



# Southern Queensland Branch News

7<sup>th</sup> May 2010

## MAY DAY 2010

A great turnout on Labour Day was enjoyed by members and their families and proved once again the determination of workers not to be silenced on issues affecting us on this historic worker's day of celebration.

Special thanks to those members who turned up early on Sunday morning at the Labor Council to assist in organising the float in readiness for the march the following day. Also for members who turned up very early the following morning to get the float to the march and set up at the MUA tent at the RNA grounds; also dismantle the gear, load the trailer and get the gear back to the Branch. All in all, it was a great day enjoyed by all.

Prime Minister Rudd spoke at the festivities in a positive way about the Union movement and the important role they play. The crowd wasn't so polite when Deputy State Premier Lucas took the microphone, getting a very clear message that workers are not happy about the sale of publicly owned assets, which they have paid for over decades.

Assistant National Secretary Warren Smith attended Labour Day celebrations and march and appreciated the level of organisation that went into making the day the success it was.

Once again, thanks to the activists who put in the extra effort in assisting the Branch to ensure a great day. Their efforts are greatly appreciated.

## BULK & GENERAL CONFERENCE

Townsville delegates Steve Hill, Warren Baird and Organiser Jaime Midson; Gladstone delegates Danial Grice and Chris Massey; together with Brett Membrey, Grahame Pratt, Earl Jones, Stephen Cumberlidge and Deputy Branch Secretary Trevor Munday will be attending the National B&G Conference in Melbourne next week – 11-13 May. The Patrick delegates will remain on Friday 14<sup>th</sup> May to discuss upcoming EA issues and claims.

## FEDERAL ELECTION 2010 CAMPAIGN ROADSHOW

The ACTU 2010 Federal Election campaign was launched in Brisbane over the May Day weekend.

- Samples of the 'WorkChoices – Never Again' flyers and other campaign materials will be available shortly. Copies and downloads are available from the new-look Your Rights at Work website – [www.rightsatwork.com.au](http://www.rightsatwork.com.au)

Under WorkChoices more than three million Australians lost protection from being sacked unfairly. And more than a million Australians had their pay and conditions cut under AWA individual contracts and changes to minimum wages.

Labor's new Fair Work laws have restored many rights lost under WorkChoices. Workers are protected from unfair dismissal and new AWA individual contracts are banned. There is a safety net of National Employment Standards, awards and minimum wages with a stronger independent workplace umpire. Workers have collective bargaining rights and the right to join a union and be represented. These changes are a good first step but more needs to be done – especially for workers in the construction industry and those covered by awards.

We need to go forward on workers' rights, not backwards to the Liberals' new version of WorkChoices.

# NEW LAWS FOR WORKING DOWN THE HATCH

Federal Govt regulates work in confined spaces like ship holds -



The Government made new safety Regulations this month, titled *Occupational Health and Safety (Maritime Industry) (National Standards) Amendment Regulations 2010 (No. 1)*

The purpose of the Regulations is to protect the occupational health and safety of those who are required to enter or work in confined spaces in the maritime industry. They place a variety of

duties on operators of prescribed ships and prescribed units and on their employees in order to achieve this aim.

Under the new regulation management is required to -

- ensure that competent persons prepare detailed, written risk assessments relating to work in a confined space;
- undertake risk elimination or control measures;
- ensure that emergency procedures are documented and practised;
- issue detailed permits to work before anyone enters or works in a confined space and providing appropriate training.

Employee duties will include entering and working in a confined space only when identified in a valid permit to work, working in a confined space in accordance with the training they have received and reporting matters that may affect an operator's compliance with the regulations.

The Regulations set the penalties for any breaches at 10 penalty units(a penalty unit equals 110, s4AA Crime Act 1914 refers)

The Regulations contain a number of strict liability offences (means they don't require fault element of an offence). These are designed to promote occupational health and safety and serve the public interest. They do not carry penalties of imprisonment.

\*\*\*\*\*

## SHIPPING CAMPAIGN

Thanks to the activists who are assisting with the lobbying of Federal Cabinet Ministers to help ensure that legislation supporting an Australian Shipping policy is successful, when it is introduced into Parliament sometime in the second half of this year.

\*\*\*\*\*

## M.U.A. T-SHIRTS

May Day T-shirts are still available In Union Office.

Short sleeve and ¾sleeve - Sizes Large – XL– XXL - \$20.00 Each

\*\*\*\*\*

Authorised by Mick Carr, Branch Secretary and Tony Austin, Assistant Branch Secretary, Maritime Union of Aust.  
SQ Branch, 73 Southgate Avenue, Cannon Hill Q. 4170 Ph: 3395 7215 Fax: 3395 7688 Email: muasqld@mua.org.au