



WORDBACK

No.12/2019
15 April 2019

A B C D Day Retained

VALE ANDREW TIMKO

A reminder that Andrew will be farewelled
Today
at 1045 hours
Acacia Chapel
Enfield Memorial Park
Browning Street Clearview

PFAS REPORT

A meeting between the MFS and the UFU has been urgently organised to discuss the dispute between us in relation to the interim arrangements provided to the Largs North Station Crews and the lack of consultation from the Service about longer term arrangements for Largs.

The UFU is deeply concerned about MFS management's approach to members distressed by confronting high-level blood test results, the arrangements which have been put/not put in place for them and the manner in which this has been approached.

The UFU has to date been working patiently with MFS management on PFAS contamination however the advice provided by the MFS to the media last Friday clearly breaches consultative arrangements entered into and agreed upon.

The specific concern about the Largs North Station is the growing evidence of widespread contamination of the industrial areas around the site which indicate that even the "cleaned" Station is highly unlikely to be a safe workplace for those firefighters with already elevated PFAS levels in their bodies. (See the first report commissioned by the MFS, authored by MFB Commander Mick Tisbury.)

Our union is very clear that the primary concern *must be* and should *always remain*, the health and safety of firefighters. Financial imperatives are recognised but must not be allowed to stampede the MFS into a return to a station which cannot yet be considered a safe workplace for crews.

The UFU *continues* to call on the MFS to allocate the resources to seek out and provide *appropriate* interim arrangements for the crews of the Station so that people are not stampeded into a return, and so that crews are not spending hours there on every shift.

Pressure must not be applied to individuals to achieve management's own outcomes in this matter; remember, the public service code of ethics applies to everyone, regardless of rank.

The overarching principle in relation to this matter must be that of **CAUTION** and the protection of firefighters' health and safety.

SAFETY ISSUE IDENTIFIED - BRONTO LADDER PLATFORM CAGE ANCHORS

As reported last week in Word Back No 11, the UFU Victoria Branch and Metropolitan Fire Brigade recently identified a safety anomaly with the personal anchor points currently fitted to the MFB's Bronto Ladder Platform cages.

The issue related to the rating of three personal anchor points fitted to the Bronto Ladder Platform cages. Interim safety solutions were put in place in Victoria while a resolution is sought by the parties.

The MFS and UFUSA are reviewing the matter as a priority in relation to any potential safety issue in SA and members will be kept informed of outcomes.

BROADSPECTRUM ENTERPRISE AGREEMENT NEGOTIATIONS UPDATE

Negotiations for the next UFUSA/Broadspectrum Enterprise Agreement (EA) have resulted in a draft document for consideration by members. Prior to going to a formal electronic ballot for a decision in May, meetings are being organised for all UFU members at Edinburgh and Woomera to discuss the outcomes of negotiation including the wage offer.

Pictured are members of the negotiating team including (from left) Matt Gulin, Steve Mitchell, Dave Palmer and Chris Johnson. The team also included Daniel Tinker David Pollitt, Max Adlam and Rhiannon Newman, (not pictured).



UFU/MFS WORKING PARTY ON FAIR & CONSISTENT OVERTIME & RECALLS

Participants on this working party have advised that a draft report is being prepared to be presented to the UFU and the MFS in the near future. All members will be provided with that report and have the opportunity to consider and make comment upon it, either individually or through your UFU Shop Steward or State Councillor. Watch this space for an update and thank you again to those members who attended the last meeting of the State Council and provided us with feedback.



CHANGE THE RULES

Many thanks to those of you who showed your support for the *CHANGE THE RULES* campaign by joining us at the rally (or honking support as you passed by!) last Wednesday in Victoria Square. FYI, some unions will also be again rallying at Parliament House this coming Wednesday 17 April 2019 at 1300 hours so please support them if you're about.

We need to change the rules so that working people can fight for and generate the wage increases that Australia needs. Wage growth which doesn't keep pace with the average cost of living, let alone energy prices, the cost of housing, or transport is unacceptable. Working people can't afford to wait any longer, we need to *change the rules* so workers can win fair wage increases. Remember that while UFU members have a claim for our second mid-term payment operative from 1 July 2019, we do not yet have confirmation of the outcome.

MOTHER'S DAY CLASSIC

The Mother's Day Classic is fast approaching! Register at <https://www.mothersdayclassic.com.au> (don't forget to join our team 'SAMFS United Firefighters Union').

This event is a wonderful opportunity to raise funds and awareness for breast cancer research AND for us to demonstrate our positive culture to all South Australians. We support the Mother's Day Classic by not only participating and fundraising, but also volunteering. We have crews who have provided hundreds of hours in labour moving crowd barriers into place and providing other logistical support to the event – this means costs are reduced significantly and more money goes direct to breast cancer research. We can be proud of our contribution.

Did you know?

Since 1998 the Mother's Day Classic has donated \$35.3 million to the National Breast Cancer Foundation! This means more research projects and more scientists with the common goal of finding the cause of breast cancer and improving diagnostic methods and treatments. The results are tangible – the 5-year survival rate has increased from 76% to 90% since the event started!

Make Mother's Day Mean more.

Sunday 12 May 2019

To register:

- 1 Log onto the Mother's Day Classic website: www.mothersdayclassic.com.au
- 2 Select Event Location then Adelaide
- 3 Select Register
- 4 Register to Walk, Run or as a Family
- 5 Continue as instructed
- 6 **IMPORTANT - Click on 'join a team' and then type in SAMFS and at that stage ' SAMFS United Firefighters Union' pops up - click on that, then click on continue.**
- 7 Follow the remaining instructions to complete your registration(s) to our team
- 8 Email your t-shirt or singlet size to info@ufusa.com.au or use the link in the email section of the Wordback.

Your team captains this year are S/O Jo-Anna Kenney and S/O Carly White. They are happy to provide further information as you need it. Jo-Anna Kenney can be contacted on 0413 401 815.

In solidarity

Max Adlam

UFU SECRETARY