



January 17 2011

Making Waves for Change

A Newsletter from the MUA Women's Committee

Welcome to the first newsletter from the MUA Women's Committee for 2011.

WHITE RIBBON DAY 2010

November 25, the international day for the elimination of violence against women, was once again a huge success with many MUA men swearing the oath to end violence against women.

Deputy National Secretary Mick Doleman is on the National Leaders Group of the White Ribbon Foundation and has been instrumental in getting many programs off the ground with them.

The MUA flags once again flew proudly from ships and ferries around the country & the Aurora Australis did us proud by taking our flag to Antarctica.



INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY—MARCH 8

International Women's Day (IWD) is an occasion marked by women around the world. This date is also commemorated at the United Nations and is designated as a national holiday in some countries. It is celebrated on 8 March each year.

International Women's Day is a time to reflect on how far women have come in their struggle for

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PAID PARENTAL LEAVE BEGINS

Australia's first national Paid Parental Leave scheme started on 1 January 2011. It provides eligible working parents with 18 weeks of Parental Leave Pay at the National Minimum Wage, currently \$570 a week before tax.

Parental Leave Pay is fully funded by the Australian Government. Parents and employers can find out more about the scheme, eligibility requirements and how to apply at the following website <http://www.familyassist.gov.au/payments/family-assistance-payments/paid-parental-leave-scheme/>

This leave can be taken in addition to any parental leave that is currently in your enterprise agreement.

JOBS IN OUR INDUSTRY

Assistant National Secretary Ian Bray reports:

As the national official with the responsibility for women in our industry I take it very seriously when employers refuse to accept women working in our industry by putting up roadblocks and making it generally very difficult to gain employment.

Recently in Gladstone we successfully negotiated for 2 women recruits in the new crew of 15. Whilst around the same time Patricks Port Botany had 8 women apply and not one got a start.

However it shouldn't have to be negotiated, if employers were serious it would happen automatically.

If you know any women that are interested in working in our industry either on land or at sea please send resumes to Mich-Elle at michelle.myers@mua.org.au we will pass these onto employers and show that there are willing and able women to work in our industry they just need a chance.

Also if you are interested in becoming more active in the union contact one of your state reps. There is always something going on you can be involved in.

All members of our union in need of assistance should contact branch officials, however if you want to ask a question or would like some advice the following contacts are your national and state representatives who will be happy to help:

YOUR CONTACTS:

National Women's Liaison Officer
Mich-Elle Myers
0401 202 667
michelle.myers@mua.org.au

NSW

Sue Virago— 0438 273 236
Suzette Hill—0415 361 225

QLD

Fiona Munro—0410 577 933

SA

Elaine Smart—0401 501 704

NT

Erica Seipel—0401 117 062

TAS

Cara Morris—0429 024 716
Janet Harris—0428 319 007

VIC

Maryanne Walker—0417 504 860
Michelle Mackay—0438 530 233

WA

Maree Woods—0407 083 073

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opportunity to unite, network and mobilise for meaningful change.

The 2011 theme – *Celebrating 100 years of women's achievements*

The year 2011 marks the 100th anniversary of when International Women's Day was first celebrated in Austria, Denmark, Germany and Switzerland in 1911.

EVENTS AROUND THE COUNTRY:

Check with your state government or trades and labour councils for events in your state. Or check MUA website closer to the date.

This year MUA women will march under the banner of "ITF Women—Transporting the World" we have new banners ready to go for each state which include the logo of all of the Australian ITF affiliates.

Don't forget each branch has a monthly meeting on the
LAST TUESDAY OF EVERY MONTH
These meetings give you a chance to meet other members and officials and hear updates of what is going on in your union.

EEO in Recruitment

Warren Smith Assistant National Secretary reports that with recruitment of women into the maritime industry being at a severely low ebb; with stevedoring and shipping companies paying scant regard to their alleged EEO status; it would seem that there is a dire need for our maritime industry employers attend the following course.

One employer was grotesque enough to make openly sexist and vilifying comments against women when a claim was put up in a recent EBA meeting. What do employers fear? The MUA and its members fear nothing and we strongly support and advocate a massive increase in the number of women recruits to the industry.

It is impossible to uphold any significant or realistic moral position around gender politics if the question is left as a theoretical consideration that adorns glossy well produced corporate pamphlets. This unfortunately is the case with most maritime industry employers who have not moved with the times in terms of gender equality in recruitment. The MUA will continue to run its campaign around equality of opportunity for recruitment of women into our industry.

Come on employers... The times have changed. If you wont move you'll have to be pushed!

Here is a link for all the employers out there: It contains information on all anti discrimination acts.

http://www.hreoc.gov.au/info_for_employers/law/index.html

