

## The Auckland Fire Brigade 1874-2024 Project

### The 1960s. 1960-1969

Following the riot and fire at Mt Eden Prison the Fire Service Council issued instructions to Fire Boards that fire brigade services should not be used during riots.

The decade started with the brigade comprising 124 permanent staff, 47 volunteers and 14 auxiliary staff operating from eleven fire stations. Later the brigade was divided up into 5 divisions, each with a Senior Station Officer looking after two stations and the larger HQ with one. (**City**, Ponsonby; **Remuera**, St Heliers, Parnell; Mt **Albert**, Mt Eden, Onehunga, **Avondale**, Mt Roskill, Pt Chevalier; **Otahuhu**, Ellerslie, Mt Wellington; (Senior Stations in Bold Text).

A series of key staff appointments saw Allan Bruce 4<sup>th</sup> Officer in 1961, Third Officer in 1962 and Deputy Chief Fire Officer in 1963. Allan's appointment as DCFO should be marked as the beginning of the AMFB renewal that would become a leading light in New Zealand and Internationally. Without his influence the Auckland Brigade would not have been able to adequately cope with the explosive nature of the 1970s where large fire growth taxed the brigade on many occasions. The combination of trained staff and suitable equipment and standard operational procedures enabled the brigade to cope.

There were two proposals to have Auckland Fire Boards amalgamated into one fire brigade (East, West, North and South) but unfortunately this would have to wait until the 1980s for it to occur.

Manurewa and Papakura were absorbed by the AMFB in 1966 and New Lynn was included. Several changes occurred viz 5 Divisions established (City, Remuera, Otahuhu, Avondale, Mt Albert), each with a Senior Station Officer. The response to each property fire was increased to 3 pumping appliances, the third appliance designated to bring in extra water if required.

A water reference book was established and the Annual Fire Prevention Week commenced. The Water Reference Book was initiated by AW Bruce to ensure that the knowledge possessed by Norm Golding was not lost and could be shared across the brigade. Norm painted fire hydrants on his days off for a number of local authorities and had gathered valuable information on location of mains and hydrants including main sizes and flows. Matched up with water testing data the book became a valuable resource for the brigade.

On the 11<sup>th</sup> of November 1967 the Auckland Fire Brigade Training Centre was officially opened, the fire station social room used as a lecture room.

The end of the decade saw the introduction of a better style of fire appliance to replace the Karriers and Commers that had proved to be unsuited for Auckland's hilly terrain.

This decade also saw the Unions activities to achieve better working conditions realised when in October 1969 the Court of Arbitration issued an Industrial Award that provided for a 72-hour week or a 56-hour week. Auckland chose the 56-hour week with three shifts. The shift system became a reality on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of February 1970, giving the Brigade time to recruit and train new recruits.

In 1960 the AMFB budget was £185,292. Staff establishment was 128 permanent staff, 47 volunteer staff, and 14 auxiliary [sometimes called "gazob's"] staff, attended 2125 calls.

April 13 1960, Wednesday, Parnell Station occupied, corner Balfour Road and Gladstone Road, Parnell. April 30 1960 officially opened by Bill [WT] Anderton, Minister of Internal Affairs. Two double bay station, architects Walker, Hillary and Swan, built by Fletcher Construction, won an

architectural award. Two houses for married Officer's quarters [Dave Fox and Noel Glen] albeit two shifts did not start until June 26 1961. Balfour Road was a vacant site identified in April 1945 along with occupied site on corner Heather Street and Parnell Road at top of Gittos Street [now Parnell Rise] which had old type dwellings on. Proposed to be the new Waterfront Station. First Station to have TV, was able to receive experimental broadcasts from Bell TV in Shortland Street, before public broadcasting started. Replaced converted house, 465 Parnell Road, a "temporary Station" occupied January 1916. January 9 2023, Parnell crew temporarily relocated to City Station, Pitt Street, had temporary day base corner Ronayne Street and The Strand. Station demolished.

August 1 1960, Monday, members of new Auckland Metropolitan Fire Board were; appointed by Minister of Internal Affairs Alec Monteith, by insurance Companies VS Caulton, Stan Gleadow, GJ Hankins, AMC Spooner and by Local Authorities GFH Forsyth, Cecil [HCD] Monahan [Mt Wellington VFM], PR Ross, Harold E Watts.

October 1 1960, Saturday, Auckland Education Board promulgated a by-law that made regular evacuation drill in schools compulsory, one in each of the three school terms. This gave backing to a fire drill instruction issued in 1958 to Headmasters.

November 29 1960, Tuesday, after a question from the Auckland Metropolitan Fire Board, the National Fire Service Council issued guidance that Fire Boards should not authorise the services of their Brigades to assist at riots or disturbances. The Council considered that the services of Fire Brigades should not be used except in the case of a declared national emergency arising out of any civil disturbance. In April 12 1960, Brigade attended riot and fire at Mt Eden Prison, Lauder Road, off Normanby Road, laid out hose for Wardens and Police to use, not needed.

During 1960, Brigade Watchroom moved from off the appliance room beside No1 pump, around the corner to old flying squad room, ground floor, behind the tower and looking out onto the pit and yard. All new equipment, including new Vigilant Mark eight duplex fire alarm receiving equipment replaced earlier Duplex. Fifty eight of eighty circuits used, by 1973 all eighty full, twenty more circuits added. All fire alarm circuits were connected to this new Watchroom, prior they went to the nearest Station and when they went to a call, they were [not always] switched over to Headquarters until they got back. Staffed by uniformed non-operational [civilian] staff from 1957 to 1962, operational staff until 1967, again by non-operational staff. In 1973 moved one floor up to old General Office overlooking Pitt Street.

About 1960, joint Auckland MFB and AHB [Auckland Harbour Board] project, two 12-foot open wood clinker dinghies with 1.5 horse power Seagull outboard motor, based in small AHB sheds at Okahu Bay [Fire Spray East] and Westhaven [Fire Spray West]. Brigade loaded a portable pump [FMP] off Hose Layer, suction over side, jets out the back provided extra speed and assisted steering. Operational results were very mixed, plenty of stories, good, bad and humorous.

During 1961, Auckland Mayor Dove-Myer [DM] Robinson pushed and Local Government Commission considered reorganisation of Auckland local authorities, Auckland Regional Authority formed October 25 1963. Chief Fire Service Officer Thomas [TA] Varley submitted paper for unification of Fire Services, Torbay to Papakura and from Henderson to Howick, five Divisions based on stations at Pitt Street, Takapuna, Henderson, Otahuhu, and the fifth at a new Station and Headquarters at Greenwoods Corner, Epsom. Varley proposed closing Mt Eden and Western District [soon Ponsonby], additional Stations at Mt Wellington, Mangere, Otara, Wiri, Maraetai, and Te Atatu. In all twenty-nine fire stations and sixty-seven vehicles were envisaged. None of the proposals were ever actioned. See map.

January 31 1961, Tuesday, National Federated Fire Brigades Union started national routine stoppage in push for 24 hours on duty and 24 hours off duty. Current hours were 48 hours on and 24 hours off. February 1 1961 Employers advised 20% cut in wages, total strike loomed. Tom Shand, Minister of Labour called for negotiations, Auckland Board agreed to reinstate pay, February 4 1961 Auckland Officers and Firemen returned to work as usual, February 9 all deducted wages paid out in full. June 26 1961, 84-hour week, one day on duty and one day off, two shift system [A and B Day] started. Union said years of delaying tactics by the employers in the making of awards had convinced Firemen of the need for militant action to bring their working conditions more in line with those of other workers in New Zealand.

February 1 1961, Wednesday, North Shore FB Chief Fire Officer was Russell "Nuts" Preston, October 1 1963 replaced by Ross [Andrew R] Walker, December 2 1968 by Ken [KP] Derrick. Allan Bruce was Deputy Chief Fire Officer [appointed 1959], November 1961 replaced by Jerry Lynch, later Ken Derrick, Em Evans, and Bob Grey. Then Third Officer was Syd Pelham, later Tom Howarth and lastly Ron Johnson. Office Manager Mary Butterfield joined the NSFB on January 31 1961 and retired from NZFS on November 9 1990.

February 18 1961, Saturday, IFE Exams had previously been sat throughout NZ. Included in those successful in the associate section were: Ron [RA] Neary [Auckland] and Stuart [SW] Thomas [Porirua] later first Auckland Technical Liaison Officer. In the Graduate section, Brian {BS} Armstrong, distinction [Taupo] later Regional Commander Auckland and then NZFS Chief Executive and National Commander.

June 6 1961, Tuesday, Christchurch advert for Firemen, Auckland must have done same. Due to alterations in conditions of service a number of vacancies with the permanent staff of the Brigade will occur shortly. No previous experience is necessary but applicants should be not less than 19 years and not more than 27 years of age. A medical examination by the Brigade Doctor is necessary and applicants should have a good IQ rating, be mentally alert and capable of learning firefighting methods and operation of equipment.

June 26 1961 Monday, new National Award came into force. June 15 1961 Court of Arbitration granted the first national Award for New Zealand Fire Brigades Officers and Employees, other than Chief and Deputy Chief Fire Officers. Ordinary day leave was increased to a day on, day off basis. an 84-hour week. In cases of emergency when such leave cannot be given, it was to be made up later. Hours of work were spelt out together with extended leave, pay, including Auxiliary Firemen conditions. Station Officer for first six months £9 10s 2d: Station Officer. £20 0s 7d; Senior Station Officers and Inspecting Officers, £20 6s 4d: Fourth Officer. £20 14s 4d: Third Officer £21 8s 2d. Came into force on June 26 1961 and was to remain in force until June 26 1964.

June 26 1961, Monday, with introduction of 84-hour week, eleven Senior Firemen were promoted to Station Officer [SO], one SO on each Day. Promoted were Terry Miller at Remuera, Horry Maddox Mt Albert, Shorty [Norm] Wright Avondale, Henk Van Den Brink Pt Chevalier, Wally Booth Onehunga, George Watt St Heliers, Dinger [Eric] Bell Ellerslie, Jim Harrington Otahuhu. Sean McCluskey [later Ellerslie], George Carlisle [later Mt Roskill] and Arch Williamson [later Ponsonby] were promoted to relieving Station Officers until 1962 when the three were de-ranked, disputed meal monies meant they were paid more than the Third and Fourth Officer [both in Officers section of Union and worked same shifts]. About 1963 Arthur Monk [Auckland Union Secretary] won argument in Court, Norm Wilkie [Pay Clerk] spent months working out backpay.

July 18 1961, 16:00, Tuesday, applications closed for Auckland Deputy Chief Fire Officer post. Applications were invited from suitably qualified persons for the position of Deputy Chief Fire Officer, Auckland Metropolitan Fire Board. Terms and conditions of service were in accordance with the New Zealand Fire Brigade's Chief Fire Officers' and Deputy Chief Fire Officers' Award. A copy of the conditions of appointment may be obtained from the undersigned with whom applications, giving full details of qualifications and experience, will close at 4 pm on Tuesday, July 18. 1961. KR Johnson. [Secretary], Auckland Metropolitan Fire Board. Fire Headquarters, Pitt Street, Auckland, C2. September 1961 Chiller [Charles] Reid appointed Deputy Chief Fire Officer; he retired August 22 1963.

August 25 1961, Friday, Deputy Chief Fire Officer George Alexander [GA] Mackenzie QFSM retired. He had been appointed Deputy Superintendent March 27 1935, Superintendent [later CFO] in August 1949, Wednesday March 7 1956 demoted to Deputy Chief Fire Officer. Over 80 people at his farewell. September 1961 Third Officer Chiller [Charles] Reid appointed Deputy Chief Fire Officer. Fourth Officer Lloyd [LF] Wilson appointed Third Officer. November 1961 Allan [AW] Bruce appointed Fourth Officer, from Deputy Chief Fire Officer North Shore [appointed 1959 from Senior Instructor Fire Service Training School. Island Bay]. Third and Fourth Officer rode Headquarters No1 pump on alternative day on and day off, two shift system and both were Union members until beginning 1970. The Third Officer vacancy was only advertised locally, Fourth Officer vacancy initially advertised locally but readvertised nationally.

October 12 1961, Thursday, applications closed for Fourth Officer. AMFB. Applications were invited from suitably experienced and qualified persons to fill the vacancy of Fourth Officer to the Auckland Metropolitan Fire Board. Terms and conditions of service will be in accordance with the New Zealand [except Marlborough and Westland] Fire Brigades' Officers [other than Chief and Deputy Chief Fire Officers and Wellington Fire Board Officers] Award. The successful applicant will be expected to occupy a flat at Central Fire Station for which a rental of £2 13s 8d per week will be charged. Applications close with the undersigned at 4 pm on Thursday. October 12. 1961. Personal canvass of members of the Auckland Metropolitan Fire Board will disqualify any applicant. KR Johnston, Secretary. Auckland Metropolitan Fire Board. Fire Headquarters, Pitt Street, C2. November 1961 Allan [AW] Bruce appointed Fourth Officer, from Deputy Chief Fire Officer North Shore

About 1961, black plastic NPL fire helmets made by National Plastics Ltd, North London, England introduced. Made of woven glass fabric impregnated with resin, identifiable by its shiny and smooth hard-shell. Sometimes called the fibreglass helmet. The NPL did not last very long, not popular anywhere, cracked easily and broke, all decommissioned by late 1963. Replaced UK made Cromwell cork helmets and were replaced by Cromwell Metro helmets.

1962, Rex [RJW] Levis appointed Fire Board Secretary. Chainman was Stan [SA] Gleadow [Norwich Union Fire Insurance]. Between them they bought 1962 underpowered Karrier Bantam chassis and had a hose layer body built, not a successful appliance, albeit cheap. Replaced in 1968 with bonneted International C1500.

November 1962, Fire Prevention [previous Inspecting Officers, 1975 Fire Safety] Department formed, staff of one, retired Auckland MFB Station Officer Jack [John Edward Keating] McConnell MBE [served as Firemaster, Warrant Officer RNZAF Station Whenuapai WW2]. During 1963 an ex-fireman from South Africa appointed, left late 1964, replaced by Senior Fireman Bob [RH] Cleary and First-Class Fireman Ken Gill. First time Inspecting Officers did not have to turnout on appliances to fires

November 15 1962, Thursday, Chief Fire Officer Gordon Drummond [later QFSM] appointed National Chief Fire Service Officer, Wellington. George Dunnachie, Government Fire Inspector, Ministry of Works, Wellington, unsuccessfully appealed the appointment. Drummond retired back to Mt Roskill in September 1972, replaced by Bill [WJ] Henderson, Chief Fire Officer, Wellington. February 14 1963 Third Officer Lloyd Wilson appointed Chief Fire Officer. Deputy Chief Fire Officer Charles [Chiller] Reid did not apply as he was near retirement. In 1976 LF Wilson was appointed first Regional Commander No1 Region [Auckland]. In 1977 Wilson retired to live at North Bay on Kawau Island.

November 23 1962, Friday, Mt Wellington, two double bay, one floor, brick station occupied, corner Pilkington Road and Pleasant View Road, Panmure. Saturday, February 2 1963, officially opened by Hon Sir Leon Gotz, Minister of Internal Affairs. Architect Richard G Hillary. Two houses built alongside as married quarters for Station Officers. A composite station with volunteer crew. Replaced volunteer station [corrugated iron shed] corner Eilerslie Panmure Highway and Harding Avenue, Panmure.

December 11 1962, 17:00, Tuesday, applications for Chief Fire Officer closed. Advertised nationally. Applications were invited from suitably qualified Officers for the position of Chief Fire Officer, Auckland Metropolitan Fire Board. The successful applicant will exercise operational control over the Auckland Metropolitan Fire Board's area and will be required to reside at the Fire Headquarters. Pitt Street, Auckland. Applicants must have extensive operational fire experience, including high fire risk areas, fires in ships and port installations. Full details of technical qualifications and experience should be clearly set out in any application. Salary will be in accordance with the award scale and conditions of employment can be obtained from the undersigned at Pitt Street. Auckland, C2, Rex [RJW] Levis Secretary Fire Headquarters. Pitt Street. Auckland C2. \_\_\_\_\_

During 1963, Auckland MFB purchased the Mt Roskill Mission Hall, on the east side of Mt Roskill Station, used as mess room and recreation facilities. Later married quarters at rear of station taken over as on duty crew facilities, old wood building demolished and site levelled. June 8 2009 Station closed, crew moved to new station, 1169 Dominion Road. Old station still there 2023, a private home.

Friday, January 18 1963, to be effective Thursday, February 14 1963, Lloyd [LF] Wilson appointed Auckland MFB Chief Fire Officer. Lloyd's father had been Superintendent of Auckland from May 1 1918 to August 1949. Lloyd replaced Gordon [GA] Drummond who had been appointed National Chief Fire Service Officer, headquartered in Wellington. Deputy Chief Fire Officer Charles [Chiller] Reid did not apply as he was near retirement [August 22 1963]. February 1963 Fourth Officer Allan [AW] Bruce promoted to Third Officer. Late May 1963 Senior Station Officer Ron [RA] Neary, Headquarters was appointed Fourth Officer.

February 1963, David Woodward sat and passed the IFE Associate Exam and Terry [TV] Miller sat and passed the Graduate Exam. Results notified in May 1963.

July 10 1963, Wednesday, New Zealand Fire Service Council adopted the motto, "Servimus", we serve. It has a special bearing on the New Zealand Fire Service badge. The badge was an eight-pointed star, which denotes the eight merits of the motto, namely: strength, efficiency, resourcefulness, valour, integrity, mobility, unity, service. The initial letters spell Servimus.

July 28 1963, afternoon, Sunday, Senior Fireman Noel Francis MATHIESON [37] died of a heart attack at house fire, 3 Coyle Street, off Sandringham Road, Sandringham. He was operating Mt Albert's pump, fire at turnover stage. Funeral held at Pitt Street. History note - Michael [MJ] Coyle joined

Auckland VFB in 1884 under John Hughes served at least eleven years, 1911 Mayor Mt Albert and Auckland Fire Board member for fifteen years. A coach builder he later had premises in New North Road near Symonds Street and later Eden Terrace.

August 22 1963, Thursday, Deputy Chief Fire Officer Chiller [Charles] Reid retired. He died January 1976 in Taumaranui Hospital. Third Officer Allan [AW] Bruce appointed Deputy Chief Fire Officer. July 31 1963 Fourth Officer Ron [RA] Neary appointed Third Officer and Senior Station Officer Norm Whiting Fourth Officer. Mid 1966 Whiting became first Brigade Alarms and Communications Officer, initially to build new Controlroom officially opened September 25 1972, subsequently turned permanent role, replaced as Fourth Officer by SSO Dave Woodward.

September 26 1963, Thursday, Brigade organised into five Divisions for a more effective chain of command. They were Headquarters, Remuera, Otahuhu, Mt Albert and Avondale, each with a Senior Station Officer in charge. Each SSO oversaw two stations, except larger HQ with one. There were two shifts, A and B Day.

A SSO pump was included in every first three pump predetermined attendance.

Headquarters F30 – F41, Ponsonby F45.

Remuera F61, St Heliers F62, Parnell F63 – 64.

Otahuhu F54 – F55, Ellerslie F59, Mt Wellington F56 – F58.

Mt Albert F48, Mt Eden F49, Onehunga F51 – F53.

Avondale F47, Pt Chevalier F46, Mt Roskill F50.

September 26 1963, Thursday, the PDA [predetermined attendance] to a property fire was increased to three pumps, the third pump responsible for additional water and salvage.

Late 1963, permanent crews stopped riding back step of appliances after Headquarters No1 [F30] clipped a taxi, telephone pole and crashed into a house, O'Neill Street, Ponsonby a few months earlier. Driver Senior Fireman Hugh Kenrick promoted to Station Officer soon after. Third Officer Ron Neary OIC. Interestingly the crew inside on the back seat were hurt more than those on the back, no seat belts in those days. Instruction occasionally ignored.

March 1964, Kevin G O'Sullivan scored top marks for the world in the Associated Membership [later Member], Institute of Fire Examination. O'Sullivan started in Kaitaia VFB, Auckland as an Auxiliary while attending University, then joined the permanent staff. He retired Divisional Commander Southern, stationed at Manukau, Kerrs Road.

March 5 1964, Thursday, Judge Kendrick [KG] Archer inquiry report into the dispute between Auckland Metropolitan Fire Board and Auckland Firemen was released by the Minister of Labour Tom Shand. Judge Archer observed the Board had been able to save considerably by disposing of the services of the six clerical workers who had been employed in the Watchroom and having this work done by the Brigade without an equivalent increase in personnel. It appeared that the overall cost of the brigade was regularly reduced by the fact that the Brigade was consistently short staffed, though the existing staff were expected not only to undertake the whole of the routine work which would be required of the Brigade at full staff. The Fire Board's policy appeared to have been to transfer men for what was in effect relieving duty to avoid payment of meal allowances. It also postponed for a long period the appointment of new Senior Station Officers to save their salary increases of 5s 9d weekly. For justification the Board relied on the obscurity or silence of the award

on the point. Judge Archer found that the Board's Chief Fire Officer was justified in feeling that the efficiency of the Brigade had been affected by insufficient labour for routine work. He said the Board had a somewhat cheese-paring attitude.

From mid-1964 to mid-1967 permanent aluminium number plates began to be introduced for all motor vehicles. Last of the old plates were yellow, heavy vehicle's plates started H then five digits. New plates were black background, aluminium characters, first two characters were letters followed with four numbers, LLnnnn. All Auckland Brigade vehicles plates were replaced later 1965. From November 1986 they reversed the colours, all new number plates had reflectorised white background with black characters.

July 20 1964, Monday, Auckland MFB Recruit Course 2/64, fifteen recruits started at Otahuhu Station on B Day [24-hour shift], Station Officer Shaun O'Neill sole instructor, his second recruit course, told to be stricter. Course six weeks long, day on, day off, trainees rode appliances after training completed for the day, some assigned Headquarters others Otahuhu Station. Shift started 09:00, Headquarters based recruits drove in 1963 Commer 1500 minibus, left about 16:30 weekdays, 09:00 to 12:00 Saturdays, no training Sundays. BA, wheeled escape and TTL training at Headquarters week five. Fourteen passed out, five years later only two still in job, high staff attrition late 1960's. Mid 1970's only one in job. October 1964 Second Class Fireman's promotion exam, locker knowledge with either Third or Fourth Officer on same shift. Written First Class and Senior Fireman's exam every four months during 'Mad Week' when nobody was on leave.

July 29 1964, Wednesday, New Zealand Fire Brigadesmen's Federation, sought a regular five day, 40-hour week for firemen, Firemen are currently on call for the equivalent of 84 hours a week. The unions involved were Auckland, Wellington, Christchurch, Dunedin, Timaru and Invercargill districts. This would mean the establishment of three eight hour shifts a day, with each man having two complete days off duty each week. A substantial increase in Fire Brigade staff numbers would have to be made. Dis not happen until 1970.

From 1962 to 1967 Firemen staffed the Watchroom at Headquarters, Pitt Street. Shifts were A shift - 09:00 to 13:00, B shift -13:00 to 17:00, C shift - 17:00 to 21:00, it repeated through the night. Staff on C shift knocked off routine work at 16:00 to have dinner before starting at 17:00. The telephone PABX was manned Monday to Friday from 09:00 to 17:00, hour out for lunch but went back in if there was a job. From 1967 Watchroom manned by non-operational [wore uniform] staff.

September 7 1964, Sunday, Arthur [AW] Monk, President of Fire Brigade's Federation wrote to David [DC] Seath, Minister of Internal Affairs followed a long series of disputes with Auckland MFB, that the Auckland Regional Authority [Dove-Myer [MD] Robinson] take over the Auckland Metropolitan Fire Board. Not approved.

September 29 1964, Tuesday, twenty-five Brigade drivers resigned from driving after critical comments by Stan [SA] Gleadow, Chairman of the Auckland Metropolitan Fire Board [1950 - 1951 & 1957 - 1965] were reported in NZ Herald newspaper. "Some of our drivers are shocking, some don't even know the elementals of smooth driving. It's no wonder we have such heavy repair bills. We even had one van we had to put 16 new gear levers in". The Board asked Lloyd [LF] Wilson, Chief Fire Officer, to discuss driver training with his Officers' The drivers later agreed to postpone their resignations for seven days after discussions with Chief Fire Officer Lloyd [LF] Wilson). Gleadow later apologised. At a time of very poor relations between Firemen and the Board.

Late October 1964, new pneumatically operated bifold appliance room front doors fitted at Pitt Street Headquarters. Compressor in basement. Replaced solid wood bifold doors, manually

operated, person pulled down rope 'turks head' knot to open. Tender price £8,648. New doors had more glass.

About 1965, new operational procedure required all appliance reversing to always have their beacons on and a guide. Long serving Auxiliary Fireman Jimmy Real had been knocked down guiding Remuera pump back on Station late one evening, car raced the pump to the gap. Real, single, had been an Auxiliary at the old Parnell Station, Parnell Road, had to transfer to Remuera when new Parnell opened April 13 1960. Consequence of these injuries, Real retired. He had years of intimate knowledge of Parnell, Newmarket and Remuera patches.

Mid-1965, new Brigade policy promulgated that all future Officers had to be a full driver. Shortage of drivers meant appliances sometimes went out of commission because no driver was available, mostly around change of shift. Affected some Senior Firemen chasing promotion who did not have any driving licence. September 29 1964, twenty-five drivers had resigned from driving after a critical comment by Stan [SA] Gleadow, Chairman of the Auckland Metropolitan Fire Board.

August 7 1965, Saturday, first of six malicious false alarms admitted by Fireman Michael Leslie Saussey [20], Ellerslie Station. The calls were to addresses in Mangere, Onehunga and Otahuhu on August 7, 15 and 23, October 30 and November 11. He made the calls because "the station was very quiet." Appliances from Ellerslie, Onehunga and Otahuhu were responded. Each appliance cost £5 to send, making a cost of £75 to the Fire Board. Saussey had been dismissed. November 22 1965 he was placed on 18 months' probation by Mr F McCarthy SM. Saussey was also ordered to pay £75 restitution toward the cost of answering the alarms.

September 27 1965, 12:00, Monday, National Fire Prevention Week started with a mass water display on Princes Wharf. Two Dennis F12's pumped from the Harbour, other pumps from mains supply. Two TTL [Dennis Metz and Leyland Merryweather] monitors, two deluge sets, ground monitors in use. Tuesday, 12:00, the two TTL's put on a display outside the Central Post Office [now Rail Station], Lower Queen Street and at 13:00 outside the Town Hall, Queen Street and Greys Avenue. Use of extinguishers demonstrated in HQ yard every day.

Late 1965, English Angus UK made black waterproof firefighting leggings introduced just before summer. Hot to wear, clipped to trouser belt when pulled up or you used separate belt. Not liked, lasted only about six months, withdrawn. not immediately replaced. At same time reflectorised sleeves issued, fitted over axe belt, positioned in middle of back. When axes and belt withdrawn, sleeve sewn onto lancer tunic.

About late 1965, reflectorised sleeves issued, fitted over Fireman's axe belt, positioned in middle of wearers back. When axes and belt withdrawn, sleeve sewn onto back of every lancer tunic. Issued same time as waterproof leggings. Leggings were withdrawn about six months after issue, very hot to wear.

Late 1965, English made Angus black waterproof slicker [jacket] started to be introduced for general purpose wear, not firefighting. Proved popular, replaced oilskin raincoats, were later replaced with locally made slickers.

During 1966. Auckland MFB Water Reference Book introduced and carried on all pumps and hose layer. Hydrants on larger mains, including ARA hydrants, plus key hydrants in poor water supply areas. Key static supplies were also listed, including swimming pools. In the Watchroom [later Controlroom] a number of large maps had 'stuck on' numbers for quick reference together with scale ruler. "Additional water required" was a common priority message. The hose layer and 4th



pump responded as base pump [later 2nd alarm 6th pump if just a greater alarm without water required] to the reference plus number of pumps needed for relay. Discontinued when NorthCom established. In 2017 Council water map data loaded into ICAD and available onboard appliances.

About 1966 the ARA [Auckland Regional Authority] started converting their standard hydrants fitted on some bulk trunk mains to left hand square thread and marked them all in blue, to stop misuse on key infrastructure. These specific standpipes were carried in the hose layer and also painted blue. The ARA, established 1963, took over supply of bulk water from Auckland City Council.

February 1 1966, Tuesday, Scotty [Andrew Russell] Mason, Auckland [Station Officer] appointed to be a member of the Fire Service Council for a period of three years by David C Seath, Minister of Internal Affairs. Mason represented the New Zealand Federated Fire Brigades Employees' Industrial Association of Workers. Reappointed February 1 1969 for another three years. About 1969 Mason retired as Station Officer, Ponsonby.

February 21 1966, about 18:00, Monday, Arthur Fiedler, world famous Conductor of Boston Orchestra visited, he was a very keen fire buff. In NZ as guest conductor NZBC Orchestra. SFM Gordon [GBH] Henshaw, in Commer HQ No1, drove him, siren and lights around the block, bottom Greys Avenue Henshaw changed down a gear to turn into Cook Street and blew the motor. Chief Fire Officer Lloyd [LF] Wilson picked up Arthur in Holden Control Car. Appliance towed back, No2 pump swapped bays and call sign, relief pump commissioned.

August 1 1966, Monday, Papakura Station, Averill Street staffed by Auckland Metropolitan Fire Board, one Officer [Kevin O'Sullivan and Ron Martin] and one firefighter on two watches. Mid-March 1966 Papakura BC approached AMFB for day coverage or joining. Incorporated into AMFB as of April 1, 1967. Last volunteer Chief Fire Officer Barry Walker, stayed as OIC Papakura volunteers, Barry retired November 1973 after thirty years' service. Deputy Chief Fire Officer DJ Stewart.

November 12 1966, Saturday, Local Government Commission again published proposal to amalgamate all Auckland Fire Boards into one. Did not proceed. April 1 1976. all Brigades nationalised under NZ Fire Service.

About 1967, last use of a jump sheet to save someone. Parnell B Day crew Station Officer Noel Glen, Firemen Alan Reid and Dennis Alexander plus a couple of Policemen, used a jump sheet at a building of three floors in Brighton Road, used as flats. Male fell from roof, only five or six people on the sheet. saved his life but he broke both thighbones [femurs]. Jump sheets were 10'x10 ft made of canvas. During 1977 the last few jump sheets were removed from operational service.

February 25 1967, Saturday, Headquarters ET [Emergency Tender] commissioned at Pitt Street. New concept, main role an immediate four person BA [breathing apparatus] crew for search and rescue or establishing deliveries inside the building. Secondary but rapidly increasing role was rescue from motor accidents, equipment moved from 1957 Bedford ET and new pieces purchased. First appliance was Dennis F8, fleet No18, registered EZ1892, ex Pt Chevalier. May 21 1971, replaced by new International AACO1820 HRT [Heavy Rescue Tender].

April 24 1967, Friday, Auckland Metropolitan Fire Board United Fire District came into being. Papatoetoe City and Howick Borough Council did not join. Manurewa, Beachlands and Papakura incorporated into Auckland MFB as of Saturday, April 1 1967. Mutual aid agreement with Papatoetoe and Howick. Monday, January 30, 1967, Auckland Brigade had split into two Divisions [Central and Southern], made little operational or administrative difference.

November 15 1967, 14:00, Wednesday, Auckland Training Centre opened by Mt Wellington Borough Council Mayor Bob [Robert M] McCulloch, Pleasant View Road, behind Mt Wellington Fire Station. Concrete drill and hose drying tower and one floor smoke chamber, deep lift pit and large drill area. Builder Milne Construction, cost £17,965. The large water consumption generated a lot of debate for many years about who should pay. Mt Wellington BC received and paid bill, later all Council within Auckland contributed. Station social room used as lecture room, tables set up in back of engine room behind volunteer pump for tea, coffee, etc at breaks.



Training Centre Tower and Smoke Chamber



Training Centre Opening Day

Early 1967 Alcan Industries [opened November 14 1961], Wiri Station Road, Wiri formed an Industrial Fire Brigade. Their Morris J van had a FWP portable pump in the back. The FWP later used by a forestry company. Own station on site. One of several Industrial Brigades; Westfield, Southdown and Hellaby's freezing works each had one, General Foods Mt Wellington, Otahuhu Railway Workshops, Ardmore Teachers College, Kingseat Hospital [closed 1977], Oakley-Carrington Hospital, NZ Steel at Glenbrook and Auckland International Airport at Mangere. AFFCO Kings Wharf cool store, Auckland City abattoir at Otahuhu, Hydra Bacon College Hill and Kiwi Bacon, Kingsland each had a rescue squad complying with the ammonia regulations. Military had brigades at RNZAF Station Whenuapai and NZ Army Papakura Camp.

About 1967, white helmet triangle introduced to identify CABA [compressed air breathing apparatus] and red triangles to identify oxygen BA wearers [Siebe Gorman Proto MkIV and Drager BG174]. Markings later extended to include Officers. All oxygen sets were self-contained rebreathing systems. Proto Mk IV sets decommissioned by 1970. Drager BG174 sets decommissioned about 2002 or 2003 and transferred to Mines Rescue Huntly, who continued to use them.

In 1968, the Auckland Metropolitan Fire Brigade comprised 17 stations, 217 paid staff, 108 volunteer staff, 1 and last auxiliary Fireman, calls 4,000, budget \$1M.

April 9 1968, Tuesday, Brigade staged display of firefighting techniques for Governor General, Sir Arthur Porritt at the Mt Wellington Training Centre. December 19 1941, second visit and inspection

by a Governor General, Sir Cyril Newall [1941-1946], next display was on November 12 1973 for Sir Denis Blundell, also at Mt Wellington Training Centre.

April 20 1968, Saturday, tender, Auckland Metropolitan Fire Board, supply of electronic equipment etc. Preliminary announcement. The Fire Board proposes calling for tenders for the supply, installation and commissioning of the following equipment: Four telephone control turrets to be installed in Brigade Controlroom, approximately 14 substation receiving units. One bank of 20 private fire alarm and street fire alarm receivers complete with occurrence time and date recorders, etc Re-siting the existing fire alarm receiving equipment with all associated rewiring. Prospective tenderers are invited to register with the undersigned in the first instance, giving details of any equipment which, they consider could be appropriate for the purposes outlined above. Signed, Rex [RJW] Levis. Secretary. Auckland Metropolitan Fire Board. Fire Headquarters. Pitt Street, Auckland. September 25 1972, new AMFB Controlroom officially opened, moved from ground floor to first floor.

July 26 1968, Friday, joint Police - Fire practical exercise at end of weeklong Police fire investigation course, Wellington Street and Hepburn Street, Freemans Bay. Old house due demolition, recreated fire crime scenes including homicides, shots fired about lunch time caused no interest from neighbours, scenes investigated by joint teams. House burnt down at end, only three chimneys remained.

September 27 1968, Friday, the emergency 111 telephone system began to be implemented in Auckland. It took 4-5 years before this was available throughout most of greater Auckland. Prior to 111. the Auckland Fire three emergency numbers were 44855, 44856 and 44857. Back in the day each Brigade had their own emergency call number, Auckland's number at one time was 13!! September 29 1958, 111 system first implemented in Masterton and Carterton. The 111 calls were directed to either Auckland or North Shore Watchrooms. This caused them to respond other Brigades in their area as local numbers stopped. Highlighted problem of duplicate street names, just about every suburb had a Station Road, local Councils changed many street names. During 1975, Waiheke Island, Kumeu and Pukekohe toll groups included. In the late 1980's someone dialling 000 [Australia], 911 [USA] and 999 [UK] electronically diverted to 111. January 2017, system changed so emergency operators could quickly trace the location of the caller. 80% of calls were from mobiles.

October 24 1969, Monday, the Fire Service Amendment Act 1969, enacted, to be read with Fire Service Act 1949. Provided management of breaches of good conduct, termination of services and promotion appeals. Also included some miscellaneous changes to principal 1949 Act.

About 1968, all the intersection sirens around central Auckland removed because of noise. Sirens were at Karangahape Road and Pitt Street, Karangahape Road and Liverpool Street [covered Queen and Symonds Streets], Queen and Wellesley Streets, Queen and Victoria Streets, Queen and Customs Streets, Symonds Street and Khyber Pass Road, and Broadway. Sirens operated from the Watchroom at Pitt Street, Senior Operator turned on close ones upon response, more distant appliance called for [RT] by first appliance [usually Headquarters No1], last appliance [usually TTL] messaged [RT] "through xxx", siren turned off.

About 1969, Auckland Chief's quarters moved with conversion of flats 4 and 5 Poynton Terrace [block one] into one flat. Boardroom and administration moved upstairs into Chief's old quarters on top floor overlooking Pitt Street. Later Regional Commander's office, later still Auckland City Central Chief Fire Officer's office.

Early 1969, Auxiliary Fireman, sometimes called "gazob's", phased out of Auckland FB, John 'high rise' Walker the last. Thursday, July 4 1961 Introduced in Auckland after fatal Grand Hotel Fire review and opening of Pitt Street Station. At some time Auxiliaries been attached to Avondale, Mt Roskill, Mt Albert, Pt Chevalier, Rose Road [Grey Lynn], St Marys Road [Ponsonby], Western District [later Ponsonby], old Parnell [Parnell Road], Mt Eden, Remuera, Great South Road [now Ellerslie] and Tamaki [now St Heliers]. Earlier attached to old Headquarters Station, Pitt Street. City had one about 1963 although it was an unusual arrangement, very short lived. Auxiliary Fireman lived on Station, except one at Mt Roskill who lived next door, were required to be on duty three days in seven between 19:00 to 06:00, were paid base pay 7/6 a night to be on duty, paid extra 6/8 for each call. Brigade provided turnout gear but no shirts, cardigan, shoes, socks, bought their own from the Store for a token amount. Conditions covered by Fireman's industrial contract.

Volunteer Firemen remained at Otahuhu, Mt Wellington, Onehunga, Manurewa and Papakura.

About August or September 1969, Fireman's axes started to be withdrawn from personal issue. Two were fitted to top of carpenter's kit on every pump, in their pouch. During 1962 rubber handle axes had replaced wood handled axes, wood handles scrubbed clean with sand soap. Auckland had instituted regular "present axes" cleanliness inspections on first parade [in full firefighting uniform] over 50 years before, and continued until axe's were withdrawn. About late 1965, reflectorised sleeves issued, fitted over Fireman's axe belt, positioned in middle of back. When axes and belt withdrawn, sleeve sewn centre back onto woollen lancer tunic, just above the two buttons.

August 3 1969, noon, Sunday, vacancy closed for a Assistant Fire Prevention Officer with the Auckland Metropolitan Fire Board. Applicants should be at least 25 years of age and hold a light trade driver licence. Previous fire service experience is essential. Qualifications under the Institute of Fire Engineers or NZ Fire Brigades Institute will be considered. School Certificate an advantage. Successful candidate will serve a six-month probationary term during which they will be required to successfully complete a course of training. Commencing salary up to \$2,744 per annum, plus weekly overtime allowance. Conditions of Employment available from the General Office of the Board. Written applications should be in the hands of the undersigned Rex [RJW] Levis, Secretary. Fire Headquarters. Pitt Street, Auckland 1.

October 30 1969, Thursday, Court of Arbitration issued an Industrial Award that provided for a 72-hour working week or a 56-hour working week. December 1 1969 Union advised AMFB they had elected to work 56 hour, three shifts. Staffing in all departments increased from 217 to 329, rapid recruiting and training. Officers increased from 49 to 75, Firemen from 139 to 214, Fire Prevention from 3 to 5, admin from 8 to 10 and others. New shift system started February 2 1970.

'Late 1969 new 'plastic' American Safety Supply Co's Super Chieftain helmets started to be introduced. Black for all ranks Firemen, Station Officer and Senior Station Officer. White for Divisional Officers and Executive Officers. Replaced UK made Cromwell cork helmets, 1987 replaced with NZ made Pacific Helmets from Wanganui.

'Late 1969, black hyperlon PVC American style bunker coats started to be introduced. Had been trialled, although waterproof, tended to melt in close proximity to flames and high heat. Replaced wool lancer tunics and were soon replaced by aluminised nomex bunker coats.

November 25 1969, Tuesday, National Chief Fire Service Officer Gordon Drummond conducted official inspection of Auckland MFB. These occurred at regular intervals. Friday, February 20 1970, another Inspection to ascertain Brigade capability after third watch added, the 50% staff increase meant 101 extra new Firemen in Auckland.

December 5 1969, 11:00, Friday, major test of the Civil Defence warning system in metropolitan Auckland. Sirens at Fire Stations, factories and ships in port sounded. Result was coverage was uneven and not sufficiently concentrated.

Late 1969, Auckland MFB introduced Station Officer's examination, a three-part written examination plus four-part practical examination. Had conducted First Class and Senior Firemen's exams for many years. After April 1 1975 became national exams administered by New Zealand Fire Service Examination Board.

For most of the decade the Brigade had only 2 Fire Prevention Officers. This increased to 3 in 1967 due to the volume of work in relation to factory and building inspections. Growth saw the department numbers increase to 4 in 1973 and 8 in 1974.

Many thanks again to Cliff Mears who has tirelessly recorded the AFB history from log books, Fire Board Reports, Newspaper Cuttings and other sources making our job so much easier. Also a big thanks to Forbes Neil for the work he did in scrapbooking.

DMN June 2023

#### Auckland Fire Brigade Service Honours 1960-1969

1965, Fire Service Honours presented at Headquarters by Board Chairman Stan [SA] Gleadow and UFBA President Chief Fire Officer N McLeod of Maitland. Third Officer Ron [RA] Neary Headquarters and Station Officer Arch Williamson Ponsonby both 25-year gold stars from both AMFB [Auckland Metropolitan Fire Board] and UFBA [United Fire Brigades Association]. Two-year UFBA gold bar: Chief Fire Officer Lloyd Wilson, Fourth Officer Norm Whiting. Senior Station Officers Trevor Gilbert and Reg Moore and Station Officer Noel Glen. Two-year UFBA silver bar Senior Station Officer Terry Miller, Station Officers Wally Booth. George Carlisle, Len Doughty, Dave Fox, Jim Harrington, Bill Huddleston, Ken Keep, Hugh Kenrick, Ron Levesque, Fred Moss, Shaun O'Neill, Ray Patterson, Fred Stangan, Bert Taplin, Henk Van Den Brink, Jack Worgan, Barry Radovan, Senior Firemen John Bishenden, Neil Donaldson, Warren Lincoln, Arthur Monk, Kevin O'Sullivan, Don Redding, Ron Shaw. First Class Firemen Peter Mills, Alex Smith, Tony Walsh, Auxiliary Fireman Jim Real. Five-year medals Senior Firemen John Deverell, Maurie Doughty, John Mayall. Mick Small, First-Class Firemen Paul [Chopper] Hurst, Ray Hewitt, Doug Wilson, Auxiliary Fireman Ray Ensor. Three-year certificates Station Officer Tom [the Pom] Howarth. Senior Firemen Bill Blyth. Ray Warby, First Class Firemen Ray Clarke Terry Comerford. John Day, Ian [Kasper] Keay, Don [The Duck] Perrson, Second Class Fireman Bob Clifton.