



QUEENSLAND BRANCH NEWS

NEWSLETTER of the QLD Branch of the MARITIME UNION of AUSTRALIA

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To be truly radical is to make hope possible, rather than despair convincing - Raymond Williams

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QUBE EBA Vote – The Year Ahead - Qld/NT Legal Industrial Officer SIMEDUCO Donation - Arrested Hotel Workers Back at Work

QUBE

THE 2016 – 2020 QUBE Bulk and General EBA for the Port of Brisbane was voted in by a greater than 3 to 1 majority at the Union Rooms on Thursday, 5 January 2017.

It was a well attended meeting with plenty of debate and questions. In a new twist for a Union EBA vote, we had QUBE's National Workplace Relations Manager, Julia Swift and the Brisbane Operations Manager, Ken Jackson take part in the meeting for nearly an hour. They answered questions put to them by the rank and file.

After QUBE management left, a comprehensive discussion took place on the EBA.



Garry Keane, Relief Assistant National Secretary and Bob Carnegie, as part of the MUA QUBE National Bargaining Committee explained the exhaustive battles we have had over 17 months and 43 meetings.

Both Garry and Bob paid tribute to the work of Adrian Evans and Warren Smith for their outstanding work as the other part of the National Bargaining Committee. However, Garry Kean paid particular tribute to the members, who in Darwin, were threatened with job redundancy for standing firm against QUBE's posturing in this dispute, as the real heroes.

Bob Carnegie thanked all members who have shown such patience, discipline and belief in our Union that we would deliver a decent Agreement. This I can proudly say has been achieved.

On the income protection note, Gary Robb spoke on the work that Protect does and how vastly superior it is compared to the income protection currently on offer by Maritime Super's income protection insurer.

Members, after listening intently and discussing the product it was decided by over 90% to join Protect. Once

again, on behalf of the Branch, I would like express the sheer working class decency and Trade Union principle

members have shown us. To Noel, Boppa, Wayne, Earl, Mark, Cummo and all the other members who have stood shoulder to shoulder with us in these tough talks. Thank you – we have achieved a decent outcome.

2017 The Year Ahead

2017 PROMISES TO BE a challenging and tough year for our Union and working class movement and activists around the world.

The election of Trump in the US will see a heightened assault on working class people in the US. In Australia, we will see further attempts by the conservatives in Government to further restrict the role of Unions and the progressive role we play in Australian society.

In our Union, we will be voting on whether to merge with the CFMEU. I urge every member when this vote takes place to exercise the democratic right to cast a vote.

The Union will be put under further pressure in the bluewater and we need to ready ourselves for the fight ahead. To this extent, the Branch will be launching a powerful campaign to force Rio Tinto to ensure increased Australian crewed participation on the Gladstone – Weipa – Gladstone – Newcastle run. We expect the brutal attacks by the right wing to

continue against the Union. What we must do is unite and defend our Union like never before.

But, despite all of this, I am confident we will be walking just that much taller and that much prouder when 2017 concludes.

RESIST TO EXIST

The Branch Welcomes the First Legal Industrial Officer for the Queensland/Northern Territory Branch

David Greene – Legal and Industrial Officer

I'M THE NEW Legal and Industrial Officer for the Queensland and Northern Territory branches, based in Brisbane. My journey to the Union hasn't been as direct as others in the place – I've come from almost 7 years of private legal practice, first as a Barrister in Dublin, and later as a Solicitor in Brisbane and on the Gold Coast.



I was raised in an Irish working class family, where Dad was, and still is, a telecoms linesman and a union man. My progressive credentials haven't been picked up along the way – they were deeply ingrained from an early age, and through lived experience of economic hardship.

Despite the tough times, I was very fortunate to go to University and graduate with honours in law. I chose law because it probably suited my personality, but also because I wanted to help make a difference for ordinary people, and help them in their own struggle. I've come to the Union on that mission – to do good work for good people. I'm very glad to have found a home in this Union, and I look forward to working for and with you as we fight the good fight in the months and years ahead.

David Greene

Appreciation for Donation to SIMEDUCO

AT A MONTHLY meeting in October last year, members decided to donate \$500 to assist the struggle of workers in El Salvador. Teachers have been on strike to save their profession.

This is a brief email from a great friend of our Union, Craig Buckley assuring our act of solidarity is appreciated.

Bob

Just to confirm that the money donated by the MUA to IUSN was forwarded, as per our discussion, to

SIMEDUCO, a union covering education workers and teachers in El Salvador. They are currently engaged in collective bargaining and industrial disputation and the money will definitely be put to good use.

I have enclosed a copy of the receipt forwarded by SIMEDUCO. You will notice that the donation receipt identifies the amount of \$400 – this is a reference to \$US 400 – as El Salvador now uses the US dollar as currency. The \$500 donated by the MUA worked out to about \$US 380, so Juan and I put a few extra dollars in to round it out to an even \$US 400.

Regards

Craig Buckley

Pakistan: Arrested Quetta Serena Hotel Unionists Back at Work

WHEN SIXTY-THREE members and officers of the IUF-affiliated Quetta Serena Hotel Union were arrested on November 30 for peacefully gathering in front of the hotel after union members were denied entry, thousands of you responded quickly to our appeal to send messages.



We are happy to report that all 63 are back at work with no disciplinary charges and no loss of pay and that management has not pressed charges. The provincial High

Court has overturned an earlier labour court decision instigated by the hotel management banning union activity at the hotel and the union is pressing ahead with its demand for negotiations on a collective agreement which it has been requesting since July 2015.

Through the IUF, the union has warmly thanked all supported the ongoing fight for their rights.

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