



QUEENSLAND BRANCH NEWS

NEWSLETTER of the QLD Branch of the MARITIME UNION of AUSTRALIA

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No. 24 - Thursday November 26, 2015

The MUA QLD's first ever Branch Conference starts next week!

Branch Conference - December 3 & 4

THE first ever MUA QLD Branch Conference starts in only one week's time. There are many reasons why all MUA QLD members should move heaven and earth to be part of this event. Possibly the best reason is to hear from the amazing range of international guests who will be speaking over the two days.

The international guests who will be attending our Branch Conference are:

Jordi Aragunde. Jordi from Barcelona, Spain is the General Coordinator of the International Dockworkers' Council (IDC) and former coordinator of the Catalan-Balearic Island Zone of "La Coordinadora", the Spanish dockers' union.

Anthony Tetard. Anthony from La Havre in France is the Deputy General Secretary of the National Federation of Ports and Docks (FNPD-CGT) and is the European Zone Coordinator of the IDC.

Manuel Lanon. Manuel is the Treasurer of the Dockers' Union of La Havre, France and part of the Work Committee of the IDC's European Zone.

Ken Riley. Ken is from Charleston in South Carolina, USA. He is the President of the International Longshoremen's Association (ILA) Local 1422 in Charleston and the IDC's East Coast

Zone Coordinator. Ken is best known for his role in the campaign to defend the "Charleston Five", five longshore workers who were arrested and charged with rioting and assaulting police after a peaceful union picket was violently broken up by police in 2000.

Mark Bass. Mark is the President of ILA Local 1410 in Mobile, Alabama, USA.

Dave Smith. Dave from London, England is the National Secretary of the Blacklist Support Group in Britain and the co-author of "Blacklisted: the secret war between big business and union activists"

The Conference starts at 9am on Thursday December 3 and runs for two days. The venue is the Queensland Council

of Unions (QCU) Building, Level 2, 16 Peel Street, South Brisbane. All MUA QLD members are strongly urged to make every effort to attend. Members can register on the day.

**EDUCATE
AGITATE
ORGANISE**



MUA Queensland Branch Conference
Thursday December 3rd - Friday December 4th
QCU Building - 16 Peel Street, South Brisbane

- Updating members on the Hutchisons dispute
- Organising for safety
- Running effective campaigns on the job
- Debating the way forward for our MUA Branch
- Discussing which policies to take to National Conference

Conference open to all financial MUA members
Telephone: (07) 3395 7215 / Email: muaqld@mua.org.au

Delegation to Liverpool and Rotterdam

A delegation of MUA members travelled to Europe in late September to mark two major waterfront battles - the Liverpool Dockers dispute and the Dutch dockers "Put the Money Back" campaign.

Among the group that travelled to Liverpool in England and Rotterdam in the Netherlands were two sacked Hutchison Ports wharfies, myself (Hannah Matthewson) from Brisbane and former NRL State of Origin player Craig Hancock from Sydney. Other participants were Paddy Crumlin, Ian Bray and Mich-Elle Myers from National Office, Christy and Danny Cain from WA, as well as Paul Keating and youth delegate Rory Hart from Sydney.

Our delegation landed in Liverpool on September 23 and took part in the 20th anniversary commemoration of the Liverpool Dockers' dispute a few days later.

The event was held in The Casa / Initiative Factory, a community venue and help centre established by sacked Liverpool dockers in the heart of the docks area.

Craig and I were really

well received by everyone at the venue, and we got a chance to tell everyone how Hutchison Ports had disgracefully sacked us by midnight text.

On September 29 we flew to Rotterdam to celebrate the victory of the Dutch dockers' union FNV over the Aegon pension fund. After seven years, the FNV union recovered around \$700m from Aegon that the company said it had lost in 2007. This win will finally secure the retirement funds of over 8000 Dutch dock workers.

A few days later we were leaving the Netherlands and on our way back to Australia.

I feel so honoured to have been able to take part in this solidarity delegation, and I can't thank the MUA enough for giving me this opportunity.

Report from Hannah Matthewson, sacked MUA member from Hutchison Ports in Brisbane.



MUA and FNV (Dutch dockers) members celebrate in Rotterdam

North Queensland Campaigns Intensive

THE MUA QLD Branch hosted a North Queensland Campaigns Intensive workshop in Mackay on November 18 and 19. MUA members from the ports of Mackay, Gladstone, Cairns, Townsville, and Brisbane took part. Workshops across the two-day event were designed to assist and empower our members to engage in campaigns leading up to the next federal election and beyond.

Day one started with a Welcome to Country from Mr. Walker and his kin. Then it was straight down to business. MUA QLD Assistant Branch Secretary Paul Gallagher kicked off with a wide-ranging report that included the MUA's campaign at Transdev Brisbane Ferries, the final outcome of the long-running dispute with Hutchison Ports, the MV Portland and Alcoa's plans, Rio Tinto's Gladstone to

Weipa run as well as the state of local politics. Another topic of discussion was the success of UMLA - the United Maritime Labour Activists. The assembled activists also discussed the need to train

MUA members to make the most of our participation in marginal seat campaigns in the lead up to the next Federal Election.

Participants received some quality training from MUA Campaigns and Projects Coordinator Samantha Bond and local ACTU campaign coordinator Bec Nilon who is leading up the local "Build a Better Future" campaign. This training was later put into practice with a successful stint of door knocking in the local area.

Indigenous members Terry and Michael O'Shane and Paddy Neliman informed us about employment prospects for our ATSI members, the social compacts recently struck between traditional owners and unions, as well as some historical facts about the areas around the ports we work at.

Steve Cumberland gave us a run down about the inner workings of the Labor Party, the role our union

plays in the ALP and what has been achieved by our involvement in the party to date.

Our female comrades were also well represented. MUA QLD Branch Committee Women's Representative Ann Gray gave a report on the many issues that women face in our industry and their fight for equality, dignity and respect. Sacked Hutchison Ports member Hannah Matthewson gave a detailed and passionate report about the future for that workforce and the new EBA.

Mitch Hughes, Senior Vice President of the CFMEU Mining Division Queensland District was our special guest. He spoke about some of the issues that their members face, such as the plight of Fly in Fly out (FIFO) workers.

Wednesday evening saw us taking part in a "Politics in the Pub" event at the Old Railway Hotel in Mackay. The night was MCed by Robert Barnes and saw a panel of activists including veteran MUA member and former North QLD official Laurie Horgan, indigenous member Terry O'Shane, QLD youth representative Shannon Saye and women's rep. Ann Gray discuss the future of the union movement as well as answer questions from the floor.

The next day saw a number of resolutions moved in support of workers at Brisbane Ferries, Hutchison Ports, the MV Portland crew as well as local council workers of Mackay and the Unemployed Workers' Union.

The participants would like to thank Samantha Bond and Paul Gallagher, Mitch Hughes from the CFMEU and all the guests, speakers and behind the scenes organisers for their time and effort.

Article abridged from reports submitted by John Lee and Robert Barnes, Hay Point tugs.

MUA Brisbane Office closure – Dec. 2 - 4

THE MUA office at Cannon Hill will be closed from Wednesday December 2 from 12 noon (to help set up the Branch Conference) and all of Thursday December 3 and Friday December 4. Normal hours re-commence on Monday December 7.

Branch News – back in a fortnight

THERE will be no Branch News during the week of the MUA Branch Conference. The next issue will be published in a fortnight on Thursday December 10.

Activist Committee meetings

ACTIVIST Committee meetings are held on the second and last Tuesday of the month. The meeting on the second Tuesday starts at 10am in the union rooms. The meeting on the last Tuesday of the month begins after the Monthly Meeting.

Office Hours – Xmas and New Year

BRISBANE MUA office opening hours will be:

Thursday December 24: 8am-12.30pm

Friday December 25: Closed

Monday December 28: Closed

Tuesday December 29: 8am-12.30pm

Wednesday

December 30:

8am-12.30pm

Thursday Dec. 31:

8am-12.30pm

Friday January 1:

Closed

Monday Jan. 4:

8am-4pm (as normal)



MUA Members at the North Queensland Campaigns Intensive workshop in Mackay

Branch Official's details

THE contact details for your MUA QLD Branch officials and organisers are:

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