



Southern Queensland Branch News

25th February 2010

VALE BRAD GRAY

It is with immense sadness that the Branch reports on the death of member Brad Gray from POAGs Brisbane. Brad was tragically killed on the day shift Saturday 20th February just before 3pm in an horrific workplace accident while working the vessel the *Pacific Explorer* at Fisherman Islands AAT Terminal. Brad was working on the stage.

The MUA will be offering every assistance to Brad's family and working to ensure that such an horrific accident never occurs again.

Brad was only 30 years of age, a local Wynnum boy. He leaves a widow, Lauren and 17 month old son, James. He joined the Union on 6th August 2007. Condolences are extended to family and friends as well as workmates.

Members have already commenced fund raising in some areas and the Branch calls on all job sites to do likewise to assist in securing financial security for Brad's family. We have reported the tragic accident to all Branches and have requested they assist in the fund raising also.

There have been too many deaths on the waterfront and the Union is escalating and prioritising its campaign for a National Safety Code of Practice. The following press release which spells out the Union's position went out on Monday in this regard:

TRAGIC BRISBANE DEATH RINGS BELL FOR URGENT CHANGES IN WATERFRONT SAFETY

As the family of dock worker Brad Gray mourn, co-workers and the Maritime Union of Australia are demanding overdue action to prevent a repeat of the fatality.

"Our thoughts are with Brad's family for what has been a senseless waste of life and we will be offering the family every assistance. This is an absolutely unnecessary death that shouldn't and wouldn't happen if there was a proper safety code of practice on our wharves", said MUA National Secretary Paddy Crumlin.

The workplace at the Brisbane dock has been brought to a halt until Monday morning (today) when the Union will again visit the workplace to deal with the obvious problems relating to safety operations within the complex.

"For the past two years we have been working for nationally co-ordinated regulation to underpin waterfront safety but now call for the urgent intervention by Safe Work Australia to review the package of Commonwealth and State/NT law and practice to achieve a national approach to stevedoring OH&S", Crumlin said.

"Brad's death will mark a stepping up of the campaign to see safety at last taken seriously. This is the fourth fatality in little over three and a-half years and the fifth since June 2003", he said.

“The stevedoring companies have not adequately responded as an industry to the previous deaths and serious injuries. They’ve pushed for self regulation rather than prescriptive legislation but have not shown leadership in applying the Safe Work Australia guidance material and the new performance-based approaches to improving safety (which require companies to address hazards and risks)”, said the MUA’s Assistant National Secretary Warren Smith.

“The Australian Maritime Safety Authority (AMSA) and State and Northern Territory OH&S agencies have failed to act in a coordinated way to improve waterfront safety given the dual jurisdictional responsibility.

“AMSA has also been slow in finalising revisions to cargo handling regulations (Marine Order 32) and in settling on Memorandums of Understanding between AMSA and State and Territory OH&S agencies, and in rolling out an awareness campaign”, said Smith.

Recent waterfront workplace fatalities include:

- Jeff Grey, Appleton Dock, Melbourne, June 03
- Dean Robinson, Port Adelaide, June 2006
- Peter Ross, Appleton Dock, January 2007
- Bob Cumberlidge, Westernport, March 2007

This workplace tragedy will remain etched in the memory of many POAG’s members for a long period of time. The Union will provide assistance to those members who require it.

Funeral arrangements are as follows:

Mid-day Friday 26th February 2010

Hemmant Crematorium Chapel, Hemmant/Tingalpa Road.

POAG’s Management have indicated that they will not conduct operations from 7.00am Friday 26th until 7.00am Saturday 27th February.

Further AAT have indicated their operations will cease from 11.00am until 2.00pm on Friday 26th February.

QUEENSLAND NOT FOR SALE

Members are reminded that a major Public Rally has been planned for –

Tuesday 9th March 2010, 10:30am at Roma Street Forum

MAXIMUM MUA ATTENDANCE WOULD BE APPRECIATED.

Remember, Comrades that members livelihood is being tampered with, whoever is the successful Tender for a 99% lease will seek a return on their investment, by upping charges potentially having Brisbane bypassed or leaseholders seeking more “feasible” labour arrangements to protect their profit margins.

More information will be in next week’s *Branch News*.

***** PUT THE DATE AND TIME IN YOUR DIARY NOW.**

ANNUAL LEAVE

Branch Secretary Mick Carr will be taking leave from Monday 1st to the last week of March.

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