

NEW ZEALAND MERCHANT SERVICE GUILD IUOW I

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NEWSLETTER

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Collective Agreements

Negotiations have concluded for Silver Fern Ltd, a new collective agreement with Stewart Island Experience, Port of Napier pilots, Strait Shipping Ltd, the Offshore Multi Employer Collective Agreement, Ports of Auckland Marine Services, Ports of Auckland pilots, and Primeport Timaru pilots.

Negotiations are underway for a new collective agreement covering Black Cat Ferries in Lyttelton and Akaroa, and bargaining is continuing with Niwa, Leonhardt and Blumberg, Port of Napier Tugs and Launchmasters, and Ports of Auckland for the Harbour Control collective agreement.

Coastal Shipping

It is still not clear whether the previous Government's *Sea change* initiative for coastal shipping and maritime workforce has been adopted by the new government. A Workforce Development meeting set for 19 February has been 'postponed' without further date as yet.

Meanwhile the Immigration Service continues to issue work permits for foreign officers without checking whether New Zealand citizens or permanent residents are available for the work, or whether the employer concerned demonstrates any commitment to training and employing New Zealanders. This issue is becoming critical in the context of the current economic situation and considerable effort goes into lobbying on this matter.

The Guild has provided comment for the drafting of a CTU paper to be submitted at the upcoming Jobs Summit. The paper calls on all sectors to work constructively to minimise the impact of the recession on jobs. The CTU says it believes in jobs for New Zealand citizens or permanent residents first. The following is an extract from the paper.

“With rising unemployment levels, the CTU believes there is a need to re-evaluate the robustness of labour market testing processes across all immigration policies to ensure they are effectively assessing the potential for New Zealand workers to do the work. This may require a focus on training needs if New Zealanders could do the work given training opportunities.

An adaptation of the Recognised Seasonal Employers (RSE) scheme needs to be considered for New Zealand employers and workers and the provisions that are available under this scheme (e.g. subsidised transport) need to be considered for New Zealand workers to take advantage of seasonal employment work outside of their region.”

The full text of the paper can be viewed by following the NZCTU link of the Guild website, www.nzmsg.co.nz

Coastal shipping cont....

The maritime unions are currently in dispute with Pacifica over conditions of employment on its new vessel *Spirit of Endurance*. The company has refused to accept that the vessel is covered by the existing collective agreement and instead proposes a third world agreement which does not guarantee permanence or equal time off. Legal proceeding will be instigated by the unions if no progress is made this week.

Attendance at General Meetings

Attendance is improving but still low at Wellington meetings despite the change to Second Friday Every Month in order to accommodate the current rail ferry rosters. Please ensure that dates for the coming year are displayed on the vessel, and that newer members are given encouragement to attend.

and finally.....Meeting venues and dates

Auckland: meetings are held on the first Friday of every month (except January or public holidays), and are held in the Aviation & Marine Engineers premises on the first floor Administrator House, 44 Anzac Avenue, commencing at 0930 hours on the following dates:

Friday 6 March, Friday 3 April, Friday 1 May, Friday 5 June, Friday 3 July, Friday 7 August, Friday 4 September, Friday 2 October, Friday 6 November and final meeting for the year Friday 4 December 2009.

Wellington: meetings are held on the second Friday of every month (except January or public holidays) at the Guild premises on the 6th floor, 94 Dixon Street, Wellington commencing at 0930 hours on the following dates:

Friday 13 March, Friday 10 March, Friday 8 May, Friday 12 June, Friday 10 July, Friday 14 August, Friday 11 September, Friday 9 October, Friday 13 November , with the final meeting for the year on 11 December 2009.