



IN BRIEF



ABCC protest

NCOM 2008 delegates joined other Unionists outside the Australian Building and Construction Commission Hobart office during the ACTU's day of action against the secretive, Howard era, anti-union investigative body.



Help wanted

Mark Gribble, UFUA delegate to the International Standards Organisation (ISO) and Standards Australia, told NCOM that more firefighter end-user input into ISO deliberations about ppc and ppe is needed.



New IR

Trevor Clarke, UFUA consultant from Slater and Gordon, took NCOM delegates through the Rudd Government's Fair Work Australia legislation and the ways it will change the industrial relations environment in Australia.

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DELEGATES GATHER IN HOBART AS NCOM 2008 GETS UNDERWAY

National Agenda set

The National Committee of Management has met in Hobart with delegates setting the course for a strong 2009

The UFUA Tasmania Branch hosted this year's NCOM 2008. "It was a great success," says National Secretary Peter Marshall. "Delegates are to be congratulated for their hard work across the three days. At national level, we have agreed to pursue a dozen important projects in areas that will be critical for UFUA Members in the coming months and years."

These include developing:

- > minimum standards for fireground crewing, appliance establishments and response times,
- > national standards for firefighter Emergency Medical Response (EMR),

- > presumptive protection where it can be introduced by regulation,
- > retained, and private sector, firefighter award / agreement templates, and
- > a national database to track disputes across branches and at national level.

NCOM delegates also endorsed proposals for a national climate change audit, a Professional Firefighters Institute of Australia, a UFUA NT Branch, ACTU delivered delegate training and enhanced Super benefits for Members.

"NCON has set a positive direction for the National Office across the next 12 months," says Peter Marshall "This will certainly benefit the UFUA's branches and all Members."

SEASON'S GREETINGS

The hard work of UFUA branches across 2008 ensured the Union has become a stronger organisation, well focused on the industrial interests of firefighters, particularly in the areas of health, safety and entitlements.

"I wish all UFUA members the compliments of the festive season," says Peter Marshall.

"The Union remains optimistic about 2009, although it will be a challenging

year given the global financial meltdown and the dithering with climate change strategy. However, firefighters can look forward to solid wages gains and the maintenance of entitlements because of our collective agreements. Internationally, we anticipate more Unions joining our Global Firefighters Alliance in 2009 and that will help put firefighter protection well and truly on the world stage."