



Thursday July 16, 2015

Welcome to the new MUA Queensland Branch News No.2

Hutchison Terminals

At the end of national council last week we held a meeting in Sydney on Friday 10 July with Hutchison's management (and their hired guns, some Sydney corporate lawyers) and an MUA team consisting of Sydney and Queensland branch officials and rank-and-file representatives. Warren Smith, Assistant National Secretary, is the national official handling the matter.

The meeting was worrisome as it was largely defensive and useless. Hutchison's claim is that they want to 'contract their market share' to stem their alleged corporate losses. Their proposed answer is to savagely and unilaterally cut the workforce, with the minimum involvement of the members and their union in this process.

All MUA members and officials present at this meeting condemned Hutchison for taking this ultra-aggressive right-wing style of industrial relations. Because the meeting produced little else but a show of force from the lawyers, Hutchison delegates co-ordinated with Qld Branch Secretary, Bob Carnegie, and gave a full report back to members of the current situation at an urgent meeting held in the union rooms at Cannon Hill on Sunday 14 July at 11am.

There was a very strong show up of all available off-shift members. All members present are to be praised for their steadfastness and maturity at this difficult time. Good work for arranging the urgent meeting on Sunday!

Dark clouds are appearing in the stevedoring industry; however our union has weathered these times before and will again. The Queensland and Sydney branches as well as the national leadership will be giving

Hutchison no quarter. The once 'white knight' of the stevedoring industry has shown its true colours – that of a ruthless transnational container terminal operator.

Alexander Spirit

At the time of writing, the Alexander Spirit is still alongside in Devonport. This battle is being fought so that there is a future for blue water Australian seafarers. There is a song by the Dubliners in which a cooper laments his lost trade in these few lines –

*My name it is Sean Dempsey, as Dublin as can be
Born hard and late in Pimlico, in a house that ceased
to be.*

*By trade I was a cooper, lost out to redundancy.
Like my house that fell to progress, my trade's a
memory.*

The Alexander Spirit battle is all about Australian seafarers not becoming just a distant memory. Currently the branch has long-time union activist and legendary delegate Glenn Frew in attendance on the protest line.

Vale Justin Crawford

Member Justin Crawford had a heart attack on board ship and has sadly passed away. The Qld branch offers deepest sympathy to Justin's wife and family.

Delegates Training

Members who wish to attend Delegate 2 training on 3-4 August are urged to register with the Qld branch immediately. It's your union people, so involve yourself in it!

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

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