



# Queensland Branch News



30<sup>th</sup> March 2015

## MUA QUADRENNIAL ELECTION

Members are reminded that nominations are now open for offices to be filled at the MUA Quadrennial election, both on a Branch and National level. Nominations close on Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> April at 5pm.

All members should ensure the Branch has:

- correct residential/postal address
- ensure their financial status is current

The MUA Web page has comprehensive coverage of the 2015 Elections. Any member who is unsure whether the Union has your current address or is uncertain about their financial status should contact the Queensland Branch Office on 07 3395 7215.

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## MAY DAY 2015

The Queensland ALP Government has recently announced that effective from 2016 "May Day" will return to its rightful place in Queensland and be celebrated on the first Monday in May returning that historical and traditional day to where it belongs.

Therefore, this year May Day celebrations will be held in **Brisbane** on Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> May. The march order has been determined with the actual route being the same as the previous years and the assembly point being on the corner of Turbot and Wharf Streets. This year the MUA will be in position 3 immediately behind the QCU and the ETU (who are celebrating their 100<sup>th</sup> year).

**Regional Information – Maryborough**, Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> May 10.00am, Queens Park, Sussex Street; **Sunshine Coast**, Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> May, Cotton Tree Park; **Townsville** Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> May 10.00am, Anzac Park; **Mackay**, Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> May 9.45am, Assemble Cnr River and Gregory Streets; **Bowen**, Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> May 9.30am, Assemble at Bowen Post Office 46A Herbert Street; **Gold Coast**, Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> March 1.00pm, Assemble 154A Scarborough Street Southport; **Cairns**, Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> May 4.30pm, Assemble at Fogarty Park Sound Shell Cairns Esplanade; **Bundaberg**, Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> May 11.00am, Assemble at Anzac Park Quay Street; **Ipswich**, Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> May 10.00am, Assemble at Blair State School, Syntax Street, Ipswich.

More information will be provided in the upcoming Branch News however, the Branch will require volunteers to assist with set up both at the commencement of the march and at the showgrounds. Assistance will also be required to set up at the RNA Showgrounds the day prior to the march.

This year we have a reason to celebrate, being that we have seen the back of the arrogance of a Newman led LNP Government.

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## BRANCH MONTHLY MEETING

Members are reminded that the next Branch Monthly Meeting will be held at the Union rooms on Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> March commencing at 0900 hours. All available members are urged to attend.

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## LEAVE

Branch Secretary, Mick Carr returns from annual leave on 30<sup>th</sup> March 2015. Whilst on leave Mick attended meetings that were pre-existing commitments: Smit Lamnalco negotiations in Gladstone, meeting with new ALP Premier, Anastacia Palaszczuk and Maritime Superannuation commitments.

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# THE DALFRAM DISPUTE

The MUA and our predecessor Unions have had a long history associated with social justice including the Port Kembla dispute associated with the steamship *Dalfram*.

On 15<sup>th</sup> November 1938 the steamship *Dalfram* berthed at No. 4 jetty Port Kembla to load pig iron for Kobe, Japan. Japan was at war with China and reports were making their way back of the brutalities carried out by the Japanese Imperial Army – “the Rape of Nanking.” Ted Roach, Branch Secretary, addressed the men at the labour pick up for the *Dalfram*. He told the men of the destination of the pig iron and the obvious use the Japanese would make of it: bombs – first to be used against the Chinese and eventually against Australia. At 11.00am the men walked off the ship declaring they refused to load the ship.

A documentary has been made regarding this extraordinary event in our history. The launch was a sellout in Wollongong Town Hall and now members will have an opportunity to view the documentary in Brisbane. Tickets are \$10.00 and will be sold at the door.

WHERE: QCU Meeting Room Level 2 (TLC Building 16 Peel Street South Brisbane)

WHEN: Friday 17<sup>th</sup> April at 6.00pm (for a 6.30pm start)

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## DELEGATES 3 TRAINING

Delegates 3 training course is an advanced course aimed at experienced and up-and-coming delegates. This is an intensive four day training course that will shape activism and solidarity for years to come. Queensland Branch has been allocated three participants.

WHEN: 18 – 22 May 2015

WHERE: St Georges Basin

To be eligible for this course you need to have either participated in previous delegates training or have been an active participant in workplace committees. Some members may have also been involved in EA negotiations and as such those members would qualify to attend.

In order to arrange logistics, please advise the Branch of your interest by 17<sup>th</sup> April 2015.

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## QCU WORKERS COMPENSATION and OH&S COMMITTEE

Any members who attended the National Day of Action on 4<sup>th</sup> March and heard the contribution of the Premier, Annastacia Palaszczuk, would be aware of the commitment made by her Government to unwind the changes made to Work Cover and OH & S legislation in this State.

In October 2013 the LNP changes to the threshold injury level for taking common law action against negligent employers to >5% and made changes to the disclosure laws for job seekers, despite the Parliamentary committee suggestions that the Workers Compensation legislation in this State should remain unchanged. Right of entry provisions were changed relative to OH & S legislation.

The QCU and the committee will be advocating that the changes to the legislation are made as a matter of priority. Members will be advised of progress in these areas.

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## GLADSTONE DELEGATES TRAINING FEEDBACK

A great cross-section (seafarers, tug & ferry workers, wharfies, with youth, women and ATSI represented) of members underwent Delegates 1 & 2 training in Gladstone last week. New skills and knowledge were applied as well as supportive networks created across the Port. Jason Miners (Organiser) added hands on campaign experience with the Jobs for Locals Campaign being rolled out. A big thank you to retired member, Terry O’Shane, for sharing a historical overview on past battles, how they were resolved and the importance of always including members on the job. Thanks also to Paul Williams and Paul Gallagher for conducting the Delegates training.

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## BRITISH LOYALTY COMMUNITY RALLY

Thanks to all members who attended the rally in support of the British Loyalty crew last Friday 27<sup>th</sup> March. It was a tremendous turnout and greatly appreciated by the crew. Also thanks to members who registered an apology due to work commitments. The Tanker Campaign is critical to highlighting the issues of fuel security, environment and MUA jobs which are on the line. The Branch calls on all members to get involved when they can.

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