



BULLETIN

Bulletin No: 003

25 August 2021

TO ALL UFUA MEMBERS

KEVIN JOLLY, MICK TISBURY & VINNIE MALES Recognition of Meritorious Service

The National Union would like to acknowledge the contribution that outgoing West Australian President and life member of the UFUA Kevin Jolly, outgoing Junior Vice President of the Victorian Union and outgoing TAS BCOM member Vinnie Males have made to the National Union.

Kevin Jolly

The National Executive on Tuesday 10 August 2021 passed the following resolution:

“That National Executive notes the citation prepared by the West Australian Branch in respect of Kevin Jolly, UFU Life Member. National Executive records its deep appreciation of Kevin’s meritorious service to the UFU on the occasion of him standing down from the West Australian Branch Committee of Management.”

The citation provided by the Western Australian Branch is as follows:

Kevin Jolly has been on the WA BCOM for 23 years and in that time has played a pivotal role in a range of milestone achievements for the WA Union, with a series of WAIRC and EBA negotiations that saw WA Firefighters rising from the lowest to the highest paid firefighters in the country. This included the Arbitrated Allowance case that saw a ‘once in a generation’ wage increase of approx. 18% (using the SFF rate) in the 2006 EBA. This wage outcome followed a critical and powerful campaign where the Union’s members marched on the State Parliament and entered to House and turned their backs on sitting members of the Government.

Since 2012 Kevin has led a campaign for increased staff at WA Country Fire Stations to deliver safe crewing levels for both the protection of firefighters and the communities they serve. These efforts culminated in a recent commitment the WA State Government gave to increase crew numbers at regional fire stations

In recognition of Kevin Jolly's passion and commitment to other firefighters and the Fire and Rescue Service, Kevin was awarded the AFSM in 2014. He was further awarded the WA Union's Life Membership in 2015.

Kevin has been a strong advocate for firefighters within the UFU of Australia and has represented the WA Union on the National Executive and National Committee.

Kevin is always the first to say the achievements he was involved in securing are 'never the power of one' and he regularly pays tribute to the collective strength of the Union's membership, Committees and Staff. He has been a great mentor to many of our Union's leaders and he has always worked hard to put the Union first and at the forefront of decision making.

Michael Tisbury

The National Executive on Tuesday 10 August 2021 passed the following resolution:

"That National Executive notes the citation prepared by the Victorian Branch in respect of Mick Tisbury, outgoing Junior Vice President UFU Victorian Branch. Noting the extensive work undertaken by Mick at the local, national and international level in relation to PFAS exposure and contamination, National Executive resolves to issue a special commendation to Mick for his outstanding contribution to firefighter health and safety."

The citation provided by the Victorian Branch is as follows:

Mick Tisbury has been on the Victorian BCOM for 17 years and has displayed a tenacious drive for representing UFU Victorian Branch members and advocating for their health and safety at all levels – around the state, around the country, and on the world stage.

Mick has been involved in countless EBA negotiations & FWC cases providing support behind the scenes or providing evidence in the witness box.

Starting with the discovery of contaminated training water and soil at Fiskville, Mick led the charge to ensure Victorian Branch members never trained using contaminated training water, and within a contaminated training ground, again.

After discovering the lasting and damaging effects of PFAS in firefighters, Mick continued to battle for justice for members:

- Mick created and has seen through a PFAS appliance and equipment decontamination program in the MFB – the first of its kind in Australia
- Mick has co-authored scientific papers, providing the perspective of the professional firefighter to the table
- Mick spearheaded research into PFAS levels in firefighters' blood with the MFB/UFU/Macquarie University PFAS Blood Study program – the study commenced in 2019, and the results so far as promising
Mick joined a panel of experts at the 2018 UFUA PFAS Workshop (2018)

The culmination of Mick's work was achieving a global ban on PFAS (and a recommendation to globally ban PFHxS) at the United Nations' Stockholm Convention in 2019. Mick's advocacy marked the first time that uniformed personnel were represented at the UN level.

In late April, Mick attended the UN Stockholm Convention and formed part of the IPEN panel "Global PFAS Problem: Fluorine-Free Alternatives as a Solution". Over the course of that week at the UN, Mick lobbied companies, organisations and nation states to secure their support for a resolution to a global ban on PFAS. On the 3rd of May 2019, Mick achieved a ban on firefighting foams.

Vincent Males

The National Executive on Tuesday 10 August 2021 passed the following resolution:

"That National Executive notes the citation prepared by the Tasmanian Branch in respect of Vinnie Males, UFU Life Member. National Executive records its deep appreciation of Vinnie's meritorious service to the UFU on the occasion of him standing down from the Tasmanian Branch Committee of Management."

The citation provided by the Tasmanian Branch is as follows:

Vincent Males has been on the TAS BCOM for 14 years and served as Secretary from 2010 - 2014. During Vinnie's time on the TAS BCOM Vinny was a representative on the Clothing Committee, Diesel Particulates Working Party, Personal Protective Clothing Committee, State Consultative Committee, EBA 2014 & 2018.

Under Vinny's stewardship the TAS Branch were able to reverse the Tasmania Fire Service budget cuts in 2012, enact the presumptive cancer legislation to establish a right for Tasmanian firefighters, both Professional and Volunteer to claim compensation for a cancer contracted whilst firefighters as set out under the Act.

Below is an extract from the 2014 UFUA Annual Report which encapsulates Vinny's character:

"Special mention must be made to outgoing Branch Secretary Vinny Males. Vinny stood up in difficult circumstances and supported that union when it was absolutely critical for stability of all that is and has become the UFUA in Tasmania. Well done Vinny your support and endless hours of commitment to the union is appreciated by not only myself and BCOM but the broader membership."

Vinnie was honoured as a life member in 2016.

On behalf of the UFUA we would like to thank and acknowledge their collective achievements and meritorious service to the UFUA.

Authorised by National Secretary Peter Marshall