



**U.F.B.A**

UNITED FIRE BRIGADES'  
ASSOCIATION OF NEW ZEALAND

## **MINUTES - DAY TWO**

### **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 Saturday 14 November 2015.**

At 08:30 hours, President Adie called the Conference to order.

#### ***Confirmation of Minutes from Day One***

Amendments to the minutes were as follows:

- Page 4 – correction to spelling Colin Kilpatrick
- Page 7 – include Mark Fowler as the name for the Hastings delegate
- Page 1 – replace 'UFBA cultural group' with 'support group of individuals'
- Page 3 – Include 'Retired Stratford Brigade' to Barrie O'Donnell's name on the obituary list
- Page 4 - correction to spelling of surname 'Blogg'

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

Moved: Quinn Le Cheminant, Newlands

Seconded: Lyle Haste, Wellington Provincial Association

The Motion was CARRIED.

#### ***Election of Vice President***

The two candidates (CFO Alan Kittelty, Darfield and CFO Lindsay Walker, Levin) addressed the delegates, then the election took place.

#### ***Fire Service Reform Proposal***

Murray McKee, Director Bill Butzbach and Sue Sherburd from the Department of Internal Affairs took to the stage to speak about the reform of the fire services already underway.

A question was raised from the floor regarding the proposed regional committees, and how the DIA envisage they will operate. In the response from the stage it was advised that they will work as advisory groups, set up and intended to work as a board. The regional committees will be run in alignment with the wider organisation and will be made up of a group stakeholders based within each region. They will be customised to suit the various regions... not all groups will be made up of the same representatives, however they will be run consistently throughout the country. More information on the technical aspects can be found on the DIA website.

A further question was raised expressing concern that the regional committees will be run by 'bureaucrats from local councils'. Ms Sherburd advised the DIA will work with stakeholders to ensure the regional committees are representative of their communities.

President Adie thanked the presenters and acknowledged the valued relationship between the DIA and the UFBA.

***Announcement of Successful Candidate for Vice President***

The scrutineers returned and announced the result of the election was as follows:

Alan Kittelty	162
Lindsay Walker	43
TOTAL	205

**DECLARATION:** The President announced that Alan Kittelty is duly elected as Vice President of the UFBA at the 137<sup>th</sup> Conference, and will be installed later in the proceedings.

The announcement was met with applause.

***Election of Board Director***

The two candidates (CFO Don Gerrand, Cambridge and CFO Glenn Williams, Te Puke) addressed the delegates, then the election took place.

***Taranaki Provincial Association***

Warren Goodall, President of the Taranaki Provincial Association addressed the delegates.

***Nelson/Marlborough Provincial Association***

Grant Bessant, President of the Nelson/Marlborough Provincial Association addressed the delegates.

***Announcement of Successful Candidate for Board Director***

The scrutineers returned and announced the result of the election was as follows:

Don Gerrand	28
Glenn Williams	179
TOTAL	207

**DECLARATION:** The President announced that Glenn Williams duly elected as Board Director of the UFBA at the 137<sup>th</sup> Conference, and will be installed later in the proceedings.

The announcement was met with applause.

***Voting Papers***

**MOTION:** That the voting papers be destroyed.

Mover: Evan Taylor, Titirangi  
Seconder: Michael Sparrow, Maramarua Rural

The Motion was CARRIED.

***Canterbury Provincial Association***

Alan Hemsley, President of the Canterbury Provincial Association addressed the delegates.

***West Coast Provincial Association***

Rick Fennell, President of the West Coast Provincial Association addressed the delegates.

### ***Otago/Southland Provincial Association***

James Hazlett, President of the Otago/Southland Provincial Association addressed the delegates.

### ***Election of Technical Panel Member***

CFO Wayne Robinson of Carterton addressed the delegates as the sole nominee for the Technical Panel.

**RESULT:** Wayne Robinson was automatically installed as Technical Panel Member for a term of four years.

### ***National Fire Heritage Register***

Brian Joyce from the Fire Services Historical Society followed up on the announcement at last Conference that a national fire register was going to be established. He told delegates that agreement had been reached on the how the register would proceed, he explained clarity on intended outcomes along with reporting requirements that have been agreed with the New Zealand Fire Service Commission. A project plan has been developed, he said, to cover the next 3-6 months and the Commission has provided funding for the project. He sought help from the delegates to compile a full register of heritage items throughout New Zealand.

Conference adjourned for morning tea at 10:49 hours and reconvened at 11:28 hours.

### ***Keynote Speaker***

Promoting the Conference theme “Sustainability Through Diversity”, Group Captain Catherine McGregor addressed the delegates via video conference from Perth, Australia. She outlined her life before and after gender transition, explaining reactions from friends, family but more particularly those in leadership positions in the military and involved in her other passion, cricket.

Conference adjourned for lunch at 12:30 hours and reconvened at 13:15 hours.

### ***Workshops***

The delegates separated into four workshops:

- Coaching and Mentoring Skills – Carol Scholes
- Building Diverse Teams – Damian D’Cruz
- Leading a Brave New World of Diversity – Tim McLeod
- Managing Difficult Personalities and Toxic Behaviours – Aly McNicoll

Notes on these workshops will be made available on the UFBA website.

The delegates reconvened in plenary session at 14:54 hours.

### ***Address by the New Zealand Fire Service Chief Executive and National Commander***

President Adie welcomed Paul Baxter to the stage to address the delegates. Mr Baxter acknowledged the dignitaries present, and welcomed everyone in attendance to Wellington.

He focused his address on the New Zealand Fire Services’ policies on safety and wellbeing, he followed up on the announcement made by the Minister on the fire service review, and he explained the activities of the Vision 2020 project and commented on the culture within the Service.

He spoke about specific projects which are currently underway. They include:

- IGC Radio Replacement Tender
- Changes to the Volunteers’ TAPS Programme
- More accessible online training
- Wifi in stations and an update of ICT equipment

He advised further information on these projects can be found in the Vision 2020 brochure available made available, or on Firenet.

Mr Baxter closed his address by thanking delegates for their contribution, and spoke of his intention to keep the Service informed throughout the upcoming period of change.

He thanked those who had submitted questions through the question box, and advised that the answers were available in the exhibition area. They will also be made available on Firenet and the UFBA website. He then thanked the Conference Organising Committee, and the Executive for the invitation to speak today.

### ***New Zealand Fire Service Forum***

Mr Baxter invited Paul Smith and Kevin Crume from the Carcinogen Exposure Project Team to address the delegates on the progress of the project. They updated medical research and scientific data on carcinogens and gave hints for avoiding risks of cancer, which they said are much higher among firefighters.

Conference adjourned for afternoon tea at 1600 hours and reconvened at 1620 hours.

Alison Barnes, Manager People Safety and Support addressed the delegates on the changes in the health and safety legislation. She pointed out its very much business as usual, but delegates need to be aware that there are some changes due to take effect from early next year.

Dominic Hare, National Property Manager addressed the delegates on the property activities over the past year which included rebuilds and seismic strengthening along with minor and ongoing maintenance. He updated mitigation measures to reduce exhaust fumes in fire stations.

Presentation notes will be made available on the UFBA website.

### ***Question from the Floor***

The President advised he had a question from the floor for clarification regarding who is going to be responsible for managing input and changes for the new structure. Is it the Fire Service, or another body? The President called on Past Chairman of the Board, LHM and member of the Fire Review Panel Peter Drummond.

Mr Drummond referred the meeting to Sue Sherburd's comments this morning that DIA will lead and be responsible for the changes through the Commission until March 2016 when a new establishment board will be appointed by the Minister to commence April 2016. A subcommittee of the new board with appropriate sector change expertise will then lead the transition through until legislation is confirmed in 2017. He said that the Fire Service would be responsible for getting their part of the services ready and that he knew they would be working hard to support the changes. Business as usual for the Fire Service cannot be compromised during the transition.

Mr Drummond said that he would pass a link to the UFBA to send to all brigades referring them to the DIA website to view a 40 page cabinet paper. (Reference to paragraph 7 on this matter).

The clarification from Mr Drummond was carried with acclamation.

The Conference adjourned at 17:35 hours, to resume again at 08:30 hours on Sunday the 15<sup>th</sup> of November.