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## **Rail corridor project takes out top national health and safety award**

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A collaborative piece of work in the rail corridor between KiwiRail, Downer NZ and Aurecon has taken overall honours at this year's New Zealand Workplace Health and Safety Awards.

The awards were presented at a gala dinner at the Cordis in Auckland last night.

The annual awards, which began in 2005, are organised by Safeguard magazine and proudly supported by WorkSafe New Zealand and ACC. They are judged by a panel of five.

Peter Bateman, convenor of the judging panel and editor of Safeguard, said the high-tech project to create virtual shields during the works to complete the Trentham to Upper Hutt double tracking represented a triumph of collaborative effort.

"The works required excavators and other mobile plant to work very close to an active rail corridor. Coming up with an effective solution that was safe for rail passengers, safe for plant operators, and also allowed for maximum productivity, took a concerted team effort."

"The solution also points towards the kind of technology which could be applied to solve one of the most intractable safety issues in construction and logistics, namely mobile plant vs pedestrians."

The winners are:

### **The WorkSafe New Zealand/ACC best overall contribution to improving workplace health and safety in New Zealand**

*KiwiRail/Downer/Aurecon*

#### **SAFETY**

##### **Dentons Kensington Swan best initiative to address a work-related safety risk**

*Constellation Brands NZ*

A fall while trying to mix sulphur spray on a mobile sprayer led to a new pre-mixing method which has eliminated fall risk, reduced musculoskeletal sprains by 70%, and cut spray time.

#### **HEALTH**

##### **WorkSafe New Zealand best initiative to address a work-related health risk**

*Capital & Coast District Health Board*

Decanting formalin in operating theatres exposed nurses to risky levels of formaldehyde. Collaboration between staff and supplier led to an engineering solution which has vastly reduced the risk.

#### **WELLBEING**

##### **Vitae best initiative to promote better worker wellbeing**

*Meridian Energy*

A learning team approach saw the development of a multi-person Care Team for each worker in need of injury rehabilitation or mental health support. So successful it has now been extended to physical injuries too.

## ENGAGEMENT

### **NZ Safety Blackwoods best initiative to encourage worker engagement in health & safety**

#### *Northpower*

A series of high-potential events saw top-down safety replaced with 'workers as experts', who created critical safety controls and software to monitor capacity. Workers in the field are so engaged the process is to be extended to other critical risks.

## INNOVATION

### **Anthony Harper best use of innovative New Zealand design/technology to eliminate or manage a risk**

#### *KiwiRail/Downer/Aurecon*

3D and GPS technology was used in a significant collaboration to create virtual shields to shut down excavators getting too close to a live rail corridor. Project proceeded efficiently and without incident.

## SAFETY-II

### **Fonterra best initiative based on Safety-II principles**

#### *Energyworks*

Abandoned Zero Harm and behavioural safety to embrace HOP principles, including learning teams and no-blame culture, lifting staff engagement, improving solutions, and reducing injury rates.

## COLLABORATION

### **IMPAC best collaboration between PCBUs**

#### *University of Auckland*

With multiple collaborators developed the HOTSPOTS twice yearly survey so medical students on placement can report bullying and harassment, as well as areas of excellence. Take-up is high, trends are spotted, corrective actions are taken.

## GOVERNANCE

### **Simpson Grierson best governance level engagement in health & safety**

#### *Mycoplasma bovis* Governance Group

Nine critical risks were identified in this high-risk, dynamic and complex work environment. Bespoke reporting to the Governance Group has seen information sharing and innovation spread across three parties and into areas beyond *M bovis*.

## LEADERSHIP

### **ACC best leadership of an industry sector or region**

#### *Air New Zealand*

On the front line of the pandemic, the airline's Covid response plan protected staff, passenger and contractors and influenced the response in the private sector and at government level.

## PRACTITIONER

### **NZISM health and safety practitioner of the year**

#### *Dr Ben Johnston, Air New Zealand*

Influential in placing health & safety risk at the heart of the airline's Covid response plan and the hundreds of decisions made to protect staff, passengers and contractors.

## **EMERGING PRACTITIONER**

### **edenfx emerging practitioner of the year**

*Jessie Bourke, Logic Forest Solutions*

Has improved health & safety standards in her own company and in many others in the Gisborne region and her influence now extends to the Eastland Wood Council.

## **H&S REPRESENTATIVE**

### **Vero Liability health & safety representative of the year**

*Bevan Thompson, Silver Fern Farms*

Influential not only within his own plant but in the company nationwide, and also within his local community as a charitable fundraiser for improved mental health.

## **MENTAL HEALTH CHAMPION**

### **Site Safe champion of mentally healthy work**

*Neroli McDougall, Firstgas Group*

Her 'Got Your Back' programme has changed the company culture and now helps to influence staff retention, recruitment and reputation.

## **LEADER**

### **Business Leaders' Health & Safety Forum leader of the year**

*Jeremy Lightfoot, Ara Poutama Aotearoa/Department of Corrections*

Sponsored the Critical Control Protocols programme and backed it with significant funding and has taken on the role of mental health champion.

## **LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT**

### **Countdown lifetime achievement award**

*Associate Professor Ian Laird*

Recognised for his work in teaching and influencing a generation of health & safety practitioners.

## **JUDGES' COMMENDATIONS**

### **ecoPortal judges' commendation awards went to:**

*Roseburn Orchard*

Boosted safety engagement among RSE staff with a series of small changes which have been so effective this small business is now influencing others in the larger group.

*Kristy Christensen*

Her experience in the mining sector led her to champion improved facilities for women working in heavy industry, a legacy that continues after her untimely death earlier this year.

*TYKE Recycling*

Initiated regular voluntary, confidential 15-minute catch-up sessions with the H&S person, prompting a culture change, lifting staff engagement because they feel they have a voice.

*FENZ, NZ Police, St John*

Conceived, commissioned and distributed a picture book, *The Wolf Was Not Sleeping*, to help reassure children of first responders anxious about their safety.

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