

## WorkLife Alliance

### **Minutes of General Meeting Wednesday, 21 February 2007**



Meeting was held at the Queensland Council of Unions

Meeting started at 6:00pm

**Chairperson:** ROSS GWYTHER

#### **Present:**

Laura Velm, Maggie May, Mark Gillespie, Janis Bailey, Lauren Mellor, Carl Taylor, Angela Ballard, Martin Thomas, Sharon O'Neill, Ian Rintoul, Ross Gwyther, Jim Sharp, Adrian Pollock

#### **Apologies:**

Ron Baker, Paul Groening

#### **Minutes of Last Meeting:**

The Minutes were taken as read and were accepted.

#### **Correspondence:** Nil

A renewal notice has been received for the post box (which is currently paid in full by Just Peace). It was agreed that we would approach Just Peace with a proposal to pay half each.

**Action:** **Adrian Pollock** is to sort this out with Just Peace.

#### **Reports:**

*Financial* – The current balance is \$303.65 (exclusive of tonight's donations).

*Community Actions* – Crossroads Meeting. Maggie reported on her attendance at a meeting with various groups looking at holding a public meeting in the City Hall as a lead-up to the next federal election. The meeting is planned for the end of July. Themes to be covered are Indigenous issues, industrial relations/welfare-to-work issues, nuclear power/environmental issues, and foreign policy/human rights. The organizers are looking to get high-profile speakers aimed at a broad cross-section of the community.

The general feeling of this meeting was that WorkLife endorses the proposal and will send a representative to the organizing meetings. This representation may be shared with representation by the Social Action Office (SAO).

**Action:** **Maggie May and Ross Gwyther to liaise with Crossroads organizing committee, call for anyone else from WorkLife who may want to be involved.**

*Community Actions* – Netballers Dispute. At this time, there appears to be little scope for action as we have not been able to make contact with the netballers who are in dispute with the Netballers Association.

Without support from the players and their union (AWU), we cannot take independent action. **ACTION Monitor dispute and continue to seek contact with Netballers involved.**

*Community Actions* – Woodside Petroleum/Origin Energy Dispute. This dispute centres around the sacking of workers (mainly union delegates and WH&S reps), and their replacement with non-union labour. Before undertaking any action, it was agreed that we should get more information about the dispute (which union is involved, what's the exact nature of the dispute, what are the links between Origin Energy in Victoria and Queensland).

**Action:** **Maggie May** is to get more information regarding local Origin site. Lauren Mellor to get more information from Union Solidarity about the Vic dispute.

**Action:** a further meeting is to be held as and when required to endorse any action

*Vulnerable Workers' Study* – a project is underway to interview vulnerable workers, women in specific areas including retail, childcare and aged care for research project conducted by Griffith and Qld University.

**Action:** **All** - if you know anyone who is willing to be interviewed for this, contact Janis Bailey via the Yahoo Group

## General Business:

*Activities for 2007* – the main item of general business was planning for 2007. A list of possible activities was proposed as follows:

1. Labour Day – a stall or other activity
2. Crossroads – involvement in this community event
3. A social event – such as a community picnic
4. educational work – debate or discussion on what WorkLife wants to see in lieu of Workchoices or the Welfare to Work legislation
5. A WorkLife workshop to educate ourselves about the issues
6. Community/Market stalls – for example, a stall at the Family Day event
7. helping with the ACTU marginal seats campaign (or getting someone to talk to WorkLife about what is happening with this campaign)
8. Queensland Day activity
9. Invite Dave Kerin from Union Solidarity to come to Brisbane to speak
10. Pickets and other solidarity actions
11. A comedy night – say with David Peetz group
12. Approaching the unions for donations to WorkLife
13. Politics in the pub or a soapbox night
14. Lunchtime event in the city (such as a speaker at the Irish club)
15. SAO event on 1 May in the Parliamentary Annex – Father Frank Brennan will be speaking at an all-day seminar
16. International Women's Day – this year it is on the theme of working women

From this list, we agreed to work on the following at this time:

- No.1 – it was agreed to participate in Labour Day, with the following actions to be taken:
  - Register to have a stall (cost \$25) – **Action:** - **Ross Gwyther** to arrange
  - Prepare a leaflet for the day to advertise a WorkLife event (yet to be decided)
  - Have suburban stalls in the weeks leading up to Labour Day to mobilize interest for the day
  - Canvas who would be interested in being part of a WorkLife contingent in the march
  - Pay to get some WorkLife balloons for the march – **Action:** - **Janis Bailey to get price**
- No.5 – we agreed to have a WorkLife workshop on a Saturday (exact date and time is yet to be determined), with possibly James Whelan (Change Agency) to speak/facilitate. Also, perhaps Jacqueline King could speak about ACTU policy
- No.14 – we agreed to investigate the possibility of having an event in the Irish Club.  
**Action:** - **Angela Ballard** is to see if Frank Brennan is available to speak when he is in Brisbane
- No.16 – we agreed to participate at International Women's Day:
  - Register to have a stall at IWD (cost \$15) – **Action:** - **Lauren Mellor** to arrange.
  - Produce a leaflet – **Action:** - **Janice Bailey** to arrange
  - Send an email notice to members via the Yahoo Group – **Action:** - **Maggie May** to arrange
  - Try to come up with a WorkLife slogan to be used on the day

## Next Meeting:

The next meeting of the full group will be:

Date: Wednesday, 21 March 2007

Time 6.00pm start

Place QCU Building

Meeting closed at 8.30pm

*Minute Taker:* Adrian Pollock