

CENTRAL OTAGO FIRE BRIGADES' SUB-ASSOCIATION

PRESIDENT David O'Sullivan

VICE PRESIDENT Hemi Cordell

TREASURER Phil Greeks

SECRETARY Mark Davidson

Minutes of the meeting held at Roxburgh

Meeting opened at 1930 on April 15 2026

Present

Alexandra	Mark Donald Russell Anderson
Arrowtown	
Blackstone	
Clyde	
Cromwell	Aimee-Gene Hughes-Faiao
Dunstan	Nigel Greaves
Frankton	
Glenorchy	
Lake Hawea	
Luggate	David O'Sullivan Alan Humphry
Makarora	
Millers Flat	Phillip Bentley Daryl Whipps

Naseby	James Hazlett
Omakau	
Queenstown	
Ranfurly	
Roxburgh	David Welsh Hugh McCall David Weatherall
Tarras	
Wanaka	Phil Greeks Ralph Fegan Hemi Cordell

Guests

Welcome any guests and LHM
Bobby Lamont

Apologies

John Grenfell
Paul Coleman
John Haig
Tony Wellman
Tom Syben
Willy Dowling
Nicholas McQuillan
Kris King
Aiofe Sheenan
Mark Davidson

Apologies sustained:	O'Sullivan/Greaves	CARRIED
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Minutes

The minutes of the previous meeting, as circulated, are confirmed.

Taken as read	O'Sullivan/Cordell	CARRIED
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Matters arising

ACTION	PEOPLE	PROGRESS
Who has a waterways track	Challenge Panel	In progress
New name badges, mainly Challenge Panel	Dave	In progress with the other subs
Review the process for sending minutes out to Central Otago FENZ addresses. They didn't send this time.	Bucket	Completed
Check in on the next meeting date and organisation in Roxburgh.	Bucket	Completed

Correspondence

Inwards

1. 8/2 NoFBSA meeting notice for 1/3 (several emails)
2. 11/2 OS stating Luggate has offered to host, but isn't confirmed as Driver's challenge host.
3. GM Nic McQuillan clarifying a point in the minutes (rank and role closing date) (replied to and changed)
4. Email from Phil querying financial minutes (replied to)
5. 21/2 OS February Exec meeting minutes
6. 22/2 OS February General Circular
7. 5/3 OS AGM draft agenda, finance report, and associated documents
8. 3/3 Email NSFBSA Wind farm tour field day invite for 14/3 (they had 65 attendees)
9. OS forwarding an introduction letter from the NZFBI
10. 21/3 OS Road Crash Rescue Date and AGM guests
11. 21/3 OS asked if we could send a rep from CO to also rep OS at Omakau's. This was then forwarded to potential reps, then all Past Presidents. Eventually we had Mark Davidson confirmed to do it, then were told by OS that they already had someone else.
12. 18/3 Hugh McCall re is Roxburgh meeting confirmed. Mark Davidson is doing this. (replied to)

13. 25/4 Email from Queenstown's Dave Christie saying they will not be hosting the 2026 Waterways. (several emails and replies with Tech Panel around potential structure and host)
14. 30/3 OS Crash rescue entry in Milton on May 9
15. 8/4 Emails from CO Exec confirming website details, inc Exec photo and blurb.
16. 1/4 Various apologies and meeting questions (several emails)
17. 8/4 OS AGM agenda and finance report
18. 11/4 NSFBSA reply saying they do not have any need for a website currently

Outwards

1. 11/2 CO meeting draft minutes sent out
2. 21/3 Meeting outline and agenda questions to CO Exec for April's meeting.
3. 21/3 Emails looking for a rep for OS to Omakau's 50 year medal.
4. 24/4 April meeting notice sent out, with February's minutes. (replied to several times)
5. Email to CO Exec discussing if we should postpone a week to be after NS meeting (replies received in the affirmative)
6. 3/4 Email to all postponing the CO April meeting by a week to receive feedback from NS
7. 8/4 Email to OS asking how many CO brigades have registered (replied to)
8. 9/4 Email to CO brigades to encourage attendance, as only 5 of 20 brigades from CO have registered or have Proxies for the OS AGM
9. 12/4 Website draft sent out to CO Exec (several emails)
10. 12/4 COFBSA subscription reminder sent out to some brigades that are yet to pay from 2025

Correspondence received

O'Sullivan/Cordell

CARRIED

Financial

Balance \$3207, paid \$80 for supper.

Thank you Naseby, Ranfurly and Alexandra for paying their subs.

Closing balance of \$3278.04

Payment to host brigade of \$80 for supper costs Greeks/O'Sullivan

CARRIED

Reports

President's Report

The last two months have been a productive and forward looking one for our Association. A key highlight has been the development of a new draft website, designed to better reflect who we are, improve communication with our members, and provide easier access to resources and updates. I encourage all members to take the time to review the draft and provide feedback as we move toward launch. I also had the valuable opportunity to meet with other Sub Association Presidents, where we shared ideas, discussed common challenges, and explored ways to strengthen collaboration across our wider network. These conversations reinforced the importance of working together to support our brigades and communities.

We continue to invest in the future of our service through the growth of our youth cadet program, which is building strong engagement and developing the next generation of volunteers. It is encouraging to see the enthusiasm and commitment from our young members and their mentors. At the same time, we remain mindful of the increasing number of people living in high risk fire vegetation zones. This presents ongoing challenges for preparedness, education, and response, and highlights the critical role our brigades play in community safety. As we move forward, our focus remains on strengthening capability, supporting our volunteers, and ensuring our communities are well-informed and resilient.

Otago Southland Report

Planning for the OS AGM this weekend. Haven't had an in person meeting since the last Central Otago meeting. Challenge dates have been set, with a Trauma introduction at the RCR Challenge on May 9.

Challenge Panel Report

Conversation with Clyde on hosting the Waterways in November, looking promising. A third member is keen to join the Challenge panel to bring that back up to full strength.

FENZ Update Report

ERA has said FENZ needs to go through a full consultation restructure process, with no current end date. For brigades this means that we need to have a little patience as many people are leaving in management during the consultation. SMS now has a team back in place.

A couple of new DCFOs have been appointed in the region. Cromwell will have a new Chief and Deputy next month.

Excellent example of a recent large vegetation fire. Command Unit (Alex3914) has been a fantastic asset to the area, at both recent large vegetation fires and the Wanaka airshow.

Gold Star at Naseby last week, and a 50 year medal at Omakau next weekend.

(Bobby's last word at the end of the meeting)

Thanked the Sub and stated there were some very valuable points and initiatives brought up, that demonstrated how the Sub is benefitting its brigades.

- Website
- Cadet Program
- Meeting with the MPs, brigades about ACC.

These are all things that really should be driven, and the time is ripe for the ACC

Any Health & Safety Matters

On larger incidents, when further trucks arrive on scene (eg over 10) they need to report to the command unit so every knows who is on scene.

Brigade Reports

Alexandra

40 calls for the year. Seven QFF to SFF. New DCFO coming in. Joint training with St John.

Arrowtown

Nil

Blackstone

Nil

Clyde

Clyde has had 19 calls this year, one new opp support person

Cromwell

78 calls for the year, new CFO and DCFO next month. One new recruit.

Dunstan

12 calls for the year to date, four recruits going on courses, which will bring them back up to their full contingent.

Frankton

Nil

Glenorchy

Nil

Lake Hawea

Nil

Luggate

38 Calls for the year, one QFF to SFF, a new recruit, and another few young people coming to training that are interested in signing up. Thanks to all for the airshow, two grass fire were extinguished, caused by the pyrotechnics.

Makarora

Nil

Millers Flat

52 calls for the year, 17 since February, recruit has just gone through, and a new guy coming through who is under 40. MVAs are increasing.

Naseby

A couple of calls since the last meeting. People are going up through the ranks.

Omakau

Nil

Queenstown

Nil

Ranfurly

Several calls since last meeting, a recruit is finishing her course, and a couple of people going into their SFF/SO training. Rural members are doing some training with the Police SAR squad.

Roxburgh

14 Calls for the year, mostly MVAs. Lost four members since Christmas. One new recruit, and one new SO once the vetting comes through. He will be the first SO in Roxburgh to come through the entire TAPS system. Still reasonably strong for numbers.

Tarras

Nil

Wanaka

Very busy, members back from QFF course, and four going through the SFF program, with a few more in the SO training precourse.

General Business

1. Omakau 50 year medal, thank you for the replies, Lesina Walden is now presenting that.
2. Katherine Lamont contacted Mark Donald, and offered to assist any brigade that would like to put in a Submission to their MP on the ACC. Katherine has been working with many MPs, and has great lines of communication. Numerous brigades across the country are voicing their lack of support over this matter. Consider if we want to schedule our next meeting where an MP can attend to address ACC matters.

Cadet Program Presentation from Hemi Cordell

1. Hemi is heading this project, due to his wealth of experience.
2. 20 brigades nationally that have expressed interest in or are currently running Cadet programs.
3. The National Working Group has been set up to scale the Cadet program and set up a National Framework.
4. It is important that this is safe for everyone involved and accessible to all involved.
5. Two experts have been involved in creating this robust framework.
6. This framework allows us to set up a program in our area. Brigades and Senior leadership are and will be notified.
7. Cadet leaders and facilitators are identified.
8. The initial program is 10 weeks, based on previous plans developed by the NZFBI.
9. Lesson plans are designed so anyone can pick them up and understand what they are doing to run a great program.
10. Initial 10 week program will be used to ensure the structure of the program will run.
11. Engaging with our local community.
12. Hemi is also working with a National FENZ group, contributing to the National discussion
13. Once the ten week Upper Clutha program is completed, we can adjust what is needed, and role it out with support to other Central Otago brigades.
14. National working group, standardised framework. Information was presented for people to take to their brigades.
15. Age is targeted at 12-16.
16. This will be a resilient and robust program that will be set up to last, and doesn't need to be continuously run
17. End of June to have National approved framework in place, and a similar time to start a trial program given support from District and Regional level (which is crucial)
18. Ryley Webster (FENZ Manager of National Volunteerism) has been involved in this.
19. This is currently being discussed, is out for consultation, with a view to pass a motion on it at the next meeting.

Action Points generated from the meeting

ACTION	PEOPLE	PROGRESS
Who has a waterways track	Challenge Panel	In progress
New name badges, mainly Challenge Panel	Dave	In progress with the other subs
ACC, ensure brigades know that Katherine Lamont will assist in a submission. Enquire if we should schedule a Sub meeting around the availability of an MP to discuss ACC matters and submissions	Everyone	

Next Meeting 1930 Wednesday 8 July in Cromwell (possibly an earlier meeting depending on ACC and MPs)

Meeting Closed at 2115