PARTING WORDS FROM THE PRESIDENT

Lex Calder

It has been a fantastic journey over the last five years as part of the UFBA Governance Group. I have had a dream year as your President, cumulating with the just completed Annual Conference in Christchurch. This was due to the following:

- The way that Board has operated as a cohesive, effective and efficient unit
- The UFBA staff led by George Verry and Jane “going the extra mile” for the President, the Board and all of you the members
- The financial result
- The business plan
- All round open communications

The support given to and respect of the UFBA from Dame Margaret Bazley, NZFS Commission, NC/CEO Mike Hall, his Senior Management team of the NZF Service, cannot be underrated. The “input” from the Fire Brigade Institute. The “output” and excellent effort of the Technical Panel.

Thank you all for a year I and Eve will never forget. You, the members, have always made both of us very welcome at all the various functions we have attended. Friendships have been forged that hopefully will last a lifetime. Please do keep in touch.

To the UFBA staff, delegates, observers, organising committee of the Annual Conference, thank you for making it the success it undoubtedly and definitely turned out to be.

In closing it is hello from him (Ross Ditmer) and goodbye from me (the ‘has been’) and all the best to President Ross, Chairman Peter Drummond, the Board and staff of the UFBA.

Lex Calder

OPERATION REFORM IN CLOSING PHASE

The project to make-over the UFBA Rules is fast coming to an end. In a few days the new Rules, as approved at Conference, will be lodged with the Registrars of the Incorporated Societies and Charities Commission bringing to an end the year-long process.

“Work began immediately after delegates gave us a lead at Queenstown” says Chief Executive, George Verry, “and at that point, we decided it would be best to do a thorough review as to not only content, but also the format of our Rules. Once the process of gathering submissions, considering them and drafting had ended, we found we just had time to formally notify all brigades of the proposed changes as we approached Conference. Delegates responded positively in Christchurch and now we have a set of Rules and Regulations that will serve the organisation for many years. As well as the effort by UFBA office staff, lawyer John Hanning must be thanked, along with Past President Lex Calder and Board Member Ric Carlyon, both of whom led the Conference sessions which considered... and approved... the changes”.

The new UFBA Constitution and Rules and Regulations will be available on our website from 1 April which is the date of registration. At this point, it will be possible for member brigades to download and print these documents. Our plan is for these to be permanently available on our website but we will, of course, also provide paper copies to any member brigade upon request.
THE UFBA WELCOMES A NEW EVENTS MANAGER

Sarah Taylor

Following the departure of Christa Lawlor, who is moving into the field of communications, the UFBA has welcomed Sarah Taylor to the Office Staff as our Events Manager.

Sarah brings a variety of experience gained in both the venue industry and corporate events world. She has worked in venues including the Wellington Convention Centre, TSB Bank Arena and Vector Arena. For the past three years Sarah has been involved in the corporate events market as an in-house event manager at Harcourts Group and Clockwork Group as well as contracting to a variety of organisations including Corporate Events & Marketing, Current Events, Department of Corrections, the World of WearableArt, Cut the Mustard and Chameleon Events. Sarah is excited to take on the role of Events Manager at the UFBA and looks forward to the upcoming conference and future challenges.

ANNUAL CONFERENCE AND RCR CHALLENGE

The 2010 UFBA National Conference and RCR Challenge have both been voted highly successful events. The Canterbury Organising Committee did a wonderful job and thanks must go to them for all the hard work that they did to ensure the success of the event.

The overall atmosphere of this years’ Conference was positive and coupled with the fantastic venue space and over 290 brigades represented, 2010 was a resounding success. The sustainability of our firefighting workforce was the central theme and was introduced by Hon Nathan Guy, Minister of Internal Affairs, developed further by Dame Margaret Bazley, and endorsed by President Lex Calder, and NZFS CEO Mike Hall. It was the focus of the keynote speaker, Bernard Salt, a highly respected Australian demographics expert who delivered an interesting and challenging address.

The minutes from Day One and Day Two of Conference are now available online at www.ufba.org.nz and the Day Three minutes will be available once confirmed by the Board. Copies of speeches and presentations from Dame Margaret Bazley, Hon Nathan Guy, Bernard Salt and the Fire Service Forum may also be found on the website.

UFBA COMMUNICATION SURVEY

Take 10 minutes to complete the UFBA communications survey at www.ufba.org.nz (News Updates section) before Friday 16th April

The UFBA is on a mission to improve its communication with you, our members. To achieve this goal, we have contracted Christa Lawlor (our former Event Manager, but now an independent marketing consultant) to undertake an in-depth review of our internal and external communication strategies.

Her first step will be to conduct an independent and confidential 10-minute survey to assess what you think about how we currently communicate with you and what you’d like us to do differently. The survey will be sent electronically to every email address in our current database, and will also be accessible through an online link at www.ufba.org.nz in the News Updates section. If you would prefer not to complete it electronically, you can also fill out the paper survey enclosed and return it to the address printed on the form.

We want every firefighter to take part in the survey— from new members who haven’t yet had too much to do with the UFBA to CFOs— so please pass the word and forward the link around to as many other brigade members as you can.

This is your chance to give us your honest opinion. The input you provide will be used to evaluate the effectiveness of our print communications and to develop the new website, which we aim to have up in the coming months.

The survey is completely confidential, so don’t hold back. To protect the integrity of the survey, the system will only allow one response per person. Results of the survey will be available through the UFBA Website in mid-April.

If you have any enquiries or comments, please email Christa at christa.lawlor@gmail.com or phone her on 04 971 7887.

KEY DATES

Registrations for the following events will open via the UFBA website and brigades will be notified before registrations open through the newsletter. We recommend that you keep an eye on the website for any updates though!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>11 September</td>
<td>National Drivers Challenge</td>
<td>Ruapuna, Christchurch</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 October</td>
<td>National Combat Challenge</td>
<td>Cathedral Square, Christchurch</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27 – 29 November</td>
<td>National Conference</td>
<td>Duxton Hotel, Wellington</td>
</tr>
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Dates and locations of the Waterway events are on the UFBA website.
Thirteen teams took part in this year’s National RCR Challenge held over two days in Christchurch. Morrinsville Volunteer Fire Brigade (Andrew Lingard, Steven Hart, Steven Cryer, Kevin Hickey, Paul Livingstone, and Shayne Morgan) were the overall winners with Whitianga Volunteer Fire Brigade runners-up and winners of the Team Leader and Technical Trophies. Greytown Volunteer Fire Brigade came in third place and were winners of the Controlled, Immediate and Team Medic trophies.

A full summary of results are as follows:

**NZ Safety Trophy for the Overall Winners**
**Morrinsville:** Andrew Lingard, Steven Hart, Steven Cryer, Kevin Hickey, Paul Livingstone & Shayne Morgan

**Rescue 111 Shield for Best Team Leader**
**Whitianga:** Gary Mangin

**Chubb Fire & Safety Shield for the Entrapped Event** *(previously called Unlimited)*
**Cromwell:** Steve Coup, Rowan Dunnet, Nathan Clark, Chris Coudret, Shelley McKinnel, Murray Petrie

**Innovation Cup for Innovation** *(also known as the Spirit of the Challenge Cup)*
**Blenheim:** Mike Filed, Stacey Morrison, Tina Catttle, Kyle Johnstone, Bryan Simpson, Jeremy Simpson, Darrell Bate

**NZFS Cup for Best Medic**
**Greytown:** Sharon Cretney

**UFBA Limited Cup for the Controlled Event** *(previously called Limited)*
**Greytown:** Kerry Fenwick, Sharon Cretney, Geoffrey Allen, AJ Dawes, Reece De Menech, Tupoto Hayes, Dayle Thomas

**UFBA RCR Rapid Event Trophy for the Immediate Event** *(previously called Rapid)*
**Greytown:** Kerry Fenwick, Sharon Cretney, Geoffrey Allen, AJ Dawes, Reece De Menech, Tupoto Hayes, Dayle Thomas

**UFBA Technical Trophy**
**Whitianga:** Gary Mangin, Andrew Wilson, Roland Chaney, Max Day, Peter Mangin, Kelvin Spence

A big thank you to the Officials, Helpers and the Canterbury Organising Committee for putting together a fantastic challenge in Christchurch.
The Firefighter Combat Challenge has gained enormous attention among firefighters over the past two years and the UFBA is pleased to announce that there will be a National Combat Challenge held in Christchurch on Saturday October 2. This is likely to be a user-pays event - further details to follow.

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

**Gold Stars**

**January**
- Ian Thomas  
  Kaiapoi

**February**
- Ian Blunt  
  Omokoroa
- Michael Thomas  
  Otematata
- Grant McDowall  
  Palmerston North
- Kerry Williams  
  Palmerston North
- David Brockbank  
  Te Awamutu
- Barry Ross  
  Waihi Beach
- Graham Heaphy  
  Westport
- Adrian Lineham  
  Westport

**March**
- Donald Darling  
  Coromandel
- Ashley Woon  
  Havelock North
- Douglas Robinson  
  Kaeo
- Mark Merrie  
  Mangatangi
- Gary Heslip  
  Pukerau
- Ross Muir  
  Pukerau
- Tim Houpapa  
  Te Kuiti

**CONGRATULATIONS AND WELCOME TO NEW OFFICERS OF THE UFBA**

The new Officers of the UFBA are:

**UFBA Board**
- Chris Price  
  Patrick Fitzell

**UFBA Technical Panel**
- Rob Dixon

**NZFBI**
- Allen Bestwick

A brief summary of their experience and photos will be published in the next newsletter.

**DID YOU KNOW?**

The Romans were renowned for much of their engineering work, so it comes as a surprise to discover that there is no word for “engineer” in the Latin language. This piece of information came to light when the first students graduated in fire engineering from the University of Edinburgh in 1975. University of Edinburgh degrees are written in Latin so it was necessary for the subject “fire engineering” to be translated. The best the experts could come up with was Scientiae Incendiorum, which appears to be “the science of fire”.

In our November 2009 newsletter, we advised that the Board is planning to hold the 132nd Annual Conference, for the financial year ending 30th June 2010, in November of 2010. At the 2010 Annual Conference held in February, we confirmed to delegates that the next Conference will be held at The Duxton Hotel, Saturday 27 November to Monday 29 November inclusive. Further details will follow in due course.