



## Train Brain February 2021

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Welcome to the first Train Brain of 2021.

Let's hope it's a year less disrupted by pandemic than its predecessor. We are certainly starting with the belief that we can hold our usual range of MinEx workshops, our annual industry conference and the range of site visits I traditionally am able to make.

Our workshops start next month in Blenheim on March 15 and run through to mid-October. Please look at the list of dates below and register or pencil in attendance for the workshop being held closest to your operations.

We will continue to look at Operating and Safety systems, and Leadership and Legislation. Worker Health will also be a focus given we are unlikely to yet be out of the woods with Covid-19. The cost to attend remains a modest \$150 + GST.

While you have your diaries out, please also pencil in our annual [QuarryNZ Conference](#). We canned it last year because of Covid-19 but are back exactly a year later July 14-16 in Wellington. Details in this Train Brain.

As last year closed, Michael Wood was announced in the new Cabinet line-up as Minister in two key portfolios affecting the extractive sector; Transport, and Workplace Relations and Safety.

Around the same time, MinEx forwarded to Michael Wood a copy of its Briefing to Incoming Ministers (BIM). We also wrote to him. Top of our list was the ongoing delay in implementing new

safety regulations for the quarry sector. I regret to say that the news is not encouraging – see our article and a link to our BIM.

Finally, an update on our MinEx booklets on health and safety in the alluvial gold sector, and worker engagement and participation. These are now being finalised and will be available shortly.

It's going to be another big year; let's work to make it a safe one too.



Wayne Scott  
CEO MinEx and AQA



***It is a good idea to record your CPD  
formal and informal hours every time  
CPD is done.  
It only takes a few minutes!***

## Three sunny spots - and others between

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Sunshine always makes us smile and so it was last year in Blenheim. Marlborough's capital and Nelson usually compete to be the nation's sunshine capitals but last year Whakatane reclaimed the title.

This year's MinEx workshops start in the top of the south and conclude in the Eastern Bay of Plenty townships – no doubt I'll experience a bit of rain and cloud in-between. I've organised five clusters of meetings from March to October.

We will also hold a workshop in Ashburton for our Canterbury colleagues with date and venue still to be confirmed.

Once again, we are being supported by WorkSafe which will have a High Hazard Unit (HHU) inspector present at each meeting and co-presenting. I am also being assisted this year by RedBull Powder Company who will deliver a session on safe drilling and blasting.

These workshops provide 8 hours of CPD and we cover Operating and Safety systems, Leadership and Legislation, with a focus this year on Effective Risk Management and Worker Health. Not bad value for only \$150-\$165 +GST.

Here's the list of towns and dates for the MinEx Health & Safety workshops 2021:

- Mon 15 March Blenheim
- Tues 16 March Nelson
- Mon 12 April Kerikeri
- Tues 13 April Dargaville
- Thurs 15 April Te Kuiti
- Wed 21 April Greymouth
- Mon 17 May Palmerston North
- Tues 18 May Waipukurau
- Thurs 20 May Gisborne
- Mon 21 June Dunedin
- Tue 22 June Invercargill
- Thurs 24 June Cromwell
- Mon 11 October Paeroa
- Tues 12 October Rotorua
- Thurs 14 October Whakatane
- Ashburton TBC

For details of all workshops, registration and downloads for the MinEx app go to our [website](#).

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## Wellington here we come



Covid-19 bowled the 2020 QuarryNZ Conference but things are lining up well for 2021.

We remain at Sky Stadium as a venue (aka the Cake Tin) from Wednesday July 14th's opening

to the awards dinner on Friday July 16.

Last year being election year, we'd invited a panel of MPs across the parties and we hope one or two senior figures may still agree to join us. However, with the election settled, we are focussing more directly on those within our industry or others who impact it.

Invited are a range of participants for a panel discussion and I'm delighted that the first respondee is Ross Copland, CEO of the Infrastructure Commission Te Waihanga. Given the Commission is working to develop a 30-year strategy for infrastructure due to be tabled in Parliament this year, Ross will provide a very welcome presence.

Registration for QuarryNZ 2021 is [open now](#) or head to: <https://www.quarrynz.com/>



***If you know of anyone who would like to receive the Train Brain email [office@minex.org.nz](mailto:office@minex.org.nz) and we'll help keep their training on track***

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## Bimming with information

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The MinEx Briefing to Incoming Ministers was put together late last year for Michael Wood as the new Minister for Workplace Relations and Safety. By all accounts Michael is a bright bloke and should work well in the portfolio.

You can read the BIM on our [website](#). You might have a read but in summary we list our major issues headed by the prolonged timeframe to deliver new fit for purpose health and safety regulations for the quarry sector.

These were promised after the rather rushed review in 2013 (post Pike River) and predecessor Minister Iain Lees-Galloway pledged they'd be in by Christmas 2018.

Little had emerged by last Christmas so MinEx wrote to Minister Wood jointly with E tū, the principal union working in extractives. He's replied, acknowledging our frustration and indicates we should see an exposure draft before the first half of this year. I will certainly be reinforcing with the Minister how important these long over-due regulations are to our sector.



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## Alluvial gold and worker engagement booklets

These latest two booklets in a series we are producing at MinEx are nearing completion. It certainly helped to have delivered the [Code of Practice on alluvial gold mining](#) last year which is providing us with good material after strong support by West Coast alluvial gold miners.

Worker engagement and participation are critical in developing and implementing health and safety into your workplace and this booklet will assist with some helpful tips and good practice examples.

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***Remember to keep all evidence of CPD activities in case you are asked to provide evidence when you apply for renewal of your CoC***



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## IOQNZ Webinars/Courses

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The Institute of Quarrying NZ have two webinars on offer in February and March 2021 as follows:

### **Wednesday 24 February 2021**

Webinar: Certificate of Competence Renewal Process – What you need to know

Facilitator: Paul Sutton

**Two Sessions: 8am and 12 noon**

### **Wednesday 10 March 2021**

Webinar: Quarry Consenting: Requirements, Process and Compliance

Facilitators: Eloise Lonngberg-Shaw and Christian McDean from Kinetic Environmental Consulting Limited

**One session: 12 noon**

To register <https://iognz.co.nz/shop/product-category/webinars-courses/>

For more information email [loq@xtra.co.nz](mailto:loq@xtra.co.nz)

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## Tai Poutini Courses

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### A & B Grade Training 2021 – Free Fees

The Diploma in Quarry and Mining Supervision has been developed to ensure graduates are capable of supervising and/or managing a quarry or mining site.

This programme includes the unit standards required to support an application for an A or B Grade Quarry Managers Certificate of Competency.

Study for your B Grade now, and complete A Grade units later (if you choose) while gaining CPD points.

Fees for this programme are covered by the “Targeted Training and Apprenticeships Fund” and courses are delivered nationally.

Go to the [Tai Poutini website here](#) to view the available courses for 2021.

Students may be eligible for free fees, see more information [HERE](#)

Contact Nicole Scalmer on 03 769 9645 or [nicoles@tpp.ac.nz](mailto:nicoles@tpp.ac.nz)

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## MITO Courses

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Visit the [MITO website](#) for details on qualifications and courses you can do through MITO.

Contact MITO on 0800 88 21 21 to enrol.

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## ACT Safety Courses

Visit the [ACT Safety](#) website for details on training and courses you can do through ACT Safety.

Contact Irene Volschenk on (09)270 9592

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Follow the MinEx Facebook page. <https://www.facebook.com/minex.org.nz/>

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