

South Island Airport fire fighters complete national certificates

Professional Fire Fighters from Christchurch International Airport Ltd and Queenstown Airport Corporation Ltd have made significant achievements over the past 18 months.

A high level of success resulted in many Fire Fighters achieving their National Certificates in Fire and Rescue Services Airport Levels 2, 3 and 4. This meant tackling additional training demands, meeting verification and input requirements for the Fire Fighters - coordinating this through numerous trainer and management meetings.

The leadership and support from management staff at Christchurch International Airport, Peter Moore and, Queenstown Airport, Bill Wrigley helped ensure the systems and processes were effectively implemented. Their leadership by example was shown in their own commitment to work on gaining National Certificates at all three levels. This approach in "seeing the boss complete the same training" encouraged other staff to remain focused and complete their qualifications too. Not only were FRSITO unit standards achieved, a number of ATTO units standards were also required. FRSITO worked closely with the ATTO Assessor in Christchurch, Vai Papali'i, who's help in the process was much appreciated.

The majority of training and assessment was carried out at home airport fire stations - special thanks to Des Ruru from Christchurch and Roydon Cullimore from Queenstown. Both were the principle liaison between FRSITO and airport personnel undertaking the qualifications. It helped having these two on the ground who understood the training and assessment processes to support meeting the qualification criteria. It was also great having Des obtain Unit Standard 4098 to become a registered FRSITO Assessor, whilst Queenstown added it to its Assessor status allowing it to be able to assess FRSITO units in the future.

Bill Robertson, CEO FRSITO, presented the Christchurch Airport Fire Fighters with their certificates at a special morning tea where he personally congratulated the trainees for their success. He made particular mention of the challenges and sacrifices it meant getting the qualifications whilst working and balancing family life expectations.

Both airports are continuing to maintain, support and train existing and new staff to gain formal qualifications.



Queenstown Fire Fighters in mid-winter



Back row - Rex Ross, Peter Gundry, Henry Waitoa, Ian Jones, Norm Mannix, Bobby White Front row - Dan Bell, Peter Moore



Back row Chris Read GM Aeronautics QALtd, Robert Lamont, Janet Derham, Bill Wrigley Front row Roydon Cullimore Mike Ide

Tree Planting

For the past two years the FRSITO Wellington team has assisted the Greater Wellington Regional Council with tree planting as a corporate activity. In both years we have headed to Whitireia Park, just outside Wellington.

Some of you may remember the fire that was in the park earlier this year, and it was disappointing to see that a number of trees we had planted in 2009 had not survived the fire. We had also planted in the sand and this area now has excellent growth and the sand is beginning to build up.

However it was not to be sand again this year, and the 160 small trees waiting for us had to be first relayed to the planting area and then the appropriate number of holes dug. One of the aspects of such a day is how quickly we organised ourselves into small teams, and two hours later, all plants were on site and approximately half planted. Lunch was a welcome relief and then back to work.

We finished within our scheduled time but there were a number of tired bodies that slowly made their way back down the hill, and grateful that it was a Friday with the weekend to recover.

We look forward to going back again next year and seeing a transformed piece of hillside.



FRSITO contacts

PO Box 11988, Wellington
P: 04 801 9469 | F: 04 801 9476 | E: info@frsito.org.nz
www.frsito.org.nz

Bill Robertson - Chief Executive Officer
P: 04 801 9475 | M: 021 739 197 | E: billr@frsito.org.nz

Liz Hamilton - Development Manager
P: 04 801 9470 | M: 021 509 076 | E: liz@frsito.org.nz

Nathan Graham - Operations Manager
P: 04 801 9483 | M: 021 270 0023
E: nathang@frsito.org.nz

Warren Healy - Finance and Administration Manager
P: 04 801 9482 | M: 021 270 0022 | E: warren@frsito.org.nz

Martin MacLean - Quality Manager/National Moderator
P: 04 803 0070 | M: 021 859 582 | E: martin@frsito.org.nz

regional training coordinators

Employer visits Trainee assistance
Training implementation assistance

Deanna Roa - Lower and mid Central North Island
P: 04 801 8406 | M: 021 739 202
E: deanna@frsito.org.nz

Shane Schrafft - Northland and North Shore
M: 021 739 2038 | E: shane@frsito.org.nz

Nandini Chandran
Auckland/Waikato/Coromandel
P: 09 525 9716 | M: 021 833 271 | E: nandini@frsito.org.nz

Janet Derham - South Island
P: 03 968 0222 | M: 021 270 0025 | E: janet@frsito.org.nz

development

Sam Cottle
P: 04 803 0071 | M: 021 270 0026 | E: sam@frsito.org.nz

Phil O'Brien
P: 04 803 0076 | M: 021 911 412 | E: phil@frsito.org.nz

moderators

Leigh Maddock
P: 04 803 0075 | M: 021 270 0024 | E: leigh@frsito.org.nz

Nathan Freeman
M: 021 739 198 | E: nathanf@frsito.org.nz

administration

Inquiries about results & Learning resources
Requests for general information & Invoicing queries

Maria Reynecke
P: 04 801 9469 | E: maria@frsito.org.nz

Ruth Salasiban
P: 04 801 9433 | E: ruth@frsito.org.nz

Ian Chen
P: 04 803 0080 | E: ian@frsito.org.nz

regional offices

Auckland
Building 10, level 3, Office 3
Central Park
666 Great South Road
Penrose
Auckland 1061
PO Box 12-148
Auckland 1642
P: 09 525 9716

Paihia
8 Williams Road
Paihia 0200
P: 09 402 5517

Christchurch
Office 4.5, Level 4
199 - 201 Cashel Street
Christchurch 8011
PO Box 158
Christchurch 8140
P: 03 968 0222

Brightwater 'clearly ahead' of other fire forces

Each year the Fire and Rescue Service Industry Training Organisation (FRSITO) identifies and awards one outstanding and superior fire force from each of New Zealand's rural and urban sectors, providing they meet the stiff criteria which place strong emphasis on attention to industry-related training programmes.

On Friday night at Seifried Function Centre, Brightwater Rural Fire Force received the national award for excellence in 2009, well ahead of all other rural fire forces in New Zealand.

During the presentation ceremony FRSITO CEO Bill Robertson said, "Brightwater was clearly ahead of all other rural fire forces with a staggering 227 credits gained by its members and seven national certificates. It stands out as a shining example to all others. We insist each member of a force gets at least one credit in a year just to prove they're actually alive," joked Bill.

He said no urban forces were recognised for outstanding performance during this period, an indication that these awards are hard earned rather than given as a matter of course.

Brightwater's excellence award reflects highly on Tasman district-based firefighting organizations because two years ago Appleby Rural Fire Force received this prestigious honour. Deputy Principal Rural Fire Officer of Rural Fire Network, Doug Ashford, told the gathering, Brightwater are a go-getting team that have been around since 1966. They should have been called the Weka Brigade because they've collected so much gear over the years they now have it stored in various sheds around the district. They also collect certificates for excellence and achievement."

Brightwater rural firefighter Steve Foote says, "This is well deserved for our force as we have kept up a strong record of performance, training and recruitment and we were just pipped at the post by Appleby two years ago."

Brightwater Rural Fire Force has a cadet scheme, presently involving about 11 or 12 locals aged 14 to 17 years. "They come to our base once a fortnight to do a more basic level of training than we do and when they turn 18 they can join the force. Already we've had two of them become members," says Steve.

Rural fire forces were originally set up to attend to vegetation fires in specific rural zones but Steve says they've evolved to become a much more versatile community-based emergency service which is called on to perform all sorts of rescue services.

"We attend heaps of vehicle crashes, give ambulance assistance as required, and have been involved in flood relief. Once we had to cut a section of shower pan out to help a kid free his finger from a plug hole." FRSITO is an industry training organization, part of the Tertiary Education Commission strategy which aims to improve the quality and quantity of skills training through competency-based training and assessment in the workplace. This organisation is responsible for setting national standards and facilitating training and assessment for the industry, as well as moderating internal and external training provisions.

Craig Goodman
Story supplied by Waimea Weekly - Thank You.



Brightwater Rural Fire Force Controller Mark Donaldson accepts the excellence award from FRSITO South Island Regional Training Co-ordinator Janet Derham



Members of the Brightwater Rural Fire Force, from left: (standing) Bruce Waddell, Mark Donaldson, Robert Cole, Nick Watson, Ryan Cole, Lee Beloe, Nick Lambie, Harry Faber, Nathan Palmer, John Harrison & Jayme Heath. In front are Dick Hart, Martin Harrison, Kelly Dean, Ngaire Peters, Paul Marsden, Stuart Heath, Janti Makan, Stev Foote & Andy Allen. Mark Tohill, Ross Stratford & Scott Madden were absent from the ceremony

NEMTOC - Australia

A reminder that the National Emergency Managers Training Officers Conference is being held in Brisbane 5 - 8 October. The theme of the conference is "Leading Improvement and Change".

An updated programme can be found on the FRSITO website www.frsito.org.nz

Ceo update - Bill Robertson



FRSITO received a letter from the Minister of Education on the 18th June which advised that we had been successful in gaining recognition as a standard setting body for a further five years. This was great news but was by no means a foregone conclusion. FRSITO was put through the ringer with a series of audits and extensive discussions with the Tertiary Education Commission (TEC) before the decision was made to recommend our ongoing recognition. This despite the fact that there was no dispute that FRSITO performed

well. FRSITO's achievements in terms of qualification completion and industry participation are among the highest for all ITOs and we were acknowledged by the NZ Qualifications Authority as setting the bar very high in the setting of standards. We would have to assume that poor performing ITOs face a horrendous burden in their quest for continued recognition.

The next task facing FRSITO is the negotiation of a new Investment Plan with TEC. Much of our funding comes from the government through vote Education. Funding is administered through TEC and is based on the plan we submit once in three years. The new plan is due with TEC on 31st August and its development will keep the FRSITO Board and management team busy until its submission. Decisions on funding are scheduled to be made in November.

Just the job

Recently FRSITO participated in the Just the Job television series.

This is a series which looks at career opportunities and is normally targeted at senior school pupils and their families. In FRSITO participating, we recognised that there were limited opportunities to meet these specific criteria, but we wanted to 'tell the story' of how important volunteering is.

The enclosed video is a copy of the programme segment that was screened on TV2 on Saturday 17 July. It features Kierin Oppatt and the team at Lake Okareka Rural Fire Force, who were the winners of FRSITO's Excellence in Training Award for 2008.

In making the video we would like to thank Kierin, Richard Horn, the rest of the team at Lake Okareka and the Rotorua District Council. You can view the video on our website www.frsito.org.nz We hope it may encourage others to volunteer.



Qualification Review

This year we will review most of our qualifications. As you can appreciate this is a big exercise and preparatory work has already begun. The process has been slightly delayed by the NZQA review of qualifications and we need to take into account the outcomes of this. While these are not yet finalised we have been keeping in contact with NZQA.

We welcome any feedback you may have, and can also send this through members of the Industry Technical Advisory Group - their names are on our website.

We will have updates on the website as we progress.

FRSITO is dependent on strong support from government if we are to continue growing our services to member organisation engaged in the vital task of protecting the national infrastructure.

After a stable year in 2009 we continue to be busy this year with staff movements and recruitment. Early in May Nathan Graham joined us as Operations Manager. Nathan came to us from NZ Defence Force where he was Institute Director of the Defence Language Centre. Shortly afterwards we appointed Phil O'Brien to the role of Resource Developer. Phil has an extensive background in resource and programme development in educational institutions. Recently, Teresa Quin, our Literacy Advisor tendered her resignation. We will shortly be seeking a replacement for her.

Great efforts have been put in by a large number of our trainees. 274 National Certificates had been awarded to the end of June and we have 2,995 active Training Agreements. The 2009 FRSITO Training Excellence Award for rural fire forces was won this year by Brightwater Rural Fire Force. The award was presented at a function held in Nelson on 25th June. Congratulations Brightwater! It was a great effort.

FRSITO activity in the third quarter will continue at a hectic pace. The review of all of our qualifications will commence; assessor meetings will be held around the country; more resources and assessment guides will be developed; the biennial trainee survey will be held; moderation visits to providers will commence and the Board will host a strategic planning day with industry sector representatives. Remember that FRSITO works for you, not the other way around. Feel free to have your say, or ask to be part of, anything we do.

Shane Schrafft

Those of you who have worked with Shane will know that he wears many hats. One of these is with St John where he is the Team Manager in Paihia. We here at FRSITO are proud of Shane's, and the St John team in Paihia, latest achievement. The following extract is taken from News@thehub.

Four representatives from St John in Paihia were in Wellington on Tuesday 13 July to be presented with the national Property Pride Award for 2010.

Bay of Islands Area Committee Deputy Chairperson Mike Crosbie, Team Manager Shane Schrafft and team members Charlie Witts and Bruce Gordon visited Government House (Vogel) where they met Their Excellencies The Hon Sir Anand Satyanand and Lady Satyanand and were presented with a plaque to acknowledge their achievement, followed by afternoon tea.

The time in Wellington began with a visit to St John National Office where the group met Chief Executive Jaimes Wood and the Wellington-based staff. Jaimes took the the group to Government House.

Team Manager Shane Schrafft said, "Visiting Government House and meeting Their Excellencies was a great experience. We were quite overwhelmed by the reception we were given. It was an experience that will always be a great memory for all of us."

The group head home to Bay of Islands on Wednesday, taking home the award and some great memories from their day in Wellington.



(from left) Charlie Watts, Bruce Gordon, The Hon Sir Anand Satyanand, Shane Schrafft, Lady Susan Satyanand, Jaimes Wood and Mike Crosbie at Government House (Vogel)

NZDF - Make your training count

This year again saw New Zealand Defence Force personnel in Army and Airforce achieve national certificates in Urban, Vegetation, Airport, National Emergency Response and USAR. Capping this off were 6 National Diplomas in Fire and Rescue Services (Urban Fire and Rescue Operations) Level 5.

This level of achievement is the result of 5 years hard work, and the development of a strong partnership between the Joint Services Fire School and FRSITO.

Currently there are 120 Army and Air personnel engaged in training towards qualifications.

In October this year, Flight Sgt Tim Hunt - Senior Fire Instructor will be presenting at the National Emergency Management Training Officers (NEMTOC) Conference in Brisbane.

Congratulations to all who have completed their training and received certificates, and our continued support to those who are still training.



New Faces

Nathan Graham



I joined FRSITO in May this year as the Operations Manager. I have a wide range of administration, vocation and tertiary knowledge and experience coupled with a training and management background. I spent 14 years working for the New Zealand Defence Force (Army) as an Education Officer which involved teaching at the Officer Cadet School of New Zealand, managing the academic services department of the Military Studies Institute, working on Peace Keeping Operations in Bougainville and Timor,

and as Director of the Defence Language Centre, was involved in building English language capability both in NZ, on another tour to Timor-Leste and last year on a tour of duty to Vietnam.

I also worked in the Automotive Industry in both parts and sales, the Dairy Industry as a Evaporator Operator, the Electrical Industry building power station transformers, the Life and General Insurance Industry as an Insurance Consultant, and in other industry areas of the labour force.

My main aim is to engage the sector through leadership that is forward thinking, facilitating the steps to take action, and supporting decisions that gain positive results. "It's really important that consultation is about open constructive discussion that focuses on building opportunity for employees, while allowing them every chance to gain recognised qualifications. I believe there is a need to remove personal opinions, work in collaboration, and produce relevant pathways, using best practice principles, because Industry efficiency is gained from becoming learning organisations".

I left school at 15 without qualifications. I was 27 when I returned to formal

Federal Emergency Management Higher Education Conference, June 7-10, 2010

The United States Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) hosted its 13th Annual Emergency Management Conference from June 7-10, 2010. The theme of the conference was "Reaching Higher". It was primarily aimed at representatives of universities which (1) have an existing hazard, disaster, emergency management programme in place, or (2) are attempting to develop and implement a hazard, disaster, emergency management programme on their campus. The conference was held at FEMA's National Emergency Training Center (NETC) in Emmitsburg, Maryland - about 75 miles northwest of Washington, DC.

The conference attendees came from universities and government agencies throughout the United States and included a small number of participants from other countries including two New Zealanders. On the first day the two kiwis, Bill Robertson FRSITO CEO and Chris Schraders, Head of Emergency Management at Tai Poutini Polytechnic, were presented with a pin and challenge coin by Chief Glenn Gaines for being the two participants who had come the furthest. Chief Gaines is Acting United States Fire Administrator.

The primary purpose of the annual conference is to encourage and support inter-school dialogue on a variety of issues and problems related to hazard, disaster, emergency management higher education, as well as to facilitate direct dialogue between the Emergency Management Higher Education Project and representatives of colleges and universities. When the project was first set up by FEMA only a handful of universities had emergency management programmes. Now over 187 such programmes are available across the USA making it one of the fastest growing areas of study in US colleges.

study where I gained a Bachelor Degree in Psychology and Adult Education. I then joined the Defence Force where I was expected to do extramural study so I did a Masters Degree in Defence and Strategic Studies and later completed a Graduate Certificate in Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages. I understand the challenges of studying while balancing work and family demands. I believe that everyone has the potential to achieve success if they set their minds to it. "You just have to start somewhere and that point can be at anytime in ones life because learning is life-long".

I'm married to Vanessa and have five children aged one to eighteen years old. I enjoy cooking, gardening, maintaining my fitness, coaching rugby and reading crime scene investigation novels.

Phil O'Brien



I'm Phil O'Brien and I'm the new resource developer at FRSITO. My previous role was for a training provider in Wellington developing both written and electronic resources for adult learners. I'm looking forward to bringing this experience in assessment, workbook and e-learning development to my new role.

When away from work my wife and I spend most of our spare time renovating our house but occasionally we get away to the hills for some tramping.

I've enjoyed my first couple of months at FRSITO and I'm looking forward to working with many of you in the future.

FRSITO Emergency Management Conference - 2011

The dates are set!

Monday 10 October - Welcome Function
Tuesday 11 - Wednesday 12 October - Conference Proper
Thursday 13 October - Field Trip

The conference will be held in Christchurch. Yes this is a very early advance notice, but a small event known as the Rugby World Cup, does wonders for your planning. More details will follow.