



# QUEENSLAND BRANCH NEWS

NEWSLETTER of the QLD Branch of the MARITIME UNION of AUSTRALIA

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To be truly radical is to make hope possible, rather than despair convincing - Raymond Williams No. 106 – Monday 16 October 2017

## Solidarity Oaky Creek Miners - Paul Petersen IPAN Speech – VALE Hughie Williams Industrial Manslaughter Laws - IDC Latin America Strengthens – Catalonia

### Oaky North Picket Line

A DELEGATION FROM Queensland and Sydney Branch of officials, organisers and rank and file travelled to the Oaky North picket line in support of the locked out workers.

The CFMEU claims the foreign multi-national company, which pays no Australian taxes, is moving to replace its permanent workforce at the Central Queensland mine with casual contractors.

The majority of workers recently voted against an enterprise agreement which they say will erode their rights and conditions around workplace representation, dispute procedures and severance and retrenchment.

Glencore's revenue from Australian coal operations jumped from US\$1.77 billion to US\$3.1 billion in the last half year. Their cash profit on every tonne of coal produced was around 41 per cent.

The CFMEU claims this foreign company is trying to strip back hard fought for and won work conditions – which in the Australian mining industry – can impact on safety and lives.



The Maritime Union Of Australia Queensland Branch

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12 October 2017

Chris Brodsky  
District Vice President  
CFMEU Mining and Energy  
[c.brodsky@cfmeuqld.asn.au](mailto:c.brodsky@cfmeuqld.asn.au)

Hi Comrade

RE: **Oaky North Lockout**

Please accept this donation of \$5000.00 from the Queensland Branch of the Maritime Union of Australia.

A delegation of our leadership and rank and file members will be on the picket line on Monday afternoon.

Should you need anything whatsoever Comrade, we are a phone call away.

During big disputes like the one you and the Oaky North Lodge are engaged in, I am reminded of a sign a lone union picket held up during a nine month long struggle the united mineworkers of America were engaged in. The sign read:

*The struggle goes on  
The cause endures  
Hope still lives  
And our union will never die*

YOUR FIGHT IS OUR FIGHT.

Yours in unity

  
Bob Carnegie  
Queensland Branch Secretary

Yours in unity

  
Jason Miners  
Deputy Branch Secretary

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### Peace is Union Business

Speech by Paul Petersen MUA Qld Branch at IPAN Rally Brisbane  
7 October 2017

I'D LIKE TO acknowledge the traditional owners of the land and to recognise the ground we stand on is a place of learning and knowledge. I wish to pay respect to elders past, present and emerging. So what does the union movement have to offer in regard to a peaceful and independent future? The Union movement has everything to offer!

Organised labour has achieved so much both here and around the world. Whether



Queensland and Sydney Branch rank and file and leadership on the Oaky North picket line

Authorised by Bob Carnegie, Maritime Union of Australia (MUA) Queensland Branch Secretary  
73 Southgate Avenue, Cannon Hill QLD 4170

you were a part of that struggle or not, the benefits advanced our society as a whole. From good wages and conditions, comes good housing. Good housing promotes good health. With good health comes good education. And from good education we can achieve a better world. The forces of capitalism are driving this world towards an uncertain future and (they are) the same forces that are exploiting, attacking and dividing the working-class people of the world.

The MUA has a long and proud history of opposing aggression and the capitalist systems that promotes a perpetual state of war.

1. In 1917, maritime workers were opposed to WWI conscription and removed Billy Hughes as the President (of the Union), which later led to his downfall as Prime Minister.
2. In 1938, Port Kembla wharfies refused to load pig iron that was destined for Japan and would only come back to us, and China, as bombs and bullets.
3. In 1966, we stood shoulder to shoulder with the Gurindji people at Wave Hill when Lord Vestey tried to steal their land and enslave them for his own capital gain.
4. In 1967, we stood in opposition to the Vietnam war and refused to man vessels which were carrying weaponry back to Vietnam.
5. In 1976, we engaged in a global fight to end the racist apartheid regime in South Africa. We played a key role enforcing the oil embargo against the South Africa regime.

Organised labour has always stood against war and oppression. Both on a national and international scale.

The MUA Queensland Branch is affiliated with the International Dockworkers Council (IDC). The IDC has over 100,000 dockworkers in 42 different countries. They are an organisation active and committed to a better future. (For example) the IDC dockworkers in Barcelona recently took action to defend civil rights of Catalonians to hold a referendum of independence.

The IDC dockworkers refused to service the vessels that were moving 6,500 riot squad police to the region to try to suppress the referendum. The simple act of not working sent a clear message to the Spanish government that the workers will not stand by and allow the suppression of their democratic right to hold a free and open referendum for independence.



*Catalunyan Firefighters defending the people in Barcelona*

The firefighters also came out in large numbers wearing their helmets and uniforms and stand between the

Catalonian crowd and the fully armed police riot squad. Back at home we have our own aggressive right wing LNP government that have cut humanitarian aid to the lowest level in Australian history, and it is now seriously discussing the merits of becoming a major weapons



*F/A-18F Super Hornets flypast Brisbane*

manufacturer an exporter. We have a Defence Minister like Christopher Pyne that is planning to see Australia become a major arms dealer and export these weapons of mass destruction to countries like Saudi Arabia and Israel.

And at events like Riverfire makes it that little bit easier to sell that message that "war is fine and good for the economy" when they can fly these attack aircraft through the city like toys of entertainment. They are not!

These are weapons of mass destruction, designed to destroy life on a mass scale.

The strongest working-class movement in Australia is the union movement, but it's only as strong as its members allow it to be. It's only as active as its members. If you want to make a difference I urge you to join the union and help push that union in direction for a better future.

To achieve a better workplace

To live in a better city

To live in a peaceful and independent country

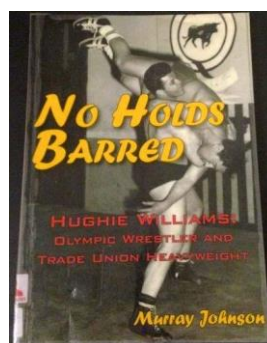
There is power in a union

And that power is you!

Thank you for your time and I look forward to seeing you all at the next union rally.

*Paul Petersen (MUA) at Peace Rally 'Negotiate not Escalate' Brisbane 7 Oct 2017*

## Vale Hughie Williams



A FRIEND TOLD me earlier today that Hughie Williams has passed away.

Hughie (born 3 September 1933) was a former state secretary of the Transport Workers Union (TWU) and grew up on the Hunter Valley coalfields where the Chifley labor government had sent

troops to break the great coal strike of 1948. Starving miners were forced back to work.

Hughie's book says it all

As an active unionist, Hughie tried to build the working class movement in Queensland and Australia. He was often plagued by reformist or anti-union laws like the banning of secondary boycotts.

Hughie had a strong rank and file group around him at the TWU – people like Bert Nord and Eddie Kann. It was this that made it possible for Hughie Williams to take over the Queensland Branch of the Transport Workers Union (TWU) with the support of the rank and file.

They wrested the TWU from the right-wing old guard led by Eddie Ward whose wife Wilma was onetime president of the conservative housewife's association.

During the 1998 MUA dispute, I remember Hughie Williams try to stop Patricks from moving trucks on and off the wharves. Secondary boycotts were outlawed so it was quite an achievement for a number of trucks to be turned back by the determined Hughie and picketers in solidarity with the sacked wharfies .

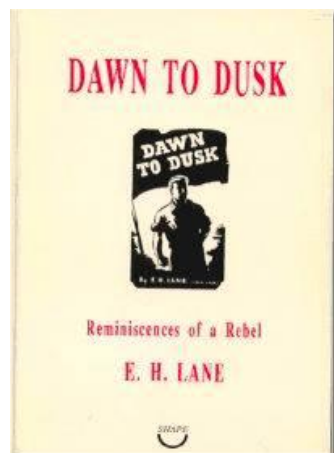
Jo Kann speaking at Bert Nord's wake. Norma Nord out



of frame and Hughie Williams is standing (photo by Ted Reithmuller) In 1992, Hughie launched a book at the

Old Council of Unions Dawn to Dusk – reminiscences of a rebel by Ernie Lane published by LeftPress.

Hughie described his difficult childhood growing up in the Hunter and, listening in the audience, I realised how much Hughie empathised with what Ernie Lane was saying in his book: "You can't make figs grow on barren trees" when speaking about reformist politicians.



Ernie Lane's book launched by Hughie in 1992

I went with a friend and member of the TWU to ask Hughie if he would launch *Dawn to Dusk*. He asked us to wait, saying 'I've got some bosses down the hallway I have to deal with.' It turned out they were owner-drivers.

Anyway he came and listened to what we had to

say and told us that he would get back to us within 24 hours. Which he did, agreeing to launch the book.

Hughie was a co-founder, along with Qld Labor senator, George Georges, of the Paddington Workers Club in Brisbane. This provided an important venue for left and union meetings.

In 2012 Hughie presided over the 100th anniversary celebrations of the Transport Workers Union in Musgrave Park.

Vale comrade. *Ian Curr, 16 October 2017*

<https://workersbushtelegraph.com.au/2017/10/16/vale-hughie-williams/>

## Queensland to Push for Industrial Manslaughter Laws to Go National

Sourced from: <https://www.workplaceexpress.com.au>

THE QUEENSLAND GOVERNMENT will push for Australia's first State industrial manslaughter laws to go national at next year's review of the model OHS laws, IR Minister Grace Grace's office has confirmed.

The tough new [laws](#) passed Queensland Parliament yesterday, with amendments.

Ahead of the review process getting underway, Safe Work Australia is understood to have appointed a reviewer for national model health and safety laws and will soon seek submissions from unions, employer groups and others.

The reviewer will make recommendations that might include the introduction of industrial manslaughter laws. Grace said other States will be able to make an assessment of the effectiveness of the industrial manslaughter provisions in Queensland before they decide whether to follow suit, Grace's office said.

### Amendment clarified intent of legislation

A key amendment to the new Queensland legislation before it passed Parliament was a clarification that [s23](#) of the Queensland Criminal Code would not apply to an industrial manslaughter offence.

This means that a person conducting a business or undertaking can be held liable for manslaughter despite having no intent to commit an offence.

The *Work Health and Safety and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2017* provides for maximum \$10 million fines and 20-year jail terms. It passed with the support of Katter's Australian Party MPs Robert Katter and Shane Knuth, and Independent MPs Billy Gordon and Rob Pyne.

### We will fight for manslaughter laws to cover mining: CFMEU

IR Minister Grace said in her speech to Parliament yesterday, immediately before the Bill's passage, that stakeholders and crossbenchers have made it "very clear" to her that consultation is required with committees in the mining industry before manslaughter laws could be introduced into that sector.

CFMEU mining and energy division Queensland district president Stephen Smyth told *Workplace Express* he was disappointed the new laws would not cover mining because the union had campaigned for them to be extended to the sector for a long time.

He said if CFMEU discovered that it had financially supported a politician who supported the Bill then they might withdraw funding to them.

He said the union might campaign against any politician that voted the bill up. "It's time for CFMEU to up the ante because no one needs employers to be liable under strong industrial manslaughter legislation more than workers in the mining industry," he said.

#### **Prosecutions could deter unsafe workplaces**

The new laws include 20-year jail terms for industrial manslaughter and creates a new role of WHS Prosecutor (see [Related Article](#)).

Queensland Council of Unions research and policy officer John Martin told *Workplace Express* that he hoped the new laws would mean fewer deaths in the workplace.

He said employers might be prevented from unsafe work practices because of the tough new penalties they would face if they were found to have committed manslaughter.

He noted the review that led to the new legislation came from last year's deaths of patrons at the Dreamworld theme park and of workers at an Eagle Farm building project in 2016 (see [Related Article](#)).

Martin said the deaths that happened at Dreamworld and Eagle Farm happened at a time when there had been few prosecutions of employers for unsafe work practices.

[Work Health and Safety and Other Legislation](#)

[Amendment Bill](#)

[Explanatory Notes](#)

[Explanatory Speech](#)

[Amendments accepted by Government](#)

[Additional explanatory notes for amendments](#)

#### **Pilbara's Red Dirt Central to Understanding Australian IR: Academic**

*THE DE-UNIONISATION of the Pilbara is one of the really great untold stories in Australia's industrial landscape. It is a story of how an ideologically driven company (CRA later to become Rio Tinto) successfully de-unionised what was thought to be one of Australian unions strongest areas. I ask members to read this article and buy the book. Bob Carnegie*

Sourced from: [www.workplaceexpress.com.au](http://www.workplaceexpress.com.au)

THE REGION THAT at the height of the resources boom employed one in 200 Australian workers but accounted for a massive 20% of the nation's export income is critical to understanding Australian IR, Sydney University academic Bradon Ellem told a recent conference.

He said some might say the story of the mining industry - or any other area of production - is about branding, marketing, accounting, leadership, about technology... that "it's a story about anything but the people who... get the dirt out of the ground and put it on trains and put it on ships to go to China".

They say it's a story "about anything but industrial

relations", Ellem told the [Queensland IR Society Convention](#) dinner on October 7. But what he sought to do in his [recently-published book](#) on IR in the Pilbara (see [Related Article](#)) was "to put IR back in[to] the guts of this story".

Ellem said he also wanted to highlight "how important this place was beyond the Pilbara and how important industrial relations was beyond the Pilbara."

"Because when the companies... de-unionised the place... then they could do all sorts of other things... to change the industry to how they wanted it to be".

"Then it could become a 12-hour shift industry... a fly-in, fly-out industry... the [mining] communities were changed... they could exercise a political influence they never had before" because there was no longer a "countervailing voice" from the workforce and the unions.

"Then they could knock off a tax regime [the RSPT] of which they disapproved and a prime minister with it. "Then they could exercise [the] political power to reshape industrial relations and maybe end up going too far", noting that the 2007 "Work Choices election" was "about how it affected working men and women", rather than "how it affected high-paid blokes in the mining industry". "But the influence rolled out into all sorts of other places", he said.

He said it highlights a dichotomy in Australia's economy and IR that distinguishes it from nations we compare ourselves with in Western Europe and North America.

"Because we are a resources economy; we're a highly-urbanised white-collar economy; the workforce is overwhelmingly in the services sector... but at the heart of it and underneath it we've got this mixed blessing of the resources economy which drives our politics and drives our industrial relations," Ellem said.

"So the story of places like the Pilbara ends up being the story of industrial relations and politics more broadly."

He said it is important to understand that particular places and industries are the "seats" of IR change. Ellem, the Sydney University Business School's professor of employment relations, urged the audience of IR practitioners to "sell our message as IR practitioners and scholars that we do is absolutely fundamental in every way to peoples' lives and the nature of the society that we live in".

In a sidelight, Ellem said that after he addressed an AMMA conference, he spoke to a group of former IR managers from the Hamersley Iron mine (now part of the Rio Tinto "stable") that had been at the forefront of de-unionisation efforts.

"I found out that every year they would have a reunion with all the union officials they fought with throughout this period. "And the reason for this was that industrial relations without unions was 'boring as batshit', to quote them, and it was much more fun in the old days.

"And they wish they hadn't de-unionised. . . it wasn't a political argument, it was just about work being fun", he said.

### IDC Latin American Zone Coordinator Strengthens Ties with Mexican Dockworkers



ON 28 SEPTEMBER 2017 IDC Latin American Zone Coordinator, Ricardo Suarez, and IDC delegate Mauricio Zarzuelo met with the leaders of the Union of Mexican Dockers and Laborers of the Pacific, to foster relations and explore future collaboration opportunities. IDC believes this will be a productive relationship, which will benefit all dockers in Latin America and the rest of the world. We will never walk alone again!

### Catalonia: Dockworkers Call for Sanity to Return to Politics 3 October 2017

IDC supports the position of the union Coordinadora, and echoes their call for dialogue between the Spain and the



Catalan society. General Coordinator of the State Coordinator for sea workers (CETM), Antolín Goya, said Monday that "in this

difficult time for the Catalan people, we want to transmit clearly and forcefully that we are with them, with our partners, and we want to return sanity to the policy and be able to sit down and agree on their positions". Goya expressed in a statement which added that "before the performance of the forces and security forces of the State during the day yesterday, we are morally obligated to urge the politicians of all options to foster real democratic dialogue ", serious and efficient as the only way to stability and the welfare of their constituents: the society".

"The reality lived in Catalonia yesterday is a clear exponent of political failure, the injustice and inflexibility of those who govern us in all instances, we handicapped adults are citizens", continues the stevedores union

leader. Finally, the Coordinator joins the call for the agreed solution that promote CCOO and UGT and also says that "the police is not the solution. Dialogue and negotiation already!"

### IDC General Coordinator Meets with General Secretary of Unite in London



ON 6 SEPTEMBER 2017 IDC General Coordinator, Jordi Aragunde, met with the General Secretary of Unite the Union, Len McCluskey, to discuss the importance of working closely together for the

benefit of the dockworkers. McCluskey was a dockworker in the Port of Liverpool before he became official of the union.

### Dockworkers Participate in General Strike Across France



ON 12 SEPTEMBER 2017 Dockworkers in Le Havre are pictured participating in the general strike that took place across France in mid-September. The demonstration stands as an example to all European ports.

**MUA Queensland Branch**

**Picnic Day 2017**

**FREE EVENT FOR THE FAMILY**

**Date:** Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> November 2017  
**Time:** 10:00am – 4:00pm  
**Place:** The Plantation  
 1204 New Cleveland Road, Gumdale

Lollies, drinks, ice-cream, morning tea and lunch provided.  
 Rides, giant slide, swimming pools.

**Branch Officials Details**  
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