

136th Annual Conference & AGM

Healthy thinking for healthy brigades



136th UFBA Conference & AGM Tauranga



FRIDAY 31 OCT

to

SUNDAY 2 NOV

'Healthy Thinking' was the theme of this year's Conference encouraging delegates to adopt a healthy attitude, make the right choices to create happier, healthier brigades.

370 attendees from 235 brigades descended on the ASB Arena in Tauranga for an inspiring Conference of presentations, discussions, voting and networking. Achievements from the last year were celebrated and plans shared for the year ahead.

Time and again it was emphasised that change is ahead and it needs to be met head-on. "Embrace it and use it to your advantage" implored Chief Executive Officer, George Verry. Read more about the challenges and changes in store and what the UFBA is doing to take us forward into the future.

Putting a value on volunteers



Rick Braddock, Chairperson of Directors

The way forward

Chairperson of Directors, Rick Braddock, reassured delegates that "the UFBA has not been sitting idle" since the 2012 Fire Review Panel. Despite expectations that this report would be the catalyst for change, he explained this has not happened.

Establishing the value that volunteers contribute to the Fire Service has been a key focus for the UFBA to strengthen advocacy going forwards. In 2009, PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC) defined the value as \$92 million. In 2014, this has been updated to \$243 million. A further review by another consultancy has determined it to be \$457 million. Each value has been based on a different set of assumptions, but provides the collateral needed to better represent and advocate for our members.

With these figures and an organisation that is fit for purpose and well equipped to advocate strongly, Rick Braddock advised Conference that

it is now time to push ahead. The need for change is no longer just an issue that the UFBA is keen to pursue. The NZFS Commission sees that the funding model is under threat and there is support from the NZFS and Department for Internal Affairs. With a supportive and knowledgeable Minister and a new three year parliamentary term, Rick Braddock confirmed that the time is favourable for long-needed change to be driven forward. The UFBA are moving strongly to a new future.

Future focused

George Verry, Chief Executive Officer, explained how the UFBA Directors and senior staff have been reviewing an external review by PwC. The findings and a recent consultation are feeding into the development of a long-term strategy and business plan to ensure that the UFBA is fit for the future.

Save the date!

Conference in the capital

Wellington is confirmed as the venue for the 2015 UFBA Conference.

13-15 November 2015

Find out more about the PwC report.
Soon to be added to www.ufba.org.nz.

Rekindling the momentum for reform

We are a patient bunch

Believe it or not, it's exactly 10 years since the review of fire services began. It was in December 2004 that the then Minister, George Hawkins, issued a discussion document inviting stakeholders' views about reforming fire services.

The latest episode was announced at the UFBA Conference by Minister of Internal Affairs, Peter Dunne. He advised that there's to be further consideration before changes to NZFS legislation are finalised. He wants to build on recommendations of the Fire Review Panel, gathering additional, updating, information which might enhance proposed legislation to make fire services fit for purpose in the 21st century.

He says there'll be opportunity for further submissions before the new law is drafted... and he figures he has three years during this Parliament to get a Bill passed into legislation.

Becoming urgent?

Another speaker at Conference, Fire Service Commission Rt. Hon. Wyatt Creech, suggested it's becoming urgent to have new law, especially regarding funding of the NZFS. The present legislation, he told Conference, no longer provides enough revenue to sustain, let alone develop, a modern fire service and it has to be changed. The Commission is urging reform.

The Commission's not alone. Most, if not all, stakeholders agree legislative reform is necessary to update law that's 40 years old, to give mandate for all activities now undertaken by the Service and to indemnify firefighters while so acting. However, the funding framework is not quite so universally agreed: opinion divided among some key interested parties.

10 Years

The UFBA, acting on behalf of its members, has been very close to the ten year evolution since Minister Hawkins issued his discussion document in 2004. The UFBA responded with a submission, which with 90 others from a wide range of



“*Reform is long overdue and always arouses fear of change... support is essential in building the understanding, momentum and buy-in required for reform to happen.*”

Peter Dunne, Minister of Internal Affairs

interested parties, were considered by the Minister. He was seeking consensus on key issues. He never got it.

Rick Barker replaced George Hawkins as Minister and told the Auckland Provincial Fire Brigades' Association's AGM in May 2006 that he would build on submissions received and convened a workshop of key stakeholders, "looking to elucidate matters". He was seeking consensus on key issues. He never got it.

Various Ministers

A change of Government and Ministers Richard Worth (resigned), Nathan Guy (transferred to another portfolio), Amy Adams (ditto), made little progress. Chris Tremain followed in the Ministry and inherited the project. He appointed a four person panel to make recommendations on the future of fire services. After a further round of submissions and hearings, a report was issued in late 2012. Chris Tremain said the report was "Evolutionary rather than revolutionary and that further work is required by stakeholders". Perhaps a message that he, too, was seeking consensus on key issues.

The report more or less languished. In September 2013, Tremain signalled he was resigning as an MP and Peter Dunne took

over as Minister in early 2014.

Latest initiative

Now 10 years after the first discussion paper, Peter Dunne has dusted off the more recent 2012 Fire Review Panel Report, saying he wants to validate and update it in another round of considerations.

He may be chased to get on with it by the Fire Service Commission because it's saying that quite soon it's going to be strapped for cash.

Perhaps this further round will shake loose exactly what the New Zealand Fire Service envisages in the legislation... funding, structure and operations... so that with transparency everyone will know what is being proposed before it's introduced to Parliament in a Bill.

Stakeholders will be watching the latest moves announced by Minister Peter Dunne. 10 years is quite long enough to wait. We've been a patient lot!

Read the Fire Review Panel Report and Peter Dunne's speech at:
www.ufba.org.nz/news/reform

Conference in brief

Looking back

Both the Chairman of the Fire Service Commission, Rt. Hon. Wyatt Creech, and Past President, Alan Cockburn, supported moves to further protect New Zealand's fire services' heritage.

They champion a register of nationwide appliances and items of historical significance: a database that can be accessed by all contributing and interested parties.

Alan is also Chairman of the Fire Services Historical Society which has its collection at the Hall of Flame Museum in Christchurch. The Society is prepared to make the proposed National Register its project, supported by both the Fire Service Commission and the UFBA, and wants all those who have fire brigade artefacts to provide details to be entered into the new database starting in 2015.

Finances

The Board of Directors reported a solid year, both operationally and financially, and that for the first time the UFBA would be returning unused funds to the New Zealand Fire Service. \$200,000 - a surplus created by a combination of reasons, including savings and the streamlining of Challenge events.

New Officers

President for 2014/15, Mark Adie, was installed towards the end of the Conference by retiring President Brian Styles, who was later farewelled and conferred as Honorary Life Member of the Association, recognising his year as President and earlier service on the



May Seager, Maungaturoto VFB

Technical Panel.

Nigel Lilley was elected for a further two year term on the Board of Directors and Matt Cleaver was also elected to the Board for a two year term.

The Vice President for 2014/15 is Russell Anderson and the new member of the Technical Panel is Alan Kennedy.

Outgoing Patron

Garry Stanley addressed Conference for the last time as Patron, saying he is delighted that relationships between the UFBA and the Fire Service have improved since his comments last Conference. He commended all for adopting inclusive attitudes.

New Patron

Dame Margaret Bazley was welcomed as the new Patron. In accepting office, she said that her admiration of volunteer firefighters has never flagged and she's privileged to be asked to be Patron of the organisation that represents them.

Emrys Evans

The Benevolent Fund's report was, for the first time in 23 years, not presented by Chairperson, Emrys Evans, who sent his apologies due to illness.

Emrys' record of attending an incredible 55 consecutive Conferences was broken this year - Conference was not the same without his wisdom and jokes!



Voting gets underway

Emrys has stepped down as the Fund's Chairperson and Alan Cockburn has been elected. Alan presented last year's report on behalf of Emrys, indicating some \$43,000 had been distributed to needy members.

Alan also gave notice of a remit to next year's Conference seeking an increase in members' contributions from \$2 per member per annum to progress the work of the Fund.

NZFS Forum

Chairman of the Fire Service Commission, Wyatt Creech, concentrated on concerns over future funding, modernising the fleet of appliances, property maintenance and changes from 121 to 57 rural brigades.

National Commander, Paul Baxter, referred to a review of safety and Model Rules, the evolving service with a 70/30 split of non-fire related versus structured fires attended and a pilot of CFO performance reviews. He concluded by encouraging everyone to "embrace the new Vision". An update by Leigh Duchars on Vision 20/20 followed, then consultation workshops with all delegates.

Other business

Further presentations covered the NZFS Sports Council, fleet management, UFBA Challenges Committee and Provincial Associations as well as three workshops around the 'Healthy Thinking' theme.

The AGM minutes can be found at www.urfba.org.nz/conference_news.



Russell Anderson is installed as Vice President by new President Mark Adie

“Add years to your life and life to your years”

Can you change your mindset? Keynote speaker, Dr Tom Mulholland, took delegates on a journey of his Healthy Thinking tool, entertaining them with medical and personal anecdotes along the way.

Try three of Dr Tom’s tools and see if you can become a healthy thinker...



Dr Tom Mulholland

01 Be emotionally fit

Take the stress out of difficult situations at your brigades and in your personal lives.

“We’re more likely to make mistakes if we don’t think healthily and manage our emotions,” Dr Tom said. “90% is how you deal with what happens to you and 10% is what you can’t control”.

Using an analogy of our brain being hardware and the mind being software he explained that “You can’t run good hardware if the software is corrupt.”

Is your life in balance? Are you getting enough sleep and the right nutrition to strike the right work, life, play balance? You need to focus on health and happiness to achieve emotional fitness.

02 Disengage emotions

Having feelings of anger, resentment, stress, jealousy, guilt - is not healthy. **“If you want to change how you feel, you need to change how you think”**, Dr Tom said.

It’s all about mindset. Negativity and stress has damaging consequences to our body and minds. 90% of the time we get stressed when we don’t need to.

Typically we ask someone: “How are you feeling?” Really what we need to know is: “What are they thinking?” We need to stop the ‘fire’, the cognitive switch going off in our brains and avoid a crisis of unhealthy emotions.

Learn to look at situations differently, understand what someone is actually thinking and not what you perceive them to be thinking. Turn challenges into opportunities.

Can you use Dr Tom’s TWIGGING tool? When an unhealthy situation arises, before you react, think: T - Is it True? WI - Is it worth it? G - Will it help achieve a goal?

03 Change your attitude

Are you a ‘Doom Merchant’, a ‘Denialist’ or ‘Explorer’? Dr Tom talked about his 10 key attitude profiles.

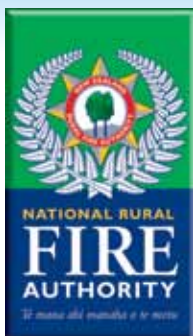
The key is to make sure you’re a ‘Spin Doctor’ and can positively change your attitude and have a healthy mindset to unhealthy situations.

“Our minds are our biggest competitor,” Dr Tom concluded. “Give it a go,” he encouraged.

Review your life and your attitudes, think how you can act and react more healthily. Take charge of your lives, have a healthy mindset and enjoy the benefits.

Dr Tom is on the road across the country over the coming months, so watch out for him in your communities.

Spotlight on rurals



An unexpected sub-theme emerged at Conference, with several references to rural firefighting. These mentions quickly came into sharper focus with an address by the new National Rural Fire Officer, Kevin O'Connor, who gave an updated overview of the rural fire scene. He began with the mission statement, which extends operations way beyond attending just vegetation fires:

“... in conjunction with stakeholders, leading integrated fire services, and supporting other emergency services for safer rural communities.”

Changes

Kevin O'Connor also acknowledged those Rural Fire Forces which are urban-focussed, saying that every Rural Fire Force (RFF) is different and can be tailored to meet their

communities' specific needs. He mentioned RFFs who already train and are equipped for structural firefighting, rescue (for instance at motor vehicle accidents), medical First Response and with Civil Defence capabilities.

Kevin announced that it's been agreed RFF personnel will participate in the New Zealand Fire Service Sports Council with the Forest and Rural Fire Association of New Zealand (FRANZ) contributing per capita fees, subsidised by the NZFS.

Getting closer

There are some 3,400 volunteer members in New Zealand's RFFs. Some have traditionally been members of the UFBA: some taking part in Waterway Challenges, while others joined so their members can receive UFBA service honours.

RFF duties have gradually swung from the old restriction of fighting only vegetation fires to a much wider range of duties helping the community.

The Mission Statement shown at Conference more closely aligns RFFs to the work of Volunteer Fire Brigades in rural centres and their urban counterparts. Rural communities and those on the urban fringe have changing expectations of their firefighters with locals much more interested in effective emergency services rather than a hang-up about which uniform firefighters wear.

The UFBA has accepted the challenge to build on these similarities and are committed to furthering closer relationships.

The challenge

Kevin O'Connor ended his address to Conference with a question: **“What is the future role of the UFBA with Volunteer Rural Firefighters?”**

This was followed by a challenge addressed at the organisation he was addressing: **“Make the UFBA more relevant to Volunteer Rural Firefighters.”**

Chairperson of the UFBA Board, Rick Braddock, immediately responded saying there will be a project started to see how RFF members can be embraced by the organisation, making their membership attractive, relevant and worthwhile.



Field Day Tauranga

What do you do when you have a large bulk fuel facility and insufficient water?

That was the question tackled by SSO Mark Keller from the Tauranga Fire Brigade at the NZFBFI Field Day.

Compounding the problem was insufficient foam. But without water, foam wouldn't be an issue. The question took a number of years and work to answer. The answer came by engaging with the bulk fuel facilities and Tauranga City Council.

The water required to fight a fire at the port's bulk fuel facilities would have sucked the cities water supplies dry in hours. But, using the old adage of what goes in must come out, they looked at how waste water might be used. And there they found the solution.

The water for firefighting at these facilities now comes from the city's recycled water.



This water is fully filtered and treated. Once it has been purified, it can then be reticulated along pipelines to these high hazard sites.

The Chevron site stores 2.2 million litres for the immediate requirements of firefighting and to supply the deluge systems of the tanks in close proximity to a fire.

Having the water was one part of the equation, the next part was to ensure a supply of foam to directly suppress a fire. That was where the fuel facilities

SSO Mark Keller, Tauranga Fire Brigade upgraded their systems, facilities and supplies.

The final part of the mix was being able to deliver the volume of water at such an incident. The standard 90mm hose would never be able to provide the required volume, this was when it was decided to use lined 125mm hose with hermaphrodite couplings and hence the problem was solved.

Watch out for a Field Day near you.

Six Field Days are planned for 2015. Details to be announced soon at www.ufba.org.nz.

AGM in brief...

Exam Framework

A new qualifications framework is in the pipeline for 2015. A transitional period is planned so that no one is disadvantaged.

Communications

It was acknowledged that communications over the last year have been poor. The Institute plans to be more proactive about communicating, with a move from emails to text messaging in future.

Scholarship programme

QFF Judith Stanley presented on her youth study tour in Melbourne with the Country Fire Authority. 230 out of 1,186 stations operate junior brigades. The programme is a strategic priority in developing community resilience, supporting volunteerism, providing

a pathway into senior brigades and raising fire risk awareness. View Judith's presentation at www.ufba.org.nz/nzfbfi_agm14



Changes to Council

Allen Bestwick finished his term as President and John Stevenson was welcomed as the new President.

Mike Dombroski resigned from the Council. Allen praised his "hard work and persistence driving the scholarship programme off the ground."

Life Honorary Member

Allen Bestwick, immediate Past President was conferred as Life Honorary Member of the Institute.

NZFBFI Diplomas

Congratulations to all who passed their NZFBFI exams and are now Fellows and Associate Members of the Institute.

Fellow

FRASER Shanán	Silverdale
GEMMELL Lester	Wellington Airport
KLAPHAKE John	Wellington Support Unit
LANAUZE Scott	Cromwell
O'SULLIVAN David	Wanaka
STEANS Kyle	Christchurch Airport

Associate Member

McCARTY Ryan	Otara
MOONEY Jason	Christchurch Airport
WILSON Sonny	Wellington Airport

■ SERVICE HONOURS

First time in over 100 years



President Bryan Styles presents to Ashley Cumming



Director Nigel Lilley awards a Valour Certificate to Michael Gillon

The UFBA was delighted to present the extremely rare UFBA Valour Medal and Valour Certificates at a presentation in Christchurch in October.

A first since 1892

Following a rigid selection process, the Committee awarded Valour Certificates to 83 firefighters who showed exceptional bravery saving human lives in the aftermath of the 2011 Canterbury earthquake. This is the first time these certificates have been awarded for 122 years.

Rare Valour Medal

Our congratulations to Christchurch Senior Firefighter Scott Shadbolt who was awarded the prestigious Valour Medal. Having only been presented three times since 1880, it is equally rare and was a truly emotive occasion.

Above and beyond the call of duty

Scott Shadbolt was awarded the medal for his brave rescue efforts in the Canterbury earthquake. He assisted others in the rescue of a heavily trapped man with crush injuries below both knees in the collapsed six storey Pyne Gould Corporation building. After lengthy efforts to free the man failed and his condition deteriorated, it was decided to seek medical help and to undertake a double above-knee amputation.

“ Given our organisational culture built on our strong emphasis on teamwork, mate ship and family, it is not possible for this award to be viewed as an individual medal, as nothing happens without all our training, resources, support and team work - all based on an overwhelming desire to do simply, the right thing.”

Scott Shadbolt, 2014 Valour Medal Recipient

Accompanied by two Doctors and a Police Officer, Scott worked in a confined space completing the amputations using a penknife and hacksaw, whilst enduring numerous aftershocks. The trapped man was successfully rescued and has since made a full recovery. Scott continued to work at the building following this act, until late into the night.

It's a team effort

Equally worthy were the team who worked with Scott, but the rules of the UFBA only allow for UFBA members to receive the medal.

Represents many others

Bryan Styles, UFBA President, paid a heartfelt tribute to all firefighters who worked, for being heroes in such dramatic circumstances. “The individual stories of bravery being recognised are outstanding and extremely humbling.” he said. They effected rescues in the debris of numerous quake-affected buildings despite sharp aftershocks, working in confined spaces in damaged buildings that risked further collapse.

Congratulations to all – we are very proud to be able to recognise your achievements.

The rarest bravery medal in the world

Only two New Zealand medals are older than the UFBA Valour medal: the 1869 New Zealand Medal and the New Zealand Cross for service and gallantry during the New Zealand Land Wars. These are no longer awarded.

Conceived in 1880, the Valour medal has now been awarded four times: 2014, 1908, 1891 and 1882. There have been

more nominations, but others have been unsuccessful. The actions, though brave and selfless, have failed to meet the test.

Applicants must exhibit “exceptional personal courage while saving, or attempting to save, human life and, in doing so, they may have placed their own life in danger.”

2014 S. Shadbolt



1908 A. Ashworth

A fire broke out at a coal mine at Alexandra, blocking workers only escape route through a shaft.

Locals helped to fight the fire, forming a bucket brigade and diverting a stream. Several attempted to go down the shaft, but it was too hot and smoky. Eventually the fire subsided when the stream flowed into the mine-head.

Ashworth cleared the fire at the foot of the shaft, braved the heat, smoke and gases to find and rescue the miners. He had to be revived as a result of the fumes.

"The men had been lying together in water for some hours with just their nose and mouths above the water."

Otago Witness 18 July 1906

1891 T. Thompson

Thompson rushed to a neighbouring cottage on fire in Wanganui. He managed to rescue two boys from the bedroom. Hearing that a girl was still inside, he went back with a hatchet to cut into the room until he was told they were all safe.

"We cannot speak too highly of Thompson's conduct; he acted with the coolness essential to success in dangerous deeds of this character, and displayed real courage... But for him the children must have been burned to death, as a few minutes later any approach to the building was impossible."

Wanganui Herald 25 March 1890

1882 J. Robb

Awakened by noise one morning in Dunedin, Robb found the house opposite on fire. He managed to rescue a woman from the bedroom, returning with a bucket of water to throw to see through the smoke. He found a child, took them outside, but they had already died.

Robb went on to find a man in bed. "Seeing that he was dead, and having got the fire under control, he did not move the body, nor would he allow others to do so,"* protecting the crime scene of the intended murder of the family.

*Otago Daily Times 15 March 1880

■ SERVICE HONOURS

60 Years loyal

Palmerston Volunteer Fire Brigade marked the incredible achievement of 60 years service by Alan Clearwater on 26 October and the start of his retirement. Alan is the fourth volunteer firefighter in New Zealand to ever reach this momentous milestone.

Back in 1954, Alan joined the brigade as a 17 year old when it used a 1936 Ford fire engine. He has progressed through

the ranks to Chief Fire Officer and leaves as Brigade Support Officer. Alan's service was recognised by the Queen in 2006 when he was awarded the Queen's Service Medal for services to the NZFS.

"We will be very sorry to see you go but no one can deny you a well deserved retirement," said Gary Johnston, CFO Palmerston.



Alan Clearwater, Palmerston VFB, receives his 60 Year Certificate from Past President Brian Schimanski

Milestone at Awhitu

Awhitu Rural Fire Force in South Auckland is looking to go into the record books after twin brothers recently received Gold Stars at a Honours Evening on the same night - the brigade's 25th Birthday celebrations.

Senior Station Officer David Millar and Senior Firefighter Keith Millar were among four Gold Stars presented: the others were Fire Chief Howard Logan (32 years) and Deputy Fire Chief Grant Andrews (25 years).

All four Gold Star recipients were founding members of Awhitu brigade, formed by the community in 1989 following a local family suffering a tragic death. It was decided Awhitu peninsula should have an emergency response and Awhitu Rural Fire Force was born when 26 members enrolled.

Today there are 30 members and the brigade incorporates fire-fighting, attendance at accidents and first response duties for medical cases.

It has progressed from a borrowed trailer pump when it started to four vehicles: a pump, water tanker, 4WD and medical response station-wagon, all housed in a multi-bay fire station.



SSO David Millar and SFF Keith Millar

Service honours

Congratulations to the following medal recipients for your long-standing service.

50 Year Medals

Mangaweka NOBLE Rex

Gold Star Medals

Alexandra	ANDERSON Russell DONALD Mark
Awhitu	ANDREWS Grant LOGAN Howard MILLAR David MILLAR Keith
Birkenhead	PICARD Nigel
Cambridge	GERRAND Richard
Clinton	MOODY June
Featherston	BURT Allan REES Tim WALKER Penny
Feilding	BONGENAAR John

Gold Star Medals (continued)

	GROOME Antony
Glenavy	JOYCE Bevin
Granity	REARDON Leslie
Mangaweka	EVANS Cecily
Picton	WYTENBURG Wayne
Port Waikato	MACEDONSKI Michael
Putaruru	CARTER Andrew
Ruawai	KING Tony
Silverdale	MACKERETH Keith SHAW Beven
Te Anau	REMNANT Ian SHEPPARD Brian
Te Kuiti	HOU PAPA Ellen
Timaru	CUMMINGS Mark JOHNSTONE
Colin	WILES Martin
Upper Hutt	SCOTT John
Wainuiomata	NICHOLSON Wayne
Woodville	BODELL Eric

Getting to know... Mark Adie, new UFBA President



Mark Adie was Vice President 2013/14 and succeeds Bryan Styles as President for 2014/15. He is a fourth generation firefigher with over 100 years service in his family.

1. When did you join the Fire Service?

I joined Hastings Brigade as a volunteer in May 1985 and did my training - volunteer basic, B.A. and pump operator courses. I then became a paid firefigher at Hawkes Bay in July 1987 where I completed my paid courses in Wellington and drivers, snorkel, command hazmat and B.A. maintenance in Hawkes Bay.

I've worked at Napier and Hastings stations, with 25 years on Hastings blue watch.

I'm lucky to have had some great role models in my life. I'm very grateful for their guidance, particularly Ray Brown ex-CFO Hastings, Dennis O'Leary SSO Hastings and my parents, Mary and Kevin.

2. What was the highlight of the UFBA Conference for you?

Nothing can beat becoming the new UFBA President!

But apart from that, the highlight for me was Dr Tom Mulholland's presentation. I found him really engaging. It felt pertinent given the changes that we have afoot as an Association. It's time for us all to embrace change and we certainly have an exciting year

How would you describe yourself in three words?

Loyal, conscientious and hard working.

What can't you live without?

A cold beer at the end of a good day's work!

Tell us something about Mark Adie that we don't

know...?

I'm a bit of a truck enthusiast. I've driven concrete mixer trucks, trailer stock trucks and even B-Train freight trucks. I have every edition of truck and driver magazine and many truck books. I love getting out in the back country, carting stock and enjoying the scenery.

ahead. We could all benefit from thinking more healthily and I hope Conference delegates will give Dr Tom's approach a go.

3. For those who weren't able to attend Conference, what would you like to share?

The UFBA, NZFS, Fire Service Commission and the Minister are to lobby the government for changes to funding and legislation in 2015.

It feels that reform is finally going to be pushed ahead. We can all work together for a better UFBA and a better NZ with fairer funding and more relevant legislation.

Also, I'd like to let brigade members know that the NZFS have involved over 2,000 personnel in the Vision 20/20 consultation. I went to a focus

group last week in Hastings. and at Conference they held workshops around training, safety, technology and fleet. These were really open and honest brainstorming sessions. 2015 will be a big year for them as they put the plans in place. Check *FireNet* for updates on the project.

4. As the new UFBA President what would you like to achieve in your term?

I'd like all firefighers in New Zealand, regardless of where they're based, to understand what the UFBA can offer them. I feel that there is a lack of understanding about the UFBA and the services available. I urge people to find out more and I look forward to meeting more of you in the year ahead.



Christmas is coming, buy a gift from the UFBA Fire Shop

www.ufba.org.nz/shop

(Place your order today to ensure delivery. Fire Shop closes 19 December – 12 January.)

NOTICES



700 - have you got yours?

70% of appliances don't carry Automatic External Defibrillators (AEDs) and there is a large variation in the remainder, including some without a paediatric mode.

The NZFS is taking action through their Enhanced Medical Response Capability programme so that the best possible service can be provided to our communities.

After research and testing, a single standard AED, the Medux Lifepak 1000, is being distributed to all pumping appliances across the

country. There are over 700 new defibrillators and two 'hot swap' AEDs for each region (in case a unit fails or is unavailable) which will be rolled out over the coming months.

Watch out for updates from the NZFS about when your brigade will receive theirs and any training required to transition to the new unit.



Medux Lifepak 1000 unit

Have your say

Win a \$150 Prezzy card!



We're all ears

With 525 member brigades and over 10,000 firefighters, it's hard to make our communications reach you all.

We'd love to get your feedback on current communications and what we can do to improve.

Win a \$150 Prezzy card - complete our communications survey by 30 November 2014 and be entered into the prize draw.

Go to www.ufba.org.nz for the survey or call Louise on 04 237 2689 for a copy to be posted to you.

We value your feedback and can't improve without it, so please take five minutes out of your day to complete this survey. Thanks for your time and support.

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We'd love to hear from you. Share your news or information, contact: news@ufba.org.nz

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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