

Hi Everyone,

Welcome to the first newsletter for the new year, hopefully you all managed to get plenty of sun and rest over the festive season.

Contract Ratification

Early in January ballot papers were sent out to members for ratification of the contract, a total of 32 votes were cast recording 28 votes for and 4 votes against. On Tuesday last week we received the contract signed by both parties. We have been involved in some follow up discussions related to the contract.

On Tuesday 23rd February Mark Boere, Roy, and myself met with Chris Wells (Manager H/R Services, Employment Relations), Richard Dagger (Principal Advisor Workplace Relations), and Catherine Coe (Principal OD Advisor), to discuss amongst other things the NZFS Engagement Policy, and the proposed MOU of engagement between NZFS and the Society. We have now signed the MOU, we have agreed on the establishment of a joint working party with NHQ to develop entry, progression criteria into the AC/AAC roles, and a skill maintenance policy for both the AC/ACC group. Dave Stackhouse and Graham Fuller have been appointed as the societies representative for this work stream.

In the afternoon we were interviewed by two Department of Internal Affairs staff members who were gathering information for the review of the NZ Fire Service Legislation (Mark and Peter Dempsey are our representatives for this work stream). Our position on funding for the fire service is based on both the motor industry and ACC to pay actual costs towards our services that we currently provided for road events, property should be used as the medium for levy gathering, and that we need only one act to work under for both urban and rural purposes.

Human Resources have promised that future negotiations will be held in a more timely manner.

Strategy and Business plan

The committee has been busy since it held its first face to face meeting in Christchurch last December. During the two days we managed to produce the backbone of both a EFOS strategic and business plan. As part of this work we have identified a number of work streams that have been prioritised for further work.

Website

The committee has decided to revamp the societies website, Paul Henderson is leading this project. The aim is to make it a secure site again, have links to documents when the link is emailed to members, refresh the current cover page to better reflect what it is the society stands for, and update the contract and member areas.

Vehicles

We have submitted a paper (attached) to Mike Moran that highlights what we think are the deficiencies in the current allocation of vehicles to area based staff. In essence we have asked to be involved with the work stream to develop firstly what are the vehicle requirements for both the AC/AAC role, and what type of vehicle this should look like.

Our view is the current NZFS vehicle strategy of allocation of vehicles to EO's is not based on any sizing of actual job role, nor the geographical need of vehicle type to enable EO's to safely go about day to day business. Our position is EO's should be allocated with all wheel drive vehicles (as St John EO's are) with the option for AAC's to access full private use if they should so desire. This would in our view be a step towards supporting the 2020 Vision statement of Leading Integrated Fire and Emergency Services for a safer New Zealand.

Steve Kennedy and Dave Key are leading this work.

Possible Name Change

Plenty of discussion has been held by the committee around an email sent out from administration at NHQ telling AC/AAC's what we could and couldn't refer to as a job title when using business cards and email signatures. At the recent meeting with Chris Wells, Richard Dagger and Catherine Coe we expressed our concern around this, including the society's preferred preference title is the rank issued to staff on appointment into the AC/AAC roles.

The society rules (9.4) state rule amendments, additions or deletions may be proposed at an annual general meeting. While we have not set a date for the AGM as yet, I am giving you a heads up that a proposed new name (NZ Commanders Society for example) will be proposed at the next AGM.

Superannuation

In our contract the fire services super contribution will be paid over and above our total remuneration package with a staged introduction over 3 years. This is worth quite a lot of money.

If you do not belong to the super scheme or are paying a reduced contribution, you do not get the full subsidy.

The society encourages any members that have suspended payments to raise it immediately to the 6% (max subsidy level) or join the super if you have not done so.

You will not get the full subsidy, which is worth \$1.52 net per your \$1 (up to 6%) if you are not in the super scheme or paying a reduced amount.

We will develop some comparison tables if you are not in it or paying a reduced self contribution and work with the Fire Service and the Fire Super committee on what options are available to buy back. Our contract took effect as of July 2014, so members should have had the option to reconsider their super contribution back then.

We will keep you informed of progress

Upcoming Strategic Command Courses

You will shortly receive an email from Nick Pyatt (Acting AAC at NHQ Operations) inviting you to participate in the new Strategic Command Course. The email sets out the course structure and timetable. Both Dave Stackhouse and Graham Fuller will attend the workshop for this course in Rotorua on 27th of this month. The Society strongly encourages all AC/AAC's to participate as part of individuals professional development and skill set enhancement.

Executives Busyness Project.

You should have all received the report of the busyness project carried out last year, which was run by the Fire Service in collaboration with us. A business case is awaiting approval by the SLT later this month to requesting funding the follow up projects required to address the recommendations.

We see the priority in addressing our busyness as critical, so that we can focus on what is important in our Areas and also our general well being.

The SLT have advised that they are also treating this a high priority and Roy Breeze is our representative on this.

Project Presentation

We have representatives on the following projects if you wish to know more about the progress:

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| • Executive Officers Busyness Projects | Roy Breeze |
| • A/AC role and progression | Dave Stackhouse and Graham Fuller |
| • Fire Service Review of legislation | Mark Boere and Peter Dempsey |
| • Command and Control | Dave Stackhouse |
| • Appointments/Skill Maintenance | Dave Stackhouse/Graham Fuller |
| • Vehicles | Des Irving |
| • Policy review | Paul Henderson |
| • Decon/Hazmat/Health & Safety | Greg Crawford |
| • PPE | Chris Nicol |
| • Fire Service Review | Peter Dempsey/Mark Boere |
| • TAPS | Geoff Purcell |
| • IFE | John Booth |

Communication

The Society committee has a video conference every month. If you have anything you want discussed please let one of us know so we can discuss it in the next VC

Regards

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