



# 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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## CSL Thevenard is gone – Science corner – Happiness in retirement: How much is enough? – Cartoon Corner

### CSL Thevenard is gone

CSL Thevenard is gone, the Australian Merchant fleet has almost disappeared over the horizon. You could count the red duster on both hands and most of your toes amputated.



On Tuesday 4/7/17 the MUA members employed by CSL on the Thevenard received the news we all dread: that the ship had been finished up in dry dock and would not be returning and their jobs were gone.

Warren Smith, Garry Keane, Jamie Newlyn and myself met with CSL HR and contract executives in Sydney in an attempt to change their position and or to mitigate this horrendous blow to the employment of Australian Seafarers. Every avenue is being investigated.

A number of positions were put forward with CSL continually falling back on the changed regulatory environment in Australia which has opened the flood gates to every bottom feeding, FOC, flying shipowner in the world.

The only flaw in their argument was and is that CSL are the BIGGEST users of temporary licenses in this country with nearly 600 temporary license applications over the last few years.

Comrades we cannot take this lying down! As the problem with cabotage needs both a political and industrial fix, we have to fight this to make this happen.

At our Branch Monthly Meeting we need EVERY available body to come and protest as there will be simultaneous protests at key cabinet ministers and company offices around the country.

As your Branch Secretary, I ask every Seafarer employed or not to attend the Branch Monthly Meeting on Tuesday the 25th July at 0900 starting with a BBQ at 0730.

To our members working on the wharves, please come off shift, please come on your week off, the situation is dire for your seafaring mates.

All members who come be ready to really PROTEST, come stout with heart and union pride.

We have our heritage to fight for. Many of us come from seafaring and waterfront families. It's our names, our dignities and future we are fighting for.

There will be job site meetings, leaflets and plenty more notice as to where we are protesting but if you were a betting person, Peter Dutton's office is a likely target. Union hater, refugee hater, right wing ideologue. He needs to be shown Australian Union Seafarers have a right to work in their country.

“Stop Issuing Temporary Licences to CSL Allowing Them to Replace Australian Crew” petition:

<https://www.megaphone.org.au/petitions/stop-issuing-shipping-licenses-to-csl-shipping-so-they-can-replace-australian-crew>

### Science corner

This short article is about the importance of vaccination as I discussed with some members, the importance of it so I went and got an experts opinion.

#### “The Science of Immunisation: Australian Academy of Science 2016”

There has recently been a lot of hysteria regarding the safe use of vaccinations (i.e. Pauline Hanson's infamous commentary – which incidentally she was forced to retract). Several anti-vaxxer campaigners have argued that the number of antigens (the targets that invoke an immune response) contained in the suite of vaccines given to children during their early years is excessive (>300 antigens). However, it has been quickly pointed out that children are often exposed to thousands of antigens everyday (you only need to watch kids at play to see that this is true).

The Australian Academy of Science has published a question and answer article that addresses many of the concerns of parents and dispels many of the myths that are propagated by the anti-vaccine brigade. In some cases, children who receive the whole-cell pertussis (DTP) vaccine, or measles, mumps and rubella (MMR)

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vaccine, may be at an increased risk of developing rare seizures brought on by a high fever. However, the numbers are low, 6 to 9 seizures per 100,000 children are attributed to the DTP vaccine, and 25 to 34 per 100,000 children to the MMR vaccine (the fever can be controlled by Panadol). The researchers are also quick to point out that although the seizures may be "scary" at the time for both children and parents, no long-term neurological damage is done. In essence, vaccines like other medicines, can have side effects. However, all vaccines in use in Australia provide benefits that far outweigh their potential risks.

Since the discovery of vaccinations countless lives have been saved, this has contributed greatly to our quality of life and longevity. The arguments of the anti-vaxxers are based on pseudo-science and as such should be rejected utterly.

### Happiness in retirement: How much is enough?

When it comes to super, size does count. Your employer's super contributions may not be enough if you want to be financially secure when you retire.

How much extra money you contribute to your super depends on what you'll need to live off once you retire.

The amount of super you need depends on:

- How long you live
- What type of lifestyle you want
- Future medical costs

The table below will give you a rough idea of how much money you need to support a modest or comfortable retirement. It applies for people retiring at age 65 who will live to an average life expectancy of about 85. It assumes you own your home.

ASFA Retirement Standard	Annual living costs	Weekly living costs
Couple - modest	\$34,855	\$668
Couple - Comfortable	\$59,971	\$1,150
Single - Modest	\$24,250	\$465
Single - Comfortable	\$43,665	\$837

Another way to estimate how much money you will need in retirement is to assume you need 67% (two-thirds) of your income before you retire in order to maintain the same standard of living in retirement. This estimate is only suitable for above average income earners.

ASFA estimates the lump sum needed to support a comfortable lifestyle for a couple is \$640,000 (or \$545,000 for a single person) assuming a partial Age Pension. ASFA also estimates that because a modest lifestyle is mostly met by the Age Pension the lump sum required to support it for a couple is \$35,000 (\$50,000 for a single person).

Source: ASFA Retirement Standard, March Quarter 2017.

So, armed with the above figures what else is considered essential to a happy retirement?

1. HAVE SUFFICIENT RETIREMENT INCOME
2. BE IN CONTROL OF YOUR FINANCES

Earning a high income is certainly helpful for wellbeing, but research also shows that being in control of your finances is what really counts.

In fact, having a sense of "financial control" – not having a high income – is one of the three points of the "golden triangle of happiness", according to an Australian Unity survey.

"The power of money to affect wellbeing lies in its capacity to alleviate stress and create an environment for happiness. Accordingly, people can achieve normal levels of wellbeing even with low income, so long as they feel in control of how they spend it."

Indeed, according to the World Happiness Report, "freedom to make your own decisions" is one of the most powerful drivers of wellbeing. Of the top 10 happiest nations, 93 per cent of citizens say they have sufficient freedom to make key life choices, compared to 63 per cent in the bottom 10, according to data from the Gallop World Poll.

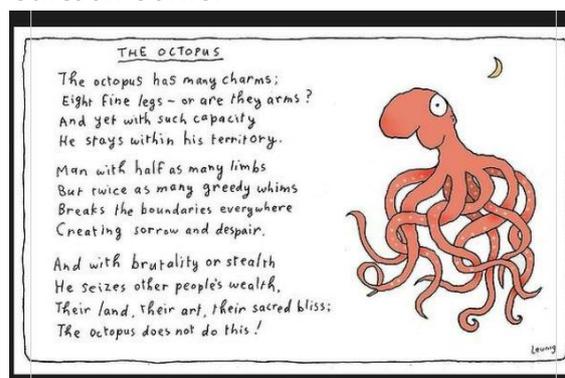
3. SPEND MONEY ON EXPERIENCES
4. BUY YOURSELF TIME
5. SPEND MONEY ON OTHERS
6. NURTURE STRONG RELATIONSHIPS
7. HAVE A SENSE OF PURPOSE

"I use the word happiness, but if you drill down it's really about satisfying lives. And satisfying lives is not about being selfish and only going for a hedonistic existence."

Not such a dismal science, after all.

Jim Atley from Maritime Super Financial Planning is based fulltime at our Cannon Hill Branch.

### Cartoon Corner



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