



QUEENSLAND BRANCH NEWS

NEWSLETTER of the QLD Branch of the MARITIME UNION of AUSTRALIA

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IDC News - SMIT Lamnalco – Tug Delegates Meeting - Opinion Piece CUB 55 – Office Changes

IDC News

THE DOCKERS OF Veracruz have decided to affiliate with the IDC.

Veracruz is the largest and oldest port in Mexico and very important in the history of Mexico. Among other things the port of Veracruz is the gateway for Mexico's automobile industry.



Port of Veracruz

The MUA Queensland Branch welcome the Dockers Union and the rank and file dockers into the family of the IDC.

AN INJURY TO ONE IS THE CONCERN OF ALL

SMIT Lamnalco

THURSDAY SAW THE initial discussion for the renegotiation for the Smit Lamnalco EBA kick off with the Delegates and the Branch focused on a no fuss outcome driven EBA.

Our members in Gladstone are as united as they have been and united around a Log of Claims that delivers job security and career progression with extended training claims that secure these very principles.

Further discussions will take place next week commencing Wednesday which will be followed by a report back both on the job and via email from the Branch and Delegates.

Queensland Tug Delegates Meeting

WEDNESDAY SAW A long awaited meeting of our seven tug ports in Queensland with Delegates from all over the State getting together to confront the major issues and attacks like never seen before in the harbour towage sector of our Union.

There was robust discussion and debate on what our priority issues are in towage and what tact we need to take to address them which hopefully will see us weather the relentless attacks on unionised tug work forces under collective Agreements which have paved the way for the current conditions tug workers enjoy today. A work plan has been developed and more importantly a commitment to work together to protect our

industry and future on tugs.

Workplaces are encouraged to speak to their Delegates about the workshop as to what steps we can all take to combat this.

One Out, Ale Out as Brewer's Bastardry Leaves Bitter Taste

The following article is by Paul Syvret, a Deputy Editor of the Courier Mail, who is highly supportive of the battle of the AMWU and the ETU known in Australian folklore as the CUB55. Paul is an active unionist and plays a prominent role in his union the MEAA. Bob Carnegie

Opinion Piece from the *Courier Mail* Tuesday 13 September 2016

By Paul Syvret

THOSE IN THE Construction Forestry Mining and Energy Union can sometimes be seen sporting a particularly eye-catching shirt with a large, lethal-looking cobra on the back, along with the warning "If provoked will strike".

It is a uniquely apposite slogan for a union that has earned a reputation for militancy when it comes to a fight — no matter how powerful the forces aligned against it.

This quality was on display last week when CFMEU members, along with other trade unions, took to the streets of Brisbane to protest the unconscionable treatment of 55 workers employed by a contractor to Carlton & United Breweries, a subsidiary of \$125 billion multinational beverages giant SABMiller.

These contract workers were not on strike or taking industrial action, but simply instructed by management to turn up for a meeting the next day where they were sacked, while a scab workforce was bussed into CUB's Abbotsford brewery in Melbourne.

The workers were told they could reapply for work, but via another third party labour contractor, and at rates of just 50¢ above the minimum award — representing a pay cut of up to 65 per cent.

It was an act of corporate bastardry that has seen a picket line in place ever since, and thousands of beer drinkers (myself included) swearing off any CUB products until these workers are reinstated.

Last week's impromptu march through Brisbane ensured that the plight of the CUB 55 — and the wider threat such tactics pose to all Australian workers — received blanket media coverage and public attention. It was an act of solidarity — the guiding principle of collective action — in support of fellow Australians who are facing a long and bitter fight for workplace justice. This wasn't union thuggery, but rather a demonstration of the fact that in an era of record low wages growth, and with a

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government ideologically fixated with union-busting, the fight has everything to do with all workers, unionised or not.



It has everything to do with businesses hungry to reduce pay and unravel hard-fought conditions; to install more “flexible” agreements, to slash penalty rates, increase reliance on part-time and casual staff, and to back laws that make it increasingly hard for unions to organise in the workplace.

So cheers to the lads of the CFMEU, the ETU, the AMWU and others who had the ticker to take a stand on Thursday; I'd love to shout you a Coopers or a XXXX. Thank you for not lying doggo, hoping the next workplace to become more “flexible” is somebody else's, but instead, as assistant CFMEU state secretary Jade Ingham so colourfully put it, being committed enough to the defence of working conditions to “just like a f—ing blue”.

Thursday's show of unity was simply the exercise of free political expression; democracy in action.

And here it is telling that the right-wing commentariat — whose bugbear du jour (aside from unionists) is the allegedly grave threat that section 18C of the Racial Discrimination Act poses to free speech — are resolutely silent.

These champions of the right to unfettered offence and the right to be a bigot suddenly have very little positive to say when that right to free speech is being exercised at a protest rally, and the message is one they don't want to hear.

It is equally telling that the Don Quixotes of the 18C campaign were voiceless when the Federal Court ruled the Maritime Union of Australia had to pay \$215,000 penalties for calling strikebreakers in Fremantle “scabs”.

Surely such a penalty for just pointing out the treachery and untrustworthiness of people prepared to personally profit at the expense of other workers should have our free speech champions decrying nanny state political correctness gone mad?

Of course not, for hypocrisy is their stock in trade. In their world, groups of workers forming to give themselves a collective and united voice is bad, but groups of business interests doing exactly the same (the Minerals Council, Business Council, Property Council, Australian Bankers Association, the list goes on) is perfectly sensible and acceptable. In their world business does not have undue influence over the conservative side of politics, but the Labor Party is “captive” to the unions (tell that to BLF or the Federation of Air Pilots workers who faced off against Bob Hawke).

The conservative side of politics expresses outrage when the labour movement finds full, colourful voice on our city streets,

yet embraces a former prime minister who stood in front of “ditch the witch” and “Bob Brown's bitch” placards at an anti-carbon pricing protest.



I certainly don't agree with every tactic the likes of the ETU or CFMEU uses, and I wouldn't pretend the movement doesn't have some rotten apples.

But if I was caught in a workplace blue, I'd rather have a bloke like Michael Ravbar (CFMEU) or Peter Simpson (ETU) fighting in my corner than rely on the magnanimity and fair-mindedness of an employer who views labour as simply a cost that can be cut.

MUA Queensland Branch Office Changes



QUEENSLAND BRANCH MANAGER, Lyza Rooks will be leaving us on Friday, September 30 to embark upon her next adventure. Lyza is relocating with her husband, Peter to the UK to live and work in Taunton, establishing the Express Business

Group in the UK. We thank Lyza for her work and dedication over the last 31/2 years and wish Lyza and Peter the best of wishes with the move.

Lyza wishes to thank Queensland Branch members for their comradeship and wishes members well for the future.

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