



# QUEENSLAND BRANCH NEWS

NEWSLETTER of the QLD Branch of the MARITIME UNION of AUSTRALIA

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## May Day Back in May – Reports from Brisbane and Regional Areas – ACTU Event

### Brisbane

The Brisbane May Day was an absolutely outstanding effort by the Queensland branch members who answered the call to arms and delivered. Throughout the day we had several comments from senior national officials and branch officials of other unions as to the great turnout of MUA members with over 300 in attendance.

We would like to thank the members who marched loud and proud. A strong statement has been made leading into the federal election; that working men and women can decide the fate of our industries by coming out en masse to remove this anti-worker, anti-industry government.



Brisbane

The branch is calling on members to hold and continue this fantastic momentum into the federal election. Now, the main priority is the fight to secure both our families' future and our own.

The branch is in the final stages of developing a comprehensive election campaign plan to ensure we do our bit in Queensland. This is paramount to getting rid of the Turnbull government.

The federal election will be decided in the State of Queensland with six to ten seats up for grabs. This can be achieved if we contribute. A task made slightly easier given the neglect to Queensland in the federal budget.

Thanks again for your strong support to your branch and making May Day a success. Also a special thanks to Ron Culliney who did a fantastic job along with the other volunteers and staff who ensured the day was a success.

### Townsville

The Townsville May Day March on the Monday Public Holiday was well attended by our local MUA members. Members asserted the right for Australian seafarers to work on the Australian coast while reminding onlookers that the MUA is indeed here to stay.



Townsville

After the march we were addressed by local Thuringowa MP, Aaron Harper and the ALP Candidate for Herbert, Cathy O'Toole, followed by live entertainment and activities for the kids.

Special thanks goes out to retired member Pete Lomond for the running of the kids' races and tug of war and to the delegates who assisted Pete as well as helping get equipment ready in the morning.

### Cairns

Comrades in Cairns gathered to celebrate May Day on Saturday afternoon at Fogarty Park. Local members drove home the message that Australian seafarer jobs are well and truly under attack under the current government.

Numbers were up across the various memberships with estimates of 900 people in attendance. The crowd was addressed prior to the commencement of the march by various officials and the Queensland Treasurer who was pleased to have the May Day holiday back on its rightful date, but reminded members that Queensland was set to suffer under the upcoming federal budget due to the Queensland public support of the union stance against asset sales.

Authorised by Bob Carnegie, Maritime Union of Australia (MUA) Queensland Branch Secretary

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**Cairns**

Well done to our Comrades who ran the sausage sizzle and kept the masses fed.

### **Mackay**

There was a big turnout from all unions to celebrate Labour Day back on its traditional date. Mackay MUA were no exception, highlighting the fuel security campaign.



**Mackay**

Festivities were enjoyed by hundreds of people under sunny skies.

### **Bundaberg**

It was a humid day in Bundy for the May Day march. About 250 unionists representing seven unions assembled. We marched from North Bundaberg across the Burnett traffic bridge to ANZAC park with bagpipes and drums leading the way with a steady flow of people, banners and flags following.

Once we were all assembled at the park, speeches were made by different union representatives and local Labor Minister Hon Leanne Donaldson.



**Bundaberg**

We all moved to the Bundaberg lawn bowls club for a sausage sizzle and the odd drink.

I would like to thank the CMFEU comrades for welcoming me into their ranks for the day after I

introduced myself as an MUA member.

I might have been the only MUA member there but I was marching with over 250 unionists. It was a great day for the workers and their families.

Dave Clarkson - MUA Member

### **Bowen**

Bowen May Day was HUGE. It has been said it was the biggest they have seen in many years. A quote from the RTBU Branch Secretary in Bowen below:

“What an incredible day. On behalf of the members of the Bowen RTBU Sub Branch I believe a great deal of thanks goes to the Bowen QCU with particular thanks to Jenny Lynch and Robert Phillips (Snapper - MUA) for a truly unforgettable event. Roughly 200 marchers and at the most between 400 and 500 people at the QRI Hall for the Family day.

The event was planned perfectly and went off without a hitch. Everyone had a great time and a number of people, including some born and bred in Bowen, told me personally that it was the best May Day Celebration they could remember.

Jenny and Snapper deserve to be highly praised for organising such an event with little assistance. To those who helped out thank you as well.”

### **Activist Meeting**

An activist meeting will be held at the union rooms on May 11<sup>th</sup> starting at 10.00am to 12.00noon. All members encouraged to attend.

### **ACTU Event**

The ACTU is running a National Telethon on the 14<sup>th</sup> 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.

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.

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