

## Newsletter September 2011

### **"Hands Off Our Offshore!" - Guild job protection campaign continues**

Recently Offshore Marine Services NZ Ltd (the company which went to great lengths to avoid employing NZ officers on the drill ship *Noble Discoverer* this year), advertised in the Herald for officers and engineers for "upcoming projects". The Guild General Secretary immediately contacted the company to ask for more detail about the projects so that Guild members could take necessary steps to ensure they are eligible for employment on the vessels, or perhaps undertake any courses (such as eg an IPAT mooring course) well in advance. We asked for details of the vessels and the dates of the "upcoming projects" so that we could ensure the maximum number of suitably qualified New Zealanders were available for the work, but to date the company has not replied to our requests. We strongly suspect the advertisement is not designed to "recruit" New Zealanders for this company's future objects, but rather to *exclude* them by trying to use responses to the ad as proof there are no "suitably qualified" New Zealanders for the jobs.

Meanwhile, the Minister of Immigration has declined to meet Guild President Lew Henderson and the General Secretary, Helen McAra, to discuss the grounds on which New Zealand officers were being rejected for offshore jobs on *Noble Discoverer*, and the threat this represents to thousands of offshore jobs for New Zealanders.

The General Secretary rejected the Minister's offer to have his departmental officials meet, and instead will focus on using other avenues to highlight and address the issues.

### **New Director of Maritime NZ**

Members will be aware that the new MNZ Director is Keith Manch, formerly Chief Executive and Registrar of the Real Estate Agents Authority. Mr Manch will take up office on 1 November after which time the Committee of Management will seek a meeting in order to brief him on Guild members' issues and concerns.

### **Collective Agreements**

Settlements have been reached in negotiations with Port of Tauranga for the launchmasters' collective agreement, Golden Bay Cement for the ship *Golden Bay*, Holcim for the ships *MCI* and *MV Westport*. Bargaining is continuing with Niwa for *Tangaroa* and *Kaharoa*, Real Journeys; Stewart Island Experience for the Foveaux Strait ferries; Centreport tugs and pilot launch; Pacifica Shipping for *Endurance* and *Resolution*; Westport Harbour Ltd for *Kawatiri*; Silver Fern Shipping for *Kakariki* and *Torea*; Port of Napier pilots; and Sea-tow.

### **Merchant Navy Day**

Guild President and General Secretary again represented members at the Merchant Navy Day commemorative service held in Wellington on Saturday 3 September. The day commemorates the service and sacrifice of civilian merchant seafarers in wartime, and 3 September marks the sinking of the first British merchant ship in 1939, just hours after the Second World War began. Dignitaries in attendance included Minister of Defence, Hon. Wayne Mapp and Charles Chauvel MP, representing the Leader of the Opposition. Wayne Mapp gave recognition to the "important contribution that merchant seafarers have made, and continue to make, to the security and economic well-being of our nation." The President of the NZ Shipping Federation, Sheryl Ellison, laid a wreath on behalf of all merchant seafarers.

### **World Maritime Day**

The President and General Secretary will also represent members at Maritime NZ's World Maritime Day event on 20 September in Wellington at the Museum of the City and Sea at Queens Wharf. The theme for World Maritime Day this year is "Piracy – orchestrating the response".

**Auckland meeting dates:** 7 October; 4 November; 2 December

**Wellington meetings dates:** 14 Oct; 11 Nov; 9 Dec