



Queensland Branch News



1st February 2013

FEDERAL ELECTION

The Branch News of 10th January contained an article in relation to this year being extremely important and placed particular emphasis on the importance of a pending Federal Election. Effective this week that pending election has become a reality with the Prime Minister announcing an election for 14th September.

There can be little doubt that we will see changes to the industrial landscape in this country if an Abbott led Coalition Government is elected. Already Abbott has indicated that he would seek to re-establish the Australian Building and Construction Committee (ABCC) in the interest of productivity and flexibility.

There will be little doubt that the whole Trade Union movement will be under attack, the arch enemy of big business.

The behaviour of some employers, with which we have Agreements, should really be taken into context. Could it just be that not only do they not recognise their most important asset, being their workers, that they are also willing to entrench an ongoing acrimonious relationship to seek to establish confrontation/disputation to achieve a political result.

After all the Maritime Union of Australia is one of the favourite targets of the right-wing media in this country.

Hereunder is an extract from the MUA website in relation to the coalition already making an announcement regarding the Unions right of entry.

“Maritime Union of Australia (MUA) National Secretary, Paddy Crumlin has today hit out at the announcement that union access to workplaces could be wound back under a Coalition government, as nothing more than Tony Abbott planning a return to Work Choices.

As the Liberal Party faces increasing calls from business to take a detailed alternative industrial relations policy to this year's election, coalition sources said the opposition was "seriously considering" reversing changes made under the Fair Work Act to the rules governing entry by union representatives into workplaces.

"What they're talking about is a return to Work Choices and blatant union busting," said MUA National Secretary Paddy Crumlin.

“It is a basic right of a union to walk into a workplace, investigate safety and health breaches and represent its members. “We all know that Tony Abbott wants to reduce union representation of its members, which will leave workers in the lurch when it comes to disputes with powerful bosses,” added Mr Crumlin.

ACTU secretary Dave Oliver also accused the Coalition of wanting to re-implement Work Choices if it won the next election. Mr Oliver said unions should have adequate rights to enter workplaces to represent the industrial interests of members.”

The current provisions of the Fair Work Act are onerous for Union Officials who hold Right of Entry Permits under Section 512. For example, Qube is an employer who make it onerous for Branch Officials to enter the premises – their words because of their Duty of Care. Pity they don't apply that same duty to their workforce.

Members will be advised of details regarding the Federal Election as they come to hand.

WORKCOVER

The Newman Government is handing down its Report into the Review of Workers Compensation in this State; the Statutory Authority being WorkCover and its subsequent regulatory body Q-Comp. The Queensland Council of Unions is running a campaign against any cuts to Workers Compensation.

We are fully aware that a significant number of work related injuries occur in our areas of coverage and a worker should not be disadvantaged as a result of a work related injury.

It is important for Queenslanders to demonstrate against what is an essential component of worker's conditions of employment. A component of the QCU campaign is the establishment of bill-boards. A campaign launch will be held under one such bill-board, as follows:

8th February 2012 - 6.30am – 7.30am

Corner of Waterworks Road and Enoggera Terrace, Red Hill

It would be appreciated if members could re-enforce their views by being in attendance.

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 by Friday 8th February** in relation to the Course on 19th & 20th February.

DP WORLD

Next week there will be 3 days of meetings with the Company. The MUA will be represented by the Committee as well as Assistant National Secretary Warren Smith and Deputy Branch Secretary Trevor Munday.

At the conclusion of this further road of discussions, a comprehensive report will be mailed to the members. Could all members ensure that their contact details are up to date, including their postal addresses.

HPA

There was a further 2 days of meetings with HPA in relation to their Greenfields Enterprise Agreement. At the time of writing the Branch is awaiting a further draft from the Company as a result of the negotiations.

Deputy Branch Secretary T. Munday and Assistant Branch Secretary P. Sheehan had a brief inspection of the Terminal on Friday 24th January and Assistant National Secretary W. Smith will visit the site during the course of next week. The Agreement should be finalised at a further meeting.

Authorised by Trevor Munday, Deputy Branch Secretary, Maritime Union of Aust.

QLD Branch, 73 Southgate Avenue, Cannon Hill Q. 4170 Ph: 3395 7215 Fax: 3395 7688 Email: muaqld@mua.org.au