



Once again, our year has been interrupted by the coronavirus which has brought some ongoing challenges to our profession. Business as normal is what we are aiming for in order to create a safe working environment. This has not been the case with many businesses having to change systems, structures, and staff, and having to survive amidst ongoing supply issues. These changes often bring about an increased workload for our profession.

Even though we had to cancel our big CPD evening “Leading Transition” where we had some great speakers coming- Wendi Croft -Chief H&S Officer, Fletcher Building, Deborah Pitout – WorkSafe Innovation and Greg Dearsly, we still managed to get some face-to-face meetings in after the initial lockdown.

Professional Development presentations over the last year have been

- Vertical Horizonz – Tour of their new training facility and an introduction to training courses on offer
- Derek Toner ‘The Fun Police” -Thought provoking talk on our profession
- Vance Walker – “Turning Maori Culture into Health and Safety Practice”
- Sean Heasman – presented on the “Code of Practice for Electrical Safe Distance”
- Janet Hughes – Networking Workshop
- Darach Cassidy – Bow Tie Risk Assessment Workshop

Numbers at events have been down this year and I can only put this down to members risk assessments around coronavirus and their exposure risk at face-to-face meetings. The committee looked at this and trailed a zoom meeting with Sean Heasman which saw member participation increase.

At this stage I would like to talk to all members about making an effort to attend these CPD events especially as a lot of effort has gone into the planning to get these speakers in front of the Branch to talk.

Often, I hear from members that they cannot get away from work, but I think we should be talking to our Managers / Owners and point out that our members are getting free training which helps their business. What other staff member in your organization gets ongoing Professional Development for a small annual fee?

I know from personal experience that no matter who is talking or what the subject matter is, I always walk away with a little more knowledge than I had before I arrived.

As of last night, we have 143 members which is up from 126 last year. We peaked at 162 members during the year. At this stage only 42% of our membership has a grading and I hope that most ungraded members are working towards a personal goal of getting graded. The purpose of the NZISM organization is to develop the professional skills of its members.

Once again, I would like to thank our committee who have worked and met during the year to bring engaging speakers. Thank you: Shirley Baker, Keith Barnett, John Pascoe, Melinda Davidson,



Deborah Cameron and a special thank you to Darach Cassidy who was conscripted back onto the committee when Pia Carpenter stood down due to work/ home commitments. What a talented team always keen to help out. There is always room for another member to join the committee and this can be a fantastic opportunity for further personal development. Please do not be afraid to put your hand up.

I would also like to thank the Head Office Team for the help and direction throughout the year.

Once again, the BOP Branch would like to thank Shirley Baker for facilitating the use of the Mount Ocean Sports Club and Keith Barnett for organizing the use of the classrooms at Vertical Horizonz.

This is my first year at the helm of the Bay of Plenty Branch and I have enjoyed meeting and talking to the wide range of members we have in different businesses, and I look forward to another year as Branch Manager.

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