

The insiders' magazine
for fire services

IGNITE

TE HIRINGA O TE TANGATA
ISSUE 3 – Autumn 2017



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FOR PURPOSE



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

Te Hiringa 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

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Paul Baxter

Ask Paul Baxter what he's most proud of in his time as Chief Executive & National Commander of the Fire Service, and he says it is the improved focus on the safety of our people.

"I am immensely proud that we didn't lose a single firefighter in my term as CE&NC; that everyone went home. I am very satisfied that firefighters have seen the benefit of our improved approach to their safety, health and wellbeing.

"We are a safety organisation; we always have been. That's why firefighters wear helmets and have since day one. Because sometimes shit falls on your head!

"There are still improvements to make, there always will be. But I am pleased that we now have people thinking "is it safe to do this, is it safe to do that?"

"It's the nature of the job that we work in a very hazardous environment and

the potential is always there for a major mishap. People call us to make things better; we're always heading into the eye of the storm or the face of danger in lots of responses.

"People rely on the fire services to come in and fix things, from a cat up a tree to a major event such as the aftermath of an earthquake. I think for the most part, we do."

Paul leaves the Fire Service, after 35 years, to take up the role of Commissioner of Fire and Rescue New South Wales.

And he says times have certainly changed since he first turned up at Napier station on 12 January 1982 as a young gun.

"On the first event I went to as a volunteer, I had a cast off hand-me-down uniform, I had no formal training and I was sent out to a really big fire."

"I was absolutely bewildered about what was going on in the place; I didn't have a clue what I was meant to do."

"Now when a rookie volunteer firefighter starts in this organisation they get fantastic training, they get outfitted with world class firefighting protective clothing, and they don't get put in harm's way.

"The leadership structure that sits above them is really well prepared and rehearsed, and know what they are doing, so I think the organisation has come a huge distance."

Another significant source of pride was the development of Vision 2020; Leading integrated fire and emergency services for a safer New Zealand.

"A vision – posters on walls, catch phrases and slogans – means absolutely nothing unless the people in the organisation know what it means and want to be part of it, and they do.

"The reason it has been successful is because our people bought into it and could see the benefit of what we were trying to achieve across a whole number of areas: an improved focus on safety, enhanced medical response, better technology, improved communications, and leaders leading and engaging with their people.

"When I first came into the job, I was clear in what I wanted to achieve.

"We'd had a good 10 years of solid investment in 'stuff': trucks, stations, computers and systems.

"I wanted my tenure to focus on investing in people and their capability. Some of that came off the back of



the Christchurch earthquakes when it became clear we needed a new Vision and to chart a new course.

"What we've been able to do is invest in people and their capability: the Career Board for future leaders, our tactical and strategic command courses, really investing in frontline leaders to effectively lead the organisation."

Paul says the 'proof in the pudding' of this approach was the recent Kaikoura earthquake.

"I think that showed we've come a bloody long way.

"Not only do we have the proper assets in place; coordination centres, bricks and mortar facilities to put our people into, but we understood better how to support our people and brigades on the front line.

"Generally speaking, the response was outstanding; people from all parts of the organisation came together to do

a really good job for the communities we serve."

And what advice does he have for fire service personnel as the establishment of Fire and Emergency New Zealand looms on the horizon?

"Any change is difficult and any change scares people a little bit.

"But paying attention and being involved in the change where possible will ensure the new organisation meets the expectations of all our people into the future.

"I think Fire and Emergency New Zealand has the potential to be the best emergency services organisation in New Zealand.

"The fire services already have the most trust and confidence of New Zealanders – and have had for a dozen years – and really build on that.

"I will be watching on with interest."



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






Before and after of the Palmerston North house burn


ESCAPE MY HOUSE



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



ESCAPE MY HOUSE



ESCAPE PLANNER

Monday 20 March
You'll be able to access the experience for a sneak peek.

Wednesday 22 March
Nationwide launch.

For years we've put a lot of effort into making sure people understand working smoke alarms can save their lives. The good news is that 88% of people now tell us that they have at least one working smoke alarm installed in their home.

But, as we know, sometimes smoke alarms are not enough. We tell people, "Have no doubt of two ways out, practise your escape plan, have a safe meeting place". But our research tells us that many New Zealanders have a 'she'll be right' attitude when it comes to getting out of a house fire alive. Many people just assume they can run out the front door.

So that's our challenge. How do we get people to experience a house fire, in a safe way, so they truly understand how important an escape plan and safe meeting place are?

In the last edition of Ignite we gave you a sneak peek into the latest tool you'll be able to use when out interacting with the community, or even in your own home with friends and family. Hundreds of hours of work have gone

into creating this world first. A 360° virtual reality (VR) tool that will allow everyone to experience the speed of fire with the aim of encouraging them to create a custom-made escape plan for their own house.

On Wednesday 22 March Escape My House launches to the country.

People will be able to experience 360° views of a home burning down around them as they try to make their escape. They'll come across obstacles and be challenged on whether they should



Waitangi trial

take prized possessions with them. Upon escape from the home, they are transferred to the Escape Planner where they can make a room-by-room escape plan tailored to their own home.

In partnership with TVNZ and social media, we will push all New Zealanders to take part in the experience. We will monitor how many people visit the site and then go on to make an escape plan. People will be encouraged to post a photo to social media from their 'safe meeting place' and some will be rewarded with a pair of our cardboard VR goggles, the same goggles that have come with this edition of Ignite.

Many Principal Advisors, Fire Risk Management, around the country have already had the chance to use the tool and we've also trialled it with the public at Waitangi to make sure we've got it right. We asked child psychologist Dr Ian Lambie to give the experience a go and he was very impressed. Dr Lambie has recommended that the tool is

useful for those aged 12 years or older, with the emphasis being placed on the next step of creating an escape plan. Over time, we'll be looking at how we can use the footage as an educational tool with a younger audience.

We want to make sure you get a chance to try Escape My House before everyone else. From Monday 20 March you'll be able to access the experience at www.escapemyhouse.co.nz. If you don't have VR goggles you will still be able

to navigate your way around the home from your mobile, tablet or computer.

A huge thank you to the Region 3 team who gave their time to set up the house-burn in Palmerston North to capture the footage. We couldn't have done this without their hours of preparation and safety planning. Keep an eye on MyFire for more behind the scenes footage and interviews. If you have any questions or suggestions about Escape My House you can email us at Ignite@fire.org.nz.



PALMERSTON NORTH FIRE BRIGADE, YOU ROCK!

If you haven't yet heard about #PalmyRocks, you are missing out on the fun!

The great idea of painting rocks and hiding them around city parks for families to find began in the 2016 July school holidays, and has now caught on throughout the country.

Palmerston North Fire Brigade decided to join in on the fun by hiding six Fire Service themed rocks around the city. Those who found them won some close up fire engine time!

Be sure to check out your local Rocks Facebook page using your local hashtag to see all the rock hunting adventures.

Or better yet we'd love to see more of us get involved. Get those paint brushes out and paint some for yourself or your brigade.

Want to see how far your rocks travel? Check out #NZGypsyRocks.



Dr Sir John Te Ahikaiata Turei

TŌKU REO TŌKU MAPIHI MAUREA

My language is the object of my affection

When Sean Stocker of East Otago applied for the Sir John Ahikaiata Turei Māori Language Grant, he did not realise this course and opportunity would have such a valuable and lasting impact on his life.

Dr Sir John Te Ahikaiata Turei became the first national kaumatua of the New Zealand Fire Service in 2000. This grant supports his great passion of fostering and sharing the Māori language; and is available to all New Zealand Fire Service personnel undertaking study in Te Reo Māori.

Sean began studying Te Reo Māori at Te Wānanga o Aotearoa in Dunedin. Here Sean was able to learn the basics of Te Reo Māori, the people, the culture and the protocols. "It also gave me an avenue to do more than study the language, it gave me a chance to use it. I met many different people on the course. There were over 100 students that were learning Te Reo Māori and they came from all walks of life and were many different nationalities."

Throughout the course a few people learnt Sean was a firefighter. Sean used this opportunity to answer questions, talk about his role and give any fire safety advice or safety messages he thought would help.

On a more personal note, Sean was able to use his knowledge to help some close family friends during a difficult time. "I was given enough tools and had the help from the right people. So, when I received a phone call around 4am saying their mother was at the end, and the whānau were asking if I could come in and say a few words, a karakia and a waiata for her, I could."

Sean encourages others to consider learning Te Reo Māori, thanking the Whanau of Sir John Ahikaiata.

He whakawhetai tēnei ki a koutou mo te tautoko ki te ako te reo Māori.

Thank you for the support to learn the Māori language.



Check it's alright before you light

The start of 2017 saw the launch of a revitalised rural fire summer safety campaign. 'Check it's alright before you light' is a continuation of the 25+ year partnership between the National Rural Fire Authority, Department of Conservation, the New Zealand Defence Force, and Forest Owners Association.

The new campaign moves away from the animated character Bernie, to a storyteller approach. It focuses on real people and the impact fire has had on their lives.

The advertising is aimed at rural dwellers, farmers and travellers and the message is simple, "Check it's alright before you light".

NRFA Rural Fire Manager, John Rasmussen, said that keeping the message simple was going to be the key to changing people's behaviours.

"An out of control fire can have devastating impact. We want people to know they have a responsibility to act safely when using fire, whether as a land management tool or recreationally for cooking.

"If you're planning on lighting a fire outdoors this summer, you need to 'check it's alright before you light'. That means checking to see if there are any fire restrictions or fire danger notifications for your area, or applying for a Fire Permit if required."

The new campaign makes checking these conditions easy with a new website www.checkitsalright.nz

Neil Wood, Farm Manager at Cora Lynn Station, lost 72 hectares of farmland to fire. Railway machinery was all that was

needed to create a spark. Then the fire took hold.

Neil was gutted when he realised that, due to the size of the fire, it came down to saving his life or that of his animals. "Sometimes you just can't get them off, so they burn to death. I have seen that happen, unfortunately. It is a case of weighing up your options. The stock die or you die."

After the fire, the land Neil had known for 12 years no longer looked the same. The burnt land could not be used for up to two years as using the land risked downgrading the quality of the merino wool Cora Lynn is well known for.

Neil's experience has made him more aware of the conditions, the wind and the weather, and how quickly these things can change. "As far as I am concerned you always have to check it's alright before you light, no matter if it is a small fire or a big fire," says Neil.



MYFIRE APP

The App version of MyFire is now available from the Android and Apple app stores. It will also shortly be available on Windows.

Over time, there are plans to introduce more functions and features on MyFire, and we will be asking you what you want to have access to. Suggestions so far include payslips, 'track a truck' (or recruit), and hazard reports.



SOLUTIONS IN THE AIR

The National Vehicle Exhaust Fume Management Programme is moving closer to securing a national tender. The aim of the programme is to successfully manage the air quality in our fire stations.

Now that representatives from National Property and Procurement have met with suppliers, we are going out to tender to select the best provider and to determine the programme delivery timeline.

A suite of solutions have been identified and will be applied depending on the needs of each station. The solution for each station can be found on the programme's FireNet page.

The programme will be out for tender in April, so stations have two months to see the solutions recommended for them.

With work already underway it is anticipated that the programme will be completed by November 2019.

For more information email Wayne.Goodfellow@fire.org.nz



1999 NABBA Nationals 1st place

“Join the ranks of the New Zealand Fire Service.”

That call to action, alongside a picture of a female firefighter, is all it took to change the career path of Ange Munro.

Born and bred in Matamata, growing up, Ange was always busy in the outdoors and helping with chores on the family farm. It is here she credits gaining her independence.

Earning the role of head girl at Matamata College, Ange was a natural leader from an early age. She then became a secondary school teacher at Cambridge High School and soon moved in to the additional role of Senior Dean. After seven years, feeling she had reached a plateau in her career, it was time for change.

In 2002, Ange was in the process of applying for the Police when the NZFS recruitment advert changed everything. “When I first joined, there were five women on my recruit course. Females were a bit of a novelty, especially at Otara Station in Counties Manukau where I was first assigned. ”

She speaks highly of her first Station Officer. “He was one of those people who gave me a chance. To his credit he



HALL OF FLAME
Personal profiles and stories

CROSS-

is still to this day one of the best station officers and friends I have ever known.”

Ange acknowledges there has been a significant shift in the perception of female firefighters in the organisation over the years.

“Today, more women are passing the recruitment process than ever before.”

After being on the frontline for over a decade, Ange applied for the position of National Advisor for Women’s Development. Now based at National Headquarters she is working to improve the support and development opportunities offered to all women in the fire services.

Ange has seen many positive changes throughout her time, but she believes there is still significant room for improvement.

“The shift has been huge, but there are still pockets in the country that have a way to go. The women applying to the fire service today generally have the right attitude. They are here to do the job and aren’t seeking any special treatment because of their gender. But, I think the men have adopted a better attitude too.

“The way that we embrace difference is something that can be changed by

changing behaviours. We all need to treat each other in an acceptable way. It’s important that our male leaders champion what we are doing.

“It’s something each brigade, station, watch and office really needs to be aware of. When you change behaviours, you change mind sets. But it takes persistence.”

Ange is all about action in her current role. Work is underway to get the Women’s Network established within the five regions. “We need to start getting people to really think about what sort of organisation we want to be in the future.”

Although Ange enjoys the work at NHQ, she does miss being on the trucks, “blaring down the road with the lights and sirens. You never know what you might encounter and no day is ever the same.”

That goes hand-in-hand with the close connections she has with her crew. “Until you’re in that environment you don’t quite understand what that means, but you become a family.”

Despite working ten hour days more often than not, Ange still manages to find time to squeeze in five or six cross-fit sessions every week which,

FIT FOR PURPOSE

she explains, is great for anyone’s physical endurance. She recommends all firefighters, or people wanting to join the fire services, should give it a go.

Before her cross-fit days Ange was an avid body building competitor. She competed from 1997 – 2005 winning numerous regional and national titles, also competing internationally for NABBA. The title Ange is most proud of is gaining 4th place at the Miss Universe Championship competition in 1999 in Southport England.

Ange’s passion and talent in the cross-fit world will see her travel to

Los Angeles in August to compete in the World Police and Fire Games. An Olympic-style competition, the games bring together 10,000 athletes representing law enforcement, firefighters, and officers from corrections, probation, border protection, immigration and customs. Competitors hail from 70 different countries competing across more than 60 sports.

Good luck Ange!

Check out the Women in Fire and Emergency New Zealand website at www.women.fire.org.nz



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*

2008 World Combat Challenge
Brampton Ontario Canada





Sirens and Sounds

The annual Sirens and Sounds safety festival is having a really positive effect on the local Avondale community.

Senior Fire Fighter Warren Samuels says he can't recall the last time he attended a house fire where people were trapped inside.

"It's been satisfying to go to a house fire and know that everyone is accounted for – and that those people are outside waiting for us. They can quite confidently say there is no one in the house," says Warren who credits this festival as a significant contributor to this result.

The event provides an opportunity for various agencies to promote their public safety messages and encourage community engagement with emergency services. December 2016 was the fourth time the event has been held and it is proving to be a huge hit in the community.

Warren says the most popular attractions are the Wendy House and the Kitchen Demonstration Unit.

"We've got a model that works now. We are always capturing new people and teaching them new things.

"It's also great to see some of the same families come through each year. We've seen some of those kids grow up!"

Warren speaks highly of the contribution and continual support from the groups of people who plan and execute the event.

"Their professionalism on the day and communication with the public has always been exemplary."

The Auckland based Afi Pasifika Group has also supported the event and were able to promote fire safety messages in Samoan too – an invaluable contribution.



The working group who help to make the event such a success:

Senior Sergeant Simon Welsh, Sergeant Kuripitone (Tony) Tatupu, Shaun Bradley – Oyster Design and Michael Alofa – Auckland City Council.

With a special mention to the members who make the day happen:

Te Atatu Volunteer Brigade, Auckland Afi Pasifika Group, Auckland Central Operational Support and Auckland Area 4 Fire Risk Management.

WHANGAREI EMERGENCY SERVICES DAY

This annual event, centred on keeping safe over summer, brings together emergency services, local agencies and the Northland community for a great family day out.

The combat challenge, Kitchen Demonstrator Unit, and evacuation challenge were all running throughout the day. Rob Wilson of Whangarei Station said the combat challenge was the most popular. "The kids love pretending to be firefighters, squirting the hose and winning prizes."

T-shirts were given to the kids for answering a few Firewise questions, after they completed both the evacuation challenge and the combat challenge. "While kids were lining up for the combat challenge, we were also able to talk to parents and ask them a few questions on Home Fire Safety, as well as have them watch our Kitchen Fire Demonstration," Rob said.

The day ended with a full motor vehicle crash demonstration. The confronting demonstration drew in the crowds. It was an excellent opportunity to raise awareness of fire services' role in attending crashes and important road safety messages.

Channel North television was onsite filming the event. The advertising and footage from this will help this event grow and pull more numbers in the years to come.



Working safely around water

You wouldn't wear a wetsuit to a structure fire, so why would you wear level twos to a water incident?

The Working Safely Around Water Project has been established to give firefighters the skills and tools needed to work competently around water. It will improve the safety of our firefighters and the community.

A team from the project recently carried out an initial testing exercise alongside the NZ Police Dive Squad to test the effect of the level two structural uniform in water.

The aim of the testing was to identify what would happen if you do fall in water at incidents where it's compulsory to wear your level twos, for example at a ship fire. It is still important to remember not to wear level twos at water related incidents such as floods.

Note: the testing was carried out in a calm, warm environment with safety measures in place. When it's dark and the water is cold and choppy, results could be different and trying to swim could be extremely dangerous.

A full trial in different environments would be required before firm procedures would be put in place.

However, the initial testing found:

- Wet level two gear is extremely heavy and makes self-rescue difficult.
- If you do get in trouble while wearing level twos, if you relax on your back, level twos offer a limited amount of buoyancy. As soon as you start to panic or swim the air dissipates and you sink.
- Wearing a breathing apparatus, especially composites, assists with the buoyancy, however the cylinder does want to turn the wearer to their side.

Safety precautions when working near water:

- Ensure a dedicated safety officer is appointed for the safety of the crew.
- Have a plan if someone does fall in the water.
- Remember the safe person concept and continuous dynamic risk assessment.

Before responding to an incident ask yourself these questions:

- What risks will I face?
- What is the correct personal protective equipment (PPE) to wear to this incident?

For more information on this experiment and the Working Safely Around Water Project please visit FireNet.



[top] SO James Dench, Auckland

[bottom] L-R: NZPFU rep SFF Brent Single, SO Simon Smith, SO James Dench, SFF Rob Collins, National Operations Advisor Kate Hill, UFBA rep CFO Graeme Booth, Constable Ben Filiata, SFF Craig Thomas.

If there is no sign of fire, level one or wet weather is the correct PPE choice for working around water.

CHANGE OF COMMAND



Following the announcement of Paul Baxter's resignation, Paul McGill has been appointed to the role of Chief Executive & National Commander from 6 March through to 30 June.

Paul McGill has served as Deputy National Commander since 2012, after serving 15 years as a frontline operational firefighter and officer,

and two years as a fulltime training instructor. He was also Auckland Fire Region Manager and then Director of Operations & Training for eight years.

Recruitment for a permanent Chief Executive of Fire and Emergency New Zealand from 1 July is underway.



INTERNATIONAL IGNITION
Contributions from
around the world

Victorian Emergency Management Training Centre

Asia Pacific Fire Magazine – Author: Trent Curtin (Abridged)

The environmental considerations in which firefighters work today is becoming increasingly uncertain and complex. In Australia, rapid changes to building regulations, urban population growth, the security environment, climate change and growing community expectations place increasing pressure on fire services everywhere to prepare firefighters and emergency responders with the skillsets to work in these increasingly complex operating environments. These changes require contemporary thinking in the design and use of emergency service training centres.

© Photos courtesy Asia Pacific Fire Magazine
[right] VEMTC Craigieburn's ship firefighting prop.
[bottom] MFB's Victorian Emergency Management Training College.
[next page] VEMTC fire fighters.



The Victorian Emergency Management Training Centre (VEMTC) Craigieburn was conceived in 2002 to provide Melbourne's Metropolitan Fire Brigade (MFB) and the State of Victoria with a contemporary firefighter training environment.

In June 2014, VEMTC Craigieburn was officially opened as a specialised emergency services learning and training facility.

VEMTC Craigieburn was designed to provide a blended approach to skills acquisition, utilising both classroom and practical learning facilities to optimise a holistic learning and development environment. The facility's design has a fundamental

focus on 'practical training', flexibility, innovation and technology.

Practical learning environment

In addition to the various specialist and technical training environments, VEMTC Craigieburn's 10 hectare site provides a Practical Learning Environment that includes 12 training props, 43 live fire points, a drill yard and a fire station laid out within a streetscape urban environment, which is unique in that it has been designed specifically to mimic Melbourne's Metropolitan Fire District.

A key aspect of delivering life-like firefighter training is the integration of the 43 live fire points throughout



these urban risk environments in the practical learning environment, providing an almost unlimited array of life-like training scenarios for all levels of firefighter and officer training. The design of firefighting props is drawn from real-life emergency experiences. Designing the urban landscape in this way also allows MFB to train with partner emergency service organisations, such as ambulance and police, in multi-agency response scenarios.

1

Residential

The residential area simulates the environments experienced in typical Melbourne suburban homes, containing in total six fire scenarios. A high rise building represents a typical Melbourne city building with multiple fire scenarios incorporated on each level.

2

Industrial

An industrial zone with a petrochemical plant replicates facilities found in Melbourne's industrial areas and simulates fires involving hazardous materials. Here, foam training is also incorporated as well as low and high angle rescue.

3

Transport

The transport zone simulates emergency scenarios requiring inter-agency response. Scenarios simulated here include train and tunnel fires, train and tram stop incidents and road accidents.

4

Marine

A marine environment provide training for fighting both dock and shipboard fires. MFB's capability requirement for marine and shipboard firefighting requires extensive training infrastructure to replicate various marine and port emergency situations.

5

High angle rescue and urban search and rescue

High angle rescue and urban search and rescue props provide access to the latest rescue and specialist equipment training. A purpose built seven-storey high rise building, lift shaft, rubble pile and collapsed building simulation give specialist response rescue teams, from response agencies all over Victoria, the opportunity to train in life-like rescue operations scenarios.

6

Hot fire training

Investment in hot fire training technology has been critical to the success of firefighter training and learning. The latest HAAGEN technologies have been implemented throughout the practical learning environment to maximise the variety of realistic operational situations with varying complexities utilising fire, smoke, sound, heat and lighting.

7

Environmental considerations

During the design and build period MFB was acutely aware of the impact that emergency service training can have on the environment, particularly around the use of large volumes of water. For this reason, a comprehensive Environmental Management Plan was developed and implemented in conjunction with the build. A key component of the environmental management plan was investment in a state-of-the-art water recycling and treatment facility to reduce MFB's impact on the environment. This facility is designed to provide recycled training water to a standard equivalent of potable drinking water, ensuring an environmentally responsible approach to water use while also ensuring the safest possible training environment for firefighters and other trainees.

8

Future

VEMTC Craigieburn was designed with the future in mind. Fewer than three years since VEMTC Craigieburn commenced operations, MFB is already planning the next phase of infrastructure investment to meet future capability and capacity needs. An expansion of structural firefighting, specialist response and incident management training infrastructure will continue to deliver world-class outcomes for the communities of Melbourne and Victoria.

For more information, go to www.mfb.vic.gov.au



CALL THE DOCTOR

Dr Ian Lambie worked as a clinical psychologist for 10 years before joining the University of Auckland in 1990. He has worked with youth offenders for more than 20 years. One of his specialty areas is helping children who are deliberately lighting fires and displaying violent and antisocial behaviour.

Dr Lambie became involved with the fire service as the consultant psychologist for the Fire Awareness and Intervention Programme (FAIP) after writing a psychological report on a child who had set a fire.

He now provides training, supervision and consultation advice to FAIP practitioners. He also liaises with Corrections, Child, Youth and Family, Police and schools on individual cases.

"I think FAIP is an excellent programme. The research clearly shows it's effective. It not only reduces the chance of lighting fires but also makes a difference to young people's lives. Where more intervention goes into the kids who have higher needs, when the practitioners stay involved and provide good referral to other agencies, that supports the young person to have better life outcomes. It's a really, really good service that the fire service provides. It's ultimately about prevention."

Dr Lambie says he is fortunate and grateful to have received a number of Fire Service commissioned research grants. "The Contestable Research Fund has allowed me to undertake

research with the support of FAIP practitioners, co-ordinators and the National Manager. Doing research and publishing reports and academic papers on the work of FAIP and other fire safety programmes has put it on a world stage. The foresight in having that funding available to support further research is really positive. It's very innovative. I think the Fire Service should be commended."

Dr Lambie also has some advice for families who are worried about a young person who may be showing an unhealthy fascination with fire. "If you've got concerns, ask for help. It's nothing to be ashamed or embarrassed about. A lot of young people, out of curiosity, do engage in fire setting but it doesn't have to lead to negative outcomes. Ask an FAIP practitioner to come and talk to you. They'll be able to assess the seriousness and give you sound advice.

"FAIP practitioners have a can do mentality and a really strong sense of compassion and humanity. They really care about these young people and their families and want to make a difference at the community grassroots level. They're thinking about how they can help, and that's what the next generation and, really, that's what it's about," said Dr Lambie.

If you have concerns about a child or young person lighting fires contact the FAIP team on 0800 FIRE INFO (0800 3473 4636).



DID YOU KNOW?



Neighbourly is an excellent, free, locally-focused website to connect with your community.

Many of our brigades have had great results using it to connect with their community. Now you can too. Neighbourly has 255,000 members across 1,700 neighbourhoods, with around 800 new members daily. The website can be used to promote community events, share fire safety messages and share thank you messages to your community.

Joining is easy. Head to www.neighbourly.co.nz and create a profile in your neighbourhood. Once you're signed up go to www.neighbourly.co.nz/community/organisation.

For more information on using Neighbourly, please feel free to contact social@fire.org.nz

KEEP IT 'EVERGREEN'

Eighteen-year old folk musician Candice Milner is gigging her way around the country as her newly released album, Evergreen, sits in the New Zealand charts.

Growing up in Lyttelton, musical inspiration surrounded Candice who began writing music at the age of 13. "My first recorded single was for Canteen. It was for my Grandma who had passed away from cancer. It all started from there," says Candice.

Finishing High School in 2015 to record her first album gave Candice spare time to volunteer at the Lyttelton Volunteer Fire Station. "I would always hear the siren go off and thought it was really cool."

As the only female at the brigade, Candice likes how she can bring something a little bit different to the station. "The training is very mentally challenging. It can be hard to apply skills learnt in training to real life, as everything is so different."

With her partner Jack already in the brigade, Candice thought volunteering "would be a good way to spend her time helping the community."

Experiencing multiple station relocations since the Canterbury earthquakes, Candice says the brigade is looking forward to moving into the newly built Lyttelton station in February.

Candice says her album represents her growth writing and composing music over the last eighteen months. Through her distribution company, Southbound, Candice is setting her sights on touring Canada later this year and then possibly on to Europe.

Candice's album Evergreen is available on iTunes and at most music retail stores.



THE BRIGADE. EARTHQUAKE 2011

The Brigade. Earthquake 2011. A tribute to the Lyttelton Volunteer Fire Brigade is a photographic tribute to 26 volunteer firefighters who pulled together to help their community following the 22 February 2011 earthquake.

The story is told through the lens of amateur photographer and firefighter, Alastair Suren, and the words of his fellow firefighters. Minutes after the 6.3 magnitude earthquake struck, the volunteers rushed to a damaged but still standing fire station. It would be two weeks before they would go back to their families and day jobs.

Hours turned into days, days into weeks as the calls kept coming in. Every firefighter overstretched their physical and emotional resources. Before this quake, the Lyttelton crew would never have imagined doing the things they did to help the community.

The images remained unseen on a laptop for over a year before being published. Designer Kim Hickworth said, "we were blown away, actually brought to tears, by these images and we wished we had more pages, so we could have included more! We hope that we have done the Volunteer Fire Brigade justice."

It's an emotional read. These are ordinary people who went through an extraordinary event which has changed them forever.





IRANIAN FIREFIGHTERS

When you become a firefighter, you become part of a close-knit family. This family is not just your brigade but a wider national, and international, community of like-minded people. People who are willing to put themselves in harm's way to rescue others.

So, when an opportunity came up to pay tribute to the 16 firefighters who died in Iran on 19 January this year, Waitemata Area immediately accepted. "When it happens to firefighters, regardless of which country they serve, we feel it the same," said Denis O'Donoghue, Waitemata Area Manager.

Auckland's Iranian community held a memorial for the fallen firefighters who were fighting a blaze in the 17-storey Plasco building in Tehran, Iran when the building collapsed, trapping and killing them. As part of the memorial, the community also wanted to pay tribute to the service our firefighters provide to communities here in New Zealand. Area management from Waitemata and a crew from Te Atatu were overwhelmed by the generosity of the community. The brigade was invited to speak at the very moving ceremony and the organisers insisted they stayed for dinner.

Shared emotional experiences often bind people together. Denis takes comfort that one positive to come out of this tragedy is a new connection between the fire services and Iranian community. "Such a small effort on our part can often open doors or make alliances so easily. There is a lesson there for me."



A GOOD DOSE OF RHUBARB

Age is no barrier for Raynor. At 85 years old Raynor Henson has served at the Picton Volunteer Fire Brigade for 61 years. This commitment has seen Raynor receive his double gold star, a Queen Service Medal and also a local hero award.

He praises the Picton Brigade, the growth and strength of its members, the Chiefs, their well-maintained gear and the support of the local community.

Raynor remembers a time when his pay used to get docked for being a volunteer firefighter. "That got sorted pretty quickly after the firm had a fire of their own! It made them realise we weren't just taking off for the fun of it!"

Joining the brigade in 1955 because "I like to help out, and it just grows on you," Raynor has seen many changes in the brigade, notably the design of the trucks and the types of call-outs attended. "Years ago you sat on the back or stood on the plate on the back and away you went. Now days there are a lot more calls to assist the ambulances and a lot more courses to get everyone trained up."

The desire to volunteer and give back has passed onto Raynor's daughter, Lindy, who has been the Administration Officer at the brigade for the past 17 years.

Keeping it in the family, one of the trucks is named after Raynor's wife Joan, and the other truck, 'Rhub' (short for Rhubarb), Raynor's nickname following a rather hairy drive in a beaten up truck down a dusty road. In other words, a bad dose of Rhubarb!

Raynor's advice for anyone wanting to volunteer in the fire service? "You just need to be honest, do your best and listen to the officers. That's all you can do. You just have to do your best. If you are not sure just ask questions."



QUICK THINKING SAVES THE DAY

Dani was just 10 years old when she watched a Kitchen Fire Demonstration.

Now an adult, Dani was at home when a pot of oil burst into flames. Remembering what she had learned all those years ago helped to contain the fire, avoid it spreading and causing further damage.

With 35% of all house fires starting in the kitchen, ensuring people are aware of our kitchen fire safety messages saves lives.

Remember:

- If you must leave the room, TURN OFF the stove.
- Clean your stove grill after each use to prevent the build-up of spilled fats and burnt foods.
- Clean range hood filters regularly.
- Curtains, tea towels, oven mitts and any flammable items should be kept away from the cooking area.
- Have a fire extinguisher and/or fire blanket correctly located in your kitchen and make sure you know how to use them.
- Never throw water on to a fry pan that's on fire.
- Never attempt to carry a burning fry pan outside.
- If your fry pan is on fire, wet a tea towel and place it over the pan or use a large flat object (like a chopping board) to starve the fire of oxygen.
- If you do have a fire on your stove, try (if you can) to turn the power or gas off, either at the stove or at the mains.
- Alcohol is involved in 50% of all fatal fires. Don't drink and fry. Get takeaways delivered instead, or use the microwave.



FREDA

The National Rural Fire Authority (NRFA) and Marlborough Kaikoura Rural Fire Authority have partnered with Nelson based IT company Beacon Hill to develop a fire resource database called FREDA.

FREDA provides a one-stop-shop for information about land and air resources, such as specialist equipment, contractors and other service providers, that Rural Fire Authorities regularly engage at wildfires.

This information is then made available to all Rural Fire Authorities and emergency services who are able to quickly and efficiently find what they need to be able to effectively fight wildfires and other non-fire related emergencies.

Resource are broken down into air and land categories.

Once a contractor is registered with FREDA they will be able to enter and keep up-to-date their own information regarding their resources.

Aircraft Operators will require an NRFA Certificate of Compliance. The NRFA will manage the high level section of FREDA to identify Aircraft Operators that meet compliance with the Standard for Use of Aircraft at Wildfires.

For more information check out www.freda.co.nz

CAUGHT ON CAMERA

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



CHALLENGES OF RURAL FIREFIGHTING

Every year the National Rural Fire Authority coordinates the deployment of highly skilled and trained rural firefighters to help combat wildfires in Australia, USA and Canada. These deployments are physically and mentally challenging and crew members are often airlifted in and out of hard to reach areas. New Zealand crews are highly regarded for their work ethic, team spirit and experience with working with difficult terrain.

HELPING OTHERS AT CHRISTMAS

Whanganui senior firefighter Paul Doughty helps young fan Tyler Bisset into full uniform.



© Photo courtesy Whanganui Chronicle

WHANGANUI SOAPBOX DERBY

The team of five worked hard for nearly four months in their spare time to build Whanganui Rural 7138 soapbox, taking out the Whanganui soapbox best business award trophy on the day.



OPEN DAY A SUCCESS

The Marton Volunteer Fire Brigade held another successful open day on Sunday 13th November.

An estimated 400 people turned up to check out the fire appliances and equipment, hear fire safety and smoke alarm advice, watch the kitchen fire demonstration and enjoy the barbecue and raffles.

Rangitikei Rural Fire brought along equipment including drones, a side-by-side 4WD and survival kits. St John Ambulance also showed off their new health shuttle.

USAR IN FIJI

Bayly School in Fiji thanks USAR for their help to get up and running again after Cyclone Winston.





1 DAY. 13 NEWSPAPERS. 490% INCREASE IN SMOKE ALARM SALES.

What's more compelling than a newspaper showing the remains of a home? A newspaper made from the remains of a home.

By mixing ash from real fires around the country with the newspapers' black ink, we created an ad that Kiwis couldn't ignore. Prompting a 490% increase in smoke alarm sales in a single day, with sales remaining high for the weeks following.



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