

THE ACTIVIST



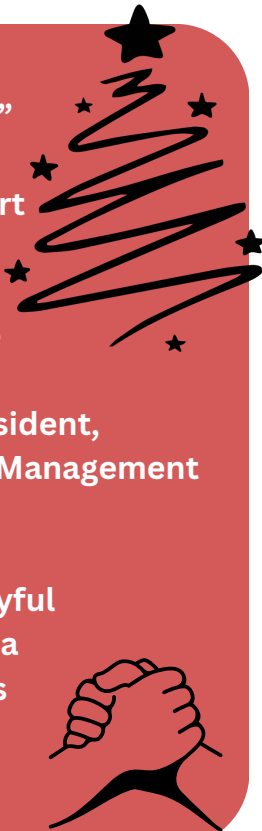
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Season's Greetings,
Here is our last "The Activist"
newsletter for 2025.

Our December "The Transport
Worker" magazine is at the
printers now, so hopefully it
lands in the Branches before
Christmas.

On behalf of the Union's President,
General Secretary, National Management
Committee and Staff,
we wish all members and
their families a happy and joyful
Christmas. We also wish you a
healthy, safe and prosperous
2026.

Todd Valster

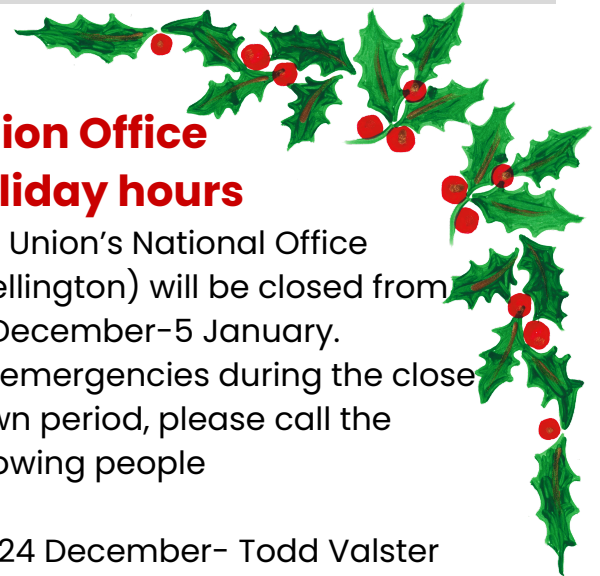


Union Office holiday hours

The Union's National Office
(Wellington) will be closed from
22 December–5 January.
For emergencies during the close
down period, please call the
following people

22-24 December– Todd Valster
ph 0274 454 691. Email
tvalster@rmtunion.org.nz

25 December– 5 January '26
Northern Organiser Shirley Horne
ph: 027 246 4961.
email: shirleyh@rmtunion.org.nz



KiwiRail fined more than \$200,000 after worker seriously injured in fall

KiwiRail was sentenced at Whanganui
District Court on 20 November 2025.
Judge Davidson imposed a fine of \$220,000
and reparations of \$28,500.

KiwiRail was charged under the Health and
Safety at Work Act 2015 for failing to
manage the risk of working at height on the
Oclyte telecommunications pole. Issues
included no risk assessment, and climbing
pegs on the pole had been incorrectly
installed. To read the media article go to the
Radio NZ website [here](#)



Check out the December '25 Transport Worker



Correction regarding RMTU constitution

Members are advised that a clerical error was identified in the RMTU Constitution, following ratification at the RMTU online AGM October 8th 2025

- 1) The ratified Constitution states our name as "Rail and Maritime Transport RMTU Incorporated
- 2) The Constitution should read "Rail and Maritime Transport Union RMTU Incorporated"

You are notified that the intention is to fix this error, and that you have the right to object by emailing admin@rmtunion.org.nz by Wednesday 24th December 2025

KiwiRail / RMTU Multi Employer Collective Agreement (MECA) 2025 – 2027



The MECA 2025-27 has been printed in hardcopy. KiwiRail are sending copies out to the depots and terminals. The MECA can also be found on the RMTU website . Click [here](#) to download the MECA.

Who's winning and losing with National's changes to Kiwisaver?



To find out visit the *"Locked out"* podcast on Youtube by Economist Craig Renny.



[Click here to see the podcast or go to the RMTU website](#)



[Update your contact details with the RMTU by clicking here.](#)



Auckland!

On 25 and 26 November 2025, we had our last delegate training in Auckland for the year. We had a great turnout of KiwiRail delegates, both new and old. On 26 November, we had our Health and Safety training with Karen Fletcher (Health and Safety Organiser/Assistant General Secretary), going through the Health and Safety course. If you are interested in the course, please let us know, and we will put your name in for the 2026 courses.

To all of our members who are working in the metro during the block of line, please be safe!



Delegate H&S training in Auckland recently

A big anniversary

2026 will mark the seventy fifth anniversary of the 1951 Waterfront lock out; this will make it a year to reflect on the battle fought by our Unions about things that are still important to this day. The Watersiders were locked out for a grueling one hundred and fifty-one days, laws were passed to stop union members congregating, people could not feed or support a locked-out union member. This only a few years after fascism was defeated in Europe. Many of our Watersiders were veterans. Our Railway unions and the miners went out in support and times were bleak. Look for the article next year in the Transport Worker and let's take the time to remember those who have gone before us and fought for the rights of workers!

Northland Rail Branch!

We are currently looking for the following positions to be filled!

Branch Chairman!
Delegates!
Health and Safety Reps!
If you or someone you know/believe can represent you, please fill out a nomination form!



What to expect next Year?

Next year looks like it will be a big one for both the union and the country, it is of course an election year. A time to reflect on all the shocking changes to laws, all the cuts to jobs and funding, tax cuts that don't change anything. The ruthless treatment of our manufacturing and construction sectors that have so much affected our supply chains. The cost of living pressures and the effects on our lifestyles. The constant talent drain of New Zealanders heading overseas. We can only encourage you all to make sure that you are enrolled to vote and cast a vote for a better NZ.

[Click here to enroll to vote.](#)



**Press Release from NZ Council of Trade Unions
Employment bill is worst attack on workers
in decades. Issued 9 December '25**



The NZCTU Te Kauae Kaimahi is condemning select committee changes to the Employment Relations Amendment Bill, which would give bad employers an even greater ability to exploit workers.

“This legislation is one of the most anti-worker bills in New Zealand history, and shockingly the Bill as reported back from select committee will make life for workers even worse than the original draft,” said NZCTU President Sandra Grey.

“These changes threaten every single worker in Aotearoa. No one is safe from the erosion of rights and conditions that this Bill enables.

“Brooke van Velden drafted aspects of the Bill to please corporate lobbyists for multinationals like Uber, and now following the Supreme Court win for the Uber drivers the Government has made changes that will prevent those workers from achieving any justice.

“The personal grievance changes are also trying to tie the courts hands and prevent them from establishing justice for workers. They entrench power imbalances and leave workers facing unjustified dismissal with no statutory protection. The select committee did nothing to improve these provisions.

“This Bill removes the 30-day rule, which is another attempt undermine unions. Removing the rule, which gives workers the automatic protection of a collective agreement for the first 30 days in a new job, will encourage employers to exploit workers when they are at their most vulnerable.

“The Bill is antithetical to workers’ rights and represents the worst attack on workers since the Employment Contracts Act in the 90s. Workers will not forget this at the ballot box next year,” said Grey.

Stay safe out there.

