



Queensland Branch News



4th June 2014

RELIEF OFFICIALS

Members have already been made aware that Mick Carr has been taking a period of Annual leave, unfortunately Mick was struck down with illness during his leave and is currently recuperating.

Paul Sheehan has commenced Annual Leave on an overseas holiday which has been booked for a considerable period of time.

In relation to the above, Paul Gallagher will continue in a relieving capacity until the Branch Secretary returns and Brian Gallagher will commence as a relieving Official from Tuesday 10th June.

Contact details are as follows:	Paul Gallagher	0408 494 168
	Brian Gallagher	0414 799 134

Peter Robson has returned to work after having an operation and the Branch would like to thank Glenn Desmond for providing his services at short notice to act in a relieving role in the Townsville regional area.

NATIONAL STEVEDORING CODE OF PRACTICE

The Queensland Branch sent condolences to the Attard Family and to the Victorian Branch after Waterside Worker Anthony Attard was killed whilst undertaking work on the Toll Shipping vessel the *Tasmanian Achiever*.

In the last couple of years we have seen various umbrella bodies come to the forefront and either seek the demise of NSCOP both at the most unfortunate periods of time.

Within a few days of the death of Newcastle Wharfie Greg Fitzgibbon in September 2013, we had Shipping Australia condemning the Code of Practice and within eight days of the tragic fatality in Melbourne, the Australian Logistics Council have said that it is their preference for the NSCOP to not go ahead.

NSCOP is not going to be handed out as a gift by Stevedoring employers; it is something that MUA members will need to fight for on a call to arms – to protest – to make sure that the NSCOP Campaign remains front and centre.

We need to “Beef-Up” safety Clauses in Enterprise Agreements (it was certainly front and centre at Part A of DP World’s negotiations).

Education of members will be of paramount importance moving forward.

There will be a National Bulk and General Safety Conference held on Wednesday 18th and Thursday 19th June in Sydney with Queensland being represented by five Health and Safety Representatives from Townsville – Gladstone – Brisbane. This follows on from the successful Terminal’s Seminar held in Adelaide last year.

Further reports will follow.

Members, if you think something is unsafe, it most likely is

– always/always think about your actions at work.

NATIONAL COUNCIL REPORT AND RULE CHANGES

A successful Special Meeting was held at the MUA Office on Tuesday 27th May in relation to MUA Rule changes. Thank you to members who were able to attend.

To ensure the Queensland membership all have the opportunity to be appraised of the Report from May National Council and the Rule changes, meetings will be held at the following Ports – Gladstone, Mackay, Townsville and Cairns. The Branch is currently making arrangements for the meetings. Dates/times/venues will be made known.

BUDGET EMERGENCY (only for some)

It's an emergency according to Big Joe on the Federal level. It certainly is for some:

- Families - if they rely on the Tax Benefit to provide for their children;
- Health Care – Medicare is now a skeleton of its former self, when introduced to be a health system that was the envy of other Nations;
- Pensioners – indexation of the Pension rate has historically been set alongside the average wage and adjusted proportionately.

The Union movement protested in the *Your Rights @ Work* campaign and included Pensioners because individual contracts would mean that pensions would suffer. Now indexation will be based on Consumer Price Index (CPI).

Young people under 30 will wait longer for the dole, whilst university fees will rise. This sits alongside cuts to TAFE funding.

Then there is the forecast to raise the Pension Age in the future and the unsurety of the preservation age for Superannuation.

With these raft of detrimental changes, including the increase costs for young people to be 'job ready' and seeking those already in employment to work longer, there is a subtle question that needs answered, especially when this Government is making 457 Visas easy to obtain.

“Where are the jobs .. Joe ?”

On top of this we see the Tim Nichols State Budget whereby Pensioner concessions have been cut and privatisation of State owned Public Assets has been placed at the forefront.

The last *Branch News* contained a report on this subject.

We must campaign to stave off privatisation of Assets; something must be here for the next generation. Further we have members directly employed by Townsville Port Authority and members who work for Companies and pay rent to Government-owned Corporations.

If rents rise, businesses look to offset their costs and in many circumstances one of the areas they look at is labour costs !!!

All members are urged to participate in upcoming campaigns which **will be notified.**
