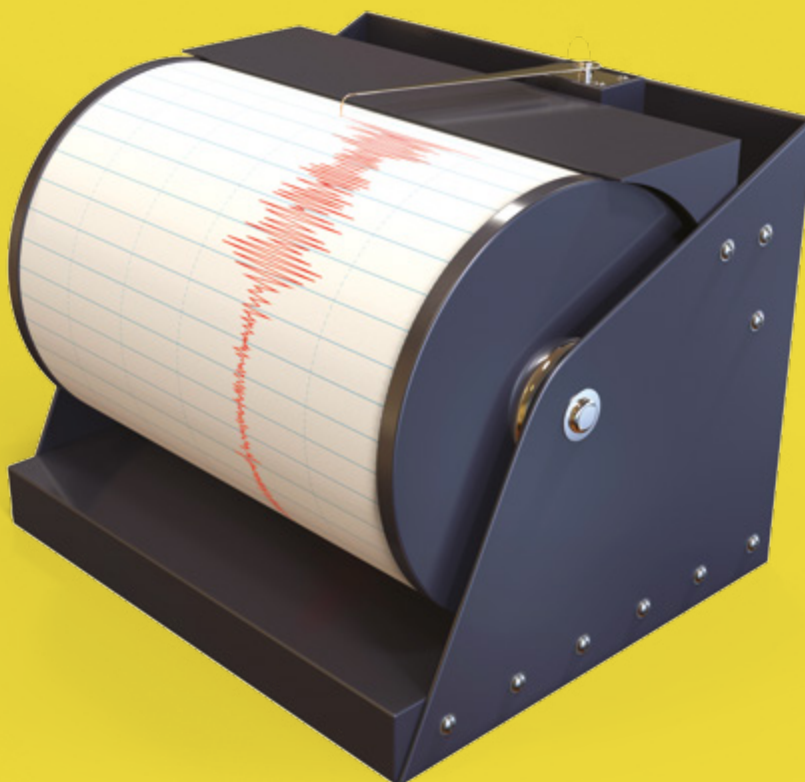


The insiders' magazine
for fire services

IGNITE

TE HIRINGA O TE TANGATA

ISSUE 2 – Summer 2016



8

A HARD
DAY'S NIGHT

10

CYCLE AGAINST
CANCER

12

ESCAPE
MY HOUSE



Ignite is the official quarterly magazine for fire services in New Zealand

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

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

It is produced by the New Zealand Fire Service Communications Team, National Headquarters, Level 12, 80 The Terrace, Wellington.

Contributions to Ignite

Contributions to be considered for publication are welcome and may be submitted to ignite@fire.org.nz.

Photos need to be at least 1MB.

Read Ignite online

www.fire.org.nz/media/ignite

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“Scott Base is well prepared for any fire or emergency incident. The crews on the ice are extremely competent, with a broad range of skills and training.”

Mark Sillis

“The inter-agency benefits are huge. We are able to provide our knowledge, but we also bring back a lot of skills and learning to apply to our own organisation. It’s a win win.”

Paul Manson

ANTA





It's the ultimate challenge. Training people to respond to the fire and emergency needs of Scott Base in Antarctica, the driest place on Earth.

For trainers Paul Manson and Mark Sillis, just back from Antarctica, working on the ice is a privilege.

"It's an amazing place and hard to describe. You never get sick of the changing scenery. It's a truly unique work environment."

Each year the Fire Service trains employees of Antarctica New Zealand. The first week is spent at Woolston Training Centre in

ARCTICA

The ultimate training challenge



Christchurch and then on location at Scott Base. This year, 28 Antarctica New Zealand employees were put through their paces.

Scenario testing covered fire, explosions and dealing with hazardous materials. Paul and Mark also check a range of general and specific firefighting equipment including BA sets, extinguishers and fire hydrants.

For Paul Manson, the benefits of working closely with Antarctica New Zealand can not be overstated.

A first-time visitor to the ice this year was Paul McGill, Deputy National Commander.

"Paul, Mark and the other trainers involved do a great job working with Antarctica New Zealand, and do us proud. I see a lot of benefit in continuing to develop this relationship."



Remember to share your stories by emailing the team at ignite@fire.org.nz



Did you know?

A new, upgraded paging network will be established from 1 July next year to ensure reliable paging capability can continue.

The contract between NZFS and Spark Digital means firefighters can rely on paging for responding to all incidents. There will be no significant system outages at any stage of the upgrade.

CHATHAM ISLANDS DEPLOYMENT

Firefighters from the Whangarei District Council and Marlborough/Kaikoura Rural Fire Authority continue to be deployed to the Chatham Islands to help fight a deepseated peat fire that is burning beneath the surface. The Chatham Islands Rural Fire Authority requested additional food to keep the firefighters fed. Eighty 20L containers of foam and additional soap pellets were also sent over to help combat the fire.

RURAL FIRE STUDY TOUR 2016

Participants on the fire management study tour of North America have recently returned to New Zealand, having spent three weeks visiting and learning from industry experts in Canada, United State of America, and Mexico.

The 2016 study tour group was made up of eight New Zealanders and five Australians.

Which Level 1 clothing meets the hi-vis Fire Service standard?

The answer is BOTH meet the standard, but only ONE provides the level of visibility you need when attending incidents. High visibility clothing is required so you can be seen, on road ways or other hazardous sites. It's not just ticking a box. It's important to keep yourself and your crews safe.

If you have a jacket or overalls that look like the ones on the left (below), you are actually meeting the correct PPE standard for working on roadways. However, the chances are, the clothing is not giving you the level of protection you need. It's important that you can be seen when you're wearing Level 1 jackets and overalls. If your Level 1 is faded, wear a hi-vis vest. Dirty or

faded Level 1 clothing still provides the required level of flame and heat resistance, unless the garment is contaminated with soot or oils/flammable liquids.

Before responding to an incident, ask yourself two questions:

- What risks will I face?
- What PPE do I need to minimise those risks?

And continually assess the risks throughout the incident to ensure you are protected as much as possible. Check out the PPE section on FireNet for more information.



DID YOU KNOW?

You can now access all social media channels from your NZFS computers and devices. Remember to be smart and use them appropriately.





'Firey' first responders

It had been a busy day calving on their Dalefield farm for Garth and Nicola Thompson.

Nicola was feeling unwell and had a sore back. Putting it down to the heavy work of feeding calves, she decided to have a rest in front of the fire during a TV ad break.

When Garth called out to say the show was back on, and got no response, he went to check on her. Nicola had gone in to cardiac arrest and was already blue and unresponsive.

"It was a shock," said Garth. "The last thing in my mind was a heart attack."

Garth dialed 111 straight away and with the help of the operator commenced CPR. A mate from down the road arrived to lend a hand. "After two minutes of CPR you're stuffed," said Garth. "I was sweating like hell as Nicola was still in front of the fire."

Two paramedics from Wellington Free Ambulance arrived, followed shortly after by Chief Fire Officer, Wayne Robinson and the first truck from the Carterton Volunteer Fire Brigade.

"Our close working relationship with Wellington Free Ambulance gives us a lot more confidence at purple calls," says Wayne. "We know exactly what the ambulance staff expects of us. With the equipment we have on the truck we are a lot more useful. We're lucky enough to have a couple of paramedics

in the brigade as well so that brings our standards up."

Wellington Free Ambulance intensive care paramedic Jess Vanderberg said they are very lucky in Wairarapa to have such a good relationship with their Fire counterparts. While in Nicola's situation the ambulance was first on the scene, in the majority of cases it is the fire truck that arrives first. "It's life-saving minutes in these types of circumstances," said Jess. "The community in Wairarapa is very, very lucky to have Fires as first responders."

A run of bad luck meant that this was not the first time the two teams had been turned out to the Thompsons' Farm. Nicola's uncle was tragically killed in a 4-wheeler accident 15 months earlier.

About 20 people worked to keep Nicola alive that night. A second fire appliance arrived to help guide in the Life Flight helicopter that airlifted her to hospital while the crew from the first truck and paramedics continued to treat Nicola inside.

"I don't remember anything except waking up in hospital," Nicola says. "I thought I'd been in an accident because I had tubes and things in me, but I had no idea how I'd got here."

"These guys arrived and just took over," Garth says. "What they did... we're so grateful."

PROMOTING EMERGENCY MEDICAL RESPONSE TO THE PUBLIC

Here's a sneak peak at the photos we'll be using for our upcoming public awareness campaign for Emergency Medical Response.

A big thanks to our volunteers from Manly and Silverdale brigades, who helped out with the photo shoot. The communication and marketing material is being developed for distribution to all GP surgeries throughout the country. A shout-out to Cerise Jordan, Volunteer Brigade Support, who was instrumental in organising the day.

Keep an eye out for the material in your GP surgery. The Fire Service and St John, working together, saving lives together.





A hard day's

mi

In 1967 New Zealand decimalised its currency from the pound to the dollar, The Beatles released their album *Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band*, and a long-haired, 17 year old Mike Harwood stepped up to be a firefighter.

After making himself a cuppa one of the recruiters, clearly unimpressed by Mike's long hair, asked, "So what part of the band do you play in, pal?"

"I like the drums."

"So you think you're Ringo then?"

And the nickname has stuck ever since.

Now aged 67, Ringo has dedicated his entire life and career to the fire service. A proud member of the Blue Watch crew at Auckland City Station, Ringo has seen it all over the years and has no intention of leaving any time soon. "They'll either take me out in a box or fire me," he says.

Reflecting on his career, Ringo says being part of the USAR team deployed

to Christchurch after the 22 February 2011 earthquake is the highlight. "We worked on the PGC building. There were 15 of us, and for eight hours we dug and struggled and shit ourselves every time there was an aftershock.

"I've been to a lot of fire jobs, crawled down hallways, pulled people out of buildings, but you're always in control. There's always somewhere to go. Fire you might go too far – but you can back out, bring in more hoses or withdraw altogether.

"But in Christchurch, we couldn't pull out. We were four stories down. With every aftershock, you knew, this could turn really bad in here. It was just by the grace of God it didn't.

"It was especially difficult getting down in there and seeing people who had already been caught by the building collapse. We had to go past those people and I remember a couple of times thinking, 'I really don't want to be here.' But, after each shake, one of the

trapped would call out to us to make sure we're still there, coming to get them, and that would refocus us again."

Ringo and his team pulled three people out that day. They'd been trapped in the building for over twenty hours, the longest rescue in New Zealand's history.

Within days of getting home he was deployed to Japan. "I just stood there and looked at the devastation and thought, what's happened with the world? I found a little girl, about eight or nine years old. She was caught up in a tree. She must have been washed up there by the water line. When I showed the Civil Defence guy on a map where I'd found her, he drew a red cross. I took a second look. The map was covered in crosses. Thousands of them. Then reality set in."

"We share a lot of black humour on the station to deal with some of the things we see," he says. When he got back to New Zealand Ringo did 'the



advent

shrink thing', but confesses he prefers the old school way of coping by just 'hardening up'. "My wife picked me up from the airport after Japan, dropped me home and she went out shopping. I decided to mow the lawns. I got out there and the mower was out of gas. I started to get annoyed but then it hit me. It was quite a surreal moment for me. It reminded me that, no matter what we face and what we have to deal with, life goes on."

Ringo acknowledges that the increase of calls to purple alerts has changed things. "Sometimes the Fire Service is the first one on the scene to medical events. Sometimes young babies, just a few months old. A firefighter to be sent in at that end, it's hard. But you've got to find a way to deal with it and put it out of your head. We support each other through that in our own way."

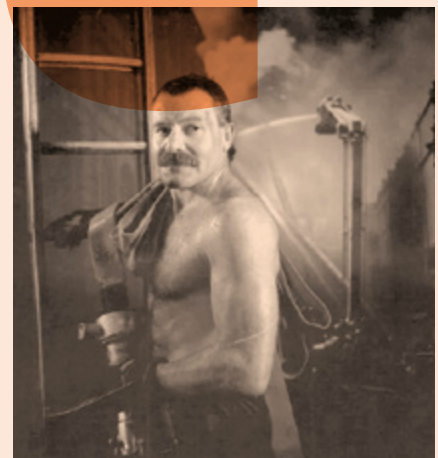
Ringo has held on to all of his PPE from over the years. Proudly donning his Cromwell helmet, he recalls the days

when Ponsonby was the 'rough part of town'. "If I'd known then what I do now, I would have bought up the whole street and been a millionaire!"

"We'd go to two or three house fires every week. The houses were all very close together and there was no access to water, just the main on Ponsonby Road. There'd be six guys on the truck but only two sets of BA. Those of us without BA would get down and suck the floor to get oxygen while fighting the fire."

He's seen some changes in kit over the years too. Ringo's first appliance was the Commer. He says it was a bit like Dad's Army at the time with very little water pressure to fight the fire. When they swapped to International pumps it was a whole different story. "With high-pressure deliveries, 4,500 psi, we were knocking the gib off the walls!"

Back in the day there were two trucks and two pumps. Six guys on each with three on the ladder. Ringo was part



November 1991 Calendar

of an elite crew that would risk life and limb by entering the burning building, going above the flames and ahead of the firefighters, looking for victims. They were busy days back then, job after job.

Ringo credits an almost 'sixth sense' with keeping himself safe after such a long career. "Our training was on

the job. Every house fire was always different. You pick things up that you can't explain. It's a gut feeling.

"It comes from years of experience watching fires, seeing how they behave. That voice inside you that says – 'whoa mate – hang on a bit' and then the fire would roll over. We just don't get that same volume of experience anymore. Fire training in real house burns, that's where you learn that instinct.

"You can read thousands of books about firefighting but it's the real life experience that counts.

"If I could, I'd build a house that we could burn down and rebuild time and time again to teach these guys what it's like in the real thing."

Life on the station itself used to be very different. "There were 22 of us here. You'd work 24 hours on and 24 hours off. It was like a little village. We had the living quarters here and kids running around all the time. We have a yellow line out there that the

kids weren't allowed to cross. They'd torment me and give me grief because I was the new guy. I'd chase after them and threaten to kick them up the butt. Now those kids are in their 40s and still come down here to give me grief!"

Playing pranks on each other was very much part of the culture. As the new recruit, Ringo was relegated to a seat up the back in the smoko room. He went in to his bedroom one night to find all his furniture had gone. His mattress and bedding had been hung out the window and his bedframe had been completely dismantled and reassembled up the top of the tower. In between call outs, and without a word of complaint, Ringo eventually managed to get it all back in to his room by 4am. When his crew asked him the next day how he slept he replied, "Good, good thanks." He knew he was accepted to the team when, that night at dinner, he was greeted with, "Hey Ringo, come sit over here." Now it's his turn and he still gives the newbies a ribbing if they try to sit in 'his seat'.

Ringo says he thinks it's a shame that a lot of that family spirit has gone. An avid rugby player, playing for the Fire Service or attending the games was a must do every week. Everyone would go, partners and children.



Ringo in Kaikoura – November 2016

"Now people play a lot of individual sports. They do their own thing. They come in to the smoko room and are too busy on their phones to make conversation. But everything is different now. Often the partners have to work, just to make ends meet, so they don't have that same time with their families that we used to have."

But Ringo thinks the positive culture of the Fire Service is still there. "You may disagree with some of your crew but, when it comes to the job, that's put aside and you back each other up." Ringo's wife, who he fondly refers to as 'Her Indoors', is also a popular member of the Auckland City Station family, dropping off baking for the crew twice a week!

Although he doesn't play rugby anymore (his wife made him give it up, but not before he lost his pinky finger and broke two ribs) Ringo still runs every day and puts some of the younger firefighters to shame with his fitness. He has some advice for new recruits. "This is the best job going. But you've got to make it the best. Involve yourself. Listen to other people – what's happened in our past, our history, why we do things."



Share your story

Do you have a story to share? We're looking to profile our people who have shown innovation or achieved something that will inspire others. Send your story to ignite@fire.org.nz





A sign of things to come

Nick Linton, Yellow Watch Firefighter, Titirangi, has become a bit of a social media sensation among speakers of New Zealand's third official language, sign language.

Nick has been working to create a series of sign language fire safety videos. These have been shared by many deaf groups across the country who are very active on social media, including some they didn't know existed, such as hearing dogs for the deaf!

It was a chance encounter on what he thought would be a standard Home Fire Safety Check visit that lead Nick to become involved. "Just over a year ago we ended up checking a smoke alarm for the hearing impaired. I used to know a little bit of sign so I managed to squeeze some out."

This inspired Nick to enrol in sign language night classes with the support of the Fire Service. There is a large community of deaf and hearing impaired people in Auckland's Waitemata area due to the deaf school and other hearing impaired services located there. "I went on a three-day

sign camp and every person had a horror story about a fire, or a close call, or there being a building evacuation but not hearing the alarm. So the community has been really receptive and welcomed more fire safety information."

Nick is building up a good rapport within the deaf community and the videos are proving to be very popular. "The ability to use technology such as Facetime to set up meetings has been a game changer too," he says. "Their world relies on them being visual. It sounds obvious, but they can't just pick up the phone."

The plan is for more seasonal videos and some rural fire safety messages. "People have told me they are keeping an eye out for the next instalment. I'll tie in with the other good work being carried out with deaf communities by other firefighters across the country."

"I've been really grateful for the support of my officers, FRMOs, area managers and fellow firefighters for their help in making the videos," says Nick.



Rudy Pospisil

*Fire Department Captain -
Vancouver, Canada.*

Since 2007 I have been cycling around the world to raise money for cancer research. This month I am crossing New Zealand from Bluff Lighthouse in Invercargill to Cape Reinga.

It all started 15 years ago when I was diagnosed with cancer. Not so unusual for a firefighter (recent studies show that 69% of firefighters contract cancer). After my surgery I wanted to raise funds for cancer research and promote presumptive cancer legislation for firefighters around the world.

I began by taking all my long service leave to cycle 3,000km from Canada to Mexico, along the Pacific Coast. I was humbled to be joined by fellow firefighters and police cycling into Seattle, San Francisco, Los Angeles and San Diego. Fundraisers were held in each city along the way. It was such a success that people persuaded me to keep on going. So I did.

I am now working towards claiming an official global circumnavigation by bicycle following the rules set out by

Guinness. I must use the same bike, travel in the same direction, cross the equator twice, complete 24,000 km and cross two antipodal places – one of which is NZ!

Next I cycled 5,000km from Mexico across the USA to Florida. It was a tough journey. I was robbed, run off the road, encountered deadly snakes and scorpions, caught the edge of Hurricane Sandy and was even shot at! Once I reached the Atlantic Ocean I flew to Porto, Portugal to start my journey across Europe.

From Portugal I followed the 800km pilgrimage trail, Camino De Santiago, across Spain. Then on to France, Germany, through Austria and all the way to Budapest, Hungary. I also covered the Czech Republic, Slovakia and Switzerland.

As I neared Turkey and Iran the Canadian Government warned me if I went into Iran I was on my own. It was unstable and they would not be able to help me if I got into trouble. Erring on the side of caution I flew to Thailand.

In the jungles near Burma I ran into opium smugglers. Gunshots would ring out at night. I got very sick on this leg of my journey, but with no

hospitals I just had to sweat it out and rest. Eventually I crossed into Thailand which was amazingly beautiful. Thai people are among the poorest but the happiest and friendliest people I have ever encountered.

In each country I visit I try to inspire others to start an annual fundraiser of their own. Budapest, Zurich and Prague all took up the challenge. Bangkok will hold an annual charity ride for the Red Cross Blood Cancer Institute. I am so happy to have had a part in starting these events.

I recently completed my crossing of Australia from the Daintree Rainforest to Melbourne staying in volunteer fire stations along the way. I thought I'd seen my fair share of deadly creatures but Australia was something else! I had to wear snake chaps to protect myself from deadly strikes and keep an eye out for spiders and crocs as well! The road-train trucks along the Bruce Highway were just as dangerous. With no shoulder to move in to, twice they blew me off the road!

In Melbourne the finish was quite an amazing event. Melbourne firefighter Mick Whitty arranged a big cycle through the city with the firefighters.



INTERNATIONAL IGNITION
contributions from
around the world



Coincidentally Mick and myself both work on A-platoon, at Station 7, on Engine 7 but on opposite sides of the earth!

So now my travels bring me to New Zealand. By the time you read this I hope to have set an official world record cycling up Dunedin's Baldwin Street, the steepest residential street in the world. I hope that too becomes an annual event. While here I am raising funds for Leukaemia & Blood Cancers NZ. Auckland firefighter Tony Scott, who organises your fantastic Sky City Stair Climb Challenge for this cause, has been a great support to me. Tony has arranged for me to speak at a number of locations throughout the country.

Cancer has taken many of my friends. It took my mother and my father. My brother has beaten it twice. Just recently cancer even took the life of my dog, who waited so patiently for me each time I was away.

I am so proud to be a firefighter and meet all the great brothers and sisters around the world that support my journey. It is so humbling and inspiring to me. That's why we all joined. To help others, whether on or off the job.

If my cancer ever returns and takes my life I know I did the best I could to move research ahead and hopefully one day find a cure for this terrible disease. Please keep an eye out for me as I travel your beautiful country. Feel free to drop me a line and I'll never say no to someone offering a meal or a beer.

Thank you and stay safe out there.

Editor's Note: Due to the earthquake cutting off SH1 through to Kaikoura, Rudy had to change his course and head over SH7 then up through to Blenheim. However, in order to comply with the Guinness rules for circumnavigation, Rudy had to first cycle through to Cheviot then turn back to meet the geographic point requirement.

Rudy successfully set a new world record and cycled up Dunedin's Baldwin Street in 3:49:24. This will now be an annual cancer charity event. For more information go to www.firefightercycle.com

MYFIRE

The MyFire website has been in full swing since its launch alongside Ignite in September, with regular articles being churned out on the new publicly accessible platform. We've seen a steady increase in use, particularly on the hot topics.

Having a publicly accessible platform has caused some confusion when referring to information elsewhere like FireNet. We made a commitment to provide key information and content in the most accessible way possible. However, every so often MyFire will need to reference less accessible items. As MyFire evolves, it will connect and talk better with other systems and applications. In the meantime, we're aiming to providing key information and updates in the easiest and fastest way possible.

TIPS

Try allowing your browser to remember your portal login, for easier navigation from MyFire into other secure locations. Portal access is available to all personnel with access to the Fire Service Network.

Contact ICT Support for any issues or questions regarding network access.

Email: it.support@fire.org.nz
Phone: 0800 374 843

THE APP

The mobile MyFire app is in development and we're about to wrap up that Christmas present. It's taken a while, but that's to be expected as it's the first mobile app for the New Zealand Fire Service – and it's being launched into all mobile app stores simultaneously!

So that you can get notified as soon as the app is available, please regularly visit www.myfire.nz.

Don't forget to send your MyFire feedback and suggestions to myvoice@fire.org.nz.

DID YOU KNOW?

Less than

60%

of New Zealanders
have an escape
plan for their home.

Only

48%

have an agreed
meeting point.

ESCAPE MY HOUSE

**A virtual reality
house fire
experience**

Have your say...
ignite@fire.org.nz



Seeing is believing

Experiencing a serious house fire is often the trigger for people to take extra prevention precautions and make an escape plan. Thankfully, this experience is limited to an unlucky few.

Our challenge is to take this experience to the community, in a safe way, so they too know how important it is to have an escape plan.

What is 'virtual reality'?

Virtual Reality is a computer-simulated environment that looks, sounds and sometimes feels real, or as close to real as it can get. Often this means an experience that uses two or more of your senses, like sight and sound, that combine to fool the brain into thinking you are immersed in a new place.

So, if these types of experiences can fool the brain, how can we use this to get New Zealanders to change their behaviour and create an escape plan for their home?

We've been working closely with our advertising agency FCB New Zealand and Kaleidoscope/Staples to create a virtual house fire experience. We've placed a number of cameras inside controlled house burns and used that footage to create a tool that is unlike any other we've used before to take fire safety messages to our communities. Together we created *Escape My House* – A virtual reality house fire experience.

Escape My House

- Experience first-hand how quickly fire becomes deadly.
- See and hear the fire developing all around you.
- Discover how obstacles can block your path.
- How fast can you escape the fire?
- Where is your agreed meeting point?

Once you have completed the VR experience, you will be transferred to an online planning tool that allows you to create an escape plan room-by-room for your own home.

Launching to New Zealand

We've still got work to do before *Escape My House* goes to the public. We'll be trialling it with smaller groups before its public debut at Waitangi in February next year.



CANTERBURY RURAL FIRE CHALLENGE

More than 200 rural firefighters from across Canterbury took part in the annual Canterbury Rural Fire Challenge.

The three day event, held in Castle Hill in September, saw crews from Rural Fire Authorities, the Department of Conservation and New Zealand Defence Force take part.

In the points based competition, crews of four complete as many tasks as they can within seven hours. Challenges can include abseiling, dam building, air attack, caving, toughest firefighter, cross-country navigation and mustering stock out of 'burning' paddocks.





Operation Maxwell

For nearly 30 years, Operation Maxwell has brought together emergency services from across the Hawke's Bay for a biannual training event.



First held in 1987, at the Hastings Showgrounds, the weekend is dedicated to training volunteers across Hawke's Bay.

Operation Maxwell was created in honour of Max Brown. Max joined the Havelock North Volunteer Brigade in 1960. In 1966 he was appointed to the paid staff in Hastings. He progressed through the ranks from Station Officer to Acting Senior Station Officer and on to Officer in Charge of training volunteer firefighters.



The Taradale Volunteer Fire Brigade took the lead this year to co-ordinate, create and resource the 15 scenarios that would put the 39 Fire Service volunteers and eight Rural Fire personnel through their paces. Each of the eight crews were supported by a local career firefighter or regional trainer acting as a mentor over the two day event.

The scenarios included patient rescue, motor vehicle crashes, car fire, medical assist, waterway competitions, ICAD presentation, rural hill fire and an electrocution. They are designed to give the participants an opportunity to work together with other brigades and agencies, building relationships while improving their skills.

Part of the planning was to also involve as many of our partner emergency agencies in the event. Red Cross worked with St John to prepare the 'patients' using prosthetics to make the injuries appear real. Also providing support to the scenarios were the NZ Police, Salvation Army, Napier Community Patrol, Hastings District Council Rural Fire and Hawke's Bay Fire Brigades Sub Association.

STEPPING UP AND STANDING OUT

The NZFS sent five delegates to the recent Women and Firefighting Australasia conference in Brisbane, each delegate representing one of the regions. Delegates represented the range of women in operational rank, and volunteer and career staff.

Women firefighters from across all the states and various agencies in Australia, Papua New Guinea, USA, England and New Zealand were at the conference.

“The official opening was a very colourful affair as all the different uniforms mixed in together,” said Glen Eden Senior Firefighter, Megan Tait. “It was an exciting and incredibly unifying experience to be in a room full of firefighting women! We had many opportunities to network, share experiences and identify with others.”

World class speakers at the conference made interesting, thought provoking presentations and showed many of the fire services around the globe are experiencing similar issues. “It was fascinating hearing which approaches and solutions were working,” said Megan.

“Our range of experience, perspective and roles resulted in a thoroughly enjoyable conference for all of us. We compared notes and discussed what we individually found interesting at the end of each day.”

Grateful for the opportunity to attend the conference, the delegates have shared their experience with their crews and brigades. “We are all striving to make a difference,” said Megan. “We’ve made recommendations to the SLT and are happy to report that New Zealand is on the right track.”

Check out www.women.fire.org.nz



CHALLENGING THE TOUGHEST

The Firefighter Combat Challenge is a demanding five-event physical challenge that sees firefighters throughout the world compete for the fastest times. Competition events include a stair climb with a high-rise pack, hose hoist, forcible entry, hose advance, and a victim rescue.

This year, Whanganui Senior Firefighter, Tanja Grunwald, and seven others represented New Zealand at the 25th anniversary in Montgomery, Alabama.

“It is called the toughest two minutes in sport and yes it definitely is. It feels like someone rips your heart and lungs out and every muscle in your body burns,” said Tanja.

“Nervous but well prepared, I was pumped up full of adrenalin to conquer my mission. I’ve climbed stairs until they came out of my ears for the last seven months, pulled the hose up the tower countless times, lifted heavy weights with a personal trainer and dragged that dummy around until his gumboots melted on the asphalt,” Tanja said.

A brutal first run saw Tanja collapse, dashing her hopes of making it to the finals. However, a Christchurch competitor gave up one of his qualifying spots for Tanja to run again and, this time, she made it through.

Running in 40-degree heat and 90% humidity proved too intense for many.

“My run wasn’t very pretty either. I kept telling myself not to give up,” said Tanja.

Tanja earned a silver medal in her age group, with a run of 3:38.

Well done to all our New Zealand competitors. You did us proud.





EUROPEAN EXCELLENCE IN NZ

Firefighters have had the chance to put a number of purpose-built prototype vehicles to the test over the years. Continuing this prototype programme, the Fire Service has purchased a one-off, fully built-up appliance from Europe. The Magirus HLF 10.

“The work the Fire Service does is changing, and we need to keep across the latest features and technologies in order to source appliances that suit both our current and future needs,” said Mike Moran, National Fleet Manager.

The appliance is built on an Iveco cab chassis with pump and bodywork supplied by Magirus.

“Buying an off-the-shelf appliance gives us the chance to look at trialling certain operational features. In particular, we’re interested in the pump control system, the custom crew cab, and the equipment layout and locker features. These are notable differences with our current appliances,” said Mike.

The appliance will undergo a range of acceptance and performance tests and will be trialled in each region at about six stations in total. In order to get a wide range of feedback the trial will last approximately two years.

After the trial, the Magirus will be permanently deployed. The lessons learnt will be incorporated in future appliance specifications and the procurement processes.

The Magirus has an operational capability similar to the current Type 2 appliances. The objective is to compare different ways of delivering the same high level capability.



KORONEIHANA

Waikato-taniwha-rau.

He Piko He Taniwha, He Piko He Taniwha.

People come from all over Aotearoa for Te Koroneihana Tuangahuru o Kiingi Tuheitia, the annual celebration of the Māori King.

At this special event, agencies talk to the community about the services available to them. This year, the Fire Service shared a stand with St John for our first time at the event.

Region 2 Pou Takawaenga Māori Kereama Katu said, “Koroneihana has always been a part of my family and I have wanted to give back to the community. Fire Safety is my way of doing that.”

An Instagram competition to win an iPad was a hit. To win, people dressed up in Level 2s, held a Te Reo fire safety sign, uploaded the photo to their Instagram page and tagged #NZFS. “It was a great way to stimulate conversations. Families were drawn to it as the kids loved it, even the grandparents got involved! Our Te Reo fire safety signs were perfect for the community,” said Kereama.

It was also a learning opportunity for Fire Service personnel at the event. A couple of new recruits interested in promotions really shined. All found it a really useful experience to learn more about Māori culture and working with those communities. Kereama was really pleased with how the Koroneihana went and thinks it is the “start of many things to come.”

He aha te mea nui o tēnei ao?

He Tangata, He Tangata, He Tangata.



Have your say...

myvoice@fenzproject.co.nz

HAVE YOUR SAY ON OUR NEW LOOK

Fire and Emergency NZ is just around the corner. Our identity, our brand, is a critical part of how the public will recognise us. It is also something you will want to wear with pride and feel connected to.

The creation of a new FENZ logo symbolises the beginning of a new and innovative fire and emergency service in New Zealand. Uniforms, badges and vehicles will look the same as they do now on Day One, but will change to the new FENZ look in stages.

For a firefighter, the insignia on your arm represents you, your colleagues and why you pledged to protect people and property. For non-operational staff it represents why you chose to support the work the fire services across the country do each and every day. Its importance cannot be underestimated.

Developing a new logo that represents FENZ, but also honours our history, is no small feat. It is vital that we get it right. First, the FENZ Transition Project team needs to understand what the current logos and insignia mean to the workforce, and how they are used.

FENZ needs a logo that makes you feel proud to be part of the organisation and what it represents. It needs a logo that people recognise and trust. It is essential that you have a say in its design.

In early 2017 the team will begin gathering feedback on existing logos and insignia and asking for your thoughts on the new design. This is your opportunity to play a role in developing the identity of New Zealand's most trusted profession.

Keep an eye on www.fenzproject.co.nz, MyFire and FireNet in the new year for ways you can have your say. Questions can be sent to myvoice@fenzproject.co.nz



CLUED-UP KIDS

Kids yelling "Fire! Fire! Fire!" and "Drop! Cover! Hold!" could easily have Blenheim and Richmond residents dialling 111. But, they know it's the annual Clued Up Kids event, and Civil Defence and Fire Service having a healthy shouting competition!

On a trip home to Scotland, Blenheim Fire Risk Management Officer, Rob Dalton, met with a friend at the Scotland Fire Service who told him about a collaborative education programme for 10 and 11 year olds. Keen to spread the word, they gave Rob resources to run the programme in New Zealand.

Aligning with the aims of the Marlborough Safe Kids network, the Marlborough Child Safety Group was formed. Now in its eleventh year in Marlborough and first in Richmond, it is supported by all the local primary schools and three from Kaikoura.

Groups of six students role play different scenarios. At the "set," children practise what to do if there's a fire. Pretending to be asleep they jump up when the smoke alarm goes off; Get Down, Get Low, Get out; shout "Fire! Fire! Fire!" then go to their safe meeting place and check everyone is there. A call to 111 goes to a 'comms centre' set up specifically for the event. In the second scenario, children identify and eliminate hazards.

The event has been a great success, with parents confirming they've worked with their kids to make an escape plan. Students are surveyed one month before the event, then again two weeks after to see how much they retained. Surveys six months after the event show a 95% message recall rate.

CAUGHT ON CAMERA

Got a photo to share?
Send it to ignite@fire.org.nz



BREAKFAST IN DUNEDIN

Dunedin Station Officer Isaia Piho was on TVNZ's Breakfast with weather man Sam Wallace, sharing the importance of checking that your smoke alarms are working during Daylight Savings weekend.



WILD WEATHER

Thanks to Stokes Valley Volunteer Firefighter Ben Horn for these photos of the wild weather that lashed Wellington on 15 November causing extensive flooding and road closures.

EMILY SMITH PHOTOGRAPHY

Fielding volunteer firefighter and teacher Paula Phillipson was part of a photographic assignment for UCOL student, Emily Smith. The project was based on stereotypes, said Emily. "I chose to explore the stereotype of gender-based roles, namely, a female operational firefighter working in what has largely been deemed to be a male-dominated role."



911 STAIR CLIMB

This year more than 160 firefighters took part in the 9/11 Memorial Stair Climb at Sky City in Auckland. Fellow firefighters performed a powerful haka before the climb and the emotional video went viral, reaching more than six million people through social media.



PINK FOR A DAY

NHQ went pink for a day in October to help raise money for Breast Cancer Month. We'll be looking to make this a national event next year.

I JUST SAW HELICOPTERS AND ALL THIS SMOKE

KET BRADSHAW – FOREST OWNER

It was 1983 when Ket Bradshaw began planting her land as a retirement nest egg. The plan? To harvest one hectare of trees every year from the time she turned 60, through until she was 90. Sadly, a devastating fire swept through her mature forest in February 2015, destroying 30 years of toil and financial foresight in a matter of hours.

The fire didn't even start on Ket's property. In total it spread over 600 hectares and burnt for ten days, illustrating the huge impact a fire can have on so many people.

So please be careful this summer. Always check it's alright before you light a fire or are about to use machinery. In tinder dry conditions a spark from a chainsaw or other equipment can have disastrous consequences.

Watch Ket's story at checkitsalright.nz



Department of
Conservation
Te Papa Atawhai



CHECK IT'S ALRIGHT BEFORE YOU LIGHT
FOR YOUR LOCAL FIRE DANGER, VISIT > checkitsalright.nz