



U.F.B.A.
UNITED FIRE BRIGADES'
ASSOCIATION OF NEW ZEALAND

FROM THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS – APRIL 2009

**“OUR STRENGTH IS OUR UNITY”
“KIA KAHA KIA KOTAHI RA”**

FROM THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

At the March Annual Conference, I referred to the introduction of a stronger communication plan for our members. This is the first issue of a series of monthly newsletters to be posted during the first seven days of each month.

Of particular interest in the following paragraphs will be the invitation to provide input to firstly a review of the Rules of the UFBA, and secondly, to the rules which govern our Waterway Challenges. Make sure you let us know your thinking on these.

In addition, we set out information on upcoming challenges and events and introduce the personnel who have joined our Board, Committees and Panels.

As noted above, we are strengthening our communication processes. In addition to more regular issues of this newsletter, we have plans designed to ensure we get better newsletter access to individual members of our UFBA member brigades. To do this, we are asking brigades to help us by improving their own internal processes and also inviting individuals to subscribe (by email) directly to newsletters such as this. We start these changes in this first publication.

The other key initiative we are taking is reviewing the effectiveness of our website and improving this as a communication medium. We welcome your view on this or any other aspects of our communications with our members.

George Verry
Chief Executive Officer

UFBA RULES

After listening to your concerns expressed at Conference in Queenstown, the Board of the UFBA has invited its Governance Committee to commence work on a major review of the Association's Rules.

The Committee seeks suggestions from you as members for changes you think are needed to the Rules and any other related matters. Your suggestions may be informally worded, and we look forward to hearing your ideas and building on what we heard in Queenstown.

Please send suggestions by email to Jane@ufba.org.nz or by mail to Jane Davie, UFBA, PO Box 56079, Tawa, Wellington 5249.

The plan is for the Committee to draft an updated version of the Rules and refer them back to you for consideration. We will ensure that there is a reasonable timeframe for you to consider and comment on recommended Rule changes and we aim to have the revised Rules considered at the 2010 Conference.

2009 REGIONAL RCR CHALLENGES

The UFBA is now calling for officials – applications close on 20th May.

Greytown will host the combined Region 1 and 2 Road Crash Rescue challenge, with the date likely to be in late August or September. Brigades will be advised of the date when it is confirmed. The Region 3 and 4 RCR will also be combined and Cromwell has been selected to host the event.

The top three placing teams in each regional event will be qualified to compete in the National Road Crash Rescue Challenge in Christchurch on 5th & 6th March 2010. The enclosed applications for officials may also be found on the UFBA Website and must be submitted by 20th May. Only those who officiate at Regional RCR challenges will be eligible to be selected as an official in the Nationals.

Continued...

WATERWAY COMPETITORS AND OFFICIALS – GIVE US YOUR FIVE CENTS WORTH

Now that the first full year of the new Waterway events has come to an end, the Challenges Committee would like to hear from the competitors and officials who took part in the Challenges in an endeavour to improve the runs for the next Waterway year.

A brief questionnaire relating to this year's Waterway events is accessible on the UFBA website and should be completed only by those involved in the events and returned to Christa Lawlor at the UFBA office by no later than 30th April. This is your opportunity to influence the improvement of the rules and events. In May, the Technical Panel will meet to assess the Waterway Challenge rules, and, while it may not be practical or feasible to incorporate every suggestion, any feedback you provide will be of value during the review process.

Synovate, an independent research company, will also shortly randomly survey attendees from the National Waterway Challenge and National Conference to evaluate these events and the benefits to our members. This is a NZFS Commission initiative.

2009 NATIONAL DRIVERS CHALLENGE

The UFBA is now calling for Officials – applications close on 20th May.

The Drivers Challenge is set to take place on Friday and Saturday, 28th & 29th August at Manfeild Park in Feilding. Those interested in being an official at the Challenge should complete the enclosed application form and submit it to the UFBA office by no later than 20th May.

There will be a compulsory Learning Symposium for all competitors and officials on Friday, 28th August followed by a Welcome BBQ. The Drivers Challenge itself and the prize giving function will take place on Saturday, 29th August.

The registration website will be available for Drivers wishing to compete in the event and selected officials starting at the end of May, so don't forget to check the UFBA website at that time for more information.

PUMP REQUIRED

To complete the restoration of a 1975 Ford D600 Fire Appliance:

Coventry Climax UMP or UFP Pump as fitted to Ford D600 or Bedford Fire Appliances built by Wormalds

Contact details are:
Dave Ion
Gisborne Fire District
dave.ion@fire.org.nz
Phone 06 867 4064
Mobile 027 600 4152

SERVICE HONOURS IN FEBRUARY/MARCH 2009

The UFBA would like to congratulate everyone who has received service honours in February and March 2009 including:

Gold Stars in February

Rodger Beatson	Ahipara
Terry Tepania	Ahipara
Ben Waaka	Ahipara
Graeme Langford	Beachlands
Lynn Ross	Hokitika
Barry Chalmers	Karamea
Graeme Lodge	Karamea
Michael Langley	Kumeu
John Swain	Ngaruawahia
Blair McAlpine	Titahi Bay
Murray Tonks	Wellington

Gold Stars in March

Allan Officer	Auckland
Kevin Stillwell	Auckland
Lance Wright	Auckland
Kevin Klempel	Moana
Tammy Bath	Ngatea
Dean Beauchamp	Tapanui
Cliff George	Taupo

HELP US KEEP IN TOUCH

Starting in May, members will receive monthly UFBA newsletter updates in the first week of each month. In addition to keeping brigades informed of what's happening in the organisation, the newsletters will include notifications of important dates, deadlines, and membership benefits that may affect many of your brigade members.

Currently, the UFBA sends a hard copy of the newsletter to the CFO of each brigade. In an effort to reduce the cost of printing and reach more individuals in the future, however, the UFBA plans to eventually distribute newsletters and other updates electronically.

To help the UFBA communicate more effectively with members, we are working to build our email database. Help us keep your firefighters in the loop by posting the enclosed form at your station for one month and reminding brigade members who are interested in receiving communications from the UFBA to provide their email addresses.

Please return the form to the UFBA office by 31st May. Thank you for helping us communicate better.

DID YOU KNOW?

That the fees collected from protests lodged at the National Waterway Challenge held in Queenstown in March (\$400) have been donated to the Volunteer Fire Brigades Victoria Black Saturday Volunteer Recovery Fund.

CONGRATULATIONS AND WELCOME TO THE NEW OFFICERS OF THE UFBA

After the 2009 UFBA Conference, the outlook for the organisation is looking very positive. The UFBA has been fortunate enough to fill several key roles with a handful of very capable, experienced people dedicated to making a positive impact on the future of the organisation. We extend a warm welcome to the newest office bearers of the UFBA.

Lex Calder Steps Up as President

Lex sees communications as being a big focus in the coming year and assures members they will see great improvements in this area. He has enjoyed his involvement with the UFBA thus far and is looking forward to continued good work and relationships with the Board and the UFBA office as well as the opportunity to meet firefighters around the country.

Lex will continue to be very approachable and encourages members to contact the UFBA office or him directly for assistance or information at any time.



Lex Calder – UFBA President

Ross Ditmer Installed as Vice President

Ross, assuming the role of Vice President for this year, has been a member of the Rangiora Volunteer Fire Brigade for 24 years and Chief Fire Officer for the last five. He was a Waterway competitor for 16 years and is currently a member of the National Volunteer Advisory Group for the New Zealand Fire Service and a member of the Volunteer Vehicle Development Group (UFBA).

He has held various directorships over the last 15 years and is currently employed as Area Manager NZFS for North Canterbury. Ross is looking forward to his continuing his involvement with the UFBA and the Board of Directors.



Ross Ditmer – UFBA Vice President

Brian Watters Elected as Board Director

Brian is a welcome addition to the Board, offering his strengths as being a finisher, implementer and co-ordinator in addition to his knowledge and fire service experiences. He is committed to serve two years on the UFBA Board for the benefit of all brigades and their members.

Brian, also known as Tiny, has been a member of the Morrinsville Volunteer Fire Brigade since 1971. He served as brigade secretary for six years from 1974 and has been an officer for the last twenty-five years, the past seven years as Chief Fire Officer.



Brian Watters – UFBA Director

Ewen Heron Elected to the Technical Panel

At this year's Conference, delegates elected Ewen Heron as the new Technical Panel Member. Ewen brings a wealth of knowledge to the Technical Panel, specialising in Waterway Challenges. He joined the Wainuiomata Fire Brigade in 1975 and began running Waterway competitions from that date until 2005. During that time, he also coached various teams for Wainuiomata.

Ewen has been on the Hutt Wellington Kapiti Sub-Association and Wellington Provincial Technical panels over the last 5 years.



Ewen Heron – UFBA Technical Panel

Ian Wellings Elected to the NZFBI Council

Ian came to New Zealand from the UK in 1989 and joined the Tokoroa Volunteer Fire Brigade in 1991, becoming Chief Fire Officer in 2000. He is currently employed by Waratah NZ Limited as the IT Manager and is married with three children. Ian is looking forward to contributing the knowledge gained through his years of service as an NZFBI Councillor.



Ian Wellings – NZFBI Council



www.firefighters.org.nz Phone: 0800 OK FIRE thesec@firefighters.org.nz

HEALTHCARE 99

Did you know the Welfare Society operates a Healthcare Trust Fund which any member of the Welfare Society can join. The Fund is owned by the members who join. After operating expenses are met, all monies collected are available to support members with healthcare needs. Each year the fund pays out nearly \$900,000 to its members.

There are two plans available, one plan is **Option A** which covers published schedule of costs that may occur in the hospital or in the doctor's surgery, including cost of prescriptions, scans, x-rays and other diagnostic fees and associated costs with an illness. **Option B** covers only those costs occurred when staying in a registered hospital. The contributions to Option B are less.

One big difference between this Fund and other similar schemes is, if there is good reason, the Healthcare Committee may approve some extras to the published schedules. Because this trust fund is solely for firefighters and their families, conditions might exist, when illness strikes, that warrant exceptions for them. Any exception to the published schedule is made by the Healthcare Committee. Firefighters sit on this Committee. Obviously a good case has to be put to the Committee for any additional claims.

Another feature of Healthcare 99 is the fund has no deductibles.

For a schedule of contributions and a list of exclusions, visit www.firefighters.org.nz

IMPORTANT HEALTHCARE 99 UPDATE INCREASED BENEFIT LEVELS

Both Option A and B in hospital costs - Maximum now \$60,000

For imaging, scans, specialist consultations and surgically implanted prosthetic devices

Was: \$7,500 per procedure
Now: **\$8,000** per procedure

Increased levels of Option A Benefits

Other Medical Benefits

Was: \$400 per annum
Now: **\$800** per annum

Optometrist

Was: \$60 per annum
Now: **\$200** per annum

Home nursing allowance

Was: \$10 per day, \$200 per annum
Now: **\$20** per day, **\$400** per annum

"Firefighters helping Firefighters"



**NEW ZEALAND
Firefighters
CREDIT UNION**

For
SAVINGS & LOANS
We can help you - Contact us now

Freephone 0508 613328
Freefax 0508 568233
Email nzfcu@extra.co.nz
Website www.firefighters.co.nz

Financial Services for Firefighters and their Families

We are a registered Credit Union
not a registered Bank



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