



To be truly radical is to make hope possible, rather than despair convincing - Raymond Williams No. 164 – 11 January 2019

Branch Secretary's Report - Hutchison Incident – Linx Gladstone - Cartoon Corner

Branch Secretary's Report *by Bob Carnegie*

THIS WEEK HAS been a particularly busy one in the Branch. We were in the Fair Work Commission for two days with the ferry workers dispute. Significant progress was made however much needs to be done before Jason Miners (who has carriage of the ferries) and the delegates have something they can take back to the members.

I was in Gladstone for two days earlier this week dealing with a disciplinary matter and an ERC with our Linx members in Gladstone. We have been able to get two provisional permanent PGE's up graded from casuals, which in the Gladstone environment is something significant. The work of our delegates and ERC Committee at Linx in Gladstone is top class and they are top class trade unionists.

In the Gladstone Tugs there are several issues regarding there being not enough permanent jobs and an increase in casualisation. Once again, our delegates have done an enormous amount of work on this and our first meeting with the company to tackle this particular issue is next week on the 16th in Gladstone.

Paul Gallagher and I met with the CFO of the Townsville Port Corporation we outlined our grave concerns of Sunmetals attempt to open up as a non-union operator on the Townsville Waterfront. We advised the Port of all the difficulties and displacement this would cause to members. We also advised Townsville Ports we have no intention what so ever in laying down and allowing this to happen. We then had a meeting in the afternoon with concerned members in Townsville in which their resolve to fight was even more enhanced.

There is a proposed meeting Sunmetals with management, the Branch and Warren Smith in Townsville on the 31st of January. Stay tuned for further updates.

There was an accident at BCT (Hutchison) involving a straddle and a crane. There is a further report from our relieving official, Anthony Crookall. Anthony is relieving for three weeks whilst Paul Petersen is on leave.

Over the last few months the Branch has been inundated with defending members who have faced severe disciplinary measures including termination due to injudicious comments on social media, mainly Facebook.

The following are a couple of tips when using social media

Bob's Social Media Tips

1. Never go near social media after 'throwing a few down.' It's a recipe for disaster.
2. Do not use social media to denigrate any individual and do not use it to denigrate the company you are working for. There are now several cases that have been determined sackable offences by the Fair Work Commission for 'having a crack at the management' outside what are considered acceptable norms
3. Think twice before you post anything work related. Sometimes you might think you are in a group of likeminded individuals but from my observations there is usually at least one 'give up' and all of a sudden your post is in the company's hands and you have got a 'show cause' letter.

The lobbying and hard work in getting our submission together for the Queensland Parliamentary Inquiry into Intra State Coastal Shipping continues.

I'd like to mention the outstanding work of Penny Howard, our National Research Officer who has worked night and day on our submission under a very, very, tight time frame.

I'd also once again like to pay tribute to a great mate and comrade Craig Buckley, who this week donated an entire week of his leave (from his position as Queensland Legal/ Industrial Officer of the AMIEU) to assist the Branch in putting together rank and file submissions to the Inquiry. Thanks mate.

This year is shaping up to be a huge one so let's all do our best to make our union the best it can be.



Craig Buckley



Penny Howard

Hutchison Brisbane Container Terminal

by Anthony Crookall



ONCE AGAIN, ANOTHER major incident has occurred, regarding a straddle. However, this time it was at the Brisbane Terminal.

On the 7th of January 2019, on an evening shift, a straddle had come under the Quarry Crane, (whilst the spreader was coming down to pick up a container). The spreader collided with the straddle,

shattering the windscreen.

The occupant of the straddle escaped without injury however both the crane and straddle operators were clearly distressed by the accident.

Operations ceased immediately, pending a review and investigation. The HSR stated that operations for that crane would not be commencing until engineers had inspected the damaged on the equipment and had provided documentation to state it was cleared.

Remedies and solutions have been suggested by our HSR's in safety meetings. Paul Gallagher and I attended the site on the 8th of January and met with the individuals concerned, members and the company.

During our meeting with the company the safe guards highlighted were, an alarm of some description, to be place in the crane cabin to alert the driver if a vehicle entered the operational area.

Also recommended was bigger and brighter red and green flashing lights, clearly visible to straddle operators. Clear and concise radio commands and responses will be required, (in the procedures).

Another idea was large flashing lights on top of straddles, clearly visible to crane operators.

We have requested that the company inform us of the measures they will use to eliminate or reduce the risks of accidents like this occurring and also the time frame that it will take to resolve.

Linx Gladstone



Three Good Men – Josh Brown, Chris Massey and Zeb Albert – Fighting for members at Linx Gladstone 08/01/2019

Cartoon Corner



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