



No 5 – 22 December 2020

Acting Branch Secretary's Report – Assistant Secretary's Report – North Queensland Organiser Report

Acting Branch Secretary Report *by Jason Miners*

In what's been a challenging year for workers with circumstances no one could predict in terms of a global pandemic and a series of heightened attacks from some of our class enemies, I think it's fair and reasonable to say that 2020 can take a hike.

Through adversity we have seen members and sections of our industry rise beyond anyone's expectations for the betterment of MUA members and their communities.

If workers were not in struggle, the attacks and bastardry would have ended the opportunity for generations to come with the importance to resist to exist never being more prevalent.

I am extremely proud of our members who stepped up to the plate and fought the relentless attacks when it counted.

Christmas is a special time and also a time we need to lookout for others, both on and off the job as physical and mental health can face heightened risks.

On behalf of the Queensland Branch I want to thank the members and the true believers for keeping the faith in their union in difficult times as it's kept myself and our other officers and staff going.

I hope you and your families have a wonderful Christmas and New Year however you plan on spending it.

We need you more than ever to continue to fight alongside us in the New Year.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year 🍷🍷

1. Patrick

Patrick's members secure 28 permanent rostered jobs in the midst of a heavy industrial campaign waged against the union by Patrick (Qube) stevedores comprising of 14 GMP positions and 14 G2Ps. The members, led by the delegates and guided by the union have advocated the case to promote these workers who were previously permanent part time (GWEs).

Through discipline and a united collective approach over greed and division we have achieved a fantastic outcome which will have a tremendous impact on these workers lives.

The employer, hand in glove with the government has spread lies and misinformation to take the rights of our members to collectively bargain under the limited laws that allow workers to fight back through protected action. Not only has the Fair Work Commission extended the notice period for protected action to 5 business days from 3 but have also spent huge legal resources to have our members rights to even take protected action away altogether!

The members have been incredibly united through all of these injustices ensuring no one has been left behind both fiscally and supportively.

This win is an absolute credit to our members which hopefully will further build their confidence to pursue their enterprise agreement with whichever means possible in the new year.

2. ROC

A series of anonymous complaints has been put into the Registered Organisations Commission (a.k.a. ROC) about the Queensland Branch of the MUA pertaining to a number of targeted accusations aimed at hurting the union and inviting our class enemies into our affairs on a hope and a whim that some mud will stick.

The ROC, which is a government body established by a relatively new piece of legislation introduced by the conservatives, aims to publicly, financially, and politically damage our union and the wider union movement.

The ROC has the invasive powers to use the AFP to tap phones and raid offices, and to use court processes to imprison officials and impose crippling fines on unions which are not-for-profit organisations.

As you know, unions are fully funded by working men and women who rely so heavily on them.

The branch is cooperating with the ROC and will continue to cooperate with the ROC to ensure each allegation is categorically defended and proven to be within the realms of the law and or completely false and vexatious bullshit.

By draining unions financially and not having proper checks and balances in place before they (ROC) pursue claims against small unions like ours, tens of thousands of

dollars of unions members money has to be expended out of necessity and compliance regardless of whether the complaints are true or false, while those who make the false complaints are protected by whistle blower laws that are among the strongest in the world.

So, in other words, anyone can damage the union's reputation, resources and members finances just by becoming an anonymous keyboard warrior and making a series of false complaints.

It's deeply sad that anyone would bring themselves to commit such acts of treachery which assist the false narratives of our enemies in the press and sections of government.

Further updates to members will be provided at both the branch monthly meetings and the branch committee as they develop.

Our union has among the highest standards in financial accountability and transparency in the movement which I plan to increase further in the new year because it's members money and the confidence you put in us that makes us strong.

3. QBT EA

The QBT EA reached in principle agreement yesterday with a 2.5% PA pay increase and backpay the key achievements.

4. ASP

The branch has secured a few reliefs for some of our unemployed seafarers on the EAS and continues to monitor leave balances and advocacy for more of our members to get up the gangway.

5. Svitzer

Svitzer has ramped up its attacks on our members hard fought wages and conditions which have set the standards for towage workers for years.

We will continue to fight these attacks in the new year and hope that other members from other unions will push to join this just fight against the attacks we haven't seen for some years.

Svitzer with the possible support of engage marine have been planning the demise of our negotiated outcomes for some time. Our negotiating team are determined to see this blue through. A special mention must go to the delegates and members who have stayed united and fought back with a determination to see this through.

6. Branch Resources and Relieving Officials

Your union's resources and representation have been put through some testing times with our Secretary, Assistant Secretary and Legal/Industrial Officer all being affected by long term illnesses in the midst of some huge attacks and critical campaigns which has placed some pressure on the Branch.

Through this we have been fortunate enough to have some of our members fill in to assist us in Aaron Johnson, Mike O'Shane and David Thorne, all of which have done a

great job and developed a better understanding of what goes into representing maritime workers.

Some of our delegates have also gone above and beyond in assisting us in representing our members interests which we are deeply grateful for.

Message to MUA Members and their Families in RT Health

Don't let the greed of a few and union members ownership sail over the horizon!

RT Health members – what you need to do

The Annual General Meeting (AGM) of Railway & Transport Health Fund Limited is being held virtually on Thursday 28 January 2020. At that meeting the Australian Rail, Tram and Bus Industry Union (RTBU) will be attempting to remove six of the current board directors.

We need your support!

The Chair of RT Health has recently sent out an 'Official Proxy Form' for the upcoming AGM which was sent both electronically and in the mail.

The RTBU recommends that you do not complete the paper or online version of the 'Official Proxy Form' which were sent by the Chair.

The ask!

Instead, all RT Health members should sign and send back the proxy form that you would have received from the RTBU in the mail.

If you haven't received a proxy form from the RTBU or have accidentally completed the online form and allocated your vote to the Chair, please get in contact with the RTBU National Office on 02 8203 6099 (Press 7).

The RTBU is trying to stop the board from handing over control of your fund. Together we can ensure that RT Health continues to run for members' benefit.

In unity - Jason Miners

Government Work Changes to 'Take Rights Away' from Casuals, Critics Blast

By: Josh Butler

Source: <https://thenewdaily.com.au/news/2020/12/07/federal-government-industrial-reform/>

Wide-ranging changes to industrial relations laws around casual work have sparked concerns among union groups, with fears precarious workers will be further disadvantaged.

The federal government's much-anticipated IR legislation hasn't been properly introduced to the parliament yet, or even been seen in full by anyone, but it's already setting the stage for a brutal fight in the last Canberra sitting week of 2020.

Attorney-General and Industrial Relations Minister Christian Porter will reveal the sprawling omnibus bill to parliament later this week, but the government is gradually rolling out its workplace changes day by day.

On Sunday it released plans to allow merged unions such as the CFMMEU to de-merge; Monday was the scene for

proposed changes that Mr Porter said would give casuals greater protections and ability to transition to permanent employment.

"These are significant reforms which together will solve the problem of uncertainty, provide better avenues for job security, remove the burden of double-dipping claims and recognise employee choice," Mr Porter said.



Mr Porter said the laws would protect casuals. Photo: AAP

He said the new laws will also create "very strict rules" for casual conversion, so casuals who work regular shift patterns can move – if desired – to part-time or full-time employment after 12 months.

But Labor's shadow industrial relations minister Tony Burke warned it was an "attack on casuals".

"Don't buy the government's spin on what they're doing with industrial relations with today's announcement," he said.

"Today is one of the biggest gaps you'll ever see between announcement and delivery. The government announces as though they're helping casuals – what they're actually doing is taking rights away from casuals."



Tony Burke claims casuals will lose out. Photo: AAP

Mr Burke complained Labor "don't have the full legislation yet" but said it was concerned casuals would lose rights to complain about employers who failed to pass on full entitlements.

"The rights that casuals have won over the last couple of years in the courts will be taken away by legislation to be

introduced to this parliament. At the end of this, casuals will have fewer rights," he said.

"What's worse, employers who break the law will no longer suffer a penalty ... casuals lose their rights and employers walk away without any penalty."

The Australian Council of Trade Unions claimed the Coalition's proposal was a concession "to the most radical elements of the business lobby". ACTU secretary Sally McManus claimed the changes would actually make it harder for casuals to convert to permanent work.



Sally McManus and unions say the changes will "entrench casual work". Photo: AAP

"This proposal takes rights off casual workers, some of the hardest hit people during the pandemic," she said.

"It gives employers what they have asked for, that ability to legally label someone a casual, even if they are hired for a permanent, ongoing job."

"This is a huge, missed opportunity to begin to make jobs more secure and turn around the number of casual and insecure jobs. Instead, this proposal will entrench casual work."

But Mr Porter said the bill came after 150 hours of consultation with business and union groups.

The legislation will also address concerns from the government about so-called "double-dipping", where employers might have to pay sick leave and other leave as well as the 25 per cent casual loading meant to compensate for those benefits.

This comes after a recent controversial workplace judgment in the Federal Court. Labour-hire company Workpac was found to owe entitlements such as holiday pay, plus the 25 per cent loading, to workers classed as casuals who worked regular and predictable shifts.

The government's proposal will ensure employers do not have to pay such entitlements twice. Mr Porter said the bill was aimed at preventing "confusion" among employers who were unclear about what entitlements they needed to pay.

"We cannot do nothing when we have a situation where employers are delaying making hiring decisions because of ongoing confusion about the legal status of casual employment," Mr Porter said.

Double-dipping "is a huge concern", Australian Industry Group CEO Innes Willox told Sky News on Monday.

IR Laws Set Up Parliamentary Fight

The legislation to be introduced on Wednesday will cover three areas.

It will introduce the statutory definition of casual employment in the Fair Work Act, which will include employment being offered without any firm advance commitment that the work will continue indefinitely and follow an agreed pattern of work.

"Unions are likely to say we should have made the definition broader still, suggesting to me that we have struck the right balance on this issue and delivered a fair and equitable outcome that will benefit both workers and employers."

But Labor turned the 'double-dipping' claims back on the government.

"If an employer tries to take the reliability of a permanent roster but only offers the insecurity of casual work, it's the employer who is double-dipping," Mr Burke said.

"The government proposal would overturn the current cases, which had protected workers where labour hire was causing casual workers to be paid less than the permanent workers doing the exact same job."

Mr Burke wouldn't confirm if Labor would formally block the laws in the Senate, saying the opposition wanted to see the full legislation. But he said it wouldn't allow it to be rushed through parliament before it rose at the end of this week.

Over 250 Million Workers Join National Strike in India

Source: <http://www.industrialunion.org/over-250-million-workers-join-national-strike-in-india>



26 November, 2020 despite repression, a joint general strike by workers and farmers has shut down India. Over 250 million workers took part in the 26 November strike. Indian trade unions condemned the arrests of workers' and farmers' leaders across the country as they demonstrate together in one of the biggest ever nationwide general strikes. Indian trade union leaders issued a clarion call to the government to repeal anti-worker labour codes and anti-farmer farm laws as a massive mobilization of industrial and agricultural workers and farmers across the country disrupted normal life across the country, in rural and urban areas.

All over the country, both public and private sector employees participated in the strike. The united front of

the over 250 farmers organizations, All India Kisan Sangharsh Co-ordination Committee (AIKSCC), extended support to the trade union strike and the unions extended their support to the farmers' "Chalo Delhi" (Go to Delhi) mobilization on 26 and 27 November. Farmers are protesting against recent anti-farmer laws which would withdraw the government's minimum support price for farm products, with serious implications for farmers' income and livelihoods.

Trade union leaders expressed concerns that, using Covid-19 as an excuse, the government has unleashed widescale repression. Police used violent means to attempt to stop hundreds of thousands of workers and farmers who are on their way to Delhi to demonstrate peacefully in the capital city on 26 and 27 November.

Sanjay Vadhavkar, general secretary of SMEFI and IndustriALL executive committee member said,

"Despite the severe police actions across the country, workers enthusiastically participated in the strike. The recent labour law changes, including the new codes on social security, wages and industrial relations, should be revoked as they fall short of protecting fundamental principles and rights at work.

"On many aspects they go against India's commitments in the international human rights and labour rights forums. Mishandling of Covid-19 and anti-people economic policies pushed millions into misery. This strike and the joint action with farmers will send a strong message to government demanding workers' and people-oriented policies."

Valter Sanches, general secretary of IndustriALL Global union said,

"We condemn the violent means used to stop the democratic expression of dissent. IndustriALL stands in solidarity with the Indian trade union movement and commends their effort in forming a broad-based alliance with farmers and agricultural workers against anti-people policies.

"Indian trade unions demands are genuine, especially in today's situation with high unemployment and job losses, which have been exacerbated by the pandemic ravaging the world, and in particular India. The government should listen to the trade unions and hold genuine dialogue to resolve issues."

The IndustriALL executive committee, which met online on Thursday 19 November, expressed its full support and solidarity with general strike.

The joint trade union charter of demands:

- Direct cash transfer of Rs 7,500 (US \$101) to all families who earn less than the income tax threshold
- 10kg free ration per person every month to all in need

- Expansion of the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act to provide employment from the current 100 days to 200 days work in rural areas with enhanced wages, and extension of this programme to urban areas
- Withdrawal of all anti worker labour code changes and anti-farmer laws
- Stop privatization of public sector corporations, including those in the finance sector. Stop the corporatization of government-run manufacturing and services entities in railways, ordinance manufacturing, ports and similar areas
- Withdraw the draconian circular of forced premature retirement of government and public sector employees.
- Provide a pension to all, restore earlier pension scheme and improve EPS 95

The joint trade union platform includes central trade unions such as INTUC, AITUC, HMS, CITU, AIUTUC, TUCC, SEWA, AICCTU, LPF and UTUC.

There's a Big Problem with Murdoch Media No One is Talking About – How it Treats Women Leaders

By: Blair Williams, Associate Lecturer, School of Political Science and International Relations, Australian National University

Source: <https://thenewdaily.com.au/news/national/2020/11/19/rupert-murdoch-women/>

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New Zealand PM Jacinda Adern has frequently felt the wrath of the Murdoch press

Rupert Murdoch's News Corp has long dominated the Australian media landscape, wielding great political and cultural influence.

Former prime minister Kevin Rudd's record-breaking petition calling for a royal commission into Australian media ownership has once again put this issue in the spotlight. It has gained more than 500,000 signatures and led to a Senate inquiry into media diversity.

Mr Rudd has described News Corp as a "cancer on democracy", while fellow former prime minister Malcolm Turnbull has labelled it "pure propaganda," and slammed its "campaign on climate denial".

Labor's Julia Gillard has also made similar claims. However, these discussions fail to consider how the

Murdoch press is particularly hostile towards women politicians.

How does the Murdoch press represent women?

While studying media representations of women in politics, I've noticed a stark difference in Murdoch press coverage of men and women leaders.



There is a difference in the way male and female leaders are represented in News Corp papers. Photo: AAP

My research, recently published in Feminist Media Studies, compared Australian media portrayals of Ms Gillard's prime ministerial rise with that of Helen Clark's in New Zealand. Both leaders experienced a sexist focus on their gender, appearance and personal lives. But it was far more frequent and intense for Ms Gillard. My research suggests two key explanations for this contrast: The different political contexts they operated in, and the dominating influence of the Murdoch press in Australia versus its absence in NZ.

As Mr Rudd has argued, the Murdoch press is hyper-partisan and ideologically driven, "blending editorial opinion with news reporting". News Corp is also known to reward Murdoch's allies, while damaging his enemies.

Yet this has notably gendered ramifications. Murdoch's conservative morality, traditionalist values, and opposition to left-wing movements appear constantly in his newspapers, making them uniquely hostile to women. Ms Gillard did not simply threaten the political status quo as Australia's first woman prime minister.

As an unmarried, child-free, atheist woman from the left of the ALP, she also threatened Murdoch's conservative ideology.

His newspaper therefore portrayed Gillard in a highly gendered – even misogynistic – manner intended to undermine her. This was evident in the criticisms of her fashion choices, such as a headline condemning her "technicolour screamcoat" in The Daily Telegraph.

Things have not changed since Gillard's days

Though it's been 10 years since Ms Gillard became PM, not much has changed. News Corp papers continue to attack women in politics, especially if they are from the left.

Queensland Labor Premier Annastacia Palaszczuk is another seasoned veteran of News Corp's sexist coverage. This includes the Sunshine Coast Daily's 2019 front-page image, which featured Ms Palaszczuk in crosshairs with the headline, "Anna, you're next".



More recently, The Courier Mail labelled her dealings with Liberal NSW Premier Gladys Berejiklian over border closures, "schoolgirl behaviour".

Even Liberal women aren't immune from sexist coverage.

Julie Bishop, the Coalition's former foreign affairs minister, was likened to the power-hungry "Lady Macbeth" by The Australian for her 2018 leadership tilt. She was also ridiculed by the same paper for calling out the Liberal party's sexist bullying culture.

Ms Berejiklian has also endured sexist reportage, particularly during the recent scandal over her relationship with disgraced former NSW MP Daryl Maguire.

One Daily Telegraph article waxed lyrical about her supposed "wedding fantasy", a "feminine albeit old-fashioned thing to do" which, they argued, might have kept a workaholic like Berejiklian "sane".

However, News Corp's partisan bias towards the Coalition is also evident in these stories.

Rather than holding Ms Berejiklian to account, the Murdoch press largely ran sympathetic stories about the premier's behaviour. This starkly contrasts with the onslaught of sexist coverage Ms Gillard received during the AWU affair, which haunted her for the rest of her term in office.

International leaders also under attack

Australian women aren't the only targets. The globally popular New Zealand Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern has

frequently borne the brunt of biased News Corp coverage.

In the lead up to the 2020 NZ election, columnist Greg Sheridan argued Ms Ardern doesn't live up to the hype, claiming in The Australian: "part of the international Jacindamania comes from the fact she is a young left-wing woman who gave birth in office and took maternity leave."

HOME COMMENTARY



Danger across the ditch as incompetent leader Ardern wins office

GIDEON ROZNER



11:00PM OCTOBER 18, 2020
69 COMMENTS



Jacinda Ardern speaks to the media in Auckland a day after her landslide election win. Picture: AFP

Sheridan also labelled her government's COVID-19 response and progressive style of politics as "inherently authoritarian" that also "enjoys bossing people around". When Ms Ardern won the election in a historic landslide, The Australian responded with a piece describing her as "grossly incompetent" and "the worst person to lead New Zealand through this economic turbulence". Notably, the clear bias here drew criticism from the New Zealand press.

In August, Johannes Leak's cartoon in The Australian, also received international condemnation for its misogynistic and racist depiction of vice-presidential nominee Kamala Harris.

Don't forget gender

It is clear the Murdoch press has a "woman problem". This poses a real obstacle for women in politics, especially those who oppose Murdoch's conservative ideology. But it also broadcasts a message about women's roles and place in society more generally – that no matter how privileged or powerful a woman might be, it's nearly impossible to escape sexist commentary and the objectifying male gaze.

This is why it is so essential to hold the Murdoch press to account in a specifically gendered light.

Assistant Secretary's Report by Paul Petersen To Queensland MUA Members

2020 has been an extremely hard year for everybody including the **MUA Queensland branch** members and officials. There has been a lot of controversial situations that has promoted division and discontent. If there are two things that the ruling class/employers look for it is 'division' and 'discontent'.

2021 must be the year the MUA Queensland Branch UNITES to fight on all cylinders.



**Paul Petersen Brief Industrial Report Back to Members.
Qube Brisbane – EBA**

10 weeks ago the Qube MUA committee agreed to roll the local EBA agreement over with a 2.5% pay increase each year. This was done while shipping and volumes were low due to the pandemic which reflected in low hours for members. In good faith the MUA committee and the MUA Queensland Branch agreed it would be best to roll the agreement over.

For reasons only known to Qube management the company refused to produce a draft copy of the EBA agreement for members to peruse and vote on. This has now caused a situation where the Committee/MUA will be going back to the negotiation table and if need be using legal protected action to fight for better wages and conditions.

AAT Brisbane

The EBA negotiations will commence in the early new year of 2021. The members and committee have put an extensive log of claims together and we have made connection with the three AAT workplaces Port Kembla, South Australia and Brisbane to negotiate a national agreement with local part B agreements where necessary.

Sealink Gladstone – EBA-The first on, last off policy will be changed to your length of tenure at the company. Eg. Deckhand of 8 years moving up to a Master's position and company wants to make redundant a Master, the length of time as a Master will not be considered, but length of tenure will. Wage Increase: MUA are seeking 2% for the first 2 years and 3% for the next 2 years. There will be a final draft of the EBA sent to the MUA committee/Official and then going to a vote at Sealink Gladstone Ferry workers as soon as possible.

Linx Gladstone- EBA

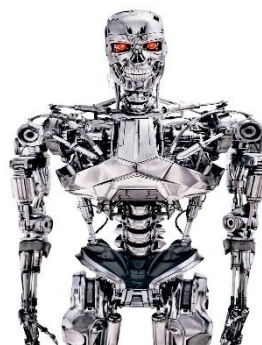
Members are preparing a log of claims to commence EBA negotiations in the 1st couple of months of 2021. These negotiations will be complicated by the loss of work and volumes at this port. The timber log contract which has created a lot of work for MUA members in the Port of Gladstone over the last four years but this contract is now coming to an end.

The loss of this contract has and will continue to have a heavy burden on MUA members accumulating their agreed hours of work. This is already having adverse effects on MUA members and has allowed the company to invoke clause 10, troughs clause. The MUA committee and the union have been working through solutions to mitigate against these circumstances.

Linx Brisbane – EBA

Are also preparing their Log of Claims (LOC) for the up and coming EBA negotiations. The Bulk & General industry has been hit hard through loss of work on PCC/Ro-Ro (Pure car carriers/ Roll-on, Roll-off vessels) Though we are seeing volumes and shipping slowly increase which means more working hours and a better negotiation platform to work from. MUA Brisbane members that run Linx have recently elected a new ERC (Elected Representative Committee). A big thanks must go to Greg Sparks, a long term MUA member and returning officer for organising and finalising the ERC elections.

BCT (Brisbane Container Terminal) Hutchison



The torturous negotiations with this company continue inch by inch, millimetre by millimetre. It has been 2.5 years of a constant fighting with this company to achieve what is rightfully ours, industry standard wages and conditions. MUA members have fought hard to achieve a salaried roster for permanents and a

guaranteed wage for casuals. These conditions have been earned through sacrifice, professionalism and constant struggle from the BCT members!! The company have given nothing!

While the MUA continue to fight against Hutchison to stop them **outsourcing** MUA jobs and trying to **force automation** into their Australian terminals (Brisbane and Sydney), Hutchison continue to automate the terminals around the world and proudly paint their automated quay cranes, straddles and RTG's with bright yellow paint. Some of the cranes have been delivered without operator cabins and will be automated with remote control from day one, whereas other equipment has a cabin but are capable of transition to remote control machines at a future date. The new straddles acquired by Hutchison Ports in Sweden have an operator cabin, but the straddles are equipped with automation system and designed to operate as autonomous/remote controlled machines in the near future.

Paddy Crumlin has been involved with the negotiations to try and advance these torturous negotiations by engaging with the CEO of Hutchison Australia.

Hutchison Ports seem fixated on trying to crush, reduce and diminish everything the **previous generations have achieved**, those wages and conditions were successfully passed onto this generation and we will pass those wages and conditions on in better order.

UNIONISED, ORGANISED and AGITATED

Robert (Uncle Bob) Anderson Award



This award goes to an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander activist who has made an outstanding contribution to the union movement over the previous 12 months.

The MUA Queensland Branch nominated Vicki Morta for the 'Uncle Bob Anderson award' and we are very happy to announce that Vicky Morta won the award. 😊

Vicki Morta is a proud trade unionist. She has been particularly active in union women and First Nations union activities. She has been on many union women panels, representing female rank and file members and First Nations members at the union's National Council.

Vicki is also integral to MUA First Nations meetings and events. She is a member who always turns up and speaks out, inspiring other Indigenous members to become active union participants. MUA National Indigenous Officer, Thomas Mayor said of Vicki, "Vicki can *always* be relied on to give a helping hand to organise actions and events. Her passion for the union is boundless and her courage is inspiring."

Vicki has been a leader in the Queensland Branch campaign to increase the Australian seafaring content on the Gladstone to Weipa run. She has also been a leader in the union's campaign to support the Uluru Statement proposal for a First Nations Voice enshrined in the constitution, teaching fellow members on the ship and in the Branch, as well as her own family and community. She has also been the rank and file face of the MUA campaign across Australia through social media.

It would be no exaggeration to say that Vicki participates in all union campaigns. Her values and desire to make change are truly union through and through.



Vicki Morta is the first Indigenous woman to become a Chief Intergrated Rating (Bosun) – the leader of other seafarers. This is an incredible feat, breaking new ground not only for women, but for First Nations people. It needs to be considered that Vicki works on a ship where she is the one and only woman, and the one and only Indigenous person. To become a leader of what is usually all white men in a male dominated industry demonstrates what an incredible leader Vicki is.

When speaking of Vicki, **Andrew (Spike) Gray** stated, "Vicki is an absolute pleasure to sail with. The whole ship's atmosphere changes when she's up the gangway and her comrades have the utmost respect for her. Vicki takes pride in every task she does and is highly respected by everyone. So much so, even pilots who board the RTM Weipa ensure they go out of their way to say hello to Vicki. She is a prime example of what a seafarer should do."



Christmas Break 2020 - This time of year is a very special time of year for many members and their families and it is also a very hard time of year for many others. Maritime Union members will be working through the Christmas period and will have to forego spending time with their loved ones and family, equally other MUA members who have been long term unemployed may struggle to find comfort through this time of year. This is the time of year to lookout for each other and to support each other through union solidarity and mateship.

I wish all MUA members and their families a safe and happy Christmas and new year. We look forward to working in unity in 2021 for a better year ahead.

Please remember if you are feeling distressed or blue there is always professional help available.

All MUA members and their families can contact Hunterlink free of charge:

www.hunterlink.org.au or 24/7 Call: 1800 554 654

Lifeline 24-hour counselling and crisis support chat line 13 11 14 www.lifeline.org.au/crisischat

Men's line Australia 1300 789978

www.menslineaus.org.au

Stay safe comrades, I look forward to working with you all in 2021.

In Unity - Paul Petersen

North Queensland Report by Dave Lyon

Comrades, so the end of 2020 is finally drawing closer and what year it's been. I'm sure everyone is as happy to see the end of this year as I am, and has their fingers crossed that 2021 will be a little bit more normal.

Unfortunately, my last Branch News report failed to meet the deadline to be included into the issue and I can't blame anyone except myself for this.

The main part of that report that I want to make sure is included in this news issue, is to express my greatest gratitude to all of the FNQ members that have once again shown their dedication to helping keep a Labor government in Queensland and ensure that we are in a position that allows us to pursue and make sure they follow up on their campaign promises and commitment to coastal shipping.

So, some of the latest work on the ground in Far North Queensland is:

Sea Swift EBA

We concluded our two EA meetings last week and are pleased to report that Sea Swift have committed to including a cargo handling allowance in their next Agreement. This may not sound like a massive deal comrades, but this is the very thing that has seen the MUA and Sea Swift in the FWC for in excess of seven years from my understanding, and it has always been the most major sticking point between our members and management and finely it looks like we have found some common ground on the subject, or should I say they have agreed on our position.

I'm also pleased to announce that we have finely agreed and drafted an MOU to allow officials back up the gangway of all Sea Swift vessels to conduct member meetings with RoE permits. This has also been a long drawn out battle that everyone will be happy to see the back of and hopefully we can start to see some kind of improvement in regards to our dealings with management.

The next EA meeting is a two day meeting in early February and we expect to make good headway.

Dive Industry

I have sent out emails to all of our members in the tourist dive industry to assess what impact COVID has had on the membership and what our density currently is. I'm pleased to report that so far, it's a bit better than I expected, there has been a considerable amount of job losses and the shutdown of the industry has caused a few members to request resignation forms due to them having changed industries but all in all I feel we are still in a fair position to recommence bargaining in early 2021. A topic that has already been agreed on with the employer.

Port of Townsville Limited EA

We have concluded bargaining on the POTL EA and we are now just waiting on the Port to finalise the draft before its sent out to vote on. We have had a number of small wins in this Agreement including a 12% over 4 year pay increase and the inclusion of the port security and port gardening team to be party to the Agreement as well, both of which we have a decent MUA density in, just to name a couple.

The Dredging of Townsville, I won't go into this too much as I'm sure Jason Miners will go into it in more depth, but I'm extremely disappointed in the Ports decision to award the tender of the Dredging of Townsville harbour expansion to two of the lowest bottom feeding employers in the race, Halls Contracting and Pacific Marine Group.

TK EBA

We have another TK EBA meeting due in the coming days. The EA that is currently being bargained for includes all four TK vessels that are on government contracts and we are seeking an even playing field on base conditions for all TK vessels and to also have an agreement that will be broad enough to make it possible to have additional vessels included should TK continue to expand on their government services contracts.

Comrades in conclusion I would just like to give a big shout out and a massive round of applause to Vicki Morta (AKA Vick-sta) on winning the Uncle Bob Anderson award this year. Vicky is a very well deserving recipient of this award and has done the MUA proud, once again.

MERRY CHRISTMAS COMRADES

In Unity - Dave NQ Organiser

Vale Wayne Wakefield

Wayne "Big W" Wakefield

It was with great sadness that the Queensland Branch learned of the unexpected loss of Wayne Wakefield.

Wayne joined the Queensland Branch in 1997 and would be a loyal and committed union member for the next 23 years working first at Maritime Wharf Brisbane with Patrick Bulk and General and later with Linx Fisherman Island.



A life member and captain of the Tugun Surf Lifesaving Club, Wayne was a true champion of the water, winning many National and State Surf Lifesaving and swimming titles.

An electrician and carpenter by trade “Big W” was always ready to lend a hand to those in need. In 1974 he heard the call of those in need as a result of Cyclone Tracey and rushed to Darwin to help rebuild the city.



On the waterfront Wayne was a loyal and loved workmate and he will be dearly missed by his fellow workmates. A true gentleman, Wayne never spoke of himself but would always have time to listen to others; especially so if you liked to talk about fishing. Wayne was always ready to educate those new to the waterfront. He would say to the keen new employees “don’t be at the front of the pack and don’t be at the back of the pack, just stay in the middle of the pack”.

Vale and RIP Big W

Vale Dale Parker

Souce: townsvillebulletin.com.au

By: Tony Raggatt

Former wharfie and councillor Dale Parker OAM has been remembered as a champion of the Townsville community who raised hundreds of thousands of dollars for children with cancer.



Mr Parker, 80, died in Townsville on December 12. Mayor Jenny Hill paid tribute to her former colleague and friend at Townsville City Council’s meeting yesterday.

She said it was hard to put into a few words the achievements of such a hardworking man.

Mr Parker was diagnosed with a rare cancer, Ewings sarcoma, at the age of 50 and faced a 5% chance of survival.

He endured nine months of chemotherapy, 10 hours of surgery and nine months in a fibreglass cast from his armpits to his ankles only to learn that his operation was unsuccessful.

A second operation was a success, and after another four months in a cast, he went from walking with two crutches, to two walking sticks, and then to a cane.

With a positive attitude, he started what he said was repaying his debt to society.

He continued his role as a board member at the Port of Townsville, drawing on his experience as a stevedore, and raised funds for children with cancer through Kids Against Cancer balloon launches.

He was named Townsville Citizen of the Year in 1995 and in 1998 was elected to the council on the team of then mayor Tony Mooney.

Cr Hill said Dale Parker was a driving force behind efforts to ensure bus shelters were accessible and was part of a group which lobbied successfully for a hydrotherapy pool. She said he served on a North Queensland Paralympics Games committee raising more than \$70,000 for the Sydney 2000 and Athens 2004 teams.

In 2006 he received an Order of Australia Medal for his services to the community.

The state's department of housing named an affordable complex in his honour.

It's hard to put into a few sentences all the things Dale Parker achieved in his life. He was a popular and hardworking councillor," Cr Hill said.

Mr Parker passed away peacefully in the Palliative Care Unit of Townsville University Hospital surrounded by his loving family.

Queensland Veteran's President Col Davies said Dale Parker will be sorely missed. He was a top bloke with a heart of gold and one of the bravest men ever. The above article is a testament to his energy, fortitude and selflessness and a legacy to be proud of. Vale Comrade Parker.

Office Hours Over Christmas

The Queensland Branch office will be closed from Wednesday 23 December 2020 and will reopen on Monday 4 January 2021. We wish our members and their families a safe and very merry Christmas.



Jason's Satirical Rant

A few simple steps to ruin the Australian way of life and protections we take for granted.

1. Ensure the dumb sheep pay no attention to the structural workplace changes through deregulation and the removal of citizens' rights under the umbrella of a Covid recovery.
2. Get rid of cash for payment to control how self employed people occasionally trade to make a better life for themselves because we can't monitor them if they pay cash.
3. Rush through laws to spy on citizens which bankroll data mining and behavioural monitoring to profile all the sheep. If you get any resistance play the racist or terrorism card.
4. Reduce safety nets for workers who have no ability to say no because it's about to be taken or leave it in the removal of minimum BOOT (better off overall test).
5. Allow foreign exploited workers to compete and undermine pay and conditions because we don't care about them because they are black sheep.
6. Watch industries sail over the horizon through free trade because deregulation makes us

compete with slave labour which will result in a dig up dirt service economy because it's cheaper to have kids in third world countries make stuff. Who needs a regeneration of skills in an island nation?

7. Tell the average punter through the monopoly of tabloids that trickle down economics is good for people earning award wages and light a candle and hope 🕯️ they pass on the profits 🧑🏻.
8. Elect accountants and lawyers into parliament for how they look or something divided they say because no one cares about substance or accountability to the general constituency because I shoot and I vote or I want to see sheep drowning at sea.

The thing sheep don't get about the removal of rights and safety nets is that they seldom return and create a larger divide in society ultimately making it easier to control the poorer desperate sheep crowd which is growing every day.

So when the dumb, opinionated sheep doesn't resist and rags on those who stand up together they are cutting the throats of future generations to come and contributors to reducing our decent way of life.

It's another crisis of capitalism with the failsafe strategy of making the millionaires billionaires and telling a blue collar worker it's in our national interests because I'm still ok.

Protect and restore what we deserve and open up your eyes so we leave our lucky country in better shape or at least the same shape we inherited.

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