



WORD BACK

No.20/2018
6 August 2018

A B C D Day Retained

Mid-Term Pay Increase

Advice was received today that this matter is progressing in the Employment Tribunal with the support of the MFS. I hope and anticipate that I will be able to advise you of the finalisation of the matter very soon.

Engineering Department

It's always good to meet with UFU members employed in the MFS Engineering Department and we most recently met on 31 July 2018 to discuss issues of concern, including Babcock and Brown becoming involved in the management of the workshop.

The union understands that the MFS has engaged Babcock & Brown Australasia to consult with and support the MFS engineering services including reducing outsourcing of maintenance, enhancing the supply chain and the stores, and upgrading logistics and scheduling.

Members are heartened by the MFS agreeing to convert three contract positions to permanent employment and we are further encouraged by the stated intent to rebuild this facility as a centre of excellence.

Babcock & Brown themselves admit that they come with a history and baggage; in this instance however, the company has firmly stated that the MFS are in control of the direction and decision-making, giving them their brief, which is to rebuild the Engineering Department within the Service in order that high customer satisfaction is delivered by the emergency service technicians employed by the MFS.

Members say they're prepared to give this initiative their best efforts, but they also know the proof is in the pudding, so we'll keep you all informed of progress.



Leave Update

In accordance with agreed consultative provisions, the MFS consults with the UFU on a regular basis about work-related practices. Here is one of the recent issues which may be of interest to you, which have been considered by the UFU State Council and addressed with the MFS.

Leave Request Pending – Prior to the introduction of GARTAN, applicants could apply for leave irrespective of the allocations available at the time of booking. The applicant would be placed on a waiting list and would be contacted if there was a cancellation and the leave became available.

Members have expressed concern that this waiting-list provision is no longer available and that you are now required to repeatedly check the leave count report on GARTAN, to see if booked leave has been cancelled and become available, before proceeding to request leave.

State Council considers this a significant change to work practice which is unfair to members who don't have access to GARTAN at home and to those who simply don't have time to be checking the leave count report constantly.

The UFU understands that GARTAN can facilitate a waiting list or "pending" provision for where a member is requesting leave in a period but there is none currently available. (GARTAN Help File 10a Leave count report) "Pending" would simply mean there is a leave request pending (date and time stamped) which has not been approved or denied.

The UFU has raised this issue with the MFS and sought the ability for members to have your request "pending" until, if or when, a cancellation occurs and the leave becomes available, in the order that the request was submitted and time stamped.

Members will be kept advised of progress on this matter.

Firefighters really are good people doing good things...

It was wonderful to be sent this picture along with the following words from Jade:

"Exiting the doctors in St Clair we saw a fire truck and went for a look. Fireman Craig immediately jumped out and fulfilled every little person's (and this big person's) idea of a fireman. He invited my girls to have photos with the truck, he boosted them up to sit in the back and carefully lifted them to the ground. He taught them the key to being a great firefighter and told them about the amazing female firefighters he has as colleagues. He showed them kindness, fun and respect and they looked at him like a superhero."



What fireman Craig didn't know was that one of my daughters suffers from anxiety and some other "issues", what fireman Craig doesn't know is that when he extended his amazing kindness, my daughter just come from a doctor's appointment that had her in a completely negative and anxious state. What fireman Craig doesn't know, he completely saved that moment for her from spiralling down to complete self-hatred and criticism, to fun and joy and excitement. What fireman Craig doesn't know is that when I shook his hand to thank him, I

was thanking him with my everything, for my sanity and from the depth of my desperate parental state... Not just for the few minutes he spared for us.

Fireman Craig, you legend, thank you for being just an amazing human.

By the way, being an ace firefighter = being good at maths, trying very hard with your reading and being really good for Mum!!!

Sorry Craig, if this is a bit embarrassing but I promised Jade that we would share this wonderful story and let you all know how proud we are of you.

Shop Stewards/Work Health & Safety Representatives (WHSRs)

Nominations for the above positions have closed and the results will be published on our website shortly. There are still some vacancies which we are seeking to fill – please do remember this is an important representative role, not just with the roll out of the current EA discussions, but the log of claims for the next EA will be developed and negotiations will commence in 2019. Make sure your voice is heard.

WHSR Training

Work Health and Safety is one of the most critical issues we confront so having a trained WHSR for your workplace ensures you can raise and pursue matters of concern ensuring that the provisions of the Work Health and Safety Act are enacted.

In the first year of their three-year term of office, WHSRs are encouraged to attend a five-day training course endorsed by the MFS. The next training course will be conducted at the UFU office from 27 to 31 August 2018. Please let us know ASAP if you're interested in participating by calling 8352 7211 or emailing us info@ufusa.com.au

Governance Training

UFU State Council and staff are required by legislation to undertake prescribed governance training within six months of election. This training is being delivered at the UFU office this Thursday, 9 August 2018 so please don't be surprised if you encounter our answering machine should you ring us that day. If you leave a message, we will return your call as soon as possible. My apology for any inconvenience.

Vale Jock Nicholl

I regret to advise members of the passing of retired UFU member Station Officer Arthur (Jock) Nicholl who commenced work with the MFS on 28 May 1951 and retired on 19 July 1989 after serving at Port Adelaide, Norwood, Adelaide, North Adelaide, Ridgehaven, Gepps Cross and Semaphore. Jock passed away on 25 July 2018 aged 91 and was farewelled on Wednesday, 1 August 2018 with bagpipes and a guard of honour.

This notice has been included in Word Back as the UFU was unable to acknowledge Jock in the usual way owing to The Advertiser failing to publish our notice.

REMINDERS:

PFAS Blood Testing

Members and retired members who have been employed by the MFS and who may have been exposed to firefighting foam containing per- and poly-fluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) are reminded that you are encouraged to participate in the current blood testing initiative.

It is NOT too late.

All current and retired members are encouraged to take part now by calling either Ms Clara Cipriani at the MFS on 08 82043738 or by registering with us at the UFU on 83527211 and we will forward on your details. *Please don't delay.*

Retention Leave – Important Reminder

Please remember to act *soon* if you are considering a payout of your 2017/2018 Retention Leave balance; to achieve this, you **must** act before 31st August 2018. See WordBack No 15 and/or contact the UFU Office on 83527211 if any doubt.

Retirement Social

Don't forget the Retirement Social is being held on Friday, 31 August 2018. The UFU is pleased to once again join the FSCU and the Firefighters' Fund as a sponsor of the Retirement Social and we look forward to seeing you there.

In solidarity

Max Adlam

UFU Secretary