



QUEENSLAND BRANCH NEWS

NEWSLETTER of the QLD Branch of the MARITIME UNION of AUSTRALIA

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THIS ELECTION PUT THE LNP LAST

No. 41 – Friday May 20, 2016

Battle at Hay Point - Bob's Report Back – Win for North Qld Members – Book Launch

Hay Point Tugs in Battle for Union Existence

A MEETING OF all Hay Point MUA members was held on Wednesday 18/5/16 whereby discussion took place on their fight for survival.

These members do the Towage work at the world's largest coking coal terminal owned by BMA.

For 45 years our tug men and women have worked in all sorts of weather, in a dangerous and difficult job, 24/7, 365 days per year.



Bob and Jason in Hay Point

BMA a conglomerate of BHP and Mitsubishi are launching a sophisticated de unionisation drive to deny our members the right to work.

BMA are engaging Riv Tow, a savagely anti-union company to set up 'Partnership' arrangements to do the towage work for the terminal. These 'Partnership' agreements are all about destroying any responsibility an employer has in relation to an employee.

Under these 'Partnership' arrangements, an employee becomes part of a trust and has ABSOLUTELY NO RIGHTS whatsoever under the Fair Work Act as you are trustee not an employee, so you are not entitled to holidays, long service leave, sick days, workers compensation etc.

It is an absolute and total attack on the very essence of what unions have fought for in this country and around the world.

After yesterday's meeting members resolved to fight this industrially, socially, legally and politically.

The MUA Queensland Branch will leave no stone unturned in this fight. Our National Office will also be heavily involved.

At yesterday's meeting the State President of the CFMEU mining division, Stephen Smyth spoke passionately in support of our struggle.

Jason Lund, president of the QCU spoke eloquently on the importance of maintaining the struggle. Jason comes from great stock, I would die beside his Dad John, one of the most genuine and fearsome trade union Organiser's I have ever worked with. John and I worked together in my BLF days.

Jim Pearce the State member encompassing part of the coal fields has offered his unqualified support.

This is a fight we must all get behind and support. The Branch will keep members informed on a regular basis.

Report from Bob Carnegie

RECENTLY I TOOK annual leave of which a major part was my wife and I walking from Porto in Lisbon to Santiago De Compestella in Spain. We finished off the last 5 days by visiting Paris.

When some terrific rank and file Dockers from Transcm CSV union wanted to meet of course I said yes. These two terrific militants Marc Storm and Bart travelled from Antwerp and Zebrugge to meet with me. We had a few beers and a small meal and shared experiences of being militants on the waterfront and the huge importance of international solidarity in defending the rights of Dockworkers everywhere. These two men succinctly and powerfully put forward the huge importance the future the IDC will play in fighting for the rights of workers everywhere but particularly focused on Dockworkers.



Bart, Marc Storm and Bob Carnegie holding the IDC flag at the CGT headquarters in Paris - May 9

The next Monday May 9 was taken up with a meeting with Tony Haubois the General Secretary of the French Dockers Union. We discussed many issues, including the effects of automation on Dockworkers lives and how fundamentally it is being

used by Terminal Operators as a means of controlling the

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

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workforce and in many respects was less productive than a non-automated Terminal. The French Dockers have decided that they will oppose automation based on some of these grounds.

Tony also explained that in November 2015 legislation was passed in France that it was now LAW that all work done in discharging and loading of ships was the work of the French Dockers. This has further cemented the strength of the French Dockers Union in their battles.

Tony also mentioned the growing importance of the IDC and the importance of the Conference in Miami in September this year and the big questions of growth and battles we will face.

I thanked Tony and the Union that he leads for the support they gave us during the Hutchison dispute and he simply replied that "it was their duty to support workers in struggle."



Left to right Jamil (French Dockers) Bart (Belgian Docker) Bob Carnegie, Marc Storm (Belgian Docker) and Tony Hautbois General Secretary CGT French Dockers

I was very impressed by Tony Hautbois, a relatively young man who is a very thoughtful person and extremely determined individual representing a great Union.

Bob with students in Paris who are on strike supporting the CGT (similar but more militant than the ACTU) in opposing changes to Labour Laws in France



My annual leave was an enjoyable time and I'll write in future Branch News' about my thoughts of both Portugal and Spain but being able to mix it and meet some great international workers was for me, the icing on the cake.

MUA Gets a Win for Sacked QN Members

IN WHAT HAS been a long battle for Queensland Nickel members who were sacked during the first days of the QNI collapse, the MUA has had a win on behalf of our members.

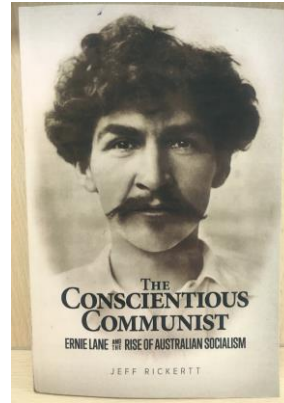
The MUA was the only union on site that made a claim for unfair dismissal when its members were dismissed on the 15th of January, 2016. Our Union cited lack of consultation on the matter of the so-called 'redundancies' and questioned the process used to select who would be made redundant.

The affected members have agreed to FTI Consulting's offer to settle the claim by paying those members' wages and accrued leave up to March 11, which was when the operation closed down and the remainder of the workforce was made redundant.

While this does not make up for the hurt that has been felt by members who lost their jobs and the wider community, it does compensate those members affected on the issue of unfair and underhanded treatment early on in the process by the Clive Palmer-owned company.

The affected members wish to pass on their thanks to the Queensland Branch and Adam Jacka at National Office for their work and assistance on the claim.

Book Launch – The Conscientious Communist



BRANCH SECRETARY BOB Carnegie will be launching a new book on Australian Labour History; *The Conscientious Communist, Ernie Lane and the rise of Australian Socialism* by Jeff Rickertt. It will be held at the 1230 at the QCU Building on Saturday June 4 2016.

Jeff is an outstanding fighter for trade union and working class rights and has been for more than 30 years. Jeff was down on the Hutchison Picket Line on many occasions. I urge any member with the time to spare to come and support Jeff and the launching of this book.

ACTU/MUA National Phone Bank

SATURDAY MAY 14 saw 11 Brisbane MUA rank and file members, Assistant Branch Secretary Paul Gallagher and VETS representative, Col Davies respond to the call of the ACTU /MUA "National Phone Bank" at the QCU Brisbane.



MUA Volunteering at the ACTU Phone Bank – Put the LNP Last

The MUA contingent phoned our own membership to ascertain support for the ACTU/MUA objective which was to put the "LNP LAST" on both ballot papers. We tallied 70 commitments to do just that. The successful couple of hours saw Queensland activity come 2nd nationally in achieving confirmed feedback in the national process to help achieve the defeat of the Turnbull Government.

North Queensland Members Rally

ASSISTANT BRANCH SECRETARY, Paul Gallagher and MUA members from Cairns were part of the ACTU protest out the front of the office of their local MP, Warren Entsch, on Wednesday. Our comrades have ensured that our campaign supporting Australian jobs has been placed firmly on the local agenda.



Members Rally in Far North Queensland

Members have been active as part of the campaign to get rid of a local member who has supported LNP attacks on the working class while shovelling money into the pockets of wealthy corporations.

Well done comrades! Keep up the good work!

Shorten Rallies Support in Northern NSW

WEEK ONE OF the Federal Election Campaign saw Hon Bill Shorten in North Qld shoring up support for the ALP. Sunday May 15 he arrived in Kingscliff Tweed Heads, for a "Meet & Greet" with NSW locals. Ann Gray, Greg Lemaire and Mike Barber attended, representing the MUA Queensland Branch.



MUA Member Mike Barber with Bill Shorten in Northern NSW

Mike spoke to the Hon Bill Shorten on 'jobs', 457 Visa misuse by the LNP, and Labor government support for the Australian Merchant Navy. Bill Shorten expressed support for the MUA when addressing our recent National Conference, and re-assured me that he would honour that pledge if an ALP he leads is elected.

IDC Zone Coordinator's Meeting

ON MAY 11 2016 Paul Petersen Queensland Branch Organiser filled in for Branch Secretary Bob Carnegie at the IDC Zone Coordinator's meeting held in New Jersey.

The zone Coordinator meeting discussed concerns of dock workers worldwide and discussed in detail the

September General Assembly meeting to be held in late September 2016 in Miami.



Central Queensland Organiser, Paul Petersen addressing IDC members at ILA headquarters in New Jersey

The MUA QLD Branch will be sending a strong rank and file delegation to this most important of meetings.

Paul also spoke passionately about the battles of the MUA to a meeting of several hundred longshoremen at the ILA's hiring hall in New Jersey.



ILA Headquarters in New Jersey - USA

From all reports Paul Petersen represented our Branch proudly and well and did a great job! When Paul returns from leave we will have a series of job meetings where he will outline in more detail his trip.

REPORTS FROM THE IDC...

International Dockworkers Council Exceeds 85,000 Affiliates and Puts the Focus on Health, Safety and Training

APRIL 11 2016 NEW JERSEY - The General Coordinator of the International Dockworkers Council (IDC), Jordi Aragunde, met with IDC Zone Coordinators this week at the International Longshoremen's Association (ILA) headquarters in New Jersey (US). The meeting involved a discussion of important topics to be held in the coming months.

Dockworkers at the Ports of Brisbane and Sydney (Australia) and the Port of Koper (Slovenia) make up some of the new organisations to affiliate to IDC from around the globe. These new affiliates contribute to IDC's record growth, which now exceeds 85 000 members. The IDC General Coordinator accompanied by several Council Members will soon hold meetings to honour these new affiliates. Since September 2015, 8085 workers have joined the IDC.

The New Jersey meeting included a discussion on joint actions and common problems faced by dockworkers

together with new training, safety and prevention projects launched in the African and South American Zones.



The meeting also served as an initial planning session for the IDC General Assembly to take place from September 27 - 29 in Miami (USA). The assembly will include a Conference on port automation to explore the impact of port automation on dockworkers.

IDC Zone Coordinators debated the strength of evidence associated with public-private mismanagement, in regard to the privatisation of ports in Greece and Slovenia. The European Courts recently ruled against



IDC General Coordinator Jordi Aragunde

dockworkers over operational systems in Norway, Belgium and Spain. This conflict centres on the variation of authorities in African, European or Latin American ports, which include both public administrations and private companies.

Finally, at the New Jersey meeting it was decided to make public all formal accords and meeting records that have been maintained during the last months with state entities and international institutions, such as the International Labour Organization (ILO).

Present at the IDC meeting was Jordi Aragunde, IDC General Coordinator (CETM, Spain); Mauricio Zarzuelo, IDC Latin American Zone Coordinator, (SUTAP, Argentina); Ricardo Suarez, IDC Latin American Zone Coordinator (SUPRA, Uruguay); Guigrehi Aklegbou Pierre, IDC African Zone Coordinator (COSAD-CI, Ivory Coast); Kenneth Riley, IDC East Coast Zone Coordinator (ILA, United States); Robert McEllrath, West Coast Zone Coordinator (ILWU, United States); Anthony Tetard, European Zone Coordinator (FNPD-

CGT, France); Manuel Lanon, IDC H&S Coordinator (FNPD-CGT, France); Paul Petersen, Coordinator of the Oceania Zone (MUA-QLD, Australia); Wesley Furtado (ILWU, United States); Dennis Daggett (ILA, United States); and Susana Busquets (IDC).

About the International Dockworkers Council

THE INTERNATIONAL DOCKWORKERS Council (IDC) is a global trade union, formally founded in Santa Cruz de Tenerife (Spain) in 2000. The IDC brings together more than 85 000 dockworkers on five continents, and works to defend their jobs through training and the continuous improvement of working conditions.

With headquarters in Barcelona (Spain), the IDC is organized into six geographical zones (US East Coast and Canada, US West Coast and Pacific Rim, Latin America, Europe, Oceania, and Africa), each with its Zone Coordinator elected by assembly.

Unite the Union - Port of Grangemouth Strike Suspended as Company Accept Conciliation Offer

UNITE SCOTLAND HAS this evening (Friday 18 March) confirmed that strike action at the Port of Grangemouth will be suspended after Forth Ports agreed to lift their imposition on shift rotation changes and enter into conciliation.

IDC Statement of Support for the Port of Luka Koper in Slovenia

MEMBERS OF THE IDC European Zone met in Antwerp, Belgium on March 8, 2016 to address the current state of affairs in the Port of Luka Koper in Koper, Slovenia.

This meeting focused on coordination of further actions of support for the dockworkers belonging to the Union of Crane Operators of Koper in Slovenia.

Please use the following link to be directed to the IDC online newsletter for more articles:

<http://www.idcdockworkers.org/en/>

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