



SIGNAL SEVEN

9 October 2017

Welcome to this edition of Signal 7.

Enterprise Bargaining

Enterprise Bargaining negotiations continue. During the meetings so far, we have received an explanation of the ACTF&R claim, and the intent of their claim. We have also discussed aspects of our claim that relate to the overall negotiations in ACT Government (“the core negotiations”).

We are now explaining our claim, and will continue to do this at our next negotiation. Once that has taken place, we expect to move into more detailed discussion and negotiation.

A full report will be provided at a members’ meeting. Details of the meeting are:

UFU Members’ General Meeting
Thursday 19 October (D Platoon night shift, C Platoon day shift)
18.30
Stromlo Room, Woden Tradies, Cnr. Launceston & Furzer Sts.
Woden

Comcen

The Workplace Consultative Committee on Comcen has now met 3 times. We are obtaining further detail of what is proposed, and how the project will progress. A full report will be provided at the members meeting.

Graeme Gallagher retirement

The BCOM recently lost one of our experienced office holders with the retirement of Graeme Gallagher. Graeme has been a stalwart of the union for many years, and has made a particularly strong contribution in the area of Occupational Health and Safety.

A retirement function for Graeme Gallagher (and Ross Turton) will be held:
Friday 13 October, from 5 pm
Canberra Club
51 Blackall St, Barton.

New BCOM members

Following the loss of Graeme Gallagher from the BCOM, a “reshuffle” has occurred. Steve Geerdink replaces Graeme as Vice President, and Peter Telford moves to the Junior Vice President Position. Under the UFU rules, where a vacancy exists well into BCOM’s term of office, the position can be filled by the BCOM without an election. In this instance, the vacant trustee position left by Steve Geerdink has been filled by Mark Rowley. Congratulations all on your appointments, and welcome Mark.

We have a remaining BCOM Trustee position vacant, and our preference is to appoint an A platoon member to that role. It is very important that the BCOM is representative of all platoons so that we can optimise information flow. If you are interested, please email Greg McConville (secretary@ufuact.asn.au) to express interest.

Wellness conference

Members are reminded to read the previously distributed National Bulletin concerning the Firefighter Wellness conference held in Hobart. This will also be discussed at the members' meeting.

Tasmania Branch Secretary Greg Cooper - Rest in peace.

On Wednesday last week the streets of Hobart were lined by over 150 firefighters who formed a guard of honour for UFU Tasmania Secretary Greg Cooper, who passed away last Sunday. Greg was a strong contributor to the national and international work of the UFU, and among his many achievements was the successful campaign to obtain presumptive legislation for Tasmanian firefighters.

The ACT Branch was represented by Secretary Greg McConville, and the National Executive was well represented with Peter Marshall delivering a fitting eulogy at the funeral service. Greg's death from colorectal cancer serves as a reminder to all of us to, in his words as quoted by his daughter at his funeral, "Get your bums checked". Yes, Greg maintained his humour and directness right to the end.

Brigade Recruitment

The pressure applied by the UFU throughout the last year has resulted in further recruitment of firefighters. We welcome to ACT Fire and Rescue and to the ACT UFU Branch the 9 firefighters undertaking orientation and training at the training college following a lateral recruitment campaign. Several of the 9 recently moved from the Northern Territory, and were grateful for the provision of UFU beanies in the depths of Canberra winter. They will soon be on station, and we trust that all members will make them feel welcome!

In addition, recruitment is underway for College 39. This college will include 16 recruits, and may also include up to 2 additional graduates of the Indigenous Fire and Rescue Employment Strategy (IFARES) program run by NSW Fire and Rescue in conjunction with TAFE NSW. The inclusion of these two graduates will be subject to them successfully completing the necessary entrance tests for ACT Fire and Rescue, such as Physical Aptitude Test and Beep Test. The UFU supports this initiative, and as usual we look forward to a successful recruitment process, a high-quality college delivered by ACT Fire and Rescue personnel, and an excellent cohort of graduates in 2018.

We will continue to work towards a further recruit college being undertaken in the second half of 2018.

Retired Members' Division

Further to the email sent to you on this topic, we intend to have a formal launch of this initiative combined with our Annual General Meeting in early December this year. It will also be an end of year celebration, with some of the retired members present. Details will follow in the next Signal 7.

Authorised by Greg McConville, Secretary, UFU, A.C.T. Branch.

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