

No. 38 – Friday April 22, 2016

Patricks - Cairns Visit - Training in Weipa – The Flanagan Fight – May Day

Patricks

ON WEDNESDAY of last week (April 13th) Patrick sent a “Final Offer” to the MUA and basically gave the MUA less than 2 days to agree to it in its entirety.

It is a complex document some 20 pages long which cross referenced numerous other detailed documents and clauses as well as various Part B specific negotiations and discussions. To top it off we were also told that any claims not included in the “Final Offer” were simply not agreed resulting in the MUA having to trawl back through all of claims to determine exactly what had been left out - all a very long and complex process. On this basis we stated that we could not possibly respond in the time given and would instead give a thorough and considered response by Friday the following week (April 22nd).



Patricks Members Meet at the Union Rooms

There was a further exchange of emails where agreement could not be reached on a time for the MUA to provide the appropriate response and on Tuesday of this week (April 19th) Patrick then moved to put their final offer directly to the workforce.

So what we now have in front of us is that Patrick are putting out their substandard agreement early next week. The vote for MUA members will then open the week after on Wednesday May 4th and close on Monday May

9th. Under the Fair Work Act an agreement must be given to workers 7 days before they can vote on it.

Meeting with Cairns Members

ASSISTANT BRANCH Secretary Paul Gallagher and North Queensland Organiser Glenn Desmond travelled to Cairns to visit members from the Coral Knight, NSS and Sea Swift.

Yet again Sea Swift have appeared determined to remain unreasonable about allowing MUA Officials access to lunch rooms on board vessels to talk to members – a matter which is currently being dealt with through National Office.



North Queensland Members Meeting at the Cairns RSL

During the visit Paul and Glenn also met with Cairns members at Cairns RSL on Thursday to give a report back on a few recent issues. The meeting was also attended by Senator Jan McLucas, Barron River MP Craig Crawford and Federal ALP Candidate Sharryn Howes. This meeting gave MUA Members an

opportunity to raise questions on where these representatives stood on a number of issues. Sharryn Howes also asked our members for their support during her campaign.

MUA Training in Weipa

MEMBERS FROM Smit Lamnalco Towage in Weipa participated in Union training with Glenn Desmond on Wednesday, 20th April at the Heritage Resort in Weipa.

The training consisted of units from the Delegates One training course and focussed on how to build structure among the collective membership, and how to help members deal with issues which may arise on the job.



Training in Weipa

At the end of the day's training, members did some planning around how to firm up their workplace structures and ramp up what was already in place. The members also passed resolutions expressing solidarity with their Comrades at QUBE in Darwin, and another expressing their support for Comrades at Hay Point as they look to maintain jobs in the local port into the future.

The Flanagan Fight

GEOFF BAKER (MUA member from the Port of Townsville Maintenance Team) and his family recently received some terrible news. Geoff's daughter, Gemma Flanagan, was diagnosed with breast cancer on 10th March and 6 days later her husband Matt Flanagan was told he has colon cancer.

This young couple are parents to two girls aged 3 and 1 and are fighting to keep their routine as normal as possible.

A crowd-funding initiative on the Gofundme website called 'The Flanagan Fight' has been created and many have already kindly donated to show their support. This money will help the family pay for medical expenses and retain their family home.

If you would like to contribute to this initiative please go to the following link

<https://www.gofundme.com/wrv6sxqc>. You are able to follow this young family's journey on a Facebook page named '[The Flanagan Fight](#)'.

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>

Relief Official

BRANCH SECRETARY Bob Carnegie will be on annual leave from 20th April 2016 to 18th May 2016. Damian McGarry will be relief official during this period and can be contacted via email on brisbane.relief@mua.org.au or via the Branch on 07 3395 7215.

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