



Queensland Branch News



8th July 2011

BRANCH

Further to the relevant articles in the *Branch News* of 27th June, members are advised of the following:

Assistant Branch Secretary elect – Paul Sheehan has advised that he will not be able to take up the role due to a pre-booked overseas holiday. In the intervening period, Tony Austin will continue in that role.

Once Paul returns from his leave, the Branch Executive will meet and discuss a revised Branch Plan to determine who will have primary responsibility in our various areas of coverage.

Sue Mackay will continue to be in the Queensland Regional Office (Townsville) for 4 days per week, Monday to Thursday - at least until the Regional Queensland Organiser is engaged.

SEAFARERS CONFERENCE / NATIONAL COUNCIL

Consistent with deliberations of National Council, a Bluewater Conference has been scheduled for 20th & 21st August 2011. Each Branch has been designated seven (7) Rank and File members from the Bluewater and one (1) from the Offshore. Interested members should contact the Branch to register their interest.

National Council will meet on 19th and 22nd August respectively.

INDUSTRIAL ROUNDS

Patrick Terminal

A further meeting was held on a national level on 1st July with no positive outcome to the satisfaction of the Negotiating Committee. As a result it was determined to instigate further Protected Action to advance the claims of the membership.

A high level meeting was held to seek to break a clearly defined impasse between the parties. The resulting outcome will see the parties re-commence National negotiations as soon as possible with any pending Protected Action cancelled. Report back meetings are on-going.

Patrick General

National negotiations were held on Thursday 30th June and Friday 1st July.

The Company was notified of Protected Action of an 8-hour stoppage at 0700 hours Wednesday 29th June and a ban on transfers at 0700 hours on Friday 1st July 2011. There are no current Action or Bans.

Advice was received by Assistant National Secretary I. Bray and Deputy Branch Secretary T. Munday from National Operations Manager Warwick Sommer that Patrick perceive they have a surplus of labour in Brisbane. The Committee and Officials met with management on Tuesday 29th June with a report back meeting the following day.

Patrick will send correspondence to members seeking expressions of interest for voluntary redundancy. A further meeting is to be convened on Friday 22nd July with attendance of both Terminal and General Stevedoring Committees. Deputy National Secretary M. Doleman and Assistant National Secretary I. Bray will be in attendance.

Protected Action was held in the Port of Gladstone which commenced on Tuesday 5th July. A report back meeting was held at the Port to coincide with the commencement of the Action.

Correspondence has been sent to the Company seeking to establish mutually convenient dates for further local discussions.

DP World

Local discussions were held on 6th and 7th July with very little progress being made. Part A negotiations are set down for 13th and 14th July. Report back meetings will follow.

POAGS

Negotiations are continuing on a national level. Further discussions are set down for 19th-21st July. The Branch has written to national and local management in order to commence local negotiations. That correspondence was consistent with discussions at the last round held on 23rd and 24th June. It has been agreed that POAGS local discussions will commence on 28th and 29th July.

Van Oord

Branch Secretary M. Carr along with other Branch Officials and Assistant National Secretary I. Bray are meeting with the Dredge Operator Van Oord in seeking to finalise an Agreement. This operation is involved in major Queensland Projects in Hay Point and Gladstone; also in Western Australia.

Further negotiations were held in Melbourne on 28th - 29th June regarding the new Enterprise Agreement. Queensland Branch attended the negotiations together with Western Australian and Victoria Branches, as well as Delegates from Projects. 1st July – further meetings held with Van Oord Project Management in Gladstone.

Meeting also aboard *HAM 586* and with crews ashore. Other issues discussed were inspections; claims re: safety issues; travel hours of work; victualling and accommodation. Further meeting and inspections at Hay Point on 5th July with members. 6th July – meetings scheduled in Gladstone with other operators on the construction project re progressing agreements regarding marine operations.

ATIVO (Patrick Maintenance)

Mutually convenient dates have been set on 18th and 19th July in Sydney to continue negotiations for replacement Agreements that cover the Ports of Fisherman Islands and Port Botany. Report back meetings will follow.

Cargolink

The Branch together with the Sydney and Victorian Branches are seeking to establish further dates in order to finalise the Cargolink Agreement. A report back meeting will be held on Monday 11th July with a video-conference scheduled thereafter.

Members will be able to ascertain from the advice provided above that the MUA is heavily involved in a vast number of negotiations for Agreements. These Agreements have involved Rank and File delegates who have been highly active in seeking to further the conditions of employment for their fellow comrades.

Without mentioning any names, the Branch would like to take the opportunity to relay a heart-felt thanks for their involvement.
