



# Queensland Branch News



4<sup>th</sup> September 2014

## MANY FIGHTS AHEAD

Comrades in simple terms we can't win the fight if we are not in the ring, facing off against our opponents.

Members would have by now received correspondence from the National Secretary regarding the establishment of Maritime Jobs Legal Fighting Fund. Members should not see it as a coincidence that our Rank and File members tenure of employment and conditions of employment are at imminent risk when we have a Coalition Government in power. In Queensland we face the double whammy.

Employers who we deal with in all industries have the Government/s in their corner. After all, the Labour Movement is what stands in the path of Companies maximising their profit and the well worn cliché of shareholder return.

Recent history shows that our members have been at the forefront of attacks from the conservative side of politics when, by way of example, the Howard Government conspired with Patrick to terminate our members. It expanded their attack to all workers with the introduction of Work-Choices. Those attacks were met head on by not only our Union, but the wider Trade Union Movement collective and determined campaigns are essential and your input is vital.

So here we are again in a fight to stave off attacks against our foes, attacks that would mean foreign nationals could be engaged in the Offshore Oil and Gas industry instead of MUA members, after this Government defied the views of the Senate and introduced via legislative instrument to allow Maritime Crew Visas.

We now see that our long campaign regarding the introduction of a National Stevedoring Code of Practice has been railroaded and the Regulator has suggested guidance material should suffice. Along with that, we have a State Government hell-bent on privatisation including Ports.

We have seen what has occurred with the Port of Brisbane. Just run the ruler over the number of directly engaged employees prior to privatisation as opposed to now.-

The Branch Committee has endorsed a budget from the Branch Fund to fight against this LNP agenda; in simple terms by seeing them kicked out of office at the next election. We have contributed to the **Not4Sale** campaign established by the ETU and the QCU campaign **Stand for Queensland**.

What we need now is for the membership to fight; warriors in the ring to ensure that the conservative forces do not land that knock-out blow.

So if you receive a message or there is notification of a Rally or event, or as advised via the *Branch News*, get there to ensure the MUA is fighting from the front.

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## INDUSTRIAL ROUNDS

DP World negotiations continue – there were 3 days of meetings in Brisbane from 1<sup>st</sup> to 3<sup>rd</sup> September regarding national matters. Some progress was made.

Further Part A meetings will be held on 23<sup>rd</sup> – 24<sup>th</sup> September. Dates for local discussions need to be confirmed.

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## GARDLINE

Gardline members employed on Emergency First Response vessel *Coral Knight* after hearing a full report on negotiations and dealing with all issues have voted unanimously to endorse the EA. The meeting was held aboard the vessel in Cairns last week with Assistant National Secretary W. Smith and Qld Branch Secretary M. Carr attending the vessel.

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## BRITISH LOYALTY – COASTAL TANKERS

Aboard the vessel at Pacific Terminals last Saturday to report on the Union's campaign in support of the Australian shipping policy and threats to existing cabotage arrangements. The attacks on our safety campaign for NSCOP and State and Federal regulation by employers, bureaucrats and the Government via delaying tactics – restrictions on Right of Entry with MUA Officials being denied entry – attacks on the Stevedoring Award with claims by employers to increase wharfies hours of work and other entitlements. Announcements have been made re the closure of the refinery capacity in Australia which will directly affect our member's employment opportunities on our coastal tanker fleet. Members received a full report including the huge legal and litigation costs facing the Union defending our member's right to work

## SMIT TOWAGE

Negotiations are ongoing re progressing new EA, delegates are fully engaged and the MUA Log of Claims will be presented at the next meeting scheduled for week commencing 15<sup>th</sup> September.

## ASP BAUXITE VESSELS

Have been aboard *Wakmatha* previously and scheduling a visit to the *RTM Twarra* mid-September to report back on the EA and will attend the RTM Weipa and RTM Piiramu as the schedule allows. The EA process has been long and difficult given the manning issues and the negotiations regarding re-training of a Caterer to operational Caterer category. Members have been fully engaged in previous meetings with Rio Tinto Marine in seeking to resolve the issues for Rio schedule for the Bauxite Fleet.

## HAY POINT TOWAGE

There have been ongoing discussions re Teekay claim that BMA are seeking surveillance cameras be fitted to both Tugs and Line Boats at Hay Point. Meetings have taken place and the Branch has formally responded to Teekay advising that we are not in agreement. Subsequently Teekay have made application to the Fair Work Commission and the matter was listed for 3<sup>rd</sup> September before Commissioner Cambridge. The matter went into Conference and the parties remain apart with a requirement that the Union's reply in writing to Teekay on our position by 12<sup>th</sup> September. FWC will list the matter for report back on 15<sup>th</sup> September.

## QLD ASBESTOS RELATED DISEASE SUPPORT SOCIETY

The Branch continues to support this very worthy body and has purchased a table for attendance at their fundraising day. It is a great day with funds raised going toward tackling this debilitating disease and its terrible consequences. If members are interested in attending this event can you please contact the Branch and register your interest – the day will take place on Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> September.

## BRANCH ACTIVIST'S COMMITTEE

If you want to get involved and play a part in defence of your future and that of your kid's - come along and register interest. The Activists will meet at 11.00am on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> September at the Union Rooms.

## RALLY FOR JOBS



Newman committed to reduce unemployment in this State. The jobless rate has risen to 1.4% since his election to Government.

The QCU *Stand for Queensland* campaign has organised a rally for jobs outside the Executive Building at 102 George Street, **0800 hours on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> September**. Members please **meet at the Union Rooms at 0700 hours**. An Activist meeting will follow the Rally at 1100 hours back at the Union Rooms.