



# Southern Queensland Branch News

5<sup>th</sup> November 2009

## NATIONAL COUNCIL

Branch Secretary Mick Carr and Deputy Branch Secretary Trevor Munday are in Sydney this week attending the National Council meeting, which included the Queensland merger, filling casual vacancies as well as the farewell function of Jim Tannock and Rick Newlyn, who have retired after serving the union for decades. Many Brisbane Delegates will attend this celebration.

**A full report from National Council will be made at the Annual General Meeting on Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> November from 0700 – 1100 hours at the Wynnum Manly Workers Club, Bognor Street, Tingalpa.**

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## PICNIC DAY

The 2009 MUA Annual Picnic Day was held on the Melbourne Cup Closed Port day and was an outstanding success. Although Melbourne saw some “shocking” weather, Brisbane woke to a beautiful morning of blue skies and perfect weather. Unfortunately there was a delay getting in the gate this year which put lunch back a little bit, but otherwise the only worry for the parents was sunburn.

As always the children had a great day, with the slide and train packed all day; the face painter's brushes worn out; the balloon castles always full and of course the pools used extensively. Pauly Williams hot-dog stand was as usual the feature of the morning, supported by cream buns and fairy floss. It is no wonder when you see Paul in action, that anyone who gets within 5 yards of him, walks away with a hot-dog in their mouth and one in each hand.



The Picnic races are always hotly contested and, this year were run on a fast (hard) track with fewer *bindies* than normal. Unfortunately there were some falls, but thankfully no injuries. The major races saw the Men's Open Race taken out by Jason Buckle and the Ladies by Fiona Mole. Brian Gallagher ran this year but blamed the starter for his fading finish.

As always the Picnic was attended by many retired members and their families and it was great to see them running in the older age group races, which saw one of the son's run in the over 50's race; also saw Branch administration officer Judy Young run. It was quite interesting to note that some of these champions of yesteryear took 5 seconds off their best times when they took their wallets out of their back kicks! Although Billy Sorohan had serious stowage issues when said wallet was removed and the unstable stow saw him toppling forward at full pace (very thankful only his pride was injured).



Lunch was served and was magnificent. The ham, roasts, chickens and salad were just enough for the huge crowd and the plates ran out which were substituted for bread rolls by the end. Although we had to get more drinks, the ice-creams were enjoyed. Special thanks again go to Bruce Green, Barry Payne and their helpers, for their outstanding effort of providing such high quality food to so many.



The afternoon's highlights included the Tug-o-War challenge between the heavyweights of Patricks and DP World; with the monsters of DP World proving victorious this year.



Both sides put out the challenge for every Company, shipping line, tugs etc. or any team of 8 to take up the event next year.

The hard working committee ran a faultless day and thanks again go to Paul, Bruce and Barry also to Mick McLennan, Scott Eadie for their help in running the sweeps; Leanne Green and her sister for organising the prizes for the kids; and of course the many helpers who set up and cleaned up.



A feature of the Picnic is to see the unfettered joy on the face of every child. After all the food, drink and ice-creams with running, jumping and swimming all day, I'm sure nobody had too much trouble getting their kids off to sleep.



The organisers take this opportunity to invite everybody in the Union who haven't yet enjoyed the Picnic Day at the Plantation, New Cleveland Road, Gumdale at the next Melbourne Cup Closed Port Day, the first Tuesday in November 2010.

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## **ASSISTANT BRANCH SECRETARY RESIGNATION LES RAYWARD**

It is with great sadness that Les was unable to continue as the Assistant Branch Secretary due to a prolonged and debilitating illness. Les was a tireless worker and activist over the entire length of his time working in the stevedoring industry. He served on countless committees; was always at the front of any dispute and brought a passion to his work rarely seen these days. Les brought a personal quality that made members feel that on every occasion he did the very best he could to help them.

I started in 1986 and had the privilege of learning from Les since that time. On behalf of the Queensland Branch and all his friends in our Union and so many other Unions, I wish to join Branch Secretary Mick Carr in thanking Les for his service. We also wish him continued recovery and best of health in the future.

Comrade you will be surely missed by many.

Sincerely,

Tony Austin

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