



# VOLLYNET REPORTS

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## Roper On Stress Leave Since May

UFBA Executive Director Don Roper has been on "stress leave" since May, with no immediate prospect of a return to work.

Vollynet Reports understands that this follows more than a year of deep tension between Roper and members of the UFBA executive, originating in connection with an employment dispute between the UFBA and its former business manager, Clare Leatham. To date this dispute has cost the UFBA at least \$42,000.

As previously reported, this period has also seen the UFBA experience a severe deterioration in its financial position, fail to produce a business plan, and engage in ongoing funding and accountability disputes with the Fire Service.

Apart from an office assistant Roper is the only employee of the UFBA. He is responsible for representing the interests of the UFBA to stakeholders, politicians and/or other influential decision makers, assisting with the harmonious operation of the member brigades in terms of professional relationships and disputes, monitoring the annual UFBA conference planning and implementation, managing the UFBA's accident assurance plan, and overseeing the operation of the National Office and staff. He is secretary to the NZFBI, the Benevolent Trust, the Competition Panel and FT & RF, and is an executive member of the Australasian Assembly.

Vollynet Reports has been unable to determine who, if anyone, is handling these responsibilities in his absence.

Roper is understood to be traveling in Europe with his family, and could not be reached for comment.