



Southern Queensland Branch News

22nd October 2009

CASUAL VACANCY UNDER MUA RULES FOR THE POSITION OF ASSISTANT BRANCH SECRETARY

The Branch Secretary reported to the Combined Branch Committee meeting held in Brisbane on 9th October 2009 of the extensive consultation with Branch Committee members regarding the need to fill the casual vacancy of Assistant Branch Secretary, as a result of the resignation of Les Rayward.

The Branch Secretary also placed on record our thanks to Les Rayward for the role he has fulfilled as Assistant Branch Secretary and, in the many disputes he has been involved in over the years as a delegate. Les has been ill and we wish him all the best in his recovery.

At the Branch Monthly meeting held on 29th September the National Office Report was tabled indicating the resignation of Les Rayward and that matter was further advised in the *Branch News* on 1st October 2009.

Consultation occurred with the vast majority of Committee members from both Northern and Southern Queensland Branches in light of the fact that the amalgamation process is well advanced. It is planned and anticipated that voting in the 2011 Quadrennial election will be as one Branch.

Northern Queensland Honorary Branch Secretary, Laurie Horgan discussed this issue with his Committee members and conferred with the Southern Queensland Branch Secretary, who also discussed same with Southern Queensland Branch Committee members. Whilst all could not be contacted, the vast majority were.

Given the issues at hand it was determined to hold the Combined Committee meeting on 9th October. A full report was given to the Committee including the results of the consultations and the need for an appointment to fill the casual vacancy under the Union Rule 42 which was read to the Committee.

Three members - Brian Gallagher, Tony Austin and Peter Bruekers indicated an interest in the vacancy following the National Office Report advising on the resignation of the Assistant Branch Secretary. Committee members were advised of the consultative process. Brian Gallagher informed the Branch Secretary the day prior to the Combined Branch Committee, that after discussing the issue with his family, he had decided to withdraw; leaving Tony Austin and Peter Bruekers as the two remaining nominees.

The Branch Secretary further reported that all three were worthy candidates and thanked them for the principled way in which they approached the issue.

The process of consultation was fully reported and on that basis it was determined that Tony Austin should fill the vacancy. The matter was fully discussed in detail, including the responsibilities and the expectations of the person filling the position were made clear.

While the report to the Branch Committee after the consultation was fully comprehensive, it is only the initial stage in accordance with the Rules. The matter now has to be put to National Council in November for final decision.

The report to the Combined Branch Committee and subsequent discussions were unanimously endorsed.

Mick Carr
Branch Secretary

NATIONAL COUNCIL

As mentioned, National Council will be held from 2nd – 5th November. An important component of Council is Branch Reports in relation to events and circumstances that occurred in the Branches from the previous Council meeting.

From the S.Q. Branch perspective, the Report contained the finalisation of the Queensland Branches amalgamation into one Queensland Branch, consistent with National Conference resolution 5.24.

This process in brief, has seen the appointment of the North Queensland Organiser, Jaime Midson and will contain changes to our Rules consistent with the resolution. Naturally the amalgamation will not take effect until the deliberations have been endorsed by National Council and at the Annual General Meeting which will be held in Brisbane on 24th November.

Following on from National Council, an ITF Regional (Oceanic) Seminar will be held from 9th – 11th November. Deputy Branch Secretary T. Munday will represent the Branch at this seminar.

During the same period, Branch Secretary Mick Carr will be at a Superannuation Conference associated with being a Director of Maritime Super which credit training hours in line with APRA requirements.

INDUSTRIAL ROUNDS

Skilled Maintenance

Some 9 meetings have been held with Skilled in relation to a Collective Agreement with little progress being made, especially in relation to remuneration increases. With this in mind, on behalf of our members, the MUA made application to Fair Work Australia (FWA) for a Protected Action Ballot to further the interests of our members. That Protection Action was granted by FWA and the ballot process is currently underway. The Agreement has application to Patrick Terminals at Fisherman Islands and Port Botany.

POAGS

The Branch made application S739 under the Fair Work Act 2009 for FWA to assist in a dispute in relation to the following:

- 1) The FSE numbers (permanents on a roster)
- 2) Graded rates of pay for Planning Clerks/Tradesmen

Senior Deputy President Richards made recommendations to the parties at conciliation with a telephone report back listed for Friday 6th November.

DP World

The Branch has been notified that DP World has made application to FWA to assist in the resolution of a dispute between the parties in relation to the working of weekend shifts. The matter has been listed for 11.30am Monday, 23rd November at FWA, Brisbane.

Patrick General Stevedoring

A review of the Deed and outstanding matters will be held in Brisbane on 28th October with a labour review to be held the following day in the Port of Gladstone.

Queensland Not for Sale

The Branch has been involved in discussions with the Queensland Treasury Department/ Queensland Treasurer together with the Queensland Council of Unions and other Affiliates regarding the Bligh Government's privatisation plans. Those discussions are being facilitated by former Reserve Bank Governor, Bernie Fraser and at the time of writing, are ongoing; therefore it would pre-emptive to report on any outcomes.

The *Wynnum Herald* this week contained an article "Talks urged on Port sell off". Well talks are taking place as mentioned. For the avoidance of doubt, the MUA is vehemently against the sale of publicly owned assets. (The *Branch News* have reported this on several occasions.)

The Branch has received correspondence from Assistant National Secretary R. Newlyn who was quoted in the article stating that they importantly missed his initial position that the MUA were against the sale, however and as such, meeting should have been convened prior to the Government's announcement.
