



# WORD BACK

No.25/2018  
11 September 2018

A  B  C  D  Day  Retained



In honour and remembrance on the 17<sup>th</sup> anniversary of 9/11, of the extraordinary bravery demonstrated by firefighters and of the tremendous sacrifices by those who serve and protect community.

2,996 people were killed and more than 6,000 injured on 11 September 2001 by the attacks, with many more fatalities in the months and years that followed, from 9/11 – related cancer and respiratory diseases.

Nearly all of those who perished were civilians with the exceptions of 343 firefighters, 72 law enforcement officers, 55 military personnel, and the 19 terrorists who died in the attacks.

## We Remember



## Broadspectrum

UFU members employed by Broadspectrum at Edinburgh and Woomera have been hard at work preparing their log of claims ready for negotiations with the company commencing in October 2018. Site meetings will be held in the next few weeks for members to discuss and confirm their claims prior to them being put to the company.

## Work Health and Safety

Thank you to all who nominated this year as MFS WHSRs / UFU Shop stewards and deputies and I'm pleased to report that everyone who nominated has been appointed in the role. There are still some vacancies however, so please let us know if you're interested.

The new list of WHSRs has been provided to the MFS and hopefully your WHSR's names and contact details will soon be appearing on a WHS noticeboard in your workplace. This is a requirement under the *Work Health and Safety Act* and the MFS have agreed to provide and hang WHS noticeboards for every workgroup. The names of WHSR's are also displayed on our website [www.ufusa.com.au](http://www.ufusa.com.au)

If you do not currently have a WHS noticeboard, please contact WHS Manager Mr Steve Pavlich on 8204 3649 ASAP to request one.

Work Health and Safety Representatives (WHSRs) are reminded of your entitlement to approved WHS training of five days in your first year of election to the position, three days in your second and two days in your third year.

A three-day WHS training course will be conducted on 29 – 31 October 2018 for those of you who have completed the five-day training course already. Please call us at the UFU office on 8352 7211 or email [info@ufusa.com.au](mailto:info@ufusa.com.au) if you would like to enrol.

## Fire Safety at the Adelaide Show

It was inspiring to watch UFU members at work at the Royal Adelaide Show last week, teaching children about fire safety.

Youngsters were lining up to take a turn on the roll mat, enthusiastically encouraged and supported by our fabulous MFS crews to learn to drop and roll.

Other children spent time colouring in and folding fire safety materials and just having fun with our gorgeous MFS firefighters and staff.

I'm advised that the MFS show stand received a high commendation and even more importantly, no doubt MFS personnel inspired more than a few little future firefighters.

Once again it's "Good people doing good things"; warmest congratulations to all involved.

## NSW Breathing Apparatus Issue

The Union has been advised that members in the NSW Fire and Rescue Service are experiencing operational issues with their MSA SCBA and strict limitations and precautionary measures have been implemented by the NSWFRS accordingly.



Despite the different model of SCBA being used in NSW, the items most closely associated with their issue is the Auto-MaXX demand valve, which is the same as used in the SAMFS. We're told that the problem is with the demand valve freezing and locking either open or closed.

**NO similar problems however have been reported to date within SAMFS operations.**

MFS management has advised that they believe that there is no need to adjust operational or after use procedures with SCBA sets; the situation will be monitored, and any developments will be shared with us as they become available.

Meanwhile our sources say that the NSW problem may relate to the after-use cleaning, with the maintenance regime outsourced.

MFS in-house BATA workshop members continue to look after our firefighters diligently and are assisting in the NSW investigation.

### **Engineering Department**

UFU members employed in the MFS Engineering Department recently met to discuss a range of issues including the new project with Babcock. The group subsequently paid a site visit to Babcock's workshop in Dry Creek in order to see how they run their own business.

It is understood that Babcock's will initially be looking at the stores area of the Engineering Department, with a view to ensuring that spare parts are available and accessible in order that repairs to appliances can be effected on short turnaround. Babcock's tell us that their keywords are responsible, accountable, consulted and informed and we look forward to this being demonstrated in management of the MFS Engineering Department.

### **UFU State Council**

Your UFU State Councillors are keeping very busy with our meetings every month chock full of issues and business to be conducted. We completed the governance training last month which emphasised that the key focus of Council is to make all decisions in the best interests of the members and to be open and transparent in the governance of our union. It's heartening that every member of State Council has a firm and active commitment to this.

The next meeting of State Council will be this week on Thursday 13 September at 0930 hours at the UFU Office 148 South Road, Torrensville. We will not only be discussing our proposed budget and finances, but also issues such as SFF Level 2, Rural Fire Training, the MFS Grassfire Appliance Trial, proposed First Aid Trauma Training, and proposed modifications to SOP4, to name just a few. Acting DCO Roy Thompson will also be attending in the afternoon to outline to Council, proposals for a behaviour management system in line with the MFS Doctrine.

Members are always welcome to attend as observers and it's pleasing that some of you do take the opportunity; please let us know by calling the office on 83527211 if you're planning to come, so we can ensure you're properly catered for.

### **Union office break in**

I'm sorry to have to report that the garage in the rear yard of the union office has recently been subjected to forced entry. This matter has been reported to SAPOL and the matter is being investigated. Meanwhile office security has been upgraded and if any member has information about this matter you're urged to contact us at the UFU on 83527211.

## **Prostate Awareness *Trailblazer by the Sea***

The UFU is again supporting the Prostate Cancer Foundation which has an event coming up on Sunday October 28 called *Trailblazer by the Sea*.

This is a walk or run along the seafront finishing at Henley Surf Club with various distances to choose from – 8 km, 14 km, 28 km or 36 km. The plan is to field a large team of firies and our families and friends and make people aware of prostate cancer which has affected so many of our firefighting family.

Why not put this event in your diary and get your workmates involved too?

Start planning your distance while staying tuned for more information soon on registration, ordering a new UFU running singlet and more.

In solidarity

**Max Adlam**

**UFU Secretary**