



Queensland Branch News



13th September 2012

QUEENSLAND REGIONAL ORGANISER GLADSTONE

In previous editions of the *Branch News* a position vacant for Queensland Regional Organiser Gladstone was advertised and following an exhaustive interview process inclusive of secondary interviews for some of the candidates, has culminated in the appointment of MUA member Jason Miners, to the position.

Jason will meet with the Branch Executive on Monday 17th September and then will proceed to Gladstone for orientation. On Friday 21st September, Jason will be introduced to members of the Branch Committee. Once those processes have been undertaken, a more comprehensive report will follow.

BRANCH COMMITTEE

Branch Committee members are reminded of the meeting to be held on Friday 21st September. Any members of the Branch Committee who cannot attend are urged to organise their alternate and advise the Branch Office Staff of their attendance.

National Council will be held on 14th – 18th October and Branch Committee will be appraised of the Queensland Branch report to be delivered at Council.

INDUSTRIAL ROUNDS AND DIARY DATES

- 10th Sept. Fair Work Australia Hearing re: Bechtel operations Curtis Island, Gladstone
- 11th/12th/13 Sept. Svitzer National negotiations in Sydney
- 12th Sept. Hutchinson Port Holdings meeting in Sydney. MUA Officials continued a further meeting for a Greenfield Agreement. We have relayed to management our expectation of a level playing field. There will be further meetings in the near future.
- 14th Sept. Re: listing of Fair Work Australia matter re: Bechtel operations - Curtis Island
9am -TK Hay Point Towage negotiations
2.30pm - Re-convene Smit Towage Gladstone Fair Work Australia mediation Conference
- 17th Sept. Queensland Bulk Terminal negotiations – Enterprise Agreement
- 18th Sept. Patrick General Stevedoring Brisbane Part B – local arrangements meeting. The Branch and Committee will be seeking finalisation of this long running negotiation process.
- 20th Sept. AAT Yard meeting to establish claims for pending Enterprise Agreement negotiations. We will also seek to establish dates with management to continue and finalise negotiations prior to the February 2013 expiry date.
- 21st Sept. Branch Committee meeting
- 24th Sept. Maritime Super Seminar – Union rooms
- 25th Sept. Branch Monthly Meeting – Union rooms

N.B. Members are reminded of the Picnic committee meeting
at 1530 hours Friday 14th September in the Union office.

STAND FOR QUEENSLAND

Many thanks to those members who attended the mass Rallies around the State to protest against the Newman-led LNP Government's treatment of the Public Sector workers in this State. No doubt more rallies will follow. The abominable treatment of Queensland workers and their respective families needs to be brought to an end.

Many MUA members are concerned about industrial issues at their respective enterprises and there is nothing wrong with being concerned about your conditions of employment; however industrial outcomes are linked and joined at the hip with political outcomes.

In this regard the resurrection of the Australian Shipping Policy would not have occurred if the ALP was not in power on a Federal level. The coastal shipping would continue on its downward spiral as established by the Howard Government, when it first came into office. Their actions were to immediately remove any fiscal support to shipowners and issue single voyage and continuous voyage permits hand over fist.

There has been a recent overall of Workplace Health and Safety in this State, in the main to ensure Workplaces are safe. The Budget identified the cutting of 30 Workplace Inspectors; the independent body that oversees that work was carried out in accordance with the Act and Regulations in a multitude of industries.

We are vehemently aware that we have highly unionised workplaces, however what happens in a small workplace whereby an employee is told what to do safe or otherwise and as a result of wanting to work safe, they are subject to persecution. No checks and balances from a diminished Statutory Authority, all in the pursuit if we listen to the 'spin doctors' of re-establishment of an AAA credit rating – with ZZZ Workplace accountability.

The LNP has also instigated a review of WorkCover, given the precedent that has been set associated with the treatment of the working class in this State, it is highly unlikely that the outcomes will see substantial increases in injured workers benefits.

Members, there is a need to agitate for a Fair system in this State and for workers to be treated with respect and dignity, whether that be in the public or private sector.

YOUTH COMMITTEE BOWLING EXTRAVAGANZA

The MUA Youth Committee have organised a bowling function, open to all members:

Time: 4pm
Date: Friday 28th September
Venue: Boo Bowling Club 126 Breakfast Creek Road, Newstead
(Booroodabin Community & Recreation Club)

There have been 2 Youth Committee meetings now and a Youth Committee email has been established. Youth members are recognised as being 35 years and under.

The Youth Committee in conjunction with the Branch office staff have established that we have some 449 youth members. If you are interested in participating, please contact the office for more details.
