

## **BULLETIN**

**Bulletin No: 100**

**Volume: 17**

**Date: Friday 16 July 2010**

**TO: ALL UFU MEMBERS**

### **UFU CONGRATULATES PETER MARSHALL ON 15 YEARS AS BRANCH SECRETARY**

Members may not be aware that the weekend just past was the 15 year anniversary of the inaugural election of the current Victorian Branch Secretary, Peter Marshall.

Peter was first elected as Victorian Branch Secretary in July 1995 on the Members Representative Ticket which still operates today. Before being elected, Peter held the position of employees' representative on the Metropolitan Fire & Emergency Services Board. In 2002, Peter was also elected National Secretary of the UFUA by other UFU State Branch Secretaries. He was re-elected to this position earlier this year. Peter is also an executive member of the Australian Council of Trade Unions, and in 1998 received the Centennial Medal for services to industrial relations from the Federal Government. Peter is also the Chairman of the International Fire Fighting Unions Alliance.

But Peter's impact has mostly been in his activities as Branch Secretary, not in positions he has held. Since his election Peter has led negotiations on a large number of enterprise bargaining agreements for workers in Victoria's fire safety industry. In a period which featured Jeff Kennett's concerted attempt to destroy Victorian unions, the UFU has proven one of the few which not only survived but flourished in the severe conditions. In the context of the Victorian trade union movement, Peter will go down in history as a Branch Secretary who very ably represented his members and protected his 'patch' while under considerable duress from the political environment.

Peter's enduring guidance as Branch Secretary has of course been the result of the support and activism he has received from the UFU membership. UFU members are noted for their resilience and their determination to advance their industrial and professional objectives through collective strength, and it is a credit to the UFU

**MORE FIREFIGHTERS, NOT LESS**

membership to repeatedly endorse a secretary who brings out the best in us. The connection between the Branch Secretary and the membership remains as strong as ever.

On behalf of the Victorian Branch Committee of Management, and of the membership more broadly, I congratulate Peter on his 15 years as Branch Secretary. It is an honour to work with such a committed and passionate secretary, who fights for the wages and conditions of firefighters today with as much energy as he did on his first day in the job.

***Authorized by David Hamilton, Branch President***

Strength in Unity