



December 2013

www.firefighters.org.nz

thesecc@firefighters.org.nz

Office Closure Christmas 2013/2014



Office Closes

1500 hours Friday December 20, 2013



Office Reopens

0900 Monday January 13, 2014



UFBA Conference 2013



Nov 8-10

Welfare Team

Amanda Smith

Noel Brock

Keith Nixon

Malcolm Langdon

Nelson Face-lift

Thanks to Steve Shackleton and his crew: Neal Jones, Darren Shackleton, Bob Hellyer, Grant Frazer, Graeme Kurth, Max Milne, Kevin Douglas, Jaryd Wilson, Ross Pitcher, and Rick Finlayson.

On-Line Booking

Coming in 2014

24/7 booking for holiday homes.

Smart App

Project for 2014

The development of a smart App for iPhone

Reminders

- care deposits are gone
- Healthcare AGM June 26
- new look web site 2013
- 30 day rule enforced



Office Closure for Christmas



The Office will be closed from 1500 hours Friday 20th of December and will reopen 0900 hours Monday 13th of January 2014.

For urgent matters please contact your local area representative, you can find their details on the back of this news letter or by visiting our web site www.firefighters.org.nz

From the Office Team we would like to wish all our members and their families a Happy Christmas and a Prosperous New Year.



FBA Conference 2013 - Auckland

Each year the NZFF Welfare Society maintains a recruitment stand at the UFBA Conference. This year the conference was held at the Rendevous Grand Hotel in Auckland. The stand was manned from 0800-1700 Friday and Saturday and from 0830 to 1215 on Sunday. Besides signing up new members, dates were arranged for further presentations to be made at individual brigades around the country. The Society has a scheme whereby entire brigades can join.



Standing: Amanda Smith,
left to right: Noel Brock, Keith Nixon and Malcolm Langdon.

Nelson Holiday Home Face-lift

Steve Shackleton has been heading up a painting bee for the Nelson Holiday home.

“Had five dudes turn up yesterday and we finished the house with only a little bit on the garage to complete which I’ll do today or tomorrow depending on the weather. The front fence looked a little shabby so I went to Mega to get the paint for it but they didn’t have the colour or couldn’t match it in a ten litres. Its a Guthrie Bowron make so I rang them and got a similar colour, you can’t tell the difference. It was the end of a line so they let me have it for 99 bucks. So the boys did the front fence two coats and the side fence down the driveway which was the same colour. Two coats again. The rest of us did the kitchen ceiling and walls with two coats. We had a few beers and that was that.”

The next time you stay in Nelson think of the good work done by:
Neal Jones, Darren Shackleton, Bob Hellyer, Grant Fraser, Graem Kurth, Max Milne, Kevin Douglas, Jaryd Wilson, Ross Pitcher, Rick Finlayson.

Our thanks to all.



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oming in 2014

On-Line Booking - Holiday/Convalescent Homes

On-line booking of holiday/convalescent homes will be possible during 2014. The rising rates of insurances for properties after the Christchurch earthquake forced us to look at the cost of maintaining the holiday homes. Insurance coverage for them increases somewhat dramatically this coming year. The plan has always been to keep the homes up to a high standard and offer them to members at the cheapest possible rate. Even though some members might find it hard to get into a holiday home, the reality is the overall occupancy rate for all 6 homes is at 52%. That means a lot of income to head off the rising costs of insurance, maintenance and mortgage fees is sitting there unused. A system like online booking should help make it easier for members to book into a holiday home even while on the road. Office hour access only and the time for office staff to do the booking process being cut from the process should certainly help increase the chance for a higher occupancy rate.

However, there are some curves and roundabout associated with this change in policy. 24-7 access by members who can plan their holidays up to a year out and obtain perhaps cheaper airfares is definitely an advantage. Being on the road and being able to check on availability of a nearby home is another plus for on-line booking. A casualty will be balloting. However balloting in fact may have been one of the biggest causes for keeping the occupancy rate so low.

Other changes will be cancellation fees. It is obvious that bookings that are not used at the last minute will be a cause of lost revenue. Therefore, if on-line booking is to be successful in upping the occupancy rate and thereby keeping the price of the rental at \$65.00 a night., there must be a way to control what for a better word would be, "strategic" booking. And that tool would be the use of cancellation fees. If a member wishes to cancel any allocated period of occupancy such cancellation must be notified in writing immediately to the Society. Where less than 28 days notice is given, unless there are adequate reasons provided to justify otherwise, the payment of the rental in question may not be refunded. The decision will be final. There will be a 50% refund for a cancellation from 29 to 56 days out from the rental period. Any other cancellation will attract a \$25.00 administration fee. Everyone realises that sometimes there are forces outside our control that will cause us to cancel holiday bookings. Reasons cited for the cancellation of a booking will be taken into account when determining if a 50% or 100% return of funds will occur.

Credit card bookings will be done on a secure site and therefore ought to be as safe as internet transactions can be. However for those members who do not have a credit card or do not wish to use one on the internet, they may still contact the office who will do the bookings for them.

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Project for 2014

Smart Phone App

There is a definite market trend away from desktop and laptop computers to tablets, iPads and smart phones. More and more people are using these devices to communicate with each other, to surf the web for information, to make plane reservations and even book holidays. These mobile devices are available 24/7. Paid firefighters have easy access to desktop computers during working hours. Volunteer firefighters do not have the same easy access and so rely more on other portable devices which they may own. Add to the mix the addition of on-line booking for holiday homes and the case for a Welfare Society App for mobile devices becomes credible. Being able to book a holiday home from your phone or iPad adds a great deal of flexibility to this process and should have a positive effect on the occupancy rate for the holiday homes. For these reasons, the Board of the NZFF Welfare Society is considering such a project in 2014.

Features of a smart phone App

The obvious features on a App would be on-line booking, easy access to a shift calendar, ability for the office to advise members of special offers, holiday home free dates, publicise AGM meeting dates and times. Members may think of other features they would like to have on such an application. If so please let us know of your ideas.

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Reminders

Care Deposits

Welfare Society members no longer are required to make a care deposit before renting a holiday home.

Welfare Web Site

Any form you need to download or print off can be found under the "Members" tab.
www.firefighters.org.nz

Healthcare 99 - 30 Day Rule

The 30 day rule is being rigidly enforced. Claims need to be sent in within 30 days of the event one is claiming for.

facebook

Don't forget to visit us on facebook.

You can find us at "The New Zealand Firefighters Welfare Society"



WELFARE SOCIETY OFFICE



Amanda



Trish

(04) 567 1768
0800 OK FIRE

web site



thesec@firefighters.org.nz

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, Travel Insurance,
Income Protection, Life Insurance

For house, contents, cars, boats and caravans, income protection, travel and life insurance.

Members receive good value for their dollar.

Contact Aon NZ 0800 50 51 52

Discount Travel Insurance

For competitive airfares and travel insurance
Ring Colin Perry (04) 238 1665
Fax (04) 238 1666

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

Cannes Court Holiday Apts 0061 75538 1288

Villas de la Mer Apartments 0061 75592 6644

Cascade Gardens 0061 75592 0567

Sunshine Coast

Beachcomber Peregian Beach 0061 75448 1339

www.beachcomberperegianbeach.com

Gold Coast

Beach Haven on Broadbeach 0061 75570 3888

www.bhaven.com.au

Le Lavandou Holiday Apts 0061 755390244

Oceanside Cove Holiday Apts 0061 75520 0040

www.oceansidecove.com

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

BOARD MEMBERS & OFFICERS



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Lower Hutt

Green Watch



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Region 3



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Black Watch

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Green Watch

Region 5



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Brown Watch

Region 6



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Blue Watch