

# IGNITE

**Te Hiringa o te Tangata** Issue 27 / Autumn 2023 / Ngahuru 2023

**MASSIVE RESPONSE TO  
DEVASTATION IN NORTH ISLAND**

**USAR RESPONSE FOR NGĀTI KAHUNGUNU  
ESTABLISHES STRONG BOND**

**AIRCRAFT 'CRASH' IN WELLINGTON**





**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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# Kia ora koutou

Each edition of Ignite provides a snapshot of all the mahi that is happening across our organisation – sometimes it's an opportunity to celebrate and occasionally it is a chance for us to reflect on tragedies.

The extreme weather events that hit many parts of the North Island earlier this year are still fresh in everyone's minds, so we open this edition with some reflections from these unprecedented events. The impact of these events has had a ripple effect across our whole organisation, amplified by the loss of two of our colleagues. I want to thank everyone who supported our response - no matter how big or small your role was, you have helped Fire and Emergency help Aotearoa again.

During times of adversity, we often see stories of hope and people coming together to help each other. I highly recommend checking out page 8 to read about how our USAR team have established a strong bond with Ngāti Kahungunu, while helping iwi, hapū and whānau impacted by Cyclone Gabrielle. Ka mau te wehi! Awesome work.

Late last year, before we were hit by extreme weather, we deployed four teams to support the severe flooding in New South Wales. This was an extremely tense time for our Australian counterparts and the support our people provided to them, and their communities did not go unnoticed. Thank you for dropping everything to support the flood response. You can read about this on page 10.

Outside of these events, it's been great to see the different learning opportunities our people are part of. Whether that's exploring decontamination techniques, equipment, and technologies (page 12); or getting involved in the next level of water rescue training (page 18); or learning what to do in



the event of an aircraft crash (page 22); it's great to see our people coming together to keep upskilling.

Educating our communities in fire safety is another important role we hold, and it was great to see the next phase of our Escape Planning campaign kick-off in February. As you all know, fire doesn't follow instructions so planning for the three-minute ad that is central to this phase took almost two days of preparations at our National Training Centre. If you haven't seen the ad, check it out on our website and read more about the filming on page 13.

Te Matatini was another opportunity for us to share our fire safety message with many of you supporting our presence at the 'Market Place'. I was lucky enough to spend a day at the event, catching up with those of you at our tent, watching some of our people perform and making sure our own DCE Kaupapa Māori and Cultural Communities, Piki Thomas, was keeping to task managing the backstage area of the event. Well done to any of you involved – what a spectacular showcase. Check out some of the amazing photos on page 16.

When I signed off the last edition of Ignite for 2022, I wasn't sure it could get any busier, but these last few months have certainly shown it can. What is great to see is how you all step up to help each other and our communities when it's needed. Thanks once again.

Ngā manaakitanga

**Kerry Gregory,**  
Tumū Whakarae Chief Executive

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Credit: NZ Herald



# MASSIVE RESPONSE TO DEVASTATION IN NORTH ISLAND

On 27 January 2023, a state of local emergency was declared in Tāmaki Makaurau after record rain caused widespread flooding and led to the wettest month experienced by the region for at least 170 years.

Fire and Emergency crews responded to 719 weather-related incidents in Waitematā, Auckland City and Counties Manukau between 12.01am on Friday 27 January and 7.30am Saturday 28 January. Our Communications Centre people answered 2,242 111 calls which led to 2,074 calls for assistance during the weather event.

Major roads were blocked by flooding, landslips, or stranded vehicles, causing severe traffic disruption across the Tāmaki Makaurau region and Auckland Airport's international terminal was closed due to flooding. Homes were lost and, sadly, four people lost their lives.

There was barely time to start cleaning up after this event before Cyclone Gabrielle hit Aotearoa New Zealand on 12 February, with a national state of emergency being declared on 14 February – only the third time in New Zealand's history.

The cyclone brought gale-force winds and record rainfall to parts of the North Island. During 12 February, areas of the upper North Island began experiencing widespread power outages and property damage as the outer edges of the cyclone swept the country, with over 225,000 homes losing power as conditions worsened through 13 and 14 February.



Credit: NZ Herald



‘This was an unprecedented number of calls and we had to prioritise. We had every available career and volunteer crew on the road responding to the most serious events.’

— District Manager Brad Mosby commenting on severe flooding in Tāmaki Makaurau.





Severe flooding occurred, while some buildings had their roofs torn off in the wind or were damaged by landslides. Numerous roads across the North Island were closed due to flooding and high winds, including Auckland Harbour Bridge. Hundreds of people across the North Island were mandatorily evacuated, while hundreds more self-evacuated. Eleven people died and tragically we lost two of our own firefighters, Dave Van Zwanenberg and Craig Stevens from Muriwai Volunteer Fire Brigade.

Fire and Emergency people worked tirelessly around the clock alongside our partner agencies Police, St John and Civil Defence to help impacted communities. Our frontline crews, water rescue teams, air operations, Communications Centres (ComCen), Urban Search and Rescue (USAR), and hundreds of non-operational personnel staffed the National Coordination Centre alongside Regional and Local Coordination Centres. Many of our people responded even when their own whānau and homes had been impacted.



‘The water response teams that were stood up during these events were able to make a real difference on the ground, they operated tirelessly in some pretty extreme conditions. They really did do a great job rescuing people and providing a tactical option for other Fire and Emergency crews operating in their area.’

— Hamiora Taite, National Advisor, Working Safely in Water

‘In Te Hiku, we had communities at breaking point, asking what more we could offer after the Auckland flooding event. And the region hadn’t recovered from that when Cyclone Gabrielle hit, and our people were exhausted. But it was inspirational to see our teams pulling together, and going above and beyond to do everything they could for the community.’

— Vaughan Mackereth, District Manager, Tāmaki Makaurau

International teams deployed from the US Agency for International Development (USAID), Fiji’s National Disaster Management Office (Fiji NDMO) and an Australian Disaster Assistance Response Team made up of Queensland Fire and Emergency Services and Fire and Rescue New South Wales. The three teams generously brought their specialist knowledge and skills to help Aotearoa New Zealand in its time of

need. We also had support from Republic of Fiji Military Forces, the Fijian National Fire Authority and Defence Australia.

It was a massive interagency effort, and the work continues as the North Island seeks to recover from the devastation. Our thoughts are with those communities impacted by the cyclone, especially those who have lost their homes, and tragically, loved ones.



# COMMON OPERATING PICTURE FOR CYCLONE GABRIELLE

As the initial impact of Cyclone Gabrielle was occurring, the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) tasked Fire and Emergency with... ‘establishing a national wide area impact assessment process and product, via specialist personnel and systems, to ensure national Assessment Search and Rescue level 1 Wide Area Assessment is completed’.

The GIS team within the Data and Analytics directorate got to work and developed an ArcGIS Quick Capture ‘Wide Area Assessment’ data collection tool, modifying an existing tool that was already in use locally in Hawke’s Bay to meet the needs of NEMA. The tool was immediately passed out to USAR responders and began capturing granular impact data on infrastructure across Hawke’s Bay.

Data captured from the ‘Wide Area Assessment’ tool, the USAR Rapid Disaster Assessment (RDA) tool, and COMCEN incident data then formed the foundation of a common operating picture (COP) for Cyclone Gabrielle. The GIS team continued to develop the COP and engage with Civil Defence and government agencies to make the COP widely available. The team successfully collected and displayed over 20 layers of data and imagery, which was ultimately accessed by over 30 government departments and 200 users.

‘Our people responded above and beyond to support our communities during ex TC Gabrielle, to see first-hand the devastation and hear what our firefighters, support staff, leaders and USAR personnel did over those days was amazing. Seeing our brigade members step up especially in their communities that were isolated, showed the true spirit and commitment and living our vision – Stronger communities, protecting what matters.’

— Bruce Stubbs, Region Manager, Te Ūpoko





# USAR RESPONSE FOR NGĀTI KAHUNGUNU ESTABLISHES STRONG BOND

Following the devastation of Cyclone Gabrielle in Hawke’s Bay, Fire and Emergency’s Urban Search and Rescue (USAR) crew got to work cleaning up and supporting marae to open their critical facilities.

As a result of this work, and the relationship work of our Pou Takawaenga Māori team members Hori Mana and Kereama Katu, Hawke’s Bay USAR team leader Ken Cooper said trust has been built and the door is open for Fire and Emergency and Ngāti Kahungunu iwi, hapū and whānau to work together.

‘Our USAR team worked closely with Ngāti Kahungunu who had a number of marae, kaumātua housing, papa kāinga and urupā extensively damaged. By establishing a connection with Ngāti Kahungunu we were able to step in and work together to provide tangible support that has created a positive enduring legacy.’

Ken said USAR’s work for Ngāti Kahungunu included drones being flown over affected areas, an extensive clean-up of debris and silt-damaged items to make housing and a marae available at Waiohiki Marae as a community hub, data being shared between GIS personnel from Fire and Emergency and Ngāti Kahungunu, and arranging to get the Ōmāhu marae generator replaced so it could service the surrounding housing.

‘We were also able to arrange for kaumātua and kaikarakia to be flown over their damaged Marae and hāpori so they could view the extent of the damage and karakia could be performed.’

Ken said the work USAR carried out with Ngāti Kahungunu was possible largely because of

the relationship Fire and Emergency’s Hawke’s Bay Local Advisory Committee Deputy Chair, Monique Heke had with iwi already and her role as Acting Regional Director for Te Puni Kōkiri Takitimu region.

‘Monique made it possible for our USAR team to meet with iwi representatives and understand the extent of the cyclone’s impact. This made it simpler for us to determine the issues of highest need and assist Ngāti Kahungunu the best way we could.

‘The end result is more than cleaning up – it’s established some clear respect and trust between Fire and Emergency and Ngāti Kahungunu so we can collaboratively work together to ensure this community is resilient and prepared for future events.’

Because of the USAR team’s efforts in supporting Ngāti Kahungunu, 96 USAR personnel from Australia and New Zealand were welcomed onto Ōmāhu Marae on 23 February for an evening of storytelling, kai and waiata.

‘It was an experience that our Australian teams were humbled by, acknowledging the sincerity and authenticity of our hosts.’

Ken said Fire and Emergency is not wasting time in building on the strong bond that has been created with iwi, with a meeting set to review our response and learn what we can in order to inform others of what can and does work well.





# LENDING A HAND TO NEW SOUTH WALES EMERGENCY SERVICES FLOOD RESPONSE

In late 2022, New South Wales State Emergency Service (SES) requested international assistance for the first time for severe flooding.

Between 14 November and 22 December 2022, four Fire and Emergency incident management teams (Alpha, Bravo, Charlie and Delta) went across the ditch to support the SES flood response.

All four teams were based in Parkes and supported the response along the Lachlan River by keeping the communities informed and identifying where resources were needed to help with the response and recovery.

When Team Alpha got there, the Wyangala Dam had just released thousands of megalitres of water, affecting the communities along the Lachlan River from Forbes down to Hillston.

Gareth Hughes, Deputy Incident Controller for Team Alpha, said Team Alpha's primary focus was to establish the Incident Management Team and set up processes, while responding to the flooding in Forbes, Condobolin and Euabalong as the flood peak moved down the river.

The team was warmly welcomed by the locals and dignitaries, including Acting Prime Minister Richard Marles the Governor General David Hurley.



'We really appreciated the donations of food and water, local knowledge and the support from the SES teams, especially the local Incident Controllers and Operations Commander.'

'It was very special for Team Alpha to be able to thank the Parkes Woolworths with a waiata for their generous food and water donations, gift a patch and challenge coin to thank Land Mines for providing ground crews to support, send off our Incident Controller with a haka, and be welcomed on to the land by the First Nations Wiradjuri elders.'

Team Bravo Deputy Incident Controller Brendon Grylls said when they arrived, the flood peak was about to reach Hillston.

'Our job involved sending helicopters to deliver supplies to towns, organising where the response crews would be working, getting crews to deliver sandbags and sandbagging, putting out emergency warnings, setting up community meetings, and planning for future flooding activity.' — Gareth Hughes



A big focus for the team was to address the Hillston community's concerns and assist those on the ground with resources and logistics, including nine air frames.

'While we were helping Hillston prepare for the flood peak, areas that had already seen the peak also required assistance. We continued to arrange rescues for people who had driven into flood waters and get food and air assets to resupply isolated communities.'

'It was a real honour to be able to help make a difference and do the very best for these communities, some of which had been under water and cut off since August.'

'It was amazing to see the team come together for a successful deployment, despite only having met at the airport for the first time two days earlier. The Incident Controllers were well impressed.'

Blair Kiely, Team Charlie Deputy Incident Controller, said their team continued resupply and rescue efforts to support communities following the flood, as well as get resources ahead of the predicted flood path.



'During our deployment we got a rescue boat into an isolated community and were visited by the New Zealand High Commissioner Dame Annette King.'

Deputy Incident Controller John Sutton said Team Delta was fortunate to benefit from well-established systems and processes of the preceding teams.

'This made for a smooth transition as we took over the reins from Team Charlie.'

'Our priority was to ensure the intelligence we were passing on was accurate and timely, so we spent significant time validating what we heard with visits on the ground.'

'The frequency of rescues increased as the floods receded, as locals and travellers took ill-advised risks. With the holidays looming, we also ramped up the warnings and messaging to the communities and travellers, advising them to check the conditions before using the roads.'

All teams agreed that it was inspiring to witness the resilience of the communities, emergency responders and volunteers and a real privilege to lend a hand to our Australian counterparts (NSW SES, Fire and Rescue NSW and NSW Rural Fire Service) who had been doing a great job and working tirelessly for months.



# LEARNING ABOUT DECONTAMINATION FROM AUSTRALIA

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

Ben Colbert, National Advisor Decontamination, Phil Hynd Station Officer – Kilbirnie Station, and Aaron Waterreus, Specialist Response Manager, wanted to get hands-on user experience of what solutions our AFAC partners are currently using and discuss what they may be looking at for the future.

During their trip, the team discussed decontamination-related matters with firefighters, officers and technicians, and looked over a range of assets and solutions for decontamination of firefighters and members of the public. This included Heavy and Medium hazmat tenders that carry technical decontamination resources (in Sydney), mitigation and containment equipment, HAZPUMP appliances (in Adelaide), and systems with warm showers and privacy solutions (in Brisbane).

Ben said technologies from the most basic through to the most advanced were on offer for them.

‘What we experienced on this visit was incredibly valuable and will help guide the direction of the project. Each of our hosts are quite a lot more advanced than Fire and Emergency currently is. It has taken them a long time to get to where they are, and we plan to take advantage of much of what we learned for the project’s purposes.

‘A real highlight of the visit was spending a couple of days with the highly revered Dr Mike Logan AFSM and Dr Bruce Riches, who are both from Queensland Fire and Emergency Services. Between them, what they don’t know about decontamination isn’t worth knowing.’

Next steps for the Decontamination Project are a procurement plan and the first stage of trials with the working group, which will take place once initial solutions are selected and equipment is available.



# ONE TAKE WONDER VIDEO

Most people think that in the event of a fire, they will be able to escape easily – for example, by just walking out the door. However, the reality is very different.

When we are confronted with an emergency such as a fire, our instincts can betray us. Smoke will incapacitate you – it’ll reduce your ability to see, breathe and think clearly. The only way to be truly sure that we will do the right thing in the event of a fire is plan for and practise it before it happens.

On 20 February, we launched a new phase of our Escape Planning campaign aimed at ensuring more New Zealand households have a Mahere Rerenga Tāwhai-3 | 3-Step-Escape Plan.

We produced powerful new content, designed to show the reality of a housefire, and that while three minutes is all a house fire needs to kill, three minutes is all it takes to make an escape plan and survive.

Slotting into the typically three-minute long ad break on TV, a series of our TV ads shows a clock counting down in five-second ad spots throughout an ad break. Each time the ad comes on there is less and less time to make a plan. We see a fire progressively getting

worse in the background as the timer counts down.

The new TV ads were filmed at the National Training Centre (NTC) in Rotorua over two full days. The video shoot required a lot of preparation, as there was only one opportunity to set the container on fire and burn the set.

The first day consisted of building and dressing the set. The production team did a fantastic job turning a black shipping container into a cosy living room. Through the camera lens, you would have no idea that this was filmed in such a controlled setting, as there are no signs of the container. A variety of props and fixtures were used in the set, including old light switches, lamps, paintings and other decorative items. The container was built out with wooden walls, and even had carpet! Extra care had to be taken to make sure our ticking clock survived the fire for at least three minutes.

The second day of the shoot involved the crew planning out the direction and cause of the fire, alongside the team of specialists at NTC. We also had to make sure the crew were safe, and that the cameras were at a safe distance to film the fire.

After all the preparation, it was time to set the container on fire. One and a half days of preparation for it to go up in flames in less than 10 minutes. The filming was hugely successful, and everything was captured for the ads.

Thank you to everyone at the NTC who helped with the planning and execution of the video shoot; we wouldn’t have been able to do it without your expertise.

The campaign has been shown on TV, YouTube, TVNZ OnDemand, social media, bus shelters and digital media. When you’re out talking to the public, friends and whānau, remember to ask: *He aha tō Mahere Rerenga-3-Upane? What’s your three-step-escape plan?*





# INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY



The theme for International Women's Day on 8 March this year was #EmbraceEquity.

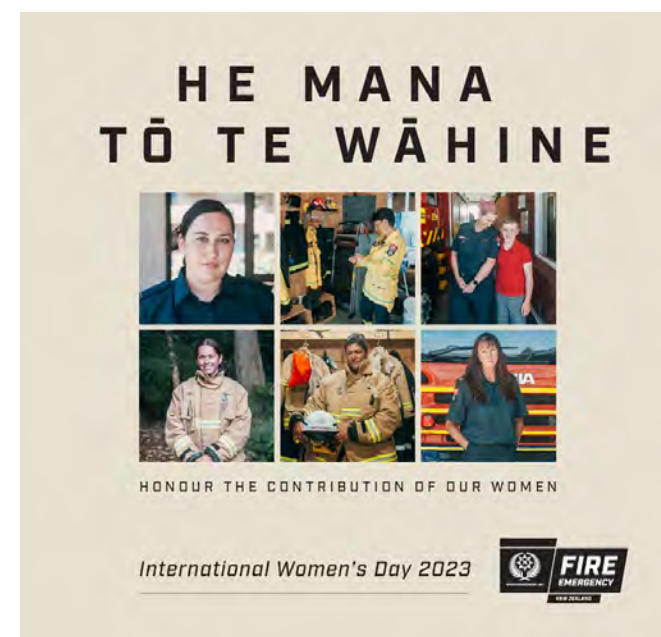
We celebrated some of the many amazing wāhine in Fire and Emergency with an exhibition of their profiles.

He Mana Tō Te Wāhine – An Exhibition champions the experiences and ambitions of our wāhine members of Fire and Emergency New Zealand.

Spanning the regions, the series shines a light on the mahi of wāhine toa across our career and volunteer networks – amplifying their voices to encourage and inspire.

They talked about the challenges, rewards and enriching experiences of their careers and how they not only give of themselves to their work but also to many others through networks, mentoring and community engagement.

We also encouraged our people to send us images of their interpretation of Embracing Equity and how they honour the contribution of their wāhine – He mana tō te wāhine.







# TE MATATINI

## THE 'OLYMPICS OF KAPA HAKA'

Definitions for te reo Māori words in **bold** can be found in the glossary on the opposite page.

### The Festival

What do 1.1 million worldwide viewers, 60,000 attendees and over 1,500 performers have in common? They all came together in February to celebrate the passion, intensity and sweet harmonies of **Te Matatini** national **kapa haka** festival, the pinnacle event for Māori performing arts in the world.

Te Matatini has been described as the 'Olympics of kapa haka' and is the most highly anticipated four days in the calendar for both performers and the mass of passionate fans throughout the world.

After a four-year hiatus due to COVID-19, the festival was hosted by Ngāti Whātua Ōrākei at Eden Park in Tāmaki Makaurau. Forty-five **kapa** from across the **motu** took the stage with the intent to captivate, impress and move judges and audiences alike in the hopes of progressing to the finals to win the supreme title of '**Toa Whakaihuwaka**'.

From backstage management, to exhibitors in the 'Market Place' to performers on-stage, Fire and Emergency's people were involved in many parts of the festival.



### ELT behind the scenes

For our Kaupapa Māori and Cultural Communities Deputy Chief Executive, Piki Thomas, this was his tenth year volunteering to manage the backstage with his team of festival volunteers. While their mahi is invisible to the audience, you'd know if they weren't there!

With 600 **kaihaka** making up 15 live streamed performances each day, Piki and his team are vital in ensuring everything behind and on the stage runs like clockwork. Piki found some time to take Chief Executive Kerry Gregory on a tour behind the scenes along with festival volunteers, Kaitlyn and Jen Marsh.

### The Market Place

Alongside the performance venue is the 'Market Place' which engaged attendees during the breaks. Fire and Emergency **kaimahi** representing each of our regions worked alongside **Te Rōpū** to operate a busy and energetic stall connecting with attendees on escape planning, home and marae fire safety and recruitment.

Kerry Gregory and Region Manager for Te Hiku Ron Devlin visited our kaimahi and both commented that after the challenging week from Cyclone Gabrielle the energy and **whakawhanaungatanga**, togetherness of being there was extremely uplifting.



If you've never witnessed a Te Matatini performance and want to see what the magic is about, you can view the performance of Te Whānau-a-Apanui by following the QR code or by heading to [tvnz.co.nz](https://tvnz.co.nz) and searching 'Te Matatini'



### Dedication to performing

Blane Wainohu is a Firefighter for Nuhaka Volunteer Fire Brigade and performed in the competition with Mātangirau, a Wairoa based kapa. Cyclone Gabrielle caused widespread devastation to the Wairoa **rohe** and there was much speculation as to whether the kapa would make it to the competition.

Power cuts and road closures were just a few of the challenges the kapa overcame, and when they took to the stage on the second day of the competition, they portrayed a powerful image of mud imprinted on their legs. The audience were moved not only by the symbolism representing the state of their homes and marae but also their dedication to performing.

### How to watch the performances

After an epic four days of performances, Te Whānau-a-Apanui from Mātaatua were crowned Toa Whakaihuwaka, the overall winners of Te Matatini 2023, making it their third win.

Te Matatini takes place every two years and is hosted by a different rohe each time. Preparations are already underway for Te Matatini 2025 which will be hosted by Aotea in Taranaki. **Kua rite rānei koe e Hōri?**

### Glossary | Kuputaka

- Te Matatini:** From 1972 the event was known as the "Polynesian Festival" and was renamed in 2004 to Te Matatini meaning The Many Faces
- Kapa haka:** Performance group. **Kapa:** group, **Haka:** performance
- Tāmaki Makaurau:** Auckland
- Toa Whakaihuwaka:** Winning group.
- Toa:** to be victorious, **Whakaihuwaka:** champions
- Motu:** Country
- Kaihaka:** Performers
- Kaimahi:** Staff
- Te Rōpū:** The Group. A group of our people in Te Hiku who are passionate about supporting and raising the profile of all things Māori for their region
- Whakawhanaungatanga:** One of our organisation's values representing relationships and connections
- Rangatahi:** Younger generation or youth
- Wānanga:** Discussions
- Noho:** a colloquial term for staying somewhere, usually on marae
- Rohe:** Region
- Kua rite rānei koe e Hōri?** Are you ready Hōri?

### Kōrero with Kaihaka, Hōri Mana



Another performer from Fire and Emergency was our Pou Takawaenga Māori | Māori Liaison Officer for Te Ūpoko, Hōri Mana.

Forty kaihaka make up each group and are a mix of seasoned professionals and first-time performers. For Hōri, this was his fifth time taking the stage, since his debut at Te Matatini in Te Tairāwhiti, Gisborne in 2011. Hōri performed with Te Tini o Rēhua, a group who welcome people of all hapū and iwi affiliations to be a part of their kapa. They were established to provide an opportunity to educate people in Māori culture and knowledge using haka as the platform.

To make it to Te Matatini, Te Tini o Rēhua had already competed and won at one of 13 regional kapa haka competitions out of a total pool of 163 teams.

### How did you get involved in kapa haka?

I got involved in kapa haka at boarding school but when I joined the Air Force I wanted to keep in contact with all things Māori so a group of us got together for kapa haka. We ended up performing for a lot of important events for the Air Force including supporting dignitaries and coming up with the haka for the Air Force which is still used today. Things progressed from there really.

### Tell us a bit about your current kapa.

Te Tini o Rēhua was established in 2017 and we represent the Rangitāne rohe. We're affiliated with Parewahawaha/ Māirikiriri marae.



Our group has some young people and it's been great to see their energy. The biggest difference I've noticed is the **rangatahi** coming through. They all grew up with haka and it makes me excited to see where they will take it and what kapa haka will be like in 20 years' time.

### How much time goes into a performance?

We started training about eight months ago, and since then it's been hours and hours of **wānanga** and **noho** to create the 25-minute performance.

### How would you describe Te Matatini to people who have never been?

It's almost like going to watch your super rugby team. People are so passionate about their kapa and the atmosphere is positive and energetic, there's always waiata blasting somewhere. It's also a great family day and a safe space for everybody, enjoying what te ao Māori has on offer.



# FIRST ROUND OF TRAINING FOR SPECIALIST WATER RESPONSE TEAMS

It has been a busy few months for the Working Safely in Water Project with all the flooding events in the North Island.

In December 2022, expressions of interest were circulated to identify people to make up the first of our Specialist Water Response teams (SWRTs). This process was interrupted by a series of weather systems which resulted in a spate of flooding in the North Island. These incidents drove home the importance of building an in-water capability within Fire and Emergency.



Our National Advisor, Working Safely in Water, Hamiora Taite, said firefighters around the motu did some exceptional work, often in extreme conditions, responding to these emergencies.

'A small part of that effort was undertaken by three water response teams that were assembled by the WSIW project for the Auckland anniversary weekend floods, Tropical Cyclone Gabrielle response, and the Auckland/Mangawhai flooding over 25 February.

'These teams comprised personnel from the subject matter expert group that is informing the project and people who held a suitable swift water rescue qualification who had applied for the Specialist Water Response teams'.

Hami said following on closely was the first of three swift water technician pilot courses to begin formally building this capability within Fire and Emergency. The initial course was for the Te Ihu team to kickstart their development. This was held in Hanmer Springs, predominantly in the Waiau River. This was delivered by an external training provider, Rescue 3.



'Rescue 3 as an organisation has trained people around the world in many flood, water and swift water disciplines. Fire and Emergency personnel must pass Rescue 3's swift water technician certificate, which is an internationally recognised qualification, to be deployable as part of the SWRTs that are under development. This training is the launchpad for our in-water capability; over time the training for this will be brought "in house".

'This course was a steep learning curve for all involved and was a great start to building the teams. This first group provided some good feedback to make subsequent courses even better.'

The second course was held in Rotorua from the 28–31 March and trained an Auckland-based team.

'This course coincided with a cold snap which had everyone reaching for their thermals. Although the sun made its appearance for most of the course so too did the southerly wind which made for a very chilly inside of the Kawarau Scout Hall'.

**'River conditions were lively with good flows on the Tarawera River which meant plenty of scope to display the skill sets required. The team built on each lesson and their confidence grew over the course to where they competently performed a night scenario rescuing four patients with the skills learned over the previous days.'**

The longer-term plan is to continue to build capacity to where we can have District-based capabilities. These will work alongside some of our partner agencies to provide coverage for our flood and water response needs across Aotearoa New Zealand.



## Some feedback from participants in the training:

'It is great to see this emerging incident type being recognised and acted on. This is a foundational step that will evolve to provide a capability that we will see available across the country with strategically located teams. This capability and skill will make our current operations safer and it will provide our operational workforce with tactical options not currently available.'

– James Hall, Recruitment Manager

'The Swift Water Rescue Technician course was carried out on rivers surrounding Hanmer Springs. It was great to be able to achieve an internationally recognised qualification from a global training provider. The ability to train and learn in moving water had tangible benefits to cement the tactics that we were being instructed on. With these new skill sets, team members will be able to provide incident commanders with another rescue element during a flooding event and subsequently provide a better service for the public.'

– Matt Akers, Firefighter, Onehunga Blue Watch



**'This was a good opportunity to prove concept and formed a live pilot for how the SWRTs could operate in future flood events. Over this operational period, they attended around 40 incidents and conducted 32 rescues while assisting with multiple evacuations.'**



# PORTABLE PUMPS GO THROUGH STRICT TESTING PROCESS



As technology advances, the number of products and equipment options that would benefit Fire and Emergency frontline personnel increases. There are many that don't pass that first suggestion stage, and others that don't pass the strict procurement process or the stringent testing process.

### Successful pumps:

Supplier	Pump category	Make/Model
Vortex	Heavy	SupaJet 1300 EFI
Vortex	Heavy	SupaJet 1400 EFI
Wormald	Heavy	Tohatsu VE1500W
Vortex	Light	Maxflo 18
Wormald	Light	Tohatsu VE500AS
Vortex	Light	Phoenix HP30
Vortex	Medium	SupaJet 23 EFI
Vortex	Medium	SupaJet 23 ARV
Vortex	Transfer	Phoenix WP30
Wormald	Transfer	Davey Floodfighter G8016

Once equipment has passed procurement requirements, it then goes to testing from a performance and operational perspective. Depending on the type of equipment, this can be purely on-the-ground testing, or if it passes that stage, it can then go on to be tested at a number of fire stations for formal trials. At all stages of the process, subject matter experts (SMEs) are involved, which can include career and volunteer firefighters, equipment and logistic technicians, equipment trainers, operations advisors and our union and association equipment and logistics representatives.

'We want our frontline firefighters involved in the final go/no go selection for all our equipment, to ensure it is all fit for purpose. We want to provide the best quality, fit-for-purpose gear for our firefighters', said Charlie Lott, National Manager, Equipment and Logistics.

Equipment that has recently been given approval is portable pumps. Following the tender process and meeting procurement requirements, ten personnel from across the organisation trialled the shortlisted portable pumps in the field.

Over four days, the team took the portable pumps through a set range of performance and technical requirements to test and assess their capability, scoring each pump on each requirement.

'The pumps really got put through their paces, including what you'd expect from them when you're using them in the field, if not more,' said Matthew Walker, Chief Fire Officer, Leeston Volunteer Fire Brigade and Regional Equipment Coordinator for Te Ihu.

Following four days of intensive testing, the team spent the fifth day evaluating the results from the tests and finalising the recommendations for each pump subcategory.

Once a product has met all the requirements and been approved, it is added to a panel of four to five suppliers so that we can purchase an approved pump that meets the needs of the station or brigade. Having more than one pump supplier to choose from also helps overcome any current global supply issues. This is part of a deliberate approach to make our equipment and logistics supply chains resilient in the current economic environment.

# STRONG EVIDENCE SUPPORTS DECISION-MAKING

Te Ao Mārama is Fire and Emergency's Research, Evaluation and Library service. Over the past year the team has completed a wide range of work helping teams across the organisation with research and evaluation evidence to minimise risk and support decision-making.

Morgan Kelly, Acting Manager, Te Ao Mārama said he was really excited to share what the team has been doing.

'We're keen to talk to teams to see how we can assist further. We're happy to help coordinate research, support research projects within teams, or just do a literature review. You can get in touch with us any time at [research@fireandemergency.nz](mailto:research@fireandemergency.nz).'

Some of the research and evaluation projects the team were involved with last year included:

- The volunteer journey
- Carcinogen exposure
- Impact of smoke alarms on behaviour
- Non-fatal fire-related injuries
- Pigeon Valley fire evacuation
- Spontaneous combustion of slash at skid sites.

You can read more about each of these on the Portal, in Te Ao Mārama's Annual Summary for 2022, or contact the team for more information: [research@fireandemergency.nz](mailto:research@fireandemergency.nz)

Te Ao Mārama also manages an offsite library collection of just over 5,600 items which is available to everyone in Fire and Emergency. The collection supports the diverse evidence and research needs of our personnel throughout Aotearoa, including safety, health and wellbeing. There is a mix of physical and electronic resources, including books, reports, codes and standards, legislation, peer-reviewed articles, and selected online databases.

For support accessing resources and information, you can contact the Library at [library@fireandemergency.nz](mailto:library@fireandemergency.nz).

You can learn more about Te Ao Mārama on the Portal.



## Please check for remaining stocks of Class B PFAS foams

Solberg Versagard AS-100 is now the only Class B foam Fire and Emergency is using in response to flammable liquid fires and spills.

The Fluorine-Free Foam Transition Project is asking you to please double-check lockers, cupboards and storerooms for any remaining stocks of Class B PFAS foams/old FFF foams or AFFF extinguishers that may have been overlooked and need to be removed.

If you find any stock, please set it aside immediately and notify your Group Manager who will contact the project team to arrange for its collection and destruction.

Note that only non-standard PFAS extinguishers are being recalled. Foam extinguishers are not part of standard stowage. Standard ABE extinguishers are rated for Class B fuels.

The images opposite show examples of material the project needs to collect.





# AIRCRAFT 'CRASH' IN WELLINGTON

As part of the Wellington Airport Fire Service, Dean Reynolds, Fire and Emergency volunteer firefighter and Deputy Crew Chief, recently ran an aircraft crash scenario for volunteer brigades based in the Wellington region.



PHOTO CREDIT: DEREK QUINN AND CARL MILLS

The exercise took place in Tawa, a suburb 30 minutes north of Wellington Airport, which is under the flight path and would likely have little to no aircraft rescue and firefighting response (ARFF). Thanks to the donation of a 51-seater bus by Newlands Coach Services, the ARFF trainers were able to replicate the interior of an aircraft almost exactly. A smoke machine was then set up under the bus to simulate an exterior fire, while a portable ATTACK™ Digital Fire Training System and smoke generator replicated an internal fire.

On arrival at the simulated crash scene, volunteer crews established a low pressure delivery on each side of the bus to protect the 'fuselage' from fire. Once the fire was extinguished, firefighters entered the 'aircraft' and found 17 people injured or trapped on board. After the interior fire was extinguished, a positive pressure ventilation (PPV) fan was set up at the door for ventilation, before crews

began the triage and extrication phase. The difficulty firefighters encountered was trying to ascertain the unconscious victims' ABCs while wearing full PPE and breathing apparatus.

Dean said it was a difficult situation for crews unfamiliar with Mass-Casualty Incident (MCI) procedures.

'Some were very recent graduates of recruit courses and they were in charge of making life and death decisions on who they chose to extricate first and who they left behind.

'Only one crew could work inside at a time, given the narrow aisle and only one entry and exit point. It took 50 minutes to methodically remove 15 patients to the Casualty Clearing Point (CCP). Firefighters and operational support staff, alongside two Wellington Free Ambulance paramedics were at the CCP ready to triage and care for the injured.

**'Outside the aircraft there was a robust incident management plan, with multiple sectors set up, including fire attack, rescue, triage and logistics. There were an estimated 40 – 50 firefighters in attendance, from four local volunteer fire brigades.'**

Dean said overall the exercise was very successful and beneficial.

'The crews now have a greater understanding of how much will be involved and what to expect should an aircraft come down in their fire district. Three of the brigades are also close enough to support an accident at the airport.

'The more we can train and collaborate with each other, the more prepared we will be if it happens.'

## Did you know...how easy it is to join the New Zealand Firefighters Welfare Society (NZFWS)

Once you're a member, you will have access to many membership benefits. One of the most popular benefits is the network of holiday/convalescent homes located across New Zealand. A reciprocal agreement with NZ Police and NZ Defence Force adds even more homes to your list of options.

Holiday homes are just one of the benefits of membership. To look at what your membership can cover, please visit [firefighters.org.nz](http://firefighters.org.nz) and join today.

NZFWS has been around since the early 1980s. It is an independent organisation governed by the Friendly Societies Act. Their ethos is firefighters helping firefighters and their whānau. Membership is open to all Fire and Emergency personnel including all firefighters (paid and volunteer), support staff and administration staff nationwide.

**Joining is easy and costs from only \$5 per week until the age of 64 then \$2.50 per week from 65 onwards.**

Healthcare99, their Mutual Fund, is also available to financial members for an extra charge. This fund offers two options of cover for reimbursement of medical costs.

Join today and gain access to holiday homes and many other benefits including retail discounts, a range of financial benefits and wellbeing assistance. Head to [firefighters.org.nz](http://firefighters.org.nz) to learn more and join online today or call the team on **0800 65 34 73** to find out more.

Did you know?

**Membership includes**

**ACCESS to HOLIDAY HOMES**

**right across NZ**

Another great reason to belong

New Zealand Firefighters Welfare Society



***You have***



***to save a life***

**[escapemyhouse.co.nz](http://escapemyhouse.co.nz)**

