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. 177 – 3 May 2019**

May Day – Linx Gladstone - Superman: Getting Financial Advice - More Tragedies on the Waterfront ICTSI Terminal Upgrade Plans – Uber Not Paying Taxes - Tech's Raid on the Banks Florida: Teachers to Carry Guns in Classrooms - Cartoon Corner

May Day 2019 *by Bob Carnegie*

AS YOUR BRANCH Secretary, I ask all members and families to attend the May Day March this year. For a working person May Day is the most important day in our calendar.

The Branch wants everyone to come and enjoy it. I think this year we have a wonderful shirt (see photo), a gourmet BBQ, beers and soft drinks and plenty of fun for the kids, both young and old.

On the serious side, May Day also gives us a day we can reflect on the sacrifices of union men and women who, through the generations, have battled to make this a better world for us.

In Brisbane we are meeting at the top end of Wharf Street (near the corner of Leichhardt Street) with the March starting at 10.00am sharp. Please arrive from 9.30am to collect your shirt.

Following is further information for other May Day March details throughout Queensland.

This is the link to the Queensland Council of Unions with May Day details throughout the whole of Queensland.

https://www.queenslandunions.org/mec-eventsgrid/

May Day 2019 Details

Don't forget to put it in your calendar - May Day 2019

We are expecting records numbers this year! It is time to Change the Rules!

Brisbane Monday 6 May Parade starts at 10.00am at the corner of Wharf and Turbot Streets

Cairns Saturday 4 May March starts at 5.00pm from Fogarty Park

Gladstone Monday 6 May March starts at 10AM sharp from the Council Car Park, Central Lane

Mackay Monday 6 May March starts at 9.45am sharp from the corner of River and Gregory Streets, Mackay

Townsville Monday 6 May march starts from 10.00am sharp at The Strand Park on The Esplanade

Sunshine Coast Sunday 5 May starts at 10.00am sharp from Pierce Park, Alexandra Parade, Maroochydore

Gladstone

Linx members meeting to discuss the payroll debacle

Superman
Getting Financial Advice

If you're looking to achieve financial freedom, be it now or in retirement, getting good financial advice is essential.

Some people think financial advice is only for when you're close to retirement or have a lot of money to invest. That's not quite true. It pays to put a financial strategy in place as early as possible – ideally as soon as you start full-time work. In fact, the earlier you implement a financial strategy, the better off you'll be down the track.

When to get financial advice

Getting financial advice is also worthwhile when you:

- change jobs and are looking at your super options
- are worried about investment markets or just need some advice about investing your super
- need advice about insurance
- get married or divorced
- receive an inheritance or redundancy payment
- are approaching retirement; and
- are retired and need your retirement savings to go the distance.

It's also important to review your super and retirement strategy from time to time and make any necessary adjustments to stay on track.

Meeting with a financial planner

When you see a financial planner, it's important to do some groundwork so you get the most from your meeting. Pull together the following information to take along to your meeting:

- latest superannuation annual statement
- annual statements for any other funds where you hold accounts
- copy of your latest tax return and tax assessment
- information on any insurance policies;
- information on any assets and liabilities you hold outside superannuation.

The financial planning process

Here's an overview of the key steps in the financial advice process:

1. Provide your financial details

It all starts with providing your financial planner with all financial details to ensure they have a good understanding of your financial position.

2. Spell out your personal goals

Next, talk to the financial planner about what your personal goals are and how you see yourself living in retirement - for example taking an extended holiday, paying off your mortgage or putting your kids through university.

3. Identify any financial gaps

Armed with your financial details and personal goals, the financial planner will compare and identify any financial gaps and develop strategies to fill these gaps so you meet your retirement goals.

4. Prepare a Statement of Advice

Your financial planner will prepare a Statement of Advice outlining their recommendations. The plan will often include suggested courses of action to help you achieve your personal and financial goals.

5. Action the plan

When you get financial advice, it's only going to help you if you follow through on the recommendations made to you. If you're not sure how to go about implementing the plan, be sure to ask for help and work with your financial planner.

6. Review your advice

From time to time, review the advice you've received to ensure it's still relevant, particularly if your circumstances have changed. It's generally a good idea to speak to your financial planner when you get married or divorced, start a family, inherit money, receive a redundancy payment or plan to retire.

Be clear about your financial goals and don't be afraid to ask questions about anything you don't understand.

Getting phone advice

Maritime Super members have access to what's called 'limited advice' over the phone. This is advice on a single topic – for example, which investment option to invest in, or how much to contribute to your super account – given to you over the phone and it's free of charge. You'll be asked a series of questions to assess your risk profile and financial goals, so allow around 20 minutes for your phone call.

Learn more

Maritime Super has a stack of resources to help you learn more about super:

- visit our website and explore the 'Advice' section – everything you need to know about financial advice is located here
- get free limited advice from one of our planners regarding your investment or contribution strategy – call Member Services on 1800 757 607 to learn more
- Meet with David Zaloudek, Maritime Super's financial planner in Queensland – contact David on 0488 072 369 or davidz@maritimesuper.com.au

Man Dies in Workplace Accident at Livorno Port

Source: *http://www.ansa.it/english/news/2019/04/24/man-dies-in-workplace-accident-at-livorno-port_f7a7c445-f74e-4bb9-8057-69daa38e348b.html*

(ANSA) - LIVORNO, APRIL 24 - A 51-year-old factory worker died in a workplace accident at the port of Livorno in Tuscany on Wednesday. The man was working for the Moby ferry line.

Image: ANSA

According to a preliminary reconstruction he was on board a ferry and driving a forklift in the ship's garage when a part of a hydraulic ramp moved and hit him on the head. The man was originally from Torre del Greco near Naples, sources said. The incident, at the Calata Carrara dock, happened at around 10:30.

More Tragedy on the Waterfront 50-foot Up in Air When Luck Ran Out on a Crane Driver

Source: *https://www.telegraphindia.com/india/50-foot-up-in-air-when-luck-ran-out-on-a-crane-driver/cid/1689563#.XMXzth0dpXY.email*

Rai jumped to save his life, breaking his hip and suffering multiple fractures to his left arm

A crane operator at Haldia port who jumped off his 50-foot-high cabin to escape a blaze on Saturday told this newspaper he was forced to "chance my luck", hours before he died of his injuries at a Calcutta hospital.

Uttar Pradesh resident Dravin Rai, 28, was operating the private mobile harbour crane at the 13th berth of Haldia port, unloading coal from a docked tanker, while the crane was being refuelled from a diesel truck. Apparently, a mistake during the refuelling caused the crane to catch fire.

Port sources said the diesel truck had failed to remove the Rs 25-crore crane's fuel cap in time, causing some diesel to spill from the truck's fuelling pipe onto the crane's body. "The heat generated from the fuel touching the operating surface caused the crane's fuel tank to catch fire and explode," a worker said.

Rai jumped to save his life, breaking his hip and suffering multiple fractures to his left arm. "It's a hazardous job. I had to chance my luck to save myself," Rai told The Telegraph around 10am from a nursing home in Haldia. "I fell unconscious after hitting the concrete and regained consciousness only here." Rai was later brought to Calcutta and admitted to a private hospital. Haldia police said he died at 5.37pm.

Rai's helpers, Sheikh Rafique, 55, and Sheikh Anaul, 30, were inside a lower compartment of the crane. They too jumped but suffered minor injuries, and were discharged from a Haldia hospital in the evening. Port sources said six fire tenders took about three hours to douse the flames. They said the crane was one of 12 private cranes operating at the Haldia port.

"We shut the 13th berth down for the day and have launched an investigation into the cause of the fire," said Amal Dutta, general manager (administration), Haldia port. Sources said the port would have lost "crores of rupees" on Saturday because of the halt in work. "No damage was caused to the coal tanker that was being unloaded. But the smoke from the crane billowed into the surrounding berths, causing operations to be halted for a few hours in those as well," a source said.

ICTSI Terminal to Accelerate Upgrade Plans

Source:
https://www.porttechnology.org/news/ictsi_terminal_to_accelerate_upgrade_plans#.XMawesyePN0.email

LEADING TERMINAL OPERATOR International Container Terminal Services, Inc. (ICTSI) is set to upgrade the Mindanao Container Terminal (MCT), according to reports. The facility, which is located in the Philippines, will install a new terminal operating system (TOS) and port equipment to become an international gateway for trade in Southeast Asia.

The improvements to the terminal, scheduled for 2019, will help MCT to accommodate an increase in throughput volume predicted for this year.

A statement from the ICTSI subsidiary said: "We aim to help spur economic growth in the countryside, especially now that Northern Mindanao, through the Misamis Oriental economic zone, is poised to become a prime investment hub in the region. "Now that more investments are coming into the Misamis Oriental economic zone, we have to be ready to accommodate the surge in demand."

In addition to its role as an international gateway, MCT is also planning to become a key transhipment, centre connecting Mindanao with other regions in the Philippines. Equipment that is ready to be installed before the end of the year includes new reach stackers, terminal tractors and trailers.

Uber Makes $785 Million in Australia in 2018 – But Pays Just $8.5 Million Tax *by Michael Bailey AFR.com*

Source: *https://www.businessinsider.com.au/uber-makes-785-million-in-australia-in-2018-but-pays-just-8-5-million-tax-2019-5*

UBER'S LOCAL ARM made a gross profit of $785 million connecting Australians to rides and restaurant meals in 2018, but most of it was wiped out by a service payment to its US parent, and it paid just $8.5 million in company tax.

Uber Australia Holdings, which combines four entities supplying the local ridesharing and UberEats meal delivery services, and the marketing supporting them, made an after-tax loss of $13.2 million, despite revenue from contracts with its driver and restaurant partners of $935 million.

A $691 million "service fees" charge, otherwise unexplained in the accounts, did most to reduce the company's taxable income. The loss revealed in accounts lodged with the corporate regulator on Wednesday are in step with losses its parent, Uber Technologies Inc, outlined in filings for a $12.8 billion initial public offering last week, which nevertheless was quickly oversubscribed.

Despite dominating the ride-hailing market in many countries, Uber Technologies lost $1.5 billion in the March quarter, and $2.5 billion in 2018, as it invested heavily to expand in logistics and other transportation businesses, including scooters, autonomous driving and mass transit.

Tax-reducing tactics under fire

However with no such research and development occurring in Australia, the company's local tax bill is likely to face scrutiny alongside those of Facebook and Google's local subsidiaries.

On Tuesday they both lodged 2018 financial reports where most receipts generated from Australians were funnelled offshore, with the tech giants explaining the tax-reducing behaviour as fair payment for services rendered by other subsidiaries.

However critics have pointed out that most of the money Australians paid for Google advertising in 2018 went straight to its subsidiary in Singapore, which levies 17 per cent corporate tax against Australia's 30 per cent.

The accounts of Facebook and Uber did not reveal where the large service fees were paid. However Uber Australia Holdings' immediate parent is based in the Netherlands, a country fighting to improve its past reputation as a tax haven.

Australian business booms

While Uber Technologies revealed a slight slowdown in revenue growth in its IPO filing – 19 per cent in the last quarter versus 22 per cent for the prior comparable quarter – its Australian arm boomed in 2018.

The $935 million in revenue from driver and restaurant commissions was up from $595 million in 2017. However, a proportionally lower "service fee" saw 2017's operating profit of $5.6 million eclipse 2018's $2.5 million. The 2018 after-tax loss of $13.2 million was also a worse result than 2017's $2.1 million loss, incurred after a $4 million tax bill.

Uber Australia Holdings was approached for comment on its financial statement. Uber Technologies made headlines in March when it announced its drivers would get cash bonuses under its path to IPO.

The Australian accounts don't make any provisions for such payments, however they do reveal that it is Uber's marketing expense line that takes the hit on discounted ride promotions, as well as for most refunds given to dissatisfied riders.

This article was originally published by the Australian Financial Review.

Tech's raid on the banks - Digital disruption is Coming to Banking at Last

Source: *https://www.economist.com/leaders/2019/05/02/techs-raid-on-the-banks?cid1=cust/ednew/n/bl/n/2019/05/2n/owned/n/n/nwl/n/n/AP/234914/n*

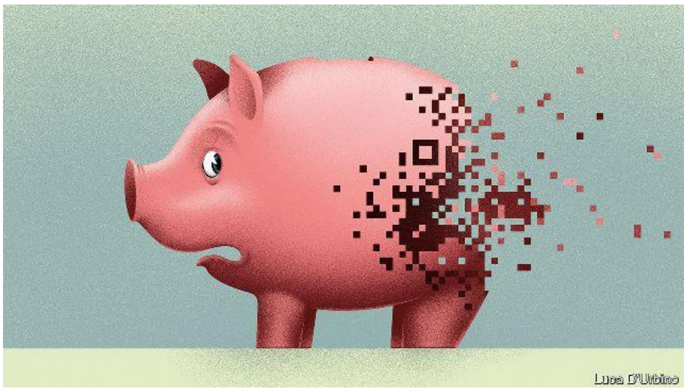
OVER THE PAST two decades people across the world have seen digital services transform the economy and their lives. Taxis, films, novels, noodles, doctors and dog-walkers can all be summoned with a tap of a screen. Giant firms in retailing, carmaking and the media have been humbled by new competitors. Yet one industry has withstood the tumult: banking. In rich countries it is perfectly normal to queue in branches, correspond with your bank by post and deposit cheques stamped with the logo of firms founded in the 19th century.

Yet, as our special report this week explains, technology is at last shaking up banking. In Asia payment apps are a way of life for over 1bn users. In the West mobile banking is reaching critical mass—49% of Americans bank on their phones—and tech giants are muscling in. Apple unveiled a credit card with Goldman Sachs on March 25th. Facebook is proposing a payments service to let users buy tickets and settle bills (see article).

The implications are profound because banks are not ordinary firms. It is one thing for Blockbuster Video to be wiped out by a technological shift, but quite another if the victim is Bank of America. It is not just that banks have over $100trn of assets globally. Using the difficult trick of "maturity transformation" (turning deposits that you can demand back at any time into long-term loans) they enable savers to defer consumption and investment and borrowers to bring them forward. Banks are so vital that the economy reels when they stumble, as the crisis of 2008-09 showed.

Bankers and politicians may thus be tempted to resist technological change. But that would be wrong because its benefits—a leaner, more user-friendly and more open financial system—easily outweigh the risks.

Banking is late to the smartphone age because entrepreneurs have been put off by regulations. And, since the financial crisis, Western banks have been preoccupied with repairing their balance-sheets and old-fashioned cost-cutting. Late is better than never, however. Several new business models are emerging. In Asia payment apps are bundled with e-commerce, chat and ride-hailing services offered by firms such as Alibaba and Tencent in China and Grab in South-East Asia. These networks link to banks but are vying to control the customer relationship. In America and Europe big banks are still more or less in control and are rushing to offer digital products—JPMorgan Chase can open a deposit account in five minutes. But threats loom. Mobile-only "neobanks" that do not bear the cost of branches are nibbling at customer bases. Payments firms like PayPal work with Western banks but are expected to capture a greater share of profits. Lucrative niches like foreign exchange and asset management are being harried by new entrants.



Luca D'Urbino

The pace of change will accelerate. Younger people no longer stay with the same bank as their parents—15% of British 18- to 23-year-olds use a neobank. Tech firms that people trust, such as Apple and Amazon, are natural candidates to grow big financial arms. The biggest four American banks are spending a total of over $25bn a year on perfecting better customer applications and learning to mine data more cleverly. Venture-capital firms invested $37bn in upstart financial firms last year.

The benefits of technological change are likely to be vast. Costs should tumble as branches are shut, creaking mainframe systems retired and bureaucracy culled. If the world's listed banks chopped expenses by a third, the saving would be worth $80 a year for every person on Earth. In 2000 the Netherlands had more bank branches per head than America; it now has just a third as many. Rotten service will improve—it is easier to get money to a friend using a chat app than it is to ask your bank to transfer cash. The system will get better at its vital job of allocating capital. Richer data will allow banks to take risks that currently baffle underwriters. Fraud should be easier to spot. Lower costs and the democratising effect of social media will give more people better access to finance. And more firms with good ideas should be able to get loans faster, boosting growth.

Yet change also poses risks. Because the financial system is embedded in the economy, innovation tends to create turbulence. The credit card's arrival in 1950 revolutionised shopping but also sparked America's consumer-debt culture. Securitisation lubricated capital markets in the 1980s but fuelled the subprime crisis. In addition, it is unclear who will win today's battle. One dystopian scenario is that power becomes more concentrated, as a few big banks learn to exploit data as ruthlessly as social-media firms do. Imagine a crossbreed of Facebook and Wells Fargo that predicts and manipulates how customers behave and is able to use proprietary economic data to squeeze rivals.

Another dystopia involves fragmentation and destabilisation. Banks could lose depositors to untested neobanks, creating a mismatch between their assets and liabilities that could lead to a credit crunch. If bank customers transact via tech or payment platforms, banks could end up with huge balance-sheets but without a direct connection to their clients. If they thus became unprofitable, they could be broken up, with the job of financing mortgages and absorbing short-term savings left entirely to capital markets, which are volatile.

To tap the benefits of technology safely, governments should give consumers control over their data, protecting privacy and preventing firms hoarding information. Innovation-friendly regulation would help; in 2017 the industry faced a regulatory alert every nine minutes (see article). And governments should keep the system's safety buffers at today's overall size (global banks hold $7trn of core capital). If new entrants are properly capitalised, central banks could extend to them the lender-of-last-resort facilities that provide shelter in a storm.

Banking's dirty secret is that it is backward, inefficient and hidebound. Banks have formidable lobbying power, however. Wary of change, customers, politicians and unions complain when branches are closed and jobs cut—witness the recent collapse of a German mega-merger that depended on both. Regulators love dealing with a few big firms. The thing is that global growth is sluggish and productivity gains are hard to come by. A smartphone revolution in finance offers one of the best ways to boost the economy and spread the benefits.

Florida Approves Bill Allowing Teachers to Carry Guns in Classrooms

Source: https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2019/may/02/florida-lawmakers-approve-bill-allowing-teachers-to-carry-guns-in-classrooms?CMP=Share_iOSApp_Other

***The world is now, in my opinion, gone insane. This is flat out crazy.* Bob Carnegie**

A HUGELY UNPOPULAR measure to allow Florida teachers to carry guns in their classrooms was approved by state legislators late on Wednesday after a lengthy and contentious debate that left some lawmakers in tears.

Two days of high emotion in state capital, Tallahassee, ended with the Republican-controlled Florida house voting 65-47 to approve a wide-ranging school safety bill that expands the "armed guardian" programme, set up after the 2018 Marjory Stoneman Douglas high school massacre, to include trained educators.

The controversial bill, earlier approved along party lines in the Florida senate, now heads to the desk of Governor Ron DeSantis, who is expected to sign it into law.

"Armed teachers have no place in our kids' classrooms," said Gay Valimont, volunteer leader of the Florida chapter of Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America, one of a number of advocacy groups that opposed the proposal.

"The risks of arming teachers are well documented, as is the research indicating there are much better ways to keep our kids safe in school. We implore Governor DeSantis to listen to Floridians and veto this risky bill."

Passions ran high in the Florida house on Wednesday as Democratic politicians, who persuaded five Republicans to break party lines and vote against the measure, railed against the provision that allows county school boards to place guns in the hands of teacher volunteers.

At times shouting into the microphone, Shevrin Jones, a black state congressman from Broward county where the Stoneman Douglas shooting took place, envisaged a scenario in which an armed educator faced a rowdy classroom and felt overwhelmed.

"What happens when that teacher feels threatened?" he said, before engaging in a heated debate about race in which he suggested teachers needed to address any prejudices they held before choosing to arm themselves.

Jones missed the subsequent vote, blaming a medical episode and hospital visit following "the emotional debate" that he said would result in several days' bed rest. His Democratic colleague Susan Valdes pointed to an incident this week in Wesley Chapel, Florida, in which a law enforcement officer's gun accidentally discharged in a middle school cafeteria, although nobody was injured.

"We see accidents happening every day," Valdes said, adding that her vote against the measure was to "stand with the children who have told me, 'Don't put more guns in our schools'".

Republicans, however, looked past opinion polls indicating most Floridians were against arming teachers. A Quinnipiac poll in March showed voters disapproved 57-40 of allowing trained teachers and school officials to carry guns on campus, and believed by a margin of 58-32 that stricter gun laws would do more to reduce gun violence in schools than arming teachers.

Dane Eagle, the house Republican leader, insisted that the law – which includes a range of other "school hardening" measures, including improved mental health services, better risk assessment and streamlined reporting of incidents – merely "offered a pathway" for educators who wished to be trained and armed.

"These are the individuals who want to protect you and others if they need to do so. When law enforcement can't get there to save others, I hope there's someone in that room who is able," he said.

Individual school boards, he noted, would still have the right to opt out, as several of the state's largest school districts including Miami-Dade and Broward have already said they would do.

Some students or loved ones of those caught up in the Parkland shooting became gun-control activists were outraged at the legislation.

Emma Gonzales added her comments to a social media post by Lauren Hogg, the sister of activist David Hogg. Manuel Oliver said he feared the next perpetrator of a school shooting would be a teacher. Fedrick Ingram, president of the Florida Education Association, said school districts would be "the last line of defence".

"Parents and educators should ask tough questions," he said. "Will teachers wear guns, or how will firearms be stored? Will parents and students be told if the teacher in any given classroom is armed? Can parents opt their kids out of a class where the teacher is carrying?"

He added: "If a weapon is accidentally fired or displayed by a teacher, what reporting and disciplinary measures will be in place. There are a lot questions a district needs to answer if it plans to allow armed teachers."

Cartoon Corner

Peanuts ~ May 16, 1974
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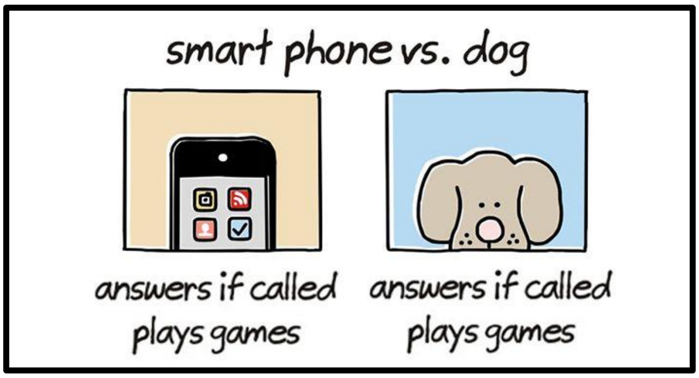

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