



# Queensland Branch News



2013

## FEDERAL ELECTION

The election has been called as you well know by now, there are 5 weeks to go and the polls show Abbott on track to win if nothing changes. All of the commentary is indicating that Queensland and Western Sydney are key electorates to ensuring that Abbott does not win.

In Queensland, Labor holds 8 seats and the conservatives 21 and 1 independent. If there is to be any chance of denying the Liberal/National Government, then these two areas have to make inroads into conservative electorates; all marginals are important of course, but we can only deal with Queensland.

There are plenty of basic matters that have to be addressed even before campaigning, not the least ensuring everyone is enrolled to vote, because every vote will count in this election. The cut off date for enrolment is 12<sup>th</sup> August with rolls closing at 8pm. Research indicates there are 14.5 million people enrolled to vote in Australia with young Australians the largest demographic of unenrolled voters. Campaigns will most likely be officially launched around 18<sup>th</sup> August, so time is now the enemy given the lead of the Liberal/National Coalition.

As suggested in earlier *Branch News*, it is imperative that members and families of members do all they can to promote the alternative to a conservative Tony Abbott led Coalition forming Government. If collectively we can convince an extra 3 out of 10 people to vote for Labor as opposed to the coalition, there is a real chance of denying Abbott the Prime Ministership.

For your information the Branch is financially supporting two MUA members and an Indigenous candidate in three electorates, but we also have to do whatever we can in the ALP targeted seats in Queensland. Our members Mark McGuire and Ken Robertson are standing in Fisher and Kennedy; 1 as an Independent and 1 for the ALP. Billy Gordon is the indigenous candidate standing in Leichardt for the ALP.

We urge everyone to do as much as possible in your electorates to ensure that the Coalition do not win, there is simply too much to lose including:

- **Superannuation increase to SGC**
- **New Shipping Legislation**
- **Paid parental leave**
- **Legislation protection penalty rates**
- **National Disability support scheme**
- **The ability of Unions to function freely without the harassment such as introduced by their State counterpart in Queensland**

One of our officials, West Australia Deputy Branch Secretary Adrian Evans is standing in the seat of Hasluck in Western Australia.

If there is any other information required do not hesitate to contact the Branch, thanks comrades, let's ensure we do whatever we can to deny Tony Abbott and the Coalition victory in September.

\*\*\*\*\*

## TWO POSITIONS OPEN QLD BRANCH BRISBANE OFFICE

- One part-time administration position is vacant; and
- One full-time administration position has been created due to new legislation reporting requirements.

These positions are currently being advertised on the MUA web site. Please refer to the MUA website, Queensland Branch for details.

\*\*\*\*\*

# BRISBANE EXHIBITION "PEOPLE'S DAY"



The Fair Work Act has enshrined Penalty Rates and in particular this has been a benefit to those employees in the hospitality and retail section, some of the lowest paid in the workplace.

The Penalty Rates have been long established in a number of industries to reflect the inordinate working hours at times that should be ordinarily be spent with families.

A news article in last week's Sunday Mail stated that 33% of the entire workforce spend at least one day working on weekends.

Penalty Rates are the very reason that workers are able to provide for their families.

An Abbott led Coalition Government will be a threat to Penalty Rates.

The QCU youth Committee, MUA members being an active component of this Committee are running an event at the Ekka on 'People's Day'.

Members will be requested to wear a supplied t-shirt and therefore become a "walking billboard". There will be a very simple theme.

Everybody relies on Penalty Rates:

- without them, why have Public Holidays and Weekend work
- if there are no Penalty Rates, this could be the **LAST PEOPLE'S DAY**

If you require further details or would like to participate as a "walking billboard", please contact the Union office for further details.

\*\*\*\*\*

## FEDERAL ELECTION 7<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER - ABSENT AT SEA

There have been some concerns about voting in the upcoming election for members who are going to be at sea, or elsewhere on September 7<sup>th</sup>.

Members who think they may be away on Election day must call the AEC on 13 23 26 and they can direct them individually. When calling the AEC, some have been told they can be taken off the roll for this election. This is **not** an answer, as it is your right to cast a vote. Further it is important to write down the reference number which is given every time you call AEC, so you have some evidence should follow up action be necessary.

If a member knows they are going to be away and, they have a fortnight up their sleeve, they can apply for the postal vote but it is advisable to call AEC to check eligibility. Postal Vote forms are available at the Union Office; Postal Post outlets or online at- [aec.gov.au](http://aec.gov.au)

Early polling commences from 20<sup>th</sup> August, so it might be worth registering to do that as an option.

\*\*\*\*\*

## DP WORLD AUTOMATION

There have been ongoing meetings with DP World regarding the Automation of the Brisbane Terminal.

Meetings being held on a National level on 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> July with the Branch component of the Committee and the National Secretary.

Further meetings have followed on a local level in the main as drafting to organise the new arrangements into part B of the Agreement as a "consent variation" to the DP World Brisbane Enterprise Agreement 2011.

There will be a meeting with the Committee in the Union Office on Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> August. Report back meetings will be held the following day at 12 noon and 1530 hours at the Union Office.

\*\*\*\*\*