

# 2023-2024 ANNUAL REPORT

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Wellington Volunteer Fire Service Support Unit OIC's Annual Report for the year ended 31 March 2024



**125 YEARS SUPPORTING OUR COMMUNITY**

## **WELCOME TO OUR 2023-2024 ANNUAL REPORT**

It's my pleasure to bring to you, my first report as Officer in Charge of Wellington Volunteer Fire Service Support Unit (known as Wellington Operational Support Unit), as we celebrate our 125<sup>th</sup> year of providing service to the people of Wellington.

It was another busy year, with our brigade taking a full part in Fire and Emergency's operations and events across Wellington and, despite a period of significant change, we are well placed to continue our service.

### **LEADERSHIP CHANGES**

You will recall from last year's report that Jono Ashman had stood down from the role of SSO / OIC and that during a transitional period, Station Officer Phil Harris and myself were providing brigade leadership; I also reported that Jono had returned to the brigade (in the role of Station Officer) as of early September.

During September, a competitive process led by our Group Manager, AAC Mike Dombroski, was run to select a new Senior Station Officer / Officer in Charge. In early October, I was privileged enough to be selected for the role, and I have set about since then to move us forward from a relatively unsettled early 2023. This has not been without some challenges, however!

Unfortunately in late October, due to his personal circumstances, SO Jono Ashman resigned entirely from the brigade. I want to again note my thanks to Jono for his service to our brigade, and his support and friendship over the last several years.

Jono's departure left the brigade with only two Officers and a bit of a leadership vacuum. One of my first moves in response was to finalise, and obtain executive approval for, the WOSU-developed rank progression framework to enable the appointment of Operational Support Senior Firefighter (OS-SFF) rank within our brigade. This then enabled us to promote two of the brigade's emerging leaders, Cullum Peni-Wesche and Simon Luke, to the SFF rank and enable them to more directly support Phil and myself in a leadership capacity. We were also able to celebrate the promotion of Zane Hunt to Qualified Firefighter (OS-QFF) at the same time, which reflected his commitment to the brigade after his transfer to us in December 2022.

As we entered 2024 I began to look toward the appointment of additional Station Officers; with a brigade establishment of 25, the normal complement would be four SO's in addition to the SSO, and this left three vacancies to potentially be filled! It was my pleasure to be able to appoint Alex Cousins, Simon Luke and Cullum Peni-Wesche to the rank of OS-SO in July 2024; though this is beyond the official period of this report, it is a noteworthy achievement and each of them are already making a significant contribution to brigade. Congratulations to all three of you.

### **OPERATIONAL ACTIVITY**

We were dispatched to 82 incidents during the reporting period, a slight increase on the previous year, and amongst the incidents we attended were the now infamous Loafers Lodge blaze in May 2023 (5<sup>th</sup> Alarm, with us attending multiple times over several days), another large structure fire incident in October (Ghuznee St, 3<sup>rd</sup> Alarm) and significant scrub fires at Whitirea in January (3<sup>rd</sup> Alarm) and Cannons Creek in February (3<sup>rd</sup> Alarm) with the Whitirea incident being the first in Wellington District to be declared a 'long duration' incident, under a new (interim) FENZ policy published in November 2023, those who attend a declared long-duration incident after the first 24 hours are eligible for a one-off gratuity payment in return for the time committed. Although we do not respond to emergencies expecting payment, this is a welcome contribution towards our costs associated with long-duration events, particularly for those of our members who are self-employed or required to take leave-without-pay in order to make themselves available.

We also continued in our role as a specialist Salvage Unit, with Wellington District providing us with a new 'Rössle' high-capacity Aquavac, the only unit of its type in Australasia, on an extended trial. This has been deployed at several incidents requiring salvage, including a 2<sup>nd</sup> Alarm fire incident at the Treasury on The Terrace, and another large salvage event at Victoria University of Wellington.

### **TRAINING**

Initiatives largely driven by our lead Station Training Coordinator, Duncan Tabor, have seen us step up our inter-agency training tempo, with collaborations in this area including Wellington Coastguard and the USAR Light Rescue Teams from both Wellington and VUW – as well as our regular inter-OSU training activities. These have proven their worth at incidents where we've called upon our OS counterparts from Tawa, Remutaka and Wainuiomata, and also worked with Wellington Emergency Rescue Team at the Ghuznee St incident in October. I'd like to thank the members of our training team during the reporting period – particularly

Duncan Tabor, and the support provided by Alex Cousins and Cullum Peni-Wesche. Please see our STC's report for more about the year's training.

## **RECRUITMENT**

The observer programme initiated in the previous reporting year was run twice during the 2023-2024 period, with the first group of three potential recruits joining us in the later part of 2023 for several training nights, guided by Blair Hillyard as programme lead. Of these, one new brigade member was selected – our first secondary-school-aged Recruit Firefighter still in high school, in recent memory. Welcome to the brigade, Dylan Wahapa!

With Blair having left the brigade in late 2023, I was grateful that Cullum Peni-Wesche picked up the baton of programme lead. After a bit of rework, a new-and-improved Observer/Recruitment initiative went live in February and this saw 10 potential recruits join us for several training nights. (And with the benefit of having written this report in August, we know that of those 10, 8 new recruits have signed-the-dotted-line and joined us!) I need to particularly recognise the hard work Cullum has done, improving on our public engagement / recruitment channel and updating the Observer programme to be even more effective. Bringing potential Recruits through a period of several weeks both observing and engaging (in a limited fashion) with an adapted version of our training programme, is definitely helping our recruitment pipeline and ensuring that there's a full understanding of the commitment that becoming one of our members, entails.

## **COMMUNITY RISK MANAGEMENT AND ENGAGEMENT**

Our community engagement has continued, with the brigade again providing support to FENZ at the Emergency Services Open Day held at Te Papa (April 2023), the LifeFlight Open Day (March 2024) and attending the Kilbirnie Christmas event (the successor to the Kilbirnie Santa Parade). The Community Risk Management team also facilitated the procurement of a branded gazebo, which will provide a visible base for education and engagement events, and also support us for larger / longer duration events where shelter is required for victim support or crew recovery. It's first deployment was at the Relay for Life event in Upper Hutt earlier this year, which we used as an opportunity to fundraise for our team who took part in the Skytower Stairclimb Challenge later in 2024.

## **STRATEGY, PLANNING AND WIDER FENZ ENGAGEMENT**

I have always sought to see the role of Operational Support understood, respected and embraced by our colleagues within FENZ and the wider emergency services community; to see our role and function recognised for the capabilities and value we bring, and to fight the tendency of our non-firefighting role positioning us as having 'second class' status when it comes to resourcing and strategic planning at all levels – District, Region and National.

Since I took up the role of OIC I have found our District leadership team – including our own Group Manager Mike Dombroski, the other GM's of the Wellington District with whom we work, and our District Manager (Nick Pyatt until February 2024; Brett Lockyer since) – to be approachable and supportive of our brigade. With their assistance, I will continue to drive progress on matters such as our fleet, equipment and personal protective equipment, our access to training and the suitability of FENZ-provided tools and processes to our unique role supporting FENZ in Wellington. An example of the support we see at District-level is the Operational Support Leaders Forum for Wellington District, chaired by GM Matthew Abel, which helps our Unit and those in Wainuiomata, Remutaka and Paraparaumu/Waikanae coordinate on areas of mutual interest.

## **A MILESTONE IN 2024**

This being our 125<sup>th</sup> year, we're planning a celebration to mark this milestone, and will use the opportunity to present due honours and awards to several of our personnel. It is timely though, to take a moment and reflect on the changes that this brigade has seen (and been a part of!) in those 125 years... our anniversary celebration will be held in October, and planning is well underway. A little slice of our history can also be found as part of this report.

I invite you to read the rest of our Annual Report and thank you for your interest in Wellington's Operational Support Unit, and for your support throughout the year.

**Mark Foster**  
**Senior Station Officer, Officer in Charge**  
**Wellington Operational Support Unit**

**Cover Photos:** A group photo showing members of our team together with the Wellington Emergency Response Team NZRT-8 at a joint training event, November 2023; Duncan Tabor caught in action at the Ghuznee St 3<sup>rd</sup> alarm incident in October 2023 (photo by Derek Quinn); Dylan Wahapa engaging with a younger audience at the LifeFlight Open Day in March 2024.

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**Incident Response:** Our appliance Kilbirnie 2426 seen stationed next to the Command Unit Wellington 2118 at a 3<sup>rd</sup> Alarm fire on Ghuznee St, October 2023. (by Derek Quinn)



**Community Engagement:** Milan Lukic seen imparting Fire Safety advice at the Kilbirnie Christmas Event 2023; and again as we prepared for the doors to open to the LifeFlight Open Day, March 2024.

## 2. EMERGENCY RESPONSES

### KEY RESPONSE STATISTICS

With a response count of 82 incidents during the reporting period, we're continuing to generally trend upwards in terms of turnout statistics – but of these, 26 events were recorded with no tasks carried out (stood down before arriving).

In terms of the duties we carry out at emergency scenes, Salvage has nudged its way back into the top-spot, with it having been carried out at 36 incidents – a mix of fire and non-fire related events. But Traffic Management follows closely behind (with 30 incidents), which goes to show the continuing importance of our role providing for the safety of both firefighters and the public at emergency incidents. It was also great to see operational firefighters calling on us for scene safety and traffic management tasks at non-fire events such as motor-vehicle accidents and HAZMAT calls.

Count	Duty Type
30	Traffic Management
22	Fire Salvage
14	Non-Fire Salvage
9	Incident Logistics
8	Scene Security
5	Scene Lighting
8	Crew Recovery
2	Crew Transport
6	Recommissioning Equipment
14	Equipment Makeup
6	Victim Support
9	Crowd Control

Rounding out our typical duties at incidents we attend, is supporting the make-up of equipment, providing general incident logistics, and welfare tasks are starting to nudge upwards, both for the public (Victim Support) and for the welfare of emergency services workers (Crew Recovery).

Crewing requirements at incidents also continue to vary, but there were several events during the reporting period with 6 or more of our members recorded as having attended; the most extreme example was where we had 14 of our 17 operational members attend the Whitirea Scrub Fire event over the course of several days.

### OPERATIONAL RESPONSE AREA

Wellington OSU's response area is the whole of Greater Wellington, from Pukerua Bay in the north (meeting Paraparaumu's southern edge) to Seatoun in the south-east; from the Makara Coast across to Korokoro where we intersect with the turnout areas of Remutaka and Wainuiomata OSU's.

Being based at Kilbirnie station does pose a challenge to our response times into the northern parts of our response area, but allowing direct-to-incident responses from our members who live some distance from Kilbirnie acts as a counter for this, particularly for responses into areas such as Karori & the western ward suburbs, the north Wellington wards and Porirua City. Our members living in these areas are able, under specific Standard Operating Procedures which include them being properly equipped with all appropriate Personal Protective Equipment, get to work supporting the needs of the incident even as our vehicles are just getting on the road.

Unfortunately, existing FENZ fire stations in more central locations (noting WOSU was once based at City station) are not considered suitable alternatives to the benefits of Kilbirnie's space and facilities, as well as its proximity to residential areas from which members can quickly respond to the station. Yet we remain committed to our responsibilities across the whole area, with strong relationships with our volunteer fire brigade colleagues from Newlands, Johnsonville, Porirua and others being key, as well as having members living in suburbs such as Karori, Ngaio, Wadestown and Johnsonville who can quickly respond and support both their local fire crews at incidents in their own communities.

### MUTUAL AID ARRANGEMENTS

We must first acknowledge the support and friendship of Tawa Volunteer Fire Brigade and their crew of Operational Support personnel, with whom we regularly work on the fireground.

Further afield, we have mutual-support arrangements which see us working with our Operational Support colleagues based at Paraparaumu, Wainuiomata and Remutaka stations – and them responding into Wellington on request, particularly if we are managing a large or long-duration incident.

## NOTABLE INCIDENTS

- 5 April 2023: House Fire, Mt Victoria (660 personnel-minutes)
- 8 May 2023: House Fire, Strathmore Park (2367 personnel-minutes)
- 16 May 2023: Loafers Lodge Structure Fire, Newtown – 5<sup>th</sup> Alarm. (Attended twice on 16 May, and once each on 17, 18 and 20 May for a total of 4819 personnel-minutes)
- 23 June 2023: House Fire, Waitangirua (880 personnel-minutes)
- 25 June 2023: Motor Vehicle Accident, Lyall Bay (472 personnel-minutes)
- 17 July 2023: Post-Fire Salvage in Thorndon (864 personnel-minutes)
- 24 July 2023: HAZMAT incident in Newlands (882 personnel-minutes)
- 29 July 2023: 2<sup>nd</sup> Alarm Fire on Tory St caused by e-Scooter charging fault (464 personnel-minutes)
- 1 September 2023: Apartment Fire, Te Aro (1050 personnel-minutes)
- 17 September 2023: Two incidents in Miramar due to storm conditions (396 personnel-minutes)
- 15 October 2023: 3<sup>rd</sup> Alarm Fire on Ghuznee St renders building unsafe (3948 personnel-minutes)
- 3 December 2023: House Fire, Plimmerton (1355 personnel-minutes)
- 12 December 2023: Two incident in Newlands due to storm conditions (992 personnel-minutes)
- 11 January 2024: Long-duration incident, vegetation fire, Whitireia, (7358 personnel-minutes)
- 19 January 2024: House Fire, Cannons Creek (670 personnel-minutes)
- 28 January 2024: HAZMAT event, Victoria University of Wellington (1074 personnel-minutes)
- 19 February 2024: Fire at the Treasury Building, Bowen St/The Terrace (1768 personnel-minutes)
- 6 March 2024: HAZMAT event, Kelburn (1239 personnel-minutes)
- 8 March 2024: Gas Explosion, CBD (1344 personnel-minutes)
- 18 March 2024: Scrub and waste fire, Plimmerton (1890 personnel-minutes)

In total, members of Wellington Operational Support contributed **908** personnel-hours to incident attendance across the period; the equivalent of nearly 23 working weeks.



**Above Left:** SO Phil Harris listens to radio traffic at the Ghuznee St fire, October 2023 (by Derek Quinn)

**Above Right:** Kilbirnie 2426 amongst others at Loafers Lodge, May 2023 (image from the NZ Herald)

**Below Left:** As dawn breaks at Loafers Lodge, members monitored cordons. (image from NZ Herald (?))

**Below Right:** A major salvage incident in Kelburn, March 2024



### 3. MEMBERSHIP

#### GROUP PHOTO – 124<sup>TH</sup> AGM (2023)

As part of the 2023 Annual General Meeting, a group photo was taken. Names and Ranks (as at September 2023) are shown below.



**Back Row:** QFF Blair Hillyard, QFF Todd Skilton, QFF Duncan Tabor, QFF Scott Maxim, QFF Simon Luke  
**Middle Row:** FF Colin Larsen, QFF Kelsey Scott, FF Ethan Richardson, FF Zane Hunt, FF Charlie Smith  
**Front Row:** QFF Alex Cousins, FF Sarah Grant, QFF Cullum Peni-Wesche, SO Phil Harris, SO Mark Foster, QFF Steve Lambert, FF Tomasz Jozefowski

#### 2023-2024 BRIGADE MEMBERS (AS AT 31 MARCH 2024)

Brigade membership took a dip later in 2023, with the departure of a few stalwart members of the brigade; this was partially compensated for by the inbound transfer of two new members from other brigades. The Observer programme initiated in February 2024 made moves to bring in several new faces, but for the purposes of the reporting period our membership numbers had dropped to 17 out of a maximum establishment of 25.

Senior Station Officer (OS-SSO):	SSO Mark Foster (OIC)
Station Officers (OS-SO):	SO Phil Harris (2IC)
Senior Firefighters (OS-SFF):	Simon Luke, Cullum Peni-Wesche
Qualified Firefighters (OS-QFF):	Chelsea Calvert, Alex Cousins, Zane Hunt, Stephen Lambert, Milan Lukic, Scott Maxim, Todd Skilton, Duncan Tabor
Firefighters (OS-FF):	Sarah Grant, Tomasz Jozefowski, Colin Larsen, Charlie Smith
Recruit Firefighters (OS-RFF):	Dylan Wahapa

#### COMINGS AND GOINGS

**Joining:** Scott Maxim, of Upper Hutt Volunteer Fire Brigade (Trentham), and Milan Lukic of Whitianga Volunteer Fire Brigade, both transferred to Wellington OSU in late 2023 and brought with them significant

experience from their previous brigades. Both were allowed to retain their previous operational rank of QFF, despite their role change. Dylan Wahapa, who came to us via the Observer programme initiated in June 2023, completed his onboarding as a Recruit by October.

**Departing:** RFF Neal Yeates, who had initially engaged with us during the late 2022 Observer programme, and onboarded formally in January '23, had a change of personal circumstances and withdrew from the brigade just 6 months later in July 2023. Resignations were also received during the reporting period by SO Jono Ashman (personal circumstances), QFF Blair Hillyard (transfer to Tawa; retained as an Auxiliary Member), QFF Kelsey Scott (relocating to Australia), FF Bang Du (unable to maintain commitment) and FF Ethan Richardson (transfer to Tawa), and we noted the departure of Sam Lockett-Turton (who had remained on our books as an auxiliary member after transferring to Titahi Bay VFB previously) due to having relocated overseas.

### **ABOUT AUXILIARY MEMBERSHIP**

In recent years the brigade has adopted the idea of auxiliary members; personnel with strong connections to WOSU whose primary association with FENZ is tied to another brigade, but who continue to support our response to incidents and events. The adoption of the AMS notification system has made it easier to enable personnel who maintain their operational competencies through another brigade, to directly support us and recent examples of this have included Sam Lockett-Turton (Titahi Bay), Blair Hillyard (Tawa) and Rhys Edlin (Remutaka). Response arrangements for auxiliary members are specifically agreed with the Officer in Charge.

### **RECRUITMENT**

In addition to FENZ's Volunteer recruitment team continually referring volunteerism enquiries to us for the southern parts of Wellington, the work led by Cullum Peni-Wesche creating new recruitment posters and helping to drive interest in our early-2024 Observer intake has built a solid pipeline of potential recruits. At least 10 potential recruits entered our Observer programme in March 2024 (and as of August 2024, 8 of these have have been onboarded). With the brigade now close to its full establishment, and with a current focus on ensuring that our newest recruits are brought up to operational training standards, I anticipate further recruitment decisions will be delayed until later in 2024.



**Farewell Event:** In late October members gathered for a social evening to say farewell to departing members Kelsey Scott, Blair Hillyard, and Ethan Richardson.



## 4. LIFE MEMBERS



### *Life Honorary Members as at 31 March 2024*

**Roger Bullock (Patron)**  
**Brian Arons**  
**Annette Francis**  
**Alan Heppleston**

**Barry Lanauze**  
**Sandy Lawson J.P.**  
**Ron Lennon**  
**Jane Stevens**

I again thank LHM Brian Arons for being our regular touch-point with our Life Members, and reporting back to us at our brigade meetings as to how they're getting on.

In last years report we noted the sad passing of LHM Bryan Roband on 27 August 2023, which I reiterate here as it occurred during the reporting year. Other than that, indications are that it was a fairly quiet year for our LHM's, but we greatly enjoy their continued interest in the brigade and opportunities to invite them to participate in brigade events.

**Left:** Life Honorary Member Sandy Lawson was caught fishing for ducks at the UFBA Conference, Wellington, November 2023.



**3 April 2023:** A strong focus of our training team during the year was improving our relationships with other non-FENZ agencies. Pictured here was a training event with Wellington Coastguard.

## 5. EVENTS

The past year has seen us attending various events throughout the Wellington region. It's very rewarding being asked to attend events on behalf of Fire and Emergency. Whether it be attending school events or larger-scale events, we love being out in the community spreading the word of fire safety or raising money for charities.

With so many events running throughout the year it can be really hard to attend each event, but we do try our best to attend these. I would personally like to thank everyone that has gave up their weekends for these events. 2024/2025 is aiming to be another big year of events and we have started the planning already.

**SO Simon Luke**  
**Events Coordinator**



**Above:** QFF Todd Skilton at the Emergency Services Open Day at Te Papa, April 2023

2023-2024 Events		
April '23	Emergency Services Open Day	Te Papa
May '23	Firefighters Challenge	Skytower, Auckland
September '23	Wellington Home and Garden Show	Sky Stadium
December '24	Christmas Fun Day	Kilbirnie
February '24	Round the Bays*	Kilbirnie
March '24	LifeFlight Open Day	LifeFlight Wellington
March '24	Pride Parade	Wellington

\* Provided logistical support only.

## 6. MARKING OUR 125<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY

By Cullum Peni-Wesche, event coordinator.

As the Brigade approaches a significant milestone, the 125th anniversary of its formation, there is much to commemorate. From its inception in 1899, the Brigade has continuously served Wellington and its communities. Achieving this milestone will not only be highlighted at the Annual General Meeting but also at a special honours function in mid-October 2024.

The Brigade's roots go back even further than its unbroken lineage, with a number of forerunner organisations such as the Wellington Volunteer Fire Police Corps, which dates back to 1877. This early assembly, initiated by the Wellington City Rifle Corps, laid the groundwork for what would become a long-standing tradition of service and protection. Following several reorganisations over the years, the Wellington Rifles is now incorporated into 5th/7th Battalion, Royal New Zealand Infantry Regiment.

As an Operational Support Unit, we have adapted to meet the changing needs for fire and emergency services in Wellington, however we maintain a strong connection to the spirit of our original mandate. We were formed as a volunteer unit that provides support to frontline firefighters, undertake scene protection duties, engage with the community, and provide salvage operations and support.

As we look towards the Brigade's 125th anniversary, we celebrate not only its past achievements but also its future contributions to the safety and well-being of our community.



Above Left: 2 October 1877 saw the first meeting of the Wellington Volunteer Fire Police Corps.

Above Right: A meeting of the Wellington Fire Police in 1973 (featuring our own Phil Harris).

Below Left: Robert Pinkerton (left) and Captain Les Hall at the McKenzie's fire, Willis St, 1974.

Below Right: Wellington OSU on-display at the 'A Very Welly Christmas', Lambton Quay, 2019.



## 7. PROMOTIONS

During the year there were several promotions.

Recruit Firefighters who successfully complete the Operational Support Training Course, are promoted to Firefighter. This is a centrally-driven and is consistent across all Operational Support personnel across the motu. Unfortunately, that's where the system stops!

In the absence of a nationally coordinated rank progression system, we have established our own process for appointing Qualified and Senior Firefighters, based on an appropriate mix of skills assessment, demonstrated commitment to the brigade (through both incident response and non-operational commitment to administrative and community activities) and time-in-service. This process has been approved by our GM.

Promotions to QFF and SFF are recommended by the SSOIC and approved by the Group Manager.

Officer appointments are guided by the operational volunteer officer appointment criteria, adapted for our needs, and are approved by the District Manager.

We recognise and congratulate the following members who were promoted during the reporting period!

**To Senior Station Officer:** Mark Foster (above right)

**To Senior Firefighter:** Simon Luke, Cullum Peni-Wesche (below)

**To Qualified Firefighter:** Zane Hunt (right)

**To Firefighter:** Charlie Smith, Sarah Grant



## 8. PROMOTIONS IN 2024-2025 REPORTING YEAR

Again the time period between end March and end August has caught us out! In recent months the following additional promotions have occurred, which I mention here just to save confusion.

**To Station Officer:** Alex Cousins, Simon Luke, Cullum Peni-Wesche

**To Senior Firefighter:** Duncan Tabor

## 9. TRAINING COORDINATORS REPORT

The Wellington Operational Support Unit has a lot to be proud of over the 2023/2024 FY.

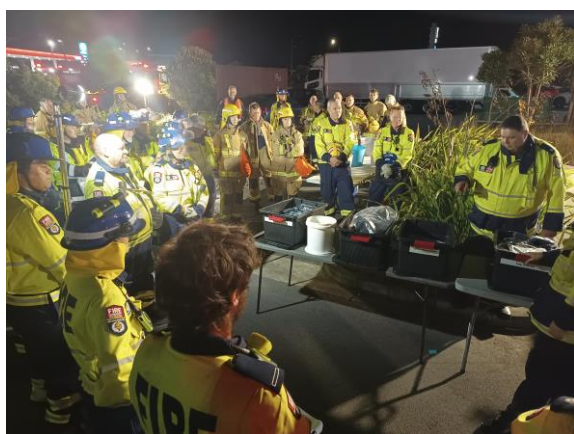
Looking back, what stands out most is the concerted attempt to build awareness of outside groups (Coastguard, Police SAR, Vic Rescue NZRT-7, Wellington Emergency Response Team NZRT-8) and within FENZ such as the Wellington North Rural Brigade, the CRR Team, and other brigades through joint exercises. The training team delivered a wide variety of content despite challenges, helping our brigade to be ready to meet the needs of our communities.

Many of our members were able to attend FENZ courses, whether it be helping us work safely around rural fires – A key skill enabling us to respond to these ever increasing events, gaining NZQA credits, or attending the National OSU Recruits course. Congratulations especially to Zane Hunt, Sarah Grant, and Charlie Smith, for completing the Volunteer Operational Support programme.

The training team was challenged by low attendance, a lack of development to increase the team's knowledge, and by a lack of agility. The 2024/25 FY Offers a chance for the team to learn from these challenges, develop their skills as trainers, work to be more agile, and continue to deliver interesting, relevant, and useful training.

Looking forwards, I'm especially excited to see what the new cohort of recruits have to offer, and what we can do to enable them, as well as working through the Volunteer Operational Support Programme with them.

### SFF Duncan Tabor Station Training Coordinator



Date	Highlight
3/4/2023	Wellington Coastguard Visits WOSU
15/5/2023	NZRT-7 Vic Rescue NZRT-7 visits WOSU
29/5/2023	WOSU Joint Training at Vic Rescue, Victoria University of Wellington – Patient Transfer / USAR Scenario
6/11/2023	WOSU Joint Training at Wellington Emergency Response Team NZRT-8, Tawa
18/11/2023	WOSU Visits Wellington Coastguard
22/11/2023	Joint Exercise with Wellington North VFB (Rural) and Remutaka OSU – Paremata
27/11/2023	Joint Training with NZRT-8 at Kilbirnie Station – Traffic Control
4/12/2023	Training Exercise at Karaka Bay with Remutaka OSU
29/1/2024	Visit from Police SAR
5/2/2024	Visit from FENZ CRR Team
18/3/2024	Working Safely around Rural Fires (US 3285)
26/3/2024	Exercise Lodestar – Joint Training with Paraparaumu VFB and Wellington District OS units

**Above Left:** Members learn stretcher movements of patients with members of the Wellington Emergency Rescue Team NZRT-8, at their base in Tawa.

**Left:** OS from across Wellington District joined with firefighters from Paraparaumu and Waikanae in Exercise Lodestar; at the debrief, the crew of the BA Tender REMU4915 explained new carcinogen control measures being introduced across the District.

## 10. FINANCIAL REPORT

### Financial Statement

Statement of Receipts and Payments for the period  
1 April 2023 to 31 March 2024

#### Administration Account (00)

2023	Income	2024	2023	Expenditure	2024
	Opening Balance	\$ 3,424.98		UFBA Honours	\$ 557.60
	FENZ Brigade Grant	\$ 8,846.28		UFBA Conference	\$ 828.00
	Fundraising	\$ -		AGM Expenses	\$ -
	Canteen	\$ 32.00		Social Expenses	\$ 1,877.62
	Interest	\$ 140.55		OiC Expenses	\$ -
				Gifts	\$ 156.60
				Unit Administration	\$ 971.43
				Canteen Expenses	\$ 260.15
				Executive Expenses	\$ -
				Other Expenses	\$ 624.45
				Closing Balance	\$ 7,343.31
\$ -		\$ 12,443.81	\$ -		\$ 12,619.16

#### Social Account (01)

2023	Income	2024	2023	Expenditure	2024
\$ -	Opening Balance	\$ 0.21	\$ -	Closing Balance	\$ 0.21
\$ -		\$ -			
\$ -		\$ 0.21	\$ -		\$ 0.21

#### Equipment Account (03)

2023	Income	2024	2023	Expenditure	2024
\$ -	Opening Balance	\$ 6,181.80	\$ -	Transactions	\$ 278.79
\$ -	Interest	\$ 155.53	\$ -	Closing Balance	\$ 6,058.54
\$ -		\$ 6,337.33	\$ -		\$ 6,058.54

#### Special Purposes Account (97)

2023	Income	2024	2023	Expenditure	2024
\$ -	Opening Balance	\$ 1,544.45	\$ -	Closing Balance	\$ 1,585.75
\$ -	Interest	\$ 41.30	\$ -		\$ -
\$ -		\$ 1,585.75	\$ -		\$ 1,585.75

#### Term Deposit (04)

2023	Income	2024	2023	Expenditure	2024
\$ 22,851.14	Opening Balance	\$ 23,546.04	\$ 23,546.04	Closing Balance	\$ 24,413.70
\$ 694.90	Interest	\$ 867.66			
\$ 23,546.04		\$ 24,413.70	\$ 23,546.04		\$ 24,413.70

#### Term Deposit (05)

2023	Income	2024	2023	Expenditure	2024
\$ 6,352.70	Opening Balance	\$ 6,596.72	\$ 6,596.72	Closing Balance	\$ 6,867.55
\$ 244.02	Interest	\$ 270.83			
\$ 6,596.72		\$ 6,867.55	\$ 6,596.72		\$ 6,867.55

#### Term Deposit (07)

2023	Income	2024	2023	Expenditure	2024
\$ 10,433.00	Opening Balance	\$ 11,340.61	\$ 11,340.61	Closing Balance	\$ 11,890.39
\$ -	Interest	\$ 549.78			
\$ 10,433.00		\$ 11,890.39	\$ 11,340.61		\$ 11,890.39

These Financial Statements have been adopted by the Wellington Operational Support Unit by resolution at the Annual General Meeting held on Monday, 26 August 2024 at Kilbirnie Fire Station.

**Name:** Mark Foster  
**Position:** Officer in Charge  
**Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_ /2024

**Name:** Milan Lukic  
**Position:** Acting for Treasurer to prepare accounts  
**Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_ /2024

I have examined the Books, Accounts, and Vouchers of the Wellington Operational Support Unit for the 12-month period, 1 April 2023 to 31 March 2024, and in my opinion the statements and payments for the General, Social, Equipment, and Special Purposes accounts, and three Term Deposits as presented are a true and fair record of the transactions that have taken place during the period.

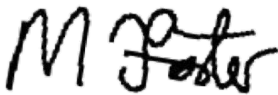
**Name:** Bianca Ashwell  
**Position:** Examiner of the Books  
**Signature:**  **Date:** 12/08/2024

## 11.THANKS AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

There's a few more important acknowledgements to make:

- Our Brigade Management Team: In addition to the Brigade Officers Mark Foster and Phil Harris, the Management committee ensures the business of the brigade keeps going:
  - Secretary Zane Hunt
  - Treasurer Steve Lambert (until May 2024)
  - Members Rep Alex Cousins
  - SH&W Lead Jono Ashman (until October; thereafter Duncan Tabor)
  - Committee member Simon Luke
  - Committee member Colin Larsen (until May 2024)
  - Committee member Cullum Peni-Wesche
- SFF (now SO) Cullum Peni-Wesche, for his excellent support managing recruitment and the observer programme
- SFF (now SO) Simon Luke, for sterling work looking after our vehicles and equipment portfolio
- QFF (now SO) Alex Cousins, for doing a great job as the members representative
- QFF (now SFF) Duncan Tabor, supported by Alex Cousins, Zane Hunt and Cullum Peni-Wesche, for driving the all-important Training portfolio
- QFF Todd Skilton, for his all-important work behind the scenes, particularly as the brigade historian, as we look back over the last 125 years.
- The District Leadership Team, particularly GM Mike Dombroski, for his ongoing day-to-day support, and GM Martin Wilby, who looks after the equipment portfolio for the district and with whom we've had a lot to do over the last year.
- Our Volunteer Support Officer, John Rowe, for helping us ensure that the brigade keeps ticking over, and to FF Charlie Smith, for acting as our liaison around uniform and PPE issues
- The Region Training team, for their continued support, especially at Kilbirnie station.
- Our brigade members as a whole – without you, we simply wouldn't be here. Thank you for giving up your time and serving with us.
- Our friends and family, who make often seemingly invisible sacrifices in order to support us in doing what we do.

Thank you, one and all.



SSO Mark Foster  
Officer in Charge, Wellington Operational Support Unit

**Below Left:** FF Sarah Grant at the LifeFlight Open Day, March 2024.

**Below Centre:** The team at the Relay for Life, with our new Gazebo, March 2024.

**Below Right:** Familiarity training with the new Rössle Aquavac, provided by FENZ and commissioned into service January 2024.



# 125 YEARS SUPPORTING OUR COMMUNITY



# **WELLINGTON VOLUNTEER FIRE SERVICE SUPPORT UNIT**

**125 YEARS SUPPORTING OUR COMMUNITY**

