

The younger you are, the cheaper Healthcare 99 is
and with fewer or no pre-conditions.
Good reason to join Healthcare 99 today and future proof.



WELFARE NEWS



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JUNE 2019

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UPDATE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Keith Nixon
MNZM



June 2019

Hi to you all,

I am at my computer at the Head Office of the NZ Firefighters Welfare Society after the Easter Weekend reflecting on what has happened around New Zealand so far since my last update.

Apart from trying to keep abreast with the changes and processes of creating a unified Fire and Emergency NZ, attending Welfare Society meetings, FENZ working Group meetings and meeting with the Chair of FENZ Paul Swain, I cannot help but keep thinking back to Christchurch, Friday 15th March, the shooting of defenceless people and when the way we do things in this country changed.

Like most people I was asking the question, is this really happening in New Zealand?

The 15th of March was also my wife's 65th birthday, so my thoughts were how do I communicate to Welfare Society members and their families affected by the shootings and about what help is available to them from the Society and also make sure the surprise birthday dinner for the wife goes ahead as normal. It was not a normal day.

I decided to wait until Saturday morning to decide what action the Welfare Society should communicate to members and their families and the Rep's but, I became overwhelmed emotionally at that time and had to email and TXT other Board members and office holders and ask them for help to communicate to Society members effected of the help available to them from the Welfare Society.

What I am trying to relay to you all, is that in times of need there are all sorts of help available out there and please don't feel ashamed to ask for it.

Events in our lives test us and at times we all need a little help.

Elected Regional Rep's/Board Members.

I would like to thank Jenna and Alice for putting their names forward again as Welfare Society Regional Representative/ Board members.

Region 2, Jenna Collings
Region 5, Alice Jonathan

Welcome all the new members and their families to the Society as you are now part of a great organisation.

THANKS TO ALL members and their families, board members, office staff, office holders and all the Brigade and Station Welfare Society Representatives.

All the best until next time.

Keith Nixon MNZM
Chairman

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Region 6

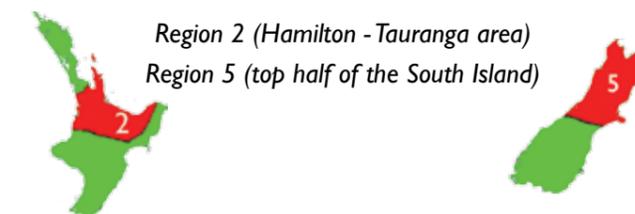


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Board Election Results 2019

Elections for region 2 and 5



No one stood against Region Representative 2 or 5. Hence there is no need for a vote, so as returning Officer, I declare Jenna Collings to be the Region 2 Representative and Alice Jonathan to be the Region 5 Representative. Congratulations to these two dedicated firefighters. We thank them for giving up their time to represent and support their fellow members in the Welfare Society. Their new four year terms begin July 1, 2019.

Notice: Healthcare 99 AGM 2019

26 June 2019
12.00 noon - a light lunch
12.30pm AGM start

Avalon TV and Film Studios
Level One
41 Percy Cameron Street
Lower Hutt

RSVP amanda@firefighters.org.nz for catering purposes.

Notice: Welfare AGM 2019

18 September 2019
AGM Meeting Starting at 15.30 hours
Dunedin City Fire Station, 85 Castle Street
Dunedin

RSVP amanda@firefighters.org.nz for catering purposes.

Notice: Trustee Election

Voting to take place on 18 September 2019
at the AGM Meeting starting at 15.30 hours
Dunedin City Fire Station, 85 Castle Street, Dunedin
Nominations close Friday Noon, August 30, 2019.
Nomination Form available on website for download:
www.firefighters.org.nz/printable-forms.html

firefighters helping firefighters and their families - awahi atu awahi mai o ratou whānau

POSITIVE CULTURE REQUIRED



Positive Organisational Culture

The amalgamation process that has formed Fire and Emergency, has created, and still does create, uncertainty for some of us, especially those holding management roles. It is at these times that unity is important, that we are all working together for the same purpose, but above all we know that support is available and we feel we can reach out when it is needed.

As our organization continues to evolve, no matter our role, we all can play an important part in ensuring the positive culture of FENZ continues to grow.

You may ask yourself "What can I possibly do in an organization so large?"

Consider Tony Robbin's 2mm Rule; he teaches how the smallest of changes can yield the biggest results. Ask yourself, "How can I sit back and complain when I have done nothing today towards positive change?" Wouldn't we all love to be part of an organization where support is always on hand, where mental illness is treated no differently to physical injury, where bullying and harassment does not exist, and where stigma is a thing of the past.

Consider the little things you do and say every day, and understand if we all contribute, we can build a positive organization, that we are proud to be a part of, one for which we look forward to coming to work every day.

Did You Know

All members of Welfare can claim up to \$500 a year for counselling? This is as simple as filling in a BAI form and attaching a receipt. This information is not shared with anyone outside the welfare society.



STEPHEN CLARKE - SALES



Changes

We are now over 1/3 of the way through the year. We have had a fair bit going on and a lot has happened that is just coming to the forefront now. In the last newsletter, we published a starting point of our refreshed brand. This brand is still having the final tweaks added to it.

The big change is on our website. We have built a site we think will be easier for you to use and navigate around to find what you are looking for. We now have links on the home tabs to make it quicker and easier to book holiday homes and view the ever-favourite shift calendars.

We have also been out and about making a short video. This is available on our new website or on YouTube. Just search for NZFFWS. We are also putting a few simple how-to videos here. Our aim with this is to help make it easier to join and use our services.

Over the last few months, we have been at a number of events. The National Waterways hosted at Wainuiomata, North Island Combat Challenges in Palmerston North & the National Golf Championships in Levin. At these three great events we were able to engage with different sectors of the firefighting community. We also participated in Mike King's Gumboot day in sunny Palmerston North on April 5.



Gumboots On And Ready

We were there with our gumboots on too. By the way, are you part of an event that our presence could contribute too? Are you part of a provincial event that you would like us to come to?

If so, get in touch with me to see how we might help each other. stephen@firefighters.org.nz



Additional Challenges

We have also had some real challenges and adversity within our country this year. Earlier in the year, we had the Nelson Fires and in March the Christchurch terrorist attacks. These have highlighted the need to look out for each other and support one another. Do you know who you can contact in times need? Do you know who your station rep is?

DO YOU NEED SOME HELP

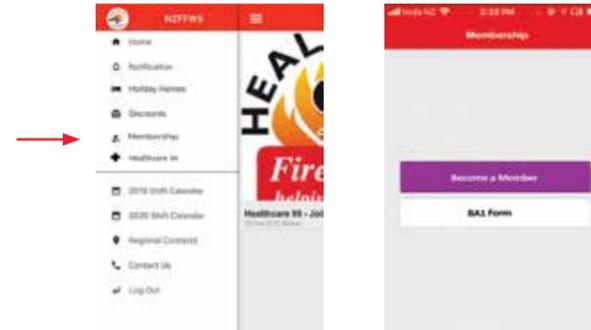
A reminder to all our members if you are unwell or going into hospital for a planned procedure, please let us know.

We want to be able to support all of our members and families and to do this we need to know what is happening with you.

WELFARE APP UPDATE

BAI Form (Benefit Application Form)

We continue to add features to the Welfare App, further defining it as a true Welfare App rather than just a holiday home App. The latest plan with the developers is to add access to an online BAI Form. This will be found under the "Membership Menu". Selecting that option will take you to a screen where you can join up online or fill in an online BAI Form. The menu might look something like this.



Healthcare 99 Application Form and Calculator

A new menu item "Healthcare 99" is to be added. This will allow one to use a calculator to determine how much one would pay if they choose to sign up for Healthcare 99. Simply select the plan you wish, A, A1, B, B1 and plug in your age to determine what your contribution rate for healthcare would be. Members can instantly see what their healthcare contribution rate would be.

An online Healthcare 99 Application Form will also be available to sign up for the plan of your choice. The latest Information Brochure of Rules and Contribution Rates also will be available to download. This brochure explains all the options and contains the fine print.



A Very Unique Feature

One of the good things about this Healthcare 99 plan is that when you turn 70, there is never a further contribution rate increase. This might be the unique feature of this healthcare scheme. This feature means many will be able to afford healthcare assistance after they retire, the time when help is really needed to pay for medical expenses. Only Members can access the menus for Holiday Homes and Discounts. The rest of the App is open to anyone. For instance the shift calendar is easily accessible from this App on all mobile devices and is available for anyone to use.

GET ON THE PROPERTY LADDER



The New Zealand Firefighters Welfare Society, UFBA and New Zealand Firefighters Credit Union have had an Accord in place for many years - as we are like-minded organisations. The Accord has evolved over the years into a strong relationship, where each of the three independent brands are strengthened by the collective group, and connectedness to the members.

The New Zealand Firefighters Credit Union (Credit Union) has a Home Loans partnership with TSB (New Zealand owned bank), which provides members with the option of getting discounted Home Loan interest rates.

Take out a new home loan greater than \$100,000 and you will:

- Receive 0.50% p.a. off the Floating interest rate
- Receive up to 0.10% p.a. off the Special fixed interest rates (some exceptions may apply)
- Receive a Cash Contribution up to \$2,000 towards professional services (0.50% of new lending capped at \$2,000)
- Have no application fee

For example, if a member had a \$400,000 home loan on a floating interest rate, they could save up to \$2,000 p.a. in interest payments.

To qualify for the home loan interest rate discounts, you must be a member of the New Zealand Firefighters Credit Union (phone: 0508 613 328), and the home loan application needs to be processed through the Credit Union.

Ts and Cs and normal lending criteria applies. For more information about this exclusive offer and how it can benefit you, see the Credit Union's website www.firefighters.org.nz/home-loans, or call them on 0508 613 328

PEACE OF MIND

If you want peace of mind and help in paying for any healthcare events that come along, then the NZFF Welfare Society offers a solution for you, Join Healthcare 99. This is not a health insurance policy but a mutual fund that pays you for healthcare costs according to a schedule. Check out the terms and conditions on www.firefighters.org.nz/healthcare-99

FREEVIEW IN KAPITI HOME

FREEVIEW has been installed on the two TV units in the Kapiti Holiday Home. There is a TV in the lounge and one upstairs. Wifi is also available in the house so any member who brings along a hemi device box like Apple TV can attach it to the TV and watch their own programmes.