

Contact Details

June 2017

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UPDATE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

As you will see from this newsletter I have been re-elected for another four years. I wish to thank the members for their belief in me and I can assure you that I will continue to strive to do my best for the Welfare Society and ensure that our members are well looked after.

Recently I attended the National Stakeholders Forum on behalf of the Firefighters Welfare Society to listen to further updates from the FENZ team.

The first of July doesn't seem that far off now, and before we know it, we will change over to the new Fire and Emergency New Zealand. Over the past few weeks the new identity and management structure has been released. Congratulations to Paul McGill (National Commander) Rhys Jones (Chief Executive) and Kevin O'Connor (National Manager Rural) on their appointments to the new Fire and Emergency NZ.



The new identity for Fire and Emergency NZ has also now been released. There have been a number of comments made on how people feel in regards to the identity. At this stage the Firefighters Welfare Society are not following suit and changing any logos. We are, however, looking at updating our website, and in the future we may look at our branding. This will ensure that we are up to date and easily recognised within our environment.



We are currently awaiting response from Fire and Emergency NZ in relation to a proposal that we have

submitted. We do not have a time-frame for this as yet. We have followed up with their board but due to a number of other issues they are dealing with we are in a waiting pattern. We do note that phase two of the FENZ blueprint has safety, health and wellbeing as a strategic priority. We see our organisation falling into this phase.

If you want to know more about our proposal please feel free to contact our secretary Darrel Surman at thesec@firefighters.org.nz. Or if you have any questions or concerns in general our lines are always open and we can be contacted via email at any time.

For a number of people we understand that the change on 1 July has been a stressful time and that some have suffered a lot of anxiety. Please remember that we do have a counselling benefit available, that you can call on, if you need someone to talk to. This is completely confidential and the Welfare will contribute towards the costs of such counselling with a counsellor of your choice. No one is ever alone and there is always someone to talk to and it is important that our firefighters realise that it is ok to ask for help when they need it.

On the second page of our newsletter there is contact details for Depression.org which is a great website full of resources.

CHAIRMAN RE-ELECTED



We have great pleasure in announcing that Mr Keith Nixon has been re-elected as Chairman of the New Zealand Firefighters Welfare Society for another four year term commencing 1 July 2017. There were no other nominations received for the position so no voting was required by the membership. Congratulations Keith and thanks for offering your talents and time to the Welfare Society for another four years.

HOLIDAY HOMES CONDITIONS OF OCCUPANCY

A reminder to all members that are using the holiday homes.

Check in times are 1.00pm. Entry prior to this time is not permitted unless it has been pre-approved with the office prior to your arrival. Even if you check on your phone app and see that the home was not booked the evening before it does not mean that members can go in early. When the houses are free it is a time when caretakers can take regular maintenance checks.

Check out times are 11.00am. Please ensure that you have cleaned the homes by 11.00am and have vacated the premises leaving them clean and tidy. The limited times between members checking out and others checking in is needed so that the homes can be checked over and any issues put right. Please respect these rules.

firefighters helping firefighters - awhi atu awhi mai

WELFARE SOCIETY FORMS

When submitting forms to the Welfare Society office it is vitally important that these are filled in correctly. If your form is not completed as it should be, this could mean delays in getting your claim processed and paid.

Any missing detail on our BAI forms may delay payment to you.

Incomplete Healthcare 99 forms may delay your payment or hold up your pre-approval.

If you need assistance when completing our forms please contact the office on 0800 OK FIRE (0800 65-3473). If your forms are completed correctly then the office can process them quickly and efficiently for you.

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to the following Welfare Society Members who have been awarded their 50 year medal or their gold star.

50 Year Medal
Russell Dickson



Gold Stars
Adrian Brown
Michael Lee
Danny Sharpe
Alex Troon
Alvan Walker



Depression and anxiety affects us all differently. We all face challenges to our mental health. Depression and anxiety change the way we think, feel and deal with tough times.

You are never alone. There are always places to turn. www.depression.org.nz or 0800 111 757

DID YOU KNOW WE HAVE AN APP

The NZ Firefighters Welfare Society has developed an app for smart-phones and tablets. With this app you can check availability and book online the Welfare Society's holiday homes. To access the holiday homes you must be a registered and current financial member of the New Zealand Firefighters Welfare Society. Bookings can be made one year out from the current date. This makes planning your holidays easier and convenient as it can be done at anytime of the day.



Other features of our app is the shift calendar. This helps members with their accommodation planning also.

We also have a live link to our regional representatives, if our members need to get in

touch with them they can find their contact details and dial them directly through our phone app.

To download this app, if you are a Apple user go to the App Store and search NZFFWS and install. If you are an android user then go to the Google Play Store and search up NZFFWS and open to install.

For those that already have our app installed on your smart-phone or tablet, we have just updated it so please check that you have the most up to date version. The updated version remembers your login ID and your password.

In the up to date version you will note the regional contacts have also been added plus we can now send you notifications. So if a popular holiday home becomes available we can notify you at the time and we can also keep you up to date with information. When installing the new app you will be prompted to turn on notifications, this can also be turned on or off in your settings.

HEALTHCARE 99 - AGM



HEALTHCARE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Thursday 29 June 2017

12.30pm

Avalon TV and Film Studios

Level One

41 Percy Cameron Street

AVALON

A light lunch will be provided from 12 noon with the AGM starting at 12.30pm.

If you are planning to attend the meeting can you please let Amanda Smith know in the office for catering purposes.

Amanda can be contacted Monday to Friday 9.00am to 3.00pm on

0800 65 34 73 or amanda@firefighters.org.nz

UPDATING YOUR NEXT OF KIN

If you need to update your Next of Kin or your Funeral Beneficiary, please advise the office in writing. The correct information is needed for the office, as legally, these are the people the Firefighters Welfare Society deal with if you pass away.

Please note that your next of Kin and Funeral Beneficiary do not necessarily need to be the same people.

If you wish to update your Next of Kin or Funeral Beneficiary please put the updated details in writing, either by email or in the post to the following contact details.

Email thesec@firefighters.org.nz

or post
NZ Firefighters Welfare
Private Bag 31999
Lower Hutt 5040

HOLIDAY HOME OCCUPANCY

A reminder to all members of the conditions of occupancy.

Only the following persons may occupy holiday/convalescent homes:

- Members together with spouse, family and/or friends
- Spouse together with family and/or friends

The member/spouse to whom the holiday home is allocated may not without prior approval of the Welfare Society allow other persons to stay overnight on the premises without a member being present.



We also have a strict no animals allowed policy. Animals are not permitted in any holidays homes or within the grounds. So please do not bring your pets with you and think you can tie them up out the back or leave them in the garage.

Our neighbours keep an eye on our homes and do let the office know if pets are brought to the homes.

If you are caught taking your pet to one of our homes then you will be invoiced for a full commercial clean of the property.

Other members may have allergies to animals and it is important that we respect everyone. We also understand that your pet is a part of your family but to others with allergies they can ruin their holidays.

Please respect our rules so that we can continue to offer holiday/convalescent homes to members.

Also please let us know if anything gets broken so we can replace it. The office realise that sometimes accidents happen.