

High praise for Tauranga port

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saddles," he said.

"We are fortunate that the Waitemata Harbour has a substantial tidal range and as a consequence the depth of water at high tide is greater than at most other New Zealand ports.

"We only need to deepen a berth pocket and undertake minor wharf strengthening work at the Fergusson terminal, at a cost of less than \$50 million, in order to cater for the larger ships, when it becomes necessary. Consents for this work are in place and detailed design will shortly be under way.

"Our existing infrastructure and preparations are a step ahead of any other New Zealand port."

Nonetheless, report author Nachiket Moghe has refused to rescind the

investment observation and reiterated that Port of Tauranga could dredge to 14.5 metres and cater for the next-generation of container ships at a cost of about \$50 million.

Mr Moghe suggested Ports of Auckland's claim it could accommodate 5000-TEU-6000-TEU vessels at its current 13.9-metre draught at high tide, with no further dredging than the berth pocket, was not comparing "apples with apples".

Rail chief appeals to Temuka residents

Staff writer

KiwiRail chief Jim Quinn has appealed to Temuka residents to consider pedestrian safety as the company moves to close the Denmark Street railway crossing and extend the local rail yard.

In an open letter to the public printed in the *Timaru Herald*, Mr Quinn said public safety was paramount "so the crossing must close".

"With the expected increase in rail traffic through Temuka we can't, in all conscience, stand by while people place themselves at such risk, without doing something about it."

Mr Quinn said he had been told people were clambering through parked trains while they were stopped across the crossing.

KiwiRail's plans to close the crossing have generated more than 60 submissions against its application to extend the rail yard.

TNL buys Tulloch division

Iain MacIntyre

About 70 truck and trailer units and freight terminals in Alexandra, Dunedin and Invercargill have been acquired by the TNL Group following its purchase of the freight division of the Tulloch Group.

Speaking on behalf of TNL Group, Transport Investments marketing manager Tim Cantlon told the *Shipping Gazette*™ the Tulloch freight division provided a "very complementary" customer base and would enhance TNL's offering south of Timaru.

"The opportunity to purchase came about as a result of the Tulloch family feeling they had taken the freight division as far as they could and our belief that the market is looking to those who can provide enhanced logistical solutions," he said.

"In the case of TNL Group this purchase strengthens the business,

offering customers complete South Island coverage rather than a subcontract-based network."

Tulloch Group managing director Ian Tulloch said his family had been considering options for the future, including acquisitions, mergers, joint ventures or the possible sell-down of specific divisions.

"But after much deliberation the sale of the freight division to TNL Group was the best decision for the family."

TNL managing director Alan Terris said during the merger process emphasis was put on certainty for staff and customers.

"We are particularly focused on welcoming the Tulloch staff . . . and ensuring that our service to Tulloch and TNL customers is at the highest possible level through the integration process."

Reef Shipping helps out

Iain MacIntyre

New Zealand's Reef Group played a key role in a clean-up event co-ordinated in the remote Ha'apai Islands of Tonga earlier this month by Kiwi charity Sustainable Coastlines.

About two-thirds of the islands' 4500 population were also involved in the exercise, which saw rubbish collected from the coastline sorted into over 120 truckloads of plastic, steel, tin, aluminium and glass, for removal.

Reef Shipping general manager Jason Ward said the group's involvement in the event, which was required due to the islands' low-lying topography making them unsuitable for landfill, started with Reef Bulk Fuels supplying diesel fuel for Sustainable Coastlines initial yacht voyage to Tonga.

"We subsequently arranged for [Sustainable Coastlines co-founder Sam Judd] to deliver all their gear required for the clean-up to our Reef Freight Depot in Onehunga, for packing into an LCL container," he told the *Shipping Gazette*™.

"This included food and beverages, T-shirts, rubbish sacks, bicycles, medicines and even a flying machine to film the clean-up from the air.

"We then arranged the customs clearance and documentation for the export of the goods. The container was shipped on the Southern Tiare to Nuku'alofa, then devanned by our local agent and transferred to the airport for the flight to Ha'apai."

Mr Ward said the Southern Tiare had also discharged eight empty 20-foot containers at Ha'apai, which are



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currently being filled with the sorted materials.

"The recyclable rubbish we will ship to Auckland for processing and the general rubbish will be shipped to Nuku'alofa for disposal in their local dump."

Sustainable Coastlines hopes the event will provide an example for alleviating waste management challenges at other small island states in the Pacific.

Workers gather for conference

Iain MacIntyre

Maritime workers from around the world gathered in Wellington this week as the Maritime Union of New Zealand (MUNZ) held its third triennial conference.

Labour Party leader Phil Goff opened the three-day conference on Tuesday morning and set MUNZ's agenda for the next three years.

The conference was attended by delegates and observers from throughout New Zealand, the United States, United Kingdom, Japan and Australia.

Speakers included Maritime Union of Australia national secretary Paddy Crumlin, All Japan Dockworkers Union (ZenKowan) deputy general secretary Shosaku Machida, International Longshore and Warehouse Workers Union vice-president Ray Familathe and RMT Seafarers Division national secretary Steve Todd.

The conference was also the last for MUNZ general secretary Trevor Hanson who will retire next month after 37 years of active membership and leadership in the maritime union and the former Waterfront Workers Union.

Elections for MUNZ four national officers are being held by postal ballot.

Zespri ups forecast

WELLINGTON, NZPA — Kiwifruit exporter Zespri is increasing its forecast payment to growers for the 2009/10 season by \$48 million in total.

The company expects final payments will be \$827 million, or \$8.06 a tray, up from with \$779 million, or \$7.59 a tray, last year.

This is an increase of \$22.3 million over the forecast released in August.

"It's important to note that this is only a forecast and we have a way to go in most markets," chief executive Lain Jager said.

The world fruit market has been severely impacted by the global recession this year.

Zespri said it has countered this by running a strong marketing campaign and growers and post-harvest operators performed strongly to deliver shipments in specification and on time.

Turners and Growers is challenging Zespri's monopoly and has continued the campaign by raising points in a Grant Samuel report on the industry in 2007.

Turners and Growers argued that Zespri has tried to cover the report up because it was critical.

Importer warned

Staff writer

Auckland-based importer United Top KidSmart has been warned by the Commerce Commission about selling children's toys containing 21 times the legal level of lead, the *Waikato Times* reported.

In 2007 the company brought into the country 96 plastic tool sets which retailed for about \$3.50 each.

Independent testing found some

parts of the tool set had paint containing unsafe levels of lead.

Anyone with a tool set matching the description should immediately throw it away, the commission said.

High truck takes out power lines

Staff writer

An over-height truck ripped down power lines in Winton last week cutting electricity to more than 500 customers for nearly two hours.

A Winton police spokeswoman told the *Southland Times* a truck carrying empty wine vats tore down the lines across Great North Rd about 8.45am on Thursday.

Live wires were left strewn across the road.

Meanwhile, the driver continued north, unaware of the mayhem. He was stopped by police in Lumsden where it was discovered the truck exceeded height restrictions.

Smuggler 'crazy about reptiles'

Staff writer

Customs officials in Norway have arrested a man who tried to smuggle in 14 king python snakes and 10 gecko lizards by taping them to his body.

The snakes are large but not venomous and were rolled up in socks and taped to his torso. The geckos were found in small boxes taped to his legs.

"He told us he was crazy about reptiles," the head of the local customs office, Helge Breilid, told newsagency AFP.

The man was body-searched after a tarantula was found in his luggage.

