



THE NATIONAL HEALTH & SAFETY COUNCIL FOR THE
NEW ZEALAND MINING AND QUARRY SECTOR

June 2016

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Chair's Comment

Welcome to the winter MinEx newsletter.

I sometimes get the question – what does MinEx actually do?

Perhaps people think we are a big organisation. In fact, MinEX CEO Les McCracken is the only dedicated employee, with Straterra providing membership, policy, financial and office support. AQA has recently funded additional communications capability, and we have continued that in our current Business Plan - including a new website – www.minex.org.nz – going live very soon.

Most people probably understand MinEx has worked very closely with Government

and industry to implement the new Health and Safety at Work Act. In fact this work started with the 2013 Mining Regulations (now 2016) and work continues with the supporting regulations, codes, guidelines and training to ensure these are fit for purpose. A high priority for us in 2016 and 2017 is the review of these Mining Regulations to fix the errors that were made in the 2013 Regulations, particularly where those errors create confusion and less safe situations in non-coal operations. In this and all our work, we greatly appreciate the contribution industry makes through working groups and ongoing feedback to Les in particular.

MinEx also provides a free advice service to quarries on how to make H&S improvements, and how to interpret and put in place the requirements of legislation, codes and guidelines. You only have to ask for assistance – les@minex.org.nz or 027 432 8296 (. . . not all at once please!!).

As well MinEx collects industry safety data to monitor H&S performance.

- Issues Safety Alerts to raise awareness of specific safety failures here and abroad
- Develops databases/relationships to effectively communicate
- Organises H&S forums around the country to answer your questions – see details of the latest forums below
- Provides leadership and oversight of training so it meets industry needs
- Is the main point of contact for WorkSafe on H&S
- Coordinates industry feedback into submissions on legislation, regulations, codes, training, qualifications, guidance documents
- Is helping build the database to locate all quarries
- Develops tools such as the emerging H&S system tool kit for small quarries to assist small operators to improve their H&S performance.

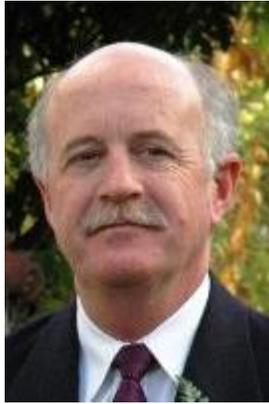
All of this work has one goal. To see an end to workplace deaths in quarrying and mining and a 25% reduction in serious injuries by 2020.

We all need to work towards that goal – every day.

Stay warm and safe

Chris Baker
Chair
MinEx





CEO's Report

Industry safety performance

MinEx would like to be able to provide an update on year-old statistics here but some people have still not supplied the final quarter statistics for 2015. If you are holding last quarter stats can you please forward them so we can update our industry performance picture. The first quarter 2016 stats are also not all in yet.

HHU staff

John Ewan has been appointed by WorkSafe to the position of Mechanical specialist. John joins the HHU from Solid Energy's Spring Creek mine with significant industry experience.

Training for new competencies

With the numbers going through these units last year there are only up to 500 people needing to complete. Given the low numbers spread around NZ we expect that those that have not attended the training courses will need to travel to main centres. The Regulations make it clear that failure to complete the required extra units and to submit your application to the BoE in time for processing before 1 January 2017 will result in your CoC being cancelled.

Training

A summary of developments with the Training Leadership Group is contained within this newsletter.

Continuing Professional Development

Some teething problems are being experienced with the allocation of CPD hours to events with a training dimension, in particular the QuarryNZ conference. MinEx is working with AQA, IOQNZ and other parties and expects these issues will be resolved shortly.

Codes & guidelines

Ground control – MinEx's March 2016 submission is available on our new website when it goes live shortly. The code excludes quarries and alluvial mines with guidance in the November 2015 surface mining guidance.

Emergency preparedness – MinEx April 2016 submission is also available on our new website when it goes live shortly. The code excludes quarries and alluvials with guidance in the November 2015 surface mining guidance.

Worker health – The MinEx review team attended the second workshop late May and this code will include the quarry and alluvial sectors.

Air quality – MinEx May 2016 submission is available on our new website when it goes live shortly. This code covers all sectors.

WorkSafe intends to commence work on a new guideline entitled Management and Administration which will include a short section on worker engagement. This is likely to begin in this month. It will cover all sectors. We are expecting WorkSafe to release a decision on the Workplace Exposure Standard (WES) for silica and Diesel Particulate Matter (DPM) this month.

Membership and industry liaison

The 8th H&S forum was held 19 April in New Plymouth with a disappointing turnout. The next event is scheduled for 14 June in Palmerston North and we are expecting at least 60 to attend based on current registrations. Register at office@minex.org.nz

MinEx business plan for 2016/17

The MinEx board approved the 2016/17 business plan with industry commitment sufficient to fund the organisation to a similar level to 2015/16. In addition the Board approved retaining Brendon Burns to provide much needed communications capability. This arrangement is confirmed for the first quarter, and will continue subject to available funds.

I have been contracted for another year as CEO, so looking forward to another great year.

Les McCracken
Chief Executive Officer
MinEx

Toolkit launch at Marlborough conference



MinEx has been working for some time on a toolkit for quarries and small mines. We have to acknowledge progress has been slower than planned.

However we have committed to having the toolkit developed and ready to launch at the QuarryNZ conference - Safe, Sound and Solid - in Blenheim from July 13-15.

MinEx CEO Les McCracken will use his slot at the conference to introduce the toolkit. MinEx chair Chris Baker is also speaking to the conference in a separate part of the programme, focusing on leadership, the value proposition for industry representation and the challenge to make our workplaces safer.

CoC Training

There are some emerging concerns for MinEx about some of the pass rates in oral exams for Certificates of Competence. In some recent exams fewer than 60% were passing oral exams.

It appears a lot of candidates for A and B grade CoCs are doing the study on particular competencies and getting up to speed. However, this is not translating into showing they know how to apply the information to their worksite.

MinEx is seeking some more formal feed-back from the Board of Examiners and trainers so we can share this with those doing their CoCs.

Illuminate/Challenge/Transform



H&S must now be coming of age in NZ when it's the subject of a three day conference. The Health and Safety Association of NZ (HASANZ) holds its first-ever conference in September at Te Papa. HASANZ is the collective body representing H+S groups and professionals.

There are keynote speakers from the US and Australia, journalist Rebecca Macfie, author of the seminal book on Pike River is speaking and there are lots of concurrent sessions and a reception at Parliament hosted by Workplace Minister Michael

Woodhouse. You can view the [programme here](#).

MinEx forums and WorkSafe workshops

Marlborough, Palmerston North, Nelson, and Auckland are the venues for upcoming WorkSafe workshops and MinEx forums. While both have H+S at their core, slightly different approaches are taken. The best approach is to attend one of the meetings if it is in your area.

The WorkSafe workshops cover CoCs, oral exams, Continuing Professional Development and new H&S@Work Act. The High Hazard Unit (HHU) outlines the issues and allows you to ask questions. All workshops contribute towards Formal CPD hours – and food is provided.

The MinEx forums began last year. They cover the new H&S at Work Act, the 2013 regulations that have since been updated with the new act, the 'Good Practice Guidelines: Health and Safety at Opencast Mines, Alluvial Mines and Quarries' released last November and Certificate of Competency training requirements. Mark Pizey the new Chief Inspector, Extractives is attending along with MinEx CEO, Les MCracken. Food is provided.

Palmerston North – MinEx forum

Tuesday 14 June

Time: 5.30pm - 6pm - 8pm

Copthorne Hotel, 110 Fitzherbert Ave

Nelson – MinEx forum

Thursday 30 June

Time: 5.30pm - 6pm - 8pm

Nelson Suburban Club, 168 Tahunanui Dr

Auckland - WorkSafe workshop

Thursday 7 July

Time: 6pm – 8pm

Copthorne Hotel, 150 Anzac Avenue, Auckland

Westport – WorkSafe workshop

Thursday 21 July

Time: 6pm-8pm

Venue TBC

Dunedin – WorkSafe workshop

Tuesday 9 August

Time: 6pm-8pm

Scenic Hotel Dunedin City 123 Princes Street

Invercargill – WorkSafe workshop

Thursday 25 August

Time: 6pm-8pm

Ascot Park Hotel Tay Street & Racecourse Road

Palmerston North – WorkSafe workshop

Tuesday 6 September

Time: 6pm-8pm

Cophthorne Hotel 110 Fitzherbert Ave

To allow for catering, please register.

For Worksafe workshops contact Gina.Matenga@worksafe.govt.nz

For MinEx forums contact office@minex.org.nz

Get one and stick it up

MBIE has produced a bright and cheery poster for workplace canteens which explains Health and safety (H&S) isn't about paperwork and ticking boxes. It's a way of thinking and behaving to keep everyone safe.



The poster (which even includes an excavator at work) is available at no charge

simply by emailing [MBIE](#).

If you know of someone who should receive this email please forward onto them and they can email [MinEx](#) to get on the distribution list.

[Click here to view the latest MinEx submissions and presentations](#)

[Download MinEx Statistics](#)

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