



QUEENSLAND BRANCH NEWS

NEWSLETTER of the QLD Branch of the MARITIME UNION of AUSTRALIA

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To be truly radical is to make hope possible, rather than despair convincing - Raymond Williams

No. 78 - Tuesday 1 March, 2017

Vale Peter Rowlands - Spanish Government Declares War on the Wharfies of Spain IDC Response - Orgreave Miners - Blacklist Support Group - Black Lung Inquiry 9 March 2017 Rally for Protection of Workers Rights!

Vale Peter Rowland

IT CAME WITH great sadness that I heard of the passing of Peter Rowland, Life Member of the Seaman's Union, long term relieving Official and one of the most capable delegates in any industry anywhere.

Peter and my (now deceased) dad, were great mates in their younger days and each told stories of the huge amount of fun and laughter they got up to as young seafarers on the Australian coast in the late 1940's and 1950's. Some ships, in particular, sugar boats in North Queensland, spent six weeks alongside loading bagged sugar. Peter reckoned it was a full time job keeping Len (my dad) away from the SP bookmaker and out of the pub at times!

During the 1970's and 1980's Peter was the lead delegate at the Howard Smith Tugs in Brisbane.



Peter and his co-delegate, Ted Pellett and later along with a great group of Seaman's Union members turned the job fundamentally into workers control under capitalism. Peter's

contribution to our Union was simply enormous.

To Joan and all of Peter's family, our lives are much better one's because a man of Peter Rowland's character and principles passed through.

The funeral will be held at Mt Thompson Crematorium, 329 Nursery Road, Holland Park - East Chapel at 11.30am. Followed with the wake at the Glen Hotel, 24 Gaskell Street, Eight Mile Plains.

Fair winds and a following sea wherever you may be Peter.

Spanish Government Declares War on the Wharfies of Spain

FELLOW WORKERS

The Spanish Government is hellbent on attempting to destroy the most MILITANT and principled industry organised workers in Spain - the Spanish Dockers.

We must stand shoulder to shoulder with our Spanish

brothers and sisters. I urge all member to read this leaflet from the IDC and to fight for the dockers of Spain and when the Branch calls on you, to support our fellow comrades. WE DO IT AS ONE!

IDC Response to the Royal Decree to Reform the Spanish Port System

February 27 2017. Last Friday, the Spanish Minister of Public Works announced his plan to reform the Spanish port system. He will enact a decree issued by the Court of Justice of the Union European Union, a modification which will result the sacking of 6,500 dockworkers. The plan is to fire Spanish dockworkers at a rate of 25% of their full strength each year, which means an absolute extinction of their employment within three years.

Sacked dockworkers are to receive a severance packages of only 20 paid days per year worked.

"The Spanish Government threatens the growth of the Spanish economy and seeks to make the dockworker profession disappear from national ports," rules Jordi Aragunde, IDC General Coordinator.

The Spanish port workers' union Coordinadora Estatal de Trabajadores del Mar - CETM plans to hold industrial action in the ports of Spain for 12 hours during each of the following days: The days 6, 8, 10, 13, 15, 17, 20, 22, and 24 of March, 2017.

It remains for IDC to raise support to resist this modification of the Spanish Port System. Following the Emergency IDC ZCO Meeting in Algeciras, Spain on February 28, 2017, IDC decided to take the following actions:

1. A unified action of solidarity with Spanish Dockworkers as they strike on March 10, 2017. All European Ports are to suspend work from 12:00pm-3:00pm, and all other ports outside of Europe are to suspend action from 12:00pm - 1:00pm.
2. IDC will stage a walk out of the Sectoral Social Dialogue on Ports Meeting at the European Commission on March 1, 2017.

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

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3. IDC will meet with ITF to collaborate in a joint action in support of Spanish dockworkers.
4. IDC will work to ensure ports neighbouring Spain will not receive re-routed cargo turned away from Spain due to industrial actions [in Marseille, FOS, Lisbon (IDC); and Tanger (ITF)].
5. IDC will ask Lisbon to hold actions in Sines to avoid further conflicts.
6. At the end of March, if no changes have occurred, IDC will organize differential treatment/boycotts of strategic Spanish export cargo.
7. IDC encourages affiliated members to reach out to/hold demonstrations at embassies abroad.
8. IDC will continue to offer support to /Coordinadora/ and work to show Spanish dockworkers that they are not alone.
9. IDC will make the situation in Spanish Ports priority for all IDC Zone Coordinators, who will be responsible for coordinating actions in their respective regions.

IDC supports Spanish Dockworkers in their struggle to defend their professions and protect their families from looming insecurity.

WE WILL NEVER WALK ALONE AGAIN!

In solidarity,

Jordi Aragunde
IDC General Coordinator

Further International Work the Branch Supports Orgreave Miners and the Blacklist Support Group

Letters of solidarity have been sent in support of the Orgreave Miners and the Blacklist Support Group.



Lee Fowler and the incomparable Ricky Tomlinson



The Maritime Union Of Australia Queensland Branch

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28 February 2017

Dear Fellow Workers Lee and Rick,

On behalf of the 2000 dockers, seafarers, fisherman, divers and the Maritime workers I lead in the State of Queensland, Australia I wish Rick Tomlinson and all comrades the best for a great night and a successful venture in the pub at Chester.

Lee and Rick and other brave comrades, I know personally what it is like to be imprisoned for the 'crime' of honouring the sanctity of the picket line, and I also know the horrors of the blacklist. I lost 5 years of my life to a union and corporation inspired campaign of backlisting so I understand deeply what you good people have and are going through.

Forty five years ago, the Shewsbury Picketers stood against injustice and for a better life for construction workers and the price you comrades paid for principle cannot be measured.

All we can do as union men and women to honour your sacrifice, is to be the best, most honest, ethical and brave unionists we can be everyday of our life.

Rick and Lee and to all those having a beer or two tonight, don't ever think that all your battles and struggles have been in vain.

Please always remember the working class movement is an international one. The principles you good men and women have shown us, inspire us, in a small but militant union on the other side of this world.

I think that is something to be immensely proud of!
All power and justice to the Shewsbury Picketers!
All power and justice to the Blacklist Support Group!

In Solidarity,

Bob Carnegie
Branch Secretary

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27 February 2017

Dear fellow workers,

A dear comrade, Lee Fowler asked me to send a message of solidarity to your meeting of Orgreave Miners and the blacklist support group on the 13th March.

For me, as the Branch Secretary of the Queensland Branch of the MUA; my branch is with you with all the spirit of solidarity can muster.

For many of us on the left, the struggle of the British Miners in 1984-85 was a defining moment in our lives. To see the unmasked power of the state unleashed against Britain Miners was a lesson in the corrupt and brutal nature of the state.

It was also a lesson in courage, in the face of great adversity, the miners and their families and communities showed all union people around the world.

At that terrible day at Orgreave when striking miners were attacked for the "sin" of fighting for the right to work. It is forever etched in my mind out and as well as all who saw it unfold on the TV sets everywhere of the ruthless unprincipled, unlawful way the state operated.

For working class people, union men and women, to be openly attacked by police and soldiers (in civies) is a stain on all those associated with it.

To see the Orgreave Miners and the blacklist support group acting in unison will send terror through the ruling establishment of Britain and Murdoch Empire which has made an untold fortune, lying for the boss and attempting to destroy working class people.

Have a great day my dear comrades. The spirit of the miners and the tenacity of the blacklist support group inspires the dockers, seafarers and ferry people I proudly lead to be better union men and women every day.

We extend our hand in the most militant solidarity.

In Solidarity,

Bob Carnegie
Branch Secretary

MUA Gets Involved in Black Lung Parliamentary Inquiry

Assistant National Secretary, Ian Bray, reports that the MUA has recently become involved in providing evidence to Queensland Parliamentary Inquiry into the re-emergence of Coal Workers' Pneumoconiosis amongst Coal Workers. Coal Workers' Pneumoconiosis, commonly referred to as 'Black Lung Disease' is caused by the inhalation of coal dust. Coal dust builds up in the lungs of persons exposed to it without proper safe-guards, and is unable to escape. People suffering from this disease generally develop shortness of breath, a severe cough and feel pressure on their chest. Black lung disease can develop into progressive massive fibrosis, causing major damage to the lungs and heart. Workers have been found to cough up black sputum or blood, and suffer premature death as a result.

The Parliamentary Committee responsible for conducting the inquiry recently heard evidence that exposure to coal dust inhalation does not only effect mine workers, but that it has the potential to effect workers along the supply chain, from the coal pit to the port and on ships. Those in particular who are involved in the loading of coal and in the port vicinity, including port workers, towage workers and seafarers, may be at risk of inhaling coal dust, and developing black lung disease.

As a result, we have been invited to provide a written and verbal submission to the Parliamentary Inquiry and are in the process of doing so. We ask that anyone who has any information in relation to maritime workers who have contracted black lung disease, contact Comrade Bray as a matter of urgency. Further, we recommend that anyone who has been exposed to coal dust speak to their doctor and explain their exposure to coal dust prior to undergoing any testing. We are also in the midst of contacting employers to recommend mandatory testing be done on workers who are/have been exposed to coal dust in all QLD coal loading ports.

The National Office is working closely with the Qld Branch to ensure the health and safety of our members that work with or in the proximity of coal is not excluded from any regulatory or legislative outcome as a result of this inquiry.

All members not on shift or on leave, please attend this Rally for the protection of working people's rights and conditions!

ENOUGH IS ENOUGH

STOP THE ATTACK ON WORKERS!

National Rally, March 9

Details below for rallies in Brisbane and the Gold Coast

Australian workers are under attack

Malcolm Turnbull has:

- ✗ Brought back the ABCC to cut wages, conditions and safety for workers
- ✗ Slashed Sunday & Public Holiday penalty rates for workers
- ✗ Casualised work & smashed job security
- ✗ Allowed rampant wage theft by bad employers

Enough is Enough.
When Australian workers are under attack, it's time to Stand Up and Fight Back

MASS RALLY THURSDAY 9 MARCH

10AM, KORMAN FAMILY PARK, 78 THOMAS DR. CHEVRON ISLAND



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MASS RALLY THURSDAY 9 MARCH

10AM, EMMA MILLER PLACE BRISBANE



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