



# Queensland Branch News



5<sup>th</sup> September 2013

## SATURDAY DECIDES

It is really the uninformed that decide the elections or so the banter goes and the bevy of “undecided” voters leading up to the last few days prior to this Saturday’s Federal election. The media blackout commences from Wednesday. Many members have received the “MWJ” in the post this week which is a special election edition.

No doubt organised labour will come under attack if Abbott is elected (the Polls point this way). This is highlighted by an article in the *Financial Review* of Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> September, whereby Abbott stated that he will re-introduce the Australian Building and Construction Commission extending to reach Offshore Construction and the MUA. We have indicated in previous *Branch News* that Abbott has indicated a review of Workplace Laws by the Productivity Commission.

This will be a mirror effect of the activity in this State of the LNP Newman Government “Costello Commission of Audit” and the evitable changes that will come forth.

It’s really akin to picking the winning trainer of the Melbourne Cup – 1<sup>st</sup> place-getter, if the one trainer has all the bloody runners in the Cup.

Members are urged to assist in their local electorate if possible, where they can be enacted to speak to people about the ramifications of having the LNP in power.

Many will remember the lies perpetrated by Howard and Reith. (*Crane drivers on the waterfront were earning \$90K for 15 hours a week.*) The same card from the pack will come out again, to attack **Penalty Rates** - hard fought for conditions of employment.

Those Unions, who have the best conditions of employment (remember it is the conditions, shift premiums and overtime rates that are the ingredients that derive the finished product) will be the ones under attack – simply because the effects flow on.

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## DP WORLD

The process of finalisation of the Brisbane Part B “Consent Variation” continues, with a further meeting held on 4<sup>th</sup> September, which should enable the Branch and Committee to indicate time-frames connected with voting on the new arrangements associated with DP World moving towards an Automated Terminal, subject to finalisation of some outstanding matters.

In the meantime, the MUA has been advised via the media that Aurizon’s - Paul Scurrah has been appointed CEO of DP World Australia. It is duly noted that comments in the *Financial Review* that Mr Scurrah is “*keen to improve DP World’s relationship with its customers as well as to tackle cultural issues at the Port’s Group*”. It is expected that he will take up the role in December. What would be really interesting to find out from Mr Paul Scurrah is what he really thinks those cultural issues are, because contingent on who in particular he decides to engage with it, will relay certain differing outcomes.

We could attest that, a cultural change should be in recognition of the Company’s most important asset, being the blue-collar workers at the coal face or will it be that he will seek to get an analytical assessment from the Australian management team across the country regarding the cultural issues. One could suggest that this will be an extremely long and drawn out process given the numbers of DP World’s management and middle management.

I guess we will find out soon enough given that negotiations for a replacement Enterprise Agreement are expected to commence early next year.

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# NATIONAL COUNCIL/BRANCH COMMITTEE

National Council will be held from 8<sup>th</sup> to 11<sup>th</sup> October.

Members will be advised of the Annual General Meeting times as required by the MUA Rules as a result of the next Council.

The Branch has been compiling our Report to Council which will be advised to the next Branch Committee Meeting on Friday 6<sup>th</sup> September.

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## RELIEF OFFICIAL

Deputy Branch Secretary Trevor Munday will be on annual leave from Monday 9<sup>th</sup> September and return on Monday 30<sup>th</sup> September.

Assistant Branch Secretary Paul Sheehan will be on annual leave from Monday 25<sup>th</sup> September returning on 7<sup>th</sup> October.

Mick Lang (DP World Delegate) will be a relieving official from Monday 16<sup>th</sup> September until Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> September. Mick's contact mobile is - 0412 691 710.

From Monday 30<sup>th</sup> September to Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> October, Paul Williams (Patrick Terminal Delegate) will be a relieving official for that time. Paul's contact mobile is - 0409 729 072.

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## CFMEU PICKET LINE GLADSTONE

Organiser Jason Miners reports that there has been a recent ruling in our favour with regard to the solidarity the MUA members in Gladstone showed during the CFMEU picket. This was a result of 3 CFMEU delegates being sacked. All charges were dropped against our members and CFMEU members who blocked the road into the Ferry Terminals which caused major delays on Curtis Island.

These delegates were sacked for doing their duty as delegates and ensuring their work mates get home safe. We won't miss any opportunity to support our CFMEU brothers and we have built a strong relationship with the Union here in Gladstone.

We also will never let an opportunity slip to get stuck into Bechtel and their dodgy ways. Jason expresses his thanks to all members who showed up every morning at 5am to support their fellow workers.

**"dare to struggle dare to win"**

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## MUA MERCHANDISE

The Brisbane Office has a new range of MUA Polo Shirts (maroon) @ \$38.00 each – All sizes including women's are available.

MUA Caps; Beanies; Travel bags; Back Packs; Boardies and Singlets – including telephone covers, stubbie holders and mugs are available. Call into the office to purchase or go on-line – [www.mua.org.au/shop](http://www.mua.org.au/shop) and view the items with pricing.

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