



# QUEENSLAND BRANCH NEWS

NEWSLETTER of the QLD Branch of the MARITIME UNION of AUSTRALIA

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No. 30 – Thursday 4 February, 2016

## Patrick's – Portland Protest – Exotic Mozzie Species Found in Cargo - Qld Nickel

### Patrick's

Round the clock meetings took place at Patrick's Terminal in Brisbane from Tuesday into Wednesday with meetings at 1845 to 1930, 0230 to 0330 and 1045 to 1130.

Given the publicity about Port Botany the Branch had Paul Keating (Sydney Deputy Branch Secretary) come up to give a full report and put the confabulation to bed.

Port Botany commentary was used to water down the key issues in a poor attempt to build apathy in the other Terminals.

Where the money and roster sits will land with the members in each Terminal guided by their committees but what this blue is really about is job security during corporate takeovers and contracting out wharfies traditional work under a lesser Award.

It would be irresponsible of us as your Officials to allow an EBA to be registered without protections. Most notably a commitment to keep the same amount of permanent labour under any corporate takeover as we often see announcements to slash jobs for an artificial rise in the share price. Any negotiations taking place between corporate parties must have secure labour modelling attached to it with whatever is agreed in an Enterprise Agreement to be stuck to for its entirety.

The next of the must win clauses in the Patrick's EBA is a contractors clause which firstly makes it the same price to employ anyone doing wharfies traditional work and secondly ensures areas such as "R and D" maintenance and lashing are not cheaper if contracted out. This is a possibility if Patrick's issue these roles to a shelf company. (See cargo link FWC decision)

Corrigan has hinted at gouging the business and contracting out lashing which possesses a significant risk to jobs and further amplifies the need to cover ourselves.

If the above threats and challenges don't justify why we have had our first national stoppage in almost 20 years then I'm not sure what does.

Meetings will take place next week in Sydney and every bargaining representative and Official will be locked in behind and vigorously pursuing these key claims with Patrick's.

These claims cost nothing but mean everything to your employment and future in this fascist anti-worker environment. Patrick's are pressing ahead with their agenda to get as much as possible which makes it paramount to fight for ours!

### Portland Protest Goes to the Heart of Social Democracy – Canberra



Portland Assembly MUA Officials, Members, Supportive MP's – Canberra

Wednesday February 3 2016 saw the launch of the MUA Shipping Campaign at the steps of Parliament House. Queensland Delegates were selected to attend, Assistant

Branch Secretary Paul Gallagher, Mike Barber and Kerry Miers. We joined the Victorian Branch Officials and contingent of Victorian MUA members who had coverage this week of the tent protest and were later joined by a busload of MUA rank and file members and relieving Official from Port Kembla Branch. A local CPSU delegation and a good contingent of CFMEU comrades enlarged our collective outrage towards the Turnbull/Truss/Cash government attack upon Australian workers' rights to work in their own country, highlighting their ideological focus upon the Maritime Union of Australia, and its workforce.

The Portland MUA members and Ian Bray continued to lobby Senators, Crossbenchers, Independents and ALP Members in the House during the two days we were there, and later in the afternoon attended the Senate enquiry into the FOC trade with Dean Summers, Ian Bray and Paul Gallagher to that hearing.

MP's from the ALP, Greens and Independents came and discussed, and were made aware of our deep anxiety and willingness to 'fight-back' to secure our own and workers jobs in Australia. Public support and speeches were made with introductions by Assistant National Secretary, Ian Bray and included the Portland Delegates, Ged Kearney from the ACTU, Greens Senator Janet Rice, Bob Katter and an inspiring contribution by the Hon Anthony Albanese from the ALP.



*Paul Gallagher and Hon Anthony Albanese – Canberra*

40 odd MUA members sat in the public gallery during question time. Desperate to hear similar support heard outside the house and condemnation of the Turnbull Government. Were we in for a shock! Most of us were seated before question time officially began, and were able to catch the partial Member speech by Alannah Mactiernan (ALP WA) condemn the Turnbull government for what they allowed to happen to the Portland MUA Members.

### **When the Wharfies Humiliated Menzies**

Members who attended our inaugural conference will remember Labour Historian Jeff Rickert's wonderful contribution.

In this article Jeff explains how through unity and solidarity, the Waterside Workers Federation defeated the attempts of a Conservative Government to destroy the union. We can learn a great deal from this article. Thanks Jeff!

August 1953. The cane crushing season is reaching its peak. A bumper year. The sugar barons, however, are not happy. The Producers' Association is bleating about delays in shipping out the processed sugar, delays they find convenient to blame on poor waterfront productivity. They demand the Waterside Workers' Federation make available 150 extra men at the six sugar ports. The Federation, however, is wary, suspecting that the employers harbour a hidden agenda to break the union's control over the allocation of labour.

On 12 August their fears are vindicated. Out of the blue the Commonwealth government – led by the hated 'Pig Iron' Bob Menzies – threatens to recruit non-union labour unless the Wharfies comply. 'Federal Cabinet is determined to engage in a test of strength with the Communist-controlled federation', reports the conservative *Cairns Post*. For once, the newspaper is on the money. By 27 August the union is supplying enough members to meet the official labour quota for every northern port. But Menzies presses on. On 2 September, troops from Brisbane are flown north to work the wharf, the government now claiming that meat shipments are being held up. By the following day over 200 troops have arrived in Bowen. At 2pm they begin loading refrigerated meat stored on site. Later, they organise to truck in meat from the nearby Merinda meatworks.

The WWF, however, is not having a bar of it. The Bowen wharfies attend the daily pickup that morning but refuse to start work when told of the troops' arrival. A mass meeting of the Townsville branch of the Federation demands a national waterfront strike if the military is not withdrawn within 48 hours. The national office of the WWF promptly sends this recommendation to branches across Australia. On the same day, railway unionists ban the movement of all meat from Merinda to the port of Bowen, and place an embargo on handling any sugar arriving in the Bowen railway yard. No locomotive can leave the depot. For their part, the meatworkers at Merinda walk off the job. The army is quickly stymied. The refined sugar is stranded. There is soon no meat to transport.

With the troops in Bowen standing idle and the government facing the likelihood of a national waterfront stoppage, the government opts to back down. A

settlement is reached on 4 September. The soldiers are withdrawn, work on the wharf recommences with union labour, and the Federation agrees to transfer 40 wharfies temporarily from Brisbane to Bowen at the government's

expense. Menzies is humiliated. Worker militancy, organisation and solidarity have won the day.

*By Historian Jeff Rickertt*

## Watch on Exotic Mozzie Species

### DISCOVERY IN CARGO AT PORT

Ellen-Maree Elliot

AN EXOTIC and invasive mosquito species was found in imported cargo at the Port of Brisbane late last year.

The *Aedes albopictus* or Asian tiger mosquito, which has been known to carry dengue, chikungunya and Zika virus, was identified on December 17, 2015.

A Department of Agriculture and Water Resources spokesman said the organisation, Queensland Health, Metro South Health and Brisbane City Council chemically treated the cargo; fogged insecticide at the detection site and surroundings; treated the residual surfaces; and were continuing to carry out ongoing, enhanced surveillance.

"These measures are undertaken to prevent mosquitoes establishing breeding populations in Australia thereby preventing the potential for the local spread of these diseases," the spokesman said.

A Metro South Health spokesman said there had been no further detections of the mosquito and nobody had presented with symptoms of diseases associated with the mosquito.

Port worker Chris Vane said the general public should have been made

#### ZIKA VIRUS

The World Health Organisation has held an emergency meeting about the Zika virus, due to its possible link with birth defects, which the *Aedes albopictus* can carry. University of Queensland virology professor Dr Ian Mackay said the virus symptoms were usually mild, like a rash. He said the connection between it and birth defects had not been proven and Australia's quarantine was "very good".

aware of the detection, not only businesses and workers at the port.

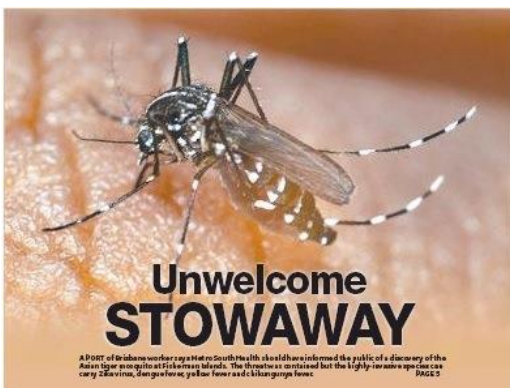
"I think it should be out there for the public, not just a select few," he said.

"It's been kept very hush."

A Metro South spokesman said businesses at the Port of Brisbane were advised on appropriate measures to minimise risk and advise staff of the issue.

"As the general public does not enter the Port or was at any risk of exposure, this was considered the most appropriate course of action. This is common practice."

What do you think? Email [editorial@wynnumherald.com.au](mailto:editorial@wynnumherald.com.au)



#### Asian tiger mosquito

Insect

*Aedes albopictus*, from the mosquito family, also known as tiger mosquito or 'forest mosquito', is a mosquito native to the tropical and subtropical areas of Southeast Asia; however, in the past couple ... Wikipedia

Scientific name: *Aedes albopictus*

Rank: Species

Higher classification: *Aedes*



Public Health Unit  
Metro South Health

## PUBLIC HEALTH ALERT

Enquiries to: Environmental Health  
Telephone: 3176 4000  
Date: 5 Jan 2016

Dear Port of Brisbane Authority and Tenants

### Public Health Alert (Exotic Invasive Mosquito) – Update

**Incident:** An exotic and invasive mosquito species (adult *Aedes albopictus*) has been detected on an item of international cargo at Fisherman Island on 17 December 2015. This mosquito is a vector of diseases such as dengue, chikungunya and Zika virus. (<https://www.health.qld.gov.au/public-health/topics/infection-control/mosquito-borne-dengue/default.asp>)

**Emergency Response:** A multi-agency response was implemented to ensure eradication of this mosquito as soon as possible, through collaboration of the Australian Government (Department of Agriculture and Water Resources), Queensland Government (Department of Health, Metro South Health) and Brisbane City Council.

Emergency control measures have included fumigation of the cargo item, onsite fogging and interior residual spraying of the site and neighbouring premises, yard inspections for water-bearing containers and deployment of an assortment of mosquito traps at the detection site and neighbouring premises.

**Stakeholder Alert and Update:** It is imperative that all tenants at the Seaport, and associated Quarantine Approved Premises (QAPs), increase and maintain their diligence to limit the potential for mosquitoes to breed in artificial containers.

Breeding sites include all manner of containers where fresh water is able to pool for more than seven (7) days. Examples at the Seaport have included discarded tyres (without rims), rubbish items left outside, uncapped containers, and tarps where water can pool.

To date no further detections of adult *Ae. albopictus* mosquitoes have been reported. Surveillance of mosquito eggs collected in the area up to the 30<sup>th</sup> December 2015 has not found evidence of *Ae. albopictus* mosquito breeding in the area under surveillance.

*While this is good news, the emergency control measures, additional surveillance and your increased vigilance and additional measures must be maintained in the coming weeks to ensure that this incursion has been effectively controlled.*

**Next steps:** Any detection of *Ae. albopictus* in the Fisherman Island monitoring network may escalate the emergency response to include action at all premises on Fisherman Island and associated QAPs.

1. Tenants are urged to maintain preventative measures to protect the health of staff and visitors pending any notification of an escalation of the emergency response. Every tenancy should prepare a Mosquito Management Plan to reduce the possibility of mosquito breeding at your premises – please see attached guideline (*Guide to the Prevention of Dengue Mosquito Breeding on Commercial Premises*).
2. Tenants are urged to routinely check their premises once a week and keep records of these inspections. Details of each breeding site detected, and the action taken to rectify them, should be recorded to facilitate future auditing procedures.

Your cooperation with these measures is appreciated.

Yours sincerely

Dr Brad McCall  
Director

## Carlsberg/Cambrew Dismiss Striking Beer Promotion Women

Eleven members of the IUF-affiliated Cambodian Food and Service Workers' Federation (CFSWF) employed by transnational brewery giant Carlsberg's joint venture local brewer Cambrew have been dismissed in retaliation for taking strike action on January 16. Workers are fighting the company's attempt to impose short-term employment contracts and late working hours.

The beer promotion women are employed by Cambrew to market and serve Angkor beer at restaurants, where they compete with promoters from other breweries working in the same restaurants. After two years on the job, workers have a legal right to a permanent contract, which gives paid maternity leave and other benefits. Carlsberg/Cambrew refuse to comply with the law.



*Workers dismissed for fighting for their rights*

The company refused the union's request for talks on the contracts and escalated the conflict on January 15 by extending working hours to 11:00 PM, which puts the women at greater risk of harassment from customers and transport difficulties at late hours. Determined to win their rights, the women struck on January 16. Management responded by claiming that current contracts had expired and that the striking workers had to accept new short-term contracts.

The Labour Arbitration Council instructed workers to resume work while awaiting the outcome of a dispute resolution process. However workers returned to work on January 21 to learn that 11 prominent union members had been dismissed.

Visit [www.iuf.org](http://www.iuf.org) to participate and show your support.

### **Queensland Nickel**

On Friday January 15 2016, QN Management requested a meeting with Union representatives. During that meeting QN announced 237 employees were to be made redundant across their operations in Townsville and gave the assurance that redundancies would be honoured. These dismissals would be effective immediately and there were security staff employed to escort dismissed employees from site.

We learned through the media on the morning of Monday, January 18 2016, that QN had gone into Voluntary Administration, and again, union representatives were called to a meeting – this time with administrators and management – to give us an outline of how this process would affect our members. It was at this meeting that we learned redundant employees would not receive their entitlements for some time – if at all depending on whether the operation trades out or goes into liquidation. We also learned that QN had not paid employees' superannuation (including employee contributions) since mid-November.

Employees are now considered creditors and have a nervous wait for the outcome of the administration process to see whether redundancy and accrued

entitlements will be paid, and whether many more employees will lose their jobs.

During a meeting with creditors on Friday, January 29 2016, it was revealed that the company owes in the vicinity of \$60-70m, and owes employees a further \$30m in accrued entitlements, with \$16m of the \$30m being owed to the employees made redundant just weeks ago. Despite these debts, Clive Palmer saw it fit to send a representative to nominate both he and his wife, Anna, as creditor committee representatives.

What is clear is that Clive Palmer is the ultimate narcissist. Not only has he attempted to wash his hands of this mess while ripping off workers in the Townsville community, he also sees himself as being the victim despite still living a lavish lifestyle while his former employees have been punted out on the street without so much as a pot to piss in. His current employees live with the anxiety of wondering how secure their jobs are.

Since the start of these events, State Secretary, Bob Carnegie, has represented MUA members made redundant during individual meetings held just days after they were sacked, and North Queensland Organiser, Glenn Desmond, has been assisting sacked members through the process while we look at all avenues available. Regular meetings with FTI Consulting to update Union representatives on developments are being held with a further meeting to be held this week.

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