



Are you ready for a Challenge?
It's time for Waterways...

EVENTS

Are you ready for a Challenge? Get set for Waterways...

The 2015 Waterways season kicks off in January. With four regional Challenges leading up to the National finale, it's time to get involved and get training now!

Our Waterway Challenges are a UFBA tradition dating back as far as 1885. They're a great opportunity to put your hose-running and pump-operating skills to the test whilst experiencing the thrill of a competition.

Enter two teams - the UFBA funds one two-person and one four-person team from each brigade to attend the Regional Waterway Challenge in their region and the National Waterway Challenge.

The Carterton team have won three out of the last four National Challenges. Last

year, Balclutha's four-person team and Darfield's two-person team were the 2013 National Waterway Champions. Can your brigade rise to the Challenge and win in 2015?

Watch out for the registration information that will be sent to all brigades in mid-October and available on our website www.ufba.org.nz. Registrations open at the end of November.

Enjoy your time training and competing! Best of luck.

Start training...

Practise, practise, practise, that's what it's all about! By practising your job sequence regularly for each event, you will get faster and more accurate.

Provincial training days are an ideal opportunity to put your skills to the test, get training and coaching tips and refine your technique.

Preparation

- Start the team training on events 21 or 41, running through all the positions. The other events are an extension of these skills.
- Find out who works best in different positions.

Plan each event

- Plan where to place any gear.
- Don't put other member's gear on the appliance - that's their job.
- At the start line, focus on your first job only.

- Stick to what you did in training.
- Take time out to run through your sequence in your head. Go through each job you need to do.

On the day

- Don't change a run on the day.
- Run at the pace you train. If you try harder, mistakes may happen.
- Fix mistakes as quickly as possible. Get your run back in sequence. Don't try to make up for lost time as you're likely to make more mistakes.

Provincial training days	2014		2015	
	November		January	
	8	Kerikeri Training Waterways	17	Kamo Training Waterways
	9	Central Otago Waterways, Queenstown	18	Southland Combined Waterways, Wyndham
	16	South Otago Waterways, Mosgiel	18	Grey Sub Association Challenge
	22	Carterton Training Waterways, Balclutha	25	Gore Cup Waterways
	30	Watt Cup Waterways, Balclutha	25	West Coast Waterways
	December		February	
	7	Western Waterways, Otautau	14	Ruakaka Training Waterways

More training days are to be confirmed.
Check www.ufba.org.nz or contact your local Provincial Association.



Tom's tips for Waterways

Tom Reid is in his second year on the UFBA Technical Panel. He has competed in Waterway Challenges for the last 24 years.

- 01** Ask your brigade and local Provincial Association about support and funding available for equipment and training outside your region.
- 02** Has your brigade or area competed previously? Get advice from previous competitors, local Officials or your Provincial Technical Panel.
- 03** Download and print out the Waterway Rules from the website www.ufba.org.nz. Learn about the 17 events and penalty allocations.
- 04** Organise your team based on Fire Service knowledge and skill set. E.g. someone competent around pumps, hose runners and people with strong hand-eye coordination.
- 05** Write down the job sequence for each person. Individuals should learn their sequence only and try not to ask others about their jobs, as it can take away from their preparation.
- 06** Plan a training timetable so that the team are clear on training sessions. Set prompt start times.
- 07** Get a support person or manager to record times to help with training.
- 08** Set out a track to the NZ standard. Get the track information from the Waterway Rules at www.ufba.org.nz.
- 09** Install permanent markers to make it quick and easy to position the appliance correctly for each training session.
- 10** Arrange training gear to be set aside from operational requirements. Keep it well serviced.
- 11** Arrange suitable footwear that provides traction in all conditions. If rugby boots, alloy studs are the most suitable. For the person climbing the tower (events 25 and 45) an alternative pair of Level 1 boots or touch shoes are required.

Challenge dates



January

- 1 Region 1 Waterway Challenge, Kamo
- 31 Region 4 Waterway Challenge, Matura

February

- 21 Region 2 Waterway Challenge, Carterton
- 21 Region 3 Waterway Challenge, Renwick

March

- 6 National Waterway Challenge, Greymouth

Working with young people

The 2014 NZFBI Scholarship was awarded to QFF Judith Stanley for a study tour in Melbourne and district in August with the Country Fire Authority.

Here Judith reports on her visit and how the Country Fire Authority engage with young people as part of their recruitment strategy and as a means of promoting community resilience.

Junior brigades

My first visit was to the Wallan Fire Station. This was one of the first brigades mobilised during the 2009 Black Saturday fires, which began as a grass fire along the outskirts and quickly took hold in the tinder-dry terrain.

Wallan has 28 junior brigade members and is the largest in the region. While the juniors are not engaged in actual firefighting activities, they do provide a valuable pathway into senior brigades and are a key element in fire risk awareness campaigns. Many brigades in small rural areas are the only community group offering youth programmes.

Junior brigades have been around for over 70 years and many senior firefighters, including those at executive level within the Country Fire Authority

(CFA) boast of their time as juniors. Training for juniors is geared towards 11-15 year olds who learn basic rural firefighting skills, including pump operation, working with hoses, knots and lines, weather watching, map reading, radio communications, as well team building and leadership skills.

I also visited junior brigades at Kalarama and Wangaratta and many more senior brigades while travelling over 1000km in the state of Victoria.

Leadership of the junior programme is undertaken by senior volunteers. Some of the rural brigades provide training for a cluster of local brigades and many of them provide competition based training. Teams are encouraged to participate in inter-state competitions.

“Working with children and young people is a strategic priority in developing community resilience and supporting volunteerism within the Country Fire Authority.”

Judith Stanley



NZFBI Scholarship

Interested? Check out our study suggestions.

www.ufba.org.nz

- Rural and bush fires: tactics, tools and trucks.
- Working with other emergency response organisations.
- Community resilience: targetted messages and campaigns.
- Information technology: radios, mapping, communications.
- Women and firefighting: recruitment and retention.

Interesting facts

- 28** Wallan Fire Station has 28 junior brigade members.
- 40%** Juniors make up 40% of Wallan's membership.
- 70** Junior brigades were set up over 70 years.
- 97%** CFA is the largest volunteer organisation in the region with 97% of its workforce as volunteers.
- 230** Of 1,186 fire stations in the district, 230 operate junior brigade programmes.

CFA in schools

Within the state of Victoria, volunteering is part of the school curriculum and a recognised advantage in applying for tertiary education and training programmes. The CFA is the largest volunteer-based organisation in the region with 97% of the workforce comprising volunteers.

Volunteering is not limited to firefighting. Roles include data entry, office support, public education, grounds-keeping, and everything from archiving records to running the open day barbeque.

Some of the students were working towards the Duke of Edinburgh Award (also available in NZ) and had elected to do the volunteer component with the CFA.

I also visited an urban and a rural secondary school and spoke with staff and students about both volunteering and fire-safe behaviours. The urban school I visited had a roll of 1800; half of whom spoke English as a second language; 20% were born outside Australia.

The CFA community education and resilience strategy is actively working with schools to encourage fire safe behaviours in the household, this is particularly important as the fire season approaches. Educating young people is one of the most effective ways of educating the wider community; children teach their families.

The CFA is also in the early stages of integrating fire-safe messages and learning across the school curriculum.

Further information

Judith will deliver a presentation on the study programme at the UFBA Conference and a report will be made available.



Hall of Flame Museum re-opens

Next time you're in Christchurch, take the time to visit the Hall of Flame Museum. Re-opening on Sunday 26 October after repair work as a result of the 2011 Christchurch earthquake, there are a number new and improved displays to be enjoyed.

Located at Ferrymead Heritage Park, it houses a fascinating fire collection that dates back to the mid-1800s and pays tribute to firefighters throughout the ages.

Discover fire appliances from past to present across the park, from the latest fire appliances to Christchurch's first, as well as Buick, Dennis, Leyland and Snorkel machines. The Museum are also expecting to add to their collection with the loan of a Model T fire appliance that served in Akaroa Volunteer Fire Brigade, as well as two more recent appliances from the NZ Fire Service.

For some, it's an opportunity to reminisce with the Merryweather Tub Manual Pump

being the oldest appliance from 1860 in Christchurch and the oldest motorised appliance being the 1916 Buick. For others, it's a chance for all the family to have fun with kids firefighter uniforms, a replica fire engine car for kids and lots of other activities.

The Hall of Flame Museum benefits from a particularly skilled membership of volunteers who meet every Thursday. Comprising a comprehensive set of skills including mechanical, panel beating, spray painting, building, plumbing and electrical, they can cover almost anything required. From display cabinets and lighting, to restoring a whole appliance, to maintaining the buildings.

“ *There was real camaraderie, it was amazing. A feel good factor of everyone working together. They possess an incredible collective skill set. A fascinating museum, I would encourage anyone to visit.* ”

George Verry, UFBA Chief Executive Officer

The UFBA recently met with the Flame Museum together with Rt Hon Wyatt Creech, Chairman of the NZFS Commission, and discussed plans for future developments. It is expected that these will see the establishment of a national register of vintage fire appliances and the development of a new building to protect appliances that are currently outside.

The Hall of Flame Museum will be open on Thursdays and Sundays, 10am-4.30pm. For visits outside of these times, contact info@hallofflame.org.nz. Check out their website for more information:

www.hallofflame.org.nz



**Has your brigade produced an Anniversary book?
25, 50, 75, 100 or 125 years?**

Donate a copy to the Hall of Flame Museum's Archive Library.
Contact info@hallofflame.org.nz.

The UFBA looks forward to welcoming you
at our 136th Annual Conference!



FRIDAY 31 OCT
to
SUNDAY 2 NOV

Service honours

Congratulations to the following members. Thank you for your long-standing service to the Fire Service, your community and country.

50 Year Medals

New Plymouth KELLY Maurice (Moe)

Gold Star Medals

Ashburton	BENNETT Justin
Milton	BURLEIGH Raymond
Palmerston	JOHNSTON Gary McCAW Craig
Ravensbourne	HENRY Michael
Renwick	FLYNN Grant
Seddon	HEBBERD Keiron
South Auckland	KEARNEY Lance SHRIMPTON Jeffrey TOMLINS Gary
Tiwai	HERBERT Stuart STRICKLAND Ngatere
Waiuku	JOHNSON Troy PATTEN Noel
Wellsford	BOWMAR Trevor

■ SERVICE HONOURS

Congratulations Moe

Moe Kelly was presented with his 50 year medal by UFBA Past President Graeme Booth at New Plymouth Fire Brigade.

Moe joined the Fire Service as a messenger at 16 years old and has worked his way up taking on the following roles: Station Officer at Stratford, Senior Firefighter at New Plymouth, Station Officer then Senior Station Officer at Wellington, Volunteer Support Officer at Taranaki, Acting Chief Fire Officer at New Plymouth, returning to a Volunteer Support Officer role at Taranaki.

Looking back on his career, Moe says there have been many highlights:

“Working with a great group of people throughout the country (both volunteer and career) and also competing against some very fine men in Waterway Challenges *in the good old days.*”



“Now as a VSO - assisting volunteers with their day-to-day requirements and being able to offer them my experience, thoughts and assistance as required.”

Congratulations from the UFBA, Moe, for this fantastic achievement.

35 years ago Female Service Honours

This year marks 35 years since the service of women has been recognised by the UFBA. In 1979, the Athenree Brigade proposed a remit to the rules at the 100th UFBA Conference, which was passed to allow women to be accepted and recognised for operational service.

An increasing number of women have now completed 25 years service and are being awarded Gold Star medals. In the month ahead, we see presentations for Ellen Houpapapa from Te Kuiti Volunteer Fire Brigade, June Moody from Clinton Volunteer Fire Brigade and Penny Walker from Featherston Volunteer Fire Brigade. Congratulations to you all.

Women are now firmly established within the Fire Service, thanks to

Annie Barry's fight to join back in the '70s. Annie from Auckland led the way for women, fighting her case after being rejected for her desired career as a professional firefighter.

Annie took her case to the Equal Opportunities Commission, to the Human Rights Commission and even to Members of Parliament, winning and being accepted for the recruitment course in 1981. She sailed through the exams and went on to have a successful 20-year career.

There are now approximately 50 female career firefighters and 1,146 female volunteer firefighters in the Fire Service.

Getting to know... Helen Bull

Chief Fire Officer, Riverton Volunteer Fire Brigade

Helen is one of the few long serving female firefighters to serve in the Fire Service. She has volunteered for 23 years and is one of two Female CFOs in the South Island and one of five in New Zealand. There are 15 female DCFOs throughout the country.



1. When did you join the Fire Service?

I joined in February 1991 to do something completely different - out of my comfort zone, both challenging and rewarding. It ticked all the boxes for me!

I spent most of my service as a QFF until a few years ago when there was a shortage of SFFs and SFOs in our brigade. I completed my SFF TAPS courses in 2010, Officer course in 2011 and Executive Officer course in 2012. I was appointed as DCFO in May 2012 and CFO in April 2013, following the retirement of our CFO George Seator.

2. What were attitudes like to women when you first started?

Generally fine, but at the time it was male dominated. I had strong support from brigade members, especially SFOs. The Fire Service has a level playing field for female recruitment and progression within volunteer brigades. There are a number of women becoming Officers.

3. How do you think more women could be encouraged

How would you describe yourself in three words?

Reliable, dedicated and trustworthy.

Who inspires you?

My husband Ranui, who is also a SSO and BTO in our brigade and a Unit Training Officer with the Riverton Coastguard.

What skill would you most like to have?

Being able to say "No" a bit more.

Tell us something about Helen Bull that we don't know...?

I completed a Level 2 Certificate in Te Ara Reo Maori to better understand my husband and children's culture.

to join the Fire Service?

I would recommend having opening nights for women to come and try out the training.

4. What's been the highlight of your career? Most memorable moment?

Being selected to attend a Volunteer Leadership course at the Australia Institute of Police Management in Sydney.

Delivering the Firewise programmes in local schools, interacting with children and showing them the skills and tools that will help keep them safe.

And my most memorable moment was

at a house fire. Another firefighter and I were in the hallway in BA with a delivery. He was the branchman and climbed over me to get out. I wondered what he was doing and followed to see what the problem was. "Did you not hear all that ammunition going off?!" he said.

5. If you could change anything about the UFBA, what would it be and why?

Earlier in my career, I was unaware of UFBA involvement with volunteer brigades, but recently I have seen you become more visible and accessible to members. I think it's great that more young members are getting involved now.



Your feedback

Injuries at work occur despite strong operational procedures and training programmes. The NZFS are carrying out research to assist in improving safety and well-being.

- Is there a disconnect between what firefighters are trained to do and what they actually do?

- Is a certain level of risk taking to be admired?
- Are safety standards accepted or challenged?

Watch out for a survey on safety culture within the Fire Service from **Tuesday 28 October**. The NZFS would love to hear from you.