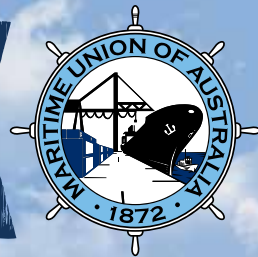


# UNDER *the* HOOK



## Branch Secretary Report

As the newly elected Secretary of the Victorian Branch of the MUA, on behalf of myself, Dave Ball, Robert Lumsden and Robert Patchett, I would like to take the opportunity in the first of the new Victorian newsletter Under the Hook to thank the members that voted for the new team. As you will see below, we have hit the ground running and are tirelessly working to improve the pay, conditions and WHS of our members through the many EA negotiations currently underway. We have recently held branch committee meetings to ensure that we continue to promote unity across workplaces, and the industry. There are exciting opportunities for the Victorian branch, such as the proposed offshore wind project, we look forward to campaigning alongside our members to front and centre on such initiatives!

*In solidarity, Shane Stevens and the Victorian Leadership.*

## Launch of Monthly Meeting Campaign

The monthly meeting has been a part of the Maritime Union since it existed. Originally a seafarers event and still strongly a seafarers event, it is now an MUA meeting of which we invite all members. We would like all members to attend if they are available. At the October meeting we have Luba Grigorovitch, the dynamic leader of the militant RTBU as a guest speaker. We have new T-shirts that celebrate the 'Monthly Meeting'. We will be having refreshments and drinks after the meeting. Come along and be part of history as we plan and organise towards a just transition into a sustainable future. Not Going Anywhere!

# EA UPDATES

## DP World

DP World enterprise agreement negotiations are currently underway. The latest round of national meetings were held between 15 and 18 October. The campaign to date has been significant, it has seen strong levels of international solidarity from wharfie's unions globally. DP World has moved considerably, yet not enough to reach an outcome on key issues to MUA members. There may be requirement for further industrial action. The Melbourne committee will be meeting early November.

## Patricks

The Employee Representative Committee's (ERC) for Patrick Terminals have recently completed their elections. Like the committees nationally, the new committee at East Swanson Dock is preparing to engage in a log of claims over the next six weeks to collate the log of claims, ready to serve on Patrick prior to Christmas. The current agreement is set to expire on 30 June 2020.

## Victoria International Container Terminal

Victoria International Container Terminal's (VICT) current EA is due to expire 19 October 2020. The MUA will actively be campaigning with their members at VICT to ensure the new agreement reflects the industry standards and is fair deal for workers at the terminal. Issues at the forefront of this campaign will be pay increases, hours of work and ensuring that all jobs that remain or are created by the current level of automation are done within the terminal at Webb Dock, by local wharfies.

## Hutchison

Hutchison in Sydney and Brisbane are currently in protracted negotiations which has culminated in several instances of protected industrial action. Job security issues around automation, outsourcing and income protection are at the forefront of the negotiations. Hutchinson's management have been using aggressive tactics such as subcontracting out their contracts in Brisbane and writing to employees individually, claiming their action is unprotected, in Sydney.

## Toll Stevedoring

The current enterprise agreement at Toll is set to expire on 19 November this year and meetings for a replacement are currently underway. With both the union and Toll having now served their log of claims, it is clear that Toll wish to declare war on their own workforce. Toll wish to severely attack the wages of their workforce, to increase the lengths of shifts and smash the rosters currently in place. The MUA will continue to fight these attacks and will ensure MUA members at Toll maintain and better their working conditions. Meeting are continuing regularly on weekly basis.

## QUBE

With the QUBE enterprise agreement set to expire in June 2020 the company has already set the scene for negotiations. QUBE has produced a document outlining why they don't want to offer a decent pay increase. The document is also an attempt to attack long standing bargaining traditions and divide the workforce. All MUA members are encouraged to "chuck it in the bin" and ignore QUBE's anti-union agenda. The MUA bargaining team is currently being organised and a log of claims is being developed. The Melbourne branch will host a 2 day QUBE conference on the 2 - 3 December with all officials and site representatives.

## Svitzer Tugs

The MUA joined with the AMOU and AIMPE in the second round of bargaining with Svitzer for a new Towage EA on 8 - 11 October 2019. The meeting was an opportunity for the unions and the company to speak to their respective claims with nothing be agreed to yet. The claims were grouped into the following sectors; Training, Outside Work, Permanent Part-Time, Leave and General claims. The next round of meetings are scheduled for 22 24 October.

## AusPort/OnePort - lines

After a period of protected industrial action, the MUA and AusPort/OnePort have recommenced meetings. AusPort/OnePort have engaged a third-party HR consultancy firm with an apparent anti-worker agenda. They had attempted to undermine the democratic processes in which our delegates are elected in order to frustrate the negotiations. With this issue (currently) resolved we will continue to negotiate to receive a fair deal for the linespersons within the port.



## TT LINE

We have been working with the Tasmanian Branch who has been leading the way with implementing roster changes on Spot1 and Spot 2. It has not all been 'fair sailing'. However, the process has resulted in additional full-time jobs for IR's, and catering crew which is a sensational outcome for our members. Congratulations to all our members who have assisted in making it happen.

## LINX Melbourne

The Melbourne workforce have gone through a tough couple of years. There have been forced redundancies and loss of contracts. Hopefully things have turned around a little. Recently there have been some upgrades proposed which is a huge turn around for this workforce. We hope things continue to improve and congratulate the Committee on their progressive approach.

## Further Reports

### Star of the South

The Star of the South Project is the most exciting project to hit Victoria...possibly ever! We are really excited about it and promote it at every opportunity we can. VTHC have got on board through the great work of Will Tracey, Penny Howard and Aarin Moon from our National office and in collaboration with the Vic Branch are working towards a strong campaign to make this a reality. There are over 4,500 offshore wind turbines in the world. Australia has none. Victoria will lead the way and we plan on being a big part of it.

## Portland

In Portland there has been a downturn in work for the last 6 weeks or so resulting in the agreed position through the labour review, of 10 GWEs to VSEs being put on hold til work picks up, which is expected sooner rather than later. No point putting the members up and then owing a heap of \$\$\$\$. ERC Committee are onboard with this.

## Geelong

Geelong Port workers and electricians are involved in a dispute around rostering. First conciliation meeting has taken place at FWA. The dispute has risen from roster discrepancies around payments for covering workers on leave and labour shortages. Meetings scheduled to progress claims. Both ETU and Maurice and Blackburn lawyers up to date with the situation and following the discussions closely. Geelong Union Rooms CFMEU Construction division now sharing rooms with full time Office Manager. There will be an opening event soon.

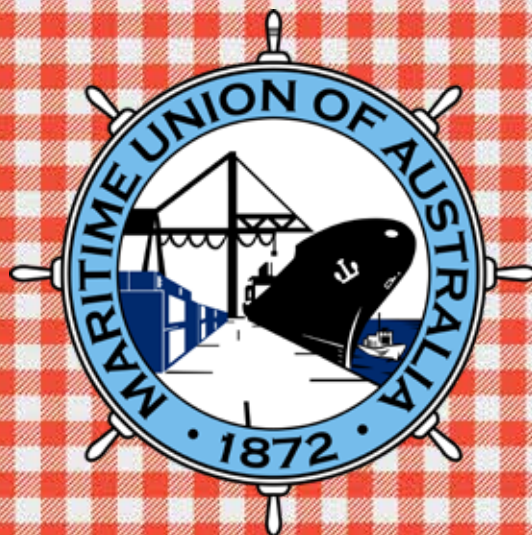
The Geelong AGM is scheduled for Wednesday 27th November at 11am at the Geelong MUA rooms.

# MUA VICTORIAN PICNIC DAY

**WHERE:**  
FLEMINGTON  
RACECOURSE

**WHEN:**  
14 JANUARY 2020

**TIME:**  
10AM - 4PM



## Westernport

The Westernport workforce has had a resurgence recently. More upgrades will come as the work continues even though it has been going through a flat spell recently. The comrades from Hastings continue to meet at the Grouse House.

## ITF Report

There has been much activity in the last six months in the ITF slot with around 1.2 million recovered in the region, recently there is another 350K being recovered from the MV OCEAN GLORY, recently in Geelong and currently detained in Port Kembla thanks to ITF National Coordinator, Dean Summers, also ITF Volunteer Graham Archer played a big role in this matter.

There have also been several incidents in relation to crews attempting to lash cargo, in one instance in the Port of Geelong the crew unlash Windmill equipment in the Bay Anchorage before coming up the Geelong Channel

The matter was fully investigated by AMSA and the Geelong Harbour Master, many thanks to David Ball and the Branch on their quick action in dealing with this and working closely with the ITF.

It should be noted that AMSA have an obligation under the Australian Navigation Act Section 92, to ensure that no lashing, unlash and work done by shore-based labour is to be performed by ship's crew. As well most vessels are covered by the ITF Docker's clause which strictly prohibits crews from performing the work. Therefore, members should immediately contact the Branch or myself when they notice or suspect the crew are being directed to do our work.

Also, we are pleased to announce that the Melbourne Seafarers Centre has taken a step closer with the formation of a new Board which is chaired by Mick Doleman and funding from the Government will now start streaming to establish the club.

## Automation

The Victorian branch attended the nationally convened special waterfront commission in October. The commission was centred around automation and the unions position regarding its introduction. Automation is increasing across the industry as a way of attacking the job security, wages and conditions of MUA members and dock workers globally. We already see a fully automated terminal here in Melbourne and partial levels of automation scattered around the country – largely to the detriment of job security and productivity. After two (2) days of in-depth analysis of the global trend and the response of unions globally, the MUA commission has developed a national position that we believe will be a new global standard. This position and 'automation clause' for EA's will shortly be taken to National Council and the MUA stevedoring membership for endorsement.

# Meeting Dates

## Victorian AGM and Monthly Meeting

**WHERE:** MUA Victorian branch,  
46 – 54 Ireland St, West Melbourne

**WHEN:** 26 November 2019

**TIME:** 9:00am

**Guest Speaker:**  
National Official (TBC)

