

National Executive candidate biographies 2021

Southern Regional Representative



Paul Johnstone

Certifying Plumber, Citycare Property

My name is Paul Johnstone and I am asking for your vote for Southern Regional Representative.

I have been a member of our union for 16 years and in that time I have served as site delegate and health and safety delegate for City Care Property. I have also been elected to represent the Christchurch forum at biennial conference several times.

It has also been my privilege to serve on the Engineering, Infrastructure and Extractions Industry Council on which I am currently deputy convenor. I have also served on the Trades Reference Group.

I believe these roles have given me the knowledge and skills to fulfil this role, so I ask for your vote to serve you and our Union as your Southern Regional Representative.



Jeremy Kerslake

Mounter, Amcor Flexibles

Hi, my name is Jeremy Kerslake. I have been a Union Delegate for roughly 8 years. During my time in this role I feel I have grown as an effective Delegate with lots of significant workplace issues being resolved, through research, member feedback, preparing drafts and proposals all in the best interests of seeking fairness for our members.

I am highly motivated and find a sense of fulfilment in completing tasks/objectives and seeking fairness for the members that I represent.

Outside of work, I am currently studying a paper with Massey University in strategic workplace communication which I am thoroughly enjoying, and also utilise the skills I have learned as a Delegate to provide advice to people in the community.

I also have a 6-year-old son whom I enjoy spending time with, he is also a reminder to me that the work I do now in promoting change in the workplace will help potentially provide him with a bright sustainable working future in New Zealand.

I am also a NZQA level 3 health and safety rep, I also enjoy this as it provides lots of interesting challenges, and is also another great way for me to protect not only our members but people in general on our site.

I am hoping if I am successful in my application this will enable me to continue to help others improve their working conditions.



Fiona Lawson

Customer Service Agent, Air New Zealand, Queenstown

Kia ora

I have worked in the farming industry, moved to the hospitality industry for part of 25 years in front line positions, so not afraid of hard work. I have been in Aviation for 5 years where I am a Union Delegate for the ZQN port as well as on the Aviation Industry Council. I also work as a casual for Bunnings Queenstown and pick up temping road control in the summer months.

I'm passionate about the Southern Regional Area and E t ū Union Members. I have experienced the upheaval when the government at the time ripped out the award system for workers. Hence excited to be involved in the campaign for the FPA and Living Wage. I would consider it a great challenge to keep the E t ū Executive up to date with what is happening with E t ū Union Members in the mighty Southern Regional Area. In Solidarity.



Jo McLean

Organiser, TEU

Tena Koe, ko Jo McLean taku ingoa. I am of Ngai Tahu and Te Atiawa descent.

I have a BA in Sociology, a Masters in Maori and Indigenous Leadership at the University of Canterbury, and have almost completed an LLB. I currently hold Director positions on the Board of Te Runanga o Ngai Tahu, I Chair the Te Runanga O Waihao Board, I sit on the Board of Te Taumata Council the Governing Board of the South Island Whanau Ora Commissioning Agency) and I am a member of the Board of Arowhenua Whanau Services.

I have been an Organiser both in the private and now public sector for some 14 years, which has been a privileged role to be in. I believe that with both my working knowledge of Unions and my Governance experience I can bring a diversity of knowledge and skills to the leadership and strategic direction of E tū to further benefit and empower our members.



Nikki Twine

Flight attendant Mt Cook Airline Christchurch

Tena koutou,

My name is Nikki Twine.

I have been a hard-working delegate for over 20 years, a member of the Aviation Council and your current South Island Regional Representative based in Otautahi, Christchurch.

I'm driven by a strong belief in fairness for "all", always being approachable, level-headed, and committed to my various E tū roles.

I respectfully interact with people from all ethnicities, socio-economic backgrounds and industries and am not afraid to challenge at a governance level when required.

Other than 36 years as a flight attendant, I also have a background in accounting, payroll, recruitment, and management.

COVID once again gave me the opportunity to work for the Electoral Commission as a Rostering & Recruiting Manager filling 680 roles.

My introduction to E tū governance was initially a challenge, having to adapt to evening Zoom meetings and changing National Executive members. I now believe I have a strong and respected voice at the table.

2020/21 has seen many of us having to rethink, re-evaluate, and restructure our future.

Our union continually needs to do the same to stay relevant and modern for our current and future membership without losing focus on our purpose and values: integrity, manaakitanga, aspiration, respect, and accountability.

A vote for me would offer stability and a level of consistency that I believe the governance of E tū requires in these changing times.

"Empowering working people and communities for a better life."

Kia ora
Nikki

