

# PRESIDENT MICK NAIRN



I joined the NSW Fire Brigades in 2001. At that time, I was retained in 211 Ballina before applying for the permanent ranks, and starting in Sydney in 2003.

I've been stationed at 001 Headquarters, 16 Concord, 64 Lakemba, 15 Burwood, 33 Engadine and currently 54 Cronulla. I am a Rescue and USAR 2 operator and a Station Officer.

I was lucky enough to have been signed up to our amazing union when I joined the brigade by 211's station delegate. I thought that we, as a union, should fight to keep that appliance where it was and to get a new appliance and additional staffing at the other location instead. I realised that I had a passion for enhancing our job and that I should step up and become more actively involved. I then became my station's union delegate.

I later joined the sub-branch executive (2009) and was elected as the first Sydney South sub-branch secretary (2012). I served 2 terms (6 years) before running for and being elected as President, the role I am currently in and running for again.

The things I'm proudest of achieving as a union official are:

- Organising the Miranda by election campaign. This campaign saw firefighters hand out flyers at election booths in Miranda telling voters about how negligent the state government was in relation to both ours and the community's safety around closing fire stations. The organising model used for this campaign has been widely shared and used by many firefighting unions around Australia and the world. We continue to use this model as needed in state elections.
- Working with State Secretary Leighton Drury to get presumptive cancer legislation in NSW to enhance our benefits should we contract one of the recognised cancers. This required us to lobby politicians in NSW parliament and to work with all the political parties over a 12-month period.
- Actively enhancing our staffing structure to allow engagement with the entire membership by expanding the unions staffing numbers back up to what where they were in 2010. This has allowed us to start repairing and activating our station/location delegates network. This is an incredibly important move as it is the best way to ensure all members, stations and sections are engaged and have a voice in their union.

Contact me on: 0423 389 544