



WELFARE NEWS

June 2008

www.firefighters.org.nz


thesecc@firefighters.org.nz

2008 Board Election Results

Darryl Johnston
Region 1



Noel Brock
Region 3



Congratulations to
Darryl Johnston
re-elected to Region 1
and
Noel Brock re-elected
to Region 3



Our condolences to
Derek's wife, Millie
and daughters,
Tiffany and Kayla

WELFARE SOCIETY AGM

Sept. 24, 13.30 hours...
at Tauranga, Mt Station

NOTICE GIVEN

A Change
to Welfare Society
Rules

BOARD ELECTIONS 2008

Welfare Board Election Process

The board is composed of a chairman and 6 regional representatives, one representative from each of the 6 regions of the country. An elected term is for 4 years. Members from two regions at a time stand for election. The elections are staggered over 4 years to maintain the continuity of the board. This year the representatives for Region 1 and 3 were up for election. Both standing members Darryl Johnston from Region 1, and Noel Brock from region 3 stood unopposed and were re-elected to another 4 year term. In 2009, the chairman of the board comes up for election.

The Six Regions - Sitting Members - Time to Serve



Darryl Johnston
2012



Kevin Congdon
2011



Noel Brock
2012



Erroll Tapiki
2010



Kevin Crozier
2011



Owen Williams
2010



Keith Nixon
2009

Chairman of the Board
Life Member
Associated with the
Welfare Society from
its beginning

See the back of this newsletter for further information on the board representative from your area, what their watch is and a phone number for contacting each of them.

Your Welfare Society can assist or help you only if you make contact with your Welfare Society Station Representative, (WSSR) your regional representative, or alternatively the staff at the Welfare Office.

Check the website to review benefits available to members.

WELFARE MEMBER LOST IN LINE OF DUTY

DEREK LOVELL-THE CREWS OF THE HAMILTON BRIGADE

On April 5, Member Derek Lovell was killed by an explosion when Hamilton's Red Watch turned out to a fire alarm at Icepack's coolstore in Tamahere. The Welfare Society offers its condolences to his wife, Millie, and daughters Tiffany and Kayla.

Seven other fire-fighters were also injured, Denis Wells, Adrian Brown, Merv Neil, David Beanland, Alvin Walker, Brian Halford and Cameron Grylls. Although at the time only Denis and Adrian were members, most have joined up since, as during the crisis, all injured firefighters and their families, members and nonmembers alike were treated by the Welfare Society in whatever way was needed. This was due to the enormity of the situation. We dealt to everyone the same and using the motto 'Firefighters helping Firefighters' helped with fixing what needed to be fixed at the time and worrying about the problems later.

We offer our thoughts and sadness to those injured and hope for a speedy recovery for all.



Brian Thompson

The Welfare Society Station Representative, Brian Thompson, was at home at the time of the incident, and started trying to get information from the station after seeing the cloud of smoke, but because everyone was utilised at the scene, communication and personnel back at HQ was zero. It was only after Kevin Congdon rang from Taupo, hearing it while on duty at the Station he alerted Brian and the Welfare Society immediately swung into action. A room was set up and phones hit hard to alert all wives and families to the situation tell them which firefighters were involved, and what was happening. A lot of the wives at that stage did not even know there had been an explosion, Getting the information out as soon as possible was crucial in easing anxiety, as one wife had found out only after the hospital had rung her:

Brian, Kevin (Region 2 Rep) and Darryl Johnston (Region 1 Rep) organised the resources of the Welfare Society to be of immediate assistance to the families of the firefighters hurt in the incident. Besides moral support at the hospital and in their homes, they also offered financial assistance and help with transport costs for the families to be with their loved ones. Brian, Kevin and Darryl were assisted later by Erroll Tapiki, (Region 4 Rep) and Keith Nixon, (Chairman) from Lower Hutt. Their presence helped ease the pressure on Brian, Kevin and Darryl.

This had been a huge task to sort out, as there was no written plan on how to cope with such complex issues such as dealing with families, media, the public and organising a funeral for a fallen firefighter all at the same time.

Through this tragic incident, The Firefighters Welfare Society, The Hamilton Brigade and The New Zealand Fire Service have all learnt a lot about dealing with people, trauma, and emotions but through it all have found the brotherhood strong and alive.

The public response was overwhelming, a real acknowledgement of the dangers the Fire service deals with every day.

The firefighters of Hamilton wish to thank all who rang, stood along side them and their injured mates sent well wishes, e-mails, donations and help in so many ways. It has been a humbling experience to be part of this sad episode, and one which we all, as firefighters around the country, can be proud to stand up and say we are all part of the same big family.

The Welfare Society would like to thank the members of the Hamilton Brigade who welcomed them into their Station in such sad times and made them feel part of the team which made our part of the job that much easier.

A NNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The New Zealand Firefighters Welfare Society

AGM

**will be held on Wednesday, September 24
at 13.30 hours in Tauranga at the Mount Station**

AGENDA

Apologies
Minutes of 2007 AGM
Annual Accounts
Secretary's Report
Chairman's Address
Rule Change
Appointment of Auditor
General Business

**At the conclusion of the AGM we cordially invite
you to have light refreshments with us.**

RULE CHANGE (*Welfare Society Rule Book 2002*)

Current Rule:

5 MEMBERSHIP

- (a) A person may be admitted to active membership of the Society if that person is an employee of the NZFS, or has had a close association with the NZFS and by reason of such association is approved to be admitted as a member by the Board;

Proposed Change:

5 MEMBERSHIP

- (a) A person may be admitted to active membership of the Society if that person has a close association with the NZFS and by reason of that association is approved to be admitted as a member by the Board;

Background Reason for Rule Book Change

The current rule is biased toward paid employees. The proposed change to the rule removes the phrase, "is an employee of the NZFS". This proposed change better highlights the second part of the current membership rule, that those who belong to a group closely associated with the NZFS, if approved by a member of the board, can be a member of the Welfare Society. The board asks the membership to support and approve this change to the membership rule, because it reflects more accurately the reality of today's membership mix.

Reminder

HEALTHCARE 99 AGM
June 23, 2008
1st Floor Avalon Business Centre
Avalon Welfare Offices
45 Percy Cameron St
1100 hours,
followed by a light lunch

Lost & Found

Found in the Taupo Holiday home a colour photo of a young girl taken on a mottled blue background, dressed in a pink jersey.

To claim, contact
The Welfare Office

NUMBERS FOR BOARD MEMBERS AND OTHER AGENCIES

Healthcare 99 Mutual Fund

Owned by Healthcare 99 members
Provides Medical & Hospital Benefits
For more information contact
the Society's Office on 0800 OK FIRE
0800 653 473

General Insurance/Income Protection/ Life Insurance

For house, contents, cars, boats and caravans,
income protection and life insurance.
Members receive good value for their dollar.
Contact Aon NZ Limited 0800 50 51 52

Discount Travel Insurance

Competitive fares for members
Ring Colin Perry (04) 238 1665
Fax (04) 238 1666

Investment Advice

Contact Spicers 0800 347 387

AUSTRALIAN HOLIDAY

The following establishments offer our members
discounted rates. Check our web page for further
information - ring them direct for reservations
and prices.

Surfers Paradise

Beach Haven Holiday Apts	0061 75570 3888
Villa de la Mer Apartments	0061 75592 6644
Canes Court Holiday Apts	0061 75538 1288
Cascade Gardens	0061 75592 0567
Le Lavandou Holiday Apts	0061 75539 0244
Oriana Holiday Apts	0061 75538 0544
Old Burleigh Court Apts	0016 75570 3888

Sunshine Coast

Beachcomber Peregrin Beach	0061 75448 1306
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Gold Coast

Oceanside Cove Holiday Apts	0061 75520 0040
Diamond Cove Resort	0061 75572 2277

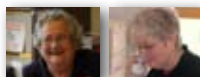
RECIPROCAL RIGHTS

Remember we have reciprocal rights with
The Police Welfare Fund &
The Army Central Welfare Fund
we can use all of their holiday homes.

Police	0800 500 122
Army	0800 111 823

WELFARE SOCIETY

Office



Karen Trish

(04) 567 1768
0800 OK FIRE
0800 653 473

thesec@firefighters.org.nz

BOARD MEMBERS & OFFICERS



Chairman

Keith Nixon
Cell 027 24 80 102
Home (04) 563 6507
Lower Hutt

Green Watch



Secretary

Darrel Surman
Cell 021 685 010
Home (04) 527 9429

Region 1



Auckland, North
Cell 027 4502 025
Home (09) 817 7275
Work (09) 836 2716

Blue Watch

Region 2



Hamilton, Taupo...
Home (07) 378 3072
Work (07) 378 4110

Blue Watch

Region 3



HB, Taranaki, Man...
Cell 027 449 8180
Home (06) 844 7702
Work (06) 834 4245

Black Watch

Region 4



Wgtn, Wairarapa
Cell 027 286 6194
Work (04) 577 8380

Green Watch

Region 5



Waitaki River No
Cell 021 149 2925
Home (03) 332 0209
Work (03) 384 3746

Brown Watch

Region 6



Waitaki River So
Cell 027 446 8435
Home (03) 489 6114
Work (03) 467 7553

Blue Watch