



QUEENSLAND BRANCH NEWS

NEWSLETTER of the QLD Branch of the MARITIME UNION of AUSTRALIA

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Qld Branch Rallies Support - IDC and ITF Defend Wharfies – Refugee Rights

Queensland Branch Rallies Ignite and Unite Australian Unions

Recent worker's rallies in Brisbane, led by the MUA, have focused upon the sackings of MUA seafarers and the nature and manner of those dismissals.



Deputy Branch Secretary Jason Miners leading the rally

Friday 12th February's march focused upon Rio Tinto. Guest speakers included Ged Kearney – ACTU President, Peter Ong – ETU Assistant State Secretary, Jade Ingham – CFMEU Assistant State Secretary and Ian Bray – MUA Assistant National Secretary. Major union support came from MHR Terri Butler, the ETU, CFMEU, Plumbers, United Voice, RTBU and Socialist Alternative comrades. With over 500 workers we marched to the Rio Tinto office in Albert Street, Brisbane. This culminated in a demand to meet Rio bosses and extract an understanding which was achieved peacefully. A meeting has been scheduled for later this month.

MUA Branch Activists demanded 'action' over the use of private thugs and NSW Police in removing MUA workers, marched down gangways in the dead of night and expelled from their rightful workplaces. These marches come on the back of rising anger at continuing ideological attacks by the Turnbull Government upon Trade Unions and workers. This has highlighted the clear understanding the NO ONES job is safe from similar methods in this struggle and is a threat to ALL Australian workers' jobs.

The clear message understood by the Trade Union Movement is that WORKERS HAVE TO FIGHT FOR THE RIGHT TO WORK IN OUR OWN COUNTRY. The recent marches have reignited focus, purpose and unity of action to fight for and protect Australian Jobs - in Australia - by workers and their Unions.

Cairns Delegation

Last weekend saw Assistant Branch Secretary Paul Gallagher, Brian Gallagher and Mike Barber arrive as a delegation to conduct discussions with MUA comrades in Cairns. The meeting was well attended with 30 members arriving at a successful understanding for the necessity to focus upon and reinvigorate local activists on industry, community and political issues.

As a result of Saturday's meeting, the regenerated activists came out to protest the return of the Alexander Spirit - yet again loaded with overseas fuel and overseas crew. No obvious shame from a company defiantly flying the Teekay House flag. Tugs and MUA members gave rousing calls as the vessel passed the ferry terminal to the appropriate Union chants.



MUA Members Protest Return of the Alexander Spirit

Additional attendance by the same MUA activists and community protesters rallied at the venue where PM Malcolm Turnbull was to attend. We missed seeing Turnbull but the news media, his entourage and police would not have missed our protesters and banners.

**Authorised by Bob Carnegie, Maritime Union of Australia (MUA) Queensland Branch Secretary
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MUA Members Fight for Refugee Rights at the Lady Cilento Children's Hospital Brisbane



MUA Member Ciaran McLennan & Family Support Refugee Asha's Rights

Ciaran is a great unionist and MUA member. He was protesting alongside Branch Organiser Paul Petersen and others to stop the village idiot of an immigration member Dutton and PM Malcolm Turnbull sending an injured toddler and her family back to Nauru. We are not WEARING this attack! This time we are going to FIGHT!

IDC and ITF Defend Dockers Rights



IDC AND ITF joint press statement

5 February 2016

IDC and ITF meet to defend dockers' rights

Representatives of the International Dockworkers' Council (IDC) and International Transport Workers' Federation (ITF) met in Barcelona, Spain, today to explore how to work together to defend dockers' jobs and rights.

The one-day meeting agreed the following statement of intent:

Representatives of the International Dockworkers' Council (IDC) and International Transport Workers' Federation (ITF) meeting in Barcelona today 5th February 2016 have agreed to find ways of working more closely together with the aim of strengthening solidarity between dockworkers' globally and supporting each other in fighting back against attacks on their working terms and conditions, and job security.

These common challenges faced by our members are the result of significant changes in maritime transport, and some employers and governments pursuing a neo-liberal agenda characterised by union busting including through automation, the casualisation of jobs and deregulation of labour standards and protections. Collective agreements are increasingly being violated and we are concerned over health and safety conditions in ports, as well as attempts to limit dockworkers' ability to exercise their trade union rights.

We have established a joint committee to develop a strategy and plan actions urgently to tackle the key challenges and issues faced by dockworkers globally.

In particular, our organisations will cooperate on: Campaigning and solidarity support to secure and maintain dockworkers' rights internationally, especially in the global terminal operating companies (GNTs); and

Managing the impact of automation, securing lashing work and respect for dockworkers' jurisdiction.

We anticipate an active and fruitful collaboration between our two organisations to build dockworkers' power around the world.

Paddy Crumlin, ITF president and chair of its dockers' section, commented: "This has been a landmark event. Both organisations are now best placed to promote and defend the rights of international dockworkers."

Jordi Aragunde, IDC general coordinator, added: "Today's meeting was designed to further our joint efforts to aid and represent dockers worldwide. It is a pleasure to see it result in such concrete outcomes."

Torben Seebold, ITF vice chair and ETF (European Transport Workers' Federation) dockers' section vice chair, added: "Dockers do hard and often dangerous work which is rarely given the recognition it deserves. The ITF and IDC are committed to changing that."

IDC European zone coordinator Anthony Tetard concluded: "Dockers face common challenges, which demand a united response. Today we have agreed one."



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