



Queensland Branch News



14th May 2015

BRITISH LOYALTY

Thanks to all members who participated on picket lines over the last month in support of MUA members on the coastal tanker *British Loyalty*. BP determined to close the Bulwer Island Refinery thus removing the need to retain the *British Loyalty*.

The Union has argued the case for the *British Loyalty* or like tonnage to carry the identified 800,000 ton of product between the Kwinana Refinery and east coast Ports. That cargo is currently carried in temporary licences on foreign crewed vessels.

The *British Loyalty* was a highly profitable vessel, maintained to optimum standards and crewed by professional, experienced and well trained seafarers. It is a tragedy that these crews have been dumped and Australian jobs lost, to be replaced by foreign crews.

This does nothing for the confidence of the future for employment of Australian workers, in whatever industry they are employed.

Not only is the security of Australia's fuel supplies put at risk, but also our national security. In the future the only guaranteed supply will be from foreign ships with foreign crews. The environmental risks are also extremely serious.

The Hong Kong crewed Tanker *Atlantic Blue* ran aground on the Great Barrier Reef in 2009; yet BP was happy to use it for seven domestic voyages on the West Australian coast in 2014 and 2015.

Our Reefs)	All in the hands of foreign crewed vessels
Our Security)	and BP having no regard for the employment
Our Employment)	opportunities of Australian workers

The crew of the *British Loyalty* are to be congratulated for the stand taken in defence of Australian's shipping task and BP stand condemned for their arrogance and disregard for long serving employees who now are on the growing unemployment lines.

Have a Say - Say NO to BP Products

MAY DAY CELEBRATIONS

2015 was the last year that May Day celebrations will be held on a Sunday after Campbell Newman shifted the long held traditional day from the Public Holiday, first Monday in May.

In **Brisbane**, the MUA attendance was somewhat disappointing. It was great to see that many of our veterans took time to participate in celebrations. There was something to celebrate, seeing the back of an arrogant LNP government, who decimated public servants, made changes to the detriment of workers to WorkCover and fundamentally changed Right of Entry Laws in respect of the State OH&S Act.

The MUA played its small part in the campaign to rid ourselves of Newman.

Many thanks to those members who helped set up on the Saturday and Sunday mornings, also at the showground. Further a thank you to Ron Culliney for his tireless contribution slaving over the BBQ.

Gladstone MUA members did the Branch proud with another strong turnout for the Monday march. Gladstone members marched on Monday in protest over our day being taken from its rightful place. The comradery between the MUA and other Unions has never been stronger and we thank those who attended.

INDUSTRIAL ROUNDS

Smit Marine Australia

Enterprise Agreement will resume next week in Gladstone to seek to finalise the Agreement which has now been going for over 10 months.

Smit Lamnalco

Management have informed the 3 Unions they intend to reduce crews in Sydney and Melbourne and look at further cost cutting. Further discussions to be scheduled.

Seaswift

Branch Organisers have been on the ground in Cairns talking with members regarding a Company document which is to be put to a vote. The Unions have been in negotiations with management for some time seeking an Enterprise Agreement with the input of employees.

Svitzer

Delegates will attend the Works Council meeting next week in Sydney. Further meeting is being scheduled either in Bowen or possibly Brisbane regarding the Bowen Port operation procedures with the 3 Unions involved.

DP World

Part A drafting continues on Monday 18th May. The parties remain significantly apart on a raft of matters on a local level; whereas nearly every other Part B is completed or very close. Anecdotally it appears that management are seeking to recoup losses incurred as a result of management ineptitude in the commissioning of the Automated Terminal. Members meetings will be convened post Part A drafting.

Patrick Terminals

Part A meetings continue on 19th & 20th May, with a local meeting being held today, Friday 15th May. Further Part A meetings will be held on 3rd and 4th June. Report Back meetings will be scheduled post the 20th May meetings.

ATIVO

An initial National meeting was held on Thursday 14th May. The MUA sought internal meeting dates for the last week of May to finalise National claims and subsequent drafted clauses prior to any further meetings with Management.

Patrick General Stevedoring

Meetings progress in Brisbane on 18th & 19th May re: IBB Enterprise Agreement process.

Four Year Review of Modern Awards

The decision relative to the review of the Stevedoring Industry Award has been handed down on 14th May. In this regard submissions by all parties have been rejected, with the exception of the additional day of leave for working on some Public Holidays. Importantly for members there will be no changes to the 35 hour week or penalty rates, as submitted by DP World and QUBE Ports. It is highly likely that a comprehensive report will be available to members on the website in the coming days.

Workers Compensation

Workers compensation can be a complex area. As a timely reminder the Branch reiterates our STRONG recommendation that where possible members attend the Branch office when claiming Compensation for a period of incapacitation, light duties or for medical expenses only.

We state this for the following reasons:

- Members are entitled to know their rights including **Your** legal right to attend the doctor of choice.

Rehabilitation, Obligations and Rights:

- To sign an authority, due to privacy legislation allows the MUA to act on behalf of the member, including the provision of an administrative release of the member's file.
