

A photograph of two firefighters in yellow protective gear. They are outdoors in a forest, looking down at a plant. The firefighter on the right has a patch on his jacket that reads 'FIRE EMERGENCY NEW ZEALAND' and 'MĀKARATONA'. The firefighter on the left has a patch that reads 'FIRE EMERGENCY NEW ZEALAND' and 'MĀKARATONA'.

IGNITE

TE HIRINGA O TE TANGATA

ISSUE 24 / WINTER 2022 / TAKURUA 2022

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Mānawatia a Matariki



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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Contributions to Ignite

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KIA ORA KOUTOU

It is an absolute honour to address you all via my first Ignite editorial as Chief Executive of Fire and Emergency New Zealand.

Being Chief Executive is a huge privilege. When I started my career in the fire sector some 30 years ago, I never imagined I would be in the position I am today. Thank you to everyone who has supported me to get to this point.

I've been fortunate to have incredible colleagues and leaders over the years who have helped me grow and develop. Their guidance will continue to be invaluable as I embark on this next leg of my journey.

It is an enormous honour to lead our organisation and to serve our people and communities across Aotearoa. I am committed to building on the progress Fire and Emergency has made over recent years and aim to continue, and accelerate, our journey towards becoming a truly unified, modern emergency services organisation.

I'm reminded of our progress and the impact of our mahi whenever I read Ignite, and this issue is no different.

For example, on page 10, our response to the Awarua-Waituna wetlands fire highlights the benefits of close working

relationships between our incident management team, local Iwi and Department of Conservation staff, and even maimai owners ahead of the duck shooting season.

On page 11, read about our ground-breaking agreement between Fire and Emergency, MetService and NIWA to share data from weather stations around the country. This agreement means we now gather data from 94 additional weather stations across the country, allowing us to improve our planning and response.

Our progress is also reflected in our work to become a more culturally capable organisation. Most recently, at Matariki, we launched Te Aho Tapu, which will give us all the tools, confidence and knowledge to better serve and connect with Māori; you can read about it on page 16.

And on pages 9 and 11, we're all reminded of just how important education is as a key part of our risk reduction role, with articles showing the positive impact of home fire safety visits and a creative approach to our new Winter Fire Safety campaign.

Ehara taku toa i te toa takitahi, engari kē he toa takitini | My success is not mine alone, but it is the strength of many.

**Kerry Gregory,
Tumu Whakarae Chief Executive**



AWARD FOR WHANGĀREI FIRE BRIGADE FOLLOWING MISSING PERSON SEARCH

Whangārei Fire Brigade recently received an award at the New Zealand Search and Rescue Awards to recognise their part in a missing person search in Mount Parihaka, July last year.

The search began when Police were notified that a man with dementia had left his home in Whangārei and had not returned. Weather conditions were poor, with widespread rain and cold temperatures. Over the next four days, more than 120 people from LandSAR, Coastguard, Surf Life Saving, Police, Skywork Helicopters and Whangārei Fire Brigade were involved in the search.

On the fourth day of the search, following clues from CCTV footage of the area, teams were re-deployed to search the bush, creeks and tracks surrounding the Parihaka monument.

The terrain in the area is extremely difficult, with numerous waterfalls, steep bush, windfalls and slips.

Whangārei Senior Station Office, Paul Thompson, said the man was located by a search team in a creek bed with significant injuries from a fall and was hypothermic from exposure to the elements.

"We were called in to assist and about 20 minutes later he went into cardiac arrest. Despite conducting CPR for an extended time until further assistance arrived, the man died at the scene.

"It was a sad outcome, but we felt grateful that we could return the man to his family."

The awards event was held at Government House in Wellington and Paul accepted the Certificate of Achievement on the Brigade's behalf.

“ I felt honoured to be chosen to collect the award. It was a team effort. This is part of our job, and it is what we do, but it was humbling to be recognised.”

MORE THAN THREE DECADES IN FIREFIGHTING

A quote from former All Blacks captain Sean Fitzpatrick sums up what new Fire and Emergency Chief Executive Kerry Gregory hopes his impact on the organisation will be.

“He [Fitzpatrick] said ‘what you leave behind is not the honours you gain, but your legacy is that which you teach people and how you change others’ lives’.”

That quote resonates with Kerry as it speaks to so much of what he has experienced both during his formative years and in his 32 years in firefighting.

Those early years saw Kerry moving around a lot as his headmaster father and schoolteacher mother worked at different schools around Aotearoa.

His home, in a cultural sense, is Thames as it’s where his Ngāti Maru roots lie and where his father grew up and parents settled.

But he was born in Te Awamutu and spent time living in the Chatham Islands, Bell Block (Taranaki), Waipiata (Otago), Urenui (Taranaki), Moerewa (Northland), Huntly (Waikato) and with his parents and three brothers.

“ Moving from primary school to primary school, it taught me how to meet people, how to treat people, how to get on with people, how to make new friends, how to fit in to different situations.” Kerry said.

After all that time moving around, it was decided he would go to the historic Māori boys’ boarding school St Stephens (Tipene) for more stability and to connect with his Māori roots.

“In boarding school I met other boys from all around the country, from different socio-economic and cultural backgrounds, although being a Māori boarding school, most were Māori.

“You had to learn how to understand people and get on with people. To understand that all people are different, all people have different perspectives and not everyone is like you, and that’s OK.

“ My childhood and my secondary schooling had a great impact on the leader I am today. It allowed me now as an adult to be able to operate in the government arena or down at the local pub.”

Another formative experience came when he worked for Customs before becoming a firefighter in 1990. During his first years in Auckland, he lived at the home of Archdeacon Dr Hone Kaa, who was an Auckland-based Anglican church leader, child welfare advocate and social justice campaigner. He was a Māori of Ngāti Porou and Ngāti Kahungunu descent.

“I was meant to stay with Hone and his family for a couple of weeks while I looked for somewhere to live. I ended up leaving three years later.”

During those years the Kaa family hosted many prominent leaders like South African Anglican Archbishop and human rights activist Desmond Tutu, Sir Paul Reeves, New Zealand’s first governor general of Māori descent and Judge Mick Brown, who became the first Māori to be appointed as a District Court judge.

“I was really struck by how these really successful, high-powered people, when they were in a social setting,

were just like you and me. Just normal, down-to-earth people.

“It really teaches you to keep your feet grounded in terms of who you are and what’s important, and what you need to focus on in life.”

QUICKFIRE QUESTIONS:

Rugby or Rugby League?

Rugby League. I played both, and love them both but rugby league comes first.

Watch it at home or go to the venue?

Go to the venue.

Cats or dogs?

Definitely dogs. We have a miniature schnauzer named Paula.

Morning person or evening person?

Morning person.

Movie or book?

Movie.

Coffee or tea?

Hot chocolate.

City or country/rural?

Too close to call, I’ve lived in them both and love them both for different reasons.

Summer or winter?

Summer. Fishing and diving.

It was a lesson he took into his firefighting career, which began because the job “was exciting and a place where I could give back to others”, Kerry said.

“ I never in my wildest dreams envisaged one day I would become the Chief Executive of Fire and Emergency New Zealand.”

More than three decades in firefighting brings its fair share of stories.

Even though many of the memories about fires blend into one, Kerry still remembers the first fire he went to. A drunk man had fallen asleep while cooking and watching a rugby game on TV. He awoke to firefighters pulling him out of the house and proceeded to ask Kerry if he had a lighter.

“I told him I didn’t and he said ‘oh nah, you wouldn’t because you’re a firefighter!’” Kerry remembers with a laugh.

“ It’s the little things about fires that stand out to you.”

While that small moment still sticks out for humorous reasons, there’s a bigger, more serious moment from his career that Kerry still draws on today.

It was following the 2011 Christchurch earthquake, when Kerry went down to help with the response from his role as an Area Commander in Auckland.

“While talking at a community hall to local residents as part of a multi-organisation briefing, they had another shake. I’d been down there for a few days at this stage, so I didn’t think an awful lot of the shake, but all the people looking back at me that I had been talking to were absolutely petrified. I could see it in their eyes.

“It was quite a monumental moment, an eye opener for me because I realised that I could never understand what they were feeling because I wasn’t there when the big earthquake happened. I couldn’t know how these people feel and how alone, how challenged they felt.

“You think you can put yourself in their shoes and understand what they’re going through, but you can’t unless you’ve walked in those shoes. All you can try to do is try to understand what they’re feeling as best you can.”

Kerry will put all these lessons to good use as kaitiaki of Fire and Emergency New Zealand as he looks to carve out a legacy in keeping with Sean Fitzpatrick’s wise words.





NEW SERVICE CENTRE SUPPORTS NGĀ TAI KI TE PUKU EMERGENCY RESPONSE

For the first time, Equipment and Logistics, Fleet, Information and Communications Technology, and Property support for Ngā Tai ki te Puku are all managed and resourced from the same site.

Fire and Emergency's new Tauranga Service Centre was officially opened on 27 May by Internal Affairs Minister, Hon. Jan Tinetti. It replaces two separate facilities in Otūmoetai and Ngongotahā that weren't fit for purpose.

Thirteen members of the Organisational Strategy and Capability Development Branch are based at the centre. Together they manage, maintain, store and distribute a huge range of firefighting and emergency response tools, equipment, information technology and other resources, predominantly for the Waikato, Bay of Plenty and Tairāwhiti Districts.

The new facility is purpose-designed, with a 1304 m² multi-purpose office, warehouse and workshop building on a 9702 m² site. It includes a canopy to make working outside in any weather much easier.

Bruce Nilson, Region Equipment and Logistics Manager, says the completion of the new service centre means Fire and Emergency's new Hose Master Hose Care machine can become fully operational.

“The machine is far more environmentally friendly and efficient compared to our previous largely manual system. It uses about four litres of water per length of hose, which is a considerable saving, and drying no longer requires sun or wind, factors we can't always count on.”

“The Hose Master is a single-person, fully automated, contained machine that can wash, pressure test and semi-

dry our hose to 90 percent dry and coil it ready for re-issue. The machine is far more environmentally friendly and efficient compared to our previous largely manual system. It uses about four litres of water per length of hose, which is a considerable saving, and drying no longer requires sun or wind, factors we can't always count on.

“Very soon we'll be able to wash, test and dry some 10,000 lengths of hose every two years. At 25–30 metres per length, that's as much as 300,000 metres of hose processed through this site every two years,” says Bruce.



OPERATIONAL GAME CHANGER FOR FIREFIGHTERS

The national deployment of the Mobility Tactical Solution was completed at the end of May 2022, with tablets now fitted into 209 fire appliances, and they're already having a hugely positive impact on brigades around the country.

Fitted into our busiest fire appliances, the tablets provide near real-time information, significantly improving situational awareness. The information is comprehensive, including real-time incident data, accurate site information, details on hazardous materials, responding vehicle locations and more.

Kevin McCombe, Senior Station Officer/National Advisor Mobility says it's the biggest operational change he's seen in his 27-year career.

“It's nothing short of revolutionary. It cements the interface between Communications Centres and the operational frontline and allows our firefighters to make better situational awareness decisions at every step.”

Justin Wafer, Senior Station Officer, Dunedin City, agrees.

“It's almost like having an additional firefighter on the truck, full of information. It improves safety for our firefighters, and they're much better prepared for what's ahead before they step off the truck.

“It's an amazing device. Clear, quick and user friendly. It's hard to believe we used to carry that information in big folders. Now it's all here at our fingertips – a total game changer.”

The next step is to install the Mobility Tactical Solution into our new prototype Type 3 Scania and MAN appliances when they're delivered later this year. A second tablet cradle is also being installed in the back of all HAZMAT Command units.



Kevin McCombe, Senior Station Officer/
National Advisor Mobility



Justin Wafer, Senior Station Officer



NEW HIGH-TECH CAMERAS FOR SEARCH AND RESCUE

The first three of six new high-tech search cameras are due to land in the country, following a five-year process by USAR and Fire and Emergency Procurement, to identify the best equipment for New Zealand's needs.

The project team looked internationally and selected three cameras to trial in a variety of scenarios in Christchurch. Project team leader and USAR Technician, Chris Kennedy, said there was one clear winner.

"The First Look 360 is an incredibly advanced camera for the type of incidents we now attend, from collapsed buildings to underwater work. It provides quicker, more accurate information transfer from the incident ground to those making decisions.

“This is world-leading technology, with a platform that allows us to update quickly as technology changes.” – Chris Kennedy

Craig Monrad, National USAR Operations Manager said the research, trials and selection process were a credit to Chris Kennedy and Procurement Manager Wendy Thompson.

"Chris and Wendy made sure we got the right equipment for our needs and ensured a fiscally responsible purchase. This is another important step in our move to more advanced technology, improving our service to communities in New Zealand."

The next three cameras are due to arrive in the next financial year.



FIRE SAFETY VISIT LEADS TO TIDIER BEDROOM

For firefighter Marthie Wright, the chance to support her community is just part of what motivated her to join the Lauriston Volunteer Fire Brigade in the Mid-South Canterbury District.

Marthie says volunteers are extremely important in rural communities, as they anchor many of the critical services.

“I enjoy giving back and helping people in need and felt this was a great way to harness that energy along with still being able to juggle mum and farm life, learning new skills and educating myself in a new area.”

It's nearly three years since the farmer and mum of two was welcomed into the Lauriston brigade, which she describes as a fun, progressive and supportive crew. Her experiences have ranged from fighting fires to delivering the Firewise programme at the local school and making home fire safety visits.

The community served by Lauriston Brigade is growing and diverse, with many newcomers arriving without a network of family and friends to call on. Marthie has found that

being involved with the school is a good way to help build connections that not only strengthen the community but also provide reassurance to families if they need help.

"I enjoy our community work, particularly with the children, because if there was an emergency and we were needed, it helps if the children have a friendly familiar face. Many of the children now know we are there to help and this message then makes it home to their families. Some rural families do not have extended family and friends here and this has helped to give them a connection if they are ever in need."

For one little girl, Marthie's home fire safety visit has had an enduring result – a clear pathway through her messy bedroom to the door!

"I asked her to make me a pinkie promise to keep her escape route clean in her room if nothing else and even now she runs up to me at school drop off and says, 'I have kept my pinkie promise,' which I think is a delight to her mother."



SEASON OF THE PEAT FIRE

Aotearoa may look back on 2021–22 as the season of the peat fire.

Less than a month after the Waiharara response in Te Hiku's Far North wound down, Te Kei was scaling up to manage a fire burning in 1,350 hectares of wetlands at Awarua-Waituna, south of Invercargill.

Awarua-Waituna is one of New Zealand's largest remaining coastal wetland systems, and the Waituna Lagoon is designated as a wetland of international significance. The whole area is highly valued by Te Rūnaka o Awarua as a mahika kai site and for their enduring cultural ties to the whenua.

There is a long history of fires in the area and an equally long history of partnership with Iwi and the Department of Conservation (DOC) to manage them, dating to the years of the Southern Rural Fire Authority and beyond.

So, when a fire spread from Awarua Bay into the wetlands complex on 2 April, the Incident Management Team readily drew on the knowledge of local kaumātua and DOC staff as they planned and executed the response.

At the peak of the initial attack, nine ground crews were supported by nine helicopters to knock down the running fire in the manuka scrub. Then came the day-in, day-out slog of fighting a peat fire over a large area in chilly conditions. Fire crews from Te Kei brigades and DOC were bolstered by personnel from Te Ihu as the response stretched from days to weeks.



Crews worked hard to protect the dwellings in the area. With ash pits over 500 m long and fires smouldering underground, the burnt area of the fire ground was declared off limits to the public.

Before duck shooting season, the IMT liaised with a representative of the maimai owners, who traditionally hunt in the wetlands. This was a great opportunity to minimise risk to the shooters and build relationships that will be helpful in the future.

Working closely with DOC throughout the management of this fire, the Te Kei IMT was able to hand the area back in mid-May with a monitoring process in place. The remaining peat fire is expected to burn itself out through the winter.

EVERYONE GAINS FROM DATA-SHARING

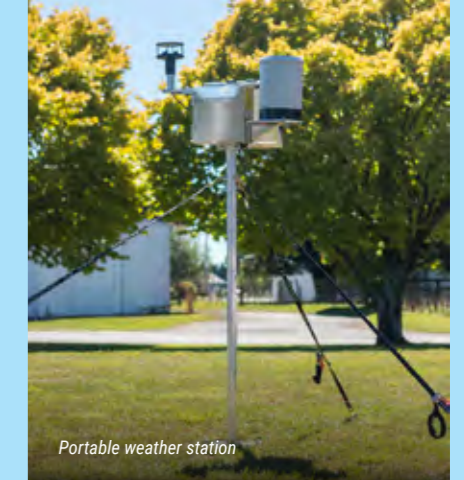
In a ground-breaking agreement, Fire and Emergency, MetService and NIWA have joined forces to share data from their combined network of weather stations around the country. For Fire and Emergency, this means significantly increased data from an additional 94 weather stations.

New Zealand's geography means we have large climatic variability within relatively small areas and that has a huge impact on how we plan, assess and respond to fires. National Wildfire Specialist Rory Renwick says the data sharing agreement is a game changer.

"Predictions around fires are only as good as the information we receive



Fire and Emergency weather station at Castlepoint



Portable weather station

from our weather stations. This increases our coverage by a third, significantly improving our situational awareness across more areas."

Data is updated every ten minutes and used to determine fire seasons, fire behaviour, spread rates, intensity and likely escalation risks. It helps calculate risk reduction activity and is used by Communication Centres to monitor live

events and immediately add additional resources when needed.

The combined weather station network and data-sharing was launched in mid-March, with significant benefits for all three organisations.

"We all gain from sharing this data and for Fire and Emergency it helps us constantly improve our planning and response," said Rory.

WINTER FIRE SAFETY – SEEING IS BELIEVING

Fire risks at home always escalate over winter, often because people fail to clearly see the danger.

Our new Winter Fire Safety campaign tackles that head on, showing the very real dangers of heat from a whole new perspective.

The new campaign, 'See a fire before it starts', uses dramatic thermographic treatment to illustrate the intensity of heat in three key fire risk scenarios: a lint filled dryer, flammable items too close to a heater and careless disposal of ashes.

Each eye-catching image is teamed with simple, clear messaging about how to avoid the risks and keep households safe.

Fire and Emergency Marketing Manager Kelley Toy said it's all about simple, clear messaging that's easy to act on as part of people's everyday lives.

"We're targeting those who believe the risk of a fire starting in their home is low risk or want to do the right thing but don't get around to prioritising it. This is such an important opportunity to influence safer behaviours this winter." – Kelly Toy

'See a fire before it starts' launched on 17 June across outdoor media, social, digital and radio. The ads direct people to a new interactive safety quiz on www.escapemyhouse.co.nz where they can assess various fire safety risks and learn to take easy actions to avoid them.

We're excited that the creative idea to use thermal imaging came from collaborating with our District teams and was suggested by one of our Risk Reduction Advisors, Hadlee Wright, in Northland – thank you Hadlee!



To align with our winter fire safety campaign, we've created a new interactive quiz to help Kiwis assess fire risks from common household tools and appliances in their home.

The new Home Hazards Quiz is available in both Māori and English and is now live on

www.escapemyhouse.co.nz.



LOW FLAMMABILITY PLANTS WITH SAMUEL WHITELOCK

It's probably not well known that New Zealand rugby player Samuel Whitelock has a Bachelor of Science majoring in Plant Science from Lincoln University (LU).

When at LU, he conducted research into the flammability of species commonly planted in shelterbelts on New Zealand farms. He subsequently co-authored a scientific paper on shoot flammability in NZ plants which was published in the International Journal of Wildland Fire.

Together with Lincoln University, Samuel has teamed up with Fire and Emergency to help educate people, especially those living in rural and semi-rural location on the important role of low flammability planting to protect their property from the increasing risk of wildfire.

Q&A WITH SAMUEL

What made you decide to study in the area of low flammability plants?

When I was at university, there was an out-of-control fire burning nearby. Everyone started talking about the impacts it was going to have, and the dangers involved. The fire went through one of the small settlements around here, and there was a lot of concern. I really started to consider what people were actually doing to reduce the risk. I didn't know a lot about the science then, but it sparked my interest.

What are some of the simple actions people can take to manage and maintain their properties?

Some of the simple things you can do protect your property from wildfire are:

- Keep your grass short around buildings.
- Keep gutters and areas around decks clear of dead leaves, debris and pine needles.
- Remove highly flammable plants and plan to plant low flammability species, especially within 10 m of your home or other buildings.

To find out more about which species are low flammability and which are high flammability, visit www.checkitsalright.nz.

How can wildfire preparedness positively affect rural communities in New Zealand?

Being prepared is something every landowner needs to do, whether that's drought or severe weather events. But fire is one of the risks that is increasing. You'd hate for someone to lose their livelihood because they're not prepared, whether that's their home or infrastructure on the farm. It's something that's only going to get worse. Don't wait until there's smoke in the air to prepare.

Why are you passionate about this subject matter now?

With fire risk increasing, it can put people in the rural community under more pressure. I've seen people under pressure in sport but also through the rural industry, so if you can reduce risk it's a good thing. That's why the work Fire and Emergency and Lincoln University are doing is important and that's why I wanted to be a part of it.

BIG CELEBRATION FOR MILTON VOLUNTEER FIRE BRIGADE

As well as celebrating their service honours recently, Milton Volunteer Fire Brigade also had two special presentations to make.

Senior Firefighter Alan Tapp QSM was awarded his Double Gold Star for 50 years' service. Alan has spent all 50 years in the Milton Brigade, where he has been heavily involved in every aspect of the Brigade, from competition teams to being the Chief Fire Officer for 18 years. Alan is the first and therefore only member of the Milton Brigade to have achieved 50 years of service.

Alan was supported by his wife Lorraine and sons Grant (CFO Brighton VFB) and Nathan (SFF Milton VFB). Between them, Alan, Grant and Nathan have 100 years' service to Fire and Emergency in a single generation jump. Quite an accomplishment.

Alan said he felt "pretty proud".

“ There are not many who have stayed with the same brigade for 50 years. It was great to receive my Double Gold Star with my family and friends present.” – Alan Tapp

Senior Firefighter Donald Greene was awarded his Gold Star for 25 years of service. Donald started in the Kaitangata Brigade for his first three years before he was "rescued" by the Milton Brigade, where he's spent the remaining 23 years.

Donald may have also set a New Zealand first by being the first firefighter to receive his three-year certificate and 25-year gold star at the same time, after his three-year certificate got lost in Kaitangata for a few years.

“ I was honoured to be presented with my Gold Star after 25 years' service, and especially with Alan there.”
– Donald Greene

Donald was supported by his wife Jane and children Morgan-Lee, Toby, and Pippa.

Congratulations, Alan and Donald!



Alan Tapp QSM and Donald Greene



Alan with his wife Lorraine and sons Grant (CFO Brighton VFB) and Nathan (SFF Milton VFB)



Donald with his wife Jane and children Morgan-Lee, Toby and Pippa



STATION REBUILDS AND UPGRADES NEARLY COMPLETE

We are on the home run for our programme to upgrade and rebuild stations across the motu as part of the funding boost we received from the Government's COVID-19 Response Recovery Fund.

In August 2020, the Government announced that 26 of our stations were set to receive a funding boost of over \$50 million for rebuilds and upgrades.

This additional funding for property projects came after our successful bid in response to the Government's call for shovel-ready, infrastructure projects to support the economy during the COVID-19 rebuild.

Planning and Programme Manager for Te Rōpū Whakaruruhau/Property, Wayne Goodfellow, said the programme had gone "exceptionally well" and 23 of the 26 stations are now completed.

"We will finish this programme when we hand the last station – Kaikoura – over to its brigade in late 2022/early 2023."

Crown Infrastructure Partners (CIP) is responsible for the identification, funding and monitoring of shovel-ready projects across New Zealand. Jeremy Holman, General Manager Infrastructure Delivery, CIP, said the Fire and Emergency CRRF property programme was a "very impressive achievement".

“ The Fire and Emergency property team and those who have supported them should certainly be very proud of how well they have delivered this programme in some very challenging circumstances.”

– Jeremy Holman

Here are snaps of five more recently completed station upgrades and rebuilds at Makarora, Peel Forest, Rangitata Gorge, Christchurch City and Taihape.



MĀNAWATIA A MATARIKI!

June 24 was the official date to welcome and honour the appearance of Matariki, marking the start of Māori New Year.

Matariki (Pleiades) is a star cluster which appears in our skies during the winter months of June and July. The cluster is made up of over 500 stars, but only six or seven are visible to the naked eye. The appearance of these stars marks an important time to reflect on the past year and plan for the one coming.

For many iwi and hapū, Matariki was a time when the harvests of the summer season had been appropriately stored to sustain the people through the winter and preparations for a new season were started. It was also a time to retreat to the warmth and safety of a home base.

This year, for the first time, Matariki was a public holiday, marking Aotearoa New Zealand's first Te Ao Māori holiday.

Some of our people had the privilege of attending a hautapu ceremony to honour the appearance of Matariki. The hautapu ceremony gave an opportunity to gather, reflect on the year that has been and give thanks by cooking kai, the steam of which rose into the sky to feed Matariki.

Our organisation aspires to become more culturally capable so we can better serve and connect with Māori in our communities. Following the hautapu, Fire and Emergency New Zealand launched Te Aho Tapu our framework to support each of us to improve our awareness and understanding of Māori culture. Te Aho Tapu allows you to assess your current level of knowledge and gives you access to a range of resources to improve. To get involved, check out the Te Aho Tapu Portal page for more information.



CONNECTING THROUGH GOLF

The 59th Annual New Zealand Firefighters National Golf Tournament held in April attracted 130 participants from all parts of Aotearoa, including one entry from Rakiura Stewart Island.

This year's event was held at the Taumarunui Golf Club's Tarrangower course. Shaun Pilgrim, Group Manager Waitematā and Chair of the National Firefighters Golf committee, said as well as being a competitive golf tournament, the event provides an opportunity to catch up with old friends and make new ones, and is a great way for people to keep connected.

"The NZFF Golf Tournament is one of the biggest and longest-running sporting events in the Fire and Emergency sporting calendar.

"This year's event was hosted by the Taumarunui, Mananui and Ōwhango Fire Brigades, and a big thank you goes to all those involved in organising it.

"Also, a big thank you to PBI Performance Products, who have sponsored the tournament for the last 24 years. Without the support of sponsors such as PBI, tournaments like this would not be able to go ahead and their support is greatly appreciated."

Shaun said while a golf handicap is required to enter, the tournament is for everyone – scratch golfers to weekend warriors.

"It is open to all employees and volunteers at Fire and Emergency, past members with five years' service or more, NZ Defence Force Brigades and Industrial Brigades, so why not come along to next year's tournament in Taupo. Watch the Portal for more information."

This year's overall winner was Caleb Symes from Manaia Volunteer Fire Brigade. For a list of all results, go to the Sports Council's page on the Portal.



HYGIENE PACKS FOR EMERGENCIES

In long-duration incidents or events that occur in remote areas far from a supermarket or pharmacy, we have sometimes had people, whether they are our people, co-responders or members of the public, require personal hygiene items.

To address this need, we are introducing emergency hygiene packs. These are unisex and will include:

- ✔ Sanitary pads
- ✔ Men's Depends
- ✔ Nappy bags
- ✔ Wet wipes
- ✔ Hand sanitiser
- ✔ Toilet paper

Manager for Women's Development Barbara Olah said she was pleased the packs are coming and said the need for them was identified some time ago.

“ These will be useful, not just for our front-line people, but for anyone at an incident who requires any of the items.”

National Equipment and Logistics Manager Charlie Lott said the packs will come in a brightly coloured, branded 10-litre soft bag that is waterproof and dustproof.

“They will go under the seat of an appliance and placed in bathrooms or on top of existing station first aid kits.”

Replenishment of components in the packs is simple – they can be ordered directly from the OfficeMax catalogue or purchased using a 'P' Card from any local pharmacy or supermarket that stocks the components.

Distribution to stations will commence in July and will be complete by December. There will be more information about the roll-out coming.



PERSONAL ILLUMINATION FOR OUR FIREFIGHTERS

Fire and Emergency has selected a personal torch (firefighter illumination capability/FIC) for firefighters.

We have selected the Pelican™ 3415M Right Angle Light supplied by Pelican Products, Inc. through Fire Rescue Safety NZ (FRSNZ). The 3415M torch is a pocket or loop-carried torch that fully meets

Fire and Emergency's FIC specifications and exceeds some, for example there is a battery condition monitor on the torch.

The torch is robust, well manufactured, has an illumination head that can be positioned up or down and is simple to operate in Level 2 PPE. The torch has excellent illumination and a good duration between battery 'fills'. The torch is in service with Fire Rescue New South Wales (FRNSW) and Fire Rescue Victoria (FRVic), who recommended it during the post-evaluation reference checking.

Evaluation of the market offerings for FICs was undertaken by eight subject matter experts including operational firefighters, union and association representatives (who were also operational firefighters), procurement specialists and equipment and logistics specialists.

Pelican Products, Inc. will meet our requirements with a special production run of around 13,000 torches. Production and delivery of the torches to firefighters is expected to occur from July to December 2022, depending on global shipping availability. Further roll-out detail will be provided when delivery schedules are confirmed.

DISTRICT FACEBOOK PAGES

Here is a snapshot of some recent posts from our District Facebook pages.

Nelson Marlborough - Fire and Emergency
13 June at 13:39

Nelson-Marlborough Fire and Emergency teamed up with SANITI (Student Association Nelson Marlborough Institute of Technology) to keep students' whanau and friends safe from fire. They held a giveaway with a prize pack including \$200 towards your power bill, a 2000w heater to keep you nice and warm, multi-board with surge protection, a home fire safety bucket containing, fire extinguisher, fire blanket, smoke alarms, first aid kit, and other useful items and a visit from a fire crew to install the smoke alarms and show you how to use the equipment.

Waitemata - Fire and Emergency
21 March at 11:22

A close call yesterday for a commercial building in Hobsonville. Crews from West Harbour Fire Brigade responded to a report of smoke showing from a vehicle. Upon arrival, 2 vehicles were found well involved in fire, which had spread into the canopy of the building. Fortunately, the occupants were quick to phone 111 and due to the quick actions and tactics of the crews, they managed to prevent further fire spread into the building.

The cause of the fire is still being investigated, however it is thought to have started in the engine bay of one of the vehicles.

Taranaki - Fire and Emergency
9 June at 15:52

Congratulations to the Opunake Volunteer Fire Brigade on completing their low flammability trees initiative for their community. The planting is supported with a sign providing information on the trees to help educate the community. Thanks to all helpers and supporters. It's on the walkway just off Gisborne Tce in Hurst Park. Next time you're in Opunake have a look at what trees are safer to plant due to our changing climate and share their great work.

Otago - Fire and Emergency
10 June at 18:45

Recently Frankton and Queenstown Brigades attended the Drive to Survive Expo 2022 hosted at the Queenstown Event Centre. The event was run in conjunction with the Wakatipu Youth Trust, St John and Police. It is aimed at high school students who are on their way to getting their full drivers license and shows what the consequences can be if you drink and drive.

Whakatane Volunteer Fire Brigade
14 June at 21:40

We officially welcomed our three new firefighters to our station tonight. Kaitlyn, Kayla and Tayla join us as fully trained firefighters from the Rotoma and Taneatua brigades. Tracy and Jaz are pleased to have an increase in our female ranks. 😊😊😊

A METRE FROM THE HEATER

KEEP EVERYTHING AT A SAFE DISTANCE

SEE A FIRE BEFORE
IT STARTS

338 °C

275 °C

340 °C

15 °C

