



QUEENSLAND BRANCH NEWS

NEWSLETTER of the QLD Branch of the MARITIME UNION of AUSTRALIA

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No. 17 – Thursday October 8, 2015

Missing ship's crew – Coal miner reinstated – Brisbane Ferries

Branch Conference – December 3 & 4

THE MUA QLD Branch Conference is less than two months away. The two day conference will be held on Thursday December 3 and Friday December 4 at the Queensland Council of Unions (QCU) Building, Level 2, 16 Peel Street, South Brisbane.

One of our keynote speakers is Jordi Aragunde. Jordi is the General Coordinator of the International Dockworkers Council (IDC). The IDC was officially

founded in 2000 and has over 90,000 members all over the world, with affiliates in North and South America, Europe and Africa.

Jordi has written an excellent article called "Globalization and Solidarity".

This article has been sent to committees and delegates and is available on the MUA QLD Facebook group. Members are encouraged to have a read of Jordi's article.

Solidarity with missing ship's crew

A total of 33 seafarers from the cargo ship *El Faro* are feared drowned. The missing container vessel is assumed to have sunk after getting caught in the path of hurricane Joaquin. Contact was lost with the ship on Thursday October 1.

The *El Faro* left Florida last Tuesday on its regular run to Puerto Rico. Debris, an empty lifeboat and the remains of one seafarer have since been recovered.

The ship had 33 people aboard - 28 Americans and five Polish nationals.

Both the MUA National Secretary and the Queensland Branch have sent messages of condolence to the Seafarer's International Union (SIU) of North America [messages and a statement from SIU Secretary Treasurer Dave Heindel can be

found on the MUA website].

This tragedy is yet another reminder of the dangers that we face in our industry. Our hopes and prayers are with the families of these missing seafarers.



**Unionists from the CFMEU, MUA and ETU show their support for reinstated coal miner and CFMEU member Alan Scott
(Photo courtesy CFMEU Mining & Energy – QLD District)**

MUA QLD supports

reinstated coal miner

A delegation of MUA and ETU members were part of the Guard of Honour that accompanied coal miner Alan Scott as he returned to work on October 6. MUA members Mark Maguire, Craig Hope and Alex Hood and ETU member Mark Cowan made the 11-hour road trip to Clermont to take part.

Alan Scott was made forcibly redundant by Clermont Coal (owned by Glencore Xstrata) in November 2014. The CFMEU Mining & Energy Division took legal action to overturn his dismissal.

On September 11, the Federal Court found that his dismissal was in part due to his union activities and

ruled in favour of the CFMEU (Scott was the President of the CFMEU's Clermont Open Cut Lodge at the time of his dismissal).

Not only did the MUA / ETU delegation celebrate the CFMEU's win in Clermont. They also organised a fundraising raffle for our sacked members at Hutchison Ports. When the delegation returned to Brisbane, the first thing they did was to give a report on their solidarity trip to those at the community assembly outside Hutchison.

The delegation would like to thank the local CFMEU members and residents for their solidarity and support.

Brisbane Ferries worker beats management intimidation

MUA member Emma Metcalfe, who was stood down on pay for three weeks by Transdev Brisbane Ferries, has now been reinstated. Her only crime was to try to ensure her own personal health at work.

On September 3, Emma brought some protective face masks to work with the idea of using them to cover the filthy microphones that employees are forced to use aboard the ferries. Before Emma even had a chance to use the masks, management ambushed her in the smoko room, told her to immediately collect her belongings and get off site.

Emma quickly got in touch with the MUA Branch. Once the QLD Branch stepped in, Transdev management quickly changed their tune. Emma was reinstated on September 30 and is now back at work.

These intimidation tactics will no doubt continue. But Emma's case is a clear demonstration that being a strong woman and having the knowledge that your union is 100% behind you CAN stop intimidation tactics like these in their tracks.

Transdev have been told in no uncertain terms that any MUA member asked to attend any future meeting with management will do so with a witness / support person. If Transdev have nothing to hide, they should have no problem with this.

Report by Central QLD Organiser Paul Petersen

Monthly Meeting – October 27

The Branch's monthly meeting will be held on Tuesday October 27 in the Brisbane union rooms from 9am. All members are encouraged to attend.

MUA Picnic Day – November 3

The long-held tradition of MUA Picnic Day -

Melbourne Cup Day is fast approaching. The day is a wonderful social event for both MUA members and their families.

Picnic Day is at The Plantation, 1204 New Cleveland Road, Gumdale from 9am to 4pm.

As always, morning tea and lunch are provided, along with ice creams, lollies and drinks.

There are novelty races and events for all ages. For the kids there will be jumping castles, slides, swings, merry-go-rounds and train rides, as well as swimming pools (with lifeguards on duty), tennis courts and beach volleyball courts.

Any members that can help with set-up for the day are asked to arrive on-site at 6.30am.

Branch Committee meeting – November 6

The first Branch Committee meeting since the 2015 Quadrennial Elections will be held on Friday November 6 in the Brisbane union rooms.

Activist Committee meetings

ACTIVIST Committee meetings are held on the second and last Tuesday of every month. The meeting on the second Tuesday of the month starts at 10am in the union rooms. The meeting on the last Tuesday of the month begins after the Monthly Meeting. All members are encouraged to attend.

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