



# QUEENSLAND BRANCH NEWS

NEWSLETTER of the QLD Branch of the MARITIME UNION of AUSTRALIA

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## Jobs Embassy Canberra – Qube – MUA Supports Catholic School Teachers

### Canberra Aussie Jobs Embassy Solidifies Struggle for Jobs

QUEENSLAND BRANCH comrades have further highlighted the destruction of jobs in the maritime industry. A major focus was on the effects of damage to the Great Barrier Reef caused by Flag of Convenience vessels and job losses to Australian workers.

The increasing emphasis on the Aussie Jobs Embassy is seeing participation of many more Australian Trade Unions and signifies the need to FIGHT FOR OUR JOBS IN OUR OWN COUNTRY!



After Visiting the Jobs Embassy Stephen Jones MP Unfurls the Australian Red Ensign

Importantly more Labor Party MP's and various Senators are attending, supporting and delivering rousing speeches. Stephen Jones MP unfurled the Australian Red Ensign inside the House of Representatives in support of Australian maritime workers.

He said "the flag, the Australian Red Ensign, is now seen as a flag of inconvenience to this Liberal government.

The truth is this: the Liberal government has systematically dismantled Labor's shipping laws, which created a fairer market for Australian domestic shipping.

The Senate estimates committee which is currently inquiring into flag-of-convenience shipping has found that there has been a 78 per cent increase in foreign-flagged vessels over the last decade. Joanne Kerin, a person in my electorate, knows the impact of this.

Her entire crew of 36 workers, working on the *Alexander Spirit* was sacked overnight and replaced by a foreign crew. It is an absolute disgrace."

Cross bench Senators and independents continue to raise issues within the House and Senate and continually engaged with us at the forecourt Embassy.



Qld Greens Senator Larissa Waters with Paul Gallagher and MUA Members at the Jobs Embassy – Canberra

Senator Glen Lazarus chipped in barbecuing steaks during the AMIEU attendance. The Hon Mark Butler addressed the CSIRO demonstration and provided credit and ongoing publicity to the MUA and our action.

Assistant Branch Secretary, Paul Gallagher held discussions with Qld Greens Senator, Larissa Waters and established future discussions to be held in Qld with her and other Greens MP's.

During the week of action our members attended the Senate enquiry on Tuesday evening where they grilled AMSA and Australian Transport Security about the *MV Portland's* fateful night. The enquiry is really turning up the heat on all Government departments involved. National Secretary, Paddy Crumlin; Assistant National Secretary, Ian Bray and Sydney Branch Secretary, Paul McAleer added to the rise of consciousness and commitment to fight for our jobs.

### Qube Wharfies in Darwin Under Attack!

AS MANY Members are aware Branch Secretary Bob Carnegie is one of four MUA officials on the MUA Qube Negotiating Committee. The other MUA officials are

Warren Smith from National Office, Garry Keane from the SNSW Branch aka Port Kembla and Adrian Evans from the WA Branch.

Wharfies employed in the Port of Darwin are coming under sustained attack for the 'crime' of standing by their EBA and not having their employment conditions dismantled.

Whilst both parties have recognised certain economic difficulties exist in their operation, the attitude of Qube senior management is disturbing in the extreme. Their 'scorched earth' policy has no real place in a modern economy such as Australia's.

Qube have put a demand that among other things the ENTIRE permanent operational workforce be made redundant!

Of course the MUA is totally and utterly opposed to this. Our preferred position is that we sit down like mature, intelligent people and work these problems through.

QUBE's approach has been a ham fist attempt to goad Wharfies into responding. What Qube's management in Darwin has not reckoned on is the solidarity of our membership and the belief they have in each other and their elected leadership.

Already members on the job have come up with real solutions to the question of hours. This has seen it fall onto an intransigent management.

However the MUA is not about to rollover on this or any other issue.

We are before Deputy President Booth on the 9th in Sydney and we will keep members informed on this important issue.

The Qube rounds of negotiations come to Brisbane on March 7 and members will be kept informed as to their progress.

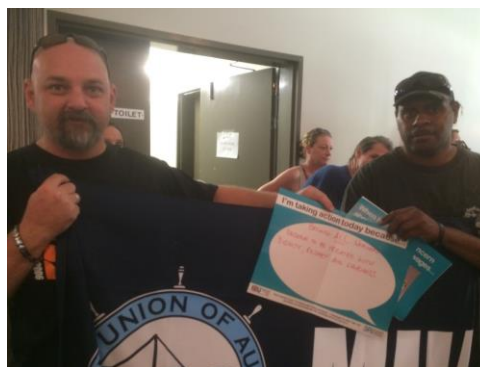
### **Townsville MUA Members Support Catholic School Teachers' Strike**

PADDY NELIMAN AND Glenn Desmond went along to a rally in Townsville on Thursday, February 25 to fly the mighty MUA flag and show support for Independent Education Union members from local Catholic schools who have undertaken strike action. The rally started with a forum in what was a packed house at Brothers Leagues Club and culminated with a march to the local Catholic Education Office building.

Queensland Catholic Education teachers are currently the lowest paid in the country (by up to \$7,000 per year) and are seeking increases in pay and conditions that will

bring them up to parity with some of their interstate colleagues. During the rally, we heard from one teacher who described the impact of the increasing use of short term contracts, and how she had been continuously re-engaged to teach in the same school on a 12 month contract for 11 years, and how this impacted on her ability to take out a mortgage on her house.

We also heard about how the employer had refused to negotiate terms so that permanent teacher aides and office staff could achieve the right to 4 weeks paid leave each year.



*Glenn Desmond and Paddy Neliman show support*

These attacks on pay, permanency and paid leave are ones that are being experienced throughout a broad range of workplaces right across the country. As MUA members, we wholeheartedly support the notion that all workers deserve to be treated with dignity, respect and fairness.

Many of the IEU members present acknowledged our attendance and thanked the MUA for our show of support.

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