

Last year the coronavirus came hard and fast, and many in our profession had to quickly evolve and develop new skills. For many of our local members, the challenges associated with the pandemic continued into 2021. Businesses continue to undergo change, and for many this means ongoing uncertainty and stress. There are also many local members whose employment has continued, but they have been working under a significant load and the word “burnout” now is much more relatable than ever before.

Since last year's lockdown and following Covid Level restrictions, we have managed to have a number of face-to-face branch meetings which has been most welcome. Attendance at these branch meetings has remained strong and there has been ample professional development with presentations from:

- WorkSafe
- TDDA & Anne-Louise Anderson on Drug & Alcohol Testing Programmes
- Kate Ashcroft and the Privacy Act & Health Information Privacy Code
- Karl Stent, and
- Moni Hogg with her Safety Differently workshop.

As of last night we have 126 Bay of Plenty members, however only a third of our membership are graded at Professional Level or above. I strongly encourage you all to make some personal goals to raise your accreditation level and to take advantage of the CPD opportunities we are providing – especially meetings & webinars. After all, our purpose is to develop the professional skills of our members, so make friends and contacts, and contribute the best way you can to the organisation.

I would like to thank our wonderful committee for ensuring that local branch meetings have engaging speakers and are well organised for our members. Thank you: Shirley Baker, Darach Cassidy, Matt Dixon, Kerry Snowden, Pia Carpenter, Keith Barnett, and John Pascoe for all your efforts over the past year and beyond - you have certainly made my life easier and enhanced our local branch.

I would like to pass on my sincere gratitude to two members who are standing down this AGM from the committee: Darach Cassidy and Matt Dixon. Both these awesome gentlemen have made a tremendous impact on our local branch. Darach was our previous Branch Manager and has been a fantastic mentor and support to me since the day I walked in the door at the hospital venue that we use to frequent a few years back. I know I am not the only one that Darach has made a positive impact on. Matt also has been a long serving active committee member who in recent times has supported the local Emerging Safety Leaders network. Upon tendering their resignations from the committee, both Darach and Matt also offered their future support and help should we ever need it. Just getting it out there in an official format on my Branch Manager's Report...

I would like to say a sincere thank you to Selena, Robyn and the team at Head Office for the continued hard work and organisation over the past year. I have always felt very supported from the team and can see the dedication and hard work that goes into their roles to ensure that the NZISM remains relevant and effective for its members.

We have also been grateful to have been able to use the Mount Ocean Sports Club's beautiful venue free of charge for many of our meetings. A big thank you to Shirley Baker for facilitating this. I would also like to thank Beca for once again allowing us to use their lovely facilities for our AGM. Mike, please pass on our appreciation and thanks to your superiors.

After three years at the helm of the Bay of Plenty Branch, it is time for me to let someone new inject some fresh energy and allow me to focus more on my role within the NZISM Senior Leadership Team and the projects on the radar within that space. I have really enjoyed my time as Branch Manager, and I thank the committee for their awesome support which has allowed me to have a load of fun whilst performing my duties. I will remain on the committee for the next year at least, which is customary for departing branch managers and warmly welcome the incoming Branch Manager. Thank you.

**Deborah Cameron, Bay of Plenty NZISM Branch Manager, 10 June 2021**