



# WELFARE NEWS

## March 2009

[www.firefighters.org.nz](http://www.firefighters.org.nz)

[thesecc@firefighters.org.nz](mailto:thesecc@firefighters.org.nz)

### Election for Chairman Welfare Society

Nominations close  
March 31, 2009 3pm

### Changes to Benefits

Counselling  
Travel Assistance

### Sign of the Times



## H healthcare 99



Have you checked out lately what Healthcare 99 offers you and your dependants. Comparing apples with apples you won't find a better deal. This is a mutual health fund run by firefighters for firefighters. Just over \$800,000 in benefits were paid out last year. The fund is safe and very secure with nearly a year's worth of funds held in reserve.

Check out our website, [www.firefighters.org.nz](http://www.firefighters.org.nz) or ring the office 08000 OK FIRE for a Healthcare 99 brochure to be posted to you. Or better yet, come along to the Healthcare 99 AGM to check it out and get answers to all your questions. (See enclosed brochure)

# **C**hanges to Benefits

## **Counselling**

Formerly this benefit was known as "Relationship Counselling." It has now been broadened to include members, their partner and dependent children who may require counselling.

## **Travel Assistance**

This benefit may be claimed to assist with travelling costs when the member or his/hers dependants are required to travel over 150km to attend out of town medical appointments. This benefit has been increased from 15 cents a km to 30 cents a km up to a maximum of \$100.00 per claim and up to \$250.00 in any one year.

# **S**ign of the Times

## **Contribution Rate**

In 1991 the member contribution rate to the New Zealand Fire Fighters Welfare Society was set at \$2.50 a week or \$130 dollars a year. There has been no increase in the past 17 years. Even though inflation has been below 3% for most of those years, still the value of the member contribution has been eroded over time by at least 30%. The cost of power, postage, benefits and administration has all increased as well. Interest income from savings accounts such as The Disaster Fund are showing significant decreases. Savings that could be made in this year's budget were identified by the Board in the February Board meeting.

The Board also decided to set up a day long meeting on March 23 made up of board members, trustees, Welfare Society Station Representatives and other interested parties to work toward a business plan for the next 5 years. The Welfare Society Board is seeking to brain storm for ideas and procedures that will provide the biggest bang for a member's contribution buck. Any member who wishes to offer ideas for new benefits, or suggestions as to what you as a member wish your Welfare Society to look like in the coming years should put those ideas forward for the March 23 meeting. Since this will be an ongoing process over the next few months your suggestions are welcome even after March 23.

The New Zealand Firefighters Credit Union offers solid financial services for Firefighters and their Families. Join up today.



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# ELECTION

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## NZFF WELFARE SOCIETY **CHAIRMAN**

The Welfare Society Board is currently composed of a chairman and six board members who represent members from one of the six sections of the country.

Each position holds office for a period of four years. Board members are elected by members from the area which they represent. The Chairman is elected by the membership at large.

**We hereby give notice and call for nominations  
for the position of Chairman.**

Nominations must be made on the appropriate form signed by a proposer, a seconder, both of whom must be financial members.

The nominee must also sign the form.

Nominees please include a brief CV and photo.

The Chairman may be nominated and seconded by members located anywhere in the country.

The vote for Chairman is country wide.

NB: Nomination forms are available to download from our website

[www.firefighters.org.nz](http://www.firefighters.org.nz)

or, ring the office 0800 OK FIRE to have a nomination form posted.

Nominations close with the returning officer at 3pm March 31, 2009 and should be posted to:

**The Returning Officer  
Private Bag 31 999  
Lower Hutt**

## 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	0061 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

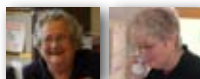
## RECIPROCAL RIGHTS

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

PB 31999, Lower Hutt 5040

## BOARD MEMBERS & OFFICERS



### Chairman

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



### Secretary

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

### Region 1



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

Blue Watch

### Region 2



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

Blue Watch

### Region 3



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

Black Watch

### Region 4



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

Green Watch

### Region 5



Waitaki River No  
 Cell Kevin Crozier  
 021 149 2925  
 Home (03) 328 8911  
 Work (03) 384 3746

Brown Watch

### Region 6



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

Blue Watch