



News for firefighters at the cornerstone of communities

This year we celebrate 140 years of bringing together fire brigades and rural fire forces from across New Zealand. We're making some changes, including a new look newsletter, and want to introduce new features to allow you, our members, an opportunity to connect and show us your world. Read on to discover more.

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What's hot in the sector

Latest advocacy work

The UFBA has been working hard to represent the voice and interests of all our members. There's no doubt it's a busy time for all agencies, brigades, fire forces and emergency response services as Fire and Emergency NZ progress with the three year plan to shake up their organisational structure and operating

model. At these times of uncertainty this is the point to make your concerns heard. Read on to see how we've been representing your voice.

Roadshow coming to a station near you

It's a big year, we've got big plans and we want to know what you think. Bill Butzbach CEO of UFBA and Kevin Ihaka, Chair of FRFANZ will visit stations throughout NZ to come and meet with you, our members. Come along, be involved, enjoy food and networking. There will be sausage rolls! [Click here for dates and venues](#)





The image is a promotional poster for a roadshow organized by the United Fire Brigades Association (UFBA). It features a map of New Zealand with various locations marked by red and blue dots. A dotted line path connects these locations, indicating the route of the roadshow. The UFBA logo is prominently displayed at the top right, along with a cartoon firefighter character. The text 'Have your say! ROADSHOW' is written in a large, bold font. Below the map, there are several colored boxes (red, blue, orange) containing dates, times, and locations for the roadshow events. To the right of the map, there are three text blocks providing information about the roadshow, including meeting UFBA CEO Bill Butzbach and FRFANZ representative, and discussing FENZ changes. The overall design is colorful and informative.

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UNITED FIRE BRIGADES' ASSOCIATION
Serving firefighters for 140 years

**Have your say!
ROADSHOW**

Weds 30 May • **Alexandra Volunteer Fire Brigade** 41 Centennial Avenue, Alexandra

Thurs 31 May • **Gore Volunteer Fire Brigade** 51 Hokonui Drive, Gore

Fri 1 June • **Dunedin City Station** 85 Castle Street, Dunedin Central

Mon 11 June • **Waipukurau Volunteer Fire Brigade** Russell St, Waipukurau

Tues 12 June • **Carterton Volunteer Fire Brigade** 61 High St South, Carterton

Thurs 14 June • **Feilding Volunteer Fire Brigade** 205-207 Kimbolton Rd, Feilding

Fri 15 June • **Tawa Volunteer Fire Brigade** 16 Lyndhurst Rd, Tawa

Mon 18 June • **Whangarei VFB** 133 Bank Street, Regent, Whangarei

Tues 19 June • **Region 1 HQ** 2 Poynton Terrace, Newtown, Auckland

Weds 20 June • **Whakatane VFB** 157 Commerce Street, Whakatane

Thurs 21 June • **Matamata VFB** 9 Peria Road, Matamata

Fri 22 June • **Turangi VFB** 16 Ohuanga Road, Turangi

Meet UFBA CEO Bill Butzbach and FRFANZ representative.
Help us shape the new association from the UFBA/FRFANZ merger.

Discuss how the FENZ changes affect you.
Enjoy food and networking.
More dates and venues to follow.

Meet a member

Our membership is made up of people from all walks of life whether volly or career. It's this rich diversity that has been the foundation of the UFBA for over a century. **So tell us who you are!** What challenges do you face in your role and what makes you go to bed happy at the end of the day. **We'd love to hear from you if you'd like to feature in 'Meet a Member' - email**

nick@ufba.org.nz.

To kick off we've spoken with Army Firefighter couple Petra and Aidan, both 22, based out of Linton and Waiouru. Get a glimpse into their world [Read more here](#)



Refer a friend and WIN!

Please help us to ensure your colleagues in your brigade or fire force get this news straight into their inbox. **Throughout May and June all new sign ups - and their referrers - will go into a draw to win a new style FENZ t-shirt.** By visiting ufba.org.nz and hitting 'Register' in the top right corner they can choose to be added to our mailing list and also get access to the exclusive Fire Shop. If you've made a referral [drop us a note](#) of who you've referred and we'll add your name to the draw.

UFBA welcomes five new fire force members

We were delighted to welcome to the UFBA family new rural members at **Athol Voluntary Rural Fire Force, Mauriceville Volunteer Rural Fire Force, Ohura Volunteer Rural Fire Force, Southern Lake Taupo Volunteer Rural Fire Force and Whakatane Voluntary Rural Fire Force.**

Benevolent Fund welcomes latest donation

The participants who climbed the Port Hills Rapaki Track in the Christchurch Earthquake Memorial Firefighter Climb earlier this year raised an impressive \$2,570 towards the UFBA Benevolent Fund.

We thank them very much for supporting this worthy charitable fund that helps firefighters and their families who are going through tough times financially. All individual UFBA members can apply to the fund and [further information can be found here](#).

Marking 140 years of united fire brigades and forces

We couldn't let our 140th birthday pass by without dipping into our incredible archives dating back to the turn of the 20th century. Join our page on **Facebook** where we'll bring you a new rare gem from the past each week. We've also got a special treat for you at Conference - we'll bring the original minutes of the first ever meeting in 1878. Take a little sniff of history.... you know you want to!





INTRODUCING...

Mr R Robertson was one of the Founders of the United Fire Brigades' Association in 1878.

Engineer Robertson joined the Dunedin Volunteer Fire Brigade in 1862 and was quite possibly the first paid fireman in New Zealand at £3 a week. He died on 23 February 1895.



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ASSOCIATION OF NEW ZEALAND





Activities and learning



Combined North and South Island Road Crash Rescue Challenge

24-26 May sees a combined North and South Island Road Crash Rescue Challenge taking place in Manfeild Stadium, Feilding. Get along this weekend to witness the skill, patience and team work of first responders in simulated accidents involving live actors. The RCR event sees 70 cars donated from local wrecking yards. Teams participating this year are: **North teams:** Hawera, Linton, Whitianga Volunteer Fire Brigade, Morrinsville Volunteer Fire Brigade, Feilding, Greytown, Inglewood. **South teams:** Rangiora, Mossburn, Lincoln, Geraldine Brigade, Milton, Rolleston, Balclutha, Leeston, Wanaka Volunteer Fire Brigade. To see photos of the action from the first day [click here](#).

Registrations are now also open until the end of May for the **National Road Crash Rescue Challenge** taking place at **Inglewood, 21-23 June**. We'd love to see as many supporters there as possible.

Grow with **UFBA**

UNITED FIRE BRIGADES' ASSOCIATION
Serving firefighters for 140 years

Secretaries Workshop

Gore, 26 May



Leadership & Governance workshop

Our recent 15th Leadership & Governance Workshop in Wellington saw the latest cohorts join around 240 personnel from around the country to graduated from the highly valued UFBA Leadership and Governance Workshop. Participants, who came from volunteer brigades, rural fire forces (both UFBA and FRFANZ members) and Operational Support, were Rhys Heslop (Swannanoa Rural), Stephen Bishop (Waitakere), Shelley Baeriswyl (Rotoma), Kenneth Austin (Kaingaroa), Francis Boag (Ngongotaha), Stacey Verheul (Balclutha), Jarrod Roberts (Kohi), Christal Morrison (Turangi), Logan Charters-Leahy (Tirau), John Sturgeon (Kurow), Ian Faulkner (Christchurch Airport), Paul Osborne (Ngongotaha), Andrew Douce (Wellington Airport Fire), Terina Adams (Rimutaka), Sarah Sundgren (Waikanae), Niamh McNamara (Seaview).

Secretaries workshop

Our next workshop is Secretaries Workshop in Gore on the 26 May (which follows a recent successful event in Hawkes Bay). This four hour funded workshop includes lunch, mileage and an invaluable handbook guide on fulfilling the role. Our feedback



Fire Shop

Acknowledge exemplary and long service with the new beautiful high-quality Fire and Emergency Commemorative plaque.

Handmade in New Zealand from sustainably sourced and FSC accredited Mahogany, this plaque will add a touch of class to any honours ceremony. What's more we include engraving complete at a new reduced price. It's what hallway walls are crying out for!



Get yours today - [click here](#)

Recognition and honours

Congratulations to our **25 Year Gold Star medal** recipients, all volunteers, for your incredible dedication to your community. Recipients in **May** were:

- Kori John Howse from Woodend
- Ian White from Lincoln
- James Richard Penney from Kaikohe
- Lyndon Johns and Martin Prescott both from Matamata

Huge respect and admiration for our **50 Year Service Medal** recipients who were Luers John Crump from Kaikohe and Brian Davey from Duntroon.

Recipients in **April** for **25 Year Gold Star** were:

- Robert Bullen from Kawakawa Bay
- Daryl Robert Sayer from Sumner
- Wayne McLellan from Opotiki
- Robert James Korte from Te Karaka
- Jeffrey Wayne Pinfold from Gisborne

50 Year Service Medal recipient for April was John Douglas Rose from Levin.

25 Year Gold Star recipients for **March** include:

- Craig Dingle from Opunake
- Greg Peoples and Richard Morahan from Kaitangata
- Miles Cutbush from Reefton
- Gregory Wiechern from Ngaruawahia
- John Lavery from Paeroa

50 Year Service Medal recipients for March were Ian (Geordie) Ross from

Balclutha and Geoffrey Gray and David Gunn from Hamilton.

To discuss recognition and service honours please contact Tearo Kelemete at UFBA. We maintain service records for all brigades dating back many years and can provide advice and guidance on how to mark the occasion for your volunteers. **If you are having a ceremony in your station please do send us your photos for inclusion in future newsletters.**

To learn more click here [ufba -service honours](#)

Don't see double!

At some awards ceremonies it has been noted that some people have referred to the **50 Year Service Medal** as a 'Double Gold Star'. While the recipients are indeed super stars there is no such thing as a 'Double Gold Star'. To avoid any confusion please use the correct terminology.

Also the service honours and medals you present are from UFBA not Fire and Emergency NZ.... that's 140 years of history you're pinning on and we're super proud of that and hope you are too.



Get in touch with us via the links above. Alternatively if you want to use snail mail write to us at:

UFBA, 86 Main Road, PO Box 56079, Tawa, Wellington 5028

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