



IN BRIEF



Odds on read

Author Brad Bowden, Queensland State Secretary Mark Walker, UFUA National Secretary Peter Marshall, and Queensland State President Henry Lawrence (l to r) at the recent launch of *Against All Odds*, a history of the Queensland UFU.



Not over yet!

The ACTU is putting the pressure on the Rudd government which is wilting under heat from employers over the abolition of WorkChoices and the restoration of employee and Union workplace rights. Give the ACTU a hand: you can find out how to help at <http://rightsatwork.com.au>

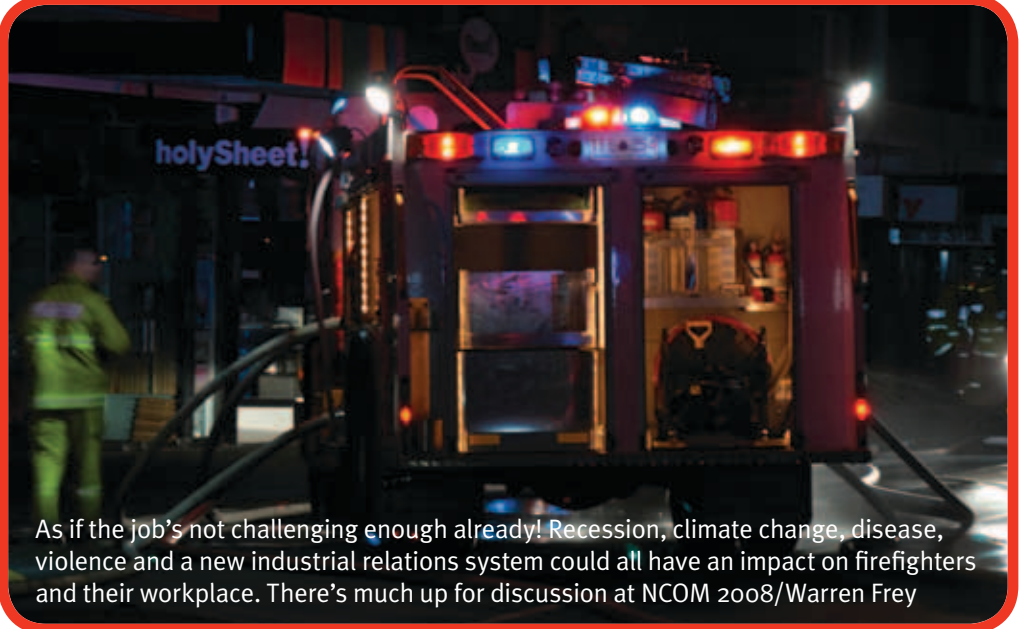


Get on track

The Australian Firefighter Global NewsTrack is a regular roundup of links to key firefighter news stories. Go to <http://ufua.asn.au> to subscribe.

CONTACT

Peter Marshall
 UFUA National Secretary
 410 Brunswick St, Fitzroy 3065
 Ph: (03) 9419 8811
 Fax: (03) 9419 9258
 email: officeadmin@ufuvc.asn.au
 website: <http://www.ufua.asn.au>



As if the job's not challenging enough already! Recession, climate change, disease, violence and a new industrial relations system could all have an impact on firefighters and their workplace. There's much up for discussion at NCOM 2008/Warren Frey

National meet

NCOM 2008 will be held in Tasmania next month, with a review of the Union's national structure up for consideration

December 1, 2 and 3 are the dates, while Hobart is the location. This year's NCOM will provide the chance for delegates to plot a course for the UFUA in increasingly uncertain times.

"A review of the Union's national structure has 30 recommendations for NCOM delegates to discuss," says UFUA National Secretary, Peter Marshall. "We'll be working to build a clear direction for the national Union."

2008 has been a tough year on the bargaining front. "With state governments trying to steer industrial agreements into below inflation wage

outcomes, the financial crisis and downturn in the economy is not going to make things any easier," says Peter Marshall. "On the brighter side, we've had a huge response to our campaign to recruit overseas Unions in the International Fire Fighter Alliance. Planning for an international conference in 2009 is well underway and at NCOM we'll be discussing how to make the most of our international contacts."

Other issues to be discussed at NCOM include the Union's presumptive protection campaign.

HISTORY ON RECORD

The history of the Union's Queensland Branch is now in print. *Against All Odds* highlights the struggles of Queensland's firefighters to establish their own Union.

The United Firefighters Union was registered in Queensland in 1976. Before that, sunshine state firefighters belonged to the Australian Workers Union. It took a bitter four-year

dispute, which saw the dismissal and reinstatement of Rockhampton firefighters, to win the right to establish the Union. Queensland firefighters are currently in the middle of a tough campaign to win a fair wage rise. So, the publication of *Against All Odds* will remind the state government and the Queensland Fire and Rescue Service of the tenacity UFUA Queensland Members are renowned for.