



**U.F.B.A**

UNITED FIRE BRIGADES'  
ASSOCIATION OF NEW ZEALAND

## **MINUTES - DAY THREE**

### **Official opening of the 137<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference of the United Fire Brigades' Association (Inc) held at the TSB Arena in Wellington on Sunday 15 November 2015.**

At 08:33 hours, President Adie called the Conference to order.

#### ***Confirmation of Minutes from Day Two***

Amendments to the minutes were as follows:

- Page 1 – amend footer to “day two”
- Page 4 – third paragraph – correct spelling “summitted” to “submitted”

**MOTION:** That the minutes taken on Day Two be adopted subject to the amendments listed above being made.

Moved: Hamish Adie, Dannevirke

Seconded: Alan Hemsley, Canterbury Provincial Association

The Motion was CARRIED.

#### ***National Rural Fire Officer Address***

Kevin O'Connor addressed the delegates. Mr O'Connor focused his address on the Fire Service Review, which supported yesterday's discussion and highlighted the need for everyone to be committed and positive towards the process.

Mr O'Connor closed his address by congratulating the delegates for all the work they do.

#### ***New Zealand Fire Service Sports Council***

Paul Clements addressed the delegates on the recent activities of the sports council. Mr Clements noted that the Sports Council is already following the integrated model that the Fire Service will become. He urged the delegates to lodge funding applications if required for sporting events, and to also consider nominations for the sports person of the year.

#### ***Announcement of 2016 Conference Location***

Canterbury Provincial Vice President Warren Maslin announced that the 138<sup>th</sup> UFBA Annual Conference will be hosted by the Canterbury Provincial, held in Christchurch.

Mr Maslin spoke about the benchmark that has been set at this Annual Conference. A short video was played to the delegates showing the highlights of the Canterbury region.

### ***UFBA Strategic Direction***

Chief Executive Officer George Verry addressed the delegates about the strategic direction of the UFBA. Mr Verry referred to work done on a strategic level to ensure UFBA was fit for purpose and noted the development of a 3 year business plan that will support the strategic plan and supporting actions.

The delegates were urged to note changes in society and ensure these were acknowledged in recruiting and managing brigade personnel.

He completed his address by saying while it has been an exceptionally busy year, the UFBA will remain focused on being fit for the future and meeting membership needs.

Mr Verry closed his address by acknowledging the UFBA office team, and the Board. He thanked the delegation for their support and camaraderie.

### ***Challenges Committee and Technical Panel Forum***

President Adie handed over to Deputy Chairman Nigel Lilley to welcome the Challenges Committee to the stage.

Mr Lilley gave a brief address, and then introduced Joe Manihera, Convenor of the Technical Panel to speak to the annual report.

A question and answer session then took place, with the Convenor of the Technical Panel answering questions that were raised by the delegates. The questions and answers were as follows:

***Q: When are the Technical Panel going to stop changing Waterway rules?***

***Raised by Silverdale VFB***

***A: The Technical Panel face two constraint issues. Firstly, the teams often interrupt the rules differently. This means the wording has to be modified for clarification purposes. Secondly, the old format of waterways had a much longer time period to evolve. With the new format came the old mind-set that any poor team performance could be remedied by way of 'protest'. The answer lies within the waterways teams – when teams present us with a need not to change the rules, then we won't.***

***Q: At the last National Waterway Challenge, the acting Convenor called a meeting of the team captains. He addressed them in a manner that would have disqualified any team if they behaved like that on the track.***

***Raised by Silverdale VFB***

***A: The Technical Panel spoke with the acting Convenor about this particular issue. Despite the convenor's frustrations with the behaviour of the teams, on reflection he realised the situation could have, and should have been handled more diplomatically.***

***Q: We would like clarification on a Waterway Challenge rule. Specifically around having more than one 2 person team from a brigade being entered in a Waterway Challenge. What benefit does having two 2 person teams from one brigade have compared to promoting the 4 person event?***

***Raised by the West Coast Provincial Fire Brigade Association***

***A: At a UFBA Waterway Challenge, brigades can enter 2x two person teams. Simplistic as it may seem, getting four person together for training sessions can be more problematic than getting two separate two person teams. We leave the make-up of teams to suit their particular situations.***

*It has to be remembered that Provincial and Sub Associations can deviate from and flex the rules to suit their situations. The rules are not a universal fit and in many situations, it actually makes sense to override them.*

**Q: Under the UFBA Regulation 9.10 – ‘The Judicial Committee for all the Challenges shall comprise:**

**9.10.1 The President or a nominated representative**

**9.10.2 One Board Member; and**

**9.10.3 The Technical Panel**

***There is concern that this is not being followed.***

***Raised by Morrinsville VFB***

**A:** *This regulation has already come to the attention of the Technical Panel and the Panel have already requested it be amended. They had identified the President may not be the best fit for the Committee. In discussing this with the Board, they are not interested in being represented on the Committee. This remains work in progress.*

Following the Q&A session, Mr Lilley acknowledged the Board for their support to the Technical Panel. He then thanked the challenge officials for their dedication, which was met with applause. He thanked the competitors, and the UFBA Events Team - Ceara and Kirsten for all of their hard work. He acknowledged the New Zealand Fire Service Senior Management Team for their support, in particular Deputy National Commander Paul McGill, and Director of Training Max Hood.

Mr Lilley then thanked the members of the Technical Panel on behalf of the competitors and officials. This was met with applause.

Mr Lilley took the opportunity to thank Mr Manihera for his contribution toward the Technical Panel, and to his family for the support they have provided.

Mr Manihera was presented with a plaque, and he then received a certificate of appreciation on behalf of his wife Bev. Mr Manihera then addressed the delegates.

Mr Lilley then introduced CFO Wayne Robinson of Carterton as the successful candidate for the position on the Technical Panel. Mr Robinson was then presented with a lapel badge.

It was confirmed that the convenor of the Technical Panel for the upcoming year will be announced on the UFBA website after their first meeting in December.

### ***Keynote Speaker***

Director Glenn Williams introduced the key note speakers, Marsella and Wiremu Edmonds to present to the delegates.

Marsella and Wiremu gave a moving and thought provoking presentation about their commitment to making work places safer. They spoke of their “tribe” of 5 children, and how their eldest son Robert was killed during a workplace accident 2 years ago.

Marsella and Wiremu challenged all leaders including the UFBA Board to “stand in the gap” and have the right processes in place to protect the health and safety of their people. They stressed the importance of work safety plans and clear communication, and encouraged the delegates to have the courage to stand up and speak if they believe something risky is happening in their workplace.

At the conclusion of the presentation, Chief Fire Officer Joe Manukau of the Katikati Brigade responded on behalf of the delegates with a Tauparapara.

Station Officer Herena Paurini of the Te Atatu Brigade then gave a mihi on behalf of the delegates.

Tēnā kōrua i tēnei ata. He mihi maioha tēnei i homai ki a matou o takoha e pa ana to tama, e rere ana nga kare a roto ki nga tangata katoa i rongo. Ko te tūmanako te ringa kaha o te atua i taupokina tana korowai aroha ki runga i a korua kei te mōhio au to tama i tāna taha mō ake tonu atu. Kia kaha manawanui. Ka pakeke te haere kaua e hemo. Tēnā rawa atu korua.

Greetings to you both

You gave to us a koha about your son that sent our deepest feeling alight inside all who heard, we hope that God covers you in a cloak of love and we know your son is by Gods side for ever. Be Stout hearted, when things are difficult don't give up. Once again thank you both.

Conference adjourned for morning tea at 11:20 hours and reconvened at 11:41 hours.

### ***Appointment of the Patron of the UFBA***

**MOTION:** That Dame Margaret Bazley continue as Patron of the UFBA

The reading of the motion was met with applause.

Moved: Mark Adie, President  
Seconded: Eamonn Ganley, Oban

The Motion was CARRIED by acclamation.

### ***Gold Star Presentation***

President Adie presented Andrew Mansfield of the Stokes Valley Volunteer Brigade with a Gold Star.

Mr Mansfield addressed the delegates, and thanked his fellow brigade members and the team at the UFBA Office for their support.

### ***Installation of New Directors***

Chairman Rick Braddock introduced the new Board members to the Conference.

Director Glenn Williams was congratulated on his reappointment.

### ***Installation of Officers***

President Mark Adie addressed the delegates, and then inducted Vice President Russell Anderson as President and placed the chains around his neck.

Newly appointed President Anderson was presented with a lapel badge, and then made an address to the delegates. Past President Adie was presented with a lapel badge, and was thanked for his service to the UFBA during his term.

President Anderson presented newly appointed Vice President Alan Kittelty with a lapel badge.

### ***General Business***

President Anderson asked the floor if there were any items of general business.

### ***QFSM Medal***

**Moved by LHM Ric Carlyon**

Mr Carlyon proposed an investigation to consider the return of the QFSM, as this medal focuses specifically to the contribution made to the community by firefighters.

**MOTION:** That the UFBA investigates the reintroduction of the Queen's Fire Service Medal (QFSM) in favour of the Queen's Service Medal

Mover: Ric Carlyon  
Secunder: Ian King, Palmerston North

The Motion was CARRIED.

### **Financial Recognition for Volunteers**

#### **Paul Clements, Waitati Brigade**

Mr Clements asked whether UFBA had sought to obtain financial recognition for volunteers by way of a tax relief.

Mr Clements was advised this had been proposed earlier but declined because the Government wishes to have a clear tax system with no special cases or exemptions.

### **Provincial Associations**

#### **Graham Booth. Past President**

Mr Booth raised a suggestion to the Board to work with the Provincial and Sub Associations, with a view to look at a new structure of the level of the UFBA associate groups. Mr Booth queried whether there should be a 2 tier approach.

President Anderson assured Mr Booth that the Board are continuing to work with the Provincial Associations, and they will have their place going forward.

### **40 Year Service Certificates**

#### **Brent Bythell, Otaki Brigade**

Mr Bythell requested that the Board consider the retrospective issue of 40 year service certificates. The Board will discuss this at the next meeting.

President Anderson then declared the 2015 Annual Conference closed at 12:13 hours.