



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

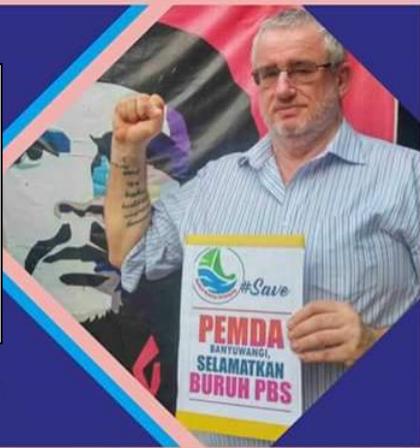
No. 91 - Tuesday 4 July 2017

Message of Support Indonesian Workers - Sealink Gladstone - Larcom - AAT - Linx - Hutchison World's Plastic Binge - Movie Review: The Young Karl Marx

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Support and solidarity for the struggle of worker comrades at PT Pelabuhan Banyuwangi. Stay true and insist that the Banyuwangi Government immediately settles this case. Pay wages owed and recognise all rights not granted!

Bob Carnegie,
Maritime Union of Australia



Banyuwangi is a regional government at the eastern end of Java. PT Pelabuhan is a state-owned port operator that controls the port in Banyuwangi. It is the main port for ferries between Java and Bali.

Sealink Gladstone

EBA NEGOTIATIONS HAVE been on going since early May. Sealink have recently moved from a construction phase to an operational phase, this unfortunately has resulted in a large amount of redundancies occurring at Sealink.

The new operational phase is a 5 year contract with the possibility of a following 5 year contract for transportation of workers between mainland Gladstone and Curtis Island.

MUA Queensland Branch have recently been reactivated on this site with some new active and committed delegates and HSR's stepping up to represent the workforce.

Jo Shepherd, Will Lillecrapp, Ryan Zwisler and Cole Jones are all very passionate on site delegates or trained HSR's, along with the experience of the MUA delegate, Stuart Snell, who has once again been doing an outstanding job by putting an extensive Log of Claims together and representing the members best interest at the negotiations table. These delegates have been doing everything they can to improve the outcome of the EBA and to engage the workforce to band together to achieve the best possible result.

For Sealink workers who wish to help to improve their future wages and working conditions, please don't hesitate to contact one of delegates or myself, Paul Petersen on 0404 453 869.



Gladstone Larcom EBA

GLADSTONE LARCOM EBA is finally signed and a working document. Negotiations with ASP regarding the Larcom fuel bunker barge have dragged on for over two years. The members have received payback of:

- 21.08.2014~ CPI (1.5) plus 1%
- 21.08.2015~ CPI (1.5%) plus 1%
- 21.08.2016~ CPI (1.5%) plus 1%
- 21.08.2017~ CPI (?) plus 1%

Many thanks to all MUA crew on board who have all contributed and been apart EBA negotiations.

Paul Petersen

AAT

AAT EBA BRISBANE, went to vote on 9th June and was voted up unanimously. James Crookall, AAT delegate and MUA QLD Youth Representative along with Mark Kinman, AAT delegate have been heavily involved with the EBA negotiations from the beginning and helped achieve a good outcome for all members at AAT.

The EBA now allows for a day shift employee that will only work Monday-Friday day shift.

If they work ten shifts outside of the day shift hours, they will automatically be reclassified to a permanent shift worker.

Authorised by Bob Carnegie, Maritime Union of Australia (MUA) Queensland Branch Secretary

73 Southgate Avenue, Cannon Hill QLD 4170

Members can opt to be covered by Protect Income Insurance though this will be outside of the EBA the same as the Qube Agreement. Agreed increase wages 2½%, 3%, 3%, 3%.

Linx Bulk & General, Brisbane and Gladstone REDUNDANCIES HAVE BEEN called for at Linx Brisbane. The company started talks by looking for cuts to company fixed costs. Some of the company's wish list were to seek a reduction in wages, 12 hour midnight shift and the removal of double accounted hours from the permanents. Linx were looking to make 19 MUA members redundant if they couldn't reduce fixed cost.

Myself and the MUA members who make up the ERC representative at Linx took a proposal to the company that would look at moving PGE's to a pro-rata situation and forming a PIR roster for the permanents if the numbers of redundancies were reduced and volunteer redundancies were called for and accepted.

After much discussing and some heated debate the company agreed to ask for expressions of interest for redundancies. Six members were happy to put their hands up for the volunteer redundancies but the company were looking for another 4 forced positions.

A two hour paid yard meeting was held on the 23rd at the MUA Queensland Branch union rooms and it was unanimously decided by the members that if the company try to force anyone into a forced redundancy the negotiations for the pro-rata and PIR roster would be off the table.



Linx Brisbane Yard Meeting

Bob Carnegie, Branch Secretary and I met with the company on Monday 26th to confirm the position of the members and to ensure the Linx management that the Queensland Branch of the MUA would fight with every resource available to stop the company making any forced redundancies. Linx local management hesitatingly agreed to accept only the volunteers and by mutual agreed we will hold a labour review in three months.

A big thanks to all MUA members on the ERC committee and the delegates. Special thanks to David Thorn, Brett Membrey, Peter Franchina, Glen Speak, Shane Metcalf, Shane Jefferies and Mark Barns. These guys have worked hard and fought passionately for the best outcome possible all members on site.

Part B Brisbane Linx negotiations will commence early this month now that the redundancies have been finalised.

Part B Gladstone Linx commenced on the 25/05/2017 and a further meeting will be held this week on the 04/06/2017.

- Linx Gladstone are trying to change permanent employees travel allowance from accounted hours back to award rate.
- Extensions at Rio Tinto Yarwun for permanent employees changed from double accounted hours/accounted hours back to normal hours.
- Training rates including induction allocations paid at Award.
- 4 hour minimum completion shifts for pitch and coke vessels.
- Introduction of Grade 5 holds man on gear bulk vessels. Grade 6 team leaders will remain on shift.
- Change dispatch and non-stevedoring tasks in the yard to a different rate similar to the Award, logistics or warehousing rate.

The Gladstone Linx MUA members are a great team and have two outstanding delegates in Chris Massey and Dan Gourley. There are also some young delegates Zeb Albert and Jason Brown that have stepped up to the plate and are now part of the negotiation team. With the strong delegate structure and the committed membership we have at Linx Gladstone we can be assured of a good outcome.



Gladstone MUA Qld Branch Members

Linx Part A negotiations are in progress, the main topics of discussion are:

- Peaks and troughs (deal with in upturns and hours shortfall in downturns)
- Long Service Leave for Casuals
- Plain English Redraft of EA
- Order of Pick
- Drug and Alcohol Policy including Swab Testing
- Roster Rep
- Selection Criteria for Promotion, Training and Redundancy
- Training and Safety training
- Income protection
- Financial outcomes

Hutchison Members Meeting

ON SATURDAY 17th MUA members of Hutchison Ports Brisbane called a voluntary meeting at the Queens Port Hotel, Hemmant. The Hutchison members being an active and committed workforce turned out in strong numbers to discuss the future of their workplace. The meeting was conducted with great leadership from delegates Joe Johnson, J.T, Trevor Wallin, Diego Flaksbard, Anthony Crookall and Bronwyn La Rosa. With open and robust discussion on many issues it was always put to the collective for the final concluding.

Hutchison (BCT) have declined (at the present time) to implement a roster for the permanent workforce or commit to a guarantee for the casual labour force, stating the company has financial worries and can't afford to spend money on employees. In seeming contradiction to this, the company has expended a large amount of money re-branding their logo and acquiring a time and motion system called Kronos.

MUA members in maintenance have been doing an outstanding job without the aid of a maintenance software system as well as under staffed crews.

The MUA maintenance members fought hard to get a roster which the company are now trying to change. The members in maintenance have been very negotiable with trying to reach a middle ground with BCT but it seems everything we propose to the company they want to take a bit more. There will be further discussion this week with the company. MUA members will be well represented by two committed delegates Rob Harris and Damian Donnelly.

A Million Bottles a Minute: World's Plastic Binge 'As Dangerous as Climate Change'

Some members might ask 'what has this to do with me?' Well perhaps if you are looking at falling off the perch in the next 10-20 years, not much. But the world is being consumed by its most common mammal – humans – and we are committing future generations to hellish life if we don't do something about it now!

We are literally drowning ourselves in plastic waste and destroying our climate by carbon emissions. By us all doing a little, a lot can be done.

I once read that for the Indian and Chinese people to have a similar standard of living to Australians we literally need another earth! To think about it is frightening. So, let's act locally and think globally.

Bob Carnegie – Branch Secretary

Exclusive: Annual consumption of plastic bottles is set to top half a trillion by 2021, far outstripping recycling efforts and jeopardising oceans, coastlines and other environments

By [Sandra Laville](#) and [Matthew Taylor](#) sourced from: https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2017/jun/28/a-million-a-minute-worlds-plastic-bottle-binge-as-dangerous-as-climate-change?CMP=Share_iOSApp_Other

A million plastic bottles are bought around the world

every minute and the number will jump another 20% by 2021, creating an environmental crisis some campaigners predict will be as serious as climate change.

New figures obtained by the Guardian reveal the surge in usage of plastic bottles, more than half a trillion of which will be sold annually by the end of the decade.

The demand, equivalent to about 20,000 bottles being bought every second, is driven by an apparently insatiable desire for bottled water and the spread of a western, urbanised “on the go” culture to [China](#) and the Asia Pacific region.

More than 480bn plastic drinking bottles were sold in 2016 across the world, up from about 300bn a decade ago. If placed end to end, they would extend more than halfway to the sun. By 2021 this will increase to 583.3bn, according to the most up-to-date estimates from Euromonitor International's global packaging trends report.

Most plastic bottles used for soft drinks and water are made from polyethylene terephthalate (Pet), which is highly recyclable. But as their use soars across the globe, efforts to collect and recycle the bottles to keep them from polluting the oceans, are failing to keep up.

Fewer than half of the bottles bought in 2016 were collected for recycling and just 7% of those collected were turned into new bottles. Instead most plastic bottles produced end up in landfill or in the ocean.



You'll find them on the beaches, too. Photograph: Barbara Walton/EPA

Between 5m and 13m tonnes of plastic leaks into the world's oceans each year to be ingested by sea birds, fish and other organisms, and by 2050 the ocean will contain more plastic by weight than fish, [according to research](#) by the Ellen MacArthur Foundation. Experts warn that some of it is already finding its way into the human food chain.

Scientists at Ghent University in Belgium [recently calculated](#) people who eat seafood ingest up to 11,000 tiny pieces of plastic every year. Last August, [the results](#)

[of a study by Plymouth University](#) reported plastic was found in a third of UK-caught fish, including cod, haddock, mackerel and shellfish. Last year, [the European Food Safety Authority called for urgent research](#), citing increasing concern for human health and food safety “given the potential for microplastic pollution in edible tissues of commercial fish”.

Dame [Ellen MacArthur](#), the round the world yachtswoman, now campaigns to promote a circular economy in which plastic bottles are reused, refilled and recycled rather than used once and thrown away.

“Shifting to a real circular economy for plastics is a massive opportunity to close the loop, save billions of dollars, and decouple plastics production from fossil fuel consumption,” she said.

Hugo Tagholm, of the marine conservation and campaigning group Surfers Against Sewage, said the figures were devastating. “The plastic pollution crisis rivals the threat of climate change as it pollutes every natural system and an increasing number of organisms on planet Earth.

“Current science shows that plastics cannot be usefully assimilated into the food chain. Where they are ingested they carry toxins that work their way on to our dinner plates.” Surfers Against Sewage are campaigning for [a refundable deposit scheme](#) to be introduced in the UK as a way of encouraging reuse.

Tagholm added: “Whilst the production of throwaway plastics has grown dramatically over the last 20 years, the systems to contain, control, reuse and recycle them just haven’t kept pace.”

In the UK 38.5m plastic bottles are used every day – only just over half make it to recycling, while more than 16m are put into landfill, burnt or leak into the environment and oceans each day.

“Plastic production is set to double in the next 20 years and quadruple by 2050 so the time to act is now,” said Tagholm.

There has been growing concern about the impact of plastics pollution in oceans around the world. Last month scientists found [nearly 18 tonnes of plastic on one of the world’s most remote islands, an uninhabited coral atoll in the South Pacific](#).

Another study [of remote Arctic beaches found they were also heavily polluted with plastic, despite small local populations](#). And earlier this week scientists warned that plastic bottles and other packaging [are overrunning some of the UK’s most beautiful beaches and remote coastline](#), endangering wildlife from basking sharks to puffins.

The majority of plastic bottles used across the globe are for drinking water, according to Rosemary Downey, head of packaging at Euromonitor and one of the world’s experts in plastic bottle production.

China is responsible for most of the increase in demand. The Chinese public’s consumption of bottled

water accounted for nearly a quarter of global demand, she said.

“It is a critical country to understand when examining global sales of plastic Pet bottles, and China’s requirement for plastic bottles continues to expand,” said Downey.

In 2015, consumers in China purchased 68.4bn bottles of water and in 2016 this increased to 73.8bn bottles, up 5.4bn.



A worker sorts plastic bottles at a recycling centre on the outskirts of Wuhan, Hubei province, China. Photograph: Jie Zhao/Corbis/Getty Images

“This increase is being driven by increased urbanisation,” said Downey. “There is a desire for healthy living and there are ongoing concerns about groundwater contamination and the quality of tap water, which all contribute to the increase in bottle water use,” she said. India and Indonesia are also witnessing strong growth.

Plastic bottles are a big part of the huge surge in usage of a material first popularised in the 1940s. Most of the plastic produced since then still exists; the petrochemical-based compound takes hundreds of years to decompose.

Major drinks brands produce the greatest numbers of plastic bottles. Coca-Cola produces more than 100bn throwaway plastic bottles every year – or 3,400 a second, according to analysis carried out by Greenpeace after the company refused to publicly disclose its global plastic usage. The top six drinks companies in the world use a combined average of just 6.6% of recycled Pet in their products, according to Greenpeace. A third have no targets to increase their use of recycled plastic and none are aiming to use 100% across their global production.

Plastic drinking bottles could be made out of 100% recycled plastic, known as rPET – and campaigners are pressing big drinks companies to radically increase the amount of recycled plastic in their bottles. But brands are hostile to using rPET for cosmetic reasons because they want their products in shiny, clear plastic, according to Steve Morgan, of Recoup in the UK.

In evidence to a House of Commons committee, the British [Plastics Federation \(BPF\)](#), a plastics trade body, admitted that making bottles out of 100% recycled plastic used 75% less energy than creating virgin plastic bottles. But the BPF said that brands should not be forced to increase the recycled content of bottles. “The recycled

content ... can be up to 100%, however this is a decision made by brands based on a variety of factors,” said Philip Law, director general of the BPF.

The industry is also resisting any taxes or charges to reduce demand for single-use plastic bottles – like the 5p charge on plastic bags that is credited with reducing plastic bag use by 80%.

Coca Cola said it was still considering requests from Greenpeace to publish its global plastics usage. A spokeswoman said: “Globally, we continue to increase the use of recycled plastic in countries where it is feasible and permitted. We continue to increase the use of RPet in markets where it is feasible and approved for regulatory food-grade use – 44 countries of the more than 200 we operate in.”

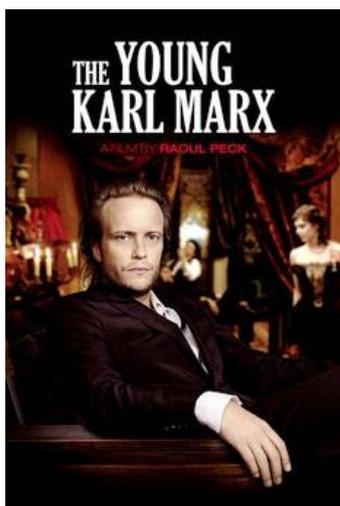
She agreed plastic bottles could be made out of 100 percent recycled plastic but there was nowhere near enough high quality food grade plastic available on the scale that was needed to increase the quantity of RPET to that level.

“So if we are to increase the amount of recycled plastic in our bottles even further then a new approach is needed to create a circular economy for plastic bottles,” she said.

Greenpeace said the [big six drinks companies](#) had to do more to increase the recycled content of their plastic bottles. “During Greenpeace’s recent expedition exploring plastic pollution on remote Scottish coastlines, we found plastic bottles nearly everywhere we went,” said Louisa Casson, oceans campaigner for Greenpeace. *“It’s clear that the soft drinks industry needs to reduce its plastic footprint.”*

Movie Review: The Young Karl Marx A Film by Raoul Peck

This is from one of our Branch's great supporters, Janet Burstall, revolutionary socialist, great unionist and wonderful friend. Bob Carnegie



HOW DID TWO young migrants around 30 years old become spectres that have haunted the globe for over 150 years? The movie opens with men on horseback chasing and striking down poor people gathering dead wood in a forest. Karl Marx describes in the 'Rheinische Zeitung' how wood gathering was made illegal, and the gatherers persecuted.

Engels works for his father in a Manchester woollen

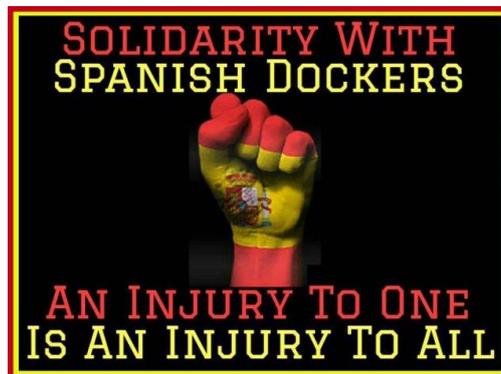
mill, and writes 'The Condition of the Working Class in England' (1845). Neither Marx nor Engels softened for polite society what they said about the brutality of

capital, and the law. They exposed those material conditions.

Marx, Engels, the sharply intellectual Jenny von Westphalen, and the stridently class conscious Mary Burns teamed up to storm through political debates and struggles between 1842 and 1847. First they took on the philosophically idealist young Hegelians whose “critical criticism” our heroes replied to jocularly with the title “The critique of critical criticism”, later published as 'The Holy Family'. Next was a rejoinder to Proudhon’s 'Philosophy of Poverty' under the title 'Poverty of Philosophy'. Jenny nails Proudhon’s phrase “property is theft” for being like a cat chasing its tail, because without property there can be no theft.

'The Communist Manifesto' is the climax, written for the newly formed Communist League. Engels and Marx persuaded the League of the Just that its slogan “all men are brothers” was unfit for dealing with the capitalist class that showed no brotherly (or sisterly) concern for the working class. Raul Peck’s movie could stand as a drama about romance and survival, even if you don’t know or care much about Marxist ideas. Perhaps the greatest success of the film is that it rescues Marx and Engels from the lifelessness of a Soviet stone statue, or the disdain of a postmodernism, by presenting these men alongside their loves Jenny von Westphalen and Mary Burns as living, flesh and blood, like us.

Reviewed by Janet Burstall



Member Details Update

All members, please ensure your contact details (email, address and mobile) are up to date with the Branch office. Please confirm details emailing to: muaqld@mua.org.au or calling 3395 7215. The statement of dues will be emailed this week for tax purposes.

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