

**Meeting opened: 10:35am ACDT**

**Attendance:** Wes Garrett (Secretary), Chair - Rory Thomas McCabe (President) 11:10, Jesse Page (SA), Chris Putnam (NSW), Dan Thompson (WHS Coordinator), Chris Jones (WA), Patrick Shanahan (South QLD), Zack Van Loenhout (NT), Mick McDonald (ACT) 10:52.

**Apologies:** Ben Chugg (TAS), Glenn Laurie (Vic)

**Acknowledgement to Country:**

*"We acknowledge the Traditional Owners of Country throughout Australia and recognise their continuing connection to land, waters, and culture".*

**Minutes of Previous Meeting**

Minutes from meetings held on 24/5/2024 were presented and confirmed by BCOM.

**Moved:** Secretary

**Seconded:** President

**Carried:** Unanimous

**Correspondence**

Correspondence was provided in the branch google drive.

**Accounts for Payment**

Accounts for payment were provided in the google drive.

**Moved:** Secretary

**Seconded:** BCOM NT

**Carried:** Unanimous

**ALP Affiliation**

The Branch's attempts to affiliate with the State Branch of the Labor party from which the Minister for Transport is based has once again fallen flat. We received a letter from the acting State Secretary outlining several reasons our affiliation has been rejected. Will take this issue up with Vic Branch Sec Peter Marshall.

**ARFFS Workplace HSC**

Face to face meeting to take place in Melbourne 27 June 2024. Employee reps have been reshuffled due to the resignation of Allison Walters from the Committee.

BCOM ratified the following:

1. Justin Carroll will move from his proxy position to a full member.
2. Jason Adams will move to a proxy position to backfill against Justin's full membership status.

**Branch Counsel Resignation**

Simone Bingham has resigned from her role with List A Barristers as she has been appointed as a judge of the Federal Circuit and Family Court of Australia. Davies Lawyers to advise of a suitable replacement.

**Norfolk Island Fire Service EA Negotiations**

Negotiations continue. A handful of minor outstanding issues remain which are delaying an in-principal agreement. Counsel have unfortunately made some decisions which will reduce historic levels of service provision. These are commercial rather than industrial decisions, however it has made local members reluctant to accept what is currently on the table.

**UFUA 50 Year Anniversary Merch**

T-shirts have now been added to online store at \$55 each. An order for an additional 100 T's has been placed with Bluegum which includes the obscure sizes we ran out of. Members who missed out on initial roll out T's have been recorded and will receive their ordered size once we receive this order. Pricing and additional items to add to online store have been requested, will likely be available for BCOM review at next meeting.

**UFUA Profit and Loss FY2023-24**

The secretary provided a summary of how Branch finances are tracking for the 2023-24 financial year. Likely to land in the black, just. Which is a great result considering we've navigated another EA which involved PIA.

**UFUA Awards**

The Secretary reported that he has identified a manufacturer of the traditional brass helmets. There are no Australian manufacturers. The manufacturer is located in India. An order of 24 helmets will cost \$1800 which is inclusive of shipping. BCOM ratified the purchase.

**Comcare and Legal Matters**

Two new workers compensation referrals received.

**UFUA Membership Fees**

BCOM discussed the implications of the introduction of LAFF2 and LAFF3 classification. Current membership fees are indexed to 1.1% of LAFF. LAFF has historically been the highest pay classification without the need for promotion. The difference between 1.1%

at LAFF1 and LAFF3 over a year is \$54. Added to Notices of Motions, further discussion and vote at next meeting.

### **ART Superannuation Fund Transfer**

BCOM NSW has organized for ART to provide online seminars which will allow members to ask and receive answers to any queries concerning the \$6000 EA sign on bonus. Additionally, seminars will be provided to NSW Branch members to allow questions concerning the super fund transition.

### **Airservices proposed PAT**

Meeting has been scheduled for Friday 14<sup>th</sup>. Secretary, President and WHS Coord to attend. Airservices have sent through some material which details what they want to introduce. Brendan Parsey is the responsible manager. Consultation true to form from Mr Parsey, too little and too late. At first blush what's being proposed is a dilution of the current PAT. BCOM questions why is it ARFF need to reinvent this assessment so often and suspect that Mt Parsey is attempting to justify his existence and value to Airservices.

### **BCOM North Queensland**

The Secretary and President tabled a proposal to visit NQ with several objectives in mind.

1. Present former BCOM Justin Harpley with a UFUA service award.
2. Recruit a new BCOM NQLD
3. Visit priority stations (several NQ stations are experiencing industrial, WHS and operational issues. Potential stations include Cairns, Mackay, Gladstone.

Several members from Cairns have contacted the office reporting concerns over short, medium and long-term planning for a replacement station on the back of the December floods. Crews continue to operate in substandard amenities with little to nil information coming from management. Nil BCOM, Delegate and HSR on Personal leave.

### **RC# 99 Recruitment**

Junior Industrial officer reports that only 2 of the non-financial recruits remain. 1 recruit from Townsville has declared that he will not sign up; the other has expressed his intention to sign up shortly. The third non-financial recruit has resigned from Airservices.

### **Increase in Branch Expenses**

Davies lawyers have notified the Branch of an increase in hourly rates +8.8%

The ACTU has notified the Branch of an increase in affiliation fees +3.0%

**2024 ACTU Conference Adelaide**

National Branch covered expenses for all branches to attend. Not required on the part of the Aviation or SA Branches. The UFUA submitted two items for adoption into ACTU policy.

1. ACTU to pressure Government to have Australia ratify the Stockholm Convention banning PFAS chemicals.
2. Climate change policies should consider the implications of renewable energy technologies on fire and rescue services and their ability to safely respond to such incidents.

**Meeting closed at: 11:38 ACST**



.....  
Rory T McCabe  
PRESIDENT

