



QUEENSLAND BRANCH NEWS

NEWSLETTER of the QLD Branch of the MARITIME UNION of AUSTRALIA

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No.14. Monday 14 September 2015

One day more! Hutchison workers stand firm

THE HUTCHISON DISPUTE continues. On the back of this leaflet is a letter we wrote which was successful in assisting us in keeping our protest line intact.

DP World Agreement goes to vote

AFTER 19 LONG and difficult months, the MUA site committee and Branch Leadership is putting the EBA to members for endorsement on September 16. This marathon of a document offers several distinct improvements over the old, and is a document we can use as building block in the years ahead, The branch asks all members to attend this meeting. It's your EBA, it's the document that governs your working life for the next four years, and it's a paid meeting, so please attend.

Brisbane Ferries

RELIEVING OFFICIAL Paul Petersen has been involved in a bitter dispute involving a female member exercising some fairly fundamental rights. Transdev, I hope are reading this Branch News, because if you are and you think you are going to intimidate an MUA member, I strongly advise you to "take a box and lie down". A world of hurt is coming your way should your organisation continue down this path.

Merchant Navy Remembrance Day

ON AUGUST 29 at Greenbank RSL, Comrade Brian Gallagher led a memorial service to honour World War Two Merchant Seafarers lost in that conflict. Comrade Gallagher has organised a beautiful plaque, and he along with MUA veterans such as "Tug" Wilson have played an enormous part in seeing these brave men properly remembered. Everything we enjoy is because of their sacrifice.

Ativo EBA

OUR FIRST EBA meeting was held in Melbourne on the 4/9/15. The second meeting

is to be held on Wednesday 9/9/15 with both delegates and branch secretary in attendance,

Queensland Branch supports refugees

AT AN EXTENDED branch executive meeting held in Brisbane on Tuesday 8 September, the Branch Secretary proposed that, in a similar spirit to that announced by Pope Francis over the weekend, the Queensland branch stands ready to adopt a Syrian family displaced by the horrors of war. We call on and challenge the Abbott Government to make this possible, The Queensland Branch makes this offer in the name of our common humanity.

When Rotterdam wharfies struck against Nazis deporting Jews

IN FEBRUARY 1941, Rotterdam wharfies struck against the Nazi occupation regime in the Netherlands deporting Jews.

On the weekend of 22-23 February, German and Dutch Nazi forces rounded up 427 young Jews to deport them to Buchenwald and Mauthausen.

The next afternoon workers went onto the streets to protest, with wharfies in the lead. On 25 February, the whole city ground to a halt, with some 300,000 on strike. The strike wave lasted a few days before subsiding under repression. The Nazis arrested about 100 workers.

It could not stop the deportations of Jews, but it was a noble and brave act. In April-May 1943, half a million Dutch workers again struck against the Nazi occupation.

The underground Communist Party of the Netherlands played a role in the strike movement. On the wharves, the major influence was the Revolutionary Socialist Workers' Party, an anti-Stalinist party led by Henk Sneevliet, a long-time organiser in the Dutch labour movement and the Indonesian independence movement.

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

MARITIME UNION OF AUSTRALIA QUEENSLAND BRANCH

Robert Carnegie Branch Secretary
Jason Miners Deputy Branch Secretary
Paul Gallagher Assistant Branch Secretary

ABN 93 047 659 794



Dear Sir,

3 September 2015

Re: Peaceful Protest at Fishermens Island 11.

With regards to our phone call of 2/9/15 relating to a decision to have the peaceful community assembly dismantled.

In our discussion I feel that the management and board of the Port of Brisbane are making a decision without all the available facts at its disposal.

Firstly, the reinstatement order granted by the Federal Court in the interlocutory injunction sought by the Maritime Union did not involve the 41 workers sacked by text on 6/8/15 actually going back to work only a continuance of wages up until 31/8/15 by mutual agreement of parties which has been extended to October 14.

Apart from receiving their base entitlements the 41 workers outside the gate are in exactly the same position as they were when at 2330 hrs on 6/8/15 they were terminated by text.

Secondly, the real negotiation position with Hutchison is going very, very slowly, when at times we go a step forward a further obstacle is put in its way. For example Deputy President Booth of the Fair Work Commission was to visit the terminal today 3/9/15 so a meeting could be held with all the 41 workers inside and the 41 workers outside however for the most spurious of reasons management objected and now the meeting most likely would be held next week.

Thirdly, perhaps the most emphatic reason put forward to me by your good self was that the Port of Brisbane felt that in some way its international reputation is being harmed by a Peaceful Community Assembly being held at Fisherman's Island 11. I for one fail to see that a Peaceful Assembly being held in a port can harm in any way the Port of Brisbane's reputation. Democracy is and sometimes may not look perfect on a photo shoot at times BUT it is the cornerstone of our lives.

As the Queensland Branch Secretary of the Maritime Union of Australia I am prepared to speak to the community there and make sure all terms of the lease you extended to us is strictly enforced, I will make sure it is made tidier. If required, tents can be rearranged etc.

However I must make this very clear to the Port of Brisbane. Members of the Maritime Union played a major role in building and today running the terminals that are at the heart of the Port of Brisbane complex at terminal Island. It is an area we believe we are as much a shareholder as the investors who make up the ownership register of the Port of Brisbane.

We have an absolute and fundamental right in this country to speak our minds freely and to demonstrate peacefully. We intend to defend that right should we need to with whatever means are at our disposal including but not limited to the political, community and industrial protest which would occur should we be attempted to be moved off the tiny parcel of land leased to us we thought of in good faith from the Port of Brisbane.

We ask only that the status quo remain (with but not limited to the changes I propose above), we ask that our rights as working class people, many of whom built and operate this Port today are given the same equal rights and consideration as the corporations which profit from the working people who built and work in the Port of Brisbane.

Kind Regards

Bob Carnegie
Branch Secretary

Branch Officials' details

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Join the community assemblies!
Show solidarity!

Brisbane: Curlew Street, Berth 11
Fisherman Island.