



Queensland Branch News



8th May 2014

MAY DAY 2014

Stand for Queensland

Cairns

Bernie Gallen advises that 1100 workers participated in the May Day march. After the march the traditional MUA Sausage sizzle and soft drink giveaway turned over approx 650 sausages for the day.



Rank and File members are more alert and understanding of the treachery of Campbell Newman and the complete disregard of United Nations protocols of the Abbott Point dredging fiasco, with regard to dumping of spoil in the Barrier Reef Marine Park. The Cairns region will be well covered by left candidates next State election. Overall a great day and turn out for the working class.

Townsville

Glenn Desmond together with the Townsville MUA contingent marched along the Strand armed with banners both new and old and made the Townsville public and other Unionists aware that we are indeed "here to stay." The MUA were awarded winners of the QCU Townsville Branch Award for 2014 "Best Union Contingent" on the day. The march was followed by lunch and a few well earned cold beverages.



The crowd was addressed by the three local ALP state candidates who pledged their support of the ETU-led campaign opposing the sale of State assets – a campaign which also affects regional Ports in Queensland. The speeches were followed by the tug-o-war in which the MUA came a hard fought second to the sparkies. The kids also had a ball participating in the annual novelty events.

We'd like to take the opportunity to thank all those involved for your support and participation. Special thanks goes to the Moyses family for organising the truck and decorations, Scott Mountford and Peter Lamond for ensuring the success of the kid's races, as well as other parents who lent their support. The day was a huge achievement and was a great example of the success when MUA members band together.

Mackay

Rob Barnes related that a perfect clear sunny day greeted members for the 2014 Labour Day March in Mackay. Our MUA contingent joined around 400 other fellow unionists to celebrate the achievements of worker's rights and conditions. The march was led by the Queensland Teachers Union celebrating 125 years and followed through the streets of Mackay CBD to Queens Park where families enjoyed the carnival atmosphere well into the day.



Gold Coast



Benno Niemann and Bruce Doleman

Once again the sunshine was in favour of the working class on Saturday 3rd May for 3,000 workers to celebrate a very significant day on the calendar - May Day, regardless of the Queensland Government prohibiting the public holiday, the turnout was encouraging. During the march a loud message was pushed that unless the workers of Australia unite and fight this struggle future generations will be set back with savage cuts.

Gladstone



Organiser Jason Miners reported that selling off Gladstone's assets was a key focus for this year's Labour Day march as Unions from around the region came together as a mark of solidarity. The march went ahead on Monday despite the public holiday now occurring in October. Some workers gave up a day's pay to participate in the march. The MUA

has always supported May Day with strong numbers and this year was no different. This is the second year that it has not been on the public holiday. We will march every year on the traditional May Day until it moves back. There was never any consultation on moving the traditional day. This day may not be very important for Campbell Newman and the Liberal/National Party, but it's very important to Unionists. Gladstone was the only place in Queensland to observe the traditional date of the Labour Day march, with well over a thousand in attendance. I congratulate the MUA members who attended.

Brisbane

The Queensland Branch congratulates all members who participated in the May Day march and especially would like to thank all the volunteers who helped in the lead up and on the day.

2014 Labour day in Brisbane saw 25,000 people march through the city in a fantastic show of strength in numbers which no doubt sent a message to the LNP Government and the bosses that Trade Unions will not back down to the attacks on the working class in Queensland. May Day is a celebration of achievements of the labour movement but this year the anger was aimed at the Newman Government and the damage they have caused in our society and disregard for the people they represent and their rights.

The MUA contingent looked great, lead by the Brisbane Pipe Band, with new banners, balloons and thoughtfully designed T-shirts and well over 100 members and our families enjoying the colourful march. Back at the showground at a packed house the refreshments went down a treat as the kids had a ball on the carnival rides. It was good to socialise with older members as usual and meet new comrades and their families.



All in all a very successful day. Solidarity forever!

Susan Osborne & Alicia Lancaster holding MUA Women's banner

YOUTH DELEGATION TO BARCALDINE

Friday 2 May MUA Youth from all over Australia set off on an epic journey to bring the past into the future. The Bus load of MUA Youth drove direct to Barcaldine the home of the birth of Labour Day. Special thanks to the drivers – Dennis Jewsbury and Trevor Munday.

On Saturday all joined the May Day march and activities which followed a visit the famous Tree of Knowledge and made alliances with other Unions attending the event. On Sunday, a visit to the Australian Workers Heritage Centre. Later that morning, back on the bus to travel to Gladstone for a MUA history Film and Pizza night. On Monday, attended the Gladstone May Day March and joined in the activities of the day. Tuesday 6 May return Bus trip to Brisbane ready for Interstate guests to fly home.

DELEGATES TRAINING COURSES 2014

The Branch needs members to register their interest in the Delegates 2 course (19th - 20th June) **as soon as possible** as it is necessary to make application for Trade Union Training leave at the members applicable enterprise. Currently there are **SIX** vacancies for this course – your early response would be appreciated.

Authorised by Trevor Munday, Acting Branch Secretary, Maritime Union of Aust.

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