



IN BRIEF



Aus Firefighter Mag

Check out the current edition of The Australian Firefighter Magazine. Pick up a copy at work or download one from the UFUA website at: <http://www.ufua.asn.au>



It ain't over yet

The Howard Government is history, but its IR laws are still alive. Visit the Your Rights @ Work website to find out how to help the Rudd Government remove them. <http://www.rightsatwork.com.au>



WorkChoices work over

The new CFA Agreement ensures firefighters retain critical protection against contracting out. It also maintains the Union's role in consultative and dispute resolution bodies about staffing, uniforms, infrastructure, health & safety and training.

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CFA FIREFIGHTERS TOOK THE STREETS OF MELBOURNE TO WIN A NEW AGREEMENT

CFA firefighters win

Victorian Country Fire Authority Operational Firefighters have secured a new agreement – and beaten WorkChoices restrictions

After a two year tussle, the UFUA Victoria Branch, has won a new Agreement with the Country Fire Authority (CFA) for Operational Firefighters. The long and hard-fought campaign produced a win for firefighters and was the end result of dedicated work by the Branch committee, delegates and members. The Union had to take on the CFA and the Victorian Government to achieve the result. “Our Members are to be congratulated on this outcome,” says Peter Marshall, Victorian and National UFUA Secretary. “It represents a significant achievement in difficult

industrial times; it’s an important result for all UFUA members.” During negotiations, the Union faced the challenge of the old Federal Government’s WorkChoices legislation which puts severe restrictions on enterprise agreements. However, the Victoria Branch was able to overcome these limitations by negotiating a Common Law Deed to ensure a ban on redundancies and the exclusion of AWA’s. The new agreement provides for a three per cent pay rise and is aligned with the MFB Agreement. It will remain in place until at least April 2009.

COMMON LAW WORK AROUND

The Deed is a legally binding agreement that sits outside industrial legislation but is enforceable under common law (a body of law created by legal decisions or precedents, rather than legislation or regulation). Common law harks back to ancient, 12th Century England, but has proved handy in tackling the 21st Century blight of the former Howard Government’s IR laws. The Common Law Deed covering CFA Operational Firefighters commits the CFA to maintain the Agreement beyond its expiry date - in line with pre-WorkChoices provisions. It also protects current terms and conditions that have been, or could be, declared ‘prohibited content’ under Coalition inspired federal industrial law.