

The insiders' magazine
for fire services

TE HIRINGA O TE TANGATA

IGNITE

ISSUE 5 – Kōanga 2017 /Spring 2017



2

OH CANADA
WE ARE HERE TO HELP

6

TOUR DE ASIA

8

LONDON FIRE
COMMISSIONER -
DANY COTTON



Ignite is the official quarterly magazine for Fire and Emergency in New Zealand.

Te Hiringa o te Tangata – To have drive, zest, determination. To have heart and soul.

Ignite represents the voices of the men and women across the country who dedicate themselves to protecting life and property in their communities.

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Contributions to Ignite

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Read Ignite online

<https://fireandemergency.nz/news-and-media>

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OH CANADA!

We're here to help!

A team of 80 New Zealanders consisting of Fire and Emergency paid and volunteer people, DOC and forestry contractors, were recently deployed to help tame the Canadian wild fires.

The province, British Columbia, is in a true state of emergency. Before our team arrived, more than 600,000 hectares of land and forest had been burnt and thousands of people had to evacuate their homes.

The team joined more than 3,000 people and 200 aircraft already involved in the response, and this was the fourth time we have deployed to help Canada during its wildfire season.

Deployment Incident Management Team (IMT) member, Kevin Ihaka said, "Coming into Vancouver we could already see the smoke over the city, it was really heavy."

Safety was the number one priority for the team. "Go out safe, come back safe," is what's consistently chanted around the camps.

"It was really busy and there was smoke over the camp most days but it is what

it is. We were just glad to be getting stuck in," said Kevin.

Our Fire and Emergency IMT were split over two camps; Clinton and Cache Creek. Both crews worked on the Elephant Hill Fire which was estimated to have 168,000 hectares of area burned. To put that into perspective – Lake Taupo is 61,600 hectares. They had 593 firefighters there, including 290 out-of-province men and women.

All of the teams have worked immensely hard. So much so, the Canadian Incident Commander has recognised and acknowledged their commitment.

"The teams are brilliant and very hard workers. If I could have four more NZ 20 packs I would be in heaven" he said.

Despite the long hours and hard work, the crew seemed to be in good spirits with plenty of light-hearted banter flying across the camps, or 'makeshift heaven.'

Our kiwi deployment has also attracted a fair bit of positive media attention. Mid-South Canterbury rural firefighter

and Task Force leader, Steve Ochsner, recently spoke to Radio NZ and appeared on Three's The Project.

With 14-day shifts and long days, Steve said it's tiring, and the fatigue is something that they had to manage very carefully.

"It's a mind game as well as a physical game, there's always an amount of anxiety. Once we get on the ground our training takes over and we fall in to a normal operations role. The fires are on a level we don't have at home. They are the same kind of fires, but just not on this scale."

Steve's main message when interviewed by The Project – "We're okay and we're safe, we have good

systems in place and are still eating our vegetables."

Good to hear you're healthy and kicking Steve.

A huge thanks and well done to all the operational and non-operational staff that put your entire lives on hold to help our buddies in Canada. It can't have been easy on you and your families.

This information is relevant as at 25 August (before this edition went to print).

For the most up to date information, please visit The Portal for the latest deployment newsletter, or join the NZ Rural Fire International Deployments Facebook group.

- 2017 Canada Deployment Team

- Loading on to the Hercules



How deployments happen:

Here is the process on how a deployment happens, and how you might apply to be part of the contingent.

1. Fire and Emergency New Zealand is notified by the host agency who request specifically what support they require.
2. We send out a request for consideration to our leaders in Fire and Emergency, DOC, forestry businesses and Defence.
3. The Principal and Deputy Rural Fire Officers (PRFOs) then collate crews from their regions that fit the skills, fitness and experience requirements and make decisions on who should be sent over at a national level.

To be eligible you must:

- have a current passport with more than 6 months left on it
- have no criminal record, as you need to be able to get visas at short notice
- be available to leave with very short notice – around 3 days
- have completed and passed a recent medical examination
- be able to pass the arduous fitness test
- have proven competencies specific to the role that are cross matched against the host agencies requirements
- be experienced in tall timber and steep terrain firefighting
- have completed and signed a Code of Conduct
- be a team player and an ambassador for the country to uphold previous New Zealand deployment excellent reputation
- be prepared to sleep in tents for a month, with little or no communication back home, and
- be prepared to work long hours – crews will be expected to work 14 hour days for up to two weeks before you get two days off, then back at it again.

Preformed crews are preferred, but sometimes a crew may be short a person. In this case, a PRFO may nominate an individual to fill the gap if the person fits the requirements.

FIRE AND EMERGENCY PŌWHIRI

On 3 July, post Fire and Emergency Day One events, a Pōwhiri took place at Wellington's City Station to welcome our new Chief Executive (CE), Rhys Jones, along with his wife Debbie.

"As a former Chief of the Defence Force I have attended and been the recipient of many Pōwhiri, but I have to admit that my welcome into Fire and Emergency New Zealand was one of the best and most memorable. As you saw, I was handed over from the Defence Force by my previous Māori Cultural Advisor, Tama Andrews, and welcomed into the fold of our new organisation," said Rhys.

Rhys was adorned with our new korowai, 'Matariki' (as pictured). The annual astronomical event called Matariki signals new beginnings in the Māori calendar. A time to reflect upon and acknowledge our past while looking forward and planning for the future.

The earthy colours of the korowai signify being grounded with and in touch with the communities we serve - Whakarātonga Iwi.

"It was an absolute honour to be the first wearer of the new korowai and to be welcomed by local iwi, and such a distinguished group from every region of New Zealand. Thank you to everyone who was involved, particularly to the Kapa Haka group who made the event so awe inspiring. It was an occasion that I will cherish forever," said Rhys.



- Our Korowai



- Region 3 Pōwhiri

Of real significance, the Kapa Haka consisted of a range of operational, non-operational; male and female, staff from all over the country.

National Māori advisor, Piki Thomas, acknowledges the efforts of all personnel involved in making this such a memorable occasion.

"Without the co-ordinated efforts of NHQ business services, Regional HQ, Area HQ and station staff, the day wouldn't have been the success it was. 'Ko te amorangi ki mua, ko te hāpai ō ki muri' is a fitting kiwaha, or saying, that recognises the equal importance of the behind the scenes workers with those seen in the public eye," said Piki.

Senior Firefighter Renee Potae, from Turangi Volunteer Brigade, took part in the Kapa Haka and presented Rhys with the Korowai.

She said "Doing the Pōwhiri, the way we did felt really fitting. It really reflected Fire and Emergency NZ becoming a family. Coming from a Māori

background, and on a personal level, it felt really natural to bring the new CE in the way we did."

Another member of the Kapa Haka group was St Kilda Station Officer, Isaia Piho, who had many praising comments about the welcome.

"It was awesome to be a part of the Pōwhiri. There was such a wide range of people involved from all around the country. I felt a real sense of whānau. We sounded pretty great too, especially with the acoustics of the station," he said.

We can all vouch for that, Isaia.

A huge thanks to those that took part in the Pōwhiri, and again, nau mai, haere mai Rhys.

If you missed out on the live stream, the video can still be accessed by visiting <https://www.facebook.com/fireandemergencynz/>



RHYS ON THE ROAD

One of the major highlights from my first couple of months in this job has been meeting some of the people who make this organisation what it is – everyone from firefighters and business support, to fire prevention and training staff.

Thank you to everyone who hosted me and those who travelled from other stations to have a chat. My aim is to get out of Wellington at least two to three days every fortnight to keep this up. I'm keen to hear the happenings directly from you, and likewise share with you where I think we can go from here.

Though I've only met a fraction of you, I am highly impressed by the sheer breadth of knowledge, experience and passion that's out there. Everywhere is different, but these qualities are consistent from north to south, through career and volunteer, operational and non-operational people that make up Fire and Emergency New Zealand.

HE WAKA EKE NOA

Fire and Emergency New Zealand is made up of people who rely on each other to get the job done safely and effectively. The concept of he waka eke noa – 'everyone in the same canoe with no exception', was first introduced to Fire and Emergency within the new Safety, Health and Wellbeing (SHW) policy. It acknowledges the importance and value of every person across the organisation.

Region 5 took the concept to the next level by introducing a small carved wooden waka to their meetings as a physical representation of team work. This has inspired a second waka to be used by the Operational Leadership Team (OLT).

In each OLT meeting, a small waka will be placed on the meeting table as a visual reminder that we are working together to reach our goals, that we all have a contribution to make, responsibilities to share, and that is support available to everybody.

- NTC Pōwhiri

One of the biggest questions is how we bring that all together. This will require more than structural change. It's a question of culture. We have the opportunity to re-evaluate what our work culture should be. Valuing and respecting our people needs to be a high priority, along with our serving the community and teamwork - our long established values.

Questions like that are important because people are what make organisations tick – the best equipment and stations in the world can only be that if they've got the best people behind them.

It's also apparent that while we've inherited a lot we can be proud of, our new organisation has also inherited buildings and equipment that for one reason or another are overdue for repair or replacement. For example, some of our buildings don't have power or running water, while others have leaky roofs. Getting an understanding of our current state is therefore a major priority.

These are big questions, to be sure. The upshot is that as Fire and Emergency New Zealand, we now have the freedom (and the means) to definitively answer them over the next three years, taking all that collective passion, experience, and knowledge into account.

In the meantime, I am really encouraged by the groups and individuals I've met so far who aren't waiting around for a national directive. It is great to see people already putting area or brigade-level answers into action for their local communities and I look forward to seeing more examples of local initiatives as I get around the rest of the country.

-Rhys Jones

Piki Thomas, Pou Herenga Māori /National Māori Advisor, says that within this whakatauki (proverb), there is no such concept as "there's a hole in your part of the waka." If there is a hole in the waka, we are all getting our feet wet - we need to work together to find solutions and reach our destination.

After getting the waka blessed, Rere Hammond is now the waka's keeper at National Headquarters. Rere says that they will take it to all of the OLT meetings throughout the year, including the regional meetings, that involve local brigades; area managers and Fire and Emergency stakeholders.



TOUR DE ASIA



HALL OF FLAME
Personal profiles and stories

Waipukurau volunteer, Jack Carruthers, has recently arrived back from a *wheelie* long eight-week competitive cycling tour across Asia.

Kicking off in Thailand, while ditching the NZ winter, Jack arrived to 38-degree heat where he and another Kiwi cycled in a six-day race, averaging 130kms per day. The trip continued on to Hong Kong, then China, where Jack took part in a number of other races.

At just 19 years old, Jack has already been a volunteer for three years. On top of general volunteer callings, and working at a truck and car workshop, he manages to squeeze in 28 hours of training (cycling) a week. All that training appears to have paid off with Jack coming in well under the top 10 out of 170 competitors for most races.

His firefighting roots stem right back to his grandfather, who was a Fire Chief at Waipawa; his father, who is a career firefighter in Hastings; and two uncles, who are also part of the Fire and Emergency family. It's fair to say firefighting is in the blood.

One day, when his cycling starts to wind down, Jack plans to become a career firefighter. But his cycling campaign definitely doesn't stop here. With his sights set on Europe next year, the World Games, Olympics, and Tour De France – we doubt this is the last we'll hear of Jack.

“The most memorable part was finishing 3rd at The Salimui Lake Race, which was one of the biggest races in China - so that was a really big achievement.”



Share your story

Do you have a story to share? We're looking to profile our people who have shown innovation or achieved something that will inspire others. Send your story to ignite@fire.org.nz

HEARING ASSISTED SMOKE ALARMS SAVE LIVES!

On the evening of 28 June, red watch Porirua attended a fire at a Housing New Zealand (HNZ) house on Natone Street.

The parents are both deaf (one partially, one completely) and were woken by their special hearing impaired alarm system (the strobe & vibrator combo). They managed to get their kids out, and close all bedroom doors. This resulted in the best possible outcome – everyone out safely and the fire damage contained predominantly to the room of origin (kitchen).

Peter Wild, from HNZ identified a need to provide specific hearing-impaired smoke alarm systems for deaf tenants back in 2005.

With input from Fire and Emergency New Zealand, HNZ has done this largely on their own account as a responsible social landlord.

“I had discussions with Fire and Emergency on numerous occasions and they have always been very supportive. We currently have 229 installations throughout the country which the compliance team monitor, and test every six months,” said Peter.

The units themselves are hard wired and have the same coverage of standard photo-electric smoke alarms installed in bedrooms, hallways, and living areas. On activation, as well as the smoke alarms sounding, there are a number of strobe lights that are positioned in rooms that the occupants are likely to spend a reasonable amount of time in. There is also a pillow shaker, which sits under the tenant's pillow and vibrates when smoke is detected, therefore providing the tenant with an early warning.

The HNZ compliance team is continuously researching the most up to date smoke alarm technology. The next big advancement is wireless systems, which enable ease of installation, transferring between properties, along with the mobility of the strobe and shaker unit which can be taken wherever the tenant is within the property.

Way to go HNZ.

“I met with a number of people from the Deaf Association, and a group of occupational therapists to define what the main challenges might be with HNZ providing specific alarms systems for the deaf.”



HAVE YOUR SAY

ignite@fireandemergency.nz

Work is underway to update existing promotional resources to reflect our new brand and organisation, including brochures, giveaways and other community event resources. In the meantime, it is fine to still use existing collateral with the old New Zealand Fire Service branding.

If you have any thoughts on what improvements you would like to see made please contact ignite@fireandemergency.nz

LONDON FIRE BRIGADE COMMISSIONER

Dany Cotton

We have all watched from afar in recent months the tragic and horrific events both during and in the aftermath of the Grenfell Tower fire in West London. As members of the global firefighting family our hearts went out to our colleagues and those affected by what of course would have been every firefighters' worst nightmare to attend.

I asked my good friend and ex London Fire Brigade (LFB) colleague, Dany Cotton for her perspective on this tragic incident and about the challenges she has now been presented with leading the brigade in the wake of this disaster as the Commissioner of the LFB.

Dany is no stranger to rising to challenges having been appointed as the first woman Fire Commissioner earlier this year, and to what is arguably one of the most revered and senior leadership roles in the British Fire Service. She commands over 5000 operational firefighters and officers and another 900-support staff in what is one of the largest fire services in the world. I also asked her to share her perspective on her Leadership journey and to give us an insight into the values that have taken her to the top of her profession.

- Steve Turek

A telling, testing, and triumphant tale from an international colleague

I joined the London Fire Brigade in 1988 at the age of 18. At the time there were very few women firefighters (approximately 30 women out of 6,000 firefighters). I joined because I liked practical work, being outside, working in a team, and helping people. It never really occurred to me that it was not typically seen as a job for a woman. I faced a number of challenges in the early days, from outward hostility, people in my crew refusing to speak to me, and blatant sexism and bullying. But none of that deterred me from wanting to do the job.

I never had any career aspirations when I joined, I just wanted to be a good firefighter, so becoming the Commissioner at the start of this year is still something that makes me smile. I have always wanted to see people treated fairly and with respect, and as I have risen through the ranks I have always endeavoured to make sure people are the primary focus for anything I do. I genuinely felt that London Fire Brigade needed a change of culture and approach which is why I applied for the Commissioner's role.

Since taking up the role at the beginning of the year, London Fire Brigade and my new leadership team have faced a number of challenges including three terrorist attacks, and most significantly, the Grenfell Tower tragedy. This single event has changed so many things, from the fundamental approach to fighting fires in high rise buildings, to public perception of the job we do.

Grenfell Tower will undoubtedly have a long lasting impact on the fire service. It was truly an unprecedented incident – I have never seen a building behave like that in my 29 years of operational service, and I truly hope no one ever does again. From my personal perspective, I have been concerned from the early hours of the 14th June of the effect that this incident will have had on the mental health and wellbeing of so many firefighters, control call handlers, and officers. We will all continue to question ourselves as to whether there was more we could have done. I can honestly say that I think that everybody; from the initial crews who were called to a flat

fire, to the command officers making very difficult judgement calls, to the control staff dealing with an enormous volume of 999 calls, and all of the crews who were part of the 40 pump make up, everybody did as much as was humanly possible. Time and time again firefighters and officers entered the tower, risking their lives to deal with an unprecedented set of circumstances. They battled intense heat and flames over multiple floors to rescue large numbers of people.

It is of course right and proper that every aspect of that terrible incident is examined and scrutinised as part of the public enquiry and police investigation. London Fire Brigade are conducting their own internal processes, and if we find areas that could be changed or improved, then we will act on these immediately and not wait for the outcome of the official investigations.

I have no doubt that we face challenging times ahead, but I know that we have all drawn strength and comfort from the overwhelming support that we have received from the fire service family, both here in the UK, and world wide. The messages of encouragement and offers of assistance have been so heart warming and reassuring to everyone involved. Of course, as soon as we are able to do so, we will share lessons learned with other fire and rescue services. I believe that we should all be able to share information and learn from each other's incidents and experiences.

One of the unintended, but positive consequences of not only the Grenfell Tower experience, but the

other challenges we have faced in the last year including the Croydon tram crash, the terror attacks on Westminster Bridge, London Bridge, and Borough Market is that it has raised the profile of London Fire Brigade and firefighting. It has clearly demonstrated the diversity of operational incidents that we now face, and the fact that the role of the fire service should never be under-estimated or taken for granted. It has also allowed me to show that the best teams are made up of a diverse group of people, and that women make great firefighters.

- Dany Cotton



INTERNATIONAL IGNITION
Contributions from
around the world



BREAKING DOWN BARRIERS

Learning another language is no easy task, it requires commitment and lots of practise. In Fire and Emergency New Zealand, there is a range of people using their language skills to connect with our communities and share the importance of fire safety.



For Kereama Katu, Māori Liaison Officer, his understanding of Te Reo Māori has helped him build a connection and relationship with Māori communities through school programmes, marae fire safety surveys and social media. "I feel proud and honoured to be able to engage with Tangata Whenua. I also feel privileged to be able to share my knowledge and understanding of Te Reo Māori with other members of the organisation to help reduce the incidence and consequence of fire within our Māori communities." Kereama also encourages both Māori and non-Māori staff to learn Te Reo Māori to develop their understanding of Kawa and Tikanga Māori through the delivery of a regional working with Māori communities' presentation. "We also carry out Marae Fire Safety Surveys alongside Fire Risk Management Officers and Deputy Principal Rural Fire Officers to support and provide Fire Safety recommendations to the marae committees. The Te Kauwhanganui (or Te Kauhanganui) building at Rukumoana Marae in Morrinsville is an example where we made a real impact in terms of providing Fire Safety advice and establishing a relationship with the Morrinsville Volunteer Brigade."



Learning Samoan for Station Officer Ken Manderson, was a continuation from his interest in learning languages as a kid. In 2008 Ken applied for the Pacific Islands Language Grant. "I used the funding to join a beginner's Samoan class and to buy some books and a dictionary." Ken has been a career firefighter for 44 years, one year as a volunteer. He found learning Samoan has helped him break down language barriers when working in the community. "When I went to motor vehicle accidents and I needed to get information from people stuck in cars, they often wouldn't talk to me. I would ask them what ethnicity they were. If Samoan I would address them in their own language. They then relaxed and were very surprised to see a white man speaking Samoan to them." Ken also finds his skills useful when visiting Pacific Island churches to promote home fire safety. "I think when I received the grant, it inspired some of my Samoan colleagues to further their knowledge in the language. I recommend for anyone that wants to go for the grant, that they go for it."



Lauren Sika, Northern Comcen Communicator started this job just over three years ago. "I speak Tongan on 111 calls whenever I feel it is necessary. If I can hear hesitation in the caller's tone and I am confident they're Tongan- I automatically switch to Tongan and continue my questioning from there." Lauren finds speaking Tongan makes the caller calmer when trying to communicate with them. "I sense a sigh of relief when they realise I'm Tongan and I can speak the language. In that very moment the language barrier is diminished; it's one less thing the caller has to worry about." Lauren remembers a time she took a call from a lady who was stuck in one of the public toilets in South Auckland. "I could hear someone in the background calling her 'Lome' which is a Tongan name and as soon as I addressed her as 'Salome' she cried a sigh of relief as we continued the conversation in Tongan and I was able to calm her down and let her know we were on our way."

Fire and Emergency New Zealand offers language grants for both Te Reo Māori and Pacific Islands Languages. For more information contact ignite@fireandemergency.nz and we can pass your enquiries on.



TAKING ON THE BLOCK NZ

If any of you are fans of the show The Block NZ, you'll know Andy and Nate (aka Team Yellow). They, along with three other DIY teams, have taken on the mighty challenge of renovating multi-storey family homes on Auckland's North Shore in just 12 short weeks.

When he isn't on The Block, or making furniture in his spare time, Andy Murdie is a senior firefighter at Hamilton's Chartwell Station. He joined 17 years ago after he and his friend saw an ad in the paper while working in a gym.

Andy loves helping out the community and the sense of family that comes with the job. One of Andy's greatest successes as a firefighter was coming second in the 'toughest firefighter alive' challenge at the World Firefighter games.

Before joining the show, Andy had some renovation practice as he renovated his own house. His motivation behind the design was to "create fun, colourful, functional spaces for entertaining family and friends."

When asked if being in front of the camera gets annoying at times, Andy replied, "imagine waking up with a camera in your face and going to sleep with one, there is no let up, no break."

Despite that, Andy says, "The toughest challenge is being away from my wife and kids. I really miss the kids' little achievements like their school balls." He also says, "Hamilton as a whole has been super supportive and, have helped out the family back home as well."

Andy's teammate on the show and brother in law, Nate, is currently doing his building apprenticeship. Andy thinks his short attention span is probably one of the traits Nate finds most annoying about him on the show. Luckily, the lack of sleep and the hours on the show are not a huge shock to the system for Andy. "They are like a night shift. We get an average of four hours per night for the duration of the show."

Once the show finishes, Andy will be back to Chartwell Fire Station, where he wants to, "continue to serve the best I can, continue to learn, grow and have fun."

Andy's advice for anyone wanting to be on a reality show? "Just be yourself, don't pretend to be someone you're not."

NATIONAL TRAINING CENTRE

GRADUATE INTERVIEWS

Marie Scott, 40.

Stationed at Otāhuhu in Counties Manukau, Auckland.

First day? My first day at NTC was one filled with apprehension, excitement and WTF am I doing. I don't think I really had any expectations apart from knowing it was going to be really tough and would test my mental and physical strength.

Challenges/successes? The biggest challenge would have been being away from my two children for three months. I went home most weekends but it was always hard leaving them and having them in tears when I talked to them on the phone. It soon became the norm for them and they adjusted so that helped. I don't feel that there were any extra challenges being a female – there were five of us on the course which probably made it easier than being a sole female. We had an awesome group of recruits who supported each other, so if someone was struggling, everyone would get in to help them complete whatever needed to be done. The camaraderie was awesome. Our trainers were also fantastic and were always encouraging and supportive.

Impact on whanau/community/friends? Becoming a firefighter has impacted my family in the sense that I now need a nanny to help with the kids when I'm working, but they're use to me being away so they are ok with it and they are always keen to hear if I had any fires while I was at work

Transition into new team? The transition into my station and crew has been awesome. Everyone is so welcoming and my crew have made me feel at ease and that I'm one of the team. I don't think I could've got a better posting

Future goals? My goals at this stage are to just get past each stage as required – finish my consolidation, become a QF then SF and see where I want to go from there. For now, I am just happy to learn as much as possible and help make a difference in the community.

Matt Wilson, 27.

Stationed at Manurewa Fire Station.

Why the fire service? I have always had a strong interest in the emergency services from a young age. I joined the Tuakau Volunteer Fire Brigade aged 16 and developed a passion for the work that the fire service does. This led me to apply to be a full time firefighter at the age of 18 but I was unsuccessful as they wanted me to have more life skills. Nine years later I still wanted to become a full time firefighter and here I am today.

First day? I felt a mixture of excitement and nervousness on my first day. It also felt surreal. I expected quite a military style of training but was fortunate as the trainers all brought a good mix of authority and respect to us as adults.

I understand that you came from or worked with the NZ Police Force? Are you able to tell us what made you want to change careers? I joined Police at the age of 20 and worked in Counties Manukau up until I joined the Fire Service. I enjoyed my time in Police and am proud of my achievements and the variety of policing that I was fortunate to undertake whilst being there. Although I knew I would have had a successful career in Police, and was on track to do so, the desire to become a full time firefighter never left me. I felt that being a firefighter for the rest of my career would be better for my family and me.

Transition into new team? The transition into Manurewa station and into my watch has been seamless. I have an experienced crew who get along well and are extremely helpful. They are all happy to spend time explaining new things to me and are always open to questions, no matter how stupid they seem. The shifts are well structured with physical training, skills training, operational readiness and call outs which make the shifts flow nicely.

Future goals? I have leadership aspirations within Fire and Emergency. It's obviously early days but I enjoy being a leader and hope the skills that I will pick up from observing my leaders will help me to become the best leader I can be.

EXTREME WALK 2 D'FEET MND 2017

From Friday 10 to Sunday 12 November, four firefighters from Palmerston North will walk 170km from Palmerston North to Wellington. Chris Kennedy, Dan Nesbit, Jeremy Dodge and Justin Storey are taking part in the Extreme Walk 2 D'Feet MND to raise awareness of Motor Neurone Disease.

The team couldn't do this without Belinda Cadzow and Angela Pomana, both senior firefighters in Region 3 - their support crew. Belinda's Dad was diagnosed with MND in 1996 and fought the disease for three years. He was a fit healthy man who had played rugby for Wellington, NZ Universities and the Junior All Blacks. Belinda is, "not only doing this for him, but for all the families who have suffered or who are currently battling this shocking disease. I hope he would be proud of our efforts this November."

MND can affect anyone. This year about 100 people in New Zealand will be diagnosed. For Chris Kennedy, his motivation for participating in this walk was that his close friend's Mum died of MND. "This made me want to do something that could help increase the awareness and raise some money for MND in New Zealand."

The team is currently in full training mode, recently visiting a trainer at Massey University to get a tailored training programme to help the team successfully complete the walk. Although Dan Nesbit has done the Sky Tower Challenge before, he said, "this walk will be pretty different and the training plan will help get the team prepared so we know how to look after our bodies throughout the walk."

Half of the funds raised will go towards supporting MND research in New Zealand and the other half will go to MND New Zealand to continue its crucial work providing support for people with MND.

So why not get a team together and join in on your local walk? Shorter (up to 5km) events are being held all over New Zealand on Sunday 12 November. You can start your own fundraising page to support the team's efforts. To find your region's walk, visit mnda.org.nz/walk and click the location nearest you for more information, and to register.

MND

MND stands for Motor Neurone Disease, the name of a group of diseases that destroy the nerve cells (neurones) that control your muscles. The most common type of MND is amyotrophic lateral sclerosis or ALS.

With no nerves to activate them, the muscles you use to walk, talk, hug, hold, speak and eat gradually stop working. Eventually, you're locked in a body that can no longer move.

(Source: MND NZ)

To donate to the Extreme Walk team, visit the team's facebook page 'Extreme Walk 2 D'Feet MND' and click on the link to their fundraising page.

You can also text WALK to 2449 to donate \$3 to MND NZ.



INSPECTOR POWERS

New inspector powers that give inspectors the authority to enter land and buildings and to restrict or prohibit entry to the site of an emergency were put into practice recently by Jon Rewi, Fire Risk Management Officer, Region 2.

Jon says, "The new powers that came into effect on 1 July give us more certainty about whether we can enter land and buildings. We are still learning what we can do and what paperwork is needed. Overall they make our job easier."

A few weeks ago Jon was conducting an investigation after a fire at a commercial building and had been given access to enter the building the following day.

He says, "When I returned the next day with a key to get in I found that a car was parked across the doorway."

"While we were trying to find out if we could get a tow truck, the garage next door loaned me two trolley jacks and we managed to push the vehicle out of the way."

Jon then found that the occupant of the work place lived on the premises. The legality of the residential occupation was

not known so he was advised to have a consent form signed by the occupant as he needed to enter the remains of the man's living area.

He says, "I managed to get this and we finished conducting the investigation."

Entering and inspecting private property without consent is a serious matter. This is even more so for people's homes and marae. People's rights are protected under modern legislation including the Search and Surveillance Act and the Bill of Rights Act. To ensure that those rights are protected, the inspector powers are subject to certain provisions of the Search and Surveillance Act.

Inspectors need to either get the consent of an occupier or apply for an entry warrant.

For more information about inspector powers go to portal.fireandemergency.nz/assets/documents/Inspector-powers-FAQs.pdf

"The owner and neighbours weren't around to help move the car or even find out who it belonged to. Under the Search and Surveillance Act I had the authority to move the vehicle."

- Jon Rewi (in the middle in green) inspecting a fire on the Tauranga Eastern Link bridge.



It's a chilling fact that most people die in house fires before our fire appliances arrive on scene, in many cases, before fire crews have even left their stations. Looking at the worst four "multiple fatality" fires in recent years, which killed 12 people collectively, our fire crews arrived within seven minutes of the first call being received by Comcens. The fastest appliance response time to arrive on scene was less than four minutes. It just doesn't get any quicker than that, yet three young people died in that fire.

Coroner reports and the findings of our specialist fire investigations show that there are two factors that most contribute to these fire deaths. These are the speed at which house fires develop in New Zealand and the large amount of toxic smoke produced early in the fire.

The biggest contributors in most house fires to this rapid fire development and smoke production are the large padded foam furnishings, typically our lounge suites and sofas. The polyurethane foam that provides the comfortable cushioning is an expanded hydrocarbon. This renders down quickly at relatively low levels of heat and releases enormous amounts of heat energy and carbon monoxide as well as many highly toxic chemicals that rapidly spread through hallways and into rooms.

A typical two seater couch releases five times more energy than a mattress and 27 times more energy than a large fry pan filled with cooking oil. However, Peter Wilding, Manager of the Fire Research and Investigation Unit (FRIU), says "it's not just the amount of energy a foam sofa releases, it's how fast it releases all that energy and combustion products that makes this furniture so deadly."

Burn tests show a mattress will release 600kW of energy in just over 15 minutes. A typical two seater sofa releases 500% more heat energy than a mattress but does so in just three and a half minutes.

After a series of terrible fatal fires, the UK introduced the Flammability of Furniture regulations. These regulations required certain new furnishings to meet minimum fire resistant standards. In New Zealand, the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment is currently developing a further options paper for the Minister that will be used to obtain public input before a final decision on introducing Flammability of Furniture Regulations can be considered. "Yes, it's a strategic long game and we won't see the full benefits for many years" says Peter, "but our own research and the experience of the UK shows this is likely to see around a 50% reduction in fire deaths in New Zealand once fully implemented."

Recently the FRIU provided a live fire demonstration for the Hon Jacqui Dean – Minister of Consumer Affairs to demonstrate why we need these regulations. Minister Dean said she was quite stunned to see how fast the fire developed. "If a picture tells a thousand words, standing in front of a burning room with fire gases pumping out horizontally is as compelling as it gets" says Peter.



TŪRANGI VS BLIZZARD

When a blizzard hit the middle of the North Island in July, Chief Fire Officer Tangonui and the Tūrangi Volunteer Fire Brigade banded together to help out their community.

After road crews were sent to shut down the Desert Road on 13 July, a notoriously dangerous road, the brigade decided to help those who were busy keeping the roads safe. After organising some hot chicken and buns, the crew ventured out to feed what started as two people, but ended up with an additional eight joining once news spread.

Tangonui said, due to the nature of their jobs, they had good ties with the road crews and traffic control. They had a long standing relationship, which had been formed outside of emergencies.

“The road crews were very appreciative of the fact that people not only went out there, but that they took the time to really help. The road crew’s proactive approach to these situations helps to keep the number of accidents down, which makes for a safer community,” said Tangonui.

The Tūrangi Fire Brigade is a very active brigade. Their main message is always in support of the community and it’s dangerous times like these when the community really comes together.

After the blizzard, stories began circulating about random acts of kindness from people helping those who were isolated and with no power. Tangonui said they received messages of people organising supplies and even getting 4-wheel drive convoys started to help those in the affected areas.

“We did our part, and they helped us help others. Just community and people caring for each other,” said Tangonui.

Troopers.



CHECK IT'S ALRIGHT

Wildfires can risk lives, destroy property and devastate natural areas. They cost millions of dollars and take hundreds of hours to fight. Although the New Zealand landscape and climate make some regions highly susceptible to wildfires, human activity is the lead cause and most wildfires are preventable.

To help minimise the chance of wildfires being started, Fire and Emergency New Zealand sets fire seasons in rural areas. Principal Rural Fire Officers set a fire season status for their region, based on their local fire risk conditions. During a “restricted” or “prohibited” season, anyone wanting to light a fire in open air – apart from some types of fire such as gas BBQs – must apply for a fire permit from Fire and Emergency New Zealand.

This is essentially the same as what was in place before 1 July 2017. But now, we have a revamped, single website where the public can go to find out what their local fire season status is, and apply for a fire permit, if necessary.

Let your community know they should go to www.checkitsalright.nz before lighting a fire in a rural area.



REGION 4 MEETS RICHIE MCCAWE

You could literally crack the icy grass in the -4-degree morning, yet it didn’t stop close to 100 personnel turning up in Geraldine for the Region 4, Area 22 Leadership Workshop in late July.

While the hot coffee and tea warmed them up, Rob Hands and Paul Henderson kicked off the workshop covering the agenda for the day. Safety, health and wellbeing, command and control, year one initiatives for volunteers, and fire plans and permits were just some of the topics covered. Richard ‘Mac’ McNamara and Steve Turek also led a presentation on the business changeover and discussed what makes effective leaders.

Not long into the morning, the sound of rotors could be heard in the distance. Sure enough, 50 meters away from the forum, Richie McCaw comes in to land a squirrel helicopter.

Richie and his new boss, Terry Murdoch from Christchurch Helicopters, flew in to provide two different presentations on leadership. As a notable leader of the All Blacks, Richie provided a fascinating insight into the trials, tribulations and high points of leadership at that level. He also was happy to answer a range of questions from the very appreciative Fire and Emergency leaders present.

Terry, who is the CEO of Christchurch Helicopters, talked about how he structured the company and the use of helicopters at fires and of course, how it’s been with Richie joining his team.

Feedback from the event has been exceptionally positive. Rob Hands and Paul Henderson attribute part of the success of the day to the fact they brought their two respective teams (rural and urban) together in the South Canterbury Area Headquarters over 16 months ago, well ahead of the transition.

All in all, a fantastic gathering of leaders from Mid & South Canterbury who left the event anticipating who could “top” this year’s speakers at the next event.



BRIGADE CANTEENS

A recent Coronial decision regarding the inquest in to the death of a young man, following his attendance at a function at a brigade canteen, is a timely reminder to us all about the responsibility that comes with operating a canteen.

While the inquest found that breaches of the Canteen Policy were not a causative factor in the man’s death, all brigades need to be aware of the rules and operate as responsible hosts.

Make sure you’re familiar with the Canteen Policy and Reference Material on the Portal and in your canteen folders. In particular, the booklet titled “Creating a responsible drinking environment” is a good reference guide and should be in all canteen folders. There is also good free reference material which you can order from the Health Promotion Agency.

If you need any material replaced, or have any further questions or concerns about the policy and code of practice, please let your Area Manager or Principal Rural Fire Officer know and extra training can be arranged. Training is also developing educational material to help brigades understand the policy.

CAUGHT ON CAMERA

Got a photo to share?
ignite@fireandemergency.org.nz



DAY 1

Goodbye Fire Service, hello Fire and Emergency!
On 1 July 2017, we welcomed our new name and identity throughout the entire country. Check out some snaps from the day one events!



FIRE AND EMERGENCY GOES PINK

Previously NHQ have 'gone pink for a day' with costumes, competitions, bake sales and other activities raising funds for Pink Ribbon with the help of The NZ Breast Cancer Foundation.

This year we are going to raise funds and awareness of breast cancer across all the regions. So at every Region office start planning events throughout the month of October to raise some money for Pink Ribbon (morning teas, bake sale, costume competitions).

Each region will be set up with a fundraising page on the Breast Cancer NZ website, however if stations within that region want to organise events as well you can. Contact your region BSM - they will be able to let you know who your regional volunteers are and ensure your funds go towards your region's total funds raised.

Eight women a day are diagnosed with breast cancer in New Zealand. The money raised each October will be used to fund vital research projects and medical grants to help improve the survivorship of breast cancer in New Zealand. It will also help support kiwi women who have been diagnosed with breast cancer through services such as counselling and rehabilitation programmes.

For more information on breast cancer and how to do a self-check visit www.breastcancerfoundation.org.nz/

FIRE AT FAMILY FUED!

Trina Maki and Saffron Hawkins made Fire and Emergency and the Murupara Volunteer Fire Service proud on Three's Family Feud, sharing their experiences with their family and women strong brigade. After Maki's partner signed them up, they went along for auditions and two days later got the call that they were in.



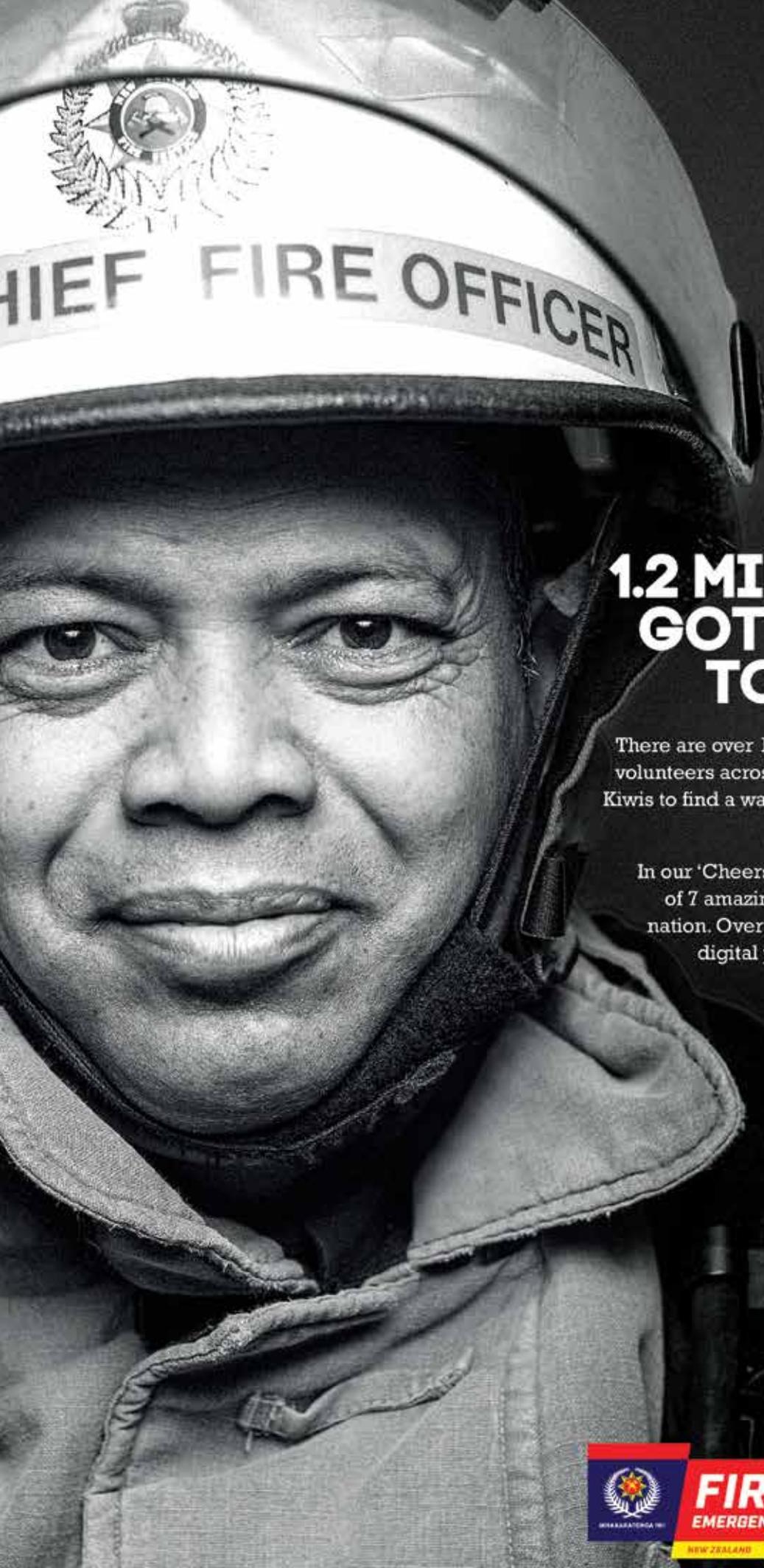
CONGRATULATIONS, BECKY!

Recognise this hard worker? Rebecca (Becky) Black, Silverdale firefighter, has recently celebrated an amazing win with the Black Ferns rugby team over in Belfast. Congratulations, Becky!

KIA ORA TE REO MĀORI

In support of te wiki o te reo Māori, this edition of Ignite has used its Māori name Te Hiringa o Te Tangata.

The theme for this year's Māori language week is Kia ora te reo Māori which not only picks up our national greeting but means literally, 'Let the Māori Language live'.



1.2 MILLION KIWIS GOT THE CHANCE TO SAY CHEERS.

There are over 11,000 Fire and Emergency New Zealand volunteers across the country, but it's not always easy for Kiwis to find a way to say thanks. National Volunteer Week was the perfect time for a shout out.

In our 'Cheers to the Volunteers' campaign, the stories of 7 amazing men and women were shared with the nation. Over 1.2 million people saw the print ads and digital posts and they flocked to social media to show their gratitude.

Cheers to that.



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