



Southern Queensland Branch News

9th July 2010

PATRICK EA NEGOTIATIONS

Bulk & General negotiations will commence on a national basis in Melbourne on Wednesday 21st July. Delegates, Branch Officials and Assistant National Secretary Ian Bray will meet on the day prior to review and if necessary refine Part A claims.

Queensland has 3 areas to re-negotiate - Brisbane, Gladstone and Townsville with all having the common expiry date of 22/10/10. Deputy Branch Secretary Trevor Munday will be the Queensland Official in attendance along with Brisbane delegate Brett Membrey, Gladstone delegate Danial Grice and Townsville delegate Stephen Hill.

INDUSTRIAL ROUNDS

Patrick Bulk & General

Brisbane - A yard meeting was held to finalise the local log of claims for the upcoming enterprise agreement on Wednesday 23rd June. The Patrick Brisbane General Stevedoring area has been operating under a Common Law Deed since June 2009. In order to mitigate the need for compulsory redundancies, a component of that Deed meant that some members went from permanent employment to part-time status, PGE. The parties to the Agreement held a Review meeting on 1st July, given that the quantum of work has improved especially for the past six months of the financial year. The Branch and committee were able to successfully negotiate our position for those members to be reinstated to permanent positions. The Branch would also like to thank the committee and the membership for their patience and understanding whilst the downturn existed.

The reinstatements have clearly vindicated a difficult decision last year that circumvented permanent members being forced from the industry via compulsory redundancy.

A meeting to put the revised Deed to the work force will be held on Tuesday 13th July at 1pm in the Union rooms (Brisbane).

Gladstone - A Delegates workshop was held on Tuesday 6th of July in Gladstone. This workshop was attended by Assistant National Secretary Ian Bray, National Organisers Bernie Farrelly and Glen Williams and Deputy Branch Secretary Trevor Munday.

It was important to relay to the membership the Union's organising, status and give the delegates the opportunity in a full and frank manner, to relay to the Union on how we can assist them better. The predominant issue was to see Branch Officials on a more regular basis. The workshop also went through local claims for the upcoming EA. The following morning a yard meeting was held and members were appraised of the National claims and given further input to all claims, both national and local.

Gladstone Activity - Svitzer Towage was un-successful in a bid for retention of its services in the Port of Gladstone, with a new company Smit taking over the Tug operations effective from 1st January 2010.

Ian Bray and Mick Carr held a meeting with Tug members on Thursday 8th July to report on the Svitzer negotiations thus far and the new operator in the port.

Mick Carr will attend further meetings with Svitzer on Monday 12th and Tuesday 13th to attempt to finalise the National Agreement.

A meeting was also held with Gladstone Port Management over the massive infrastructure expansions that will commence in Gladstone in the near future, which will provide a significant boost to that region.

Assistant Branch Secretary Tony Austin continues to negotiate the Port of Brisbane Enterprise Agreements for the BMT, Whyte Island and the Dredge *Brisbane*. These Agreements are progressing slowly and will hopefully be finalised in the near future.

Cargolink Agreement is also being negotiated. Meetings with national and local levels have already commenced.

Patrick – National Office advises that the Conference at St George’s Basin is booked from 26th – 29th July for Patrick Terminal EA negotiations. At least two delegates from Brisbane will attend. Meetings with the Company have not yet been advised.

POAGS - Delegate Earl Jones who was downgraded by POAGS from a G5 to G3 after a workplace incident attended a Fair Work Australia Hearing on Monday 1st July. The Union was able to argue that the actions of POAGS fell outside the industrial instruments that bind the parties, being the 2008 Collective Agreement and the Stevedoring Industry Award.

Commissioner Raffaelli advised POAGS Management that he agreed with the MUA and as such Earl Jones will be back paid for the six month period at his Grade 5 level.

There will be a yard meeting on Thursday 15th July at the Union Rooms commencing at 07:00 hours. Members are requested to bring Warning letters from the Company and volunteer YTD earnings.

HATCHMAN

Many companies have been seeking to remove the Hatchman from vessels. Please refer to the MUA website for further information. The appropriate provisions of MO 32 are listed below:

Marine Orders 32
Appendix 18 Clause No. 1
Provision at Hatchman

Loading or unloading by means of a crane or derrick must not be carried out unless:

- (a) the driver has an unrestricted view of the load at all times during loading or unloading; or
- (b) a Hatchman is employed for each crane or set of derricks who is clearly visible to the driver(s).

Appendix 6 Clause No. 4

Cargo space lookout

Where persons are in a cargo space in connection with loading or unloading, whether or not a crane or derrick is being used, there must be a lookout who:

- (a) has a good view of the space;
- (b) is able to see potential dangers to the persons in the space,
- (c) is able to communicate with the persons in the space, and who must warn persons in the space of any perceived danger
