



Southern Queensland Branch News

6th January 2010

2010

The Branch Executive hopes that all had the opportunity to have an enjoyable Christmas and New Year with their families.

2010 will bring new challenges to our Union and the labour movement; certainly in the State of Queensland front and centre will be the continuing fight to entrench in the minds of Bligh and her upstart treasurer, that their agenda to have a "fire sale" is an ill informed decision. In the coming months, this will require a firm commitment to participate in organised protests and events from our Delegates and Rank and File.

A Federal election will also be held in the latter part of the year. The new Opposition Leader has already trumpeted the re-ignoration of the Work Choices, whilst the ALP have not delivered all that they indicated they would. The importance of the labour movement at least being able to engage and clearly articulate a position is of fundamental significance.

On the Branch level, there will be a continuing focus on the establishment of the Queensland Branch as per the 2008 National Council resolution.

On the industrial area, many Agreements either have to be finalised or re-negotiated including the Patrick Terminal Agreement in Brisbane and Bulk and General for the Queensland Ports of Brisbane, Gladstone and Townsville; along with the Deeds of Arrangements associated with the Global Financial Crisis:

- AAT to be re-negotiated
- Patrick Port services is due
- E.C.Stevedores Agreement requires membership endorsement
- Svitzer Towage Townsville contract has been lost to PB Towage
- Svitzer Towage Agreements

The above is a snap-shot of issues that have to be worked through within our Delegates and Rank and File members. The Branch looks forward to the opportunity to look after the best interests of our members in 2010.

Overleaf is the new Union Due's structure effective 01.01.2010. We have already been made aware of some anomalies associated with the applicable brackets due to adjustments to salary associated with Deeds of Arrangements, which are currently being worked through by Branch Officials and staff.

Fundamental to the Branch being able to operated in the best interests of the Rank and File is the commitment of members to fulfil their financial obligations.

In the coming weeks, Delegates and Committee members will be provided with names of members who are unfinancial. This will be an ongoing objective of the Branch to achieve 100% financial status in 2010. We are always willing to take into account members particular circumstances if they contact the Branch in relation to arrears. Having stated this, any member who is unfinancial and has made no valid attempt to rectify their financiality, will be **on their own**.

2010 UNION DUES

Grade	Salary bracket	Yearly *	Weekly *	Fortnightly *	Monthly *	3 Mth *	6Mth *
A	\$94,500 +	\$1,641.64	\$31.57	\$ 63.14	\$ 136.80	\$410.41	\$ 820.82
B	\$77,000- \$94,499	\$1,488.24	\$28.62	\$ 57.24	\$ 124.02	\$372.06	\$ 744.12
C	\$60,000- \$76,999	\$1,180.92	\$22.71	\$ 45.42	\$ 98.41	\$295.23	\$ 590.46
D	\$40,000- \$59,999	\$ 872.04	\$16.77	\$ 33.54	\$ 72.67	\$218.01	\$ 436.02
E	\$24,000- \$39,999	\$ 667.16	\$12.83	\$ 25.66	\$ 55.60	\$166.79	\$ 333.58
F	\$12,000- \$23,999	\$ 410.80	\$ 7.90	\$ 15.80	\$ 34.23	\$102.70	\$ 205.40
G	\$0 - \$11,999	\$ 189.80	\$ 3.65	\$ 7.30	\$ 15.82	\$ 47.45	\$ 94.90

* Denotes - Branch Fund levy applicable to Stevedores as per individual salary bracket.

RENEWAL OF HIGH RISK PLANT LICENCE OH&S EXTENSION OF TIME

WHSQ seeks to notify that despite the extensive communication campaign and the two year lead-in period, it has now become apparent in Queensland and in a number of other jurisdictions that some paper certificate holders are still operating on expired paper certificates. The *Branch News* informed members in January, March and June 2008 to update their paper tickets.

Paper certificate holders were able to convert their tickets to present day authorities between 1 July 2007 and 30 June 2008. A safety net period was also built into the legislation between 1 July 2008 and 30 June 2009 to allow revival of the expired paper tickets without penalty.

A decision has been made that the Department will allow old paper certificate holders to make a fresh application for a new licence using their old paper certificate/s as evidence of competence until 30 April 2010. Under this approach an applicant will not have to hold an assessment summary and statement of attainment issued by a RTO. This means that certificate holders will need to present their old certificate, along with a declaration and/or letter from the applicant's employer that the applicant has worked in the occupation/s in the previous five years and pay the appropriate fee to receive their new licence.

Paper certificate holders should be advised to visit the Department's website or contact the Workplace Health and Safety Infoline (Licensing enquiries) on 1300 655 986 for further information on how to undertake this process.

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