



# Southern Queensland Branch News

21<sup>st</sup> January 2010

## QLD NOT FOR SALE CAMPAIGN

Meetings continue around our opposition to the sale of the Queensland public assets. The Government is maintaining its line to sell these assets and in fact has set time lines for the sale process. All members are encouraged to contact and write to their local members as per previous *Branch News* articles.

The Branch is also attending meetings with POBC employees regarding the need to ensure that in the event that assets are sold, that we are in the best position to protect their entitlements accrued and to the extent of possibly going forward also.

The Branch has also been attending working party meetings in parallel to previous meetings with the Queensland Treasurer while arguing our case against the sale, these meetings are in conjunction with the QCU to ensure that the proposal is understood and we build in the maximum protection possible again in the event that the sale does go ahead.

The current Enterprise Agreements with POBC are due to expire mid-year and negotiations for new agreements will be scheduled in the near future.

Queenslanders have continuously given the 'thumb's down' by a very substantial margin to the sale of public assets. You can visit the QCU Not for Sale web site - [www.qldnotforsale.org.au](http://www.qldnotforsale.org.au)

## FINANCIALITY ISSUES

Members are requested to check that they are up to date with dues and contact details. Delegates are also requested to assist members who may have questions re: financiality issues. It is a much fairer system when we all pay our way.

Enterprise Agreement negotiations which deliver outcomes, don't come cheaply and anybody who thinks the boss hands over the increases willingly, needs a reality check.

Any doubts about benefits of membership don't take long to confirm –

- ◆ Credit Union benefits
- ◆ Legal assistance
- ◆ Your say
- ◆ Union shopper benefits
- ◆ Training assistance
- ◆ But most importantly participation in the collective to work towards a better safer, more equal workplace.
- ◆ Maritime Super benefits
- ◆ Committee representation

As MUA members we all march under our banner each May Day which states – Indigenous Rights; Equal Rights; Workers rights; Human Rights and Union Rights. And worker's organisations have been instrumental in assisting to gain all of the above.

**Pay your way - Have your say.**

## WINNERS OF TAS BULL MEMORIAL COMMITTEE RAFFLE

On 12 January at the MUA Victorian Branch annual picnic, the raffle was drawn.

The winners were:

- 1<sup>st</sup> place Lory Farrugia – Vic Branch life member
- 2<sup>nd</sup> place John Oxley – Vic Branch life member
- 3<sup>rd</sup> place Newcastle member

All monies raised assisted APHEDA to help young disadvantaged children overseas. Thanks to all members who participated by selling and/or purchasing tickets.

## PATRICK

The Terminal Deed that has been in place from June 2009 has run its course and the terms and conditions contained in the Patrick Terminals Certified Agreement 2008 will prevail effective from the first shift Monday, 25<sup>th</sup> January.

A Delegate's meeting will be held in the Union rooms on Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> January in relation to the expiry of the Deed. A review of labour will be held in Townsville on Monday 1<sup>st</sup> February and a Deed review for Brisbane Bulk and General will be held on Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> April.

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## WORKCOVER

The *Branch News* has reported numerous articles associated with Workcover, which have been repeated on several occasions. Some employers seek to introduce policies in relation to incidents/injuries sustained at the workplace which seek to compel the workers to attend on, or to Company appointed medical practitioners.

The Branch sought legal advice in relation to these latest projected policy changes and were advised:

“Whilst an employer may legitimately require attendance at a qualified practitioner such as a Doctor or Occupational Therapist for the purposes of rehabilitation and return to work process, they have no legal power to compel a worker to see their practitioners only i.e. instead of the worker's own doctor/s.”

Members should be aware that lodging an Incident report in accordance with the Policy at the respective workplace, usually leads to a less complicated approval of the Workcover claim.

It is also timely to reiterate our previous advice that irrespective if the claim is lodged at the Doctor's surgery or with the Company in the first instance, that members should **attend** the Union Office to either provide copies of their Workcover claim and/or complete the application in the Union rooms.

This allows for the member to also complete a standard form that allows the MUA to act as an agent for the member (due to privacy legislation).

It also allows for the member to have solace in that fact that all records associated with Workcover remains on the member's file. WorkCover is a complex area and as such any member who has any doubts about the process should not hesitate to contact the Branch for advice.

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## DP WORLD - ELECTION - SAFETY AND ERC COMMITTEE

Nominations are called for the following positions at DP World:

<b>E .R.C. Committee</b>	
1 Foreman	1 Alternate
2 Operational	2 Alternates
2 Casuals	2 Alternates
1 Clerical	1 Alternate
1 Workshop	1 Alternate
1 Women's Representative	1 Alternate
<b>Safety Committee</b>	
1 Foreman	1 Alternate
1 Operations	1 Alternate
1 Casual	1 Alternate
1 Clerical	1 Alternate
1 WHSO Representative	
1 Workshop	1 Alternate

Nominations are open effective from the date of the Branch News and will close at 4.00pm Friday 5<sup>th</sup> February 2010 and must be made directly to the MUA SQ Branch office – Phone 3395 7215.

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