



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. 139 - 13 July 2018

Uluru Statement - Cave Rescue - Brissie to the Bay - Refit of the dredge Brisbane - Book Review - Cartoon Corner

Thomas Mayor speaks of the 'Uluru Statement of the Heart' by Bob Carnegie



On Monday July 9, a beautiful BRISBANE winters day, MUA NT Branch Secretary Thomas Mayor and First Nation's spokesperson spoke at Patrick's Terminal about the Uluru Statement from the Heart. Thomas spoke eloquently about this statement and the enormous struggle of our First Nation's people to gain a true place in this nation that they have called home for some 60,000 years. None of us who were at this meeting were not touched in some way by Thomas's address. As branch Secretary I thanked both our members and management for their upstanding work in making the day possible and the work that has been done by all those associated with the efforts to get indigenous employment up and running strongly at Patrick's. Two workplace leaders, Peter Breukus (long time delegate and committee man) and Matt Hollamby (terminal manager) played an outstanding role in making Monday's meeting a success. Deputy Branch secretary Jason

Miners and Assistant Branch Secretary Paul Petersen



need to be thanked for their efforts also. However, the biggest thanks go to all who attended, listened attentively and asked poignant questions. You were all a credit to yourselves. On a lighter note, thanks for the extra tray of snags Matt, for once I only ate as much as a small South American village. To finish on a serious note, some issues are bigger and more important than an EBA or an argument over a shift cancellation. On Monday in Brisbane at Patrick's terminal, Labour and Management united in a strong statement of

support for our First Nation's people's struggle for justice. I was proud to be a part of it.

ULURU STATEMENT FROM THE HEART

We, gathered at the 2017 National Constitutional Convention, coming from all points of the southern sky, make this statement from the heart:

Our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander tribes were the first sovereign Nations of the Australian continent and its adjacent islands, and possessed it under our own laws and customs. This our ancestors did, according to the reckoning of our culture, from the Creation, according to the common law from 'time immemorial', and according to science more than 60,000 years ago.

This sovereignty is a *spiritual notion: the ancestral tie between the land, or 'mother nature', and the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples who were born therefrom, remain attached thereto, and must one day return thither to be united with our ancestors. This link is the basis of the ownership of the soil, or better, of sovereignty.* It has never been ceded or extinguished, and co-exists with the sovereignty of the Crown.

How could it be otherwise? That peoples possessed a land for sixty millennia and this sacred link disappears from world history in merely the last two hundred years?

With substantive constitutional change and structural reform, we believe this ancient sovereignty can shine through as a fuller expression of Australia's nationhood.

Proportionally, we are the most incarcerated people on the planet. We are not an innately criminal people. Our children are alienated from their families at unprecedented rates. This

cannot be because we have no love for them. And our youth languish in detention in obscene numbers. They should be our hope for the future.

These dimensions of our crisis tell plainly the structural nature of our problem. **This is the torment of our powerlessness.**

We seek constitutional reforms to empower our people and take a *rightful place* in our own country. When we have power over our destiny our children will flourish. They will walk in two worlds and their culture will be a gift to their country.

We call for the establishment of a First Nations Voice enshrined in the Constitution.

Makarrata is the culmination of our agenda: *the coming together after a struggle.* It captures our aspirations for a fair and truthful relationship with the people of Australia and a better future for our children based on justice and self-determination.

We seek a Makarrata Commission to supervise a process of agreement-making between governments and First Nations and truth-telling about our history.

In 1967 we were counted, in 2017 we seek to be heard. We leave base camp and start our trek across this vast country.

WE INVITE YOU TO WALK WITH US IN A MOVEMENT OF THE AUSTRALIAN PEOPLE FOR A BETTER FUTURE.

We all rejoice!

Every now and then humanity shows what it is capable of when it unites for a good common purpose. The rescue of the Wild Boars football Team in Northern Thailand has been one of those rare occasions. We wish all involved a speedy recovery and salute the courage and sacrifice of the rescuers.



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

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BRISSEE TO THE BAY

Hello, my fabulous friends, just a short thank you. With MUA's help our team have raised more than \$40k. That is an incredible amount. We can't thank you enough! Because of your help MS QLD can supply air conditioning units to 30 people suffering from this arse of a disease. Just think what a difference that will make to their lives. Once again thank you. God Bless. One day I would like to say thanks to you we have found a cure, but till then we will keep doing what we can to help sufferers. See you all next year.

Charlie Bennett – Team Jenny

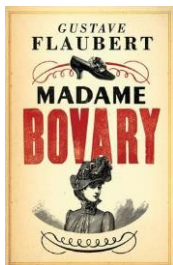


BRANCH SECRETARY BOB CARNEGIE REPORTS on a meeting held at the Port of Brisbane Corporation with Delegate David Volk concerning the refit of the dredge Brisbane in Singapore during September / October this year. The refit will take 25 days and quite decent allowances, transport and accommodation has been negotiated. There is still some debate over the crew size on the return of the vessel from docking. I would like pay tribute to the MUA delegate David Volk. David has been a seafarer on the POBC dredges for over 30 years. He is an exceptional worker and delegate. He has a great commitment to our union and does his work in a quiet and resolute way. David and all delegates who operate in such a selfless way are the backbone of our branch. Thanks Dave.



Book Review by Allan Gardiner

Madame Bovary by Gustav Flaubert



Socialists are well-known critics of the bourgeois class, but we aren't the only ones. Flaubert was no socialist, but his attack on the 19th century French bourgeoisie in *Madame Bovary* is merciless! Within the novel's provincial town setting, a cast of professionals, businessmen and landowners get brutal treatment. They are self-serving egotists whose high opinions of themselves are not even original but adopted from cultural stereotypes and fictions.

The stupid, complacent country doctor, Charles Bovary, deludes himself that he is loved by his beautiful wife, Emma, even while she deceives and bankrupts him to play out her fantasies. The pharmacist, Homais, is a hypocritical non-entity who sees himself as a hero of the scientific and political Enlightenment. In fact, he is a dangerous quack who sucks up to the establishment at every chance.

The petty legal clerk, Leon, fancies himself as a sensitive artistic bohemian. And the big landowner, Rodolphe, casts himself as a grand libertine when he is really just a tawdry philanderer. Both become the lovers of Emma Bovary, who is the character most incapable of living in reality. In one memorable scene during the town's agricultural fair all of life seems to happen inside lies: Emma and Rodolphe, hidden in a secret room, lie to each other while an absurd rhetorical speech by a regional politician fills the air.

The plot is minimal. Suspense is not possible. Tragedy for Emma is inevitable.

This all sounds pretty negative. But in fact, the writing is sometimes awe-inspiring. Flaubert's descriptions of things, thoughts and feelings are beautiful in their precision and sensitivity. As his most recent translator, Adam Thorpe, puts it, he was "a disappointed romantic who embraced realism like a drinker embraces teetotalism". Thorpe's translation is the one that strives to show how Flaubert's words and phrases would have sounded had he written in English.

Cartoon Corner



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