



# WORD BACK

No.16/2018

13 July 2018

## A B C D Day Retained

### Mid-Term Pay Increase

Written correspondence in relation to this matter was received on 7 July 2018 from the MFS, confirming agreement between the parties of the quantum for the mid-term pay increase. Accordingly, the application to vary the *South Australian Metropolitan Fire Service Enterprise Agreement 2017* to incorporate the mid-term pay increase of 2% has now been prepared and will be lodged shortly with the SA Employment Tribunal. The matter is being vigorously pursued and I will continue to keep you advised of further progress in relation to this matter.

### Senior Firefighter Qualified (SFFQ) or SFF Level 2

An MFS Working Group on this matter has been reformed and has commenced meeting to identify and discuss issues involved in the new level 2 SFF (AKA SFFQ) arrangements. As previously noted this is not a simple issue.

The UFU has an internal committee which meets to discuss the issues raised by members, and give consideration to matters raised at the MFS working group. The outcome of these discussions will be presented to the State Council. Chas Thomas, Max Adlam and Chris Johnson are attending the meetings of the UFU Committee which is comprised of **Rhys Lauritsen, Brad Robertson, Chris Barry, Michael Riggs, Jesse Virgo and Tim Maitland.**

Members are encouraged to contact your representatives on the UFU Committee, either directly or through the UFU office [info@ufusa.com.au](mailto:info@ufusa.com.au). Members will be kept informed on any developments.

The deliberation of these important membership concerns and any other matters arising from the working party considerations will be subject to membership information, discussion and feedback BEFORE any decisions are reached about changes.

### A shift Oakden Station

I enjoyed meeting with the A shift crew at Oakden Station on Thursday, 12 July 2018 together with UFU Industrial Officer Chris Johnson where we were able to hear first-hand the views of members in relation to the above issue as well as many others. The union office is really busy but if you'd like us to come out to your station or workplace sooner rather than later, please don't hesitate to let us know. All of us on the State Council are keen to know your views and concerns. You can contact us on 8352 7211 or by sending an email to [info@UFUSA.com.au](mailto:info@UFUSA.com.au)



## Retained Firefighters – Meeting of Shop Stewards



A meeting of UFU Shop Stewards representing members employed as Retained Firefighters was held on Saturday, 7 July 2018 at the UFU office. The Chief Officer Greg Crossman and ACFO Phil Kilsby attended the meeting to discuss a range of issues of concern to our members in this area including the proposed rosters initiative. UFU President Chas Thomas, Industrial Officer Chris Johnson and I took the opportunity to learn more about what it's like to

work for the MFS as a retained firefighter and how the union can communicate with our members more effectively. The above photo was taken of some of the Shop Stewards who came from far and wide to participate and represent members from stations including Port Lincoln (Brad Porter not pictured), Mount Gambier, Port Augusta, Whyalla, Moonta, Renmark, Murray Bridge, Victor Harbour, and Kapunda. Apologies were received from those unable to attend but we hope you will be able to participate in the next meeting.

## A President's work is never done



I would like to make mention of and express my thanks to our UFU President Chas Thomas, who really does go above and beyond the call of duty on behalf of union members.

Pictured here with UFU member Chris, on Saturday, 7 July 2018 after attending the meeting of Shop Stewards, Chas never hesitates to offer help and put his shoulder to the wheel.

I found out recently that Chas is also a diligent recycler of waste so you can always be confident that the union bins are in order and we are doing our bit for the planet!

## Wet Weather PPE

As previously reported, progress is being made on the acquisition of wet weather gear for MFS firefighters with sample PPC being provided for consideration. We hope that the next meeting of the committee will be called in the very near future as we would appreciate receiving the wet weather gear *this* season. Meanwhile members tell me they find the big plastic bags with holes punched in them for arms to go through, a very poor substitute...

## Vale Terry Harbutt



We were all deeply saddened to attend the funeral of our friend Terry Harbutt on 5 July 2018. It was heartening to see over 200 uniformed members and many retired members there, to pay respect to a wonderful gentleman. A funeral may not generally be a place we take photographs, but Terry's beautiful wife Jenny has said that she would appreciate a copy of any photographs taken on the day. If you do have any, please would you forward them to us at the UFU office and we will make sure Jenny receives them.

In solidarity

**Max Adlam**  
**UFU Secretary**