



# Queensland Branch News



18<sup>th</sup> September 2014

## COASTAL SHIPPING

The *Branch News* of 4<sup>th</sup> September contained an article entitled "Many Fights Ahead" which included reference to the Legislative instrument utilised by Michaelia Cash overriding the views of the Senate. Justice Buchanan ruled against our application and members can refer to the MUA website for details.

Now Infrastructure Minister Warren Truss is calling for an "urgent overhaul" of Coastal Shipping. In other words, to allow unfettered access to the coast to foreign vessels with foreign crews.

Truss should change portfolios to the Minister for Trade because the Abbott Government's philosophy in regard to exports; i.e. exporting Australian jobs.

Australian seafarers must have a Maritime Security Identity Card (MSIC) and go through all the relevant background checks to be able to work in the maritime industry.

For weeks on end the media pages and the nightly news has been flooded with articles in relation to Islamic state. Raids have taken place in Brisbane and Sydney associated with persons suspected of having a linkage with terrorism.

It is a fundamental right for seafarers to have shore leave, that is to have the ability to get away from their workplace for even a short period of time. There is no allegation of being linked to terrorism, however what checks and balances will the Nationals be suggesting in relation to the ongoing security of this Nation associated with the blatant opening up of the Australian Coast to foreign vessels, whereby the crew are not subject to the same stringent checks as Australian citizens.

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## PICNIC DAY

The MUA Picnic Day – Melbourne Cup Day – a long held tradition in Brisbane is fast approaching. There has been a Committee which have had the same participants for a long period of time. This Committee plan the day's activities in conjunction with the Branch Executive.

Along with May Day – Picnic Day is one of the main family days of the MUA family. We are always looking for new ideas. To put any new ideas into practice, those ideas need to be discussed.

**There will be a Picnic Committee meeting held at the Union Rooms  
on Friday 26<sup>th</sup> September at 3.30pm.**

This year the Branch is looking for a record attendance. We want to show Employers that we actually do care about our members and their families in light of recent industrial matters with at least 2 stevedoring companies.

**QUBE** – Non-recognition of Picnic Day as a Closed Port Day. This matter has already been to Conciliation and will proceed to Arbitration.

**DP WORLD** – this Company has a claim to get rid of picnic Day altogether.

All interested members are urged to attend the Picnic Committee meeting.

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## ENTERPRISE AGREEMENTS

There are still other Enterprise Agreements in different stages of negotiations, including Brisbane Ferries, EC Stevedores, ISS, Ausport and ISS Lines to name a few.

There are various industrial issues afoot involving Patrick, Kalmar, NSS Stevedores Townsville and of course Stradbroke Ferries and their Gladstone arm Curtis Island.

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## MARITIME SUPER

Superannuation has been at the forefront in the media recently, in particular given that the Abbott Government has indicated there will be a delay to the increase in the Superannuation Guarantee levy. Our members can solace in the fact that our leadership and Rank & File membership had a vision. As a result SERF/SRF (now Maritime Super) were the first industry fund developed and over a period of time there were ongoing struggles to improve the retirement benefits for members.

By way of example, the then process of determining working conditions for Wharfies in 1986 was via a National two year contract; there were ongoing rolling strikes that ultimately led to a massive increase to contributions by Employers to SERF.

Currently contributions by Employers in Maritime Super in accordance with the respective Trust Deeds are far superior to the SGL. This has been further improved in Enterprise Agreements. Maritime Super have run regular seminars in the Branch Office and now intends to expand upon this by conducting workplace visits.

In this regard Workplace Forums, in the first instance, will be held as follows:

- DP World Brisbane Terminal – 1<sup>st</sup> Floor meeting room next to reception.  
11am – 1.30pm - Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> October  
MSIC card required for entry into terminal if not on roster
- Hutchinson Ports – BCT Training room  
2.30pm -Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> October.

Super is a complex area, so it is important that members receive reports from those who have the expertise in this field.

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## INDUSTRIAL ROUNDS

**ASP/SMIT TOWAGE** – Branch Secretary M. Carr has been in Gladstone from Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> September. During the course of the week, has visited ASP/RTM vessels deployed on the Gladstone to Weipa run to report to members regarding their Enterprise Agreement. He has also been involved in Smit Towage (Gladstone) EA negotiations - that Agreement has a nominal expiry date of 31<sup>st</sup> December and their operations will be significantly expanded with the advent of gas exports from the Port.

Also in the towage area, Svitzer Towage has lost the contact in the Port of Mackay and Weipa. Meetings will be held next week with the successful tender – PB Towage.

**DP World** – These negotiations have been drawn out with some 30 meetings being held. They commenced in February this year. Protected Action Ballots have been conducted and granted by Fair Work Commission.

Further Part A meetings are scheduled for 23<sup>rd</sup>-24<sup>th</sup> September; an Order has been made by Deputy President Booth for an extension of time that industrial action can be taken.

The Branch has sent correspondence to DP World seeking for a Yard meeting to be held to give a full report to the membership.

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## STRADBROKE FERRIES

Ongoing issues with Right-of-Entry provisions had us back in the Commission yesterday yet again. It never ceases to amaze me the lengths that some Companies will go to in order to defray and deny workers their rights (what is it they fear) under current Fair Work Act Legislation. This Company have a history of issues both here and in Gladstone of trying to manipulate worker's rights.

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## QNI

As reported at the last Branch Committee meeting, Clive Palmer's Queensland Nickle Industry Wharfies Agreement has been voted up 32-yes with 10-no. A particularly hard slog and many thanks to the Rank and File for their patience and to Peter Robson, MUA Organiser in Townsville and, especially Warren Smith, MUA Assistant National Secretary.

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