



U.F.B.A

UNITED FIRE BRIGADES'
ASSOCIATION OF NEW ZEALAND

MINUTES - DAY ONE

Official opening of the 137th Annual Conference of the United Fire Brigades' Association (Inc) held at the TSB Arena in Wellington on Friday 13 November 2015.

The Mana Whenua welcomed the delegation to Conference. On behalf of delegates, Joe Manukau responded with return greetings. He was supported with a waiata performed by a support group of individuals.

The Conference adjourned for lunch at 12:30 hours, for 30 minutes.

At 13:35 hours President Adie officially declared open the 137th Annual Conference of the United Fire Brigades' Association. The delegates were asked to stand for the National Anthem.

Blessing over the Conference

They remained standing while Pastor Adam White of the Paraparaumu Volunteer Fire Brigade gave a blessing.

President Adie then welcomed the delegates to Conference, and thanked Mana Whenua and Pastor Adam White.

Theme of Conference

The theme of the 2015 Conference is "Sustainability through Diversity" which will focus on how to create better brigades and teams through strong and innovative leadership and management.

Host Committee Welcome

Major David Ackroyd from the Conference Organising Committee addressed Conference, acknowledging the enormous amount of work the Events Team and Committee had put in to organising the Conference and associated events, and thanked them for their contribution.

Address from Deputy Mayor of Wellington

Deputy Mayor of Wellington, Justin Lester welcomed attendees to Wellington and wished everyone an enjoyable Conference and time in the capital city.

Obituaries

Vice President Russell Anderson read the official obituary list which was followed by a moment's silence in respect for those who had passed away during the year.

Rank	First Name	Surname	Brigade
Retired Chief Fire Officer	John	McCraw	Alexandra Volunteer Fire Brigade
Retired Fire Officer	Danny	Tohill	Alexandra Volunteer Fire Brigade
Retired Senior Firefighter	Maurie	Mellor	Arrowtown Volunteer Fire Brigade
Retired Chief Fire Officer & OSPFBA Past President	Earnest	Muir QFSM	Balclutha Volunteer Fire Brigade
Retired Chief Fire Officer & OSPFBA Past President	Bert	Horrell	Balfour Volunteer Fire Brigade
Retired Senior Firefighter	Des	Bristow	Bluff Volunteer Fire Brigade
Retired Deputy Chief Fire Officer	Ken	Gleghorn	Brunner Volunteer Fire Brigade
Senior Firefighter	John	Bowen	Bulls Volunteer Fire Brigade
Retired General Manager (Southern) & OSPFBA Past President	Peter	Weeks QFSM	Christchurch
Station Officer	Robert Edward (Shep)	Shepherd	Coromandel Volunteer Fire Brigade
UFBA Past President	Robert (Bob)	Crowley QFSM	Feilding Volunteer Fire Brigade
Retired Senior Firefighter	Alfred	Jones	Granity Volunteer Fire Brigade
UFBA Past President/Patron	Emrys Griffith	Evans QFSM	Hamilton Area
Retired Senior Firefighter	Les	Truman	Hastings
Retired Chief Fire Officer	Owen	Hodgson	Kaikohe Volunteer Fire Brigade
Retired Deputy Chief Fire Officer	William (Bill)	Eliason	Kaponga Volunteer Fire Brigade
Retired Fire Fighter	John	Spring	Kaponga Volunteer Fire Brigade
Life Member	Jack Truscott (Jock)	Mitchell QFSM	Katikati Volunteer Fire Brigade
Retired Senior Station Officer	Magnus	Coutts	Levin Volunteer Fire Brigade
Retired Firefighter	Vic	White	Laingholm Volunteer Fire Brigade
Retired Station Officer	Alan	Kelly	Lincoln Volunteer Fire Brigade
OS Senior Firefighter	Andi	Jackson	Manly Volunteer Fire Brigade
Retired Station Officer	Tom	Lawlor	Marton Volunteer Fire Brigade
Life Member	Kerry	McKinley	Matamata Volunteer Fire Brigade
Retired Area Commander	Paul	McQuillan QFSM	Nelson Volunteer Fire Brigade
Retired Senior Station Officer	Albert	Squire	New Plymouth Operational Support
Qualified Firefighter	Michael	Masson	Omokoroa Volunteer Fire Brigade
Retired Senior Firefighter	Peter Barton	Tapp	Palmerston North Fire Brigade
Retired Chief Fire Officer	William Ernest	Brazier QFSM	Paraparaumu Volunteer Fire Brigade
Retired Chief Fire Officer	Bruce	French	Ranfurly Volunteer Fire Brigade
Retired District Officer	Ron	Bell QFSM	Ravensbourne Volunteer Fire Brigade
Retired Chief Fire Officer	Roger	Williams	Richmond Volunteer Fire Brigade
Retired Deputy Chief Fire Officer	Desmond	Lapham	Riverton Volunteer Fire Brigade
Retired Chief Fire Officer	Ron	Winslow	Riverton Volunteer Fire Brigade
Retired Station Officer	Graham	Barnes	Ross Volunteer Fire Brigade
Retired Chief Fire Officer	Les	Gilmore MNZM	Ross Volunteer Fire Brigade
Retired Station Officer	Ronald	Elston	Runanga Volunteer Fire Brigade
Retired Deputy Chief Fire Officer	Eric	Jordan	Stratford Volunteer Fire Brigade
Retired Station Officer	Colin Kenneth	Platt	Sumner Volunteer Fire Brigade
Retired Station Officer and Life Member	Russ	Kerr	Sumner Volunteer Fire Brigade
	Creighton John	Chestnut	Taihape Volunteer Fire Brigade
Life Honorary Member	Thomas James Edmond (Jim)	Vernon QSM	Taihape Volunteer Fire Brigade
Deputy Chief Fire Officer	Kevin	Hebberd	Takaka Volunteer Fire Brigade

Rank	First Name	Surname	Brigade
President and Patron, and Retired Chief Fire Officer	Barrie	O'Donnell QFSM	Taranaki Provincial Fire Brigades Association/ Retired Stratford Brigade'
Retired Qualified Fire Fighter	David	Greenwood	Tauranga Fire Brigade
Firefighter	Roderick (Rick)	Miller	Turangi Volunteer Fire Brigade
Retired Chief Fire Officer	Earl	Jamieson	Turua Volunteer Fire Brigade
Retired Firefighter	Ivan	Miller	Waikaka Volunteer Fire Brigade
Retired Senior Firefighter	Doug	Kelly	Waikouaiti Volunteer Fire Brigade
Retired Senior Firefighter	Geoffrey Herbert	Rentoul	Wairau Valley Volunteer Fire Brigade
Retired Chief Fire Officer	Willem	Molenaar	Wainuiomata Volunteer Fire Brigade
Station Officer - Fire Police	Ken	Rogers	Waipu Volunteer Fire Brigade
Operational Support	Dick	Tippett	Wallacetown Volunteer Fire Brigade
Senior Station Officer	Warren	Bates	Wanaka Volunteer Fire Brigade
Retired Qualified Fire Fighter	Wayne	Gadsby QSM	Wanganui Fire Brigade
Retired Station Officer	Robert (Bob)	Varley	West Harbour (Waitemata) Volunteer Fire Brigade
Retired Third Officer	Raymond	Jeffrey	Winton Volunteer Fire Brigade
Retired Fire Police	Rex	Hankey	Wyndham Volunteer Fire Brigade

New Zealand Honours 2015

Vice President Russell Anderson congratulated those in the list of Royal Honours.

New Year's Honours 2015 – The Queen's Service Medal

Raymond Gardner Peter Hallagan Wayne Hurunui Keith Norton Brian Watters

Queen's Birthday Honours 2015 – The Queen's Service Medal

Leonard Hughes Murray Lamb Colin McKenna Lindsay Spooner

Introduction of UFBA Officers and Board

President Adie introduced the Board and Vice President as follows:

Chairman Rick Braddock	Deputy Chairman Nigel Lilley
Director Bill Butzbach	Director Glenn Williams
Director Matt Cleaver	Vice President Russell Anderson
Chief Executive Officer George Verry	

The following Past Presidents were welcomed to Conference:

Alan Cockburn	Alan Burgess	Lex Calder
Barry Bridges	Brian Hunter	Brian Schimanski
Brian Watters	Bryan Styles	Colin (Toss) Kitchen
Daryl Forrest	Dave McFarlane	Erich Speck
Garry Stanley	Graeme Booth	Ian Lindsay
John Grenfell	Max Robinson	Merv George
Peter Guard	Ray Topia	Ray Brokenshire
Richard Davidson	Ross Ditmer	

The following UFBA Life Honorary Members were welcomed to Conference:

Dame Margaret Bazley	Pat Fitzell	Peter Lockery
Peter Drummond	Ric Carlyon	Sandy Lawson

Apologies

The President called for apologies. The following apologies were noted:

The Right Honourable John Key
Don Hallett
Chris Price
PP of NZFBI Tony Swain

Mayor Celia Wade-Brown
Alan Proctor
Bryan Stanley
Colin Kilpatrick

MOTION: That the apologies be accepted.

Moved: Eamonn Ganley, Oban
Seconded: Murray Blogg, Temuka

The Motion was CARRIED.

Confirmation of the 2014 AGM minutes

MOTION: That the minutes of the 2014 Annual General Meeting are confirmed as a true and accurate record of proceedings.

Moved: James Hazlett, Ranfurly
Seconded: PP Brian Schimanski

The Motion was CARRIED

Election of Scrutineers

MOTION: That Past Presidents Brian Hunter, Daryl Forrest, Ross Ditmer and Merv George be elected as scrutineers for the duration of the Conference and their decisions to be taken as final.

Moved: Daryl Sayer, Sumner
Seconded: Evan Taylor, Titirangi

The Motion was CARRIED.

Address from Minister of Internal Affairs

President Adie welcomed Hon Peter Dunne to Conference.

The Minister expressed his delight and privilege to be in attendance at today's Conference. The Minister acknowledged the dignitaries present, and then reflected on his attendance at the previous Conference in Tauranga where he referred to the Government's response to the Swain Review into the fire services that was carried out in 2013.

Since then, he said, a major Government discussion paper was released setting out options for reforming the fire services. He had held 35 meetings with various stakeholders around the country, and around 235 public submissions were received on the future shape, direction and funding of the fire services.

Minister Dunne chose the UFBA Conference to announce for the first time details of the new organisation for fire services, including:

- A strong message in favour of change had been received, with an emphasis on the strong link between the fire services and their communities
- Revised mandate of fire service roles in activities such as urban search and rescue, motor vehicle accidents and extrications and other emergency services which it currently has no legal mandate for.

- Volunteer, career, urban and rural firefighters will be brought together in one, integrated, new national fire service
- New national body will be responsible for resourcing fire services, training and professional standards
- The importance of a strong regional voice in the fire services reflected by a network of regional committees will be established.
- This move strengthens both rural and urban services to deliver consistency across the country
- Greater emphasis on volunteer aspects of the fire services
- Aims to have the new fire service in place by mid-2017

The Minister then referred to recent media coverage regarding bullying at certain brigades. He says the New Zealand Fire Service has already been working hard to eradicate this, and the new organisation will be tasked with ensuring that all staff work more effectively together.

The Minister concluded by reiterating the need to combine new directions with those aspects of the fire services which currently are doing very well. He also said the whole service must work together to find a sensible way forward that will deliver the best outcome for our communities.

President Adie thanked the Minister for his attendance and address, and reinforced the support of the UFBA throughout the process.

A copy of the Ministers address will be made available after the close of Conference.

Address from Chair of the New Zealand Fire Service Commission

President Adie welcomed Rt Hon Wyatt Creech to the stage. Mr Creech thanked the delegation for the opportunity to speak, and acknowledged the dignitaries in attendance.

Referring to Minister Dunne's announcement, Mr Creech gave assurance that the New Zealand Fire Service Commission will make every effort to support the Government, and Parliament's decisions regarding the review of the fire services. The model announced today, he said, will create a greater input for regional decision making through a collaboration of services. The key aspect of the review is to get the funding arrangements for the fire service fit for purpose for now, and in the future.

The New Zealand Fire Service Commission is pleased with the progress that has been made in building effective relationships with stakeholders over the past few years. The settled environment has created the atmosphere for the review to progress. Mr Creech noted that we will achieve more if we work together constructively.

Mr Creech acknowledged the contribution the volunteers make to New Zealand communities, and remarked that the service is as good and effective as anywhere else in the world.

The New Zealand Fire Service is developing a range of nationwide initiatives focused on leadership. Mr Creech reinforced the message that bullying and harassment will not be tolerated by the Commission or Senior Management in the Fire Service, and strong brigades are complimented by strong leadership.

Notwithstanding, the New Zealand Fire Service Commission will continue to look at ways to support volunteers and their employers, and at this time would like to extend their gratitude to the families and supporters of the volunteer staff.

Mr Creech concluded his speech by saying it has been a privilege to have served as the New Zealand Fire Service Commission Chairman, and he also acknowledges his fellow Commission members. Mr Creech looks forward to working with the UFBA on the review announced by the Minister today.

President's Annual Report

President Adie summarised his report which is printed in the UFBA Annual Report. The President played a slideshow of pictures showing the highlights of his term as President. He also took the opportunity to thank the delegates and brigades for their support during his term.

MOTION: That the President's report be adopted as circulated.

Moved: PP Graeme Booth

Seconded: Michael Sparrow, Maramarua Rural

The Motion was **CARRIED**.

Report of the Board of Directors including Financial Statements

Chairman Rick Braddock welcomed dignitaries present, and then spoke about the honour of chairing the UFBA Board and acknowledged the actions and advice from Board members during his term over the past 3 years.

He reiterated the key points in his address printed in the annual report. He also took the opportunity to address the Minister's earlier announcement regarding the review of the fire service. He acknowledged Murray McKee and Bill Butzbach for their contributions towards the UFBA response which was submitted on behalf of the membership after a consultation process.

The Chairman spoke to the current financial position of the UFBA, and expressed appreciation to the New Zealand Fire Service for their funding support.

The Chairman concluded his address by voicing appreciation to the UFBA Board, the New Zealand Fire Service Commission, and to the UFBA Membership for their participation in UFBA activities. The Chairman also made reference to the UFBA Management Team, in particular to George Verry and Ceara Owen-Perry for the success of the events programme in its busiest year.

MOTION: That the UFBA Annual Report and Financial Statements be adopted as circulated.

Moved: Rick Braddock, Chairman

Seconded: Dennis Hika, Invercargill

The Motion was **CARRIED**.

Patron's Address

President Adie welcomed UFBA Patron Dame Margaret Bazley to address the delegation.

Dame Margaret took to the stage, and expressed her pride in being here today as Patron. Dame Margaret mentioned her delight with the Ministers earlier announcement regarding the review of fire services, and congratulated him on the outcome. She felt it was a victory for the UFBA, who has strongly advocated towards the proposed changes for some time. She said, the UFBA is well placed with a strong governance structure to lead the organisation through the upcoming changes.

Dame Margaret acknowledged former Patrons Garry Stanley and the late Emrys Evans, and remarked that she had "big shoes to fill".

The address ended with applause from delegates. President Adie thanked Dame Margaret for her continuing support to the UFBA.

Benevolent Fund Report

President Adie invited Alan Cockburn, Chair of the Benevolent Fund to address Conference.

Mr Cockburn presented the report on behalf of the Benevolent Fund Trustees, for the financial year ended 30 June 2015. Mr Cockburn took the opportunity to express the great sadness of the passing of Emrys Evans, and acknowledged his services to the UFBA.

Mr Cockburn said that throughout the year, 16 applications were received and ex gratia payments of \$23,300 were allocated.

He mentioned that member contributions have not increased over many years and he foreshadowed a remit later in Conference on this matter.

Mr Cockburn thanked the Benevolent Fund Trustees for their contribution over the past year, and also to UFBA CEO George Verry and Jane Davie for their efficient support.

MOTION: That the Benevolent Fund report and financial statements be adopted as circulated.

Moved: PP Alan Cockburn
Seconder: PP Ray Brokenshire

The Motion was CARRIED.

Prior to departing the stage, Mr Cockburn raised with the delegation that while applications towards funeral expenses can be lodged, they will only be considered if there is extreme hardship.

Appointment of UFBA Auditors

MOTION: That Grant Thornton be appointed as the UFBA Auditor for the 2015-2016 financial year.

Moved: Shaun Sayer, Foxton
Seconded: Ewen Heron, Wainuiomata

The Motion was CARRIED.

Confirmation of Membership Subscriptions

MOTION: That UFBA membership subscription fees remain the same for the 2015 financial year.

Moved: Hamish Adie, Dannevirke
Seconded: Mark Fowler, Hastings

The Motion was CARRIED.

Review of 2014 Conference Remits

President Adie gave a review of the Remits passed at the November 2014 Conference.

Remit #1 – Amendment to the Model Rules of Association 2008

Mover: Stratford Volunteer Fire Brigade
Seconder: Eltham Volunteer Fire Brigade

MOTION: That Rule 9.3 of the Model Rules of Association 2008 be amended as follows:

FROM: Parental leave may be granted by the Chief Fire Officer to any Member for a total of up to 15 months (taken consecutively). The parental leave granted may include a period of no more than 4 weeks prior to the Member or Members' spouse/partner giving birth to a child.

TO: Parental leave may be granted by the Chief Fire Officer to any Member for a total of up to 15 months (taken consecutively). The parental leave period may commence any time from the beginning of the Member or Members' spouse/partner's pregnancy.

After discussion, the motion was CARRIED.

Chief Executive Officer George Verry spoke to this motion, as there has been agreement with the New Zealand Fire Service to place this amendment on hold pending the implications of the Fire Service review.

Remit #2 – Expanding the PPE Matrix

Mover: Takaka Volunteer Fire Brigade

Seconder: Woodend Volunteer Fire Brigade

MOTION: That they UFBA make submissions to the New Zealand Fire Service to have LED helmet torches and level 1 jackets placed on the PPE matrix as standard issue to all frontline firefighters.

After discussion, the motion was CARRIED.

Chief Executive Officer George Verry spoke to this motion, and remarked that the remit has been lodged and is in progress.

Voting Numbers

The voting numbers were confirmed as:

Delegates	199
Proxies	14
TOTAL	213
Required to elect	107

As the proceedings of the day were running ahead of schedule, the President then declared there was time to move onto the remits for this year's Conference.

Notice of Motion

Remit #1 – Increase of Annual Contribution to UFBA Benevolent Fund

MOTION: That the annual contribution to the UFBA Benevolent Fund be increased from \$2 per brigade member to \$5 per brigade member per annum: this is to come into effect with the New Zealand Fire Service grant payable on 15 October 2016.

Moved: UFBA Board

Seconded: Robert Palmer, Diamond Harbour

The Motion was CARRIED.

The acceptance of the motion was met with applause. Alan Cockburn took to the stage and thanked delegates for their support.

The conference adjourned for afternoon tea at 15:23 hours and reconvened at 16:00 hours.

Continued Notice of Motion

Remit #2 – Clarification of UFBA Regulation 3.1

MOTION: The UFBA Board seeks confirmation and clarification, and to include in UFBA Policy:

- a) That Regulation 3.1 as altered at the Wellington 2010 Conference, in saying “any Enrolled Member who has served in an organisation recognised by the Fire Service Commission” recognises service by women who were Enrolled Members prior to 1979, whether in volunteer, rural, forestry, military or industrial brigades.
- b) That, if the interpretation of the regulation is accepted as in point (a) above, regulation 2.4 and 2.6 will apply so that all enrolled female members, including those enrolled prior to 1979,

are eligible for service awards whether still serving, retired or deceased, as long as they meet the criteria as outlined in UFBA Regulations 2 and 3.

Moved: UFBA Board
Carried: Eamonn Ganley, Oban

The Motion was CARRIED.

Ric Carlyon took to the floor and asked delegates to support this remit which clarified eligibility for service awards for particularly, women brigade members whenever they had served. The acceptance of the remit was met with applause.

Auckland Provincial

Debbie Neilson, President of the Auckland Provincial Association addressed the delegation.

Wellington Provincial

Lyle Haste, President of the Wellington Provincial Association addressed the delegation.

The Conference adjourned at 16:25 hours, to resume again at 08:30 hours on Saturday the 14th of November.