

UFBA BOARD MEETING HELD 22 APRIL 2010

The Board of the United Fire Brigades' Association met at Wellington Airport on 22 April 2010. There was a full attendance.

Set out below is a brief summary of the key points covered during this meeting.

- Peter Drummond was elected Chairman for the ensuing year – Brian Watters was elected as Deputy Chairman
- Pat Fitzell was welcomed to his first Board meeting and together with Chris Price (re-elected to the Board) congratulated on their elections at the Annual Conference.
- The meeting approved the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding with (Forest and Rural Fire Association of New Zealand Inc)(FRFANZ) which permitted “share, without cost, specific information they each hold in order to validate individuals’ eligibility for service awards”. This facilitates the operation of UFBA’s Regulation 3.17 which “in certain circumstances grants UFBA awards to those individuals who have served in FRFANZ member brigades”.
- The Board endorsed a proposal by Ric Carlyon and George Verry that steps be taken to encourage firstly, provincial associations to join with UFBA in promoting more participation in challenges and secondly to facilitate a close association with the Fire Brigades Institute in order to hold joint events – such as an AGM in conjunction with a FBI field day.
- It was noted that the CEO and Chairman were seeking a meeting with the Minister of Internal Affairs in order to promote the UFBA stance on the sale of liquor reform proposal and other relevant matters under advocacy.
- The Board reviewed the recent Annual Conference and noted strong positive feedback had been received.
- The Board confirmed the minutes of the third day of Annual Conference as a true and correct record.
- The CEO reported that upgrades of the UFBA IT systems would be commenced shortly. These were being analysed by NZFS and would result in more “grunt”, new hardware for staff, quicker and more secure back-up facilities.
- The Board was advised that among membership causes being advocated was the interests of several (rural fire force members) who had sought UFBA support in dealing with concerns regarding the likely impact of the Auckland Super City and their activities.
- The CEO introduced a presentation on a new Communications Plan prepared by Christa Lawlor, who had been engaged to complete this work. The Board was impressed by the comprehensive document presented and in particular endorsed the commencement of work on a new UFBA web-site. This is expected to be launched by 30 June 2010.

- The Directors considered a business case for the UFBA to host the World and Australasian RCR events to be held in July 2011. This plan (including detailed budgets) was endorsed for submission to the National Commander, NZFS, as substantial funding would be sought from that source. The Board's endorsement was subject to not only NZFS financial support, but also to a successful campaign seeking considerable further sponsorship sums from outside services. It is proposed that this event will be held in Christchurch and will be accompanied by a "Staying Alive" expo.
- The meeting recorded that Kim Stewart had been elected to the position of Convenor of the Technical Panel.
- The CEO reported on an incident in a volunteer member brigade where an operational member (who was a paid fire fighter) was directed by the NZPFU to withdraw from the Volunteer brigade. The matter is being taken up with the Union Secretary.