



**Minutes of the 78th New Zealand Fire Brigades' Institute
Annual General Meeting
Memorial Hall
Queenstown
9 March 2009**

MINUTES

The meeting commenced at 1342 hours.

President Rick Eng called the meeting to order and addressed Conference on the purpose of the Institute namely examinations, field days and organising a guest speaker for the UFBA Conference.

President Eng then called on National Commander Mike Hall to address Conference on the implications, outcomes and broader issues of the Tamahere fire tragedy.

The key points from his address were as follows:

- Disappointed that although the plant was out of the Fire District, the risks had not been identified and tactical plans in place
- Some equipment was not available at the time
- Complacency
- The choices that faced the Officers-in-Charge i.e. whether to let it burn or put the fire out
- The environmental risk of the waste water/sewerage from the fire operations
- In the future, we need to consider these kinds of issues and it may well be better to let things burn
- Reconsider the use of foam
- Sprinklers in buildings and the need to have a "cost benefit analysis" done before trying to introduce any changes
- Environmental factors often have a positive effect on cost benefit analysis
- Issues regarding who is responsible in such incidents – is it the rural fire or urban fire services or both?
- Another issue was the "H" factors or more commonly known as the "hero" factor
- Is not that happy that firefighters be promoted as heroes
- Much prefer that we are all known as well-trained and professional people or fully adopt and promote the safe person concept

- Counter-productive to be known as heroes
- This is not to say we do not do an excellent job in an efficient and safe manner
- Overall the Tamahere incident was well managed and a good result
- It was very unfortunate that we lost a firefighter – the first in 57 years – a fact that shouldn't be forgotten

Questions to Mike Hall

Question: We tend to sell ideas of smoke alarms, sprinklers – is there a way of selling the “good” story to the public?

Answer: By and large, we do sell to the public. We have the six o'clock news. Every night we are on TV.

Question: Was there advice from Councils and other authorities at Tamahere?

Answer: Yes there was.

Past President Graeme Booth endorsed what Mike Hall said about heroism and thanked him for drawing a line in the sand.

President Eng thanked Mike Hall and presented him with a Certificate of Appreciation.

The President then declared the 78th AGM officially open and introduced his Executive as follows:

Vice President
Immediate Past President
Councillors

Rob Saunders
Russell Postlewaight
Kerry Ferris
Catherine Trevathan-Kendrew

Apologies

Apologies were received from Past President John May, Past President Don Roper and Past President Herb Carberry.

MOTION: That the apologies be accepted.

Moved: Councillor Catherine Trevathan-Kendrew

Seconded: Vice President Rob Saunders

The Motion was SUSTAINED.

Minutes of the 77th AGM

MOTION: That the minutes of the 77th Annual General Meeting be accepted as a true and accurate record of proceedings.

Moved: Past President Sandy Lawson

Seconded: Vice President Rob Saunders

The Motion was CARRIED.

President Eng recognised the Past Presidents in attendance as follows:

Emrys Evans
Brian Watters
Sandy Lawson
Bruce Didham
Brendon Wood
Tony Swain

Annual Report

MOTION: That the Annual Report as circulated be accepted.

Moved: IPP Russell Postlewaight

Seconded: Past President Sandy Lawson

The Motion was CARRIED.

President Eng spoke to the report and thanked and acknowledged a number of people who had supported the Institute through the year.

Encouragement Award

This was presented to the Waiouru Military Camp Fire Brigade.

Installation of Executive

President Eng then escorted Immediate Past President Russell Postlewaight from the stage to sit with the other Past Presidents. He then installed Rob Saunders as the new President and presented him with the chain of office. President Saunders addressed Conference and thanked the members of the Institute, extended special thanks to Immediate Past President Eng and then installed his Executive as follows:

Immediate Past President	Rick Eng
Vice President	Kerry Ferris
Councillors	Catherine Trevathan-Kendrew Ian Wellings (in absentia)

President Saunders also presented Rick Eng with a Certificate of Appreciation and flowers for his wife in recognition of her support and contribution.

The new President then addressed Conference. He noted the NZFBI will continue this year with education and field days. He explained where this year's field days are being held – West Coast Provincial Association to view a coal mine and gold mine. The NZFBI is also planning the second at Tiwai Aluminium plant at Tiwai Point. A further field day visiting the production sites for our new fire appliances is planned for the near future.

He endorsed the Institute's Council members and said they were unified and committed to the objectives of the Institute. As announced in Rick Eng's presidential report, CFO Ian Wellings of the Tokoroa Volunteer Fire Brigade will now join this team.

President Saunders and the Council will be focusing on core activities being:

- Conducting technical qualification exams
- Facilitating field days
- Providing technical advice to the UFBA
- The Examination Panel will be reviewing exams

General Business

MOTION: That Immediate Past President Rick Eng be made a Life Honorary Member of the Institute.

Moved: Past President Tony Swain
Seconded: Past President Bruce Didham

The Motion was CARRIED by acclamation.

President Saunders than presented Rick Eng with a Life Honorary Medal and again, thanked him for his contribution. Immediate Past President Eng suitably replied and said he was deeply honoured.

Members were invited to meet again next year in Christchurch.

The Annual General Meeting closed at 1415 hours.