



Southern Queensland Branch News

29th July 2010

"NEVER FORGOTTEN - NEVER AGAIN"

On Friday 23rd of July at 2pm a respectful memorial ceremony was held in Brisbane to coincide with the funeral in Melbourne of Stephen Piper, our most recent member who did not go home to his family at the end of his shift. The ceremony honoured all those killed on the waterfront and within the maritime industry. All those who attended recognised that these recurring fatalities and serious injuries on the Australian waterfront have to be stopped. In a show of unparalleled solidarity the entire Brisbane workforce stood together to declare they have had enough and that they are ready to fully participate and cooperate with positive changes to waterfront safety.

This day was a day of mourning, where workers remembered and paid their respects in honour of lives lost at work and families torn apart. Eight deaths in the last seven years, three of those in the last 5 months which included the tragic loss in Brisbane of Brad Gray.

Queensland Secretary Mick Carr opened the ceremony and the first speaker was Assistant National Secretary Warren Smith, who declared that fundamental change in waterfront safety is essential for port productivity and for worker morale, which is at an all time low. "We have got a crisis in waterfront safety - there must be no more deaths on the Australian waterfront. We cannot continue with business as usual - the status quo is no longer an option. Increased productivity and reduced manning have occurred with no regard for improvements in safety. We want to build a new safety culture, but we can't do it alone. We shouldn't have to ask to have a workplace that is safe - we shouldn't have to fight to go home to our families." The Government needs to make changes and enshrine that into law and the companies must fully and openly cooperate in these processes.

Also giving their time to support were QCU General Secretary Ron Monaghan, who told the gathering it is every employer's duty to provide a safe workplace. Andrew Ramsey, the Labor candidate for the Federal seat of Wright and also a long time CFMEU Organiser and WH&S representative challenged the current laws and vowed his support to create changes. Adrian Miles from the Missions to Seafarers Centre recognised the dangerous work environment and that it was not good enough to continue to allow unsafe work practices threatening the safety of workers to continue. International tributes flowed from all over the world in support.

Eulogies were read and wreaths laid by representatives of the Ports Women's committee, youth, retired members, seafarers and every stevedoring company. A very powerful plea was read from Fremantle watersider Ash Huish which bought a tear to every eye, as every worker in the room recognised how close to home it struck.

A minute's silence was followed by a declaration that every worker would unite to fight for safety at work and every family deserved, at the absolute minimum, that every worker should return home uninjured at the end of every workday.

The ceremony was extremely well attended and was followed by a wake where workers mingled and remembered their fallen comrades.

PATRICK NEGOTIATIONS

A combined meeting with Delegates will be held on Monday 2nd August with Deputy Branch Secretary T. Munday. Meetings will follow with local and national management.

National discussions took place last week with the parties lodging claims. It is envisaged that Part A discussions will recommence on the week commencing 15th or 23rd September 2010, after a number of Part C – Port specific discussions around the country have taken place.

DIARY NOTES

Branch Secretary May through July of main issues

28th May Visit with POAGS committee to Lauren Gray re assistance
1st June Brisbane Gladstone report back meetings
2nd June Attend River Boyne Gladstone re RIO Tinto agreement in principle
“ “ Meet senior ASP management re ash pay
“ ” Meet Svitzer delegate re EA
3rd June Attend Endeavour River RIO Tinto report & ash money
“ “ Meet Towage members re EA
4th June Attend meeting River Embley RIO Tinto report & ash money
“ “ Gladstone – Brisbane
10th June Branch committee Brisbane
“ “ Attend video conference with Nat Officials re mapping non union operators
15th June Meet Maurice /Blackburn lawyers
16th Transit Melbourne
17th, 18th & 19th June Maritime Super Business plan
23rd & 24th June Svitzer drafting committee Sydney
26th June Meet Lauren Gray with POAGS delegate & W.A. Br. Secretary re further assistance
29th June Branch Monthly meeting
1st July Meet activist re Palestinian human rights issue, support sought.
“ “ Attend QNFS meeting
2nd July Attend funeral for K Hetherington, Branch closed re attendance
5th July Gladstone, aboard River Embley with Asst National Secretary I Bray

6th July Arrange meetings in the Port with MUA delegation
7th July Attend Patrick yard meeting with Asst. National Secretary I Bray and Deputy Branch Secretary T Munday
“ “ Attend meeting with Management Port Authority re future growth of Port
8th July Attend meeting with Svitzer towage members re EA and transition matters
12th & 13th July Attend Svitzer drafting committee meeting Sydney
14th July Attend SMIT Towage meeting Sydney re Greenfield agreement
19th July Meet with Maurice/Blackburn Lawyers re services review and update
20th July Meet with Small boat operator re agreement issues
22nd July Meet Smit Towage meeting Sydney re progressing Greenfields agreement
23rd July Memorial Service Brisbane re further waterfront tragedy
25th & 26th July Adelaide – Monday Whyalla meet Project Magnet members re Svitzer EA
27th July (am) Branch Monthly meeting
“ “ (pm) Attend meeting Unions with S Crean re fund raiser for Federal Election
28th (am) July QCU Executive meeting
“ “ (pm) Campaign launch with ACTU reps. and QCU executive members
29th July Attend ACTU Superannuation Trustees forum
30th July Attend meeting with Deputy Premier re protesting public asset sales

RELIEF OFFICIAL

Whilst the Branch Secretary Mick Carr is attending the ITF Conference in Mexico, Bruce Doleman will be the relieving official. Bruce can be contacted on 0413 755 156.
