



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. 143 - 10 August 2018

Peter Frawley Shared Path - Qube Labour Review - Gladstone Weipa Run - Vale Bobby Breen Paul Syvret: Cry, My Beloved and Sadly Divided Country - Shipping and Commodities Book Review - Cartoon Corner

Peter Frawley Shared Path

ON TUESDAY 7 August 2018 the Peter Frawley Shared Pathway at the Port of Brisbane was officially opened by Transport Minister Mark Bailey. As your Branch Secretary I'm proud this initiative was started firstly by a rank and filer, Barry Payne and then by the Branch lobbying and getting all parties on board.



The Port of Brisbane Corporation and DP World must also be thanked for their great support. It was terrific to meet the Frawley family and also to have retired Branch Official, Jeff Langdon there who worked on the wharf with Peter. I'll let the pictures do the rest of the talking.

Success at Qube Labour Review *by Bob Carnegie*

AT THE LABOUR Review held at Qube Brisbane on the above date, we were successful in getting an agreed outcome from local management of the following:

1. 13 VSE's to be moved up to PFSE's
2. 5 GWE's to be moved to PVSE's

3. The GWE positions are not to currently be backfilled by supplementaries

This, by any measure, is a considerable step forward and was based on the economic clause of our EBA which I along with the other three officials in the Qube National Negotiating Committee negotiated during the difficult talks we had in getting an EBA up.

However the great credit for yesterday's success must go to your committee which represented all members in a disciplined band forthright way. There is no way we would have got this result otherwise.

Special mention must also be given to Warren Smith our Assistant National Secretary and also to our Assistant Branch Secretary, Paul Petersen who as always, played an important part in the discussions. All in all it's a good outcome.

Successful Meetings Held on the RTM Twarra and Wakmatha in Gladstone *by Bob Carnegie*

AS PART OF the Branch realignment I have taken over primary responsibility for Gladstone Weipa bauxite run. This week I had meetings on Tuesday on the Twarra and Thursday on the Wakmatha.



Wakmatha Crew

We dealt with OH&S issues on both vessels with the Wakmatha being the most urgent.

On the Wakmatha after extensive meetings with the crew, company and OH&S experts we reached a very

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

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sensible and safe compromise on a difficult issue. All members are to be praised for their mature way they dealt with the issues at hand with special mention to the tireless work of Matt Leach in his role as HSR. Great work Matt and the team.



RTM Twarra

With yours truly now taking primary responsibility for this run, I'm sure the crews and all of those on these vessels would like to thank Deputy Branch Secretary, Jason Miners for his hard work on these vessels over the past six years. I know Jason really enjoyed assisting members on these vessels.

ASP MUA EBA Delegate Report

RTM VESSELS MUA members acknowledge endorsement of ASP/MUA EBA at Fair Work Commission on 10 July 2018.

This Agreement has seen some important structural improvements to the previous Agreement, retention of all current conditions and a wage package that supports our industry and the ongoing retention of Australian Seafaring workers on vessels trading around our coast.

Delegates across the ASP fleet, the four Rio Tinto vessels and CSIRO Investigator with the assistance of the Union set out a clear structure to progress the claims log in negotiations with ASP. Regular communication with other committee delegates, constant feedback with members and support from the Union set out the framework for achieving important improvements to current conditions and wages.

- * Leave: leave now accrues at a true 1:1 rate for all days on articles including both joining and leaving days
- * Job security clause
- * Increase in travel allowances and recognition of travel day leave accrual and fatigue management when in transit
- * Increase in superannuation rate to 14.5% and super paid into members account each month
- * Redundancy process clause - this was extremely important for our members to set out a clear, fair

and transparent process in the event of redundancies

- * Increase in redundancy entitlement
- * Income protection insurance for all members through 'Protect'
- * Improvement to paid trade union training clause which will enable our members to undertake trade union and industrial relations training
- * Commitment from ASP to continue to engage TIRs on each vessel within the Rio Tinto fleet.
- * Additional MUA positions on CSIRO Investigator
- * Increase in vessel amenities payments and clear representation of onboard amenities required to be provided by the company

Protracted negotiations over 18 months have secured a progressive agreement for our members and industry. Delegates and the union based negotiations around resolution made by MUA members on the vessels that no current conditions or wages could be reduced or taken away from the current agreement.

RTM Wakmatha MUA members on behalf of Rio Tinto fleet MUA members would like to thank Queensland Branch Officials, Secretary Bob Carnegie, Deputy Secretary Jason Miners, Tasmanian Branch Secretary Jason Campbell and MUA Assistant National Secretary Ian Bray for their efforts in securing this Agreement.

RTM Vessels MUA members continue to support the Queensland Branch's ongoing campaign to secure more Australian crewed vessels with Rio Tinto. We appreciate the efforts of Queensland Branch Officials and members participating in the campaign especially as many of us engaged on these vessels are from interstate so are unable to participate in person.

Comrades in unity - Matt Leach - 6003259 - Delegate RTM Wakmatha

Vale Bobby Breen

I WAS NOTIFIED yesterday of the passing of a wonderful seafarer and friend Bobby Breen. Both my departed dad and I sailed with Bob on different vessels he was just an outstanding man and it is so very sad to hear of his passing. Bob had probably the driest sense of humour I have ever encountered We won't see the likes of Bob again as his generation passes on. Uniquely courageous trade unionists who left their industry in a much better position than when they entered it.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Bob's family at present. Rest well Bob you deserve it Comrade.

Paul Syvret: Cry, My Beloved and Sadly Divided Country

Sourced from: <https://www.couriermail.com.au/>

This beautiful article was written by a mate of mine and our Branch, Paul Syvret who is calling it a day at the Courier Mail. We wish Paul all the best in what ever and where ever life takes him and his beautiful family.
Bob Carnegie

SOMEWHERE THIS WEEK in Australia a baby was born. Or maybe a plane landed carrying someone from

another part of the world ready to make a new start here. It doesn't really matter. For according to our statisticians, we have now welcomed the 25 millionth Australian into the fold.

In roughly half a century, or close to how long I've been around, we have doubled our population. In recent years, though, we have also shrunk.

Our physical numbers may not have waned, but the Australian soul has shrivelled and wizened as we increasingly exclude rather than accept, seek to blame rather than to solve, and to divide where once there was common ground.

At regular citizenship ceremonies across the land this week, our new Australians will stand for the national anthem at the end of proceedings, where in some cases they may even be treated to the second verse, part of which goes as follows:

For those who've come across the seas
We've boundless plains to share;
With courage let us all combine
To Advance Australia Fair.

We usually don't get that far with the anthem these days, that second verse being basically obsolete.

I'm not sure what exactly the catalyst has been, but in recent years we have debased ourselves to the point where race, religion and gender – the very fibre of personal identity – has become the currency of the most partisan of politics, something to be weaponised and used regardless of the collateral damage.

We have become an Australia where inordinate, and in some cases fawning, attention is given to visiting social media wannabes whose stock in trade is the language of white supremacists and Islamophobes, narcissists whose ugly cynicism is surpassed only by their desire for attention.

We have become an Australia where not just those with somewhat extreme views, but a full-blown bloody Nazi who wants Hitler and Mein Kampf in our classrooms, is given time on national television to air his views on immigration, praising Minister Peter Dutton in the process.

This in the same short few days in which newspaper columnists have warned darkly of ethnic and religious ghettos, blamed migrants for traffic congestion, and all but called for a return of the White Australia policy.

This is the same Australia where the likes of Dutton, aided and abetted by even Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull, have sought to whip up fear, loathing and racial hatred over so-called "African gangs" in Melbourne, a city so tremulous no-one is apparently game to go out for dinner at night.

It is an Australia that then shrugs its shoulders as a Sydney bus driver is suspended after abusing Asian passengers for not speaking English and refusing to let them off the bus, or a Pakistani university student in Newcastle has his nose broken in a knuckle-duster attack

and is told to "go back to your f---ing country, you don't belong here".

This is an Australia where our anthem welcomes those from across the seas, but if you arrive by boat, calls you an "illegal" and dooms you to indefinite detention in a tropical prison camp on Nauru or Manus.

It is an Australia where the slightest show of compassion is deemed either weak or condemned as "virtue signalling", where belonging to a trade union makes you a militant thug, and hoping your kids have a habitable planet in years to come puts you in the ranks of the hysterical leftists, warmists and climate-change alarmists.

This is my last column for The Courier-Mail, and I would have liked to have been more upbeat. But I grew up in a world where facts were immutable and opinions relatively cheap. The old journalistic cliché – and it is a meme that still circulates today – was that if one person you interview tells you it is howling down with rain, and another tells you the sun is shining, it is not your job to quote both of them, but to look out the bloody window and learn the truth.

It was an era where if the world's brightest scientists warned we really need to do something about the hole in the ozone layer, the ensuing debate was about how to fix the problem, not a race to find some fringe dweller who would say there was no problem.

It was an era where adjectives didn't make it into news stories unless it was the colour of the getaway car, and "balance" certainly did not mean giving equal space to the various flat-earthers, vaccination sceptics, creationists, racists and other loons out there. It was a less ugly Australia, and certainly a more civilised conversation.



Paul Syvret

China Students Challenge Curbs on Trade Unionists

by Yuan Yang

Sourced from: <https://www.ft.com/content/8cad5b66-960b-11e8-b67b-b8205561c3fe>

A fundamental feature of a free and fair society is the right to join and organise unions and also unions not to be a part of the State apparatus but to be independent of it. The struggles of Chinese workers to create an independent union movement free from Government

interference is one all trade unionists should support, in my opinion. By Bob Carnegie

STUDENTS FROM CHINA'S top universities are flouting government restrictions to support workers detained for trying to organise a trade union, following the biggest mass arrest of workers since 2015.

Workers at Shenzhen's Jasic Technology were arrested last week for protesting against the engineering company's decision to prevent them from forming a trade union. About 30 protesters remain in detention, including a student supporter. Although workers' protests have become increasingly common amid China's slowing economy, arrests are rare.

The Jasic demonstration is also unusual in being a protest for political rights — the right to form a union — as opposed to a pay dispute, which is more common. The arrests and swift censorship of petitions highlights how sensitive workers' rights are in a nominally communist country. President Xi Jinping has warned that "unbalanced and inadequate development" is the major problem facing the regime. Student groups across China are now publishing online petitions in support of the workers, with 11 universities circulating petitions by Thursday morning, and more than 1,600 signatories. "Our ancestors' baton is firmly in our hands," reads one petition by students from Peking University, echoing old Communist party slogans: "Long live the working class!" Despite reflecting familiar communist ideas, several petitions have been censored and their organisers' email addresses blocked.



Protests by Chinese workers are increasingly common, but they are usually over pay, not political rights AFP

At least two such addresses returned a "user suspended" error from 163.com, the Chinese internet services company. "Students' attention towards workers' struggles is increasing nowadays, partly with the ease of spreading information over the internet," said one Tsinghua University student at the site of the protests in Shenzhen. "But we face pressure from our universities, who want to control student societies, and who will put pressure on us via our parents."

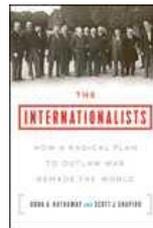
Many of the students supporting the strike have worked as interns in labour rights NGOs, which have suffered increasing restrictions under Mr Xi, such as pressure from local police in collaboration with landlords to leave their office spaces.

Yue Xin, the organiser of the Peking University petition, had previously been placed under effective house arrest after questioning her university's handling of a "MeToo" sexual assault case. "The Jasic case is certainly untypical," said Geoff Crothall of China Labour Bulletin, a Hong Kong-based workers' advocacy group. "What it has done, however, is capture the public imagination both in China and outside and really highlight the need for an effective trade union presence in the workplace."

Last November, police stormed a Marxist-inspired reading group at the Guangdong University of Technology and arrested students, accusing some of the generic crime of "gathering crowds to disrupt social order", according to student testimony. According to CLB data, only 23 of 1,049 workers' disputes this year involved arrests, and the most recent comparable crackdown occurred in December 2015, when 30 labour rights activists and workers were detained in Guangzhou. Jasic Technology exports welding machine parts to US companies, including Lincoln Electric, according to trade data group Import Genius. Jasic Technology denied it had obstructed the establishment of a trade union, and wrote in a public statement that it had been setting up a "trade union according to law" since May, "under the guidance of the district and street trade unions," referring to the Communist party's official union structure which disallows employees' self-formed unions. Shenzhen Pingshan police wrote in a social media post:

"The employees of the company . . . did not initiate preparatory activities in accordance with the provisions of the trade union law. After discovering the problems, the district and street trade unions promptly corrected their behaviour."

Book Review



The Internationalists and Their Plan to Outlaw War - by Oona Hathaway and Scott Shapiro

Review by Martin Thomas

WITH VERVE AND courage, this book argues a case which almost all its readers will think far-fetched. It digs out the Paris Peace Pact of 1928, otherwise known as

the Kellogg-Briand Pact, from the depths of historical obscurity and derision in its own time, and argues that it was in fact an epoch-making change in world history.

The Pact committed all states which signed it to renounce the use of war. It did not stop or hinder World War 2, or even Italy's invasion of Ethiopia, or the Spanish Civil War, or the "Chaco War" between Bolivia and Paraguay in 1932-5.

Yet, so Hathaway and Shapiro argue, the shift signalled in the pact worked its way through to a New World Order after 1945 in which conquest was considered illegal and individual political leaders could be held criminally responsible for waging illegal wars.

Of course, Hathaway and Shapiro agree, these international rules are still broken. But there are fewer wars. Conquests like Russia's of Crimea are not recognised.

By contrast, they argue, in the Old World Order, war was the basic tool of state policy. Conquest was legitimate, and so was "gunboat diplomacy". What international law there was, required that neutrals remain impartial and let the contenders fight it out, whereas in the New World Order economic and diplomatic sanctions of one sort or another by neutral states are routine against unlawful war and conquest.

The immediate purpose of this book, by US academics, seems to be to rally opinion against the crude "America First", "might is right", "the best bully is the best deal-maker" politics of Trump, and for the idea of a "rules-based" international order.

The historical argument is indeed far-fetched. It is true that the development of more or less stable capitalist states with territories more or less corresponding to national populations has dampened war.

In most pre-capitalist orders, war was glorious. The conqueror was a hero. An emperor or king ruled territory because he had conquered, and for no other reason. Grabbing more territory and extracting tribute from it was the way to riches.

Even early capitalism introduced more regulation. Now economic progress could come through technology and intensification of labour, rather than through acquiring territory.

The 1648 Peace of Westphalia, after the Thirty Years War, marked a lasting agreement by European states to abjure wars of religion. 19th century European diplomacy deployed congresses and conferences to prevent "aggressive" wars.

European states, Japan, and the USA still considered themselves free to violate and despoil territories in Asia and Africa where no modern states had been formed. Only decades of often bloody struggle by the colonial peoples changed that, and created new independent states; but that struggle won.

The European system of alliances and diplomacy had a fatal tendency to create rival power blocs, neither weak enough to accept that seeking economic advantage while leaving political leadership to the rival was the best option, and thus to lurch into greater and more destructive wars than before - World War 1 and World 2.

The rise after 1945 of the USA to hegemony shifted that pattern enough to allow a bourgeois semi-unification of Europe (the EU), quieten wars between advanced capitalist states, and create space for the dissolving of the old Europe-centred colonial empires.

The flipside was the USA accepting a "rules-based order" in which, to be sure, it had more scope for bending the rules, and shaping them in the first place, than any other state, but which nevertheless gave weaker states

workable room for capitalist expansion, and even allowed many of them to grow faster than the USA.

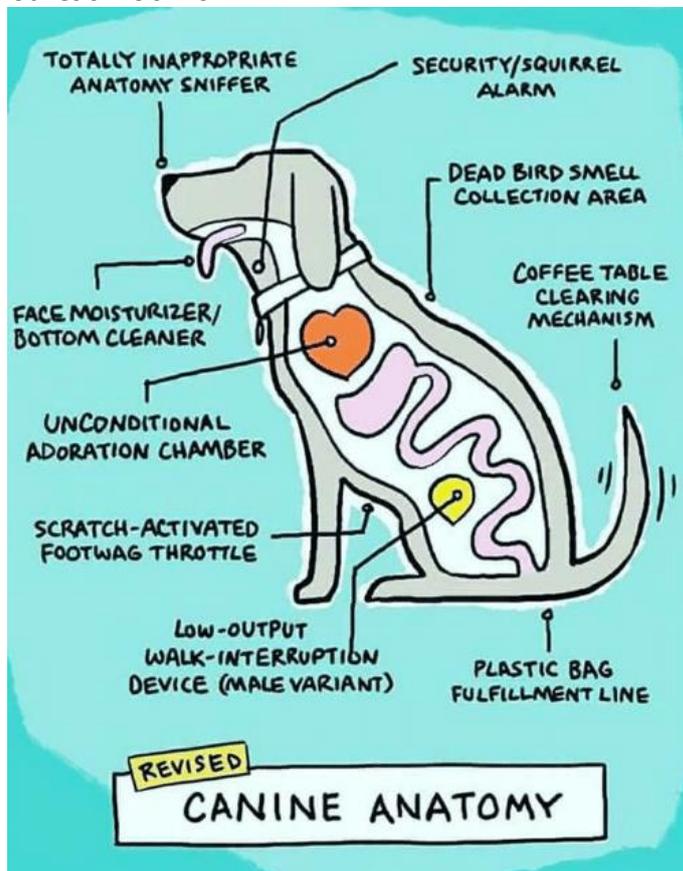
That system seemed to have triumphed completely after 1991. Since the debacle of the USA's invasion of Iraq in 2003, the rise of Chinese capital to compete more extensively, and the 2008 crash, it has been destabilised and discredited.

The positive alternative is a working-class socialist international order, in which the erratic promises generated by capitalism of peace, cooperation, and impartial rules are given substance by international solidarity and social levelling-up.

But there is also a regressive alternative in play. Trump represents that: so, in their different ways, do Putin and Erdogan.

For all its historical exaggerations, this book tells us something about how far backwards, and into how dark a place, Trump, Putin, and Erdogan threaten to drag us.

Cartoon Corner



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