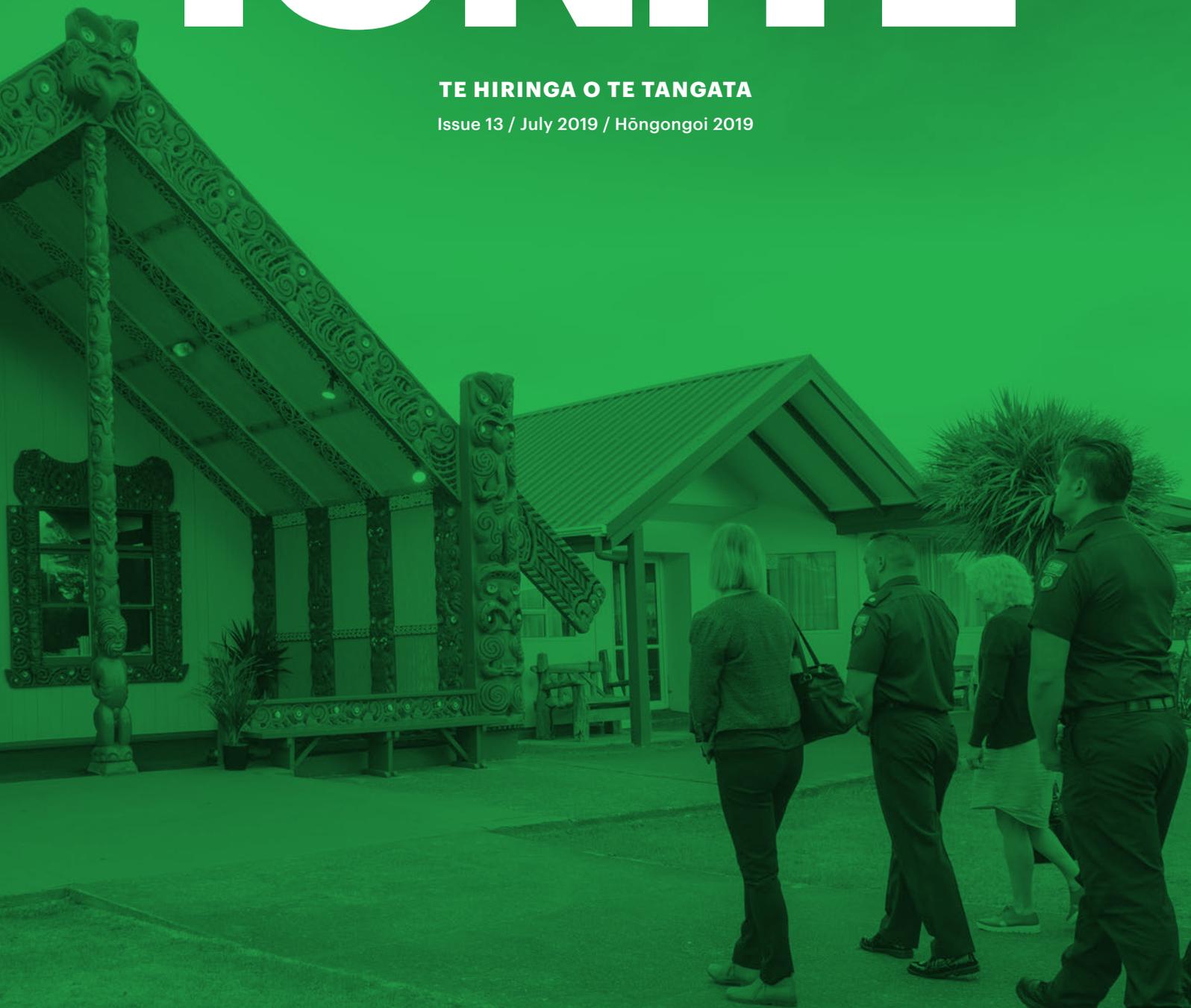


IGNITE

TE HIRINGA O TE TANGATA

Issue 13 / July 2019 / Hōngongoi 2019



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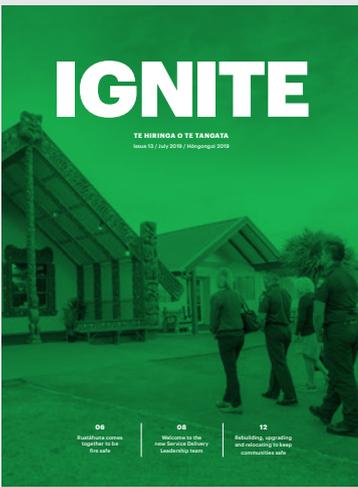
Ruatāhuna comes together to be fire safe

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Rebuilding, upgrading and relocating to keep communities safe



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

It is produced by the Fire and Emergency 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: communications@fireandemergency.nz.

Photos need to be at least 1MB.

Read Ignite online

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KIA ORA KOUTOU

This month marks two years since 40 different organisations were brought together to create Fire and Emergency New Zealand.

Together, we're building an organisation that is not only fit for the present, but for a future in which environmental, technological and demographic changes will have a profound effect on the way we operate.

A lot has happened in these two years. We've invested in more people to support the front line, training and administration functions,

equipment, appliances, technology, protective clothing, urban and rural infrastructure and the development of our people. We're strengthening our links with communities, shaping our culture and increasing the support we provide to all our people.

The benefits of being one, unified organisation are visible every day. Our people are better equipped, better connected, better informed, and working more closely together.

Witness the Tasman Fires earlier this year, in which career, volunteer, rural and urban firefighters worked together with emergency sector partners to



control one of the bigger vegetation fires we've seen in the past 60 years. The thanks that came our way from the Prime Minister, other politicians, local body leaders, iwi, partner agencies and residents were richly deserved by all involved.

You can read about the progress we're making in this issue of Ignite. For example, our work with local iwi and the Ruatāhuna community to take fire safety into local homes (page 6); two recent station openings and land blessings for two more as we continue to invest

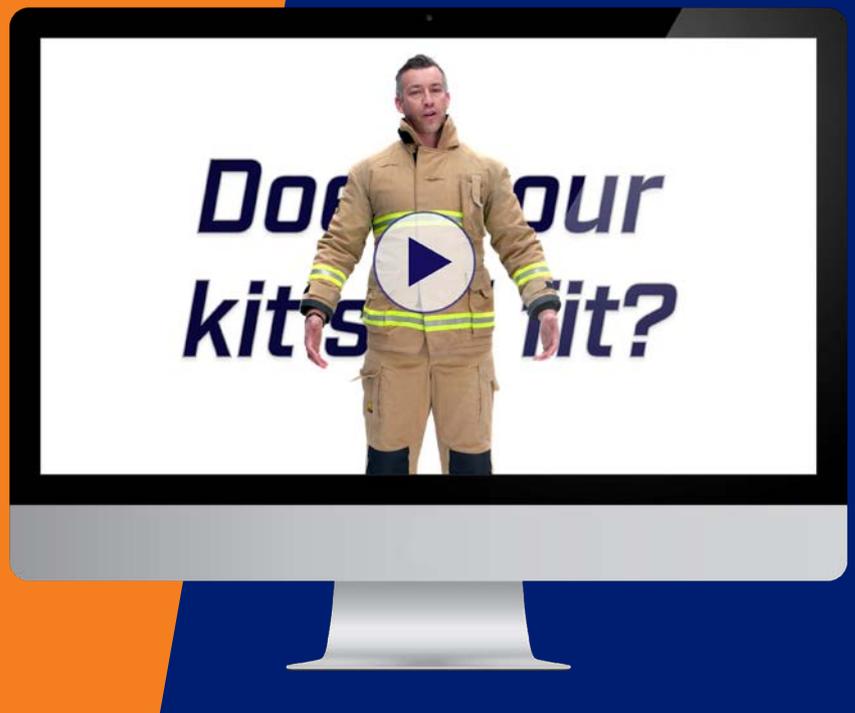
in keeping communities safe (page 12); and the first delivery of a new rural fire truck since we became Fire and Emergency (page 11).

Of course, we're only part-way through the process. Our new Executive Leadership Team (ELT) has been in place since February this year, and the members of the new Service Delivery Leadership Team (SDLT), who you can meet on pages 8 and 9, took up their roles on 1 July. We'll soon begin consulting on the roles reporting to the ELT and SDLT.

Thank you for your efforts over the past two years. Creating a new organisation while still mastering the day to day realities of our work is not easy, but you have retained the trust and confidence of the public while laying the foundations for a modern, more adaptable and effective organisation.

Rhys Jones, Chief Executive

DOES YOUR KIT STILL FIT?



Our firefighters do an incredible job keeping people and property safe, but it's really important that safety starts a lot closer to home, with something as simple but vital as properly fitted personal protective equipment (PPE).

The chances of being burnt or hurt increase markedly when PPE isn't correctly fitted, so we have created a video that clearly shows what to look for to ensure the right fit. The simple and fun visuals show firefighters and Officers in Charge exactly what to check and how to fix it. Checks should be done every three months.

Des Hosie, National Operations Adviser - Safety, Continuous Improvement & Lessons Management is leading the charge to ensure firefighters have kit that fits.

"I've seen too many injuries due to PPE not fitting correctly and it's something we can easily avoid with a few simple steps. When we join Fire and Emergency, we get measured — but we can forget that while our gear stays the same, we generally don't, so we need to regularly check that it fits properly," said Des.

“When gear's too tight and firefighters are wet through water or sweat, there's a higher chance of steam burns, especially when wearing a breathing set. If trousers or jackets are not the right length, skin can get exposed and injuries may occur. A few simple checks will keep our firefighters safer.”

Des Hosie, National Operations Adviser - Safety, Continuous Improvement & Lessons Management

Suits come in four heights and eight widths, and can be customised in special cases, so every firefighter should have the right fit for this vital lifesaving equipment. The benefits of having properly fitted kit are significant. The right fit will:

- Minimise heat stress
- Avoid compression burns
- Reduce chances of fatigue
- Increase comfort and flexibility

The video and posters are about to be rolled out nationally, with the video available through our portal on the Learning Station. Look out for this, as it's essential viewing for all our firefighters to stay safe in fire situations.



REGIONAL NAMES CONNECT US TO PLACE AND EACH OTHER

As a unified organisation we wanted our regional names to better reflect our connection to the land and each other, recognising our commitment to Māori as tangata whenua.

Our Pou Herenga Māori (National Advisor Māori), Piki Thomas offered the traditional story of Māui fishing up the North Island as the foundation for our new regional names. The North Island is described as the fish of Maui and the South Island as the canoe from which Māui hooked his great catch.

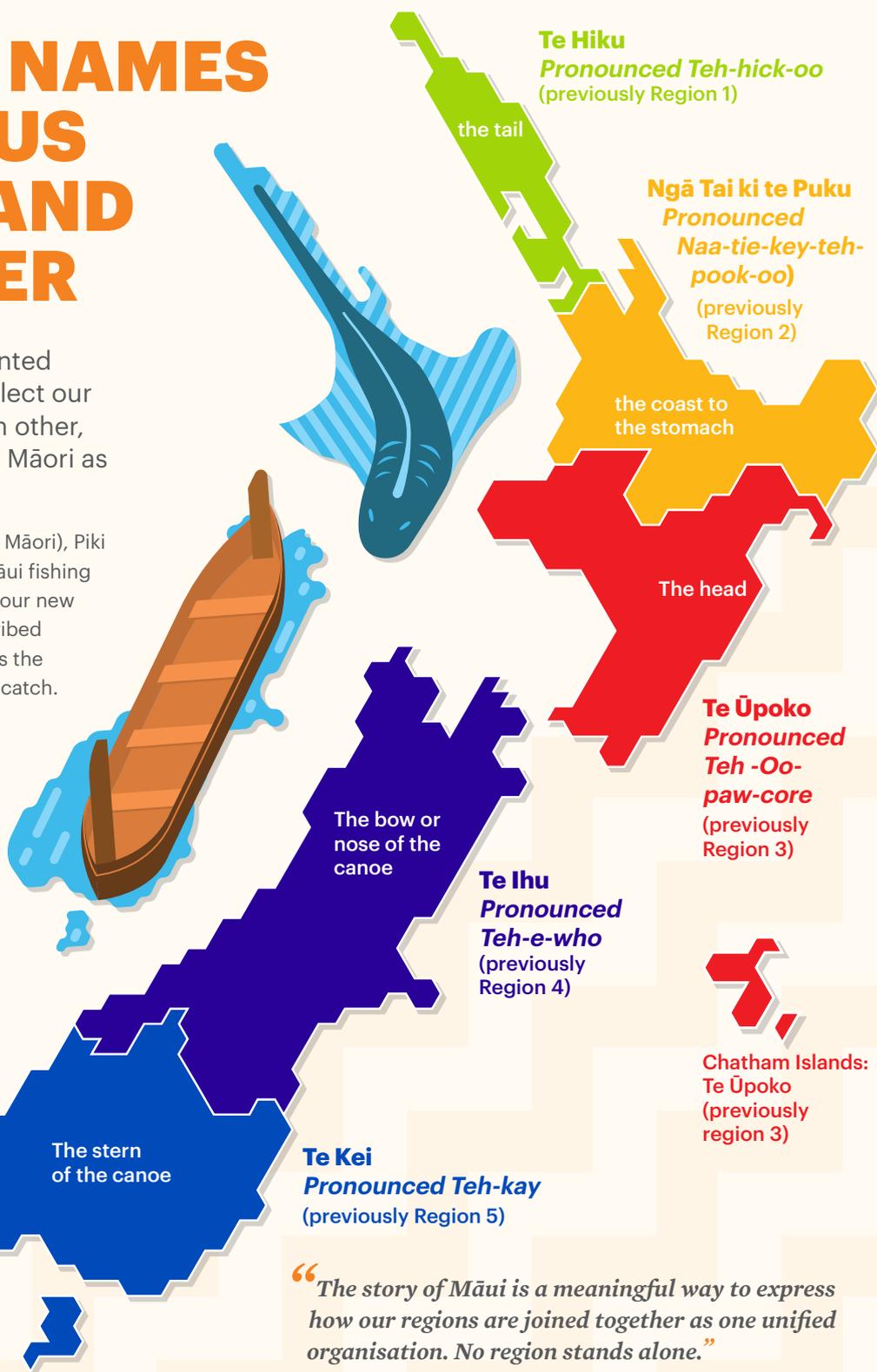
The names are easy to pronounce and visualise, moving from the tail of the fish at the top of the North Island, to the stern of the canoe in the South Island. It's an important way to give greater relevance to our regions as well as helping make Te Reo Māori part of our every-day language.

"We've had names rather than numbers in the past to identify our regions and this was an ideal opportunity to rename all our regions in a cohesive way that truly speaks to our unity," he said.

Piki and his team consulted with Māori leaders, organisations and our own staff members on the proposed Te Reo regional names which were officially adopted on July 1.

Kerry Gregory, Deputy Chief Executive Service Delivery believes the new names are an important development for a number of reasons.

"This traditional story signifies the creation of New Zealand and is closely aligned to our own growth as a new and unified organisation. As we aspire to be an inclusive organisation reflecting our



Te Hiku
Pronounced *Teh-hick-oo*
(previously Region 1)

Ngā Tai ki te Puku
Pronounced *Naa-tie-key-teh-pook-oo*
(previously Region 2)

Te Ūpoko
Pronounced *Teh -Oo-paw-core*
(previously Region 3)

Te Ihu
Pronounced *Teh-e-who*
(previously Region 4)

Te Kei
Pronounced *Teh-kay*
(previously Region 5)

Chatham Islands:
Te Ūpoko
(previously region 3)

“The story of Māui is a meaningful way to express how our regions are joined together as one unified organisation. No region stands alone.”

Piki Thomas, Pou Herenga Māori (National Advisor Māori)

communities and respecting where we come from, our new regional names help reflect the diversity and strength of our organisation and country,” Kerry said.

Fire and Emergency’s new regional names are shown on the above map.

During the transition phase, regions will be referred to by their Te Reo Māori names, followed by the current names – e.g. Te Hiku (previously Region 1).

Watch a video of Piki Thomas, our National Māori Adviser, explaining the background to the names. Search for ‘Our Regional Names’ on the Portal.



RUATĀHUNA COMES TOGETHER TO BE FIRE SAFE

Ruatāhuna is a tight-knit but isolated community in Te Urewera National Park. With the nearest fire station over an hour away, Fire and Emergency joined local iwi and communities to bring fire safety into each home.

Over 40 locals from Ruatāhuna, Te Whaiti and Minginui, along with our own team from local volunteer brigades, regional and area staff, visited over 150 households to ensure every home had a working smoke alarm and talked about how to keep their whānau safe from fire. Each home also received a bag of fire safe goodies including torches, mini lamps and activity books for the kids.

This visit was part of our commitment to supporting the community after a recent fatal fire in Ruatāhuna.

“The key was to work with the community and local iwi from Ngai Tūhoe and ask them what specific areas they needed support with. Based on that, we created a programme they had ownership of that was entirely relevant to this community and their environment. It was an overwhelming success with over 300 smoke alarms installed or replaced in seven marae and over 150 homes,” said Māori Liaison Officer, Kereama Katu.

“The community and iwi were incredibly grateful that we came together to be proactive about preventing fires — and we were honoured to be invited into their homes and onto their marae. Neighbouring communities heard about the programme and are keen to be involved, so we’re working on making that happen.”

Some of the important fire safety messages that were shared with the community were:

- Working smoke alarms save lives
- Make sure your whānau has an escape plan
- Make sure heaters are at least one metre from drying clothes or other flammable materials
- Don’t overload multi-power plugs
- Clean chimneys regularly
- Be fire safe in the kitchen
- Fire moves fast — get down, get low and get out, FAST.

The visit was organised as part of Fire and Emergency’s ongoing commitment to working with tangata whenua and supporting remote, hard-to-reach communities with on the ground support.

“The response from our own staff was just phenomenal. When people heard what we were doing they wanted to be involved. It was an incredible team effort.”

Kereama Kutu, Māori Liaison Officer



MEET THE NEW SERVICE



“I’m excited about working with Fire and Emergency, and our partners to bring the risk reduction strategy to life.”

Roxanne Hilliard,
National Manager Risk
Reduction

“For me it’s about community and our people. I’m looking forward to working with the Te Kei team to increase our understanding of what it means to put our communities first, to work with our communities and live up to our value of ‘Whanaungatanga’. To be effective we need a seat at our communities’ table – not them at ours.

For our people, I’m excited about the opportunities ahead. In demonstrating ‘Manaakitanga’ we can continue to deliver for the now, while also looking at how we can improve for the future.”

**Mike Grant, Region
Manager, Te Kei**

“It’s an exciting time as the new Service Delivery Leadership team has an important task to look at the organisation nationally and to ensure we lead service delivery appropriately into the future.

I am humbled to have the opportunity to lead the team at Te Hiku. It is important for staff to know and feel that they are and will continue to be supported so that they can serve their communities in the best way they can.”

**Ron Devlin, Region
Manager, Te Hiku**

“I look forward to developing a truly unified approach to our response capability. This will mean tackling some big things such as merging our current National Operations functions with our National Rural Operations so we can provide a more seamless service and response. As well as this focus on the future, we need to continue to maintain focus on continuing to serve our communities. We have many opportunities ahead and I look forward to leading the teams that will make this happen.”

**Paul Turner, National
Manager Response
Capability**

“The real excitement for me is simply the massive opportunity that exists for us to engage with our communities in new ways. To look beyond the station doors and the walls of the Area, District and Region Office to determine what else we can do in partnership with other agencies to reduce risk and make our communities safer and more resilient. You don’t get this chance very often – we need to seize the moment!”

Paul Henderson,
Region Manager, Te Ihu

DELIVERY LEADERSHIP TEAM



“We have a unique opportunity to build a modern, unified fire and emergency service that adapts to the changing needs of our communities. We’re on a pathway to be future-focused, better equipped to work alongside others responding to a wide range of incidents, and build a more positive culture. We are an organisation made up of dedicated people who want to give back to NZ and this is our chance to modernise our approach so we can deliver for all of NZ.”

Kerry Gregory, DCE Service Delivery

“There has been much promised about Fire and Emergency over the last two years, especially the important things we need to change. The establishment of the Service Delivery Leadership Team is an exciting time where I can work with my new colleagues to bring those changes to life, such as unifying our approach to leadership of Service Delivery and establishing the next leadership levels in our regions. I’m also excited about our new focus on risk reduction and community readiness and recovery, especially as we engage in new ways of working with our communities.”

David Guard, Region Manager, Ngā Tai ki te Puku

“I am most excited about working closely with a great bunch of people to deliver true value for our communities. I am privileged to be in a position where I am able to bring a different perspective to the Service Delivery Leadership Team as we work to build a unified fire and emergency service that meets the needs of New Zealanders both now and into the future.”

Rebecca Kearns, Chief Advisor to DCE Service Delivery

“I was excited to ‘stand up’ with the new SDLT members for the first time recently, in front of the Board Chair and ELT. We each bring our own strengths and expertise, but collectively as a team we bring so much more. I’m looking forward to working with my colleagues to lead service delivery and to having the opportunity to unify and lead Te Ūpoko.”

Bruce Stubbs, Region Manager, Te Ūpoko

“I’m particularly excited about the work ahead as community readiness is where we can have a huge impact on the lives of New Zealanders as we work with them to become better prepared. In the recovery space we also have so much opportunity as the work we do here can make a profound difference in reducing the impact that incidents have on people, both immediate and long term.”

Steve Turek, National Manager Community Readiness And Recovery

OUR FIRST AIR SIMULATOR TAKES OFF



The recent Tasman fires provide a clear reminder of the importance of aerial firefighting. With climate change and large wildfires on the rise, our Air Attack Supervisors need the best possible training — and that's been given a huge boost with the launch of the first wildfire helicopter simulator in the country, developed by Fire and Emergency and HIT Lab NZ at the University of Canterbury.

Working groups from Wildfire Aviation and Wildfire Research collaborated to help HIT Lab develop the Air Simulator. HIT Lab specialises in virtual and augmented reality technologies and, with Fire and Emergency's knowledge of wildfires, the partnership brought together practical, raw realities with new thinking and the latest technology.

Developed over three years, the Air Simulator not only recreates the visual environment of fighting a wildfire, but

“The experience was unbelievably realistic. I felt all those raw feelings of anxiety and stress and high alert you feel when you're in the air actually managing aircraft in a wildfire. At one point I completely forgot I was in a simulator because my whole mind was consumed with responding, sizing up the situation, writing notes and doing the job. It's a brilliant addition to our training.”

Carrie Larkin, Deputy Principal Rural Fire Officer, Mid South Canterbury Rural

also the stressful, constantly evolving demands and decision-making that come with it. Carrie Larkin, Deputy Principal Rural Fire Officer in Mid South Canterbury Rural, was one of the first to try it.

Tim Mitchell, Manager Rural Fire in Christchurch, was involved with the project along with Richard McNamara, Region Manager Rural. Tim believes the Air Simulator is a serious leap forward from the current training and skills maintenance methods.

“It's hard to recreate the complexities and stress in a classroom setting and it's expensive and difficult to create real world scenarios in the air. The Air Simulator means we can expose our teams to a greater range of potentially

hazardous situations in which they can safely trial a range of responses,” said Tim.

In addition to training new Air Attack Supervisors, the Air Simulator will also be used to help those thinking about a role in Air Attack, giving them an early taste of the real thing.

Based at the University of Canterbury, the Air Simulator will be constantly updated as new technology is developed — and we're not stopping there. Our next joint venture with HIT Lab is already underway, with a PhD study exploring other situations where virtual and augmented reality systems can assist, particularly in high risk, high consequence areas.





NEW RURAL APPLIANCES ON THEIR WAY

The first new rural fire truck to be built since Fire and Emergency was formed is now on the ground and fighting fires at the Koitiata Rural Fire Force in the lower Rangitikei district.

With our crews attending a broader range of call outs, our rural appliances needed a major upgrade and this concept vehicle is the first single cab off the rank.

“Our rural crews get call outs for everything from vegetation fires to medical emergencies, so we needed to design an improved multi-purpose vehicle to meet a number of needs in different rural environments,” said Ian Rietveld, Vehicle Development Manager.

The National Fleet team worked on the design with the Rural Fleet Advisory Group and representatives from all regions to ensure every requirement would be covered.

The new design has an improved lighting and communications system, increased water and locker capacities, a slide out hose locker drawer, redesigned waterway and foam system, and a stepped rear deck area.

Coming together as Fire and Emergency in 2017 means we can make a significant investment like this to design and build top of the line rural appliances, ensuring we have the right resources in the right place, to keep our communities safe.

Alan Benson is the Koitiata Rural Controller and, after a succession of older vehicles, he’s delighted to have a brand-new appliance for his crew.

“It’s a massive step up from our previous appliances. It’s easy to drive and we look forward to more of our volunteers obtaining their class 2 licence, which will increase our pool of drivers. The safety lighting and systems are excellent and the foam induction unit’s a real bonus,” said Alan.

Sixteen single cab, four-wheel drive appliances are being produced, along with 22 crew cab versions, able to carry six crew with a water capacity of 3,000 litres. There’s also a tanker project underway, with 16 new 6,000 litre tankers currently under construction.

The appliances are in production now and will be rolled out around the country from July.

You’ll find full details and specifications for the new rural appliances on our portal.

“This sort of investment in rural communities like ours makes a big difference. The establishment of Fire and Emergency means our resources are the best they’ve ever been, and we get truckloads of training. It’s great for our community and our crew – gives us a real sense of pride.”

Alan Benson, Koitiata Rural Controller



Koitiata Rural fire force being shown the setup of their new truck



REBUILDING, UPGRADING AND RELOCATING TO KEEP COMMUNITIES SAFE

Lake Okareka
land blessing

Since our establishment in 2017, one of the key priorities for Fire and Emergency has been ensuring all our people have the right facilities, tools, and technology to do what they do best — protect life and property in communities. That’s the aim of our country-wide property programme, which includes rebuilds, upgrades and relocations.

As part of this work, the last few months have seen two new fire stations opened and land blessings for two more.

Two of these projects — Ilam and Redwood — are part of Fire and Emergency’s 12-station Christchurch Rebuild Programme. This programme is taking a fresh look at where stations are

best located in the city following the major earthquakes in 2010 and 2011.

Ilam Fire Station, officially blessed in June, will be the first fire station in Australasia to be built on a university campus and is due to be completed towards the end of 2020.

In partnership with University of Canterbury, the new site will also be home to the Fire Engineering Educational Training Facility, where our fire engineers will work closely with the university’s fire engineering students.

Fire and Emergency Board Chair, Paul Swain, who attended the blessing, said the new facilities will be a win-win for both Fire and Emergency and the University.

“It will mean we can deliver fire risk reduction activities to all students, use fire engineers’ practical experience to mentor the university’s fire engineering

students and access the University fire lab and engineering facilities for further research and development,” he said.

Across town, the new Redwood Fire Station is already making a difference to the communities of Redwood and Casebrook. Officially opened in June but operational since May, the station replaced our facility in St Albans that was damaged beyond repair in the earthquakes. Rather than rebuild on that site, the new station was relocated to where it would best meet the area’s future needs.

Tony Phillips, Senior Station Officer at Redwood, said the state-of-the-art station will become a reliable and stable hub for the community if there’s a major event in the future.

“The station has a generator trailer located on site to power essential systems in the event of a power failure,” said Tony. “It is also the first station in



Ilam fire station



Ilam fire station



Lake Okareka land blessing



Thornbury Fire Station



Redwood Fire Station

the Rebuild Programme to have solar hot water heating which makes it more environmentally friendly.”

Also already making a difference is Thornbury Fire Station near Invercargill, which was officially opened in early June. Replacing a 50-year old flood-prone building, Thornbury is now benefitting from a modern and more reliable facility for its 22 volunteer firefighters who collectively provide the only 24-hour emergency service in the district.

It's also capable of being a self-sufficient hub if there's a major event.

The new station is a prototype design that will be tested and rolled out for future builds in other locations around the country.

Up North, the site for a new fire station at Lake Okareka near Rotorua, was blessed in late May. The new station, scheduled to be fully operational by late 2020, will replace the small existing station and give its 28 volunteers the space, technology and modern facilities to provide the community with an effective emergency response whenever it's needed.

HIGH LEVEL ATHLETES

GET A FEEL FOR FIREFIGHTING

Before joining the fire service 15 years ago, Talite (T) Liavaa, Station Officer at Remuera, played rugby league for the Warriors. He found the similarity in skills and teamwork were so closely aligned and transferable, he wanted to create a programme to encourage top athletes into a firefighting career.

T shared the idea with Rochelle Martin, our National Manager Career Recruitment. Rochelle had played for the Back Ferns in three world cups and immediately saw the potential. After 18 months in development the Sporting Career Pathways Programme was launched in April 2019.

“In sport teamwork is critical and firefighting is just the same. Both careers are active, and you get really close to the people you work with and the communities you interact with. When I understood that about



From left, Lorina Papalii - Warriors Women/ Kiwi Ferns, Donald Tony - Former Warriors 20s, Georgia Hale - Warriors Women/ Kiwi Ferns.

firefighting, it just ticked all the boxes for me — and that’s what we want to share with others,” said Rochelle.

T says the programme has been designed as a cost efficient, high impact recruitment tactic with significant benefits.

“We know some of our biggest sports organisations are regularly fielding calls from sports people keen to understand their next career options. They’re already natural leaders, work well under pressure, are fit and have a ton of life experience — it’s a perfect match,” said T.

The programme has developed partnerships with four sporting organisations — NZ Rugby League,

“We’re keen to talk to the professional netball franchises and other sporting groups as well, so if anyone has any contacts please email me as soon as you can!”

Talite (T) Liavaa,
Remuera Station Officer

the NZ Rugby Union Player Welfare Association, the NZ Warriors and NZ Basketball.

The programme starts with a day at a fire station learning about our history, what we do and how we work with communities. Participants spend time with the operations team on duty, get up close with equipment and learn about the recruiting process. The next step is to take part in two shifts, riding as an observer, training and being part of day-to-day activities. If they’re still keen, we then provide a mentor to take them all the way through the recruiting process.

“We’ve completed our first programme and it looks like we have two very high-profile athletes keen to sign up,” said T.

The programme sits under the Visitor and Observers Policies to meet all Health and Safety requirements.

The Programme is being run in the Auckland region but the aim is to take it to stations all around the country.



RECOGNISING OUR VOLUNTEERS WITH A \$4M PACKAGE

Since the first fire brigades were formed more than 150 years ago, volunteers have played a big part in keeping New Zealanders safe.

Today, more than 11,800 volunteers serve our communities. They're the first to the scene at thousands of incidents every year and are just as likely to attend motor vehicle accidents or medical emergencies as they are to attend a fire.

To recognise the part that Fire and Emergency New Zealand volunteers play in their communities, Internal Affairs Minister Tracey Martin recently announced a \$4 million-a-year package for the first phase of a volunteer reward and recognition initiative.

As part of the Volunteerism Strategy this package recognises the value of the contribution our volunteers make and acknowledges the role of their family/whānau and employers in supporting them.

The first initiatives to be introduced in the next few months are:



An annual reimbursement of \$300 (tax exempt) for general expenses available to all volunteers from December 2019 if they choose to opt in.



Access to an allowance of \$50 (before tax) per night to support family/whānau of volunteers when they are away overnight for training.



Access to hundreds of offers around New Zealand via Frequent Values website.



Discounts with Fire and Emergency suppliers for everyday items.



Access to discounted rates for health insurance.

Consultation on a further set of initiatives worth several million dollars annually will begin shortly. These will include ensuring volunteers who attend major incidents have equitable access to payments and reimbursements for large incidents.

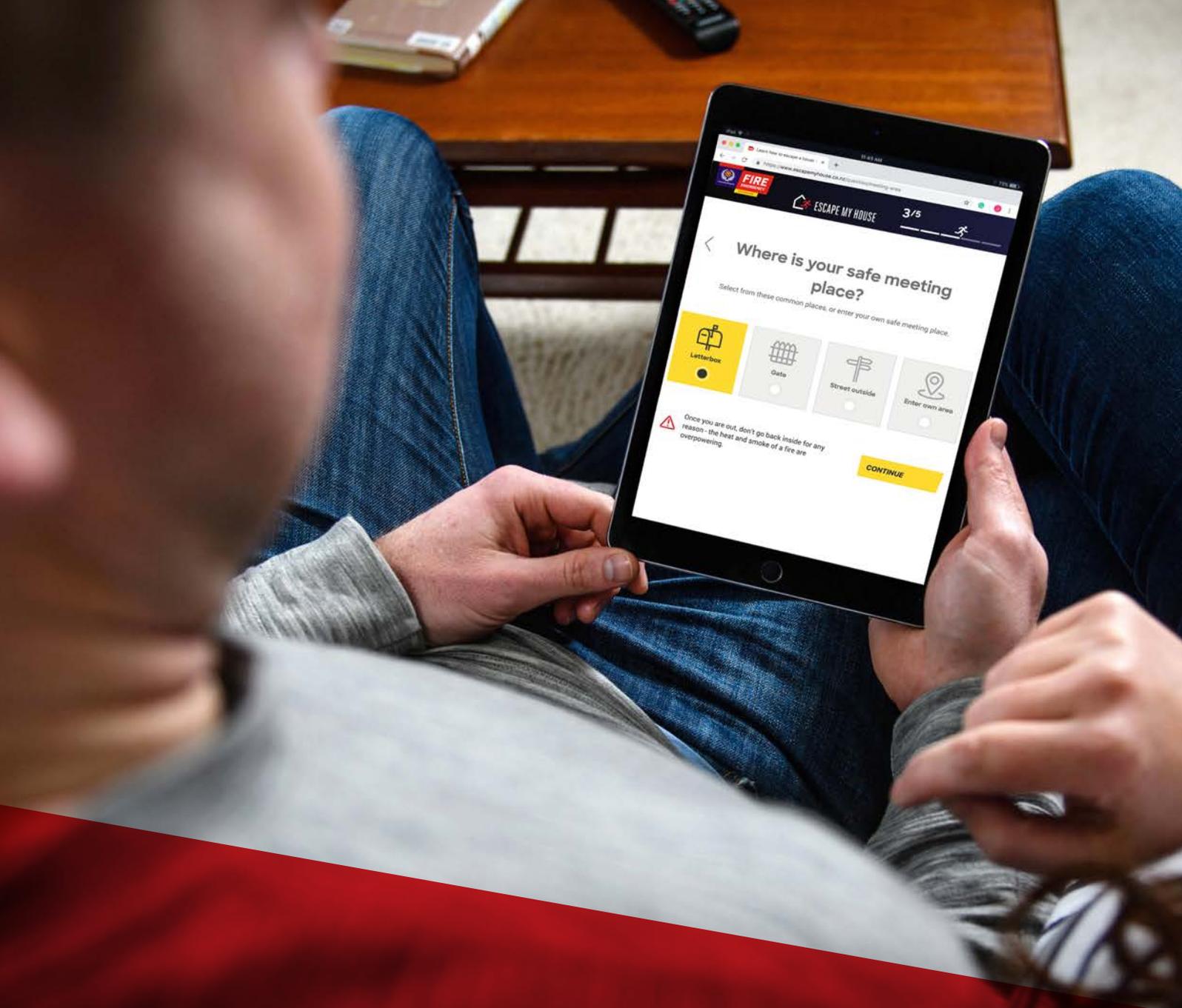
For more details, go to the Volunteer benefits page on the Volunteer Hub.



Internal Affairs Minister Tracey Martin with Paul Swain, and Fire and Emergency personnel



Nibbles and mingling after the announcement



Do you have an escape plan?

Fire and Emergency's new Escape My House campaign uses television, digital and social media advertising to direct the public to our upgraded website www.escapemyhouse.co.nz. By the time Ignite went to print, almost 10,000 people had visited the website, and 54% of those completed the steps to learn what constitutes a good escape plan. Our ultimate goal is to encourage more New Zealanders to create an escape plan for their home, because the difference between surviving a house fire and not surviving is often exactly that - having a plan.



escapemyhouse.co.nz