



# Water On in the Wairarapa

Recapping the 2011 UFBA National  
Waterway Challenge in Carterton.

PHOTO: Kirsten Spierling, UFBA

## ► Brigade To-Do List

### Update Your Brigade Details

New CEO or Secretary? Has your brigade address or contact details changed? Have you launched a new website or gotten a new email address?

Help us keep our records up to date by going to [www.ufba.org.nz](http://www.ufba.org.nz) and taking two minutes to complete the Update Brigade Details Form.

### Take the NZFS Volunteer Sustainability Survey

The NZFS is running another volunteer sustainability survey and we encourage all volunteer brigades to take part. You can access the link to the survey at [www.ufba.org.nz](http://www.ufba.org.nz). If you have any questions, contact Rachel De Haas at [rachel.dehaas@fire.org.nz](mailto:rachel.dehaas@fire.org.nz) or by phone on 04 496 3607.

## Member Forum

Find out what other members are talking about and join the discussion in the UFBA members forum.

Just go to [www.ufba.org.nz/forum](http://www.ufba.org.nz/forum) 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.

## Spreading the News

We're always interested in hearing about what's happening in brigades around the country. If you have a story you'd like to share with the wider membership in our newsletter, email us at [news@ufba.org.nz](mailto:news@ufba.org.nz).

## COMBAT CHALLENGE: Competitors Feel the Heat at Nationals

*A scorcher of a day in Canterbury made the "toughest two minutes in sport" even tougher for the 60 firefighters who competed in the National Firefighter Combat Challenge in Ashburton in the last weekend of October.*

"It was a great, very well-run event - the Ashburton brigade did a great job," said Ian Lindsay, UFBA President. "We had people of all levels from experienced competitors to first-timers, and everybody was right into it - there were no slackers."

Chris Bestwick of Te Awamutu won the Open Male category, Angela Munro from Counties Manukau was the top female competitor, and Tom Reid from Christchurch Airport won the Male Over 50 category. Many of the competitors who ran in the individual categories also mixed and matched with other brigades to create their relay teams.

"I really enjoyed getting out and meeting other firefighters from all over the country," said Bestwick. "It's a great event, and I'd like to see more firefighters get into it."

"You don't need the course set up in your back yard to train for it - just doing the basic stuff can get you in good enough shape to compete. It's mostly aerobic fitness, and I think swimming and high-intensity circuit training helps."

Shaun Higginson, another competitor



PHOTO: Kirsten Spierling, UFBA

## ► UFBA Board Farewells Mike Hall

The UFBA Board invited Mike Hall along to last month's Board meeting to bid him farewell. Below from left to right: George Verry, UFBA CEO; Nigel Lilley; Chris Price, UFBA Vice President; Peter Drummond, Chairman of the Board; Mike Hall; Ian Lindsay, UFBA President; Pat Fitzell; and Brian Watters.



from Te Awamutu, also shared some creative training ideas. "We've pulled cars to simulate the hose drag, used real people for dummies, and hammered car tyres as a substitute for the Keiser portion of the course."

Te Awamutu brought a strong contingent of four competitors, and Bestwick says hosting the North Island Firefighter Combat Challenge earlier in the year generated interest among brigade members.

Although pleased to get the Combat Challenge back up and running, the UFBA had hoped for more participation in the event.

"Some firefighters may not have entered because they weren't sure what to expect or how to train," said UFBA CEO

George Verry. "To those people, I say buddy up with another member of your brigade give it a shot next year. Or contact the UFBA and we'll put you in touch with experienced competitors or a member of our Technical Panel who will be able to set you off in the right direction."

The Te Awamutu crew have already offered their time to help new competitors get up and running. "The more competitors, the better," said Higginson. "We want to go to the Worlds in 2012, so we'll be training hard and when we set up training events, we'll be happy to have people come along to give it a go."

# National Waterway Challenge a Nail Biter

Thirty-six two and four person waterway teams and their supporters from around the country went into the Nationals in Carterton in early November hoping for a good competition – and they weren't disappointed. "There wasn't a clear winner in either the two or four person categories until the very last event," said UFBA President Ian Lindsay. "And that is exactly what you want for a waterway competition."

## Three-Peat for Carterton

Carterton's A team has won the National Waterway Challenge for the third year running, but it didn't come easy. The rivalry between the Carterton A and Silverdale four-person teams continued as expected. And Matamata – a team competing in the four-person

category for the first season – stayed neck and neck with the favourites until the last event.

When all the results were in, the hometown Carterton A team retained their title of National Champion with 78 aggregate points, and Silverdale and Matamata finished second place equal with 70 points a piece.

Carterton A was the only four-person team not to get a penalty, which may have been the difference in the end. Silverdale was pinged with 10-second penalties in events 42 and 45, which cost them placings in the events – and valuable points. Had Matamata not been penalized in event 43, they would have taken second place and earned eight additional points, which could have evened the score with Carterton.

The Protest Committee was fed a healthy dose of protests, which UFBA Technical Panel Chairman Kim Stewart said was to be expected with the event being run 10 months later than originally

scheduled due to the Christchurch earthquakes. "We always expect a fair number of protests at National competitions, and this year, the Nationals were run at the beginning of a season instead of at the end of a season," he said.

Referee Rod Triplow was pleased overall with the way the competitors conducted themselves. "The teams on my track were asking questions and accepting the answers, which was good to see," he said. "Sure there's a little bit of fine tuning to be done with the rules, but it's really up to the teams to send feedback and suggestions to the UFBA Technical Panel for next season. The tracks were good and they held up well. Any time you go to Carterton, it's always a good event."

Matamata had competed in the two-person events in previous years and had been very successful, but to adapt to the four-person events so well was a significant accomplishment.

Carterton A Captain (and the CFO of the brigade), Wayne Robinson, was obviously happy with the outcome for the A team, but was quick to point out the significance of the B team earning fifth place. "This was the second time our B team finished fifth in the Nationals," he said. "I'm really proud of all our team members and pleased with the event overall. As the host, we really wanted to make sure the tracks were the best they could be."

"The tracks held up and we've had a lot of positive comments about the layout. We had so much support from over half our brigade, the rugby club, and many of our ex-members who came back to lend a hand."

"I've been running for thirty years," Robinson said. "So it's great to catch up with some of the other waterway competitors who have been at it for a while." In his time, Carterton has earned four National titles – in 1987, 2007, 2009, and 2011.

When asked if he would retire after this year and quit while he's on top, Robinson replied: "Nah, try for another. I'll just keep going."

## PHOTOS

*Left: The National Champion Carterton A team poses with their haul of trophies following the prize giving presentation.*

*Above: Silverdale's Adrian Rice hustles through a run as teammate Don McErlich operates the pump.*



PHOTO: Kirsten Spierling, UFBA



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## Four-Person Top Ten

Place	Team	Penalties (in seconds)	Time	Points
1	Carterton A	0	388.54	78
2=	Silverdale	20	406.11	70
2=	Matamata	10	407.50	70
4	Havelock North	5	431.77	40
5	Carterton B	20	446.73	38
6	Christchurch Airport	15	449.15	24
7	Akaroa	10	495.97	20
8	Te Aroha	65	572.79	14
9	Coromandel	10	482.16	10
10	Takaka	45	582.12	8



PHOTO: Kirsten Spierling, UFBA

## National Title Long Overdue for Tairua

After 14 years of running in the two-person events, and coming close to winning it all, Tairua has finally earned the title of National Champion.

Rik Tawa and Mark Cory-Wright have been in it from the beginning, and their third team member, Brett Rhind joined the team two years ago.

The Tairua trio has made their brigade and their hometown proud, already paying visits to a few local schools to spread the message that "if you are dedicated and work hard, you can achieve great things," as Rik Tawa is quoted as saying in the local *Hauraki Herald*.

It is a proud and significant achievement, especially considering that the Tairua brigade doesn't currently have any Type 1 or Type 2 appliances - models that were used at the Challenge. In preparation for the event, they had to travel to other brigades that had the newer model trucks.

With only 12 points separating the top seven teams in the two-person category, Tairua had to work for their win. The experienced team finished with forty points, and second-equal teams from Darfield and Feilding were close behind with 34 points each.

*PHOTO (from left): Brett Rhind, Mark Cory-Wright, and Rik Tawa with their well-deserved trophies.*

## More from the Waterways...

View many more photos at [www.ufba.org.nz](http://www.ufba.org.nz). All photos courtesy of Kirsten Spierling, UFBA.

### ► WELL PRESENTED...

The last time Blenheim entered a team was over eight years ago. In their first year back, Mark Kennedy and Tim Smith won the award for Best Conducted Two-Person team. "We were blown away when we found out we won an award," said Kennedy. "We weren't expecting it. We had a fantastic time and picked up a lot of new skills that will carry over on the job."

### ▼ A FIRST...

The Governor General attended the UFBA National Waterway Challenge to address the teams and officially open the event. He greeted the teams and recognised the dedication of volunteer firefighters throughout the country. We can't remember another time in the long history of the waterways when His Excellency has been in attendance.



## ► Two-Person Top Ten

Place	Team	Penalties (in seconds)	Time	Points
1	Tairua	10	316.40	40
2=	Feilding	0	307.83	34
2=	Darfield	30	351.42	34
4	Morrinsville	10	335.92	30
5=	Mossburn	10	324.24	28
5=	Kaitangata	10	324.17	28
5=	Blenheim	0	326.28	28
8	Havelock North	10	348.18	12
9	Waipu	20	375.85	10
10	Warkworth	15	357.38	6





**Top:** Teams line up for official opening.



**Left:** Greymouth tackles the portable dam event.

**Bottom Left:** Darfield's Alan Kittelty at the pump.

**Bottom Right:** Christchurch Airport in action.



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## UFBA Members now receive SWAZI® garments at Trade Prices!

Most people with a knowledge of the outdoors will recognise the brand Swazi® Apparel of Levin. Their reputation of making the world's most durable outdoor clothing has been tried, tested and proven in some of the harshest environments on the planet. Now as a UFBA member you have exclusive access to this amazing Kiwi brand - all at special Trade Prices.

Signing up is an easy process too and one which won't take you long. Simply log into the members area on the UFBA website, [www.ufba.org.nz](http://www.ufba.org.nz) and follow the instructions for Member Benefits.

Once registered, you'll be able to view the entire Swazi® range of outdoor clothing online. Garments include Gore-Tex®, Windstopper®, NZ Merino, base layer and mid layer fleeces.

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### ► Gold Stars and 50-Year Medals

*Congratulations to all those who have received Gold Stars, Fifty-Year Medals, and other UFBA Service Awards for the month of November.*

#### Fifty-Year Medals

Norman Commerer, Eltham

#### Gold Stars

Trevor Hennessy, Te Kauwhata  
Kevin Hickey, Te Kauwhata  
Gordon Bootten, Port Chalmers  
Robert Palmer, Diamond Harbour  
William Potbury, Himatangi  
Gary Baker, Greytown  
Lyllal Terry, Ohai  
Stephen Henderson, Okaihau  
Russell Lumb, Tikokino  
Jim Morrison, Ohope  
Gary Spraggon, Ohope  
Daryl Meikle, Matura  
Craig Sinclair, Matura  
Merv Gaskin, Silverstream  
Steve McKee, Silverstream  
Graeme Fulton, Invercargill  
Christopher Hamilton, Invercargill  
Colin Russell, Invercargill  
Glenn Kaye, Oamaru  
Gavin Hyland, Auckland Airport  
David Smyth, Auckland Airport  
David Ewen, Auckland Airport  
Brian Seager, Northern Comms.  
Peter Thompson, Wainuiomata



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our website [www.firefighters.co.nz](http://www.firefighters.co.nz).

### ► NZFS Library Recommended Reading

#### Vehicle extrication levels I & II : principles and practice (book)

By David Sweet  
(Burlington, MA : Jones and Bartlett: 2012)

This easy-to-read illustrated manual is designed for technical rescuers in US brigades. It meets the requirements of the NFPA technical rescue standards, which US fire fighters comply with.

The book is packed with pictures of gear, scenarios, and techniques. A really useful feature is the Skill Drills, which provide step-by-step pictures and explanations of key procedures. The Skill Drills show stabilizing

vehicles in different positions, different lifting techniques, and victim removal from a variety of crashed vehicle situations.

Because it is used for training, the book includes features to help learning. Each chapter ends with a scenario, in which you put yourself in the situation of rescuer. You are prompted on critical decisions and knowledge. You'll also find "rescue tips", and real-life examples of rescue situations, peppered throughout the text.

The whole of extrication operations are covered. From incident management, vehicle anatomy, tools and equipment, right through to the actual techniques

required during operations. Alternative powered vehicles and all electric vehicles are covered. There are stand-alone chapters on commercial vehicles and agricultural extrication. As with any of these US manuals, you need to keep in mind our own local procedures.

Contact your Fire Service Library to have the full article sent to you. You can email [infoc@fire.org.nz](mailto:infoc@fire.org.nz) or phone us on our new 0800 number – 0800 FIRELIB.



## Important RCR Notice

ARRO has updated the rules for the Road Crash Rescue Challenge. The new rules will be implemented in the 2012 National RCR Challenge, and teams are advised to familiarise themselves with the changes that have been made. You can access the new rules at [www.ufba.org.nz](http://www.ufba.org.nz).

The UFBA is proudly supported by:



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