



Queensland Branch News



8th April 2013

MAY DAY 2013

Members are reminded that May Day 2013 will be celebrated in Brisbane on Sunday 5th May. (Other Queensland areas should go to the MUA website and click on Queensland Branch to review the *Branch News* of 21/03/13 to ascertain their march details.) The Branch will provide comprehensive details of the march and associated functions closer to the date.

The QCU Executive made the determination that although the LNP Government decided to change the Labour Day public holiday to October, that the Union movement would celebrate as per usual, albeit that the day has been brought forward by one day.

The attacks on the Public Service and legislative changes to the detriment of workers are unprecedented; these attacks by the LNP cannot go unchallenged. Therefore it is of paramount importance that the Union movement protest against these changes. The BEST way of showing our discontent is to mobilise as many members of the Trade Union movement as possible and to have record numbers participate in the respective marches.

Historically and traditionally the MUA has had the largest number of marchers to members than any other Union. We want to see that ratio increased. Lock the dates in, for a day to be celebrated for you and your family. (There will be family rides at the RNA Showgrounds.) The actions of Government affect working people, ultimately these actions do not only affect the worker, it affects the whole family and the next generation of the workforce.

Our membership and the broader Trade Union movement should be proud of the commitment we had in the "Your Rights at work" campaign that saw the Howard Government and that draconian legislation thrown into political abyss. Only the force of numbers and the urge to protest against bad legislation saw work choices removed.

NATIONAL STEVEDORING CODE OF PRACTICE

NSCOP is currently out for public submissions and comment. The MUA is seeking to establish as much support from the general public as possible. This is to ensure that MUA members can work in a safe workplace and have a viable set of Safety Laws to follow. Currently, as many members are aware, there is the provision of Federal legislation AMSA (Australian Maritime Safety Authority) and State WHSQ (Workplace Health and Safety Queensland) and although there is a Memorandum of Understanding that exists between those two entities, it is only in relation to the investigation of incidents/accidents and it has a severe lack of teeth. This is emphasised by the fact that at least one employer in Brisbane does not even bother reporting an accident that occurred aboard a vessel to WHSQ, even though there is a requirement to do so under the MOU as previously mentioned.

Quite frankly, incident/accident prevention is the main focus of NSCOP, not the investigation process after.

National rallies were held on Tuesday 26th March in Brisbane at the conclusion of the Branch Monthly meeting. Members were transported to the Chamber of Commerce and industry (QCCI) to protest against their National bodies (Australian Chamber of Commerce and Industry [ACCI]) involvement and lobbying as the umbrella body of business against the start up of NSCOP.

It is disappointing that the very members that we are seeking to protect, Stevedoring members were outnumbered by seafarers at the rally. Members are urged in the future to strongly consider their involvement in future rallies for the betterment of workers whether that is about safety, conditions or levels of remuneration.

After some 30 minutes of protest the Branch Secretary and Deputy Branch Secretary were able to meet with QCCI General Manager Nick Behrens. In this discussion he made the point that he was aware of the ACCI involvement, however was not aware what NSCOP was about. Branch Officers were able to give him an appraisal of NSCOP and to explain why it is so important to Waterside Workers. He made overtures that the fundamentals and policy of the QCCI was the provision of a safe workplace and he would raise our concerns to the ACCI.

Many thanks to the members who took the time to participate and boarded the bus transport organised by the Branch to attend the successful Brisbane rally and all members are urged to remain proactive about safety in their workplace. **(Safety is everyone's business)**

GLADSTONE PROTEST RALLY

The Branch has joined with construction Unions in the planning of a protest rally in Gladstone in support of employment opportunities for the local community; support for local content in manufacturing; and opposition to the misuse of 457 Visa's by the likes of BECHTEL that results in Australian workers being denied employment opportunities. EMA's are another issue that Unions are against, which results in local workers being denied employment opportunities.

The rally planned for 17th April will have National Officials from the CFMEU as well as Branch Officials from a number of Unions address the rally in support of the above objectives. National Secretary P. Crumlin has been copied in to correspondence and it is hoped he will attend.

The Branch has been working closely with other organisations through MUA Organiser Jason Miners on a number of issues including the Curtis Island dispute where the Branch is waiting on a decision of FWA re right of entry.

INDUSTRIAL ROUNDS

Brisbane Container Terminals (Hutchison)

The Enterprise Agreement (Greenfield) has been completed and this Company has commenced training of start up labour. The Branch has been given the opportunity to address the recruits at a mutually agreeable time. An implementation meeting involving National and Local management of Hutchinson along with Asst. National Secretary Warren Smith and the Branch will be held.

Smithbridge Negotiations

We met Albert Smith at his office on Wednesday 27th March. Smithbridge are looking at a combined Construction, Marine and Stevedoring Agreement for a project in Port Hedland. T. Munday will be liaising with the West Aust. Branch, especially for the stevedoring component.

AAT

EA complete and yard meetings have been held in Port Kembla and Brisbane. Subject to minor drafting adjustments the agreement will be distributed to the membership and a meeting will be called to seek endorsement, subject to members having the agreement for more than 7 days.

DP World Terminal.

Further meetings have been arranged with DP World management on Friday 19th April associated with the change of mode at that Terminal. There will be a significant change to the numbers of employees required to operate the Terminal in the future. The objective of the Union remains focused on having an open and transparent process and having the numbers determined on reality and not based on an opportunistic approach by the Company at the previous round of meetings to casualise the Terminal workforce. The MUA has received tremendous international support from the International Trade Union movement and they remain ready and willing to enact support to the MUA if required .

Teekay Hay Point Towage EA

The Agreement negotiated for 12 months has now been lodged with FWA. MUA members voted to unanimously support the Agreement at a report back meeting, addressed by Branch Officers and local delegates.

The Agreement went to ballot the following week and the result was 100% support. During the negotiations the MUA applied for and was granted a Protected Action Ballot which in the end was unnecessary.

Further to the industrial negotiations the Company engaged a private consultant and sought to build a case to de-man the MUA complement on the Tugs. After the forming of a committee consisting of the Branch Secretary, the independent consultant and Chairman, the Tugs were subject to inspection and the matters debated with the result that there would be no de-manning at present also the matter would not be revisited for 6 months while defects on the vessels were rectified.

Branch Planning/Mapping

The Branch in conjunction with the National Growth Team have scheduled a revisit to update the Branch plan which lays out the responsibilities and work schedule of Organisers and Officials, including project mapping currently being undertaken. As always a full report of the outcomes will be given to the Branch Committee for discussion.

National Council

National Council will meet for a couple of days for preparation of the upcoming Federal Election which members need no reminding. It is imperative that all members ensure they are on the electoral roll. The rhetoric of Tony Abbott should not leave anyone in doubt of the intentions of a Liberal National Government if elected.
