



UFBA National Drivers Challenge

100 competitors can now hone their skills

UFBA Fire Services Review Submission



George Verry, UFBA Chief Executive Officer

Following the release by the Government of the Fire Services Review Discussion Document on 27 May, the UFBA was keen to ensure the powerful, collective views of our 385 volunteer brigades and rural fire forces members would be heard.

Taking action to meet our strategic objectives of pursuing fit-for-purpose legislation and refocusing our advocacy processes, we immediately contacted all member brigades and fire forces to alert them to the review.

This review is a once-in-a-generation opportunity to align New Zealand's fire services with best-practice risk management, governance and organisational structure.

Advocacy on your behalf

A key objective of our new Strategic Plan is to provide effective advocacy on your behalf. To ensure we can actively influence the review of the country's fire services, we asked you to 'have your say' on the proposed reforms and issues especially relevant to volunteers through a consultation survey.

At the same time, we completed a significant research study and combined the results with your views—which clearly indicated a significant appetite for change and improvement.

Our sincere thanks to the brigades and individual members for the time and consideration they gave in providing responses via the survey, personal messages and telephone calls.

We received an excellent return of over 650 survey responses and are confident the UFBA submission, completed on behalf of members, reflects your views and provides an informed analysis of current and relevant issues.

Independent brigades

Members who responded strongly supported the continued independence of brigades. The majority of you do not want to be directly engaged as part of a national service as you believe this would reduce your links and commitment to your communities.

Any reforms must therefore bring with them more representation of volunteers and their needs at all levels of the structure. Volunteerism must be fostered and supported.

Focus of our submission

In the UFBA submission, we supported many aspects of the reforms proposed in the discussion document including updating the law so volunteers are protected against any liability for both the fire and non-fire services you provide.

However, we have also argued volunteer brigades should remain independent organisations that serve their communities, resourced by a central agency (currently the New Zealand Fire Service and Rural Fire Authorities).

A major thrust of our submission is proposing a Volunteer Charter be agreed between NZFS, the Minister of Internal Affairs, the National Rural Fire Authority and volunteer representatives.

The Charter would specifically set out the relationships and processes for engagement with volunteers, representation and decision-making. This would make sure your voice is heard at all levels of governance and management.

There are similar Charters in place in Victoria and South Australia between the applicable State Governments, Country Fire authorities and the volunteer associations.

UFBA is also asking for legislation to require the appointment of at least one person to the fire agency board who is well qualified and experienced in volunteer matters. We also want fire services to ensure there are specific volunteer-focused roles at senior management level.

Other elements in our submission include more community participation in fire services at a regional and community levels and the introduction of more equitable mixed funding to resource fire and non-fire emergency responses.

UFBA will continue to represent members' interests as the government decides what structural and legislative changes are needed to meet the needs of 21st century communities.

Read the UFBA submission

Download the **UFBA Fire Services Review Submission** and associated documents at www.ufba.org.nz/news/fire_services_review_submission

Operation of Canteens

The UFBA strongly represented brigade concerns regarding proposed changes to the Canteen Rules following changes in the Sale and Supply of Alcohol Act 2012.

We prepared a paper called *Changes to Canteen Rules* and distributed this to all CFOs.

This paper provides both explanations and suggestions which will assist in establishing a good framework of operating hours that suits your brigade and ensure you have an understanding of how you may best use the provisions available for events and functions that the Chief Fire Officer can approve.

Download *Changes to Canteen Rules* at www.ufba.org.nz/news/canteen_rules_6_July

EVENTS

2015 National Drivers Challenge

Need a reason to brush up your driving skills? Participating in the annual UFBA National Drivers Challenge may be just the motivation you need to advance your ability at the wheel of an Iveco.

This Challenge running at Manfeild Park in Feilding from 21-22 August, is your chance to network with other competitors from around the country, gain further tips and pointers for manoeuvring an appliance and even tick off some OSM competencies.

If you have your Emergency Response Driver certificate and are due for Driver Revalidation within the next two years, you can now use your attendance at this Challenge to obtain that revalidation—your ERD will then be valid for another five years.

Funding for up to 100 competitors

To provide more opportunities for members to hone their skills, UFBA approached the Fire Service for additional funding so this Challenge could accommodate more than the previous cap of 77 competitors.

UFBA Events Manager Ceara Owen-Perry says the Fire Service sees the value in this strongly skills-focused event and has provided extra funding.

“Up to 100 competitors can now take part in the Drivers Challenge, which will run over two full days,” she says.

“We are looking forward to seeing plenty of first-timers this year alongside some familiar names who are committed to competing year after year.”



United Fire Brigades' Association
DRIVERSCHALLENGE

Give it a go

The Challenge is made up of a theory test and 11 individual exercises. Drivers are judged on overall ability, efficiency, aptitude and smoothness of operation of fire appliances.

The exercises are designed to align with skills required by the New Zealand Fire Service.

They include bay and parallel parking, straight-line driving, lane changes, braking, estimating clearance, and negotiating serpentine and shrinking chicanes.

You don't need to be a brigade driver to take part. However, as the Challenge rules stipulate, to compete you are required to hold your full Class 2 driver licence.

Register now

The Drivers Challenge is a popular event and spaces fill up quickly.

Register now to secure your place and compete for the title and bragging rights of being the 2015 National Champion.

And have some fun while you give it a try!

“The Drivers Challenge is well-organised, and a lot of fun to compete in. Meeting new people is always a big highlight. Any brigade driver will get a lot out of the whole experience, from competitors who return year after year to firefighters new to the event.”

Jesse Wilcox, Invercargill—2013 National Drivers Champion



**Registration is open
for the 2015 National
Drivers Challenge!**

Manfeild Park, Feilding

21-22 August

Download a registration pack and register at www.ufba.org.nz/events/2015_national_drivers_challenge

137TH ANNUAL UFBA CONFERENCE

Conference Registration packs are now with all brigades. This includes all the information you need to know to register for Conference as well as nominate the people your brigade want on the UFBA Board, Technical Panel and as Vice-President.

Included in your Registration packs were nomination forms, as well as a notice of vacancies for positions available at the UFBA. Think carefully about who you think would be a valuable addition to the UFBA team.

Nominate them today!

- Nominations close 13 August 2015, so don't delay.
- Any current member of a UFBA Member Brigade can be nominated.
- We have one vacancy on each of the Board and Technical Panel, as well as the position of Vice-President.
- Don't forget to send through your Notification of Brigade Delegate form also.

Think carefully...

In nominating a candidate, take into consideration:

- In each of the available roles, there are significant time and travel commitments. You may wish to discuss this with a current incumbent.
- There are some specific roles and responsibilities of each position that potential candidates need to be aware of and these can be found in the UFBA Constitution and Rules.
- Good oral and written communication is useful.

FRIDAY 13 NOV
to
SUNDAY 15 NOV



Constitutional obligations

- **Rules 12-15** give you a good understanding of what is required of Board members
- **Rule 11.7** outlines the core duties of the President and the Vice President
- **Rule 15.9** outlines the core duties of the Technical Panel

All Conference forms and UFBA Constitution and Rules can be found at www.ufba.org.nz

CHALLENGE HOSTS

We are looking for hosts for:

2016 Season

- **North Island Combat Challenge**—preferred dates late November/December 2015
- **South Island Combat Challenge**—preferred dates late November 2015 - January 2016
- **Region 1/2/3/4 Road Crash Rescue**—preferred dates October 2015 - March 2016
- **National Road Crash Rescue**—late April 2016

2017 Season

- **North/South Island Combat Challenge**—late 2016
- **Region 1/2/3/4 Waterway**—Jan/Feb 2017
- **North and South Island RCR**—April/ May 2017
- **Australasian RCR**—June 2017
- **Australasian Waterways (NZ)**—October 2017

For more information on hosting a challenge and how to register your interest visit

www.ufba.org.nz/events/host_an_event

Events Calendar

15 August	NZFBFI Field Day: Manapouri Hydro Power Station
21-22 August	2015 UFBA National Drivers Challenge
5 September	Nelson Marlborough AGM/Conference
12 September	Canterbury AGM
19 September	Wellington AGM
26 September	Secretaries/Treasurers Workshop, Dunedin
26 September	Mercer 50th Jubilee
26 September	Canterbury Firefighter Challenge
24 October	Hokitika 150th Celebration
12 November	NZFBFI Field Day Wellington: Emergency Preparedness and Management
13-15 November	UFBA 137th Annual Conference

Firefighter Combat Challenge Times

See the fastest times by category for 2014 and 2015!
Download at www.ufba.org.nz/events/firefighter_combat_challenge

Working for our members' best interests

Being a member of a fire brigade takes substantial commitment and time. In the current environment, volunteers can also face considerable obstacles such as employer support issues, pressure of work and family commitments.

UFBA Chief Executive Officer George Verry says the new UFBA Strategic Plan provides the necessary focus to respond to the emerging challenges faced by members.

"We are here to provide effective support services for our member brigades and their personnel," George says.

"To strengthen the services offered by our organisation, we have revised our office structure."

UFBA office structure

Jane Davie has been appointed to the new role of Membership Support Manager. Jane was an operational volunteer firefighter for nine years, serving as Brigade Secretary for eight

years, and has been with the UFBA since 2006. She has valuable experience and insight into the functional needs and challenges of fire brigades and members.

Hayley Bilton has joined UFBA as PA to the Chief Executive Officer and will also provide support to the Board and office management. Hayley was previously with NZFS and has an excellent working knowledge of fire services and agencies.

Another new member of the team is Lorelee Hyde, our Communications and Marketing Manager, who is responsible for communications to members including newsletters, and brand management.

Strong advocacy and support

George says the strength of UFBA advocacy, support and communications over the past few months, such as those relating to the fire services review and operation of canteens, has been the result of boosting the capability of the team.

"We will continue to work on our strategy of

a putting a new UFBA operating model in place to better assist our members," he says.

Communication with Members

A Membership Support section in each newsletter will summarise issues we are working on. In the next issue, we'll update you on the Workplace Carcinogen Exposure Project and the review of a number of NZFS policies.

We are also developing a Membership section on our website so you can easily find updates and resources.

Contact Jane

If you have any questions, comments or issues relating to membership support, please contact:

Jane Davie

Membership Support Manager

Phone: 04 237 2683 or 0274 428 655

Email: membershipsupport@ufba.org.nz

Keeping you up-to-date with current projects

XERO ACCOUNTING SOFTWARE

Volunteer fire brigades are encouraged to register as charities as this means they are eligible for certain tax benefits, can apply to community trusts which give preference to funding registered charities, and their donors may qualify for a tax credit.

There are strict regulatory requirements to maintain registration under the Charities Act and many brigades have been deregistered due to non-compliance.

To assist brigades to achieve registration, UFBA is working with NZFS to make the accounting software package Xero available at no cost, including providing training and a help desk.

We will continue to update you on progress.

INCREASE IN BENEVOLENT FUND PAYMENTS

Following discussion at the 2014 Annual Conference, a remit will be presented at the 2015 Annual Conference to increase member contributions to the Benevolent Fund.

More details will follow.

SECRETARIES & TREASURERS WORKSHOPS

A Secretaries & Treasurers Workshop will be held in Dunedin on **Saturday 26 September**.

To register your attendance, please email **Jane** at membershipsupport@ufba.org.nz with your name, brigade and mobile phone number.

If you would like a workshop held in your area, please contact **Jane**. We need a minimum of 15 participants to run a workshop.

LEADERSHIP & GOVERNANCE

Achieving our Vision: Better more sustainable emergency services for New Zealand communities

The new UFBA Strategic Plan released on 20 May summarises the main activities we will focus on over the next three years to make sure your needs are met and your voice is heard.

UFBA Chief Executive Officer George Verry says a key objective in the plan is to build strong and sustainable brigades.

“Promoting and providing leadership and governance development is just one of the strategies we are putting in place to achieve this objective,” says George.

“Strengthening leadership and governance skills leads to the successful operation of brigades.”

With an aim of growing the level of leadership resource, the seventh UFBA Leadership and Governance Workshop took place in Wellington from 7-9 May, bringing the total number of graduates to 105 personnel around the country.

“Leadership is a quality that every firefighter can demonstrate in their brigade and in their personal life,” George says. “This is the ideal course to strengthen vital life skills.”

Leadership and Governance workshop graduates are also providing an excellent

consultancy resource for UFBA advocacy processes.

“Many graduates made themselves available to help out with our member consultation for the Fire Services Review,” George says. “Each phoned a number of brigades to answer queries and allay concerns.

“Their leadership and guidance made a major contribution to the tremendous response we had from both brigades and individuals to the UFBA feedback questionnaire.”

Download the UFBA Strategic Plan at www.ufba.org.nz/about/strategic_plan

“This workshop is well worthwhile as it gives an insight into your leadership skills and explores avenues of relating to people. Another benefit is making friendships in the group and being able to bounce things off people after the course. Anyone looking at developing leadership skills would find it beneficial.”

Matt Jones, SFF and Secretary
Milton Volunteer Fire Brigade

Develop your skills at a UFBA Leadership and Governance Workshop

- Learn from leading experts in the field
- Develop new leadership and coaching techniques
- Gain valuable insights into the key elements of governance
- Strengthen your professional development
- Great for your personal life, career and fire service

UFBA manages and covers the cost of travel arrangements, accommodation and meals.

If you are interested in attending or nominating someone for the next UFBA Leadership & Governance Workshop in September, email Megan at megan.leggett@ufba.org.nz

A FIREFIGHTER'S VICTORIA CROSS

A replica Victoria Cross has joined the collection of firefighters' medals maintained jointly by the NZ Ex Firefighters' Association and Auckland Fire Brigade Historical Society.

The medal, the highest recognition for valour, was awarded to John Gildroy Grant, formerly of Hawera Volunteer Fire Brigade, for gallantry on Bancourt Ridge in France on 1 September 1918.

The presentation of the medal by John Grant's daughter, Janet, took place after a colourful Commemorative Service held on 21 June by the NZ Ex Firefighters' Association to honour firefighters who served in WW1 and other conflicts.

For more on this story visit www.ufba.org.nz/news/victoria_cross



Janet Grant presents her father's VC medal to David Neil, Auckland Fire Brigade Historical Society, while Ric Carlyon, Ex Firefighters' Association, looks on.
Photo: Auckland Fire Brigade Historical Society

EMERGENCY RESPONSE TRAINING

Youth say YES to developing skills

A Youth in Emergency Services (YES) collective collaboration between UFBA and the Ministry of Youth Development, is delivering training by experienced and qualified instructors through FETS (Fire & Emergency Training Services) to students aged 15-19 years old.

SFF Judith Stanley and Deanna Roa are managing the youth project for UFBA. Judith says the aim of the project is to develop a learner-centred approach for risk awareness, emergency response, and readiness training.

“Giving young people hands-on experience in a safe environment helps build awareness and confidence in dealing with unfamiliar situations,” Judith says.

“The programme gives participants basic emergency management skills to set them up with safe work habits from the start of their working lives.”

Learning and developing

Over a week, the students take part in a series of activities and drills including safety awareness, risk management, hose-drills, appropriate use of fire extinguishers, evacuation procedures, and safety warden roles and responsibilities.

Learning and developing problem-solving, team-building and leadership skills creates opportunities for the young

people to contribute to more resilient and positive communities. The programme also includes presentations from urban fire and rescue, rural fire, local civil defence and emergency management, and animal rescue.

Participants are assessed for four emergency management unit standards totalling ten credits at Levels 1 to 3 on the National Qualifications Framework (NQF).

During the April school holidays earlier this year, 29 students participated—15 from the Kapiti region and 14 from Hutt Valley. All achieved the full complement of four unit standards (10 credits).

A future-focused solution

Judith says emergency management training for young people is a future-focussed solution for the emergency response sector.

“The training is an opportunity to develop the skills and knowledge they need to make safe decisions and have fun through active learning,” she says.

“The skills they learn will enable them to make a valuable contribution to their communities in the future.”

Meeting the Minister

Internal Affairs Minister Hon Peter Dunne met with the most recent training team at Tawa Rural Fire Force Depot in Wellington on 10 July.



After watching the participants cheerfully undertake two Waterway Challenges in the bitterly cold weather, the Minister thanked the students for their dedication in giving up their school holidays to train and for becoming a professional, smart and hardened crew in just a week.

He said it was encouraging to see the next wave of volunteers coming through and was impressed by their skills and camaraderie. This, along with the confidence they had developed, would be of immense benefit to their communities.

“I joined the training to help others and be of service to the community.”

Joel, Bishop Viard College, Porirua



Hon Peter Dunne and the latest training team along with Deanna Roa, Trevor Moss (Paraparaumu), Sam Coleman (Avalon) and Judith Stanley (Paekakariki).

NOTICES

Devastation in Whanganui

After the recent devastating floods in Whanganui, Welfare Society Station Representatives and office staff contacted members to check how they were doing and if they were personally effected by the floods.

Once we established our members were just extremely busy helping out others less fortunate and working around the clock, the Welfare Society swung into action to ensure that all our firefighters working out of the Whanganui station were doing OK.

We organised, through the local New World supermarket, for 100 muffins to be sent around to let firefighters, staff and their families know we were thinking of them.

Chairman Keith Nixon and Welfare Secretary Darrel Surman also



travelled to Whanganui and the surrounding areas to offer support to not only Welfare Society members but all firefighters.

Welfare Society AGM

The New Zealand Firefighters Welfare Society will host their 2015 Annual General Meeting at Nelson Fire Station on Wednesday 2 September.

A light dinner will be served at 1830 hours followed by the meeting at 1900 hours.

For catering purposes, please email Amanda@firefighters.org.nz if you will be attending.



Field Days

- 15 August The Power of Water
Manapouri Power Station
(spaces are filled, however, there is a waiting list)
- 12 November Emergency Preparedness
and Management
Wellington

For more details, and to register visit www.ufba.org.nz/nzfbf_events



Memorial Stair Climb

Tony Scott from Auckland International Airport Rescue Fire Service is arranging a Memorial

Climb on 11 September on behalf of the New Zealand Firefighters Welfare Society.

In its seventh year, this event honours and remembers all firefighters in New Zealand and overseas who have lost their lives selflessly in the line of duty.

Register now

Where: Sky Tower, Auckland

When: Friday 11 September

Register by 28 August at:

www.enternowonline.com/4190



New pendant now in stock!
Check out

www.ufba.org.nz/shop

Connect

We'd love to hear from you. Share your news or information, contact:

news@ufba.org.nz

Engage

Be the first to hear about news and events. Take part in online polls and our forum.

Register at:
www.ufba.org.nz

Consult

We're committed to representing and supporting you. Get in touch:

info@ufba.org.nz

United Fire Brigades' Association NZ

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