

MUA DEFEATS LNP GOVERNMENT RE FOREIGN MARITIME WORKER EXPLOITATION...

ISSUE # 17

LOCAL NT BRANCH NEWS



...IN THE HIGHEST COURT OF THE LAND!!

WHARVES AND WAVES

GRASS ROOTS DOCO...



Save Our Shipping

DECEMBER 2016

...FOR OUR AUSSIE SEAFARERS!

BRANCH SECRETARY REPORT



It has been a massive year for our union. We have seen our merchant fleet further decimated by underhanded tactics from a traitorous Turnbull Liberal Government.

We have fought this treachery all the way to the highest court in the land and won. We have seen the demise of Natasha Griggs who as a Territory Federal Politician supported the attack on seafarer's jobs. And due to the hard work and dedication of the MUA members who consistently, almost fortnightly took action against Natasha Griggs from April 2015, we can say that we, the MUA, had a massive part in removing her.

We have also played a role in almost completely destroying the CLP; supporting the Labor candidates to a

landslide victory. NT workers should not forget that the CLP made workers compensation here the worst in the country. They sold our port and TIO. They did nothing for workers and they were a national disgrace. The change we have achieved both in Solomon and in the NT now must deliver for the membership and the community.

This year has also seen a crippling downturn in work. On the wharves we have seen redundancies that would have seen more job losses then occurred if it was not for the QUBE memberships unity in the face of adversity, refusing to be bullied in to accepting an attempt at complete casualisation by QUBE.

The end of the year approaches with two major challenges; that of our seafarers who continue the fight for our bluewater industry and local content on Darwin based oil and gas vessels; and the encroachment in to traditional stevedoring areas by QUBE "Energy" (claimed to be different from QUBE "Ports").

These issues will have the full attention of the union and our allies. The likes of Mermaid Marine who have made a commitment to local employment must deliver on their INPEX job and we must secure our rightful work on the wharves. A tough year has not been without its victories. With a strong active membership we can only build on our successes.

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

IN UNITY,

NT Branch Secretary Thomas Mayor

EX LIBERAL ROBB'S DARWIN, BUT SECURES TOP JOB

***The CLP Sold Our Port Under Malcolm Turnbull's and Andrew Robb's Watch
What Did The LNP Know That They Won't Tell Us?***

The MUA Northern Territory has written to Member for Solomon Luke Gosling seeking his support in digging in to the dodgy deal that was the Darwin port sale.

The Darwin port is a major port in Northern Australia. The closest major port to Asia with strategic defensive and trading value that cannot be undervalued, unless you are a Liberal Government...

It is suspected that of the \$506 million 99 year lease, the former CLP NT Government only received around \$300 million. The former Giles Government is said to have paid over \$20 million to Flag Staff consultants and over \$116 million for facility refurbishment before the lease was handed over.

To add to the public betrayal, it is worth considering that this deal was done under the watch of Malcolm Turnbull and his Liberal National mates. One mate, Andrew Robb, who has since retired from politics, has almost walked straight from Turnbull's Cabinet and into a top job with the company who won the lease.... The public should wonder: is Malcolm Turnbull asleep at the wheel or is he just letting big business take the wheel.

The big question is: How much did the Malcolm Turnbull Government really know about this deal? What oversight was there from the Ministers responsible for Australia's strategic defensive assets? And was there a sweetener from the Federal Government to make this deal even worse for our countries interests? These questions should not go unanswered. And momentum is building to try to find out.



Above: Andrew Robb, the then Liberal Trade Minister talking up viable markets in the north opening up....turns out he was likely talking about selling out the port so he could open the Andrew Robb flashy job market...

LANDBRIDGE AND MUA MOU

When the CLP leased out our port the workers job security was put at risk. The nature of privatisation is that at some point in the search for greater profit, services will be diminished and jobs will be slashed by terminations, introduction of cheap and exploited contractor workers, or by cutting conditions and increasing workloads by de-unionising and attacking work Enterprise Agreements.

The MUA successfully secured an MOU with Landbridge that provides commitment to job security until 2018. If this had not been achieved with the down turn in work port workers may well have been laid off by now. Privatisation for such important public assets is never in the national interest. The port delivers key services. With the expiry of the Agreements fast approaching, the Port Workers need to solidify their unionism in 2017, or, in a time when good jobs are scarce, good jobs will be lost along with the great conditions the union won over many years...

Congratulations Chrissy

Campaigner Extraordinaire, Now Permanent with ACTU

MUA Member Chrissy Von Wootten who left the industry in 2015 to work for the CPSU before quickly being grabbed by the ACTU is going from strength to strength. She led the union campaign against the Liberal Governments, building an army of volunteers, and generally driving the CLP almost to extinction.

Under the great mentorship of Sally McManus of the ACTU, the rough nut seafarer who started as a barmaid at the old Stella's, has developed in to a seasoned union campaigner.

For a job well done received recognition recently when Chrissy was appointed by the ACTU as full time in Darwin to continue her good work beyond the elections and in to the future.

Congratulations Chrissy, keep up the good work!!



You can contact Maritime Super at
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**JOIN THE CREDIT UNION
THAT SUPPORTS
MARITIME WORKERS**

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WORKER UNITY DEFEATS QUBE ATTACK ON JOBS

Darwin wharfies at QUBE Ports have overcome an attack on their job security and conditions and held the line for a great National enterprise bargaining outcome. The company chose Darwin workers to use as a wedge against the national approach that has traditionally been taken to bargaining with the stevedore.

Over a number of months earlier this year, QUBE used the threat of redundancies to push workers to accept an enterprise agreement that undermined their conditions. The hardly veiled threat came on heavy from management, either accept this deal, or you are all redundant or casual.

The QUBE workers fought these threats at the Fair Work Commission, winning every step of the way. The pressure was on, but the workers stuck together, unanimously voting down inferior offers despite the threats.

Now, having fought off the attacks, the QUBE workers have unanimously voted up a new enterprise agreement that delivers decent wage increases and vast improvements including income protection provisions and an economic upturn/downturn clause that should see permanent jobs increase in line with the up turns, and a process that protects them in the down turns.

Backing the union and standing strong together has paid off for QUBE workers. Thanks must go to the officials who led the negotiations on a national basis; Comrades Warren Smith, Garry Keane, Adrian Evans and Bob Carnegie did an amazing job, without their commitment and vigilance the result may have been different.



SOS

Save Our Shipping

Congratulations to NT Branch Committee member Rowan Hayward! Rowan has raised more than \$25,000, mostly from individual MUA members and ships rolling funds towards making a documentary that informs about the proud history of Australia's Merchant Ships and Aussie crews while looking at a present where Government has allowed our seagoing capacity to be decimated. The inspiring initiative of this Darwin seafarer is all about raising the awareness of the Australian public as to the importance of Australia's capacity to carry our own sea cargoes as an island nation.

While the start up financial goal has been reached, any more money that can be raised will go towards the film. More donations will help ensure a better quality outcome. If you understand that the fight for the revitalisation of Australia's shipping capacity, please donate. Google **SOS Save Our Shipping** to find the Kickstarter page to donate or go to the FB page for more info <https://www.facebook.com/groups/SOSsaveourshipping>





**WELL DONE IN 2016
UNITED IN STRUGGLE FOR 2017!**

