



# Queensland Branch News



15<sup>th</sup> April 2013

## ITF AUTOMATION CONFERENCE

Branch Officials along with Delegates from DP World, Patrick Terminals, ATIVO and Kalmar (both from Patrick Maintenance) attended a 2 day ITF Automation Conference in Sydney on 29<sup>th</sup>-30<sup>th</sup> April. There were attendees present from Global Docker Unions.

Presentations were delivered from FNV (Dutch Dockers) who had the initial Automated Terminal ever operated in a stevedoring capacity.

Presentations were also given by the ILWU and their respective employer representatives on the West Coast of the United States, the Pacific Maritime Association (PMA). There is to be a newly Automated Terminal developed in the LA area in the Port of Long Beach. PMA management relayed that they intended to be open and transparent regarding automation process on the west coast and would be in constant dialogue with the ILWU in relation to same. The PMA also availed themselves to take questions from the floor associated with automation.

At the conclusion of the Automation Conference, international officers and delegates came to Brisbane to inspect the Patrick and Hutchinson Terminals. ILWU delegates were particularly interested in the Patrick Terminal as the OOCL Terminal in Long Beach is going to have similar technology installed on commencement.

The Branch would like to take the opportunity to thank management of the 2 Terminals in facilitating the Terminal Inspections for our overseas guests.

The Branch would also like to congratulate delegates who attended the Conference for their input and also thank them and Branch Committee members who assisted with logistical arrangements whilst the international guests were present in Brisbane.

As the *Branch News* has reported before, Automation is the biggest change to confront the stevedoring industry since the containerisation of cargo's in the late sixties and early seventies.

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## FEDERAL ELECTION

The Federal Election is inching closer, the lines are becoming clearer as the Federal Opposition Leader Tony Abbott begins the soft talk of being the Unionist's friend, while sharpening the Industrial Relations pencil.

A clear indicator of what is in store can be seen in any Queensland newspaper on just about any day with mass sackings (being called non-replacement) in many cases, hospital ward closures, Government aged care facilities being closed and social assistance programs being wound back. It's called small Government where little is put back to assist those most in need, yet they retain all the say while handing it over to private enterprise.

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## INDUSTRIAL ROUNDS

**CURTIS ISLAND** - MUA legal representatives are considering the appeal lodged by Bechtel and will be looking at details for a cross appeal.

**LINES CONFERENCE** - A National Lines Conference is being organised to be held in Newcastle in the near future. Queensland will be represented by 2 delegates and Townsville Branch Organiser Peter Robson.

**CSL FORUM AND MEETING WITH MANAGEMENT** - From 2<sup>nd</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> June, Delegates from CSL vessels together with Officials will meet in Sydney to engage the Company on a range of issues.

## **RIO TINTO**

A productive meeting has taken place in Melbourne with management and delegates from Rio Tinto owned vessels. MUA claims that the framework Agreement be honoured to see more of Rio Tinto cargoes carried in Australian flagged and manned vessels; an outcome that will provide more opportunities for seafarers into the future. All vessels have received a report of the outcome of the initial meeting with further discussions involving MUA delegates being planned.

**BRISBANE DP WORLD** - National/Branch Officials together with the elected Committee members spent Thursday and Friday last week dealing with the Mode Change to Automated Stacking Cranes and Straddles. The parties remain apart in a number of areas, in particular ongoing numbers and categories of employment. Further there needs to be more discussion surrounding rostering arrangements with the advent of Automation at this Terminal.

At the time of writing, the Branch awaits a response from management regarding our proposal to work through rostering arrangements with a smaller designated Committee.

**AAT EA** - At a meeting on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> May, members engaged at AAT unanimously voted for the recently negotiated enterprise agreement. The agreement provided for an initial increase of 4.05% followed by increases of 4.75% per annum. Long Service leave accumulates at 1.3 weeks per year of service and employer contribution to Maritime Super will be 10%.

The Branch would like to thank the delegates from Brisbane and Port Kembla for their active participation in the negotiations.

**QUEENSLAND BULK TERMINAL** - The EA negotiations are nearly complete. Hopefully this week will see an in-principal Agreement reached.

**NSS Townsville Enterprise Agreement** (which includes Cairns and Mackay) has been in- principally agreed and will go to a vote probably on 29<sup>th</sup> May.

**PATRICK B&G** - Several matters are still outstanding from the EA negotiations that took over 22 months; the Committee and Rank & File members lost patience with all of the delays. We have escalated the dispute to the regional level and have had no response. As per the Dispute Resolution Procedure we will seek to escalate now to the National arena to hopefully resolve. If that can't be achieved, then we will seek legal advice and take the matters further.

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## **EL SALVADOR**

The small country of El Salvador and its citizens are caught up in a David vs Goliath struggle to defend their rights to water, health and sustainable development. Since the early 2000s, as many as 10 transnational mining companies are seeking to extract gold and other precious minerals buried under its northern mountains which provide the main source of clean water, for forests and local agricultural production for the country.

La Mesa is an inspiring force in the resistance against the devastating impacts of resource extractive industries and ongoing human rights abuses. However their struggle is far from over, as the fight to defend sovereignty and the right to self determination reaches a critical moment, more support and solidarity is required to achieve a successful outcome. The National Roundtable on Metallic Mining in El Salvador is a diverse coalition of organised communities, NGOs, think tanks, and faith organisations opposing mining. They have been successful in halting mining operations and in building local and international alliances to support the right of Salvadorans to protect their natural resources.

A cultural event in support of the national Table against metallic mining in El Salvador will be held on:

**Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> May - 6.30pm -11.30pm at the Kurilpa Hall, 174 Boundary St. West End.**

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

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