



# Queensland Branch News



29<sup>th</sup> November 2013

## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETINGS

The Queensland Branch will have four AGM's by the end of next week with meetings being held in Brisbane on 26<sup>th</sup> November, Mackay on 27<sup>th</sup> November, Gladstone on 3<sup>rd</sup> December and Townsville on 5<sup>th</sup> December. The Branch would like to thank members for their attendance and therefore the participation in the democratic process of the Union.

It is important for members in our regional areas to be also included in the affairs of the Union as they have the right to be updated on the Union's activities and be reported to on our financial affairs.

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## FUTURE MEETINGS

The final Branch Committee meeting of the year will be held at the Union office on **Friday 13<sup>th</sup> December**. It is important for all areas to be represented, therefore Committee members who cannot attend are requested to advise and arrange alternative representatives to attend.

The final Branch Monthly Meeting will be held at the Union office on **Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> December**.

All available members are urged to attend.

At the conclusion of the meeting, a BBQ will be held, along with a few refreshments.

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## D P WORLD

Members are reminded of the notice distributed to the Terminal last week regarding two important issues being:

- 1) The call for nominations for ERC
- 2) Log of Claims for the Enterprise Agreement

There has been an exchange of correspondence between the MUA and DP World. Negotiations for a replacement Agreement will commence in the first week of February 2014.

Each Terminal will have 2 days in November/December for the respective Committees to consolidate the claims. Therefore it is important for members to complete claims for the pending negotiation.

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## SUPERANNUATION

Superannuation is front and centre of a new Abbott led Government after they produced a discussion paper; in brief suggesting that there should be more independent Directors on Industry Super Fund Boards. There can be no reason other than to placate their mates in the profit area of superannuation i.e. retail sector.

Maritime Super has a history going back to 1970; some 23 years longer than the introduction of Super Guarantee Legislation.

Maritime Super has produced solid returns for many years administered under Employer and Union Directors.

Abbott - we don't want your Government's greedy paws on our Super.

There are plenty of sharks in the financial sector. Many of our members during the WIRA process had to deal with their ferocious bite.

Maritime Super has been looking after the interests of our members for years. It is work a fight to keep it that way.

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## CHRISTMAS CHARITY RAFFLE

IceKool -104 litre Polyethene Icebox  
with a carton of Crownies,  
Bottle of Rum;  
Bottle of White and Red Wine;  
MUA Back-Pack and other goodies.

Tickets \$5.00 each with funds being raised  
to charity of winner's choice.

Tickets available at the MUA  
Queensland Branch Office.

The drawing of the Raffle will be held Branch  
Monthly Meeting on Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> December.

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## WORKCOVER

The *Branch News* has highlighted in the past the attacks on Workers Compensation in this State. We have indicated that WorkCover Queensland already has the lowest premiums in this country and the Fund, last financial year provided a \$517Million return to State Government coffers.

It is offensive that this Newman led State Government spends tax payers money on a full page "Ad." in their My Queensland Community Newsletter – entitled *You're Covered* – indicating a 10% reduction (estimated) in premiums for employers, however at the same time the introduction of a 5% threshold for Common Law claims.

What is not included is that the introduction of a 5% Common Law threshold also sees changes in the determination and measurement of the level of impairment. This has been referred to a Guide for the Evaluation of permanent Impairment (GEPI) changed from American Medical Association Guide to the Assessment of Permanent Impairment Volume IV (AMA4).

At a recent Seminar attended by the Branch some of the most predominant Worker's Compensation Lawyers could not relay to attendees how the new impairment level would be determined because it had not been regulated by the Attorney General.

For many years this Branch has a policy that members who go on Workers Compensation or submit a Claim, to attend the Union Office, simply because we place the claim on the member's file and have the member sign an Authority for the Union to act on their behalf. Please see a flyer distributed by WorkCover Protection Coalition distributed with the *Branch News*.

There are plenty of examples of our members that have been injured at work and have had such injuries determined by WorkCover, whether by a Doctor or Medical Assessment Tribunal at less than 5% and at the same time been thrown on the industrial scrap heap by their Employer.

Employers now are able to request disclosure of previous WorkCover claims. An employer therefore has the right to ascertain future applicants based on WorkCover history and applications for compensation, which is an intrusion especially if a previous Employer had/has a suspect safety record at their workplace.

There will be further rallies. Bad laws need to be changed and if this Government will not change bad Legislation, we need to agitate to have them replaced with a Government that will.

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