

THE ACTIVIST



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NATIONAL PRESIDENT – BALLOT RESULT

The postal ballot result for National president which was conducted in accordance with the Rule 42 of the Union Rules and Standing Orders are as follows:

Ballot papers issued: 4720

Returned: 1020

Total ballot return rate 21.61%

Invalid: 5 (0.49%)

Kurene, Kasia - 466 (46.69%)

Wilkinson, Aubrey - 549 (53.82%)

MR AUBREY WILKINSON IS DECLARED ELECTED

Signed:

Howard Phillips

NATIONAL RETURNING OFFICER

DUNEDIN RAILWAYS DISPUTE

Once again, we are experiencing some difficulty with Dunedin Railways again who, for reasons best known to themselves, are targeting six platform staff – our lowest paid members – and an LE for a reduction in their customary hours over the winter. The cost saving is minimal at a time when the company's interim report is very bullish and four of the six members are women, including the LE!

We are exploring our legal options to challenge this and a petition is circulating via social media. We are also encouraging members and their families and friends to write to the CEO of Dunedin Railways

asking that the Company reconsider. Please back our members at Dunedin Railways and get active in their support.

NATIONAL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE – NOMINATIONS CALL - RESULT

(This notice includes receipt of the withdrawal advice from Brian Byas for the South Island Port Rep position)

The General Secretary has been appointed by the NMC as Acting National Returning Officer for the NMC Ballot process as conference appointed National Returning Officer, Howard Phillips, holds a contested position in this election cycle.

At the close of nominations (Monday 24 April 2017 at 1700hrs) there were Four NMC positions that received only one nomination and therefore those four nominees are declared elected unopposed.

Congratulations to:

- Auckland Rail Rep – William "Bill" Sweeney
- North Island Port Rep – David "Dave" Marden
- Women's Rep – Ruth Blakeley
- South Island Port Rep – Andy Kelly.

More than one nomination was received for the positions of;

North Island Rail Rep – John Keenan, Tim Kerwin and Les Perrin.

Wellington Rail Rep – Howard Phillips and Telai Sefesi.



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

South Island Rail Rep – Doug Blakie and Mike Williams.

A postal ballot of members within the voting constituency for each representative position will be conducted. The Preferential Voting System is used by the Union in any ballot with more than two (2) candidates. This will be the voting method for the North Island Rail position as there are three nominees for this position. The other positions will be voting "first past the post" ballot.

It is anticipated that Postal Ballots will be issued from the National Office to the home address of those financial members in the North Island Rail, Wellington Rail and South Island Rail regions eligible to vote on or before 5 May 2017 and must be received in the envelope provided at National Office no later than 1700hrs on Friday 2 June 2017.

If you have not updated your address to the RMTU National Office since changing your place of residence then please update your details on the Union website or email to admin@rmtunion.org.nz or fax to 04 4710896 or call 04-4992066 to talk to a member of staff to ensure you receive your voting paper.

Congratulations to Bill, Dave and Ruth on your successful re-election and good luck in the ballot process to all the aspiring nominees.

Signed:

Wayne Butson
Acting National
Returning Officer

DFB 7267 RED CARDED

A trained RMTU H&S Representative is a fearless champion for workplace safety. This is borne out by a recent email from one of our reps that we received.

"This email is to notify KiwiRail that as a trained health and safety representative I believe there is a serious risk of harm to

on-board staff and passengers associated with operating loco DFB 7267. I am directing workers to red card (cease operating) the DFB 7267 on the grounds of safety.

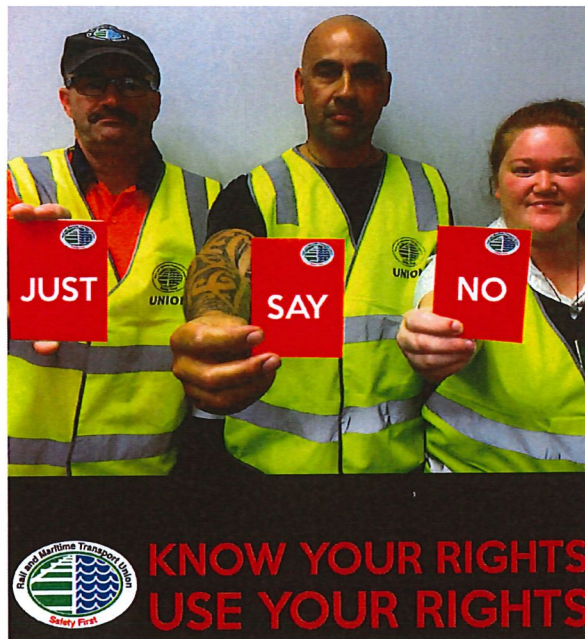
There have been incidences recently including two incidents yesterday when the loco suddenly lost power, dumped air and went into an emergency brake application. This caused the loco to come to an abrupt stop. This occurred twice both within the Rimutaka tunnel and again at Woodside. Additionally train control was not automatically alerted following the emergency brake application inside Rimutaka tunnel. I consider this risk to passengers and on board staff is so serious (particularly if the loco stops inside Rimutaka tunnel or on a bridge) that DFB 7267 should be out of service until the faults are adequately addressed. Currently LE's have lost trust and confidence in DFB 7267 to function safely".

EMPLOYER FACEBOOK PAGES, CAVEAT EMPTOR!

Facebook posts by workers have had serious implications for their employment. Most employers have IT policies that can mean what you post can be held against you. We now see employers starting Facebook pages and inviting workers to join. Clearly that would not be the place to have a rant but also by liking, friending or joining these pages, it does open up individuals Facebook pages to employers. You pages may have old or

current content that you may not want your boss snooping around at.

One option is to have a Facebook profile/log on for specific purposes, like a work FB profile and a private FB profile and never the twain shall meet.



RAIL AND MARITIME WORKERS MARK WORKERS MEMORIAL DAY TOMORROW IN EVENTS ACROSS THE COUNTRY

The Rail and Maritime Transport Union (RMTU) is marking Workers' Memorial Day on April 28 at events across the country, including unveiling a new memorial in Kawerau dedicated to workers who never made it home.

"Workers' Memorial Day is where New Zealanders up and down the country pay tribute to those who lost their life on the job," said RMTU General Secretary Wayne Butson.

Every year 50-60 people are killed in a work incident and 600-900 more die early deaths as a result of work-related ill-health.

"For our members today takes on special significance. We've lost a lot of mates over the last couple years, from both accidents on the job and from early deaths after exposure to chemicals like asbestos. Today is when we stop to acknowledge their lives and the families they left behind."

"The message on Workers' Memorial Day is especially important this year. Over the last fortnight 7 people lost their lives on the job," said Butson.

Events are taking place up and down the country tomorrow with Wayne Butson helping unveil a new workers' memorial in Kawerau alongside local mayor Malcolm Campbell at noon and members of the Pike River families attending RMTU events on the West Coast at the Union Hotel and in Christchurch at the memorial gardens on Gasson Street.

"No one should clock on at work and never come home. Every working person is entitled to safety at work," said Butson.

LYTTELTON PORT SUCCESSFUL DELEGATE SEMINAR

We had an excellent turnout at our delegate seminar held on 6th April. The day was devoted to preparation for this year's bargaining round with commences in early July prior to expiry of the RMTU-LPC Waterfront Collective Agreement on 7th September.

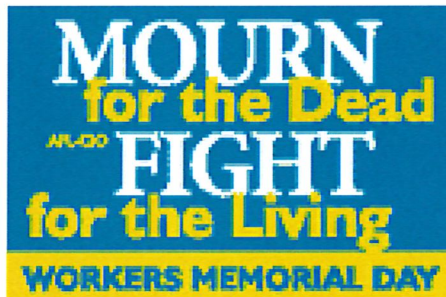
Representatives from all the major departments covered by the collective agreement attended and we covered a range of possible approaches to bargaining: including positional, strategic and interest based bargaining styles. We also learned some analytical techniques to apply in handling negotiations. There was some lively debate and stimulating debate and the delegates reached a solid consensus on the following:

- There can be no reductions in terms and conditions as a result of this bargaining round
- Remits for bargaining will be called for in early May. The remits will be prioritised by the delegate team on the basis of whether they are deeply

and widely felt – i.e. how many people back a remit and are they prepared to take action to support it. We will hold a full branch meeting in June to endorse the remits that delegates propose

forming the log of claims.

- The RMTU will be in a position to commence bargaining as soon as we have initiated in early July.



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 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.

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!**

TUNNELS UPDATE

KiwiRail has notified Worksafe that they are complying with the Worksafe Improvement notice to provide self contained self rescuers (SCSR's) to all tunnels greater than 1000metres. This improvement notice is separate from the notice to introduce CABA into Otira Tunnel.

KiwiRail has procured sufficient Draeger SCSR for provision to all KR staff and divisions of the KR business such as Operations, Network Services, and KR Passenger etc. that operate within tunnels on the KR network, including tunnels greater than 1,000m in length.

KR has completed the SCSR training for all Network Services staff that operates in tunnels greater than 1,000m in length.

KR will have completed the SCSR training for all Operations staff that operate in tunnels greater than 1,000m in length by 11 May 2017.

Transdev have not provided SCSR's to LE's or on-board staff at this stage. This will be an item of discussion at the next Lower North Island focus group meeting being held on the 9th of May.

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

SAFETY FIRST!





Worker's Memorial Day

28 April 2017

RMTU members are asked to stop work at midday for one minute and to remember their comrades who fell on the battlefield of the workplace.

28 April is International Worker's Memorial Day when we remember those working people who didn't return home after work but died on the job in an industrial accident. We also remember those who were slowly poisoned to death by industrial toxic exposure.

**JOIN YOUR
COLLEAGUES
IN A SHOW OF
STRENGTH AND
SOLIDARITY**



The RMTU is arranging appropriate services at worksites throughout the country which you are encouraged to attend.

SERVICES

- **Auckland** – Westfield railway depot at midday.
- **Kawerau**, at noon a new plaque will be unveiled by Mayor Malcolm Campbell. Rob McAlpine (GM Freight, KiwiRail) and Wayne Butson (GS RMTU) will attend and speak.
- **Waikato** at the memorial site by the loco depot at Te Rapa at midday.
- **Napier port** at the Port's south end at 10am. Speakers include industrial chaplain, Marty Rochfort, Garth Cowie, Viv Bull and Adam Harvey.
- **Hutt Workshops** at 11:30am followed by a sausage sizzle at noon. Peter Reidy, Andrew Little, Hazel Armstrong and Ginny Anderson will be attending.
- **Palmerston North** at 11.30am at the KiwiRail depot.
- **Nelson port** at 1300. The service will be led by Steve Bosecke followed by a social drink at 1700 at the Prince Albert, Nile Street, Nelson.
- **Christchurch** at the Memorial Gardens, Gasson St at 11.30 for noon.
- **West Coast** at the Union Hotel at midday.
- **Otago** at the Masonic Hall, Dunedin. Gathering from 11.15.
- **Invercargill**, City Council's Workers Memorial site at 3pm. Mayor Tim Shadbolt will speak.

Last year 59 New Zealand workers didn't come home - this year we have already lost two in our ports. NO MORE!