



**UFBA/FRFANZ: Supporting all rural fire forces**  
**Opportunities to strengthen leadership skills**

## UFBA/FRFANZ: Collaborating to benefit all our firefighters



George Verry, UFBA Chief Executive Officer

The Fire and Emergency New Zealand Bill was passed in Parliament on 4 May.

With less than two months to go until the implementation of Fire and Emergency New Zealand (FENZ) on 1 July, the UFBA and the Forest and Rural Fire Association (FRFANZ) continue to strongly represent the interests of our members during the transition.

Currently we are working with the FENZ Transition Team on the co-design of 'four pillars' of the Volunteer Strategy—the relationship volunteers may have with Fire and Emergency New Zealand, Day One initiatives, dispute resolution and future advocacy and support.

### FENZ National Forum

In addition to the usual consultation discussions—many of which involve a variety of personnel from our member



UFBA Board Director **Bill Butzbach** (CFO Martinborough Volunteer Fire Brigade) is working closely with the FENZ Transition Team on projects relevant to our members. Recently, FENZ filmed volunteer representatives discussing what volunteers can expect to see from 1 July. Left to right: Carl Mills, CFO Plimmerton Volunteer Fire Brigade, Catherine Coe, Principal Organisational Development Advisor, NZFS and Wellington Operational Support Unit, Bill Butzbach and Thomas Goss, Controller Wainuiomata Rural Fire Force.

brigades and rural fire forces, leadership groups and senior staff—UFBA/FRFANZ representatives attended a National Forum for stakeholders in Wellington on 27 April together with 180 others connected to fire and emergency services.

Presentations from the NZFSC Board and NZFS and NRFA leadership groups covered readiness for Day One of Fire and Emergency New Zealand in relation to people, organisation and policy, planning for integration following 1 July and the new identity. We then attended a workshop along with NZFSC Board members and senior FENZ staff where we had an opportunity to ask questions—these strongly focussed on the 'direct relationship' volunteers would have with FENZ from 1 July.

### Volunteer 'relationship'

Our continuing advocacy regarding this area has centred around what this relationship would look like. I am delighted that following extensive consultation with UFBA/FRFANZ and our members, FENZ announced on 9 May the relationship with volunteers will be one of 'engagement' rather than employment.

A decision has been made to change the name of the arrangement from a 'Volunteer Agreement' (which is how it has been referred to until now) to a 'Volunteer Engagement'. FENZ expect to send out Volunteer Engagement letters to rural volunteers from mid-May and to urban volunteers from the end of May. Members will not need to sign these letters.

### FENZ Leadership

The UFBA has advocated for some time that the position of Chief Executive be separate to, and distinct from, any other leadership roles in our fire and emergency services.

This assumes even greater importance in the challenge we all have, to successfully bring together so many different groups into the unified organisation—career, volunteer,

rural, urban, and industrial brigades.

We are very pleased to note the appointments of Rhys Jones as Chief Executive, Paul McGill as National Commander of Urban Fire and Emergency operations and Kevin O'Connor as National Manager of Rural Fire and Emergency operations.

UFBA and our partner FRFANZ have had long-standing, productive working relationships with Paul and Kevin and we look forward to meeting Rhys and developing a similar rapport with him as he leads the integration work.

### UFBA/FRFANZ collaboration

Our liaison with FRFANZ continues to grow. On 2 May, UFBA General Manager Ceara Owen-Perry and I met with the FRFANZ Board to discuss future collaboration of benefit to both organisations. In particular, we are assisting FRFANZ to advocate the causes of their membership. We are also working with their directors on setting up the FRFANZ Annual Conference and AGM in Auckland in August.

### Leadership and Governance

In my last column, I reported we were planning a Leadership and Governance Workshop catering for our rural colleagues to offer them this valued experience as we all meet the challenges of the transition to the new FENZ environment.

With this workshop set down for 22-24 June, we put a comprehensive communications plan in place to publicise this opportunity to as many rural fire forces as possible including FRFANZ members. I am pleased to report the interest in this workshop was high with a strong response from rural firefighters. Our June workshop is now oversubscribed, however, a Urban/Rural Leadership and Governance Workshop will follow on 14-16 September.

I encourage both urban and rural firefighters (UFBA and FRFANZ members or those who do not belong to either organisation) to apply either through our online application form at [www.ufba.org.nz/events/leadership\\_governance\\_workshop\\_Sep17](http://www.ufba.org.nz/events/leadership_governance_workshop_Sep17) or by completing the form on the flyer enclosed with this newsletter and returning it to us.

## MEMBERS SUPPORTING MEMBERS

# Christchurch: Challenging conditions at Port Hills fires

*From Brett Reed, Waikuku Beach Volunteer Rural Fire Force*

From Monday 13 February when fires started in the Port Hills, Christchurch was again faced with a major threat to property, people, its city and community.

Waikuku Beach firefighters managed to get some footage on the front line up on the Port Hills on the Wednesday and Thursday, more so on Worsley Road.

WAIK1811 was one of the first units up there on the Wednesday along with Rangiora, Christchurch City and Selwyn Brigades. More arrived soon after. All the other brigades were tied up at Early Valley Road or on standby in their own communities.

Together with NZFS, Rural, DOC, Police, civil contractors and chopper pilots, we all tried so hard to save the houses on Wednesday. We had to pull back due to the height and ferocity of the flames—at one stage dropping our hose and running along the side of the hill as the head of the

fire turned on us.

We all stayed right up till the last minute, some of us only withdrawing due to safety. We had to pull some guys away as they didn't want to leave. Power was on and off and water pressure was off for several hours.

That's when we lost three houses on Wednesday night. It was very sad to see this happen and we all thought of the families that lost their homes. We were talking about it all night, a conflicting sense of achievement and loss.

The chopper pilots were the real heroes—I don't even know how they could see half the time. Listening to Air Ops you would have thought they were seasoned pros, they were awesome. Sadly, some of us had met Steve Askin at other fire calls, flying the chopper.

There was a ton of police and civilian contractors, digger drivers and the Army and yes, Richie was working behind the scenes helping Air Ops.

All the crews did an exceptional job that day in extremely challenging conditions.



On the following days we worked with a Christchurch City Station crew who were fantastic. Think they got dirtier than us.

Lastly, a big thank you to all the employers that gave their volunteer firefighter staff time to attend this event.

## Edgecumbe: Keeping the flood relief teams going

On Thursday 6 April, a wall of water devastated the Bay of Plenty town of Edgecumbe after the Rangitaiki River breached a stopbank.

Our members responded immediately to meet the needs of their communities.

With an aim of better using resources, **Karl Lapwood**, CFO Ngaruawahia Volunteer Fire Brigade, is involved with training members of the Hamilton Operational Support team.

"This means for jobs like the relief work in Edgecumbe, we can mix and match resources so we're not taking all the firefighters from Ngaruawahia," Karl says.

Ngaruawahia brigade has a self-built canteen and a van they use for transport and to pick up food—this time from local New World and PAK'nSAVE stores.

"We had a team in Edgecumbe for seven days in total plus a group of four who did another four days," Karl says.

"It is a big ask to call brigade members away at the best of times let alone over the Easter break, but our teams are so dedicated they decided to give up their time off to go help others in need."

The team spent the first four days solely on catering and cooking meals for all involved from the New Zealand Fire

Service and their families, New Zealand Police, New Zealand Defence Force and other agencies.

"Our team's contribution included supplying full cooked breakfasts," says Karl.

"On the first day alone we did 110 breakfasts, 150 lunches and 150 dinners."

The team was pulled out of Edgecumbe with the predicted arrival of Cyclone Cook. However, a group then returned to help the local brigade clean and strip out damaged houses.

"I commend Edgecumbe Brigade on how they and their families managed in such trying circumstances," Karl says. "Along with the incredible support of the Rapid Relief Team, it was very much a team effort."

**Adrian Massey**, CFO Edgecumbe Volunteer Fire Brigade, says the support from Ngaruawahia and Hamilton Operational Support volunteers was absolutely invaluable.

"They gave outstanding service and are a great team," he says. "We gratefully appreciated their support."

"One of our firefighters lost his home and a pet and the majority of others in the brigade couldn't stay in their homes during the flood. The teams worked incredibly well right though this devastating time."



# UFBA Firefighter Combat Challenge: Improving fitness

Outstanding Regional Challenges in Alexandra and Palmerston North set the scene for the UFBA National Firefighter Combat Challenge on the Wellington waterfront.

## Successful Regionals

Alexandra Volunteer Fire Brigade provided exceptional support and were welcoming and helpful hosts for around 75 participants at the South Island event on 25 March.

**Ed Jackman** (Rangiora) won the Open Male title which last year went to his good mate Steven Maw. The winner of the 2016 Open Female competition, **Hayley Rossiter** (Darfield), again took out first place.

Hosted by **Palmerston North** on 8 April, the North Island Challenge had a record number of participants for a regional event with 120 taking part.

**Dave Shaw** (Te Awamutu), the winner in 2016, again took out top place in the Open Male category while first time competitor **Moana Bond** (Otaki) won Open Female.

## Outstanding Nationals

Wellington turned on spectacular weather again for the Nationals on 5-6 May. The two action packed days fired-up the 165

competitors, their supporters and hundreds of public spectators.

Overall, the event was a huge success—the UFBA has received a number of comments on the professional running of the event from competitors, officials and our partners.

Last year's Open Male champion, **Ed Jackman**, again took out the title, with **Scott Cubitt** (Christchurch Airport) second (he ranked first in the Over 40 Male) and **Dan Brady** (Devonport) third. **Sean Jackman** (Cust) won the Over 50 Male category again while **Tom Reid** (Christchurch Airport) claimed another Over 60 Male title.

**Hayley Rossiter**, the 2016 Open Female champion, won her second national title followed by **Tanja Grunwald** (Whanganui) who also took out the Over 40 Female category and **Petra Dye-Hutchinson** (NZ Army). **Tineke van der Heide** (Little River) was the inaugural winner of the new Over 50 Female category.

## Lion's Den awards

Outstanding competitors who meet the time criteria at regional or world championships join the elite club known as the Lion's Den. We congratulate the Kiwis who were installed this season.

At Palmerston North, local competitor **Josh Draper** needed to complete the course in 2:00 minutes or less for the Over 40 Male category—his time was 1:49.53.

With a time of 3:19.34, **Tony Dench** (Havelock North) easily beat the 4:00 time required for the Over 60 Male section.



Christchurch Airport Relay Team—the inaugural winners of the Maw Family Trophy. Back: Tom Reid, Steven Maw and Scott Cubitt. Front: Blake Edward and Brad Taylor.

**Tineke van der Heide** qualified in the Over 50 Female category in Wellington with a time of 4:40.70 and **Tim Connell** (Takaka) ran 1:57.64 in the Over 40 Male—they had both previously received Lion Den's medals.

## Event continues to grow

Our thanks to the host committees, Officials, Technical Panel, Challenges Committee and Events Team for ensuring this UFBA Firefighter Combat Challenge season was a resounding success.

We also commend the competitors and their brigades for their dedication to the months of gruelling training needed to compete in this physically demanding event.

The continued growth of this event is encouraging. The level of fitness of all our firefighters is greatly improving and there is a great sense of community and comradeship between the participants and officials. We're now planning the 2018 season—if your brigade is keen to host an event, please email [events@ufba.org.nz](mailto:events@ufba.org.nz)

For full results visit [www.ufba.org.nz/events/2017-national-firefighter-combat](http://www.ufba.org.nz/events/2017-national-firefighter-combat)



UFBA Vice President Joe Manihera referees a run by Reginald Reid



Photo: Craig McInyre

## EVENTS

### Maw Family Trophy

The Maw family, long-standing competitors at the UFBA Firefighter Combat Challenge, has celebrated their time running together by donating a trophy to the UFBA for the winning Relay Team at the Nationals.

From the time Steven Maw attended his first Combat Challenge in 2009 as a member of the Southbridge Volunteer Fire Brigade, his enthusiasm, dedication and training has inspired his brother Hamish and father Wayne to compete.

With Karen as a passionate supporter, the Maw family has successfully competed with impressive results at provincial, regional, national and world events, gaining life-long friends and memories along the way.

UFBA General Manager Ceara Owen-Perry says the trophy is a most welcome and appreciated addition to the awards given to firefighters who are dedicated to building fitness in their brigades.

“The Maw family is a prime example of the role multi-generational volunteers

play in sustaining their brigades as well as contributing to the rapid growth of the Combat Challenge.”

The inaugural recipients of the trophy at the 2017 Nationals were, fittingly, the Christchurch Airport Fire Brigade Relay Team of Steven Maw, Tom Reid, Scott Cubitt, Blake Edward and Brad Taylor.

#### Special one-off award

In 2016, the international body Scott Firefighter Combat Challenge and their key partner Lion Apparel endorsed the UFBA event as an official Challenge where the prestigious Lion’s Den medal could be presented. New Zealand is the only country to hold this position outside the USA and only the fastest competitors gain this award.

Lion and Scott Firefighter Combat Challenge believe the outstanding contribution and commitment of the



Steven, Wayne, Karen and Hamish with the Maw Family Trophy

Maw family is second to none. They asked the UFBA if we would present a special one-off award to the Maw family at National Combat this year.

The Challenge Committee Chair presented the trophy to the family on behalf of Lion at the prizegiving to recognise their accomplishments at the Scott Firefighter Combat Challenge—the first family in its history to meet the criteria for membership in the Lion’s Den as Father/ Two Sons in their respective categories.

See more about the Maw family’s Combat Challenge achievements at [www.ufba.org.nz/news/maw\\_family](http://www.ufba.org.nz/news/maw_family)

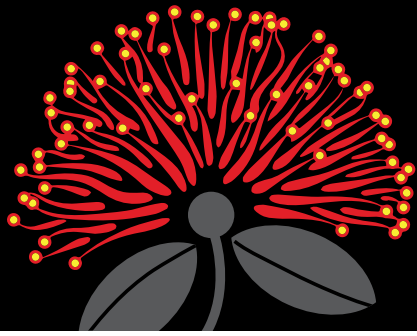
### In Memoriam: James Maaka



Photo: © 111 Emergency 2017

A moving tribute took place at the UFBA 2017 National Firefighter Combat Challenge on Friday 5 May when New Zealand Army teammates showed their respect for the recent

passing of Sapper James Maaka. James was going to run in the individual, tandem and relay events and was chasing a two minute time. So the clock was set to run to 1:59.



# 2017 UFBA CONFERENCE

## AUCKLAND 27-29 OCTOBER

### LEADING TOGETHER

The UFBA 139th Annual Conference and AGM will take place in Auckland from 27-29 October.

On 1 July, the integration of urban and rural fire services into a single organisation begins—bringing new challenges for all of us who are committed to protecting property and lives.

UFBA continues to collaborate closely with the Forest and Rural Fire Association (FRFANZ) to represent all firefighters with a single, powerful voice during the transition to Fire and Emergency New Zealand.

The theme of our Conference this year is **Leading together**—a crucial aspect in ensuring UFBA, FRFANZ and our members continue their major contributions to building safe, sustainable communities throughout New Zealand.

Save the date for Conference now and start the conversation in your brigade or rural fire force about your delegate nomination.

Keep up-to-date about our Conference at [www.ufba.org.nz/events/2017 UFBA\\_139th\\_annual\\_conference](http://www.ufba.org.nz/events/2017 UFBA_139th_annual_conference)

### Key Dates

- 26 May** Notice of vacancies and nomination papers sent to member brigades and rural fire forces
- 12 June** Online registration opens
- 27 July** Remits and Nominations due at the UFBA Office
- 27 September** Constitutional AGM information packs sent to member brigades and rural fire forces
- 27 September** Delegate Nomination forms due
- 6 October** Conference registration closes

### Delegate Funding

One delegate from each NZFS Brigade and NRFA Rural Fire Force that are members of the UFBA is funded by the UFBA.

Military and Industrial Brigades are welcome to attend self-funded.

## EVENTS: UFBA HOSTING TWO AUSTRALASIANS

### Outstanding opportunities for Kiwi teams and spectators

#### Australasian Rescue Challenge 2017

UFBA is hosting the 2017 Australasian Rescue Challenge at Claudelands in Hamilton from 20-23 July.



Our firefighters help to rescue people from road crashes every day.

At this Rescue Challenge, firefighters from across Australasia will compete against colleagues from around the world to enhance

their extrication and medical skills.

See more about the Australasian Rescue Challenge at [www.arc17.nz](http://www.arc17.nz)



#### Australasian Firefighter Championships 2017



Carterton is the venue for the 2017 Australasian Firefighter Championships hosted by the UFBA from 16-18 November.

This Championship celebrates more than a decade of competition and celebration of fire ground skills. Last year, 30 teams from Australian

States & Territories, New Zealand & Fiji competed.

Check out the Australasian Firefighter Championships at [www.australasianfirefighters.com/carterton2017.html](http://www.australasianfirefighters.com/carterton2017.html)



## SERVICE HONOURS

Congratulations to the following members who received 50 Year and Gold Star medals in March. Thank you for your dedicated service to our fire and emergency services and your communities.

### 50 Year Medals

Laingholm      FARLEY Kevin  
Levin            BEISSEL Carl

### Gold Stars

Bay View        HINKS Richard  
Featherston    LETT Kevin  
Hastings        GRIBBEN Neal  
Kawakawa      MARTIN Wayne  
Kimbolton      GERKE John  
Ohope          BROWN Geoff  
Paeroa          PRINCE Alan  
Taihape         MEADOWS Darren  
                    TROON Alan  
Waitara         SMITH Matthew



Emma Mathews of Pokapu places the family korowai on Wayne Martin's shoulders to mark his 25 years of service with the Kawakawa Volunteer Fire Brigade

## Ventilation: An operational necessity



### From the NZFBI

Fire ventilation is an essential factor in efficient fire control. Yet firefighters need to consider other factors and recognise the conditions that determine the success or failure of the operation and the type of ventilation to employ.

### Ventilation techniques

The three types of ventilation—natural ventilation, mechanical or negative pressure ventilation and positive pressure ventilation—all involve different techniques.

Proper ventilation simplifies and expedites the rescue of victims by removing smoke and gases which endanger occupants who are trapped or unconscious and by making conditions safer for firefighters.

### Backdraft and flashover

Backdraft and flashover are terms well known to firefighters. Although the causes are not the same, the conditions for both to occur are similar in that unburnt gases ignite and burn rapidly.

**Backdraft** conditions involve the confinement and intense build-up of heated gases in an oxygen-depleted

environment. Whereas **flashover** is total involvement of all the flammable vapours from materials which have reached their ignition temperature in an oxygen-sufficient environment.

Adopting correct ventilation methods that control the release of heated gases or minimise the supply of air to the fire can control such situations.

### Mechanical and negative pressure ventilation methods

Firefighters can deploy a number of mechanical and negative pressure ventilation methods—including the *natural venturi principle* created by locating hose streams in door or window openings discharging to the exterior. Other mechanical methods

using Hi-X foam generators or extractor fans including some air conditioning systems create negative pressures inside a structure, increasing air flows which assists in removing smoke and hot gases. Correctly using positive pressure ventilation introduces cool air and can increase localised flaming.

### Tactical ventilation

Whichever method you employ, the importance of implementing some form of tactical ventilation at an early stage in fire operations positively assists in rapid control, quicker knock down, safer operations and a more sophisticated and professional approach to limiting damage and extinguishing fire. Find out more at [www.ufba.org.nz/news/ventilation](http://www.ufba.org.nz/news/ventilation)



### NZFBI Field Day: E Squadron

The New Zealand Fire Brigades' Institute is running a field day on 24 June in Wigram, Christchurch on the response role of **E Squadron (Explosive Ordnance Disposal)**.

To find out more about this field day and register, visit [www.ufba.org.nz/events/e\\_squadron](http://www.ufba.org.nz/events/e_squadron)

## UFBA Events Calendar

26-27 May	North Island Road Crash Rescue, Feilding
27 May	NZFBI Field Day, Heretaunga
10-11 June	South Island Road Crash Rescue, Temuka
22-24 June	UFBA Rural Leadership and Governance Workshop, Wellington
24 June	NZFBI Field Day, Christchurch
20-23 July	Australasian Rescue Challenge, Hamilton
1 August	Register for NZFBI Examinations
11-12 August	National Drivers Challenge, Feilding
2 September	NZFBI Examinations
14-16 September	UFBA Urban/Rural Leadership and Governance Workshop, Wellington
<b>27-29 October</b>	<b>UFBA 139th Annual Conference, Auckland</b>
16-18 November	Australasian Firefighter Championships, Carterton



## Urban/Rural Leadership and Governance Workshop

**14-16 September / Wellington**

Develop and strengthen your leadership and governance skills at our fully interactive 2.5 day course from Thursday 14 September to Saturday 16 September.

The UFBA is seeking applications from urban and rural firefighters for this Leadership and Governance Workshop to provide this valued experience as we all meet the challenges of the transition to the new FENZ environment.

This invitation is extended to UFBA members, to members of FRFANZ and to volunteers who are not members of either organisation. UFBA manages and covers the cost of travel arrangements, accommodation and meals for participants selected for this workshop (spaces are limited). Find out more and apply at [www.ufba.org.nz/events/leadership\\_governance\\_workshop\\_Sep17](http://www.ufba.org.nz/events/leadership_governance_workshop_Sep17)

## NZFBI: Upcoming Field Day

### E Squadron (EOD), Southern Troop Display

**Saturday 24 June / Wigram, Christchurch**

Understand the response role of E Squadron (Explosive Ordinance Disposal) which securely and safely disposes of conventional and improvised explosive hazards and commercial munitions and explosives.

For **full details, terms and conditions** and to register through the online Field Day registration form, visit [www.ufba.org.nz/events/e\\_squadron](http://www.ufba.org.nz/events/e_squadron)

## Firefighter Combat Challenge World Finals

If you are thinking about going to the Worlds this year in Louisville, Kentucky, please contact Tom Reid by **30 June** at [rstormreid@yahoo.co.nz](mailto:rstormreid@yahoo.co.nz)

## Register to get UFBA E-News

The UFBA represents and assists all kinds of brigades— **volunteer, rural, urban, operational support, career, industrial, airport and defence.**

Getting monthly UFBA e-newsletters will keep you up to date with the latest news about key issues regarding our fire and emergency services, the many ways UFBA supports your experience as a firefighter and how we assist members.

### Have you changed your email recently?

If you've changed your email address recently, you may no longer be getting your regular issues of our UFBA E-News. Make sure you register again with your new email to keep up to date.

Register now for UFBA E-News at [www.ufba.org.nz/user/register](http://www.ufba.org.nz/user/register)



### Engage

Keep up to date about news and events. Take part in online polls and our forum. Register at: [www.ufba.org.nz](http://www.ufba.org.nz)

### Consult

We're committed to representing and supporting you. Get in touch at: [membershipsupport@ufba.org.nz](mailto:membershipsupport@ufba.org.nz)

### Connect

Are we sending your UFBA newsletters to the correct address? To update your brigade's postal address, email: [news@ufba.org.nz](mailto:news@ufba.org.nz)