



MEDIA RELEASE
21 May 2009

EVENT DETAILS

Date: Saturday 23 May 2009

Time:

07.30 Start of the Auxiliary (partners) climb

08.30 Firefighter Sky Tower Challenge starts (1 competitor every 30 seconds
estimated finish time 11.30am

12.00 Relay starts (max 20 teams)

12.45 Squad Seven starts

02.00 Event concludes

Location: Base of the Auckland Sky Tower

LONE PLIMMERTON FIREFIGHTER CLIMBS FOR A CAUSE

This Saturday, 23 May, Andrew Gould, Plimmerton Volunteer firefighter will participate in the Firefighter Sky Tower Challenge in memory of his friend's eight-year old daughter.

As a first time participant, Gould is the only firefighter from his brigade participating in the challenge. He has dedicated his climb to his friend's eight-year old daughter who was diagnosed early this May 2009 with leukaemia and is undergoing treatment at Wellington Hospital.

As part of that dedication, Gould will wear a helmet in honour of the little girl and as a way to raise awareness about Leukaemia & Blood Foundation (LBF).

In addition, Gould has raised over \$1,200 for the LBF and is still fundraising. He hopes to collect in excess of \$1,500 for the challenge. Gould also has plans to participate in future challenges.

In its sixth year, the Firefighter Sky Tower Challenge has grown from a humble event to an intense gut-buster with over 80 New Zealand brigades, a total of 422 people – 365 firefighters and 57 auxiliary participants – in support the LBF.

The brave brigades will compete in a race up the 51 flights – or 1,103 Sky Tower steps – wearing full firefighting kit weighing 25kg.

Hailing from as far north as Paihia, and as far south as Alexandra, the New Zealand firefighters will be joined by the South Australian Metropolitan Fire Service and a large group representing a USA Firefighter team.



In association with
Auckland Airport

The firefighters have been training and fundraising for months leading up to the event. In 2008, the 58 fire brigades raised a record \$94,000 -- and for the last three years the Paihia Volunteer Fire Brigade has been the lead fundraisers.

Pru Etcheverry, Executive Director of the LBF, says the Firefighter Sky Tower Challenge is a fantastic event and each year the LBF are overwhelmed by the amazing enthusiasm and generosity of the firefighters.

"They balance hectic work and life schedules, months of mental and physical training and still manage to find time to fundraise for the six New Zealanders who are diagnosed everyday with leukaemia, lymphoma, myeloma and related blood cancers. They are truly our heroes and remarkable members of their communities.

"In this changing economy we are ever appreciative for SKYCITY's support and for Auckland Airport's support of the event and of the 365 fabulous firefighters who are up for this challenge. We thank and salute Auckland Airport firefighter, and Firefighter Sky Tower Challenge organiser, Tony Scott for every year coming out with a great level of enthusiasm and energy to make this event a success."

SKYCITY Chief Executive Officer, Nigel Morrison, says SKYCITY is proud to support the Firefighter Sky Tower Challenge.

"SKYCITY is privileged to be involved in a large number of events that really make a difference in our community and we look forward to welcoming hardworking and courageous firefighters from all over New Zealand and overseas to the tallest building in the Southern Hemisphere."

The event is also supported by Coca-Cola, More FM and St. John, and Scott Health & Safety.



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The Firefighter Sky Tower Challenge numbers:

- **6** children and adults in New Zealand everyday are diagnosed with leukaemia, lymphoma, myeloma or a related blood condition
- More than **500** contacts with patients and general enquiries every month is managed by the LBF Patient Support Services team
- **10,000** people are living with leukaemia, lymphoma, myeloma or a related blood condition in New Zealand
- Over **\$1,000** each day is the cost of providing LBF's Support Services
- **51** flights of stairs in the Firefighters Sky Tower Challenge
- **1,103** individual steps
- **\$94,000** was raised for LBF in the 2008 Firefighters Sky Tower Challenge
- Over **80** brigades.
- **365** firefighters representing fire brigades from around New Zealand are competing in the 2009 Challenge, including a team from Auckland Airport and Auckland Airport CEO Simon Moutter.
- At **328** metres the Sky Tower is the tallest building in the southern hemisphere
- Auckland Airport is providing a kick-start to the fundraising efforts with a \$15,000 donation. This money has come from the generosity of the travelling public who donate their foreign currency in donation globes positioned throughout the airport.

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MORE INFORMATION:

Event Details - 2009 Firefighter SkyTower Challenge in association with Auckland Airport

Date: Saturday 23 May 2009

Time: 7am - 1pm

Venue: Sky Tower, SKYCITY, Federal Street, Auckland Central

Leukaemia & Blood Foundation

The LBF is the only organisation in New Zealand dedicated to supporting patients and their families living with leukaemia, myeloma, lymphoma and related blood conditions.

Every day 6 children and adults in New Zealand are diagnosed with leukaemia, lymphoma, myeloma or a related blood condition, the equivalent of around 2,200 New Zealanders a year.

The funds raised go towards the LBF's Support Services Programme to provide core services – patient support, information & education, awareness, advocacy and research.



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The following Fire Brigades and Volunteer Fire Brigades are participating in the 2009 Firefighter Sky Tower Challenge:

Brigade	Mercer Volunteer Fire Brigade
	Morrinsville Volunteer Fire Brigade
Alexandra Volunteer Fire Brigade	Mount Maunganui Station
Athenree Volunteer Fire Brigade	Muriwai Fire Brigade
Auckland Airport Rescue Fire	Napier Station Fire Brigade
Auckland region City Station	New Plymouth West Volunteer Fire Brigade
Avondale Fire Brigade	Newmont Mines Rescue
Awhitu Rural Fire Brigade	Okaiawa Volunteer Fire Brigade
Beachlands Volunteer Fire Brigade	Onehāhi Volunteer Fire Brigade
Bethells Valley Fire Brigade	Painia Volunteer Fire Brigade
Cambridge Volunteer Fire Brigade	Papakura Fire Brigade
Christchurch City Station	Paraparaumu Fire Brigade
Clevedon Volunteer Fire Brigade	Patutahi Volunteer Fire Brigade
Cooks Beach Volunteer Fire Brigade	Plimmerton Volunteer Fire Brigade
Cromwell Volunteer Fire Brigade	Pukekohe Volunteer Fire Brigade
Devonport Fire Brigade	Queenstown Volunteer Fire Brigade
East Coast Bays Fire Brigade	Rangiora Volunteer Fire Brigade
Edgecumbe Volunteer Fire Brigade	Remuera Fire Brigade
Gis/Juken NZ Industrial	RNZAF Whenuapai Fire Brigade
Gis/Kotemaori VRFF	Silverdale Fire Brigade
Gisborne Fire Brigade	South Auckland Fire Brigade
Greenhithe Volunteer Fire Brigade	South Australian Metropolitan Fire Service
Hamilton Airport Rescue Fire	St Heliers Station
Henderson Fire Brigade	Stratford Volunteer Fire Brigade
Hikurangi Volunteer Fire Brigade	Tairua Volunteer Fire Brigade
Hutt City Fire Brigade	Tawa Volunteer Fire Brigade
Kaipoi Volunteer Fire Brigade	Te Atatu Volunteer Fire Brigade
Kaikohe Volunteer Fire Brigade	Te Awamutu Volunteer Fire Brigade
Kamo Volunteer Fire Brigade	Te Kuiti Volunteer Fire Brigade
Kawakawa Volunteer Fire Brigade	Thames Volunteer Fire Brigade
Kawerau Fire Brigade	Tikokino Volunteer Fire Brigade
Kumeu Volunteer Fire Brigade	Titirangi Fire Brigade
Linton Army Fire Brigade	Tokomaru Volunteer Fire Brigade
Lumsden Volunteer Fire Brigade	Turangi Volunteer Fire Brigade
Mangawai Volunteer Fire Brigade	USA Firefighter Team
Mangere Fire Brigade	Waiatarua Volunteer Fire Brigade
Manly Volunteer Fire Brigade	Waihi Beach Volunteer Fire Brigade
Manunui Volunteer Fire Brigade	Waipawa Volunteer Fire Brigade
Maungaturoto Volunteer Fire Brigade	Waipu Volunteer Fire Brigade

Leukaemia & Blood Foundation of New Zealand

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Wairarapa Volunteer Fire Brigade
Waitakere Rotorua Fire Brigade
Waitemata Fire Brigade

Wellington Airport Fire Service
Wellsford Volunteer Fire Brigade
Whitianga Volunteer Fire Brigade



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