



Queensland Branch News



22 October 2014

EMMA MILLER AWARD

The Queensland Council of Unions has recognised the Emma Miller Award since 1987. This Award is presented annually to extraordinary women involved in the Labour Movement. The Queensland Branch nominated Women's Committee Member, Branch Committee member and Branch Activist Anne Gray for the Emma Miller Award. Anne is a caterer on the North West Sandpiper. It is with much pride that we confirm that Anne was presented with The Emma Miller Award on Friday 17th October, 2014. Congratulations Anne and thank you for your ongoing commitment to the MUA and the working class.

ARE THE SCALES BALANCED?

United Voice instigated research in conjunction with Tax Justice Network and subsequently released a report entitled "Who Pays for Our Commonwealth?" A summary of their findings are as follows:

- Nearly one third have an effective tax rate of less than 10%
- Effective tax rates of 23% overall
- 57% disclose subsidiaries in secret jurisdictions

Reports are available on their website in full.

What scrutiny is the Coalition Government applying to this area of alleged tax avoidance?

Many would recall the media conference when the Minister for Industrial Relations, Eric Abetz, announced the Royal Commissions in Trade Union Activity and Governance. He stated "we will be shining the spotlight into all dark corners of the activity of Trade Unions."

Since that period of time, unions have been demonised by the media in this country.

WHY?

Because the union movement is the hurdle that confronts companies in the endless pursuit of greed. Referred to as shareholder return.

The MUA was subject to the Royal Commission hearings and that matter is covered on our website. It's a fair question to ask if the spotlight is aimed in the right direction? At the same time the Coalition has announced a watering down of 457 visas. This article is also covered on our website.

- When unemployment is at record levels
- The draconian budget measure mean that pension levels will not keep pace with inflation
- Drastic cuts to education

These provisions would be established in the best interests of who?? Corporate Australia!

An article in the *Sun Herald* (19th October) stated they had obtained the names of 1800 457 visa holders that had been subjected to an audit of the Fairwork Ombudsman. Currently there are 200,000 YES 200,000 457 visa holders in Australia. Therefore the audit is less than 1% of the overall numbers. The results found that 40% were no longer engaged by their sponsoring employer or not being remunerated at the correct rate.

The article includes details that many 457 visa holders were in hospitality and 457 visa are only supposed to be issued when employers cannot find an Australian citizen permanent resident with appropriate skills.

Quite frankly the rules on 457 visas being issued need to be tightened. When we have unemployment @ 12 year highs. The whole of the membership will know someone that cannot gain employment...that someone may even be in your own family.

Members are requested to become active!!! Active in furthering the rights of not only the members in your own work place but workers as a whole. In this regard, when there is a request to participate in a rally/protest please take the time to think if you as a member can make a difference in obtaining a better workplace for all or a social justice outcome for those in society who are the most vulnerable.

BRANCH MONTHLY MEETING!!

The Branch Monthly meeting will be held on **Tuesday 28th October 2014 – at 9.00am**

Venue – MUA Union rooms, 73 Southgate Avenue, Cannon Hill

All members are urged to attend.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING!!

Correspondence has been sent to Brisbane Employers for the AGM to be held on Tuesday 25th November at 700 hrs at Wynnum Manly Workers Club. Bognor Street Tingalpa.

Venues and dates for regional AGMs to be held in Cairns, Bowen, Townsville, Mackay and Gladstone will be advised in the near future.

PICNIC DAY 2014

DATE: Tuesday 4 November 2014 (Melbourne Cup Day)

TIME: 9.00am onwards

VENUE: The Plantation, 1204 New Cleveland Road, Gumdale

RACES FOR ALL

NOVELTY EVENTS

FUN FOR ALL

Morning tea and lunch provided – lollies, ice-creams, drinks

Train rides, super swing, merry-go-round, jumping castle, giant slide, swimming pools, tennis courts and beach volleyball courts.

The Picnic Day is one of the social events that MUA members can participate in with their families. Let's make this picnic day enjoyable – as always.

Members who can assist with set-up, please assemble at 6.30am at the Plantation.

MARITIME SUPER

Maritime Super – more about Accumulation Plus

All members of the Stevedores division of Maritime Super are urged to check that they are in the appropriate benefit category within the Fund.

Stevedore members who transferred from the Defined Benefit Permanent category (now closed) will be in either Accumulation Plus or Accumulation Basic. Accumulation Plus can provide a higher contribution rate than the SG contribution requirements.

The following provides a guide as to who should be in the Accumulation Plus category of the Fund.

Patrick (Terminal & Bulk and General) Peripherals and PGE's

DP World- FSE-VSE

QUBE- FSE-VSE-GWE

Brisbane Container Terminals- Phase 1 and 2 perennants

Kalmar – ATIVO-AAT- ECS –Northern Stevedoring Services (NSS) Perennants

Members in the Accumulation Plus category are required to make their own compulsory contribution of 4.7% via Salary Sacrifice or 4% Post Tax.

If you are not sure what membership category you should be in with Maritime Super call the Fund directly on **1800 757 607** and speak to a Member Services consultant who can help you.

NB. The above is for information purposes only and should not be deemed as financial advice. For more information about Accumulation Plus please refer to the Product Disclosure Statements at the Maritime Super website.

Authorised by Mick Carr, Branch Secretary and Trevor Munday, Deputy Branch Secretary, Maritime Union of Aust.
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