



# QUEENSLAND BRANCH NEWS

NEWSLETTER of the QLD Branch of the MARITIME UNION of AUSTRALIA

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Thursday July 23, 2015

## Police called at Hutchison's - Alexander Spirit sails - MUA member killed at sea

### Hutchison Terminal

HUTCHISON Ports announced last Monday that it was axing 94 positions at its Sydney and Brisbane terminals, with 41 of those positions becoming redundant.

On top of that, Hutchison has suspended three MUA members, including one delegate. These three have been suspended on the basis of some of the most unreasonable reasons imaginable. Members can rest assured that these suspensions will be fought tooth and nail by the QLD MUA Branch.

It needs to be made clear to all MUA members that our Branch, the Sydney Branch and the MUA National Official dealing with this matter are unanimous. In no way do we accept Hutchison's unilateral action and we are developing a plan of action to fight it.

On Monday July 20, QLD Branch Deputy Secretary Jason Miners was refused access to the Hutchison terminal on the most spurious of grounds. Jason was attempting to enter the site to assist members with their concerns about some serious safety issues.

Management at Hutchison's responded by calling the police. On hearing of this development, QLD Branch Secretary Bob Carnegie immediately hot footed it to the terminal and negotiated with police.

The QLD MUA Branch has a message for the management team at Hutchison's: *"The Queensland Police are not a part of your Human Resources or Industrial Relations team."*

Negotiations are set for Sydney on Friday July 24 and there will be a report back as soon as possible.

### Alexander Spirit sails for Singapore

AFTER being docked for 18 days in Devonport, Tasmania, the Caltex-run Alexander Spirit fuel tanker left port in the early morning of Wednesday July 22. MUA members and supporters turned out to farewell the ship which set sail for Singapore at 3am.

Caltex refuse to guarantee that the Alexander Spirit will not return to domestic shipping routes with a full foreign crew. Such crews could earn as little as \$2 an hour. In the same week that Caltex announced its decision to replace

the crew of the Spirit, the company was boasting in the big business press about its \$375 million half-year profit.

The Alexander Spirit may have sailed, but the fight for national fuel security continues. Since 2000, the Australian economy's dependence on imported fuel has grown from 60% to 91% today.

The MUA QLD Branch is holding another community assembly this Friday. We urge all members to attend.

**OUR COAST. OUR FUEL.  
OUR SECURITY.**

AUSTRALIA NEEDS FUEL SECURITY

## CALTEX BRISBANE COMMUNITY ASSEMBLY

Show your support for the crew of the Alexander Spirit



**FRIDAY JULY 24, 2PM TO 5PM**

1 Tanker Street, Lytton Oil Refinery (Buses leave the union rooms at 1.30pm)

**OUR COAST. OUR FUEL. OUR SECURITY.**  
AUSTRALIA NEEDS FUEL SECURITY



Authorised by Bob Carnegie, Maritime Union of Australia (MUA) Queensland Branch Secretary.  
73 Southgate Avenue, Cannon Hill QLD 4170

### Delegate 2 Training

QLD Branch is holding a Delegate 2 Training Course on August 3 and 4. Members who wish to attend are urged to register immediately. Please call the Branch on (07) 3395 7215.

It's your union, so get involved!

Authorised by Bob Carnegie, Maritime Union of Australia (MUA) Queensland Branch Secretary

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## MUA member killed off the Pilbara Coast

NEWCASTLE MUA member Andrew Kelly was crushed to death onboard the Skandi Pacific on July 14.

The ship was working off the Pilbara Coast when a wave came over the back deck. Andrew was crushed between a moving mini-container and a cargo skip while trying to secure cargo. He was taken to a nearby drill platform for medical assistance but died of his injuries.

The Australian Maritime Safety Authority (AMSA), the Australian Transport Safety Bureau (ATSB) and WA Police are investigating this tragic incident.

The MUA is working with authorities to ensure that the cause of Andrew's death is fully identified and rectified.

In a statement to the media, MUA National Secretary Paddy Crumlin said, "the offshore industry is an inherently high safety risk environment, the highest in the country and the world, due to the isolated and unstable nature of seagoing work and the 24/7 requirements placed on seafarers."

"The MUA is a relentless and unapologetic advocate for appropriate national safety and welfare programs, including equal time rosters and Employee Assistance Programs."

Andrew leaves behind a wife and four children all under 10 years old, including a six-month-old baby.

The MUA National Office has set up a MMPCU account to support the family of the late Andrew Kelly.

Donations can be made to:  
*Andrew Kelly Welfare Fund*

BSB: 802-884

Account No.: 4626 S2 (for MMPCU transfer) or 4626

Reference: AKW-(vessel name or member number).

Those who wish to donate to help the Kelly family on their legal issues with the incident, please donate to the:  
*Maritime Job Legal Fighting Fund*

BSB: 802-884

Account No.: 56681 S1 (for MMPCU transfer) or 56681.

## China Free Trade Agreement: The FACTS

THE China-Australia Free Trade Agreement (ChAFTA) was signed by Chinese and Australian government on June 17. This wide-ranging agreement was negotiated in secret with no input from the parliament or the public. These are the facts you need to know about ChAFTA.

1. Chinese companies will be able to bring in an entire overseas workforce for any project over \$150 million - and they only need a 15% stake in the project to do it.

2. By partnering with a Chinese company, a local investor like Gina Rinehart can also bring in an overseas workforce.

3. Jobs will not be advertised locally and overseas tradies (electricians, carpenters, joiners etc) will not have to meet Australian qualifications.

4. In many cases, tariffs on products that protect Australian jobs will be abolished immediately, but Chinese tariffs will remain for many years.

5. This trade deal has no commitments to respect workers' rights. China is one of the ten worst places to be a worker according to the international trade union movement.

6. Many Chinese companies are unfairly subsidised by their government, are not bound by environmental protection laws, and ignore workers' rights.

7. More unfair imports under this deal will cost an estimated 158,000 jobs.

8. Half of Australian businesses say the deal will hurt them. Only 11% say it will help.

9. Chinese companies could sue Australian governments that pass laws which might affect their profits. This could make it almost impossible to reverse the privatisation of public services.

10. Any commitments in this FTA will most likely be repeated in upcoming deals with the US and India.

11. China and the Abbott Government, together with big business, negotiated this agreement in secret. There is a rally to Stop the China FTA in Brisbane next Monday July 27 at noon.

Say NO to Exploitation! Say YES to Local Jobs!

**STOP**  
**THE CHINA FTA**

**BRISBANE**

**Monday 27 July @ 12 noon**

**FIGHT BACK AGAINST**  
**ABBOTT'S DODGY DEAL**

**CHANGE OF VENUE**

**OUTSIDE THE COMMONWEALTH**  
**LAW COURTS, CNR TANK ST &**  
**NORTH QUAY, BRISBANE**

Joint Standing Committee  
on Treaties Hearing

Logos: EFU, ANWU, STRONGER TOGETHER, N\*EW NATIONAL UNION OF SEAFARERS, TCU UA, CFMEU, TCU Carrying Australia, RACISM NOT WELCOME

## Branch Official's details

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