



# MUA

**PROUD TO BE UNION**

## YOUR LOCAL NEWS

### 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 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 18<sup>th</sup> and Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> 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.**

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## Transparency and Accountability

The LNP State Government continues to treat workers with contempt but has backflipped over the Transparency and Accountability legislation directed at attacking Unions, as earlier reported the Qld Union movement launched a High Court Challenge against part of the legislation which required by law that Unions must ballot every individual member before donations over a certain amount could be contributed to a political campaign. This occurred after the High Court required the Qld Government to provide particulars that it wanted included in the special case in the challenge lodged by Qld Unions.

The State LNP's response was to repeal the Legislation in Parliament in the first week of June, a complete back down from an incompetent Government whose law was unconstitutional and exposed the State Attorney General J. Bleijie and Government for what they are, the legislation was intended to shut down legitimate Union campaigns against biased and flawed legislation.

The Unions are seeking costs from the State Government and lawyers are writing to the Attorney General's Dept demanding that it pay Union court costs.

Premier Newman has also backed down on his discriminatory proposals to remove assistance from pensioners in terms of cost of living offsets, but under his leadership Qld residents are being faced with massive increases across the board including but not limited to –Electricity, Gas, Medical, Urban transport, Fuel and many other items.

The attacks on the medical fraternity and forcing doctors to sign contracts which could have the effect of determining the type and extent of treatment for patients leaves our sick and elderly vulnerable, the complete disregard for the legal system and practitioners in Qld is another example of total ignorance and exploitation for political gain.

## STRADDIE FERRIES

Straddie Ferries protest - thanks to the activist committee and the delegates course who attended our rally to give Straddie ferries a touch up on their 50th anniversary of standing over workers and deep opposition to organised labour.

It was a great turn out which not only stung the company but showed these new workers and members to our Union that they are a part of a movement and a Union which will fight from the front in securing proper wages and conditions along with fairness in the workplace. There are very supportive of the Union's efforts. Again thanks to the Branch activists for getting out there.

This was a good building block for our newly formed activist committee which is a model we can carry over to other new territory such as Brisbane ferries when the time comes. Thanks again to all the members who came out and a special thanks to our activists which took this idea off the table and out onto the streets.



## QLD STATE ELECTION

The State election is due early in 2015 and our Qld Branch activists have been diligent since the Redcliffe By election where activists including Branch officials were on the ground at polling booths, a great result with Labor winning the seat of the LNP. Prior to that, Branch activists were heavily involved in the Federal By election of Griffith which also saw the Labor candidate winning the seat.

The By election in Stafford is due this weekend and the Branch intends to be involved with activists in doing everything we can to ensure the LNP candidate is defeated and Labor prevails. This of course will only be a lead into the State election due in approx March 2015 where it is essential that we assist in every way possible to work for the defeat of the Newman Government. Activists have already been out leafleting on 5<sup>th</sup> July and we are seeking volunteers for Saturday – please contact the Branch.

## NORTHERN PORTS REPORT

### **NSS – issues on the go:**

1. Public holidays – Had conciliation awaiting similar outcome arbitration for Qube.
2. Rollover of hours – Escalated to national level awaiting report back from Warren Smith.
3. New Permanent employees – Still waiting for management to approve.
4. NSS Lines Agreement – Awaiting company response on offer to settle.
5. Spares on call – In dispute and awaiting company to post EOI for a spares register.
6. Posting weekly points totals – Company are raising privacy issues, still being discussed.

### **Seaswift**

Membership stratus was 90 now approximately 85. Seaswift made certain employees redundant, mainly MUA members. MUA officials are making every effort to engage SS management to establish a timeframe to begin bargaining for a new agreement without much response from the company.

### **TBSH:**

MUA Organiser to approach management to schedule a Labour Review in consultation with Assistant Branch Secretary Paul Sheehan.

### **PB Towage**

Recently it was reported that PB was to be sold to an overseas buyer, namely Singapore Ports. We are awaiting an update on the progress of the sale.

### **Hay Point**

The Branch continues to monitor the workload in Hay Pt. and allocating resources as necessary.

## LNG TANKER CAMPAIGN

The LNG campaign is continuing in a positive direction, but plenty of work to be done.

The Australian vessels have been briefed and the plan developed with the National office team and the Branch will ensure our fight for the right to work on our own coast in the LNG trade. We will continue to lobby and network with some good advice given by the various groups we have met. As we get further into the campaign regular reports will become more frequent at the activist stages.



**THANKS TO ALL MEMBERS** who made the effort and attended the *Bust the Budget Rally* at Queens Park in Brisbane last week.

## RELIEF OFFICIALS

The Branch places on record our appreciation for the efforts of Brain Gallagher and Paul Gallagher whilst relieving in the Branch during both Mick Carr and Paul Sheehan's leave.

Peter Robson is now back up and running after a period of sick leave which has seen Glenn Desmond assisting in a relieving capacity in the Townsville office while Peter was off. The Branch also places on record our appreciation for Glenn's efforts whilst relieving in the Townsville office.

## NATIONAL COUNCIL REPORT and RULE CHANGES

A successful Special Meeting was held at the MUA Office on Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> 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 have been held at the following Ports – Gladstone, Mackay, Townsville and Cairns. The Special Meetings have been conducted in the Ports in the week 24 to 27 June.

## 30 JUNE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Statements have been forwarded to members showing all Union dues paid during the July 2013 – June 2014 year. If you have not received your statement by now, please call the Branch on 3395 7215 to update your personal details.

## SPECIAL BRANCH COMMITTEE

A Special Branch Committee was held on 7<sup>th</sup> July to consider the political attacks on the MUA and Trade Union movement as a whole. Both the Newman State Government and Abbott Federal Government have set an agenda that targets the ability of Unions to function in defence of member's right to work in our traditional areas of work; and the misuse of Visas to import foreign labour without first ensuring Australian workers are employed. The Committee has discussed and determined a budget to campaign against the further privatization of our public assets and the defeat of the Newman Government.