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fire & rescue

The New Zealand Fire Service Magazine

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59



Rescuers honoured

Fire & Rescue is the flagship publication of the New Zealand Fire Service.

It is produced by Media, Promotions and Communications, National Headquarters, Level 9, 80 The Terrace, Wellington.

Front cover: Millie and Derek Lovell's daughter Tiffany keeps her father's photo close during the event at Tamahere honouring the bravery of those who came to the aid of the firefighters injured in the 2008 coolstore explosion. Photo Mitchell Brown.

Back cover: History repeated: An early photograph of the Christchurch Fire Brigade at a training exercise. The photograph was recently recreated by the brigade as part of its build up to its celebration of 150 years' service to the community.

Contributions to Fire & Rescue

We welcome ideas for articles, news and events that would be of interest to other Fire Service staff and volunteers. Draft articles and photos (pictures need to be at least 1MB) can be emailed to fire.rescue@fire.org.nz or contact the editor Karlum Lattimore on 04 496 3702.

Post written material and photos, or photo CDs to:
Fire & Rescue magazine,
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(These will be returned on request.)

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Bringing in the best of the best

In the latest recruitment round for career firefighters there were 999 applicants for just 24 positions.



National Recruitment Manager David Utumapu isn't daunted by the challenge of sorting through so many applicants. It simply means that there's more to choose from. "We're not like other organisations – the men and women who join the Fire Service as career firefighters will be with us for 30 or 40 years. So it's absolutely critical that we select the best and that they are well suited to the job."

Applications come from a wide range of people, including many in their 30s and early 40s and many with experience as volunteers. However, David, who has also recently taken over as head of volunteer recruitment, says already having fire fighting experience doesn't always add value to a candidate.

"Everyone has to go through the fire fighting training anyway. What we're looking for are people with good communication skills, a real sense of teamwork and other aptitudes like good problem solving skills. Not surprisingly, volunteer firefighters tend to score pretty high in these areas so that's why they tend to be relatively successful in getting through – about one-third of the final cut will be volunteers."

The Fire Service is pushing for more diversity within the workforce. David heavily promotes the Fire Service as a career for Pacific Island people, Māori and women. "It's a great job for mothers – the hours offer real flexibility for childcare and family life. We also try to recruit women for the volunteer brigades. Apart from everything else they bring to the job, some women can

also be more available for call outs during the day – which is a growing issue for smaller brigades. We also have some great husband and wife teams in our volunteer brigades who take it in turns to turn out or mind the kids."

Recruiting Māori and Pacific men and women as either volunteers or career staff can be a challenge. "It just hasn't been on the radar as a career option to these groups – so we need to bring it to their attention."

Around 800 new volunteers join each year and David is working with Human Resources to speed up the application process. He also plans to provide more support to volunteer brigades that want help or advice to manage their recruitment. "Some want tools to help them choose the best candidates while others really struggle to attract any new volunteers at all."

Recruitment for the past five years

	Applicants	Employed
Men	93%	95%
Women	7%	5%
Māori	12%	16%
Pacific	5%	5%

Tamahere community's bravery recognised

Two years after the Icepack Coolstore explosion the Fire Service, the surviving firefighters, the people who helped rescue them, the Governor-General and the Minister of Internal Affairs met to remember the event and officially acknowledge the bravery shown on the day.



The seven Hamilton firefighters who survived the explosion added their personal thanks to the community saying that some of them would not be alive today had it not been for the bravery of the people who came to their rescue. From left: Merv Neil, Dennis Wells, Cameron Grylls, Brian Halford, Alvan Walker, David Beanland, Adrian Brown.

As National Commander Mike Hall told the 200 or so people gathered at Tamahere Model School for the event, “Usually it is the firefighters who come to the aid of the public – on April 5th 2008 it was the public who came to aid our firefighters.” Mike then officially and personally thanked all those who had shown such extraordinary courage in providing their help and support.

When the explosion happened, dozens of people attending a nearby school fundraiser rushed toward the inferno, ready to do what they could to help. Some entered the flames to drag firefighters to safety.

Commission Chairperson Dame Margaret Bazley told those at the commemoration that despite strenuous efforts the Fire Service has not been able to identify all those who assisted with the rescue and provided the on-scene care and nominate them for bravery awards. So, rather than leave someone out the Fire Service sought advice and the Governor-General consented to hosting an event that recognised the bravery of all those from the community who had played a role in the events of 5 April 2008.

One of those was the head of Waikato Hospital’s Intensive Care Unit, Dr Rob Frengley, who was at the school gala. He ran to the fire and gave immediate vital medical care to all the firefighters and directed the triage effort of the other doctors and nurses who were also at the gala.

“The site was carnage. Smoke and flames all around. The next 20 minutes were a bit of a blur. I remember the dazed look of the firefighters. I remember Derek Lovell. But mostly I remember the compulsion of people to help, to comfort, to direct traffic, to help truck in water, to tend to the kids – the list of help and the names of those who helped goes on and on,” he told those at the commemoration.

Dr Frengley said the events surrounding the fire have helped to define the Tamahere community.



The memorial to the bravery of the Tamahere community is formally revealed (from right) the Governor-General Hon Sir Anand Satynand, Dr Rob Frengley, his daughter Emma and surviving firefighters Cameron Grylls and Merv Neil.



Children from Tamahere Model Country School perform a haka at the ceremony.



From left: Merv Neil, his wife Alice, Lady Susan and Sir Anand Satynand, Dame Margaret Bazley.

Keeping the marae safe from fire

A spate of tagging, vandalism and arson at a nationally significant Gisborne marae rang alarm bells with the local brigade who responded with a range of tactics.

Senior Gisborne firefighter Allan Brown says the Te Poho o Rawiri Marae is a national treasure and over the years has hosted a range of local and overseas dignitaries and sporting teams. “If it was destroyed by arson the loss would be something Gisborne might never recover from,” he said.

So he and Assistant Area Manager Rob Karaitiana put in place a strategy to raise fire safety awareness within the community around the marae and took at-risk youth through a tailor-made two-day team building and fire awareness course at the Gisborne Fire Station.

“To improve fire safety awareness within the Kaiti community near the

marae we delivered fire safety brochures to nearby homes, were interviewed by the local radio station, carried out a Fire Safety inspection of the marae and talked to the local police and others in the community,” he said.

The two-day course at the fire station was designed to fit in with the Ngati Porou Runanga programme Ko Wai Au for young Māori men whose behaviour has raised concern within the community. Ko Wai Au helps them build self-esteem and confidence, to set goals and give them a sense of belonging.

“Our two-day component used the way a fire crew works together to promote discussion on what makes a

team, how a team communicates, show what leadership is, how to set goals and so on. We also included lots of physical activity and got them to do hose drills and build dams. When these young men arrived on station you could sense a bit of excitement at being there and surrounded by Māori firefighters. After the two days they all had grown in self-esteem, were able to converse more with each other and had a more positive attitude toward their future.”

The young men were also encouraged to become fire safety ambassadors and to be more fire safety conscious within their community and especially around Te Poho o Rawiri Marae. Allan says there has been no vandalism or arson at the marae since the course was held.



The young guys get to try out some abseiling techniques at the Gisborne Fire Station under the supervision of Senior Firefighter Francis Reid of Gisborne Fire Brigade.

Albany Senior Firefighter Tod Penberthy and a few mates recently cycled from Bluff to Cape Reinga to raise almost \$13,000 for North Shore Hospice.

Freewheeling fundraiser

Tod and his crew, seen here with cycle mechanic Steve Northey, police detectives Kim Libby and Shane Page, did the 2,300km ride in 18 days. Amazingly Tod (second on the left) said there were no punctures, no dramas or accidents, no mechanicals and sunshine on most days.

To read more about their trip, go to their blog at

www.blufftcape.blogspot.com



Māori wardens introduced to CIMS

The Fire Service has begun working with Māori wardens to provide training in evacuation and how agencies work together at an emergency incident.

The training is being provided in collaboration with Te Puni Kōkiri (Ministry of Māori Development).

New Zealand Fire Service Pou Herenga Māori (National Advisor Māori) Piki Thomas, said “TPK is spearheading a push to attract more wardens, particularly younger people. They’re also making sure they are well resourced, more visible and working closely with other agencies such as police and us,” he said.

In the first of two pilot training courses run by the Fire Service, 22 Māori wardens from throughout the central North Island were brought together in Rotorua recently to learn what to watch for in relation to fire safety as they go about their duties at the large events, including identifying evacuation points and locating fire fighting equipment. They also completed the NZQA registered Coordinated Incident Management System (CIMS) Level 2 course.

Regional Māori warden coordinator Ruka Hughes attended the course and said, “What really took our



Station Officer Joe Pope of the Central Lakes Fire Area provides the wardens with evacuation pointers.

attention was how the different agencies work together at emergency incidents. It gave us a new perspective and made us realise how, on a marae, we would be first in line to respond and that when the official agency arrived, they would take over. If we are in the streets on patrol, we also now have a better understanding of the process that the agencies follow when something big happens.”

INSIDE THE FIRE – Waipukurau Hospital – K99

There's nothing like a big fire needing lots of hose and manpower to get a firefighter's adrenaline pumping.

The fire at the near-derelict Waipukurau Hospital on 25 January 2010 was one of the most resource-intensive fires in the region for decades – needing the combined strength of 85 firefighters and 15 appliances drawn from the 10 brigades and auxiliary support units within a 60km radius.

Waipukurau Chief Fire Officer Gary Weaver says their attack unfolded almost like clockwork.

“We were fortunate because we already had a clear risk plan for the hospital and it had recently been updated because it was in a very bad state of repair.”

Area Manager Chris Nicoll and Fire Region Manager Paul Baxter were so concerned about the potential fire risk that they raised the issue with the local authority and wrote to the building owner.

Gary said vandals had done a lot of damage and there was rubbish all over the interior. “We’d had a couple of familiarisation visits and our risk plan was clear – if there was a fire, we would only use an external attack. No one was to go inside, there were just too many hazards,” he said.

The fire was first reported, not by the public, but by a tanker crew from Otane who were on their way to a structural fire 60km away.

Gary says Waipukurau had already sent one appliance to that fire and several volunteers had stayed on at the station to hear if they were going to be needed. “So we were able to get a truck to the hospital within four minutes of the call coming in – which isn’t bad for 1:30 in the morning.

Photo: Hawkes Bay Today



Firefighters taking a well-earned break.

“We started by setting up two deliveries but knew pretty much straight away that it wasn’t going to work as the water was just turning to steam. The one-storey building that was on fire adjoined two three-storey buildings so we tried to cut off the fire and managed to hold it for quite a while.”

The fire grew and more and more trucks and people arrived and it became a prolonged, 17-hour job to get it out.

Gary says the arrival of the Command/Control Unit and the Bronto aerial were turning points. The aerial because it could keep pouring on the water from above and the Command Unit because its crew could help make sure all the logistics were being taken care of.

Gary, who was Incident Controller for several hours, said some of the logistics weren’t ones he’d had to consider before. “For instance, we were ticking along nicely when someone said he wouldn’t mind going to the loo. There weren’t any. So the crew in the Command Unit ordered up some Portaloos. Making sure there was a diesel tanker to keep the trucks going and other details like that were also all taken care of.”

Gary says it was a massive combined, coordinated effort by Eastern Fire Region – its volunteers, paid brigades and support staff. “Nothing was impossible, anything that was needed got provided.

“It was a large fire ground with a lot of people involved and a lot of detail for the Incident Controller to keep track of. There were no injuries and it was a very smooth operation and everyone involved should be commended,” he said.

Fire facts:

Cause: Suspicious

Resources:

Up to 3km of hose

4 million litres of water

85 firefighters

3 Volunteer Support Officers

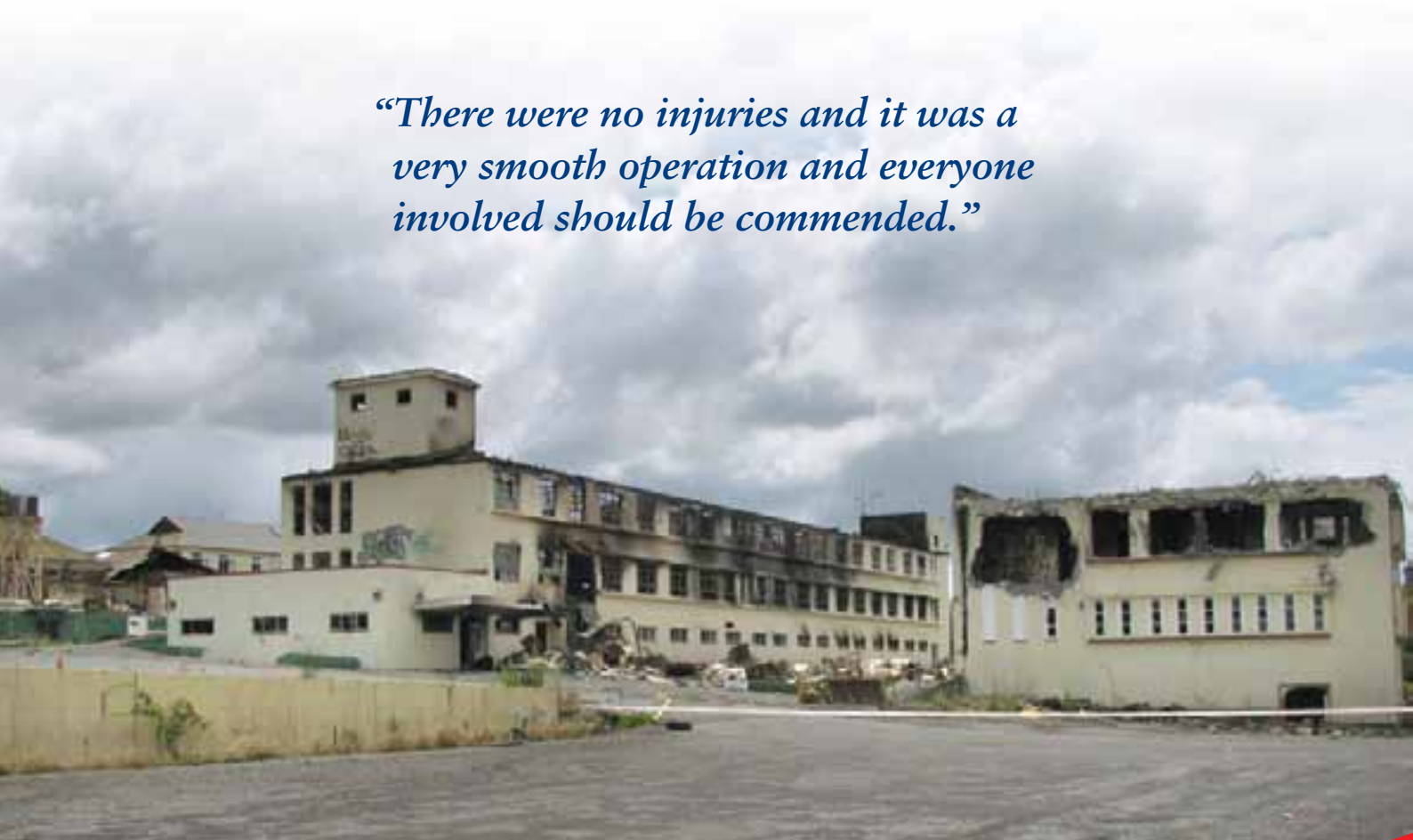
15 appliances including aerial and command unit

12 hours’ catering by Salvation Army

15 hours of damping down

24 BA sets used for the external attack

“There were no injuries and it was a very smooth operation and everyone involved should be commended.”



Promoting smoke alarms where people work, play and pray



Mangere firefighter Leigh Butzbach discusses fire safety before helping install smoke alarms in a local home.

In January last year four children died in a house fire in Mangere after an unattended chip pan caught fire at about one in the morning. There were no smoke alarms to warn the sleeping family of the danger.

Their deaths were preventable and it prompted further thought on how the Fire Service could bring fire safety into the homes of those most at risk – in this case Māori and Polynesian families.

“Television advertising and brochures aren’t enough on their own to get smoke alarms into the homes of everyone and we need to try more direct methods,” said Marketing and Communications Manager Scott Sargentina.

He worked with ACC’s head office in Wellington to set up a project in Mangere that would see smoke alarms

installed in the most ‘at risk’ homes. ACC has supplied 5,000 photoelectric smoke alarms and Mangere Station Officer Bob Donnelly is coordinating their installation.

ACC has also set up a static display promoting fire safety at its Counties Manukau office and a large proportion of referrals are coming through as a result.

“The local council and Housing New Zealand homes already have smoke alarms installed so we are talking to local church and sports groups about the project and asking them to provide names and addresses

of families in privately owned flats and houses who could benefit,” said Bob.

“The tragedy at Nicola Place last year is still strongly felt by the community here and there is a greater realisation of the need to protect families from the dangers of fire. The success of this project is testament to this.”

Mangere crews are now working their way systematically through the community. “When we install the alarms we also give out information on fire safety and escape plans and of course there are always some balloons and other fun stuff for the kids,” he said.



The new bus advertisements.

Taking it to the streets

By now you will have seen some of our new unattended cooking and smoke alarm television commercials.

Showing the consequences of fire is certainly a dramatic departure from our normal advertising style and this 'hard-hitting' approach has made some people uncomfortable. We make no apology for this. Unattended cooking is still the leading cause of fire in the home and a worrying number of homes are still not protected by smoke alarms. For years we've been telling New Zealanders (very nicely) to keep looking when they're cooking and to make sure they have smoke alarms installed. However, the figures indicate they're not listening and that's not acceptable.

We have now added a range of outdoor advertising designed to reinforce the messages people see at home in our television commercials. Examples of the outdoor advertisements can be seen on buses, around bus stops, in shopping malls and on billboards. Our partnership with The Warehouse also gives us some real opportunities to promote smoke alarms in-store



The pool car at National Headquarters has been re-styled so that it too promotes the use of smoke alarms out in public. The artwork is available to any Region interested in a 'makeover' for their cars.

and in their advertising. Their stores are keen to work with brigades and stations to keep the momentum going.

But as always, our best and most effective form of advertising is operational crews and the work you do in this area has a very real material impact on reducing negative fire statistics. Keep it up.



Firewise Mad Movie Challenge

Firewise coordinators – feel free to promote the TV2 Studio 2 programme and its competition for seven- to 10-year-olds – to write, shoot and edit a short film that has a Firewise theme.

Entry forms are on the website www.the-hub.tv

Keeping Taranaki safe

In Taranaki around 60 trucks a day haul thousands of litres of light crude oil from the Manaia production facility to the New Plymouth tank farm.

The unmanned Kupe platform is 30km offshore and a pipeline delivers the raw product to Manaia where gas, LPG and light crude are separated.

For New Plymouth Fire Safety Officer Matt Crabtree the opening of the Kupe gas field earlier this year prompted some serious thinking about the potential risks involved with carting 7,500 barrels of light crude through eight Taranaki towns on a daily basis.

“The transport company has state of the art trucks and excellent safety procedures; however, we really needed a risk plan ready in case there is a serious accident involving one of these tankers.”

Matt made sure the Fire Service risk plan worked in with the emergency management plans for Kupe and the transport company. The risk plan was also designed so it could be used effectively by all the volunteer brigades along the delivery route.

“The risk plan covers off how many appliances are needed, what the safe approach is, the command and control set up, where the safe zones should be, what hazards to look for, the type of equipment to use and so on.”



Matt Crabtree at the New Plymouth tank farm where light crude is brought in by truck before being exported by sea.

Matt said the region’s oil and gas production presents specific challenges for the Fire Service and it is likely the risk plan he has recently created will be adopted for more general use in the Taranaki Fire Area to meet the risks presented by the transport of petrol, crude, methanol and LPG.

These boots are made for working in

Boots that cause feet to ache or nip the toes and blister the heels can make a firefighter’s job unbearable.

National Advisor Operational Resourcing and Research Keith Whale says, “If your feet are hurting then you just can’t concentrate on the job at hand.”



Unfortunately, there have been complaints about the latest batch of firefighter structural boots so the Fire Service has been evaluating three models as potential replacements.

The three boots being tested are all lighter than the current issue and are all fully lined. Initial reports from the guys trying them out suggest they are pretty comfortable as well.

Keith called on four Wellington firefighters to put the boots through their paces – climbing ladders and stairs, walking on various surfaces and crawling through the Kilbirnie Training Centre BATB course.

They were tested for grip and traction, comfort, stability and weight. This information, along with other input, will decide the winning boot. You can expect to see the results being introduced gradually into service by the end of the year.

Christchurch 150th anniversary nears

As the Christchurch Fire Brigade prepares to celebrate its 150th anniversary there's a call out for stories and photos that could contribute to a book about its history.

Christchurch is believed to be the oldest brigade in the country and a three-day celebration will be held in October. To mark the anniversary, St Albans Senior Station Officer Tony Phillips is updating his book on the brigade's history. Tony, who is also a Christchurch history author, wrote *Always Ready* in 1985 to record the brigade's first 125 years.

He says the past 25 years have been marked by 10 years of restructuring and industrial strife followed by a rebuilding of relationships. The new edition will reflect this as well as include many new photographs going back to the brigade's early days. He is adding a list of all the staff who have served with the brigade, including the only three firefighters killed while on duty. All three died before 1925 – one died after his fire engine and a car collided, the other two were killed when they were thrown from their horse-drawn appliances.

The new edition will contain 130 pages and 180 photos and 1,000 copies will be printed.

Items that could be borrowed or copied for the book can be sent to Tony Phillips c/- New Zealand Fire Service Region Headquarters, 91 Chester St East, Christchurch.



Historian and firefighter Tony Phillips.

Step back in time

If you are planning to visit Christchurch to help celebrate the brigade's 150th anniversary it would be worth soaking up some of the past at the Hall of Flame museum.

The Fire Service Historical Society has a huge collection of around 70 horse-drawn, steam-driven and combustion engine appliances. These include Christchurch Fire Brigade's first manual fire pump. There is also a wide range of early equipment such as glass hand grenade fire extinguishers, leather buckets and leather helmets and even water mains.

The museum is housed at the Ferrymead Heritage Park and Historical Society President Brian Joyce says the collection has recently been reorganised so that the display takes the visitor on a walk through time.

The display begins with the early photograph of the Christchurch Brigade (see back page) taken around 1896. It shows a training exercise at the Municipal Council Chambers. Note the fireman in the second-storey window about to jump into a jumping sheet. This was common rescue equipment until the 1970s.

The photo of a modern re-enactment will be displayed at the end of the timeline (photo also on back page).



An 1899 photo of a horse-drawn Shand Mason steam engine – this one was named the Deluge.

A couple of minutes with... Brian Butt



Where are you stationed? Auckland Fire Region

What's your title? Fire Region Manager

What's been your progression within the NZFS over the past 25 years?

I've been a bit of a nomad really. While I started in Rotorua many years back, in the past 25 years I've served in Hamilton, Wellington and Palmerston North Brigades in various roles, completed a stint in NHQ, then back to Western Fire Region for several years prior to moving to Auckland three years ago.

Family? Sheryl and I have four adult kids (Renee, Nathan, Teresa and Shane) and five grandies who keep us pretty well grounded in our lives.

What's the one thing that sticks in your mind about the job?

The value our people add to the lives of all New Zealanders.

If you could make one change to the Fire Service what would it be?

Expand its role in to the wider public safety environment.

Your most embarrassing moment on the job?

Too numerous to mention.

What's one thing people would be surprised to learn about you?

I used to play the violin.

Favourite book? Cross Stitch by Dianna Gabaldon.

Favourite movie? Matrix.

Favourite TV show? I don't watch much TV.

Favourite music group?

Pink Floyd, Uriah Heap (going way back).

Favourite sport? Rugby and motor racing.

Favourite holiday destination?

Bali (before the bombing), other safer parts of Australasia since then.

If I wasn't in the Fire Service I'd be?

A priest or a politician are options but most likely a builder.

2010 Events Calendar

<p>July 17th-18th National Snooker Tournament Hawera Colin.dudley@fire.org.nz</p>	<p>July 18th Wellington Provincial F/B Golf Tournament Feilding Golf Club Warren.Dunn@fire.org.nz</p>	<p>August 8th Wellington Provincial F/B Driving Challenge Mansfield Raceway Feilding denchy@xtra.co.nz</p>	<p>August 29th Wellington Prov Indoor Bowls Tournament Wellington denchy@xtra.co.nz</p>
<p>September 6th National Trout Fishing Tournament Turangi jim.prescott@fire.org.nz</p>	<p>September 3rd-4th NZFS National Rugby Tournament Auckland james.hall@fire.org.nz 021 0237 4301</p>	<p>September 4th UFBA Driving Challenge Manfield Contact Anthony Dench denchy@xtra.co.nz</p>	<p>September 11th Taranaki Toughest Firefighter Around the Mountain Oakura da-rielly@hotmail.com 06 752 7302</p>
<p>October 2nd-3rd National Basketball Tournament Napier francis.reid@fire.org.nz</p>	<p>October 11th-15th National Golf Tournament Whangarei Mike.Lister@fire.org.nz</p>	<p>Oct 31st-Nov 5th Australasian Fire Brigades Golf Tournament New Plymouth Western Golf Club Ray.Shields@fire.org.nz</p>	<p>November 7th Wellington West Coast Golf Tournament Foxton Golf Club Warren.dunne@fire.org.nz</p>

For the latest information on Fire Service sports events go to: Firenet/Sports/upcomingsportsevents

2011 Firefighters Calendar photo shoot starts in July.

Interested applicants please contact Rob Holah at enquires@firemanscalendar.co.nz

Carterton – Sports team of the year

The Carterton Brigade's outstanding performances in the Waterway challenges have been recognised by the NZFS Sports Council. Carterton won both the national championship and the Australasian championship last year. Here Brigade Chief Fire Officer Wayne Robinson receives the award from National Headquarters Commission member Wyatt Creech.



