



**ANNUAL REPORT 2015**  
**AND**  
**FINANCIAL**  
**STATEMENTS TO**  
**30 JUNE 2015**

**United Firefighters Union of Australia**  
**Tasmania Branch**  
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# United Firefighters Union of Australia Tasmania Branch

## Annual Report 2015 & Financial Statements to 30 June 2015

### Secretary's report

It is with a feeling of great privilege that I have the opportunity to provide my second report to the Tasmania branch. The year has provided many challenges but as always UFUA members continue to prove resilient and supportive.

The union has finished the year in a positive financial position and with 355 union members, representing the largest number of members ever involved in the branch.

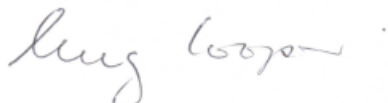
The branch continues to pursue matters on behalf of members and whilst the detail of a member matter is often not included in official reports they are important for those members who from time to time follow up issues with the union office.

We have campaigned for the TFS regarding Budget cuts and successfully obtained from the Liberal State Government a \$1.5 million refund to the 2015/16 SFC budget. The Branch also played a pivotal role in calling for a Parliamentary inquiry to understand the impact of the current government policy on the SFC/TFS.

We are a small branch and at times the workload is disproportionate to the resources available. Notwithstanding this the members that I deal with present always as professional and supportive. UFUA members should be very proud of the union they have developed and the strong bond of support for each other that is part of being a member of the UFUA.

Thank you to all the members for their support and assistance throughout the year.

I extend to you and your families all the best for the festive season.



Greg Cooper  
**Branch Secretary**  
10 November 2015

## UFUA Representatives

Elections early in the year resulted in changes to BCOM, UWPR and HSRs.

It is important to recognise the contribution to the union from BCOM, UWPR and HSRs.

Outgoing BCOM members Dale Rayner, Vinny Males, Adam Salter, Val Ansett and Chris Tomes were replaced by Mark Dobson, Grant Joyce, Warren Frey, Jeremy Ripper and Jeremy Paterson. I would like to thank Dale, Vinny, Adam, Chris and Val for their support during their time as BCOM members. All of these members continue to support me as Branch Secretary with regular contributions on important matters that impact on the membership. I welcome the addition of Mark, Grant, Warren, and the two Jeremys to BCOM.

John Holloway has taken on the role of Branch President, Colin Lockhart the Vice President and Warren Frey as Junior Vice President.

New UWPRS include Jeffrey Gibson, Daniel Morgan, Mark O'Donnell, Simon Nelson, Val Ansett, Paul Morrison, Nick Hubbard, Heath Batten, Nicole Williams, Mark McCarthy and Mark Dobson and new HSRs for the 2015 term include Aaron White and Michelle Clarke.

I express my thanks and gratitude to all members who take up the challenge to assist the UFUA in continuing to strive for improvements in member conditions. Something that is possibly not fully appreciated by the membership on occasion is how much BCOM members UWPRs and HSRs contribute to the union.

Union Workplace Reps		Health and Safety Reps	
A Shift Hobart	Jeffrey Gibson	A Shift Hobart	Martin Grubb
	Daniel Morgan	B Shift Hobart	
B Shift Hobart	Mark O'Donnell	C Shift Hobart	
	Simon Nelson	D Shift Hobart	Jamie Stubbs
C Shift Hobart		A Shift Launceston	John Kroczewski
		B Shift Launceston	Matthew Ross
D Shift Hobart	Val Ansett	C Shift Launceston	David Moir
	Shayne Mundy	Devonport	
A Shift Launceston		Burnie	
B Shift Launceston	Greg Atkins	TFE South	Aaron White
C Shift Launceston	Paul Morrison	TFE North	
D Shift Launceston	Nick Hubbard	TFE North West	Brian Willcox
Devonport		FireComm	Michelle Clarke
Burnie	Heath Batten	Training Services	
TFE	John McDonald	Building Safety	
FireComm	David MacFarlane	TasFire Training	Nigel Reid
	Nicole Williams	Community Education	
Training Services		District Officers	
Building Safety	Mark McCarthy	Field Works	
TasFire Training	Nigel Reid		
Community	Chris Tomes		

Education			
District Officers	Mark Dobson		
Field Works			

## BCOM

Matters considered by BCOM throughout the year have included but are not limited to the following;

- Fire Crisis 2 Campaign (Protect your Firefighter)
- Parliamentary Inquiry
- DPEM Corporate Services Review
- SES Funding – the transfer from DPEM
- State Fire Commission activities
- Superannuation
- Work Value
- Clothing agreement
- Professional Firefighter curriculum and training and development
- Career path advancement SSO development of SOD's
- SO promotion
- FireComm staffing
- PPC/Turnout Gear
- Diesel Particulates
- CFBT procedure and guidelines
- Heavy Pumper replacement programme
- Replacement of Bridgewater 3.1PR with a 1.1 unit
- AVL's installation and policy
- Station Layout and Design
- Light RCR cache on 2.1 unit in BFB
- Hearing Conservation Policy
- CISM
- Marine Response
- Fuel Reduction Unit
- Fire Service Act Review
- Redmond's Symposium – USA – August 2015
- UFUA TAS web-site redevelopment
- International Deployment
- Social media

## UFUA National Office

The UFUA national office continues to achieve outstanding results for all UFUA branches. The presumptive legislation campaign, which started early in 2001 has resulted in successful outcomes for ACT and Aviation firefighters, Tasmania, South Australia, Western Australia, and Queensland. The UFUA also assisted with the campaign in the Northern Territory.

Priority matters being pursued by the National Office include;

- Superannuation and preservation age for Firefighters,
- Research on Firefighter wellness including Post Traumatic Stress Disorder
- Firefighter Cancer Foundation,
- National Firefighter Memorial,
- Climate Change,
- Training and the professionalism of firefighting,
- Defence firefighters,
- Ongoing UFUA Rules Review.

## Parliamentary Inquiry

The State Government budgets of 2014/15 and 2015/16 have impacted on the State Fire Commission budgets and subsequently the TFS. This is a significant matter for the UFUA and has resulted in the branch securing a report from the University of Newcastle on the impact of the Government budgets on the Tasmania Fire Service.

This report has assisted the branch in developing a campaign to support the TFS in maintaining independence from Government as a corporate entity. We have also achieved a \$1.5 million refund from government for the SFC to restore in part the SFC original capital budget.

The branch has challenged to Government over the budget changes and the corporate services integration project. This challenge continues.

The UFUA campaign to protect firefighters has resulted in Government agreeing to a parliamentary inquiry into a range of issues concerning the Tasmania Fire Service. This matter will be discussed at the next round of general meetings to ensure members have an opportunity to submit their views. The terms of reference for the inquiry are included below.

### **HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY STANDING COMMITTEE ON COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT**

The House of Assembly has referred an inquiry to the Standing Committee on Community Development with the following Terms of Reference:

*(1) The House refers the following matters to the Standing Committee on Community Development to inquire into and report upon:*

*(a) the 2014-15 and 2015-16 budget for the State Fire Commission - SFC - and its implications for the Tasmania Fire Service - TFS - including:*

- (i) the transfer of the State Emergency Service - SES - reporting responsibility to the SFC/TFS;*
- (ii) the funding of the SES;*
- (iii) the structures of the Department of Police and Emergency Management - DPEM;*
- (iv) the DPEM corporate services review, including the scope and conduct of the review and its implications;*
- (v) the funding of the Fuel Reduction Burn Program;*
- (vi) community safety programs;*
- (vii) fire service resources including firefighter numbers;*
- (viii) the protection of the community.*

*(b) the budget history of the State Fire Commission from 2008-09 to present;*

*(c) the future funding arrangements for TFS and SES;*

*(d) the need for appropriate and modern governance practices in the State Fire Commission; and*

*(e) other matters incidental thereto.*

*(2) The committee report by 15 April next.*

The Committee invites interested persons or organisations to make written submissions to the Committee by the closing date of Friday, 8 January 2016. Persons who wish to give confidential evidence to the Committee should contact the Secretary and request that the Committee hear their evidence in private.

### **Trainee Firefighters 2015**

The TFS recruited nine trainee firefighters in August. On behalf of the Tasmania Branch Committee of Management it is my pleasure to welcome the following trainee firefighters to the TFS and of course as a member of the United Firefighters Union of Australia Tasmania Branch. Trainee firefighters for 2015 are, Richard Boon, Owen Britt, Thomas Chapman, Jeremy Coles, Danny Delpizzo, Lindsay Millington, Alexander Moore, James Preece, Marlon Von Moger

I am sure we are looking forward to the trainees completing the training programme and passing out in December.