

CODE 2

THE OFFICIAL
NEWSLETTER OF THE
UNITED FIREFIGHTERS
UNION OF AUSTRALIA,
UNION OF EMPLOYEES,
QUEENSLAND.

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Happy New Year

Happy New Year to all members and families from all at the union office. The latter part of 2009 was a time for change at the office with the elections providing us with a new Secretary, President and some new faces within the State Executive and the State Committee of Management. In further changes we farewelled Research Officer Jane Tunstall as she returned to her original profession, teaching.

I would like to report that the office staff and Industrial Officers have been extremely helpful in ensuring a smooth transition during this period. The focus and challenge for this year for me will be to improve the communication process that our union has. The first step towards this will be that State President Bunney will be a regular contributor to the forum and will assist with information sharing in the spirit of the forum. Secondly, 'Code2' will be more regular and the principle medium that I will be using to inform you of current issues as they are handled and resolved. There are a number of other measures currently in development that I believe will greatly enhance communication and keep you better informed, that if approved will come online later in the first half of this year.

Assault of firefighter

On 27th Dec I was informed that a UFU member had been assaulted whilst attending an emergency incident. Section 340 of the Criminal Code of Queensland categorises this as a serious assault with a maximum penalty of seven years. I would like to inform members that State President Bunney took the immediate action of ensuring the physical and mental well being of the member and also voiced his disgust in verbal and written communication to the QFRS at what he believed was a lack of action by the QFRS.

The union office is continuing an investigation into the procedures that QFRS has in place to deal with a serious incident such as this and is also in contact with police to encourage a speedy police investigation. Members must also be aware that we cannot predict or dictate future police action. The official position of this office is that the perpetrator of this crime must be brought to justice and we will take every appropriate action to ensure this is the case.

Website changes

Please note that all contact details for the regional delegates and office staff is now posted onto the left side of the website under 'All Contact Details'. Members are reminded that your first contact point for all issues is your regional delegate, they know the history, personnel and equipment within your area and will in almost all cases give the best initial advice.

Forum and forum rules

There were a number of members that were experiencing problems logging onto the forums. Those technical problems have now been rectified. If you are still experiencing problems then please contact the office. Please note the rules at the header of the forum that govern the forum use will be strictly applied so that the forum can be utilised by all members without intimidation. The union office is well aware of defamation laws and their ramifications for the publisher of inappropriate material. The forum is for information sharing not specific questions to individuals or the denigration of the union as a body or any of its members.

Special flexibility allowances

The Mercer report recognised that as time moves on roles and duties of staff change and advised that more regular assessment of these changes should occur. Senior Industrial Officer Henry Lawrence and I have been in negotiations with the QFRS seeking allowances for various groups of members. QFRS has been receptive with some of our assertions but cold on others. These negotiations will continue during the early part of this year and you will be kept informed via 'Code2' as determinations and agreements come to hand.
