



UFBA Newsletter  
May 2011

## World & Australasian RCRs: Help Wanted

Helpers with a variety of skills are needed to help make this event a success - from car prep to forklift operation. Volunteers will be eligible for some funding to cover accommodation, travel and meals. Further details about such funding will be made available upon confirmation of your selection.

You don't have to live in Wellington to be selected as a volunteer. The UFBA will collect expressions of interest until 31 May, and then notify you as to whether you've been selected. Funding for volunteers will be assessed based on availability and work hours.

If you're interested in being a part of this exciting event, lodge your expression of interest before 31 May at:  
[www.ufba.org.nz/events/australasian\\_and\\_world\\_road\\_crash\\_rescue\\_challenge](http://www.ufba.org.nz/events/australasian_and_world_road_crash_rescue_challenge).

## Forum Topic of the Month

Do you have an idea for a topic or speaker you'd like to see at this year's UFBA Annual Conference? Tell us about it. Planning is underway and we're open to your ideas on how we can make it the most relevant and informative for our delegates.

*To join the discussion about this or any other topic, log on to [www.ufba.org.nz/forum](http://www.ufba.org.nz/forum), go to topic of the month, and post your comments on the UFBA member forum. NOTE: You must be a registered user of the website and logged in to participate.*

## Sign Up for the UFBA E-Newsletter

Have the latest UFBA news delivered straight to your inbox. Just log onto [www.ufba.org.nz/user/register](http://www.ufba.org.nz/user/register) and register as a member to start receiving your own copy electronically.

## From the President



May is here already. I'm halfway through my term as President and it is just six months until the next conference and AGM. It is time to consider candidates for nomination for the UFBA Board, Vice President, and Technical Panel. These positions can be very rewarding and it is great to be part of governing an organisation with such a long and proud history.

I look forward to attending provincial conferences in May and I urge every brigade to be represented at your provincial conference - they are great platforms to learn and share your viewpoint.

Congratulations to all who took part in the Combat Challenges at Te Awamutu and Ashburton. It was fantastic to see these challenges back in action. With the Drivers Challenge at Ruapuna in May and the Australasian and World RCR now in Wellington in July, a busy challenge schedule is back on track.

I recently attended a luncheon for the recipients of New Years Queen's Service Medals. Hearing the achievements of the recipients both within their brigades also as part of other organisations in their communities reinforced the merit behind their selection. Congratulations again to CFO David Edhouse of Owhango, SSO Bernard Kingsbury of Cust, and SFF Lex Calder of Ruakaka.

Keep dry, keep warm and keep safe.

Ian Lindsay  
UFBA President

## Gold Star Celebration for UFBA's Own

Kim Stewart, CFO of Akaroa Volunteer Fire Brigade, is due to receive his Gold Star this month. Not only has he recorded long service to his brigade, but also to the UFBA as a member of the Technical Panel - currently serving as the chair. The UFBA Board and Staff congratulate Kim on his achievement, and also wish to take this opportunity to thank him for his dedication to continually improving the UFBA Challenges Programme.

All the best, Kim! Enjoy your big day.



## Volunteer Awareness Week: 19 to 25 June

Volunteer Awareness Week is just around the corner and, given that it is nationally promoted through Volunteering New Zealand, it is a great opportunity for brigades to raise awareness within their communities to bolster recruitment, fundraising initiatives, and brigade morale.

The theme for the week - "Every Minute Counts" - highlights the idea that volunteers provide an invaluable contribution to our society and that every minute of their work counts. It was inspired by 2011 being the 10th anniversary of the International Year of Volunteers.

### Promote Your Brigade

We recommend that brigades springboard off the promotional efforts of Volunteering New Zealand by holding open days or other events to increase exposure. If you're doing something newsworthy, don't forget to tell the media about it.

For more information on the week, visit [www.volunteeringnz.org.nz](http://www.volunteeringnz.org.nz).

Email [jane@ufba.org.nz](mailto:jane@ufba.org.nz) if you'd like to have your special event or initiative featured in the UFBA newsletter.

## Training for Secretaries and Treasurers Coming Soon...

The UFBA will soon be running a series of seminars for brigade secretaries and treasurers. These events are suitable for people currently in these roles or those who have an interest in learning more about it. You'll learn how to fulfill your duties better and more efficiently.

You can expect more information on these events to hit your mailbox within the coming weeks. In the meantime, register your interest by going to [www.ufba.org.nz](http://www.ufba.org.nz) and following the appropriate link. If you have questions, email [jane@ufba.org.nz](mailto:jane@ufba.org.nz).

# Training Update

*QFF Judith Stanley, the UFBA delegate on the Training Standards Committee, reports on what's happening with the qualifications framework and how the UFBA is involved. She's also heading up a new UFBA initiative to develop training posters for brigades on various aspects of firefighting.*

## Qualifications

Fire and rescue training is being integrated into the national qualifications framework. The process of identifying and assessing skill needs has been underway for several years across a wide range of sectors. Unit standards are packaged into qualifications from levels one to seven.

As fire and emergency rescue workers, we need to be competent in a range of skills, including practical and underpinning knowledge. As we all know, firefighting is about thinking on our feet and being smart about what we do.

To this end, NZFS National Training and FRSITO (Fire and Rescue Services Industry Training Organisation) have worked with stakeholders, including the UFBA, to develop qualifications pathways from recruit to senior levels of firefighting. As a result of UFBA input, qualifications at levels 2, 3, and 5 are now achievable for all volunteers. Within each of these qualifications there are specialist strands (e.g. urban fire and rescue, vegetation, airport). Within each strand there are both compulsory and optional units in which relevant skills may be selected from other areas of the framework.

The following is a summary of the National Certificate in Fire and Rescue Services from level 2 to 5 as they apply to urban and rural volunteer fire and rescue needs:

Level	Credits	Rank
2	43	Recruit and QFF
3	44	SFF
5	40	SFF and above.

Expect more information through NZFS national and regional training channels, or contact Sam Cottle, FRSITO's Training and Development Advisor at [sam@frsito.org.nz](mailto:sam@frsito.org.nz) or Bruce Stubbs, Manager GTE Systems and Moderation, National Training, at [bruce.stubbs@fire.org.nz](mailto:bruce.stubbs@fire.org.nz).

These qualifications offer a framework to develop and build learning pathways within brigades and for individual firefighters. Maintaining competencies needs to be part of the OSM regime. Training must be adequately resourced.

Developing smart ways of delivering training must be a priority for NZFS and FRSITO. This includes the need for more on-station assessment options, so that we aren't expected to over commit our time to meet their needs.

## Resources

The UFBA now has three good drafts of training posters awaiting quality assurance for final approval before being printed and distributed for brigades. They cover fire science, safe person concept, and structure fire set-up and are intended as station-based visual reminders of core skills and knowledge.

## UFBA Across Changes at New Brighton

UFBA is one of the parties to a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) now in place following an urgent need to temporarily locate a Christchurch appliance at New Brighton Fire Station, effectively creating a composite brigade for the time being. Other signatories are the New Brighton Volunteer Fire Brigade, NZPFU and New Zealand Fire Service, Christchurch Area.

Temporary accommodation for firefighters and shelter for the appliance is already on site, a necessity, the Fire Service's Area Commander, Dan Coward, says "to meet extraordinary circumstances in the wake of the February 22nd earthquake. Some fire stations in the area are

uninhabitable, infrastructure has been compromised, damaged roads delay response times and water supplies are inconsistent - all of which meant an alternative location for a fire appliance and crew was required. New Brighton was chosen because of the added risks in Eastern districts, some of the worst hit suburbs in the 'quake'.

UFBA Board members, along with other interested parties, met with members of the New Brighton Volunteer Fire Brigade.

"There were displays of goodwill and commitment from all sides once the urgent situation was understood," says UFBA President, Ian Lindsay. "Volunteer members of the brigade accepted the

operational need for a 24 x 7 additional crew on station. The terms of the MOU were worked through and agreed. Regular communication between the parties is a feature of the arrangement, with formal reviews built-in."

Given Christchurch's changing risk profiles, the crew will remain at New Brighton until a new site is decided, and appropriate alternative premises are provided.

## Charity Ball to Raise More Money for Christchurch Firefighters

Fire Rescue & First Response, Ltd is putting on the Combined Emergency Services Charity Ball to raise funds for emergency services personnel in Christchurch.

Theresa Nesbit, Director of the company, says she and her husband have close ties with the emergency services community - delivering training courses for the Rural Fire Service and NZFS and also serving as volunteer firefighters themselves (Theresa only recently resigned). They had been looking for a way to give back, and believe this event has the potential to raise a significant amount of money.

The event, to be held at the North Harbour Stadium ASB lounge on Saturday, June 11, is black tie formal and will feature guest speaker Jim Stuart Black, USAR's National Manager Special Operations.

Tickets are priced at \$120 for singles and \$200 for couples, with an auction planned to raise additional funds. Proceeds will go to various charitable entities to support fire, police, and ambulance personnel - the UFBA Benevolent Fund Firefighters Earthquake Appeal being one of them.

**For tickets, payment options, and information, contact:**

Theresa on 021 945 959 or email [theresa@fyrbos.co.nz](mailto:theresa@fyrbos.co.nz)  
Andi on 027 276 8926 or email [rexandi@xtra.co.nz](mailto:rexandi@xtra.co.nz).

## EVENTS BULLETIN

### 2011 Drivers Challenge

Registrations close 13 May. To register or for more information, visit: [ufba.org.nz/events/2011\\_ufba\\_national\\_drivers\\_challenge](http://ufba.org.nz/events/2011_ufba_national_drivers_challenge).

### World & Australasian RCR Challenge

Wellington has been confirmed as the venue for the World and Australasian RCR, scheduled to be held from 14 to 17 July, and helpers are still being recruited. Visit the UFBA website to find out more.

### Hosting Challenges

The UFBA is still seeking expressions of interest from brigades who wish to host the following challenges in 2012:

- **Regional Road Crash Rescue Challenges** – to be held from November 2011 onwards
  - **Combined Region 1 & 2** (North Island)
  - **Combined Region 3 & 4** (South Island)
- **National Road Crash Rescue Challenge** – to be held sometime between February and April 2012
- **National Drivers Challenge** – to be held anytime between March and October
- **North Island Firefighter Combat Challenge**
- **South Island Firefighter Combat Challenge**

- **National Firefighter Combat Challenge** – preferred date is September / October

**The closing date for expressions of interest is Tuesday, 31 May 2011.** Before any dates are proposed, please ensure that you check with our Events Manager, Sarah Taylor, to ensure that there is not a clash of dates. Visit [www.ufba.org.nz/events/host\\_an\\_event](http://www.ufba.org.nz/events/host_an_event) for further information on what is required.

### 2011 Conference Travel and Accommodation Information

The 2011 UFBA Conference will be held in Invercargill at the end of November. The UFBA pre-books accommodation on behalf of all attendees and you will be offered the option to choose your accommodation when online registration opens in early August. Please don't contact the accommodation providers directly to make bookings as it may cause confusion when you register online.

If you intend to fly to Invercargill and are a UFBA-nominated delegate, we ask that

you book your flights through Orbit Travel when the online registration opens to help us simplify administration of transport and billing arrangements.

### Notice to National Waterway Challenge Participants

The 2011 National Waterway Challenge, which was postponed due to the Christchurch Earthquake, has been rescheduled to 3 to 5 November in Carterton. If your team had registered for the originally scheduled event, you need to contact Orbit Travel before 1 June to confirm your attendance. Visit [www.ufba.org.nz](http://www.ufba.org.nz) for more details. If you missed out on registering the first time around and wish to attend, email [sarah@ufba.org.nz](mailto:sarah@ufba.org.nz).

### National Firefighter Combat Challenge

**Saturday, 29 October 2011 in Ashburton**

Registration information, including funding and eligibility criteria, will be available via the website in June and registration will open in August.

### Key Dates

28 May	National Drivers Challenge, Ruapuna
14 to 17 July	Australasian and World RCR, Wellington
August	Conference Registration Opens
29 October	National Firefighter Combat Challenge, Ashburton
25 to 27 November	133rd Annual UFBA Conference, Invercargill

## Governance and Leadership a Focus for UFBA

In the next few weeks, UFBA directors Pat Fitzell and Nigel Lilley — the two newest members of the Board — will be going to governance courses offered by the New Zealand Institute of Directors. The UFBA believes that upskilling senior people in these areas is a good investment in the future of the organisation.

The UFBA is also in the process of developing a governance and leadership course developed for a wider group of persons with leadership potential. This course will contain elements that are particularly relevant to our people – touching on not-for-profit issues and taking into account New Zealand Fire Service protocols.

Down the track, the UFBA is also looking to support provincial associations and brigades in developing their leaders and future leaders. Currently, options for learning opportunities and the resources required are being considered.

Chief Executive Officer George Verry says that “leadership is essential to maintaining a healthy organisation, from the national and regional offices all the way down to the brigade level.”

Watch this space for updates on these new initiatives.

### South Island Firefighter Combat Challenge Results

#### Open Male – Individuals

- 1) Steven Maw, Southbridge - 2:51
- 2) Ed Jackman, Cust - 2:52.72
- 3) Neil Gardiner, Takaka - 2:56.03

#### Male Over 40

- 1) Neil Gardiner, Takaka - 2:56.04
- 2) Michael Williamson, Manly - 2:58.34
- 3) Stu Goodhew, Edgecumbe - 2:58.34

#### Male Over 50

- 1) Tom Reid, Christchurch Airport - 2:48.91
- 2) John Graham, Browns - 4:34.97

#### Tandem Relay

- 1) Ashburton - 2:06.59
- 2) Edgecumbe / Takaka - 2:24.13
- 3) Brooklands - 2:31.97

#### 4 Person Relay

- 1) Ashburton - 2:02.25
- 2) Southbridge - 2:28.31
- 3) New Brighton - 2:41.12

#### Open Female - Individuals

- 1) Tineke van der Heide - 6:10.81
- 2) Karin Bos, Little River - 6:51.44

## On to the National Firefighter Combat Challenge

With two successful Firefighter Combat Challenges under the UFBA's belt so far this year, planning is in full swing for the Nationals scheduled to take place on Saturday, 29 October in Ashburton.

Having hosted the South Island Firefighter Combat Challenge on 9 April, the Ashburton Brigade has both the experience and the support of its members to put on a fantastic event.

Although details are still being nailed down, competitors who may be interested in participating are encouraged to start training and preparing early, and to check the UFBA website regularly for updates.

“Everyone at the UFBA is excited to have the Firefighter Combat Challenge back,” says George Verry, UFBA Chief Executive Officer. “We’re looking for a big turnout and would encourage all brigade members to pass the word to others who may be interested.”

More information on the National Firefighter Combat Challenge at [www.ufba.org.nz/events/national\\_firefighter\\_combat\\_challenge](http://www.ufba.org.nz/events/national_firefighter_combat_challenge).



## NZFBI Five-Minute Quiz

The topic for this month is "Fire Investigation". Answers are available online at [www.ufba.org.nz/nzfbifive\\_minute\\_quiz/may\\_2011](http://www.ufba.org.nz/nzfbifive_minute_quiz/may_2011) and will appear in next month's newsletter.

- 1) It is important for firefighters to understand the variety of ways in which successful fire investigations contribute to safety and the rule of law. List 4 outcomes that can come from good investigative work.
- 2) It is the Officer In Charge's responsibility to carry out the fire investigation into a fire that they are attending, and also scene preservation. List 4 ways in which this can be done.
- 3) List 5 possible contaminants that firefighters can inadvertently introduce to a fire scene.
- 4) What are the "Four Stars of Firefighter Responsibility"?
- 5) List 8 examples of when a Fire Safety Officer must be requested.

### Answers to the April Quiz:

Following are the answers from the quiz that appeared in last month's newsletter. The full quiz is available online at [www.ufba.org.nz/nzfbifive\\_minute\\_quiz/april\\_2011](http://www.ufba.org.nz/nzfbifive_minute_quiz/april_2011).

- 1) Entry control board, entry control officer jerkin, and a minimum of 1 BA main guideline. 2) BA tally tag, distress signal unit (DSU), personal line, torch. 3) Controlling the entry and exit of BA wearers by using the entry control board, monitoring the safety of BA wearers, ensuring there is a response to any emergency involving BA wearers, maintaining resources for BA wearers. 4) Check the cylinder is turned on, operate the manual by-pass (on Sabre Centurion and Contour) or supplementary supply valve (on Drager PA 94+), operate DSU, exit to entry control point. 5) When 7 or more personnel are wearing BA, then the OIC will appoint a separate ECO. 6) Wearers of BA will not grow facial hair around the area of the mask seal or wear glasses that pass through the mask seal. 7) When carrying out any out any operation that may expose them to toxic substances, dust, fumes, smoke, other irrespirable atmospheres. 8) 3 or more entry points are set up; 6 or more teams of BA wearers are working at any one time; OIC Fire considers it necessary. 9) Entry Control Officers; Incident Controller; and the Resources Officer (if appointed). 10) By using a non-flashing blue light.



## NZFBI Recommended Reading

### After the Fire: Advanced Salvage for Firefighters

By Kevin Parker

Magazine: *Fire Engineering*, Mar2011, Vol. 164 Issue 3, p185-188, 4p.

Is it possible to ever get rid of the smell of smoke in a house after fire? How can we respond to questions like this from fire victims, left with water and smoke damaged homes and possessions? Kevin Parker, captain with a Kentucky fire department, stresses the role firefighters play in assisting fire victims after fire and water losses. He runs through elements of a course he created for firefighters, and this article gives tips on technology and techniques that can be used to save precious possessions. For example, did you know that freeze-drying Bibles and photographs can save them?

As soon as possible after the extinguishment of the fire, place these items in a freezer. In a restoration process called sublimation, the moisture "ice" is removed from the item without ever returning to its liquid state. Parker discusses the likelihood of saving hardwood floors, and how best to remove the smell of smoke. Parker also warns against complacency in the wearing of protective gear after the fire is out and carbon monoxide levels are deemed acceptable. Smoke molecules remain airborne for quite some time. You may see the tiny particles floating through the air in the sunlight entering a building after a fire, so it makes sense to keep yourself protected. This is a useful article offering a number of practical suggestions for firefighters dealing with traumatised homeowners after fires. By providing this type of expertise and advice, firefighters can be more than the people who just come in and "put the wet stuff on the red stuff."

Email the Fire Service Library at [infoc@fire.org.nz](mailto:infoc@fire.org.nz) to have the full article sent to you.



The New Zealand Firefighters Credit Union: Financial Services for the Emergency Services Community  
Contact us now on freephone 0508 613328 or visit our website at [www.firefighters.co.nz](http://www.firefighters.co.nz).



The New Zealand Firefighters Welfare Society

# Special Promotion

## Healthcare 99

## Join Healthcare 99

be in the draw for an iPhone 4  
or iPad 2 (of equivalent value).



**Offer runs between April 1 - June 30, 2011**

**Public Health is very good about looking after life threatening health conditions. For many other conditions, the waiting lists are long. With the support of Healthcare 99 you can get back to work sooner and be feeling better faster.**

**All of the contributions in the fund are available for assisting the Medical and Hospital Welfare needs of Members after approval. Healthcare 99 is a mutual health fund not an insurance scheme. Phone 0800 OK FIRE for more information or go to [www.firefighters.org.nz](http://www.firefighters.org.nz)**

*As little per fortnight as*

Under 19 yrs	6.99
19-29 years	14.40
30-39 years	20.03
40-49 years	27.29
50-59 years	33.74
60 years plus	54.29

*firefighters helping firefighters  
awhi atu awhi mai*



# NZFBI News

## Devonport to Host Field Day at Naval Base

Field days are great ways to gain practical knowledge in specialist areas of firefighting, and the planned trip to the Devonport Naval Base next month will not dissappoint.

The event will be hosted by Devonport Volunteer Fire Brigade in conjunction with the New Zealand Navy and New Zealand Fire Brigades' Institute.

When: Saturday, 11 June at 0900 hrs

Where: Meet at Devonport Fire Station

Cost: \$15 per person (includes lunch and morning tea)

To find out more about the planned topics and activities, go to [www.ufba.org.nz/nzfbifield\\_days](http://www.ufba.org.nz/nzfbifield_days) and download the event flyer.

To register, go to [www.dvfb.org.nz](http://www.dvfb.org.nz) or email [mark.buchanan@dvfb.org.nz](mailto:mark.buchanan@dvfb.org.nz).

## New Zealand Fire Brigades' Institute Exam Registrations Open

On the first weekend of September, NZFBI exams will be held at locations throughout the country. The diploma programme includes nine units, each covering a different aspect of firefighting. If you're interested in upskilling and becoming a better firefighter, you still have time to start studying and register for exams.

### 5 Reasons to Sit the NZFBI Exams

- 1) You can earn \$250 cash for each NZFBI Diploma you complete - up to \$750 in total.
- 2) It's great for your CV and promotions.
- 3) You'll be a better, more knowledgeable firefighter.
- 4) Candidates with passes in New Zealand Fire Service promotional examinations receive credits towards NZFBI Diplomas, so you may already have a head start.
- 5) You'll be able to put post-nominal letters after your name – great for professional purposes.

**Registrations close on 1 August.** For more information, visit [www.ufba.org.nz/nzfbifield\\_days](http://www.ufba.org.nz/nzfbifield_days) or email [nzfbifield\\_days@ufba.org.nz](mailto:nzfbifield_days@ufba.org.nz).

The UFBA is proudly supported by:



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