



Kallista – The Patch Rural Fire Brigade

Serving the community since 1926.

EMC Submission No 19
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The Executive Officer,
Electoral Matters Committee
Parliament House,
Spring St,
East Melbourne Vic. 3002

30/06/2015

Attn. Hon. Louise Asher MP

UFU's presence at the Kallista Primary School on 29th November 2014, State Election

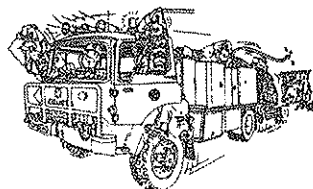
At the 2014 State elections Kallista Fire Brigade volunteers were surprised to find UFU members standing outside the polling booth at Kallista Primary School handing out "how not to vote cards" in their blue tee shirts and yellow structural over trousers. What the union members were wearing is very similar to how our community see us at Sunday morning training and when we respond to an incident. The only difference is the lettering on the tee shirt. To make matters worse an "A" frame was erected showing a photograph of a fire fighter and under the photo were the words "PUT THE LIBERALS LAST".

We are, and must remain, apolitical. Our personal views are only expressed on the ballot paper. CFA must be able to work with a government of any persuasion therefore its members must present to the public as apolitical.

One of our senior members was running a sausage sizzle as a fund raiser for our brigade. This was set up opposite the polling booth. The Kallista volunteer spoke to one member of the UFU, he was a CFA perm at Dandenong, who appreciated the dilemma that their presence and activities caused the volunteers. After much discussion he took off his structural trousers.

The shifts thereafter of the UFU members were far more intimidating. One, a female MFB firefighter, told our senior volunteer to f... off. This is totally offensive and goes against every thing that our Code of Conduct teaches us.

This entire activity was undertaken without permission from our captain or any other member. All brigades in our region, if going into another brigade's area, will contact the captain of that brigade to ask permission to carry out the intended activity.



The UFU state that they have the democratic right to support the Labor party, but UFU members masquerading as CFA volunteers, in our brigade area, is not acceptable with their attitude bordering on harassment.

The CFA volunteers must have their reputation restored, if damaged, and UFU members, wishing to support a government party must do so without incriminating the apolitical CFA.

As the CFA volunteers work very closely with our CFA career staff we do not want that bond damaged by such actions as occurred during the 2014 state election.



Ralph Ross (VFVB Delegate)
Kallista-The Patch Fire Brigade

