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## Special Points of Interest

### MONTHLY MEETINGS

Last Tuesday of every month - 9am  
All members invited @ MUA rooms  
**Next Meeting 30 June**

**Check out new MUA website**  
[www.mua.org.au](http://www.mua.org.au)

Branch Secretary Jamie Newlyn will be out of office for 2 weeks on union conference from 8 June to 22 June. Deputy branch secretary Clem Clothier will be relieving in office.  
**Contact Clem on 0423550561**

## DP World

Deputy National Secretary Jim Tannock reports that there have been ongoing discussions in all ports regarding the economic crisis. This has affected some ports more than others and two of the unanswered questions are: will it get any worse? Also how long before it levels off and volumes pick up again? There have been continuing discussions between DPW nationally and Comrade Tannock, with another meeting held on Wednesday 27 May.

Voluntary Redundancies have occurred in all DPW ports with the exception of Melbourne where a leave system has been introduced to mitigate the any redundancy impact at this stage.

In Adelaide there are no requirements for changes due to the economic crisis at this stage but we are dealing with the introduction of clerical central planning the same as other terminals which has resulted in voluntary redundancies.

A meeting was held on 25 May where central planning issues were discussed along with a number of training issues which were part of the EBA negotiations.

There are still some issues regarding the redundancy process whereby not enough voluntary redundancies were forthcoming from the Clerical department. This has resulted in voluntary redundancy being offered to General Operations employees on the proviso that a Planning Clerk will transfer to Operations. However the company are expecting that whoever transfers to operations will transfer to a Grade 3 position instead of the Grade 6 which Clerical Planning personnel currently attract. Your Union has rejected this position put by DP World.

In other DP World news: A number of the committee met in the last week of May to discuss a number of issues that are bubbling away at DP World which management will not address to the satisfaction of members including: Crane Training Selection where the company have not followed their own selection criteria, Equity of Earnings & Shifts for Irregular employees, The continued engagement of new supplementaries when current employees earning capacity is diminished, clerical functions being outsourced amongst other things.

A 2 Hour yard meeting as allowed for in the Collective Agreement was held on Wednesday 3 June to let the members articulate their concerns

and the intention is to hold a Employee Representative Committee (ERC) meeting with the company to thrash out these concerns and hopefully resolve the issues.

## Southern Wharf Service

Southern Wharf Service (SWS) members are confronted with their parent company ABB Grain trying to undermine conditions of employment in all of the Bulk Loading Plants in SA.

ABB Grain has taken a confrontationist approach to try and implement change within SWS. Essentially ABB Grain wants to integrate their grain terminal businesses with the Bulk Loading SWS operations. The approach taken by ABB Grain to date has relied on wording in Grain Terminal Agreements which provides for mobility of personnel and ABB Grain contemplate that the mobility extends to SWS sites.

On 1 April SWS members in Port Adelaide were left with no alternative than to take industrial action when ABB Grain demanded to transfer an ABB Grain employee from the grain silos onto the SWS BLP to be trained in the functions of SWS employees at lower rates of pay.

This was seen as a direct threat to the job security of SWS members and a 12 hour stoppage ensued.

ABB Grain lodged an application in the AIRC (Industrial Relations Commission) to prevent further industrial action. Our union was legally represented in the commission and was successful in preventing the order to prevent further industrial action however committed to further discussing the issue if the status quo prevailed.

Further dialogue with the company occurred however no agreement was reached and a conciliation hearing was heard in the AIRC, this again proved futile and we were ordered to arbitration. The AIRC could not arbitrate the dispute because the ABB Grain Collective Agreement did not allow for arbitration.

ABB Grain has now tried a more conciliatory approach to resolving the differences and some headway is being made although we are still in dispute.

Our union has made it clear to ABB Grain that our sole intention is to protect the wages and conditions of the SWS members however we are not averse to accepting integration if we protect those conditions of employment.



## MUA Objection to Raising Pension

### Age to 67: Letter to Prime Minister

Prime Minister Kevin Rudd  
Suite MG 8  
Parliament House  
Canberra ACT 2600  
27 May 2009

Re: Objection to Raising Pension Age to 67

Dear Prime Minister Rudd

Maritime Union of Australia (MUA) Members at their recent monthly meeting in South Australia on 26 May 2009 unanimously condemned your government's recent budget announcement to raise the pension age to 67.

It was the considered view of MUA members that increasing the age of retirement and access to age pension will restrict member's employment options and ability, particularly in Blue collar industries to maintain the appropriate level of fitness for work and functional assessment needed for the vigour's of manual labour.

The subsequent changes in the budget to superannuation taxation further restrict the ability of workers to appropriately save for their retirement.

The nature of capitalism will ensure that a Global Financial Crisis (GFC) will occur in every generation. Older Australians have worked through a number of recessions, Governments can not therefore penalise these Australians at times when the current GFC is having a significant impact on current retirement savings.

Members of the South Australian Branch of the Maritime Union of Australia call on you to seek other measures to raise revenue to offset budget deficits including raising taxes.

We would appreciate some further explanation as to why penalising Older Australians is one answer in the country's economic woes.

Yours Sincerely

Jamie Newlyn  
Branch Secretary  
On behalf of MUA Members present  
At Monthly meeting 26 May 2009

## Paid Maternity Leave a Win for Union Campaigning

The MUA joins the ACTU in applauding the introduction of a government funded paid maternity leave scheme and thanks all members who have participated in any way.

Unions welcome the historic introduction a universal, government-funded paid maternity leave scheme covering the majority of Australian women and their families.

"The campaign to win this essential piece of social infrastructure has taken 30 long years," ACTU President Sharan Burrow said today.

"This is a major achievement for the thousands of women and men who have worked so hard to bring this scheme to fruition.

"Importantly, the scheme will cover hundreds of thousands of women in lower paid jobs with poor job security, especially in hospitality and retail where there's been very limited access to paid maternity leave.

"The Rudd Government has rightly concluded that this money will go directly into spending on the necessities that go with having a new baby at a time when most families have been reduced to living on one wage."

"It also recognises that paid maternity leave is good for business and the economy because it will help keep skilled, experienced female staff attached to the workforce."

Treasurer Wayne Swan confirmed in the budget that a universal paid maternity leave scheme will go ahead.

Ms Burrow said the 18-week scheme would give mothers time to bond with and breastfeed their babies without financial stress forcing them back to work too early, sometimes within weeks, as is currently the case.

"The ACTU and unions will continue to help working women bargain for measures to help balance their work and family responsibilities," said Ms Burrow

## Membership Responsibility

### Member details:

If you have moved, changed phone number or any other contact details please contact your Branch to update your details.

The MUA uses email as a way of sending information through to members. Please remember to provide your Branch with your email address to ensure you are part of the branch email distribution lists.

If anyone has a change of status of employment or you have been downgraded make sure you inform your Branch.

### Direct Debit:

Members who are yet to utilise the direct debit facility to pay their union dues are reminded that the MUA provides the following methods for direct debit:

- 2 fortnightly bank direct debit (Fridays)
- Monthly bank direct debit (20th each month)
- Monthly Credit Card Direct Debit (15th each month)

If you would like to change your method of payment, please contact your Branch.

### Arrears Contracts:

Members who are in arrears are asked to contact their Branch to arrange an arrears contract to pay off their debt in instalments. Members who pay via direct debit can authorise an extra amount to be taken out of their monthly or fortnightly direct debit.

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