

# VICTORIAN BRANCH NEWS

For a worker to refuse to belong to a Union is not to exercise a democratic freedom it is to accept benefits that others have worked for without contributing to the costs.

June 2011

Issue 2

## Upcoming Events

HSR Refresher Training  
29 June 2011  
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Martin Ferris—The Man  
from Kerry  
30 July 2011  
Details pg 4

Next Stop Work Meeting  
26 July 2011

## Victorian Quadrennial Election Results

### Branch Secretary

Bracken, Kevin 1013  
Taulla, Harkin 452

**Majority for: BRACKEN, Kevin**

### Branch Deputy Secretary

Schleibs, David 793  
Walsh, James 666

**Majority for: SCHLEIBS, David**

### Branch Assistant Secretary

Cushion, David 873  
Harkins Paul 594  
Hoy, Jeff 341  
Patchett, Robert 786  
Wilcocks, Paul 256

**Majority for: CUSHION, David and  
PATCHETT, Robert**

### National Deputy Secretary

Doleman, Mick 3931  
Russell, Keith 2127

**Majority for: DOLEMAN, Mick**

The MUA Quadrennial election is over and there has been no change to the Officials representing the Victorian Branch.

That is not to say that there will be no changes. Elections are a chance for us to review our aims and our priorities and this will be fed into the Quadrennial National Conference that will be held early next year. Delegates representing all ships and work places covered by our members, will deliberate on motions put forward by members.

### Victorian Branch Committee

In our Branch we will be calling for nominations for the Branch Committee at all work places and ships. We will set a date for the new branch committee to meet as soon as it is finalized. Nominations will be taken from all ships and work places.

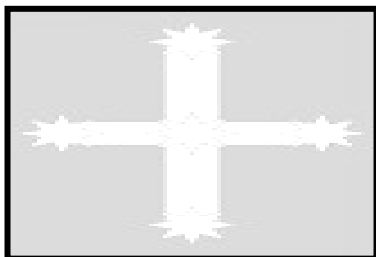
### Site Committee

We will also be calling for new nominations for site committees and elections (where necessary) in workplaces that are not negotiating their Agreements. Areas that are negotiating their Agreements will hold elections after their conclusion as it is too disruptive to the negotiations.

### Agreements being negotiated

Areas that are currently negotiating agreements are Patrick Terminals, Patrick General Stevedoring Melbourne, Geelong and Westernport, TT Line, POAGS, DP World, SeaRoad Stevedoring, SeaRoad Seafarers, Toll Shipping Seafarers, Skilled Maritime, 1 Port, Ausport Vic, PB Towage and Van Ord.

We do not believe that there have been as many Agreements being negotiated as we now have on the table. Employers are stringing out negotiations and this is happening in other industries.



### Contact Us

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## **Transport Security Infringement Trial in Port of Melbourne**

The Office of Transport Security's General Manager of Transport Security Operations has written to the Union announcing a Transport Security Infringement Trial.

Matt Chesher, Helen Bisset of the TWU joined Dean Summers in a meeting with the OTS 10 June to discuss the trial.

The security legislation provides for inspectors to issue cautions and infringement notices against non compliance issues associated with the MSIC and ASIC.

OTS informs the union that the trial has begun in Perth Airport and Fremantle port and will be taken up in Sydney Ports & Airport and Melbourne Ports and Airports.

They have 8 dedicated inspectors involved in the trial who can issue cautions or infringement notices including fines of up to \$110.

The trial will last until September and they claim to have briefed State Union officials. There is doubt about any MUA officials having been briefed and the TWU think the same.

The MUA is concerned that this does nothing to advance security rather it is compliance scheme aimed at giving a facade of security.

Transport Security related issues will again become topical in the near future as the Joint Parliamentary committee into Law Enforcement is due to issue their report into effectiveness of the cards in the coming weeks. The MUA has identified huge gaps in security however this trial addresses none of our genuine concerns.

## **ITF REPORT**

The ITF in Victoria is heading towards half a million in US Dollars recovered for foreign crews for the first half of the year. The most recent payment witnessed in the Port of Geelong on the vessel Jimflush of 112,000 US Dollars, this was a long drawn out case and the ITF is indebted to the assistance given to it by volunteers Graham Archer and Kevin O'Leary. There is still unfinished business on this vessel with around another 250,000 US Dollars to be recovered for previous crews, this should be finalised in the second half of the year.

A number of vessel owner's have been covering their vessels with ITF Approved agreements, thus lifting the pay benchmark for crews on board these vessels and giving them a better standard of living. As a result of a Humanitarian position taken by members at East Swanson Dock recently in conjunction with the Branch, the vessel Merkur Sky signed an agreement to cover their crew, this is despite that the Company had never had an agreement on any of their vessels in their 190 year existence. The members at East Swanson have once again shown their strong commitment to justice for those people often down trodden and unable to speak up for themselves. The provisions of the ISPS( Security for vessels) Code was not being followed, particularly in reference to clause 16.3.15 which clearly states that the crew's welfare and Industrial representatives are to have access to the vessel when requested by crew members. This was clearly being flaunted when the Vessel's Master, acting on behalf of the owners, was refusing access for the Victorian State Secretary in order that he could talk to some crew members, along with the ITF Inspector in the Port, the MUA an Affiliate of the ITF fit both categories of the code.

After this event, the ITF and the MUA were made most welcome when the vessel arrived in the Port of Sydney.

## **HSR Refresher Training**

If you are a Health & Safety Representative and have completed the Initial 5 day course, it is mandatory that you update your skills and knowledge every 12 months by completing the one day refresher course. The MUA is running two courses in June, the 22nd and the 29th. There are still spaces left on the 29th and we will be running another course in July for those members not able to attend in June. Please contact Jade in the branch for more information and to secure your place. The course is conducted by Hugh Doherty, an accredited Worksafe Trainer.



## Win \$1000 cold, hard cash this winter with Union Shopper\*

Union Shopper members can win \$1000 this winter simply by seeing how much they can save on electrical and new and used car purchases.

Until Wednesday 31 August 2011, Union Shopper members from Queensland, Victoria, New South Wales and The Australian Capital Territory who make a purchase enquiry on an electrical product or a car will be entered into a draw to win \$1000. These members who then place an electrical or car order will receive an additional entry into the \$1000 draw.

"Union members prefer buying electrical products and new or used cars through Union Shopper because we save them time and money with our fast, friendly service and collective buying power," Union Shopper Inc executive officer Brett McCreadie said. "In 2010, Union Shopper saved members over \$1.4 million on electrical items and over \$1.3 million on cars, at no additional cost."

Union Shopper's experienced call centre operators and Motor Market consultants are well-placed to help members take advantage of bulk buying power to get members big savings.

"Thank you to Union Shopper for the professional, consistent and thorough manner in which you guided us through the purchase of our new car recently," Union Shopper member Leianne McArthur said. "This is the third vehicle we have purchased through Union Shopper, all conducted without leaving the house and at a price of \$10,000 less than any other retailer we enquired of...That's just the kind of thing that will keep us coming back."

For nearly 35 years, Union Shopper has been helping Union Members save on a huge range of products and services, including whitegoods, cars, travel and accommodation, jewellery, insurance and theme park tickets.

"Union Shopper members typically save several thousand dollars off their best price on their preferred new car model with Union Shopper Motor Market," Mr McCreadie said.

To see how easy it is to save potentially hundreds of dollars on a fridge or television and thousands of dollars on a new car, call 1300 368 117 or visit [www.unionshopper.com.au](http://www.unionshopper.com.au)

\* For full terms and conditions, please go to [www.unionshopper.com.au/win1000](http://www.unionshopper.com.au/win1000)



## Donate to 3CR—Keep Union Voices on Air!!

Support the crew that brings you the **Fire Up!** radio show on 855AM or 3CR digital in Melbourne or listen to the show live online at [www.3cr.org.au](http://www.3cr.org.au)

Please organise donations through your work place. The Radiathon is held every year to keep 3CR alive! Waterside Workers Federation and the Seamen's Union of Australia played a key part establishing 3CR. It's up to us to keep it alive!

### **Donations made from the following vessels / work places:**

SeaRoad Mersey	DP World Social Club
Tasmanian Achiever	Appleton Dock Social Club (POAGS)
Miclyn Endurance	SeaRoad Stevedores
Yarra Social Club (Svitzer Tugs)	MUA Veterans
POAGS TT Line	

If you haven't yet made a donation please do so as soon as possible so we can forward the funds to 3CR.

## **Martin Ferris—The Man from Kerry**

Martin Ferris MP TD, Sinn Fein, 'The Man from Kerry' will be visiting Australia this month. Martin Ferris will show the true face of Irish Republicanism. He was an IRA volunteer, an ex prisoner and now an Irish MP. Sinn Fein has now increased its parliamentary representation from 5 to 14 seats in the South of Ireland and is now the third largest party in the country. This will be an opportune time to hear first hand news from a member of that Parliament about a United Ireland. 2011 is the 30th anniversary of the 1981 Hunger Strike in which 10 republican prisoners died in the struggle for political status in the H Blocks of Long Kesh. The anniversary will be commemorated throughout the year in Ireland and internationally.

### **Casement Group Melbourne Function**

**Venue: Celtic Club**

**Address: Cnr Queen and Latrobe Street, Melbourne**

**Date: Saturday 30 July 2011**

**Time: 7:30pm**

This will be a function not to be missed so book your tickets early. Ticket price is \$40 per person.

For further information please contact the Vic Branch.

## **Bus Driver Wanted**

A bus driver is needed this Thursday, 30 June at 10:00am to transport the retired WWF members to lunch in Box Hill and back to the Union Rooms around 2:00pm. If you are able to help out please phone the Vic Branch and speak to Jade 9329 5477.

## **Who said this...**

The arc of the moral universe is long, but it bends towards justice.

*Last Issue—Mark Twain*

"It was the finest thing in Australasian history. It was a revolution – small in size; but great politically; it was a strike for liberty, a struggle for a principle, a stand against injustice and oppression."

## **It is with regret the Victorian Branch expresses our deepest sympathy to the family and friends of the following;**

**Buttigieg Corry**, passed away 14 May 2011. Corry was a member for over 40 years and last worked for Conaust and retired with a WIRA redundancy in 1991.

**Plant Raymond**, Passed away May 2011. Raymond joined in 1961 and retired in 1992 with a WIRA redundancy. Raymond worked for STL & Westernport.

**Erskine Noel**, Passed away June 2011. Noel was a member for over 30 years, joining in 1975 and retiring early this year, Noel last worked for POAGS, Station Pier.