

IGNITE

Te Hiringa o te Tangata | Issue 30 | Raumati 2024

WHAT IT TAKES TO
BECOME A FIREFIGHTER

HELPING OUR NEIGHBOURS
IN THE PACIFIC

MARATHON FUNDRAISING
EFFORTS FROM FIREFIGHTERS



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.

It is produced by the Fire and Emergency Communications Team, National Headquarters, Spark Central, 42–52 Willis Street, Wellington 6011.

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





fireandemergency.nz/news-and-media

Share your thoughts

Share your thoughts about this edition. Write your 'letter to the editor' and send it to strategiccomms@fireandemergency.nz

This document is printed on 'FSC Mix Certified environmentally responsible paper, manufactured from ECF Pulp. It is produced under strict ISO14001 Environment Management.'

All material in Ignite is copyrighted and may not be reproduced without permission.

-  **Kia tika** | We do the right thing
-  **Manaakitanga** | We serve and support
-  **Whanaungatanga** | We are better together
-  **Auahatanga** | We strive to improve



Kia ora koutou

Welcome to the Summer edition of Ignite, providing a snapshot of the recent mahi that has been happening across Fire and Emergency.



Reading through this first issue of the year, I've noticed some important themes unfolding through the stories.

Firstly, the attributes of the people you'll read about. From the diverse backgrounds, skills and energy that our people bring to our organisation, to the wide ranging volunteer work they do along with the camaraderie and selflessness shown by our firefighters who've been fundraising for mental health initiatives and other causes, I'm proud to see the calibre of people who've chosen to contribute their mahi to Fire and Emergency. That says something about us as an organisation too. I firmly believe that we have a great foundation on which to build a culture where every one of us feels supported and included, and experiences a true sense of belonging.

I've also enjoyed reading about the robust processes being worked through to deliver our new appliances and essential equipment, including involving our operational users from the very start in what the end result needs to be; working with partners to incorporate their perspective and know-how; and using quality checks and real-world trials to ensure we're achieving what we set out to deliver. This is the kind of rigorous and inclusive approach that will help us keep our people safe and deliver better service – and better value for public money – for our communities and our stakeholders.

The power of great partnerships is also evident when you read about the various deployments our people have been involved with. Not only are we respected internationally as firefighters and incident management specialists; by sharing our knowledge and skills, working alongside others, and bringing home skills and experience that can benefit our own operations, we are contributing positively to New Zealand's reputation and the collective capability of our emergency management sector.

Finally, it is great to read how we're growing our influence as the national fire authority to work with other agencies to effect change, be it advising regulators around fire safety or partnering with MetService to reach wider audiences and provide fire safety information in more actionable ways.

I encourage you to give this issue a good read and celebrate the mahi that is happening around our organisation. Thank you for playing your part.

Ngā manaakitanga.

Kerry Gregory
Tumu Whakarae/Chief Executive

Contents

- 4 Blazing a trail across Antarctica
- 6 What it takes to become a career firefighter
- 8 Assisting Queensland with wildfires
- 10 Helping our neighbours in the Pacific
- 12 Our people at Te Mana Kuratahi primary school kapa haka competition
- 14 Hazardous substances training exercise a team success
- 15 New campaign exposes the danger of incorrectly charging lithium-ion battery devices



- 16 What's happening with... fleet, decontamination, gas detection & responding to complex and long duration events
- 18 New MetService app feature now delivers Extreme Fire Danger and Severe Weather Warnings
- 18 Whiria te Tāngata – Rainbow Network
- 20 Marathon fundraising efforts from firefighters
- 22 Volunteer extraordinaire of the year
- 22 Firefighters needed
- 23 Introducing Speak Safe @ Fair Way

E PARA ANA I TE HUARAHI
PUTA NOA I TE TIRI O TE MOANA

BLAZING A TRAIL ACROSS ANTARCTICA

‘The experience was incredibly satisfying and encourages other Fire and Emergency personnel to consider a secondment with Antarctica New Zealand as many of the skills are transferable’

— Josh Vermeulen, Woolston Station Officer



L: Traverse team arrives back at Williams Field by Basler DC3 plane. R: Entry to shear zone. McMurdo and Ross Ice shelf meet here and create heavily crevasses area.

After traveling more than 1,300 kilometres in 15 days across the Ross Ice shelf followed by eight days building a deep field camp, Josh Vermeulen has emerged with a sense of pride and achievement.

The Woolston Station Officer was seconded to Antarctica New Zealand to lead an Antarctic traverse for scientific investigations into climate change.

The traverse comprised two parts for the six-person Kiwi team. The first was the South Pole Overland Traverse (SPOT). The second was through crevassed terrain from waypoint Tally Ho to the Kambe Ice Stream, via the Cray Ice Rise.

The SPOT is normally traversed first by a United States team, with the Kiwi team following in their footsteps along a safe route, but Josh says delays on the American side meant they had to forge ahead without them.

‘We went ahead thinking the Americans go at 18km/h and we go at 9-11km/h so they will catch up with us in no time. They never did.

‘We were the first Kiwi team to do the SPOT route first. I’m really proud of that. We ended up making it safe for them [the Americans]. It shows our professionalism and shows what we can do.’

With the second part of the traverse also completed safely, the team went about setting up a camp, complete with a skiway for landing fixed wing, ski-equipped aircraft on. The camp was for a team of scientists to recover a geological record from further and deeper into the West Antarctic Ice Shelf than has ever been obtained.

Josh says the experience was incredibly satisfying and encourages other Fire and Emergency personnel to consider a



Supplied by Antarctica New Zealand / Quantarctica and the Norwegian Polar Institute, January 2024



PistenBully 300 Polar vehicles with Trans Antarctic Mountains in the background.

secondment with Antarctica New Zealand as many of the skills are transferable.

‘The team that relieved me in camp logistics, four of them do exactly what Urban Search and Rescue logistics do for a base of operations.

‘Lots of firefighters have backgrounds in trades as well, and Scott Base is always looking for sparkies, heavy vehicle mechanics and the like.’

Keen to explore a secondment with Antarctic New Zealand? Visit the jobs page at www.antarcticanz.govt.nz



The graduates showcasing their new skills.

ME PĒHEA TŌ TŪ HEI KAITĪNEI AHI WHAT IT TAKES TO BECOME A FIREFIGHTER

Mikaela Bradley is a recent graduate of our 12-week career firefighter training course. She was awarded Most Outstanding Recruit at graduation and is now based at Palmerston North Fire Station. She reflects on the broad range of skills gained - far beyond extinguishing fires – and the importance of trust.



L: Recruits line up to receive their yellow helmets - a symbol of their transition from recruit to firefighter. R: Mikaela Bradley leads her fellow graduates in a haka.



During the course, we were pushed beyond our limits to learn what it means and what it takes to be a firefighter in this organisation and for this country.

We began with general firefighting skills. This included rolling out hose, advancing and withdrawing a delivery, establishing water to the truck and the use of waterway equipment.

Next, we tackled ladders. The 10.5 metre extension ladder seemed like a step ladder once we were introduced to the very daunting 464 – made up of two extending parts and reaching a whopping 14 metre fully extended.

A key part of our role is supporting Hato Hone St John and Wellington Free Ambulance at purple calls (any job that might need resuscitation). We learnt basic first aid with the Red Cross followed by high performance cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) with Hato Hone St John.

Breathing Apparatus (BA) is one of the most critical pieces of kit we wear as firefighters. It keeps us safe when entering an irrespirable atmosphere. We covered starting up – which must be done in under 90 seconds. This involves starting with your BA on your back, turning on the cylinder and, at the same time, putting on your BA mask, your flash hood over your head then your helmet and gloves and, finally, reporting your BA tally tag to entry control. We learnt basic manoeuvring,

search techniques and procedures for locating casualties affected by fire.

We learnt how to use hydraulic rescue tools 'the jaws of life' to free patients from crashed motor vehicles. Learning the art of bringing a crashed car back to its original shape to free a trapped patient was awesome.

Another highlight was our day at the Ōwhata Marae, learning about tikanga and our responsibilities within cultural aspects of our communities.

Fire isn't the only hazard we face. We learnt how to identify and approach hazardous materials (wearing the correct levels of personal protective equipment (PPE)) and decontamination procedures.

We learnt Urban Search and Rescue (USAR) skills for civil emergencies and natural disasters. USAR teams work long shifts back-to-back until the job is done. During this phase, to simulate a real-life working environment, we were physically burnt out whilst making calculated decisions to ensure we still had our wits about us. This part of the training tested us the most.

The live fire training phase was exciting and a definite highlight. Entering a building with real fires, working as a team with your BA partner, searching for and extinguishing fires, dragging heavy hose through a hot building, finding an unconscious casualty, carrying them out of the structure, maintaining radio communications with the officer in command - it was all go!

We covered starting up – which must be done in under 90 seconds. This involves starting with your BA on your back, turning on the cylinder and, at the same time, putting on your BA mask, your flash hood over your head then your helmet and gloves and, finally, reporting your BA tally tag to entry control. We learnt basic maneuvering, search techniques and procedures for locating casualties affected by fire.

The comradery shared among my course mates is next to none. We come from all walks of life and within three days were oversharing and dishing out nicknames as if we'd known each other forever. What also comes with this level of comfort, is trust. This organisation is built on trust and it is so important. Without it, lives can be lost. We've built trust with each other throughout this course and have each other's back. I'd gladly sit alongside this bunch on the truck.

Congratulations and well done to my course peers for an exceptional effort.

Ka mau te wehi!

By Mikaela Bradley



Top: Mikaela Bradley receiving her Most Outstanding Recruit award at graduation. Bottom: Mikaela Bradley (front row, second from right) lines up alongside her fellow graduates.



Find out more about the journey to becoming a career firefighter on fireandemergency.nz.



E ĀWHINA ANA I A QUEENSLAND ME NGĀ AHINIWHA ASSISTING QUEENSLAND WITH WILDFIRES

A request from the Queensland Fire and Emergency Services late last year saw us deploy two contingents to help battle devastating wildfires burning across the state during which many homes were lost and two people died.

As at late October 2023, Queensland Fire and Emergency Services (QFES) crews had responded to more than 1000 vegetation fires and, when our Alpha deployment arrived on 7 November, there were 52 active wildfires.

Alpha contingent was made up of four five-person crews and two strike team leaders - five of the firefighters were from the Department of Conservation - and an Incident Management Team made up of six of our people.

Bravo contingent replaced Alpha on 17 November and there were 54 active fires. Bravo consisted of 22 firefighters including from the Department of Conservation and Central Forestry Services.

Te Kei trainer Amber Hollis was part of Alpha crew, her first international deployment. She said a lot of her mahi involved helping farmers

prevent the fires reaching their land through patrolling, monitoring and doing back burns – in 43-degree heat.

‘It is a sticky and dry heat and causes laboured breathing. Also, the vegetation and terrain are very different to New Zealand – for example they have palm trees which give off toxic smoke – and we had to be mindful of the wildlife such as bull ants and snakes.

‘Community engagement was also a big part of what we were doing. It was reassuring for the community to know we were there – a woman whose house was threatened gave us a big hug. The engagement with locals also meant we can draw on their knowledge of relationships and the area. They know the roads, the escape routes, and where to access water.’



Apart from the reward of helping people in their time of need, Amber said the deployment was valuable for her as it meant that what she learnt, she could bring back to use in her training delivery.

It was the fifth international deployment for Qualified Firefighter and volunteer at Anzac Station Emily Sutton whose role was Crew Leader. Initially based in the rural town of Stanthorpe, Emily said she was up in high hill country using drones to locate hot spots and put them out.

‘In one deployment, I received the equivalent of a year’s experience of fighting wildfire.’

— Qualified Firefighter and Volunteer, Emily Sutton

The deployment was valuable as it meant that what I learnt, I could bring back to New Zealand to use in my training delivery.’

— Te Kei Trainer and Firefighter, Amber Hollis



We took some time out to visit a local school and chat to the children and show them the trucks. The fire got very close to their homes and the school. It was great to be able to help reassure them and take their minds off the fire.’

Emily said the deployment was an ‘amazing experience’. ‘In one deployment, I received the equivalent of a year’s experience of fighting wildfire.’

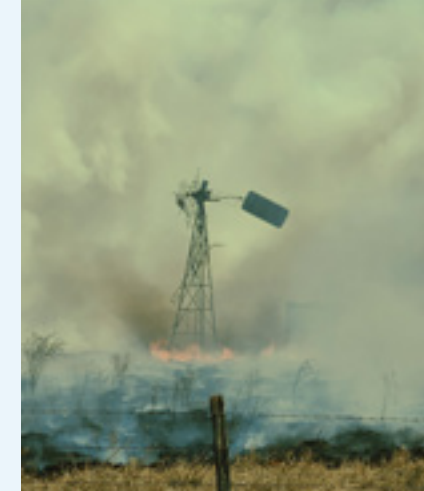
Seasoned international deployment team member, Nigel Dravitzki went to Queensland as the New Zealand Liaison Officer with the Alpha contingent. The Mānawatu-Whanganui District Manager has deployed to Canada twice and to Tasmania, New South Wales, Victoria and now Queensland but says each deployment is still a challenging environment and no fire is the same. ‘The Australian states can differ in how they operate. It is not our objective to go over there and expect to do things our way. In their state, it is important

‘I was really proud of our contribution to help out. Our people came together from all over New Zealand and did such a good job. Their attitude was amazing.’

— Taranaki District Manager, Dave Utumapu



The crew at Dalveen State School with Amber (L) and Emily (R) in the middle.



we remain flexible and adapt to their way to be able to offer real value.’

In the Liaison Officer role, Nigel was based in Brisbane at the State Operations Centre (SOC) which is somewhat similar to our National Coordination Centre (NCC). He was our representative in ‘all things deployment’ and liaised closely with SOC representatives.

‘We needed to quickly ascertain what was required by the QFES relaying this information to NCC so we could match the skills to the role. Safety of deployed personnel is the priority, so we also made sure our people were very clear on what was expected of them in their roles. Key to the Liaison role is making sure all contractual arrangements are abided by and New Zealand is represented well.’

Nigel says he is continuing to develop this specific skillset from all his international deployments. He enjoys the challenges the role brings as well as making many friends from all over the world.

Taranaki District Manager Dave Utumapu shadowed Hawke’s Bay Group Manager Carrie



Lakin as a Field Liaison Officer (FLO) trainee. The FLO role is based on the ground and Dave said, while Carrie was performing the main role, ‘she involved me from the get-go’.

‘We made sure everyone got to where they were supposed to be, had all the necessary documents, and were in the right place at the right time. We settled everyone into accommodation, ensured they had the right equipment and resources such as food and water, and that they were having contact with their whānau.

‘It was also important that our firefighters knew ahead what they would be expected to do the next day and the day after that.’

Dave says there was a real willingness amongst the crews to get on with each other and a great sense of camaraderie.

‘I was really proud of our contribution to help out. Our people came together from all over New Zealand and did such a good job. Their attitude was amazing.’ Our crews gained valuable experience in Queensland dealing with the large scale and complex wildfires. An international deployment like this not only supports our Australian neighbours but our crews return home with a wealth of experience and knowledge ahead of our fire season.

‘Each deployment is still a challenging environment, and no fire is the same.’

— Mānawatu-Whanganui District Manager, Nigel Dravitzki

E ĀWHINA ANA I Ō TĀTOU KIRITATA I TE MOANA-NUI-A-KIWA HELPING OUR NEIGHBOURS IN THE PACIFIC

Fire and Emergency New Zealand has always had a strong connection to our Pasifika whānau (families), with our people's recent visit to the Cook Islands and Tonga building whanaungatanga (sense of connection/kinship).



L: Mirren and Nick with their Cook Islands colleagues. R: The team with the Cook Islands National Disability Council.

In September last year, Fire and Emergency sent two Community Readiness and Recovery (CRR) Advisors – Mirren Allan and Nick Linton - to the Cook Islands to upskill local firefighters in planning and implementing their own Cook Islands Community Readiness initiatives.

The team delivered fire safety presentations alongside local firefighters to the Cook Islands National Disability Council, with Nick interpreting key messaging into sign language. Nick also installed Hearing Assistive Technology (HAT) alarms at the homes of community members who are profoundly deaf and trained the local firefighters to install and maintain these alarms.

The team then worked alongside local firefighters to adapt the Cook Islands Fire Safety Education Programme to include

We saw great confidence from the local firefighters delivering the school programme that they have made their own. They took ownership of the programme and spoke Cook Island Māori language to deliver key messages to the students. It was awesome!

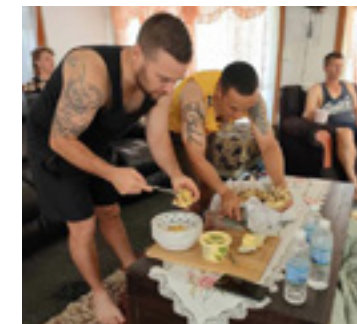
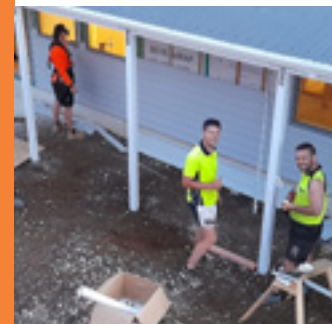
— Mirren Allan, Community Readiness and Recovery (CRR) Advisor

risks that are unique to the Cook Islands way of life, such as using mosquito coils and outdoor fires, and incorporated the Cook Islands Māori language. Following this, Mirren and Nick helped local firefighters put the adapted Cook Islands Fire Safety Education Programme into action at six local schools.

Mirren said, 'we saw great confidence from the local firefighters delivering the school programme that they have made their own.

They took ownership of the programme and spoke Cook Island Māori language to deliver key messages to the students. It was awesome!'. Akarangi'anga (Congratulations) on this amazing work Mirren and Nick.

In Tonga, the community of Kolovai now has a new home for its Salvation Army pastors thanks to a team of 15 volunteers from Aotearoa New Zealand, which included six Fire and Emergency firefighters.



The team doing their mahi in Tonga.

The team's goal was to build the house in two weeks, which they achieved apart from some finishing touches.

Our people who travelled to Tonga were father and son volunteers from Kamo Fire Station, Paul Austin, who is an electrician and Matthew Austin; Caroline Cave, a volunteer and career Firefighter from Kumeu and Ellerslie Fire Stations; Firefighter Matt Murray who is a

plumber; Qualified Firefighter Peter Walker; and Senior Firefighter Hami Love. Matt, Peter, and Hami work out of Avalon Fire Station.

Peter said, 'the trip was two years in the planning and by the time we got the concept of building the house signed off, organising a team, and arriving in Tonga, it was three years. It was an honour and a privilege to pick the team, based on attitude rather than skill.

I approached Paul who had been on the trip nine years ago and he immediately said yes and asked if his son Matthew could come.'

'We did 12-hour working days but it did not feel like hard work. The local community was so appreciative and some of them would watch us and be in tears.'

Matt, Peter and Hami all said a very special part of the trip was the local firefighters joining them to say thanks and to share stories.

'They had never seen smoke alarms, so we showed them how to use them and gave them some to take home.'

Mālō 'aupito (Thank you) for representing Fire and Emergency so well team! What amazing mahi.



Ā MĀTOU TĀNGATA I TE WHAKATAETAE
KAPA HAKA O TE MANA KURATAHI

OUR PEOPLE AT TE MANA KURATAHI PRIMARY SCHOOL KAPA HAKA COMPETITION



From Kawakawa in the Bay of Islands to Otautahi, Christchurch - 45 primary schools battled it out for top honours during Te Mana Kuratahi a 4-day kapa haka competition which kicked off towards the end of October last year.

While you might know about Te Matatini, our nation's biennial kapa haka festival and the pinnacle event for Māori performing arts, you may not be aware of the equivalent competitions that exist for primary and secondary schools. Te Mana Kuratahi is the national primary schools kapa haka competition, and this year was hosted by Te Tauihu o te Waka a Māui, in Whakatū, Nelson.

You'd be mistaken to think that because it's a primary school competition, that these performances would take your breath away any less than the main stage of Te Matatini. Each team was expected to perform a variety of kapa haka items for 25 minutes and are assessed by no less than 26 judges.

Thousands of hours learning kupu (words), actions, formations, melodies and mastering traditional Māori weaponry skills all comes down to one performance for hundreds of urban and rural tamariki (children) going after the ultimate title of 'Toa Whakaihuwaka', the winners of Te Mana Kuratahi 2023 - Te Matatini.

Like Te Matatini, our people had a stall at the festival to engage with attendees on the importance of creating escape plans as well as connecting with them on fire safety knowledge and awareness.

'A big mihi to the local crews and staff who came out and supported – Te Tau Ihu Volunteers, Wakefield, Blue and Red

watch, the CRR team, Te Tau Ihu managers, Pou Takawaenga and to all who worked behind the scenes to ensure safety and success of the event. Ka nui te mihi ki a koutou e aku Rangatira', says Paki Johnson, Poutakawaenga Māori, Māori Liason Officer, Te Ihu.

After months of practice, Te Kapa Puāwai from Te Kura Kaupapa Māori o Hoani Waititi Marae were crowned the ultimate title of Toa Whakaihuwaka. The team are from Tāmaki Makaurau, Auckland and were one of five to represent the region at the competition.



Credit: Te Matatini



Credit: Te Matatini



'A big mihi to the local crews and staff who came out and supported – Te Tau Ihu Volunteers, Wakefield, Blue and Red watch, the CRR team, Te Tau Ihu managers, Pou Takawaenga and to all who worked behind the scenes to ensure safety and success of the event. Ka nui te mihi ki a koutou e aku Rangatira.'

— Paki Johnson, Poutakawaenga Māori, Māori Liason Officer, Te Ihu



Credit: Te Matatini



I TUTUKI PAI I TE RŌPŪ TE MAHI WHAKANGUNGU
MŌ NGĀ MATŪ MŌREAREA

HAZARDOUS SUBSTANCES TRAINING EXERCISE A TEAM SUCCESS

On 30 October 2023, emergency services descended on the small town of Waipapa, ten minutes out of Kerikeri, following reports of an explosion at a steel factory.

Thankfully, on this occasion, this was part of a hazardous substances training exercise organised by five of our volunteer brigades in the far north.

The exercise took six months of planning with brigades agreeing to a hazardous substances exercise so that other emergency responders

could take part too. For many, it was the first time they were involved in this type of incident outside of regular training nights, so it was an opportunity to get comfortable in the uncomfortable.

Volunteer brigades from Kerikeri, Pahiā, Okaihau, Kaikohe and Mangonui took part alongside four Hato Hone St John ambulance, the Major Incident Team (MIT) from Whangārei and Police. 20 Kerikeri High School drama department staff and students were enlisted as patients, practicing their makeup skills to create some realistic injuries.

Brigades were dispatched to a factory explosion and, once they extinguished the fire (created courtesy of a smoke machine) they then conducted a search and rescue of 20 casualties.



Hato Hone St John triaged the casualties, bringing in their MIT to set up a mobile field hospital to support the response. Police were on hand managing road closures and helping with scene security; a scene made more realistic with people acting as rubbernecks wanting to know about their friends.

Feedback from the exercise has been overwhelmingly positive from all participating services. The realism of the patients through to the sheer scale of the incident provided an invaluable training opportunity and will guide brigade training before the next exercise is held later this year.

Special thanks to Rapid Relief for donating food and time after the event. Thanks also goes to Hato Hone St John and Police for taking part. And lastly, a massive shout out goes to all those from Fire and Emergency who worked behind the scenes to make this such a success. Ka rawe (awesome)!



E WHAKAATU ANA TE KAUPAPA HOU I TE MŌREAREA O TE HĒ O TE
WHAKAHIHIKO I NGĀ PŪRERE WHAI PŪHIKO KONUKŌHATU WHAI KATOTE

NEW CAMPAIGN EXPOSES THE DANGER OF INCORRECTLY CHARGING LITHIUM-ION BATTERY DEVICES

With lithium-ion battery fire incidents on the rise in Aotearoa New Zealand and around the world, Fire and Emergency New Zealand is taking an education and prevention approach to help minimise the harm caused by lithium-ion battery fires.

In late 2023, Fire and Emergency launched its first fire safety campaign to build awareness of the fire risk associated with charging lithium-ion devices.

Research shows that currently, people don't associate their everyday lithium-ion powered items with fire, so this first phase of the campaign focused on establishing this link.

It makes use of the established visual language of an attention-grabbing warning

label to make people aware of the danger hidden in everyday items they're familiar with - scooters, vapes and e-bikes, if not charged correctly.

The campaign ran in October and November 2023, featuring on social and digital channels, outdoor advertising like bus stops, and street posters as well as several item-specific locations including Locky Dock, an e-bike parking and charging facility in Auckland, Wellington, and Christchurch. Our Community Readiness and Recovery teams have also been equipped with lithium-ion battery safety materials to share with their communities.

So far, we've delivered over 39 thousand visits to our lithium-ion battery web page, and our content has been seen over 19 million times.

Fire and Emergency is also continuing to:

- Collaborate with other agencies, such as product safety and recycling companies, to ensure that lithium-ion batteries are handled and disposed of safely

- Use media coverage and interview opportunities to put out lithium-ion battery safety messaging
- Develop further guidance for firefighters attending lithium-ion battery incidents
- Consult with government organisations (regulators) to promote safe lithium-ion battery handling and storage, including councils, businesses, and the wider industry to raise awareness of the potential fire risks associated with lithium-ion batteries.

So far, we've delivered over
39 thousand visits
to our lithium-ion battery web page,
and our content has been seen over
19 million times



E AHA ANA TE... WHAT'S HAPPENING WITH...



Whakawāteatanga | Decontamination

Last year, three Decontamination Project members travelled to Australia to experience and evaluate a range of decontamination techniques, equipment and technologies used by fire services in Sydney, Adelaide, and Brisbane.

Based on what they learned about the Australian fire services' capability, in particular Queensland Fire and Emergency Services (QFES), the project has now identified what equipment to purchase for Fire and Emergency to trial for low/no water treatment. Although the equipment has been successfully used in Queensland, it is necessary to trial the equipment in a Fire and Emergency and an Aotearoa New Zealand context.

Our default practice is to shower anyone considered contaminated whereas modern practice is to check for contamination, use a combination of low/no water treatments and confirm the success of the decontamination before releasing the person.

We have chosen low/no water treatments as they will deliver real change earlier to those impacted by hazardous substance incidents, using well-tested service platforms and techniques used by both our Australian counterparts and other global emergency agencies providing such services.

Over the next 12 months the project aims to:

- Trial low/no water Decontamination equipment and techniques in an Aotearoa New Zealand context and with our existing processes and other equipment, to establish fit to current processes and where changes are needed. The trials will be held with the working group between 18 and 22 March at the Kilbirnie Station Training Facility in Te Whanganui-a-tara Wellington.

Our default practice is to shower anyone considered contaminated whereas modern practice is to check for contamination, use a combination of low/no water treatments and confirm the success of the decontamination before releasing the person.

- Conduct sufficient analysis to be able to understand the capability Fire and Emergency needs for Decontamination.
- Capture this in an appropriate document and present for decision-making on the capability required by Fire and Emergency.

A separate phase of the project will be managed in the future to address the need for replacement capability for the large Portaflex tents we use for mass decontamination showering which are nearing end of life.

Thank you to everyone involved in these projects. Your mahi (work), feedback and support is valuable in the successes we're seeing.

Te rapu haurehu | Gas detection

Our new VentisPro 5 personal gas monitors (PGMs) are now being used by many of our operational personnel and are installed in many appliances across the motu.

The installation of the Ventis Pros into stations and appliances took place over October to December 2023. This was referred to as 'Wave 1' of the rollout.

These units monitor flammable gases, oxygen, carbon monoxide, hydrogen cyanide, and hydrogen sulphide.

'Wave 2' is underway and will be completed by June 2024. This wave involves engagement with 73 stations, the installation of chargers into 84 appliances, and the installation of bump testing kits into the stations. It also includes the three training centres and our three Urban Search and Rescue (USAR) caches.

Our fire investigators have also received the new Ventis Pro 5 PGMs to replace their 'end-of-life' personal gas monitors (QRae and MicroRae).

The Tango CO Personal Gas Monitors are being trialled in Te Kei over this fire season at long duration wildfire events. Kits have been installed in appliances that regularly respond to vegetation fires. These units monitor carbon monoxide.

Senior Station Officer at Rolleston Volunteer Fire Brigade, John Trounson, said the brigade has been trialling the new PGMs for three months.

'The trial consisted of wearing the PGM to all callouts, the idea being to ensure that our personnel who encounter toxic, flammable, and low oxygen environments have an overview and awareness of the exposure to toxic gas products.

'We initially took a couple of weeks to get used to wearing them, but once we were confident it is now second nature to grab them as we are going out the door.'

John said the brigade had positive comments to make about the PGMs.

'They have said how good they have been at incidents when the alarms have gone off, indicating to the user that something has been detected in the breathing environment and to take appropriate action, such as donning Breathing Apparatus.

'During some incidents the PGMs have alarmed warning of a low CO (Carbon



Top: VentisPro 5 personal gas monitor. Bottom: Senior Station Officer John Trounson; Recruit Firefighter Chelsea McGregor; Senior Firefighter Sarah Lilley, all from Rolleston Volunteer Fire Brigade.

Monoxide) environment and personnel were able to take the appropriate action.

'The brigade members see the PGMs as a good warning device for their safety; it not only alarms to warn you, it also keeps a record of all the data that it has collected to your personal ID so it can be printed out if required in the future.'

Te urupare ki ngā taiopenga tuatini, roa hoki | Responding to complex and long duration events

The Incident Capability and Payments Alignment (ICPA) project was set up to review and realign the way our organisation responds to complex and long-duration events (LDEs). One part of this mahi is reviewing our payment policies for LDEs.

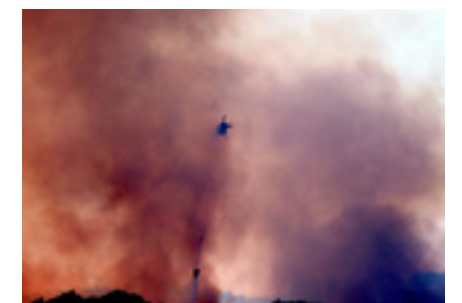
The recent focus of the project has been on delivering interim solutions that ensure smooth continuity of our operational response for the current fire season.

This has included the establishment of an interim payment and honoraria policy so that Fire and Emergency can pay eligible personnel for attending long duration events (LDEs) and provide an honorarium to volunteers in recognition of their contribution at LDEs.

Once an LDE is declared, payments and honorarium will apply to personnel that are selected as part of a taskforce and deployed to the LDE.

These payments became effective for incidents that have been declared an LDE from 1 December 2023 and were first implemented for our people who attended the fire on Matakana Island in December.

The interim solution will now run for a period that provides sufficient data to enable us to monitor and analyse its effectiveness so improvements can be captured.



E TUKU ANA TE ĀHUATANGA HOU O TE TAUPĀNGA
METSERVICE I NGĀ WHAKATŪPATOTANGA AHI
ME TE HUARERE TAIKAHA

NEW METSERVICE APP FEATURE NOW DELIVERS EXTREME FIRE DANGER AND SEVERE WEATHER WARNINGS



Encourage your communities to get the
MetService app – it is free and is available on
Google Play and iOS App Store.

And keep an eye out for fire danger reporting on
the 1News at Six weather forecast. This is another
exciting piece of mahi (work) we have underway
with MetService.

Find out
more



Whiria te Tāngata Rainbow Network

Be part of a like minded network of
people from across the organisation
who aim to increase the visibility,
inclusion and participation of people
with diverse sexual orientation, gender
identity and sex characteristics in
Fire and Emergency.

Get in touch with at:
whiriatetangata@fireandemergency.nz



Whiria te Tāngata

Supporting the visibility and inclusion of
Rainbow Communities

WHAT'S HAPPENING WITH... CONTINUED



L to R: Angloco pump at Hamilton Station; Emergency One pump at Napier Station.



Kahupapa | Fleet

Aerial Appliances

In July last year, we placed orders with
Global Fire Solutions Pty Ltd (t/a Bronto
Skylift Aus./NZ) for five new Aerials and
decided on the stations to receive them.
They're going to:

- **Auckland** – (1x Type 5 Large) Scania, single cab, 4 axle (twin steer), 420hp with 12speed Opti cruise transmission. This will be fitted with a 45 metre Bronto Skylift FL45XR and a Darley TSP 1500 pump.
- **Hamilton** – (1x Type 6) Scania, crew cab, 4 axle (front and rear steer), 420hp with 12speed Opti cruise transmission. This will be fitted with a 32 metre Bronto skylift F32RLX and a Darley TSP 2000 pump.
- **Wellington, Christchurch and Dunedin** – (3x Type 5 Medium) Scania, single cab, 3 axle (single steer), 420hp with 12speed Opti cruise transmission. These will be fitted with a 32 metre Bronto skylift F32RLX and a Darley TSP 1500 pump.

All five appliances will have the aerial
apparatus fitted to the cab/chassis in
Finland before being shipped off to two
different body builders for the locker bodies
to be built.

The Type 5 Large and Type 6 appliances
will go to Bell Fire and Rescue in Australia
and the other three, Type 5 Mediums, will go
to R.A. Bell in Brisbane, Australia and Fraser
Fire and Rescue in Te Whanganui-a-tara
Wellington.

In February, two project delegates inspected
the five units at Bronto Finland (Tampere,
Finland) before shipping to the body builders
(R.A. Bell and Fraser Fire and Rescue).

Before the units are shipped to the body
builders, we'll also reach the second milestone
– Ownership Transfer, where the units will be
transferred to Fire and Emergency ownership
– so the inspection was essential to ensure
that the cab, chassis, and units meet our
specifications and requirements.

This year, we will also focus on the
acceptance plan (which includes quality
checks with body builders), and training plans.

Added to the project scope is to develop
the business case for the procurement of
the Bronto training simulator and cascading
the five aerial appliances these new five
will be replacing.

Timeline for
the project



Type 3 next generation appliances

In September last year, we started the
evaluation phase of our four next generation
Type 3 appliances.

The evaluation phase of this procurement
is comprised of two rotations of our crew
evaluating the appliances. Rotation 1 ended
in December and we're now in Rotation 2,
which ends in April 2024.

For Rotation 1, the two Emergency One
appliances were at Auckland City Station
(Pump Rescue Tender) and Napier Station
(Pump). The two Angloco appliances
were at Hamilton Station (Pump) and
Christchurch City Station (Pump Rescue
Tender). The Emergency One appliances
are now at Hamilton and Christchurch
and the Angloco appliances are at Auckland
and Napier.

At the end of the rotations, feedback is
sought from personnel which is critical for
decision making. The feedback received will
be used to influence the final design before
we select our preferred supplier.

NGĀ MAHI KOHI PŪTEA NUI A NGĀ KAITĪNEI AHI MARATHON FUNDRAISING EFFORTS FROM FIREFIGHTERS



Steve and Guy appreciated the support from fellow emergency services as they made their way from Bluff to Queenstown.



Take two determined southern firefighters, five days, 218km and a mighty crew of supporters and what do you get? A whopping \$16,242 for Gumboot Friday!

Winton Volunteer Firefighters Steve Turton and Guy Johnstone walked from Bluff to Queenstown – the equivalent of five marathons in five days – wearing full Level 2 kit and carrying Breathing Apparatus (BA) to raise funds for counselling for young people, including those at risk of youth suicide.

Brigades along the route rallied in support, and local businesses also got in behind the fundraising effort.

Steve and Guy were motivated by the needs they see through their involvement in their brigade and the wider community, and their own personal experiences with mental health through their lives.

They know how hard it is to ask for help, and also how stretched the public health services are.

The funds raised will pay for over 100 free counselling sessions for children and young people up to the age of 25 through the I Am Hope Foundation, which runs Gumboot Friday.

Check out Steve and Guy's Give-a-Little page



CAREER
FIRE —
FIGHTERS
NEEDED

RED WATCH
TE HIKU
GRADUATED 2014
SELFLESS — NESS NEEDED
PUT OTHERS FIRST
APPLY NOW

KNOW SOMEONE
WHO'S GOT WHAT
IT TAKES?

APPLICATIONS FOR OUR NEXT
INTAKE CLOSE MID JUNE 2024

FIREANDEMERGENCY.NZ/JOIN

Firefighters from Tauranga, Greerton and Mount Maunganui also completed a marathon to raise funds for Te Kiwi Māia.

Te Kiwi Māia is a charity that provides rehabilitation, recovery and respite for firefighters and other services' personnel. They were also joined and supported by firefighters from Hamilton and Rotorua.

Participants could either run the full marathon distance (42.2 km) or complete the course as a relay team or bike. The route started at Greerton Fire Station and took participants all around Tauranga before finishing at the Mount Maunganui Fire Station.

Brendon 'Dunnie' Dunn was one of the event's organisers and attended one of Te Kiwi Māia's courses on burnout and resilience.

'It was such a primo course and it had a profound impact on me. I feel like I've been



The singlets worn during the event were inspired by Te Whare Tapa Wha. A wellbeing model developed by leading Māori health advocate Sir Mason Durie in 1984, describing health and wellbeing as a wharehau/meeting house with four walls.

through it and have come out the other side now. Ever since then I've been doing all I can to support the organisation and raise funds so that more people can benefit from their courses and programmes.'

The team are already looking forward to running the event again next year.

Karawhiua! Go for it!

Check out the team's Give-a-little page



Find out more about Te Kiwi Māia



Members of the Amberley Volunteer Fire Brigade in Canterbury raised over \$100,000 for young people's mental health and suicide prevention.

Like most brigades, they find themselves attending more 'purple calls' and Senior Firefighter Chris Reeves says the incidents involving self-harm weigh heavily on them all.

For 24 hours on 24-25 February, Amberley Brigade and their supporters took part in a relay, swimming lengths of the local pool to symbolise the struggle people may have with mental health and the promise that, together, the community can keep youths' heads above water. All the money they raise will go to the I Am Hope foundation.

Find out more about I Am Hope



Members of the Amberley Volunteer Fire Brigade and I Am Hope Ambassador Mike King (second from right), at local pool where the volunteers train for their Swim for Hope fundraiser.

TŪAO AUTAIA O TE TAU VOLUNTEER EXTRAORDINAIRE OF THE YEAR



Wellington Operational Support Station Officer Phil Harris and Qualified Firefighter Todd Skilton

Captain Todd Skilton is a volunteer extraordinaire.

Todd is a Qualified Firefighter in the Wellington Operational Support Unit and was recently named New Zealand Defence Force Te Ope Kātua o Aotearoa Volunteer of the Year 2023, as part of NZDF's People of the Year awards.

His day job is as Head of Information Digital for the Earthquake/Commission Toka Tū Ake. He's a long-time reservist in the Defence Force, has been a operational support Firefighter for Fire and Emergency for four years, and volunteers for Hato Hone St John his 'spare time'.

Todd says Wellington Operational Support Unit gets called out approximately 70 times a year.

'Our role is to provide incident ground support which lets the operational firefighters get on with their job. This could cover anything from traffic management, running out deliveries when they need something such as more water, to salvage work – for example if a sprinkler has gone off in a building, we help mop all the water up.

'We are usually called as part of a second alarm and, depending on the size of the incident, there could be between four and ten of us.'

The team also attends fire safety events and is trained to operate the kitchen fire demonstrator.

Todd says his volunteer work is 'super rewarding'.

'If you want to do the role you have to make the sacrifice, but the rewards, opportunities, and experience I get are huge, therefore the sacrifice is worth it.'

— Captain Todd Skilton

E TAUTOKO ANA I Ā TĀTOU KAITĪNEI AHI ME TE HAPORI SUPPORTING OUR FIREFIGHTERS AND THE COMMUNITY

Keen to learn more about operational support? Read on.

Operational support volunteers support our firefighters at callouts. Their tasks are outside the incident hot zone such as people and traffic control, and transporting equipment.

Wellington Operational Support Station Officer Phil Harris says operational support units around the motu (country) have different specialties depending on their location.

'Units who operate near major highways will have more experience and skill with traffic management. We are often called on for salvage work. In a building flooding event, we have aqua vacs which are like large vacuum cleaners to soak up the water from carpets and we protect equipment such as computers or, if it was a library the books, with salvage sheets which are like big waterproof tarpaulins.

'We also look after people in emergencies. Wellington had a multi-story motel fire in the early hours, and we organised for the occupants to move into a hall. As well as supporting our own people, we are also there as victim support to help people through a crisis.'

And support could be about making sure the firefighters at an incident are fed and watered.

'There was a large scrub fire in Titahi Bay in early January and our roles ranged from delivering coffee to the crews and bringing in more hose from Porirua Station.'

Phil says he has been called to an incident where a house fire was the subject of a murder investigation.

'We had to stay at the incident until fire safety or fire investigators arrived. We couldn't allow anyone on to the scene, including the Police.'

Phil and his team train once a week. When they're needed, a message through AMS or via their pager is all that's required.

We need all sorts of volunteers at Fire and Emergency New Zealand. If you know someone who is interested in volunteering, get them to check out the different ways they can volunteer on the 'Volunteering for us' page on the Fire and Emergency website.



E PĀNUI ANA I A SPEAK SAFE @ FAIR WAY

INTRODUCING SPEAK SAFE @ FAIR WAY

Fire and Emergency is partnering with Fair Way – Kia Tau to deliver Speak Safe @ Fair Way, a new independent service for enquiries and complaints.

Speak Safe @ Fair Way will replace the Behaviour and Conduct Office (BCO) and it will work differently. When it launches, you will be able to access the service to raise issues, seek advice and make a complaint, if you choose to do so. Fair Way will assess and triage initial issues and determine the next steps independently of Fire and Emergency. Complex cases, including sexual harm, will be independently managed through Fair Way.

Speak Safe @ Fair Way will be available to all personnel, including volunteers and contractors.

We have not bought an 'out of the box' solution and we are currently collaborating with Fair Way on the detailed design of the service. It is important to us that we take the

time to get this right and ensure that as far as possible, the new service will meet the needs of our people.

Alongside our work with Fair Way, we are also working internally to ensure our people, including people leaders and decision-makers, can fulfill their roles as the new service and operating model rolls out. Training for key people will be delivered in the first quarter of 2024.

We are aiming to Go-Live with Speak Safe @ Fair Way in April this year. When the date is confirmed, we will let you know.

While we are still in the process of standing up the new service, we encourage you to use the BCO. For anyone currently in a process with the BCO, work on your cases will continue uninterrupted.



TOGETHER WE MAKE A DIFFERENCE | SNAPSHOT OF SUPPORT: 1 APRIL 2022 TO 31 MARCH 2023

Take a look at where your membership money has gone. Thank you to all our members for your support in 2023. We couldn't have done it without you.

Home & Hospital Visits

\$15k

Value of home and hospital visits provided to members and their families.



Members Helped

620 Members and their families received help.

Members **423**
Spouses **137**
Children **60**



Occupancy

Holiday Homes

Taupo: **86%** QA: **96%**
Kapiti: **54%** QB: **95%**
Nelson: **71%** Hamner: **90%**
Whangamata: **75%**



Disaster Fund

\$15k

Given to help members and their families recover from the effects of a disaster.



The NZ Firefighters Welfare Society is the organisation that benefits you and your family.

To find out more about us, head to www.firefighters.org.nz

Knowing how to prevent a land management fire getting out of control can prevent disaster this summer

Check out the new videos that show how you can minimise risk when carrying out crop residue burns and pile burns on your property.

Always check before you light a fire, at

checkitsalright.nz



▶ Watch now

How to safely
burn crop residue
on your property



▶ Watch now

How to pile
burn safely