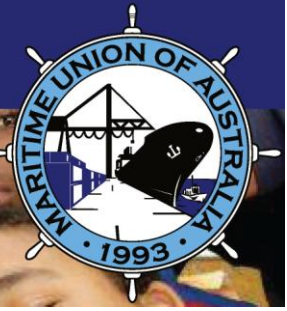


Tas Bull International Aid

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Tas Bull Memorial International Aid Member News *'The Journey Continues'*

The TBIA project was initiated by the MUA who have been part of international aid causes over many years, it was established in 2006 in cooperation with APHEDA in memory of the former Union Rank and File Seafarer & Wharfie, JDA representative, General Secretary, Vice President ACTU, President of APHEDA, ITF Vice President and a great internationalist who dedicated his life to National and International causes. The project has been very successful and has achieved great results. Examples of some of these have been: Ons Plek Project South, Africa, The William Soler Hospital in Cuba and Christian David Morarian School South Africa

There have also been a number of other projects in PNG, East Timor Zimbabwe, Samoa, Cambodia and Vietnam.

These have only been achieved through the generosity of our patrons in particular MUA branches and Rank & File members, other unions, individuals and employers and the hard work from lots of people involved.

"The Tas Bull International Aid Project reflects the tremendous spirit and commitment to internationalism by Tas Bull himself.

"The Project is a great celebration of working class solidarity and union culture. Through this, the spirit of Tas Bull lives on."

Paddy Crumlin, National Secretary Maritime Union of Australia

APHEDA UPDATE, Peter Jennings

Tas Bull always believed in international solidarity between working people, and that is why a number of unions, led by the MUA, raise funds each year through the Tas Bull Memorial International Aid Committee to assist overseas projects with Union Aid Abroad – APHEDA, the overseas aid arm of the ACTU.

Since 2005, over \$174,000 has been raised to assist a variety of projects. These projects have included:-

- The cardiac arm of the Children's Hospital in Havana, Cuba
- HIV education with the Transport union (SATAWU) in South Africa and the PNG Trades Union Congress
- Trade union media in South Africa with COSATU and Worker's World Media
- Strengthening trade unions in East Timor
- OH&S training with trade unions in Laos
- Assistance in South Africa to AIDs orphanages and to disadvantaged schools in South African townships.

Members of the MUA have also sent two containers to assist a disadvantaged school in the Athlone township of Cape Town. The Tasmanian and Victorian Branch of the MUA sent a container full of material for school students, while supporters from the Southern Queensland Branch sent a container re-modeled to be a school canteen.

The MUA always understood that by assisting students, we were developing the future, and by strengthening trade unions, we were ensuring that working men and women will have a safe workplace and will have adequate income to feed, educate and care for their children.



Above: The carpentry collective supported by Union Aid Abroad-APHEDA continues to grow with members across Timor-Leste), APHEDA project literacy training for women in a rural area, 2008 South Africa Visit

**TAS BULL INTERNATIONAL AID WALL – UNVEILING AT VICTORIAN MUA BRANCH,
29th NOVEMBER 2011 at 3.00pm by Paddy Crumlin, MUA National Secretary**





TBIA DELEGATION TO CAPE TOWN, SOUTH AFRICA 2011

Following on from the Mining & Maritime Conference in Durban South Africa a smaller delegation went to Cape Town as a follow up visit to the 2006 delegation as well as to check on projects whereby 2 containers had been transported to a Cape Town primary school in the period from the initial delegation.

Attendees: Danny Cain, Matt Moss, Craig Booth. (WA) David Schleibs, Danny Cullen (VIC) Jed Crumlin (SYD) Trevor Munday (QLD). The Delegation was further bolstered when Gavin Bostick & Matt Lawrence turned up under their own steam after a short safari with some other comrades. Gena Munday also was in attendance and visited the Projects.

The delegation attended Ons Plek projects, this facility provides for a shelter for children who would otherwise be living on the street, we were given a tour of the premises which is essence an old two story house that has been converted to house the Girls. The tour was actually conducted by one of the Girls, who was a mother at the age of 13 and disowned by her family.

Following the tour the delegation were given a full briefing by Pam. She explained that many of the children had come from broken homes and that Ons Plek's main objective was to reunify the family.

We then were advised of an additional project called Ukondla, this is at an extremely poor township called Philippi that deals with children that are "at risk" of becoming street kids.

On the suggestion of Pam the delegation attended Ukondla accompanied by 2 of the social workers engaged by Ons Plek, some 25 kilometres from the City to Philippi, it was abundantly clear that this area is one of the poorest in the wider Cape Town area. On leaving the site it was decided that the delegation would have a muster of funds to at least ensure that the windows would be fixed. To that end the delegation went back to Albertus street and donated 3500.00 ZAR for the aforementioned purpose.

The MUA delegation attended the Primary school some 30 KM from the City centre; this is the same primary school where we transported the previous two Tas Bull containers. On arrival the delegation were able to clearly see the 40' container which sits in the main school grounds, it is now utilised as a classroom for special needs students.

The delegation was given a briefing by the teachers, some of the advice was that approx. 85% of the children come from families where neither of the parents works, this percentage coincides with the actual unemployment rate in the area. Further that many of the children do not live with their parents, social issues alongside the obvious employment opportunities include alcoholism, drug abuse, HIV and domestic violence that sit alongside the extremely high crime rate.

There can be little doubt that this school requires further financial assistance, the predominant issues being the state of the school yard which is only gravel and the dust blows into the classrooms and the lack of classroom space.

It is pleasing to report on the comradeship that was evident during the Cape Town visit, the funding of future TBIA initiatives will be contingent on our fund raising objectives, being that the more funding achieved will result in more being able to be distributed.

SILENT AUCTION 2012

Following on from its inaugural success in 2008 the Tas Bull International Aid Silent Auction is back for 2012...

We are excited about the way ahead once again, as one of our biggest events, the 'Silent Auction' is now opening and will close in March next year at MUA National Conference.

It was run four years ago with the generosity of the MUA and their members, individuals, a number of unions and companies. It was very successful in raising money to support our projects.

The Auction not only raises much need funds for projects across the world but also raises awareness of the tireless efforts made by organisations such as APHEDA and work done with communities in Vietnam, Cambodia, Timor-Leste, South Africa and Cuba.

We would appreciate your participation in this event which generates great interest and a bit of fun for such a good cause.

To participate, all you need to do is donate something for the 'Silent Auction'. All articles donated are listed in the booklet and on our website with the name of the patron listed.

The 2008 National Conference provided a perfect platform for Silent Auction and 2012 will be no different...

there are some truly magical items on offer at Auction; holiday packages, sporting memorabilia, artwork and maritime collectables should see some healthy bidding starting early.

Members will be continually updated through their branch newsletters, MWJ, TBIA Newsletter and updates can be found on the web.

We look forward to your involvement and remind ourselves we can make a difference.