



QUEENSLAND BRANCH NEWS

NEWSLETTER of the QLD Branch of the MARITIME UNION of AUSTRALIA

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THIS ELECTION PUT THE LNP LAST

No. 47 – Friday July 1, 2016

International Day of Action - Patrick Forced Back to the Negotiating Table – QUBE Election Round Up – Sea Swift - Victorian Women's Conference

International Day of Action



MAKE JULY 7 A DAY TO REMEMBER!
July 7 will see the first complete World Wide International Day of Action by Dockworkers. On July 7 at 0800 wherever in the world they may be, Dockers are stopping work to protest about working conditions, to fight for safety, to remember those lost and badly injured on

the job and perhaps most importantly of all to send a powerful message to the Global Transport Giants like Hutchison, DP World, Maersk, MSC and PSA that if you touch one Dockworker anywhere you hurt every Dockworker in the world and we will fight back. The details of the Brisbane Meeting are below. All to attend. Multi User Terminal, Seafarer Avenue (off Port Drive) Fisherman's Island.

Branch Meets with Qube on Part B

ON MONDAY BRANCH Secretary - Bob Carnegie, Organiser - Paul Petersen and Delegates John Cummings and Graham Bell met with Qube management over the Part B outstanding issues.

Of most significant concern was the 7x1 roster. Management formally withdrew their attempt to reorganise this cherished condition of Qube members.

Discussions took place on numerous issues and all in all it was a fairly positive meeting.

The Delegates and Officials will be reporting back in full to members next week.

Patrick Forced to Come Back to the Negotiating Table

DEPUTY NATIONAL SECRETARY - Will Tracey reported at the last Stop Work Meeting in May that Patrick's attempt to get a non-union agreement up had been overwhelmingly rejected by our members. Despite the clear message that the MUA and its members would not stand for an inferior agreement, confirmed through the near unanimous NO vote in the ballot, we could not get Patrick back to the negotiating table.

Following the ballot on the non-union agreement, Will Tracey travelled to each of the Patrick Terminals to hold

mass meetings. It was clear from these meetings that our members were rightly feeling hostile toward the company for their clear decision to ignore the reasonable requests of our workers by choosing not to re-engage in meaningful EBA discussions.

Instead, Patrick came out in the media with blatant lies about average earnings and conditions. This was a shameless attempt to control the media narrative and win a public advantage over their employees. Patrick chose to declare war against their workforce rather than take on board what workers have said about the non-union agreement - some kind of retribution for expressing a view contrary to Patrick management.

Despite this, the Union and our delegates refused to be drawn in. Instead, we continued to request further bargaining meetings to progress negotiations, along with a track-changed, word copy of the non-union agreement they put out so we could easily identify where we were apart and come back to the table with genuine counter offers. Patrick refused this simple request, a decision which was baffling to say the least but indicative of the poor attitude of the company toward its employees and the MUA.

In a blatant attempt to set up an application for Good Faith Bargaining orders in Fair Work, Patrick sent correspondence to the MUA addressed to Deputy National Secretary - Will Tracey, outlining alleged concerns they had around the bargaining. Unsurprisingly, this was shortly followed by notice from Patrick that they had made a formal Good Faith Bargaining application to Fair Work. The MUA replied to the Patrick correspondence by outlining how any application to Fair Work for Good Faith Bargaining orders was premature and should be withdrawn. We also highlighted that the holdup in negotiations was not because of our actions, but instead was the result of the irrational and unreasonable actions of Patrick.

The matter was listed for hearing last Friday, June 24 2016, before VP Watson in Fair Work. VP Watson suggested that on the basis of the evidence he had read,

the parties should go into informal conference to see if they could work through the issues. This indicated the Patrick argument; that the MUA was not engaging in good faith bargaining; was a weak one. As a result of discussions, the following was agreed:

1. The MUA would provide further details on the 5 issues Patrick identified they needed further information/clarification on by Wednesday of next week;
2. Patrick would supply a WORD version of the 5 clauses they wanted clarified immediately and the complete tracked changes WORD version of the EBA they put out to vote and we had been asking for in the next week;
3. The MUA would provide the Botany outstanding claims ASAP and a meeting would be organised next week to progress discussions with the Part B committee and management;
4. Patrick would facilitate a meeting next week of the Fremantle Part B committee to finalise their Part B and then organise a further meeting that week with management;
5. The Parties would organise to meet in front of DP Booth to discuss how negotiations would continue to resolve outstanding issues. The MUA would attend with 4 officials and 2 delegates from each state as per previous custom and practice. These meeting would be arranged for the week of July 4th.

In short – Patrick withdrew the Good Faith bargaining application they lodged and told Fair Work they would file a Discontinuance Notice. Despite all the rhetoric from the usual Patrick management suspects in the press about the hearing, we were actually able to get a practical outcome with face-to-face discussions. Clearly the attempt to politicise the EBA campaign has been seen for the puff and wind it was.

Final Roundup of Election Support

IN WHAT MANY pundits describe as the ‘longest and perhaps dullest’ election Campaign, PM Turnbull Thursday, addressed the National Press Club. The LNP Mantra of “never more exciting times” must have been delivered dozens of times. Well it’s NOT exciting times for workers and Unionists. It will be “devastation times” for workers should the LNP be re-elected on Saturday July 2.

Turnbull's focus upon “investment, jobs” etc is another mantra of the Government, outlining their plans to provide jobs for the future. A complete contradiction in terms by the LNP to the thousands of jobs already destroyed in the auto, maritime, steel, smelter and refineries shutdowns. This is the reality delivered by this LNP government. Attacks upon the Trade Union movement has seen a Politicised Royal Commission focusing upon Shorten, Gillard, the MUA and CFMEU

leadership and the same political mischief used as the “trigger” for a Double Dissolution Election, and in ongoing attempts to impose the ABCC and Registered Organisation Bills if re-elected.



Members Rallying Port of Brisbane Road

Over the eight week campaign, MUA and other Unionists have combined their efforts with the ACTU and communities, in identifying marginal seats to focus upon, and in many diverse actions on the ground, door-knocking, leafletting, rallies, and attending Politician’s launches and meetings throughout electorates. This has been a tremendous effort by those who gave their time and energy in one of the critical and urgent needs to ensure the membership intend to put the LNP last.

Wednesday this week saw ONLY 19 MUA members who had not yet been reached in phone-banking efforts. The ACTU and National Office has recognised those fantastic efforts along with the constant activity throughout Queensland. The Northern Queensland membership have participated in support of ensuring the LNP are placed last on pre-polling as well as Saturday’s ballots. Ongoing support has also been delivered to the Glen Lazarus Team to retain his Senate position. The ALP sitting member Justine Elliot in the Federal Seat of Richmond Northern NSW, has been given the same support from the MUA.

Comrades, in this last Branch newsletter before the Election on Saturday, it is vital you understand how critical your vote is to ensure you put the LNP last, and “elect” an ALP Government. Without that victory, ‘OUR’ struggle will of course continue, and is of equal importance that you are ready and willing to engage in and support both efforts.

Mike Barber – MUA Queensland Branch Member

Townsville Members Lead the Way to Ewen Jones’ Office

NORTH QUEENSLAND MUA members turned out with many other local unionists and community members for what were the biggest rallies of the Herbert and Leichardt Federal Election Campaigns so far. The focus was on the Labour Movement’s Aussie Jobs Campaign which has been spearheaded by MUA members right across the country. The members joined chants about keeping Aussie jobs, and listened to accounts of the LNP Government’s support for mass sackings across the country – which had the full support of local MPs Ewen Jones and Warren Entsch.



The support shown to the large gatherings by the passing public was a strong indication that the local communities

are supportive of the Campaign being waged by the Labour Movement.



The Cairns event was addressed by MUA Assistant National Secretary - Ian Bray, who spoke about the

abandonment of Aussie jobs by the Turnbull Government with the support of local MP, Warren Entsch. MUA Activist, Terry O'Shane thanked the gathering for turning up and supporting the Campaign.

The Townsville rally was addressed by QCU General Secretary - Ros McLennan, who spoke about the LNP's failures in preserving jobs for workers across the country. MUA Deputy National Secretary - Will Tracey, spoke about the "greatest con" of the LNP Government's election campaign based on a slogan of jobs and growth. MUA Queensland Branch Secretary - Bob Carnegie, spoke of an LNP Government that was firmly entrenched in the pursuit of wealth distribution for the rich to the detriment of the working class. ACTU Organiser - Simon Mitchell, rounded off the speeches by presenting a gift which he proposed to pass on to Ewen Jones – a framed picture of the Costa Concordia and its Captain, Francesco Schettino, addressed to Ewen Jones signed "from one abandoner to another."



With only days to go to the Federal Election, our members have driven the message of putting the LNP last

and backed it up with a big showing on the day of the rally – a big well done to all involved and thank you for making the events a success.

SEA SWIFT

AFTER SEA SWIFT'S defeat by the full bench of the Fair Work Commission ruling that Sea Swift vessels are now covered under the Seagoing Award the company have applied to have the Seagoing Award varied (or modernised) to suit their business. A process that will take until at least October or November. The Unions have argued that the workers were being denied the chance of reaching an Enterprise Agreement with better conditions and so applied for a Scope Order that would separate the marine workers from shore based workers and have also forced the company back to EBA negotiations on other items.

Some of the items raised were fatigue and hours of work, company to cover costs of COC's and revalidations and other Seagoing Award allowances to be added to the Agreement. The company still flatly refuses Union Officials Right of Entry (ROE) to board their vessels in a desperate attempt to keep us from talking to our members about their working conditions, safety or the EBA.

The dispute has been to Fair Work and the company has engaged a barrister and a lawyer to try and stop us using our rights under the Act to engage our members or potential members where they have their breaks. On board the vessel not in a demountable on the wharf. The next ROE hearing is on Monday July 4. If any Sea Swift members have any safety concerns, please contact Assistant Branch Secretary - Paul Gallagher.

BRISBANE LINESMEN

AFTER MANY YEARS operating as non-union businesses both Ausport Marine and ES Randle's are refusing to negotiate an Agreement with the MUA. Both companies are in the Commission under good faith bargaining orders. Ausport was adjourned and have until August 5 to reach agreement. Randle's is up for a majority support application along with an unfair dismissal claim after dismissing one of our members on trumped up charges.

While both companies' management stick their head in the sand about their workers' right to organise collectively, they continue to bully their workforce, pay them a pittance and fight each other for scraps in a race to the bottom. The only winner is the shipowner who is laughing at the cheap rates they pay for mooring in the Brisbane river. MUA members deserve better and will be rewarded for their patience and persistence.

REVALIDATION TRAINING IN BRISBANE

IMPORTANT: SEAFARERS HAVE until the end of this year to revalidate their certificates. There is now a course running in Brisbane. Check out the website below. Here are the course dates over the next couple of months:

- Full Course 8 days - \$2,300 – August 5 2016 (STCW CoST)
- Revalidation 5 days (seafarers without required sea time) - \$1,700 – August 5 2016
- Refresher 2 days (seafarers with required sea time) - \$1,350 – July 20/21 and August 19/20 2016

Required sea time - 3 months in the last 6 months or 12 months in the last 5 years.

www.ecamaritimecollege.edu.au

UNION SHOPPER

COMRADES, I HAVE recently been elected to the Committee of Management for Union Shopper, a 100% Union owned organisation that has been saving money for Union members for 40 years by using our combined purchasing power. There have been some changes in the way Union Shopper operates with them now offering an online service to our members rather than receiving the printed directory once a year. This service to our members offers discounts on items such as new cars, mortgage brokers, insurance, holidays, travel, whitegoods and electrical from JB Hi-Fi and Goodguys. If you are not registered online follow this link to register.

<https://www.unionshopper.com.au/>

Also all Queensland MUA members will be receiving an introductory email shortly followed by weekly offers straight to your inbox. If you do not wish to receive these offers there is an opt out button you can use anytime to stop these emails. We operate in an online economy now comrades so check out the website and take advantage of their discounts and offers.

Paul Gallagher - Assistant Branch Secretary

Overview from Victorian Women's Conference Tuesday June 7, 2016

I WOULD LIKE to thank the Queensland Branch for their support in my attending the Victorian Women's Working Conference held on Tuesday 7th June, 2016.

The keynote speakers were Ged Kearney, ACTU President and Kate Jenkins, Sex Discrimination Commissioner.

Kate Jenkins acknowledged the role of Unions in our society and their necessity for women who work part-time or casual. She spoke of the inequality and disparity in the male versus female pay issue. Her acknowledgement was a surprise as both Kate Jenkins



and her predecessor Elizabeth Broderick were both appointed by Liberal Governments. Ged Kearney spoke about the election and for

the women in the workforce to get involved in putting the Liberals last. Whether it was telephoning, door knocking, letterbox dropping, we all should contribute to ensure that a Labor Government is elected.

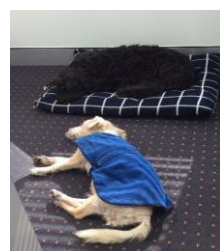
Our workshops included – Speaking Out for Women's Rights at Work, Introduction to Campaigning, Building Strong Campaign Teams and Creative Activism. It was well worth attending and to be in a room with like-minded women Unionist was inspirational.

Ann Gray – National Women's Committee

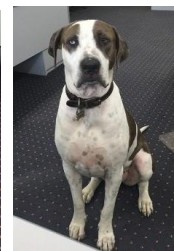
Canine Capers - Pet Friendly Workplace

IN RECENT WEEKS, Carol one of our staff members has been invited to talk on 4BC and ABC radio about bringing her dog Whiskey to work on a daily basis. There is a growing interest within businesses about this topic. This came about when Whiskey who is 15 years old had a fall at home whilst Carol was at work and couldn't get up for quite a few hours and was very distressed.

Carol called the Branch Secretary Bob Carnegie to ask if it would be okay to bring Whiskey to work. Bob's reply was "we wouldn't be much of a Union if we didn't look after our sick comrades, two legs or four!" Therein started the Whiskey saga and now several staff members bring their dogs to work on regular visits.



Whiskey with Albert



Bamboo



Rigby

The supporting cast line-up is: Bob's dog Albert, Paul Petersen's girl Bamboo and Lyza with Rigby.

Personal Details Update

MEMBERS, YOUR STATEMENT of dues for tax purposes will be posted out in early July. Please ensure all of your details are up to date with the Branch, including home address, email and mobile number.

Contact the Branch on

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

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