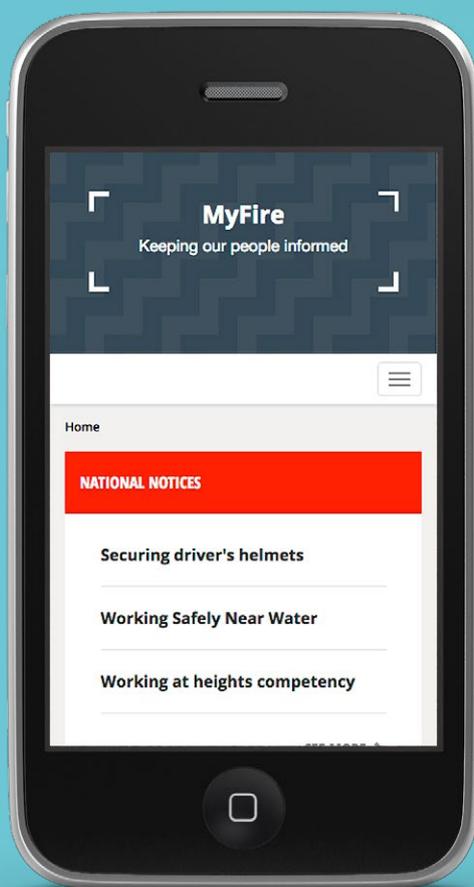


The insiders' magazine  
for fire services

# IGNITE

ISSUE 1 – Spring 2016



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NEWS FROM  
NEW YORK



## Ignite is the official quarterly magazine for fire services in New Zealand.

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

It is produced by the New Zealand Fire Service Communications Team, National Headquarters, Level 12, 80 The Terrace, Wellington.

### Contributions to Ignite

Contributions to be considered for publication are welcome and may be submitted to [ignite@fire.org.nz](mailto:ignite@fire.org.nz).

Photos need to be at least 1MB.

### Read Ignite online

[www.fire.org.nz/media/ignite](http://www.fire.org.nz/media/ignite)

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# Our Olympic Star

*“I really wanted it and I made it happen. When I think of my year I’ve made it exactly what I wanted it to be.”*



*Anne Cairns*

Firefighter Anne Cairns, from Brown Watch Palmerston North, paddled hard for her place to compete in the 2016 Rio Olympics. Anne represented Samoa in two Women’s Single Kayak Sprint events for the first time.

She competed in the 200m and 500m events, coming up against reigning champion and eventual gold medallist, New Zealander, Lisa Carrington.

Anne’s time in the 200m event was close to her personal best. It was also her fastest time since putting her international sprint kayak racing career

on hold nearly eight years ago. She just missed out on her goal of keeping her ‘headwind conditions 500m time’ under two minutes, coming in at 2:01!

“Not bad for the Samoan lone ranger lining up at the Olympics in her self-printed Kmart race singlet,” Anne joked. How’s that for humble?

Despite missing out on the semi-finals due to drawing an unluckily fast heat, Anne did exceptionally well. Her Fire Service family is extremely proud of what she achieved.

In the lead up to her Olympic campaign, Anne embarked on 11 international trips. Her travels included kayak sprinting in Australia, Italy, Hungary, the Czech Republic, and Germany. She also snuck in time for surf ski racing in Tahiti, white-water raft racing in Indonesia, and a 30km paddle mission in Samoa.

On a personal note, Anne is now an engaged woman! Her partner of seven years, Nigel, popped the question on the picturesque Sugarloaf mountain during an afternoon of sightseeing with Anne and her family.

Congrats on all your amazing achievements Anne, you are an inspiration.

# WELCOME, TO THE FIRST EDITION OF IGNITE.

*Ignite* is your voice. The men and women of all arms of the fire services across New Zealand. Whether you're career, volunteer, urban, rural or one of the people who supports our firefighters behind the scenes, these are your stories.

Many of you have already helped to create this magazine. You may have suggested a name or voted on one of the options we put to you. Through that process, you chose *Ignite*.

To be fair, there was some concern about the negative connotations of *Ignite*. But, in this sense, *Ignite* does not represent the destructive force of fire. Rather, *Ignite* is a catalyst for change. A new way of collaborating across the country. Its stories of ingenuity, innovation and inspiration should ignite a spark in you.

Piki Thomas, Pou Herenga Māori – National Māori Advisor to the NZFS, said one phrase sprung straight to mind when he heard the name *Ignite*. Te Hiringa Tangata. "It means to have a drive, zest, determination. To have heart and soul," said Piki.

As we move towards uniting as one organisation under Fire and Emergency New Zealand, this magazine turns a key in the ignition. *Ignite* starts the conversation. It's a small spark that starts to bring us together.

Please enjoy this first edition of *Ignite* – Te Hiringa Tangata.



## Testing. 1..2..3..

Over the next two months, the first of our firefighters and operational support personnel will be trained to use the new IGC radios.

Train-the-trainer workshop presenters Mike Winiata, IGC Project Manager, and Jason Hill, National Advisor IGC radio replacement, are delivering the hands-on training. The training is supported by animations and material on FireNet. "This will help everyone become familiar with the new equipment," says Mike.

All stations will receive facilitated, onsite practical training for the new radio equipment.

"We're giving as many firefighters as possible the chance to familiarise themselves with the new radios before the changeover," says ICT Director, Murray Mitchell.

The first batch of 550 new radios will be deployed to crews between October and December.

Motorola designed the radios for severe fire ground environments. The radios have better transmission, noise cancellation, and improved battery life. They also come with a purpose built remote speaker microphone (RSM). The RSM resolves the Breathing Apparatus interface issues experienced with the current radios.

"It's a welcome change as we head towards Fire and Emergency New Zealand," says Murray. "All firefighters - urban and rural, career and volunteer, can effectively communicate with each other at incidents."

Remember to share your stories  
by emailing the team  
at [ignite@fire.org.nz](mailto:ignite@fire.org.nz)





# Sirens Save Lives

## You never know what you'll get, when you're a communicator answering the phone at one of our three communication centres.

That's understandable, given half a dozen call takers answer more than 900 phone calls on any given day.

ComCen operators frequently get medical and motor vehicle calls. This requires very skilled and supportive management on the other end of the phone.

A call taken by Brodie Keay, in just his fourth month on the job at South Comms, was a lot more than he bargained for.

A call came in from a very distressed lady from Oamaru. She had just received a call from her husband. He was trapped in a car. Problem was, no one knew where he was.

"He'd been travelling with a friend in the rural district, west of Oamaru. It was 3am and they ran off the road. The friend was thrown from the vehicle and this guy was trapped in the upturned car, well off the road."

"It was really difficult, because it was night time. They weren't near the road, and he couldn't remember where he was heading or what road he had been on."

Brodie rang the trapped man on his cellphone. Luckily, he answered.

What followed for the next hour was a marathon effort by Brodie and the Blue Watch crew.

Concern was growing for both men. The second man could be heard gurgling and groaning in the background. Although on the phone to Brodie, the man trapped in the car was on the verge of losing consciousness at any time.

An attempt by Firecom to get a GPS fix from the man's cell proved fruitless. This type of technology relies on a later model phone. The injured man's phone wasn't.

"We had all services, Police, Ambulance and the Fire Service searching for the car. Then an idea struck us. Each Fire appliance and Police unit sounded their siren in turn," said Brodie. The idea worked! When the victim, and Brodie through the phone, could hear the siren, they knew they were close.

"We were able to achieve a positive result thanks to the close working relationship that's developed between Fire and Police being co-located in communication centres," said Brodie.

Southern Communications Centre Manager, Karl Patterson, gives credit where credit's due.

"Brodie showed rock-solid professionalism in the way he handled an extremely complex and demanding phone call. This type of incident proves our recruiting and training is second to none. Well done Andrew Norris and Blue Watch for the great work you're doing showing Brodie the ropes," said Karl.

And yes, there was a happy ending to this call. Both men survived after being found by a diligent Weston Fire Brigade crew and extricated by the Oamaru Pump Rescue Tender crew.

[L-R] Ian Littlejohn, Simon Lyford, Andrew Norris, Ian Thornton and Brodie Keay.



*“We had all services, Police, Ambulance and the Fire Service searching for the car. Then an idea struck us. Each Fire appliance and Police unit sounded their siren in turn”*

**The idea worked!**





## Paul Baxter – Chief Executive and National Commander

Welcome to Ignite – a new magazine that will be the official quarterly magazine of New Zealand’s urban and rural fire services. Ignite is not intended to be a successor to previous magazines like SERVIMUS or Fire + Rescue. Like Fire and Emergency New Zealand, we want it to represent a new, adaptable way of serving our communities.

Some of you may be wondering why we’re back to the ‘old-school’ approach of a magazine. The answer is simple – we know it works, and you don’t have to log in. Vision 2020 made it clear face-to-face is your preferred form of communication, and we’ll keep taking every opportunity we can to get in front of you, but in the meantime the least we can do is make news and information easy to find.

The main difference with Ignite, is that it’s yours. While we’ll always have something to say, we want you to drive this publication. Ignite needs your stories and your photos. Talking to urban and rural firefighters around the country, I am constantly struck by the success, innovation, and inspiration that goes on out there. So my message to you is don’t hold back – it’s time to stop hiding our good news.

Thanks,

**Paul B**



## VOLUNTEER LEADERS GATHER

### What do an All Black, a drag queen and a military man have in common?

Well, aside from walking in to a bar and sharing a joke...

All were guests at one of five Regional Volunteer Leadership Conferences held across the country in July.

Nearly 600 leaders of Volunteer and Rural brigades gathered together for the first of what will be a two-yearly event.

Those attending valued the opportunity to meet face-to-face with national and regional leadership. With all of the Strategic Leadership Team on hand representatives could find out, from the horse’s mouth, what the future holds for them and their brigades.

As the transition to Fire and Emergency NZ draws ever closer, it is not surprising that FENZ was a key area of interest. Technology, training and kit were also popular topics.

A key highlight was the chance to network with colleagues from both the rural and volunteer sectors.

“Everywhere we went, people told me how good it was to be able to network with people in their patch,” said Chief Executive and National Commander, Paul Baxter. “Not just with other CFOs and DCFOs, but with their Rural colleagues too.”

Regions were responsible for putting together their own two day conference. From invites to venues, catering and accommodation, it required a lot of time and hard work. Conferences were held in Palmerston North, Auckland, Rotorua, Christchurch and Dunedin. Each region selected their own guest speakers - and sometimes unorthodox entertainment!

A huge thanks to those who made the conferences run so smoothly and to all those who gave up their own time to attend.

# WHEN THE BLUE LINE MET THE RED WATCH

Nuisance fires, antisocial behaviour, family violence, petty crime, burglary, graffiti, and road policing issues. Once, all common place problems in the Riccarton community. A three year collaboration between Christchurch Metro Fire Service and Police has changed that.

To address some of the anti-social activities going on in the area, local Police and Fire Service personnel took a new approach. By working closely with residents and community leaders they were able to turn things around. Housing New Zealand, the University, schools and community groups also got on board.

Most of the problems the Fire Service was dealing with were caused by student parties and setting couches alight. Now when you drive through Riccarton, streets once littered with graffiti and discarded furniture are clean and safe.



"It's hard work. It's lots of extra time and full of challenges. But, it's so worth it," says Mike Johns, Christchurch Metro's Assistant Area Commander, who led the

Sockburn Red Watch crew when the partnership kicked off.

Working with Police's Prevention First model, was different for Mike and his team. Traditionally taking a reactive approach, the results of this new way of working speak for themselves.

Nuisance fires have reduced by 70% and couch fires by 90%. General crime is down by 23%, while burglary stats have halved and tagging is virtually non-existent.

The team looked at the underlying causes of the anti-social behaviour the community was experiencing.



"At its core you'll find a disengaged community," says Sergeant Steve Jones of the Riccarton West Neighbourhood

Policing Team. "No community ownership, neighbours not knowing neighbours, uni-students being disconnected from long-term residents. When you solve those problems you start building a strong, connected, and resilient community."

So what does the Fire Service do differently? Fire prevention education in schools is continuing. That is now supported by being more visible in the community and doing things not typically expected of the Fire Service.

Graffiti is hosed down as soon it appears and is quickly replaced by student art and murals. "It stops

re-tagging. Today, graffiti is almost non-existent," says Mike.



When students or residents move out, the Fire Service removes unwanted furniture and rubbish. Removing rubbish reduces the temptation to set things alight, significantly reducing nuisance fires.

The Police and Fire Service continue to build relationships with the community and attend local events. The Fire Service even waters the community vegetable garden. "For the first time local families in need have been fed out of this garden," says Mike.

Long-term residents Loretta and Nic Te Paa tend to the garden. "It's good to see the community pull together again," says Loretta.

Carol Renouf, manager of Oak Development Trust, an initiative set up to improve the quality of life in Riccarton West, sums it up perfectly. "I can see a big difference in the community. It's got life. It's got possibility. It's growing. We see people living."





## PUTTING THE FUN INTO FIRE WARDEN DUTY

Let's be honest – being a fire warden in student digs isn't what most students would be stoked to do while they are enjoying their first year away from home!

Victoria University's Weir House fire wardens have come up with a great way to make it fun.

In return for helping to reduce the number of false alarms in the Halls of Residence, the wardens will be pin-ups in their own calendar.

Of course, what would a fire calendar be without a shot in front of a fire truck? The 'talent' at Wellington City Station were all too happy to step in front of the camera to support the cause.

It was a great chance for firefighters and fire wardens to swap notes on their roles. And for Fire Risk Management Officer, Bruce Irvine, to show off his mad scone baking skills!

## LAKE TEKAPO BRIGADE HONoured AFTER TRAGEDY

Lake Tekapo volunteers received well deserved honours for their role in saving the lives of nine young tourists.

What was meant to be an afternoon of fun on Lake Tekapo in September last year, quickly turned to tragedy.

Eleven young students, on exchange from Melbourne's Monash University, set out in kayaks to paddle to Motuariki Island. They soon found themselves in trouble. The wind began gusting and they were swept towards the western shore of the lake. One of the students was able to raise the alarm.

Sadly, two of the young people died in the icy conditions on the lake. The surviving tourists, in various stages of hypothermia, were taken to the Lake Tekapo Fire Station. Once there, the brigade members provided them with urgent medical assistance.

If it wasn't for quick action of the rescuers involved that day there could have easily been more fatalities. The New Zealand Search and Rescue Council presented the brigade with a Certificate of Achievement for their efforts.



## Did you know?

The notional consumption rates for Breathing Apparatus entry control are changing, from 40 to

**60** LITRES/  
MINUTE.

**Why?** The old rate was based on the work of Scottish physiologist John Scott Haldane in the early 20th century. His calculation was based on a person strolling around an athletics track at a leisurely 6km/h. That certainly doesn't reflect the consumption rates of our firefighters at incidents!

Keep an eye out for Quin Webster, SSO Takapuna and BA Specialist, who'll be travelling the country to talk about the changes.



## GET FIREWISE SAVES MASTERTON FAMILY

When Angus opened his bedroom door and discovered a fire, he knew exactly what to do.

He closed the door and yelled “Fire! Fire! Fire!”

Because the family had practised their escape plan they knew how to get out quickly and to meet at their “safe meeting place”.

Ten-year old Angus, who also has Asperger’s Syndrome, is a bit of a hero in his local community. His quick thinking saved the lives of his mum and two brothers. By closing the door, Angus also limited the damage to the family home.

Angus attends a loyal Get Firewise school, and his actions are proof of just how important the programme is.

Lance Harris, Senior Fire Fighter Masterton Station who has worked with the school said, “It was a pretty feel good moment for me too. The Firewise programme works. It is amazing to see stories like Angus’ to know our message does get through. We make a difference by getting the kids on board. As a firefighter it was awesome to see.”

Station Officer, Mike Cornford said 95% of the schools in the area are teaching the Get Firewise programme. The small group of dedicated firefighters plan to make that 100%.

With success stories like Angus’ it’s easy to see why.

## AWARD FOR SAFE COMMUNITIES SUCCESS

Keeping communities safe is at the very heart of what we do, but we know we can’t do it alone.

Across New Zealand, the fire services work closely with our partner agencies in the Safe Communities Foundation. Together, we’re achieving excellent results. Of the 350 internationally accredited Safe Cities, 25 are in New Zealand.

Fire Risk Management - Senior Advisor, Henry Stechman recently accepted the National Safe Communities Award. The award recognises Henry’s outstanding leadership and support. “Even though my name is on it, I’m so proud to accept it on behalf of all the good work we are doing across New Zealand,” said Henry.

Henry was presented with his award at the Safe Communities Foundation Forum also attended by Board Chair, Paul Swain. Paul spoke of Fire and Emergency NZ’s continued commitment to fire safety education and prevention.

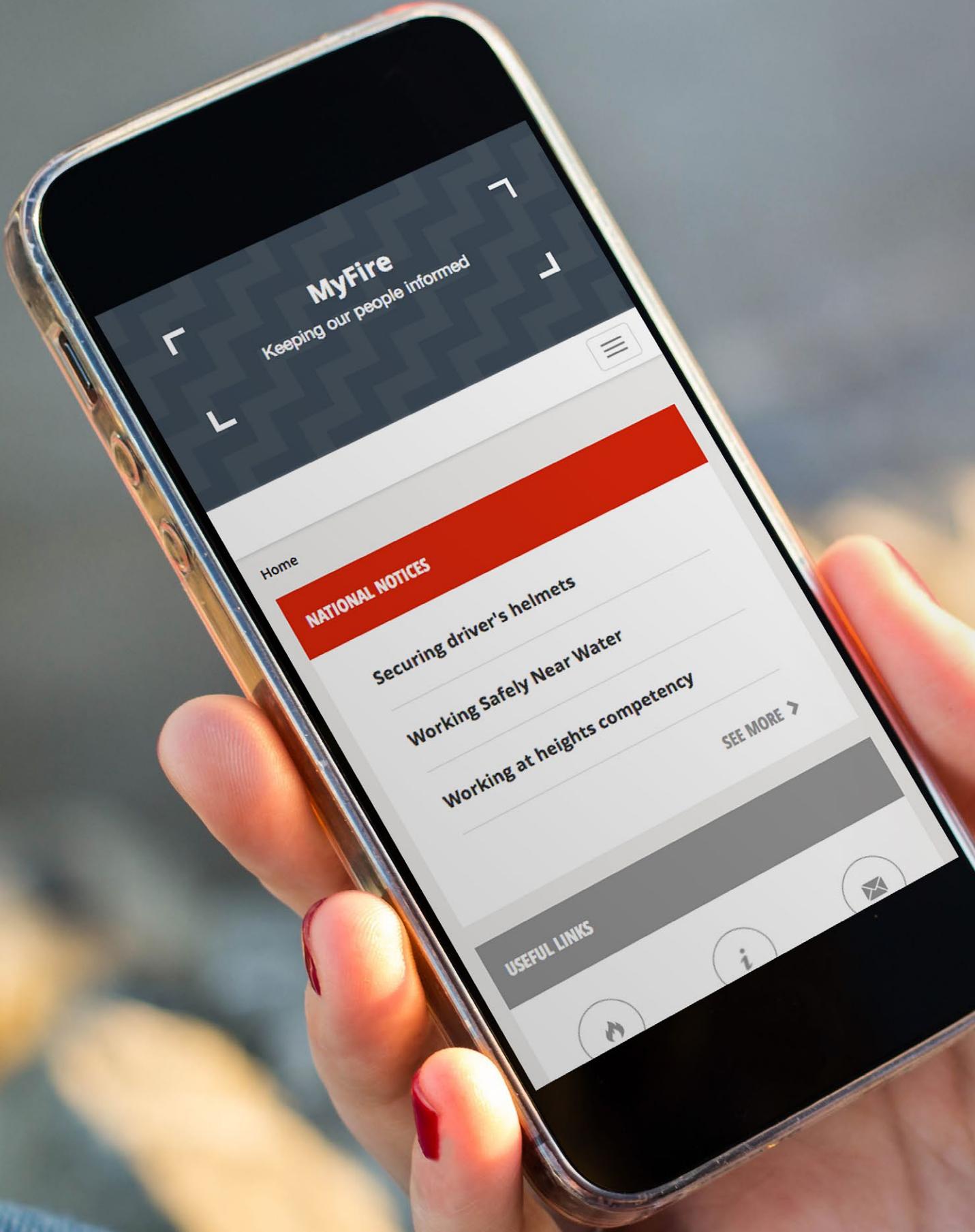
New Plymouth Senior Fire Fighter, Rachel Utumapu, also captivated the audience. Rachel gave an entertaining and engaging presentation on the Fire Awareness and Intervention Programme (FAIP). Speaking on the tricky topic of youth arson, Rachel showed how FAIP is one of our key contributions to safe communities.

The Safe Communities Foundation New Zealand is part of the Pan Pacific Safe Community Network (PPSCN). PPSCN is pursuing an official relationship with the World Health Organisation, which sees Safe Communities as an important means of delivering evidence based prevention strategies at a local level.

For more information email [Henry.Stechman@fire.org.nz](mailto:Henry.Stechman@fire.org.nz)



[L-R] Andrew Walker, Manu LeCeve, Henry Stechman and Graham Stephens



**MyFire**

Keeping our people informed

Home

**NATIONAL NOTICES**

Securing driver's helmets

Working Safely Near Water

Working at heights competency

SEE MORE >

**USEFUL LINKS**



# MYFIRE

*Be informed.  
Anywhere,  
any time.*

The demand for information is greater now than ever before. As Fire and Emergency New Zealand (FENZ) approaches, the need for an informed workforce is vital.

We recognise that information needs to be open, accessible and most importantly – instant. To service this need, we've built an online channel (MyFire) specifically for firefighters.

Recognising one size doesn't fit all, both Ignite and MyFire will complement each other. The purpose of MyFire is to provide a channel to all personnel to be informed and engaged at all times.

Fire services across the country are diverse. It's becoming increasingly difficult to reach audiences through traditional methods. MyFire is responsive, open and accessible. It allows personnel to access information from any location, on any device, at any time.

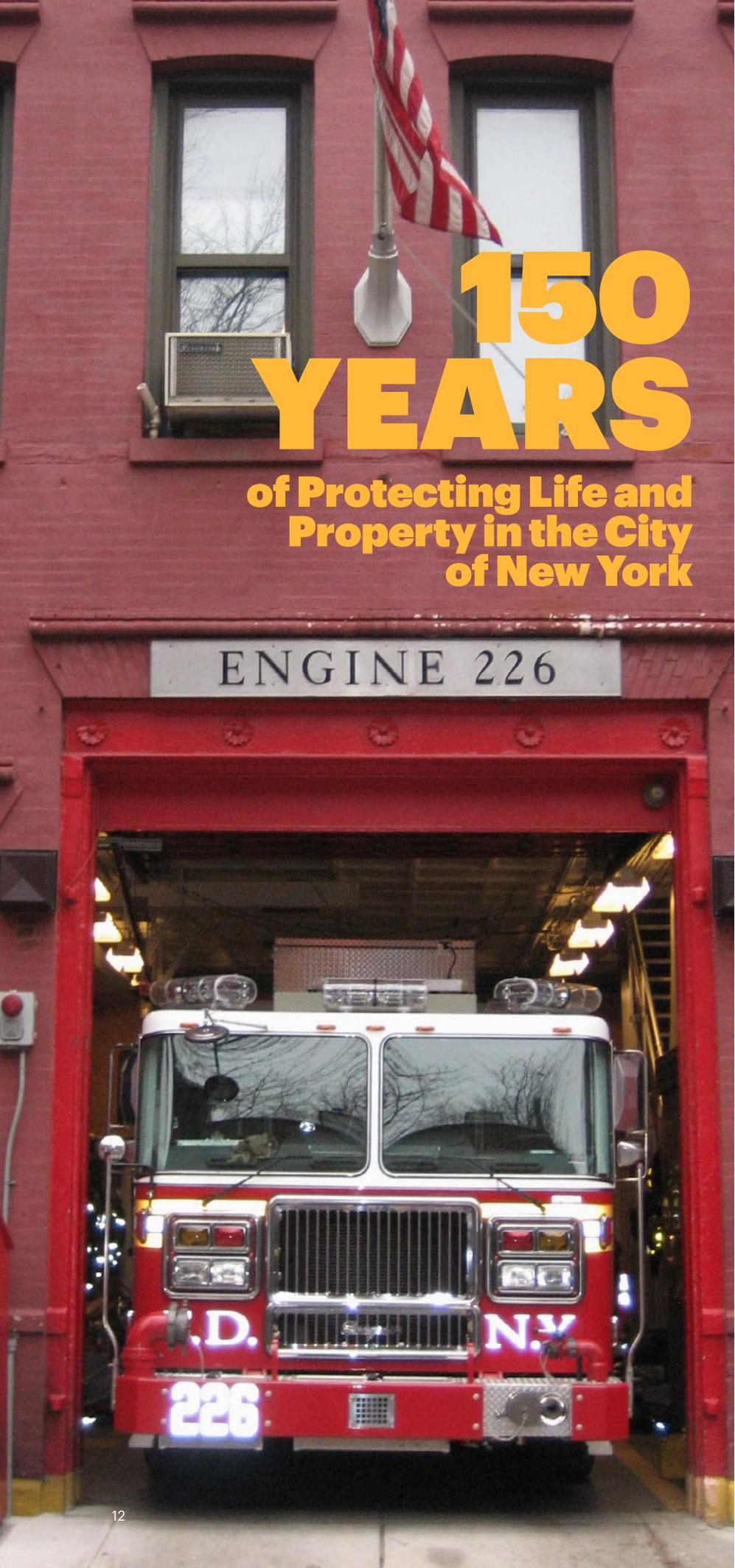
MyFire is a website now available on any mobile device or computer. The site will soon be available as a mobile application. It will be available from various mobile app stores including Apple, Google and Windows.

Our channels are only as good as the content and we want your stories! So if you've got something to say or share, send it in to [myvoice@fire.org.nz](mailto:myvoice@fire.org.nz) and you may end up online, or in print.

[www.myfire.nz](http://www.myfire.nz)



**Have your say...**  
[ignite@fire.org.nz](mailto:ignite@fire.org.nz)



# 150 YEARS

## of Protecting Life and Property in the City of New York



**INTERNATIONAL IGNITION**  
*contributor from around the world*

**Battalion Chief  
Steven San Filippo**

*New York City Fire Department*



Let me start by saying thank you for giving me this very special opportunity to contribute an article to the first edition of Ignite. It is truly an honour.

I wasn't really sure what I wanted to write about. Then I realised that the New York City Fire Department (FDNY) recently celebrated 150 years of service and knew this would be the perfect subject.

Over the years, the history of the New York City Fire Department is filled with many heroic actions. But, it is the everyday dedication of its members protecting its citizens that has created its storied reputation.

The FDNY celebrated 150 years of dedicated service in 2015 as an organised fire department. Starting in 1865 the FDNY's core mission was to protect life and property in the city of New York. In the beginning, horse drawn fire apparatus, wooden hydrants and cotton jacketed hose lines were the technology of the day.

Today, the FDNY has some of the most modern fire apparatus and equipment of any fire department. Advancements in equipment, operations and tactics and the ongoing training have enabled the department to meet the everyday challenges that confront the fire service on a daily basis.

Do I think that the FDNY is the best department? Absolutely. But that's the



**“To the men of the Fire Department of the city of New York who died at the call of duty, soldiers in a war that never ends, this memorial is dedicated by the people of a grateful city.”**

attitude that every member of every fire department has no matter where they work.

Firefighters around the world are all the same. Becoming a firefighter is special, it is a calling. When you raise your hand and swear to protect life and property in your city, in your department, you have taken an oath which is special. It sets you apart from others.

## **Firefighting is a noble profession, be proud.**

I would like to leave you with one quote and one inscription, both of which have always made me proud that I could carry on my family's tradition of being a firefighter.

The first is inscribed on the firefighters' monument which is where we honour our fallen every year in October. This monument was erected by the citizens of New York City in 1913.

The inscription reads...

“To the men of the Fire Department of the city of New York who died at the call of duty, soldiers in a war that never ends, this memorial is dedicated by the people of a grateful city.”

In 1913 the people of New York, recognising the selfless dedication to their fellow citizens, erected this monument in their appreciation.

That appreciation continues today. Especially after the heroic rescue attempt and tragic events of September 11th 2001 when the FDNY lost 343 members.

The following quote from 1910 is attributed to FDNY Chief of Department Edward F. Croker. This quote has always instilled a feeling of pride for me and has assured me that I have chosen a noble profession.

“I have no ambition in this world but one, and that is to be a firefighter. The position may, in the eyes of some, appear to be a lowly one. But, we who know the work which the firefighter has to do, believe that his is a noble calling.

“There is an adage which says that, ‘Nothing can be destroyed except by fire’. We strive to preserve from destruction the wealth of the world which is the product of the industry of men, necessary for the comfort of both the rich and the poor.

**“We are defenders from fires of the art which has beautified the world, the product of the genius of men and the means of refinement of mankind.**

“But, above all; our proudest endeavour is to save lives of men – the work of God Himself.

“Under the impulse of such thoughts, the nobility of the occupation thrills us and stimulates us to deeds of daring, even at the supreme sacrifice.

“Such considerations may not strike the average mind, but they are sufficient to fill to the limit our ambition in life and to make us serve the general purpose of human society.”

Chief Edward F. Croker FDNY circa 1910



Chief Edward F. Croker. FDNY



## Kevin O'Connor – National Rural Fire Officer

The merger of 40 organisations into a new unified organisation, Fire and Emergency New Zealand (FENZ), is an opportunity to focus on the unique talents of the people within these organisations. FENZ will be successful, not because of the physical merger, but because of the way our people adapt and change to new ways of working.

It's important we make the most of opportunities to celebrate our successes and share our stories. Because the rural fire community is so diverse the introduction of our new magazine Ignite, is a chance for us to get to know each other, to better understand the sector, and the communities we serve.

I encourage you to share your stories, catch up with your urban or rural counterparts, and discover what's unique and what's the same in their patch.

I look forward to reading about your stories in Ignite and getting to know you all.



**HALL OF FLAME**  
*Personal profiles stories...*

# Rural Volunteer **OUTWARD BOUND**



They say it's a long way down from the top...that's especially true when you're navigating your way around a high ropes course! But, for Southern Rural Volunteer Matthew Beer, he's on his way up and has no plans to stop.

At just 23 years old, Matthew is already showing the discipline and skills needed to be a good leader. Matthew felt the call to be a firefighter after witnessing a fire at a forestry block not far from his home. Seeing his potential, the Southern Rural Fire Authority awarded him a Leadership Scholarship. Matthew's enthusiasm to attend courses, fires and deployments made him the ideal candidate for the award.

Included in the scholarship was the Outward Bound Classic Course. For 21 days, Matthew worked with 13 others, surrounded by the beautiful scenery of the Marlborough Sounds.

"It's a really good place to learn," said Matthew. "You need to keep a positive attitude and be prepared to put in the hard yards to help out the team. The more you do for them, the more they will do for you. That is what being a leader is about."

Matthew rates teamwork and encouraging others who are struggling as the most important skills he picked up on the course. Skills which will easily translate into his work with the Rural Fire Service.

He enjoyed all the physical challenges of the course and recommends anyone give it a go.

"The most challenging thing was the high ropes course. No matter how well you did there was always a twist to make it harder. The instructors were really good too. They encourage you to step outside of your comfort zone, to try new things, and to build self-confidence.

"They made sure we all had the best experience we could possibly have, we all got on really well by the end of the course."

Matthew has recently been appointed to the role of crew leader of the Drummond Rural Volunteer Brigade. No doubt he'll get to put the skills he learned at Outward Bound to good use.

**For more information on Outward Bound, please visit: [www.outwardbound.co.nz](http://www.outwardbound.co.nz)**



### 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](mailto:ignite@fire.org.nz).*



The Station Facilities Upgrade Project is proving a hit around the country.

In 2015, the National Property Team reviewed all stations to see which ones did not meet minimum requirements. Most stations had a toilet, hand-basin and hot running water. However, some didn't have a shower and many didn't have proper Breathing Apparatus wash facilities.

These issues are now being addressed with all stations' amenities targeted to be up to standard by 30 June 2018. Brigades are already seeing benefits from the programme.

The Wanaka Volunteer Brigade has recently moved in to their newly refurbished station. "We can all take pride in this development which has been many years in the making," said National Property Manager, Dominic Hare. The station will be officially opened in November.

Further north, the seismic and ablution upgrade has made a significant difference to the functionality of the busy Feilding brigade.

Chief Fire Officer, Bradley Shanks says the changes have boosted morale in the station.

"The upgrades are a tangible way for our people to see what is meant by the clean cab policy," he said.

It's a busy time for National Property. Their work includes the Christchurch Rebuild, Seismic Upgrade, and Exhaust Fume Management Programmes.

Norsewood Volunteer Fire Brigade has just had its Exhaust Fume Management solution implemented. The team couldn't be happier with the improvements.

Area Commander Ken Cooper said, "We are extremely impressed with the Property Team. They worked with the contractors and the brigade to make it a seamless update," he said.

Many other stations are currently, or soon to be, underway with improvements.



## A STAR IS BORN!

How do you make a radio and social media fire safety campaign stand out?

The answer is simple. Real firefighters. Recording and filming at a real fire station.

It was a job more logistically challenging than herding cats. But, a great team of firefighters, from across the country, descended on Mangere Station. Compulsory 'R-roller' from the deep south included!

The radio adverts will be played in bursts across the country on the major networks and a selection of smaller, independent ones.

The radio schedule will be available on FireNet so you can see when the different fire safety messages will be playing.

The short videos can be used by brigades on their own social media channels, station screens and played at community events. This is going to be an exciting campaign, blending radio and social media together, playing across the whole country's radio waves.

Keep an ear out for the first adverts airing in October.

Top left [L-R] Station officer, Isaia Piho, Dunedin and Andrew McDowall, FCB

Top right [L-R] Renee McGarva, NHQ and Xavier Kennedy, Mt Maunganui SFF



## F10 HELMET PUT THROUGH ITS PACES

National Operations knows firefighters want a better helmet. Eight firefighters were invited to spend two days in Rotorua evaluating an improved F10 and a new model of helmet.

The evaluation was a comparison between the F10 Mk III Generation 2 and the F10 Mk V Generation 2 helmets. The results from the evaluation were close for both options. Some of the issues identified include problems with the buckle, the neck flap is too long, adjusting the nape strap and the velcro length. These will need to be addressed by Pacific before any final decision is made.

"Once we've sorted out these issues we'll conduct a wider trial so we can get more feedback," said Steve Mackle, PPE Advisor, National Operations. "We'll keep everyone informed on our progress."

In other PPE news, chainsaw chaps will soon be available on the workwear group. These have been designed exclusively for the Fire Service, with help from firefighters around the country. They can be worn over normal clothes or over structural PPE.

There are a few more trials planned for the year. A new boot by Magnum, a new structural glove, wildfire/rescue helmet and smaller dress shoes for women.

### Who was involved?

- **NZPFU** – Boyd Raines, Auckland SFF; Bryan McGraw-Alcock, Christchurch SFF
- **UFBA** – Rob Eggers, Rolleston SSO; Jon Kneebone Plimmerton, QFF and NHQ
- **NZFS** – Rochelle Martin, Onehunga SSO; Turi Hodges, Porirua SFF; Josh Nicholls, Auckland SFF; Xavier Kennedy, Mt Maunganui SFF.

# Oh MAN!!!

## **NZFS Fleet and Operations teams, and the NZPFU join forces to restore firefighters' confidence in MAN Type 3 appliances.**

Introduced to the NZFS fleet in January 2015, the MAN Type 3 appliance has suffered from a number of issues and defects. There are currently 19 Type 3s in service across the country.

In August, the New Zealand Professional Firefighters' Union (NZPFU) blacklisted two of the appliances. The first was in Auckland with a second in Christchurch a few days later. A third appliance in Thorndon has not been accepted back into operational service.

Equally frustrated by the ongoing concerns about the MAN Type 3, the Union and Fire Service are working together to solve the problems. The number one priority is to ensure firefighters can rely on the appliance to perform.

NZPFU President, Peter Nicolle, has joined the national Fleet and Operations team full-time. Working with local and international suppliers, they are addressing each fault in turn. Those fixes will then be applied to every MAN Type 3 across the fleet. "We want a fire appliance that is fit for purpose, safe and reliable," said Peter Nicolle.

"Fixes alone will not restore confidence in the MAN," said National Fleet Manager, Mike Moran. "We know some of our people have been unhappy with the MAN fleet since it was introduced."

An extensive and rigorous testing programme, over several days, will put the Type 3 under pressure in a range of scenarios.

Firefighters from around the country will be asked to take part in the trials. "They'll be able to really put the Type 3 to the test," said Mike Moran. "Based on their testing, we need to be able to confirm to their colleagues around the country, that the Type 3s are able to perform reliably."

In the meantime, introduction of further MAN Type 3s to the fleet has been suspended. Only once testing is complete, and confidence in the appliance is restored, will the Type 3 roll out resume.



## **Paul Swain – Chair of the Board**

It's great to see this new magazine has a strong focus on our people.

Since I became Chair, it's been a privilege to get out and about and meet as many of you as possible. Every time I visit a station or a rural fire force I can see at first hand why you are the most trusted profession in New Zealand.

You are driven by the desire to serve our communities and keep them safe. This ethos of working for your families, friends, neighbours and the wider public will continue to be one of the key drivers in our new organisation, Fire and Emergency New Zealand. So I'm very pleased to see your stories featured on these pages.

We're heading into one of the most important changes in our fire service since the 1970s. The structures and legislation we operate under have served us well, but the Government has heard the sector's feedback that 21st century challenges require a 21st century approach.

We now have the opportunity to create a new organisation, backed by modern legislation and increased funding. Our challenge is to use this opportunity to build a new fire and emergency service that will serve our communities for the next 70 years.

We all have a part to play in that, and the way our rural and urban fire services are collaborating to find solutions to common problems is a great sign for the future.

### **Hon. Paul Swain**

Board Chair, New Zealand Fire Service  
Commission



# THROUGH THE FENZ LENS



Got a photo to share?  
Send it to [ignite@fire.org.nz](mailto:ignite@fire.org.nz)



## A BIRD'S EYE VIEW

Trials of Unmanned Aerial Systems (UAS) are continuing in Hawke's Bay, Avalon and Christchurch City. Equipped with high definition and infra-red cameras, we're looking at how the UAS can help support intelligence gathering at incidents.

At left Station Officer Craig McMillan, Avalon





## POLYFEST

Crews entertained and educated the crowds at Polyfest 2016 with the Kitchen Fire Demonstrator and Kids' Fire Safety House. Many of the 80,000 visitors got dressed up in Level 2s and posted photos to Instagram in the hopes of winning a mini iPad! A great new way to spread our fire safety message!



## FANS FLOCK TO MEET FIRIES

On a typically stunning Wellington winter day, Te Papa held its Emergency Services expo on Saturday 16 July. The sunshine brought lots of families along to see displays from Police, Wellington Free Ambulance, Coast Guard, Tug Boats and Land S.A.R.



## RURAL ON POINT AT CASTLEPOINT

The NZ Rural Fire Response Team got together in September to hone their skills. The action-packed five-day leadership training exercise was held at Castlepoint in the Wairarapa.

FOR THEM, FIRE IS FUN.



MAKE SURE THEY KNOW THE DANGERS TOO.  
KEEP LIGHTERS AND MATCHES OUT OF CHILDREN'S REACH.

