

THE ACTIVIST



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August 2026

Message from the Gen Sec

It was great news to hear that LPC will no longer be long term leased. What an outstanding job the the RMTU and MUNZ teams, along with supportive community groups, have undertaken to win this essential campaign, they can be incredibly proud of this work.

August is the time for our Branch Annual General Meetings (AGM's).

An AGM pack has been sent to all current Branch Secretaries to assist with these AGM's.

If any branch has not set their AGM date, then please do so as soon as possible.

To lower the costs of flights, we need your Branch Conference Delegates and Observers to register online at the earliest opportunity.

I look forward to attending as many AGM's as I can.

A RMTU working group has been meeting with MUNZ representatives several times this year to discuss a potential amalgamation of our two unions. To date we have arranged to get our constitutions compared for similarities and differences, we have also discussed potential structures. A future meeting is planned for late August.

Stay safe out there.

Todd Valster



RMTU, MUNZ and Community successfully fight off privatisation of Lyttelton Port

Last week, Christchurch authorities announced they have rejected a bid from global port operator DP World and local rūnanga to lease operations at Lyttelton Port Company.

In June, a consortium of Dubai-based multi-national DP World and three Ngāi Tahu rūnanga made the proposal to Christchurch City Council to take over the operations of Lyttelton Port on a long-term basis.

Although pitched as a way to bring investment to the port without actually selling it, the unions and the local community warned that the proposal amounted to privatisation in all but name, pointing also to DP World's concerning record overseas. The Unions worked with local community to oppose the bid.

RMTU Lyttelton Port Branch Secretary, Mark Wilson spoke on the podcast 'public interest' about the proposal and the risks including weaker public accountability and profits flowing offshore. You can watch it or listen on Spotify. [LINK HERE](#)



Please sign the open letter to stop the passing of the Health and Safety Amendment Bill.

The fight continues to ditch the changes to the Health and Safety at Work Act that will reduce workers' rights to a safe and healthy workplace. The implementation of the stripped back law has been postponed until April 2027, meaning only a change of Government will see the changes abandoned.

Show your support to ditch the Health & Safety Amendment law by [signing the petition here](#)



Pike River families- Anna Osbourne and Sonya Rockhouse spoke at Parliament urging the Government to ditch the widely condemned changes to Health and Safety law

Update on Khandallah incident



Hard to believe but it has been over six weeks since this incident and the Wellington region continues to reel from the fallout.

There are three investigations ongoing at the moment in relation to this incident TAIC, NZTA and the employer. None of which are close to resolution and all will take time to complete.

The immediate impact is to concentrate on SPAD's in Wellington and ways to eliminate them. With most controls being at a low level and reliant on workers not making mistakes, our members are feeling the heat.

Train managers are being held accountable for giving right of way if the signal is not green and have been receiving written warnings for these infringements. We do not believe that a punitive approach will solve the SPAD issue anywhere in the country.

Meanwhile the crew continue to recover with both members recovering from head injuries and concussion. The road to recovery will be a long one for these two individuals and we wish them all the best for that recovery.

We are providing support for these members both pastoral and legal.

C3 Tauranga Bargaining Remits Closing

C3 Tauranga bargaining remits close this Friday. Members are encouraged to submit now. Site delegates will meet next week to review remits and confirm a united position for negotiations.

Port Nelson

Interesting times as we work on holding the company accountable for upholding the agreed ordering guidelines. PNL are reticent to share data that prove what is happening. If there is nothing to hide surely there is no need to hide behind the skirts of the Privacy Act.

The Privacy Act is designed to protect individuals private information for the purposes of identifying them. When we seek information from the employer we must act in good faith and only use it for the purpose it was provided, when and how members are ordered for shifts is not a Privacy Act situation.

But no hard feelings we are seeking the permission of all affected members in order to facilitate the release of this information. Should be no problem if there is nothing to hide!

Negotiations Underway at Centreport

We have kicked off negotiations at Centreport as the RMTU seeks renewal of the employment agreement with Wellington's port. This agreement is a Multi Union Employment Agreement (MUCA) and we are partnering with MUNZ and E tu with this agreement.

We look forward to a quick negotiation with a positive out come for all the unions' members.

Bay of Plenty Port Branch Strengthens Committee Representation

The RMTU Bay of Plenty Port Branch has strengthened its leadership by electing ten additional Branch Committee members at a Special Meeting held on 11 June 2026. The expansion ensures stronger representation across C3 Limited, Qube Ports NZ, and Port of Tauranga, while providing the branch with greater capacity to support members working across multiple sites and shift patterns. All nominations were declared elected unopposed in accordance with RMTU Rules and Policy. The move reflects the branch's ongoing commitment to building a strong, active union by encouraging members to step into leadership roles and ensuring the committee is well placed to represent members, respond to workplace issues, and continue growing union strength across the Bay of Plenty port sector.

Bay of Plenty Delegate Training

Delegate training across the Bay of Plenty has been delivered over the past few months, strengthening skills in health and safety, representation, and workplace risk management. On the back of this programme, invitations were extended for delegates to attend the Preventing and Managing Fatigue course in Mount Maunganui, further linking delegate development with practical fatigue risk awareness.

Preventing and Managing Fatigue – Bay of Plenty Training

Fourteen workers from KiwiRail, C3 Limited, Port of Tauranga and Qube Ports took part in a Preventing and Managing Fatigue course in Mount Maunganui last week, facilitated by Karen Fletcher.

Fatigue remains one of the most significant risks in port and rail operations. As the training manual notes, "Fatigue is a state of physical and/or mental exhaustion... [that] reduces alertness. This may lead to errors, and an increase in workplace incidents and injuries." With unpredictable shipping schedules, long workdays, broken shifts, and night work, the port and rail environments is especially vulnerable.

The session covered sleep debt, circadian rhythm disruption, and practical tools for identifying and managing fatigue. Maritime NZ's 2026 Maritime NZ's (the regulator) Position Statement was also discussed, reinforcing that fatigue is a recognised hazard and that PCBU's must manage it "so far as reasonably practicable" under the Health and safety at Work Act.

A strong focus was placed on the role of Health and Safety Representatives, including how to raise concerns, make recommendations, and intervene when fatigue presents an immediate risk.

Bringing three companies together strengthened shared understanding and reinforced that effective fatigue management is a collective responsibility across the port and rail community.

OCCUPATIONAL CANCERS FOR FIREFIGHTERS, LAUNCHED BY THE GREENS



New Zealand's firefighters are celebrating Greens MP Mike Davidson's legislation Bill recognising the link between occupational cancer and workplace exposure of firefighters. The NZ Professional Fire fighters union has been working with Mike Davidson MP to get the Bill to this stage. The Bill recognises 21 cancers for both career and volunteer firefighters exposed to the hazards of a fire scene. The Bill extends that protection to fire investigators who are exposed to the off-gassing of toxic structure fires. The NZPFU membership is celebrating this significant and historic step. They said in their press release, "*We cannot overstate the significance of this Bill for generations of firefighters to come!*"

The NZPFU is calling on all political parties to put firefighters' health before partisan politics to get this Bill on the agenda and passed! Cross-party support is needed to get the Bill to its first reading and through a select committee process before being passed.



RMTU Port and Rail Delegates & Health and Safety Reps talking fatigue risk management in Mt Maunganui

GET INVOLVED

**NZ Council of Trade Unions (NZCTU)
Election Education – Delegate forums.
Click on the dates below to register**



RMTU members can join us in a series of one-hour free online sessions designed to support and strengthen their work. A range of causes are available, so there's something relevant for different roles and interests. If you're a delegate, talk to your organiser to about signing up for a session that fits your kaupapa.

**What this Government has taken
from Workers 5 August, 10-11am**

Join John Crocker, CTU Legal Counsel as he outlines all the anti-worker legislation that the current government has passed in only one term.

**Why Campaigns
26 August, 6:30-7:30pm**

Join Sandra Grey, CTU President for an online session on 'Why Campaigns'. We will be exploring the rationale for union campaigns looking at recent NZ examples including equal pay, health and safety, and fair pay agreements.

**Developing Campaigns
2 September, 6:30-7:30pm**

Join Sandra Grey, CTU President for an online session on 'Developing Campaigns'. We will be exploring our organising responses, examining specific issues facing women, Māori and Pasifika; and learning from successful case studies.

**Campaigning Skills
16 September, 6:30-7:30pm**

Join Sandra Grey, CTU President for an online session on 'Campaigning skills'. We will be developing participants skills using simulated scenario.

The Future Is Rail

The future is rail webinar- 19 August at 7pm.

The pro-rail lobby group 'Future is rail' is hosting an online webinar on 19 August at 7pm. It's called "Quick Start Guide for Rail. A practical plan to get New Zealand's rail moving. Discover the actions needed to unlock rail's full potential, connect communities, and seize the opportunity for a smarter, more sustainable transport future." [Click here to register your interest in attending a webinar](#)

Time for Change

The recent changes to the Holiday Act are a direct blow to workers.

Despite government claims that these amendments are good for the economy, they undermine the rights, security, and well-being of working people across the country.



Less Paid Leave for Workers

Workers will lose paid holidays they relied on.

More unpaid or flexible leave means less time to rest, recover, and be with family. This hurts our work-life balance and quality of life.

More Power to Employers, Less for Us

Employers now decide when we take our holidays, leaving us powerless to plan time off. This imbalance strips away our rights and erodes our job satisfaction.

Risk of Working for Free

Some holidays can now be unpaid or swapped away.

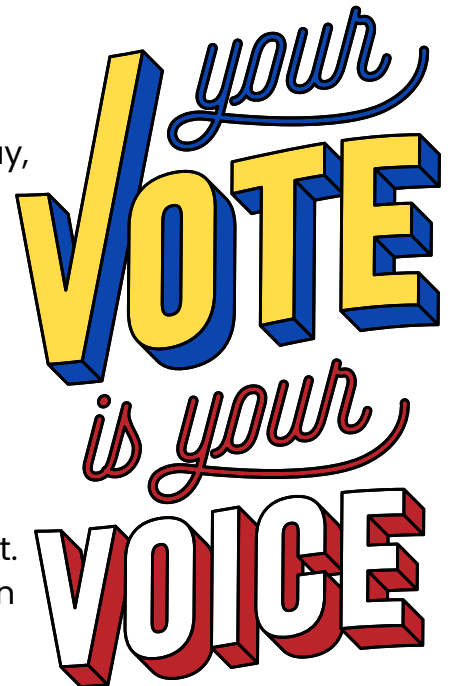
This means we could work more days for the same pay, losing the value of our hard-earned benefits.

Worst for the Most Vulnerable

Casual, part-time, and low-income workers and those who still have penal rates will suffer most because the act will mean they are being paid less!

We All Lose Out

Losing guaranteed time off leads to stress and burnout. In the end, everyone suffers: workers, families, and even employers as morale and productivity drop.



Conclusion

These changes may help businesses, but they hurt us as workers. We deserve better. It's time to demand fair treatment and protection of our rights.

What can we do?

Let's stand together and speak out. We cannot accept a law that puts profit above people. Our voices matter—let's fight for the rights we all deserve.

Suffrage Day 2026
133 Years of Women's Right to Vote in NZ
Thursday 17 September 2026



Event Details

Date: Thursday 17 September 2026

Time: 12.00pm – 1.00pm

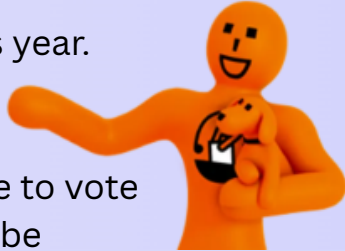
Location: Central Wellington

Dress: Purple, green and white for suffrage or bright and colourful if this works better for you!

The event will begin at Midland Park, Wellington followed by a procession of 133 women—symbolising the 133 years since New Zealand women won the right to vote—to Parliament. At Parliament, political parties will speak about their commitments to advancing gender equality and delivering for women, including on issues such as pay equity. Get in touch with kfletcher@rmtunion.org.nz if you would like to be in the procession. RMTU has 3 spots allocated to us.

Be ready to vote on 7 November-Election day

It'll be election day before we know it and unlike other years where you could enrol to vote on the day, that's not the case this year.



To be eligible to vote you need to be registered on the electoral roll with the correct address by **25 October** before the advance voting starts.

To enrol, update or check your details on the NZ electoral roll, you can: visit www.vote.nz or call 0800 36 76 56 and you need to update your details every time you move house.

Union Representation

Reminder, if are required to attend a meeting with your employer, BRING a union support person!



In case you missed it check out the RMTU Transport Worker Magazine.



The RMTU Transport Worker June 2026



If you've moved house or changed your email or phone number, please update your contact details with the RMTU so you receive important union information. [Click here.](#)

Stay Safe out there.

