



IN BRIEF



Campaign trail

With a federal and four state elections due over the next 12 months, Victorian firefighters were quick off the mark at the recent Altona by-election, pressuring the government over crewing and resources. Follow the campaign at <http://firecrisis.com>



Tour of Duty

16 Australian firefighters — one long run across a continent to remember the New York Fire Department 9/11 heroes and all firefighters who have died in the line of duty. Check out the details at www.tourofduty.com.au

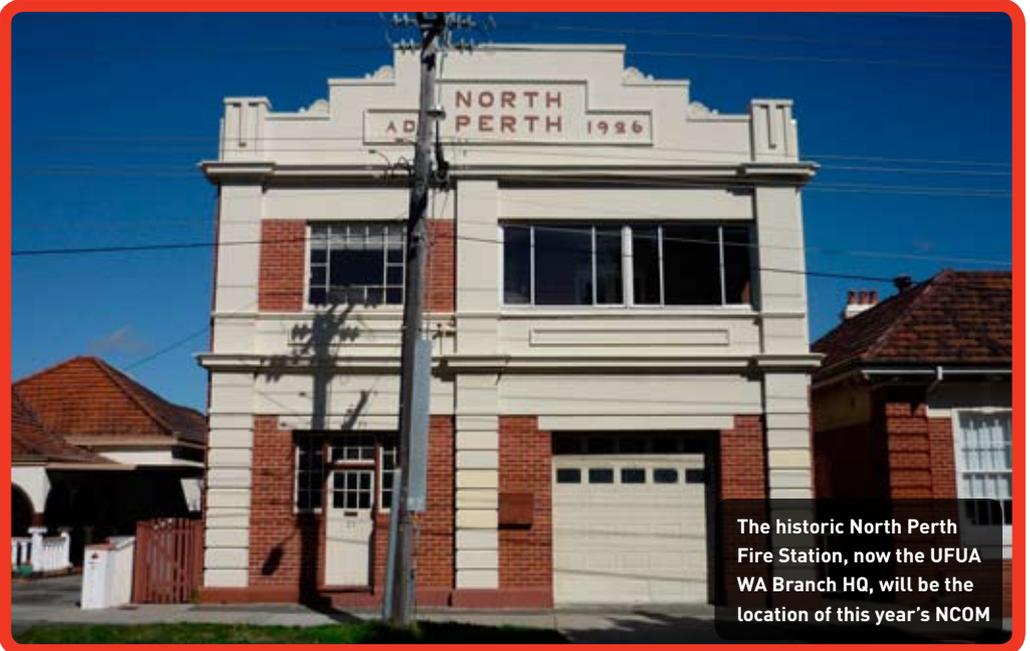


Australian Firefighter

Union news, industrial and OHS feature stories, plus sport, food, travel and Sir Murray Rivers; it's all in The Australian Firefighter Magazine. The new edition is out soon. Don't miss it!

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NCOM in Perth

UFUA delegates from across the country will meet in WA next month for the National Committee of Management meeting

The Union's National Committee of Management (NCOM) will meet in Perth in early March. "Delegates will come together at the WA Branch's new headquarters," says UFUA National Secretary, Peter Marshall. "WA firefighters are to be congratulated for seizing the opportunity when the historic old North Perth Station came onto the market. It's now the hub of the Union's presence in the west."

This year's NCOM will be held across three days, from March 3 – 5. "2010 will be a testing year for Australia's professional firefighters," says

Peter Marshall. "The growing threat of climate changes is being compounded by governments' failure to genuinely acknowledge the threat and properly resource fire and emergency services."

However, the next 12 months also present an opportunity, with a number of state elections, and a federal election, due to be held. "At NCOM, delegates can set a strong course for the UFUA," says Peter Marshall. "We must hold fire service managements and their political masters to account to ensure firefighters can continue to do what they do best – that's protect the community."

CAMPAIGN GROUND

A number of state elections are due to be held across the next twelve months; in Tasmania, South Australia, Victoria and, during March 2011, New South Wales. "The election campaigns will provide a great opportunity for firefighters to put pressure on politicians over fire service management performance," says Peter Marshall.

With a federal election also likely this year,

the Rudd government's award 'modernisation', its OH&S national 'harmonisation' and the coalition's threat of a return to WorkChoices will also be in the spotlight. "Together with the impact of climate change, all these issues affect firefighters, their workplace resources and rights," says Peter. "The Union will be campaigning strongly to protect Members at this critical time."