



IFE New Zealand Branch Branch Councillor Roles and Responsibilities

President B Davey	Executive Director G Ward	Education D Glasgow	Media M Brown	Conference Liaison M Binning	Business Growth G Quensell
Liaison	Administration	CPD	Newsletter	Sponsorship	Partnerships
Advocacy to UK	Finances	NZQA	UK newsletter	Conferences	MOU's
Constitution	Meetings	Exams	Communications	Events	Professional register
		Standards NZ			
		Tertiary/Uni Liaison			

Sub-groups

Membership D Harding-Browne	Examinations E Claridge	Web Site G Quensell / J Gibbons
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News from the Canterbury Group

Our group has been active in our region over the last few years and it has been great to see more interest in membership and examinations. To assist with this over the past 2 years we have built up a library of over 20 books and magazines, both for general interest of members and to assist with exam study. This library is located in the Region Headquarters of Transalpine in Christchurch and any of the material we hold can be signed out there by asking the nice ladies behind the desk. Due to its progress and positive feedback we hope to continue to grow this resource with more and more material - especially material particular to exam study. If you live in, or are visiting Canterbury, please come and check it out for yourself and if you have any great ideas for any publications we should hold then let us know.

Recently we had our Local AGM and Quiz night held at the Christchurch Central Fire Station - thanks to the Social Club for allowing us to use their facilities. The AGM went over without a hitch and all tasks were settled for another year. A big thanks to Ray Pratt who setup a challenging Quiz night which kept us all wracking our brains, was great fun and left a few walking away with some wine and good prizes. Thanks again to the "Michael Spearpoint" team who won the quiz night again, third time in a row. Well done to Michael and his team - but let's topple him from his perch next year!

A few people can breath a sigh of relief now that the IFE Examinations are over for another year, those that attended in Christchurch looked confident and ready - good luck with your results.

The year ahead looks good for us in Canterbury with a few things planned such as Seminars at Canterbury University on various Fire Engineering topics, a Fire Safety demonstration day and also hopefully a visit to the American Antarctic programme based at Christchurch Airport. Not to mention assistance with exam candidates both new and old as that time of the year rolls around again.

If what we do here in the South interests you please get in touch with us and we will be happy to be of assistance to you in any way we can. Please look up our group up on the IFE web site www.ife.org.nz.

Duane Harding-Browne
Chairperson, IFE Canterbury Group

News & Views

We hope you like the new style, standard and presentation of our quarterly newsletter. We have called it a Journal as we hope, over time, to expand the information and advertising to the readership. We will print and post hardcopy Journals to the membership, however if you prefer to receive the Journal by email, please let the Executive Director know. The Journal will feature on the ife.org.nz website. To register your feedback about this Journal, or to submit an article, please email mitchell.brown@ife.org.nz. The August edition of the next quarterly Fire Risk Management Journal has a close-off date, for receipt of articles, of 10 July.

New International Association of Emergency Management Council President

On 12th February 2009, Tony Pearce announced his resignation from the position of President, Oceania Council. Tony was instrumental in the formation of the IAEM in the Australia Pacific region, having been the Australian national representative prior to the formation of the Council (previously region).

Under his leadership, membership grew 300% in just over two years, making Oceania one of the largest councils outside of the United States. Other areas in which he directly attributed to is the CEM Australia and New Zealand exams and rigorous promotion of the IAEM resulting in making it a leading organisation for emergency management.

Taking on the role of Council President is Kristin Hoskin, who was the Vice President and will fulfil this role until the election in 2010. Tony remains a member and strong supporter of IAEM Oceania.



Former IFE NZ Branch Councillor Kristin Hoskin (left) and former IAEM Council President Tony Pearce

PSL - First Company in New Zealand To Achieve Certification

It is with pleasure that I can let you know that **PSL** had an audit conducted, company wide, last month and I am pleased to announce that we are the first company in New Zealand to achieve certification for all three of the following standards:

- ISO 9001:2008 Quality Management Standard
- AS/NZS 4801:2001 Health and Safety Management Standard
- ISO 14001:2004 Environmental Management Standard

We hope that in achieving this it will give the Fire Service confidence in knowing that they are dealing with a company that is able to meet the required standards.

Stuart Hampton
Director, PSL - Phillips & Smith Ltd
"Specialists in Fire & Safety Products"

From the President

Since our last newsletter, a number of our members have been engaged in the review of unit standards for FRSTO and participated as members of various Standards NZ committees. This is encouraging both for recognition of the NZ Branch and for our members who are taking an active role in the various improvement opportunities presented.

Examination results should be due out in May/June and I would hope that those who took them will be suitably rewarded. A reminder, you need to apply for a change in grade, check out our web site for guidance.

Our AGM is in September and we will be calling for nominations to Branch Council, if this interests you please consider standing, it is rewarding, especially when we look to the opportunities of the future.

As my term as President of the NZ Branch draws to close at the end of this year, I am starting to reflect on what has happened during the last three years. I have been privileged to represent you, our members, at the General Assembly meetings on six occasions, the AGM on three occasions and to take forward for discussion and debate the collective views of our Branch. Our voice has been heard on the international scene.

We have continued with successful conferences run under a joint conference partnership arrangement and have shared in the profits. The sponsor program has been developed and is enjoying benefits for both our sponsor organisations and ourselves. This has enabled us to develop excellent promotional material and a more professional looking newsletter.

We are discussing the options with the UK for equating New Zealand Fire Service examinations as qualifying for "academic exemption" from certain grade requirements. This is a new development resulting from the recognition by the Office of the Qualifications and Examinations Regulator (UK) recognising the IFE as an awarding body.

Looking to the future, you will have a new President for 2010, who will face challenges of continuing Branch growth and membership advantages. These will probably take the form of wider recognition of IFE qualifications, (hopefully by NZQA), a greater uptake of membership of the Engineering Council (UK), and accreditation of NZFS examinations against some IFE examination subjects.

Finally, for this newsletter, you will be receiving ballot papers for the Board of Directors from the UK during May and I encourage you to cast your ballot for your choice of member for election to the Board.

Brian Davey
President, NZ Branch
Institution of Fire Engineers



From the Executive Director

The first Branch Council meeting of the year was held on 3rd March when we welcomed

Jeremy Gibbons and Mitchell Brown to their first meeting as new councillors. The meeting was held at Papatoetoe Fire Station in Auckland, this being the most economic location for travel.

Branch Council received an update on the planning for this year's conference which is to be held in Auckland on the 9th & 10th of September. A funding arrangement was agreed between the Institution of Fire Engineers and Fire Protection Association for the joint conference. A new initiative being trialed ahead of the conference is a shared journal/magazine between the two organisations.

The recent news that the Institution's examinations have been recognised by the UK awarding body OfQual will mean potential future changes to the status of our examinations. The President and Branch Council are working with the General Assembly and Head Office and we will keep you updated with any new developments.

The new accounting system is working well for the Branch enabling accurate and up to date financial recording to take place. I am pleased to report that 93% of members have paid their subscriptions leaving only 16 members left to pay their 2009 subs. Thank you, it is a great help to receive subscriptions early as it avoids the additional work and cost of having to chase late payments.

Please remember to let the IFE know if you change your address. Returned mail incurs additional postage costs and means that you may miss several Journals. Contact me by email at secretary@ife.org.nz with any changes to contact details.

The Branch is still having issues with mail being returned from our PO Box 3961 Wellington. Please keep any mail items that are returned to you and advise the Executive Director by email at secretary@ife.org.nz.

Regards

Gary Ward
Executive Director, NZ Branch
Institution of Fire Engineers





INSTITUTION OF FIRE ENGINEERS & FIRE PROTECTION ASSOCIATION (NZ) CONFERENCE & EXHIBITION

Expanding the Frontiers

9-10 September

JOINT CONFERENCE – ELLERSLIE EVENT CENTRE, AUCKLAND

The Fire Protection Association of New Zealand and the Institution of Fire Engineers (NZ) invite you to participate as a delegate, an exhibitor and/or sponsor at FIRE-NZ 2009 – to be held on 9th and 10 September 2009 in the Newmarket Room, Ellerslie Event Centre, Ellerslie Racecourse, Auckland.

This year FIRE-NZ 2009 will be a collaborative event between the Fire Protection Association of New Zealand and the Institution of Fire Engineers (NZ Branch).

The Fire Protection Association of New Zealand is the primary organisation which represents the fire protection industry in New Zealand. The Association liaises closely with relevant government departments and ministries and has strong links with other building related associations.

The Fire Protection Association of NZ has been operating now for 32 years and has grown significantly by representing more and more companies and organisations that work in the fire protection industry.

The membership base includes businesses that are involved in fire alarm manufacturing, fire alarm services, fire protection sprinkler industry, evacuation consultants, fire equipment distributors, insurance companies, fire engineers, the New Zealand Fire Service and Territorial Authorities.

The Institution of Fire Engineers (New Zealand Branch) is part of an international learned body which was founded in 1918 and incorporated in New Zealand in 1924, with the following main objective:

- To promote, encourage and improve the science and practice of fire extinction, fire prevention and fire engineering, and all operations and expedients connected therewith.
- To give an impulse to ideas likely to be useful in connection with, or in relation to such science and practice to the members of the Institution and to the community at large.

Membership of the IFE is drawn from a large cross section of the community, all with a common interest in fire engineering. Examples of organisations that members belong are the NZ Fire Service, Airport Rescue Fire Service, Rural Fire Service, the Insurance Industry, the Building Industry, the Fire Protection Industry and organizations tasked with emergency incident management.

This year the conference theme is "Expanding the Frontiers". Fire engineering is a relatively new engineering practice and its growth in terms of knowledge and application is an expanding frontier. Are we using this knowledge and applying it effectively and do we know how to take advantages of products special features. The conference will explore these new and developing horizons of fire protection and related practices.

Sustainability is also the new catch phrase along with all its associated issues of conserving water, population growth and urbanisation.

To make buildings truly sustainable, fire protection needs to be effective. Does this mean we need to protect property, not just the people in the buildings? Minimising fire damage, pollution and water usage needs to be considered in future design to support resources.

Our speakers will look beyond today and expand the frontiers of fundamental theories and concepts in fire engineering design and implementation with new and innovative technology. With each challenge that comes before us, we need to be actively seeking solutions. The conference is set to provide some of the answers to these challenges.

The IFE NZ Branch is pleased to announce the attendance of International IFE President William Stewart who will give a key note address at this years conference. Bill will be spending a week in New Zealand touring the country and meeting with Fire Service, Industry and IFE members. It is significant that the International President will be attending our conference this year, after last years conference was attended by then International IFE President Paul Richardson.

Together we will bring together members of the industry and associated professionals, to meet and exchange knowledge on products and services. Attendees at the Exhibition will be from the following industry sectors:

Fire Protection Contractors, Fire Consultants, Engineers, Architects, Building Surveyors, Property Developers, Distributors and Installers, Insurance Professionals, Fire Equipment Manufacturers, Fire Survey Personnel, Regulatory Authorities

More information, and a copy of the conference prospectus, can be found at www.ife.org.nz



New Partners

New Bronze Partnership with KTL Technologies.
Pictured: Mike Lee, Production Manager of KTL Technologies

A SYNOPSIS OF INTO THE LINE OF FIRE

By ALLAN BRUCE AFSM, FIFireE

The New Zealand Fire and Rescue Service is one of the most dynamic emergency services in the world. It is a national service controlled by the Fire Service Commission responsible for all urban fire brigades in the nation under the Fire Service Act 1975, with some responsibility for rural areas under the Forest and Rural Fires Act 1977. The Commission is an Entity of the Crown accountable to Government through the Minister of Internal Affairs. The Commission is part time, comprising a Chairperson and four members, with the National Headquarters located in Wellington. A Chief Executive/National Commander answers to the Commission for the general administration and operations of the New Zealand Fire and Rescue Service, with approximately 10,000 career and volunteer firefighters, operating from 8 Fire Regions and 436 fire stations. By any standards it is a very large organisation and absolutely vital to the nation's community.

Since Fire Brigades were first formed by volunteers in New Zealand in the mid-1800s, firefighting has seen a long and chequered history. However, my book is not an historical treatise since that time. Many volumes would be needed to tell the full story and most fire brigades have already related their individual histories in one form or another. Instead my story chronicles the period of organisation, administration and management of the nation's Fire Brigades since 18 November 1947. Why this date?

It was on the afternoon of this day that the nation suffered the most horrific fire in its history. In Christchurch, 41 members of the staff of Ballantyne's Department Store perished in circumstances that should never have occurred. **That horrific event changed New Zealand's Fire Brigades forever.** The fire proved to be a defining moment in the history of firefighting in New Zealand. A government Royal Commission subsequently reported that; the Fire Board administration and the operations of the Fire Brigade were found to be well and truly wanting. The important factor from this report was that the situation in Christchurch was a reflection of the administration and operations of all the large urban Brigades in the nation. Why? Because in New Zealand in 1947 we were still operating under a pre-Second World War administrative and operational firefighting philosophy!

Following on from this rude awakening in 1947, there have been 61 tumultuous years to 2008. At times they have been incredibly turbulent and on other occasions excitingly positive.

I begin to recount the story from two distinct perspectives:

Part One covers the first 35 years from 1947, when I became a Wellington Fire Brigade recruit fireman (coincidentally the year of the Ballantyne's fire), to 1982 when I held the position of Fire Force Commander/Regional Commander Auckland.

I talk about this period from a personal perspective. It includes my service in the London Fire Brigade which had such a vital influence on my attitude to the modernisation of New Zealand's fire brigades; to my appointment in the early 1970s as a member of the New Zealand Fire Service Council, the governing body of the nation's Fire Brigades from 1949 to 1974.

Part Two covers the time following on from 1982, after I was appointed Chief Executive/Chief Fire Officer of the South Australian Metropolitan Fire Service (1982-89), through to the present day. It was my experience inside the 1976 New Zealand restructuring and the culture that eventuated which provided me with a unique viewpoint from which to analyse independently the events that unfolded after I left the NZFS in 1982.

Historical events in the book are interspersed with anecdotal accounts' relating to firefighters, most of them their own stories. Many are humorous and some humanly sad. I also provide descriptive accounts of the important fires that changed the face of our fire brigades.

I interviewed dozens of serving and retired firefighters, both volunteer and career, many of whom held the highest positions in the NZFS and who were willing, for the first time, to express candid opinions on how they viewed the progressive destruction of the service they had been so proud to serve in.

The British Institution of Fire Engineers has played a vital part during my own and thousands of other firefighter's and fire protection professionals' entire careers. The New Zealand Branch has historically been one of the strongest outside of the United Kingdom and was a collateral victim of the 1990s when membership suffered dramatically as the senior officer purge developed. It has only been through the efforts of a few dedicated fire officers that a spectacular revival has been achieved for this world recognised organisation within New Zealand.

The title, *Into the Line of Fire*, has two distinct inferences. The first is likely to be more immediately evident. Throughout their service, firefighters know that when they respond to a call-out they are entering into the hazardous line of fire. This they accept without question. The second meaning may be at first less apparent, but after reading my book it becomes clear just how much in the political line of fire frontline firefighters have been and how significantly it has affected their morale and efficiency.

These courageous men and women should not ever be forced into the political line of fire. All that dedicated firefighters want is to be left to get on with the job and assume their responsibilities to the community. They need to be able to do this on a completely bipartisan basis, without being subjected to the whims of the country's changing politicians, whether at central or local government level.

In recent years under the leadership of Dame Margaret Bazley and Chief Executive/National Commander Mike Hall, the current Fire Service Commission has done an extraordinary job to bring the New Zealand Fire and Rescue Service back from the precipice of failure, progressively restoring pride, heightening morale, and returning to world's best practice in regard to fire safety, fire engineering and firefighting expertise. In the process industrial relations involving the NZPFU has taken a refreshingly good turn for the better.

At the conclusion, I examine the present state of affairs and raise important questions about the stability of the current system into the future. Of prime importance are two particular issues: the impact of the *still* unresolved inequitable funding system, and the continuing problem of a bifurcated fire service regime, whereby urban fire brigades and rural fire services operate under two different Acts of Parliament. My coverage of the tragic Tamahere fire draws attention to this deficiency.

While the insurance industry is the principal financial stakeholder, three organisations are in reality the pre-eminent stakeholders. The authority responsible to government for management and administration the Fire Service Commission, the Professional Firefighters Union representing some 1700 dedicated career firefighters and the United Fire Brigades Association which represents about 7000 equally dedicated, vital community volunteer firefighters. This work is the story of the employees and members of these organisations. I am confident it will serve as a valuable educational chronicle of these 61 years, as well as providing a classic case study for business students on how political intervention can have a detrimental influence on management and staff relations with disastrous industrial dispute consequences. Most importantly, I offer an objective look into the future and potential effects if the continuing problem issues are not urgently addressed.

This book will be available to IFE NZ Branch members at a special discounted price, kindly offered by the author Mr Allan Bruce AFSM, FIFireE. It is hoped to promote the publishing of the book *Into the Line of Fire* in the next issue of the NZ Branch Newsletter.