



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. 43 – Friday June 3, 2016

Members Vow to Fight BMA - Election Campaign Launch - Build a Better Future

Members Vow to Fight BMA

AT A MEETING of members and community activists held in Mackay on Thursday June 2, MUA members vowed to fight BMA and their intention to remove members and have them replaced by a partnership model.

All workers reading this must realise that the BMA/RivTow partnership model destroys the whole concept of the employer/employee relationship and turns workers into trustees of a trust. As such you have no rights of an employee under the Fair Work Act 2009. This means a worker who becomes a trustee has no right to:

- Holidays
- Sick Leave
- Workers Compensation
- Maternity Leave
- Long Service Leave

Just to name a few. On top of that they must carry insurance for any damage that the machinery (in this case a huge tug) can be liable for.

This is an attack on the fundamental right of trade unionism!

If this cancer is not stopped and fought for now it will spread like wildfire through all ports where the mining industry is dominant and then further afield into other industries.

We have determined to fight and fight we will and fight we MUST!

Successful Branch Meeting Held in Gladstone

ON WEDNESDAY MAY 1, Branch Secretary Bob Carnegie and Southern and Central Queensland



Organiser Paul Petersen attended a bi monthly general meeting held at the Gladstone Bowls Club. It was a successful meeting with over 40 members in attendance. Debate was good and

members discussed a whole range of issues which impacted their lives. Members from all areas we represent were present. It was good, positive meeting.

MUA/CFMEU Election Campaign Launch

TOWNSVILLE MUA MEMBERS along with Jason Miners and Glenn Desmond gathered with local CFMEU members at the joint MUA/CFMEU Election Campaign Launch at the Riverway Arts Centre on Tuesday May 31 2016.

Guest speakers were MUA Assistant National Secretary - Ian Bray, CFMEU National Secretary - Michael O'Connor, CFMEU QLD State Secretary - Michael Ravbar, QCU General Secretary - Ros McLennan and NSW Labor Senator - Doug Cameron.

The guests spoke about a number of issues affecting Australian workers as we approach the upcoming Federal Election and reminded those present of the attacks to our working and social conditions under the Abbott/Turnbull government.



Ian Bray reiterated the attacks to Australian jobs in our coastal trades and how the current government has actively sought to replace Australian workers in shipping and our off-shore oil and gas industry. He also highlighted the issues with the introduction of partnership arrangements in the towage industry and

pointed out that these arrangements will soon come to affect workers across a number of industries if we do not fight to get rid of them.

The message for workers is clear – if we do not fight to get rid of this callous, ruthless, anti-worker, LNP Government this election, workers and our families will only find it tougher to survive and the well-being of our communities will be crushed. This election really is a fork in the road for our country. Where we head depends

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entirely on you and your efforts in our campaign. Talk to you workmates. Talk to your families, friends and neighbours and tell them to put the LNP last.

Building a Better Future National Door Knock

Cairns and Townsville MUA members got together with other local unionists to take part in the National Building a Better Future Door Knock on Saturday 28 May. Unionists spoke to other union members, asked them about the issues that concerned them the most and discussed the importance of the coming election if we are to maintain living standards for Australian workers.



Cairns Members



Townsville Members

Building a Better Future Campaign Launch

TOWNSVILLE MUA MEMBERS were joined by MUA National Assistant Secretary - Ian Bray, Queensland Branch Deputy Secretary - Jason Miners and North Queensland Organiser - Glenn Desmond at the community launch of the ACTU Build a Better Future Campaign along with local members from other unions on Tuesday evening to listen to guest speakers talking about the importance of the coming Federal Election and how the current LNP Government's policies have had far reaching and detrimental effects for workers. They also spoke about the further negative impacts for workers should the Turnbull LNP Government be re-elected.



Build a Better Future – Townsville

Guest speakers Ged Kearney (ACTU President), Ros McLennan (QCU General Secretary) and Ian Bray spoke about the negative impacts of LNP policy on issues such as health, jobs, the maritime industries and our national fuel security. The crowd also listened intently to MUA member, Dale Eaton, who gave his account of his removal from the MV Portland in January whereby he and his crew were replaced by exploited foreign labour to work in the Australian coastal shipping trade. It is important that members make sure they put the LNP Government last on polling day if we are to maintain the

right of working families to have access to good, decent paying jobs, health care and education for our kids. The coming election is about preserving the living standards of all Australians – not just the wealthy.

Greece - Mobilisations Continue

A 48-hour strike last week was organised in Piraeus and more mobilisations continue this week (Report from the Piraeus Dockworkers Union)

GREEK PORT WORKERS have mobilized against the government denial to support the enactment of a legal framework that would protect Piraeus and Thessaloniki ports in the event of COSCO taking over the port of Piraeus.

Last week Greek port workers started a new 48-hour round of strikes at PPA-Piraeus terminals and a demonstration to the Ministry of Maritime affairs. This week mobilisations continue.

Workers have been negotiating these past few weeks an improvement of the existing labor legal framework that would protect workers' conditions and labour relations in the port in the event of COSCO taking over Pier I of Container, Car & Cruise Terminals (meaning all the infrastructure of PPA).

During these past few weeks the Greek government was rather supportive of the agreement, and it all indicated that the legal framework would see the green light. However in the final stages of the negotiations the government has withdrawn from such position by claiming that the new framework required the approval of COSCO.

COSCO claims having no institutional role on these matters for the moment and urges the government to finalise the process of privatisation and the takeover of the port and 67% of PPA.

Unions are outraged by the attitude from the government who has been encouraging the process and withdrawing last minute, before the new framework could be enacted. This is a critical issue for Greek port workers, decent labor conditions and good jobs need to be secured at Piraeus and Thessaloniki ports despite COSCO finally taking over the port of Piraeus.

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