

THE NEW ZEALAND

FIREFIGHTERS Welfare

SOCIETY
0800-65-3473 (OK FIRE)

WELFARE NEWS



December 2014

www.firefighters.org.nz

thesecc@firefighters.org.nz

Office Closure Christmas 2014/2015



Office Closes

1200 hours Tuesday
December 23, 2014

Office Reopens

0900 hours Monday
January 12, 2015

UFBA Conference 2014



Oct 31 - Nov 2

Welfare Team:

Malcolm Langdon
Keith Nixon
Noel Brock
Darryl Johnston

AGM - Auckland

- Wyatt Creech opened AGM and presented Life Membership awards to Ian Pickard, Brian Thompson and Steve Shackleton.
- AGM approved new rule changes
- AGM adjusted contribution rate

Holiday Home Update

Online booking

Tariff Increase



Reminders

- Jan 1, 2015 holiday homes \$75
- Apr 1, 2015 contribution rate \$4
- web site regularly updated
- 30 day rule enforced

Office Closure for Christmas



The Office will be closed from 1200 hours Tuesday 23rd of December and will reopen 0900 hours Monday 12th of January 2015.

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

The Office team wishes all our members and their families a Happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

UFBA Conference 2014 - Tauranga - Oct 31 - Nov 2

Each year the NZFF Welfare Society maintains a recruitment stand at the UFBA Conference. This year the conference was held at the Bay Arena in Tauranga. 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.



Malcolm Langdon, Keith Nixon, Noel Brock, Darryl Johnston



Check out Healthcare 99 low rates compared with other health care providers.

Go to our website

www.firefighters.org.nz

Auckland - 2014 AGM - September 10

Wyatt Creech opened the 2014 AGM. “The NZFFWS helps build the family sense among firefighters... thanks for inviting me along to the meeting.” It is important to support firefighters in a very dangerous job. The Fire Service is not funded by the government. The FS is funded by the levy on property. Because of the way Commercial properties pay their levy has become a concern. The FS has lost court cases because the Act is out of date. Civil emergencies and car accidents and the many recent activities the Fire Service are undertaking are not mandated under the Act. Hence it is very important to update the Act. This is the challenge for the Fire Service this year.



The members attending the AGM in Auckland on September 10 approved the following changes to the Rules of the NZFF Welfare Society.

The changes are:

1. Creation of a new category of membership called “Junior Member” (aged 16-18). The reason for this change is to accommodate the younger Volunteer members that are now joining the Fire Service.
 2. Change the term “Retired Member” to “Senior Member” and raise the age of retirement from 60 to 65. The reason for this change is many members continue working on after the age of 65. They are not retired so the term Senior Member better describes their situation. The creation of a new category called Senior Members will also allow members to receive the funeral benefit up to age 65. Previously this benefit ceased at the age of 60.
 3. These two changes necessitate a number of other word changes throughout the document to make reference to these two major rule changes consistent.
 4. Some typographical errors have also been corrected
 5. Removal of Schedule 2 and a change in 11(b) to “specified in the Board Policy”. The reason is to make it easier to update or change benefits in the future.
 6. Definitions of “Office Holder,” “Ordinary Member,” “Active Member,” “Financial Member,” “Junior Member,” “Senior Member” have been added to DEFINITIONS.
The “Retired Member” definition has been deleted.
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Life Membership Awards at the AGM

The New Zealand Firefighters Welfare Society Board has granted life membership to Steve Shackleton, Brian Thompson and Ian Pickard. These awards are given in recognition for over 20 years of service to the Welfare Society. Each of these life members has also performed a managerial role over the years either being a Regional Representative, a Trustee or Chairman of the Board. Wyatt Creech made the official presentation of Life Membership Plaques during the AGM.



Steve Shackleton, Brian Thompson, Ian Pickard



Currently Steve Shackleton maintains the Nelson holiday home. Brian Thompson and Ian Pickard are both Trustees. The Board of the Welfare Society thanks these members for their time and talent so selflessly donated over the years to promote, grow and maintain the society for the good of all the members. Our congratulations and heartfelt thanks go to Steve Shackleton, Brian Thompson and Ian Pickard.

New Contribution Rate Approved at the AGM

The members present at the AGM voted to increase the contribution rate by \$1.00 per week, that is from \$3.00 to \$4.00. Therefore, “Ordinary Member” and “Junior Member” contribution rates would go from \$156 a year to \$208 a year. The “Senior Member” contribution rate would go from \$78 a year to \$104 a year. The Society advertises its membership rates to be the price of a cup of coffee a week. Anyone would be hard pressed to find barista coffee for \$3.00 a cup. The AGM also voted to review this rate at the end of one year. These new contribution rates begin on April 1, 2015.

Some reasons for recommending a contribution rise at this time are:

- It has been a number of years since the last modest hike of \$0.50.
 - GST has gone up in the mean time
 - Insurances have gone up dramatically
 - The affect of the accumulated rise of inflation over the years
 - The need to adjust the low amount of some of the benefits i.e. eye glasses support, hearing aid support, baby benefit
 - The need to develop new and relevant benefits and to be able to pay for them
 - To purchase another holiday/convalescent home
 - Need to finance the addition of a marketing person and to pay for whatever additional initiatives that might arise from this project
 - The need to finance a proactive approach rather than remaining static
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Holiday/Convalescent Home Update

Online Booking

This seems to have been a successful venture. It has been in place since last March and there have been very few teething issues with the implementation. Prior to this web based system, the occupancy rate was at about 51%. The Board feels it needed a better return for such a sizable asset. The projections for the first year of usage is the occupancy rate will rise to about 67%. A rate of about 80% is the goal and certainly the current trend is upward. We would definitely like to add another holiday home and location to the portfolio which is currently six, two homes at Queenstown, one each at Nelson, Kapiti, Taupo and Whangamata.

Tariff Increase

From January 1, 2015, the daily usage of a holiday/convalescent home will be \$75.00. All the homes sleep 8 comfortably with the exception of Whangamata which sleeps 6. The rise in insurance, council and power rates have made it necessary to increase the fee. The Board reminds all members it sets fees not to make a profit on this benefit but to meet the costs of maintenance and sustain a reasonable rate of debt retirement. As these goals are reached, the aim is to purchase another home. So over time the holiday/convalescent home benefit gets bigger and better for all members.

Reminders

Holiday Home Fee

The tariff will be \$75 a night from January 1, 2015

Membership Contribution Rate

From April 1, 2015 the contribution rate will be \$4.00 a week

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 so claims need to be sent in within 30 days of the event for which one is claiming

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

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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 Peregrin Beach 0061 75448 1339

www.beachcomberperegrinbeach.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

Burleigh Esplanade Apts 0061 75535 0855

www.burleighesplanade.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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Green Watch



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Blue Watch

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Region 3



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Black Watch

Region 4



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Green Watch

Region 5



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Brown Watch

Region 6



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Blue Watch