



# Queensland Branch News



13<sup>th</sup> November 2012

## AGM/SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING

In conjunction with Rule 19 of the Union Rules, the AGM will be held on Tuesday 11th December 2012 commencing at 7.00am and concluding at 11.00am. The venue will be at the Workers Club, 35 Bognor Street, Tingalpa.

After the conclusion of the AGM, a separate meeting will be called under the heading of Special Meeting, pursuant to Rule 20. This meeting is in relation to Rule changes; the establishment of a Northern Territory full-time Branch Secretary and an additional Assistant Branch Secretary in the W.A. Branch.

At the conclusion of the meetings, there will be a BBQ and refreshments.

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## NSCOP

Many thanks to the members who assisted with support by attending the MUA Rally in the City on Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> October. The Branch sourced two buses to transport members after the Branch Monthly meeting.

Speakers reminded the public of the ongoing deaths on the Australian waterfront and the callous response by Stevedoring Companies including DPW, Asciano/Patrick, Qube, Toll, Shipping Australia, the Australian Industry Group and the Australian Chamber of Commerce and Industry by rejecting a significant proportion of the content in the draft Code of Practice which was to be considered by the SWA Strategic Issues Group on Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> September, shortly after the death of Wharfie Greg Fitzgibbon in Newcastle.

Branch Secretary M. Carr and Deputy Branch Secretary T. Munday negotiated with police and finally held a meeting with management to convey the Union's disgust at the way employers continue to seek to circumvent the development of a real and meaningful safety culture in the Stevedoring Industry.

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## BRANCH YOUTH DAY

A Youth meeting will be held at the Branch on Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> December commencing at 9.00am; all members under 35 years of age are invited to meet, discuss and submit your ideas. The discussions will be chaired and run by Youth Committee delegates and outcomes will be relayed to the Queensland Branch Committee which meets the following day. Come along and have your say and get involved and hear progress reports of what is happening and how you can be a part of it. A BBQ lunch will be provided on the day.

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## TEEKAY TOWAGE EA NEGOTIATIONS HAY POINT

Negotiations are continuing with advice that AIMPE have concluded their EA which includes a catch up Clause, regarding whatever outcomes are achieved by MUA and AMOU will automatically flow. We have consistently sought to have a single bargaining unit but to no avail here.

Teekay management were requested by the MUA to meet at Hay Point to continue the negotiations in the week commencing 22<sup>nd</sup> October, but refused stating they were unable to meet that time line. In the interim they advised that they had engaged a private consultant and were going to have the Tugs *Bulgu* and *Baladha* inspected with a proposal for de-manning, dependant on the outcomes of the inspections. Subsequently the Union attended together with a nominated independent Chairman. It was agreed by the MUA and Company to form a Committee based on the outcomes and template derived from International inspections which had taken place several years ago, after a dispute with another Towage Company.

Those initial inspections took place began on 22<sup>nd</sup> October and continued for most of that week. The inspections included meetings with Tug personnel; berthing and de-berthing, including both Tugs. The outcomes are still being considered and will form part of a report which is separate to the EA negotiations but no doubt will have some bearing on it, depending on the final outcome. Further reports will follow.

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## **QUEENSLAND COUNCIL OF UNIONS**

The QCU recently conducted a week of action in Mackay, Sarina and Moranbah in late October. Meetings, picket lines and individual campaigns were supported during the week. The Executive meeting heard from Opposition Leader Anastacia Palaszczuk and local member Tim Mulherin. A picket line at the Mackay Hospital was attended where further health budget cuts by the Newman Government will mean more nurses and health care workers are put out of work.

Queensland will be a key area in the campaign as the Federal Election approaches.

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### **MATER HOSPITAL DISPUTE WITH ABIGROUP**

This dispute involved approx. 650-700 workers who were seeking no more than an agreement with the main contractor that would ensure all workers were treated equally and fairly and receive the correct entitlements.

Abigroup responded by running an aggressive legal campaign in an attempt to starve workers back to work on the same divisive arrangements who, would have had no certainty of conditions and depending on sub-contractors, to honor entitlements. The dispute was bitter with the community responding magnificently to assist with morale, by attending and speaking with and in support of the work force. After more than 60 days the dispute ended with negotiations leading to a position where workers returned to work with the vast majority of issues resolved. Members are thanked for taking time to attend the community protest and repay the support that was so generously given to us during the 1998 dispute.

The men and women who make up the workforce at the Mater Hospital have shown tremendous conviction and solidarity under great hardship. The role of Bob Carnegie and Delegates was also pivotal in ensuring a solid presence and support through those difficult weeks and we congratulate him for the consistency and discipline under very difficult conditions in maintaining the focus of the community protest.

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### **BRANCH MONTHLY MEETING**

The next Branch Monthly meeting will be held on 27<sup>th</sup> November, 2012 at 9.00am in the Union rooms. All members welcome and we encourage your attendance. Hot dogs and drinks will follow the meeting.

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### **NATIONAL SAFETY CONFERENCE**

The National Safety Conference will be held in Brisbane from 3<sup>rd</sup>- 5<sup>th</sup> December. Plans are well advanced and will be advised in the *Branch News*. Members will recall this concept came out of Brisbane AGM where it was further supported after resolution from the Branch to National Conference.

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### **BRANCH COMMITTEE**

The final Branch Committee for 2012 will be held on Friday 7<sup>th</sup> December. Committee members would have already received correspondence confirming same.

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### **CSL WHYALLA**

The Branch inspected the vessel on 5<sup>th</sup> November at Cairns Cross Dock, where she will change over to Australian crew and proceed to Whyalla to work on Project magnet. Inspection report has been forwarded to South Australia and Southern NSW Branches.

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### **HUTCHINSON PORTS AUSTRALIA**

Deputy Branch Secretary T. Munday in conjunction with Sydney/Victoria Branches and National Office participated in 7 days of meetings with HPA to finalise an Enterprise Agreement. Further meetings will be held on Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> November. An in-principle agreement has been reached on a 'without prejudice' basis for the Company to commence operations on the standard rostering arrangements of at least a 7x1. Members will be appraised of further outcomes.