

## **FIGHTING FOR LOCAL JOBS**



## **GRIGGS HAS GOT TO GO!!**

**ISSUE # 15**

**LOCAL NT BRANCH NEWS**

# **WHARVES AND WAVES**

## **MUA NT BRANCH PROTEST AGAINST THE LOSS OF AUSSIE JOBS!!**



## **BOYCOTT BP!!**

**JULY 2015**

# BRANCH SECRETARY REPORT



**When INPEX came to town most Territorians were aware that with the highs of big projects comes the low when the work slows down and dries up. It is the nature of the beast.**

With the project not quite at its peak, workers on the project and in general in Darwin have experienced the shock of an early low. Just before Christmas INPEX and its contractor's laid off hundreds of workers. At the same time the major part of the inshore maritime work reached completion seeing many Broadsword and Bhagwan members out of work. Most were casually employed.

Darwin in general will be hit hard when INPEX is complete. Therefore our elected representatives in

Government need to have the foresight and willpower to have a jobs plan that mitigates the impact.

In a country with growing unemployment, with our manufacturing shutting shop and moving overseas, with very few major projects on the horizon; the Liberal National and CLP Governments are not moving to create work as they purport, but they are seeking to legislate to weaken the protections that ensure that Australians have access to decent jobs. The LNP and CLP policies instead strengthen the ability for their big business political donors to import exploitable workers on far less than Australian standards of pay and conditions. Their developing the North Policy is not about creating employment for Australians, but it is about deregulating the labour market so that companies can import cheap labour. The MUA is aware that Giles and his Ministers have been to Timor Leste, Indonesia, and Greece (at a cost of over \$80,000 to the tax payer) to promote the importation of labour. The LNP does this while they cut social services to Australians in need.

The union movement as much as ever must organise in the community to fight back. We need to demand from Territorian politicians that they genuinely represent our interests. It is timely that MUA Member and former Branch Committee member Chrissy Von Wootten has won a job with the ACTU in Darwin as a campaign organiser targeting the Federal seat of Solomon. The NT Branch Executive and Committee congratulate her and we are confident that she will do a good job.

**MUA HERE TO STAY COMRADES! LETS BE READY TO FIGHT AND LET'S ORGANISE TO WIN!**

IN UNITY,

# REPRESENT OR SHOVE OFF!

***The Northern Territory Branch of the MUA has taken the fight up and hit the streets. We have put the LNP Member for Darwin electorate Solomon on notice: While she is complicit in the loss of Territorians jobs in the offshore, her job is our target...***

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The NT Branch Secretary Thomas Mayor wrote to Natasha Griggs on 18 March requesting a meeting between a delegation of Territorian MUA Seafarers and her to discuss her Liberal National Governments attacks on Australians rights to work in the shipping industry. The Abbott Government announced this year that they will be legislating to decimate around 2000 direct jobs and 8000 indirect jobs in addition to the attacks on Offshore sector jobs that have been fought out in the High Court. The intent of the Legislation is to remove Cabotage, which is part of the current Navigation Act that promotes Australian Ships and Crews for Australian Domestic Cargo. With the removal of Cabotage, our coasts will be opened to foreign flagged and manned ships, not for the good of Australians, but for the gaining of further profit for the LNP political donors. In fact the policy that Natasha Griggs supports serves no patriotic ends. Not for the economy, not for the environment, and especially not for the National Security of an island nation.

When Natasha Griggs did not respond after 2 weeks, dozens of NT Branch members occupied her office following the March Monthly Meeting to impress on her the importance that this holds to workers in her electorate and to Australians in general. Members also rallied at the BP station nearby. BP have been emboldened by the LNP moves to deregulate shipping, sacking the Australian crew of the marine tanker British Loyalty and replacing them with a cheap foreign crew.

Following the protest Natasha Griggs finally bothered to send an email back to the MUA making a commitment to speak to the Assistant Minister for Immigration Michaela Cash and respond. There was ***never*** a response...

Thomas then sent an email to Natasha with hundreds of Territorians in blind copy spelling out our disappointment and informing her that the matter would be the main topic at the June monthly meeting. Almost two weeks passed with still no contact from the Member for Solomon. Needless to say, the MUA Monthly meeting decided to pay her office a visit to make sure it is clear: The seafarers and their comrades of the Northern Territory will not accept silence from their representative in parliament while she votes with her LNP sell outs to take our jobs away to be replaced by exploited foreign labour. That message was loud and clear at her office following the June monthly meeting when the MUA staged a protest rally.

Instead of responding to the issue we were highlighting, Natasha Griggs took to the radio and social media claiming that union thugs had yelled and sworn at her staff; Ignoring the plight of the seafarers again, and instead choosing to denounce these honest working people as thugs. Many on social media called her out for her ignorance and lies. The discussion with her staff was recorded exposing her dishonesty and deceit.



## REPRESENT OR SHOVE OFF! continued....

Unlike LNP Member for Solomon Natasha Griggs, the MUA has had the ear of the person who will be opposing her at the next election, Luke Gosling of the ALP. Luke is a friend of the MUA membership who has enjoyed our members support at his last attempt to win the seat of Solomon in 2012. He barely lost in a fight that at that time was against the odds.

The MUA NT Branch Secretary met with Luke to discuss his position on the protection of Australian shipping and offshore oil and gas jobs for Australian workers. The importance to the environment was discussed, and in particular the potential implications to Australia's national security if there are no Australian ships and no skilled Australian seafarers. Luke assured that his position aligned with the MUA's.

Two protests are just the beginning. The MUA NT Branch will invest in this fight to protect seafaring members jobs. The push to see Natasha Griggs the pretend member for Solomon unelected will be ramped up. The MUA will fight to see a new member for Solomon who will stand up for Aussie jobs, not smirk behind Abbott's back while he sells off our country.

**IF GRIGGS WON'T SUPPORT WORKERS IN HER ELECTORATE  
SHE HAS GOT TO GO!!**

**MUA HERE TO STAY!!**



**Maritime Super**  
OUR FUTURE

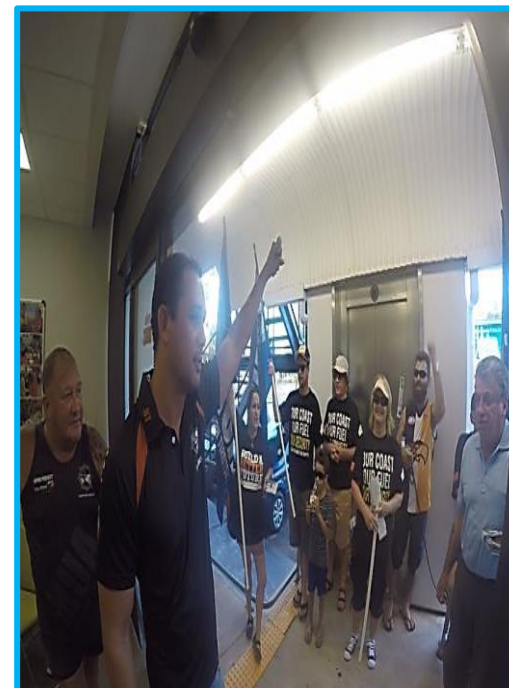
You can contact Maritime  
Super at  
[info@maritimesuper.com.au](mailto:info@maritimesuper.com.au)  
or by calling Member  
Services staff on  
1800 757 607



**Giles, Abbott, Griggs: Attack Aussie Jobs, we  
will STAND UP and FIGHT BACK!!**



**NT Branch Secretary Thomas Mayor and  
Comrade Wayne Kurnorth with Luke Gosling  
– Future member for Solomon!**



# **FAIR WORK IN DARWIN TO JUDGE: INPEX WHARF WORK IS STILL WHARF WORK!**

Fair Work has been to Darwin to hear the case of MUA vs JKC regarding Right of Entry to the Module Offloading Facility at INPEX. The three day hearing was from 30 June 2015 and included the Fair Work Commissioner Cloghan inspecting the workplace himself with the disputing parties.

JKC, INPEX's head contractor, is blatantly anti-union doing anything and everything to keep the MUA off the wharves at INPEX. They have tried intimidating the members, and now that we are entering the site with the Commissioner, they have written to Branch Secretary Thomas Mayor saying that they will not allow any union propaganda on his helmet when he enters the site. Talk about paranoid... They have even go so far as to engage a legal team that is believed to be costing JKC over \$14,000 dollars per day! The three day hearing alone may have cost JKC over \$60,000!!

The MUA believes that we have a very strong case. JKC and INPEX have been successful at stalling us, dragging this matter out for around 12 months now; but they will not keep the MUA out for much longer.

## **NEXT MUA UNION AWARENESS COURSE**

**14, 15, 16 September 2015**

**CALL THE BRANCH TO BOOK  
YOUR PLACE!**



NT BRANCH NEWS – JULY 2015



**JOIN THE CREDIT UNION  
THAT SUPPORTS  
MARITIME WORKERS**

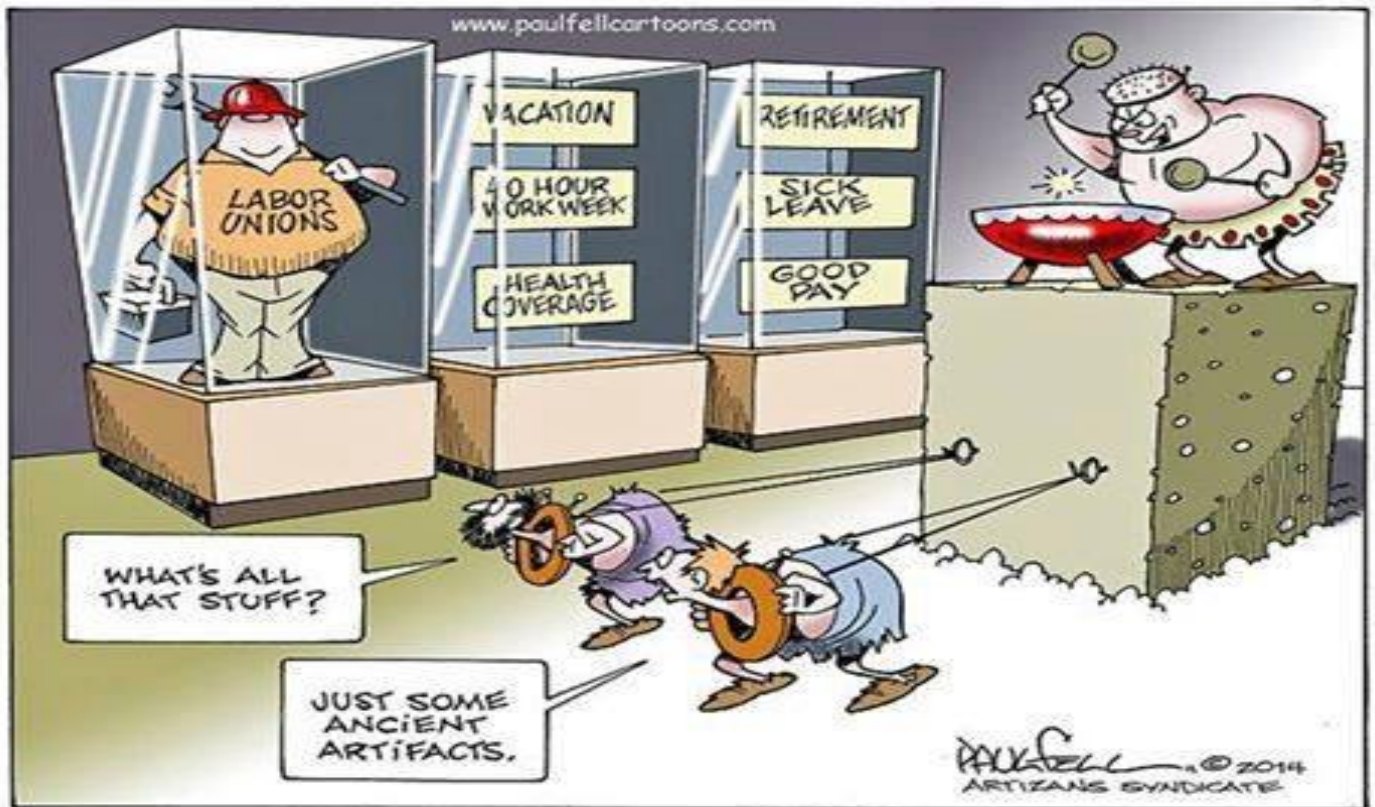
**CONTACT LUKE MILLER**

**0417 016 457**

**[lmiller@mmpcu.com.au](mailto:lmiller@mmpcu.com.au)**

**TO BOOK AN APOINTMENT**





## ASPIRING LEADERS FROM THE NT

### KYLE KICKS GOALS IN THE PILBARA

How about young Kyle McGinn? Kyle was our former NT Branch Youth Representative, Branch Committee Member, and one time NT Branch Relieving Official. By all reports Kyle is doing a great job organising for the MUA in the Pilbara.

**Congratulations Comrade, keep up the good work in Western Australia!!**



### HARD WORKING CHRISSY TARGETS SOLOMON

Hard working Chrissy Von Wootten was an NT Branch Women's and Youth Representative, Branch Committee Member, and Relieving Official who through hard work and dedication has quickly progressed a career in the union movement to now being the ACTU Targeted Seat Coordinator. **Congratulations Chrissy, you will continue to have the MUA's full support in your work to KICK GRIGGS OUT!!**



### COMRADE WAYNE MAKES A HUGE CAREER MOVE

The Branch must be doing something right, as we also congratulate MUA Welder Wayne Kurnorth who has taken up a job with the Community and Public Sector Union (CPSU). Wayne spent around 6 weeks as NT Branch Relieving Official this year helping him to decide that he wanted to work in the union movement full time. The MUA will continue to support Wayne and we wish him all the best.





# THE LOST ARC

## THE LOST ARC HAS BEEN FOUND!

After months, even years, of searching the high seas for a place to call home, the Maritime Union of Australia scanned the horizons and saw a glimmer in the distance. Hearts racing, they set sail and discovered The Lost Arc. From that moment on, they knew their lives would never be the same again.

### OPEN

**11am until Late**  
**MONDAY - SATURDAY**

**7am until Late**  
**SUNDAY**

Not only does The Lost Arc serve an array of your favourite beers chilled to perfection, we also offer a delicious lunch and dinner menu.

The mastermind behind our menu is fellow MUA member, Serge!

**THE LOST ARC • MARITIME UNION OF AUSTRALIA**

# COMMUNITY BARGE COLLUSIONS

**Perkins Shipping, a company that operated out of Darwin for decades including after Toll Group took over are pulling out of the community barge sector of the industry. Or at least that is what it seems.....**

When Seaswift came to the Northern Territory to take Toll Marine on in this sector, most people predicted that only one could survive and that the competition between them could not last long. And, pending on an ACCC decision, those who made that prediction are soon to be proven correct. Though who came out on top?

The ACCC is still considering the agreement between Toll and Seaswift that will see Toll Marine withdraw completely from the community shipping sector, selling key assets to Seaswift, though remaining to focus on the resource sector. Toll have confirmed to the unions that for an agreed amount of years, Toll will not compete on a community sector shipping line.

All of Toll Marine's seafarers and dock workers will be made redundant. Toll is reported to have told their employees that should the ACCC not approve the sale, then they are withdrawing anyway. The workers will still lose their jobs. The MUA believes that the negotiation of sale between Toll and Seaswift has been devoid of a genuine attempt to avoid redundancies. Toll Marine (Perkins), a company that was built by the dumped workers over decades has taken the money and run without a thought for those workers futures. But have they really run?

From an uninformed view, it is easy to presume that Seaswift have come out on top. Seaswift managers have used this to scare their workers out of pushing for the same terms and conditions as what the Toll workers enjoyed. They have told the Seaswift crews that decent union conditions and pay led to their demise and that to claim decent wages and conditions would put their jobs in jeopardy. What a crock of shit.

The Toll union EA was not over the top, especially with the cost of living in northern Australia. The Toll EA is far from oil and gas conditions and bargaining has always considered that the shipping line serviced the most remote and disadvantaged communities in Australia.

More informed stakeholders in the industry see the Toll/Seaswift deal as workers and the remote communities that rely on this shipping line as being sold out and deceived.

Should the deal go through, Toll Marine will get a 20% share of the community sector that is basically being monopolised to Seaswift. Toll gets a multimillion dollar income through the sale of the assets. The union EA is dumped for an inferior Seaswift EA. Basically Toll sells out its workers, removes competition, gets 20% of the takings, and offloads assets to boot.

So who has really come out on top in this deal? Not the workers, the wages and conditions have gone backwards. Their decent and fair EA that was developed by united workers over decades; sold out with this deal. Not the remote communities. They enjoyed a period of increased competition in shipping, reducing freight costs and increasing services; sold out with this deal. Certainly not the people of Darwin either. Toll sold out the jobs of many Darwin workers for a sweet deal with barely a thought for the communities that built the business that they ruined.

The workers and the communities will lose out in this deal. The best way to regain lost ground from this dodgy deal is to unionise at Seaswift and other small barge companies. Win a common, decent set of terms and conditions. And lift the standards of employment and safety together against these smug managers and shareholders who care little about our industry.



# **WOMEN AND YOUTH A SOLID SUCCESSION**

The Branch Committee thanks Erica Seipel for her service to the Union Movement and the MUA. Erica was the women's representative for over a decade; a passionate unionist who never took a backward step in her workplace. Erica has now retired, made redundant from the Darwin Port Corporation where she worked for decades. She has been a proud member of the MUA for 23 years.

Branch Secretary Thomas Mayor has known Erica since he was a kid playing Ruby with her son. Erica was one of Thomas' first comrades at work when he started at the Darwin Port Authority at 17 yrs of age. Reflecting on working with Erica Thomas said "For as long as I can remember, Erica has been a member who has commanded respect in her workplace. She worked hard and took no nonsense from bosses. Erica would not stand for unjust treatment of fellow workers."

We wish Erica all the best in her future.

Erica's successor, Sue Gibb has been elected as the new Women's Representative. Sue has been at almost all of the Branch women's meetings. Branch Secretary Thomas Mayor congratulated Sue and said "Sue is a very strong woman. She is the delegate at DMS and has been a great MUA member, always reliable to help out, always acting in solidarity with members from all parts of the industry." "Under Sue's guidance and strong representation, I am confident that the NT Women's movement will continue the great work of her successors Erica Seipel and Chrissy Von Wootten".

The Branch Committee also congratulates young seafarer Andrew Sutton who has taken on the role of NT Branch Youth Representative.

The NT Branch Secretary said of Andrew "every comrade that I meet who has sailed with Andy speaks very highly of the young lad. He learns quickly and he works hard."

Andrew is a TIR who has almost completed his sea time. Andrew is also from Larrakia and Noongah descent, a proud indigenous man. A member with much promise in a career at sea and in the union movement.

Andy replaces Josh Farey who has moved to Melbourne. Josh was an active member whenever he was at home in Darwin and he will be missed by the Branch though it is a gain for our comrades in Victoria.

The NT Branch wishes Josh all the best.



**MUA WOMEN OF THE NT**

**MEETING AND DRINKS**

**17/07/15**

**Stokes Hill Wharf from 1800hrs**

# NT BRANCH CONFERENCE

**THURSDAY 17 and FRIDAY 18 September 2015**

***“STENGTH IN DIVERSITY, STRONG IN UNITY”***

The NT Branch is holding our Quadrennial Conference a year early to align the conferences to be before the MUA National Conference in 2016.

This is the Branch Rank and File’s opportunity to debate and affect the policy and direction of the union for the next 4 years. It is our time to review the past four years and to strategise for the next with comrades from all parts of the maritime industry; locally, nationally, and internationally.

## **NT BRANCH QUADRENNIAL DINNER**

**BOGARTS PARAP**

**FRIDAY 18 SEPTEMBER FROM 7PM Until Midnight**

**100 Seats Only - \$150 per ticket**

**Darwin Formal Dress, Beers Wine and Spirits**

**RSVP NOW!**





# MUA WIN IN BING BONG

Our comrades in Bing Bong on the vessel “Aburri” had a win earlier in the year getting a good result in bargaining a new Enterprise Agreement. The first ever union Agreement, the EA replaces a Work Choices era EA with scant conditions and ambiguous wording.

It was not won without a struggle. Despite the officers and engineers breaking away from what started as a single bargaining unit to do their own Agreement, the MUA members hip stayed strong and held out for a better deal. The Agreement includes cabin share and compensation for hard lay issues and introduces union quality clauses. It also delivered indigenous traineeships for the local traditional owners.

Another issue that the members faced in the bargaining for this Agreement was that the Company and AIMPE (who both claim it was the others idea) included the Tradesmen who are MUA coverage in the AIMPE AMOU Agreement. The matter was dealt with in the Fair Work Commission to ensure these workers had the correct representation.

The Branch Committee congratulates the members at Bing Bong for being solid in their first union bargaining experience. We further give special thanks to Shane Jones who did a great job as lead delegate and continues to unselfishly take up the issues for the Aburri membership.

## BING BONG DELO AT THE ALP



The MUA Delegate on the Aburri at Bing Bong, Borrooloola resident Shane Jones, made an inspiring speech at the ALP Conference that helped convince the ALP that the Maritime industry should be supported to start a Maritime Sub Branch.

Jonesy and Chrissy sacrificed their weekend in our campaign for political clout to get better outcomes for maritime workers in the NT. **GREAT WORK JONESY!!**

**UNITIED  
WE WIN,  
DIVIDED  
WE  
LOSE!!**

**“A State divided into a small number of rich and a large number of poor will always develop a government manipulated by the rich to protect the amenities represented by their property.”**

**Harold Laski - British political theorist (1893-1950)**



# CONGRATULATIONS JASON MURPHY DELEGATE OF THE YEAR!

Patrick's Delegate and Branch Committee member Jason Murphy was awarded the delegate of the year award at the May Day dinner. Affectionately known as the “Dwarfie” or “Stumpy”, Jason has been instrumental in organising the Patrick's workforce.

With NT Branch Secretary Thomas Mayor, Jason led his Patrick comrades in the last enterprise bargaining to an outcome that saw 10 new permanent jobs created. More than 100% more permanent jobs. He has also mentored and expanded the amount of delegates on the job and through his perseverance, has ensured that every job nominates a job delegate.

Thomas said of Jason: “He is a natural leader, a strategic thinker, and he has a social conscience. The work he has done at Patrick and on the committee deserved award; he has changed many of his comrade’s lives for the better with great courage and determination.”

**Congratulations Jason on being recognised by the entire NT Union Movement and your MUA**



# AGE OF ENTITLEMENT LIVES ON

***State governments are providing billions of dollars in subsidies to the minerals and fossil fuel industries, a new report by The Australia Institute (TAI) has revealed.***

The report exposes the massive scale of state government assistance, totalling \$17.6 billion over a six-year period, not including significant Federal government support and subsidies.

The report by Dr Richard Denniss, Executive Director of The Australia Institute reveals that almost \$18 billion dollars has been spent over the past 6 years by State governments, supporting some of Australia's biggest, most profitable industries, which are sending most of the profits offshore.

State governments are usually associated with the provision of essential services like health and education so it will shock taxpayers to learn of the massive scale of government handouts to the minerals and fossil fuel industries. Especially while Government cuts services to communities, attacks the health care system and pensions. Rich foreign companies are effectively having profits inflated by the tax payer while the average Australian is told by the Abbott Government that their meagre living must be cut back for the greater good. Our ignorant treasurer Joe Hockey says to just "get a good job"...

The report also shows that Australian taxpayers have been misled about the costs and benefits of the mining industry, which shows the grossly disproportionate balance of jobs, tax received, and subsidies provided compared to other industries that are being destroyed such as Australian shipping and manufacturing.

"Each state provides millions of dollars' worth of assistance to the mining industry every year, with the big mining states of Queensland and Western Australia routinely spending over one billion dollars in assistance annually. Our own Northern Territory paid \$407 million in support for mining companies that mostly employ FIFO workers from interstate. FIFO workers who spend their money outside of the Northern Territory.

Supporters of Australia's mineral and fossil fuel industries argue that they provide value in royalties, jobs and economic prosperity but the TAI research exposes these claims as fundamentally flawed. It demonstrates that States repay much of what they receive in royalties back to these industries in the form of assistance and funding, particularly in the big mining states of Queensland and Western Australia.

In 2013-14 Queensland plans to spend \$1.5 billion on industry assistance, which is almost 60 per cent of what it will receive in royalties. The argument that these projects benefit Australia is flawed. The Reserve Bank of Australia has said much of the benefits and profits of mining expansion are going offshore, with estimates suggesting foreign interests effectively own four fifths of Australian mining operations.

This report lays bare the massive extent to which big miners are being subsidised by the Australian taxpayer while the profits from the exploitation of Australian minerals is largely being shipped offshore," Dr Denniss said.

**The report is available online: [www.tai.org.au](http://www.tai.org.au)**

# NT BRANCH PICNIC DAY

**MONDAY 3 AUGUST**  
**9am to 12pm**

**Jingili Water Gardens**

**Free Breakfast/Brunch, Good Coffee,  
Waterslide, Face Painting, and  
Entertainment for the kids**

**FOR ALL MUA MEMBERS AND THEIR  
FAMILY!!**



# COMMUNITY SOLIDARITY ACTION

As if Tony Abbott will not be satisfied until he has smashed every part of the community other than their rich puppeteers, the so called Minister of Indigenous Peoples along with his state and Territory counterparts such as Colin Barnett in Western Australia are moving to close down Aboriginal communities that they have occupied for thousands of years. The world's oldest continuing culture, that has survived colonisation, is being labeled as a people who have made a bad "lifestyle choice".

The NT Branch Monthly meetings of members and the Branch Committee have resolved to support indigenous members and their communities in their struggle against the ignorant political leadership of this country.

Staunch Rank and File and committed Branch Committee Member Wayne Kurnorth, who is now an Organiser at the CPSU, has done a huge amount of work and played a key leadership role in organising the fightback in the Northern Territory. Wayne is a Larrakia man, and he has been supported by activists from a wide range of sections of the community, of all races.

At the first action that Comrade Wayne helped to organise, around 500 people rallied and marched through the city streets of Darwin. A great turnout for Darwin, and probably the biggest united indigenous protest since the Larrakia blockaded and marched up Bagot Road for land rights in the early 1970's.

The next action was on Friday 26 June where over 100 members of the community delivered letters to Parliament. Our wharves are built on Aboriginal land; our ships frequent Aboriginal waters; many of our members in the Northern Territory are Aboriginal and Torres Strait people. MUA Members, let's march with our indigenous brothers and sisters in solidarity with a mob who share our enemy: An elitist ignorant Abbott LNP Government!!



**TOUCH  
ONE**

**TOUCH  
ALL!!**