



NELSON MARLBOROUGH PROVINCIAL FIRE BRIGADES ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

Recent updates from around our region



Golden Bay hits spot for 2025 Schollum Shield

Members were welcomed to a well-presented golf course in Pohara on November 15th to contest the Provincial Schollum Shield Golf Day. Collingwood and Takaka VFB's played host this year on a sunny but windy day in Golden Bay. This was the postponement date due to poor weather in early October so numbers were slightly down on very promising original registrations. Despite this, the shields were hotly contested and Picton VFB went back to back by winning the teams Shield slightly over Collingwood. The individual stableford Shield was won by Collingwood CFO and your current provincial patron, Graeme Miller. Josh Roberts from Collinwood was awarded the Kevin Hebbert Trophy. Plan ahead for next years event as it comes back over the hill to Picton who will be looking to defend the Schollum Shield on their own course in September 2026.



Blenheim Bandits hosting the 2026 NMPFBA Firefighter Challenge in Beavertown

On January 24 2026, Blenheim VFB will host the Nelson/Marlborough Firefighter Challenge at Lansdowne Park, Blenheim. The course will be a full competition spec course featuring a 6 story tower. A perfect Summer blow out post Christmas/New Year and before the South Island Classic in March. This event is open to both urban and rural firefighters and if you are unfamiliar with it, there are some great videos on YouTube. If its your first time, put a 5 person relay team together from your brigade to test yourself alongside participants from our region who represented New Zealand at the World Championships recently. Expect the track to be hot under the Marlborough Summer Sun so bring plenty of refreshments for the day. Registrations are now **LIVE** via the link on our website with the prizegiving held back at the Blenheim Station after the event. If you have any questions, email our challenge convenor at NMPFBA@fireandemergency.nz



Have you checked out our website yet? Here you will find all the information on our team, our events and forms to use for brigade honors etc. Do you need guidance for an upcoming honors night? You will find all the information you need and links to other services on our website. <https://nmpfba.org.nz/>



Upcoming Events & Challenges



- NMPFBA Firefighter Challenge - Jan 24 @ Lansdowne Park, Blenheim
- UFBA South Island Waterways - Feb 14 @ Rangiora
- UFBA South Island Firefighter Challenge Classic - Mar 7 @ Christchurch

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

147th UFBA AGM and Annual Conference Hui

The 147th AGM of the United Fire Brigades Association was held on the 7th November at Te Pae in Christchurch with the 2 day conference for members held across the Saturday and Sunday. Our provincial has a good relationship with the UFBA and our structures complement each other to ensure that firefighter and brigade voices are heard from FENZ on issues that relate to us. Most of our members were present again this year and its important that we continue to build our strength as an association alongside the UFBA and FENZ, so that the support remains available to all parties when required. The theme of this years UFBA conference was "Responding to Tomorrow" and that bought speakers who discussed how technology and A.I are beginning to assist our planning and response capabilities. Other speakers spoke of how our population is changing and how this will affect the make up of our communities and in essence, the make up of our brigades into the future. This is also a good time to see and use equipment that is coming to market for emergency response as the main suppliers to FENZ showcase their new gear. FENZ also spoke over the weekend across many aspects of their strategic plan and what they are trying to achieve. Its an opportune time for many to get in front of the FENZ executive team and tell them what your brigade is thinking. FENZ and the UFBA are often looking for volunteers to join working groups in various operational interest areas so if you would like to add your name to an availability list we have of our members, send us an email at NMPFBA@fireandemergency.nz.



2025 NMPFBA Mountain Biking Poker Run

Our mountain biking event this year was a bit different due to slowing interest in our annual event at Rameka. On Saturday 22 November, Seddon VFB hosted a mountain biking downhill run down Black Birch Road from the 1600m summit of Altimarlock. This ride was open to all ages and families of firefighters and there were two prizes up for grabs. The trophy would go to the fastest firefighter with 5 poker cards at the finish and a second prize was available to the person with the best poker hand at the bottom. Riders collected their cards from 5 different stations along the road. The trophy went to Iwan Jones from Picton VFB who was the first down the road. The prize for best poker hand went to Harrison Renner who managed to snag 4 of a kind along the way. This ride concept was well received and the cloud cover on the day did little to dampen the spirits of competitors of all ages. Next year, the event will return to Rameka on Labour Weekend so mark that in your calendars if you are interested in a good warm up event for the FENZ National Mountain Bike Championship.



Email NMPFBA@fireandemergency.nz to get involved with the team that deliver events or if you have a specific request for a challenge!

The Presidents Brief

From our President, Sam Oliver
(SFF - Richmond Volunteer Fire Brigade)

As we head into the start of summer, it's great to see the energy and enthusiasm across our association. Collingwood Brigade set the bar high with a fantastic Schollum Shield Golf Tournament, bringing members together for a day of friendly competition and connection. Seddon Brigade followed up with an outstanding MTB poker event that was well supported. A real highlight for me was the celebration in Kaiteriteri, where we proudly presented trophies to Robin Parkes in recognition of receiving his Gold Star and Robin Thompson for an incredible 50 years of service.

We also want to acknowledge those from the Nelson Marlborough region who represented us so well at the World Firefighter Challenge Championships in Dallas, Texas—your efforts on the global stage make us all proud. I hope everyone is training hard to go and give the challenge a go in Blenheim in January. Thank you to the Challenge Panel and team who helped make these events possible. Here's to a safe, enjoyable summer ahead for all our brigades!

Thanks, Sam.

