



Queensland Branch News



6th March 2013

DP WORLD YARD MEETING

A Yard Meeting will be held on **Friday 8th March at the Workers Club, 35 Bognor Street, Tingalpa.**

Whilst the last round of discussions associated with DP World's decision to automate their Terminal took place on 4th-6th February, this is the first opportunity that the National Office/Branch/Committee has been able to report-back to the entire DP World membership. The report-back follows on from the Branch mail out of material to all DP World members.

The Yard meeting will be attended by all Branch Officials and the main report will be presented by Assistant National Secretary Warren Smith. The main emphasis of the strategy of the Union will be to have ongoing viable employment numbers at DP World, Brisbane terminal based on **FACT** not **FICTION**.

AUTOMATION CONFERENCE

On 29th-30th April, the MUA will host an International Automation Conference in Sydney. Wharfies, Dockers and Longshoremen will gather from around the globe to discuss and develop strategies associated with the development of technology that leads to Automated and Semi-Automated Terminals. This is the biggest change on the waterfront since containerisation in the late '60s.

Rank and File participation – our members who have or will be confronted with the changes that automation ultimately brings, are fundamental to ensuring that the Conference is a success. The Queensland Branch has been allotted ten (10) delegates and correspondence has already been forwarded to the current Terminal Committees regarding the Conference.

It is important that a wide cross section of rank and file attendees are forthcoming to cover the various aspects associated with Terminal stevedoring. A coverage of maintenance, operational and clerical fields will be taken into consideration. A final decision will be made regarding the makeup of the Queensland delegates; members will be advised. Following on from the Conference, a further day has been set aside so that the delegates can receive a full report of the National Stevedoring Code of Practice.

The Branch will be finalising the names of delegates by the end of next week, so any members interested in attending should advise the Branch Office by **no later than 13th March**.

HUTCHINSON PORT AUSTRALIA

Members will be able to ascertain that the Brisbane Terminal is nearing completion and coinciding with the completion of that Terminal, so is the "Greenfields" Enterprise Agreement that, in the first instance, will cover operations in Brisbane and Sydney. The Company has sent draft "9" to the Union for comment and as a result there are a few minor drafting issues to complete the Agreement. Further discussions are pending and members will be notified of the final agreement and start up dates post those discussions.

TRADE UNION TRAINING

If you are interested in participating in a Delegate 1 –Trade Union Training Course to be held on:

Tuesday 19th and Wednesday 20th March 2013

at the MUA Brisbane office – please **telephone 3395 7215** and add your name to the list.

MAY DAY 2013

The Queensland Council of Unions Executive determined that although the Newman Government made a decision to shift "Labour Day" in this State till later in the year, the broader Trade Union movement won't accept that change. In this regard **May Day 2013 will be celebrated on Sunday 5th May.**

The Branch has been involved in two preliminary meetings with the QCU and Affiliates. Details of May Day will be published in further *Branch News*.

The attacks on workers in this State will be at the forefront as well as the privatisation agenda of the Queensland Government.

INDUSTRIAL ROUNDS

SVITZER TOWAGE

Branch Secretary M. Carr is attending Work's Council meetings this week along with officials and Delegates from all Ports to finalise the Svitzer Towage Agreement.

TK TOWAGE (HAY POINT)

Enterprise Agreement negotiations are ongoing after the MUA membership overwhelming supported a Protected Action Ballot to further the Log of Claims.

PORT OF BRISBANE LTD

The Branch has engaged with Senior POBL Management regarding agreements that cover our members at the Whyte Island and Brisbane Multi-Modal Terminals. Further discussions are scheduled during the latter part of next week.

NSS

Agreement is all but finalised with cosmetic drafting issues to be brought to a conclusion. The Agreement will go to the membership for endorsement on the week commencing 18th March.

PATRICK GLADSTONE

The Branch is seeking to firm up dates for a Labour Review – a review of the retention bonuses with a possible date of 25th March. At the conclusion of the meeting, a Yard meeting will be held with the membership.

AAT

The Union is seeking to have the AAT Agreement finalised by 12th March.

WORKERS COMPENSATION

Members are once again requested to provide details to the Branch Office as a result of compensable injuries allowing for the Branch to act on behalf of the members.

Members are reminded that as a result of sustaining a workplace injury, they have an obligation to partake in rehabilitation in order to return to work to pre-injury duties; this does not however circumvent the injured worker utilising their own preferred medical practitioner.

This is repeated as some employers have been instructing our members that they must attend the Company appointed medical practitioner. This may be for Return-to-Work purposes but members maintain the right to the Doctor of their choice in the first instance and they become their medical practitioner.

The Eastern Division Office of WorkCover Queensland has indicated their willingness to continue to consult with the Union regarding issues as they arise.

Members who are uncertain of their rights and obligations as a result of sustaining a compensable injury should not hesitate to contact the Branch.
