



QUEENSLAND BRANCH NEWS

NEWSLETTER of the QLD Branch of the MARITIME UNION of AUSTRALIA

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To be truly radical is to make hope possible, rather than despair convincing - Raymond Williams No. 169 – 22 February 2019

**DP World - Member Letters to the Editor – Letter of Appreciation – Gladstone Tugs Donate Again
Deebing Creek Protest, Come Stand with the Yuggera Ugarapul People - Indigenous Training Report
Meet with Hon Brendan O'Connor MP – Book Review - Cartoon Corner**

Stevedores to Hold Strike Ballot after DP World Threatens Conditions

Source: <https://www.miragenews.com/stevedores-to-hold-strike-ballot-after-dp-world-threatens-conditions/>

WORKERS AT AUSTRALIA'S largest stevedore have been granted approval from the Fair Work Commission to hold a ballot allowing protected strike action in response to what the maritime union described as an “extraordinary act of corporate irresponsibility aimed specifically at hurting workers and their families”.

Wharfies working at container terminals in Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane and Fremantle are outraged after management at DP World Australia — the largest stevedore in the country — moved to strip them of income protection insurance unless they accepted the company's demands.

The FWC imposed a requirement that workers provide management five days notice before going on strike — almost double the standard requirement outlined in the Fair Work Act — in a move the Maritime Union of Australia attacked as a fundamental curtailing of the democratic rights of Australian workers.

The union also committed to appealing the decision, which was granted despite management providing no evidence to justify the exceptional circumstances.

MUA Assistant National Secretary Warren Smith described the actions of DPW as an “extraordinary display of corporate contempt for their workers”, effectively using the wellbeing of workers and their families as a bargaining tool to deny them the opportunity to genuinely negotiate a new workplace agreement.

“In response to DPW's appalling display of corporate hubris and arrogance, the negotiating committee was left with no option but to escalate this dispute and seek an immediate ballot for protected industrial action,” Mr said.

“When management tells workers they must to do things their way or have their family's social protection through income protection insurance terminated, it's no longer a negotiation, it's blackmail.

“Power and the pursuit of profits apparently allows DP World Australia to threaten the wellbeing and security of

workers and their families in the event of unforeseen injury, an entitlement that has been long standing not only to this workforce but to working families generally in our community.

“DPW then decided to double down on those actions by arguing that standard industrial laws shouldn't apply to them and that workers should be forced to provide almost double the legally required notice period before taking strike action.

“These consistent attempts by management to undermine the industrial rights of workers and further undermine our already limited capacity — which have been rubber stamped by the toothless industrial empire — prove definitively why we need to change the rules that govern Australian workplaces.

“Australian workers must have the right to withdraw their labour to protest injustice and attacks on their conditions, and the continuing erosion of those rights gives them little more power than a slave, forced to obey every command from management, no matter how unfair.”

This extraordinary corporate attack coincides with the company becoming majority-owned by multinational operator Global Network Terminal (GNT) Operator Dubai Ports World Dubai after Australia's Future Fund sold its quarter share in the container terminal operator. It also follows the appointment of new CEO Glen Hilton last month.

International Transport Workers' Federation President and MUA National Secretary Paddy Crumlin said DP World Australia's recent corporate behaviour was unprecedented in its negligent appreciation of duty of care to their employees

“In the past, new CEOs at DP World Australia would reach out to our union and seek to create an avenue for consultation and cooperation at the very least,” Mr Crumlin said.

“Already, Paul Scurrah's exit has seen a dramatically damaging turnaround in dialogue with the company which must have gone autonomous as there doesn't seem to be anyone currently at the wheel.

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

73 Southgate Avenue, Cannon Hill QLD 4170

“Despite a number of attempts by myself to talk to management on this issue and others, including management’s sacking of a long-term employee suffering depression and suicidal thoughts on the job, there has been no consultation.

“I had a clear agreement with Mr Scurrah that yet another employee was at great risk due to a recent dismissal and a discrete and inclusive assessment of his condition was required.

“No one there has bothered to tell me or reach out in anyway about a possible way forward on any of these matters other than we should take it up as an unfair dismissal.

“In that matter, the FWC last week gave a scathing critique of how the company treated the original dismissed employee, reiterating all the concerns the union had been making to the company at the time.

The same lack of consultation and respect was given on the change in ownership, according to Mr Crumlin, who also chairs the powerful Dockers Section of the International Transport Workers’ Federation.

“Dubai Ports dockers worldwide are already sending messages of concern and support,” he said.

“If a union acted in the way DPW management have it would be called bullying with blackmail, but Australia’s workplace system is so broken that big businesses now think it is totally acceptable to openly attempt to coerce workers into accepting their demands and denying them basic duty of care rights. That is why we need to change the rules to restore fairness to Australia’s industrial relations system.”

The MUA also hit out at DP World Australia’s suggestions they had made a generous offer to workers by proposing a 2.6 per cent pay rise.

“What this company doesn’t disclose is that they have seen record profits off the back of huge increases in workforce productivity, plus being the first in the implementation of container infrastructure charges which has seen a huge windfall for DP World in the order of around \$50 million,” Mr Smith said.

“Wharfies wages were restrained in the last round of negotiations, setting DP World Australia up for massive profits, yet instead of rewarding those efforts by sharing some of these profits, management have resorted to threats to take it all and attack workers.

“Union members simply want to negotiate around a range of workplace issues, many of which have been in dispute, but management have said all claims must be immediately withdrawn or workers lose their income protection insurance.

“Extraordinarily, management’s latest industrial debacle will leave them worse off, as the company will have to deal with increased overheads if the income protection insurance is cancelled.”

Member Letter to the Editor

Comrades

Please read these two fine letters to the editor from Mackay member Gary Bell addressing our issues in the media. The Branch would like to see more of this in the lead up to the Federal election we need to get our message out there from the rank and file members into their communities!

In unity - Paul Gallagher – Assistant Branch Secretary

Where’s the fair go in an age of anger?

Daily Mercury 16 Feb 2019



Dalrymple Bay (right) and Hay Point.

BHP and BlueScope Steel, without consultation, last month sacked 80 crew (skippers, mates, engineers and integrated ratings) that manned the bulk carriers MV Mariloula and MV Lowlands Brilliance under a 17-year arrangement participated in a tradition of Australian ships having serviced both companies subsequently in this country for more than 100 years.

The Morrison government will issue work visas to replace Australian seafarers to perform and continue this ongoing trading sea route loop, which includes carting iron ore from Port Hedland, WA, to steelworks in Port Kembla, NSW, then loading coal from the east coast to overseas ports.

Early last month the MV Lowlands Brilliance sailed laden with Bowen Basin coal from Dalrymple Bay Coal Terminal bound for Dandong, China.

During this 22-day journey the onboard crews received emails to say their viable employment was over – effectively sacked at sea.

BHP’s use of insecure guest labour will do nothing but increase insecurity, fear and in-

equality – replaced by individuals who undergo no security checks then, to add to insult, do not pay one cent in income tax whilst employed plying our territorial waters.

BHP’s corporate influence over the Australian government, which issues visas for low-wage workers to enable the sacking of these Australian workers, demonstrates the risk to democracy when governments fail to protect their own citizens.

Fear and insecurity in the workplace coupled with stagnant wages are generating an age of anger.

Scott Morrison says “if you have a go, you’ll get a go.”

Really Mr Morrison? Gary Bell,

Letter 2

In reply to your story in the Daily Mercury on Tuesday 19 Feb 2019 ‘Dithering on Mine,’ George Christensen, opportunistic as ever stated, “and that’s why I think there should be a closer working relationship between the CFMEU and the National Party.”

Firstly, George it is 2019 and its now the CFMMEU and your Federal government sought to pass legislation that would have barred the amalgamation of the CFMEU and the MUA only to fail because you never got crossbench support.

In fact, of the full bench of the Federal Court an employer group Australian Mines and Metals Association

(AMMA) now known as Australian Resources and Energy Group wasted their members money in a bid to reverse the merger.

From the Eureka Rebellion in 1854, the striking pastoral workers in Barcaldine in 1908, the wharfies in 1938 in the Dalfram dispute in Port Kembla, the 40 hour week, wage indexation, award provisions, the Patricks dispute thus leading to today with Union activity curtailed has led to the stagnation of worker's wages putting swags of people on struggle street under a Liberal/National party coalition.

Under the National Party superseded by the LNP we had WorkChoices and rule of Campbell Newman as Queensland's Premier.

I have been a member of the Seaman's Union of Australia then the Maritime Union of Australia now the Construction Forestry Maritime Mining and Energy Union and I if am asked to have closer working relationship with the National Party, my membership will end.

As a seafarer I have just seen the demise of two more Australian manned bulk carriers and the complete decimation of the Australian tanker fleet having no product vessel delivering fuel into our ports around Australia relying on 60 full time fuel import tankers supplying our petrol, diesel and jet fuel from Singapore, Korea and Japan thus exposing the Great Barrier Reef to substandard vessels crewed by cheap foreign labour. Australia's fuel security is running on empty.

The conservative side of politics through their right wing think tanks and employer groups have fought tooth and nail against workers' wage rises and better working conditions.

So George if you think there will be a closer working relationship between this unionist and the National party after what I have seen done to Australian seafarer's livelihoods in their employment in their own country you can think again!! **Gary Bell - Eimeo**

Appreciation Letter

I WOULD LIKE to take this opportunity to thank Bob Carnegie and the Branch for the wonderful opportunity to serve as a relief official, (in the absence of Paul Petersen, who was on a well deserve and long overdue holiday).

The level of support I received from all of the Branch officials, office personnel and the membership was truly uplifting and reminded me why I am committed and extremely proud of this union.

The experience of helping the working class throughout the port and our industry not only gave me an appreciation of what our officials do, but it reinstated the core values I've held in high regards for my entire working life.

I got to see the big picture and know that we must lead the charge and stand against union busting outfits, corporate greed and wage theft and daily attacks on working people. We must fight to maintain our industries wages and conditions, and band together to

“Change The Rules” for a fairer playing field with a return of our rights to withdraw labor and our right to strike. So eventually we may have something that we can hand over to our next generation and for generations to come.

Thank you. *In unity – Anthony Crookall*

Gladstone Tugs Donate Again



IN ONE OF the most humbling experiences on behalf of MUA members on the Gladstone tugs we proudly donated \$1000 to Rosella Park School which they may use for more sensory toys for their students. Rosella is a school for some of our most vulnerable children and the staff there do a wonderful job! *In Unity – Phil Hansen*

The Heroic Resistance and Struggle of our First Nations People

By Mike Barber 6224

THE QUEENSLAND BRANCH of the CFMMEU, initiated by Branch Secretary Bob Carnegie, organised a “Building on the Strengths of our Stories” workshop based solely upon providing a greater insight into “how we are” as Australia's **FIRST** Peoples.

‘History of Settlement is a history of how through the continued lie of “Terra Nullius” our First Peoples faced systematic racial, physical, cultural, language, discrimination and exclusion from political and economic power,’ John Pilger.

Conducted by Aboriginal leaders in Professor Leann Wilson, Terry O’Shane and Barrister Josh Creamer, we learned not only the racist methodology behind successful and deliberate destruction of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples as human beings, but also through deliberate dispossession of their ancestral lands and natural resources upon which they have survived upon for over 60 thousand years as the original and longest living cultural inhabitants on this continent.

We learnt also that despite a long history of our Union's strong and continued support for Aboriginal and T.I people's recognition, the majority of us admitted to knowing far less than we thought. It took well researched and initial historic records to document the legal and physical imposition upon them. This violent and

genocidal approach by the British colonial occupation, showed how by denial of the original peoples as human beings, indeed were designated as “barbarians” This convenient view provided Colonial expediency to the rape of their culture, laws and traditions and eventually the intentional separation of families and ‘Mobs’ which we identify in the “Stolen Generations.” Collectively we proposed two things, that in this election year:

1. We elevate the Uluru Statement from the Heart as the basis for recognition in the Constitution as a political platform
2. We seek to enhance learning this same elevation to the QCU, ACTU and all trade unions.

Deebing Creek Protest, Come Stand with the Yuggera Ugarapul People

THE TRADITIONAL LAND owners of Deebing Creek, the Yuggera Ugarapul people and supporters have set up a permanent camp on the Deebing Creek Mission site, (south of Ipswich). The site is under threat from a development corporation, Frasers Property. The company purchased the 115 hectares of land in 2015 and are proposing to clear over 100 hectares of bushland to develop a sprawling housing project, which would require the clearing of thousands of trees. Frasers Property wish to bulldoze the land to build 925-lot housing estate on and around the heritage-listed Aboriginal mission and cemetery.

This development falls under a State Government ‘Priority Development Area’ which means that no-one in the community gets any opportunity to submit comments or lodge legal objections against the development. It is being assessed behind closed doors without public input. The rightful Aboriginal owners of the land have been cut out of the process altogether.

We haven’t yet heard where Jennifer Howard (the State MP for Ipswich) stands on this project, but we’re hoping the State Government will intervene to say no to bulldozing of this large area of bushland. One option would be for the government to buy back this site and work with the rightful Aboriginal owners to manage it for the benefit of future generations.



Deebing Creek Mission has a dark and brutal history of inflicting atrocities on first Nations people. By forcibly removing people from their traditional lands and forcing

them to live and work on the Mission grounds. These atrocities also include stolen children, stolen wages and forcing children old than 12 to work on neighbouring farming without pay. Deebing Creek was one of the first Aboriginal missions in Queensland, but many people don’t realise that Aboriginal families were living and hunting on this site right up until the 1950s and 60s.

You can support the occupation by sharing supportive posts on social media, and by emailing Ipswich@parliament.qld.gov.au to raise your concerns about the project.

Most importantly, you can help by showing up to join the blockade if the bulldozers start rolling in. We expect that in the next few weeks, Frasers may begin initial work on stage 1 to start clearing trees.

**Yuggera Ugarapul Tribal Nations
Call Out for On the Ground Support**



**IMMEDIATE
CALL TO ACTION**

WHERE? DEEBING CREEK MISSION
Grampian Drive, Deebing Heights
This location holds a lot of significance to a lot of Aboriginal families.

WHO? Activists, Civil Disobedience, People prepared to be Arrested and Locked On - Join Us now!
All who are willing to put their bodies on the line at Deebing Creek Mission ASAP.

BRING BYO tents, placards, banners, wet weather gear
Also seeking technical support (visual, audio, IT)

The Branch, to date has donated the use of a large canvas tent, a large esky full of food and a large chain and lock to help lock the gate.

Ciaran McLennan, Anthony Crookall and I have been out to Deebing Creek a few times now and have helped to set up camp. We need more to show support.

I have invited three Yuggera Ugarapul elders to come and speak at this months Branch meeting to address the situation and that of the 37 aboriginal families in Toowoomba who are facing immediate eviction from their rented properties.

See you there.

In unity - Paul Petersen – Assistant Branch Secretary

Your Invitation to Drinks with the Hon Brendan O'Connor MP

Hi

TERRI BUTLER MP
A STRONG VOICE FOR THE SOUTHSIDE



Brendan O'Connor will be in town on the 26th of February. I'm

inviting branch members and union delegates to come along to the Piney for a beer that evening at 5.30, for a chat with him about Labor's plans for industrial relations and employment if we win government. There's no door price for ALP members and union delegates.

See you there!

Terri

You're invited to drinks with
Terri Butler MP
Shadow Minister for Young Australians and Youth Affairs
Shadow Minister for Employment Services, Workforce Participation and Future of Work,
and special guest
Hon Brendan O'Connor MP
Shadow Minister for Employment and Workplace Relations

From 5:30 pm
Tuesday, 26 February 2019
at the Pineapple Hotel
706 Main St, Kangaroo Point QLD 4169

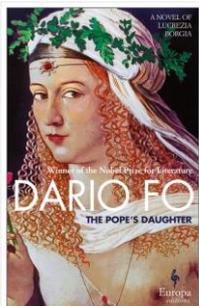
This event is open to ALP members, union officials, and workplace delegates.

No door price.

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Authorised by Terri Butler Australian Labor 630 Wynnum Rd, Morningside, Qld.

Book Review by Craig Buckley

The Pope's Daughter by Dario Fo (2014)



DARIO FO, WINNER of the 1997 Nobel Prize for Literature, was best known as a playwright and actor, and did not pen *The Pope's Daughter* (his first novel), until the age of 88. In the English-speaking world he is perhaps best known for plays

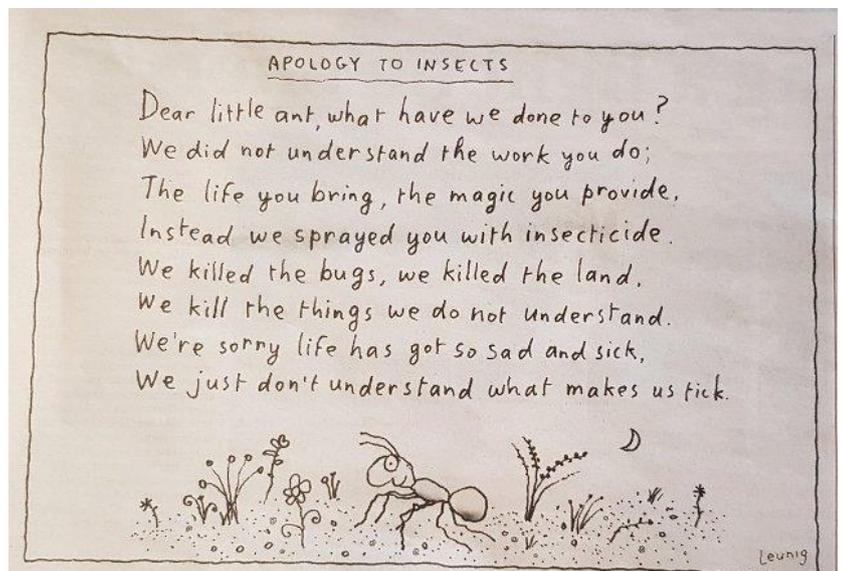
such as *Can't Pay, Won't Pay*, and *The Accidental Death of an Anarchist*.

In his native Italy, however, his best-known (and most-performed) play is *Mistero Buffo*, a series of comic monologues in which Fo displays a wonderful irreverence toward the Bible stories, religion, and the priesthood. That same anti-clerical irreverence can be found in *The Pope's Daughter*, which tells the life story of Lucrezia Borgia, daughter of the man who became Pope Alexander VI. Lucrezia Borgia is an historical figure of late 15th early 16th Century Italy, about whom many lurid tales are told – involving incest, prostitution, murder, poisoning her husband – but the sources of these tales are largely rumour and the politically-motivated allegations of the Borgia family's enemies.

Fo offers a surprisingly sympathetic account of Lucrezia's life. Lucrezia was certainly used by her family in their opportunistic machinations – they married her off three times when they thought it politically advantageous, the first time before she turned eleven. But Fo's account gives us a different picture than the common one-dimensional caricatures, depicting Lucrezia as an educated, intelligent and dignified woman, who despite her flaws, made her own history as a patron of the arts, an able administrator/city governor, founder of one of the first credit unions, and a skillful political actor in her own right (at one meeting standing in for the Pope as head of the Catholic Church).

Fo writes with a conversational style full of modern idiom, rather laid back for an historical novel, but I found it quite readable. In fact, it seems Fo was not sure whether this work should have been a novel, an historical biography, or a play, and so it reads like a mixture of all three. Anyone with a particular interest in reading about the Borgia family or Renaissance Italy should consider getting the hard copy rather than the e-book version, as the book contains quite a few colourful sketches of the characters, drawn by Fo himself.

Cartoon Corner



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