



Queensland Branch News



27th June 2013

FEDERAL ELECTION

The ongoing leadership banter has high jacked any real and sensible debate regarding Policy, Legislative procedure and the passage of Bills through Parliament. There can be little doubt that the media in this country wants a Coalition Government in power. Whilst the internal debate within the ALP about the leadership may have some legs, the media will continue to have this in focus, irrespective if it is an issue or not.

In this State, Campbell Newman used the “Costello” Commission of Audit to take a machete to the Public Service and remove essential services for the people of this State. The closure of the Emergency Section of Wynnum Hospital, where many of our members live, is a prime example of the removal of a public asset in an area where we have an ageing population.

Tony Abbott’s mantra regarding “Work Choices being dead, buried, cremated” should stick fairly in the mind of every Australian, not just our membership. In the meantime, the Coalition has promised a review of Industrial Relation Laws via the Productivity Commission. Will this lead to the development of a ‘white paper’ or perhaps a Commission or Audit ??

One thing for sure, business groups whether that is the Australian Chamber of Commerce and Industry have been continuing to call for a review of penalty rates.

Penalty rates are applicable where workers spend time away from their families and loved ones either via long hours of work or inordinate hours.

Members should be aware and pro-active regarding the up-coming Federal election in September. We want the continuation of appropriate Laws that means all workers in the country can “work to live, not live to work”.

PUBLIC COMMENT OPENS FOR NSCOP YOUR SUPPORT NEEDED

Assistant National Secretary Warren Smith and National Education and Safety Officer Matt Goodwin report that the final draft of the National Stevedoring Code of Practice has finally gone out for public comment.

We are close to victory. But we still face massive opposition from major stevedoring companies and business lobby groups, so we need the all the support we can get to see it over the line. Right now, we need to generate a massive amount of public comment in favour of the code.

The MUA has made a public submission calling for Safe Work Australia to approve the code. All MUA members, wives, husbands, family, and concerned members of the community are encouraged to sign the MUA submission. We have a very short window to get as many names as possible. The more the better.

To that end, we have established a dedicated campaign website www.nscop4life.org.au.

To support the MUA submission, go to www.nscop4life.org.au and follow the links. There is also a hard copy version that delegates can distribute in workplaces.

NOTICE TO MEMBERS

Members are reminded to keep their contact details up to-date whether that be mailing address, email or telephone contact details. This of course is important with the pending period of members doing their tax returns, with Union dues being an allowable deduction.

NORTHERN STEVEDORING SERVICES (NSS)

Members have voted for the NSS Townsville Enterprise Agreement which took approx. 20 months of negotiations. The Agreement is in force until February 2016 and incorporates 7x1 Roster; payment of sick leave etc. at salary; 4% wage increase per annum.

We now commence negotiations with NSS Lines in Townsville which will be followed by NSS Stevedoring and Lines in Gladstone.

Appreciation is extended to Delegates and Rank and File for their input in achieving the outcome; also thanks to Warren Smith, Bernie Farrelly and Peter Robson for their contributions.

SUPPORT BART'S (JASON HARDY) RIDE TO CONQUER CANCER IN HONOUR OF HIS WIFE VICTORIA™

Bart currently works for Patricks at Berth 8-10. He has worked on the wharf in Brisbane and Melbourne for 22 years. His Father Trevor Hardy worked on the Wharf in Melbourne for over 28 years and is a Life Member of the Union. Bart is seeking help in raising funds for much needed research into a cancer that has affected his wife Victoria. To date Bart has raised almost \$8000 but want to raise at least \$15000.

The Rio Tinto Ride to Conquer Cancer benefiting the Queensland Institute of Medical Research, is a cycling journey throughout Queensland scenic countryside that he is embarking on to fight cancer.

In August 2011 my wife Victoria was diagnosed with Bile Duct Cancer (or Cholangiocarcinoma) a rare cancer with no current cure. As a result of the Cancer she has a tumour the size of an Orange in her Liver. Since then Victoria has undergone 6mths of Chemotherapy, various operations including an attempted Extended Liver Resection. This resection was not able to be performed as the tumour had grown too close to a major artery leading in the liver.

Victoria has lethargy and very bad mouth ulcers to name a few. Despite all this she has kept a very positive attitude and surprises me every day at her strength.

So I have decided to do my bit, don some Bike pants and take to the road with my Brother in Law Martin Callan. Martin participated in the ride last year and raised \$12,500 so I am hoping to do my best to raise as much money as I can for research into Oesophageal Cancers. It will be a challenge in a number of ways, but with my bike, my helmet, and your generosity, a real impact will be made!

Contribute to this history-making event with a donation. Funds raised will support breakthrough research, exemplary teaching, and compassionate care at the Queensland Institute of Medical Research, a worldwide leader in cancer research and discovery and one of the largest research institutes in the southern hemisphere. Thank you in advance for your help.

For those who know Bart, they will understand that he is a man with a very vibrant and sometimes annoying sense of humour. Deputy Branch Secretary T. Munday worked with Bart, played Aussie Rules with him and counts him as a very close mate. I know that this issue is something that Bart is serious about.

Members can forward donations to the Branch MMPCU – BSB – 802-884 Account No. 25131 S1 and quote “Bart’s Ride to Conquer Cancer”.
