



# Southern Queensland Branch News

1<sup>st</sup> June 2010

## BULK AND GENERAL CONFERENCE

The MUA National Bulk and General Conference was held in Melbourne on 11-13<sup>th</sup> May. Conference was attended by 72 delegates from B&G workplaces from all Branches of the union. Every Bulk and General port in the country was represented at this conference of which no similar event has ever been held in the history of the MUA. All national officials attended as did representatives from every Branch. The conference was an outstanding success building unity and resolve amongst members to wage the battles that Bulk and General Wharfies face in the current political and industrial environment.

Over the course of the conference, delegates discussed a number of issues that included:

- The union's campaign for a National Waterfront Stevedoring regulation
- General workplace safety concerns
- Organisational capacity
- Difficulties faced by delegates

After discussing the above issues delegates developed a comprehensive list of recommendations and resolutions that went back to the conference to address the issues raised and take the union forward. The conference discussed in-depth the belligerent attitude that employers are adopting around the country and the detrimental effect this was having on safety, the role of the delegate and the morale of the membership in general.

The main point that was identified by the conference is that the membership's capacity to address issues at the workplace is not where it should be. Delegates and officials recognised that a lot of work needs to be done to build the organising capacity at the workplace and beef up the ability of delegates to deal with issues that come up on a daily basis. Resolutions were taken and commitments from all were made that a stronger focus on building our organisational capacity on the job would be undertaken. This approach is being undertaken from the National Office and Branches and at the job level.

In an effort to build union strength at the workplace level, delegates made a number of recommendations to the conference that included:

- More union training of delegates and members
- Training of OHS representatives
- More awareness of the rights of delegates
- An improvement in communication network of members in all workplaces around the country to keep each other up to date on what's happening at B&G workplaces

To support these recommendations the following topics were put to the conference in the form of resolutions.

Safety; Manning levels; Intimidation and harassment; Work load support for delegates; Organising Capacity; Trade Union Training; Internationalism; Selection Criteria; Supplementary accrual of LSL; Communications; Closed Port Days; Maritime Security; Labour Hire and industry labour pools; Indigenous; White ; Ribbon Day; Union Density; OHS training providers; Union Inductions; METL; Gear Bulk; Drug and Alcohol; Hatchperson /Cargo Space Look Out; Offshore Vessel Coverage by AMSA; Health & Safety Representative.

The resolutions were all endorsed unanimously reflecting the unity of the conference. There was a high level of engagement in the formulation of the resolutions and every single resolution was subject to discussion with many amendments taken from the floor. Bulk and General Wharfies are ready to fight

\*\*\*\*\*

# MARITIME SUPER ROADSHOW

Maritime Super, in conjunction with Financial Planners will be presenting an overview of the 2010 Federal budget as well as outlining some retirement strategies as follows:

**When:** Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> June 2010  
**Time:** From 10.30am – 12 noon  
**Where:** MUA Union Rooms, 73 Southgate Avenue, Cannon Hill

\*\*\*\*\*

## INDUSTRIAL ROUNDS

### Branch Secretary M. Carr

Mon. 10<sup>th</sup> May Meet ANS Sydney re: Operation and claim for national Enterprise Agreement  
Tue. 11<sup>th</sup> Meet PB Towage re: Townsville contact commencement  
Fri. 14<sup>th</sup> Meet Veteran's representatives  
Mon. 17<sup>th</sup> & Tues 18<sup>th</sup> Svitzer Enterprise Agreement - Sydney  
Tue. 18<sup>th</sup> ANS meeting re national EA – Sydney  
Wed. 19<sup>th</sup> Rio Tinto agreement briefing – Sydney  
Wed. 19<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup> & 21<sup>st</sup> Svitzer Enterprise Agreement - Sydney  
Mon. 24<sup>th</sup> a.m. Branch Executive Meeting / p.m. Meet AIMPE, Sydney re: Svitzer  
Tue. 25<sup>th</sup> a.m. Branch Monthly Meeting  
Tue. 25<sup>th</sup> p.m. QCU - Recruitment & Retention Committee Meeting  
Fri. 28<sup>th</sup> Review of Branch Plan including Townsville staff

### Deputy Branch Secretary T. Munday

Thu. 27<sup>th</sup> May Townsville Deed of Arrangement meeting  
Mon. 31<sup>st</sup> May – Thu 3<sup>rd</sup> June Stevedoring Terminals Conference – Melbourne

### Assistant Branch Secretary T. Austin

Wed. 26<sup>th</sup> May POBC – Industrial Relations Working group  
Thu. 27<sup>th</sup> May Cargolink meeting  
Fri. 28<sup>th</sup> May POBC – EA meeting  
Mon. 31<sup>st</sup> May – Thu 3<sup>rd</sup> June Stevedoring Terminals Conference – Melbourne  
Fri 4<sup>th</sup> June Patrick meeting - Melbourne

\*\*\*\*\*

## AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL STEVEDORES

Assistant National Secretary Warren Smith reports that agreement has been reached over a new EBA for ANS who have picked up new work and are entering the Port of Brisbane as well as reinvigorating their Tasmanian and Melbourne operations.

The agreement is a good Bulk and General agreement that has wound back many of the extreme flexibilities in the current agreement and has ensured ANS enter the Brisbane market on comparable wages and conditions. The fact is the ANS agreement is superior to all other Brisbane operators. Wage outcomes achieved were 9% x 6% x 6% on the SIA clause 11 classifications and for Tasmanian PIEs and GWEs and supplementaries. All other categories achieved a 6% x 6% x 6% increase. The Tasmanian irregular rates and the award rates were considerably behind hence the 9% increase in those components.

Also included were reductions in the current midnight shift length removing the 12 hour midnight shifts, reduced 4 hour shift utilisation, no rollover of unused hours, improved trade union training and delegates rights (the best in B&G). The agreement is being formatted and will go out for National Council and membership vote within the next month.

\*\*\*\*\*

## THANKS

Our thanks to Brett Membrey for acting as relieving official during Deputy Branch Secretary's annual leave.

\*\*\*\*\*

Authorised by Mick Carr, Branch Secretary and Trevor Munday, Deputy 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