



QUEENSLAND BRANCH NEWS

NEWSLETTER of the QLD Branch of the MARITIME UNION of AUSTRALIA

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QUBE - DP World - Quandamooka compact - Solidarity with West Papua

Qube update

QUBE's latest offer to our hard working wharfies in Sydney is a 12.9% wage CUT!

As part of the union's Qube negotiating committee, QLD Branch Secretary Bob Carnegie, Sydney Deputy Branch Secretary Paul Keating and Sydney delegates Steve Johnston and Jay Tawhi were involved in EBA

talks with Qube Sydney. Both sides have now presented their log of claims. Qube's is breathtaking in its audacity and repulsive in what it would do to our member's wages and conditions if it was ever to take hold.

The cruise ship industry has been booming for years and Sydney Harbour is the industry's jewel in the crown.

To see Qube place such an insulting offer on the table is hard to fathom even for a company with a record as bad as theirs.

Members right around Australia are outraged at Qube's attempts to destroy hard fought for conditions and wages.

DP World report

BRANCH Secretary Bob Carnegie and Organiser Paul Petersen visited the DP World terminal in Brisbane on Australia Day (January 26) to speak with members rostered to work that day.

Management's latest attack on union organisation was a hot topic of conversation. So too was the company's incompetence which has seen the latest Enterprise Agreement declared invalid by the Fair Work Commission because management did not lodge the necessary paperwork correctly.

DP World has launched a sophisticated anti-union agenda under the guise of a management controlled 'political correctness' to sow fear. This is causing angst among our members. But we fully intend on defeating this.



Bob Carnegie & Paul Petersen at DPW Brisbane



Historic Quandamooka/MUA QLD agreement signed

Compact signed with the Quandamooka

SATURDAY January 23 was a memorable day for the MUA Queensland Branch. It was the day that MUA QLD Branch ATSI representative Terry O'Shane, Bob Carnegie and Paul Gallagher met with a delegation from the Quandamooka people including Uncle Bob Anderson. On that day,

the Quandamooka Yoolooburrabee Aboriginal Corporation and the MUA QLD signed an historic 'In Principle' Agreement for a social compact.

This compact will see a commitment to training and jobs for the traditional owners in the waters surrounding Minjerribah (Stradbroke Island), and so strengthen our links with the Quandamooka people.

MUA QLD stands in solidarity with the people of West Papua

CENTRAL QLD Organiser Paul Petersen represented the MUA QLD at the invitation only meeting of the United Liberation Movement for West Papua (ULMWP) on January 22.

West Papua was a Dutch colony until 1962 and then placed under Indonesian governance a year later. In 1969 West Papua was absorbed into Indonesia in a so-called "Act of Free Choice", when over 1000 elders hand-picked by the Indonesian military were coerced into voting to become a part of Indonesia. Over half a century Indonesia's repressive military occupation has claimed the lives of up to 500,000 people. In the face of overwhelming odds, the people of West Papua continue to fight for their independence.

The ULMWP meeting included representatives from Vanuatu, the Solomon Islands, Fiji, Kanaky / New Caledonia, Papua New Guinea, Aotearoa / New Zealand, the Pacific Island communities of Polynesia, Micronesia and Melanesia, along with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander leaders.

Goals and plans arising from the meeting included:

- Campaigning for the re-listing of West Papua on the United Nations (UN) Special Committee on Decolonisation.
- The sending of human rights fact-finding missions to West Papua.
- Campaigning to end Australian government funding and training of "Detachment 88", the Indonesian Special Forces squad linked to various human rights abuses.
- Ending superannuation fund investment in the Freeport gold and copper mine in West Papua.

Paul Petersen was extremely honoured to meet two of the central leaders of the Free West Papua Movement - Benny Wenda and Jacob Rumbiak.

Benny Wenda was arrested in 2002 for his role in leading an independence rally, subjected to death threats whilst in custody and was facing up to 25 years in jail. While on trial, he escaped prison and was smuggled into Papua New Guinea by activists. He later travelled to Britain where he was granted political asylum and continues his campaign for the people of West Papua in the international arena.

Jacob Rumbiak was only eight when the UN handed West Papua over to Indonesia in 1963. By 1967 his family had fled to the jungle to hide from the Indonesian military. Jacob joined the Free Papua Movement (OPM) and became a commander in the guerilla movement. In 1978 he was exiled to Indonesia where he went to university and later became an academic. In 1989 he was arrested and sentenced to life imprisonment for subversion. For almost ten years he was regularly shifted between military and civilian prisons.

In 1998, following the downfall of Indonesian dictator Suharto, Jacob was released and placed under 'house arrest' inside military barracks. In 1999 he flew to East Timor as an accredited UN observer for the independence referendum and later escaped on a RAAF Hercules plane to Darwin, where he has lived ever since.

Paul was so humbled by the experience of meeting

such courageous people that he pledged a \$500 donation from the QLD MUA along with the Branch's ongoing support for the Free West Papua Movement.



Cannon Hill Office renovations

RENOVATIONS at the MUA offices in Cannon Hill begin on Monday February 1 and will last for two weeks or so. The office will remain open

but normal operations may be disrupted. Officials will still be contactable via mobile phone and email.

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