



Joe Pope, Rotorua

I am standing for the Vice President position in the New Zealand Professional Firefighters Union with the promise to make collective bargaining of a base pay increase our paramount objective. This along with position accountability and strategic direction are 3 very high priorities.

I have worked in many positions over the past 16 years within the Fire Service, including Auckland, National Training and the Bay of Plenty to be currently here in Rotorua.

In this time I have come to see the differences experienced by brigades in both the metropolitan areas and the provincial areas around the regions as well as the issues involved in the training environment and with our black watch colleagues.

Over the past couple of years I have studied both with the New Zealand Institute of Management (externally) to progress an understanding of modern management theory and completed a Diploma in Event Management at the AUT City Campus in Auckland.

This study has given me a chance to experience the fundamentals involved in Management, Research, Communications, Public Relations and Marketing, these are all areas that I can use to improve our unions position and image.

I believe now that we have a short term contract with my proactive attitude and vision I can settle in quickly to the union executive and start getting all the required evidence, supporting information and contract pay increase percentages together so we can achieve a base pay increase over the next 3 years and beyond.

I have the skills to develop a strong strategic plan giving direction and unity toward the upcoming contract negotiations. I will be accountable to the position and to the wider union as it is you who vote me in and you I represent.

I stand for accountability, communication, confidence and the will to keep our union as one, for it is as one that we will be the most effective as a collective bargaining agent.

Finally I would like to thank those that are standing down for the efforts over the past years and for the work they have started some of which will be beneficial to future negotiations. Your time has been appreciated I look forward seeing more results in the future because of this.

Remember our strength is in our unity.