



JULY 2010

YOU'RE NOT CRAZY - THE UFBA NEWSLETTER IS DIFFERENT.

We've taken the first step in revitalising our monthly newsletter by updating the look of it. We hope you like the change. Going forward, we'll continue to make improvements by expanding the content to ensure that it remains relevant to our members. We welcome contributions from you, so if you have an idea for an article, a photo to share, or just general comments, email us at news@ufba.org.nz.

LOG IN TO WIN!

We Think A NEW WEBSITE is a Great Excuse to Give Away Prizes.

We are excited to introduce our refreshed website with some great new features, like an online member forum, photo galleries, and polling capabilities. But if that alone isn't enough to entice you to go online and register as a member of the site, maybe we can tempt you with the chance to win some sweet prizes, courtesy of our business partners – Orb Communications, Orbit Corporate Travel, Placemakers, and Swazi Apparel.

Here's the deal: go online to <http://www.ufba.org.nz/user/register> and complete the member sign-up form. If you register before the end of September, you'll be automatically entered to win these prizes:

- A Samsung S8300T touch screen cellphone (retail price \$699.00), courtesy of Orb Communications. For specs, visit www.telecom.co.nz/mobile
- Two Nights Accommodation at a Heritage or Citylife Hotel of your choice, from Orbit Corporate Travel
- \$500 in branded merchandise (retail value) from the UFBA.



The new UFBA website

You must be currently in a UFBA-member brigade, or a former member with at least five years of service, to be a member of the site. Once you register, the UFBA will check your eligibility in our database and approve your request within one business day. If you do not appear in our database, we may contact you or your CFO for verification.

FROM THE PRESIDENT



Ross Ditmer

As I write this, our new website is barely a week old and already I have received very positive feedback. Over the next few weeks more applications will be added including the ability to purchase Fire Shop items online. A huge amount of work has gone into the new site and I congratulate the team for the fantastic result.

I presented a Gold Star at Wallacetown for DCFO Chris Hughes on the 19th June and it was great to catch up with a lot of familiar faces in the deep south. I also had the

privilege of presenting a 50 year medal to John McGarvey from Pio Pio. I was surprised to learn that even after 50 years of service, some people can not have any 'dirt' on them. However, in traditional style at the eleventh hour a story emerged and John was not to be spared!!

ARRO (Australasian Road Crash Rescue Organisation) is holding its annual challenge in Melbourne over the weekend of the 24th July and New Zealand will be represented by teams from Morrinsville, Whitianga, and Greytown, as well as a number of assessors from throughout the country. I wish the teams every success in this competitive event.

The UFBA is at present involved in a number of working groups and advocating the views of our members, and I would like to thank the members for their contributions towards this process. Of particular note for me is the work surrounding the re-naming of Fire Police and the functions of Operational Support members. We have consulted a number of Brigades from throughout the country and we are endeavouring to reach a satisfactory outcome in the near future.

Ross Ditmer

President

SO THE WEBSITE LOOKS DIFFERENT, WHAT ELSE?

There are quite a few new and exciting changes to the website, and here are just a few...

Members Only Pages

As you're navigating the site, you'll notice there are certain pages that only logged in members can access, like the pages that detail the discounts available and certain documents. Once you've registered as a member of the site, you'll simply need to type in your email address and password - then you'll have full access to all the information and downloads on the site.

The Member Forum

The online discussion forum is up and running, and open to all members who have registered through the site! We included this feature to provide a constructive place where firefighters can go to share comments and raise questions about a range of topics.

What kinds of topics? Anything that's important to you – from questions about Challenge rules, to opinions on issues affecting your brigade, to general tips and information you think might be useful to the rest of the fire community.

It's so easy to participate – just go to <http://www.ufba.org.nz/forum> and start your own topic or add your five cents worth to a discussion that's already taking place. Remember, you'll need to be logged in to take part in the discussion.

Have fun connecting and sharing with the wider fire community!

Photo and Video Galleries

There are several photo galleries from conferences and challenges currently on the website, and we'll be adding to these with the passing of each event. We're also working on building our video gallery.

Do you have some great photos or videos you'd like to submit for our website? Email news@ufba.org.nz with your photos or YouTube video links, and we'll post them on the site.

Polling Capabilities

The polls that we have incorporated on our website will be a valuable method of getting continuous feedback from you on various topics. So next time you're on the site, take ten seconds to vote on the poll question and help us along as we work to improve our services.

New Zealand Puts In Good Showing at iRescue 2010

This just in: Morrinsville took second, and Whitianga and Greytown placed fourth equal in the iRescue Event (Australasian Road Rescue Challenge) in Melbourne, which took place from 24th to the 27th July.

The breakdown of results for the New Zealand teams in each category is as follows:

- Morrinsville: 1st in the Immediate Event, 1st Technical Team, 2nd Medical Team and 2nd overall
- Greytown: 1st in the Controlled Event and 4th Equal overall
- Whitianga: 2nd in the Controlled Event, 2nd in the Immediate Event, and 4th Equal overall.

The UFBA congratulates each of the New Zealand teams for yet another great effort!

“Our teams have put in a lot of hard work and dedication to

get to this point,” says George Verry, UFBA Chief Executive Officer, “And now they will take away valuable knowledge that will ultimately make them better firefighters.”

Complete results are available through the UFBA website. Additional information will be published when it is available.



Whitianga (above), with Morrinsville and Greytown represented New Zealand at the recent iRescue event in Melbourne.

NZFS VOLUNTEER SUSTAINABILITY PROJECT – GET INVOLVED

You may have heard about the Volunteer Sustainability Project in *Fire & Rescue* magazine, or at the last UFBA conference. The project is part of the Fire Service Human Resources team’s People Strategy, and it’s aimed at identifying opportunities to ensure the sustainability of the volunteer workforce, both now and into the future.

The first stage of the project has been initiated and existing research and data is being identified, collected, and analysed to gain a clear understanding of volunteer issues and trends, and how the external environment in which we operate may impact on you.

During July and August, you will be invited to complete an online survey aimed at understanding your perceptions of volunteer sustainability issues and any ideas you have for positive change.

If you would like to participate, please ensure that the New Zealand Fire Service has a current email address for you by emailing: beth.piggott@fire.org.nz. If you don’t have an email address, a paper copy can be sent, so again please ensure your mailing address is updated by using the standard “changes to volunteer information” form and send this into your region office for updating.

This is a great opportunity to provide your views into a project, which is one of the most important for the Fire Service in order to ensure volunteer brigades are adequately

supported and understood, as well as being sustainable in the future.

A series of workshops with some brigades will also be run throughout the country during August to gather additional qualitative data.

If you would like to find out more about the survey, or any part of this project, please contact Rachel de Haas, Organisational Development Advisor on 027 443 9756 / 04 496 3607 / rachel.dehaas@fire.org.nz.



The New Zealand Fire Service is calling all volunteer firefighters to provide input into its Volunteer Sustainability Project.

JULY GOLD STAR RECIPIENTS

Congratulations to all those who will be honoured in the month of July for 25 years of service. Of special note this month, Tokanui and Havelock are awarding their first-ever Gold Stars! Gold Star recipients are as follows:

Gavin Paterson, Orepuki	Alan Halcombe, Urenui	Grant Whitford, Central Auckland
Bernie Bull, Gisborne	Gregory Daley, Central Auckland	Bruce Clarkson, Central Auckland
David Ion, Gisborne	Barry Fox, Central Auckland	Andrew Lockyear, Central Auckland
Peter Carroll, Gisborne	Marcel Sanders, Central Auckland	Terence Bird, Central Auckland
Rob Karaitiana, Gisborne	John Roberts, Central Auckland	Boyd Raines, Central Auckland
Ian Harrison, Geraldine	Anthony Searle, Central Auckland	Gavin Travers, Central Auckland
Graeme Mould, Geraldine	Derek Tims, Central Auckland	Matthew Camplin, Central Auckland
Trevor Boyles, Eketahuna	Simon Norton, Central Auckland	Ian Richards, Central Auckland
Albert Poole, Tokanui	John Stephens, Central Auckland	Stephen Hudson, Paraparaumu
Graeme Barsanti, Havelock	Robert Thornton, Central Auckland	Tim Morgan, Paraparaumu

UFBA HISTORIAN CELEBRATES 50 YEARS OF SERVICE

Sandy Lawson of the Wellington Fire Service Support Unit receives his 50-Year medal in July. In addition to serving in the Fire Service for 50 years, he has also devoted much time to recording and preserving the rich history of the UFBA over the years.

He is a walking encyclopedia on matters relating to the UFBA and the Fire Service – a good man to have around the office. The UFBA extends a very warm thank you and congratulations to Sandy on this special occasion.

QUEEN'S BIRTHDAY HONOURS

Congratulations to the following recipients of New Zealand Honours for 2010:

CFO Merv George of Whitianga

CFO Alvan Wakeford of Havelock North

CFO Wayne Sarjeant of Paraparaumu

CFO Lindsay Walker of Levin

UFBA EVENT BULLETIN



UFBA National Drivers Challenge

It's not too late to register for the National Drivers Challenge. **Registrations will remain open until 13 August**, or until we reach maximum numbers for the event. Find out more at www.ufba.org.nz.

2011 Waterways

The current waterway rules are available from the UFBA website at www.ufba.org.nz/events/list/category/waterway_challenge
Email events@ufba.org.nz if you have any questions.

Assistance with Training & Open Days for Waterways

Are you, your brigade, or your provincial association interested in hosting an open day along with a Technical Panel member to learn more about how to get started for the Waterway Challenge season in 2011? Contact the Events Team on 04 237 0265 or events@ufba.org.nz to schedule a date and time, and we'll send a member of the Panel along to show you how it's done.

Need Challenge Equipment?

The UFBA has equipment for all challenges that can be made available for official events. In some cases, there will be a cost involved to transport the equipment to and from the UFBA office, and some equipment may need the expertise of a Technical Panel member. The Challenge Equipment Request form can be downloaded from the website at www.ufba.org.nz/events/list/category/ufba_challenges.

Officials

Officials for the National Drivers Challenge and National Firefighter Combat Challenge have been selected. If you applied to be a Waterway or RCR Official, you will be notified once the Technical Panel has made their decision. If you want to be an official, remember to complete the application form available on the website.

National Firefighter Combat Challenge

Combat Challenge registrations are now open via the UFBA website – www.ufba.org.nz. Please ensure that you read and understand the latest copy of the rules before registering. Competitors are responsible for their own travel, accommodation and sundry expenses incurred whilst competing at the event. If you have any questions, email events@ufba.org.nz.

Conference Registration Process

Delegate Nomination Forms must be received by the UFBA office by 27 October 2010. An electronic version of the form is available at www.ufba.org.nz/events/132nd_conference. Email Kirsten@ufba.org.nz or call 04 237 0265 with questions.

Delegates who register without submitting the correct paperwork to the UFBA will be responsible for any costs incurred (flights, accommodation, social functions etc...). Observers and partners are not required to complete the form, and will still be able to register once the online registration is up and running in early September.

The Conference will be held on 27 – 29 November 2010 at the Duxton Hotel, Wellington.

Registrations will open in early September.



Nominations for the Board, Technical Panel & Vice President

We have yet to receive any nominations for the positions available on the Board and Technical Panel or any nominations for the Vice President role. Nominations for all of these close on 27 August 2010. Nomination forms are available through the UFBA website.

Conference Remits

The deadline for getting remits to the UFBA is **27 August 2010**.



Would you like to host the next UFBA Conference?

The UFBA is calling for Expressions of Interest from brigades wishing to host the 2011 National Conference. **Proposals should be submitted to the UFBA no later than Friday, 6 August 2010.** A document with the minimum requirements for hosting and guidelines for submissions is available at www.ufba.org.nz/events/host_an_event. If you would like further information, please contact the office on 04 237 0265 or email events@ufba.org.nz.

Brigade Name Plates – Last Chance!

If your brigade would like its old conference nameplate back, please send a pre-paid, self-addressed A3 courier bag to the UFBA – attention Kirsten – and it will be sent back to you. A number of nameplates were collected at conference in Christchurch, so check with your conference delegate before contacting the UFBA.

KEY DATES

Remember to keep an eye on the website for updates and key deadlines.

2010

6 August	Expressions of Interest for Hosting Conference 2011 close
13 August	Drivers Challenge Registration
27 August	Conference Forms Due: Conference Remit Nomination for Vice President Nomination for Board Nomination for Technical Panel
10 & 11 September	National Drivers Challenge Ruapuna, Christchurch
2 October	National Combat Challenge Cathedral Square, Christchurch
27 October	Delegate Nomination Forms due for Conference
27 – 29 November	National Conference Duxton Hotel, Wellington

2011

15 January	Region 2 Waterway Challenge Carterton
29 January	Region 1 Waterway Challenge Turangi
5 February	Region 4 Waterway Challenge Oamaru
12 February	Region 3 Waterway Challenge Hokitika
24 – 26 February	National Waterway Challenge Carterton

PATRON'S PONDERINGS



Em Evans

The UFBA's Emrys Evans, known as a great storyteller, offers his monthly dose of commentary on pretty much any topic that pops into his mind. Some interesting and quirky things to think about this month:

1. What did we used to say before "CLOSURE" became the in word???
2. Why is a man who invests all your money called a "Broker?"

IMPROVEMENTS TO THE WELFARE HOLIDAY / CONVALESCENT HOME IN NELSON

Nelson never lacks for sun and warmth, so the locals say, but should you use the Welfare holiday home located there this winter, you will find plenty of added protection from any winter chills.

The log fire is gone, and a heat pump has been fitted. Kevin Crozier, the Welfare board member with responsibility for this holiday home said this action was necessary to comply with the council regulations. Wool insulation has also been added to the ceiling with an entirely new ceiling for the lounge. A fan has been added to the bathroom with new plumbing installed, which should improve pressure to the shower. A ramp has been added to the porch to assist with disabled access. A new large TV (HD and Freeview) with a surge protector has also been installed.

Finally, the bedrooms have been freshened with new mattress protectors, duvets, and covers. Special thanks go to Steve Shackelton, Kevin Shea and Liam Crozier for all the time and effort given for these improvements. It is the generosity of people like Steve, Kevin and Liam that allow the Society to make improvements to its holiday homes without having to raise rental costs and to make these houses comfortable homes away from home for all members.

To use the Welfare Society holiday homes, which sleep 8 for \$55 per night, you must be a member of the Society. Application forms are available on the web site www.firefighters.org.nz



The Welfare Society's Holiday Home in Nelson - all warmed up and ready for your stay.



U.F.B.A

**UNITED FIRE BRIGADES'
ASSOCIATION OF NEW ZEALAND**

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