

No. 39 – Friday April 29, 2016

May Day Back in May – Work Health and Safety Memorial Day – Townsville Rally

May Day 2016

LOCK IN THE date May Day back in May! Monday 2 May join fellow workers on the corner of Turbot and Wharf Streets. Be there by 9.30am for 10.00am march then onto the showgrounds for a fun family day and festivities. Please use this link to QCU for all May Day information around Queensland.
<http://www.queenslandunions.org.au/events>

May Day 2016 Edition

COMRADES

The Queensland Branch deems this year's May Day as one of the most important in recent times. And it is expected to be a big day for many reasons.

In its blind hatred of workers and their unions, the Newman State government in 2013 removed the public holiday from May forcing most marches across Queensland to march on a Sunday. In a mark of respect the Palaszczuk Labor government reinstated the public holiday in May and in Brisbane we will march this **Monday at 10am from the corner of Wharf and Turbot Streets**. The MUA contingent will be setting up in Leichhardt St. T shirts will be free and there is a BBQ and refreshments afterwards with rides for the kids.

Industrially the union movement is currently under intense pressure from employers and big business using unjust laws and unscrupulous behaviour to hold a fierce stick over working men and women all at the same time calling the shots on the federal LNP government to attack unions. Examples of this being the millions spent on the Royal Commission in to Trade Unions and the attempted reintroduction of the ABCC which will include maritime workers and removes basic legal rights of workers who organise around safety and has power to throw unionists in jail for using their right to act collectively in protection of their rights by sticking it to the boss.

Politically this is an election year and there is only one show in town. The federal election is looking like being held 2nd July. This gives us two months to organise ourselves to get out there and convince the public to defeat the Turnbull government. We call on every member to play their part during this campaign. Contact the Branch to get involved or see your delegate and talk to your comrades about what you can do to help. Talk to

your family and friends. Another term of the Turnbull government will make it increasingly difficult for workers to access their rights to a safe workplace, fair wages, fair superannuation and fair workers compensation. Job security is at threat as workers face the opening of the flood gates to 457 visa workers working cheap while hundreds of thousands of Australians sit on the unemployment line. We will face an increase of GST while the corporates and rich pay no tax at all. Penalty rates will be lost as well as Medicare and free education. Even pensioners are in their sights.



MUA Members Working on the Float

For us this election is about **JOBS**. The fight is for the survival of the Australian Merchant Fleet in which six ships were lost last year and three already this year, including the entire Australian crewed tanker fleet. It will become a vital battle for the right to work in our own country without having to compete with cheap foreign labour that our seafaring members are currently up against. There is little to no job security in the offshore oil and gas industry as the government attempts to use visas to sell out our jobs to cheap foreign labour.

In the face of this renewed employer and political attack against us, the trade union movement has achieved a great deal in a united front such as the removal of a feral state LNP government last year and the turnaround of the disgusting situation of our own Hutchison workers sacked by text message in the middle of the night. May Day 2016 is a time for celebration of the union movement and all we stand for and all we have fought for. From the 8 hour day to the wages and conditions we enjoy today. It's all there thanks to the effort of staunch unions like ours.

The Queensland MUA theme this year is “The Workers of the World Unite” after our Branch signing on with the International Dockworkers Council (IDC) as well as supporting the ITF. International solidarity is vital to survival. If members are not working please come along and make it the biggest May Day celebration in years.

The Branch would like to thank the efforts of the May Day committee for their hard work and commitment in getting things organised especially this year’s revamped “float”. We thank the staff for their tireless efforts and thank comrades Ann and Charlie Gray for their donations to the May Day raffle.

In solidarity
Paul Gallagher

Regional Ports May Day March Details:

Cairns – Saturday April 30th 4.30pm Fogarty Park
Mackay – Monday 2nd 9am Corner River & Gregory Street
Bowen – Monday 2nd 9.30am Bowen Post Office
Gladstone – Monday 2nd 10am Carpark William Street
Townsville – Monday 2nd 10.30am ANZAC Memorial Park

ACTU Event

In another event the ACTU is running a National Telethon on the 14th of May. This event is going to be huge; it has the potential to be the largest ever member to member phone calling in union history. Here our members will be on national video hook-ups with delegates of ours and other unions around the country making calls to workers about their issues and what to do this election. Call the office to join in this important event or contact Trent Abberfield from ACTU directly on 0409398391.

Build a Better Future Campaign Warms Up

- **North Queensland**

NORTH QUEENSLAND MUA members participated in rallies on Wednesday 27th April to support the ACTU Build a Better Future Campaign in the electorates of Herbert and Leichardt. ACTU President Ged Kearney, addressed the rally at Townsville in front of their local member’s office.



MUA Members Protesting in Townsville

Townsville and Cairns members joined Comrades from other unions in their local areas to hand over petitions and send a clear message to their local Federal LNP members, Ewen Jones and Warren Entsch, that we do not accept their attacks on workers, education and social safety nets. Members also sent a message that we will fight as part of the campaign to see this government dismissed from office at the next federal election.

- **Wynnum**

As well MUA and community members protested at LNP (Bonner) MP Vasta’s office in Wynnum against policies including cuts to Medicare and corporate tax. A petition was handed over and a meeting was scheduled.



Work Health and Safety Memorial Day

THURSDAY 28th APRIL was World Day for Safety and Health at Work and Workers’ Memorial Day. In 2015, 193 workers were killed at work. The day commemorates and remembers those who have died due to workplace incidents and disease and helps to raise awareness of work health and safety issues to help prevent future incidents.



Work Health and Safety Memorial Day - Brisbane

Assistant Branch Secretary Paul Gallagher and a number of MUA members went to the memorial to show support.

Relief Official

BRANCH SECRETARY Bob Carnegie will be on annual leave from 20th April 2016 to 18th May 2016. Damian McGarry will be relief official during this period and can be contacted via email on brisbane.relief@mua.org.au or via the Branch on 07 3395 7215.

Branch Official’s Details

QLD Branch Secretary Bob Carnegie
Mob: 0439 478 996.
Email: bob.carnegie@mua.org.au
QLD Deputy Branch Secretary Jason Miners
Mob: 0401 211 866.
Email: jason.miners@mua.org.au
QLD Assistant Branch Secretary Paul Gallagher
Mob: 0408 494 168.
Email: paul.gallagher@mua.org.au
Central QLD Organiser Paul Petersen
Mob: 0404 453 869.
Email: paul.petersen@mua.org.au
North QLD Organiser Glenn Desmond
Mob: 0429 614 536.
Email: glenn.desmond@mua.org.au

