



# Queensland Branch News



23<sup>rd</sup> August 2012

## NATIONAL SAFETY CONFERENCE

The Branch News of 2<sup>nd</sup> August contained a report regarding the National Safety Conference from December 3-5.

There will be 9 delegates from the Qld Branch able to attend, we would like to see a diverse attendance. There will be plenary sessions and workshops. The workshops will be divided into 3 main areas.

- > Seafarers- Offshore/ Blue Water
- > Port workers/ Towage/ in harbour operations.
- > Wharfies/ Stevedores.

Members who wish to attend should register their interest with the Branch. More details will be provided in future editions of the Branch News.

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## STEVEDORING UNION DUES

The following article is repeated from the Branch News of 2<sup>nd</sup> August.

The Branch has identified and reviewed the union dues of irregularly engaged members. However changes will only be made to Agreements that have been finalised. As such, from 6<sup>th</sup> September 2012, the following changes will be made:

Area	Category	Earnings	Current Bracket	Future Bracket	Earnings
DPW	VSE	64050-82949	C	B	>82950
DPW	SUPP	26250-44099	E	D	44100-64049
Patrick Terminal	PGE	26250-44099	E	D	44100-64049

The current brackets associated with stevedoring union dues were last adjusted in 2008 because of the impact on earnings due to the dramatic cargo volume declines as a result of the global financial crisis.

The amount of dues as always remains subject to review in live with average earnings of each enterprise. There will be no changes to other stevedoring companies pending the finalisation of the Agreements.

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## GLADSTONE

The Organiser position applications have now closed and interviews will be held shortly to determine the successful applicant. In the meantime the MUA will have an ongoing presence to ensure that the interests of the memberships are catered for and growth opportunities are identified.

Qld regional organiser Peter Robson is in Gladstone until Friday 24<sup>th</sup> and Qld Assistant Branch Secretary Paul Sheehan will be in attendance from Monday 27<sup>th</sup> to Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> August. There will be an updated diary sent to the respective workplaces electronically that identifies who will be in Gladstone after 31<sup>st</sup> August.

Interviews will be held on Monday 27<sup>th</sup> August and Branch Secretary Mick Carr will be on the interview panel.

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# INDUSTRIAL ROUNDS

## HUTCHINSON PORT HOLDINGS

There have been 2 meetings with the Maritime Union of Australia for a commencing Greenfields agreement at HPH. This company is one of the four big global terminal operations who service 56% of the world's container volume.

It is intended to have start up arrangements to be followed by trigger points established in the agreements when the business ramps up. The discussions have been held on the basis that the initial agreement will cover the Ports of Brisbane and Sydney.

At the last meeting the MUA was represented by W. Smith, Assistant National Secretary, Paul McAleer Sydney Branch Secretary, T. Munday, QLD Deputy Branch Secretary and S. Ozdemier, National Organiser. Further meetings are to be timetabled. Some members have requested more information regarding work opportunities, Members can "google" Hutchinson Port Holdings and follow the links to find Brisbane contact details.

## **SMIT Dispute Gladstone**

The SMIT towage agreement has been a long and protracted negotiation which has included ongoing mediation with the Company/GPC and the 3 Seagoing unions. This has resulted in the following - a FWA Directions conference on the 2<sup>nd</sup> August followed by further meetings before Commissioner Booth on August 6<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup>. Branch Secretary Mick Carr has been involved in this process for a period of 7 weeks. The SMIT membership and delegates are commended for their resolve and contribution. There will be a further directions conference on 28<sup>th</sup> August. In the meantime SVITZER National Towage negotiations have commenced with initial meetings taking place in Sydney 15<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup> August.

**PB Sea Tow Dispute:** There has been an ongoing dispute associated with this operation concerning employees, approximately 70 members, in the Port of Gladstone; this culminated in a FWA conference involving the Company and MUA on August 8. As a result of the conference Mick Carr is attending further meetings in Gladstone on August 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup>.

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## **GENERAL STEVEDORING AGREEMENTS**

Patrick Part A has been completed subject to finalisation of drafting matters. This will be enacted via video on Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> August. The Gladstone Agreement is finalised and there are a couple of minor issues in relation to the finalisation of the Brisbane Part B Arrangements.

The QUBE ports EA is complete on a local basis after a labour review to put the establishment numbers in the Agreement which will see 48 permanents (3 additional to current numbers) whilst maintaining 28 VSE's. QUBE Ports has minor drafting details to finalise in relation to Part A and members will be advised of report back meetings.

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## **MMPCU Our Credit Union**

Diane Tralaggan, State Business Development Officer will be available in the Brisbane Office on September 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> for Mortgage Loan Applications.

Members can contact Diane directly either by e-mail ([dtralaggan@mmpcu.com.au](mailto:dtralaggan@mmpcu.com.au)) or mobile phone 0400 928 819 to make an appointment.

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