



QUEENSLAND BRANCH NEWS

NEWSLETTER of the QLD Branch of the MARITIME UNION of AUSTRALIA

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No. 19 - Thursday October 22, 2015

Proposed MUA / CFMEU merger - Brisbane Ferries - ETU Conference

Proposed merger of MUA and CFMEU discussed at National Council

MUA QLD officials Bob Carnegie and Jason Miners took part in a week of robust discussions at last week's MUA National Council meeting.

One major issue discussed in Sydney was the proposed merger of the MUA with the Construction, Forestry, Mining and Energy Union (CFMEU).

There are three points that all members need to be aware of. First, the union has told the CFMEU that the MUA wants to preserve our name, our rules and our democratic structures as a division within any merged union. Second, the proposed merger is to be voted on at the MUA Quadrennial Conference in February 2016. Third, that a process of finalising the rules, structure and identity of the merged union are to be clearly defined and voted on by every MUA member in a plebiscite.

The Branch believes that the proposed merger is, in general, a positive move for the left of the union movement and for the Australian working class. While the divisions of the new union would keep their autonomy, there would be a merging of the strength and solidarity that both unions need in order to forge ahead in the huge industrial, political and

legal challenges that we face every day. Handled properly, this merger does not mean a loss of identity but a strengthening of the great ideals that the CFMEU and the MUA have always stood for.

Nevertheless, the decision to merge our unions ultimately rests in the hands of the MUA membership. This will be determined by the votes of all members in a future membership plebiscite.

**EDUCATE
AGITATE
ORGANISE**

MUA Queensland Branch Conference
Thursday December 3rd - Friday December 4th
OCU Building - 16 Peel Street, South Brisbane

- Updating members on the Hutchisons dispute
- Organising for safety
- Running effective campaigns on the job
- Debating the way forward for our MUA Branch
- Discussing which policies to take to National Conference

Conference open to all financial MUA members
Telephone: (07) 3395 7215 / Email: muaqld@mua.org.au

Campaign at Brisbane Ferries steams ahead

WORKERS at Transdev Brisbane Ferries are responding marvellously to the MUA's continued campaign for a fair go for Ferry workers. Central QLD Organiser Paul Petersen has been leading the charge on the Brisbane River.

Over the past few weeks, Paul has been regularly visiting the terminals and smoko rooms and has signed up dozens of new members to the MUA. New "A Fair EBA for Ferry Workers" T-shirts have been dished out and stickers with the same slogan are plastered up at work sites.

From all reports, MUA members are clearly angry at their treatment at the hands of Transdev and are united in their determination to fight for a fair go.

In an attempt to turn the tide, Transdev management have inundated the workforce with company memorandums. They are trying to tell us

that everything is fine and that the EBA is almost finalised. But we are not buying their propaganda.

More ominously, the MUA QLD Branch has heard that Transdev is considering moves to have Paul Petersen's Right of Entry provisions removed from him. But we have a message for Transdev. We will not stand idly by while our right to organise is undermined. Every action that Paul has undertaken is in line with all relevant provisions of the Fair Work Act and has the full and unqualified backing of the MUA QLD Branch. The Branch will, without hesitation, defend any attack on Paul's right to organise and fight any attempt to have his – or anyone else's - Right of Entry provisions removed.

The campaign for a fair go for Ferry workers continues. A protest targeting the Brisbane City Council is planned for next week [day and venue to be announced – contact the Branch on 3395 7215]. MUA members at Brisbane Ferries should also receive their Protected Action Ballots in the mail very soon. We urge all MUA members at Brisbane Ferries to vote YES for legal, protected industrial action. All we want is a fair go for Ferry workers.

ETU QLD / NT Major Projects Conference

THE QLD / NT Branch of the Electrical Trades Union (ETU) held its Major Projects Delegates Conference today (October 22). MUA QLD Branch Secretary Bob Carnegie addressed the ETU Conference on behalf of the MUA.

Bob spoke passionately about the continued and ongoing solidarity and unity between the two QLD unions, and referred to the fact that the ETU was the first union to offer its solidarity and assistance at the start of the Hutchison dispute (a fully-equipped ETU van has been a regular fixture outside the terminal).

Bob also congratulated the ETU for its role in the dispute that took place during the construction of the INPEX liquefied natural gas (LNG) facility off the coast of Darwin. If not for the work of the ETU, a major contractor would have succeeded in its attempt to use foreign labour and pay them around one-quarter of the current local rates of pay.

Bob also conveyed to the Conference his hope and believe that the fight for justice for maritime and construction workers will see the MUA and ETU coming even closer together in the years ahead.

Monthly Meeting – October 27

THE Branch's monthly meeting will be held on Tuesday October 27 in the Brisbane union rooms from 9am. All members are encouraged to attend.

Mick Carr - Retirement Function

Long-serving MUA Queensland Branch Secretary will be celebrating his retirement on Saturday October 31 from 7pm at the Story Bridge Hotel, 200 Main Street, Kangaroo Point. Please call Brian Gallagher on 0414 799 134 for RSVP & further info.

MUA Picnic Day – November 3

MUA Picnic Day - Melbourne Cup Day is on Tuesday November 3 at The Plantation, 1204 New Cleveland Road, Gumdale, 9am-4pm. The day is a great event for MUA members and their families.

As always, morning tea and lunch are provided, along with ice creams, lollies and drinks.

There are novelty races and events for all ages. For the kids there will be jumping castles, slides, swings, merry-go-rounds and train rides, as well as swimming pools (with lifeguards on duty), tennis courts and beach volleyball courts.

Any members that can help with set-up for the day are asked to arrive on-site at 6.30am.

Branch Committee meeting – Nov. 6

THE first Branch Committee meeting since the 2015 Quadrennial Elections will be held on Friday November 6 in the Brisbane union rooms.

Activist Committee meetings

ACTIVIST Committee meetings are held on the second and last Tuesday of every month. The meeting on the second Tuesday of the month starts at 10am in the union rooms. The meeting on the last Tuesday of the month begins after the Monthly Meeting. All members are encouraged to attend.

Branch Official's details

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