



Southern Queensland Branch News

12th August 2010

ELECTION

The Federal election is upon us with Queensland once again looking like it will play an integral role in the result.

The MUA has had volunteers Paul Jones, Ron Culliney, Tim Leeman and Bruce Doleman in the office making phone calls to members in marginal seats, requesting assistance in relation to the campaign to see the Labor Government elected.

Fundamental to the Maritime Union of Australia is the introduction of a full and comprehensive policy in relation to Australian Shipping and Waterfront Safety legislation.

This is why we urgently need to make ourselves available to ensure that the election of a Labor Government is achieved, so we can continue to campaign for a better Australian manned Merchant Fleet, as it was decimated under the Howard regime from approximately 75 seagoing vessels to below 40, in a steady decline.

With the current unfortunate deaths of our comrades on the waterfront in recent times, we need to ensure that the NSCOP is put into action without delay before any more of our member's families have to grieve again needlessly.

It is therefore important that members are active in this process of re-electing members in the seats listed hereunder. Contact can be made with the Campaign Co-ordinators on the following details:

Bowman – Candidate Jenny Peters (Campaign Manager – Carmel 07 32869595)

Dickson - Candidate Fiona Mc Namara (Campaign Manager – Paul Crowther/Wes Young 0732058937)

Ryan – Candidate Steven Miles (Campaign Manager – Karen Skinner 0403655416)

Wright – Candidate - Andrew Ramsey (Campaign Manager – Jacqueline King 07 55410550)

The following seat's are being co-ordinated by Comrades Jaime Midson (Herbert) and Bruce Mc Kay (Hinkler).

Herbert – Candidate Tony Mooney (Contact 0747232111)

Hinkler - Candidate Belinda Mc Neven (Contact 0417489757)

The *Financial Review* of Tuesday 10th August includes an article in relation to the Western Australian Liberal Barnett Government associated with a review of Western Australian Industrial Relations system. The article contends that Premier Barnett was given a report in October last year. It has yet to be made public. The report was made by Blake Dawson for a cost of over \$800,000.00.

The Number One question for the working class is – what is the intent of Abbott regarding workplace relations, the championed 'work choices' previously – hardly dead, buried and cremated. Possibly more like a resurrection.

MUA/CFMEU election notes will be distributed to worksites this week.

STEPHEN CUMBERLIDGE "SACKED"

Many members would now be aware that POAGS Brisbane have terminated long term member and delegate Stephen Cumberlidge on 30th July 2010, for an alleged safety breach.

The MUA will seek the reinstatement of Stephen via the provisions applicable in the Fair Work Act.

In order to provide assistance to Stephen and his family, the MUA has commissioned a T-Shirt to support not only his family but a visual reminder of the need to support our elected delegates. Without our elected delegates, the Union could not operate to its optimum capacity. Their ongoing commitment and support provides the MUA with a delegate structure that ensures the best interests of our membership at the workplace are a priority.

The T-Shirts will be available for sale, approximately at the end of next week. Orders can be taken by the office staff. The shirts will cost \$30 each. All proceeds over and above the costs will be going directly to the family.

The following resolution was enacted at a meeting in the Union Rooms on Saturday 31st July.

85 members were present at the meeting.

As a result of a hearing a report regarding the termination of Stephen Cumberlidge, the following motion was put:

"We the rank & file members of DP World and POAGS having heard a report from Branch Officials, call on all members of our Union to support Stephen Cumberlidge and his reinstatement.

Delegates and Committee members are the life blood of the Union and the MUA cannot operate in a functional capacity without their input and support. Further we are aware of the Stevedoring Conference resolutions, whereby the membership clearly articulated the need for protection of Rank & File workplace delegates.

We commit to be actively involved in a campaign to progress Stephen's case for re-instatement and call on the active involvement of other members around the country to do so as well."

The resolution was moved and seconded and carried unanimously by all those in attendance.

PATRICK EA NEGOTIATIONS

The Brisbane and Gladstone General Stevedoring Committees met in the Union rooms on Monday 2nd August. This combined meeting preceded engaging with the Company to commence local discussions which followed. The negotiations were limited to brief discussions regarding the parties claims.

Patrick in General Stevedoring will now visit a number of areas/States for informal negotiations commencing with Victorian Ports this week

Part A discussions will resume on the week commencing 13th or 20th September pending progress on local discussions.

Terminal Part A negotiations will commence on 1st September; following all Terminal Ports and Delegates meeting at St George's Basin to finalise their Log of Claims.
