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March 2017

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UPDATE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

As I sit here writing my update for this months newsletter I am distracted by the images that are coming through from Christchurch as the wild fires continue to burn causing mass destruction with residents losing their homes and valued possessions. My deepest sympathies go out to the family of the helicopter pilot who lost his life whilst fighting these fires, and to those families who have lost their homes. My thoughts also go to those that have been battling the fires in Northland, Hawkes Bay and Christchurch. Your dedication to keeping your areas safe and fighting these fires is to be commended.



At times like these it is always good to reflect on our own situation and look around our homes and check our evacuation plans to ensure that we have updated plans in place. This is also a good time for us all to put all our treasured photos that are stored on computers onto a USB stick and store them in a fire secure location. One thing we hear about is that many people loose photos that just cant be replaced. With todays technology we are lucky enough we can scan older photos and store copies on our home pcs. It is important that we have these then saved onto a portable device so that if we have to evacuate we can still access them all later.



On the Welfare front we continue to support our members and help those that are in need of assistance. We have had new members join the Welfare Society lately. I would like to extend a warm welcome to our new members and their families. We continue to be a society driven by helping each other. Awhi atu awhi mai. We also continue to monitor what is happening with the new FENZ set up and what effects if any this will have on us. The departure of National Commander Paul Baxter is a disappointment as we had developed a good working relationship with him. Going forward we will endeavor to continue this working relationship with the new National Commander and Chief Executive Mr Paul McGill to ensure that Welfare Society needs are met and our voice is heard.

HOLIDAY HOMES



As our members are aware we have six wonderful holiday/convalescent homes in some of the most beautiful places around the country. Our homes are situated in residential areas nestled between local residents. We value the relationships that we have developed with our neighbours over the years. Our neighbours keep a watchful eye on our homes. It is a timely reminder to all our members to be considerate of neighbours when your stay at all our homes. We can only continue to offer our holiday/convalescent homes at reasonable rates if you, our members, look after them. It is really important that when you vacate our homes you give them a good clean. The next member arriving at the home does not want to clean it before they enjoy their stay. If you have a concern about the home you are staying in then please contact the regional representative or the home caretaker so that any issue can be rectified quickly. Please remember our Firefighters Welfare Values of helping one another. With these values in mind everyone can enjoy their stay at our holiday/convalescent homes.

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 preapproved 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

ONCE A MEMBER ALWAYS A MEMBER

When you become a member of the Firefighters Welfare Society you are joining a Society that cares for you and your family.

If you decide to finish your association with the Fire Service you can still remain an active member of the Firefighters Welfare Society.

To continue your membership you need to let the office know that you have left the Fire Service. If your fortnightly deductions were coming out of your pay then you will have to complete a direct debit form and return it to the office. We can deduct your contribution rate directly from your bank account. If you are currently set up as a direct debit then this will continue as per normal regardless of whether you have left the service.

CONGRATULATIONS

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



50 Year Medal
Don Dunlea

Gold Stars
Ross Billman
Scott Duganzich
Ropata Stirling
Paul Callaghan
Rob Dixon
Justin Wafer
Brent Wilson

Craig Dodd
Glen Robertson
Gary Beer
Bruce Inold
Geoffrey Powell
Julian Tohiriki
Kevin Brosnan

DAN O'BRIEN - AON



Dan O'Brien is a Client Adviser with Aon New Zealand. Dan is keen to hear from any Welfare Society members who would like to discuss life insurance options.

Feel free to give him a call on 04 819 4018 or email dan.obrien@aon.com

STRESSED OUT?

Don't let a day go by without looking after yourself, even in small ways.

Take time to do nothing and have a rest when you need to

© Skylight 2010

Icons: A group of five stylized human figures in various colors (purple, orange, blue, yellow, green), a cloud, a carrot, a zzz symbol, and a water drop.

Text: Eat good food, Get good sleep and rest every day, Drink water through the day

HANMER UPDATE

Our region five representative Alice Jonathan has recently returned from Hanmer Springs and she has been on the hunt for a suitable holiday home.

Meetings are now being arranged with the bank and further house hunting will take place.

CONTACT DETAILS

Have you moved?
Have you changed your email address?
Have you changed your phone provider?
Has your nominated beneficiary changed?

If you answered yes to any of these questions can you please contact the office on 0800 65 34 73 or email thesec@firefighters.org.nz to update your personal details so that we can keep in touch.

ELECTION NOTICE

New Zealand Firefighters 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 under the tab, membership/printable forms

www.firefighters.org.nz

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

Nominations close with the returning officer at 9am April 14, 2017 and should be posted to:

The Returning Officer
Private Bag 31 999
Lower Hutt 5040

HEALTHCARE 99 - a benefit available to members



Are you concerned about the rising costs of healthcare for you and your family? You might want to check out Healthcare 99 on our website.

www.firefighters.org.nz/healthcare-99

Healthcare 99 is not an insurance plan, rather it is a mutual fund. Contributions to that fund are available to help pay healthcare bills to its members for healthcare needs that may arise now or in the future. Like health insurance, there is a schedule of payments for medical procedures and amounts that are payable to members. Unlike health insurance there is no increments increase in contribution rates for each year after age 60. Unlike health insurance, if there is good reason for additional healthcare financial help, a member may petition the fund for some assistance.

Ask yourself these simple questions

- can I afford NOT to protect myself and my family against the rising cost of medical care?
- can I afford to wait for the public health system to look after myself and my family?

For further information feel free to contact the office to discuss.

FIRST AID KITS and TORCHES

These are handy to have in the car or at home. If you wish to purchase a first aid kit or a torch contact Cheryl in the office on cheryl@firefighters.org.nz or 0800 OK FIRE.

First Aid Kits \$15.00

Torch \$5.00

