



## BULLETIN

Bulletin No: 5

13 February 2013

**TO ALL UFUA MEMBERS**

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### **UNITED FIREFIGHTERS UNION OF AUSTRALIA NATIONAL PRESIDENT AND NATIONAL SECRETARY ELECTIONS DECLARED**

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Members are advised that today the National Elections of the National Officers of the National President and National Secretary have been declared.

- SA Branch Secretary Greg Northcott has been elected as National President unopposed.
- National Secretary Peter Marshall has been re-elected unopposed.

Nominations closed yesterday and as one nomination was received for each office the nominees have been declared into those positions. The elections were conducted by the AEC in accordance with requirements and the UFUA Rules.

Outgoing National President Mick Farrell retired from his position as Aviation Branch Secretary in 2012 and therefore was not eligible for re-election. The UFUA is forever indebted to Mick and the Aviation Branch – particularly as the Aviation Branch was the springboard for federal registration.

Mick has worked tirelessly for approximately 33 years to represent the interests of members and to ensure that the UFUA became the united force it is today. He was first elected State President of the Victorian Branch in 1980 and then of the Federal Firefighters Union. Since then he has held various offices in the Victorian and more recently the Aviation Branch as well as the federal union. He has held the office of National President of the UFUA for the past 7 years.

Under his stewardship there have been significant successes and achievements – including presumptive legislation being introduced unanimously and in record time in the Federal Parliament in 2011.

We cannot do justice to Mick's commitment and contribution to the UFUA in a bulletin and will be doing so in a more appropriate forum.

Both Greg and Peter are to be congratulated for their election unopposed which is testament to their personal attributes and commitment to the UFUA. It is also testament to the unity and solidarity throughout the national union.

SA Branch has always been committed to a unified union and Greg's contribution to the National Executive has been significant. His pragmatic approach and experience will compliment the tenacity and capabilities of Peter Marshall.

With Peter continuing as National Secretary the UFUA can rest assured it is in capable and committed hands to face the challenges of the future.

Peter was first elected to the position of National Secretary in 2001. Over the past 12 years the UFUA has gone from strength to strength not only in membership numbers but in its political capital.

Peter's efforts have been instrumental in the successes of the union. He devoted almost six months to the federal presumptive legislative campaign which included more than 40 inter-state visits. Almost immediately upon the Federal legislation being enacted his attention was directed to Tasmania and the Tasmania Fire Service budget cuts and proposed closures. Working alongside the Tasmanian Branch the UFUA was successful in reversing the budget cuts and preventing the proposed austerity measures. Other branches have benefited directly from Peter's experience and tenacity and ability to work across the political spectrum to protect the interests of the UFUA members.

Peter is known for being accessible to the membership at any time of the day via mobile and his ability to handle a series of serious and urgent issues as Victorian Branch Secretary as well manage the national union's priorities.

Combined with the skills and capabilities of incoming National President Greg Northcott, the UFUA is well placed to build on past achievements and to forge ahead in the current challenging industrial climate and attacks on terms and conditions that our members are facing.

*Authorised by National President Mick Farrell*