



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

FROM THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS – MAY 2010

“OUR STRENGTH IS OUR UNITY”

“KIA KAHA KIA KOTAHI RA”

FROM THE PRESIDENT



Ross Ditmer

Since the last newsletter, I have had the honour of presenting a 50 year medal to Kevin Drummond, CFO, Waiuku Volunteer Fire Brigade. The function was attended by NZFS Commission Chairperson Dame Margaret Bazley, FRM Brian Butt as well as other distinguished guests and friends and family of Kevin.

I also attended a luncheon for recipients of Royal Honours in Wellington on April 30th. The recipients - FRM Owen Kinsella, AM Roy Breeze, AM Gary Talbot, AAM Martin Berryman and SO Gary Talbot from the Bay/Waikato Region - all received Queens Service Medals. Retired Volunteer Firefighter Bob Brown from the Stoke Volunteer Fire Brigade also received a QSM for 52 years of service. Also recognised at the luncheon was Peter Drummond, Chairman of the UFBA Board. Peter received the New Zealand Order of Merit (MNZM) for his services to the community spanning a number of years. On behalf of all the members of the UFBA, I express my congratulations to all of these gentlemen on receiving their awards.

I attended the West Coast Provincial Fire Brigades Annual Conference on Saturday 8th May at Runanga and it was good to see a strong turn out of delegates and life members. It was also great to be able to present some positive initiatives that the UFBA are in the process of implementing over the next few months. The launch of the new website is on top of the list of changes, along with other exciting developments and I look forward to your comments as these are released.

Finally I look forward to catching up with more of you over the next few weeks with more Provincial Conferences and the National Challenges in September and October.

OUR MEMBERS HAVE SPOKEN

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.

NEW WEBSITE COMING SOON....

We're working hard to get the new website up by the end of June. We can't wait to show you the refreshed look, improved functionality, and some great new features.

In support of our members and the launch of the website, Swazi and Telecom have come to the party with some sweet prizes. To be entered to win those prizes, all you'll need to do is go to the UFBA website between the 1st of July and the 31st of August and set up your member ID and password. By doing that, you'll be automatically entered to win. Stay tuned.

NATIONAL DRIVERS CHALLENGE

Firefighters interested in competing at the 2010 National Drivers Challenge at Ruapuna on September 11 will be able to register online through the UFBA website from Tuesday 8 June until Friday 13 August.

Continued...

FIRE SERVICE CANTEENS

The Law Commission did not go along with the main theme in the UFBA and NZ Fire Service Commission's joint submission about licensing canteens on fire stations.

Law Commission President, Sir Geoffrey Palmer, recently released its final report "Alcohol in our lives: Curbing the harm". He disagreed with the UFBA/NZFSC submission advocating the status quo for Fire Brigade canteens, thus continuing their current exemption from licensing provisions, etc, under the Sale of Liquor Act. Sir Geoffrey says while it's a contentious issue, he considers that canteens on police and fire stations should be licensed and treated as Clubs. This category does not require a manager on-site when there are fewer than 20 people present. Sir Geoffrey suggests that new legislation should enable the Fire Service Commission to act as licensee for all Fire Service canteens.

The Commission's recommendations are being considered by the Government and there will be further opportunity to make submissions once proposed legislation is being considered by a Select Committee.

CHANGES TO FIRE POLICE

UFBA submissions to the Fire Service Commission are being finalised, including the replacement name for Fire Police. "Fire Support Unit", "Fire and Rescue Support Team" and "Operations Support Squad" are suggested names for the entity, but what are those who belong to the Unit called? "Supporters" or "Squaddies" don't quite cut it, somehow. Chief Executive Officer George Verry is looking for and welcomes all suggestions – email him at george.verry@ufba.org.nz

RURAL FIRE FORCES IN SUPER CITY

The UFBA heard concerns from a number of Rural Fire Forces in Auckland, worried about implications of the Super City concept, which is likely to result in a single Rural Fire Authority. A submission has been drafted addressed to the Transition Agency, suggesting Rural Fire Forces be allowed to continue to provide emergency services for their urban/rural communities, just as many of them do now, but properly recognised and funded. It's thought this template might be usefully deployed elsewhere in New Zealand where a Rural Fire Force, on the urban fringe, responds to a range of emergency incidents, including structure fires, motor vehicle accidents and medical cases.

IMPLEMENTATION OF OSM

Changes to OSM that were announced at Conference by NZFS Executives have been incorporated in the amended scheme. It was also advised that there'll be further periodic reviews. The UFBA is represented on the appropriate committee so any further suggestions to refine OSM should be forwarded to Chief Executive Officer George Verry.

FIREFIGHTER COMBAT CHALLENGE UPDATE

Firefighter Combat Challenge is coming on Saturday 2 October. At this stage, we envisage the following sections will be: Open Male, Open Female, Over 40, and Over 50.

If you are interested in competing in a Novice section, please contact the UFBA at events@ufba.org.nz and we will consider adding this section. The UFBA website will have further information as it is confirmed in late May. Registrations will open in mid-June.

The Firefighter Combat Challenge will be largely a self-funded event for competitors and registration cost will be kept to a minimum in order for the UFBA to cover the costs of putting the event together.

2011 WATERWAY CHALLENGE SEASON

The dates for the 2011 Waterway Challenge have been confirmed. Get your team together and start training now!!

Region 2	Carterton	15 January 2011
Region 1	Turangi	29 January 2011
Region 4	Oamaru	4 February 2011
Region 3	Hokitika	12 February 2011

National Waterway Challenge
Carterton
24 – 26 February 2011

CONFERENCE BRIGADE NAMEPLATES

The UFBA had new nameplates made for each brigade prior to the February Annual Conference. If your Brigade would like their old one back, please send a pre-paid self-addressed A3 courier bag to the UFBA – Attention Nameplates and your Brigade plate will be sent back to you.

Please note, that a number of nameplates were collected at conference in Christchurch – please check with your conference delegate before contacting the UFBA.

WOULD YOU LIKE TO HOST THE 2011 UFBA NATIONAL CONFERENCE?

The UFBA is now calling for Expressions of Interest from Brigades wishing to host the 2011 National Conference.

A document with the minimum requirements for hosting along with guidelines for submissions is available for download from the UFBA website. If you would like further information, please contact Sarah in the office on 04 237 2686 or email events@ufba.org.nz

Proposals will need to be submitted for to the UFBA no later than Friday 6 August 2010.

THE PATRON'S PONDERINGS



Patron Emrys Evans

It has been suggested that as Patron of the Association, I might contribute something on the lighter side to the monthly newsletter under the heading of "The Patron's Ponderings".

Having a rather quirky sense of humour, here is a sample of items I've heard or read about lately that have tickled my fancy:

The most modern prison in the USA has introduced for occupants of death row a selection of healthy heart salads to have with their last meal!

A well known Hollywood actress liked her sixth husband so much she kept him an extra fortnight!

Frank Sinatra once remarked "I feel sorry for people who don't drink. When they wake up in the morning, that's as good as they are going to feel all day".

David Barry (whoever he was) stated "Without question, the greatest invention in the history of mankind is wine. Oh, I grant you that the wheel was also a great invention but the wheel does not go nearly as well with eye fillet steak!"

And finally, did you hear about the young lady in the Tawa Volunteer Fire Brigade who forgot to turn her electric blanket off – now she's the toast of the town!

VOLUNTEER AWARENESS WEEK 20-26 JUNE 2010

Did you know that Volunteer Awareness Week is coming up?

Did you know that it's a great opportunity to promote your brigade?

Last year, the week was heavily promoted all around the country in the media, so it's to your advantage to promote your brigade while it's in the forefront of people's minds. If your brigade is planning something special for the week, we'd love to hear about it. Send a quick email to jane@ufba.org.nz with the details.

REMINDER – CONFERENCE REGISTRATION PROCESS

In the April newsletter we explained the new conference registration process. For those that missed the update, in line with the recent rule changes that were passed at the February Conference, potential delegates will now be required to complete a UFBA Conference Notification of Delegate Form. Copies were sent out with the April newsletter and are also available for download from the UFBA website. The forms must be completed and returned to the UFBA office no later than 27 October 2010 (one month prior to conference).

A reminder also that those delegates who choose to register 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.

Registrations will open in early September for all delegates, observers and partners.

TRAINING UPDATE TIME TO CONSULT

NZFS National Training team have developed a draft document, *Training Procedures for Volunteer Staff*, which sets out the framework for volunteer training and the TAPS programme. This follows on from the development of a similar process for career staff. The framework addresses the principles, roles and responsibilities, and delivery of TAPS training. This will become the key reference for the delivery of TAPS training.

Volunteers have been asked to contribute to the consultation process to ensure the framework reflects the needs and reality of volunteer training.

If you would like a copy of the document email judithms@paradise.net.nz

Deadline for feedback is 7 June to Judith Stanley, as UFBA representative on the Training Standards Committee, to enable her to compile the UFBA response, which will be forwarded to National Training.

This is an opportunity to highlight any concerns or provide constructive opportunities which will lead to improvements in volunteer fire and rescue training.

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	
8 June	Drivers Challenge Registration Opens
6 August	Expressions of Interest for Conference 2011 close
13 August	Drivers Challenge Registration Closes
27 August	Conference Forms Due: Notices of Remit Nomination for Vice President Nomination for Board Nomination for Technical Panel
10 & 11 September	National Drivers Challenge Ruapuna, Christchurch
2 October	National Firefighter 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
4 February	Region 4 Waterway Challenge Oamaru
12 February	Region 3 Waterway Challenge Hokitika
24-26 February	National Waterway Challenge Carterton

UFBA SERVICE HONOURS MAY 2010

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

Gold Stars

Rueben Tauroa	Huntermville
Shane Voelkerling	Huntermville
Howard Williams	Oamarama
Ross Agnew	Ward

50 Year Medal

Grahame Jensen	Marton
----------------	--------



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

TELL US A STORY

Our members want to know more about what other members are doing, and so do we. Part of improving communications is telling the stories members want to hear, so help us out by sharing yours.

Got an interesting, wacky, emotional, inspiring or exciting story to tell about you or one of your fellow brigade members? Or maybe you just have an idea of a topic you'd like to see covered. Tell us about it! We'll share the story with other brigades throughout the country and could even get your story picked up in the media – great exposure for your brigade.

You don't have to write the story yourself, just send a lead or story idea to jane@ufba.org.nz and we'll get in contact with you to follow it up.

FERG'S PHOTOS

Ian Ferguson, Sarah Taylor's partner, is working at the New Zealand exhibit at the World Expo in Shanghai, China. He has seen some amazing sights and has forwarded the photo below for your interest.



Fire hydrants at the ready outside the Expo site