



Police Association members attend the General Meeting on June 14

“YOU WON’T BE ALONE.”

...E.B. PLEDGE



Paul Mullett addresses the meeting

The campaign for a new workplace agreement has begun, with emergency services unions promising to support The Police Association.

The E.B. 2006 Log of Claims has been served on the Victoria Police Force. Proceedings over the next few months will determine your wages and workplace conditions in the future.

The Police Association hopes to have a new Enterprise Bargaining Agreement in place before end of the year.

The Log of Claims that has been served was endorsed at a General Meeting, conducted by the Association, on June 14th.

Representatives from two other emergency services unions, those representing ambulance workers and firefighters, came to the meeting to offer their support to police. The two unions are themselves currently involved in wages campaigns.

The secretary of the United Firefighters’ Union, Peter Marshall, told the members, “No matter what the outcome of our dispute, we will support you. You need to chart your own direction but in charting that direction, I guarantee, you won’t be alone”.

Police Association Secretary Paul Mullett said, “Under the banner of the Emergency Services Federation, we support each other.



Steve McGhee from Ambulance Employees Australia

“Emergency services workers coming together to campaign for better terms and conditions of employment, going into a State Election, just paints a magnificent picture.”

In the weeks leading up to the June 14th meeting, Association staff made an intensive effort to visit as many workplaces as possible to explain the Log of Claims to members.

A draft log was put to about 1,000 police officers who attended the General Meeting. The final document can be read in full by visiting The Police Association website – www.tpav.org.au

The Association’s priority in the upcoming EB 2006 negotiations will be to protect current terms and conditions and resist any negotiations that involve trade-offs. It will seek a salary increase above the current CPI rate and concentrate on introducing weekend penalty rates, obtaining increased shift allowances (especially for night shift) and introducing a capped commuted overtime allowance for detectives. Incremental rises for all ranks from Senior Constable to Commander will also be sought.

The Meeting heard from Dr. Stephen Jackson, from Sydney University’s Workplace Research Centre, who presented the results of the Centre’s survey of our members. Those recommendations formed the basis of the Log of Claims. Dr. Jackson stressed that the most important priority was to achieve a pay rise exceeding CPI over the life of the new Agreement and that no other item in the Log should compromise that goal. On that basis, he recommended against pursuing skills allowances and reported that the survey found it was a divisive issue among members.

However, the Association will pursue an incentive scheme to attract and retain members in positions which are under threat for various reasons.

A report on State Government spending on police was presented to the Meeting by Dr David Hayward, Dean of the Faculty of Business and Enterprise at Swinburne University.

He said per capita spending since the last Enterprise Bargaining Agreement has increased faster than all other states but the fig-



Members debate the Log of Claims at the Special Members’ Meeting at Dallas Brooks Hall

ures are nevertheless still below the amount spent per capita in the other states.

His overall assessment was that “there is more than ample scope to fund another 2001 type EB as it stands”.

The backdrop to EB negotiations is not only the nearing State Election, but also the new Federal industrial legislation.

“As a result of the Work Choices legislation, we find ourselves in a very bad industrial environment,” Sen. Sgt Mullett told members at the meeting. He also described the laws as being designed to divide and conquer unions.

He has further vowed that the Chief Commissioner’s intention to investigate internal matters in the Association will not distract it from its goal. The Special Members’ Meeting carried a resolution which condemns “unprecedented action taken by the Chief Commissioner to directly interfere in the internal affairs of The Police Association in an attempt to undermine its ability to strongly represent the membership towards improving pay and conditions in EB 2006”.

