



Nelson Marlborough Provincial Fire Brigades Association

MINUTES OF THE 91st ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF THE NELSON/MARLBOROUGH PROVINCIAL FIRE BRIGADES ASSOCIATION HELD AT THE NELSON FIRE STATION AT 10:00HRS ON 20TH SEPTEMBER 2025

President Ryan Grenfell welcomed Delegates and Past Presidents as well as invited guests to the meeting and asked that all jackets be put on.

Roll Call: President Ryan Grenfell called the roll which was answered by the following:

Executive Committee: Immediate Past President: Gawen Howard, President: Ryan Grenfell, Senior Vice President: Sam Oliver, Junior Vice President: Ryan Anderson, Challenge Panel Convenor: Cole Slotemaker, Secretary: Paris Forbes & Treasurer: Nigel Patterson

Brigade Delegates

Blenheim: Nigel Jackson (Proxy)
Brightwater: Nathan Palmer
Havelock: Ryan Grenfell
Koromiko: Aaron Waters
Motueka: Absent
Nelson: Absent
Picton: Paris Forbes
Renwick: Absent
Seddon: Victoria Sangster
Takaka: Ethan Harwood
Upper Moutere: Absent
Wairau Valley: Bram Hoogeveen
Woodbourne: Ryan Grenfell (Proxy)

Blenheim Rural: Steve Smith
Collingwood: Graeme Miller
Kaiteriteri: Absent
Mapua: Absent
Murchison: Absent
Northbank: Issy Adams
Rai Valley: Nigel Patteson
Richmond: Sam Oliver
Stoke: Absent
Tapawera: Absent
Upper Takaka: Absent
Wakefield: Absent

Life Members Present:

Patron: Graeme Miller
Past Presidents: Nigel Patterson & Nigel Jackson

Observers: None present

Apologies:

Past Presidents James Mackay, Kevin Black, Philip Woolf, Allen Reid, , **CHRIS ??????** Jamie Knight, Stoke VFB, Kaiteriteri VFB.

Apologies to be accepted – Moved: Ryan Grenfell **Seconded:** Sam Oliver **Carried.**

Scrutineers:

President Ryan Grenfell asked for scrutineers.

Past President Gawen Howard & Sonya Jackson to be scrutineers for the meeting.

Moved: Ryan Grenfell **Seconded:** Nigel Patterson **Carried.**

Obituaries:

President Ryan Grenfell asked for any obituaries.

None Received.

Welcome:

NMPFBA President Ryan Grenfell welcomed everyone to the AGM and hoped everyone enjoyed the conference and rest of their day.

Voting Power:

There were 17 eligible votes and therefore the number of votes required to elect is 9.

Minutes of Previous Annual Conference:

The minutes of the previous AGM were read out by Secretary Paris Forbes & confirmed as a true and correct record of the 90th Annual General Meeting

[..\\2024 AGM\\90th AGM Minutes 2024.pdf](#)

2024 Minutes to be accepted:

Moved: Ryan Grenfell. **Seconded:** Ryan Anderson **Carried**

Matters Arising:

Nigel Jackson raised a concern /remit from Blenheim VFB in regards to allowing inter Brigade teams to be eligible for awards (as discussed/outlined last AGM) as an issue occurred at Firefighter Challenge at Stoke in February. Past President Gawen Howard & President Ryan Grenfell said that that issue was raised at the time, correspondence was exchanged & appropriate documentation was shown proving legitimate transfer was in progress & delayed by FENZ putting the issue to rest.

Moved:: Ryan Grenfell **Seconded:** Gawen Howard **Carried**

Guest Speaker: Steve Smith (Blenheim Rural Brigade Chief spoke of his desire to stand for UFBA Board & hopes to be the voice of reason. Report attached

Awards Presented: Junior Vice President Ryan Anderson presented Trophy to Picton team for winning Small Bore Shooting Competition & Tony Cannon from Koromiko Top Shooter. Aaron Waters accepted both awards on behalf.

Patrons Report

Report presented by Patron Graeme Miller
[NMPFBA - Patron 2025 report.pdf](#)

That the patron's report be adopted.

Moved: Ryan Grenfell. **Seconded:** Sam Oliver **Carried.**

Challenge convenors report

Report presented by Cole Slotemaker
[NMPFBA - Convenor 2025 report.pdf](#)

That the challenge convenor's report be adopted.

Moved: Ryan Anderson **Seconded:** Nigel Patterson
Carried

Presidents Report:

Report presented by Ryan Greenfell

That the president's report be adopted.

Moved: Ryan Grenfell. **Seconded:** Sam Oliver
Carried.

(Incoming) Presidents Report:

Report delivered by Sam Oliver

That the incoming President's report be adopted

Moved: Nigel Patterson **Seconded:** Ryan Anderson **Carried**

Meeting paused 10.50

Meeting continued 11.04

Guest Speaker: District Commander for Nelson Marlborough Grant Haywood

The following is taken from Secretary notes as awaiting email from Grant Haywood

Grant acknowledged the Provincial, spoke about progression, Past Presidents all being important mechanisms underutilised by us. NMPFBA has a strong voice & focusing on challengers brings Brigades together. We are relevant, have a volunteer voice & play an advocacy role. Competitions are running great in The Top Of The South. 41 Brigades in the District. On the cusp of significant change – funding through Insurance levies.

FENZ legislation Section 11 (duties Firefighters response-resources/capabilities) & Section 12 (activity, medical, line rescue, weather events) creating a shift with many recent weather events & climate change. Levies received creating a shortfall of \$30 million with operating budget 8.8% & National/Act Government have only given 2.2%. Also there is a \$100 million deficit for fleet/property with a directive given saving \$60million on a National/Regional/District level for equipment, staff, resources & headcount. Changes are coming – there is lots of speculation around district sizes/boundaries, spending, fleet & training.

Kerry Gregory (CEO) 5year Strategic Plan includes better operations, regulatory (prevention), business foundation (assets), culture (safe & diverse) & management.

As from Monday 22nd September reporting branch Service Delivery will be renamed as Operational Response. Megan Stifler is new Deputy Lieutenant Commander working on things including Carbon Credits & Rapid Suppression with a time frame of Christmas.

WATCH THIS SPACE

To take back to Brigades : -

40% callouts PFA's – data is everything, record – incident reporting with causation required
Alarm company's charge.

Employer Recognition – in Top of the South we have 40 paid staff & 860 Volunteers

Each Brigade gets \$700 to put on a Employer Recognition function. If not used is returned to FENZ

Family/Brigade – triangle of Family, then work then Brigade is skewiff affecting inter Brigade relationships, the drinking culture & leadership, Brigade Canteens being looked at.

Medical Responses - out of hospital cardiac arrests – **WE ARE MAKING A DIFFERENCE**

Thanks to all, great to see wide range of Brigade representation, recent flooding (consequential impacts on Brigade families), acknowledge storm hits & Brigade members kept working – **LIVES WERE SAVED & 8-11 RESCUES HAD REAL POTENTIAL FOR LOSS OF LIFE.**

Murchison upcoming 75th Anniversay 11th October & 50year medal recipients

KEEP GOING

Correspondence:

Inwards:

Various Invitations to Gold Star, 50 Year & Honors presentations, AGM Nominations, Koromiko & Northbank joining paperwork, & emails around issues raised at Firefighter Challenge with Takaka & Financial reports.

Outwards:

Invitations and reminders to this AGM, Posters, and entry forms for Challengers in 2025, & Emails to organise financial report and Insurance.

Inwards received and outwards correspondence be approved

Moved: Ryan Grenfell. **Seconded:** Paris Forbes. **Carried.**

Financial report:

Presented by Nigel Patterson

[NMPFBA - 2025 Accounts.pdf](#)

It was moved that the financials be accepted.

Moved: Nigel Patterson **Seconded:** Nigel Jackson . **Carried.**

Secretary/Treasurer Expenses:

Secretary/Treasurer expenses are currently set at \$500 for the year. This is believed to be reasonable so no need to change so will remain for the coming year.

That the above be adopted.

Moved: Ryan Grenfell. **Seconded:** Gawen Howard. **Carried**

Presidents Expenses:

President's expenses are set at \$500 for the year and \$1.00/Km can be claimed by any member representing the Provincial at an awards ceremony up to \$1000/Year. This is believed to be reasonable so no need to change so will remain for the coming year.

Some discussion was had in regards to accepting/rejecting the expences payout but for accounting purposes it was decided that the above expences will be paid out & can be redonated at the receivers discretion.

That the above be adopted.

Moved: Ryan Grenfell. **Seconded:** Ryan Anderson **Carried.**

Levies

President Ryan Grenfell led discussion about the possibilities of levies being based on establishment. Ultimately it was decided for levies to remain at \$250 for the next year

Moved: Graeme Miller **Seconded:** Aaron Waters **Carried.**

Remits: No remits presented

General Business:

Sam Oliver attending a review with Trevor Brown (Assistant Commander) in regards to recent weather events & swift water response & asked for input from the members present

: - Blenheim Rural Steve Smith said in regards to Marlborough response the feedback received was that there were too many chiefs & lack of communication & consistency however rescue team from Nelson was very helpful & deployed twice;

: - Koromiko Deputy Aaron Waters said that when the swamp on State Highway One floods (as it often does) Queen Charlotte Drive & Port Underwood Road have slips (as they regularly do) it leaves Picton completely isolated. For a State of Emergency our Civil Defence can assemble quicker

: - Takaka Gawen Howard said with their having to evacuate they were delayed awaiting Civil Defence as an ongoing regional emergency

: - Rai Valley Nigel Patterson was concerned about the lack of communication re closing Rai Valley Road one end but not the other (no where to go!)

Sam thanked everyone for their input.

- President Ryan Grenfell asked for expense forms to be filled in today so can be submitted today
- Nigel Patterson as Treasurer asked for some way for registrations & payments(for competitions) be made clearer for ease of tracking & for records for accountants for all meetings/discussions/ to be minuted in future for auditory purposes
- Aaron presented a poster advertising Mountain Bike Competition in Seddon for November – date to be changed & discussion about hosting a Waterways Challenge in 2026. After general discussion a Calendar for late 2025/2026 events will be created & circulated around Brigades asap including Golf in October, Mountain Bike in November, Firefighter Challenge in January already confirmed & with Small Bore Shooting this year having been so popular it will be run again next winter.

Election of Officers:

Patron

Graeme Miller agreed to stay on as Patron.

Moved: Ryan Grenfell **Seconded:** Paris Forbes **Carried**

President Ryan Grenfell declared Graeme Miller duly re-elected

Junior Vice President

Nomination only received from Cole Slotemaker

Moved: Ryan Grenfell **Seconded:** Nathan Palmer **Carried**

President Ryan Grenfell declared Cole Slotemaker duly elected

Challenge Committee Convener

Nomination only received from Jonathan Everett

Moved: Ryan Grenfell **Seconded:** Nigel Patterson. **Carried**

President Ryan Grenfell declared Jonathan Everett duly elected

Secretary:

Nomination received from Steve Smith

Moved: Ryan Grenfell **Seconded:** Nigel Jackson **Carried**

President Ryan Grenfell declared Steve Smith duly elected Secretary

Treasurer:

Nigel Patterson agreed to stay on as Treasurer

Moved: Ryan Grenfell **Seconded:** Nigel Jackson **Carried**

President Ryan Grenfell declared Nigel Patterson duly re-elected Treasurer

Challenge Committee members:

Aaron Waters agreed to stay on

Moved: Ryan Grenfell **Seconded:** Ryan Anderson **Carried**

Ethan Harwood agreed to stay on

Moved: Ryan Grenfell **Seconded:** Ryan Anderson **Carried**

Gordon Munn agreed to stay on (by Proxy)

Moved: Ryan Grenfell **Seconded:** Ryan Anderson **Carried**
Carried

President Ryan Grenfell declared Aaron Waters, Ethan Harwood & Gordon Munn duly re-elected as Challenge Committee members with one position remaining vacant & preferably to be filled by someone on Nelson side but can be elected at a later date.

Trustees:

That the trustees/signatories for the ensuing year be Incoming President Sam Oliver, Immediate Past President Ryan Grenfell, and Treasurer/Past President Nigel Patterson
Treasurer Nigel Patterson will be account holder.

Moved: Gawen Howard **Seconded:** Nigel Jackson **Carried**

Auditor:

Move that Blenheim Accounting be re elected as auditor.

Moved: Ryan Grenfell. **Seconded:** Nigel Patterson. **Carried**

Installation of Officers:

President Ryan Grenfell thanked Immediate Past President Gawen Howard for his time with the Provincial

President:

President Ryan Grenfell presented Incoming President Sam Oliver as President with exchange of NMPFBA Chain

Immediate Past President:

President Sam Oliver presented Immediate Past President Ryan Grenfell with Life Honour Pin

Senior Vice President:

President Sam Oliver installed Ryan Anderson as Senior Vice President.

Junior Vice President:

President Sam Oliver installed Cole Slotemaker as Junior Vice President.

Further Business:

2026 AGM

To be held at Nelson Station in September 2026 – Date to be confirmed at a later date

Closure:

There being no further business, President Sam Oliver thanked everyone for attending and declared the 91st Annual General Meeting of the Nelson Marlborough Provincial Fire Brigades Association closed. **Meeting Closed at 12:41 hrs.**