



QUEENSLAND BRANCH NEWS

NEWSLETTER of the QLD Branch of the MARITIME UNION of AUSTRALIA

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Union Under Attack – Shipping & Dock Automation – Superannuation Update

Union Under Sustained Attack

OUR UNION IS currently under the greatest of a series of political and industrial attacks since the Patricks lockout of 1998.

Several major employers, like sharks scenting blood, are gearing up and have launched a ferocious onslaught at our Union's right to exist and to democratically represent our members.

- *Qube*

Presently at Qube we have been involved in very intense negotiations in an effort to get Part A (or its equivalent) over the line.

We met with senior Qube management until the late hours of Thursday night (31/03/2016) and were fundamentally apart on two issues; wages and income protection.

Qube management have now used this inability to land the entire Part A to drop the Sword of Damocles over the head of the entire Darwin full time permanents and make them redundant.

Without going into the entire ins and outs of this, the MUA stands committed to achieving a fair EBA with Qube however we find it intolerable that Qube management are using the livelihood of decent, hardworking wharfies many of whom have given 20+ years of service to be used as cynical pawns in a very serious matter.

- *Shipping*

The news that the last Australian crewed oil tanker, the British Fidelity will cast asunder its Australian crew is further devastating news for our Union and the seafaring membership.

The Branch and our entire Union is intensifying our efforts to bring home to the Australian public the plight of the Australian Merchant Fleet and those who sail on her.

- *Towage*

Bob Carnegie and Jason Miners attended a meeting of Hay Point tug members discussing the proposed change of towage provider for the giant BMA terminal at Hay Point.

One of the towage tenders, RivTow is a **SAVAGE NON-UNION OPERATOR** and uses a 'partnership model' ie turning workers into a limited liability company thus destroying the ability of workers to bargain collectively.

In Port Hedland recently BHP awarded the towage contract for that port to RivTow. The result, 230 experienced **UNIONISED** towage workers made redundant and thrown onto the scrapheap.

Rio Tinto Marine

BOB CARNEGIE, JASON Miners, Ian Bray (Assistant National Secretary) and Paul Petersen (Central Queensland Organiser) met with senior Rio Tinto Marine management on the future of their bauxite shipping operations.

All MUA representatives are insistent that Rio Tinto need to up the numbers of Australian crewed vessels on this run.

We are in the process of the beginning of a major campaign to bring Rio Tinto to the table.

Congratulations



The Branch congratulates Robbie Coolwell for becoming the first traditional owner from the Gladstone Byelle mob to become a Chief IR on the Gladstone – Weipa run.

The Future is Here These Two Articles Are Self Explanatory

- *APM Terminals to Operate New Automated Port in Morocco's Tangier*

COPENHAGEN, March 31 – The world's third largest port operator APM Terminals said it will invest 758 million euros (\$858.3 million) in a new transshipment terminal in Tangier, Morocco, that will be the first automated terminal in Africa.

The new container terminal will have an annual capacity of five million 20-foot equivalent units (TEU), and APM Terminals has the right to operate the port for 30 years.

APM Terminals, a unit of Denmark's shipping and oil group A.P. Moller-Maersk, is currently operating a port facility in Tangier that handled 1.7 million TEUs in 2015. A.P. Moller-Maersk also controls the world's largest container shipping company, Maersk Line and it has committed to use the new facilities.



“At a time when the container shipping industry is in crisis due to low global growth and too many vessels for too few goods to move, it is important we are able to invest in bigger and more effective port facilities” Chief Executive Kim Fejfer from APM Terminals said.

Tangier is the second-busiest container port on the African continent after Port Said, Egypt and the location of Tangier provides a natural transshipment location for containers carrying anything from flat-screen televisions to sportswear from Asia to Europe and Africa.

APM Terminals also see high growth in Africa will demand more and better infrastructure on the continent.

“Significant investment in port and transportation infrastructure will be required to meet the anticipated needs of the expanding African population and corresponding economic growth,” it said.

APM Terminals is the largest port operator in Africa with 12 facilities operational in 10 countries.

- *Rolls-Royce Reveals Vision of Shore-based Control Centers for Unmanned Cargo Ships*

ROLLS-ROYCE ON Tuesday offered another glimpse into the future of unmanned shipping, revealing for the first time its vision for a land-based control center for the operation of autonomous ‘drone’ cargo ships.

In photos and film released Tuesday, Rolls-Royce offers a vision in which a small crew of 7 to 14 people monitor and control the operation of a fleet of vessels across the world using interactive smart screens, voice recognition systems, holograms and surveillance drones to monitor what is happening both on board and around the ship.

Iiro Lindborg, General Manager, Remote & Autonomous Operations, Ship Intelligence, Rolls-Royce, said: “We’re living in an ever-changing world where unmanned and remote-controlled transportation systems will become a common feature of human life.

They offer unprecedented flexibility and operational efficiency. Our research aims to understand the human factors involved in monitoring and operating ships remotely. It identifies ways crews ashore can use tools to get a realistic feel for what is happening at sea.”



Rolls-Royce says the film, which we have provided at the bottom of the article, marks the final stage of research that will inform the design and construction of a remote operations test center before the end of this decade.

“The autonomous ship does not mean removing human beings entirely from the picture, as is sometimes stated,” says Eija Kaasinen, Principal Scientist at VTT Technical Research Centre of Finland, a partner in the research. “Unmanned ships need to be monitored and controlled and this will require entirely new kinds of work roles, tasks, tools and environments. The future shore control centre concept has been designed by emphasizing the user experience of the human operators. By focusing on the operators’ point of view, it is possible to introduce meaningful, pleasurable and engaging new roles for the ships’ shore control centre professionals.”

The research was undertaken by VTT and University of Tampere research centre TAUCHI in collaboration with Rolls-Royce, with the aim to explore the lessons learned from other industries such as aviation, energy, defence, and space exploration, where remote operation is more widely used.

Rolls-Royce's autonomous, unmanned vision of future shipping, known as the 'oX' operator experience concept, was first introduced by the company 2014. Previous studies have looked at the user experience of future command bridges on Platform Supply Vessels, container ships and tugs.

In April, Rolls-Royce is set to reveal separate research findings, which the company believes will set the direction for the development of remote and autonomous shipping.

One month left to make transition

Jim Atley – Maritime Super Financial Planner

AUSTRALIANS aged over 56 are likely to have just one month left to grab one of the biggest tax breaks available to pre-retirees.

The generous "transition to retirement" rules which can deliver tax savings worth tens of thousands of dollars, are expected to be scrapped in May's Federal Budget.

I would estimate that 50 per cent of eligible members of Maritime Super are failing to embrace transition to retirement (TTR) and soon the door may be shut completely. As you all may well know the Government are hell-bent on changing super benefits, and many politicians see TTR as an easy target.

In a nutshell, the strategy involves salary sacrificing a big chunk of your wage into super to save tax, then starting a separate low-tax super pension that pays you enough to cover the sacrificed wage.

A 60 year old Maritime worker earning \$80,000 a year with approximately \$300,000 in Maritime Super can boost his or her fund by as much as \$7593 every year until retirement, simply by using the transition to retirement rules.

A lot of strategists are currently saying that changes to the TTR rules are "probably inevitable". Interested members who qualify, need to get into one as quickly as they can to beat any changes, ideally before Budget night. If you'd like to make an appointment to discuss your own circumstances further, contact me on 07 3399-3775.

May Day 2016



LOCK IN THE date May Day back in May! Monday 2 May join fellow workers on the corner of Turbot and Wharf Streets. Be there by 9.30am for 10.00am march then onto the showgrounds for a fun family day and festivities. Please use this link to QCU for all May Day information around Queensland.

<http://www.queenslandunions.org.au/events>

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