



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. 144 – 21 August 2018

Vale Kevin Durnian - Autonomous Tugboat Test - Growth in Trade

Vale Kevin Durnian 1944 – 2018



ON MONDAY, Kevin Durnian's family, friends and comrades said goodbye to Kevin for the last time.

It was a truly fitting and beautiful goodbye to Kevin who had led a

truly remarkable and full life.

To Kevin's family, the Branch thanks you greatly for your kindness in allowing us to say a few words and express what Kevin meant to us.

Retired Branch Secretary, Mick Carr, spoke meaningfully and encapsulated for all MUA/SUA members what Kevin meant to those of us whose lives he touched. Thanks so much Mick.

We wish Kev's family all the very best and Kevin, we all hope there is a fair wind and a following sea as your crossover in Celtic tradition where all are forever young.

Bob Carnegie

Farewell to Kevin Durnian

LONG TIME MUA activist and official Kevin Durnian has been fondly remembered by friends, family and comrades today at his funeral in Queensland.

Kevin, who served as Assistant Branch Secretary in Queensland from 1982 to 1988, passed away recently.

Queensland Branch Secretary Bob Carnegie said Kevin had played a major role during a difficult part of the union's history, with the 1980s a particularly treacherous time due to the Bjelke-Petersen Government's systematic undermining of the trade union movement.

"Kevin stood proud and served the working class with great distinction. He lived a full and wonderful life that was always in some way connected to the sea," Carnegie said.

MUA National Secretary Paddy Crumlin, who couldn't make it to the funeral due to an injury, paid tribute to Kevin's dedication to the union and the wider labour and peace movements. His message was read out at the funeral.

"Bob I can't make it today due to an injury, but wanted to directly pass on how extraordinary a bloke Kevin was," Crumlin said.

"Kevin was passionate, committed, tough and progressive. His life at sea and in the office was punctuated by the determined and relentless prosecution of seafarers rights and entitlements in particular and working class rights and campaigns in general.

"He lived his life honestly and openly, and in his own way was a humble person who put the rights of others always in front of his own. His commitment to the union, the peace movement and socialism was consistent with the beliefs of that wonderful generation of progressive unionism in the SUA and inspirational to a younger generation of seafarers including myself.

"His partnership with Jim Steele at a critical time of attack on Queensland maritime and other workers was part of the important leadership in that state and nationally. His return to sea after office placed him in the highest regards and respect by seafarers for his political, industrial and professional loyalty to seafarers and our work.

"Vale Comrade Kevin Durnian. Seafarer and Irishman. A true and courageous labor and peace activist, socialist and man of family. Now at rest."

Former Queensland Branch Secretary Mick Carr said: "Kevin was a staunch delegate on many ships, and determined activist, he marshalled the Utah picket line in Brisbane from 1977 which at the time held the Guinness book of records for the longest running manned picket which was in place for over four years.

"Every ship in Port had members attending, and there were regular delegations from all over as well as large numbers of unemployed members. It was one of the many examples of Kevin's ability to organize and was one of the reasons that when the Union was deliberating on the need for a second official for Qld it was Kevin who was nominated for the newly created Assistant Secretary position from the 1/1/1982 he held this position with great pride and determination until ill health took its toll on him and he determined to resign on the 3/10/1988.

"Kevin was of course an activist for peace and social progress and in August 1986 he was honoured as one of twenty recipients to receive the Australian Peace Award which was established to mark the International year of Peace. This award was for his role within the Trade

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

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Union movement on behalf of his union in promoting peace.

"Kevin was further endorsed by the Union as part of a Union delegation to attend an International Peace conference in Western Europe later in 1986, his International work was testament to the values he held so dearly. Always a political activist he espoused at any opportunity the imbalance in the World between the haves and the have nots and was keen advocate on economic issues.

"Kevin never let up and as 1985 came along he was heavily involved in the SEQEB dispute on behalf of the Union as well as the many other responsibilities as the Assistant Secretary to Jim Steele, they were a very formidable team with a massive area of coast line to look after.

"There is little doubt that the work load was extremely heavy, anyone to lived and worked as a trade unionist during the Bjelke-Petersen years well understood the political and industrial pressure on workers and the Union officials who represented them.

"Kevin was a proud man who loved his Union and enjoyed the great respect of members who he always put first, vale Kevin Durnian - internationalist, advocate for world peace, political activist and trade unionist."

Japan Prepares for Autonomous Tugboat Test

By MarEx and source: <https://www.maritime-executive.com/article/japan-prepares-for-autonomous-tugboat-test#gs.JMzWxrM>



JAPAN'S NYK GROUP companies NYK, MTI and Keihin Dock along with Japan Marine Science

have been selected by Japan's Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transportation and Tourism to participate in a remotely controlled ship demonstration project. The nations aims to begin demonstrations for the practical implementation of autonomous ships by 2025.

The companies have already been using advanced technology to develop an automated ship, including a study on collision avoidance and the development of a manned remote maneuvering system that can support a ship's crew. The system collects, integrates and analyzes information around the ship, prepares an action plan, and after the approval of operators at remote locations or on board, takes action in accordance with the plan.

The demonstration aims to now make use of this system in an actual situation on a tugboat. After collecting data and developing a system using domestic coastal ships and tugboats, the test will be carried out in the latter half of 2019.

Companies selected to participate in the demonstration project include MTI, Nippon Kaiji Kyokai (NK), Port and Airport Research Institute, Ikous Corporation, NYK, Keihin Dock, Mitsubishi Shipbuilding, Niigata Power Systems, Uzushio Electric, SKY Perfect JSAT Corporation, Tokyo Keiki, Nippon Telegraph and Telephone Corporation, NTT DOCOMO, Japan Radio, Furuno Electric and Japan Marine Science.

Harbour tugs are viewed as likely to be one of the first vessel classes to become autonomous. In other developments to support this view, Rolls-Royce is studying automatic mooring technology as part of its autonomous tugboat concept. The company is looking at developing robotic cranes that could be used for hooking up ships to tugs during towage operations. A robotic crane could also be used for docking and line removal without the need for crew or port personnel to assist.

Growth in Trade: Rising Trend for Now

FOR THE FIRST time since the 2007-8 crash, growth in trade at the world's big container ports is looking solid. The Journal of Commerce (16 August 2018) reports that "growth accelerated at eight of the top ten global ports in 2017".

Shanghai and Singapore, the world's two busiest container ports, had volume up 8.3% and 9% respectively.

Jebel Ali, in Dubai, the flagship port for DP World, was up 4.1%. The biggest European ports, Rotterdam and Antwerp, were up 10.7% and 4.1%. Los Angeles was up 6.1%, Long Beach 10.9%, New York and New Jersey up 7.4%.

The latest comprehensive figures for the Port of Brisbane, for the financial year 2016-7, show a 10% rise in total cargo handled, an 8% rise in import container volumes, and a 12.7% rise in export container volumes. Movement of cement products and motor vehicles declined, but wood chip, fertiliser, and bulk cereal trade increased.

That was the first solid year-on-year rise in TEUs since 2012-3. Monthly reports since mid 2017 suggest that the rising trend has been maintained.

There are enough signs of instability in the global economy to raise reasonable fears that these rising trends could turn around soon. That makes it urgent and important to lock in union achievements as quickly as possible.

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