



NELSON MARLBOROUGH PROVINCIAL FIRE BRIGADES ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER



Recent updates from around our region

Inaugural NMPFBA Sharpshooter Competition Won by Picton VFB

This Winter, we have launched our first regional smallbore rifle shooting competition as requested by our members, hosted by Blenheim Rural Fire Force. The beauty of this competition was it gave our brigades an opportunity to get together and participate at their own pace over



Winter, shooting their competition cards at their local rifle clubs. It's a good way for our brigades to get members who may not usually participate in our challenges involved, and a way for our local rifle clubs to meet new members potentially. The winning team this year was Team 1 from Picton VFB (462.12), with the competition individual sharpshooter medal being won by Tony Cannon from Koromiko VFB with an individual score of 96.1. These awards were presented at our AGM in Nelson. We opened this competition to all brigades in our region but as always, the awards can only be won by members of our association, so please encourage your brigade to become a member if they are not already.



Blenheim VFB to host the 2026 NMPFBA Firefighter Challenge

The 2026 NMPFBA Firefighter Challenge will be held on the 24th January in the Wynen St carpark in the centre of Blenheim. This event is growing in popularity every year so make sure to bring your shade tents and chairs along to enjoy what will be a great summer day in Marlborough with plenty of food and drink options close by.

NMPFBA Members Representing at 2025 World Firefighter Challenge

The Takaka 39'ers consisting of Neil and Kyle Gardiner, Grant Lawrence and Sam Goffriller along with Finn Tito of Havelock VFB are representing their brigades and our region in Dallas Texas on October 24-25. Good Luck Gents!

91st NMPFBA AGM & Conference

On Saturday 20th September, our provincial held its 91st AGM at Nelson Station. We had a large showing again from our members which is great to see off the back of a very successful year for the NMPFBA. Our Challenge Panel is full with experience from across the region with an increasing attendance rate at our competitions and our members are increasingly competitive on the national and international stage. This year, our president of the past two years (Ryan Grenfell, Havelock VFB) has moved to Immediate Past President with Sam Oliver (Richmond VFB) taking over as President for the year ahead. If you would like to be involved with the provincial team or become a member, please get in contact via NMPFBA@fireandemergency.nz



Upcoming Events & Challenges

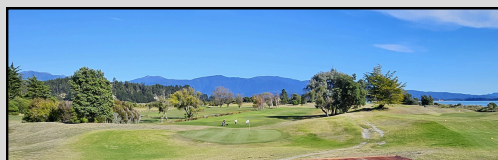


- 2025 Schollum Shield Golf Day (November)
- 2025 Mountain Bike Race (November)
- 2025 UFBA AGM & Conference (November)
- 2026 NMPFBA Firefighter Challenge (January)
- 2026 UFBA Regional & National Firefighter Challenge (March, April, May)

Keep an eye on your FENZ emails as this is where most registration information is sent.

2025 Schollum Shield Golf Day in Pohara Postponed until Nov 15 due to Weather

Our annual golf day has been postponed until November 15 due to an unfavourable forecast. We have an increase in participants this year so there is still time to organise a team from your brigade to come and have a hit in Pohara. With Takaka and Collingwood hosting this event, there will be plenty of friendly competition out on the course so come and enjoy a walk and a hit around a very scenic course. You can register for this event by completing the link in the form or email our challenge panel direct (NMPFBA@fireandemergency.nz) to add your team to the mix.



New Member Brigades for NMPFBA

Welcome to Northbank VFB and Koromiko VFB who are our newest member brigades! If your brigade isn't a member of the association, contact us to see how you can help strengthen our region through our membership events and comradery.

2025 Mountain Biking Event to be a Downhill Poker Run in the Awatere Valley

Seddon VFB is this year hosting our mountain biking event on November 22. This year there is a "Poker Run" aspect to it where each competitor will collect a card from 5 different sites along the route with the best hand winning a prize back at the Seddon Fire Station. The trophy this year will go to the Firefighter with the fastest time downhill with 5 cards collected with another prize open to everyone for overall best poker hand collected. The event this year starts at the 1693m summit of the Black Birch Range in the Awatere Valley and follows the summit road back down to the carpark. Riders and their bikes will be shuttled to the summit before the start. Be prepared for some epic views as you descend the 10km gravel road. Safety gear will be a must but this ride can be undertaken by any level of rider. In 2026, this event will revert back to Labour Weekend over in Golden Bay prior to the national event.

Strong Showing from NMPFBA Members at Regional & National Drivers Challenge

Our provincial members have had another strong showing at this years UFBA National Drivers Challenge held early August at Manfield Park in Fielding. Representatives from Picton, Richmond, Rai Valley and both Blenheim brigades all put the wet start to the weekend behind them, and competed well against a field of 100 firefighters from across the country. Our regions best results were from



Jono Poswillo and Ryan Anderson from Blenheim Rural Fire Force who placed 1st & 2nd respectively in the Rookie category, so congratulations to them. If you are interested in competing in this event, it is funded through the UFBA and all you need is your class 2 license and a bit of knowledge around FENZ ERD driving policy. There are events prior to the national competition by both the Canterbury Provincial and West Coast Provincial Associations, which most participants use as a training competition. Look out for registrations for these via FENZ email from March/April 2026.

Get Involved and Join our Team to help deliver events that support our Brigades

Are you good at organising events or does your brigade like to test yourselves against your local neighboring brigades? Get involved with our provincial team and help deliver events that help our brigades to upskill and that our members enjoy.. Reach out to the Challenge Convenor via NMPFBA@fireandemergency.nz or visit our website <https://nmpfba.org.nz/>

The Presidents Brief

From our President, Sam Oliver

(SFF - Richmond Volunteer Fire Brigade)

This is my first report as the new President of the Association, and I'd like to begin by acknowledging Immediate past President Ryan Grenfell for his outstanding leadership over the past two years.

A huge congratulations to our newest Gold Star recipients:

Phil Noakes - Seddon & Phil Hawke - Picton

These awards recognise their exceptional commitment and contribution to our community.

We're also excited to announce that **Jonathan Everett** has been elected into the role of Challenge Panel Convenor, and the panel has already been organising some more fantastic events:

- Schollum Shield Golf Tournament - Pohara
- MTB Poker Run - Seddon

These events are great opportunities to connect, compete, and have some fun. We encourage everyone to get involved and support these initiatives. We also welcome **Cole Slotemaker** as our newly elected Junior Vice President and we look forward to working with him in his new role. Thank you all for your continued support. I'm looking forward to a great year ahead, working together to strengthen our association and support our members.