



***Sometimes our firefighters
need a helping hand***



How it began...

In the 1980's, volunteer fire brigades throughout New Zealand were concerned that when a firefighter was injured while carrying out their duties, any time off their normal work resulted in a considerable loss, as ACC paid only 80% of an injured person's income. This resulted in some volunteer firefighters suffering hardship, due to an injury sustained while serving their community.

It all came to a head when a Waiuku volunteer firefighter was accidentally hit by another firefighter's vehicle while responding to a fire call. The injured firefighter was off work for a long period of time. He was self-employed and drawing a minimal wage, with most of his income being retained to build up his business. As ACC only paid 80% of declared income, he and his family were severely disadvantaged.

The UFBA Executive had been considering ways to help firefighters in situations of hardship and the Waiuku incident gave impetus to establishing the UFBA Benevolent Fund. The proposal was well supported when put to the Annual Conference under Neville Twort's presidency, with the annual levy per brigade member to be the equivalent to the cost of one jug of beer.

I had the privilege of being appointed the inaugural Chairman of the Benevolent Fund and held that role until required to relinquish it on my appointment to the NZ Fire Commission in 1993.

UFBA Past President Garry Stanley QFSM

WHO MANAGES THE FUND?

Details of all applications are kept strictly confidential to respect individuals' privacy.

Each application is assessed by the Benevolent Fund's Board of Trustees (below):

- Chairman Alan Burgess MNZM
- UFBA Past President, LHM Ashburton VFB
- Trustee Graeme Booth MNZM
- UFBA Past President, LHM Laingholm VFB
- Trustee Bryan Styles QSM
- UFBA Past President, LHM Carterton VFB
- Trustee Amber Hollis
- UFBA Past President, Dunstan VFB
- Trustee Ross Dittmer QSM
- UFBA Past President, LHM Rangiora VFB
- Ex-Officio Member George Verry - UFBA LHM
- CEO of the UFBA (Secretary)
- President of the UFBA
- Vice President of the UFBA

WHO DO WE HELP?

The UFBA Benevolent Fund is available to enrolled members including:

- Volunteer
- Career
- Airport
- Industrial
- Communication Centres
- FENZ personnel
- Defence

WHAT DO WE HELP WITH?

Examples of where the Fund can help are:

- Funds for travel or accommodation for family members following a severe injury or illness
- Provision of grocery vouchers to ensure there is food on the table for families facing expected job losses
- Accommodation, food and clothing needed immediately after a fire, flood or earthquake



HOW TO MAKE AN APPLICATION

Applications are made on the application form - ufba.org.nz/advocacy-and-support/benevolentfund

We cannot accept applications from intended recipients. All applications must be signed by the Chief Fire Officer or Officer-in-Charge.

POINTS TO CONSIDER

- The Fund does not accept applications from possible recipients.
- The Fund does not accept applications that are retrospective, nor retrospectively for an event that has already taken place.
- The process can happen in as little as one working day where there is an extreme need.
- In the application, be clear around what has happened and the financial challenges that are being faced e.g. expenses associated with serious illness. Does the brigade member have the financial resources to cope with what has happened? Is there any other assistance

available? e.g. from government departments, insurance policies, savings etc. The level of support given will vary depending on the circumstances.

- The Secretary may ask for more details before circulating the application to the Benevolent Fund Trustees for consideration.
- The Trustees forward their recommendations to the Chairman of the Benevolent Fund who makes the final decision.
- The Secretary will let the OIC/CFO know the outcome of their application.
- Approved payments are made directly to the family. The Benevolent Fund does not give to fundraising websites such as Givealittle.

Further information can be found on our website www.ufba.org.nz/advocacy-and-support/benevolentfund or contact:

Jane Davie: 0274 428 655

UFBA Office: 04 237 0265

Email: benevolentfund@ufba.org.nz

Brigade support...

Our Brigade has had a member experience a life threatening and serious health issue which came as a shock to him and his family, as well as our whole Brigade.

He was fit, active and healthy, and even as a newer crew member he was a big part of our team and contributed greatly to our positive culture.

The Brigade management approached the UFBA to ask what could be done to help the firefighter and his family.

The UFBA was very helpful and supportive and were quick to point us in the right direction so an application could be made for consideration of financial support through the Benevolent Fund.

This application was assessed and quickly approved, with the support being received at a critical time in the development of the situation.

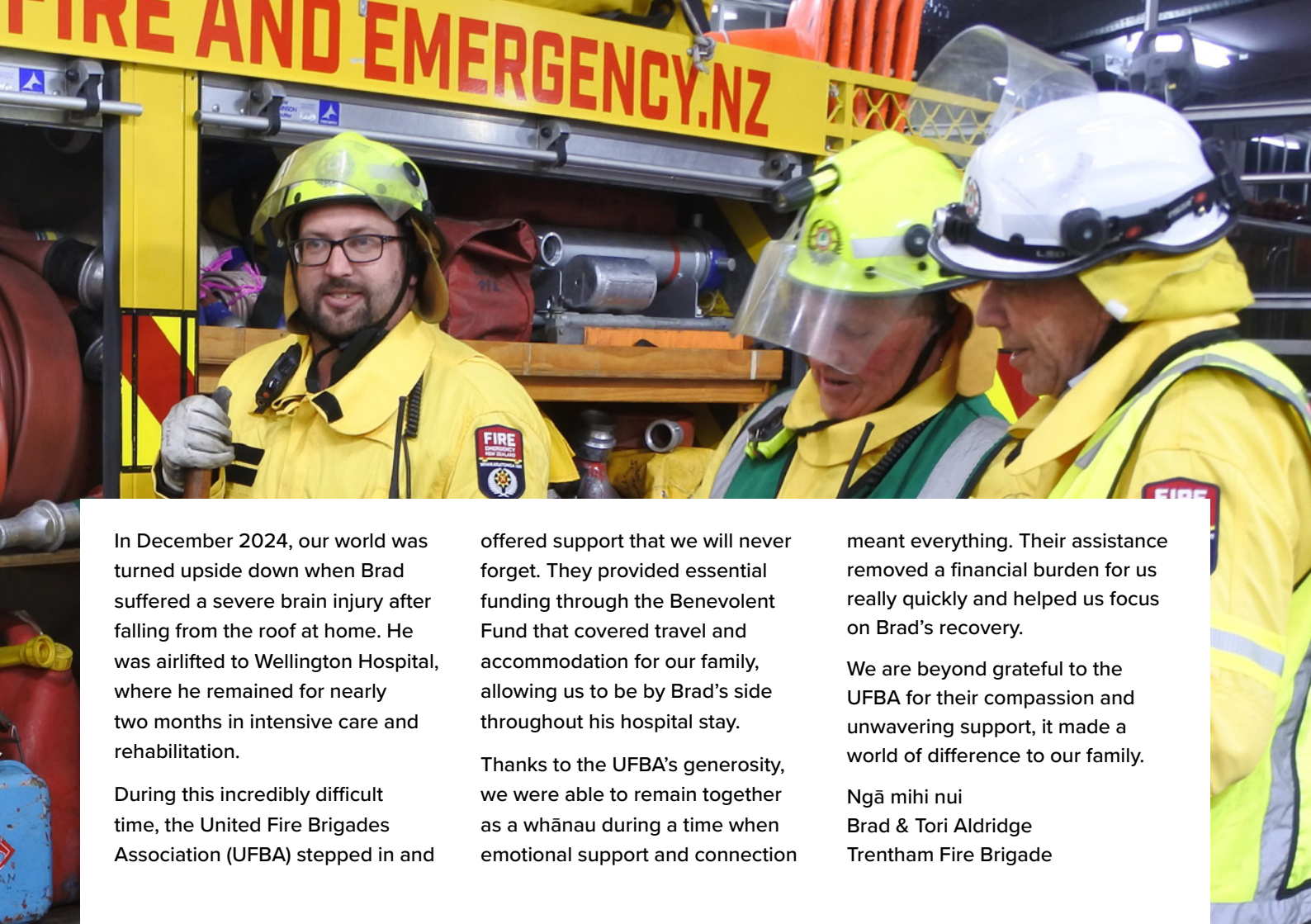
The Brigade, the firefighter and his family were extremely grateful to the UFBA for the excellent support and assistance they were able to offer through the Benevolent Fund.

It really got this family through a tough time, allowing them to focus on the situation at hand and not stress about finances.

Thank you UFBA for providing this excellent support and understanding in a time of need.

Anonymous, UFBA Member





In December 2024, our world was turned upside down when Brad suffered a severe brain injury after falling from the roof at home. He was airlifted to Wellington Hospital, where he remained for nearly two months in intensive care and rehabilitation.

During this incredibly difficult time, the United Fire Brigades Association (UFBA) stepped in and

offered support that we will never forget. They provided essential funding through the Benevolent Fund that covered travel and accommodation for our family, allowing us to be by Brad's side throughout his hospital stay.

Thanks to the UFBA's generosity, we were able to remain together as a whānau during a time when emotional support and connection

meant everything. Their assistance removed a financial burden for us really quickly and helped us focus on Brad's recovery.

We are beyond grateful to the UFBA for their compassion and unwavering support, it made a world of difference to our family.

Ngā mihi nui
Brad & Tori Aldridge
Trentham Fire Brigade



Tough times...

It was a tough time in my life, finding out that not only was I not being paid for last fortnight's work, but that my whole team was being made redundant. This put great stress on myself and also on my wife, who was 37 weeks pregnant at the time.

During this worrying time, attending a volunteer firefighter course no longer seemed feasible. I wasn't in the right mindset, and kept feeling like I should be out finding a job rather than attending the course.

Your extremely generous gift not only provided me with the ability to justify my attendance, but gave me

enough peace of mind to go into it focused on being able to better serve my community.

Today is the second to last day of my course, and I have thoroughly enjoyed my time there with the trainers. If it wasn't for the amazing support of the Benevolent Fund, I would have not attended this course until closer to the end of the year, once things settled.

So once again, my wife and I would like to thank the UFBA and the Benevolent Fund for their incredible generosity.

Many thanks,

Willis Ritchie
Lincoln Volunteer Brigade



“We are beyond grateful to the UFBA for their compassion and support.”



“ Thanks to the UFBA’s generosity, we were able to remain together as a whānau during a time when emotional support and connection meant everything. ”

Invaluable resource...

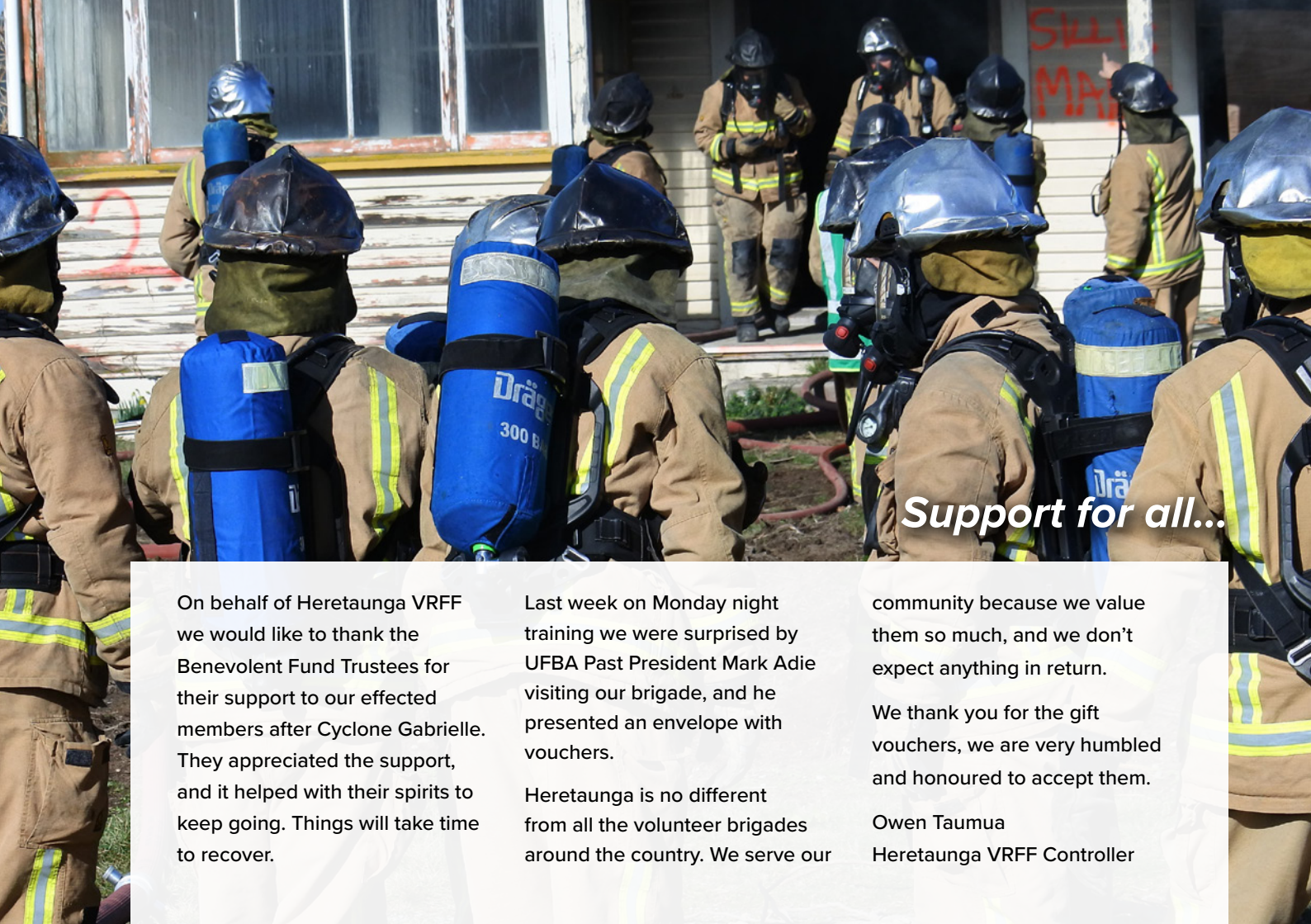
I would like to extend my sincere gratitude to the UFBA Benevolent Fund for the support recently provided to one of our firefighters here in Rotorua.

At a time of real challenge, the Fund’s assistance made a meaningful difference, easing the pressure on both the firefighter and their whānau, and allowing them to focus on their wellbeing.

This generosity is a powerful reminder of the care and solidarity that exists within our fire service community.

The Benevolent Fund is an invaluable resource, offering reassurance that when difficulties arise, firefighters and their families are not alone. I acknowledge and thank the UFBA for upholding this important kaupapa, and for the positive impact it continues to have on the lives of our people across Aotearoa.

Brendon Grylls GFireE
FENZ Group Manager - Bay of Plenty District



Support for all...

On behalf of Heretaunga VRFF we would like to thank the Benevolent Fund Trustees for their support to our effected members after Cyclone Gabrielle. They appreciated the support, and it helped with their spirits to keep going. Things will take time to recover.

Last week on Monday night training we were surprised by UFBA Past President Mark Adie visiting our brigade, and he presented an envelope with vouchers.

Heretaunga is no different from all the volunteer brigades around the country. We serve our

community because we value them so much, and we don't expect anything in return.

We thank you for the gift vouchers, we are very humbled and honoured to accept them.

Owen Taumua
Heretaunga VRFF Controller



Above and beyond...

A huge thank you to UFBA for your support in our time of need. Joanne had a brain bleed and we are here at Wellington Hospital monitoring her recovery.

I emailed Jane Davie asking whether the UFBA had a preferred accommodation provider that

maybe gave a discount to FENZ staff. Within five minutes, Jane had rung me, offering any support I required. She was an incredible comfort in this stressful time, organising support for us through the UFBA as well as offering any support she herself could give.

We are so grateful. The words from Jane and the assistance from the UFBA is helping us through these tough times. Thank you all.

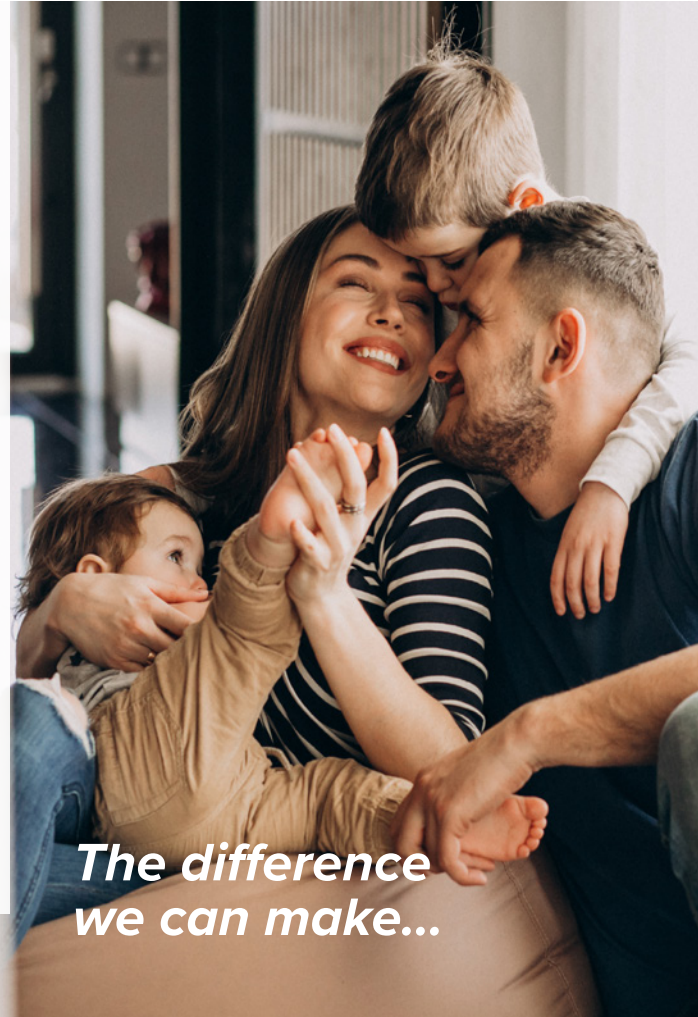
Craig and Joanne Brown
Dannevirke Volunteer Fire Brigade

On behalf of my wife and myself I would like to thank the UFBA for the funds which were given to us in a very tough time in our lives. Words can't explain how much it helped us out financially and definitely removed the stress of money from our situation.

In October 2024 we had our second son. Along with being born seven weeks early, he had some serious health issues that would require surgery once he was strong enough. He was incubated in the NICU for the first weeks until he was able to breathe on his own and get stronger. With this being the case, I was off work for quite a long time, going between the hospital and back home for our other son who was five years old.

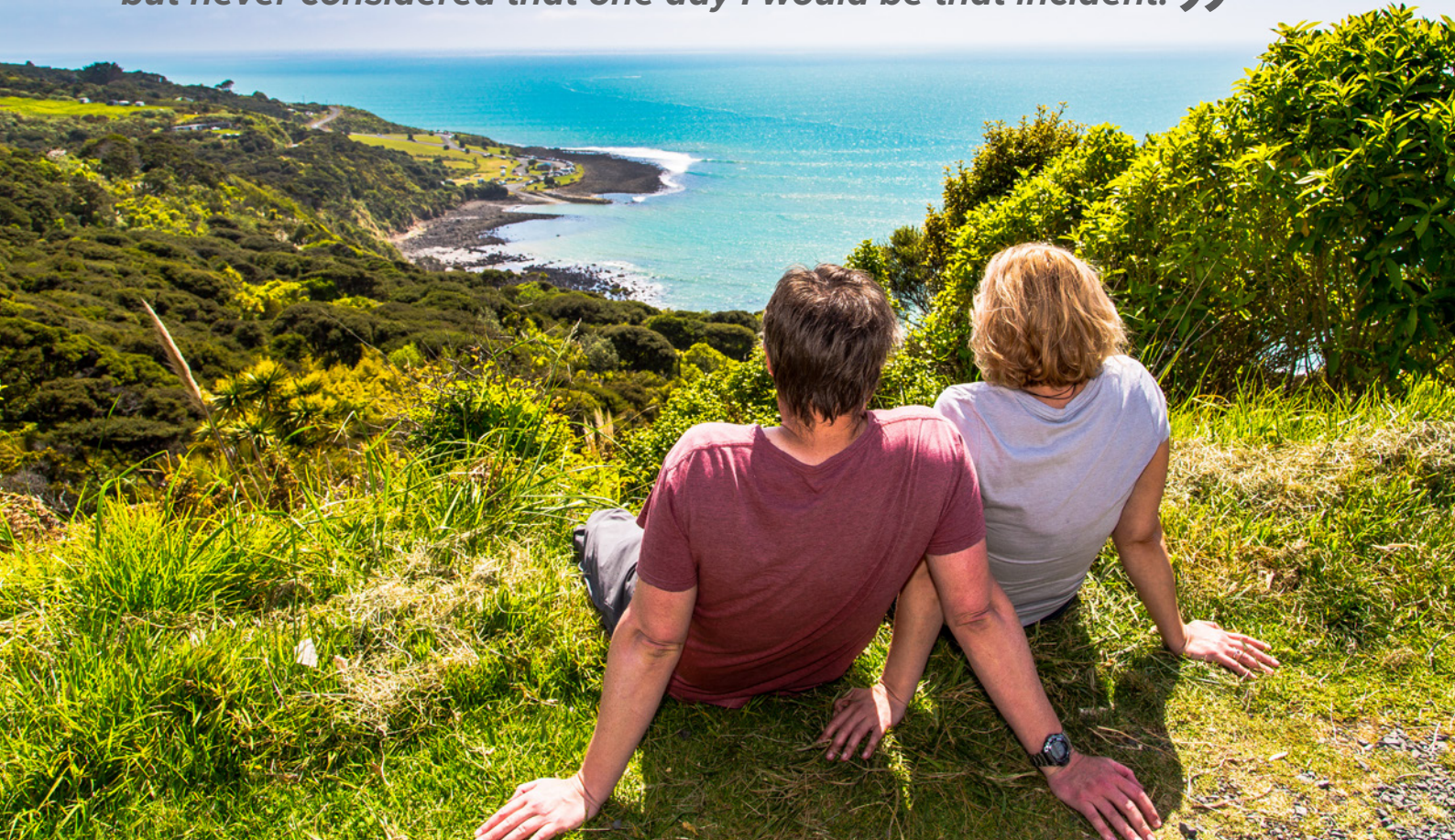
A few weeks later we all made it back home, and then faced a very tough few months of back and forth to hospital for health issues. By this time I had used all my leave from work and we were starting to stress financially. We finally got a date for his surgery, which would require us to fly to Christchurch for it to be carried out, and more time off work and time away from our five-year-old, so there was definitely a lot of worry and stress for us. The money that was given to us by the UFBA helped us out so much in this time and allowed us to not have to worry about expenses with our travelling and loss of income. It made a massive difference in our lives.

Anonymous, UFBA Member



***The difference
we can make...***

***“ I have guided the rescue helicopter to incidents on many occasions
but never considered that one day I would be that incident. ”***



Dear Jane and Trustees,

Lynn and I would like to express our profound gratitude for the kind financial support following my accident and hospitalisation at a fire callout. I am sorry that it has taken this time to contact you. My mind and body have been trying hard to get back to what they were and I have been somewhat distracted. The language of my ancestors references “Ceud mile taing” or one hundred thousand thanks, and this is an eloquent way of reflecting how we feel about your speedy and positive assistance.

I have guided the rescue helicopter to incidents on many occasions but never considered that one day I would be that

incident, on 18th December! The paramedics and Hato Hone were superb but so too were the team members from Twizel Brigade. They used their CPR skills to keep me alive and be in a state to be moved and transferred. I have much pride in being a firefighter for my community but this pride is amplified when thinking of them and Twizel Volunteer Fire Brigade led by Simon Fox, with Paul Tilsley and Rob Hands showing leadership and concern. I am proud also of the support UFBA provides for firefighters.

My health is improving each day and I am supported by the Brigade and my wife (who visited me three times each day in Dunedin Hospital and Te Puawai). Your support has greatly

helped to alleviate the financial pressures from transport and accommodation costs to attend assessments outside of Twizel. The next two months will include cognitive and physical tests in Dunedin to ensure that I can retrieve my driving licences and be allowed back into my FENZ work. Stress of any description would have had a negative impact on my rehabilitation from what was classed as a traumatic brain injury.

I am so pleased to reiterate that my physical and mind health have improved dramatically and you as UFBA trustees have been real contributors to this.

Thank you, Ian McLauchlan
Twizel Volunteer Fire Brigade



SAFETY
OFFICER

TRAINER

112016

Consider a bequest



Your opportunity to create a life-changing legacy...

When you remember the UFBA Benevolent Fund in your will, you are supporting the people who support you – New Zealand's firefighters.

Bequests to the UFBA Benevolent Fund contribute significantly to our long-term financial wellbeing and help us ensure the success of the Fund.

Naming the UFBA Benevolent Fund is not difficult, and you can designate any amount or % of your estate that you wish. As you make plans for your estate, we hope that you will consider a bequest to us.

Imagine your bequest or contribution, large or modest, continuing to work for your colleagues - now and in the future.

Because every dollar that goes in, stays in, to work hard to provide relief for those firefighters who, through fate or misfortune, find themselves in financial hardship.

***You joined the Service
to help others.***

***Now is your opportunity
to leave a legacy.***

Contact: benevolentfund@ufba.org.nz

The UFBA Benevolent Fund was established by the Association in 1990 to provide assistance in time of need to enrolled members of fire brigades which are members of the Association.

