



WORDBACK

No.02/2019
21 January 2019

A B C D Day Retained

WORKING BEE – UFUSA OFFICE – CAN YOU SPARE SOME TIME TO HELP?

The State Council is currently embarked upon the long overdue project of repairing and refurbishing our union office at 148 South Road Torrensville.

As one of our biggest union assets, it is important that it is maintained in good order, whether or not South Road ends up eventually being widened at Torrensville rather than tunnelled.

We are aiming for our union office to become a friendly and welcoming place for you the membership to visit, as well as a safe and productive working environment for staff.



To that end, we invite you to participate in a working bee scheduled for **Wednesday 6 February and Thursday 7 February** for the next stages of the renovations. This work will include some demolition, furniture removal, gardening work and miscellaneous tasks under the direction of our illustrious President and State Councillors.

The Working Bee will start at 1000hours and finish at 1600 hours each day.

A BBQ lunch will be provided; please wear appropriate protective gear and BYO hand tools if possible, particularly battery drills. Even an hour or two of your time would be a really great help to our ongoing efforts; you'll get to see your union as you've never seen it before!

Please RSVP for catering purposes to rhiannon@ufusa.com.au or call us on 83527211.

PFAS REPORT

Largs North Station Crews continue to operate from the Police Academy while remediation plans for the Largs North Station are developed and implemented; further test results are expected by late January which will inform the plans for the contaminated site.

Meanwhile the UFU remains concerned about the potential for there to be other clusters identified and accordingly the attached survey has once again been included with this WordBack in order that information can be provided to the union for assessment of this.

In line with the MFS direction, UFU Members are urged not to consume or take home, anything produced on any station whether fruit, vegies or eggs. Future production of comestibles is also being held in abeyance pending further tests, investigations and decontamination.

As previously stated, all UFU members and retired members are urged to participate in the PFAS Testing Programme even if you do not believe you have had exposure to the firefighting foam in the past. Some members who have returned high results have never used the PFAS firefighting foam.

We are advised that greater numbers involved in the testing will increase the validity of the results, so you will also be helping others while *ensuring you receive and record important information*.

The offer of free testing to family members of those affected by high blood level results continues and we strongly encourage participation in this program.

The UFUSA understands that while there are a range of health conditions associated with the presence of PFAS in the human body, these are not yet scientifically/medically accepted as a direct link. Nevertheless, the

evidence of impact on humans, particularly in the US, is compelling and we urge members to take this matter very seriously as we believe this is an emerging health issue, not just in Australia but globally.

You can get the referral documents for the blood test from the MFS through Clara Cipriani 0436 406 905 or by email Clara.Cipriani@sa.gov.au or Steve Pavlich on 0419 806 295 or by email steve.pavlich@sa.gov.au

If you have any difficulties, please do not hesitate to contact the UFU office on 8352 7211 for assistance.

Members in country areas are advised that you are able to have blood taken for testing at a number of regional locations, rather than have to come to Adelaide – please email steve.pavlich@sa.gov.au to make the necessary arrangements and obtain the written referral.

KAPUNDA STATION TAKES AWARD FOR FAMILY FRIENDLY

It was a great honour to attend the MFS Kapunda Fire Station on 14 January 2019 to present the Family Friendly Award to the Kapunda Crew led by SO Mike Prior, together with Commander Eckermann. It's not the first time Kapunda have been presented with this Award having most recently won it in 2016.



Firefighters, both full and part time, provide a vital emergency service to our community and we know how hard if not impossible it'd be to do that without the generous understanding and support of our families. I was fortunate to be visiting Kapunda Station on the Assessment night last year so I can attest to the fantastic turnout, welcome and support from the families and friends present, not to mention the extensive delicious supper they provided! Thank you all.

The Family Friendly Award is a perpetual Award provided to Retained Firefighters by the UFUSA with the elaborate trophy held and displayed at the winning station until the presentation of it to the following year's victor. Kapunda Station are proud of their efforts and Shop Steward Wayne Arthur showed me the smaller trophy the crew organised themselves, so they'd have an ongoing memory of their 2016 win to proudly display at the station. State Council will be asked to support this initiative in future.

BROADSPECTRUM ENTERPRISE AGREEMENT

The negotiations for the new Broadspectrum Enterprise Agreement commenced late last year and are scheduled to continue on 22 January 2019 with a meeting between the company and union representatives in Adelaide.

UFU DIARIES

Thank you to the members who have so very helpfully let us know about the small errors in our new diary (eg there are two 25/1/19's but no 26/1!) great work and we intend coming back to you to assist us with your beady eyes on the proofs of next year's diary! Other errors are in the 2020 calendar in the diary which we will provide an update for.

In solidarity

Max Adlam

UFU Secretary



A DATE TO REMEMBER

FIREFIGHTERS' BALL

Saturday 25 May 2019