HANDS OFF OUR PORT

Battles with MENTAL HEALTH?

Labor game CHANGES

Harbour plan FLAWED

Page 16

Page 18

Page 30
IN THIS ISSUE

3. CHRIS CAIN  
Getting on board with the EBA

4. ADRIAN EVANS  
MUA delivers jobs and wage growth

5. JEFF CASSAR  
Recipe for disaster

6. DANNY CAIN  
Batting tough negotiations

7. SPECIAL REPORT  
Inpex! Prelude! MUA Wins!

8. DAN FALCONE  
Wharfies left out in the cold

9. SPECIAL REPORT  
The Marriage Equality vote. What you need to know

10. PAUL BRETT  
And so it begins

11. GEORGE GAKIS  
Maersk wants the worst

12. JACK MCCABE  
Offshore work picks up at last

13. ROBB SIMM  
Training centre opens

14. WILL TRACEY  
MUA offshore campaign secures jobs and job security

15. SPECIAL REPORT  
The truth about the flawed outer harbour project

16. SPECIAL REPORT  
Dealing with mental health

17. SPECIAL REPORT  
Chevron... now you pay back!

18. SPECIAL REPORT  
WA MUA/CFMEU joint State Conference

19. SPECIAL REPORT  
Another major win for Australian seafarers

20. SPECIAL REPORT  
Progressive Labor

21. SPECIAL REPORT  
Summary of ALP Conference

22. KYLE MCGINN  
Hitting the ground running

23. KEITH MCCORRISTON - ITF  
Australia leading the charge

24. ACTU  
CBA $9 billion profit / Wages are going backwards

25. MUA YOUTH  
Gaining attention

26. SLATER & GORDON  
Are you a victim of crime

27. MUA WOMEN  
Coming together to face adversity

28. SPECIAL REPORT  
A history of the MUA

29. MUA VETERANS  
Tipping in to Rolling Fund

30. FROM THE MEMBERS

PT PERON WEEKEND SPECIAL

We are currently running a special weekend deal for the Point Peron Holiday Camps, starting immediately until the December 2017 school holidays.

Stay for two nights and get the third night free

Only $80 for the weekend

Valued at $120

To book for the Camps - please contact us at the WA Branch office on (08) 9335 0500 or email muawa@mua.org.au

* Please note that September and October school holidays are not included and the huts are only available to members who are financial with us.

Point Peron – MUA for over 60 years

AVAILABLE MUA WA BRANCH MERCHANDISE

1. MUA patches - $10
2. Duffle coat - $150 now $100
3. Umbrellas - $30
4. Women’s t-shirt (lilac, white and black) - $30 now $5

Available from the MUA WA Branch, Fremantle

Content authorised by MUA State Secretary C. Cain, 2-4 Kwong Alley North Fremantle 6159. Printed by PK Print, 23 Emplacement Crescent, Hamilton Hill, 6163.
MUA WA BRANCH

13 companies on board with Oil & Gas EBA

OFFSHORE OIL & GAS

Members, it has been a long journey to say the least, but we are not far off concluding the Offshore Oil & Gas Agreements.

Thirteen companies have now signed up to the EBA.

We have had numerous ballots taken by our membership and the results have ranged from 95 per cent up in favour of strike action.

I wish to thank every official and, of course, you - the membership - for your patience and commitment shown to your Union.

This is an historic win for the Union and, most importantly, we defended ALL Australians to have their right to work in their own country - on decent wages and conditions.

Just remember, we won against all the odds. MUA, here to stay!

DATABASE MOVING

Members, it’s been a long wait for jobs in the Offshore Oil & Gas areas, but now we are seeing the database move.

Work on the Inpex and Prelude projects is now picking up and the usual companies have the work.

Remember, there would not have been any hope for this work if the MUA had not won the High Court decision in August last year.

From when it was put up at our National Conference in Brisbane 18 months ago (where 600 delegates endorsed to progress with the merger) we, as a union, have been attacked.

What’s wrong with two strong militant organisations coming together, coming together to fight for their members and for working-class people?

Well, we now see all the shit-heads coming out from under their rocks to attack us.

Why? Because they know that this SUPER UNION will have the capacity to fight in a much more strategic and militant way.

Turnbull, Cash, Abetz and all their cronies; from AMMA, CCI, mining industry employers and, last but not least, AIMPE and AMOU - nothing surprises me anymore. So, to all who read this, we will just keep boxing on and fighting for workers’ rights and demanding a fair go for all.

United & stronger! They don’t like us! And we don’t care!

MUA/CFMEU AMALGAMATION

Brothers and sisters... along with many others, I have been a leading advocate pushing for the amalgamation with the CFMEU.

From construction, to the mines, to the wharfs, to the ships, to the offshore, it’s ONE POWERFUL ORGANISATION!

13 companies on board with Oil & Gas EBA

VALE CHARLIE WELDON

You will be missed!!

Charlie Weldon passed away peacefully at home after a long illness. I was fortunate to know and love this man as a friend and great trade unionist!

At least every couple of weeks, we would talk to each other about our union. Charlie was a true leader, a committed republican and a great all-round knock-about bloke. He always stood up for the battler and was a giant amongst the working-class people. To Emily and all Charlie’s family and friends, we send our deepest condolences. RIP now brother. Wherever you are, may you have smooth seas and flowing winds.

VALE HANAFI RUSTANDI

All members will remember how Hanafi, who was Secretary of the Indonesian Seamen’s Union (KPI), fully supported our Union in the fight for Australian jobs on the Saipem Pipeline. He always attended our National Council and was very well respected in the international trade union movement.

Sadly, Hanafi suffered a major heart-attack in Japan. He will be sorely missed by us all. RIP Hanafi Rustandi, you were small in stature, but big in heart!

13 companies on board with Oil & Gas EBA
MUA delivers

jobs and wage growth!

Report by
ADRIAN EVANS
BRANCH DEPUTY SECRETARY
0401 692 528
adrian.evans@mua.org.au

QUBE – NEW AGREEMENT DELIVERS JOBS

We landed the Qube Agreements in WA earlier this year and with it came a new clause that has triggers for upgrades when the hours support them. The first test came just three months into the new agreement with the Fremantle Labour review delivering five new VSE positions and five new GWE positions, representing promotions for more than 10 per cent of the workforce as trade begins to turn positive.

We have had some hiccups with interpretation and we have scheduled a national review meeting for 6 September, where we expect to resolve them.

We have a labour review scheduled for 4 September in Bunbury and we are also locking down dates for Dampier and Port Hedland for early September.

TIDE IS TURNING AT DPW

Many will remember the blue we had to get members who had been made compulsory redundant back in the gate at DPW. It was hard fought and the best we could achieve due to the loss of work was to reinstate them as VSE with priority to the next permanent jobs. Some members took up the casual option in order to keep their redundancy pay and others walked away. Four members chose to come back as priority VSE. Two years later, all four are now back in their permanent jobs and the tide has begun to turn across the board.

While there is still a long way to go to get to previous highs, the recent labour review has delivered:

• 2 new G4 permanent jobs
• 5 new VSE jobs
• 5 new A supp jobs
• 2 new G5 and 2 new G6 upgrades
• Increase maintenance hours to 33.6/hr week with a $9000 increase to a new salary above 125k.
• Increased VSE guarantee back by $8500 to $71,820

There are still a few issues which remain unresolved and we have set a national meeting for 12 September involving the four DPW sites to attempt to get a resolution. Members have made it clear that if we don’t get an answer on some longstanding issues, I will need to lodge those issues in FWC immediately following the meeting. Watch this space.

LINX EA – MAKING PROGRESS

The MUA negotiating team of Ian Bray, Garry Keane, Adrian Evans and delegates Brett Membrey, Shitty Carter and Dave Ball have concluded the Part A negotiations, subject to members endorsement, and we are half way through the report backs across the country. This agreement was done via interest based bargaining (IBB) and the committee are happy to report that we have delivered on the key outcomes members endorsed from the outset. Those were:

1 Peaks and troughs clause: like Qube’s “economic clause”, it gives the members options to avoid redundancies in downturns, has full reversion when the tide turns and has triggers for promotion and upgrades in upturns. Importantly, the committee get full allocation and earnings and other data every month so that there are never any surprises.

2 Selection Criteria for Promotion, Training and Redundancy: We now have an agreement in relation to a new selection criteria that is transparent, values time on the job, is open to scrutiny and capable of applying to upgrades, training and redundancy.

3 Plain English Redraft of EA: The old Patrick B&G agreement is messy and full of ambiguity. Members wanted an agreement they could easily read and importantly one that wasn’t open to interpretation. We have redrafted the entire EA and inserted examples and tables to remove ambiguity. This has been a very time-consuming task but the effort has been worth it. Hopefully the agreement lasts the four-year term without a dispute over interpretation.

4 Graduated Retirement: Members can now elect to work as little as 10 hours per week but retain their permanent status.

5 Income protection: Linx agreed in good faith to implement Protect from 1 August 2017 in lieu of backpay.

6 Long Service Leave for Casuals: We have resolved the payment dispute for casuals.

7 Order of Pick: we’ve locked in a clear order of pick.

8 Drug and Alcohol Policy: Swab Testing has already been implemented.

9 Training: We have agreed that a skills gap analysis will be done and a training plan developed and discussed at each ERC meeting.

10 Safety training: Linx has committed to a three-day safety program for all employees, broken into three sessions. The first session was rolled out last year with Linx presenting it. The second session, run by the MUA’s Mick Cross, is being conducted in all ports and is about half-way through. The final session is in development and is intended to be rolled out in 1st quarter 2018.

11 Financial outcomes: Income protection in the first year then 2.5 per cent from 1 July each year to 2020 with expiry 30 June 2021.

Part B negotiations for Fremantle and Dampier are well advanced, Geraldton is about to kick off. We have also agreed to update Hedland and do Greenfield agreements for Bunbury and Esperance.

PROTECT PARTNER WITH HUNTERLINK

This is great news. Members covered by Protect will not only have the peace of mind that their income is covered for up to two years in the event of illness or injury, but they will also now have access to free counselling services through Hunterlink by calling 1300 725 881.
MUA WA BRANCH

RECIPE FOR DISASTER

Report by
JEFF CASSAR
ASSISTANT SECRETARY
0417 568 115
jeff.cassar@mua.org.au

ESPERANCE

Take two slices of bread, add a slow-down in cargo volumes, one regional community heavily reliant on the Port for its sustainability, 133 invitations for expressions of interest on the Port for its sustainability, 133 regional community heavily reliant on the Port for its sustainability, 133

That is what Esperance has been reduced to at this point. Southern Ports has taken it upon itself to avoid all levels of consultation prior to dropping multiple bombshells on our members. Instead of sitting down with the Union to work out a strategy for reducing workforce numbers, it has whipped up its own little plan for how things should happen.

Calling its bumbling, idiotic antics a plan is probably giving it way too much credit. This is clearly the first experience these clowns have had with implementing redundancies. There appears to be no statistical data to support the arbitrary number of redundancies sought. If there is any data, they don’t plan on sharing it with anyone. It’s confidential - top secret.

The evidence points more in the direction of them having tied a blindfold around someone’s head and getting them to throw a dart at some numbers.

When the Union complains and threatens to take them to the Fair-Work Commission they announce a ‘roadshow’ presentation to provide the workforce with ‘information’. The information presentation involves a simplistic slideshow with various vague and unsubstantiated statements, a cute graph they appear to have commissioned a primary school student to draw up for them, which depicts a steady increase in the number of hours they are paying stevedores to work and a steady downturn in the number of hours they can charge back to clients. That sounds tragic, until you realise the graph reflects figures based on the past 12 weeks.

They seriously want to make a case for a specific number of redundancies and a business model to move forward with, based on a snapshot of 12 weeks in the stevedoring industry. It would be absolutely hilarious if it wasn’t so damned tragic. All of our members know that the stevedoring industry is one of peaks and troughs. It isn’t steady and predictable; it never has been. There are wharfies who’ve been in the industry for three months who would instantly recognise the ridiculousness of making a long-term business decision on the back of 12 weeks of information.

Can you imagine what the stevedoring companies would say if we went to them after 12 busy weeks, made a case that the business was booming and requested that they employ more stevedores? They would laugh us out the door and we would lose every ounce of credibility we ever had.

Ongoing training available to members

TRAINING

One of the highlights for me over the past few months has been running the Delegates Training Courses, along with new MUA Organiser, Paul Brett.

This training isn’t normally rolled out by officials; we have a number of members qualified to present training packages and National MUA Safety and Training Coordinator Mick Cross plays a big part too.

But Mick’s role covers a huge number of high priority matters and sometimes his schedule won’t allow for him to make the long trip out to the West. In the past, this has meant that training would get postponed for several months. But the Branch recently looked at our options and decided that Paul and I should look at running the training for the sake of consistency.

The result was a ‘Delegates 1 and 2 Course’ for land-based members running through the week of 7–11 August which was considered a huge success.

The decision was made to run out the first training as a land-based only pilot course to identify any kinks in the package with a view to writing a specific seafarer-based package also with input from experienced seafarer-based delegates.

It was soon obvious that the material has become somewhat dated and needs freshening up, but the 19 course participants indicated their satisfaction with the course content and seemed to benefit from examples provided to connect course information with issues that were relevant to the people in the class.

I’m looking forward to working with Paul to overhaul the package and bring it up to the highest standard in both the land-based (stevedoring, maintenance, security, plant operation etc.) and seafaring structures.

If anyone wants to express their interest in participating in future courses, contact the Branch. Some of the course content includes:

• Union culture and history
• Getting workmates interested in union matters
• The importance of good delegate structures
• Negotiating skills
• Legal boundaries
• ‘Big picture’ vs. ‘backyard’
• Loads of other stuff including any subject the participants want to explore.

The course isn’t just for delegates. It’s designed for anyone interested in becoming more active in their workplace and playing a greater role in influencing the working conditions at their site.
Battling through negotiations

OFFSHORE EBAS

As members are aware, this is one of, if not the biggest, most complex negotiation campaigns in the Union’s history. A campaign driven by MUA members for job security and the right to work in the Australian Offshore Oil & Gas Industry is coming to an end with more and more operators signing up to the MUA job security EBA each month.

Our five-year campaign for job security is not over yet.

Facing the real threat of extinction in the offshore, MUA members pushed back against a Federal Liberal Government and an employer association driven by client motive and an ideological agenda to remove all organised labour, to secure an industry agreement that locks in local jobs and industry wages and conditions.

We can proudly report that 11 operators now have the MUA job security agreement in place and members are receiving the benefits of those agreements. With another three employers close to signing up, we have a small handful of operators who still feel the need to push back and attempt to strip conditions from our offshore members.

MUA members have made our position clear from the outset. We will not accept a race to the bottom industry where employers win based on cost cutting, manning cuts and reduced safety standards. The AMMA agenda to break our industry standards and kick off a race to the bottom, while still flickering, has been primarily smothered by the MUA rank & file’s rejection of no less than 12 non-union agreement votes.

While most operators have been able to see the benefit in not having AMMA at the negotiations, some operators still insist on having them at the table unfortunately, to the detriment of the negotiation process. AMMA at the table or not, MUA members working for companies currently going through negotiations will need ALL members support in the coming months as we look to close out the industry.

Get to your local stop work meetings for the full offshore reports.

OFFSHORE WORK

Despite some significant delays, both the Inpex and Prelude projects are getting underway and as a result we are starting to see MUA members pick up work, as well as some movement from the database.

A combination of engineering problems overseas and then severe weather delayed the Inpex CPF and FPSO from getting on location on-time. A similar scenario faced the Prelude overseas, however we anticipate the facility will be in place before you read this article.

The arrival of these three giant facilities to Australian waters will see our members pick up work after what has been one of the worst industry downturns in history.

CATERING

The arrival of the three large facilities to Australian waters has seen a massive uptake in our cooks and caterers from the database, due to the necessity of Offshore Floatels to support these works. As this paper goes to print, we will have four floatels active with another scheduled for Q1 next year. Each floatel runs with a catering team of approximately 38/36.

With this amount of work on-line for cooks and caterers, it is critical that we maintain our MUA standards on board. When the work dries up, the Offshore employers and their representatives do everything they can to under-cut the industry.

In the current climate, the Offshore employers and their representatives do everything they can to leverage worker against worker and break down conditions. For example, we have recently heard of members being asked to pay for their own flights, to forgo over-cycle and to work extra hours without pay, etc... The employers know that a large number of members have been out of work for some time and heavily rely on the job they are currently on. This may be their first job in months, so now is an opportune time to attack and tempt members to breach standards or forgo them, you MUST go to your delegate on board or contact your organiser direct.

Coming off the back of such a work drought, a strong delegate structure on board EVERY vessel is a must. We need our permanent members to be putting their hand up for these roles to protect casual members from victimisation. If there are no permanent members who have the training, we need ALL members to play a role. If we let things slide, no matter how small it may seem, we will end up losing conditions that we will find difficult to get back in the future.

If members want to see what a non-unionised site looks like, look no further than the Inpex CPF and FPSO. The employees (non-MUA coverage) earn significantly less than MUA members for performing exactly the same role. And it’s not just wages; key conditions are lacking and the employees are suffering for it.

To maintain our conditions on MUA jobs, we need ALL members to play their part. Strong delegate structures, an active Consultative Committee, regular on-board MUA meetings and rolling funds all play a critical role in maintaining our wages, conditions and prevent companies being able to undercut the industry.

Stop work meetings are held at 9am on the last Tuesday of every month in your local branch. Get down to your meeting and play a part in YOUR MUA.
Members, the heading says it all! Both Inpex and Prelude have now finally started to man up. Subcontractors such as Programmed Marine, AOS, Farstad, ESS, Swires and many others are now heading to the project. The database should now be moving. Make no mistake, as a Union we have secured Australian jobs in the offshore industry for many years to come. MUA HERE TO STAY!

Chris Cain

We’re proud of our pioneering history! The superannuation system that Australians take for granted today is largely thanks to the foresight and commitment of maritime unions and employees who established a pension for maritime workers over 50 years ago – that’s 25 years before compulsory superannuation was introduced.

Every single thing we do is about helping members make the most of their super, and that’s the way it’s been for over 50 years.

Saving for your future means making some important decisions along the way — that’s why we offer online calculators and resources that allow you to explore your benefits, financial advice through our planners, free phone advice and help with any other requests through our Member Services team. We’re here to help you make the right decisions throughout your super journey — make the most of it.

We’re here to help.

Toll Free 1800 757 607
8.30am — 5.30pm (AEST)

www.maritimesuper.com.au
info@maritimesuper.com.au

Thank you to all our members for being part of our remarkable journey.

Maritime Super
OUR FUTURE

Issued by Maritime Financial Services Pty Limited
ABN 16 105 319 202 AFS Licence No. 291 755

Celebrating 50 years
50 years of helping members make the most of their super.
Wharfies left out in the cold

as Fremantle Port’s future hangs in the balance

This disturbing headline is fast becoming a reality to the Patrick Terminal membership as we enter an extremely uncertain future. Six months after signing off on a watershed agreement that has returned 100 per cent permanency across all four Patricks yards nationally, and after a lengthy negotiation process which saw 28 incidents of protected industrial actions in the form of stoppages, to secure this outcome.

A fully automated outer harbour terminal is being bandied around by the movers and shakers in the political arena within the ALP. It reared its head at the most recent ALP State Executive Meeting which I attended and these fuckers seem semi-sold on the outer harbour. There have also been two high-level meetings with politicians and stakeholders that MLC Kyle McGinn (our former organiser) was in attendance. Kyle is running our agenda to keep Fremantle Port a working port and the outer harbour until Fremantle reaches capacity 20 to 30 years down the track.

One of the most qualified opinions on this issue has come from Dr Fred Affleck (a one-time commissioner at the National Transport Commission). Affleck has chaired the Australian Freight Councils Network, the Freight and Logistics Council of WA, the Strategic Grain Network Committee and the Planning and Transport Research Centre, and has been deputy chair at Fremantle Port Authority from 2011-2014. The following key points are findings from his research:

• outer harbour is not needed until mid-2030
• traffic on Canning Highway/Stirling Bridge is not at a level that would cause concern
• Fremantle should be allowed to expand to its limits – it is currently running at less than 50 per cent
• Outer harbour would cost at least $5 billion but likely more
• it is not sensible policy to cap Fremantle—Why cap Fremantle to its current level when it has decades of growth left in it?

The experts are saying it, your union officials are saying it. Now we need support from the blokes it’s going to immediately affect and that’s the terminal guys!

You’ve all heard about the importance of joining the ALP at stop-work meetings, the smoko crib room meetings and in the Branch newspaper. I am asking this site to be fully signed up to the ALP, as your numbers will help us keep the pressure on the State Government to keep Fremantle Port a working port.

I am not into the political side of things when it comes to my role with the Branch, but I can see the power we need to have politically to keep our interests and jobs secure and to avoid relocating to an automated terminal at all costs.

A lot of people see the union as an insurance policy in case something untoward happens in their workplace. Without being actively involved and across all the goings on within the organisation, these are the same members who are not involved with the ALP.

I say to these insurance policy members: you should be looking at the ALP membership as a form of special extras cover to go with your insurance policy at a minimum!

If the threat of losing your livelihood to the people who are making these decisions is not enough to get you to sign up and get active, backing your union and your mates in this struggle, then it’s a foregone conclusion your jobs and the conditions that we enjoy today, that yourselves and the generations before us have fought so hard for, will disappear along with Fremantle Port.

I’d rather die on my feet, than live on my knees!
To deny a couple marriage is discrimination on any level. For the Australian Government and its laws to deny a minority of its basic rights is hypocritical in all its forms.

The Government and its departments demand you declare your relationship status and process you accordingly. Yet, they deny you of your right to be recognised as a married couple.

LGBTQ are a part of society and are in the workforce and schools, everywhere: nurses, army, government, teachers, etc and we perform the same duties as any other counterpart, regardless of our orientation.

Ireland is predominantly a Catholic country and even they can see the sense in removing such archaic laws as many other countries have done.

One would think that Australia would move in a progressive step forward, rather than resting on the morals of an out of date Turnbull Government. The direction in which the Turnbull Government is steering the Same Sex Debate is devised to create more hatred, discrimination and equality.

It is time for change for the LGBTQ community to finally have their right to marry and be recognised as any other citizen in Australia.

We are here to stay and we are here to fight!

Danny Cain

Bloss & Michael

When deciding whether to vote yes, no or even participate in the upcoming plebiscite for marriage equality, members should consider a few things.

WASTE OF TAXPAYER MONEY

This postal vote, that is designed to do nothing but cause division across society and distract the public from the horrendous performance of the government on key issues, MUST go down as one of the BIGGEST wastes of tax payer money EVER.

The cost of this non-binding, voluntary postal vote will fleece the Australian taxpayers of approximately $120 million.

Not only could that money go towards building new primary schools or hospitals, but in the current jobs crisis, it could put Australian Seafarers back on the Portland for the next 60 years.

$120 MILLION could deliver 10 domestic trade vessels manned with MUA members for the next six years. At a time when so many people are out of work, shouldn’t we be spending money on creating employment?

EQUALITY

The union movement has been at the forefront of positive societal change since its inception. A core union value is equality. No matter what sex, race, religion or sexual persuasion, ALL WORKERS ARE EQUAL AND DESERVE EQUAL RIGHTS.

HOW MARRIAGE EQUALITY AFFECTS YOU

Marriage equality means everything to LGBTQ people for a host of reasons. Above all it delivers equality.

Does the ability for LGBTQ people to have a civil union REALLY affect you? It’s already happening in similar countries around the world and despite the chicken little conservative commentary, the sky hasn’t fallen in.

The Liberal Government has put this in place to create division, hate and distraction and to an extent, it is working. This issue has been plastered all over the newspapers and TV for the past three weeks splitting gay v straight, pro v against, left v right.

As members of the MUA, we should push back against their conservative agenda of hate and division and STAND UNITED with our LGBTQ brothers and sisters by VOTING YES!

Let’s direct OUR HATE towards the Liberal Government, who is constantly attacking our union movement and Australian workers on a daily basis. In unity

Danny Cain

Bloss & Michael

Should MUA members participate in it?

Time for archaic laws to go

To deny a couple marriage is discrimination on any level. For the Australian Government and its laws to deny a minority of its basic rights is hypocritical in all its forms.

The Government and its departments demand you declare your relationship status and process you accordingly. Yet, they deny you of your right to be recognised as a married couple.

LGBTQ are a part of society and are in the workforce and schools, everywhere: nurses, army, government, teachers, etc and we perform the same duties as any other counterpart, regardless of our orientation.

Ireland is predominantly a Catholic country and even they can see the sense in removing such archaic laws as many other countries have done.

One would think that Australia would move in a progressive step forward, rather than resting on the morals of an out of date Turnbull Government. The direction in which the Turnbull Government is steering the Same Sex Debate is devised to create more hatred, discrimination and equality.

It is time for change for the LGBTQ community to finally have their right to marry and be recognised as any other citizen in Australia.

We are here to stay and we are here to fight!
I started working for the WA Branch as a North-West Organiser about four months ago when I took over from the now Member for Mining and Pastoral, the Honourable Mr. Kyle McGinn, MLC.

Firstly, I’d like to highlight the fact that Kyle managed to perform the role of NW Organiser while running a successful campaign for the Labor Party, seeing both himself and Kevin Michel elected to the Upper and Lower Houses respectively.

Top work and best wishes to both Kyle and Kevin as they go about the business of building a better Pilbara for all.

Kevin kicked his efforts off with the opening of the Labor Party’s Karratha office. The Premier, Mark McGowan, officially opened Kevin’s new office in Karratha and spent the evening speaking with the crowd of 50-plus in attendance.

As they did throughout Kevin’s campaign, union organisers from the MUA, CFMEU, AMWU, TWU and WWA were there in support of Kevin, the Premier and the Labor Party. Thanks to Tracey Heimberger for the photos.

Before starting with the MUA, I spent nearly eight years working as a Stevedore in Fremantle, for P&O/QUBE. I loved every minute of it, learnt a lot, met a lot of great people and I’m grateful for the opportunity.

When given the job of MUA Organiser in the Pilbara, I must admit I was not prepared for what was going on up here.

I’d come from a site that was 100 per cent union, followed by a couple of years out of work recovering from multiple surgeries. During those two years, I pretty much hung out with my dog.

To say my first four months as an organiser has been a bit of a shitfight would be putting it mildly. Just about all members working in my area are employed by service providers to the Iron Ore or Oil and Gas Industry, which means they’re more or less contracted directly or indirectly to BHP, Rio Tinto, FMG or Chevron.

Post boom, the downturn has seen these producers aggressively pursue cost-cutting measures throughout the supply chain, renegotiating contracts with equipment suppliers and service contractors yielding significant savings.

Those savings come at a cost to everyone else, of course. Service providers falling over each other to maintain contracts that have been slashed to a minimum, are in turn, looking to a variety of cost-cutting measures that ultimately see the pay and conditions of workers plummet... cost-cutting measures that ignore the intent committed to in enterprise agreements... cost-cutting measures that fly in the face of the health and safety systems held by BHP, Rio Tinto, FMG and Chevron that ironically, when breached, are the cause for termination and renegotiation of contracts...and then there’s cost-cutting measures that are flat out criminal and/or morally bereft - unpaid superannuation, unpaid annual leave and bogus indigenous employment programs that never see a single indigenous person employed.

How does the contractual obligation of an indigenous employment program become satisfied by the appearance of an Aboriginal flag on a website? It sounds like a pretty doomy, gloomy kind of a story and it is, because it’s driven by greed.

Unfortunately, it is killing this country and we’re all to blame, not just the multi-nationals that suck the resources out for huge profit and build the odd leisure centre in return. We are all to blame.

We are lying down and letting it happen. The irony of it all is the very people we took it off in the first place, seem to be the ones that are willing to make a stand.

I don’t know the magic fix other than I know that the members I talk to are getting increasingly angry and bit by bit I’m getting more and more turn up to the meetings I’ve organised and that means the world to me.

Not to overstate my current role of probationary North-West Organiser for the Maritime Union of Australia, but if Genghis Khan can organise a shitload of Mongols to establish the largest land empire in the history of mankind, then it shouldn’t be too difficult to organise a few hundred members to find the spiritual pony within and make a fuckin stand for what’s right and what’s fair!

It starts by looking after each other, rather than worrying about what you think you might be missing out on. If you’re all looking out for each other, you don’t have to worry about yourself.

Mark, this is our port
Maersk has been operating on the coast for years with Svitzer having done the manning for it before Maersk started doing its own. The relationship has been rebuilding and getting better between the Union and Maersk due to its senior managers departing several months ago.

Maersk was a part of the initial Offshore-5 early days. After a few NO votes from the members and the possibility of Protected Action on its doorstep, we managed to convince Maersk to pull away from the Five. The intent was to negotiate at the table without the likes of AMMA pulling their strings. So far, they have held their word.

This company is one of a few whom do not have an in-term agreement and we have had some interesting discussions, to say the least. In July, we met with the company, who were to pick up the industry document, as we had agreed. Boy were we wrong!

It was seeking to have the best EBA in the country. After some further discussions, the meeting resulted in the MUA leaving the Maersk office in disgust. Eight weeks passed and we have met with management again. And this time was far more pleasant than the last. The company has seen the light and was far more proactive in securing itself a new document.

We will need to keep a close eye on this as it has the potential to become a bigger issue than what the offshore has been through.

GERALDTON
Mid-West Port Authority has voted up a new agreement at long last. The port has now absorbed Gco, Maicon and the Mercantile BHF operations. We will need to wait and see how this transition will work out. Our members have been engaged under IFAs and the port has taken on the Maicon EBA which is about as worthless as the paper hanging from the wall in the bathroom.

The members in Geraldton will see more of me now that the EBAs are being finalised. I hope that I can deliver for the members just as well (or better) as Jeff has.

ACTU – HERE TO STAY
Sally McManus came to our MUA West Coast Conference. She came to our MUA WA Branch youth movement action held in Perth, against the cuts to penalty rates and she continues to acknowledge the great leaders of unions, including Christy and Paddy, at the centre stage of ACTU conferences. The ACTU has taken a turn and it’s for the betterment of the working-class people of this country.

Bad Laws Must Be Broken - what a way to enter a job such as hers; telling the government and the employers what’s headed their way. Sometimes unjust laws must have a blind eye turned for the success and workplace rights of the people of Australia. If we stand by and do nothing, then we end up losing more, before becoming no more than a third-class worker - everything our union has been fighting back against.

While the ACTU is taking leaps and bounds, the MUA has taken a hit. Our Industrial Officer Elyane Palmer has jumped ship (so to speak) and joined Sally’s team in Melbourne. One small loss for the MUA, one giant step for the ACTU. A great asset to the peak body and we wish Elyane nothing but the best in her future endeavours over East. She will be missed here.

In Unity.

Report by
GEORGE GAKIS
ORGANISER
0412 310 686
george.gakis@mua.org.au

Geraldton members

Fremantle (four from each area).

After seeing what it is wanting to do, if this goes forward, there is going to be massive safety issues arise, let alone operational matters that are just not going to work. The company has magically come up with some you-beaut system which, put simply, is going to flaw. Svitzer has wanted to merge the two ports of Fremantle and Kwinana for a while now, but THERE IS NO WAY THAT THIS CAN HAPPEN at the expense of our members jobs.

TOWAGE & INSHORE
There has been a heap going on in the Branch. The inshore sector needs some serious work done and we have begun the process of rebuilding. We hope that this part of the maritime industry ends up back on track with the next agreement.

Svitzer has come out all guns blazing as of late; deals done and then have been reneged on by the company and then addressed again through the negotiations of the MUA. New management in the West are trying to stamp their foot and leave their mark. Watch this space... it could end up a real mess as the company is seeking to slash eight tug crews from Kwinana and
Members are slowly getting back to work after 24 months or more of a down-turn in the offshore industry.

Inpex has finally come on the coast with the “Central Processing Facility” Explorer arriving in early June. Although this is not an MUA job, Programmed Marine manned it with an MO47 crew for the tow from Korea, until the anchors were run and the vessel was made storm safe off the WA coast.

The five POSH tugs that towed the CPF from Korea had foreign crews on them. These were replaced with Australian crews in Deli when the vessels reached Australian waters due to the UNION fighting for the right for Australian seafarers to work in our own waters.

Programmed Marine has the manning for all POSH vessels.

The non-propelled FPSO Venturer is due to arrive in the Ichthys’s field by the end of this month. Programmed Marine again has the manning for the MO 47 crew with seven IRs on board.

It is being towed to location by POSH tugs. Once again, MUA members will replace the foreign crews in Deli, the same as the “CPF” and the Prelude.

Once the vessel is on the location and in position, the tugs will depart and the crews will pay off in Bali.

The FPSO Shell Prelude, another non-propelled vessel, will be on location any day now. The vessel was towed to location by POSH tugs.

Again, MUA members will replace the foreign crews in Deli. The tugs will hold the vessel on static tow until all its anchors have been run. The tugs should almost get two swings with the rotation of tugs, taking turns leaving the field for a crew change and then returning to reconnect.
Fighting off attacks from all angles

BUNKER BARGE VACAMONTE
In early August, the Maritime Union of Australia and Teekay Shipping concluded negotiations for the MUA Vacamonte 2016 Brownfield Agreement.

This was after a year of talks that broke down over superannuation. The company finally agreed to “a contribution of 13 per cent of the employee’s salary where a member contributes a minimum of 5 per cent of their graded salary.

Wage Increases
• 1.5% from 1 October 2016. Back dated on the signing of the agreement
• 1.5% from 1 October 2017
• 1.5% from 1 October 2018

Bunbury
Quibe: Quibe members are three months into a new agreement and have several outstanding issues that will be raised at a ERC / labour review meeting and then a yard meeting with all members will follow in early September.

Pilot Boat: The Smit Lamnalco towage pilot boat agreement is due for renewal. The members and I have had our first meeting in May. To date, we have not heard back as to when the next meeting will be scheduled. We are at the early stage of negotiations and, while the national towage agreement has stalled, I don’t expect to have an out come until there is an agreement nationally.

Mackenzie Marine & Towage: I have been in discussions with MMT in regard to a towage agreement in Bunbury and meetings with management will take place over the next couple of weeks.

DIVERS
This update covers a range of issues that are current and specific to our diving membership. This Federal Government has continued to pursue the removal of our right to work in the Australian offshore industry - a strategy backed in by AMMA and global oil and gas majors, along with a handful of local employers who joined them in attacking the MUA and its membership. All of this is based on removing the MUA from the offshore and to hand over our Industry to the big multi-national oil and gas companies at a time when the industry continued its serious decline which has seen many of our members facing extreme periods of unemployment.

Since the High Court case in August last year, the MUA has been successful in voting down the non-union agreements; a process used in the recent CUB dispute in Victoria where small groups of three or four people are used to vote up agreements that then apply to the entire industry.

There can be no mistake that had DOF been successful, they would have tried the same approach in the diver’s offshore agreement next time around. It should also not be forgotten that the employers and AMMA sought to cut divers current rates of pay by 20 per cent as late as last August and this was successfully negated by the union. The last attack was on Bayu Undan project rates of pay where they were seeking to pay divers non-Australian rates of pay.

The blatant attempt by companies and AMMA to bypass union collective agreements should be a concern to all the diving membership, as we are only 12 months away from renegotiating the EBA. The best way to ensure that employers and AMMA don’t seek non-union agreements that undermine your pay and conditions, is to be a part of the Union and the collective negotiations.

The Union is exposing the lack of tax being paid by big companies in the oil and gas industry. If these attacks weren’t bad enough, the MUA is also having to defend the high-risk diving classification being watered down and merged with general diving classifications via Australian Standards, attacks to divers’ pays and conditions as prescribed in the Offshore EBA and fighting to eradicate SCUBA from high risk (construction diving).

We are very active in this space and are working diligently in a number of areas that deal with standards, qualifications, policy, regulations and OH&S. This is on top of the Industrial Relations agenda and subsequent attacks to your hard fought for and won pay and conditions.
A lot has been happening at Henderson regarding fit out of the training centre.

During the MUA WA Conference, the METL Training Centre had an opening ceremony with WA Senator Glenn Sterle conducting the official opening (right). Attendees from the City of Cockburn Council included the Mayor and other councillors, along with MUA and CFMEU organisers, employers, registered training organisations, officials from around the country, overseas delegates (ILWU, RMIT) and members of the Seafarers Promotion Fund (ITF) from Japan and Manila.

The opening was the first step in terms of completion and now the building/warehouse is being fitted out, with practical elements being purchased and fitted.

As with any new building, there are some items that are requiring small and or minor rectification. This process is ongoing, with a small number of items yet to be finalised. However, we are on track to have these issues finalised by the end of the month.

METL is currently acquiring items for the delivery of Forklift, Confined Space and Working at Heights training. We expect to have these elements in place before the end of the month also.

The racking for forklift assessments has been installed and certified, and a Confined Space container has also been purchased. We are awaiting some minor fabrication to AS/NZS, and expect the container to be in place by the end of the month.

**MAR REVIEW OF NEAR COASTAL TRAINING PACKAGES**

During the past six months, there has been a change to the licencing arrangements for (NC) qualifications. AMSA now requires the issuing of all Near Coastal State Licences to be undertaken by the recognised (AMSA) Registered Training Organisations/Colleges.

This means that the State Department of Transport in each state will no longer be the issuing authority for the following endorsements:

- MAR20317 Certificate II in Maritime Operations Coxswain Grade 1 NC
- MAR10417 Certificate I in Maritime Operations Coxswain Grade 2 NC
- MAR20417 Certificate II in Maritime Operations Marine Engine Driver Grade 3 NC
- MAR30817 Certificate III in Maritime Operations Marine Engine Driver Grade 2 NC
- MAR30917 Certificate III in Maritime Operations Master <24 metres NC
- MAR31017 Certificate III in Maritime Operations Master Inland Waters

I am currently representing METL on the review committee that is run by the Australian Industry Standards Group, reporting to the Maritime Industry Reference Committee of which Assistant National Secretary, Ian Bray is a co-chair.

This group was created by the current Government, to report on Industry Training and Education, and the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) are appointed as industry representatives and stakeholders from all over the country. Currently the TAC is at Phase 1 of the project with Phase 2 and 3 to come. The next phases consist of Certificate 3 qualifications and above.

This type of industry engagement and consultation is imperative in achieving competency and training-based outcomes required for genuine skills to be cemented in the Maritime sector.

**HRWL REVIEW OF ALL HIGH-RISK LICENCES (HRWL)**

A similar process to the one set out above is now occurring with regard to HRWL and these are now under review, in a similar manner to that of the Maritime Training Packages. I will also take part in this review, which will be done in consultation with technical experts from the stevedoring industry (HSR and safety Reps.. not sure what this means. Isn’t an HSR a Safety Rep?).

We have had only one meeting regarding the changes to the HRWL Training Packages. I will provide updates and seek advice from the stevedoring industry in regard to any relevant changes as they are made.
By Will Tracey

For five long years the MUA has been engaged in a bitter struggle for the rights of MUA seafaring members to continue to work in the Australian offshore oil and gas industry. We have been attacked relentlessly by the Federal Liberal Government, the Australian Mines and Metals Association (AMMA) and various employers throughout this period who assisted in the attack by putting out non-union agreements. At times, this struggle looked impossible, as we fought on multiple fronts in the pursuit of our rightful place in Australia’s most lucrative industry.

Finally, we’re starting to see light at the end of the tunnel – our legal right to work in the industry cemented, MUA Job Security Agreements being closed out and many of our members now finding work in their industry again as the strategic Australian jobs compacts with major offshore players do their work.

Over the past five years our membership in the offshore have seen off the following concerted and co-ordinated attacks:

• 11 non-union agreements thrown at them, all voted down after intensive MUA campaigns despite the officers and engineers voting some of them up;
• 3 CUB type agreements voted up by small groups of workers that we knocked off after industrial and legal campaigns running all the way through to the Full Bench of Fair Work;
• 2 Federal Court challenges (one a Full Bench Appeal) and two High Court challenges to prevent the Federal Government from removing our right to work in the offshore after they tried to exclude us from Australia’s migration zone and therefore our legitimate right to work;
• Attempts by the Federal Government to dismantle and abolish our workers compensation system under Seacare requiring a strategic legal and lobbying defensive campaign to fight to maintain a fair workers comp system for offshore workers.

Many will still be celebrating the historic legal win in the High Court this time last year by the MUA as we saw off the Federal Government’s attempts to remove our right to work in the Australian offshore industry.

And after seeing off the many non-union and CUB type agreements we can now report that many of the offshore companies have approached us for MUA Job Security Agreements without the involvement of industry and employer representative AMMA. Over the past year, the MUA has been working hard to close out the offshore agreements and lock in the Job Security provisions we have been campaigning so hard for.

The MUA now has Job Security offshore agreements with 13 major offshore operators.

Each of these company specific standalone agreements required a heap of time and resources as we have had to negotiate separately with each individual employer and the respective company delegates over many months with many of those meetings being facilitated inside Fair Work.

We can also report that we are in active ongoing discussions with another 12 offshore companies which are at various stages of negotiations - all of which look like landing an MUA Job Security offshore agreement shortly.

We now see less than a handful of offshore operators who are hostile to an MUA Job Security offshore agreement.

The most critical outcome of the significant work that has gone into the offshore EA campaign over the past five years, and especially the past 12 months since the MUA High Court win, is that over 85 per cent of the offshore will be covered by an MUA Job Security offshore agreement.

Another critical part of our campaign to secure our jobs has been the Australian jobs compact with major offshore players like Inpex. We are finally starting to see some activity on the Inpex project and various other project work off our coast. And the signed commitment to Australian jobs through the MUA/company compacts has meant increasing work for our members.

This means that we are finally starting to see some movement in unemployed members off the database.

The cancer of unemployment has hit our industry hard in recent years. There is not one official of this union who doesn’t carry with them every day the burden of trying to do what we can to get our members working because of the debilitating impact unemployment has on our members and their families.

The results of securing the industry through the High Court case, MUA Job Security Enterprise Agreements and Australian Job compacts with major industry players is now flowing through to our membership. It occurred because of the tireless work of many MUA officials and delegates and an organised membership who remained focused and focused as we fought for our future.

When you look at the vicious attacks on many of the industries in this country by this Government, various employer associations and the many employers who actively engage in the wholesale removal of Australian jobs and decimation of wages and conditions of those that are left – the results we’ve achieved in the offshore are substantial. We have fought a five-year war of attrition for our industry against the most well organised and resourced right-wing ideologues in this country and won. This alone speaks volumes to the capacity and willingness of this Union to fight in the best interests of its members. United we stand!
the TRUTH about the flawed outer harbour plan

We are seeing an increased lobbying effort to prematurely build the outer harbour by those who would profit from the $5-6 billion price tag.

Money corrupts and we must fight corruption. The MUA is determined to get the facts out about the spare capacity at Fremantle and the sky-high cost to the community of a premature duplication of an underutilised asset. MUA members will fight for the WA community, even if it means we have to fight the Labor Government too.

Volume at Fremantle has been falling for some time now as our members are acutely aware. DPW has a vessel two days a week and even Patrick with its 75 per cent market share has days with no vessels alongside.

Fremantle Port has abundant capacity that will see us through the medium term without costly duplication. The Port must be allowed to grow to its natural capacity before building the outer harbour. The MUA supports the long term vision to build an overflow Port in Kwinana, but only when it is needed.

The MUA demands to be included in the feasibility study which should commence immediately in order to bring certainty to those who work in and alongside.

The MUA is determined to get the facts out about the money corrupts and we must fight corruption. The Labor Government too.

WHAT THE EXPERTS SAY

In an interview earlier this year, Professor Fred Affleck was quoted as saying the outer harbour will not be needed until mid 2030, based on current statistics and that WA will need both ports in the long term, so Fremantle must remain a working port and must be allowed to expand to its natural limits. Asked if he thought it was sensible policy to cap Fremantle and build the outer harbour prematurely, he answered “Well, that’s what they’re (Labor) saying now, I think there is plenty of time to come up with a sensible outcome”.

Affleck is described as an eminent expert as a result of his career in Transport, Ports and Freight Planning, his role as chair of the Planning, Transport and Research Centre at UWA and Deputy Chair - Fremantle Ports as well and chair of the Midland Redevelopment Authority and Commissioner on the National Transport Commission.

While the MUA’s research is often dismissed by those who read graphs and make decisions without any real knowledge, our collective expertise and knowledge of the port is second to none. We published our assessment last year stating the Port will not hit capacity until mid 2040 based on current capacity and long term growth trend. That assessment was supported by senior executives from the Port and expensive consultants who earlier this year published its projected date of 2042.

Even government treasury predicted another 25 years of growth potential for Fremantle in its report released earlier this year. It also stated “Artificial capping of capacity would result in greater and earlier capital investment in the Outer Harbour and related road and rail infrastructure – imposing an unnecessary financial burden on Government, container trades and the community”.

If the outer harbour were to be built now, at least 20 years before it is needed, the compound interest alone will add over $10 billion to the construction cost making it a $15-16 billion dud decision that will not only be a debt we don’t need but also cause a dramatic increase to freight costs which will be passed on to the community.

Deferring construction until its needed is the only sensible choice and would allow investment priorities such as Metronet to become reality.

For those who advocate for private ownership of the outer harbour, we all know that port costs have increased dramatically on the east coast where ports have been privatised. These increased costs will be a drag on the economy.

The MUA are calling on WA Labor not to rush important economic decisions such as the timing of Port expansion and duplication. The WA Government must make the right decision in the State’s best interest, not the interests of commercial developers looking to line their pockets.

“SUGGESTIONS THAT CONTAINER TRADE IN THE INNER HARBOUR SHOULD BE CAPPED OR RELOCATED ARE FLAWED AS IT WILL BRING FORWARD THE OUTER HARBOUR CONTAINER TERMINAL DEVELOPMENT WHICH IS NOT ECONOMICALLY RESPONSIBLE”

- extract from recent Treasury report.
VESSEL SIDE
- Total ship visits – 2021, down 4.4% and the lowest in 5 years
  - Container ships – 515 up less than 1%
  - Berth occupancy (ship on the berth)- less than 50%
  - Crane usage – Even when ships are alongside, Portainer cranes sit idle demonstrating even more spare capacity.
  - Container trade - Growth has reversed now that WA's boom has turned to bust with unemployment now rising, consumers aren't spending. The port handled 715k twenty foot equivalent units (TEU) last year (approx 475k containers) which was down 3.9% on previous year.
  - Growth Rates - Container trade increased at a modest long term (10 year) average of 21k TEU per annum. Let’s not forget that this is during WA’s economic boom period from 2006-2016. Even on this boom time trajectory, the current estimated port capacity of 1.4mil TEU won’t be reached until 2048. The last 5 years annual growth averaged just 11.8k TEU. If you applied the growth rate of the last 5 years, Fremantle Port capacity will not be reached until 2075! This is based on the current estimated capacity of 1.4mil TEU and assumes the current capacity constraints and inefficient operations. I am sure there will be some improvements in stevedoring in the next 50 years that will allow Fremantle to continue to service WA for even longer.
  - Fremantle crane rates - 34.3 per hour against the 5 ports national average of 29.7.
  - A recent ACCC report showed that productivity was worse in automated ports. Automation is very expensive and adds to cost of goods to consumers, it has now been proven to be inferior to the very productive MUA workforce.
  - Motor vehicles - 101k which is steady over the past 10 years.
  - Investment – Stevedoring Companies are reluctant to invest with the uncertainty of their recent short term 2-year lease. There needs to be a long-term commitment to Fremantle and the investment will follow.

RAIL
- 14.5% of containers were transported by rail (104k TEU) - equates to 76700 trucks off the road last year up from 10k in 2006. Target is 30% of TEU on rail which means rail could account for the total TEU growth until 2025 at current growth rates without putting any more trucks on the road.

ROAD
- Truck visits - 452k truck movements last year, down 11% on 2 yrs ago
- Peak operating times - 90% of containers are on the road 6am-6pm Monday to Friday which equates to 35% of the available time.
- TEU per truck - 1.35 (up from 1.32 last year). There is still plenty of room for improvement
- Two-way loading – achieved by just 47% of trucks entering/exiting the port precinct.
- Empty or 1 TEU – 44% of all trucks

Note - 56% of trucks carried 87% of the TEU task last year. That means inefficiency in the other 44% is creating the congestion on the roads.

FINANCIAL RESULTS
- Contribution to State Government - $56.5m with a 5 yr average of $47.5m
- Rate of return - 14% up from 7.2% five years ago
- Port Customer Survey - 100% of customers either satisfied or very satisfied with Port services
- Community Survey - 89% of the community support Fremantle Port
- Jobs - 2000 direct employees (public and private) and an estimated total workforce of 6000 direct and indirect employees servicing the port. It should be noted that the outer harbour will be automated and have less jobs that Fremantle. The outer harbour proponents spruk 30,000 new jobs but in reality it’s a plan for redundancies.

‘OUR PORT IS NOT FOR SALE’ says Christy Cain
G’day Comrades, it’s the Viking here. I just wanted to touch on a subject that is close to home for me and, I am sure, to a lot of you - mental health.

Let’s face it, the Maritime Industry is a harsh environment and can be quite stressful. Being away from your family and loved ones for weeks at a time can be hard to deal with and, unless you have been there, it can be difficult to understand what it is like.

Gone are the days of men having to be tough and not show emotion. Gone are the days of men not being allowed to show their emotions for fear of being labelled weak.

This is 2017. Men ARE allowed to express emotion. Men ARE allowed to cry. And men ARE certainly allowed to ask for help.

Unfortunately though, not too many of us do ask, for fear of being judged. This includes women too. I don’t mean to exclude the women in our ranks when writing this article, but from personal experience, I feel that women are more likely to talk to their friends about issues that they are struggling with, whereas men tend to keep their cards close to their chest.

Ask yourself the question, are you okay? Are you really okay?

Things happen in life to shape us all and to test us. Some things are harder to deal with than others. That is life. But we don’t have to try to deal with stress and/or depression on our own. We need to speak out and ask for help if things are getting on top of us.

We need to stop and ask ourselves, how is my mental health? Am I coping or do I need some help?

There is no shame in not being able to cope and there is certainly no shame in reaching out for help. In fact, it is commendable.

I can speak from experience about depression. Being away from my family for five weeks at a time, out in the middle of the ocean, took its toll on my state of mind. My mental health was at a low. I was surrounded by people on a vessel, but at the same time I felt more alone than I ever had felt in my life.

My wife didn’t quite understand. She sympathised with me and said all the right things to try and make me feel better, but she didn’t know what it felt like.

Only those in the same boat (no pun intended) could understand what I was going through day to day, week to week. I felt that I had nobody to turn to that fully understood where I was coming from.

I reached out to the MUA with the hope that someone there could help me. I wasn’t disappointed. I had a comrade on the other end of the phone who understood where I was coming from and who, more importantly, listened to me without judgement.

My message in all of this comrades, is take care of yourself and take care of each other.

In unity, Viking
The first marine men’s shed has launched in Fremantle.

The first marine men’s shed in Australia, supported by Australian Men Sheds, came about after they built the replica of Captain Cook’s ship Endeavour. The shipwrights that built Endeavour in Fremantle realised that there was no one looking after men’s health in the marine industry.

Such a huge industry around Australia and there was no provider to support people affected by depression and mental health, and all other forms of medical problems - and then retiring from a marine based environment. People with salt in their veins, they don’t want to go to a land-based shed! They have to be on, or near the water.

Heart and soul men’s shed, after building the replica of the replica, decided to incorporate the first marine men’s shed, to allow our members, who work on and around the water, to work on community projects that help the environment.

The boat Edwin Abbott will be used as a platform on these projects and our members will supply their expertise. They will also provide shipwrights to help the public with small jobs - retirees that have hit the wall with problems due to their health and can’t look after their boat’s in retirement.

The boat The Randall 42 Edwin Abbott is the first registered men’s shed in the world and will carry a crew of 12, with two other smaller boats that will be working up rivers and waterways around Perth, as well as in Fremantle, Rockingham and Mundurah, helping to provide information to the public and communities, and of course our children!

The Edwin Abbott, will be taking part in practical research, while helping participants deal with a range of mental health issues such as depression, and PTSD. The first marine men’s shed will run a number of half day trips for research of interaction with dolphins and autism.

The shed’s primary goal is re-engaging some of the old salts; the men from the marine side of our workforce, whom to date have been a bit left out. With men sheds being the fastest growing phenomenon in Australia, the marine guys were dipping out.

It has taken three years to get the marine men’s shed off the drawing board and into the water. Terry Thompson, the founder of Heart and Soul Men’s Shed in Forrestdale, had noticed while they were building the replica of Captain Cook’s Endeavour and using the same shipwrights that built the Bark Endeavour in Fremantle harbor, that there must be many more maritime workers out there from that era.

Yet nothing was being done to help them, in comparison to their trade counterparts on land.

Terry knew that a marine men’s shed would be a practical and worthwhile solution to get them involved. He formed a working group and in 2015 he purchased the Edwin Abbott, an ex-customs vessel built to customs specifications and survey. It’s one of six built in Fremantle to patrol the North-West coast and the incredible Kimberly region.

The first marine men’s shed committee, working with the Western Australian Men’s Shed Association and AMSA, with the support from major sponsor Beyond Tools, have created this fantastic resource and are making it available for the benefit of the WA community.

If you would like to sponsor or make a donation to the world’s first marine men’s shed please contact Terrence Thompson CEO mobile: 0414 081 511 or email: terrencethompson@bigpond.com or visit webpage www.firstmarine.org
Brothers and sisters, this is probably one of the sweetest victories the trade union movement will ever see in this country. There are too many unions and working-class organisations to mention, but I will remind people of a few! Firstly, the war is not over, but look what has been done. These multi-national sycophants have been caught robbing you, yes you, that means all Australians! My view is this… gas is your gas and if Chevron want some, then it has to pay. This started six years ago and we are still in the courts. Pickets, rallies, sit-ins, occupations - wherever Chevron went, we were not far away. I thank the ITF, Steve Cotton and Jackie Smith. Get UP, Shannon O’Keefe, Jason Ward and the team, the mighty ILWU, MUNZ and the ILWU Canada, along with all the international unions. I thank the CFMEU for its ongoing support for more than 18 months of week-in, week-out on the picket. I thank the leadership! Yes, Paddy, Will, Ian, Warren and all the branches! Most of all I thank the membership of this mighty union!

Get that into yeah CHEVRON! They don’t like us - and we don’t care! Now pay up!

In struggle, Christy Cain (posted on Facebook by Christy Cain on 19 August 2017)
Multi-billion dollar tax windfall after
Chevron abandons appeal

Eryk Bagshaw - The Age
Published: August 18, 2017

The federal government is expected to score a $10 billion windfall over the next decade after multinational oil giant Chevron abandoned an appeal against the Australian Tax Office in the High Court.

In a settlement believed to be worth more than $1 billion, the US company’s case hands Australian authorities a precedent that will shape all future tax arrangements for multinational resources companies.

The decision has been described by the Tax Office as “one of the most important decisions” in corporate tax history and brings to a close one of the largest corporate tax matters before the ATO.

“The ATO’s initial estimates are that the Chevron decision will bring in more than $10 billion dollars of additional revenue over the next 10 years in relation to transfer pricing of related party financing alone,” said Financial Services Minister Kelly O’Dwyer.

A tax boost of $10 billion over a decade could be used to build 10 hospitals, 200 big schools and Sydney’s light rail network five times over.

“Not only does this result put more revenue back to the Australian people, it also strengthens the ATO’s position in pursuing other arrangements where multinationals seek to dodge Australia’s transfer pricing rules,” said Ms O’Dwyer.

The US company had launched an appeal over a $340 million federal court decision on its transfer pricing methodology but discontinued it earlier this week.

Transfer pricing refers to the way in which divisions of a company transact between themselves.

It was alleged that Chevron had used $340 million tax bill after it took on a $4 billion loan from its US parent used to develop Western Australian gas reserves, adding to the local subsidiary’s debt and allowing it to avoid Australia’s 30 per cent company tax rate.

The federal court found Chevron’s Australian subsidiary should not be allowed to claim interest on its borrowings from the rest of the Chevron Group as if it was a standalone “orphan” company.

The fossil fuel giant paid no company tax in five of the past seven financial years.

While the total settlement above a $340 million tax bill remains undisclosed, a Senate inquiry into corporate tax avoidance was told in June that the total amount of tax Chevron had in dispute with the Tax Office was more than $1 billion.

Chevron is the first major company to roll over as the Tax Office looks to recoup up to $4 billion from resources companies known for their aggressive approach to tax minimisation.

A Chevron spokesman said the company believes the agreed terms of the settlement were a reasonable resolution of the matter.

“Chevron Australia has reached agreement with the Australian Taxation Office on the loan transfer pricing dispute and have withdrawn our appeal to the High Court,” he said in a statement provided to Fairfax Media.

Tax Justice Network spokesman Jason Ward said the ATO should be congratulated on its landmark court victory.

“Chevron pushed the envelope so far that the result is, after many years and millions in legal fees, that we have a new world class standard that will prevent at least one blatant tax dodging trick for all multinationals moving forward,” he said.

“Other countries should follow Australia’s lead on this and adopt similar guidelines.”

In a statement the Tax Office welcomed the settlement.

“We have been very clear that this case would
inform the High Court,” said the ATO.

The office said the ATO is currently pursuing in relation to related party loans, as well as indirect implications for other transfer pricing cases,” an ATO spokesperson said.

“These impacts will not be limited to the oil and gas sector, but across the entire economy, the ATO will not shy away from lengthy or complex cases. We have the laws, the powers and the capability to hold these multinational companies to account.”

This story was found at: http://www.theage.com.au/business/the-economy/multibillion-dollar-tax-windfall-after-chevron-abandons-appeal-20170818-gxc718.html
Australia’s leading industry scheme protects Maritime workers

PROTECT INSURANCE

- Income protection up to $1,700 per week
- Up to $275,000 accidental death benefit
- Up to $75,000 serious trauma benefit
- Broken bones and dental injury cover

Protect is the industry scheme preferred by 30,000 workers across industries Australia-wide including construction, service maintenance, manufacturing, maritime, rail, power, supply and distribution and oil and petrochemical.

Ask your MUA organiser today about access to Protect benefits, or visit www.protect.net.au for more information.
“The West Australian MUA CFMEU joint State Conference again demonstrated the progressive leadership both branches have achieved here in Australia and internationally. Through the branch executive, led by MUA President Christy Cain and his team, and CFMEU Branch Secretary Mick Buchan and his team, they have brought together some of the most influential working-class leaders and activists, to develop grass roots rank and file campaigns at a critical time for all working men and women. They have won and deserve the respect and acknowledgement they have gained, through not only developing programs and actions defending maritime workers in particular and all workers more generally; they have laid out a commitment going forward that will be one of the most important foundations of the new merged union. They live and breathe our determination to fight from the front.”

- Paddy Crumlin
MUA National Secretary

“In April 2017, the inaugural joint State Conference between the MUA and the CFMEU was held, highlighted by motivational heavyweight speakers - representing years of varied experience. The Conference was capped off by a gala Ball. The following four pages feature images and testimonials that show just how good the event was.

“The overwhelming success of the 2017 CFMEU MUA West Coast Conference demonstrates the clear benefits of the amalgamation of two like-minded unions. Both unions have emerged from the WA State Conference with a renewed vigour to advance the interests of construction, mining, forestry and maritime workers through the unity of unions, with a proud history of industrial struggle. MUA, here to stay; CFMEU, here for the blue. Touch one, touch all.”

- Mick Buchan
CFMEU WA Branch Secretary
"I was thrilled to see that the April Conference was the first where the MUA was joined by the CFMEU for a joint Conference. Our exposure to the ideas and initiatives of the MUA and CFMEU in WA has been really important to our Branch.

Engaging with unions that aren’t afraid to be militant and try new things is a breath of fresh air in a movement that is sometimes overly-cautious by nature. This year’s MUA/CFMEU Conference was my third West Coast Conference. Again, it was a real eye-opener and again, we’ve taken a lot away from it.

We were particularly impressed by the internationalism on display throughout the Conference and this is something that we’ll be working on.

It’s a strength of the MUA and something that you should all be proud of. The highlight of the show was the dinner. It was out of this world and made us feel proud to be a unionist. Congratulations to Christy Cain, Mick Buchanan! ”

– John Setka, CFMEU Vic State Secretary

“IT was an honour to witness two strong unions coming together. The Conference was incredibly powerful. I saw young people stepping up, rank and file leaders speaking out and watched the strong leadership of Christy and Mick. The MUA and CFMEU are an inspiration to us all.”

– Sally McManus, Australian Council of Trade Unions, President

“The Conference was one of the best I’ve attended; full of power and passion with great speakers and presentations. It demonstrated what our new amalgamated union can look forward to - a rank and file driven union, delivering for our members and workers here in Australia and internationally.”

– Michael O’Connor, CFMEU National Secretary

“A great union Conference should educate, inspire and motivate. The 2017 MUA/CFMEU West Coast State Conference did all that and more. With an unprecedented list of speakers, both local and international, the Conference not only inspired but democratically forged the way forward for two of Australia’s strongest unions to become yet stronger again, this time together. Congratulations to all involved.”

– Troy Gray, ETU VIC State Secretary

“For the ITF, Fremantle was about the international connecting with rank and file. A new international solidarity is emerging that’s bringing workers from all sectors together to fight injustice and secure our future. The MUA/CFMEU merger sets the tone. Strong unions dedicated to members and building power will always have the support of the ITF, it’s exactly what we want to see across the international and Fremantle showed us the way.”

– Steve Cotton, ITF General Secretary

“I consider the recent Conference in Fremantle run by the WA Branch of the MUA to be an outstanding success. The reason I have come to this consideration is because its
"The Conference was one of the best I've attended; full of power and passion with great speakers and presentations. It demonstrated what our new amalgamated union can look forward to - a rank and file driven union, delivering for our members and workers here in Australia and internationally."

– Michael O'Connor, CFMEU National Secretary

"A great union Conference should educate, inspire and motivate. The 2017 MUA/CFMEU West Coast State Conference did all that and more. With an unprecedented list of speakers, both local and international, the Conference not only inspired but democratically forged the way forward for two of Australia's strongest unions to become yet stronger again, this time together. Congratulations to all involved."

– Troy Gray, ETU VIC State Secretary

"For the ITF, Fremantle was about the international connecting with rank and file. A new international solidarity is emerging that's bringing workers from all sectors together to fight injustice and secure our future. The MUA/CFMEU merger sets the tone. Strong unions dedicated to members and building power will always have the support of the ITF; it's exactly what we want to see across the international and Fremantle showed us the way."

– Steve Cotton, ITF General Secretary

"I consider the recent Conference in Fremantle run by the WA Branch of the MUA to be an outstanding success. The reason I have come to this consideration is because its agenda, drawn up by the Branch Executive for the Conference, gave recognition to all the issues concerning the total membership of this great Union. I must say this was a job well done by Chris Cain and his officials once again."

– Glen Wood

"A Huge thank you to all our MUA WA Branch officials, organisers and staff for the recent WA Branch State Conference. What a great Conference; so informative with our future structures, strategies and vision going forward.

Also, it was very heartening to be present while witnessing the unsurpassed solidarity of two great unions - all done with a positive involvement from our United rank and file. MUA Here to Stay!"

– Al Wattam

“WA Branch State Conference = INSPIRING.”

– Brian Higgins

“On behalf of all veteran’s, I would like first of all to thank Sandra and Kelly for organising the best Conference yet. It was a credit to you both. I met some of the best in the union and some interesting people. The orators were very specific in their speeches and the facts were excellent. The Gala Ball, as usual, was magnificent and the combination of the two unions made it all the better."

– Jimmy Donnelly, WA Veterans Secretary

“WA Branch State Conference = InSpIrIng.”

– Brian Higgins

“As usual, the WA Conference was an outstanding success. So much to take in but it is needed more so today, as organised labour is under enormous attack as never seen before. We need more conferences like the WA one, so as to be prepared for the fight back. Well done WA Branch."

– Jim Donovan, MUA Veterans National President

“Makes you proud to be UNION,”

– Brad Graczyk
"We will have fights in the future: there will be many, they will be hard, but we will fight them and together only together, we will win them!"

- Phil Swanston

"The 2017 MUA CFMEU WA Branch Conference was working class solidarity at its best. Two like-minded militant unions with a vision for the future of trade unionism in Australia."

- Ryan McGibbon-Thompson

"Forward thinking, broadly engaging and a positivity that has resonated beyond the Conference and outside WA."

- Jake Field

“I will always be indebted to Christy and the MUA WA Branch for the invite to their Conference. It was a week that opened my eyes. What struck me the most was how educated in union affairs were the young members. It made me very confident in the direction the union is taking. It also gave me a week with my lifelong friend Charlie Weldon who sadly passed away no longer after. Thanks again comrades.”

- Leo McDonald, Painters and Dockers Life Member

“Out of all the MUA Conferences I’ve been to over the years, the last one in the West was a standout. The vibe of our amalgamation felt electric. I can’t wait for the next one. In the meantime, let’s stick it to the government, AMMA, etc. TOUCH ONE, TOUCH ALL.”

- Johnny Formosa

“It was great to see strong unions coming together and being a part of it.”

- Robin Hajinoor

"Forward thinking, broadly engaging and a positivity that has resonated beyond the Conference and outside WA."

- Jake Field

“The Conference was excellent. I met old and new comrades. It was great hearing from the speakers on union activity in other states. The Welcome to Country by Dr Richard Walley was one of the highlights.”

- Tracey Heimburger, CFMEU Member

“Hands down the best Conference I’ve ever attended. I left feeling like together we are unstoppable and I could feel the anti-union bullies quaking in their boots. MUA here to stay! CFMEU here for the blue! Sandra, you and the women in the office did an amazing job getting that many people together, on time, accommodated, organised and looked after. You’re the best staff any union could wish for; thank you so much.”

- Tam Stubbs

“It was a great pleasure, privilege and indeed an honour to be invited to attend and address the MUA CFMEU WA Conference. The quality of the speakers from both unions demonstrated that this is defiantly the shape of things to come as unions join forces, to combat the ongoing assault we all face from global capitalism, showing the members of your two great unions that there is a firm...
commitment to stand up and fight the common enemy we face every day. The quality of international speakers, such as Joe Fleetwood, Bob McEllrath, Willie Adams, Jackie Smith and who could forget our ITF president Paddy Crumlin, all had a message to enforce, that the need for international solidarity has never been more important and united we can achieve things for our members. Power to your elbow brother, I’ve watched you and your comrades raise the standards high, over in WA. A shining example to all of us.”

- Steve Todd
RMT UK National Secretary

“It was great to hear the unity between delegates from around the country, international guests and all the different unions.”

- Glen Collins

“A great conference. Excellent speeches and a big thank you for all the hard work that the girls do behind the scenes.”

- Chris Edmonds

“Congratulations to you, your respective staff and officials for staging a showcase joint MUA/CFMEU State Conference. The assembled guests, speakers and events were inspiring. I’m already looking forward to the next one.”

- Leo Skourdoumbis, CFMEU/FFPD

“I always enjoy listening to the likes of Christy Cain, Troy Gray and John Setka. Powerful speakers that had me at the edge of my seat. A great state conference.”

- Mathew Dagnall

“Once again another inspirational selection of speakers and renewed energy for the membership.”

– Craig Booth

“Congratulations coming together of two mighty Unions. Program, speakers and themes were all top shelf. No wonder the Tories fear us. SOLIDARITY FOREVER!”

– Jade Ingham, Assistant State Secretary, CFMEU Q/NT Construction & General Division

The WA MUA/CFMEU conference, the first of it’s kind, really gave us the best of both Unions and highlighted the future promise of the real power for workers in this country that the amalgamation of these two great Unions will deliver. The calibre of guest speakers from the national and international trade union leadership spoke volumes to the respect with which both unions are so highly regarded – a remarkable week and congratulations to both Chris and Mick and their respective teams who put so much work into making this historic event the success it clearly was.”

- Will Tracey, MUA Deputy National Secretary
Another major win for
AUSTRALIAN SEAFARERS

Members, Jack McCabe and myself finally nailed Programmed Marine down on the manning of the Arcadia. This vessel is accommodation for the hookup of the Shell Prelude Project. We have been arguing with this mob for weeks, and yesterday with their client (Posh) in the room, we delivered another eight IRs positions and four stewards, and five Australian crane/IRS being sent to Norway for their training on the gangway operations! The manning is in addition to the benchmark manning, that was in the agreement! I want to thank the delegates for their help in achieving this great outcome. It equates to over $2 million dollars extra in wages. When you consider what happens in other unions, it is another great outcome for our membership. It’s no good asking me to put people forward, as they hate our guts - and this is why!

Australian Jobs! Australian Wages! Australian Conditions! All Australian Labour! Very happy! Well done to you all. In unity.

Christy Cain (September 9 at 11:07am)

MUA WA BRANCH

MUA MEMBER RESPOND

Frank Falcone
Well done Christy & Jack; great outcome for our seafaring brothers and sisters.

Krista LeGras
Great job guys. That might shut a couple of the haters up. but then again, maybe not. my Dad used to say, “you can only please some of the people some of the time, not all of the people all of the time”. I’m over people believing they are ‘entitled’ to positions on vessels just because they are who they are or how long they have been in the industry.

Callan Jones
Massive thanks to you and Jack, Christy. The extra hands out here will be invaluable. Not to mention, work for more members. Bloody good job.

Glenn Frew
Sweet, keep it up. Work is much needed for the members in these gloomy times.

Phil Lawson
Well done Christy, Jack and team. Yet another great effort, to the benefit of our members and their families. MUA, still leading the way.

Guido Zalmstra
Well done again Chris and all involved. A proud member of this great UNION.

Ryan Megibbon Thompson
Christy, mate you are an inspiration and you deliver. Proud to know you and I’ll stand shoulder to shoulder with you any day of the week, against whoever the fuck wants to oppose you!

John Formosa
Well done to all concerned. Good to hear you had ANOTHER WIN IN WA. Very Proud of you all for sticking fat. TOUCH ONE TOUCH ALL

Mary Prout
Great work; as always you are amazing you men. Congratulations Chris and Jack. Proud to be union.

Michael Kyneurkelly
I’d expect nothing less of you Comrade! Employ our mob first before any outsider. Touch one, touch all.

Dion Donohoe
F&$k yeah Chris; I only wish we could do this in the blue water. Can only hope it will happen soon

Tony Maher
A great outcome for the wonderful MUA. I can’t wait to be part of your union.

David Wyndham
Christy, I mean this with the respect it deserves, you are the current and best official of the MUA. Taffy and EV Elliott would be so proud of you. The current members Australia-wide are proud of what you have achieved for all our members. There was only one George Best, and there will only be one Christy Cain. I’m sorry I didn’t know you when you tried to change things.

Thanks for everything you have done and achieved for the members of this great organisation.

Mark P Shannon
Well done Comrades; another victory for the MUA. I hope that Programmed utilises the database as there are still a lot of Comrades out of work.

Joe Fleetwood
Solid effort comrades

Joe McDonald
Great work comrade. Congratulations to all involved.
As unions, there is far more that unites us than drives us apart.

The ideological divide between right and left within the ALP is narrow, and encompasses few if any issues that resonate as core Union principles.

As unions we believe that the needs of our members must always be our first priority.

For our members we seek well paid, secure and safe employment, dignity and security in retirement, and the ability to participate as full citizens of our society.

These are proper and worthy goals for which to strive.

As proud unionists, we pay respect to the generations of men and women who went before us in the Union movement and who helped to create an equitable and prosperous society.

We believe that unions have a fundamental role to play in ensuring that society continues to uphold the values of equity, respect and tolerance.

We also believe that unions, through their work in raising wages and conditions, contribute to a vibrant middle class and as a result, a fairer and more powerful economy.

And so we have determined to dismantle the factions which divide us and come together to further our cause.

To cast aside the symbolic divisions of the past and unite within the ALP to help ensure that creating employment in this state, in new industries, using new technologies and with breadth of vision, remains the priority.

To ensure that workers share in the economic rewards generated by growth. To ensure vigilance in the areas of workplace safety, compensation for injured workers and freedom of association.

To work within the ALP to keep our members’ interests and the interests of the working class directly in the line of sight of its parliamentarians.

To those parliamentarians we simply say this: we have no interest in your factional alignments, we simply seek your commitment to progressing the interests of working people, a goal that we say must always remain central to ALP thinking.

To our union members we say this: we welcome your involvement in your union and its activities in the ALP.

We believe in democracy and so we do not seek to dictate how you vote within the ALP.

Instead we will present to you the reasoned arguments for our position on matters affecting our unions, and then trust to your good judgment.

Above all, we as proud unionists commit to working together within the ALP for the benefit of union members who are, after all, the very reason we exist.

Authorised by
Mick Buchan - WA Branch Secretary CFMEU
Chris Cain - WA Branch Secretary MUA
Tim Dawson - WA Branch Secretary TWU
Peter O’Keeffe - WA Branch Secretary SDA
Phil Woodcock - WA Branch Secretary RBTU
Mike Zoetbrood - WA Branch Secretary AWU

For more Information & to join the conversation
LIKE US ON FACEBOOK
WAProgressiveLabor

PROGRESSIVE LABOR VALUES
Access to Quality
Education for all
Building a Sustainable
Environment
Community
Compassion
Creating Opportunity
Supporting those living with Disability
Democracy
Diversity
Eliminating Domestic Violence
Fairness - Equality - Justice Inclusion
Human Rights
Retire with Dignity
Social Justice
Worker Rights & Right to Organise
We attend meetings, forums, rallies, fundraisers and more. We campaign at election time, making calls, walking the streets doing mail drops; we set up and we man the booths on the election day. We do whatever it takes. We don’t do all that to be passengers. We play an active role and we have our say on what impacts our members directly in their jobs and indirectly as members of the community. We formed Progressive Labor as a truly progressive voice within the Party.

As many media outlets reported, we had plenty to say on your behalf at the WA Labor Conference (26-27 August). The following are just a handful of the motions that were endorsed at Conference and are now ALP Policy in WA.

On behalf of our members and the community, who also benefit from the changes we made, I would like to thank the 30 MUA delegates who attended across the weekend, the 20 who turned up to ensure we always had our numbers on the floor and all of those progressive thinking Labor delegates who supported our motions.

**FREMANTLE PORT AND THE FEASIBILITY STUDY FOR THE OUTER HARBOUR**

WA ports are a critical public asset and belong to all Western Australians. They are the cornerstone of many local communities and deliver enormous economic benefit to Western Australia. This Conference congratulates the McGowan Labor Government’s commitment to maintain Fremantle Port as an operational port in public ownership and its commitment to properly assess the validity of the Outer Harbour and timing of such a significant public investment. If the Barnett Liberal Government took...
the same course of action, our State wouldn’t be in such an economic mess.

Currently, we are seeing increased lobbying efforts to prematurely build the Outer Harbour by those who would profit from the estimated $5-6 billion price tag.

Fremantle Port has abundant capacity, that will see WA through the medium to long-term without the need for a costly Outer Harbour duplication. Fremantle Port must be allowed to grow to its natural capacity before the Outer Harbour is built and long-term stevedoring leases should be offered to give certainty for workers and to enable further investment from the port operators.

The WA Labor Government will ensure the MUA, TWU and RTBU will be included in the planning and feasibility taskforce and be invited to attend all meetings and forums relating to the Fremantle Port and the Outer Harbour proposal.

The MUA, TWU and RTBU, as major stakeholders, must have a seat at the table so that workers are properly represented, the facts are tabled and the sales pitch from commercial developers are countered.

This Conference also rejected the push by lobbyists and commercial developers to place an artificial cap on Fremantle Port. This proposed cap is designed to make the expensive Outer Harbour appear competitive. In fact, this proposal is anti-competitive, constitutes a plan for redundancies with respect to those employed in and around the Fremantle Port and will ultimately come at a great economic cost to the State and to the broader community.

Conference called on the trade union movement and WA Labor to stand up to the commercial developers and lobbyists and make the right decision in the interests of the State once the facts are made clear for all to see.
MISUSE OF PARTNERSHIPS

The State Labor Government will prohibit the misuse of partnership agreements in circumstances where they do not meet the requirements of a genuine partnership.

More specifically, the WA State Labor Government will legislate to implement a system of offences within the legislative framework of the Partnerships Act 1895 (WA) (the Act) to ensure the following:

1. A person must not establish any partnership, enter into any partnership with another person or organise any person to enter into a partnership for the purpose of avoiding any obligation or obligations that would otherwise incur under any law or instrument governing the terms and conditions under which work is performed by employees;

2. A person must not dismiss, or threaten to dismiss and individual who is an employee and performs particular work for the employer, in order to facilitate the entry into a partnership by the individual to perform the same, or substantially the same work under a partnership;

3. A person that employs, or has at any time employed an individual to perform particular work must not make a statement that the employer knows is false in order to persuade or influence the individual to enter into a partnership under which the individual will perform the same, or substantially the same work;

4. An application may be made by a person to a body such as the Western Australian Industrial Relations Commission (WAIRC) for a remedy in respect to any arrangement or agreement in the nature of a partnership;

5. It shall be at the discretion of the WAIRC that upon the making of an application to determine the validity of the partnership in accordance with Act;

6. The WAIC shall be given authority to make orders including the absolution of liability of the applicant with respect to the partnership or an award of compensation for the applicant.

ALCOA SHIPPING TASK

Australian workers have been involved in the exploration and mining of bauxite, refining of bauxite into alumina, shipping of alumina around the coast and the smelting of alumina for over a half a century. Local employees have loyally and skilfully maintained the profitability of the company and Australian seafarers on Australian ships have always carried this cargo for Alcoa.

Australian crewed ships carried Alumina from Kwinana, WA to Portland, Victoria for over 25 years. The MV Portland was introduced with radically lower crewing scales that ensured the commercial viability on that basis over the last 27 years.

On January 13th 2015, the crew of the MV Portland were removed from their ship in the middle of the night by 30 security guards. The ship then sailed to Singapore and the coastal trading run is now done by Flag of Convenience vessels with exploited overseas labour being paid as little as $1.25 per hour.

Exploiting the intent of the coastal trading act 2012, Alcoa applied for temporary licences when there were Australian ships available and the Federal Liberal government allowed it to happen. The volume of temporary licences issued since the loss of the MV Portland shows there is sufficient trade to sustain an Australian ship.

Alcoa enjoy huge tax payer subsidies from the Victorian government yet refuse to employ Australian seafarers in a permanent transport leg of their operations despite this transport requirement being completely domestic coastal trade.

WA Labor Government will meet the Victorian Government and Alcoa regarding the use of foreign flagged vessels on a purely coastal trade to demand that tax payers subsidies are used to support Australian jobs, not eradicate them. Further WA Labor Government will demand that an Australian crewed ship is to recommence on this Australian trade.

FRACKING

WA Labor acknowledges that communities have expressed opposition to gas fracking development throughout the State, and that the previous Government failed to protect communities and the environment from the harmful effects of this industry.

WA Labor will immediately ban fracking in the SouthWest, Perth, Peel and Swan Valley Regions.

WA Labor supports a scientific approach to the regulation of fracking, and will conduct a public inquiry to examine environment,
health, agriculture, heritage and community impacts prior to any fracking activity. WA Labor will place a moratorium on the use of fracking until such an inquiry can demonstrate that fracking will not compromise the environment, groundwater, public health or contribute adversely to climate change.

Following the public inquiry into fracking and where supported by Traditional Owners, WA Labor will consider a permanent ban on fracking in any water reserves or groundwater areas, productive farmlands, or areas with environmental, cultural heritage or tourism values which could be compromised by fracking.

WA Labor supports strong, enforceable measures to protect groundwater aquifers from pollution, contamination or depletion by industrial activities including the oil and gas industry.

WA Labor will target renewable energies in order to combat climate change and diversify regional economies to create employment opportunities.

**RENEWABLE ENERGY**

Strongly invest in an innovative and local renewable energy industry, including offshore wind and wave energy, creating jobs for Western Australia’s future.

**KEEPING PORT AUTHORITY SERVICES IN HOUSE**

The State Conference meeting recognised that WA’s publicly-owned ports deliver an annual dividend to the consolidated revenue of the State Government. Many of the regional towns were built around those ports and they are an important part of the regional communities creating stable jobs for the local community.

As such, this State Conference proposed that the Government amends Section 60 of the Port Authorities Act 1999 Matters to be included in statement of corporate intent to exclude the requirement set out in sub-section (k)(a) for Port Authorities to provide a detailed report on the “proposed arrangements to facilitate the participation of potential suppliers in the provision of port services or, if no arrangements are proposed, the reason and justification for their absence” - as this requirement is inconsistent with Labor’s Platform in regard to keeping WA ports in public hands and supporting local jobs and local communities.

**KEEP REGIONAL PORT AUTHORITIES LOCAL**

Regional Port Authorities are critical to their local economies because, apart from their function of encouraging and facilitating the development of trade for the economic benefit of their region and the broader state, they also create direct employment and support local communities.

Conference congratulated the McGowan State Labor Government for initiating a review – chaired by Laurie Graham MLC – into the previous Barnett government’s merger of Albany, Bunbury and Esperance Port Authorities which will:

a. consult with the local communities of those towns;

b. examine, among other things, the extent to which under the amalgamated port authority there has been:

1. a loss of local connection to the community;

2. increased uncertainty for local community members; and

3. associated outsourcing of port authority functions; and

c. report by the end of 2017 with recommendations for the future management of the ports.

**STOP THE PRIVATISATION OF UTAH POINT**

The State Conference recognised that the Barnett State Government’s proposal to sell Port Hedland’s Utah Point bulk handling facility (Utah Point) was yet another short-sighted grab for cash to cover up the economic mess left after their time in office.

Privatising any WA port will slash jobs, lead to price hikes as we have seen in other states, damage our public services and rip money from the WA economy.

Consistent with the current platform, the McGowan State Labor Government will commit to ensure Utah Point is not be privatised.
It has certainly been a hectic few months since being sworn in as a Member for Mining and Pastoral.

I have hit the ground running, working hard on opening an office in Kalgoorlie. So far, we have established an interim office while we await the opening of my new office on Hannan Street in late October.

Being an MLC for Mining and Pastoral means I have a massive region covering the Kimberley, Pilbara, North West Central and Kalgoorlie region (the size of most of Europe).

Since WA Labor has lower house members in the Pilbara with Kevin Michel and in the Kimberley with Josie Farrer, I made the decision to be located in Kalgoorlie because it is a critical region in my electorate that has not had WA Labor representation based there for more than eight years.

I was honoured to launch the eighth edition of the WA Indigenous Storybook recently at the Goldfields Arts Centre. Before the launch I did my research and looking into its core I have been impressed with the principles on which it is built. It is vital we continue to celebrate, acknowledge and share the stories of Indigenous people who have made an impact across many spectrums.

I’d love to share a story that I told at the launch. One of the many inspiring stories in this new edition of the story book that captured me was Jamarl Sambo’s story. At a young age, he got involved with the Vibe Alive group. It was at one of their events he was noticed by a co-founder of Indigenous Hip Hop Projects (IHHP). He launched into a performing arts career which saw many great opportunities come his way through his dedication and commitment to succeeding. This took him all the way to Los Angeles, seeing him work with many famous artists, including the likes of the Queen B herself, Beyoncé.

Since returning to Australia, he aspires to work towards opening a centre of excellence in performing arts in Kalgoorlie-Boulder. Recently, through his work he brought IHHP back to Kalgoorlie to work with young people to produce an anti-smoking song and music video. Jamarl has proven that given the opportunity, young Indigenous people in the Goldfields can achieve their dreams. In his own words, every child deserves an opportunity to learn from professional people, and find out what they are capable of achieving.

I have spent a lot of time with the Goldfields Branch, who have been great to work with. There are a lot of long-term members who have, for years, put major efforts into keeping the Labor movement alive across the Kalgoorlie region. We have had a few visits to the region from State ministers and I have always made sure to give the branch the opportunity to meet them. As regional members, it is quite often the case you will only read of politicians visiting your area in the paper. I see a key agenda for me is to ensure regional members have their say and are recognised by the Government. I will be working very closely with all ministers and MPs to ensure local branches get an opportunity to meet with them and raise their issues face-to-face, to ensure that we continue as a party to show we are not just city-centric and we respect regional members.

I, along with the Minister for Emergency Services, Francis Logan, attended the Kalgoorlie Fire Station and talked to the B Shift firefighters about their jobs and workspace. We had a coffee and a chat in with the kitchen with firefighters, two State Emergency Services representatives and a few people from the Department of Fire and Emergency Services. It was interesting to hear from all of them about their work and some of the new equipment they need at the station.
I recently went on a tour of some of the critical mine operations across my region. It was interesting to get an up-close look at these key industry stakeholders. This tour also had 15 fellow state MPs and federal senators Glenn Sterle, Jaquie Lambie and Matt Thistlewaite. It was a great opportunity to push the agenda for WA Labor and our promise to ensure local projects have local content. I made sure to raise my concerns with companies taking a soft option on engaging locals only looking for the golden star on paper rather than delivering long-term permanent employment for locals and people wanting to live in the region. For too long companies have seen regional towns such as Karratha as transient towns and have not focused on ensuring the ongoing economics of the town through permanent local work.

I also ensured that at every site I asked these companies if they have Australian seafarers on their cargo ships, and it would come as no surprise that none of these companies could say they did. I pushed the agenda that we want local jobs, and local jobs means Australians on ships. I will continue to advocate for this for my whole term - there is no doubting that.

I want to leave you with one last thing I have worked on, that I’m proud of. Every year, Kalgoorlie hosts the Diggers and Dealers Mining Forum which sees 2000 national and international guests attend. A few weeks ago, I was appalled to learn the forum had cancelled plans to have a Welcome to Country. A few MPs from other parties noticed too and went straight to the media to get some attention for them about it. I went straight to the local elder who was lined up to do the Welcome. I had a great meeting with him and he talked about how important it was to have a Welcome to Country, especially at such a huge event with many international guests attending. I then went to the forum organisers and over four days communicated with them a lot, initially corresponding by letter, but also had many phone calls with them. We had heard the news on a Wednesday, and by the next Monday I was really pleased to hear that they would have a Welcome, and it would be performed by the elder I met with. We didn’t get the most media coverage about this but you know what - I am happy to lose out on the photo opportunity if it means I am getting the work done for my constituents. Since the announcement I have had a lot of good feedback from people who are really happy the forum chose to respect our local traditional land owners.

I want to thank all MUA members for their ongoing support. I would not be in this position if it wasn’t for our strong membership across the state. I would love to hear any concerns and issues you have in your town. Please feel free to get in touch with my office by emailing MiningPastoral.McGinn@mp.wa.gov.au
Australia leading the charge

While the number of ITF inspectors has fallen from 138 to 122, from 59 countries, all the indicators used to measure performance are up.

Australia has recorded the highest amount of stolen wages for foreign seafarers, returning more than US$4million back to seafarers from developing countries.

World-wide, the inspectorate returned an incredible US$42million from a total of 10,300 inspections of FOC ships. It’s no surprise the perpetrators were on ships flying flags from Panama, Maltese, Liberian, Marshall Islands and Antigua.

Australian inspectors recorded a massive 506 inspections over the year which continues to reinforce our reputation as a strong and industrial effective country, despite the war waged on workers by the Federal Government.

Many of these vessels are monitored by Port State Control and ITF inspectors, more frequently other issues of expired contracts, poor accommodation standards and the lack of fresh provisions on board.

Not every ship has an ITF approved CBA and the ITF is not an employer of seafarers, contrary to some Facebook comments that appear from time to time - unfortunately, generally misinformed keyboard warriors.

I had a discussion recently with a master of one ship, who stated that although his ship didn’t have an ITF approved CBA, the seafarers’ conditions of employment were equal, if not better, than ITF approved CBAs.

After some lengthy discussions, it was soon evident that he realised this wasn’t the case. I showed him the insurance policies and again the non-ITF agreement had very little cover for families if there was a loss of live at sea.

The Australian Shipping Industry continues to be attacked on all fronts by the Federal Government. More recently, an Australian charter of a Norwegian ship was alleged to be paying $1.25 an hour to the seafarers while the vessel operated in Australian waters. We understand the Fair Work Ombudsman took legal action, claiming the foreign crew had been underpaid by $255,000.

What is more evident is the fact that some companies are now seeing the charter of FOC ships as normal business and supported by the Federal Government.

The notorious Flag of Convenience (FOC) system provides and protects ownership and operators of these ships and it is often very difficult to establish who is responsible.

I’ve encountered one port operator, or should I say a port facility controlled by unknown persons, where they are trying to restrict the ITF’s access to several vessels, whom are trading off Australian waters. These vessels have ITF agreements and their ability to restrict access to the ITF inspectorate is a breach of the (ISPS) International Ship and Port Security Code 2002. We continue to speak to the seafarers and will pursue our rights at the next Maritime Security meetings.

Another Master stated he was also under instructions from the charterers not to assist the ITF inspectorate where possible. Unfortunately for the charterers, it is mandatory for information to be supplied at our request under an ITF special agreement.

Therefore, the seafarers need the ITF to visit and check on the conditions of employment.

The ITF inspectorate has found many seafarers under the fear of reprisal and pressure not to complain about anything.

ITF FORMALISATION TRAINING

In May, several MUA members attended a formalisation training (Sydney) to assist as ITF port contacts. Most branches were represented, which gave a broad-spectrum of representatives from several ports around Australia.

Unfortunately, we couldn’t take more members, but they have limited numbers. Phil Swanson was nominated by the youth committee from the WA Branch.

The training didn’t make them instant ITF inspectors, but gave them an understanding of how to represent seafarers when called on by the ITF coordinators and inspectorate.

In terms of WA contacts, the membership continues to play a vital role as the eyes and ears for the ITF inspectorate. It should be noted the role that Graham Snedden (Patricks) has contributed over the years; always available to assist seafarers and the ITF inspectorate.

FOC M/V SAGITTARIUS

You may recall that the ITF demanded an inquiry into the death of three seafarers on board the M/V Sage Sagittarius in 2012.

After a two-year investigation, the coronial findings found the ship’s c/cook and chief engineer met foul play at the hands of other unidentified persons on board the FOC ship.

The coroner recommended her findings be sent to Japanese authorities to investigate a third suspicious death on board. This highlights FOCs are a law within themselves and why shipowners register in Panama, Majuro and the like.

The reasons are all based on tax avoidance, minimum regulation, unsafe conditions and limited responsibility.

MERCHANT NAVY SERVICE COMMEMORATIVE MEDAL

I’ve had several retired members enquire about the Merchant Navy Commemorative Medal. This medal isn’t the Merchant Navy Cross, however it is available to all former and serving merchant personnel as well as their next of kin.

If you need more information, contact myself or visit: WWW.AWARDSMEDALS.COM
CBA posts $9.9 billion profit
while households struggle to pay down bank debts

The Commonwealth Bank of Australia (CBA) has posted a staggering $9.93 billion profit, while households struggle to pay home loan and credit card debts with the bank.

CBA booked the huge profit, which was up seven per cent, while customers’ home loan and credit card arrears rose.

The bumper profit also comes as wages for working people remain stagnant and the median household income in Australia declines.

CBA, which has a market value of approximately $140 billion, was this week accused of turning a blind eye to money laundering worth $625 million.

In May, the bank’s chief executive Ian Narev, who was paid $12.3 million last year, said the Turnbull Government’s proposed bank levy would be borne by its customers.

“CBA’s eye-watering profit, in the same week it has been hit with allegations of turning a blind eye to money laundering, shows big corporations in Australia have too much power,” said ACTU President Ged Kearney.

“It’s time for a royal commission into the banking sector. It’s time for the Turnbull Government to reign in big corporations and stop the cash grab.”

“Customers’ home loan and credit card arrears are rising, meaning CBA is making a profit on the debts of working people who are struggling to make ends meet.”

“As well as the money laundering scandal, the CBA is on the record as saying any extra taxes will be passed onto customers, and will also be pocketing the profits from the Turnbull Government’s $65 billion corporate tax cut. This shows a total lack of regard for the personal circumstances of its customers.”

“This is clear example of how our banking sector is contributing to the growing problem of inequality. We are looking forward to seeing how the Turnbull Government plays down the booming profits of our blue ribbon bank while people can’t afford to eat healthy food or keep the power on.”

WAGES ARE GOING BACKWARDS
- the rules at work are broken

Australian workers’ wages are not keeping up with the cost of living and over a million working people are underemployed, figures released today by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) reveal.

The cost of living is growing 16 per cent faster than wages in the private sector. Workers are doing better in the public sector due to higher union density, but everyone is feeling the pinch.

Meanwhile, business is healthy, with the ABS data indicating that a third of all businesses’ income had increased in 2015-16.

The figures also show that the problems of insecure work and underemployment continue to grow, with more than 1.1 million people unable to find enough work, while nearly three quarters of a million Australians can’t find work at all.

The number of men in part-time work has increased dramatically, with an extra 52,000 more men in part-time work in July than in June.

A third of the manufacturing industry has indicated that there is a lack of skilled people in the industry, highlighting the issues of cutting and privatising TAFE funding.

“Today’s figures reveal the growing inequality in Australia. Workers are unable to negotiate higher rates of pay because the rules are stacked in favour of big business and the very rich,” ACTU Secretary Sally McManus.

“More than 1.1 million people are underemployed and can’t find enough work. People need second jobs to survive — this is, sadly, the face of inequality crisis in Australia.”

“Too many Australians, and in particular young people, cannot find work. If they can find work they can’t find enough.”

“Every one of these problems comes from corporations and the very rich having too much power, while the rules that are meant to balance this out are broken.”

“The Turnbull Government is fuelling inequality and denying it exists.”

“It is refusing to crack down on corporate tax evasion and corruption, preferring to cut taxes for corporations while ignoring the need for a Royal Commission into the banking industry.”

“The rules at work are broken. If people want higher wages and more secure work, they need to join their union so we can change the rules.”

“Customers’ home loan and credit card arrears are rising, meaning CBA is making a profit on the debts of working people who are struggling to make ends meet.”

“As well as the money laundering scandal, the CBA is on the record as saying any extra taxes will be passed onto customers, and will also be pocketing the profits from the Turnbull Government’s $65 billion corporate tax cut. This shows a total lack of regard for the personal circumstances of its customers.”

“This is clear example of how our banking sector is contributing to the growing problem of inequality. We are looking forward to seeing how the Turnbull Government plays down the booming profits of our blue ribbon bank while people can’t afford to eat healthy food or keep the power on.”

You can avoid us. But you will never defeat us.
For you can never crush or destroy a belief — the right of all of us to be treated equally and fairly.
And you can never take away our power — the power of unions — the simple act of working people deciding to stick together.
- ACTU Secretary Sally McManus
The youth movement of the MUA WA Branch tries to cover a range of issues affecting working people in Australia and around the world.

The 2017 State Conference has just been, whereby we decided to do a flash action to support the campaign around the cut to weekend penalty rates. We hit the streets of Perth and split into teams to target businesses that would be cutting penalty rates. A few members dressed up in costumes to lessen the aggressiveness of storming a business. We handed out flyers and whistles to customers inside the stores, and used speakers and microphones to let the workers know that we had their backs and that they weren’t alone. We will help fight to keep their hard-earned conditions.

All the teams met in the middle of the city where we were addressed by Dean McGrath from the ILWU America and Sally McManus, the newly elected Secretary of the ACTU. A rally through the City proceeded with upbeat chants and a lot of noise. The action was greatly received by the public, with many blowing their whistles in support and joining us in the march. This campaign is not finished by any stretch of the imagination. The goal of the youth movement is to provide support to those in need and raise community awareness about the attacks on workers. This was definitely achieved on the day.

Everyone who attends our actions like this, always has a good time and we get our message out in a new, different and relatable way. In order for these actions to be successful, we need the membership to play a role. A big thanks to all that turned out.
What is a UNIONIST?

Turnbull has been wrong about a lot of things, however, his statement “it is an exciting time to be Australian” is one that is true. With union membership at an all-time low, a ‘downturn’ in our industry, a greedy corporate structure and a government hell bent on crushing the working-class into poverty... it is an exciting time to be Australian.

What is a unionist? To me, it is a courageous and selfless individual with a great sense of community. Someone who would help a person, instead of walking on them to get ahead. It is a person who will fight unjust laws in order to preserve or better the living and working conditions around them. It’s someone who will fight for you and their community, even if they are at risk of hurting themselves financially. A unionist can look at themselves in the mirror every morning and take pride in the person they are.

I will tell you what it is not. A unionist is not someone who goes to work and doesn’t care about anyone but themselves being happy. Someone who will take a good wage but fall silent when their conditions are being stripped from them. It’s not someone who will give up their fellow worker in a blink of an eye to get ahead or look a little better in the boss’s eye. It’s not a greedy worker who would take the food off your plate if it meant an extra scrap for them. As Australians and workers, we have a duty to fight the ruling class, the government and the multinationals in order to stay above the poverty line.

The fight for our generation more than ever is now. We must increase union membership across all industries to enable the working class to have a decent quality of life and a safe and pleasant workplace.

Workers must start sticking together, unifying and looking after each other, encouraging industry in our own backyard with an Australian workforce on a living wage. We have an aging and growing population which means we need more jobs and they must be decent jobs that can support a family and provide a person some security. Automation, offshoring and casualisation are at an all-time high. The question must be asked “how are our youth going to afford to live above the poverty line in the not too distant future?”

Here is the exciting part... we can make a difference. We can keep the Aussie dream alive. We can live secure, happy and meaningful lives. How? We stand up, we fight back, we get political, we ditch the greed, we take some responsibility and try to make life a little easier and better for people who come after us. With great numbers, comes great power and we need to harness the power to give our country back to the people. Everyone reading this needs to have a think to themselves about their future, the future of their family and the future of their neighbours. Go out, sign people up to their union, have the conversation and get them excited and fired up too.

We are part of, in my opinion, one of the best unions in the world. Let’s start taking pride in that and setting an example for others to follow.

Opening the community’s eyes

How many mums do you hear saying their kids can’t find a part-time job and yet they use a self-service checkout each day to save five minutes?

How many dads do you hear saying they can’t get their sons an apprenticeship and yet they buy their furniture in a flat pack box from overseas?

How many uni students can’t find regular employment and yet they continue to shop online?

How many of your neighbours complain about the way the government works or that they are not happy with what’s happening in their communities and yet they are not a member of a political party or attend local council meetings?

We know someone has been taken advantage of for us to purchase a pair of shoes, a hat and a toaster for under $20 and yet instead of talking about this, we post about the bargain we got on Facebook.

As youth, we need to start addressing these issues in our homes and our local communities, as it our future that is dissolving.

How do we change our community’s apathy into action?
We’ve got your back
Lawyers helping workers and their families since 1935

Members of the MUA are entitled to the following benefits:
+ No Win- No Fee* for various Compensation Claim matters
+ A Free Standard Will for member and their partner*
+ 10% off Family Law Fixed Fees*
+ 10% off Criminal Law Fees
+ 10% off Probate matters
+ All other services at a discounted rate

Our services include:
+ Criminal Law
+ Wills and Estate Planning
+ Employment Claims
+ Insurance Claims
+ Superannuation Claims

WE PROVIDE FREE INITIAL CONSULTATIONS FOR MUA MEMBERS.

GET IN TOUCH
For a referral call 9335 0500

SLATER GORDON
Lawyers

Are you a victim of crime?
You may be entitled to compensation.

As a victim of crime, you may be entitled to compensation, not only for your injury, but also for specific losses incurred as a result of a crime, or alleged crime committed against you.

Who can make a claim?
Pursuant to the Criminal Injuries Compensation Act 2003, you may be eligible to claim compensation if you:
+ are a victim of crime and are injured and/or have suffered financial loss as a result of the injury; or
+ are a close relative of a person killed as a result of an offence.

Compensation can be sought for an incident reported to the police regardless of whether a person has been identified, charged or convicted of the offence.
You may be eligible for compensation if you have suffered physical or mental harm resulting from an offence or alleged offence or committed against you.

What can I claim?
If the incident occurred on or after January 1st 2004, you are entitled to a maximum award of $75,000 for each offence inclusive of any expenses, loss of income and general damages.

Compensation may also cover:
+ pain and suffering;
+ loss of enjoyment of life;
+ loss of income;
+ medical or psychological expenses; and
+ other incidental expenses, such as travel for medical treatment or damage of clothing.

In the case of a death, a close relative can apply for compensation to assist with funeral expenses and loss of financial support.

Are there any time limits?
Yes, time limits apply and the application must be lodged within 3 years of the incident.
If you have not submitted your application within this timeframe, you will need to request an extension as applications lodged after this time may be denied.

Get in touch
To find out what compensation you may be entitled to, contact us for an obligation free chat today.
08 9308 1706
SLATERGORDON.COM.AU

*Conditions apply. Fixed fees apply to professional fees only and excludes disbursements which are charged at cost. No Win — No Fee does not include other party costs. Further conditions apply. See slatergordon.com.au for details.
Coming together to face adversity

Wow, what a momentous occasion…. The unity of two great unions! Never has this happened with a greater need than now.

Once there was a Government for the laborers and one for business. Now, they go out of their way to destroy us.

A union is a family and when they are threatened the only alternative is to stand up and fight for what we believe in. This has been our way throughout the years.

Thanks to the strong women and men who have laid down their lives so many times; families suffering whatever is thrown at them and still standing strong in the face of adversity; the CUB dispute and the Portland dispute.

Our Conference, held at the South Fremantle Football Club, was a huge success, with people attending from all walks of life - international and interstate.

Wonderful speakers included Jacqueline Smith, Mick Buchan, Fred Krausert, our youth committee, Joe Fleetwood and Willie Adams, just to name a few.

Last August, the Women’s Committee designed a painting to be presented to the CFMEU as a gift. Thanks to Emma Cain for her wonderful insight.

From this painting, our conference T-Shirts and stickers were born.

We now have a new women’s committee for 2017 with Cath Shardlow (Chair), Emma Cain (Co-Chair), Mary Prout (Sec), Cath Shardlow (Treasurer), and general members Kai Keremeta and Vicki Helps.

We have just reconvened since our Conference and have decided to hold our meetings via tele-conferences or Skype. This would give the boarded membership the ability to become a part of our discussions.

It will also allow us to deal with more of the issues at hand. There would be a go-to person for people to contact and they would also sit on the National Women’s Committee, hopefully more involvement all round.

A huge thank you to the staff in our MUA office for all their hard work putting the Conference together. Also to the youth, women and all our wonderful members who came in to help. Everything was greatly appreciated.

In unity Mary Prout (Sec) Women’s Committee and National Women’s Committee

Health insurance got you all at sea?
rt have you covered.

Join the MUA health plan and you’ll enjoy:
✓ A $100 petrol or grocery voucher
✓ An immediate waiver of all 2 and 3-month waiting periods
✓ A 30-day money back guarantee
✓ Access to a dedicated helpline and website, just for MUA members

1300 287 609
mua@rthealth.com.au rthealth.com.au/mua

We’re Australian owned, not-for-profit and all about providing our members with great value health cover and service.

* For Terms and Conditions please see our website for details.
Railway & Transport Health Fund Limited (ACN 087 648 744) (“rt health”), 0817/3217
1300 287 609
mua@rthealth.com.au rthealth.com.au/mua

rt health (MEMBERS OWN HEALTH FUND)
I would like to say a huge thanks to the crew from The Thevenand and The Goliath for their kind donations to the Veterans and kindly ask that other vessels consider supporting us by way of Rolling Fund donations.

On recent trips to visit our unwell veterans - Barry Owens, Neal Seebar, Keith Lippiat and Bill Ellis - I can report that they are currently all travelling along quite well.

At the last stop-work meeting, Christy spoke very highly of Charlie Weldon, who recently passed away, smooth sailing comrade.

Our next Veteran function is in the later part of September as our cook is away on holiday. Members will receive an invitation by post.

I am disappointed to advise that we held a hamper raffle at the last stoppy and unfortunately we only managed to make a small profit of $56. On the way home from the meeting I purchased our sick comrades medicine (that comes in cans) from Dan Murphy’s at the cost of $118.

Just a reminder that all retired MUA members will automatically be eligible for membership with the WA MUA Veterans Association which is affiliated nationally with the MUA Veterans. Any current MUA member over 65 years of age is also eligible to join the Veterans, whether he or she is employed or not, along with any member who is incapable of employment through accident or injury.

As a member of the Veterans, you will receive mail-outs notifying you of all future events and the latest MUA news.

The yearly fee is $20 each and payable on application – renewable on the 1st of January each year.

If you would like to be part of the Veteran’s Association, please contact the MUA Office on (08) 9335 0500 and ask one of the girls to send an application form. All the best.

Jimmy Donnelly
Secretary/Treasurer
WA MUA Veteran’s Association
Inaugural MUA-CFMEU Western Australia State Conference April 17

What a memorable five-day experience of enjoying the working-class energies that set the tone for Conference. May a vote of gratitude and thanks be given to all those who organised and made this event happen.

Although the transition period for the MUA-CFMEU (merge) is not yet finalised, I extend a hand of camarade-member of the working class, for a long time rank and file that work anyway and have been from a working-class perspective. For a long time rank and file member of the working class, I extend a hand of camarade-member of the working class, for a long time rank and file member of the working class. For a long time rank and file member of the working class, I extend a hand of camarade-member of the working class, for a long time rank and file member of the working class.

All speakers to Conference, including international and local speakers, delivered powerful messages resonating a common theme that is was a time for change from the bosses’ draconian work place laws, delivered by tory governments both past and present.

On the political front, Sally McManus (ACTU secretary) delivered a bold speech challenging the unjust work-related laws (can anyone remember any of her predecessors doing the same?) - good on you Sally McManus, your message was well received, certainly by accolade anyway. In time, your challenge will be taken up when it’s necessary. One has no doubt you will have many people scurrying about the place in reaction, whether it be in Canberra, or Washington. I am sure the working-class unions will move in your support when needed.

The well-timed rally to “WeakSafe” was very appropriate for conference as we all know one accident is too many, and the figures reveal a shocking number of not only accidents, but deaths. Come on “WeakSafe” we are talking - real lives matter here.

For long time rank and file member of the working class, I extend a hand of camarade-member of the working class, for a long time rank and file member of the working class, for a long time rank and file member of the working class, for a long time rank and file member of the working class, for a long time rank and file member of the working class, for a long time rank and file member of the working class, for a long time rank and file member of the working class, for a long time rank and file member of the working class.

In unity, Des Harding
Field to start the job.
The vessel is Norwegian built, 121m long, accommodates 100 pob and is only two years old, so as Chief Cook it was great to find the galley and accommodation well designed, well maintained and clean and tidy which is a credit to the previous foreign catering crew.

Although having said that, we had a busy trip to Broome, with setting the Mess and Galley up to Australian standards for a construction job. We also had to empty, defrost, clean and sanitize all refrigeration and freezers for Australian quarantine inspection and approval on arrival in Broome.

After taking on fresh Australian supplies, up manning, and final configuration of the construction equipment, it was off to location to start our subsea work with the ROVs.

On completion of my four-weeks swing, it was great to see some smiling faces of casual employees getting off the chopper to join the vessel for some long-awaited work.

Billy Bishop

GENEROSITY

Dear Chris. On behalf of my family and L, we would like to thank you for your kind and generous contribution to the event that was held in support of my recently diagnosed medical condition and the ongoing rehabilitation.

Your kind donation has helped relieve the financial pressures so I can focus on my recovery ahead.

I consider myself extremely fortunate to have such great people in my life.

It was truly overwhelming to have your support behind me.

Please pass on my thanks and appreciation to all.

Sincerely

Patrick Barton

The Ichthys Venturer sets sail for WA coast

The Ichthys Venturer – floating production, storage and offloading (FPSO) facility - has safely sailed away from South Korea on the 15/7/2017 for the Ichthys Field in the Browse Basin, offshore Western Australia.

After successfully completing sea-trials, offshore Geoje Island, the FPSO proudly commenced her 5600km voyage.

The announcement was good news to all personnel. Sincere congratulations to the people on the sail down who have contributed their expertise and determination and enabling us to safely sail away.

“The FPSO complexity, and therefore I would like to extend my thanks to the MUA members for their huge efforts in achieving this massive goal.

Two Posh tugs plus one escort tug will accompany the 356m-long facility and her 157 crew through the East China and Philippines seas and the Indonesian archipelago.

The journey is expected to take one month, subject to weather conditions.

On arrival to location, the FPSO will be positioned in the reconfiguration area just outside the Field where she will undergo the tug reconfiguration and position-keeping trial.

When complete, she will then be towed into the Field and positioned approximately 3.5km away from the Ichthys Explorer – central processing facility.

The facility’s turret will be hooked up to 21 mooring chains, the risers and then umbilicals will be connected and commissioned.

The production phase will start at the end of this year.

MUA Crew
Ichthys Venturer

I’m Proud To Be Union

It’s obvious now that times are hard
Our nations image is deeply scarred.
The Government gives the Unions blame,
And too many of us accept the shame.
Instead of applying the things we’ve learned
We take for granted what our forefathers earned.
Our newest enemy is our Sister or Brother
Ignorance says we fight each other.
These back-stabbing people are so confused
They’re not Union Members, they just pay their dues.
Members don’t tell on their Brother, man.
Or refuse to help when they know they can!
It’s easy to talk, to complain and cuss,
But our Unions future depends on us!!
We can put dignity back in our label.
It won’t be easy, but I know we’re able.
Being strong takes more than a few,
It takes everyone, and that includes you!!

United We Stand!

Generosity

Dear Chris.

On behalf of my family and I, we would like to thank you for your kind and generous contribution to the event that was held in support of my recently diagnosed medical condition and the ongoing rehabilitation.

Your kind donation has helped relieve the financial pressures so I can focus on my recovery ahead.

I consider myself extremely fortunate to have such great people in my life.

It was truly overwhelming to have your support behind me.

Please pass on my thanks and appreciation to all.

Sincerely

Patrick Barton
Who is responsible for what in the MUA WA BRANCH

CHRISTY CAIN
WEST COAST BRANCH SECRETARY & NATIONAL PRESIDENT
Oversees all Branch operations

ADRIAN EVANS
DEPUTY BRANCH SECRETARY
Oversees Stevedoring
Oversees Towage
DP World, LINX, Qube Fremantle, 3 Oceans
ALP, ATSI, Port Committee
National Negotiations

JEFF CASSAR
ASSISTANT BRANCH SECRETARY
Oversees Port Authorities
ABS, Albany, ATIVO, Broome Port Authority, CBH, DMS, Fremantle Port Authority, TGS Security
Safety Workers
Compensation

DANNY CAIN
ASSISTANT BRANCH SECRETARY
Oversees Offshore
Oversees Inshore
Atwood, Broome, Diamond Offshore, DOF, EnSCO, Entier, ESS, Farstad, Inpex, ISS, MV11, Noble, Offshore Alliance, POSH, Pyreneese, Toll Barrow, Shell, Sodexo, Solstad Teekay FPSO, Woodside FPSOs
ACTU, ITF, UnionsWA, Youth

ORGANISERS

GEORGE GAKIS
ORGANISER
AOS, Bhagwan, Boskalis, Dredging International, Exmouth, Geraldton, Go Offshore, Maersk, Mclyn, Onslow, OSM, Shell Sands, SIEM, Svitzer Offshore, Svitzer Towage, Van Oord
Women
Merchandise

DANIEL FALCONE
ORGANISER
EPSL, Ferries, MMAVO, Wharf Labour Hire, Swire, Patrick Terminals, Qube Bunbury
Youth

PAUL BRETT
NORTH-WEST ORGANISER
AMS, Bhagwan, Cape Preston, Go Inshore, MMA Inshore, MSS, Patrick Dampier, QUBE Dampier, Qube Port Hedland, TAMS, Toll Marine, Toll Supply Base West Tug Inshore

LUKE EDMONDS
LEGAL OFFICER

They don’t like us and we don’t care

BRANCH ADMINISTRATION TEAM
Sandra Mirco
Branch Manager/PA to Christy Cain
Sarah Ferguson
Membership Supervisor/Accounts Admin
Lisa Radovanovic
Membership Administrator
Georgia Dixon
Reception/Membership Administrator
Kylee TIlbury
Casual Reception
Home Loan Special

4.09% p.a.
First Rate Owner occupied variable rate

4.15% p.a.
Comparison rate

- Low ongoing variable rate
- Available for new home loans and external refines
- NO monthly account keeping fees
- FREE unlimited redraw

Unity Bank
Your bank at work

Fremantle Branch
2-4 Kwong Alley North Fremantle
p: 9335 0555

Call 1300 36 2000
visit a branch or go online
unitybank.com.au

Interest rate current as at 31/03/2017 and is for owner occupied loans. Interest rate subject to change without notice. Eligibility criteria, terms & conditions, fees & charges apply. Only available for new home loans and refinance from competitor. Minimum home loan balance $150,000. Not available for leg one or internal product switches. Comparison Rate calculated on a home loan amount of $156,000 over a term of 25 years based on monthly repayments. WARNING: This Comparison Rate is true only for the example(s) given and may not include all fees and charges. Different terms, fees or other loan amounts might result in a different Comparison Rate. Unity Bank Ltd ABN 11 087 253 516 AFSL/Australasian Credit Licence 440369.
UNITED WE FIGHT

VOTE YES TO AMALGAMATION
Uniting shared traditions and cultures into a powerhouse union to protect and advance our rights.