



# Queensland Branch News



22<sup>nd</sup> August 2013

## FEDERAL ELECTION

The Federal Election is drawing closer and the polls are indicating a very tough contest for Labor. I seek your assistance in whatever way possible to ensure that Tony Abbott and the Liberal/Nationals are not elected to Government. There is too much to lose for working people, families, pensioners, etc.

The following represents the members of the MUA living in the targeted electorates:

Brisbane - 48 members; Forde - 50 members; Longman - 90 members  
Moreton - 30 members; Bonner - 189 members; Petrie - 65 members

If you can assist, it will go a long way to positively contribute towards a Labor Government in Canberra.

Remember what Labor has delivered:

- Shipping legislation – which the Coalition voted against
- Paid parental leave
- Superannuation increase (from 9% to 12%)
- Better child-care subsidies and increased rates of pay for child-care workers
- Legislation to protect workers on penalty rates
- Safe rates for truck-drivers
- The National Disability Insurance Scheme
- They introduced the Fair Work Act and have made a range of improvements to Industrial Relations Legislation after talking to workers and their Unions
- They stood by jobs during the GFC – 200,000 jobs saved because of the stimulus – whereas Abbott and his lot would have cast those jobs and families on the scrap heap
- 900,000 jobs have been created since they came into government in 2007.

There are many ways you can assist –

- Phone bank volunteering
- Letter boxing of leaflets
- Volunteer to attend electoral booth on election day
- Spread the word among family and friends
- Raise the issues in your workplace
- Volunteer to have ALP poster in your front yard

Anything you can do is valuable and appreciated. To volunteer, contact numbers are as follows:

Electorate	Candidate	Campaign Organiser	Contact
Brisbane	Fiona McNamara	Khiraan Kumar	0438 787 035
Forde	Peter Beattie	Sean Leader	3133 3715
Longman	Michael Caisley	Lee Sallaway	0402 109 415
Moreton	Graham Perrett	Julie-Anne Campbell	0429 777 082
Bonner	Laura Fraser Hardy	Jo Briskey	0423 262 449
Petrie	Yvette D'Arth	Karl Winchester	0407 632 947

## VALE CRAIG HAINES

It is with much regret to inform of the passing of DPW VSE Member Craig Haines. Craig joined the MUA in 2010 and was a quiet unassuming, well liked member of the Union. Craig was allocated to work Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> August, whilst driving to work he felt poorly and went to the Wesley hospital. He was diagnosed as having suffered a stroke and after further testing, had advance stages of cancer. On Monday night 19<sup>th</sup> August, Craig passed away.

# QCU AFFILIATED UNIONS LEGAL CHALLENGE

Affiliates have agreed to fund a High Court challenge given the ramifications of the legislation, the costs are estimated be in the range of \$250,000 to \$400,000 which has been covered and the process of gathering evidence and building the strategy is well under way. The legal view to date from Hall Payne Lawyers and counsel assisting is that the Seamen's Union matter is complicated, that is State Unions/Federal Unions.

There is a wide range of variation how Unions in Queensland campaign from Federal to State to a combination of both. The issues will be focused on the Commonwealth Constitution and freedom of political discussion and the:

- Burden of freedom of communication politically
- Burden of having to spend to conduct a political poll
- Burden of delay and expense issues

The advice is that the justification by the State Government for the law is focused on good corporate governance which appears to be an odd explanation for the reasons for the law, particularly given the legislation has a focus on political expenditure.

The situation of the High Court process will depend on getting an agreed set of facts with the Government which will have the effect of not allowing for cross examination and getting straight to the point of the challenge. The two stages on which the matters would proceed are draw pleading and a written statement of facts. The decision of the affiliates on the advice of legal providers was to have 3 Unions which will be representative of the collective issues and have no problem in arguing that those 3 carrying the case would be directly affected by the outcome.

The scope of the Act is incredibly broad with questions for the case being political purpose and definition that is the political object and cause or belief. The legal advice is that political equates to it being capable of being discussed in Parliament, given the Act is so wide and vague it can be seen as an obstacle to free speech, the argument will be we say the law is invalid and an obstacle to free speech by Unions.

The view is that by having 3 Unions as representative of the case so the facts can be prepared reasonably quickly. Brett Walker will be leading Counsel and has advised there is another matter in NSW scheduled for approx. October 2013. If the Statement of Facts can be agreed in Queensland and a directions hearing before the High Court is conducted there is a possibility that it can be heard by the end of the year or early 2014. If the Statement of Facts cannot be agreed in Queensland for a direct route to the High Court then it can proceed in the Federal Court, the difference being that if Unions are successful and the law found invalid it is still appealable.

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## VALE SEARA OLSEN - SVITZER TOWAGE

Seara Olsen was a battler in the truest sense of the word. She battled cancer, she battled for better working conditions, she battled with grief over her father's death and she constantly battled to ensure she had enough money to raise her young son. Unfortunately Seara was killed in a quad bike accident at the young age of 35, leaving her 9 year-old son Declan without a mum. Seara started her sea-going career in 1992 as a deckhand on a fishing trawler in the Gulf of Carpentaria.

At the age of 32 she was a single-mum working aboard the tugs at Weipa, when she went to the local General Practitioner after she discovered a couple of lumps in her right breast. She did not have a family history of cancer, so it took a while before she received the correct diagnosis.

More than a year was spent treating the disease, she had both of her breasts removed and had to undergo chemotherapy and radiation but she endured. Her story is an incredible one of resilience and strength and it is with great sadness she has been taken away.

Seara's funeral is on Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> August at 10.00am at Cairns Crematorium Home, Fosters Road, Cairns

**The trust fund account for any donations are: Mining Maritime and Power Credit Union - Olsen Trust Fund - BSB 802 884 A/c 4626 (S3), "Olsen" as reference.**

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

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