



Thursday 9 July, 2015

Welcome to the new MUA Queensland Branch News

Alexander Spirit

The Alexander Spirit, a 40,000 dwt Australian-crewed product tanker has been in dispute in Devonport over the vessels charterer, Caltex Australia, cancelling its commitment to employ Australian seafarers to carry Australian cargoes on the Australian coast. The Queensland Branch totally supports all action taken by the crew of the Alexander Spirit and has sent two rank and file members to Devonport in support. The branch also supports the initiative of members at Smit Lamnalco in Brisbane in sending one of its members to the protest line in Devonport.

DP World EBA negotiations

Part A negotiations took place last week over four long days in Sydney last week. After 18 long and difficult months this document is getting close to finally being put together in an acceptable form for members to consider. Members have shown remarkable patience in these long, drawn out talks.

Hutchison Terminals

Members at Hutchison terminals in Sydney and Brisbane were shocked by the company informing them by letter and press release that the company are downsizing their business model, thus affecting the future employment prospects of our working membership. The Queensland, Sydney and national offices have sought urgent discussions with the company and will be meeting them late on Friday after National Council concludes on 10 July 2015. A report back to members will occur on Monday at the Brisbane terminal.

OXI! The Greek People Vote 'No' to More Austerity.

Over the weekend the Greek people voted by a huge majority to support Syriza and to put an end to the horrific economic assault that has been placed on the Greek working class by the so called troika. The economics and politics of austerity is one of making working people pay for the economic sins of the rich and privileged. I am heartened by this outcome!

Queensland Branch Leadership

On behalf of the recently elected Queensland branch officials, I appreciate the trust members have shown in electing us. The contact details for myself, Jason and Paul are below. As the Branch Secretary I will be heading a course that will see us build on our proud foundations and approach the future with confidence and enhanced democratic participation. That way we can find answers to the many problems that confront us.

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