



# Queensland Branch News



7<sup>th</sup> August 2014

## 43<sup>rd</sup> ITF CONGRESS SOFIA.

The next ITF Congress is being held in Sofia (Bulgaria) from 10<sup>th</sup> -16<sup>th</sup> August. Congress will see some 1800 Transport industry delegates in attendance, with just shy of 40 MUA Officials/Delegates being present. The Queensland Branch Delegates in attendance are Brian Gallagher and Patrick Gladstone Delegate Dan Gourley.

ITF Congress is held on the basis of the main plenary sessions – with separate Conferences in relation to the Transport Sections. The MUA delegation will be attending Seafarers Section and the Dockers Section. This will be followed by a combined Seafarers and Dockers Conference. The Congress will also see the introduction of the Automation Database, developed from the Dockers section and a component of the Global Network Terminals forums. This is of fundamental importance now that two out of big four Operators have operations in Australia.

Many thanks to Delegates who assisted in compiling information in relation to the Brisbane Terminals, that will become a component of that database.

The ITF has four full time inspectors in Australia – as well as a number of Contact Volunteers. Hereunder is an article from ITF Australian Assistant Co-ordinator Matt Purcell.

### ***MV Ever Divine***

Recently the *MV Ever Divine* was detected in the Port of Melbourne as not paying the correct wages as per the ITF CBA on board and also that the wages were behind some months. Matt Purcell noted the vessel was travelling to its next Port, Brisbane and duly contacted the ITF contact, Brian Gallagher.

Brian attended the vessel and spent several hours in making sure all matters were adhered to and rectified. Firstly there was the matter of back wages in relation to incorrect payments as per the CBA on board. Then another matter was one month's wages that had not been paid for around 8 weeks. The result of the inspection was back pay of US\$88,000 to the crew and Brian's efforts played a huge part in the crew receiving this money.

This exercise was a great example of the networking in Australia of the ITF Co-ordinators, Inspectors and Contacts which is vital to the continuing success of the campaign in Australia. With such a large coastline it is vital to have strategic and compassionate people like Brian who, when called on, never question the call and go to the task with a great deal of effort and care.

The Coastal shipping task in Australia is under attack by the Abbott Government, let alone on an international level where wage rates and conditions of employment are a mere percentage of Australian Ratings. If shipowners were allowed to simply get away without paying the appropriate agreement rates they will and have done. This highlights the important role of Inspectors/Volunteers.

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## STATE ELECTION

The MUA Queensland Branch via a Special Meeting of the Branch Committee endorsed a budgeted amount towards the next State Election; the main objective being to see the Newman Government thrown out of office. We have committed to be involved in the *Not4Sale* campaign as well as working alongside the QCU *Stand for Queensland* Campaign. There will be a meeting with the ETU on 25<sup>th</sup> August to ascertain the priorities of the Campaign and how the MUA can dovetail into the Campaign.

Members will be provided with further information as it comes to hand. One of the most important components will be to ensure that we have Activists who will participate in making sure the Newman Government is a "one termers".

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## INDUSTRIAL ROUNDS

Branch Secretary M. Carr – 4-8<sup>th</sup> August - Smit Towage EA including visits to Gladstone vessels

“ - 11-15<sup>th</sup> August – As MUA National President, attending at United Steelworkers Conference in the US.

Deputy Branch Secretary T. Munday

**DP World** - Fair Work Australia has made an order for a Protected Action Ballot to proceed and members will receive their ballot papers shortly. The current Enterprise Agreement negotiations commenced in February 2014 and some six months later and, after 15 days of meetings of a national level and 6 locally with little progress, the MUA made an application for the Ballot. At the time of writing we await confirmation of meetings being held National 19-21 August and local 26-27 August.

**Brisbane Container Terminals** - There will be a combined Terminal (PB-FIT) meeting in Sydney on 28<sup>th</sup> August. This will allow for delegates to be fully updated with issues which are applicable in both Terminals that operate under a common Enterprise Agreement.

**Patrick Terminal** - There is currently a Deed afoot which in essence has every permanent employee on a 3x1 roster as opposed to the process applicable in the Agreement, whereby members can have the option of working on a 7x1 roster or a 3x1 roster. There have been a myriad of rumours circulating about redundancies at the Patrick Terminal. There was a further meeting on 28<sup>th</sup> July and currently there is no redundancy situation. A Yard meeting will be held on Friday 15<sup>th</sup> August.

Assistant Branch Secretary P. Sheehan

**Patrick Cargolink** - Brisbane and Melbourne are currently undertaking (PIA) Protected Industrial Action trying to get Patrick back to the table.

**Stradbroke Ferries** - Back in the Commission (FWC) last week seeking assistance on some matters. A very archaic and aggressive Company.

**TransDev Brisbane Ferries** - Recent changes to Management and the National HR department have us going back over some old ground but discussions have been positive.

**QNI Queensland Nickel Industries** - Clive Palmer's Townsville based stevedoring operation. After a lot of argy bargy we are down to the last couple of things and are hopefully close to wrapping this one up.

**NSS Northern Stevedoring Services Lines and Mooring** - Down to the last couple of issues not far apart.

**TSHD Brisbane** - Port Authority dredge agreement has now been agreed In-Principle; document is currently going through the voting process.

**Ausport** - Lines and mooring Agreement. Company has started paying the new rates even though there are still some clauses to be finalised.

**Svitzer Tugs Operations Officers, Cruise Whitsundays and Ken Harvey and Support Craft (Port Authority)** EA's have now finalised and have passed through the FWC.

**ISS and EC Stevedores** - discussions have stalled and it is hoped to get them back on track over the next couple of weeks.

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## MUA MAINTENANCE CONFERENCE

The MUA Maintenance conference was held in Melbourne from 30<sup>th</sup> June to 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2014, with attendees from all Stevedoring companies in Terminal Operations.

Brisbane Terminal had 2 Delegates from ATIVO; 1 from Kalmar (Patrick maintenance); 2 from Brisbane Container Terminals (HPA) and 1 from DP World. Each Delegate delivered verbal reports to the plenary session of Conference and participated in small workshop groups.

Delegates developed a plan arising from the Conference to maximise coverage across the stevedoring industry, maximise scope of EBAs, increase traineeships, increase the co-ordination among our members and, to build union density and strength. Maintenance work is changing to encompass more digital technologies and maintenance is becoming increasingly important in automated container terminals. The MUA is determined to meet this challenge head-on.

Mapping undertaken at the Conference found there were 379 Unionised maintenance workers in Australian Container Terminals, with the largest number employed by DP World (160 workers). A further 113 are employed by Ativo, 43 by Kalmar, 34 by Flinders Adelaide, and 29 by Hutchison. Mapping of un-unionised maintenance subcontractors was also undertaken and will be reported.

The Branch would like to thank the Queensland Delegates for their input and involvement in the Conference.

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