



Southern Queensland Branch News

8th July 2009

QUEENSLAND NOT FOR SALE

Friday 3rd July was a day for protest – a day when the initial Rally for Brisbane was enacted to display the discontent of the working class regarding the 'Fire Sale of State Government assets'.

These assets of Government owned Corporations belong to the taxpayers in this State. Queensland Rail has just been successful in securing coal haulage from the Hunter Valley to Newcastle. It has the capacity to expand, just like the Port of Brisbane.

Ultimately Queensland Rail freight services compensate for the passenger services available through city train. Passengers are certainly at risk of paying higher fares in the future.

The MUA contingent was significant at the Rally. This is the start of a long community campaign. The Branch has received reports through workplace delegates that some of our members are of the opinion that they will be insulated by privatisation of the Port.

Any purchase by private consortiums will see that purchaser seeking a return on their investment that is fundamentally how the capitalist system works. A rise in Port related charges will certainly be on the agenda.

The Branch has made a decision to seek the establishment of an Activist Committee to assist and recommend strategies that will form an on-going campaign that will hopefully result in the Bligh Government changing its mind in relation to the sell-off of public assets.

All interested members should nominate for the Campaign Committee by contacting the Branch Office.

BEST OF LUCK

Sunday saw the final shift worked, or final day on roster for members engaged by DP World who availed themselves for voluntary redundancy. In the Southern Queensland Branch we have now seen redundancies in both divisions of Patrick and DP World. Importantly this has not seen one member forced from the industry against their will. Suffice to say some of the arrangements are certainly not what the membership aspire for in their working lives on the waterfront.

What needs to be remembered by all the employers, that we operate in times of economic cycles and that when economic prosperity once again prevails, then the MUA will be at the forefront of securing a decent slice of the pie for our members.

To all members who have recently left the industry, whether it be to retire or pursue a new career, the best of luck for your future endeavours. Many thanks to those members who have played an active role within the Union for no other reason than to ensure the well being of their fellow workmates and therefore uphold the principles of the collective.

RELIEVING OFFICIAL

Tony Austin is currently relieving in office and can be contacted on 0403 422 605.

QUEENSLAND SHIPPING

The bauxite trade (Gladstone/Weipa) has been the backbone of Bluewater shipping of over 3 decades. The *Fitzroy River* has come to the end of her working life. The Union was originally told that she would finish in September, however we have now been informed that she will no longer trade after this month.

National Office has held meetings with Rio Tinto about replacement vessels that should be Australian manned. At the time of writing, it is likely that Branch Secretary Mick Carr will be in Gladstone at the weekend for report back meetings with our members engaged in the trade.

MISSION TO SEAFARERS

Members who have excess work clothing, whether it is boots, shirts etc. are requested to deliver same to the Union office so they can be forwarded to the Mission to be distributed to seafarers in need.

PATRICK GENERAL STEVEDORING BASE COMMITTEE ELECTIONS

Nominations are open to elect a new Base Committee at Patrick's General Stevedoring.

Nominations are called for the following:

- 1 x Team leader
- 2 x Permanent Operations
- 2 x P.G.E.
- 1 x B-Supplementary

Nominations will remain open until **Friday 17th July 2009** and should be made by contacting the Branch Office staff directly.

Further to the above, two (2) nominations are required for replacement Branch Committee members. Please indicate your intention to the Branch office.

BRISBANE EKKA

There is a definite chill in the air, which means the Ekka is just around the corner. Once again Union Shopper is selling discounted Ekka tickets to members. Purchase your Ekka tickets through Union Shopper and save **over 15% off the gate price!**

| | GATE | UNION SHOPPER |
|----------|-------------|----------------------|
| Adults | \$23 | \$19 |
| Children | \$13 | \$11 |

Members also save on Discount Carnival Coupons and get \$40 value for ONLY \$35! Simply order Ekka carnival coupons and receive a book of 40 x \$1 coupons to use at participating carnival activities.

Members can take advantage and collect their tickets from the offices of Union Shopper at 25 Baxter Street, Fortitude Valley, which is just around the corner from the RNA Showgrounds (open 8.30 - 4.00 Mon to Fri).

Alternatively, tickets are available to order via order form on the Union Shopper website.

For more information call Union Shopper on 1300 368 117 or visit -

www.unionshopper.com.au/ekka to download an order form.

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