



BRIEFS

SAVE PROPERTY SAVE LIVES

Save 7.7

In Victoria, The CFA has been stretched to the limit and now the MFB now wants to scrap the mandatory minimum number of firefighters on duty. Find out more via the firecrisis page on Facebook.



Tasman ties

New Zealand Professional Firefighters Union (NZPFU) officials attended NCOM and reported on the value of the close links with the UFUA. Delegates decided to conduct joint UFUA / NZPFU bi-annual conferences, starting next year.



WA Office

The historic North Perth fire station features classic 1920s architecture and is now the modern 21st century nerve centre for the WA Branch. NCOM delegates appreciated the warm welcome from their WA comrades.



National mag

A new edition of *The Australian Firefighter* will be out soon. Stories include climate change – the firefighter challenge, Truss Risk, Tour of Duty, Carbon Sink, food, sport, Sir Mussa and more. Don't miss it!

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Now open! NCOM delegates joined WA Members and dignitaries to celebrate the official launch of the new WA Branch headquarters, the old North Perth Fire Station

National course set

The UFUA National Committee of Management (NCOM) plots a new strategy for the national Union

NCOM met in Perth last month with delegates endorsing a plan to strengthen the UFUA across 2010 and beyond. Finance was a focus for this critical meeting. “Delegates took a serious look at tackling budget issues that go back some 14 years. They endorsed a strategy we believe will put the National Union on a solid footing for the years ahead,” says UFUA National Secretary Peter Marshall. “It is a well thought out plan and I congratulate delegates for the energetic and focussed way they went about their work.”

NCOM renewed its commitment to the International Firefighter Unions Alliance

(IFFUA) and support for global information sharing. “The UFUA will recommend to the Alliance that Mark Gribble be its representative on the International Standards Organisation (ISO) committee for uniform,” says Peter. NCOM also endorsed an increased level of support for Mark in his work with Standards Australia.

NCOM also honoured retiring Queensland Secretary Mark Walker and President Henry Lawrence, and acknowledged the contribution of retiring IAFF General Secretary-Treasurer Vinnie Bollon and his commitment to global firefighter solidarity.

COMBATING CANCER

Protection of firefighters from cancer and better support for those who contract it is one of the most important OH&S issues facing Members. “NCOM decided to pursue presumptive protection as a priority for the national Union,” says UFUA National President Mick Farrell. “Presumptive laws are widespread in North America: they identify a range of cancers and other diseases that are automatically acknowledged as work-related for firefighters.”

NCOM also heard a report from Union's Queensland Branch about firefighter cancer studies undertaken since the discovery of the Atherton fire station cancer cluster, the Personal Exposure Reporting (PER) online database and the Branch's campaign for recognition of work-related cancers among firefighters. Queensland Branch President Steve Bunney will co-ordinate the UFUA's national strategy.