



SYDNEY BRANCH NEWS

No. 1/2010 — 4 January 2010



2010—International Year of the Seafarer

The IMO has declared 2010 Year of the Seafarer. But National Secretary of the MUA Paddy Crumlin says to ensure a future for young seafarers, 2010 is the year the Government needs to urgently create incentives for investment in new ships.

The International Maritime Organisation has placed a clear focus on the world's 1.5 million seafarers in 2010 by choosing- as the theme for World Maritime Day - "2010: Year of the Seafarer".

Secretary General of the IMO, Efthimios Mitropoulos, said dedicating the theme to men and women seafarers recognised the "contribution you make to the well-being of all of us. We will do so with deep appreciation, in recognition of the extraordinary service you render every day of your professional life, frequently under dangerous circumstances, in delivering, to the more than 6.5 billion people of the world, the wheat that makes our daily bread, the gas and oil that warms our homes or moves our vehicles and the gifts we will share and enjoy with our families and friends over this Festive Season."

"We are ever-conscious of the important role you play in helping us achieve safe, secure and efficient shipping on clean oceans - the goals that we, as the United Nations specialized agency charged with the regulation of international shipping and as a member of the global maritime community, have set ourselves. And so, we will celebrate next year's World Maritime Day theme with much pride in your contribution to our objectives, to the facilitation of more than 90% of the world's trade, and to sustainable human development", Mr Mitropoulos said.

The message was one of reassuring seafarers that the IMO would seek to add impetus to the "Go to Sea!"



campaign, launched in November 2008 to attract new entrants to the shipping industry.

The MUA's National Secretary Paddy Crumlin said the union would continue to offer incentives to young people seeking a future in seafaring, with opportunities widening with the fast expanding growth on oil and gas projects off the north west of Australia, in Timor, Bass Strait and Papua New Guinea.

"If we are celebrating the Year of the Seafarer in Australia this year we have to make sure that there is a clear future for the young men and women we are recruiting. It puts more focus on the need for the Government to put the reforms in place to revitalise Australian shipping.

"The Government is considering a number of ways to stimulate spending in new infrastructure through items

like a tonnage tax on ships - frequently used in successful international shipping economies. As an industry we have to let the Government know how urgent changes are in 2010.

Mr Mitropoulos said the IMO wanted seafarers to know that "the entire shipping community understands and cares for you".

"As shown by the efforts we make to ensure that you are fairly treated when ships on which you serve become involved in accidents; are looked after when you are abandoned in ports; are not refused shore leave for security purposes; are protected when your work takes you into piracy-infested areas; and are not left unaided when you are in distress at sea".

From: www.mua.org.au

INDUSTRIAL & POLITICAL ROUND-UP

PATRICKS

Back to the bad old days

Patrick Stevedores have seemingly returned to a confrontationalist attitude in its relationship to employees and the MUA in Port Botany. Whilst there have always been those in the organisation who have sought to undermine and bastardise, the relationship changed dramatically when all of a sudden Patricks opportunistically through their previous Terminal Manager Graeme Nelmes pulled a package that was agreed off the table. The reason they gave was loss of a contract and reduced throughput. The fact of the matter is that contracts regularly change sides for a host of market reasons and the throughput at Patricks Port Botany has increased as has the numbers in the workplace.



Targeting democratically elected Deputy Branch Secretary Glen Wood by attempting to revoke his right of entry is yet another attempt to provoke the union into disputation. Never mind the deceit and lies that are riddled throughout their evidence to the Commissioner, Company's will always attempt to undermine and shatter the collective strength of their employee's. The Union will not fall into any traps set up by this hostile employer, nor will it cooperate with them either.

The latest response delivered to the Union regarding discussions in the last few days of 2009 capped off an unremarkable year in our relationship with Patricks; first Lachlan Smith was gone unceremoniously, then Graeme Nelmes, and the replacements being Rob Hooke and Greg Dougall couldn't have been more inappropriate, not only for their lack of integrity but also for their shameless hostility and goading of the workforce, which includes: withdrawing all agreed outcomes, cancelling Christmas voucher which was to go to an

indigenous community and the children's hospital, refusing to put on agreed indigenous trainee's that was agreed under old regime, for fulfilling the provision of amenities and accommodation to a 'minimum standard' instead of community or worlds best standards which they expect us to maintain, showcasing their new multi million dollar environmentally super corporate centre was just adding insult to injury for the workforce that have lived in shanty housing for five years when we were promised eighteen months.

The Union is continuing to fight for permanency which we know exists in the roster; the Company have said that they will conduct a labour review in February to determine whether this will occur or not. The Union is drafting a response to the latest document sent to the Union and will update members in a future Branch News.

SAFE WORK 2010 Keeping us all safe

The MUA Sydney Branch is rolling out a Safe Work plan across all areas during 2010, there are still an unacceptable number of injuries occurring in our industry with a fundamental lack of investment and strategy by Company's to maximise safety. The Branch has already begun a campaign at Sydney Ferries to reduce workplace incidents and injuries and is now focused on the two stevedoring terminals, as well as vessels coming into the Ports of Sydney. Attention at Patricks has included the yard which has already received interest over many years because of the injuries caused by straddles, as well as breaches of Marine Orders 32 (MO32) which puts wharries as well as seafarers at risk of injury if not adhered to. The Union applauds the action at Patricks by the workforce in the first days of the year to ensure that vessel and yard safety are the priorities that the Companies tell us they are.

This campaign will be launched at DP World after the forum of MUA members occurs on January 14th 2010.

Committee's, delegates and members are asked to please speak to the



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INDUSTRIAL & POLITICAL ROUND-UP

Sydney Branch about areas of safety that need to be addressed and improved.

SYDNEY FERRIES **A hard win for common sense**

It was with some surprise although very much welcomed that the NSW State Labor Government announced on December 22 that the market testing exercise had been finalised and that Sydney Ferries would continue to operate under public ownership. The decision by the new Premier Kristina Keneally to keep Sydney Ferries in public hands was a major blow to the Transport and Tourism Forum and their Managing Director Chris Brown who continued to peddle the line that the private sector is better equipped to run public transport which example after example demonstrates the opposite.

This is a huge victory for those forces within the community and the workforce who demonstrated that the best ferry service is a publically owned one, which is in desperate need of investment to renew the fleet to better improve outcomes for commuters and tourists.

Sydney Ferries has suffered under poor leadership, however new CEO David Callahan seems intent on introducing measures to improve Sydney Ferries which the Union welcomes and is supportative of. However there continues to be a number of incredibly poor decisions as well as poor performance by some managers within Sydney Ferries which still impacts on the operations and on workforce confidence in a negative way. Basic issues such as pay continue to plague this area of the Branch and a seeming reluctance to introduce measures to permanently address issues around already well established and agreed principles by management undermines the positive result the Government announced.

There were a number of Labor parliamentarians who supported the Union movement's campaign against some within cabinet and they must be congratulated along with the Greens and Unions NSW. This campaign demonstrated that community campaigns can be successful when they are broad based and well

planned.

Over the course of this campaign which has been in place for a number of years now, certainly since the Walker Commission of Enquiry commenced the Union's campaign has included a number of community campaign days of action at ferry wharves, meetings with Parliamentarians, Councilors, community leaders, three Premier's, Transport Minister's, Caucus, Unions NSW and affiliates, poster's, leaflets, media, submissions to Government and the Enquiry and a raft of other measures to ensure we put the members and the community in the best possible position to ensure that transport was the issue not business profits.



NEW YEAR LAWS COVER GUEST WORKERS

Australian labour laws will now cover foreign seafarers, guest workers, on ships trading Australian domestic cargo on our coast, in a major victory for Australian shipping and both Australian and international seafarers.

For the time being ships with one or two permit voyages in any 12 months will be exempt from the operation of the Fair Work Act (and any Award made under the Act).

The legislation came into effect on January 1.

The Australian Industrial Relations Commission Seagoing Industry Award 2010 (SIA), however will not come into effect for foreign seafarers for another year.

The commission has separated permit ships from non-permit ships delaying implementation of the Fair Work Act 2009 on international ships until January, 2011.

DPWORLD FORUM **ITF Boomerang Club**



DP World MUA members will be coming together for a forum to discuss a range of issues, with particular attention on Safety, Selection Criteria, Workplace Intimidation, and Union Activity.

The meeting has been called by the members and supported by the Committee and Branch to determine the level of feeling on these issues as well as measures to put in place to resolve the issues that we have.

All members are reminded that the Branch and the Union as a whole categorically rejects intimidation against workers by Company's. The Branch will support all efforts that seek to destroy industrial thuggery that create division and fear which negatively impacts on safety and other workplace matters.

The Sydney Branch is considering new merchandise that reflects an unwillingness by any member wherever employed in the industry to be stood over, victimised or harassed and a willingness to stand up for ourselves and our hard fought for conditions of employment through industrial, community and political campaigning.

What:

DP World MUA workplace forum

Where:

***ITF Boomerang Club—Sydney
Seafarer's Centre
30-32 McCauley St, Matraville***

When:

10:00am—Thursday January 14, 2010

Who:

***All available MUA members who work
at DP World***

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND EVENTS

Sydney Branch Dues—2010

The following dues are in effect for the members of the Sydney Branch as of January 1, 2010. They include the special purpose levies.

Grade	Salary bracket	Weekly	Fortnightly	Monthly	Yearly
A	\$94,500 +	\$34.57	\$69.14	\$149.80	\$1,797.64
B	\$77,000-\$94,499	\$31.62	\$63.24	\$137.02	\$1,644.24
C	\$60,000-\$76,999	\$24.71	\$49.42	\$107.08	\$1,284.92
D	\$40,000-\$59,999	\$18.77	\$37.54	\$81.34	\$976.04
E	\$24,000-\$39,999	\$14.83	\$29.66	\$64.26	\$771.16
F	\$12,000-\$23,999	\$8.90	\$17.80	\$38.57	\$462.80
G	\$0-\$11,999	\$4.65	\$9.30	\$20.15	\$241.80

The "Sydney Branch News" is back in 2010!

We will be publishing the Sydney Branch News on a fortnightly basis in 2010 to keep members up to date with different matters affecting the Sydney Branch.



If you have any contributions whether articles, letters or announcements, please email them through to Paul McAleer (paul.mcaleer@mua.org.au).

MUA MONTHLY MEETING

Last Tuesday of every month @ 9:00am

MUA offices
365 Sussex St Sydney

Next Meeting
Tuesday, January 19
(As the last Tuesday is Australia Day)

MUA
YOUNG WORKERS
AFTERNOON
GLENMORE HOTEL
96 CUMBERLAND ST
THE ROCKS NSW 2000
4 PM THURSDAY,
JANUARY 14TH 2010

For further details please contact your delegate,
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