

TE HIRINGA O TE TANGATA

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

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

Ignite represents the voices of the people across the country who dedicate themselves to protecting life, the environment and property in their communities.

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Contributions to Ignite

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Photos need to be at least 1MB.

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KIA ORA KOUTOU

At Fire and Emergency, we welcome opportunities where our people can be challenged to grow both as individuals and as teams.

I admire the way our people often give their time and energy to support their communities beyond firefighting or participate in physical and sporting challenges to keep themselves at peak fitness.

Read about how Ryan Thomson from Spreydon Fire Station followed his passion for speed and adrenalin to become Fire and Emergency Sportsperson of the Year on page 4; take a look at the firefighters who got involved in the annual Sky Tower Stair Challenge fundraising event on page 12; see our people in action during the United Fire Brigades Association's National Combat Challenge on page 7; and read about three firefighters from Hamilton who've spent 50 years in a career they love on page 10.

Tucked inside this Ignite you'll also find information about the Australasian Police and Emergency Services Games in Rotorua from 4-11 March 2022. These games, open to all our people, include more than 50 different sporting codes. I encourage you to consider registering to participate in what is sure to be a fun, supportive, and competitive event.

In this edition of Ignite we farewell our Chair, Hon Paul Swain, who is standing down at the end of June having served two terms. He was initially Chair of the Fire Service Commission from April 2016 to March 2017, and then inaugural Chair of the Board of Fire and Emergency New Zealand from 1 July 2017.

On pages 8-9 of this issue, Paul shares his reflections on the progress we've made to create a unified fire and emergency service for New Zealand during his time as Chair. I have appreciated Paul's guidance over the last four years, and we wish him well as he steps down from his role. Haere ra, Paul.

Ngā mihi, Rhys Jones, Chief Executive



STOP BULLYING - HE WAKA EKE NOA

In late May Fire and Emergency people from across the country came together to celebrate Pink Shirt Day.

Pink Shirt Day is about working together to stop bullying by celebrating diversity and promoting kindness and inclusiveness. It's about creating a community where all people feel safe, valued and respected, regardless of their age, sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, ability or cultural background. Bullying and harassment of any kind have no place within our organisation.

The theme for Pink Shirt Day was Kōrero Mai, Kōrero Atu, Mauri Tū, Mauri Ora – Speak Up, Stand Together, Stop Bullying.

Check out some of the celebrations around the country below. The front cover shows Area 4 celebrating Pink Shirt Day at the Rainbow Crossing, Karangahape Road.















Fire and water are opposing elements in nature, but Ryan Thomson has managed to get them in balance. The Senior Firefighter from Spreydon is the current Fire and Emergency Sportsperson of the Year for his national and international achievements in jet ski racing.

Ryan received his trophy from Board Chair Hon Paul Swain last month and credits the support he's had from Fire and Emergency as a big factor in his success. "It's great to be able to do this job and also train and compete. The Sports Council does an amazing job promoting and encouraging sport at all levels in this organisation."

Originally a competitive sailor and kayaker, Ryan took up jetskiing four years ago. He rides a machine he believes is the fastest power to weight jet ski in New Zealand, and he's won regional and national titles in the unrestricted elite class.

On the back of national success, Ryan received funding from the Fire and Emergency Sports Council, which enabled him to compete in the 2019 Jet Ski World Championships in Arizona. Due to the cost of shipping, he opted to hire a jetski and took out fifth place overall – the only competitor in the top ten riding a rented machine. Te Ihu's representative

on the Sports Council, Hamiora Taite, compares Ryan's achievement to Novak Djokovic competing at Wimbledon with a borrowed tennis racquet!

"I've always had a passion for speed and adrenalin," Ryan says.

Ryan followed a family tradition by becoming a firefighter. Aged 16 he joined the Akaroa Volunteer Brigade where his grandfather served, and his father is still the Akaroa Brigade Chief. "I enjoyed being around practical adults, learning life skills and facing challenges," Ryan says.

After seven years in Akaroa, he spent another two years in the Lincoln Volunteer Brigade, working as a builder before deciding to become a career firefighter in 2014. "I appreciate the encouragement I've received to pursue other goals and the freedom and support to push the limits and travel the country and overseas through sport."



INTERNATIONAL FIREFIGHTERS' DAY

International Firefighters' Day is a day for us to acknowledge and celebrate the great work our people do to keep our communities safe.

This year Hon Jan Tinetti, who as Minister of Internal Affairs is responsible for Fire and Emergency, visited Wellington Central Station and met some of the crew.

She was shown around the station by Assistant Area Manager Gareth Hughes, and Region Manager Bruce Stubbs, and learned about the important role the Command Unit plays during incident response.

In Hawke's Bay, messages of support for firefighters were written in chalk from local school children across the region.

"It's a day that's recognised internationally and celebrates

what firefighters do in the community," says Ken Cooper, Area Manager, Hawke's Bay.

"We invited local schools to visit our stations for an initiative called Chalk the Walk. Kids came down and wrote messages for firefighters outside the stations."

Many of the messages thanked firefighters for their support during last year's Napier floods.

Several other events took place across the country, providing an opportunity for firefighters to strengthen their connections with the communities they serve.









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COURAGEOUS PROOF THAT FIRE EDUCATION WORKS

The quick thinking of a 14-year-old girl in Kaitangata, Otago undoubtedly saved lives in a recent house fire — and it was triggered by things she'd remembered from a Fire and Emergency education programme when she was at primary school four years earlier.

On 24 April, with her Mum having left early for work, Narnie McKenzie was woken by a smoke alarm. She ran to the living room where she saw flames coming from a couch. She immediately woke her little brother, grabbed the dog and puppies and took them all to a safe place on the driveway. She called 111, and a crew arrived within minutes.

Just two days earlier, Narnie and her family had watched our TV advertisement on creating an escape plan. They had made their own, then and there. Narnie had also attended Firewise and Clued Up Kids at primary school and the knowledge had stayed with her.

Marty Jillings, Fire Risk Management Officer, Central North Otago is full of praise for Narnie.

"Our campaigns and education programmes give young people valuable information to act quickly if a fire occurs in their home. Narnie did that brilliantly," said Marty.

Narnie is now a champion for fire safety and recently spoke at her old primary school, sharing her story with the whole school. She is clear about the message she wants to get across. "I tell everyone. Make sure you have working fire alarms and always listen to the fire safety advice you're given. It can save your family's lives."



Does your family have an escape plan? If that's still on your "to do" list, action now by going to: www.fireandemergency.nz/at-home/ creating-an-escape-plan/



'THUMBS UP' FOR NEW NORTHCOM

Last October, after 22 years at 159 Great South Road, Auckland, our Northern Communications Centre relocated to 482 Great South Road, Piki Ki Te Ao, alongside Police.

So how are they settling into their premises? It gets a big 'thumbs up' from the team.

Police, who own the building, completed a major upgrade and refurbishment including adding a café, gym and a Fire and Emergency breakout room.

Northern ComCen Manager Peter Stevenson says working in the new centre has been a boost for everyone.

"We are very settled in Piki Ki Te Ao and enjoying the nice bright surroundings and state of the art technology we have been provided.

"Everyone enjoys having a gym for staff to use, better meeting rooms to use for Tuesday training, and larger desks. It's also allowed for better collaboration between Police and Fire and Emergency.

"We now have a screen wall with CCTV feeds from Auckland Motorways and SaferCities, which allows Comcen to correctly locate incidents. We are also able to observe incidents and provide situational awareness to crews while they are responding."

"The new premises are a vast improvement on the tired building we had been in for the last 22 years."

"This has benefited staff and created a more positive approach to coming to work. There are more areas to have lunch breaks, relax, and take time away from the desk," said Peter.



From Left: Mark Richards, Operations Manager, Ben Kearney, Dispatcher, Daniel Nicholson, Shift Manager.

SIGN LANGUAGE WEEK QUIZ

- 1. In what year did sign language become an official language of New Zealand?
- A. 2004

C. 2008

B. 2006

- D. 2010
- 2. How many people communicate in NZSL as their native language and on a daily basis?
- A. 10,000

C. 20,200

B. 15,400

- D. 24,000
- 3. When and where was the first Deaf school established?
- A. 1880, Sumner
- C. 1924, Kelston
- B. 1980. Sumner
- D. 1967, Kelston
- 4. Sign Language is a universal language.
- A. True

B. False

- 5. Fire and Emergency New Zealand works alongside external organisations to help Deaf or hard of hearing people obtain specialised equipment (interconnected smoke alarms, pillow shakers, flashing lights, pagers) to help alert them to a smoke alarm activation. What is this process called?
- A. HAN Hearing Assisted Needs
- C. HAT Hearing Assisted Telecommunication
- B. HAT Hearing
 Assisted Technology
- D. DSA Deaf Smoke Alarms
- 6. How many people (approx.) in New Zealand have hearing loss to some degree?
- A. 200.000
- C. 800,000
- B. 300,000
- D. 500,000

Check your Answers on page 14

ARE YOU TOUGH ENOUGH?

Described as the toughest two minutes in sport, the United Fire Brigades Association's (UFBA's) National Firefighter Combat Challenge is an annual event that sees firefighters from across the country come up against each other and the clock as they tackle a series of daunting tasks.

This year's course on Wellington's Taranaki Street Wharf was described as one of the hardest yet, with competitors wearing Level 2 gear and a breathing apparatus set as they completed the course.

Taja Smith, of New Plymouth Station, was competing in her third Combat Challenge and described this year's event as the best yet.

"These events have been the place that I – as a firefighter who is wahine Māori – have felt the most encouraged, included and respected since joining this organisation in 2016.

"The atmosphere at the UFBA Firefighter Combat Challenge compares to no other event I have been involved with or attended. "I believe because we all come together from a vast range of experiences, knowledge and skills, to compete in the same competitions but for a range of different goals, we create an encouraging and motivating atmosphere for all to enjoy," Taja said.

With tasks including climbing a sixstorey structure with a 20kg hose in hand, and dragging a life-sized dummy over 30 metres, this is one challenge that's not for the fainthearted. You can get a sense of just how tough these two minutes can be.

While it may sound intense, not only is it indicative of the real-life challenges our firefighters face daily but also a great opportunity for our crews to get together and have some fun.





REFLECTIONS FROM HON PAUL SWAIN, CHAIR

When I was appointed Chair in April 2016 to oversee the formation of a new, unified fire and emergency service, I was fully aware that this idea had been considered many times before but had never got off the ground for a variety of reasons.

However, timing is everything, and the then Minister of Internal Affairs, Hon Peter Dunne and I were confident that this time it would be a success. And what a success it has been, thanks largely to the support of all our people.

We knew that if the focus for the new organisation was the thing that unites us all – serving the community – then we could resolve the many challenges we would face during such a major change to our fire services in New Zealand. And it has.

1 July 2017 was an historic day in Ashburton, where we officially launched Fire and Emergency New Zealand. We had chosen the slogan "Proud History, Bright Future" to recognise that our new organisation would be built on decades of outstanding service and experience of firefighters throughout NZ. We also believed that a new unified service would be better able to meet the challenges we face as a country, such as population, technology, and climate change.

I'm really proud that the first thing we did as a new organisation was to agree with our unions and associations that the health, safety and wellbeing of all our people was our top priority.

Since 1 July 2017 we have been building our new organisation with the help of our people. We are now well on the way to achieving a unified fire and emergency service which I am sure will be a shining example to the rest of the world. We have developed our strategic framework, we are putting the right people in place to lead our new organisation and we are making sure that we have the resources our people need to do the job the Government has asked them to do on behalf of all New Zealanders.

So as I sign off on 30 June 2021, having completed two terms as Chair, I can look back with a sense of pride at what we have achieved. My fondest memory will be the amazing people I have met around the country, and the awesome work they do in their communities.

I wish the new Board all the best for the next stage of this exciting journey.





















50 YEARS IN THE CAREER YOU LOVE

It's impressive to start a career in your teens, but it's awe-inspiring to celebrate 50 years in that same career you still love. Not one, but three firefighters in Hamilton have recently done just that.

Paul Single and Lindsay Rowe were 15 when they started their firefighting careers. John Turkington was 18, because his Dad made him finish his mechanic's apprenticeship first.

"I finished my apprenticeship on the Wednesday and started my recruitment course on the Monday. I couldn't wait to join the fire service," said John.

He spent 27 years at various stations in Wellington before moving to Hamilton.

Paul Single and Lindsay Rowe went straight into firefighting from school. Both their fathers were firefighters, and Lindsay's daughter is now a firefighter in Melbourne.

"It's in the blood for sure. I wouldn't have missed this for the world," said Lindsay. "There have been plenty of developments over the years. Back in the day I got paid a dollar per training and call out – I'm glad that bit's changed!"

Paul Single started his career in Napier and moved to Hamilton when he was 29.

"I've worked with some great people wherever I've been. I reckon you can go anywhere in the world and it's the same. Firefighters have really tight connections," said Paul.

That connection and camaraderie is something all three say they will miss the most when they eventually retire – as well as hopping on the trucks.

They also agree on the advice they'd give to new firefighters starting their careers. The key, they say, is to listen and learn.

"Learn the trade, get to know your own mind and get a better feeling for what's required, said Lindsay. "Your officers know the quality that's needed, so take their lead and listen to what they say. You'll find firefighting's a great job and even better career."









Photos by Stuff Limited



WORKING BETTER TOGETHER

In January, the Ranfurly urban volunteer fire brigade amalgamated with the Maniototo component of the Blackstone rural brigade.

At the time, Chief Fire Officer James Hazlett predicted that broadening skills and increasing numbers would prove to be a win for the community. Just weeks later he was proved right when firefighters responded to a vehicle crash that had trapped around 28 cattle in the overturned trailer of a stock truck.

Station Officer and Rural Controller Willy Dowling says that some of the recently amalgamated rural firefighters who lived near the accident site joined the urban-based crew on the scene and were quickly able to put their stock-handling experience to good use.

"We had to get some of the cattle out to lighten the trailer before it could be brought back upright."

As Willy explains, it wasn't a simple matter as several of the animals were cast (unable to get up without help).

"A vet was standing by, ready to hop in the crate and put some of the animals down if necessary, but he didn't need to.

We were able to free them and they were all able to walk out by themselves."

While the rural firefighters were tending to the cattle, which were mustered into a paddock, the urban crew members focused on righting the trailer, which was put back on its wheels with minimal damage.

Both James Hazlett and Willy Dowling say the stock rescue is a great example of the united brigade benefitting the Maniototo community. Because the rural members live all around the area, some are often able to reach the scene of a rural call-out and carry out support activities before the Ranfurly-based crew arrive.

"The ability to put people on scene earlier is proving very good for the community," James says.

Willy puts it this way. "It's a rural community and people know each other – we all bring our skills and we work as a team.

There is no 'us' and 'them'. It's all us."





SKY TOWER CHALLENGE 2021

Each year Fire and Emergency personnel from around the country compete in the Firefighter Sky Tower Stair Challenge. Competitors must climb the 1,103 steps of the iconic 328m high centrepiece of Auckland's skyline, wearing up to 25kg of kit.

This year, the Firefighter Sky Tower Stair Challenge raised nearly \$1,370,000 for Leukaemia & Blood Cancer New Zealand, in support of the seven Kiwis diagnosed with a blood cancer every day.



GEARING UP FOR A SAFER WINTER IN WHANGANUI

Hundreds of Whanganui residents will be toasty warm and a whole lot safer thanks to the Whanganui Fire Brigade's hugely successful electric blanket testing campaign.

The campaign has been running for several years, and Bob Wills-Rawling, Fire Risk Management Officer, reports this year they conducted more than double the typical number of tests.

"We usually average about 300 electric blanket tests a year but skipped last year due to COVID-19. With a great campaign and growing word of mouth, this year we completed 724 individual tests on around 500 blankets," said Bob.

It was a team effort with Citizens Advice Bureau and Matipo Community Development Trust, where people dropped off their electric blankets. The brigade used newspaper advertising and social media to get the word out.

"About 160 blankets were dropped off at Citizens Advice and the Trust, but most were brought straight to the fire station.

We were meant to start testing at 9.00am but the first person was there at 7.45am. By the time the doors opened we had a queue out of the fire station doors and down the street," said Bob.

Several electricians and eight on-duty firefighters conducted visual checks and a portable appliance test on each blanket, with 43 blankets failing testing.

"It was a great success. I'd like to say a big thanks to Citizens Advice Bureau, Matipo Community Trust Development, Laser Electrical, volunteers from Safer Whanganui, Fire and Emergency's Communications team, Deputy Principal Rural Fire Officer, Gavin Pryce and our own duty crews. This is what awesome community partnership and safety looks like," said Bob.



Emergency One Pump and PRT appliance



Angloco Pump and PRT appliance

SUPPLIERS FOR TYPE 3 APPLIANCE ACQUISITION NAMED

Marking the next step in the acquisition process, the panel of manufacturers to supply the next generation Type 3 appliances have been selected.

Negotiations are underway with Emergency One (based in Scotland) and Angloco (based in Yorkshire, England) to build two trial appliances each (Pump and PRT). Both suppliers intend to build on a Scania P360.

The Type 3 Appliance Acquisition
Project's Working Group Chair Barry
Fox says the tender evaluation panel
was very impressed with the calibre of
the responses including their attention
to detail and alignment to the project's
principles of building a modern appliance
for a modern workforce.

Barry noted the use of modern techniques and technology, and recognition of the feedback received from nearly 1000 operational personnel on what they needed from a fire appliance.

"Both these suppliers have been informed that they are through to the next stage and both are delighted with this."

Barry says Scania New Zealand's proposal also passed through this stage and they have been offered a position on the supplier panel.

"We will not be asking them to build an appliance at this time, however the structure of the panel allows the option of purchasing directly through them in the future, if the need arises. We expect that the vast majority of orders will be placed with the supplier who gets the best score in Stage Four (user trials).

"The next steps of the process are to turn the suppliers' proposals into a full specification, confirm all of the contractual terms, and agree the build schedule and milestones.



SAFETY RESOURCES BREAK LANGUAGE BARRIERS

While the number of structure fires has decreased over the last five years, cooking fires have continued to increase.

Unattended cooking is the leading cause of house fires in New Zealand. To help raise awareness and encourage safer behaviours in the kitchen, we have updated our cooking safety messages in a range of languages.

The multilingual resources support people whose first language is not English, who may have recently moved here, and who may not be used to New Zealand-style homes and kitchens.

The resources include a video, flyer and poster that highlight how to be fire safe in the kitchen as well as other fire safety tips in different languages.

"The first set of safety resources are in Tongan, Samoan, Fijian and Mandarin," says National Manager Community Readiness and Recovery, Steve Turek.

"We feel really fortunate to have members of our Fire and Emergency whānau championing this work and sharing these messages with their respective communities."

Pauga Esitone Pauga, Response Capability Advisory Manager and founder of Afi Pasifika, says resources like these are important for us to be able to talk to the very people we serve across New Zealand.

"It's great to see some of our Pasifika people fronting the first videos, and I'm excited to see the next ones that are going to be created for our many ethnic communities."

The team will be developing the same resources in more languages later in 2021.

If you know someone in your community who might benefit from this safety advice, you can download and order printed flyers and posters via the Bookshelf on the Portal.

FACING THE CHALLENGE

If a picture paints a thousand words then the two sides of Spencerville Brigade's newly minted challenge coin represent courage, adversity, perseverance, success and optimism about the future.

Spencerville was created earlier this year through the amalgamation of the former Brooklands Volunteer and Bottle Lakes Rural Fire Brigades. Their new station opened in May, after the former Brooklands community was redzoned following the Christchurch earthquakes.

Spencerville's new callsign, 317, incorporates Brooklands' original 31 station number and Bottle Lake's

number 17. The colours of the digits on the challenge coin include the red 3, signifying the colour of the urban appliance, and the yellow 7 denoting the rural appliance.

Rural Controller Aaron Cassie says that the whakatauki on the coin sums up the amalgamated brigade's culture: Ka whawhai tahi tauto – together we fight as one.

Rural Controller Aaron Cassie with the challenge coin.

SIGN LANGUAGE WEEK OUIZ ANSWERS

1. B (2006) 3. A (1880, Sumner) 2. D (24,000) 4. B (False)

5. B (HAT) 6. C (800,000)

TEREO-GLOSSARY OF TERMS

Kia ora! Tēnā koe! Tēnā koutou!

We're strengthening our use of te reo, and you've probably seen the above greetings and more popping up in our communications. We've compiled a list of some common te reo words and their meanings to help you understand them and we encourage you to use them in your own communications.

Greetings

Kupu Word	upu Word Translation	
Kia ora	Hello (informal)	
Tēnā koe	Hello (formal)	
Tēnā kōrua	Hello to two people (formal)	
Tēnā koutou	Hello to three or more (formal)	
Kia ora e hoa	Hello to a friend (informal)	
Tēnā koe e hoa	Hello to a friend (formal)	

Endings

Kupu Word	Translation	
Nā	From	
Nāku noa, nā	Yours sincerely	
Noho ora mai, nā	All the best	
Ngā manaakitanga, nā	With best wishes	
Ngā mihi	Regards	

Other kupu / words you might have come across

Kupu Word	Translation	Pronunciation
Ahi	Fire	Ah-hee
Hui	Gathering, meeting	Who-ee
Kai	Food	K-eye
Mahi	Work or activity	Mah-hee
Ka pai	Good, well done	Kah-pie
Waiata	Song or chant	Why-a-tah
Karakia	Ritual chant	Kudda-kee-ah
Whānau	Extended family	Faah-no
Kōrero	To speak, read, talk, address	Koor-reh-row
Te reo	The language	Teh-ray-owe
Koha	Gift, present	Kore-hah
lwi	Extended kinship group, tribe	E-wee
Hīkoi	Walk	Hee-koy
Aroha	Love	Ah-row-hah

The importance of tohuto (macrons)

A tohutō over the top of a letter elongates the sound. Just imagine there are two letters instead of one: Kōrero – Koorero

Tohutō also change the meaning of a word:

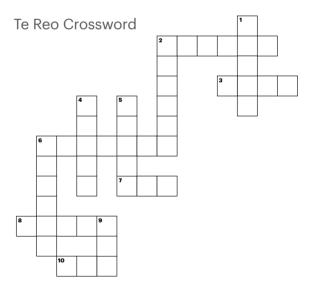
- Keke = Cake
- Kēkē = Armpit

Adding tohutō to your work computer is super easy!

- 1. Click the keyboard language option to the left of your time and date.
- 2. Click "Language preferences."
- 3. Click "+ Add a preferred language."
- 4. Search "Te reo Māori."
- 5. Click "Next" and then "Install."

Give it a few minutes to download, and once it has, you can simply go back to your keyboard language option and choose "MRI – Māori Keyboard" from the drop-down menu anytime you need to include a tohutō.

To add a tohutō over a letter just hold down the ~ key in the top left of your keyboard at the same time as the letter. Ka pai!



Across

- 2. Extended family
- 3. Work or activity
- 6. Ritual chant
- 7. Extended kinship
- group, tribe
- 8. Love
- 10. Gathering, meeting

Down

- 1. Good, well done
- 2. Song or chant
- 4. The language
- 5. Walk
- 6. To speak, read, talk,
- address
- 9. Fire

Remember to always

KEEP A METRE FROM THE HEATER

Be toasty. Not toast!

