



# 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. 136 – 22 June 2018

## Inaugural CFMMEU Conference Report - Thanks for War on the Wharves Trip - ILA Solidarity Sid's New Home - Film Review – Cartoon Corner

### Inaugural CFMMEU Conference on the Gold Coast 12 – 15 June 2018 by Mike Barber

RECOGNISING AND IDENTIFYING the ‘cry for change’ in the community and the Trade Union Movement, National President Michael O’Connor, expressed these sentiments in his opening address to Conference.

*“People are getting sick of it, people have had enough, people are getting angry. Workers are calling to be organised, workers are demanding to see leadership, some resistance and some vision. Workers are demanding people get off their arses and have a go.”*

What a time for our collective unions here to come together under a new union, with our history and resources and success in struggles. What a time to show true leadership to the entire Trade Union movement. What a responsibility we acknowledge in the deliberations this week.

Conference slogans were obviously, to “Change the Rules”, Get rid of the Turnbull government, and Grow the Movement” as essential and pivotal perspectives around our deliberations throughout the week. These were not empty slogans but essential goals if we are to reclaim our working and trade union rights our human dignity and universal human rights as workers. Just as importantly it will be to reclaim the workers party, the ALP in its role and programmes we demand from it for workers and Trade Union support, not only in the upcoming Federal election, but if they win government.

Highlights were the ACTU Secretary, Sally McManus’s address and recognising the need to swing the pendulum back from the inequality, and indifference to suffering workers, by this LNP government. There was

recognition by Sally that we and the ACTU dropped the ball last time, where we ended up with the Fair Work Act, and it wouldn’t happen again.

There were international guests, and all Branches of the various Divisions within the collective Union. We had a session on ‘who we are and what we believe in.’ Focus was on considering policy initiatives of the new union with emphasis on the upcoming ACTU Congress in mid July, and the ALP Conference later in the year.

All sessions were followed by questions and responses, and

each morning the Resolutions Committee delivered Resolutions around debate from the floor and encompassed motions and debate points from R&F as well as inclusions from Officers of the Divisions. The central issues of the Right to Strike was uppermost in all delegate discussions and motions from the floor, which were supported not only by all delegate attendees, but all officials.

The Maritime Division constantly discussed motions and resolutions from the floor on shipping, gas and energy protection, cabotage issues and our right to work in our country. The success of the offshore struggle by Will Tracey, who bore the responsibility for the five year campaign and its final success, acknowledged the R&F role in supporting the Union’s position and ensuring no ship manned by MUA members faulted during that entire time to allow any non Union Agreement to get up.

There was some controversy around the topic of the new union’s name with the Construction Division Queensland official opposing any change as it currently stood. Naturally all Divisions were concerned about any



Authorised by Bob Carnegie, Maritime Union of Australia (MUA) Queensland Branch Secretary

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changes that didn't identify their sector, with the exception of the TCFUA, who spoke on the issue, and as Michelle O'Neil said, the name wasn't an issue when her members voted for the merger. Being part of a Union that fought hard, was the critical ingredient. The National Executive Council agreed to discuss further before canvassing the entire membership on any suggested name change.



The Queensland delegation consisted of members, from north, central and southern Queensland areas. For myself, one of the highlights of the Thursday was the panel on the "Uluru Statement from the Heart." The panel was introduced by Terry O'Shane and Thomas Mayor. The heart-rendering emotion within me, as Terry and Thomas revisited Aboriginal and T.I history since the claim upon the land by the UK, did not leave many dry eyes in the audience. The Uluru Statement was one drawn from the Torres Strait Island and Aboriginal National Conference, sought by the Turnbull Government, but then rejected for consideration. Is it any wonder the Indigenous community have no faith in social democracy to deliver justice and their rightful place in the Constitution of this country?

As a Queensland member representing the Queensland Branch I spoke out on all issues, moving motions of importance and recognised to be included in Conference resolutions. As an internationalist union, MUA members have always prided themselves upon fighting other nations and international causes. They will be listed when documentation is completed and printed, circulated I'm sure, among the Divisional sectors.



*Sally McManus addressing the Conference*

One of the four resolutions I put up on behalf of the MUA Queensland Branch was the one condemning the Israeli slaughter of Palestinians, Israel's continuing defiance of UN Resolutions on the Two State outcome and their defiance of continuing settlements upon Arab/Palestinian lands. Bob Carnegie seconded the motion and spoke from his heart in endorsing this resolution. In all, there are 35-36 Conference Resolutions. All debated, amended, and adjusted by acclamation from R&F participants.

There were sessions on Youth, Women and Indigenous issues and all dealt with in those open forums. Ann Gray as always, spent her time as the Queensland Branch engaged with those forums. Throughout the Conference regular reference was made to ensure our 'new union' was "fit for purpose", and to adjust accordingly to ensure our ongoing successes and the challenge to 'reinvent ourselves, and adapt accordingly, with new ways of organising workers and the community, new ways of campaigning, and new approaches to enable growth.

Michael O'Connor brought the Conference to a close on Friday just before 11.00am. He thanked all for their participation, particularly some who had spoken for the first time in such forums. He identified our faith and hope for our future as a movement from our deliberations and thanked all staff for the efforts in providing such a successful outcome for this first Inaugural CFMMEU Conference.



He said "at the end of this week we have confirmed that the new union would be 'something special' a special buzz, a special warmth and something unique that is

going to make a great contribution to this country, the community, the Trade Union movement in this country and internationally. We declare here it is our intention and resolve to fight the real fight, 'out there in the community' in the mines, on the waterfront, and on our ships, in our textile mills, pulp and paper mills, construction sites, joiner shops, that's where the fight and struggles are won, won by working people for working people. We have prepared ourselves this week, but it is out there where we win; out there comrades where we as unionists, make our name. So lets leave 'here' and be 'out there' making those wins for all."

### **CFMEU MUA TCFUA 2018 Inaugural National Conference 12 – 15 June 2018** *by Ann Gray*

COMRADES, BEING PART of the Queensland delegation and representing the Women's Committee with Kerry Loose-Jones was an honour.



I was a little apprehensive about the four day Conference with the new union but had no need to be. It was extremely well run and very inclusive of all the unions.

The Conference opening – Welcome to Country was great and meanings of the dancers well explained to the audience. It went down well.

Video presentations from all the Unions and discussions on Change the Rules were held. This included a presentation by Sally McManus. We had international greetings including speakers from New Zealand, USA and Indonesia.

Sessions topics included: "Campaigning and Growth the Construction, Forestry, Maritime, Mining Energy Union, our Union's Name and Patrick's 20 years on".

Day three I thought had the highlights. We heard from the Youth in the morning with four case studies from the MUA, Vict/Tas Construction Division, Qld and NT Construction and Manufacturing Division.

These were presented in such a professional way that I thought – this is the future and with these young, dedicated and passionate members taking ownership of their positions within the Union; we are only going to be stronger and better for having them aboard. It was inspiring to witness.

Another session topic was The Women in our Union. This was well received and the panel was brilliant in presenting their views. I could see that the new Women's Organisation within our new union will have a strong voice if not stronger with the coming together of the MUA, CFMEU and TCFU women. A great segment.

There was a discussion about what can we expect from a Labor Government. And I can say now that the count is over Mich-Elle Myers has been voted Junior Vice President of the Labor Party. Great to have someone from the Union movement who is proud of their union background and fantastic news Michelle O'Neil from the TCFUA will soon be elected President of the ACTU. There was a great Session on "An Indigenous Voice". Terry O'Shane and Thomas Mayor did us proud and we all put our signature to the "Uluru Statement from the Heart".

This panel session also made me proud that the Indigenous Voice in our new union is not lost. Supporting this most important campaign that has been ignored by the present Government is what union is all about.

The last morning was a report back from the Resolutions Committee and thanks from the National Secretary – Michael O'Connor. A group photo ended a most inspiring conference.

*Yours in Unity - Ann Gray -Queensland Branch Women's Committee*

### **ILA Solidarity**



### **The Maritime Union of Australia Queensland Branch**

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Ken Riley  
ILA Local 1422  
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Hi Ken,

Can you please extend the hand of solidarity to the members of your local arrested for fighting in the Poor People's Campaign.

The members of my branch in far off Queensland Australia, salute the courage and steadfastness of the members of your local in standing up for those with less.

It was what all of us should be about.

Should your local need any assistance please don't hesitate to call.

Your dear friend and fellow worker always,

Bob Carnegie  
QLD Branch Secretary  
MUA Division of CFMMEU

Carbon Copied;  
Jordi Aragunde

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**Authorised by Bob Carnegie, Maritime Union of Australia (MUA) Queensland Branch Secretary**

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## Ken Riley's Response

Hi Bob

As always thanks for your support and encouragement. Just like you and your members, we will always be found on the front line of any struggle which seeks to elevate the standards of the working poor. As trade unionist, we are called for that purpose. Tonight at our union meeting I will read your supportive words to our membership and I'm sure it will be well received. I look forward to seeing you next month.

Thanks again my brother.

Kenny Riley

## Thanks for War on the Wharves Trip – Auckland

From Craig Hancock

Thank you to all at the Queensland Branch office for the recent opportunity to attend the "War on the Wharves" trip across the ditch to Auckland. A good time was had by all and some valuable contacts made.

Many thanks to the MUNZ people whom showed us great hospitality, particularly Carl Findlay, Russell Mayn and Craig Harrison from the Auckland Branch office. Thanks to Paul Gallagher for your guidance. The night was a great success. Special thanks to Josh Thompson for representing the Queensland Branch of the MUA and also special mention to the members who made their own way over to support Josh.

## TCFU's O'Neil to Succeed Kearney as ACTU President

*The new president of the ACTU, Michelle O'Neil is a person I have had the pleasure to work beside. She is a union leader of great honesty, compassion and ability. She will bring a life time's experience of fighting for the poorest paid and most exploited workers in the country to the table in fighting for all workers rights. Bob Carnegie*

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

LONGSTANDING TEXTILE UNION leader and national vice-president of the newly-merged CFMMEU, [Michele O'Neil](#), is set to replace Ged Kearney as president of the ACTU, after union sources told *Workplace Express* that leaders of Left unions have endorsed her nomination.

The sources said a meeting of the ACTU's left union caucus backed O'Neil's candidature at a meeting in recent weeks.

The election of a new ACTU president to succeed new Federal Labor MP Ged Kearney is to be formalised at the peak union body's triennial [Congress](#) in Brisbane next month.

However, the support from Left unions gives O'Neil the numbers to win the full-time position, with union sources saying that former AEU national president Angelo Gavrielatos is no longer a candidate.

Her ascendancy will continue the all-female hold on the top positions that has prevailed since McManus became secretary in March last year (see [Related Article](#)). O'Neil has been national secretary of the TCFU since 2008, taking

up the position in addition to her previous role as leader of the Victorian branch.

The TCFU has now merged with the CFMEU and MUA, becoming the TCF sector of the CFMMEU's manufacturing division.

O'Neil declined to comment to *Workplace Express* when asked about the ACTU presidency, but she is known as an ally of McManus and the two are expected to have a strong working relationship.

President to be full-time, after Left decides against changing the rules

Kearney's win in the Batman by-election in March provided an opportunity to review the status of the position and led to ACTU Sally McManus supporting a plan to make the job part-time as part of an overhaul of the governance structures of the peak body at the coming Congress (see [Related Article](#)).

However, it is understood that the Left union leadership has decided to support retention of the presidency as a full-time position, but to change the ACTU's rules to further delineate the roles of its secretary and president.

## Rule changes have been drafted to be considered at the Congress

Since the Kelty era (Bill Kelty became secretary in 1983, the same year the Hawke Government took power), the ACTU rules have made it clear that the peak union body's secretary is its "chief executive officer", responsible for general administration, implementing policy and running its finances.

Under the current ACTU constitution, rules and standing orders, the president is charged under rule 15.5 with being the "principal spokesperson for the ACTU", which has led to internal tensions in the past between ACTU secretaries and presidents.

Union sources say the draft rules changes will include addressing the president's role as "principal spokesperson", given that McManus has the main role in driving the union movement's "Change the Rules" campaign.

The deciding of the ACTU presidency follows the ballot for the ALP national presidency, won by former Federal Treasurer and right-winger Wayne Swan after the left vote was split between two candidates.

Swan is said to have won almost 47% of the vote, with Butler on about 38%, followed by MUA national official Mich-Elle Myers with about 10% and Senator Claire Moore on around 5%.

Myers, who won support from the merged CFMMEU and other unions, will be the ALP's junior national vice president.

## Sid's New Home

One of our Branch Mascots, 'Sid' the little blind dog fostered by our Office Manager Carol, has found a new home with some lovely people. We wish Sid and his new family all the best.



**Film Review** by Tony Brown

**Breath**



*Breath* is Simon Baker's (*The Mentalist*) first film as director and is based on Tim Winton's award-winning novel of the same name. Filmed in Western Australian, it's hard to imagine the Australian coast and coastal scrublands being presented on screen more beautifully.

It's the story of two teenage friends, Pikelet and Loonie,

growing up in a quiet 1970s country town but hungry to explore the adventures of the surf and test their physical nerve. Pikelet lives a conventional small town life with his working class parents unlike Loonie, whose relationship with his embittered father is less stable. Into their lives arrive Sando and Eva. Sando is a former surfer still living the lifestyle while Eva, a former champion skier, is recuperating from a major leg injury.

Sando takes the boys under his wing, initiating them into the thrills of the big wave and the open sea, and the camera work here is breath-taking. They pose real physical risk - Winton called it the 'gladiatorial realm' of big wave surfing, but they also serve as metaphors for what choices the boys will confront. How far will they push their limits? It is a very masculine ideal of adventure, thrill-seeking, abandonment, and the lure of a care-free life.

The story is one of contrasts between Pikelet's caution and Loonie's dare-devil thrill-seeking; Pikelet's solid, settled family and Sando and Eva's footloose and dissatisfied lives; and for Pikelet there is Eva initiating him into adult experimental sex as opposed to the naïve, tentative fumbling that occurs with Karen his schoolgirl friend. There is pain in this getting of wisdom.

The female characters are less developed, which (as with *Chappaquiddick* reviewed recently) is an ongoing problem in popular storytelling. The three female characters in *Breath* are all defined by their relationship to one of the main male characters – centrally Eva who is Sando's wife, Pikelet's mum (Mrs Pike) and Queenie his school girlfriend. Eva is 'moody', despondent and feeling alone in their bush house. What motivates her move to Pikelet? It's hard to tell as the viewer never really gets below the surface to understand her.

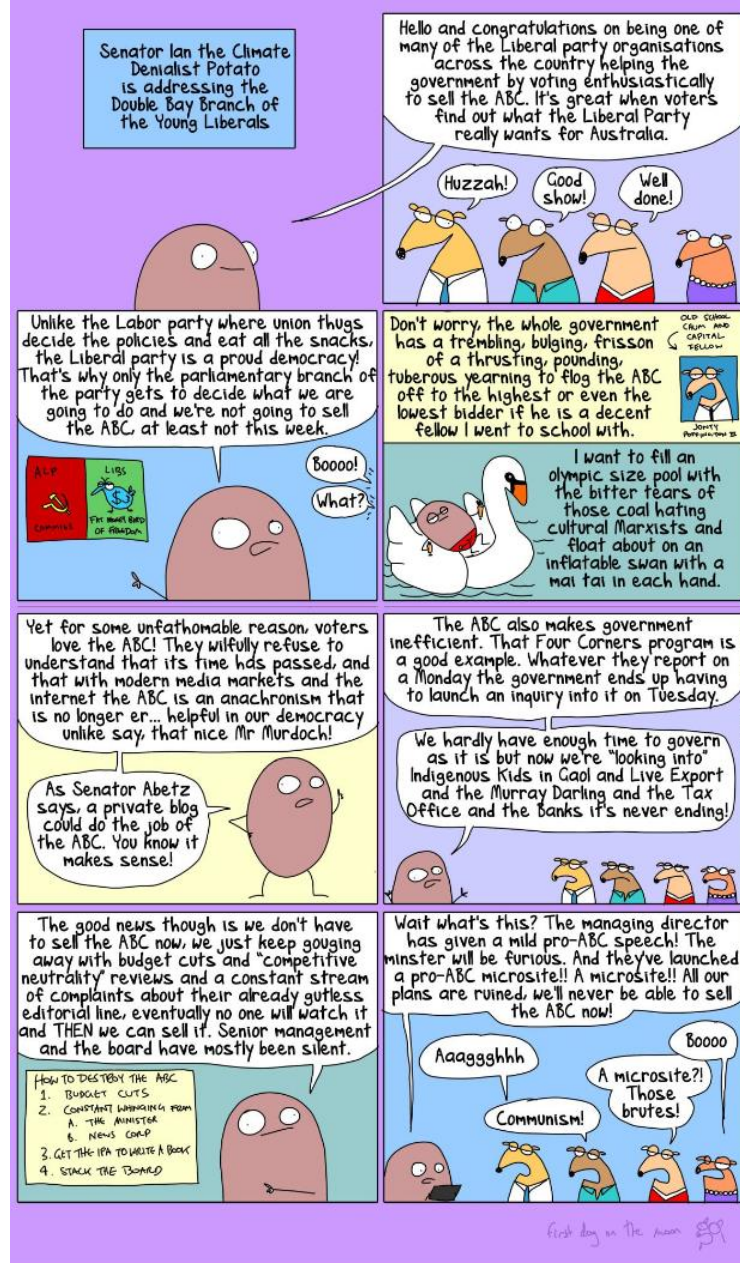
It's sadly too common to dismiss Australian films as not equal to other countries but *Breath* deserves its place as an Australian film classic.

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Tickets \$20 each, 2000 to be sold.  
 Drawn at Branch Monthly Meeting  
 26th June 2018  
**No. 0001**

**Cartoon Corner**



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