. The ITF is behind them in their fight for workers' rights and justice" Cotton added.

SHORT CAB STRADDLES – LYTTELTON

The Lyttelton Port Company has begun the introduction of short cab straddles to the Container Terminal. There are now 5 straddles operating with shortened cabs and we are advised that new straddles on order are short cab only and the remaining long cab straddles will be altered to short cab and the long cab phased out.

Whilst the shortened cabs mean that if there is a straddle to straddle accident the shortened cab means they will not contact each other, making them operationally safer, there are H&S hazards that have been identified by members.

Union members are angry they have not been consulted with prior to the introduction

of the shortened cabs so that H&S hazards could be identified and dealt with before the cabs were brought onto the patch.

Stu Marsh, RMTU delegate, is organising around the issues with first step being a petition signed by members calling for the Company to halt the alterations to the current long term straddles and engage in a proper consultation process with members before the short cabs are fully commissioned.

In a very short time members have identified a number of operational issues and H&S hazards:

1. Lack of visibility from a shortened cab when loading onto a swing lift truck increasing the risk of damage to container and truck.
2. The shortened cabs are smaller inside which is fine if you're a small person not so good if you are over 6 foot tall and of solid build
3. In order to see properly when positioning a container drivers have to lean forward and down tilting their neck to the side, thus increasing their risk of 'straddle neck'.
4. There is no railing to hold onto on the outside of the cab when climbing in meaning drivers are trying to get into the smaller cab with nothing to hold onto and steady themselves as they climb in.

This is unionism in action, members identify the issues and organise collectively to get results and improve the workplace.

NZEI NATION-WIDE DAY OF ACTION

Saturday, 13 April, Noon Rally against the government's GERM [Global "Education Reform" Movement] agenda e.g. charter schools, league tables, national standards - not to mention the disaster that is Novopay. There are events in all the main centres and many of the smaller ones.

WELLINGTON: Meet at Cenotaph at midday, march to Parliament Grounds for

Rally. Join educators, parents and the community from across the city to stand up for kids and protect our schools.

<http://www.facebook.com/events/172655626220901/>

FAREWELL GRAEME

The RMTU recently fare welled long standing delegate and union member Graeme Monk who after nearly 41 years of service with LPC is retiring. Graeme, Mike Tasker and Gavin Lockton - all RMTU delegates started at the Port at the same time and Graeme still has the newspaper clipping with their names welcoming the three of them to starting work at the Harbour Board.

Graeme intends to watch the operations of the Port from his front porch in Lyttelton with a wee glass of something in his hand. Mike Tasker Lyttelton Branch President provides the lemons for Graeme's preferred tippie gin and tonic.

The RMTU presented Graeme with two bottles of his favourite gin at Graeme's farewell do held at the Top Club on 5th April and when we can get Graeme, Gavin and Mike together we will be taking a few photos of these staunch and long serving unionists for the Transport Worker.

HOSPITAL CATERING CONTRACT COLD COMFORT FOR PATIENTS AND WORKERS

Patients in our public hospitals face being fed TV-style, reheated dinners, transported hundreds of miles as the Government looks to contract out the supply of hospital meals to a multi-national company, says Labour's Health spokesperson Annette King.

"Catering giant, Compass, which already supplies meals to a number of hospitals in New Zealand has been given the green light as preferred provider to expand its service

to each of the country's DHBs, with a 15-year contract.

"It will see the production of all hospital meals undertaken in just two main cities -



Auckland and Christchurch – and the loss of some 1000 jobs.

Labour's spokesperson on Labour issues, Darien Fenton, said such a mass layoff of food service workers would hit hard.

"At the same time the Government is planning to reduce rights for workers like these under the Employment Relations Act, leaving them without even basic protection. This will come as a double blow.

"It's not the first time large scale contracting out has been tried in our public hospitals. The last time was in the 1990s when Australian company Tempo DNC left town under a cloud after they over-extended their business. In the collapse workers, suppliers and taxpayers were all left out on a limb."

"Compass has been linked to the UK's horsemeat scandal, with horse DNA found in products it provided to hospitals and schools.

"It appears Mr Ryall knows the cost of everything, but the value of nothing. If quality is only measured in jobs destroyed and money saved, then it seems sick New Zealanders will be receiving second-rate care."

BURSTING AT THE SEAMS

LPC continues to bulge at the seams with space at an absolute capacity. This is a good problem to have because we're talking about growth of the business which means jobs. A recent article in the Christchurch Press detailed the frustrations of truck drivers who state they have long waiting times to get their load in or out of the Port.

The reclamation is growing by the day but given the land needs to sit for 7 years before it can be used LPC is going to need to find space for the business well before then.

We have seen LPC purchase the Inland Port and that too, is bulging at the seams constrained by a lack of physical space. We anticipate that LPC will be looking for more

land somewhere within Christchurch for another Inland Port.

Which brings us to the Inland Port\City Depot case that the RMTU has taken (twice now) once to the Employment Relations Authority where we won the argument that LPC employees who are union members employed at the Inland Port are entitled to be covered by the Collective Agreement.

LPC appealed this decision and we went to the Employment Court in February this year to argue the case again. We await the decision from the judge.

As long as there are workers employed by the same employer, doing the same or substantially similar work to you, but on lesser terms and conditions your terms and condition are at risk.

It is our job as unionists (notwithstanding that it is in our own interests) to bring everyone up to the best possible terms and conditions.

If we don't and we ignore a growing group of our fellow workers on worse terms and conditions than us then without a doubt the employer's eye will eventually turn to our better terms and conditions.

They will ask, "Why am I paying a premium for this group of workers when I have another group over here doing the same for less?"

And then the fight will begin....workers to preserve terms and conditions, the employer to push everyone onto the lesser terms and conditions.

The RMTU are committed to organising and improving the terms and conditions of working people. The Inland Port/City Depot case is a clear demonstration this.

MOBIE'S REPORT IS A WASTE OF PAPER

The Ministry of Business Innovation and Employment's report into the Pike River tragedy is nothing more than a waste of paper, the Green Party said today.



Safety matters

The report found 'systemic failures' and 'inaction' that contributed to the Pike River Mine Disaster from the old Department of Labour and Ministry of Economic Development. Despite these findings no-one will be held accountable.

"We didn't need yet another report into the Pike River tragedy," West Coast based Green Party MP Kevin Hague said today.

"The Royal Commission on the Pike River coal mine tragedy has already provided a comprehensive and well-respected report.

"This report from the Ministry of Business Innovation and Employment is way, way too late. The Department of Labour, which was responsible for health and safety, should have investigated its own failings at the same time as they were investigating the managers of Pike River Coal for prosecution.

"This report has all the hallmarks of putting together a report so as to be seen to be doing something.

"The report's failure to identify anyone to hold responsible, at either the former Department of Labour or Ministry of Economic Development, is typical of its complete cultural failure to take responsibility for ensuring health and safety.

"The changes made to New Zealand's health and safety framework in 1992 which put the onus onto companies, such as Pike River Coal, for providing workers safety, can be directly linked to this tragedy.

"The full implementation of the Royal

Commissions recommendation's, including a stand-alone crown agency are essential to protecting workers safety.

"The Green Party will continue to monitor how the Royal Commissions' recommendations are implemented," Mr Hague said.

ICE FOUND IN MELBOURNE CONTAINER

More than \$200m worth of methamphetamine (ICE) has been found in a shipping container in the port of Melbourne. Two people have been arrested in relation to the importation of methamphetamine - Credit Shutterstock Customers and Border protection(CBP), acting on information provided by the Australian Crime Commission (ACC), discovered methamphetamine in 96

bottles labelled as carpet stain cleaner in a box imported from Hong Kong.

BITS AND BOB'S

On Tuesday MUNZ and RMTU officials met with the German deputy head of mission to hand over an ITF Affiliate letter protesting the behaviour of 30% German Govt owned DHL in Turkey. We were given a good reception.

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

"WE'RE STRONGER TOGETHER"!



GOOD, SAFE JOBS IN FORESTRY



**FIRST
UNION**
Putting Workers First



NEW ZEALAND COUNCIL OF TRADE UNIONS
Te Kaitiaki Kaitiaki

