

Steve Devine for Northern Branch Vice President

As a union member and Senior Firefighter at Avondale Brown Watch. I have been in Auckland Central for 12 years and have spent time serving on the Auckland Local Committee. I have also been heavily involved in Team Sports at many levels and I'm very passionate about creating great team environments. Joining the Fire service was a chance to be part of another great team and unfortunately, I feel we have lost our way. As Branch VP, I can help create a better team environment at both our union level (Local, Branch and National) and in turn, FENZ.

Three things I know are crucial to any good team are **Honesty, Communication** and **Hard work**. I would ensure that we create a culture of "up-frontness". We don't want corporate-speak to start creeping into our Union, and I am certainly sick of hearing it from management. My number one priority will be to nip this in the bud. I can't promise new Aerials and better equipment, but I can promise that with me on the team, management will not get away with waffling about whether they have ordered it or not, and whether it is 'fit for purpose'.

Once we have that honesty, I can promise you this will be communicated clearly and effectively around the branch. We won't be the branch of two yearly blogs, or three yearly phone calls. I will ensure that our Branch Executive understand the importance of communication to our team culture. On paper these two things sound easy, but I am under no illusion that we have some hard work ahead of us, If we are all pulling in the same direction together, that hard work becomes easier.

There are 7 Locals and NTC in our branch, and each has a unique set of issues that deserve to be raised at the National Table. I will make sure those issues are coordinated and then put forward to the National Committee. We can and should be supporting each other, not just trying to make sure that our Local gets what our Local wants. A vote for me is a vote for unity across the Branch.

A team is made up of different people with different strengths and positions. The Vice President is a support role, I can be free to operate in my strength which is building a team culture, calling a spade a spade, and encouraging our team members to do what's best for the team.

I need your vote for Vice President, our team deserve better than what we are getting at the moment.

Steve
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