



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

## FROM THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS – JUNE 2010

“OUR STRENGTH IS OUR UNITY”

“KIA KAHA KIA KOTAHI RA”

### FROM THE PRESIDENT



**Ross Ditmer**

Well, winter is upon us and Brigades throughout the country have been very busy attending weather related events. It is great to see with all the news footage the presence of Fire Appliances and crews assisting the public in their times of need.

The new UFBA website is nearing completion and this will be a turning point for the UFBA and the way we communicate with our members. It is on track for launch at the end of June and I would be delighted to receive feedback on your views of this exciting development.

I have attended two Provincial Conferences in the last month and am heartened to witness some very positive Executives who are actively planning on getting their members engaged in their activities. The Taranaki Provincial are planning an RCR Challenge to be hosted at Hawera later this year and the Executive are very enthusiastic to foster new teams for all their challenge programmes. Likewise the Auckland Provincial is exploring new ways to keep their strong Association alive and well. The Conference held in Kamo was well supported by delegates and the programme was filled with information and knowledge sharing topics. The challenge moving forward for both the Provincials and the UFBA is demonstrating the value of our organisations to our members and how they benefit from this. Closer working relationships and activities with Provincials and partners like the NZFBI, for example, are opportunities where both groups can benefit from each other and add value to the wider membership.

Keep up the good work out there and I hope the winter weather settles down for you all.

### VOLUNTEER AWARENESS WEEK 20-26 JUNE 2010

Volunteer Awareness Week will take place from Sunday, 20<sup>th</sup> June to Saturday, 26<sup>th</sup> June. Volunteering NZ has organised this week to raise awareness of the various volunteering opportunities available throughout the country.

The UFBA has issued a media release to national, regional, and local newspapers throughout the country, and is advertising in the NZ Herald on Sunday to promote firefighting as a volunteering opportunity. We encourage you and your brigade to join us in getting the word out.

This is the first year that the UFBA is actively promoting firefighting during the week, and we intend to develop our Volunteer Awareness Week promotional efforts further in the coming years. A flyer was posted to all volunteer fire brigade members and we encourage your brigade members to support the week by talking to the people they know about the opportunities that may be available at your brigade. You may also have noted our advertisement in the Sunday papers.

### THE UFBA IS NOW ON FACEBOOK!

Check out our new Facebook Page and don't forget to "like" it so that you can stay in the loop on the latest from the UFBA. The page is called United Fire Brigades' Association (obviously), so get online today and suggest the page to all your friends while you're at it.

### NATIONAL DRIVERS CHALLENGE

Brigade members wishing to register for the National Drivers Challenge can now do so via the UFBA website. Registrations will remain open until August 13 or until we reach maximum numbers for the event.

*Continued...*

## NATIONAL FIREFIGHTER COMBAT CHALLENGE REGISTRATION AND RULES UPDATE

Planning for the National Firefighter Combat Challenge is well underway and we anticipate having registrations open for delegates *after* June 30 – please check the UFBA website for updates and if you would like to be notified when registrations open, please email [events@ufba.org.nz](mailto:events@ufba.org.nz) to be added to the list.

Categories for this year will be confirmed on 28 June and will be available on the UFBA website, along with the Rules that have been updated to the world standard.

## GOOD2GO PROGRAM FIREFIGHTER COMBAT CHALLENGE TRAINING!!

Are you interested in learning how to prepare for the upcoming Firefighter Combat Challenge?

Visit [www.teamblackfire.com](http://www.teamblackfire.com) and click on Good2Go to find out when a clinic is happening near you.

## COMMUNICATIONS SURVEY RESULTS NOW AVAILABLE

Find out what you told us in April's communications survey – go to [www.ufba.org.nz](http://www.ufba.org.nz) to download a copy of the report.

Thank you to all of you who took the time to complete the communications survey last month. It was great to get your thoughts on our current communications and some feedback on what we can do better.

We used the valuable information you provided to develop a plan for engaging more effectively with you, our members. We are also looking to raise the profile of the UFBA and our member brigades in the public.

You'll be seeing some positive changes in our communications over the coming year, but first on the agenda is an improved and refreshed website with lots of extra features.

In the meantime, **check out the report we've put together on the survey results, which is available on the UFBA website in the News Updates section.**

## iRESCUE – AUSTRALASIAN ROAD CRASH RESCUE CHALLENGE 2010

New Zealand is represented by three teams this year – Morrinsville, Whitianga and Greytown. Messages of support for the New Zealand Team can be sent to [events@ufba.org.nz](mailto:events@ufba.org.nz) and we'll pass them on!

## NEW STAFF MEMBER

Kirsten Spierling joined the UFBA in May as Events Administrator. Kirsten graduated with a BA from Victoria University, Wellington 2005 and has spent the last seven years at the NZ Racing Board in a number of different roles, ranging from TAB call centre to customer account administration.

Kirsten noted the best part of the job is "working with passionate people who have a love for what they're doing".

She is looking forward to meeting you at the challenges!



**Kirsten Spierling**

## COUNTING DOWN TO THE NEW WEBSITE LAUNCH – WITH NEW BUSINESS PARTNERS

We're working hard to get the new website up by the end of June and by the time you get the July newsletter, we'll have a completely new look. We can't wait to show you the refreshed site with improved functionality, and some great new features.

To launch the site, we'll be holding a big contest and Swazi and Telecom have come to the party with some sweet prizes. Keep your eye out in early July – that's when you'll receive all the details of how to enter through the new website.

Orbit (House of Travel) and Placemakers have also recently signed on as business partners and are supporting the website launch.

These exciting new partnerships will mean more value for UFBA members, so be sure to check out the member discounts on our partner pages once the new website is live.

## REGION 4 WATERWAY CHALLENGE - CORRECTION

In last month's newsletter, the date printed for the Region 4 Waterway was incorrect. It should have read 5 February 2011. We apologise for any confusion.

## THE PATRON'S PONDERINGS



**Patron Emrys Evans**

Overheard at the BP Headquarters for the Gulf Oil disaster: "We got a very nice thank you note from Toyota".

Dennis Hopper of "Easy Rider" fame, who passed away recently, was married five times; the shortest lasted just eight days. He remarked that the first seven days were just great!

George W Bush is writing his autobiography. He was asked if he employed a "ghost writer". He replied, "No, the guy's still alive". He also remarked that at his first attempt he used up a whole bottle of "whiteout" on the screen of his computer.

Billy Connolly was walking down a street in Dublin when he was approached by an old Irish lady, "Excuse me" she said. "You're Billy Connolly aren't you?" When he replied in the affirmative, she said "I thought so; you're the spitting image of yourself."

## CONFERENCE REGISTRATION PROCESS

A big thank you to those Brigades that have sent their Delegate Nomination Forms back to us already – we have received a number from around the country. The deadline for the receipt of these is 27 October 2010. An electronic version of the form is available for download from the UFBA website. If you cannot download one, please contact our Events Administrator, Kirsten either via email at [Kirsten.Spierling@ufba.org.nz](mailto:Kirsten.Spierling@ufba.org.nz) or phone 04 237 2688.

Delegates who choose to register online without having sent through 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.

Online registrations will open in early September.

## ASSISTANCE WITH TRAINING AND OPEN DAYS FOR WATERWAY CHALLENGES

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 Waterways Challenge season in 2011?

The UFBA would like to see more members involved in the Waterways Challenge next year and we're inviting you to invite us to come along to your Station to show you how it's done! If you're interested, please contact Sarah on 04 237 0265 or [sarah@ufba.org.nz](mailto:sarah@ufba.org.nz)

## OFFICIALS

The Technical Panel are meeting in late June to appoint the officials for the National Drivers Challenge and National Firefighter Combat Challenge. Letters will be sent to everyone that completed an application form confirming your next National Challenge assignment.

## 2011 WATERWAY CHALLENGES

The current waterways rules are available from the UFBA website – if you have any questions, or would like some clarification about anything in the rules, please let us know!

## ERROR IN MAY NEWSLETTER

In our May newsletter, we mentioned Royal Honours recipient Gary Talbot twice as AM Gary Talbot and SO Gary Talbot. SO Gary Talbot should have read SO Peter Hallett from the Bay/Waikato region.

We apologise for this error and any confusion caused.

## UFBA SERVICE HONOURS JUNE 2010

The UFBA would like to congratulate everyone who will receive or has received UFBA service honours in May 2010 including:

### Gold Stars

Howard Campbell	Millers Flat
Geoffrey Peirce	Millers Flat
Brian Timpson	Millers Flat
Kenneth Chambers	Owaka
Laurie Keach	Owaka
Christopher Hughes	Wallacetown

### 50 Year Medal

John McGarvey	Piopio
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## KEY DATES

Registrations for the following events will open through the UFBA website and brigades will be notified before registrations open in the newsletter.

Remember to keep an eye on the website for any updates.

2010	
<b>10 June</b>	Drivers Challenge Registration Opens
<b>6 August</b>	Expressions of Interest for Conference 2011 close
<b>13 August</b>	Drivers Challenge Registration Closes
<b>27 August</b>	<b>Conference Forms Due:</b> Notices of Remit Nomination for Vice President Nomination for Board Nomination for Technical Panel
<b>10 &amp; 11 September</b>	National Drivers Challenge Ruapuna, Christchurch
<b>2 October</b>	National Combat Challenge Cathedral Square, Christchurch
<b>27 October</b>	Delegate Nomination Forms due for Conference
<b>27 – 29 November</b>	National Conference Duxton Hotel, Wellington
2011	
<b>15 January</b>	Region 2 Waterway Challenge Carterton
<b>29 January</b>	Region 1 Waterway Challenge Turangi
<b>5 February</b>	Region 4 Waterway Challenge Oamaru
<b>12 February</b>	Region 3 Waterway Challenge Hokitika
<b>24 – 26 February</b>	National Waterway Challenge Carterton

## WHO DO I CONTACT?

UFBA Services Honours	Tearo Kelemete tearo@ufba.org.nz
Challenges & Rules	events@ufba.org.nz
Conference	events@ufba.org.nz
Fire Shop	Jasmine Holden jasmine@ufba.org.nz
Advocacy	George Verry george.verry@ufba.org.nz

## FERG'S PHOTOS

An interesting example of a firefighting appliance.....as taken by Sarah Taylor's partner working at the New Zealand exhibition at the World Expo in Shanghai....



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