



Queensland Branch News



10th January 2013

THE YEAR AHEAD

2012 was an extremely busy year both on an industrial and political level. The arduous task of finalising Enterprise Agreements was made exceptionally difficult by employers representing our industry and others pushing a political barrow in an effort to discredit the Fair Work Act. At every opportunity the Murdoch Press made an emphasis on the “so called return to dark ages of industrial upheaval”.

This is their agenda front and centre in the promotion of having an Abbott-led Coalition elected in the latter part of this year, to service their cronies on the basis of “increased flexibility” created in the Industrial Relations environment.

More will be emphasised regarding the Federal Election in the coming weeks. Deputy National Secretary Mick Doleman will be co-ordinating a campaign to target marginal seats in all States. Whatever shortcoming a Gillard-led Government may face, the Union movement and the MUA maintain the opportunity to engage in pursuing the policy of the Union and broader social justice issues.

The development of the Shipping Policy, protecting and enhancing employment opportunities of our members last year shows just how valuable that engagement is. This is in stark contrast to the Howard years, whereby one of his first forays in office was to withdraw fiscal support to the Australian Shipping industry, which sent Australian manned vessels over the horizon.

In 2012 the Queensland State Election saw ‘Can-do Campbell’ elected in a landside, immediately instigating a slash-and-burn mentality with 14,000 members of the Public Service being made redundant. A review of Workers Compensation Legislation will see the WorkCover Act come under attack. If Newman is the entrée, we certainly don’t want Abbott as the main course.

On an industrial level we also have challenges – automation within DP World is a massive issue to the members engaged at that entity, redundancies will be enacted, there will be changed employment arrangements – this all has to be worked through in the best interests of our membership. Sitting alongside this is the finalisation of the Agreement of the new employer in Brisbane – Hutchinsons.

Enterprise Agreements for seafarers engaged in Teekay and ASP are close to finalisation. Towage Agreements at Svitzer and Teekay Hay Point Towage need to be completed and all Offshore Agreements are up for re-negotiation.

The AAT Agreement negotiations have commenced. Svitzer Lines Agreement expires in March as well as the possibility of this entity being sold and our members’ employment being transferred.

The Branch has also initiated and is continuing negotiations with Queensland Bulk Terminals, grain export at the old Sugar Berth; as well as the NSS and QNI Agreements.

The above gives a snapshot of what is to occur.

ANNUAL LEAVE/RELIEF OFFICIAL

Branch Secretary M. Carr is on annual leave until the last week of February. Gladstone Organiser, Jason Miners will be providing relief during this period being based in Brisbane, but commuting between Brisbane and Gladstone on an as-required basis. Jason can be contacted on Mobile: 0401 211 866 or email – jason.miners@mua.org.au

TRADE UNION TRAINING

Advice has been received from National Education and Safety Co-ordinator Matt Goodwin in relation to Trade Union Training.

- Brisbane** 19/20-Feb-2013. Delegate 2. Matt Goodwin
19/20-Mar-2013. Delegate 1. Chris Doyle.
11/12-June-2013. Delegate 2
There may be room for one more Delegates 1 in second half of the year, subject to demand
- Gladstone** 7/8-March-2013 Delegate 1. Glenn Desmond.
2/3-July-2013 Delegate 2. Glenn Desmond.
- Townsville** 4/5-March-2013 Delegate 1. Glenn Desmond.
14/15-May-2013 Delegate 2. Matt Goodwin.
- Hay Point** 6/7-August-2013
- Cairns** 13/14-August-2013

If members are interested in training, please contact the Branch office staff as soon as possible so that the Branch can make application to respective Companies for leave.

YOUTH COMMITTEE

The MUA has a proven history of supporting the Youth members. All members under the age of 35 years are encouraged to join and become actively involved in Queensland Youth Committee.

Our purpose is:

- to uphold and progress current working standards and conditions;
- to educate new and current members on previous and current struggles won and lost.

We would like you to join the Queensland Youth Committee.

We have a facebook page – Qld MUA Youth and our email is – qldmuayouth@gmail.com

**Remember – this is your Union
Pay your way – have your say**

TOWNSVILLE REGIONAL OFFICE

Please be advised that this Office is now manned between 8.30am – 3.30pm Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday each week.

MMPCU – CREDIT UNION

Dianne Tralagga, State Business Development Officer will be available in the Brisbane Credit Union Office from noon Thursday 17th and all day Friday 18th January for members' convenience.

HUNTERLINK NATIONAL HELPLINE SERVICE

As reported in previous Branch News, Hunterlink National Assistance helpline is a 24 hours, 7 days a week national helpline to support workers and their families with mental health, substance abuse and other issues. Their helpline number is 1800 554 654.

Hunterlink Contact Ph: (02) 4929 6625 Fax: (02) 4929 6654 Email: enquiry@hunterlinkservices.org.au

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