

# EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S UPDATE

December 2020



Tena koutou, tena koutou, tena koutou katoa

## Ending on a high note

This is my last update to you for the year and I'm very pleased to end on a high note – the excellent news of our HASANZ Scholarship cohort for studies in health and safety in 2021. When I look back on 2020, I am amazed at how many initiatives we managed to deliver, despite the challenges of Covid-19.

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## HASANZ Conference 2021



It will be so good to see you in person again! Please make sure you budget to come to HASANZ's 3rd conference which promises to be as impressive as the first two. We have an outstanding line-up of keynote speakers with wide appeal. Registration opens on 1 February. At the same time, we will be calling for papers for our very popular concurrent sessions – there will be 18 to choose from. Maybe consider using some of your summer downtime to prepare an abstract?

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### **HASANZ Scholarship recipients announced**

Go right now to the [HASANZ website](#) to see who has been awarded HASANZ Scholarships in 2020! This year HASANZ has awarded 15 Scholarships, bringing the total we have awarded to date to 55. Congratulations to the 15 successful people who have gained support for study in health and safety over the next two years. All of them are currently working in health and safety and it is really satisfying for HASANZ to help them progress their careers. They were chosen from a field of more than 100 high calibre applicants across a wide range of disciplines.

Scholarships have been awarded in a number of categories, as follows:

- Three General Scholarships for people who already work in health and safety and want to upskill with a relevant Diploma or Degree.
- Four Poutama Scholarships for Māori health and safety practitioners.
- Three Occupational Hygiene Scholarships to help address the acute shortage of occupational hygienists in New Zealand (funded by WorkSafe).
- Two Postgraduate Scholarships for people who have a Degree and want to specialise in a workplace health and safety field.
- Three Applied Research Scholarships to support the work of health and safety professionals with evidence-based research (funded by ACC).

It is really pleasing to see four Poutama Scholarships being awarded this year, as it is important that the health and safety workforce has well trained Māori advisers to engage with Māori workers, who are 44% more likely to be seriously injured at work.

The first cohort of HASANZ Scholarship recipients is now graduating from their courses and stepping up in their careers as qualified health and safety professionals. The following short profile of one past recipient gives you a snapshot of how the HASANZ Scholarship Programme works in practice.

*One of our Poutama scholarship recipients, Vance Walker, is completing his doctoral thesis. Kia Tūpato examines the use of Māori cultural norms in improving the perception of risk in workplaces. A case study has revealed heightened awareness levels of risk and controls, improved safety behaviours and increased morale by Māori workers using the norms of kia tūpato, ako and manaakitanga. Case study findings are being released in stages, including a HASANZ webinar event planned for early next year.*

Please think about whether the HASANZ Scholarship Programme could help you progress in your career and consider applying next year.

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## **New webinars**

One of this year's highlights has been the introduction of the HASANZ webinar series. This resource is free and has been a big hit with members and others who want to keep up with health and safety trends and developments. We're pleased to contribute to your CPD in this way. As testimony to the popularity of HASANZ webinars, I was talking to someone in the UK this week and they mentioned that they had recently popped onto our website to view one! Remember that you can access the webinars anytime. New additions to the series include:

- **Best Practice Thermal Management**  
A joint webinar with NZ Occupational Hygiene Society (NZOHS), NZ Occupational Health Nurses Association (NZOHNA) and HASANZ, this covers the effects of the thermal environment on people, risk assessments, case studies, effective monitoring, and controls.
- **Mentally Healthy Work Programme**  
Dr John Fitzgerald, Lead – Mentally Healthy Work at WorkSafe NZ,

presents a new programme at WorkSafe NZ to help address psychosocial workplace harm.

- **Best Practice Management of Dust and Silica**

A joint webinar run by HASANZ, the NZOHS, and the NZOHNA on best practice management of dust and silica in the workplace. It's of particular relevance to people working in the manufacturing, mining and construction sectors.

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### **Edith Cowan University offers occupational hygiene qualification to New Zealand students.**

The Master of Occupational Hygiene and Toxicology will be available to New Zealand students to support workplace development of the health and safety workforce in NZ. The Master of Occupational Hygiene and Toxicology is suitable for those with a Bachelor degree in a cognate discipline; or at least five years relevant professional experience. Graduates are accredited by Australian Institute of Occupational Hygiene (AIOH) and British Occupational Hygiene Society (BOHS).

The program is mostly offered online to allow New Zealand students to study at home. Three-day compulsory practical workshops will supplement the learning for three hygiene technical units. Graduates will be sought after, as the course prepares work ready and world-ready graduates and is accredited internationally.

**Enrol now** for the online summer school unit OHS6159: Occupational Hygiene 2: Physical Aspects.

<https://www.ecu.edu.au/degrees/courses/master-of-occupational-hygiene-and-toxicology>

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### **HASANZ Christmas break**

Time tends to fast forward from now until the end of the year. I hope you tick off your “to do” list then take a well-deserved break with your loved ones.

The HASANZ office is closed for the Christmas break between 23 December 2020 and 11 January 2021.

The whole HASANZ team wishes you a Merry Christmas and all the best for the New Year. Your ongoing support as a member of HASANZ is really appreciated.

Stay happy and healthy!



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Ngā mihi nui

Philip Aldridge

[info@hasanz.org.nz](mailto:info@hasanz.org.nz)  
[hasanz.org.nz](http://hasanz.org.nz)

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Health and Safety Association of New Zealand Inc (HASANZ) · Level 6, office 6.14 · 108 The Terrace ·  
Wellington, Wgn 6011 · New Zealand

