

31/03/2023

Re: Kev Riley

To whom it may concern:

I have known Kev for 30 years. In that time I have worked with him as a firefighter. Lived next door to him for a couple of years and been neighbours for probably another 20 odd years. I have been present at most of Kev's major "milestones" in this time - including his wedding, the births of his two boys (who are now adults) and his separation and divorce.

I count Kev a friend. He is a man who contributes to his community. He has, in the time I have known him, always gone the "extra mile" for those around him he cares for. Not only did Kev raise two sons, he had a massive impact on many of their friends. It was not unusual for Kev to have several boys as well as his own son's camp over on his lifestyle block. Many of the boys still maintain contact with Kev even as young adults

In the work context I know Kev best as a firefighter in the 1990's. Firstly as a guy on another crew in Auckland, then later in the mid 90's, after having done a stint in Gisborne, he joined me on Blue Watch at Hamilton Central. Kev quickly established his credentials as a capable and willing member of the team. I seem to recall he was formally acknowledged by the Hamilton police, for performing an underwater recovery of a body in a car that had fallen into the Waipa River at Te Pahu. The river that night was very high and the weather was "filthy". Kev offered to get his dive equipment from home do a job that would have more normally fallen to the Police dive team. As an ex-Navy dive team member, Kev was more than qualified to do this work, so we left him with the Police for most of the remainder of that shift. A couple of years later Kev was one of the key staff involved in upskilling staff with rope rescue training. After he left the Fire Service he wrote a number of NZQA unit standards in line rescue and ran his own business training work crews.

Kev has done many hard yards. He is a solid worker and multi skilled. If you want someone at your back, Kev is one who will not let you down.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'P Stone', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Peter Stone

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