



APRIL 2021 | ISSUE 2

MONTHLY INDUSTRIAL NEWSLETTER

Official MUA WA Branch members update



QUBE Port Hedland Members

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MUA Crew of the Normand Scorpion

COMRADES,

SEAFARER QUALIFICATION EXPIRY

The recent extension given by AMSA for qualification expiry dates is coming to an end 30/06/2021. This means that many seafarer's certification will cease to be valid and therefore must be renewed.

It is also anticipated that there will be another bottleneck of seafarers needing to renew in December of 2021. December will mark the 5-year anniversary of the MLC and the point at which the old in-perpetuity STCW booklets were swapped out for the 5-year validity CoST cards. The original cohort of seafarers who swapped to the new cards in 2016 are now coming up to the first time they need to complete their recertification, and large numbers needing renewal by the end of the year are expected.

Representatives from the MUA met with AMSA last week and there is a strong concern that we may see a significant number of seafarers without valid certificates, if everyone tries to revalidate at once and the training providers are unable to accommodate the high numbers.

The primary purpose of this notice in the monthly newsletter is to request that all seafarers in the WA Branch check their relevant qualification expiry dates, to determine if they will fall into this critical period for revalidations, as well as determining the correct course needed for their recertification as soon as possible.

All members who fall into this group are asked to contact Jack McCabe ASAP by email on jack.mccabe@mua.org.au or by mobile on 0410 390 081 so we can work with our membership to get through the anticipated problems about to occur due to the high number of revalidations.

We want to highlight that the Inpex/OSM training hardship fund has seen 10 members complete training here in WA this year, with a further 10 members about to commence training in coming weeks.

An email will also be going out to all our WA seafaring membership in the next week to cover this important issue off.

OFFSHORE

The AOS EBA was lodged with the FWC earlier this month and was certified during the 3rd week of April. This document is now legally in place and increases etc should be applied and backdated immediately. Congratulations to the AOS membership on securing their new EBA.

OSM will be commencing their access period for the new agreement this Tuesday 27th April and then the EBA will go to vote on Wednesday 5th May. We are supporting this EBA and encouraging a "YES vote" to take place. Details for the Atlas EBA access period and vote will be advised within the next week.

We have also met with Entier who are currently reviewing the proposed document we achieved across the 3 companies above and we are looking to roll it out for them in the month of May. Similarly, we are meeting with ESS this week to progress our EBA discussions with a view to securing the same agreement for our ESS membership. We hope to have both catering companies locked into the new EBA arrangements by the end of next month.

The Dof EBA negotiations are at a standstill with Dof management simply refusing to agree to any of our key claims, while giving lip service to some of the minor stuff.

We have spoken with our membership and we will be pushing for the agreement our members have demanded and will campaign for.

The Go Offshore negotiations have stalled while management is enjoying an extended holiday. Our members continue to work to keep the company afloat and have recently fought against and rejected the push from Go to put them on 10-week swings.

TEEKAY

Negotiations for the new agreement at Teekay continue, with the most recent meeting last Wednesday 21st April only resulting in Teekay finding colourful and more detailed ways to say "no" to our key claims on salaries, redundancies and income protection. While further meetings are occurring this week, our membership have had enough and late last week out of frustration filed for a Protected Action Ballot for the Ocean Protector. Teekay were also informed at the meeting that if this weeks meeting turns out like last week, they can expect a Protected Action Ballot for the Sycamore. Our membership on the three Serco vessels should also be assured that we have told Teekay that those MUA members currently on those vessels - the Stoker, Bessant and Mercator, will be coming across to Teekay if they win the contracts.

ASP

Crew change meetings last week on the bunker barge "Absolute" kicked off the process for the crews to get to get their log of claims together, with the agreement expiring on 30th June 2021.

SVITZER

State-wide negotiations at Svitzer as part of the national agreement have gone off the rails, which is consistent with the relationship we have with this shithouse outfit in the Branch. Many will still remember the callous way they sacked Ray Hickey and we now have them going after our delegates. As a result of the progress of the EBA, Svitzer were served with a notice for two lots of 4-hour stoppages across their Fremantle and Kwinana operations on Thursday 29th April between 0300 – 0700 and between 1500 – 1900. They have been served with a further notice today for a 24-hour stoppage Thursday 6th May.

FREMANTLE PORTS

Things are kicking off with the EBA in a serious way down at Fremantle Ports with the MUA notifying of an indefinite ban specifically related to MRL vessels. Action is also taking place with bans on training and work on the jetty at KBT. Further action has been notified with the stevedores to take one-hour stoppages on every shift on every day. Fremantle Ports need to address the behaviour of their experienced and highly qualified HR manager (depending of course on whether you look at his webpage or ask him to do some actual work) if they are to fix what is fast becoming a train wreck. Word is that the person brought in to reduce legal costs has blown the annual budget three quarters of the way through the year.

LINX

EBA negotiations formally commenced last week nationally, with delegates from around the country meeting in Melbourne to firstly endorse the Part A Log of Claims prior to meeting with management. This was followed with the first face to face meeting with management through the IBB process which has proved frustrating because no negotiations actually occurred despite 1.5 days of discussions. Part B discussions are to commence in the next few weeks with the MUA Part B claims currently being fine-tuned prior to those discussions.

PATRICK TERMINAL

Discussions have continued this month on the local Part B claims. The company continues to refuse to agree to any of the key 8 claims identified as crucial to getting an agreement in Fremantle. The workforce will be meeting at the branch as soon as possible to discuss options moving forward and it certainly looks as though taking industrial action is the only option available to get some movement locally.

QUBE

In Fremantle, Part B negotiations are at a standstill leading to Qube putting out an agreement for vote that was opposed by the Union. MUA members in Fremantle responded in the most appropriate way by voting 100% NO to Qube's non-union agreement! Members are now looking to a yard meeting to determine the next steps in this long campaign for a fair agreement in Fremantle.

In Port Hedland, MUA members voted 90% against the non-union agreement Qube put out for vote and have responded after this show of strength by lodging an application for a Protected Action Ballot to progress negotiations.

In Dampier, the MUA have lodged and secured a 30-day extension for the taking of industrial action as they take time to weigh up their options.

CBH

The CBH workshop had their first EBA meeting last week on 23rd April. It looks like it will be quite a process to get a decent outcome.

The superannuation underpayment issue for the CBH plant operators, raised and prosecuted by the MUA, has resulted in a forensic audit by the company over the last 6 years figures which should be completed this week. Members can expect to receive notification from CBH over the next week regarding adjustments to their superannuation balance with CBH agreeing at the union's request to pay interest on backpay in line with taxation department guidelines.

**MAY DAY 2021
SUNDAY - 2ND MAY
FREMANTLE
ESPLANADE**



**"FIGHTING FROM THE
FRONT!!"**



**NEXT MONTHLY
STOP WORK MEETING
TUESDAY
27/04/2021**

BUNBURY

The Smit Lamnalco PBC EBA is not too far from expiry and our membership have started the process of gearing up for the EBA negotiations.

The Southern Ports Authority had their first Log of Claims meeting last week with the first EBA meeting to kick off EBA negotiations this week.

ESPERANCE

The Southern Ports Administration EBA has been finalised and is in the process of going through the formal 7-day access period before members can vote on the agreement. There has been substantial gains for members achieved during what has been their first union EBA negotiation process.

GERALDTON

The negotiations for the new Midwest Ports EBA negotiations have continued over several weeks through the month of April. The EBA has been largely agreed in principle, however, there are a few sticking points for Moorers and the BHF Ops need to be recognised.

We have continued to address various issues for our members at both QUBE and Linx with the port being very busy over the last month, including problems around the order of pick and travel allowances.

ABS is having a busy season so far and we are going through the labour review process to chase more upgrades.

NORTH WEST

The Westug Sea Crewing EBA expires soon. We have had 2 meetings with management so far this month and from all accords, it has been somewhat positive. Our next meeting is on the 30th of this month and it has to be said that there is still some distrust of management within the process.

The TAMS Cape Preston EBA expired in March coinciding with the company securing a further 5-year contract at the Sino Iron Project. TAMS management rolled out a series of meetings on site, capturing most employees claiming they can only give the crew 4 CPI increases over the life of the agreement or they will withdraw from the site. We have had 2 meetings for the new agreement with little movement from TAMS. TAMS appear to be preparing to put out an agreement anyway and we will be encouraging all TAMS workers to Vote NO!

DIVING

DOF have a diving job on the Skandi Singapore starting this weekend, for Vermillion to complete a riser change out on the Wandoo platform. The project duration is expected to be 10 days. They have 16 air divers and 9 sat divers with support/ supervisory crew who are working in water depths 0 to 52msw.

LEGAL UPDATE

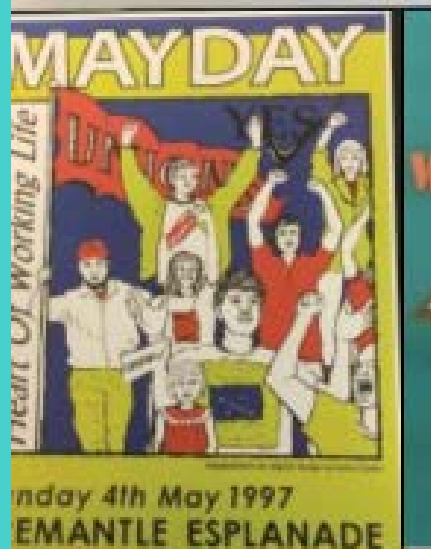
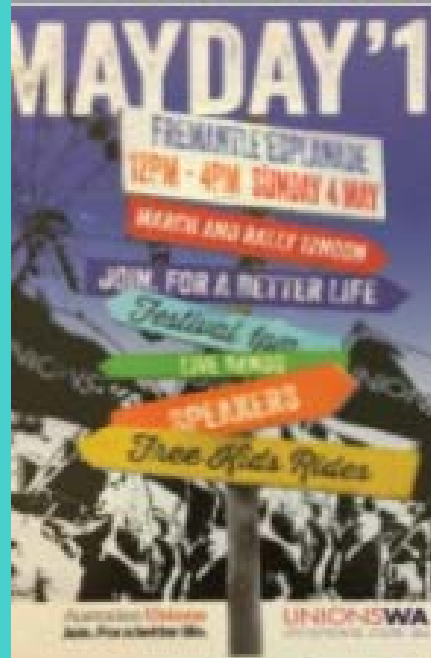
This month the WA Branch has been busy representing the legal interests of the members.

We have been able to successfully negotiate a settlement on 3 matters which were before the court, we ran 6 hearings in cases where the Employer wasn't willing to agree to a fair settlement with the workforce.

On new matters, we have commenced 12 new matters in the Fair Work Commission, 2 new matters in the WAIRC involving a denial of contractual entitlements and 3 new matters involving an employer contravening an enterprise agreement. We have made applications for 5 members who were unfairly dismissed from their Employment.

MAY DAY

The Branch encourages all members to join us at Fremantle Esplanade for May Day on Sunday, 2nd May 2021. Due to COVID restrictions, this year will be a ticketed event and, as such, attendance must be registered at www.unionswa.com.au/may_day_2021. The Branch will be putting on a heap of drinks at the conclusion of May Day at The Buffalo Club. We welcome all members and their families to join us and celebrate our working class history.



MAYDAY



Sunday - 2nd May, 2021
10am to 12:30pm

Meet at Fremantle Esplanade by 11am to join the March

Due to COVID restrictions, May Day 2021 is a ticketed event.

Register your attendance at https://www.unionswa.com.au/may_day_2021

Collect your MUA T-shirt for a gold coin donation

**This is a Family Fun Day with children's entertainment
Farm Animals & a Bouncy Castle**

Sausage Sizzle - Coffee - Ice Cream