

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. 99 – Friday 11 August 2017

**NSS Townsville - Linx Brisbane and Gladstone – Support Your Delegates - Svitzer – Ichthys Venturer
Cape Marin Access Patricks – Legal Eagle Advice – Book Donation Drive - Book Corner**

NSS Townsville

A MEETING OF members at NSS in Townsville was held last week on the 3rd August to discuss and adopt a position to progress the Enterprise Agreement. Branch Secretary Bob Carnegie, Assistant Branch Secretary Paul Gallagher and National Lead Organiser Bernie Farrelly attended the meeting of over 40 members who attended.

Negotiations have been going for over 18 months and have culminated into an impasse after the company made two (2) out of the three (3) negotiating committee delegates redundant. Comrades Paddy Neliman and Allan Webber were delegates from the start of negotiations and sadly made redundant in May this year.

After losing Paddy and Alan, members at NSS have elected a new ECC committee that have got on the front foot committing to make every effort to progress the EA. The new committee members are Aaron Sperring, Brad May, Josh Larsen, Norm Morley, Aaron Porter, Marty Lawler and Gary Moore.

To equip the new committee the Queensland Branch sent Paul Williams to Townsville to deliver two (2) days of delegate training.

Last week's meeting also endorsed Jimmy Weber and Peter Flower as roster delegates. Following the meeting comrades Carnegie, Gallagher and Farrelly, together with the committee met with management to deliver the memberships position.

Members at NSS are calling on NSS to agree to a suite of conditions in lieu of a reduction in salary hours from 1970 to 1820. Included in the memberships claim is four (4) new permanent or VSE positions. Management are yet to respond.

The new committee members are congratulated for their hard work in organising the meeting and developing a position with the membership in what is a very difficult period in the bargaining process.

Bernie Farrelly - National Lead Organiser

Linx Brisbane

LINX B&G BRISBANE MUA members have been fighting to reduce the numbers of redundancies that have been called for by Linx management.

The national representative of Linx management came to our port of Brisbane calling for reduced costs to operations.

Their requests included a reduction in wages for all MUA members, the removal of permanent double accounted hours, more access to the six remaining permanents, the introduction of 12 hour midnight shifts and redundancies.



The Linx MUA delegates and ERC representatives in Brisbane are a very active committee, well organised, willing to engage in action and they know their workplace intimately.

They are exactly the type of MUA delegates Linx and Brookfield (parent company) don't want. The company first called for 19 redundancies and a reduction in fixed costs.

After several robust meetings between the MUA representatives and management an agreement was reached around a Permanent Irregular Roster (PIR) and a pro rata accumulation of leave for PGE's.

This was on the proviso the company put out expressions of interest for volunteer redundancies first. Six MUA members chose to take the volunteer redundancies but the company insisted they wanted 10.

MUA Queensland Branch Secretary, Bob Carnegie and I restated the MUA Queensland Branch position with the Linx manager, which was the company should take the six volunteers, if Linx tried to compel or force any members into redundancies the Branch and its members would fight the company with everything we have and

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

73 Southgate Avenue, Cannon Hill QLD 4170

the PIR and the pro rata PGE would be removed from the negotiation table.

The company hesitantly agreed with our position.

A members' meeting was called for on the 3rd August at the union rooms where National MUA official, Ian Bray and Branch Secretary, Garry Keane gave the members a report on Part A (National issues) of the EBA.

That meeting went for over five hours and the pro rata PGE position was the contentious issue of the day. A general consensus was reached but a further meeting will be held Friday 11th August at the Queensland MUA rooms to ensure all members have the opportunity to have their say and understand the issues at hand.

Part B (local issues) negotiations will continue in both Brisbane and Gladstone over the next few weeks.

Gladstone Linx will be having an MUA safety training day on the 18th conducted by our National Safety and Education officer Mick Cross.

This training is being conducted at all Linx ports around Australia by our MUA trainer, Mick Cross. *Paul Petersen*

Gladstone Linx Part B negotiation.

THE GLADSTONE LINX delegates and ERC committee have been doing a great job and have already had two Part B negotiation meetings where the company are trying to:

- Change dispatch and non-stevedoring tasks in the yard to a different rate similar to the award, logistics or warehousing rate.
- Change permanent employees' travel allowance from accounted hours back to award rate.
- Extensions at Rio Tinto Yarwun for permanent employees changed from double accounted hours/accounted hours back to normal hours.
- Training rates Including induction allocations paid at award.
- 4 hour minimum completion shifts for pitch and coke vessels.
- Introduction of grade 5 holds man on gear bulk vessels.

MUA Gladstone members are looking for:

- Night shifts to be capped.
- 3x30 minute meal breaks on 12hr shifts.
- Evening shift that concludes after 0100 hours the minimum break for an employee shall be 12hrs break
- Grade 5 Excavator and Grade 3 clerical to be paid on log vessels.
- All close port days are to be from 7am to 7am. Anzac Day exempt.
- Start times to change to 0600-1800, 1800-0600.
- Holiday point system.
- When signing onto as a Person In Charge the rate for a Person In Charge will be paid.
- Potential to earn point system for the casual members.

Gladstone Linx is a port that has two outstanding lead delegates: Dan Gouley and Chris Massy.

With the backing from the large majority of Gladstone MUA members who are always happy to turn up to meetings to participate and support their delegates in the betterment of their workplace. *Paul Petersen*

Delegates and ERC Committee Members

OUR DELEGATES AND ERC committee members are the driving force that ensure your wages and conditions are retained and continue to improve.

These are union members that have taken it upon themselves to fight for your rights at work, your wages and your safe working conditions.

They do this all voluntarily!

There is no extra payment or glory for the delegate, it's rare they get a pat on the back or thanks.

Delegates fight for you and your family for one reason, because they believe in you.

They believe in your rights at work, they believe in your safety at work and they believe in you having the right to a decent wage and time to spend with the ones you love. Without our MUA delegates from the past and the present we would not have half of what we take for granted today.

Please don't let your local delegates be taken for granted. Support them, encourage them, stand by them and thank them.

In times such as these, where casualisation, automation and containerisation is being used against Wharfies and Dockers around the world by huge multi-national corporations on the endless pursuit of mega profits, our delegates and active members are essential in organising the one thing all multi-national corporations fear.

Workers United!

In unity - Paul Petersen - Queensland Branch Organiser

Svitzer Operations Staff Redundancies

SVITZER QUEENSLAND OPERATIONS staff have been advised that they will now be centralising the customer service operations centre on the east coast to one centre based in Newcastle by October 1 of this year.

These members are responsible for towage operations within the Brisbane region as well as North Queensland and ensure vessel departure and arrival windows are met.

Unfortunately, this redundancy is in light of achieving some great results in a recent EBA signed of earlier this year. The move to Newcastle is not an option for most members due to their family circumstances and is a concerning time for those of our members who don't have the option.

The usual problems are arising where one member has been lucky enough to find employment elsewhere, but of course after being a model employee for Svitzer over the years, is being refused to take up that opportunity due to the ambiguous closing date within the Brisbane operations centre. This is a disappointing approach by Svitzer but a rather typical one by most employees

nowadays, where no empathy is shown towards their employees but rather employees are viewed as a unit cost.

For those who wish to take up the role in Newcastle you of course will be taking a \$10 thousand dollar pay cut which seems a contradiction as the higher costs of living in NSW was a claim that was put forward by Svitzer during our recent EBA negotiations and therefore Queensland employees did not need the same income as our southern comrades.

Fortunately we secured a good redundancy clause in preparation for such an event where employees may receive up to 78 weeks redundancy with the standard three weeks for every year of service. As well our transfer and relocation clauses are very sound for those who wish to make the move.

It has been a pleasure working closely with the fine group of men and women at Svitzer and the Queensland Branch acknowledges all your efforts in the interest of solidarity over the years.

Damien McGarry – Relief Official

Queensland Bulk Terminals

QUEENSLAND BULK TERMINALS (QBT) has just completed a successful vote for their EBA. This was a very difficult document to settle due to the nature of bargaining style from QBT for not agreeing to anything until the whole document was settled.

We are very fortunate to have 2 great delegates in Curtis Milleskie and Ian Mercer who are very adept in the operational procedures at QBT. Their knowledge assisted all in achieving some good results with the main result being graded to the correct grades under the Stevedoring Award after years of being underpaid.

These men have been doing team leader roles for years and not graded accordingly, as well as no upgrades for others whilst performing in those higher duty roles. Whilst these issues seem a basic entitlement in our historical workplaces, issues like these are typical of most sites that have not had the history or luxury of a unionised workplace.

The conditions we all enjoy today are due to the efforts of delegates past and present. We all must respect those delegates for upholding and negotiating our conditions. A delegate is only as strong as his workmates, anything is possible with the strength of the collective.

Damien McGarry – Relief Official

MUA Sail Down – Ichthys Venturer Report

THE ICHTHYS VENTURER—floating production, storage and offloading (FPSO) facility has safely sailed away from South Korea on the 15 July 2017 for the Ichthys Field in the Browse Basin, offshore Western Australia.

After successfully completing sea-trials, offshore Geaje Island the FPSO proudly commenced her 5,600 kilometre voyage,

Announcement was good news to all personnel. Sincere congratulations to the people on the sail down who have

contributed their expertise and determination and, enabling us to safely sail away.

With the FPSO complexity, and therefore I would like to extend my thanks to the MUA members for their huge efforts in achieving this massive goal.

Two Posh tugs plus one escort tug will accompany the 336 metre long facility and her 157 crew through the East China and Philippines seas and the Indonesian archipelago. The journey is expected to take one month, subject to weather conditions.

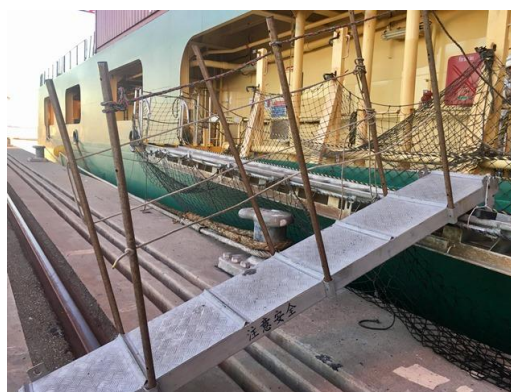
On arrival to location, the FPSO will be positioned in the reconfiguration area just outside the Field where she will undergo the tug reconfiguration and position-keeping trial.



When complete, she will then be towed into the Field and positioned approximately 3.5 kilometres away from the Ichthys Explorer—central processing facility. The facility's turret will be hooked up to 21 mooring chains, the risers and then umbilicals will be connected and commissioned. The production phase that will start at the end of this year.

MUA Crew - Ichthys Venturer

Cape Marin Access – Patricks



OUR VIGILANT MEMBERS at Patrick's Terminal recently refused to accept this as safe access to a vessel. The members at

Patrick's are applauded to taking such a strong stance on safety. If this is how a shipowner thinks he can treat well organised wharfies, one can only dream how the shipowner treats the poor crew in their employ.

Harley Raffle

TICKETS ARE SELLING fast for the grand prize 2017 Breakout Harley Davidson motorcycle to be drawn at the MUA Queensland Branch Conference in November. It has been badged with the MUA Queensland Branch logo. Only 1000 tickets to be sold. These are a bargain at only \$50 a ticket.



The Legal Eagle



The Pitfalls of Lending to Family and Friends

WHEN I WAS in private practice, I would often field enquiries from people who had lent money to family and friends, only to find themselves out in the cold when the relationship soured.

Many people lend to their family and friends on a handshake. It's a practice born from the best of intentions, and a sign of generosity and loyalty by the lender, usually a parent or grandparent. From a legal perspective, however, lending on a handshake is a minefield to be avoided at all costs.

Some of the more common cases that arise include when parents lend money to children in the purchase of property; when an employee lends money to their employer (and vice versa); or when people lend to family and friends for new business ventures.

There is nothing wrong with such lending, provided everyone is clear on what the transaction is (a loan, not a gift), the transaction is properly documented, and the consequences of default are understood by everyone. There is nothing to be lost, and everything to be gained, in properly documenting lending to family and friends, and putting in place the mechanisms to protect you if the worst happens. As the political philosopher Thomas Hobbes noted in *Leviathan*, "*covenants, without the sword, are but words.*"

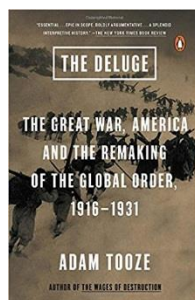
If you are considering lending money to family or friends, you should see a lawyer before committing to it. There are sensible ways to protect yourself, and there is no shame in keeping everything 'above board'. Some of the options available include:

- If you are lending money to help in the purchase of a property, consider registering a mortgage over the property;
- If you are lending money to help in the setting up of a business, consider registering a security interest over the assets of the business, or taking a shareholding in the business;
- If you are being asked to lend money to help a friend's company, make sure you get a personal guarantee from the friend.

The costs and risks of lending on a handshake can be huge, including the potential loss of the money lent, the breakdown of relationships, and the difficulties associated with litigation. So, before you lend, talk to a lawyer and make sure that the arrangement is properly documented.

By David Greene – Industrial Legal Officer

Is Nationalism "Anti-Imperialist"? by Martin Thomas



TWO RECENT BOOKS shed light on the current tendency in the labour movement, including and sometimes even especially on the left of the labour movement, to present nationalism and anti-Americanism as left-wing, because "anti-imperialist".

Adam Tooze's 100th-anniversary book on the aftermath of World War 1, *The Deluge*, traces a failed effort then by

US President Woodrow Wilson and others to regulate the "uninhibited military, economic, political and cultural competition" to redivide the world among the big powers which had led to the World War.

Wilson saw it in terms of overcoming "imperialism", which to him, as to many since the word entered wide usage around 1900, meant "the intense 'world political' competition into which the great powers entered in the late 19th century".

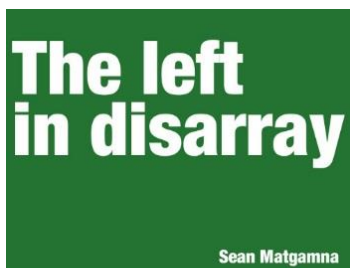
Wilson did not favour liberation of the colonies. His famous "14 Points" of January 1918, despite their later reputation, mentioned "democracy" or "self-determination" not at all.

About the colonies, the 14 Points asked only that the claims of rival metropolises be settled by "impartial adjustment", not war, and that "the interests of the populations concerned" (interests, not views) should have "equal weight" with the claims of the imperial centres.

When Japan asked for the Versailles Treaty to include a clause for racial equality, and eventually retreated to asking only for "just treatment of all nationals", Britain and the USA vetoed even that (with Britain hypocritically claiming that it opposed the clause in deference to Australia).

Wilson's effort in fact segued into the invasion of post-1917 revolutionary Russia by 14 foreign armies, a robber Versailles Treaty, and expansion of the British empire under the guise of "League of Nations mandates". More generally, into trade wars in the 1930s, fascism, and World War 2.

The outcome as regards political language was that the word "imperialism" came to be taken (even by those who ruled empires) as something bad; and it came to be applied equally to big-power rivalries and the big-power accords which Wilson saw as the antidote to "imperialism".



Sean Matgamna's book *The Left in Disarray* takes up the story after 1945. By dint of the influence of the apparent success of Stalin's USSR, a further mutation of usage, coined by Stalin's crony Zhdanov, came to dominate even much of the anti-Stalinist left.

In Europe, the USA was deemed not just a force for capitalist world-market discipline, but archetypally "imperialist", even in for

example the Marshall Plan.

The looting, mass rapes, mass deportations to slave-labour, and suppression of national rights in the Eastern Europe ruled by Stalin were criticised by anti-Stalinist, but considered to be by definition *not* imperialist.

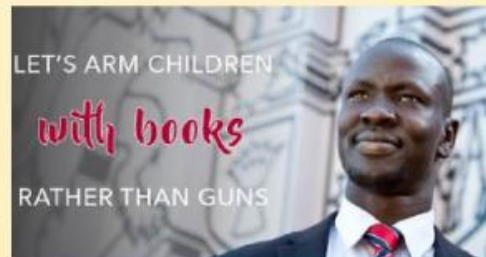
In the era of capitalist triumphalism and after the 1989-91 collapse of Stalinism in Europe, as Matgamna describes it, too many on the left gave up on positive working-class opposition to capitalism, and started instead to see progress in whatever was "anti-imperialist" (i.e. opposed to the USA, or contrary to global economic integration).

Now we have Trump, another conservative US President denouncing what he sees as globalism (and being praised by his "chief strategist", Steve Bannon, as kin to William Jennings Bryan, one of whose catchcries was "no imperialism"). It should be enough to convince the labour movement that it must speak out in its own name and for its own independent positive aims.

Donate Your Unwanted Books – A Joint Venture with MUA Queensland Branch and Patricks

If you cannot drop your books at the Port, please feel free to leave them at the union rooms and we will have them delivered for this great cause.

At the age of 6, Deng Adut was forced to fight in the war that eventually split his homeland of Sudan. Trained as a child soldier, Deng eventually made his way to Australia and is now making a difference as a lawyer and an advocate.



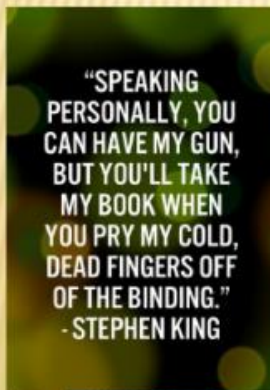
Deng recognises the importance and opportunities that education can make and has been sending books back to Sudan so those less fortunate can be educated.

What We Want To Do....

Working in conjunction with Brookfield, we want to fill a 20' container with books to send back to Sudan in aid of this great cause.

What We Need From You....

Books!! Textbooks, children's books, fiction books, legal books...any book that is still in good reading condition will be gratefully received.



Collection of the books will begin on Monday 31st July.

Please leave your books in the designated collection boxes which will be located in your site lunch rooms and HR personnel's offices.

The collection boxes will be available until Friday 11th August.

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