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MINING AND QUARRYING INTELLIGENCE

Tuesday 3 October, 2017



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Recent comments

Drilling programme completed at Ohai (1)

That's a big difference in coal quality between #1 and Pit 3. Are the analysis bases the same?

Tony

3 days 19 hours ago

Canterbury Coal reports increased reserves, resources (1)

Good meaty content of contracts that are coming up, and showing areas where business can be reciprocal.

Roy Allen

4 days 19 hours ago

Whole-body vibration a health issue for extractives (1)

Kerry Cheung's interview is topical given the additional attention worker health is receiving. MinEx will shortly be...

Wayne Scott, CEO MinEx
2 weeks 1 hour ago

Golden Coast extends reach into Southland (1)

This article previously said a 11.5-kilogramme nugget was taken from the mine in 1931. This has been corrected to about...

Cameron Massey
1 month 3 days ago

NZIMMR forms trust, must alter governance structure (1)

MinEx encouraged by mentor response

Eamon Rood - Fri, 29 Sep 2017

MinEx chief executive Wayne Scott says the mentor programme for mine and quarry workers has been an instant success.

There are now 18 industry mentors helping applicants across the country prepare for their certificate of competence oral exams.

Scott introduced the idea at the QuarryNZ Conference in July and the programme launched the following month.

"It's been a good response," Scott says. "When I first proposed the idea at the quarry conference I had six people volunteer in the first week."

Keri Harrison from Southern Screenworks in Christchurch and Gavin Hartley at Blackhead Quarries in Dunedin were the first volunteers.

Now there are mentors in Auckland, Waikato, Bay of Plenty, Hawke's Bay, the West Coast, Southland, and Wellington.

The mentors hold A and B grade certificates of competence and all but one – Ant Stodart from New Vale Coal – are from the quarry sector.

"We'd welcome more mining guys but the need is really in the quarry and alluvial sectors," Scott says, particularly for B grade quarry tickets.

Pack

MinEx has also developed a new version of the mentor's pack which contains sample exam questions and extracts from the legislation.

Mentors help applicants understand legislation and regulation and run them through a typical oral exam.

Scott says the one-on-one engagement is proving invaluable and has delivered "a noticeable improvement in the pass rates."

In Dunedin, 90 per cent of applicants have passed their exams and the pass rate in Christchurch is 100 per cent.

WorkSafe and the New Zealand Mining Board of Examiners have previously flagged a lack of preparation as a common theme among people failing their oral exams.

A poor grasp of safety systems, insufficient knowledge of legislation, leadership responsibilities and emergency management, were also key problems.

When Scott introduced the idea in July, he also spoke about the need for industry to train-up its workers and help smaller companies who are struggling.

Examiners to be assessed

The board of examiners have also agreed to the first moderation plan to assess how it conducts exams.

Over the next two-to-three months some panels will have an observer assessing the panel to ensure questions, decisions and processes are fair and consistent.

It will focus on panels for B-grade quarry managers, B-grade opencast coal mine managers and mechanical superintendents.

Applicants whose panels are chosen for moderation will be asked beforehand if they are happy to have an observer present during their exam.

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Blackhead Quarry well placed for future demand

[Cameron Massey](#)

Blackhead quarry on Dunedin's south coast is well placed to meet the city's aggregate demand.



Quarry manager Gavin Hartley says the seaside site is more than capable to cope with an increase in demand and has got at least another 40 years' worth of resource.

Blackhead produces about 250,000 tonnes of aggregate each year, Hartley says, with scope to produce more.

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Northland halloysite in demand around the world

[Cameron Massey](#)

Some of the highest quality halloysite in the world comes from two Northland quarries.



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EXECUTIVE INTERVIEW: Peter Silcock - chief executive, Civil Contractors NZ

Matt Freeman



Peter Silcock is two years into the role of chief executive of

Civil Contractors New Zealand (CCNZ).

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- **EXECUTIVE INTERVIEW 2: Richard Tacon – chief executive officer, Bathurst Resources**
- **EXECUTIVE INTERVIEW: Robert Jones – Chief Executive Officer, Fulton Hogan NZ**
- **EXECUTIVE INTERVIEW: Michael Meehan - West Coast Regional Council**
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Organisation Factfile

Blackhead Quarries

Ownership Palmer & Son 50%, Fulton Hogan 50%

Description Quarry owner

Operating resources Barnego Balclutha (Hard), Barnego Balclutha (River), Blackhead, Castle Hill (Blackhead), Doherty's, more...

Non-operating resources Back Creek, Boundary Road, Bradleys, Clydevale, Dunback Inch Valley, more...

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