



Queensland Branch News



10th December 2012

AGM/SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING

In conjunction with Rule 19 of the Union Rules, the Annual General Meeting will be held on:

Date: Tuesday 11th December 2012 - 7.00am and concluding at 11.00am.

Venue: 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.

DISCIPLINARY MEETINGS

Recent dismissals at Qube over alleged safety breaches serves to highlight to the membership the importance of having witnesses attend meetings with the Employer. It is imperative that members advise the Branch of any pending meetings. Further our members are entitled to due process, inclusive of the right to have representatives of their choice present.

Part of that due process allows for sufficient time for the member to organise the representation of their choice; if that means a Union Official or Organiser, so be it. If the Official has other commitments, then alternative a mutually convenient time can be organised; usually after discussions with the member's Employer.

The dismissals at Qube will be listed for hearing at Fair Work Australia.

LEAVE

Deputy Branch Secretary T. Munday will commence Annual Leave on Thursday 13th December and return on Friday 28th December.

Branch Secretary M. Carr will be on personal leave after Friday 14th December; afterwards going on annual leave.

The relieving Officials and contact numbers will be advised in due course.

Christmas – New Year Office hours.

The Branch and Credit Union will be open over the Christmas-New Year period as follows:

Monday 24 th December	-	Close at 12 noon
Christmas and Boxing Day	-	Closed
Thursday 27 th December	-	Close at 12 noon
Friday 28 th December	-	Close at 12 noon

The Branch and Credit Union will not be open on New Year's Eve – Monday 31st December.

Branch Officials can be contacted by Mobiles during this period.

NATIONAL SAFETY CONFERENCE

The Queensland Branch hosted a highly successful 3-day National Safety Conference from Monday 3rd to Wednesday 5th December. The idea to hold the Conference was originally generated from strident debate at the 2011 Brisbane Annual General Meeting; further a resolution was sent from the Branch to National Conference which culminated in the National Safety Conference.

Mick Carr - Branch Secretary/National Presiding Officer opened the Conference, after a rousing speech by Uncle Bob Anderson, a long time activist, provided a welcome to the country.

The Conference Agenda was set in such a manner to allow for involvement of Rank and file participants with panel sessions that allowed for ample time for question.

On day 2 – the membership split into workshops comprising of the following:

- Seafarers - Bluewater / Offshore
- Port Workers - Port Authority / Towage / Lines
- Stevedoring

Each area of the workshops reported back to the main plenary session on Day 3 of the Safety Conference.

There were a number of issues that were clearly identified at the conclusion of the Conference. In particular, members require further information so that they fully understand their rights regarding safety at the workplace.

The Queensland Branch would like to thank our Sponsors for the Conference.

The Conference would not have been the success that it was without the help of our Office staff and volunteers, who helped put all the paper work together and set up the Conference, the Sunday prior.

Many thanks to our Veterans, who were present everyday to assist, not only assist but participate in the Conference.

HUNTERLINK NATIONAL HELPLINE SERVICE

National Secretary Paddy Crumlin reports that the Hon Greg Combet, Member for Charlton and Australian Government Climate Change Minister officially launched the Hunterlink Recovery Services National Helpline Service during MUA National Council on Monday 15 October 2012.

P. Crumlin advises that for the first time in Australia, workers nationwide will now have access to a 24-hour helpline providing assistance with substance abuse, suicide prevention, counselling and early intervention support, from an organisation established on the values of the trade union movement.

Paddy Crumlin reports that the Hunterlink expansion strategy will now be integrated into EBA negotiations, commencing with the offshore EBA, aimed at establishing Hunterlink as the national industry preferred and priority provider of employee assistance scheme support for workers. This will provide a platform to extend it to the Bluewater sector, and discussions have already commenced with ASA to gain its commitment for ASA member backing for Hunterlink.

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