



# MARITIME ALERT

Ports of Auckland dispute 25 September 2012



The Maritime Union of New Zealand is a union with a long and proud tradition.

As a real union we are committed to principles of collectivism – standing together working in the best interests of all our members.

As a real union we are independent of the employer – what we do is not determined by the employer but democratically by our members – members like you.

You know that we will confront those who attack us and who try to undermine our conditions and make things worse for us and our families.

That's what we have all been doing over the last year, those who are members of MUNZ have proudly stood up to attacks on us and our families.

We have managed to stop a mass dismissal that POAL would have actioned in March of this year. We will get a collective agreement that is fair and protects the rights that enable us to have security while being flexible and achieving a good outcome for our owners the people of Auckland.

A real union like MUNZ acts together – an attack on one is an attack on all.

You have seen a great deal of support from MUNZ members outside of POAL and in the wider union movement in NZ and internationally because of this principle.

We are part of a wider union movement that stands together. We belong to the NZ Council of Trade Unions (NZCTU) and the International Transport Federation (ITF).

As a real union MUNZ is part of something bigger than just Ports of Auckland.

You will know, because you have seen this in action, that MUNZ has trained delegates on site to give immediate advice and information.

We also have fulltime paid officials that you elect who are experienced in industrial relations and who know the maritime industry.

Those officials are there to help you individually and collectively and have the expertise to do so. Where necessary our union can access legal, Health and Safety and ACC experts to help take our cases.

As a member of a real union you have access to all this assistance when you need it.

As a member of MUNZ you get regular communication via meetings and newsletters – special newsletters like this one as well as Port News and The Maritimes.

You have access to a wide range of other services – sickness and death benefits, holiday homes and union negotiated superannuation for your retirement.

Being part of a real union is about dignity at work, about being able to stand up and be independent and about standing together with your mates. It's about collective strength and being part of something bigger than your own workplace. It's a matter of pride and solidarity. You know that which is why you are a member of MUNZ.

Garry Parsloe  
National President  
President MUNZ Local 13

## **Portpro Inc.**

The union has been considering its approach to the new Portpro Union.

The union is in a position to challenge the registration of Portpro.

We will keep members advised as to how we are responding to this issue.

## **Collective Employment Agreement Expiry**

As you are aware, the Collective Agreement expires on 30 September 2012.

It is not the end of the world that the agreement expires.

Your conditions of employment will continue as an individual agreement based on the expired Collective.

## **Facilitation**

We are expecting a decision from the Facilitator shortly to issue a statement setting out details of where matters are at with the facilitation.

There are now a number of areas being progressed in Facilitation.

## **Casuals**

We have raised a number of concerns with the Company about the employment of casuals since our meeting with casuals on 4 September.

We have a follow up meeting with our members who are casuals on 26 September.

## **Yard Foreman**

The Employment Relations Authority heard the union application in relation to the Yard Foreman on Friday 21 September 2012.

The union argued that doing away with the Yard Foreman position was unlawful as it undermined the bargaining for a Collective Agreement.

The Employment Relations Authority Member who heard the matter told us at the hearing that he would have his decision out in the week of 1 October 2012.

The company agreed not to implement their decision until after the Employment Relations Authority decision comes out. The union was pleased with the hearing, and will keep members advised as to the outcome.

## **P32s**

The Employment Court has set down our challenge to the employment of P32s for a hearing on 3, 4 and 5 December 2012.

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## **HOLDING POAL TO ACCOUNT**

We are having success in ensuring that the public and our Local Government politicians know that our dispute is not over and that we need them to keep the pressure on to help in finalising a fair collective employment agreement.

Over the last couple of weeks you will have seen or heard more media coverage of the dispute again - Sunday Herald 16 September; NZ Herald 17 and 24 September, National Business Review, Radio NZ, and Bay of Plenty Times.

The Council's Accountability and Performance Committee meeting on 13 September saw the so called Council Controlled Organisation - Auckland Council Investments Ltd (ACIL) who own and manage the Ports of Auckland on behalf of Aucklanders asked questions about the cost of the dispute and what was happening to settle a collective agreement.

Despite saying it wasn't their responsibility an email from the Chair of ACIL to a POAL staff member was read to the Councillors which clearly showed that they were well and truly part of the problem and that they were trying to keep our elected representatives from asking questions.

We will continue to meet with Local Government representatives including the Mayor to push them to hold ACIL and POAL to account for the mess they have made and the costs to you and to Aucklanders of this dispute.

We have asked further questions under the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act to identify further information on what is happening behind the scenes in this dispute.

Meanwhile our booklet 'Save our Port - The Wharfies Story' has gone out widely and is on our website.

You should be receiving copies with this newsletter but if you haven't contact your delegates or ring the union office.

## **Union elections**

Elections for Local 13 positions - President, Vice President, Secretary, Executive members and Walking Delegate are all up for election in October.

Please ensure the office has your correct postal address as this will be a postal ballot.

If your address has changed or you just want to check give us a call on 303-4652 or drop into the Union Office.

## **Activities for members**

We will be a range of events over the next few weeks which along with regular newsletters like this one are to ensure you are kept up to date with all of the various elements of our campaign to obtain a fair settlement to the dispute with POAL.

Your continued support for each other as union members is what is important to ensure we are successful. If you have any questions just ask.