

A full-page background image showing a firefighter in silhouette, wearing a helmet and carrying a tank, standing in front of a large, intense fire. The fire is bright orange and yellow, filling the upper half of the frame. The firefighter is in the foreground, looking towards the fire.

IGNITE

TE HIRINGA O TE TANGATA

ISSUE 21 / SPRING 2021 / KŌANGA 2021

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toward live burn success

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balancing two careers

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Flooding couldn't dampen
the Westport spirit



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.

It is produced by the Fire and Emergency Communications Team, National Headquarters, Level 12, 80 The Terrace, Wellington, 6140.

Contributions to Ignite

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Photos need to be at least 1MB.

Read Ignite online

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KIA ORA KOUTOU

Aotearoa New Zealand is currently in the middle of an outbreak of the Delta variant of COVID-19. The threat of Delta saw us make a very quick move to Alert Level 4, and repeated alert level extensions brought a great deal of uncertainty.

I am very proud of the way you adjusted quickly in response to this outbreak, across many different roles around the motu (country). From our frontline response in communities, to those supporting from District, Region and National Headquarters.

Everyone has been focused on the same clear goal: to keep Aotearoa safe. Ngā mihi nui (Thank you very much).

In this issue of Ignite you'll read about our rollout of the Urban Search and Rescue (USAR) first responder course to our people in isolated communities (page 6). It will give them the skills to respond appropriately after a sudden disaster until more help arrives.

You'll read about teams across the organisation coming together to stage a live house burn which was broadcast on TVNZ's Seven Sharp (page 3 and cover photo). It was a great opportunity to demonstrate to local school children and prime-time TV viewers how quickly fire can become unsurvivable.

We check in with our Local Advisory Committees, one year after they were established (page 13), and hear about some of the work they've been doing to help us connect with the communities we support.

You'll also read about the release of He Timatanga Kōrero, an introductory guide to Kaupapa Māori, and Te Tohu, a pin that is awarded to anyone who passes the knowledge check based on the guide (page 14). I personally mihi to all our people who have taken the step to improve their cultural education and achieve their Tohu.

Once again, thank you for rising to the challenges the COVID-19 pandemic has put in front of you, and for continuing to care for and serve your communities.

**Ngā manaakitanga,
Rhys Jones, Chief Executive**



TEAMS WORK TOGETHER TOWARD LIVE BURN SUCCESS

The success of a recent live house burn that was broadcast on TVNZ's *Seven Sharp* is a testament to the collaboration of teams across Fire and Emergency.

Regional Trainer and Incident Controller on the night, Chris Kennedy says, "It gave viewers real-life proof that a real house fire isn't like the movies, and that you have less than three minutes to escape alive."

"So much went into this from everyone involved including; traffic control management, dressing the derelict house, training the reporter and camera people in BA, making sure the reporter knew our key fire safety messages, organising cameras inside and outside the house, as well as consulting with the council and the neighbourhood. Everyone did what they needed to on the night and the result was magnificent," says Chris.

First up, the groundwork was laid by the Community Readiness and Recovery team who spent a lot of time planning and coordinating to ensure it all ran smoothly.

On the day, Fire Risk Management Officer Anna Gordon took two school groups through the house before it was burnt to the ground.

"I went through our Firewise programme with them and set up fire hazards throughout the house which they identified. We talked about safe meeting places and escape plans too."

"We encouraged them to tune in to watch the burn on telly, and many even came to watch from the safe viewing point with their families," says Anna.

Station Officer, Daniel Nesbit and Trainer, Dave Milham led reporter Lucas de Jong and a camera person through the house, while National Advisor Fire Risk Management, Pete Gallagher explained what was happening live from the Seven Sharp studio.

In the week after the story aired, one major national hardware retailer reported a very significant increase in smoke alarm sales nationally.

A follow-up story, aired on Seven Sharp the following night, showed the devastating aftermath, emphasising that simply nothing was left after the fire took hold.

Our marketing and social media teams are now using footage and photos from the burn to tell confronting fire safety stories to the public, and encourage them to create household escape plans.

The house involved was set to be demolished by a property developer, like many of the houses used for live fire training.



METHVEN CELEBRATES A 25TH TREBLE

Back in 1996, three locals from Methven attended the basic firefighters' course in Woolston. Twenty-five years later, Dave McLeod, Johnny Shannon and Shane Davidson are still together at the same brigade.

Dave McLeod is now Deputy Fire Chief at Methven Volunteer Fire Brigade. He remembers the training well.

"In those days, basic training ran over a weekend. It was pretty full on and I remember getting a telling off for dragging my hose. I soon learned the right way to do it!", he said.

Shane Davidson, Senior Station Officer, remembers having to wait years to get on the training course.

"Back then there was a waiting list and it took me three years to get to the head of the queue. I'd been part of Search and Rescue and was looking for something more challenging. I joined the Methven Brigade and never looked back," he said.

All three agree the camaraderie is a big part of why they've been volunteer firefighters for 25 years. Johnny Shannon, firefighter, says the connection and support is vital.

"You have to have each other's backs. We attend a lot of accidents, so it's good to get back to the station and have a yarn with your mates. Everybody looks after everyone these days. When you need help, you get help," said Johnny.

All three are looking forward to 'a bit of a do' once COVID-19 restrictions allow, when the brigade, friends and family will get together and celebrate their 25 years' service together at Methven.

OUR FLEET TEAM DRIVES NEW BUILD PROJECTS

Fire and Emergency has a total of 1,277 fire trucks and specialist response vehicles across the country, responding to more than 80,000 emergencies a year.

National Fleet Manager, Mike Moran, says we're constantly monitoring new technologies, international practices and making enhancements to ensure we have the most suitable trucks.

"Since Fire and Emergency was formed, we have delivered 176 new fire appliances across the country. This includes 95 Type 1, 2 and 3 fire trucks, 30 water tankers, 48 rural fire trucks, two hose layer trucks and a USAR truck."

The Fleet team is working on several new build projects and John Allardyce, Manager National Programmes and Standards, says there is a lot of work involved.

"We work with internal teams, firefighters and suppliers and conduct all the QA testing to ensure our vehicles are built to the highest possible standards.

"We're here to ensure our firefighters have well-designed, well-maintained appliances that are turned out whenever they're needed, do the job well and return our people home safely."

We also have two projects underway to purchase new Type 3, and heavy aerial appliances.

The next generation Type 3 Appliance Acquisition Project has selected two manufacturers – Emergency One (based in Scotland) and Angloco (based in Yorkshire, England) – to build two trial appliances each (Pump and PRT). The project is currently working with the two suppliers to confirm the final designs of their trial trucks which will be based on a Scania P360 cab and chassis.

Barry Fox, Assistant Area Manager, Auckland City and Working Group Chairperson says we expect delivery within 12-14 months of orders being placed, followed by an acceptance testing and operational trialling period of 10-12 months.

"We want these Type 3s to be fit for purpose, comfortable, safe and flexible to meet the changing demands of our industry. They'll be a modern-day fire appliance to help our modern-day workforce meet the challenges they face."

We're also working on purchasing four new heavy aerial appliances. We have four Type 5/6 aerial appliances that will reach their planned end of service life in 2022 and 2023 and will need to be replaced. End of service life for an aerial appliance is 25 years which determines the planned life cycle replacement programme.

The Aerial Appliance Procurement Project is taking a general 'like for like' approach to the aerial capability being purchased to that which currently exists within the heavy aerial fleet. This will enable us to provide fit for purpose capability and modern technology with improved safety system opportunities.

New appliance production updates

Appliance	Delivered	In Production
Water tanks	33 between June 2019 and December 2020	10
Rural double cabs	37 between April 2019 and July 2021	7
Type 1	170 between October 2008 and now (still building)	17
Type 2	120 delivered between October 2010 and now (still building)	6





FIRE AND EMERGENCY USAR FIRST RESPONDER COURSE

We are rolling out an Urban Search and Rescue (USAR) First Responder course for our isolated communities.

This involves training our people in isolated places to immediately respond following a sudden disaster until further resources arrive.

National and International Response Manager Ian Duncan says New Zealand's landscape means that, following a natural disaster, some communities could be isolated from specialist rescue equipment and specialised personnel for several hours, and potentially days.

"New Zealand sits in the world's most vulnerable region to natural disasters. Between 2003 – 2013, 62.5% of people killed by natural disasters lived in the Asia-Pacific region. There is also a global increase in both the frequency and severity of natural disasters."

Those who complete the course will be able to:

- assess the nature and scale of the emergency and initiate order as soon as possible
- provide search and rescue in the initial stages of the emergency
- provide information to domestic decision-makers about the event

- request the appropriate resources to successfully complete the rescue phase
- provide leadership and direction to the local community.

The course is a mixture of classroom sessions, learning practical skills, realistic scenarios for the responders to practise what they have learned, and a debrief, with training provided by our USAR teams.

Ian says a pilot of the course has been run in Greymouth, Queenstown and Dannevirke.

"This allowed us to work out what went well and where we could make changes. Regions and Districts will determine the brigades and stations that would benefit the most from the course through an assessment of their most at-risk communities. The assessment will consider earthquake and tsunami risk, and how cut off these communities would be in an emergency.

"The rollout for the course will be determined by Regions themselves on a risk basis. Any brigades interested should go through your Area/District management."



WELCOME TO NEW BOARD CHAIR – REBECCA KEOGHAN

In early July, the Minister of Internal Affairs, Hon. Jan Tinetti announced Rebecca Keoghan as Fire and Emergency's new Board Chair.

Rebecca has been Fire and Emergency's Deputy Chair since June 2019.

"I am honoured and humbled to be appointed Chair of the Fire and Emergency Board and to follow in the distinguished footsteps of the Hon Paul Swain.

"I'm passionate and excited about leading the people of Fire and Emergency – I have huge admiration for the countless and selfless hours our people give to keep our communities and New Zealand safe.

"A massive thank you to the Hon Paul Swain for his extensive leadership as the outgoing Chair, for his deep institutional knowledge and passion for relationship management that he used to steer the Fire and Emergency waka for the last 9 years."

Rebecca has expertise in the areas of health and safety, risk management and culture change. She was awarded the New Zealand Order of Merit for services to business and named the 2016 Dairy Woman of the Year.

Rebecca also welcomes Mary-Anne Macleod and Danny Tuato'o to the Fire and Emergency New Zealand Board.

Tauranga-based professional director, Mary-Anne, holds appointments on several government and private boards. She has extensive experience in governance as well as in local and central government.

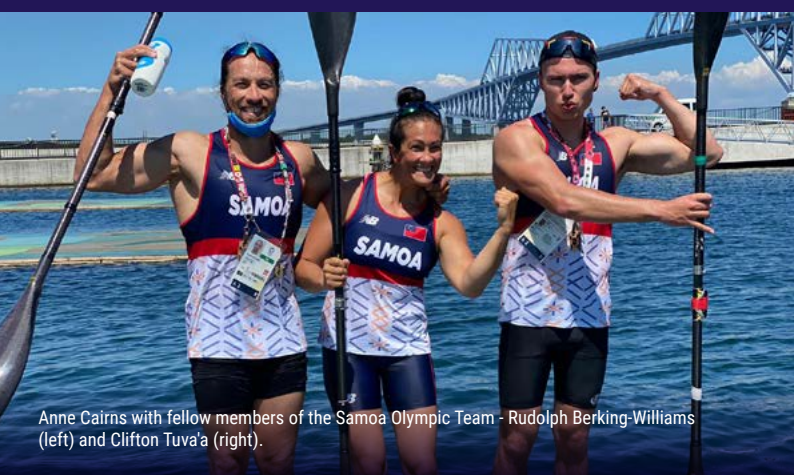
Danny is currently a partner at Marsden Woods Inskip Smith, providing specialist property and commercial law advice in the Northland region. He has significant experience working with Māori entities and holds appointments on both government and private boards.

COVID-19 VACCINE UPDATE

Thank you to everyone who has taken up COVID-19 vaccinations through the hubs operated by MedPro (at the locations shown below), or through the Ministry of Health process.

If you haven't yet booked in for your COVID-19 vaccination we strongly encourage you to do so - visit www.bookmyvaccine.org.nz or call **0800 28 29 26**.





Anne Cairns with fellow members of the Samoa Olympic Team - Rudolph Berking-Williams (left) and Clifton Tuva'a (right).



THE BENEFITS OF BALANCING TWO CAREERS

Anne Cairns juggles life as a world-class athlete and full-time firefighter. She recently made her second Olympic appearance in Tokyo, competing in the canoe sprint competition for Samoa.

The three-time world rafting champion began her sporting career as a 17-year-old, yet a career in firefighting came later in life, with a fellow paddler suggesting it when Anne wanted a job change.

"My best buddy is in the Police, and she was trying to sell that to me but, firefighting sounded more like my gig. The line of work and roster was a big drawcard as it allowed me to keep travelling and paddling, so I applied the very next week," says Anne.

Through firefighting, Anne was able to keep up the training required to compete at the highest level.

"Being a firefighter is a great career for being an athlete and has meant I can keep up a decent training load and being a paddler has helped significantly with the strength component of the job.

"Knowing the roster so far in advance means I can easily plan for events and training."

Her colleagues at Palmerston North station have always been supportive; during the Rio Olympics crew members wore Samoa Kayak Team T-shirts that Anne's sister made.

"They enjoy the ice cream shouts that come with some of the media coverage," laughs Anne.

Through sport, Anne has travelled the world meeting "awesome, interesting people", yet her day job can be just as inspiring.

"Structure fires are still pretty remarkable to me. My young self would never have envisaged I would be doing this as a job so it's still a bit surreal at times to think that this is my job!"

As for her time in Tokyo, despite negativity around the games going ahead in the media, Anne says the Japanese people made it an awesome event that she was grateful to be part of.

"It may not have been a "normal" Olympics but there were some pretty amazing sporting moments and efforts, and to have made it there and been a part of that is something that I will always look back proudly on.

"To have had such awesome support from workmates, family and friends all the way along this Olympics journey has been huge and I'm stoked they were all a part in some way of helping me be there."

FLOODING COULDN'T DAMPEN THE WESTPORT SPIRIT

It takes a lot to surprise Westport's Chief Fire Officer, but Alan Kennedy was astounded by the flooding that overwhelmed the town in July.

Evacuations continued into the night on Friday and resumed before dawn as rivers rose, drains were overloaded, and the rain kept falling.

"I've never seen anything like it," Alan says. "The places that were flooding had never flooded before."

On the Saturday, firefighters worked with the Westport Surf Rescue Team to evacuate residents. The task of moving people to safety went on all day but as night fell, it was too dangerous to have crews waist-deep in water in the dark. Civil Defence issued an emergency mobile alert instructing residents to shelter in place and firefighters were withdrawn from the streets.

Westport's brigade is 150 years old. Its 32 members are embedded in their community and everyone was touched by the emergency. Families of five members of the brigade sheltered at the fire station after evacuating their own homes.

One had their house red-stickered and four had flooded garages. Fire and Emergency's welfare support swung in behind to help.

Alan says the sight of fresh crews arriving to help was a

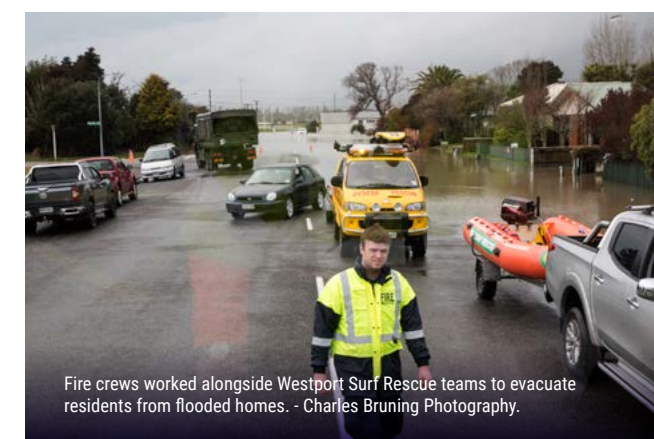
boost for everyone. "They had a great attitude and everyone in town appreciated it."

Christchurch Assistant Area Manager Steve Kennedy led the clean-up taskforce. He worked with Police and volunteer response teams to set up a system for tasking teams that made the best use of the capability available. Jobs ranged from lifting sodden carpets and removing ruined furniture to dewatering houses and pumping out service tunnels under the hospital – a task that took the Timaru and Christchurch crews a full day.

Alan Kennedy reckons firefighters helped over 100 householders with the awful job of throwing out everything that was contaminated by floodwater laced with sewage.

"People were putting a good face on things. Yet it's hard, particularly for the elderly, seeing all their possessions piled on the footpath to be taken to the dump.

"A couple of ex brigade members who were badly affected said "don't worry about me, go and help the people who really need it". And yet they had water through their homes themselves. It was pretty upsetting, but people got on with it like the coasters do."



Fire crews worked alongside Westport Surf Rescue teams to evacuate residents from flooded homes. - Charles Bruning Photography.



Crews cleaning up in Westport - Charles Bruning Photography.



The drone team spent several days making aerial inspections of damaged infrastructure around Westport



Crews got stuck in helping over 100 residents lift carpets sodden with floodwater - Charles Bruning Photography.

WORKING TOGETHER IN WINTER STORMS

Two "red" weather warnings in two months brought Te Ihu's firefighters out in force to help communities across the region this winter.

From evacuations and rescues to clean-up, inspections and – yes – even a major structure fire during the flooding, Fire and Emergency pulled out all the stops to deploy resources where they were needed.

In May, much of Canterbury was impacted by a storm that was well forecast but still caught out farmers, motorists and householders with its intensity. States of emergency were declared in three districts and our people played a key role supporting Civil Defence across the region.

In July's storm, the Buller District took the biggest hit with Westport receiving the lion's share of assistance and media attention, although the storm also cut a swathe across Nelson-Tasman and Marlborough before wreaking havoc in the lower North Island.

Southern and central communications centres dealt with hundreds of calls and dispatched crews to deal with flooding, lifting roofs, downed powerlines and countless stranded motorists over 72 hours.

USAR teams mobilised to Westport from Canterbury and the North Island to carry out rapid impact assessments. Fresh crews from brigades along the West Coast, Christchurch, Canterbury and Nelson rotated in and out of Westport to help with the clean-up. The specialist drone team inspected damaged infrastructure and Te Ihu's Regional Coordination Centre was fully activated for several days.

Several Fire and Emergency personnel deployed with the National Emergency Management Assistance Team (EMAT) with USAR providing logistical support.



EMAT members Aaron Waterreus (left) and Paul Manson with USAR team member Nick Fowler, providing logistical support to EMAT in Westport.



The Te Ihu Regional Coordination Centre was fully activated.



Fire and Emergency personnel filled a variety of roles in the Buller civil defence emergency operations centre, both for CDEM and Fire and Emergency.

QUICK THINKING SAVES A LIFE

It was expected to be a normal hunting expedition for Coromandel firefighter Mitch Savage.

On the morning of 13 June, during Mitch's return from a pig hunting trip, something caught his eye. When he was coming along Port Charles Road, he saw a truck down a bank.

It was then his firefighting instincts took over and he decided to check the vehicle and see if anyone was inside it. After scrambling down the bank, Mitch found the driver huddled in the backseat trying to keep warm.

"He was pretty banged up and cold as you'd imagine and I worked to extract him out of the vehicle," he says.

The driver told Mitch he crashed the vehicle about seven or eight hours earlier. At that point, the situation took a turn for the worse.

"He went into cardiac arrest."

Mitch then performed CPR on him and managed to bring him back. It was the first time he had managed to bring someone back after performing CPR.

"When his eyes came from the back of his head it was quite a surprise, pretty cool," Mitch says.

At that point, emergency services arrived and took the patient away to hospital.

Constable Angus Poole from Coromandel police said Mitch did a fantastic job.

"He was quick thinking. The driver could very well have died had Mitch not located him and helped, he's basically saved the guy's life."

Eastern Waikato Area Manager Mark Tinworth said the actions Mitch took were a great example of the hard work our people do every day to support our communities.

And the important part of the story, Mitch and his dad did get a pig.



GRADUATE FIREFIGHTER SHOWS GRIT AND CREATIVITY TO MEET CHALLENGES

It's an impressive achievement to make it onto our career firefighters training course, but one of our recent graduates had to overcome a significant challenge just to get there, and a possibly bigger challenge on the day he graduated.

Ihakara Masoe had wanted to be a firefighter for two and a half years and so he put everything he had into losing weight and raising his fitness levels. By the time he arrived at the National Training Centre in April, he had lost a staggering 60 kilos and was fighting fit.

"It was tough, but so amazing to see all the hard work had paid off," said Ihakara. "I learned so many new skills on the course and even discovered a few I didn't know I had!"

"I've always wanted to work closely with my community and being a firefighter allows me to do that."

Ihakara formed strong friendships with his fellow recruits and they all pitched in when he floated the ambitious idea of proposing to his partner on graduation day.

"Graduation day is for all of us, but they were right into it. We wrote a proposal message on an old salvage sheet and hung it over the side of a building with duct tape. I dropped to my knee and proposed, and Bailey said 'yes'. It was an unforgettable experience with both our families there," he said.

Ihakara is now stationed at Kilbirnie, Wellington and he and Bailey welcomed their first-born son in July.

WENDIE HARVEY – BOARD PROFILE

Born and bred in the vibrant rural community of Dannevirke, Wendie Harvey's appreciation for the important role of emergency services began at an early age.

"My dad was involved with the local volunteer fire brigade. Not as a firefighter though; he was a panel beater and would be called on to help at vehicle accidents. I have vivid memories of staying awake at night until he came home. I didn't understand why I wasn't allowed to go with him until I was much older, but I do recall being relieved when I knew he was back home.

"That family perspective is what guides many of the decisions I make today. It is really important to me that the Board makes sure Fire and Emergency provides all the resources people need; the kit and the skills to keep safe and be the best they can be."

After stints away to study law at Victoria University in Wellington and a few years overseas, Wendie returned to the Hawke's Bay.

"I now live just down the road from Bay View Volunteer Fire Brigade, near a very busy stretch of State Highway 2. I'm constantly reminded about the number of times Fire and Emergency crews are called out, and often to accidents rather than fires; they all bring so much professionalism and humanity to the job."

People have been a central focus of Wendie's career, which has included roles specialising in employment law, human resources, health and safety, and change management. She says that background has given her a really strong foundation for the governance roles she now holds.

Wendie was first appointed to the Fire and Emergency Board in July 2018 and reappointed for three years in June 2021.

During her time on the Fire and Emergency Board, highlights have included launching our National Strategy, the Coral Shaw review, and our organisation's focus on health and safety management.

"The National Strategy launch was huge because it gave clarity to Fire and Emergency's long-term strategic direction. It gave the Board the confidence to question everything we do: Is this helping to get where we need to? If not, why not?"

"I really admired the organisation's courage to bring in Coral Shaw to conduct her independent review. What stands out to me is the commitment to break down and address the issues, to see what needs to change and then focus on delivering outcomes.

"I am also very encouraged by Fire and Emergency's focus on health and safety. By challenging what we were doing, we now have better systems in place and a culture of constant improvement."

Wendie is excited by what the future has in store for Fire and Emergency.

"The changing environment holds both opportunities and risks that may not have been fully understood when the founding legislation was drafted – for example COVID-19, the extent of climate change, and housing needs."

What doesn't change though, says Wendie, is the importance of reflecting and working closely with the communities we work in.



ONE YEAR OF LOCAL ADVISORY COMMITTEES

In June, we marked one year since our first seven Local Advisory Committees (LACs) were established.

Over the past year, our LACs have been focused on building community connections and providing advice to inform our planning. This will help us to better support the very communities we serve every day.

"It's been fantastic to see our LACs building relationships with local leaders. Already, their insights in local districts have been invaluable. We have seen them influence the ways we work with communities to reduce risk and increase preparedness," says National Manager, LACs, Lucy Chamberlain.

"On the West Coast for example, the LAC has engaged with hapū to strengthen our relationship with iwi. In Northland the LAC has worked with small isolated communities to help us better understand how we can support them.

"LACs have supported district initiatives like the upcoming Home Safety Fire Visit project on the Chatham Islands and the marae preparedness programme in Tairāwhiti. Their community insights and connections have helped us engage with these communities and share information more effectively," says Lucy.



MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS WEEK

Let's all take time to kōrero

Responding to emergencies can be as psychologically demanding as it is physically. Looking after your mental health and that of your crew is important, and you should know where to go if you need support.

We have a number of psychological support options available for our people and their families:

- **Peer Support** – access via ComCen or through your local peer support team member
- **Counselling** – call Vitae on 0508 664 981 or fill out the counselling referral form at vitae.co.nz
- **Specialist support** – contact your region Safety, Health and Wellbeing Advisor or Welfare Officer
- **Unions and Associations** – contact your local union representative
- **GP and other external options** – contact your GP directly.

Visit the wellbeing support page on the Portal for more information.

HE TĪMATANGA KŌRERO - BROADENING OUR KNOWLEDGE OF MĀORI CULTURE

Learning about a culture different to the one you grew up with can seem daunting, particularly if you don't know where to start. That's why we have produced He Tīmatanga Kōrero, an illustrated guide aimed at improving our knowledge of Māori culture.

"This is an excellent resource to start broadening our understanding of this important aspect of what will become part of our everyday culture within Fire and Emergency" Ross Fothergill, Te Ūpoko Training Co-ordinator.

One fun and informative aspect of He Tīmatanga Kōrero is a questionnaire allowing you to test yourself after reading the guide. Once passed, you'll receive a wearable pin called Te Tohu, which not only shows your progression in cultural education but also your support for Fire and Emergency's commitment to working with Māori as tangata whenua.

Within the first five weeks of releasing He Tīmatanga Kōreo, over 500 people have become eligible to wear Te Tohu.

"The uptake has been humbling and we are amazed by the positive response right across the organisation," says Isaia Piho, Programme Manager Hiwa-i-te-rangi.

Hamilton City Station firefighter Jamie Marshall-Carter says the guide has improved his knowledge of Māori culture and understanding the story of the past.

"This is a great step forward in normalising te reo Māori within Fire and Emergency," he said.

Search He Tīmatanga Kōrero on the Portal to begin your learning journey. Or via the Hiwa-i-te-rangi page which can be accessed through the Volunteer Hub.



SNIPPETS FROM THE REGIONS

Why do cows have hooves instead of feet? Because they lactose. 🐮🧀 Crews from Dunsandel and Burnham were called out in early August to assist a farmer and a vet to remove a cow from the centre of the milking platform. We can report that the cow is now resting up while she recovers from her little adventure.



A massive congratulations to Mon and Stu, Piha Volunteer Fire Brigade's latest fully-fledged firefighters. It's a great achievement that reflects the high level of commitment, grit and determination they have shown over many months to train and prepare.



In late July, father and daughter, Paul and Tai from Matata's Volunteer Fire Brigade both completed courses at the National Training Centre. Tai was completing her Senior Firefighter course, while Paul was on an Executive Officers course. Volunteering is awesome but can be even more rewarding when doing it as a family.



These Invercargill based firefighters from Kingswell's Red Watch put this "Stay Safe" message together as we moved into Alert Level 3 and struck a pose to reinforce the importance of social distancing.



It was an awesome risk reduction effort when the majority of Te Puke Volunteer Fire Brigade installed 200 smoke detectors with 10-year battery life in the area on the outskirts of Te Puke. Over the years they've attended a number of fires in the area, fortunately so far without loss of life and want to keep it that way.



Counties Manukau Station Officer Roy Williams and Fire Risk Management Officer Emma Goldsworthy recently visited Great Barrier Island to connect with this independent and innovative community, building relationships and promoting fire safety in both English and te reo Māori.



Press their button to make sure
they're ready to protect you



FIRE GETS REAL
FAST