



UFBA: Providing effective advocacy for members

Actions speak louder than words

FROM THE PRESIDENT

As I have travelled from Kaitaia to Invercargill in my first six months as President, seeing the amount of unselfish work our people do for their communities makes me proud of this organisation.

Congratulations to all who have received service honours and other awards. Highlights for me include meeting new people, presenting 50 Year service medals, 40th and 50th Jubilees of brigades, centennial celebrations and UFBA Challenge Events.

Thank you to the brigades I have visited for the hospitality extended to Linda and myself.

Celebrations where I have represented the UFBA include the 2014 Emergency Services Pride of New Zealand Award to Murapara CFO Maera Maki-Anderson, and Queen's Service Medal presentations to recipients announced in the New Year Honours List.

It was an honour to attend the Inaugural AFAC National Memorial Service for Fire and Emergency Services in Canberra on 1 May. A sad occasion as family members of five Australian firefighters killed in the line of duty were presented with memorial medallions by Governor-General Sir Peter Cosgrove and Prime Minister Tony Abbott.

Stay safe out there.



Mark Adie, UFBA President

ADVOCACY

Taking action for members



George Verry, UFBA Chief Executive

The UFBA brings together the collective strength of over 500 brigades and fire forces into one independent, united and powerful voice. Delivering excellent advocacy and support services for UFBA members is the key to better, more sustainable emergency services.

Strategic Plan

UFBA released its new strategic plan on 20 May. This plan 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.

Considerable thought and discussion went into developing a new Vision and Purpose and drawing up a one-page plan (see page 3). Starting off in mid-2014, we commissioned PwC to undertake a review of UFBA governance, management and its

funding model. Consultation workshops with selected member brigades, provincial associations and rural fire forces followed, led by PwC and leaders around the country.

We also researched community trends, analysed future needs and took independent professional advice on our operating model, the value of the volunteer contribution to fire services and how to perform advocacy better. From all this input, we now have a clear view on how the UFBA can add the most value to our members, the communities they serve and to New Zealand's fire services.

The plan will not be implemented overnight. It supports your call for the continuation of things we do well, particularly the promotion of fire and rescue skills in a competitive but collegial environment. The next step is to develop detailed action plans to formalise the strategies and achieve the objectives. I am confident the results will serve brigades and their members well.

Fire Services Review

On 27 May, the Government released a proposal to review and reform the structure, funding, legislation and organisation of rural and urban fire services. Determined to make a

comprehensive independent submission based on our own consultation with members, the UFBA hit the ground running by sending out a questionnaire on the key issues to all brigades and fire forces on 29 May.

Already, we have had an excellent return of completed questionnaires. We will combine members' valuable feedback with research and international experience to form the UFBA submission.

Operation of canteens

Another focus of our advocacy regards the operation of canteens. Volunteer fire brigades are likely to have been approached recently by NZFS area management personnel seeking to review and approve brigade applications for operation of canteens.

The guidelines provided propose restrictions on 'reasonable operating hours' which are unrealistic for volunteer fire brigades and make no clear provision to cater for the recognition of important supporters of volunteer fire brigades including families. UFBA has registered our concerns with NZFS, as properly looking after family and community supporters is a key element of sustainability. We will continue to keep you informed on progress with this issue on www.ufba.org.nz.

■ FIRE SERVICES REVIEW

A Fire Services Review Discussion Document calling for submissions on three possible reform options for New Zealand's fire services was released by Hon Peter Dunne on 27 May.

UFBA Chief Executive George Verry says the proposals have potential to bring about the biggest changes seen within the fire services sector in 40 years.

Better emergency services

"We want better, more sustainable emergency services for New Zealand communities," says George.

"Our members want a say in how fire services are shaped.

"They know what their local communities need and want, and they know how important it is for volunteers to get the support they need so the volunteer base survives into the future."

The three possible reform options—enhanced status quo, a more coordinated service delivery model, or a national fire service—all propose big changes for both urban and rural volunteers.

A mixture of the three options, or even a new fourth option, may be the final result depending on the information in submissions.



Have your say

UFBA is committed to making an independent submission from a member's perspective. A strong project team including Bill Butzbach, Murray McKee and senior staff, summarised the key points of the discussion document and developed a comprehensive questionnaire to obtain responses and comments from members.

The questionnaire is segmented into questions around:

- Volunteer relationships
- Support for volunteers
- Organisational leadership
- Delivery of non-fire services
- Funding.

Completed questionnaires are due back at UFBA by 30 June. This gives UFBA only 10 days to prepare the submission.

"Rural and urban volunteer firefighters make up 80% of New Zealand's fire services," George says.

"With the amount of work involved in undertaking full and wide-ranging consultation of our members, the tight time-frame is a considerable burden on volunteers' time.

"UFBA sincerely thanks all brigades and their members who have invested a great deal of time in providing feedback on this major review that will impact brigades and the communities they serve."

Our Actions

- 27 May** UFBA issued a media statement on the same day the Fire Services Review Discussion Document was released, saying it would consult with member brigades and fire forces to get their views and make an independent submission.
- 29 May** Just two days later, UFBA emailed a summary of the main issues and a questionnaire to all brigades and rural fire forces, asking Chief Fire Officers to consult with their brigades and complete the questionnaire.
- 5 June** UFBA sent the questionnaire as an online survey to the 4,000 members of UFBA member brigades who have signed up to receive UFBA News. This will provide the responses of volunteers as individuals.
- 30 June** Deadline for returning your completed questionnaire to UFBA (you can download a copy on www.ufba.org.nz) or completing the online survey.
- 10 July** Deadline for UFBA to complete a submission on behalf of members.

UFBA has also set-up a programme that has leaders around the country contacting more than 100 brigades and individuals to answer queries or concerns. You too can play a part by encouraging members to complete the consultation questionnaire.

Keep up-to-date with what UFBA is doing on your behalf during the fire services review at www.ufba.org.nz or www.facebook.com/unitedfirebrigades

ACTIONS SPEAK LOUDER THAN WORDS ●●●

We recognise that our actions are the key to delivering excellent advocacy and support services to our members

VISION ●●● Better, more sustainable emergency services for New Zealand communities

PURPOSE ●●● Providing effective advocacy and support services for our member brigades and their personnel

OBJECTIVES ●●●

Fit-for-purpose legislation

Strong sustainable brigades

New UFBA operating model

Effective advocacy

STRATEGIES ●●●

Work with government officials on new fire legislation

Advocate for the contribution volunteers make to be recognised in statute

Develop and leverage stakeholder partnerships

Influence reform of current fire services funding arrangements

Ensure people with responsibility for volunteerism have a strong strategic voice

Promote and provide leadership and governance development

Establish a national recruitment service for the provision of volunteer non-operational support personnel to brigades

Establish and run a health awareness and fitness programme for volunteers

Promote respect and fairness in the workplace

Define UFBA brand and promote to the membership

Review and update marketing and communications plan

New operating model developed by people, process and technology

Revised back-office structure implemented

Strong and capable advocacy resources developed and deployed

Stakeholder engagement plan developed

Advocacy plan with clear objectives, accountabilities and outcomes

Ensure the plan recognises member brigades and individuals within these brigades

VALUES ●●●

COMMUNITY . VOLUNTEERISM . INDEPENDENCE . INTEGRITY
SUSTAINABILITY . UNITY . RECOGNITION

THE BIGGEST EVENTS SEASON YET

Starting in the summer sunshine of Kamo in late January, the UFBA 2015 season finished in the slightly chillier winter sun of Cromwell in June.

In just four and a half months, we completed 10 events—with one more to go in August, this is the largest number ever in one year.

Waterways

The year started with four Regional Waterways in Kamo, Carterton, Blenheim and Matura. All were a fantastic success, with a great mix of new and older teams competing for the prestigious national title.

The UFBA National Waterway Challenge held in Greymouth in March was a tight race, right down to a countback on time for the four-person first place. Silverdale took top place with Greymouth chasing only seconds behind. The two-person competition was just as competitive with Rangiora taking first place.

Despite the worst weather Greymouth had experienced in 25 years, the Challenge ran very smoothly. Hats off to the Officials, who trudged through knee-deep puddles and torrential rain to ensure the event was efficiently and professionally run.

Firefighter Combat Challenge

Hot on the heels of the Waterways series, the Regional Firefighter Combat Challenge started just two weeks later.

More spectacular weather greeted us in Hanmer Springs and Napier.

With personal bests smashed at the Regionals, we knew the Nationals were going to be record-breaking. The 2014 Open Male Champion's time was beaten at the South Island Challenge, so the tension was high at the Nationals. Ed Jackman took the top placing from his good friend Steve Maw. With more female firefighters giving it their all, Angela Munro once again took the Open Women's title with an impressive time.

This year we had our first Over-60s competitor. They call him 'Uncle Tom' as he's a mentor and an inspiration to all competitors. UFBA Technical Panel member Tom Reid's commitment to all of our events is clear—it's fantastic he continues to compete in most of the Challenges at a top level.

With the continued support of the Fire Service, we look forward to seeing this Challenge grow with more and more firefighters training to peak fitness.

Road Crash Rescue

Funding for annual Road Crash Rescue Challenges was confirmed by the Fire Service in November last year. Nationals will still be held every second year, but in the off-year we will host North and South Island Challenges.

This year Hawera won the North Island Challenge and they will go to Alice Springs to defend their title at the

Australasian Road Rescue Challenge. Joining them will be South Island RCR Champions Rolleston, who took out the South Island Challenge, and Milton who attend as this year's Wild Card Entry.

The Wild Card Entry is a way to encourage new and upcoming teams to take part at the Australasians, knowing that regardless of their current skill level, they have an opportunity to grow and develop their techniques on an international stage.

Drivers Challenge

The Challenge calendar takes a highly deserved break until the National Drivers Challenge in August with registration opening on 13 July. With an eye on growing our programme and offering our members more opportunities to hone their skills, UFBA approached the Fire Service for additional funding for this event so we could open the Challenge to more than the current cap of 77 competitors.

The Fire Service saw the value in this strongly skills-focused event, particularly as a number of OSMs can be ticked off and drivers have the opportunity to revalidate their ERD licences. We are now able to fund up to 100 competitors for this Challenge, which will run over two full days. We look forward to having lots of first-timers entering.

2016: CALLING ALL HOST COMMITTEES

The Fire Service has confirmed support for the full suite of Challenges in the 2016 competition season. We will run all events in 2016 and are looking for hosts for:

- UFBA North Island Waterways
- UFBA South Island Waterways
- Region 1, 2, 3 and 4 Road Crash Rescue
- National Road Crash Rescue
- North Island Firefighter Combat Challenge
- South Island Firefighter Combat Challenge

Thank you for making our events possible!
For all results visit www.ufba.org.nz



Regional Firefighter Combat Challenge, Hanmer Springs

We will remember them: Firefighters at Gallipoli

Just on dawn on 25 April 1915, the Gallipoli campaign began in earnest for the Anzacs along the shores of the Dardanelles.

The action continued on the coastline and in surrounding hills for eight months.

Firefighters were among the soldiers in action there, having swapped their fire brigade tunics and helmets at home for military uniform and arms, serving on the other side of the world.

To recall the bravery, service and endurance of all those at Anzac, here is a selection of representative stories of firefighters known to be involved. Though just a few, let's remember them all.

Onehunga

Firemen had been contributing to the Wounded Soldiers' Fund when they found one of their own had been killed in battle at Gallipoli.

They mustered in the Onehunga Congregational Church to unveil the town's very first Roll of Honour complete with the name of former firebrigadesman, Trooper Neil McMillan, killed aged 21.

Wellington

A former member of Wellington Brigade, Private Leonard Larkin had been determined to "get away with the others".

He was too young to enlist but put up his age on enrolment papers to ensure he was accepted. He was posted to Gallipoli—in the confusion and mayhem

he was injured and then got cut off from his Kiwi comrades and so joined the Australians. After recovery, he returned to his Company at the front and was killed a short time later.

Rangiora

The well-known butcher's assistant at Fitzgibbons in Rangiora, Otto Hahn, had been farewelled off to war after just a year in the local fire brigade and three years with the local brass band.

News of his death came in June 1915, killed in action at the Dardanelles aged 24 three days after being promoted to Sergeant. A month later the death was announced of a second firefighter from Rangiora, Sapper Martin Strong, who was killed at Anzac Cove. Their deaths prompted the brigade to erect a Roll of Honour.

Petone

As time went on, some ceremonies became bittersweet affairs. As brigades honoured their dead, they were at the same time welcoming those returning from the front.

While honouring the memory of Fireman Charles Kent, killed in action in France, Petone firefighters welcomed home the Chief Fire Officer's son, Fireman Otto Lepper, who had been injured at Anzac Cove.

At about the same time, they farewelled another son, Fireman De Lacey Lepper, on his way to war to serve in France.



Paeroa

Paeroa also welcomed home a celebrated son, one of the town's blacksmiths, when Fireman Ernest Gosper returned with injuries received at Gallipoli.

A contemporary report: "The Brigade mustered at the Rail Station with the manual fire-reel prettily decorated with the different nations' flags, a chair being placed on the reel to convey our Soldier to the Brigade Shed where he was received by His Worship the Mayor, the Band, and friends. Toasts were given to our returned hero, to the Boys still at the Front, and to those about to leave for the Firing Line".

Firefighters' Great Contribution

Of just under 3,000 firemen in New Zealand at the time, more than half, 1,676 enlisted and served. The UFBA was proud of the contribution, "...our members responded to the Empire's call which should arouse the spirit of enthusiasm in all of us, but it's with regret the record for World War One shows 237 of our members died, 523 were wounded and 5 were taken prisoner of war".

2nd Lieutenant John Gildroy Grant VC Hawera Volunteer Fire Brigade

A Memorial Service for firefighters who served in WW1 and all conflicts before and since, was held at Waikumete Cemetery in Auckland on Sunday 21 June near the grave of 2nd Lieutenant John Gildroy Grant.

A fireman from Hawera Volunteer Fire Brigade, John Gildroy Grant enlisted 100 years ago. He served in France and was awarded the Victoria Cross for conspicuous gallantry.



2nd Lieutenant John Gildroy Grant VC

SERVICE HONOURS

Leigh Fire Brigade Awards Posthumous Gold Star

One of Leigh Volunteer Fire Brigade's founding members was recognised for his 26 years service, nearly 23 years after his death. Robert (Bob) Davies was awarded a posthumous Gold Star—a New Zealand first.

Bob was a founding member of the Leigh Fire Brigade in 1966. He was Chief Fire Officer for 11 years before retiring in 1992. But due to a filing error, the brigade was unable to prove that he had served the required 25 years to qualify for a Gold Star medal.

Bob died in November 1992. In 2012, Leigh Fire Brigade secretary Tony Enderby began looking into the brigade's history in preparation for its 50th anniversary in 2016. He discovered

the original brigade minutes and other documents proving Bob was indeed a founding member of the brigade.

At a ceremony at Leigh Fire Station on 28 March, the Fire Service Waitemata Assistant Area Manager John Booth, UFBA Past-President Graeme Booth and President of the Gold Star Association Neville King presented the Davies family with the medal.

Bob left a long legacy with the brigade. All of his children have been brigade members. Three have received Gold Stars and the family has a total of 132 years service so far. Carol and Barry are currently serving with Leigh Brigade and Ian is Chief Fire Officer at Warkworth Brigade.



Bob Davies



Bob Davies' Gold Star was presented to his family

Congratulations to the following members who have received 50 Year and Gold Star medals up until 31 May. Thank you for your dedicated service to the Fire Service and your communities.

50 Year Medals

Hutt	CLELAND Stuart
Leeston	THIAN Albert
Waipukurau	WEAVER Gary

Gold Stars

Auckland	CARDNO Andrew
Auckland	KINZETT Russell
Auckland	MILLAR Stuart
Auckland	MORTIMER Simon
Auckland	POWER Christopher

Auckland	SHAW Michael
Auckland	WAKERLEY Lance
Carterton	HICKS Michael
Eastbourne	RAY Barry
Fox Glacier	SCOTT Gary
Fox Glacier	SULLIVAN John
Hastings	BOTHERWAY Bruce
Hastings	HUNT John
Hastings	PARSONS Craig
Hastings	PEACHEY Michael
Helensville	CLENT Darren
Kaitia	BEDDOWS Ross
Kaiwaka	FLEMING Peter
Leigh	DAVIES Robert (Bob) (Posthumous)
Mangonui	GILLESPIE Brian
Mangonui	MULLER Justin
Masterton	MCKAY Neil

Moana	LARKIN Anthony
Murupara	ANDERSON Maera
Murupara	JENNER Laurance
Murupara	TAI Mertha
Oakura	SCOTT Craig Ian
Rotorua	BALMENT Gary
Rotorua	CHAN Des
Titirangi	VAN ORSOY de FLINES Raymond
Upper Moutere	LE FRANTZ Peter
Waiau Pa	HALL Douglas
Waihi	MEASURES Shannon
Waipukurau	MCLATCHIE Stephen
Waipukurau	MILLAR Glen
Wairoa	JANE Phillip
Wallacetown	HAMILTON Brendon
Wallacetown	MALCOLM Angus
Whitianga	CHANEY Roly

Queen's Service Medals

UFBA congratulates four current firefighters and one retired firefighter, who received Queen's Service Medals (QSMs) at Government House in Wellington on 21 May from the Governor-General, Lt Gen The Rt Hon Sir Jerry Mateparae.

With Mark Adie, UFBA President (centre left) are recipients Wayne Hurunui (Shannon), Keith Norton (Harewood Station), Brian Watters (Morrinsville), Peter Hallaghan (ex-Waipukurau) and Ray Gardner (Fairlie). Thank you for your service and dedication.



NOTICES

Bill Butzbach reappointed

UFBA Chairman Rick Braddock has announced the reappointment by the Board of Bill Butzbach as a UFBA Director for a further period of two years.

Rick said the strong contribution Bill has made to both UFBA and the Board during the past two years was a determining factor in his reappointment. For more details of Bill's service, visit www.ufba.org.nz



Bill Butzbach



Field Days

- | | |
|-------------|--|
| 15 August | The Power of Water
Manapouri Power Station |
| 12 November | Emergency Preparedness
and Management
Wellington |

Examinations Panel Vacancies

With the pending changes to the NZFBI examinations format, the council are seeking interested persons to be involved on the examinations panel.

For more details, and to register for a Field Day visit www.ufba.org.nz

Election of Representatives

The New Zealand Firefighters Welfare Society is governed by a Board, which comprises a Chairman and a representative from each of five Regions. This year, Regions Two and Five representatives were up for election. Malcolm Langdon was re-nominated for Region Two and has been re-elected to the Board for another four years.

Region Five representative Kevin Crozier is retiring after 15 years of



service. The Board and members are truly grateful for his time. Alice Jonathan has been elected to the position from two nominations and appointed. She is a senior firefighter at Christchurch City Station with 10 years service.



UFBA
CONFERENCE

FRIDAY 13 NOV
to
SUNDAY 15 NOV

More information
to follow!

REGISTRATION OPENS:
Monday 10 August

REGISTRATION CLOSES:
Monday 19 October

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

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