



NELSON MARLBOROUGH PROVINCIAL FIRE BRIGADES ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER



Recent updates from around our region



Wet Track Fails to Slow Competitors at the 2026 NMPFBA Firefighter Challenge

The 2026 NZ Firefighter Challenge season kicked off on Saturday, January 24, with the Blenheim Volunteer Fire Brigade proudly hosting the Nelson Marlborough Provincial Fire Brigades Association Annual Firefighter Challenge. In a provincial first, Scaffold Marlborough supplied a full-sized Layher tower, matching the system used at regional and national competitions.

This premier course attracted a massive turnout comparable to a regional championship, drawing 60 individual, 34 tandem, and 16 relay entrants from across the South Island, including brigades from Rangiora, Kaiapoi, Lyttelton, Ashburton, Rolleston, Swannanoa, and as far south as Queenstown. Despite a damp morning with 13mm of rainfall, the weather cleared by 10:30 am, reaching a comfortable high of 17°C for a day filled with continuous excitement, friendly competition, and the introduction of the "Beaver Dam" accolade for high-performing athletes. Huge congratulations go to all of this



year's award recipients

who demonstrated outstanding fitness and teamwork. In the Tandem category, Martian Legends from Takaka took first place with a time of 1:28.17, while the Takaka 39ers won the Relay category at 1:24.82, and Kyle Gardiner, also from Takaka, claimed the top individual spot at 1:42.00. Gardiner, along with Sam Stafford-Bush, Paul Marshall, Claire Jones, and Rudi Marquez-Mazlin, also successfully qualified for the prestigious Beaver Dam. A sincere thank you goes out to the Blenheim Volunteer Fire Brigade, Robinson Construction, Scaffold Marlborough, Marlborough District Council, Canterbury Provincial Fire Brigades Association, Rapid Relief Team, Grizzly Photography, and the many dedicated volunteers and competitors who helped deliver this incredibly successful event.

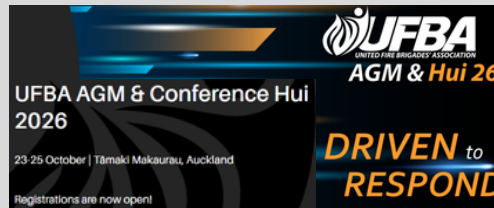


Upcoming Events & Challenges

- NMPFBA Smallbore Competition - July/August
 - NMPFBA AGM - September 12, Nelson Station 10:00
 - UFBA National Drivers Challenge - August 7-8
 - UFBA AGM & Hui - October 23-25 Rego open Now
 - NMPFBA Mountain Biking - TBC
 - NMPFBA Schollum Shield Golf - TBC (Picton Likely)
- Keep an eye on your FENZ emails as this is where most registration information is sent.

148th UFBA AGM and Annual Conference Hui

Looking ahead, we want to remind all members that the 148th UFBA AGM and Conference Hui is scheduled to take place from Friday, October 23 to Sunday, October 25, 2026, at the New Zealand International Convention Centre in Auckland. The official notice and full registration packs have now been emailed to all member brigades, detailing the event schedule and attendee funding criteria. Registration officially opens on June 23, and brigades have until August 23 to submit their electronic Notification of Delegate forms. We highly encourage our NMPFBA member brigades to review these documents, select their delegates, and ensure our region is well-represented at this year's national gathering. See you there!



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/>

NMPFBA 92nd AGM - September 12 @ Nelson

The 92nd AGM of the Nelson Marlborough Provincial Fire Brigades Association will be held at the Nelson Fire Station on September 12 at 10:00hrs. We look forward to again meeting with all brigade delegates and observers to discuss how this provincial can support you and your brigade alongside the honours nights and events we regularly assist with. We have the FENZ Deputy National Commander, Megan Stiffler, and UFBA CEO, Bill Butzbach, attending to address you so please bring your brigades questions along. We are also chasing the right people to join our Provincial Team either on the challenge panel or into our Executive. Reach out and talk to the team if you want to join the association in this capacity, all you need is a nomination form signed by your brigade CFO.

2026 NMPFBA Smallbore Competition

This year, the NMPFBA is again running the smallbore target shooting competition for our members over the Winter months. This will run from June 29 until August 21 with presentations to the winners at our annual AGM on September 12 in Nelson. Last year this competition was well supported and the feedback from Brigades and the shooting clubs was that it was a good activity to get the brigade together for some fun over the darker winter months. If you would like to participate this year, please get in contact with one of the clubs in your area, they have been notified of the competition and have a copy of the rules. Official results will only be accepted by shooting a card that has been signed by a club official prior to submission.

Honours Nights and NMPFBA Attendance

We are now into the Awards and Honours season so if your brigade is thinking about holding one of these nights and would like any assistance with medals and/or how to hold these evenings, please reach out to the Provincial Team who can steer you in the right direction. The forms for requesting the executive attendance are available on our website or you can email the team directly.



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)

It has been a busy few months for brigades in the provincial. It was impressive to see seventeen brigades from the Nelson Marlborough Provincial Association participate in the Firefighter SkyTower Challenge, collectively raising an outstanding \$147,800 in support of Blood Cancer New Zealand. This strong commitment was matched by excellent performances at the National Firefighter Challenge, where provincial competitors achieved impressive results, including Tākaka Brigade successfully defending their relay title.

Well done to all of our brigades!