

Adrian Easton



Adrian Easton has traversed a unique journey that blends diverse experiences, resilience, and a commitment to personal and professional growth.

Adrian's educational journey took an unexpected turn, as his early aspirations of becoming a farmer and taking over as the 6th generation farmer of their North Yorkshire hill farm were diverted due to life's twists. Despite limited formal education, he found his niche as a diesel mechanic, showcasing his hands-on skills and problem-solving abilities. However, fate took an unexpected turn on the 3rd of July 2019 years ago, when a workplace accident altered his trajectory.

In 2021, he embarked on a new chapter, pursuing a bachelor's degree in business management, specialising in Human Resource Management, focusing on Health, Safety, and wellbeing. His emphasis on Health and Safety reflects a newfound passion for ensuring workplace well-being, born from his personal encounter with occupational hazards.

Adrian is a devoted father to two remarkable hearing-impaired daughters. He has emerged as a passionate advocate for those with disabilities. Adrian, being dyslexic himself, understands the power of overcoming obstacles and only learnt to read and write at the age of 30, exemplifying his determination. Adrian is involved with The National Disabled Students Association, helping to build equality for students who need assistance to access quality education and to provide a voice for those who need it.

Adrian embodies the belief that everyone deserves an advocate in their corner, guiding them through life's challenges. His journey is a testament to the transformative power of perseverance, education, and a compassionate spirit.

Stephanie Cerpa



Stephanie Cerpa has been working in the construction industry for that past decade, predominately learning as she goes. She was thrown into the deep end of health and safety but quickly learned how to swim by seeking out further education opportunities and networking with industry specialists, which is a practice she has maintained throughout her career.

She has gained experience and completed a diverse range of mix match qualifications, such as a Site Safe NZ Scholarship, two diplomas, multiple other unit standards, certificates and training through different providers which she has been able to consolidate into her current studies working on a Bachelor of Applied Management Majoring in Occupational Health and Safety through Southern Institute of Technology. Stephanie will be sharing her insights on timing, resources, thinking outside of the box as you keep learning, growing, and building yourself and your career.

Aaron Edwards



Aaron's journey began about 15 years ago following a near death experience in the UK. He realised at that point you should never take someone else's word, no matter what their role, title or experience is. If something doesn't feel safe you must be empowered to speak up. This change in mindset helped to map his career with an unexpected transition from a heavy plant operator to a health and safety professional.

Along the way he realised that to be effective in health and safety you must care about people, be able to communicate well and have the desire to want to make a difference.

This is a challenging profession which takes resilience and composure, but the pay off when changing other people's mindset is a better reward than any salary!

A key part of his role as Construction Health and Safety Manger at Ryman Healthcare is to provide learning and development opportunities for the next generation of health and safety people. His own development began as a

health and safety representative, then a NEBOSH International General Certificate and then diploma. He is now investigating a postgraduate diploma.

TC Chadinha



TC has had an interesting and varied career before landing as the Group manager for People and Safety at Scope Industries. He immigrated to New Zealand from South Africa in 2007, after a career as a covert operative and Senior Detective in the South African Police Force. He finished his police work as the Executive Manager for Risk management and National Threat Analysis.

He started in New Zealand as a Group Systems Manager for HSEQ and HR in civil construction, before studying to obtain Diplomas in OSH, Risk and H&S Management, and degrees in Applied Management, HR Management systems and OSH Management systems. He has since been a part time lecturer at SIT in Management Systems, including Risk, H&S, HR, Sustainability, Administration and Project Management.

TC will talk about his career, and the opportunities for H&S development at SIT.