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## **UFUQ State President and Industrial Officer Station Visits** **January 2013**

In the week of 20 to 26 January 2013 UFUQ State President Mark Dearlove and Industrial Officer Anthony Cooke visited the following fire stations:

- Cairns
- Ingham
- Townsville
- Ayr
- Bowen
- Airlie Beach
- Mackay
- Yeppoon
- Rockhampton

The original plan was for the station visit tour to continue on to Gladstone, Bundaberg, Maryborough and Gympie.

However, ex-tropical cyclone Oswald caused the road between Rockhampton and Gladstone to be closed and the tour could not be completed. These stations will be visited individually in the near future.

Since the completion of the tour, I, along with Mark Dearlove and Anthony Cooke have also attended meetings at Nerang and Chermide fire stations.

Mark Dearlove also visited Ipswich station and Anthony Cooke visited Harrisville station and there is a visit organised for Beaudesert station next week.

The purpose of the visits is to:

- explain what UFUQ is currently involved in
- discuss the upcoming arbitration and other industrial matters
- to identify and discuss local issues
- to meet and spend time talking to members who do not often get the chance to meet with their union executive or have the time to discuss matters with an industrial officer
- discuss the members' campaign to defend your rights.

Every station meeting was well attended, with some of them being attended by every member in the region.

Everyone involved reported that the meetings were positive and a worthwhile exercise and some great feedback has been provided to the State Office about the visits.

More station visits to both permanent and auxiliary stations are planned throughout this year.

If your station (permanent or auxiliary) would like a visit from an official, please contact the State Office to schedule a meeting.

Members who have already had visits would be aware that there are many issues currently being dealt with by State Office this year.

Once again, please contact the UFUQ Office if you would like a station visit as it is important that you get the opportunity to attend and that we all benefit from these meetings.

**John Oliver**  
**State Secretary**