



# 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. 179 – 17 May 2019

## Branch Secretary's Report – Permanent Jobs on the Waterfront - Blacklisted Trade Unionists Win Tragic Death at Port of LA - Shuffle for Maersk - Amazon Will Give Employees \$10,000 Tree Older Than Christianity Found - Cartoon Corner

### Branch Secretary's Report *by Bob Carnegie*

THIS WEEK HAS seen the Branch heavily involved in several industrial and political issues.

#### Change the Rules

**Change THE RULES** Branch members and officials have been involved in 'Change the Rules' activities up and down the State. On Thursday we gave away some 500 'Change the Rules' tote bags which, in the main, were well received by the punters.



#### DP World

DP World had a well attended report back meeting at the Bulimba Bowls Club. The Branch wishes to thank Swannie, our long term committee man at Patricks for his assistance in setting up the venue.

As I write this at 6.15am voices are emanating from the Branch's lunchroom as the DP World MUA Committee strategize over their Part B (local issues) negotiations with management which commence at 8.00am today.

#### Committees and Delegates

Those members of all of our committees on the wharf and our delegate structures everywhere do an amazing job in giving over their time to assist in trying to do their best to help their fellow workers. In the DP World talks

for the Branch, the Committee and Deputy Branch Secretary, Jason Miners are doing a top job.

#### AAT

At AAT Assistant Branch Secretary, Paul Petersen and delegates were successful in winning four extra permanent jobs. Paul and his team need to be congratulated on the outcome.

#### Linx Gladstone

Linx Gladstone is having some issues with payroll and a downturn in work. Further discussions are planned next week. Dan, Chris and Josh are doing outstanding work as delegates.

#### Qube

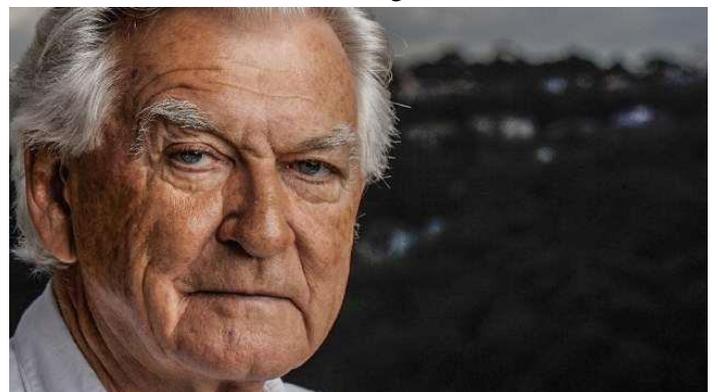
Hopefully next week we will be having a Qube Labour Review. Our last one had to be cancelled due to unavailability of some participants.

#### North Queensland

Assistant Branch Secretary, Paul Gallagher has been in North Queensland this week dealing with Port of Townsville issues along with NSS and TBSH.

#### Vale Bob Hawke

I guess it would be wrong not to mention the passing of Australia's longest serving Labor Prime Minister, Bob Hawke who passed away this week at the age of 89. Bob Hawke did some wonderful things.



A strident opponent of apartheid, the work he put into saving the Franklin River, Medicare and other major improvements in the life of everyday Australians. My respect for him is tempered by the deregistration of the

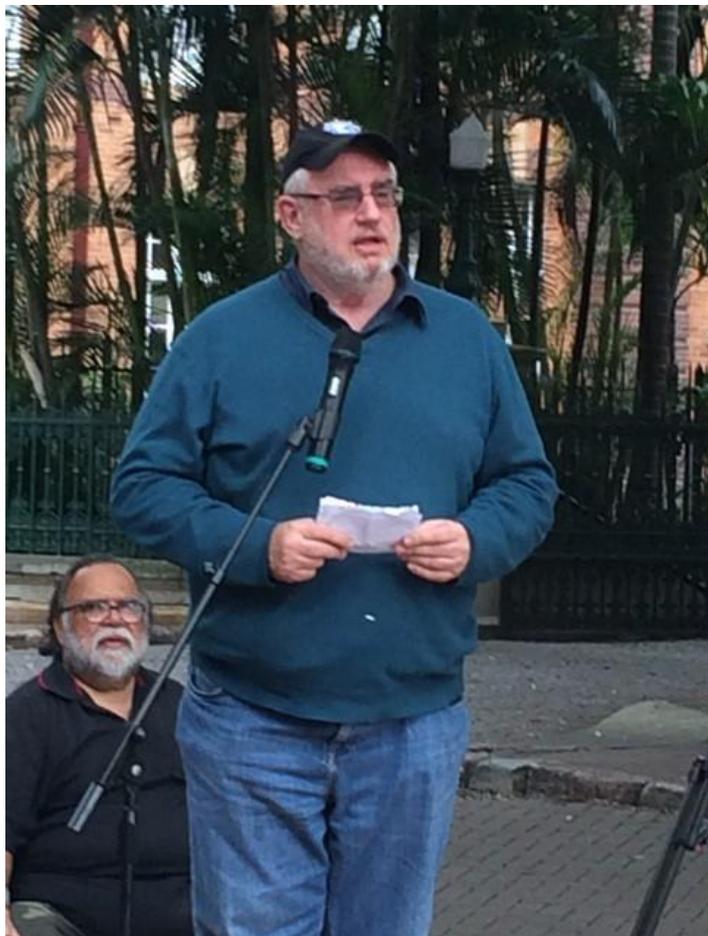
Authorised by Bob Carnegie, Maritime Union of Australia (MUA) Queensland Branch Secretary

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BLF and his government's attack on the Pilots Union which, as a working class activist, I think we are still paying the price for. All that said and done, his contribution was huge and we send the deepest condolences to his family on his passing.

#### **Workers Compensation**

Currently our personal injury lawyer, Adam Tayler of Turner Freeman and myself are dealing with a number of cases where members have not, in a timely manner, reported incidents at work or simply reported them orally and thought all would be 'sweet'. Members, I can't emphasise enough the importance of correct reporting. We have a long time seafaring member of over 30 years standing who reported orally to 2 senior officers of an accident incurred on the vessel. After the member paid off, the injury worsened and now the company is denying liability due to the correct forms not being filled in. It seems the officers involved are having selective amnesia, so we are off to the courts to appeal it.



*Bob Carnegie and Sam Watson at a Climate Change Rally on 16/05/2019 outside Parliament House*

#### **Fighting for our Merchant Fleet – Fighting Rio Tinto**

As I have stated on numerous occasions, this Branch, under my leadership, will not rest until we get the great majority of their vessels Australian crewed from the 'old man' to the trainee IR. I was going to say deck boy but that would be showing my age. The Branch is meeting with senior Rio Tinto shipping representatives in Brisbane on the 29<sup>th</sup>.

#### **Branch Premises**

With committee meetings, Branch monthly meetings, social meetings etc, in discussion with Branch activists, senior delegates, elected officials and the overwhelming amount of members, I think it is time we bit the bullet and started putting on our thinking caps about finding an alternate union home closer to Fishermen's Island with extra space and much more parking especially.

#### **Fishermen's Island Ambulance Station**

Our campaign run by the MUA-TWU (2 unions on the island) are meeting with senior government bureaucrats and ambulance chiefs on May 22<sup>nd</sup> to have a half day tour of Fishermen's Island. Both unions are committed to gaining this facility for members. We won't rest until successful.

#### **Permanent Jobs on the Waterfront** *by Paul Petersen*

A LABOUR REVIEW was held at AAT on Wednesday 15th, under the terms of the new Enterprise Agreement. After many years of seeing a decline in permanent jobs on the waterfront we are finally starting to see a reverse to this trend.

Through the outstanding work of the lead delegate James Crookall we were able to show the increase of worked hours on that site could sustain more permanent jobs. The engagement of 4 more permanent workers at AAT Brisbane is welcomed by the MUA and its members. The Queensland Branch has ensured the selection criteria will be used to find the appropriate candidates.

We were also able to get four MUA members who were employed as day shift workers moved to the classification of shift worker which will mean these workers will receive 5 weeks annual leave instead of 4. The MUA Queensland Branch are also seeking a 4 hour introduction session with any new supplementary employees. We will also be pushing for the role of a MUA site trainer.



The MUA Queensland Branch would like to recognise the outstanding work of James Crookall and Mark Kidman for the work and the extra hours they put in to negotiate the EBA. Their hard work has helped achieved

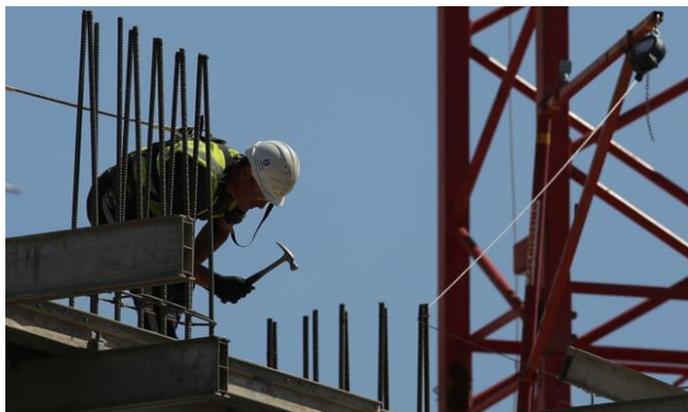
more permanent jobs and conditions for all members at that site.

## 50 Blacklisted Trade Unionists Win £1.9m From Building Firms

Source: [https://www.theguardian.com/business/2019/may/14/50-blacklisted-trade-unionists-win-19m-from-building-firms?CMP=share\\_btn\\_link](https://www.theguardian.com/business/2019/may/14/50-blacklisted-trade-unionists-win-19m-from-building-firms?CMP=share_btn_link)

*In 2015, at the Queensland Branch's Inaugural Conference, Dave Smith of the Blacklist Support Group spoke eloquently on this very topic. Bob Carnegie*

OUT OF COURT settlement means construction companies have paid out £35m to 1,200 workers. More than 50 trade union members have won compensation totalling £1.9m after major construction firms admitted that they had been unlawfully blacklisted and denied work.



*Eight construction firms have been compelled to apologise unreservedly to trade unionists who discovered they were being blacklisted because of their political beliefs. Photograph: Daniel Leal-Olivas/AFP/Getty*

The compensation will be paid by the firms after they agreed out of court settlements with the workers, avoiding a high court trial that was due to start next month.

The latest round of payments means that in total, the firms have been forced in the last three years to pay compensation of £35m to more than 1,200 blacklisted workers.

The Information Commissioner made the files available to the blacklisted workers, who then launched legal action.

The eight firms announced on Tuesday that their offers of compensation had been accepted by the latest group of 53 blacklisted workers. They are Sir Robert McAlpine, Balfour Beatty, Costain, Kier, Laing O'Rourke, Skanska UK, Vinci and Carillion.

The eight firms are locked in a dispute with Amec Foster Wheeler, as they argue it was involved in running the blacklist and should therefore pay a contribution towards the bill.

Unite had sought to force Cullum McAlpine, whom they consider to be a key architect of the blacklist, to give evidence at the trial, which was due to start on 4 June. The McAlpine director was also chairman of the Consulting Association when the blacklist was set up. Beckett said it was "bitterly disappointing" that he would

not be compelled to be cross-examined at the trial, which has been dropped as part of the settlements.

Police chiefs have admitted that they supplied details of trade unionists to the blacklist in what they acknowledge was a "potentially improper flow" of information.

## Port of L.A. Dockworker is Killed and Another is Injured in Accident

by Alejandra Reyes-Velarde

Source: <https://www.latimes.com/local/lanow/la-me-ln-port-of-la-incident-kills-worker-20190515-story.html>

A PORT OF Los Angeles worker was killed and another was injured after a problem with a piece of equipment used to move cargo, police said Wednesday morning.

The worker died about 7:25 a.m. at Pier 300 in San Pedro in an accident involving a top-loader container handler, said Rachel Campbell, spokeswoman for the Los Angeles Port Police.



A second worker was seriously injured and taken to Harbor-UCLA Medical Centre. Both workers are members of the International Longshore and Warehouse Union.

Campbell did not say what happened to the top-loader but noted "it was faulty." KCAL-TV Channel 9 reported that a tire on the heavy-equipment machinery exploded. Port police said the men were working on a tire when the accident occurred. The Fenix Marine Services container terminal was closed afterward.

The union was slated to hold its annual First Blood ceremony, which honours workers who have died on the waterfront while on the job, later in the day. "It took on a whole new meaning this morning, that's for sure," said Greg Mitre, president of the ILWU Pensioners Assns. "We didn't expect this."

Mitre said the worker who died was 58-year-old Jose Santoyo, a mechanic who had worked at the port for 35 years. Santoyo was planning to retire next year, Mitre said. The injured worker, whom Mitre identified only as Pedro, underwent surgery after being put into a medically induced coma. The two men had worked together for 25 years, Mitre said.

The union pensioners president said a staff member saw a piñata in Santoyo's home when visiting to inform his wife of his death. The family was preparing to celebrate the first birthday of Santoyo's grandson Saturday, he said. "It was very sombre," Mitre said of the First Blood

ceremony. Santoyo “was a super hard worker — dedicated, loyal and hardworking.”

Port of Los Angeles chief Gene Seroka, City Councilman Joe Buscaino and other politicians released statements expressing their condolences for the workers’ families. “My heart goes out to the families of the victims of this tragic accident and to all the brothers and sisters of the International Longshore and Warehouse Union,” Seroka said.

The California Division of Occupational Safety and Health and the U.S. Coast Guard are investigating.

### **Inland Shuffle for Maersk Group**

Source: <https://www.worldcargonews.com/news/news/inland-shuffle-for-maersk-group-62268>

MAERSK IS SHIFTING control of its inland terminals from APM Terminals to Maersk Logistics & Services.

The move, which comes into effect on 1 August 2019 is aimed at “providing customers with seamless access to a wider range of logistics & services offerings” and is described as “a next step for A.P. Moller - Maersk in the implementation of our strategy to offer end-to-end solutions to our customers”.



The Inland Services Portfolio is extensive, comprising 36 business units with over 100 locations around the globe. “By bringing together all operations skills and capabilities within logistics, it creates a base for growth and enables Maersk to excel in the execution within Logistics & Services products,” Maersk said in a statement.

“APM Terminals can fully focus on becoming a world-class port operator, while Maersk, with the integration of Inland Services, will continue to focus on ocean transportation as well as logistics and services product development and delivery,” said Søren Toft, EVP and Chief Operating Officer A.P. Moller - Maersk.

“By structurally adding Inland Services to Maersk, customers will have a seamless access to a wider range of logistics and services offerings. It puts Maersk in an even better position to differentiate its offering and scale the Logistics & Services portfolio to an even broader customer base,” he added.

APM Terminals will focus on its core offering of port-based services, including “newly developed services such

as fast-gates”, while “continuing to collaborate with Maersk for customers who are looking for end-to-end solutions,” Maersk said. “The even closer collaboration enables both APM Terminals and Maersk to reduce complexity and eliminate service overlaps, so that both brands can focus on their core strengths and provide greater value and a better experience to customers,” added Morten Engelstoft, CEO APM Terminals and EVP A.P. Moller - Maersk.

Maersk Inland Services offers depot, container equipment maintenance and repair and transportation to lines. For what it calls “landside customers”, Inland Services offers products focused on supply chain integration, including transportation, CFS and warehousing, and temperature-controlled handling and storage environments. Clearly Maersk wants to better position its inland network to deliver the higher value services provided to these landside customers directly.

### **Amazon Will Give Employees \$10,000 And 3 Months Pay to Set Up Their Own Delivery Firm to Help Fulfil its One-Day Shipping Promise** by Mary Hanbury

Source: <https://www.businessinsider.com.au/amazon-pays-workers-to-set-up-delivery-firms-aids-one-day-shipping-2019-5?nojs=1>

AMAZON IS OFFERING employees \$US10,000, and the equivalent of three months gross salary to start their own delivery businesses as part of its existing Delivery Service Partner program.

Since launching in June 2018, 200 small businesses have launched to deliver Amazon packages.

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- Amazon needs more drivers to fulfil its one-day shipping promises, so it’s paying employees to set up their own delivery companies.

Amazon announced Monday that it will offer current employees \$US10,000 and the equivalent of three months of their gross salary to help them set up their own delivery businesses as part of its Delivery Service Partner program.

Since launching in June 2018, 200 small businesses have joined this program and are delivering Amazon packages. These delivery partners are required to register online and make a minimum investment of \$US10,000 to set up shop.

# amazon.com

Amazon is hiring hundreds more people to start package delivery companies with annual profits up to \$US300,000. Amazon has been on a hiring spree in recent months as it looks to add more delivery partners after announcing that it would be reducing its speedy two-day shipping policy down to one-day only. Now, it's looking to tap into another resource – its current employees.

“We received overwhelming interest from tens of thousands of individuals who applied to be part of the Delivery Service Partner program, including many employees,” Dave Clark, senior vice president of worldwide operations, said in a press release on Monday.

He continued: “We’ve heard from associates that they want to participate in the program but struggled with the transition. Now we have a path for those associates with an appetite for opportunities to own their own businesses.”

These budding entrepreneurs are kept safe in the knowledge that they will be busy thanks to the “consistent delivery volume,” Amazon said in a statement to the press. They will also have access to the company’s delivery technology and discounts on Amazon-branded vans, uniform, and insurance.

Amazon did not disclose the exact terms of this new initiative or whether these new business owners would be required to pay back the funds at a later date or be liable if the business fails. A spokesperson for Amazon did not immediately respond to Business Insider’s request for comment on this.

The new initiative also ties in with recent news that Amazon is rolling out new technology at its fulfillment centres to automate jobs held by thousands of its workers. This new delivery option could be a way for Amazon to offer workers, who have had their jobs replaced by machines, the chance to move into other arms of the business.

## Scientists Find Tree Older Than Christianity in a North Carolina Swamp

by Marco Margaritoff

Source: <https://allthatsinteresting.com/fifth-oldest-tree>

DR. DAVID STAHLÉ of the University of Kansas visited the area in the 1980s, convinced these trees were about 1,000 years old. Little did he know they were older than Christianity itself.

Dendrochronologist, professor, and researcher at the University of Arkansas, David Stahle, first visited the

Black River area in the 1980s and it was immediately apparent that he found something remarkable. Decades later, his suspicions were confirmed when a cypress tree there was dated at 2,624 years old.



*The tree has been dated using both traditional dendrochronology (or counting the rings inside of it) and radiocarbon dating*

According to WECT 6 News, the Black River Preserve in North Carolina is home to North America’s oldest trees east of California. Purchased by the Nature Conservancy, Bladen County’s dark, quiet waters lead to a tree that’s not just the oldest cypress tree, but the fifth-oldest tree in the world.

When Stahle and retired biologist Julie Moore first visited the area, they underestimated just how ancient their discovery was. Fortunately, their find has now been recorded into history, in the Environmental Research Communications journal.



*Dr. Stahle visited the Black River Preserve decades ago but has only now confirmed the age of this incredible cypress tree. Seen here across seasons*

“We found one in the 80s that was 1,650 years old,” said Stahle. “We thought, ‘That’s pretty good,’ and went on to other work.” Little did they know they had just found a tree older than Christianity itself. “At the time, I figured there’s 1,000-year-old trees all around here, which is extraordinarily rare anywhere but California, and Chile too,” said Stahle. “It’s very rare worldwide to find trees that are over 1,000 years old.”

It was in 2011 that one of Stahle’s own graduate students, eager to study the trees at Black River, prompted his return to the site. Nature Conservancy’s Angie Carl served as their guide, and down the mystical rivers they went.

“It’s like walking into the Cretaceous (Period) because these trees are that old, almost,” said Stahle. “For living, individual trees, these are some of the oldest in the world.”

Dendrochronology is the scientific method of dating trees through their rings. To do so, researchers like Stahle twist a hollow borer through the bark and retrieve a small, pen-sized portion of the tree’s core. To be doubly sure, radiocarbon dating is done as an additional measure thereafter.

“This was the best day of my career, the second day I went on the river with Dave (in 2011),” said Carl. “We get on the river and there are four of us in this tiny jon boat. We get out of the boat and start walking through the forest. Dr. Stahle’s getting so excited. He’s like, ‘Angie, Angie, Angie! Count, count, count!’”

“Every 10 minutes, we’d stop and count and he’d go, ‘Those are millennial-age trees! This is the oldest cypress stand in the world!’” Carl recounted. “I’m getting goosebumps this whole day. It was amazing.”

Moore, who first explored the area decades ago, returned to the site that day, as well. A friend who worked for the Forest Service made sure to drive her as close to the river as physically possible. Before exiting the truck, she noticed the ancient trunk. They stood in silence, listening to the ducks, and marveling at the timeless specimen.

“For about 15 minutes, we just stood there,” said Moore. “I’m getting goosebumps right now thinking about it. It was one of those times that you know someone is sharing something with you that’s very important to them, and as it turns out, it’s a very important place.”

It’s no wonder Moore had the same physical reaction as Carl did. If there’s ever a warranted reason to be awestruck, get goosebumps, and stand in silence — it’s standing next to a millennia-old tree that has survived 26 centuries of human history.

## Cartoon Corner



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# Solidarity!