

The younger you are, the cheaper Healthcare 99 is,
and with fewer or no pre-conditions.
Think about joining Healthcare 99 today.



WELFARE NEWS



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March 2019

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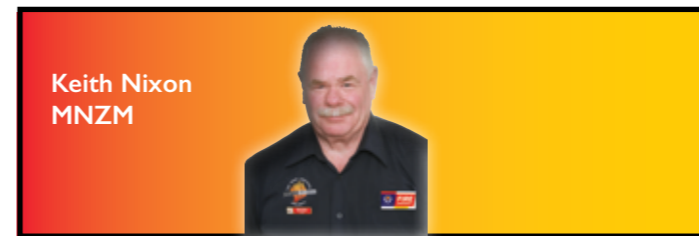


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Keith Nixon
MNZM

UPDATE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Happy New Year to you all.

Over the holiday period I received calls from people concerned about the Psychological well-being of someone in their family, a work mate and/or a friend. Please, if you know of someone who maybe having Psychological problems and are worried about their well-being and you think that they need help, please call the Healthline on 0800 611 116.

If the person needs urgent help call 111 or go to the nearest hospital emergency department with them.

You can also contact the Firefighters Welfare Society for help on 0800 OK FIRE (0800 65 3473) or go to their website www.firefighters.org.nz for more information.

There is also a lot of Psychological and Well-being information on the FENZ Portal for FENZ personnel.

Office Staff.

I would like to remind members that our office staff are there to help members and their families.

If a member has an issue with or is annoyed about what the Board has done please contact the Society Secretary with your concerns so they can be addressed in the correct manner.

Severe Events.

Severe Events such as Earth Quakes, Bad Weather events and large fires like the recent Tasman/Nelson bush fires are a warning of what can happen in this country of ours and the effect these events have had with the whole community.

If you are a member of the Firefighters Welfare Society and experience one of these types of events and are not sure what help is available for you please contact the Society Office.

Challenge

To all you existing members I would like to offer you a challenge. For the Society to expand and be able to offer more and better benefits to its membership and their families, we need more members, simple really.

The challenge to all existing members is simply to get FENZ brigade members and other eligible persons to join the Welfare Society. Simple really.

More Members = More better and bigger Benefits – especially more Convalescent/Holiday Homes.

I would like to take the opportunity to welcome all the new members to the Society as you are now part of a great organisation.

THANK TO YOU ALL

Members and their families, Board Members, Office Staff, Office holders and all the Brigade and Station Welfare Society Rep's.

All the best for 2019.

Keith Nixon MNZM
Chairman

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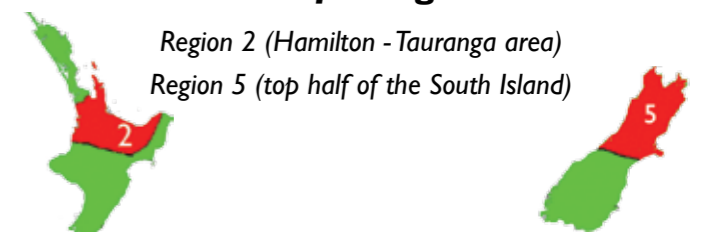


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Election of Board Members 2019

Nominations for region 2 and 5



We hereby give notice and call for nominations for these positions. Nominations must be made on the appropriate form signed by a proposer, a seconder and the nominee.

Regional reps must be nominated and seconded by a member in that region.

NB: Nomination forms are available to download from our web site

www.firefighters.org.nz

or, ring the office to have a nomination form posted to you.

Nominations close with the returning officer at 1500 hours on April 17, 2019 and should be emailed to thesecc@firefighters.org.nz or posted to:

The Returning Officer
Private Bag 31 999
Lower Hutt 5040

HOLIDAY HOMES CONDITIONS OF OCCUPANCY

A reminder to all members that are using the holiday homes.

Check in times are 1.00pm. Entry prior to this time is not permitted unless it has been pre-approved with the office prior to your arrival. Even if you check on your phone app and see that the home was not booked the evening before it does not mean that members can go in early. When the houses are free it is a time when caretakers can take regular maintenance checks.

Check out times are 11.00am. Please ensure that you have cleaned the homes by 11.00am and have vacated the premises leaving them clean and tidy. The limited times between members checking out and others checking in is needed so that the homes can be checked over and any issues put right. We have a strict no animals allowed policy in all our holiday homes. Please respect these rules.

firefighters helping firefighters and their families - awahi atu awahi mai o ratou whanau

STEPHEN CLARKE - SALES



Welcome to 2019 a year that may have significant change for many of you. At the time of writing this, the Nelson fires are in to day 6. We have just confirmed that a brewery, Fortune Favours, is working to donate a sum of money to NZFFWS "do some good for the firefighters who are located in Nelson".

A big "Thank You" to Fortune Favours and The Wellington Hospitality Group for supporting us to help those in Nelson.

Towards the end of last year I had the pleasure of giving some of our members some great news. Megan from Auckland won the



Dulux deck care pack just in time for summer. This was one of our great facebook give-aways.

Jason from Palmerston North won a Samsung X Cover 4. This was supplied thanks to Vodafone and Jason was the lucky number for our membership.

I have spent the first part of this year doing work behind the scenes that you will likely see in the coming months. Our app is continuing to be tweaked to make it easier to navigate. Our discounts are out and easy to use.

The growth of our organization is the best way to provide more for our members. We encourage you to talk to your workmates about how great this organisation is and encourage them to join and use our holiday homes and the discount scheme.

We are having a short video produced to encourage membership growth. We will be filming in Dunedin on the 14th of March and Wellington on the 21st of March. We are still looking for some talent to say a few good things about us. If this is you, please get in touch with me to have a chat, mobile is best - 021 505 698.

Over the last few months, I have spoken to a number of you about the offers already available through our App. A number of you have spoken about existing offerings available, either formally and informally through FENZ. We have researched this to ensure we have the best offers. Some of these are in fact available directly to all FENZ personnel, we have just simply put them in one place with the rest of the negotiated offers for all our members. We encourage you to look at these and see what's available.

Still being summer and the last of the DIY season, we have a few companies on our app to look at – PlaceMakers, Dulux, Hirepool, PGG Wrightson, Ideal Electrical & Mico Plumbing.

NZFFWS WELFARE APP

Holiday homes can be booked up to a year. As each new day rolls over, another available day is added to the booking feature at the end of the year. Some members have been asking what happened to the feature of being able to click on the final day of the booking year and book a holiday that extends beyond the year that is available for booking.

In the previous holiday booking app a member would click on the first day on the calendar they wished to book. Then at the bottom of the screen one had to choose the number of nights for the booking, which could be up to 28 consecutive days. If one clicked on the final day of the year allowed for booking you could choose consecutive days up to 28 into the locked calendar. Since these booked days didn't show on the calendar as booked out, some members complained they did not know what night to get up to make a new booking because they couldn't see what had been booked until each new day rolled over.

As we positioned the holiday booking app to become more a Welfare Society App, the booking procedure was changed to a carousel arrangement and to book a holiday home, one would click on the first day they wished for their holiday and then click on the final day. The days in-between were filled in automatically as booked on the calendar. Another good feature of this method is once the days are chosen, they are locked for 5 minutes so that no one else can book those days. This gives time to find a credit card and finish the booking process without fear of losing those dates. There was an issue with the previous booking app that did allow for two members to book the same day. This was an annoying bug that could not be totally eliminated. This was not the only reason but still a good one to make a change in how the holiday homes were booked. The method currently used is the standard around the world for booking seats or events.

We have been discussing this issue with the developers of our app and apparently there is no cheap and easy solution. The calendar has to be open and available for booking to be able to click on the final day of the holiday. There may be other ways around this issue. These are currently being discussed by the Board.

PEACE OF MIND

If you want peace of mind and help in paying for any healthcare events that come along, then the NZFF Welfare Society offers a solution for you, Join Healthcare 99. This is not a health insurance policy but a mutual fund that pays you according to a schedule for healthcare costs. Check out the terms and conditions on www.firefighters.org.nz/healthcare-99.

DO YOU NEED SOME HELP

A reminder to all our members if you are unwell or going into hospital for a planned procedure, please let us know. Phone the Office on 0800 653473

We want to be able to support all of our members and families and to do this we need to know what is happening with you.

WELFARE SOCIETY BRANDING

With the arrival of FENZ, it is time for the NZFF Welfare Society to look at its own branding. The Media firm Netl has been assisting us in our quest for an overall consistent look and feel for the Society's digital and printed material. The purpose of the exercise is not to spend lots of money on this process but still to make some changes that hopefully will be attractive to the large number of firefighters who are not yet members. Since FENZ has yet to finalise its brand, our plan is to make some changes to our brand now to better fit the new service but to implement these changes slowly over time. This will allow us to make adjustments to changing circumstances.

These are the suggested colour schemes.



The Board has decided to keep our present logo but use these colours in all future promotional materials that are produced.

The Welfare Society's brand position for the moment is targeted to paid firefighters, volunteer firefighters, the families of firefighters and members of the various ambulance services.

Our main tagline will be "better starts here, for you and your loved ones." These graphics are only theme and concept graphics.



The second Brand position for NZFFWS is "firefighters helping firefighters and their families". This has been the traditional message for NZFFWS and is a large reason why members sign up. The more firefighters that join, the more benefits and support firefighters will get.



All web sites have a life span and our web site is no exception. The time to update it has come. A website design needs to be clean and clear with the main call to action, that is "Join NZFFWS". The secondary information will be around the benefits and perks that members receive.

These are ideas that the Board of NZFFWS is discussing in the quest to make our brand attractive, up to date and timely. Watch with interest to see how close these ideas become reality over the coming months.

