



NEW ZEALAND MERCHANT SERVICE GUILD IUOW Inc

Helen McAra - General Secretary
helenm@nzmsg.co.nz

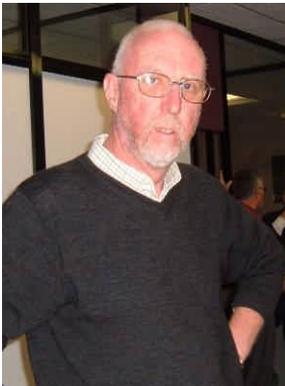
Sarah Dench - Organiser
sarahd@nzmsg.co.nz

PO Box 11878, Wellington
ph 64 4 382 9131
Fax 64 4 382 9106

NEWSLETTER

JUNE 2010

Guild President Retires from Office



Captain Michael Webb In February this year, Captain Michael ("Comrade") Webb announced his intention to retire this year from the office of President. Mike served 10 years in the role, having taken up the position in 2000. His original intention was for it to be a "short stint", but when General Secretary, John McLeod, decided to retire in 2002 after 30 years with the Guild, Mike kindly agreed to stay on for another term to provide continuity for the incoming General Secretary. And that he certainly did. In the first few years after the end of the McLeod era, Mike gave enormous moral support and camaraderie, and accompanied the new General Secretary to many turbulent meetings with ship owners and port companies, offering perspective, historical context, pithy humour, and technical maritime advice, acting as a sounding board more than once. He took a wide perspective of the union's role, and nurtured its image both locally and internationally. He took an especially keen interest in meeting the needs of the membership in Fiordland, travelling there often to attend contract negotiations or when disputes arose. The presence of such an experienced mariner was invaluable to the members and union alike.

Comrade Webb took his Presidential role very seriously, making unfailingly regular contact with the Guild office, recruiting the unrecruitable, or shunning the "unwashed" (non-Union) by pointedly *not* offering them cups of tea on his bridge. He even cast aside his usual propensity to "wind up" engineers and allowed himself to be photographed beside one to show that oil and water could indeed combine in solidarity with the locked out Progressive Enterprise workers in 2006. In Sydney recently he joined a sit-in on the main street of the central city in protest at truck drivers' long hours.



Comrade Webb and Engineering Colleague flouting scientific principles in the name of staunchness

But when Captain Webb moved away from Auckland, the general meetings there were never the same without the room full of chatter subsiding immediately upon the opening phrase "Morning Comrades!" His contribution to the Guild has been outstanding and is much appreciated.

Michael Webb remains Master of MT Torea and continues to take an active interest in Guild activities. He is replaced by newly elected President, Captain Lew Henderson, pilot at Centreport. A profile of Lew will be included in the next issue.

Collective Agreements

Bargaining has concluded and settlements ratified in the following negotiations: Westport Harbourmasters; Primeport Timaru pilots. Settlements have been reached for Stewart Island Experience. Negotiations are continuing for Kiwirail (Interislander), and Silver Fern Shipping Ltd; and due to commence for Centreport tugs, Golden Bay, Holcim, Northtugz pilots. Bargaining has been initiated for Ports of Auckland Marine Services and Harbour Control agreements, Southport pilots collective and Southport casuals' agreement.

Coastal Shipping

- We have still not received Maritime NZ's report on its investigation and detention of *MV Pelican*, despite the Minister of Transport promising us it would be completed in February.
- We have asked the Ministry of Transport to investigate the movements of the Danish registered bulker *Texel* which we believe has been carrying cargo beyond the 'transit' voyages permitted under the Maritime Transport Act. This kind of activity is flouting the law, and directly competing with New Zealand operations such as *MV Jaguar* which is trying to secure regular coastal cargoes. Members should advise the General Secretary of this vessel's movements whenever they can.

Offshore Update

There have been few requests for personnel by the NZ Offshore employers recently, but prospects are expected to improve with the flow-on effects of the Gorgon project indirectly creating vacancies on vessels operating in New Zealand later in the year. Meanwhile, Organiser, Sarah Dench, attended a mid term meeting with the employer parties to the Offshore "MECA" to discuss issues raised during a dispute over the issuing of a work permit for a "more experienced" master on one of the vessels last year. Discussions focussed on training and providing opportunities to our members to work on specialized vessels. How to minimise the casual nature of employment in this industry was also an issue raised by the Guild. The companies were also put on notice that this year's wage claim (negotiations commence in September/October) would again be directed at the Australia/NZ wage gap.

CTU News

The CTU and its affiliates are working on developing a new industrial landscape for the future, including revamping existing employment legislation and rethinking the way unions represent their members. The General Secretary recently attended the union law group to give input into the draft legislation. CTU President, Helen Kelly, has incorporated into the draft many innovative elements including the concept of industry councils of trade unions and industry agreements which could be representative of wage rates in a particular sector. Other CTU work groups have been focussing on concepts such as "family" union membership and a generic national union into which workers from un-unionised worksites could be accepted.

International News

The General Secretary recently held talks with AMOU General Secretary, Mike Fleming, in Sydney. A number of matters were discussed including the need for closer relations between the two unions. There are many issues in common between the two organisations, and the AMOU is now we are very pleased that communication lines are

now firmly open. The Guild also met AMOU Eastern Regional Secretary, Richard Barnes, who attended the Asia/Pacific Seafarers and Regional meetings recently in Manila.

A meeting between the Guild General Secretary and new Nautilus International General Secretary, Mark Dickinson, and his Nautilus UK National Secretary Paul Moloney, was also held in Berlin recently. Discussions covered officer shortages, workforce development issues for New Zealand, and the unions' longstanding close relationship. The unions exchanged information and views on their respective submissions opposing the relaxing of immigration controls for foreign masters, deck officers and engineers seeking to work in the unions' local maritime industries.

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 2 July, Friday 6 August, Friday 3 September, Friday 1 October, Friday 5 November and final meeting for the year Friday 3 December 2010.

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 11 June, Friday 9 July, Friday 13 August, Friday 10 September, Friday 8 October, Friday 12 November, with the final meeting for the year on 10 December 2010.