



QUEENSLAND FIREFIGHTER



The United Firefighters
Union of Australia
Queensland Branch

Ground Floor
286 Montague Road
West End Qld 4101
Phone: 07 3844 0366
Fax: 07 3844 0367

Email:
ufu@ufuq.asn.au

Website:
www.ufuq.asn.au

Editor:
Steve Bunney

Publisher and Advertising:
Dowd Publications Pty Ltd
Suite 9

Dominion House
34 Dominions Road
Ashmore Qld 4214
Phone: 1800 621 533
Fax: 1800 066 787

Email:
dowdpub@bigpond.com.au

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Every time, all the time, Firefighters; there when
needed the most!
Photographs courtesy of Bruce Lawrie.
UFU Rockhampton.



State Secretary's Report

John Oliver

FLOODS, CYCLONES AND EARTHQUAKES

Many Queensland cities and towns have been devastated by the recent floods. More recently Cyclone Yasi crossed our shores and New Zealand is now recovering from the recent earthquakes.

A number of Queensland Firefighters have spent little time at home over the last few months and I can appreciate that their families are also feeling the effects of them being away for such a prolonged period.

The United Firefighters Union has been working hard in the background making sure that your conditions of employment are being met and in some cases advanced. We will be entering further negotiations regarding deployments this year in an attempt to eliminate the confusion with payments that have occurred over the recent months. I also understand fatigue is another important issue that will need to be at the centre of these discussions.

FIREFIGHTER PROFILE

In recent years I have seen many government agencies and politicians continue to refer to Firefighters in generic terms as "Emergency Services Workers". This term is technically correct but it does not distinguish Firefighters or recognise us for the difficult work that firefighters do. The firefighter brand is one that we are proud of and I will ask those who refer to us in the media and government to use our correct title, Firefighters and not the generic term.

FORMING ALLIANCES

In 2010, the United Firefighters Union formed strong relationships with other Unions that have a similar membership profile. The UFU has shaped a strong working relationship with the LHMU (Ambulance Employees Union) and the Rural Fire Brigade Association. In 2011, I will formally meet with the Queensland Police Union to set up meetings to discuss areas of mutual concern.





These alliances will strengthen our Union especially when we are faced with the broader issues. We can then respond to those who oppose us as a united front, especially when we have a common goal.

For far too long the UFU has worked in isolation of these other kindred organisations.

THANKS

I wish to thank those who have gone above and beyond for the UFU in 2010 and those who continue to assist in 2011. There are too many people to mention in this article who devote their valuable time to the UFU. Our members do appreciate the effort that our representatives put in, both at Local and State level. We all play a vital part in keeping our Union strong and we should be proud of our efforts.

FLOODS AND DRAMA

On Tuesday the 11th January, I travelled to work at Karana Downs Fire Station. I knew that there were warnings of high tides and possible floods to Ipswich and Brisbane.

As a Firefighter on shift, you prepare yourself for what is yet to develop. Not only was I thinking in terms of my role as a firefighter, but I also had the UFU Office to consider. The fact that the Lockyer Valley was already declared a disaster zone and most of our crews had been deployed, I knew this would be a busy time.

I made an early call to the Union Office staff and told them to stay at home and that I would be in contact throughout the day to advise them of our redundancy plan. By mid morning, the rain was torrential and the warnings were getting quite serious. I then received a message that West End (the UFU Head Office location) was to evacuate within the hour, which confirmed my earlier decision for staff to stay at home.

I knew everyone was safe and carried on dealing with a game plan with the boys from Karana. Things developed slowly that first day, but we were asked to stay and see the night out as there were no other firefighting resources that could be spared to look after this area. Resources were being directed and rightly so, to carry out life rescues. Three hours later we were flooded in and isolated. We then set out to gather food and supplies for the days ahead. This is when the power went out and shop owners started shutting their doors because the registers stopped working. The local garage then closed as the pumps needed power, so we then had to source diesel from another government agency.

The volume of phone calls that were diverted to myself and the Karana Downs Station (temporary Union Office) became more frequent and in the end it literally drove the crew



insane. A comparison after the event was that “it was like the Suncorp Insurance hotline and Firefighters were manning the phones”.

It was a very uneasy night as no one knew if what happened in Toowoomba could happen here and discussion centred around the strength of the dam wall. Our Station, including Karana Downs would be wiped out if the wall collapsed and this topic made everyone a little edgy, until someone mentioned that we had no gas left in the BBQ to cook dinner on. No further comments were made regarding the dam or anything else except food from then on!

During the microwave cooked meal, we then decided to contact the other agencies to see what emergency plans they had put in place. This is when we found out that we were the only response agency and the Ambulance Service had not sent in Paramedics before we were isolated. Within a few hours conversations developed in regards to determining who may be delivering a baby that night. We then sourced two Paramedics, two GP's, a surgeon and eventually a paediatrician.

Later that day reports were coming in describing situations where people were missing; homes were floating down the river, people were trapped in vehicles and towns were under water. We were listening to the disaster unfold!

We spent our nights checking equipment, getting snakes out of houses, minor medical assists, watching the rising water and filling sand bags.

Fortunately, Karana Downs fared well with minor damage to the area. Roads were still cut, but no homes were lost.

On Thursday the C Shift crew at Karana Downs was airlifted out and released home to our families.

I was exhausted, but I now had to deal with the Union Office and getting it up and running again. With all the madness, Paula and Glenys managed to get some of our equipment to higher ground in case of the worst outcome. We organized for telephones to be redirected to the Office Manager's (Angela) mobile phone and the office emails were diverted to a single address. The Union Office was being run out of my home, but it was enough to get us through this period.

On Saturday the 15th January, roads were open to allow us back into the Office. We took shovels, hoses, brooms and our gum boots and set out for a day of cleaning. The basement of our building had flooded to around 1.4 meters. This included our storage area that holds some of our archive records. We managed to save the important files and our beloved UFU banner.



Thank you to Joe Ryan, Bryan Taylor, Steve Bunney, Angela Jones and Glenys Thompson for helping with the clean up.

The West End area had been hit hard by the floods and the Office telephones and power were still not working. Cleaning was still unfinished, but on Wednesday life was starting to look a little brighter when the Office reopened. The cleaning began again with the additional help of Peter Chalmers who also put up the banner with me in the meeting room to show that the UFU Office survived the floods.

I also wish to thank Mark Dearlove in securing the bobcat for the cleanup and to the members who have been very understanding through this time.

The Union office is extremely busy as we are still catching up on the work, but we are getting there.

John Oliver
State Secretary





Castlemaine Perkins
Lion Nathan Queensland

Cnr Black & Paten Streets, Milton Qld 4064
Telephone: 07 3361 7400



State President's Report

Steve Bunney

Rain, rain, rain, rain and then wind and of course more rain.

Well, since we last talked the state of Queensland has been inundated with disasters and once again, on the front line was our Fire and Rescue personnel. Over the course of the New Year we have seen outstanding displays of bravery, humanity, professionalism and of course some just plain ole' hard work in getting this great state of ours back on its feet.



Our members have been on the frontline, performing rescues, completing searches, pumping out basements, hosing houses, shoveling mud, and doing whatever they can in getting the job done. Sometimes it's easy to overlook those who didn't make the TV news or newspapers and that are of course our valiant communications members. Spare a thought for our members who answered the thousands of 000 calls, the professionalism of these skillful operators who received those pleas for help and have the strength and resolve to calmly respond the resources to the emergency, this ability belies the importance of Comms' officers in our organization.

I take my hat off to the men and woman of our communication centre's and ask that next time when you make a call on the radio and you cant get that message through to the communication center, remember the personnel there are our brothers and sisters in arms, doing their best in trying conditions to get help to people in distress and get resources to the rescuers.

I have been informed that many UFU members' whist already tasked at their normal work days to assist in the cleanup, decided that it wasn't enough and decided that they would volunteer their skills on weekends and days off. Often just turning up and helping as one of many in an army of volunteers that that got this state back on its feet.

Isn't it great to be a "QUEENSLANDER?"

In this journal, OHS delegate Chris Robinson reports on a rigorous laundering process being negotiated by the UFU. Bear Amos gives her report on the Communication Centres. Also some news from Toowoomba and Brisbane flood stories with photos.



Stop press. The devastating earthquake has just struck Christchurch NZ, our thoughts and prayers are with the UFU members of the NZ Fire and Rescue in their efforts in the forthcoming months and of course all those among us who have family and friends there.

Just goes to show, “no matter what”, “no matter where”, Fire and Rescue are always the first called, every time, all the time.

Stay safe brothers and sisters.

Solidarity
Steve Bunney
State President





LABOUR DAY 2011

Being the 10th Anniversary of September 11th our theme for this year's Labour Day is in memory of our Fallen Firefighters

UFU Members marched through the streets of Brisbane last year to celebrate Labour Day 2010. Numbers were up to the mid 300 mark with members bringing their families to enjoy the day with their mates. Members came from as far as Cairns, Townsville, Rockhampton, North Coast, South Coast, Ipswich and Toowoomba.

Children enjoyed rock climbing, rides, showbags and ice cream, while for the adults, there was plenty of food, drinks and laughter. All of these were supplied free by the UFU and the Queensland Council of Unions.

Our special Labour Day t-shirts and hats were a big hit and so were the show bags for the members' children. This year there will be balloons, show bags and exclusive shirts and hats which will incorporate this year's theme.

Already it has been a big year with the floods and cyclones and we as firefighters and communication officers have played a major part in rescuing people, helping to clean up and in general, bringing the community together.

Firefighters are among the most loved and trusted professionals in the world and I would like nothing more than to see a large crowd of proud firefighters marching through the streets of Brisbane in the 2011 Labour Day March.

Please come and enjoy the day with your family and friends on:

[MONDAY 2ND MAY 2011 AT THE RNA SHOW GROUNDS.](#)

John Oliver
State Secretary



Presumptive Legislation, Where Are We Now?

Firefighters around the state are constantly asking me about what the current state of play is with the UFU's push for Presumptive Legislation. The UFUA National Executive recently asked me to coordinate a national Strategy in legislating for diseases attributable to Firefighting as an occupation.

Firey's will be well aware of my constant drive in this fight for recognition of the diseases that affect firefighters and as such have I have gained an enormous amount of knowledge content and have built a knowledge base and network of recognized world experts in this field from all over the globe.

Can members also be cognizant of the use of the "UFU Personal Exposure reporting Form" available on the UFU website. Data is the key to success, firefighters need to record every occupational exposure and build our information base and records.

Please find attached the letter from my Colleague Alex Forrest, President United Firefighters of Winnipeg.

January 28, 2011

Brother Steve Bunney
State President
United Firefighters Union,
Queensland, Australia

Dear Brother Bunney,

Re: Update on Canadian/North American Presumptive Legislation

I know that Australia is right now in a battle in regards to having proper recognition of Occupational Cancer in Australian Fire Fighters and I believe it is important for you to be kept up to date on what is happening in Canada and the U.S.

Due to the economy being in such a bad way in the U.S. advances in Presumptive Legislation during the last few months have come from Canada.

Seven out of ten of the Canadian provinces now have Presumptive Legislation showing a link between occupational cancer and the occupation of firefighting.



This legislation started in 2002 in the Province of Manitoba and now, eight years later, it is across 70% of the country.

Manitoba has again advanced the presumptive issue. Due to recent studies that have come forward within the fire service, studies such as the Cornell study and the LeMasters study out of Ohio that looked at 110,000 firefighters, Manitoba now has the most comprehensive cancer list of any jurisdiction in Canada.

We have just added four cancers to the list of those covered under the legislation. Presumptive Legislation for firefighters in Manitoba now covers brain, bladder, leukemia, non-Hodgkin's lymphoma, lung, testicular, esophageal, ureter, kidney, colon, rectal, breast, skin, prostate and multiple myeloma as well as heart injury within 24 hours of an emergency response.

At the beginning of February 2011 we will be introducing Presumptive Legislation in the 8th province.

As you know we are assisting firefighters of the European Union, specifically Finland and Sweden, in trying to create the first Presumptive Legislation in the European Union. A Safety Conference is being held in Helsinki in February 2011. Firefighters from all across Europe and around the world are expected to attend.

I will be the keynote speaker at this conference that is expected to be a watershed that will begin the process of getting Presumptive Legislation into Europe.

I do not need to remind you that we are living in a world economy and issues such as occupational cancer compensation for firefighters need to be dealt with on a global level to be truly successful.

I am looking forward to continuing to assist you in your efforts to acquire Presumptive Legislation for the firefighters of Australia. Our union, the International Association of Fire Fighters and specifically all Canadian firefighters, are all behind you in your efforts to have proper compensation for your Brothers and Sisters who suffer from occupational cancer.

I know that this is not an easy task but you are not alone and we will stand beside you and we will assist you in whatever you need to accomplish your goal.

Yours truly,

Original signed by
ALEX FORREST
PRESIDENT, UNITED FIRE FIGHTERS OF WINNIPEG



CANADIAN TRUSTEE, INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF FIRE FIGHTERS
AJF/ss

Alex Forrest, is a full time firefighter, during his career he also pursued a Bachelor of Laws at the University of Manitoba. He was called to the Bar in 1996 but rather than going into private practice he became President of the United Fire Fighters of Winnipeg, an organization representing over fifteen hundred active and retired firefighters in the City of Winnipeg.

Alex is also the Canadian Trustee of the International Association of Fire Fighters, an organization that represents twenty-two thousand Canadian Fire Fighters. Alex is Chair of the UFFW Political Action Committee and as such he has been very involved in lobbying to attain Presumptive Legislation for Fire Fighters across Canada. He has a passion to ensure that firefighters diagnosed with occupational disease receive proper compensation and recognition.

Alex worked hard to make Manitoba the first Canadian province to receive Presumptive Legislation, and assisted in drafting that legislation, which was passed in 2002. Seven Canadian Provinces now have Presumptive Legislation and Alex has been involved in this expansion.

Alex, has instructed seminars and has been a guest lecturer for many Fire Fighter organizations across both North America and Europe. He continues to assist Fire Fighter Locals and other Unions across the globe to educate government officials in many jurisdictions about the science that proves a connection between occupational diseases and the occupation of firefighting.

Brothers and Sisters, with colleagues like Alex Forrest standing alongside us, I will not waiver in my efforts to gain the recognition of the diseases that affect our members which is now well and truly overdue.

Regards

Steve Bunney



Lapel pins of this design are available from Steve Bunney, all proceeds go to the Firefighters Cancer Organization.



Occupational Health and Safety Report

Chris Robinson
UFUQ OH &S Co-ordinator



Asbestos and Other Inorganic Substance and Fibre [Particulates] are a Firefighters Occupational Health and Safety nemesis and threatens a Firefighters longevity and quality of Life [Career and Retirement].

Firefighters are at risk of asbestos exposure because of its frequent use in older structures and its ability to linger in the air even after a fire has been extinguished.

The UFUQ's goal is to provide Firefighters with the knowledge of the [QFRS] organisation's legislative responsibility [OH&S ACT 1995] and information needed to minimise the risk of exposure:

UFU State Secretary John Oliver was concerned that the current decontamination process had the potential to expose other members at Station level as well as non-Fire Service related employees (such as commercial laundry operators and couriers). The decontamination process is currently, a blend of using our own personnel and private contractors.

QFRS Deputy Commissioner MacKenzie agreed in principle with UFUQ State Secretary and made comment:

"The Service is very keen to address any issues that could affect the health and wellbeing of its members and as well as the general public. The QFRS suggest the first stage will be the review of any or all of the existing arrangements. There is a need to determine if new Structural Firefighting contracts address these issues."

The UFUQ OH&S Co-ordinator Chris Robinson was tasked by UFUQ State Secretary to seek consultation with QFRS Executive Management to redress the concerns and issues identified by UFUQ.

To ensure full disclosure to our UFUQ members, I have included all correspondence for UFUQ members Referral and Awareness.



Date: 14th December 2010

Subject: Incident Directives (INCDIR) dealing with Asbestos and Hazardous Substances that are applied at emergency and post emergency incidents.

Agenda: Review Incident Directives

- ✓ Decontamination Personnel and Equipment 16.3
- ✓ Asbestos & Other Fibres 19.2
- ✓ Decontamination of Soiled Items 23.2
- ✓ Review current contractual arrangements for cleaning and servicing PPE contaminated or potentially contaminated by Asbestos and other Fibres

Venue: DCS – Kedron

Attendees:

- ✓ Kevin Walsh, Acting Director, State Operations Branch
- ✓ Michael Logan, Chief Superintendent, Scientific Branch
- ✓ Daryl Rush, Manager Operational Doctrine & Planning
- ✓ John Bartholomew, Executive Manager, QFRS WH&S
- ✓ Chris Robinson, UFUQ OH&S Coordinator

Scope:

- ✓ Correspondence, UFUQ State Secretary John Oliver to QFRS Deputy Commissioner Iain MacKenzie
- ✓ Correspondence, QFRS Deputy Commissioner Iain MacKenzie to UFUQ State Secretary John Oliver

Summary of Meeting:

1. Addressed and reviewed:
 - Incident Directive 16.3
Hazardous Material Incidents
Decontamination
Personnel & Equipment
 - Incident Directive 19.2
Incident Specific Hazards
Asbestos and Other Fibres
 - Incident Directive 23.2



Protective Clothing & Equipment
Decontamination of Soiled Items

2. Discussed the current arrangement in QFRS Regions for laundry services in cleaning of contaminated and/or potentially contaminated PPE ensemble and ancillary equipment
 - ✓ flash hoods
 - ✓ structural firefighting gloves
 - ✓ station uniform
3. Discussed the need for a new State Order to give direction on the procedures for laundering of PPE suspected of contamination by Asbestos and other Inorganic Substance / Fibres [Particulates]
Reviewed the existing regional Standing Order, listed:
 - ✓ FAR NORTHERN REGION STANDING ORDER
LAUNDERING OF PPE SUSPECTED OF
CONTAMINATION BY ASBESTOS AND OTHER FIBRES
4. Discussed the lack of facilities in South West and South East Region's in laundering of PPE suspected of contamination by Asbestos and other Inorganic Substance / Fibres [Particulates]
5. Discussed the only accredited company / business that can launder PPE suspected of contamination by Asbestos and other Inorganic Substance / Fibres [Industrial Decontamination Services – Brendale]
6. Discussed Asbestos Fibres [Spear] and [Hook]
7. Discussed Asbestos Fibre contamination on Velcro on PPE
8. Discussed Asbestos Fibre damage to the lungs
9. Discussed Asbestos Fibre potential hazards when at the emergency incident [firefighting, overturning /damping down]
10. Discussed methods of decontamination and the current procedures in QFRS Regions compared to Industry Standards



Outcomes:

1. QFRS to review current capacity of launderers in the contractual arrangement [SOA] for laundering of PPE suspected of contamination by Asbestos and other Inorganic Substance / Fibres [Particulates]
2. For the interim period, until the new SOA PPE Structural Firefighting Ensemble commences in approximately March 2011, PPE suspected of contamination by Asbestos and other Inorganic Substance / Fibres [Particulates] in South West, South East and Brisbane Regions will be laundered at Industrial Decontamination Services – Brendale.
3. Development by QFRS, a new State Standing Order addressing laundering of PPE suspected of contamination by Asbestos and other Inorganic Substance / Fibres [Particulates]. The State Standing Order will detail the laundering procedure for PPE suspected of being contaminated.
4. For the interim period, until the new SOA PPE Structural Firefighting Ensemble commences in approximately March 2011, the QFRS will investigate the regions, Far North / Northern / Central and North Coast have a contractual arrangement in their region for a launderer to provide laundering of PPE suspected of contamination by Asbestos and other Fibres. Should it be identified that there is no available service, the contaminated and/or potential contaminated PPE will be sent to Industrial Decontamination Services – Brendale.
5. As per QFRS Deputy Commissioner MacKenzie's letter to UFUQ State Secretary John Oliver, QFRS and UFUQ consultation with transparency have been addressed at this meeting.
STAGE 1 – REVIEW OF ANY OR ALL OF THE EXISTING ARRANGEMENTS



6. Formation of “[TGMS] Total Garment Management System Committee Group” [24th February 2011] to address:
Deputy Commissioner’s Mackenzie’s “Terms of Reference”
 - o There is a need to determine if new Structural Firefighting contracts address these issues.”

Firefighters are at risk of repeated asbestos exposure because they work in environments that can release Asbestos Fibres and over time this can lead to serious health problems for UFUQ members including Mesothelioma and other cancers.

Ongoing Education and the ongoing review of Operational considerations for Firefighters in relation to Asbestos and Other Inorganic Substance / Fibres [Particulates] ensures Health and Safety for UFUQ members.

**In Solidarity
Chris Robinson [Robbo]**



19th November, 2010
Qfrs61 Asbestos Management INCDIR
Deputy Commissioner Iain Mackenzie
QFRS
GPO Box 1425
Brisbane 4001
FACSIMILE 3247 8803

Deputy Commissioner I MacKenzie,

Iain,

I write to you regarding the current Incident Directives (INCDIR) dealing with Asbestos and Hazardous Substances that are applied at emergency incidents and post emergency incidents.

The UFU is concerned that the decontamination process has the potential to expose other members at Station level as well as non-Fire Service related employees (such as commercial laundry operators and couriers). The decontamination process is currently, a blend of using our own personnel and private contractors.

The UFU is prepared to assist the QFRS in reviewing the Incident Directives relevant to these concerns and updating the current procedures through the WHS Committee. Our nominee will be WHS Coordinator Chris Robinson, should this be acceptable.

I believe the following INCDIR's are relevant:

- | | |
|---|------|
| • Decontamination Personnel and Equipment | 16.3 |
| • Asbestos & Other Fibres | 19.2 |
| • Decontamination of Soiled Items | 23.2 |

To further this process, contact Chris Robinson on mobile 0447 776 356 and/or email chrisrobinson@ufuq.asn.au

I thank you for allowing the UFU to work with QFRS to realize a mutual outcome.

Regards,

John Oliver
State Secretary
United Firefighters Union of Australia - QLD



Queensland
Government

Queensland Fire and
Rescue Service

John Bartholomew
Ph: 07 3635 3770
Our Ref: 10/13062
Your Ref: QFR561 Asbestos Management INCDIR

26 NOV 2010

Mr John Oliver
State Secretary
United Firefighters Union Queensland
Ground Floor, 286 Montague Road
WEST END QLD 4101

Dear John

Reference is made to your letter of 19 November 2010 regarding dealing with Asbestos and Hazardous Substances at emergency and post emergency incidents.

The Queensland Fire and Rescue Service (QFRS) would like to thank you in your offer to assist in reviewing the Incident Directives relevant to these matters. The Service is very keen to address any issues that could affect the health and well being of its members as well as the general public. The QFRS suggests the first stage will be the review of any or all of the existing arrangements. There is also a need to determine if new structural firefighting contracts address these issues.

The following personnel have been nominated to further this process and will liaise with Chris Robinson.

Chief Superintendent John Cawcutt
Director, State Operations Branch
Tel: 3635 3785 Email: John.Cawcutt@dcqs.qld.gov.au

John Bartholomew
Executive Manager, Workplace Health and Safety
Tel: 3635 3770 Email: John.Bartholomew@dcqs.qld.gov.au

I look forward to the UFU working in partnership with QFRS on this matter.

Yours sincerely

Iain S MacKenzie AFSM
Deputy Commissioner

CC John Cawcutt
John Bartholomew

Deputy Commissioner's Office
Emergency Services Complex
Cnr Park and Kildren Park Roads Kedron
Queensland 4104
GPO Box 1425 Brisbane
Queensland 4001 Australia
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South Eastern Regions Newest Firefighter Delegate

Sean Wulff

Colleagues

I am honoured to be elected as the South East Firefighter delegate to the State Committee of Management. I would like to take this opportunity to briefly introduce myself and explain why I accepted nomination for the position.

Firstly and most importantly, I would not be able to fulfil the responsibilities of this position without the support of my beautiful wife and our two young sons.

A quick rundown of my working life starts after finishing school and joining the Royal Australian Navy until I was old enough to be released. Upon leaving the RAN and moving to Queensland I made the decision to apply for employment with the Queensland Fire Service. I started in 1996 as a firefighter at Beenleigh in the South Eastern Region. I made the move to the North East Command (Gold Coast North) last year.

From very early on in my employment I realised that the greatest asset we have as firefighters is the camaraderie we share with our workmates and the desire to look after each other. It seemed to me that a natural progression of this is active participation in our union. As members we cannot afford to be complacent or regard our union as something like an insurance company, a policy we pay money to in case we need it someday. Our union is a collective of it's membership of ensuring that the interests of all our members are looked after every minute of every day. Not just when a new Enterprise Bargaining Agreement is looming or even when an issue may affect you individually. To be able to do this we need strong representation to the employer and that can only be gained by strong active participation by all members. That participation can be as simple as attending your branch meetings or perhaps attending the impending Labour Day march. Above all have an interest in the welfare of your fellow firefighters.

I have always found our unions officials and representatives approachable and only to happy to answer any questions or concerns I've had. Consequently I accept this position extending that same courtesy and knowing that I represent the firefighters of the South East Region.

Solidarity

Sean Wulff

U.F.U, S.E.R Firefighter Delegate.

Editors note

On behalf of the UFU, State Committee of Management. We congratulate Sean on his recent election and I welcome Sean to the Committee. I also offer Sean any assistance he may need in settling in to his new role and I can assure our members that we have gained another valuable asset to our committee and I look forward to Sean contributions in the forthcoming months and into the future.

Steve Bunney



▲ Sean and his son at a previous Labor Day March someone looks pretty excited about the UFU flag!!!



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Communications Centre Delegate Report

Bear (Beryl) Amos



Well , its been quite an eventful but very busy 10th months in my new role as the Communications Centre Delegate. I didn't realise there were so many Union Issues happening within our Coms. Centres until I stepped into this role. It is a very active role but also very satisfying. The experience that I have gained is priceless. I would firstly like to thank Steve, John, Paula, Henry & the Union office girls for your never ending support that you have all given to me. Also the SCM team for always being there for me when the going gets tough. To all of our Coms. Officers out there you are all Extraordinary people to me and it's because of you all that I took on the role. It's important that we have a voice heard for Our Coms. Members.

I try to make a point of keeping in contact with our Coms members as much as possible and with a lot of activity happening within the State at the moment with the recent floods and cyclones. I must remind you all that if you are feeling the impact from these events or if you are run down or even just need someone to talk to please contact me or contact one of our experienced Firecare personel. All Coms. Centres should have started their Defuses and Debriefs by now. We are only human and sometimes these emotional events can get us down without us realising. The Coms. Officer role is sometimes overlooked as we do not physically come into contact with the actual event or people but we do suffer silently from the emotional side of the incident. If there are any Coms. procedures, FCCDs or standing orders not being adhered to within your region or centre please do advise us as you are our Union members and you have the right to feel supported. You are our first priority.

To All the Coms. Officers, Supervisors and Managers out there keep up the good work. There are alot of challenges ahead for all of us so please keep in contact and also remember to go along to you branch meetings and let me know how they go. We will be planning our next Coms. Teleconference again soon so I will be in close contact with our members for recent Issues.

The Fire Communications Officer provides the first link for the community when it requires the assistance of the QFRS. Without us You don't turn a wheel. We are here for you as you are for us. We are one Union.

**In Solidarity, Bear Amos
Communications Centre Delegate UFUQ**



Union Office V's The Brisbane River

During the recent wet weather the flooding of the Brisbane River became a topic of interest for your Union Executive and Office Staff.

For our Members information, our building is located on the corner of Montague Rd and Vulture street in Brisbane's West End, conveniently located within a stones throw from the Brisbane River.

Going by all the information we received, the houses that were previously located where the Unions building now stands, went under water in previous floods. There was no surety of just how high the river was going to rise. We had started receiving reports of police putting in roadblocks restricting access in and out of the West End precinct. Energex had informed us that they were cutting off the power supply to our building and all other premises in the area in the interest of public safety. An executive decision was made to remove the vital pieces of equipment needed by our office to ensure we could maintain our ability to provide assistance and coverage for our members, albeit remotely if required.

In a nutshell, the water rose at such a rapid rate our underground car park became submerged within the blink of an eye. Underneath our building our storage room was inundated and as such, some old documents and files being stored there were lost to the flood waters of the Brisbane River. Fortunately the offices upstairs were spared from the waters insurgence.

Finally, when the water went down, it left behind the mess of mud and debris and of course the smell. With a call to arms, your Union Executive got stuck in to the clean up with the help of our Office Manager Angela Jones, and Accounts Manager Glenys Thompson manning the brooms and hoses.

On behalf of John Oliver and myself, our thanks go to our State UFU Executive members of Bryan, Joe, Pete, Ron and his constant sidekick Mark. To our dedicated staff who helped out when needed the most, thank you and it couldn't have got done without your help.



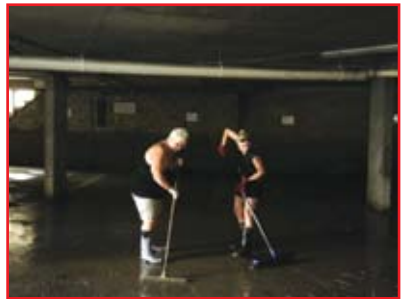
▲ The State Secretary & State President take a well earned break



▲ From L to R:
Assistant State Secretary Brian Taylor,
State Secretary John Oliver,
State Vice President Joe Ryan &
State President Steve Bunney



▲ The debris and mud left behind



▲ Angela and Glenys roll up their sleeves



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To see what's on in Cairns throughout the year, visit Council's website:

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Rockhampton. Did You Hear We Had Some Rain Up Here?

During the lead up period to the Rockhampton floods, Rockhampton SWR Crews were kept very busy with a number of SWR incidents. Crews responded to an incident on Upper Ulam Road at Upper Ulam, where a report was received that a vehicle had been swept off a flooded crossing. This incident resulted in death of an elderly man.

During the flood period SWR Crews were deployed in the Rockhampton and Gracemere areas, with a number of incidents occurring as these areas became isolated by flood waters.

Operations were approached with caution in some areas after the reported local sightings of crocodiles.

Crews were also conducting Rapid Damage Assessments towards the end of the flooding period.

Local Rockhampton SWR Crews were supported by deployments from Mackay and Gladstone.

As the risk of possible SWR Incidents decreased, this responsibility then came back onto regular on shift crews. Some of the SWR personnel from Rockhampton then became involved in the after flood clean up of local houses and properties.

Looking back on this very busy period of time in the Rockhampton area, I would be the first person to admit that some things could have been done differently, but over all I think Senior Management would be happy with the effort of all Technical Rescue Personnel and on shift Officers and Firefighters.

SO Barry Thompson
Tech Rescue Coordinator
Central Region





Different Roles Of Our Members During The Floods

During the floods BA Hazmat had a role in cleaning up the chemical and biological waste with crews. BA and Hazmat emergency taskforce crews consisted of 2 crews made up of an Officer, a Firefighter and a Scientific officer. One crew worked out of the Durack ICC and the other from the Kemp Place ICC. If we needed more equipment or PPE then we had available, we would then call for 850 Oscar or 850 Quebec to provide that extra level of support.

As a word of caution and information for crews responding to underground basements incidents etc. The BA Hazmat team went to the Stamford Plaza to perform a hazmat response. During the initial observations and investigations, the basement car park was found to have high levels of Co2 (15 – 20 times over the minimum), we believe this was caused by petrol driven generators and water blasters being used by the occupants staff in an effort to clean the car park. This revealed a completely unsafe area to be working in without breathing apparatus.

Most of the work performed by the BA Safety crews in these instances was in the removal and disposal of rotting meat and seafood products that had been unrefrigerated for days and affected by flood waters. The cold rooms and freezers of concern were usually located in basements and underground car parks of Hotels and Restaurants along the river. Our role was significant in the provision of PPE and Respiratory Protection for the crews responding to the emergency.

To keep us on our toes we went from one extreme to another eg we also responded to 200 litre drums of chemicals which were washed up on the beaches at Sandgate.

Regards
Ron Raverty
UFU Junior Vice President



▲ Forcourt Brisbane River



▲ MG Shop Chelmer



▲ QLD Art Gallery



▲ Underground 3



▲ Stamford Plaza

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*"Thank you for the tremendous
contribution you have made to
the City of Ipswich in making it a
safer place to work and live."*



Regards

Paul
Mayor Paul Pisasale
City of Ipswich

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The Last Chapter Of The Formation Of The South Coast Fire Brigade

By Retired Firefighter Allan (Bugsy) Burrows

This photo was taken in Nerang Street Southport, just west of Scarborough Street, the double story building I believe is the old Cecil Hotel.

The photo was taken ca. 1930 and appears to be an exercise or wet drill for the Firemen and not an actual fire scene.

The picture came from the Oxley Library.

The photo below is of an cap badge as worn by the early Southport Firemen. The badge measures 40mm. in diameter.

I think that when it was first issued it had a black background and only the letters and outer rim were polished brass.

Badge was supplied by S/O. Bill Taylor's daughters Joan; Beryl and Dell.





THE PIER THEATRE.

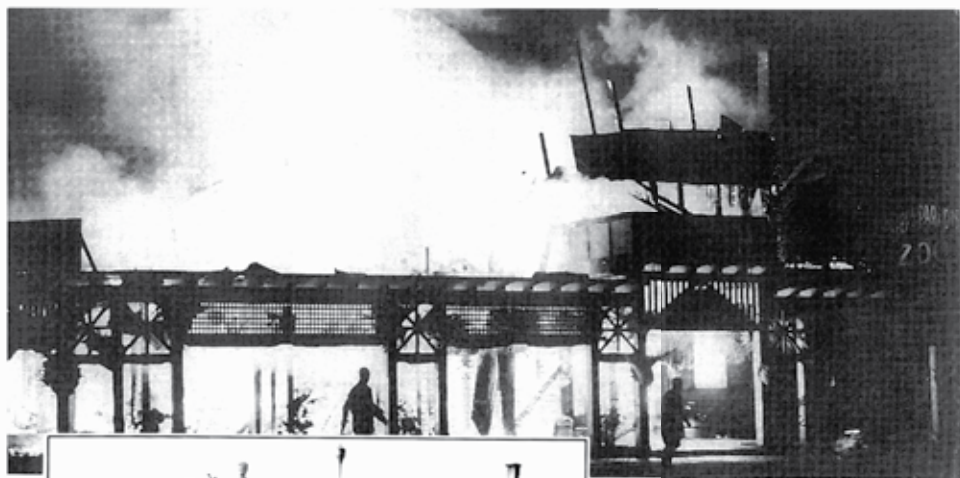
The Pier movie theatre was built on the old Pier jetty, east of Anzac Park, on Marine Parade at Southport in 1927 and was destroyed by fire in 1932.

The bottom photo from the Bulletin supplement 18th.November 1999.



The Surfers Paradise Hotel and Zoo, Owned by Mr. Jim Cavill on the corner of Cavill Avenue and the Highway, at Surfers Paradise was built in 1925 and destroyed by fire on the 7th June 1936. The bottom two photos were taken from the Gold Coast Bulletins supplement. 18th. November 1939.

The Surfers Paradise Hotel



Above: Fire destroys Jim Cavill's Surfers Paradise Hotel in July, 1936.
Left: What's left of the Surfers Paradise Hotel and Zoo after the disastrous fire.



Southport Air Crash.

At approx.1000 hours on Wednesday the 31st.May 1940 a Wirraway Air craft flown by Pilot Officer Goman and Warrant Officer Pritchard,Observer/Air gunner, crashed on the Esplanade at Southport. Where Huntington Lodge now stands. Immediately the crashed plane broke into flames and the explosion of the petrol and ammunition made it impossible for the Pilot or Observer to be rescued. Gold Coast Bulletin.31st.May 1940.

The two photos over page were extracted from Kevin Litfin's book on the history of Southport.

It is interesting to note that the Firemen at the fire were wearing old "Cromwell" helmets. These helmets were made of compressed cork with a dark brown linen covering inside and out. The Fireman in the middle of the picture has his helmet on back to front. Whether he put his helmet on the wrong way or did so on purpose to protect his face from the heat of the fire by bringing the skirt of the helmet to the front. Is unknown.

In Australia the Wirraway known as Model "A/20" was used before the war as an advanced trainer. During the war it became our front line fighter and was slaughtered by the advanced Japanese fighters. The Aircraft was designed in America as a Harvard NA/16 advanced trainer.

One of the early post war Fireman
JIM SLOPER 1945-1958.

Jim mainly worked at the old Surfers Sub Station which was a one man Station On an 24 hour shift. When he was off duty He was replaced by another fireman, Bob Weldon who lived across the road From the station where the Centre Arcade Now stands.

Photo supplied by Jim's daughter Nola Craig.







STATION OFFICER BILL TAYLOR.I.F.E.

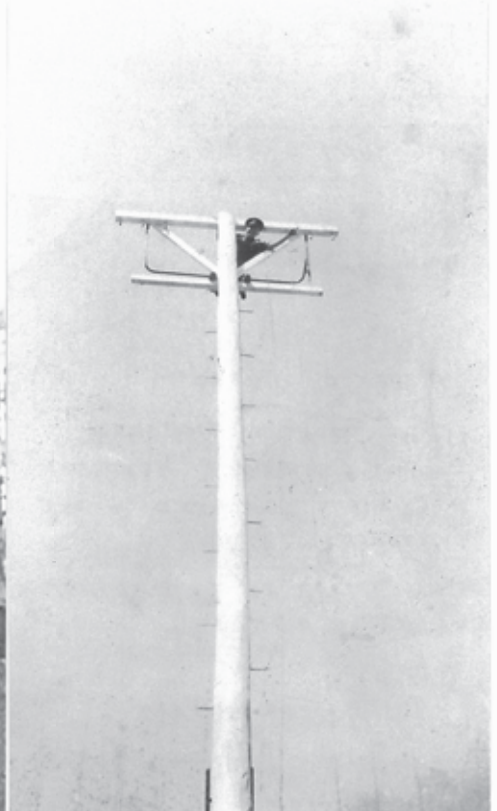
Bill Taylor was a member of the Brisbane Fire Service before coming to Southport as a permanent Fireman On the 13th.December 1943.

He worked his way through the ranks and was the first Station Officer at the old Surfers Paradise sub station and also at the new station when it was built beside the Cascade Gardens,Broadbeach. On the 24th.March 1968.after returning home from a night shift during which he attended a large fire at a guest house in Coolangatta in which a guest died ,Bill collapsed and died.Gold Coast Bulletin.

The photo of Bill on the left was taken at Southport in 1948The one on the right shows Bill up the Hose drying pole at Southport and taken in July 1948.

A story goes that at a later date this pole was struck by lightning, the bolt passed to ground then through the engine bay across the street and damaged the house across the street. The pole however was not damaged.

This story was told to me by Sub/O.Pohlman who was stationed there at the time,Bills daughters also confirmed this story as Bill was stationed there at the time.





SOUTHPORT FIRE BRIGADE SUB STATION AT SURFERS PARADISE.

The old Surfers Paradise Sub station built across the road from the Centre Arcade Surfers in 1942 during the second world war.

In the engine bay is the old 1935 Bedford appliance. This appliance is the first Fire engine on the coast.

This photo and the one below were supplied by Station Officer Bill Taylors daughter's Joan; Beryl and Dell. This photo was taken ca.1942/50.

The bottom photo taken of Station Officer Bill Taylor in 1962 is in the office cum kitchen cum lecture room of that station.

The window at rear is the one to the left of the engine bay in the above photo.





NEVILLE GRAHAM.

Neville Graham. Photos taken at Broadbeach in 1947. Ready to go to work at Southport. Nev. joined the Southport Fire Service in 1946 as an auxiliary Fireman and was appointed a permanent Fireman/driver on the 12/2/1947. He progressed through the ranks and was appointed Deputy Chief Officer on the 13/11/1960. He retired on the 15/8/1981 after 35 years of service. The photos were supplied by Nevs wife Millicent.

Note the open ground in back of photos which was how Broadbeach looked in 1947.





SUB STATION OFFICER FRANK CRADDUCK.

An early post war Fireman.

Frank started his Fire fighting career in England in 1938 when he joined the London Fire Brigade. In 1939 at the start of the second world war all Brigades in England were amalgamated into the National Fire Service.

Frank served his time in London during the war and during which he attended an Officers training school.

On the 11th.November 1947 he arrived in Australia and in 1948 joined the South Coast Fire Brigade where he remained till he retired in 1975.

Frank in his English uniform at Officer's training school. The badge on his chest reads N.F.S. No.35. Frank receiving his 10 year good conduct medal in 1959.

Frank in English uniform supplied by his wife Peggy.





DCO. KEITH HOLMES.
 Keith joined the Southport
 Fire Service in 1948 as an
 Auxiliary and became a
 Permanent Fireman/driver/
 Mechanic in 1949 and retired
 As the Deputy Chief Officer in
 24/8/1984 after 35 years of
 Service.
 Keith using a Salvus breathing
 Set in 1955 and on retirement
 in 1984.



**SOUTH COAST FIRE
 1953 BRIGADE**
 —*—
FIREMEN COMPLIMENTED

At the monthly meeting of the South Coast Fire Brigade Board complimentary references were made to the services of Firemen W. A. Taylor and Keith Holmes in connection with the recent bush fires in the western portion of Southport, when Fireman Holmes was instrumental in rescuing two small children and Fireman Taylor saved the fire engine by driving through the fire when the engine was in a position of danger. It was decided to place on record the Board's appreciation of the work of the two firemen.

It was decided to install a siren on the Vanguard utility. The Chief Officer stated that the utility was often used for fire fighting work.

The Chairman opposed the motion as he considered the siren was not necessary.

The Chief Officer promised Mr. Spencer that he would arrange for K. Windle, fireman at Coolangubatta, to be examined for his promotion to First Class Fireman.





ALLAN POHLMAN.

Another of the early post war Fireman.

Allan joined as an auxiliary Fireman in 1946.
Promoted to full Fireman in 1952.
Retired as an Sub Station Officer 10 June 1994.

Allan as a young auxiliary Fireman 14-6-1953
21 years of age.
With melons in 1960 and in 1983.

Photos supplied by his wife Daintry.





BREATHING IN SMOKE.

The first smoke training room at Southport Ca.1955. The breathing apparatus in use are Salvus self contained oxygen sets using a constant two litres of oxygen per minute and had a working duration of about 30 minutes under moderate work load.

From left to right,are Southport fireman K.w.Holmes,Deputy Chief Officer J.H.Windle-partly obscured,Chief Officer P.R.Mayer and fireman W.A.Taylor. They have just finished a period of time in the smoke filled hut in the background. They used the salvus sets for the public demonstration.

The photo supplied by Keith Holmes.



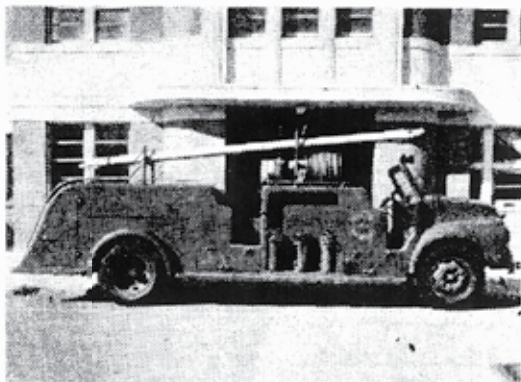


***Dont miss Out and
get burned up!***

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FIREMENS BALL**

The appliance out side the old Southport Fire Station is a 1956 Bedford with a Dennis pump.It was called Car 9 later on It was called Pump 9.
This actually was the third modern Pump for the station and not the Chev. "Viking" as listed in the book.The Chev. Now becomes the 4th.pump for the station.



FRIDAY, 25th JANUARY, 1957

AT

DANCING — FLOOR SHOW — NOVELTIES

Tickets available at all South Coast Fire Stations

Single 10/-

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The complete series of cap badges as worn by the old Southport Volunteer Fire Brigade 18th. May 1934 to the present 2010 now as the Queensland Fire and Rescue Service.





M.V.LANDFALL. 1957.

The Landfall beached on a sand bank in the middle of the Nerang River on the Main Beach side at Southport. This boat was owned by Mr. Bernard Elsie who also owned the Beachcomber Appartments in Surfers Paradise, Where Many a "Pajama party" was held. After a search of the vessel by the Fire Brigade, S/O. Bill Taylor was the last person to leave. The fire could not be reached from the River bank. The Landfall was one of the largest tourist Boats on the coast at that time. Photos kindly supplied by Margaret Wilson.





Some more photos of the Chelmsford fire, Built in 1912 and burnt down November 1961.

Bottom two photos supplied by S/O. Taylor's daughters Joan ; Beryl and Dell.





1962.

A view of Southport taken from the top of the hose tower at the old Fire Station in Davenport Street where the Court house now stands.
Looking south, Cecil hotel in center.
Looking west, Queens hotel bottom left.
Looking north.
Looking East, bottom left Police station and bottom right old court house.
Photos from Bill Taylors collection.



CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PARTIES.

At least from 1952 and until his death in 1969 Bill Taylor has always been Santa at the annual Christmas parties and did it to perfection.

Photo bottom left Bill with Grandson Brad in 1965.

Bottom right Peg Craddock ; Bill and Jessie Spence both holding Pegs twins Lucy and Peggy.

Unknown Fire engine at party in 1964. This engine may have been borrowed from Giltraps museum by Sub Station Officer Bruce Pearson ?

Note construction of Cascade Gardens, Broadbeach beside Station.

Photos supplied by Bill's daughters Joan ; Beryl and Dell.





SUB STATION OFFICER HEBERT JAMES FENNELL

When Herb joined the Brigade it was still Known as the South Coast Fire Brigade Before all Brigades were amalgamated Into the Queensland Fire Service.

On the 11th. February 1994 he with senior Fireman Noel Watson were tragically killed While fighting a fire in the Honda complex On the corner of Nerang Road and Ward St. Southport.

Herb in front of appliance with an International Visitor in center and S/o. Ron Robinson On the right.

Photos supplied by Margaret Fennell.

May they rest in peace.





SENIOR FIREMAN NOEL DOUGLAS WATSON.

On the 11th.February 1994, Noel aged 36 years and a Member of the Queensland Fire Service was tragically Killed together with SSO. Herb Fennell while fighting A fire in the Honda complex on the corner of Ward Street Southport.

The date of 11th.February is the correct date.

The photos of Noel were supplied by his wife Rosie.

May they both be remembered for their sacrifice While carrying out their duties as Firemen.





Two views of the fire at the Endeavour Sheltered workshop, Dakara Drive Southport. Over one million dollars damage. Gold Coast Bulletin. 26th July 1996.





Cap badges as worn by the Southport Fire Fighters from Inception in 1934 to the present 2010.

Photo's not to scale.





The American advanced training aircraft, the Harvard, was known in Australia as the Wirraway or as an "A-20".

This photo shows the aircraft in English R.A.F. colours.

Corrections from previous book.

The date of Noels and Herbs death corrected to 11th.February 1994.
And Bill Taylors death as 24th. March 1968.





THE OPENING OF THE NERANG FIRE STATION 28-09-2010 and the new Scania appliance.



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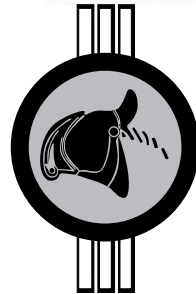
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COMPETITION EXTENDED

We have had some great ideas from members as to what you are looking for in the merchandise and below is the first test drive for new polo, sport shirts and hats.

At the moment the Union currently has limited stock as these are only trial designs but within 6 weeks new stock will be delivered.

A competition was arranged through the Union office to encourage members to provide us with feedback for the designs. Any member who contacts the Union with constructive feedback, will go into a draw for a full UFU merchandise pack which will contain the revamped:

UFU POLO SHIRT
UFU SPORTS SHIRT
UFU CAP
UFU STUBBY COOLER
UFU NUMBER PLATE FRAMES
UFU STICKER
UFU SPECIAL EDITION COWBOY HAT

We are extending the competition until the next journal and we have provided an updated merchandise form. This form is also available on the Union website www.ufuq.asn.au. The name of the winner will be published in the following journal.

A have ordered a new colour (coral and white) for the ladies which will be advertised on the website shortly.

John Oliver
State Secretary



Executive Navy Polo Shirts





Navy and Red Polo Shirt





Black and Grey Polo Shirt





Navy and White Sports Shirt





Royal Blue Caps



License Plate Surrounds - Black



Stickers





2011 UFUQ TRIAL DESIGN MERCHANDISE FEEDBACK FORM



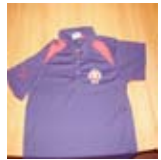
ROYAL BLUE CAP:

COMMENTS: -----



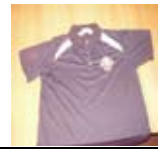
EXECUTIVE POLO:

COMMENTS:-----



NAVY & RED POLO:

COMMENTS:-----



BLACK & GREY POLO:

COMMENTS:-----



BLUE & WHITE T-SHIRT:

COMMENTS:-----

Thank you for your feedback!