



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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MUA Leadership meets with head of Rio Shipping – WA State conference report back by Jason Miners – May Day is back on Monday 1st May - BIG changes to superannuation are approaching quickly - The Branch wishes all members a safe Easter

MUA Leadership meets with head of Rio Shipping

ON Monday April 10, the MUA Qld Branch Leadership and Assistant National Secretary Ian Bray met with Rio Tinto's head of shipping Peter Mannion alongside representatives from ASP Ship Management. This meeting came out of a protest after our last branch meeting where members occupied the lobby of the Rio building in their battle for work and justice.

The meeting consisted of very forthright exchanges between the party with the fundamental principle, at all times being to tie Rio down to placing a great deal more of their tonnage with Australian Crews on those that ply the Gladstone Weipa run.

The outcome of the meeting was on the balance of things positive. There is to be a new framework agreement drawn up with the distinct possibility of Rio Shipping working with the MUA in our attempts to find work for our members.

The pressure must be kept on Rio and other operators in our struggle for justice.



Left to Right: David Greene, Jason Miners, Ian Bray Bob Carnegie, Damien McGarry, Paul Petersen, Paul Gallagher.

WA State conference report back by Jason Miners



Comrades the WA State Conference delivered some of the best trade union leaders both nationally and internationally.

But the conference wasn't about them in my view, it was about two like-minded unions getting together to tackle the struggle of working men and women.

Anyone with half a brain understands that the decimation of workers' rights and protections and the ever increasing transfer of power away from ordinary workers is destroying the Australian fair go in what we used to perceive as a fair and equitable society.

All around the globe workers are the collateral damage of the greed and opportunism of the dominant ruling class.

The conference addressed the issues workers are facing every day and emphasised why unions need to unite around values which will make their lives better thru fair working pay and conditions.

In the current environment unions are under more pressure than ever before to deliver the needs and aspirations of workers and the way forward is to have like-minded unions get together to achieve this.

The Queensland branch took the view to send a large

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delegation from a broad cross section of the branch to ensure our Qld membership has as much exposure to the debate and visionary ideas the proposed merger had to offer.

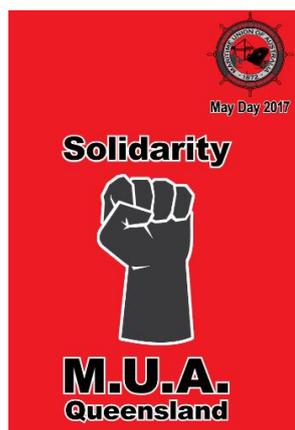
I had the opportunity to speak at this important event and I ensured the struggles and successes of the QLD branch were put to the wider movement present with specific mention to the QLD branches commitment to campaign against Rio Tinto for the jobs which are rightfully ours on the Gladstone to Weipa intra state shipping run

I was extremely proud to lead the QLD delegation as they all showed exceptional commitment through their attendance, conduct and constructive input through democratic debate which saw our branch have arguably the biggest contribution excluding the WA branch who hosted the event in conjunction with the CFMEU.

May Day is back on Monday 1st May

Join fellow workers at the corner of Wharf and Turbot Streets, Spring Hill at 9:30am for a 10am start and finish the day with free festival at the Brisbane Showgrounds (RNA) – with drinks, food, music and rides courtesy of MUA. Please use this link to QCU for all May Day information. <http://www.queenslandunions.org.au/events>

REGIONAL PORTS MAYDAY MARCH DETAILS:



* Cairns – April 29 @ 3:00pm
Fogarty Park Soundshell

* Mackay – May 1 @ 9:45am
corner of River and Gregory Streets

* Gladstone – May 1 @ 10am
Council Car Park on Central Lane

* Townsville – May 1 @ 10.30am
ANZAC Park, The Strand North Ward

BIG changes to superannuation are approaching quickly

BIG changes to superannuation are approaching quickly and savers should consider strategies now to prevent losses and avoid missing out on gains. While the headlines have been dominated by the new cap on people's tax-free super retirement pensions of \$1.6 million — a number most Australians won't reach — there are plenty of other changes coming on July 1 that have a much broader impact.

Here are five things to think about now.

1. CHECK YOUR CAPS

The concessional contribution cap for pre-tax super contributions, such as employer payments and salary sacrifice, is dropping to \$25,000 a year for everyone — down from up to \$35,000 today. Pre-retirees who were beefing up their nest egg with big pre-tax payments would need to speak to their payroll office to make the

adjustment by June 30. A lot of members will forget, and may get caught if payroll doesn't tell them.

2. SALARY SACRIFICE EXTRA

Salary sacrifice is added to employer contributions when measuring the cap, so someone earning \$100,000 a year can only sacrifice up to \$15,500 next financial year, down from \$25,500 currently. This may give members an opportunity to increase salary sacrifice in the next couple of months, before the lower cap kicked in.

3. START SAVING EARLIER

Lower super caps make it harder to save a large nest egg, this meant people should consider adding a little extra earlier in life. Even if it's a small amount, everyone needs to be thinking about it. You can't catch up the way you used to.

4. AFTER-TAX ACTION

Pre-tax contribution caps don't get all the limelight. After-tax contributions limits will also be reduced, from \$180,000 a year to \$100,000. These large amounts are quite common for pre-retirees selling assets such as investment properties or shares to get more cash into super.

Members could bring forward three years of after-tax contributions, meaning selling a big asset before June 30 would allow them to pump in \$540,000, rather than a maximum of \$300,000 after July 1.

5. LOST IN TRANSITION

From July 1, popular transition to retirement super strategies will be taxed like normal super rather than their current tax-free status. If you're 55 or over and have retired with a transition to retirement income stream, you should ensure this pension has now been converted to an allocated pension or you might be taxed as though you're in accumulation phase.

Based in our MUA office Cannon Hill, Jim Atley is the Maritime Super Financial Planner.

The Branch wishes all members a safe Easter

For those working and those travelling to see loved one, safety at work and on the roads, is just so important.

The branch will be closed from Friday 14th April and re-open on Tuesday 18th April at 8:00am.

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