



## Train Brain June 2021

Welcome to the June Train Brain

As temperatures plunge, shaving off your beard might seem a slap in the face, but WorkSafe is right to say it can save your life. While a full beard is currently a good look, truth is that they affect the seal on respirators and even face masks.

Cancers and respiratory harm accounts for about a third of workplace illnesses and the extractive sector is equally exposed, as many industries, to dust, gases and even chemicals. Remember such illnesses account for several more times the number of deaths and injuries than those caused by workplace accidents.

Have a look at [WorkSafe's campaign](#). As one of the video participants says as he's having his beard shaved off "How much are your lungs worth, bro?"



Better training is our best response – so be sure to have look at my review of industry qualification options further on in this newsletter.

You might also consider whether your region should borrow from the initiative used in Northland which saw 70 secondary school girls turn out recently to meet women working in quarries and infrastructure. Given we have a skills shortage crisis looming and that fewer than 1 in 7 of our workforce is female, we have to work hard to broaden our appeal.

It's not all gloomy. Read Dr Mary Obele's excellent article summarising the messages she gave on her recent IOQNZ Jim MacDonald lecture tour. She says quarry workers are the nicest people anyone can meet.

And to quote Mary "New Zealand couldn't function without your products. I noticed quite a lot of discussion about making the industry greener, thinking about energy efficiency, air quality, recycling, planting trees and the best ways to rehabilitate sites. The quarries I spoke to wanted to make sure the neighbours stayed happy, healthy and safe too."

I couldn't agree more. Hope to see many of you fresh-faced, improving your skills

One of the benefits of Covid-19 is it's made us all more aware of the crucial importance of protecting ourselves. Hundreds turned up to a recent online forum in New South Wales organised by the IQA and Cement Concrete and Aggregates Australia. Klaus Hormann of Heidelberg Cement – one of the two big industry players across the ditch – talked about its continuous path to a zero-harm workplace as major change from a production-focus.

We are facing similar challenges to lift our game – and signals from the regulator show that they're going to get increasingly active on a wider range of issues across worker wellbeing as well as health & safety.

and keeping safe at QuarryNZ Conference in July (see next item).



Wayne Scott  
CEO MinEx and AQA

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## All aboard for QuarryNZ Conference 2021

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*The AQA and IOG AGMs start the conference, the catchups and the CPD hours*

There's plenty to be gained from attending our first industry conference in two years, not least the learning and CPD hours you obtain.

On the first day in Wellington (July 14) our AQA and IOQNZ AGMs will give you your first insights and CDP hours.

Across the rest of the three days, you'll hear from speakers including Shane Brady who, as Institute of Quarrying Australia (IQA) President, outlines how its strategic plan is transforming the way the IQA engages with and services the industry. Shane speaks from many years of industry experience, currently he is Manager of Resources & Development, for Boral Construction Materials in Victoria.

WorkSafe's Chief Inspector Paul Hunt will be pointing to the quarrying regulatory landscape, emerging after CEO Phil Parkes indicated this year will see the organisation expanding its focus to include worker wellbeing.

Improved air quality control is part of that mix and Deborah Ryan from Pattle Delamore Partners has spent her working life in this field. She'll give her insights as will the redoubtable Dr Mary Obele, who is doing a lot of work in our sector on occupational

medicine.

And Janet Lane, Chief Executive of MITO will review the unfolding reforms in vocational education and the opportunities for the quarrying sector to lift its game on training.

Following changes to CPD requirements in 2020, the following CPD hours are available at QuarryNZ Conference 2021:

- For attending the conference (restricted) – 4 hours.
- All plenary sessions including the field trip (unrestricted) – actual sessions attending up to 13 hours.
- IOQ and AQA AGMs – 1 hour for each.

And, of course, you can catch up with colleagues and enjoy the buzz of the coolest little capital city in the world. Register [here](#).



## Dr Mary Obele's summary of the IOQNZ Jim MacDonald lecture tour

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**Occupational and environmental medicine practitioner, Dr Mary Obele, was invited by NZ Institute of Quarrying to conduct the 2021 Jim MacDonald lecture tour and says quarry workers are the nicest people you can meet...**

For those of you who don't know, Jim McDonald, Bryan Bartley and Gib Stuart invented the first vertical shaft crusher. All Kiwis can be proud of that legacy. Barmac crushers revolutionised quarrying methods and are still used all over the world.

I was lucky enough to do the Jim McDonald tour this year, after Covid-19 cancelled it last year. Quarry workers extract, crush and grade rocks and sand for our roads, construction industry and other uses. New Zealand couldn't function without your products. I noticed quite a lot of discussion about making the industry greener, thinking about energy efficiency, air quality, recycling, planting trees and the best ways to rehabilitate sites. The quarries I spoke to wanted to make sure the neighbours stayed happy, healthy and safe too.

Thanks to my fantastic hosts, I visited quarries in Otaika, Rodney, Pukekawa, Nelson, Christchurch and Dunedin. It was fascinating. I learned how the different layers are dug out, and how important the quality and size of the rocks is. Those big machines work for years, often maintained by their drivers. I remember learning about different types of rocks at school, but it really came to life next to those quarry faces, looking into the face of history and the future.

Quarry workers are the nicest bunch of people you'll meet. Some of them look a bit scary at first, but those men and women really know their stuff. Many of them have a family

history of quarrying. I could watch an excavator operator all day, manoeuvring their machine in the most precise and efficient way, up steep slopes, moving huge piles of dirt and rocks. They take pride in their work. The transport trucks drive monotonous distances to bring products to worksites. Watching them park backwards into narrow spots was a real treat. I met happy young apprentices in engineering workshops who promised me that they're also studying their theory too.



*Tips on health were also provided by Dr Mary Obele*

It's hard for any industry to manage health problems at work. It's not easy looking around a site and spotting all the ways that work can affect workers' health and wellbeing. Falling rocks, dust, noise and vehicle-related accidents are pretty obvious and very important to control. But there's also the tough stuff like mental health, suicides, drugs, alcohol and domestic difficulties which seep into your work and can be quite destructive and dangerous. Those are hard to deal with, because work may only be a small part of each worker's ecosystem.

I did a bit of a health talk on things like lung disease, depression, methamphetamine (liver, lover, law and livelihood!), fatigue, prostate disease, diabetes, eating well and return to work issues. I was lucky to get an enthusiastic bunch of workers in the room and blast them with some knowledge. Unfortunately, now they know that I have a bad habit of laughing at my own jokes.

After my talks, I think most people went away and had a little think about what they can do to improve their own health, and the health at their quarries. They asked lots of excellent questions. We had some quite strong group discussions about looking after themselves and their workmates. They shared some powerful stuff as I was checking their blood pressures after the talk. I only hope that I had some effect on people's wellbeing. One small change can make a big difference.

Rumours say that men don't like talking about their health or going to see the doctor for a check-up. Maybe my talks gave some people a bit of shove in the right direction. Maybe those guys will go back to their worksites and discuss something useful at a toolbox talk. Maybe someone who was feeling low got some support from a workmate or a manager who listened to my talks. I reckon Jim MacDonald would be quite proud to have seen these talks, and the learning that hopefully went beyond ticking a few CPD boxes.

Top learnings for me were:

- Every day, turn up to work healthy and safe.
- If you think there is something wrong or hazardous – speak up.
- If you are not well – mentally or physically – get the right help, not just from a bottle or drugs. They make you feel good for a short time but cause more problems in the long run.
- Look after each other. If a workmate is having problems, your support can make a difference. But you are not responsible, and you can't do it alone, so get help.
- Talk about hazards and risks and how to control them often. Take a fresh look, do it better. Be as safe as you can, every time, all the time.



- If you don't know something, ask and learn.



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

## Big changes ahead on how we train and measure...

Getting the best training and qualifications for our industry from the new, emerging vocational education structure is proving to be a long haul rather than a quick fix.

I've been providing input to a review of the current vocational qualification and credentials system which has now emerged in a [consultation document](#).

Feedback is sought on proposed options to simplify the vocational qualification and credentials system so learners, employers and providers can be confident that qualifications are portable and learning outcomes are consistent.

What's within scope are all New Zealand qualifications at levels 1-7, excluding NCEA, wānanga-developed iwi qualifications and degrees at level 7 and higher. In short, for us that means change looms for most of the specific training currently available in the extractive sector or which could be available.

The first option (A) looks at how those with a role in the current system, and the education products, are to work together under the Education and Training Act passed last year which included setting the scene for the vocational education reforms. Option A does not require further legislative change.

The second option (B) proposes a simplified system for all NZ qualifications listed at levels 1-7. It would require legislative change. I support Option B as it is the process used to develop the training package used in Australia for the Resources and Infrastructure Industry (RII). This has served the Aussie

This option would also see a 'national curriculum', or core content, collaboratively developed, led by the new Workforce Development Councils (WDCs) working with industry and providers. I'd envisage the core content will include some things like literacy, numeracy and digital skill requirements which are essential in every industry. It would also have – as with Option A – vocational qualifications which are expected to be comprised wholly of skill standards, both mandatory and elective.

I believe Option B allows for more influence by industry in the delivery of education and would more directly meet employer needs for graduates with more consistent skills. It would also enable seamless transitions for learners between providers and different modes of study. There would be fewer programmes and qualifications and a stronger focus on consistency within qualifications enabling less red tape for providers.

I am also backing Proposal 2 in the document under which micro credentials (short specifically- focused courses) would replace all training schemes – those shorter than three months and 100 hours and either recreationally focused or paid for by an organisation and not open to the public.

Micro-credentials are an emerging tool available to all. You can already do one to learn how to operate a drone or make a barista coffee. There's plenty of scope to use them in extractives with things like learning to operate complex machinery or health & safety training.

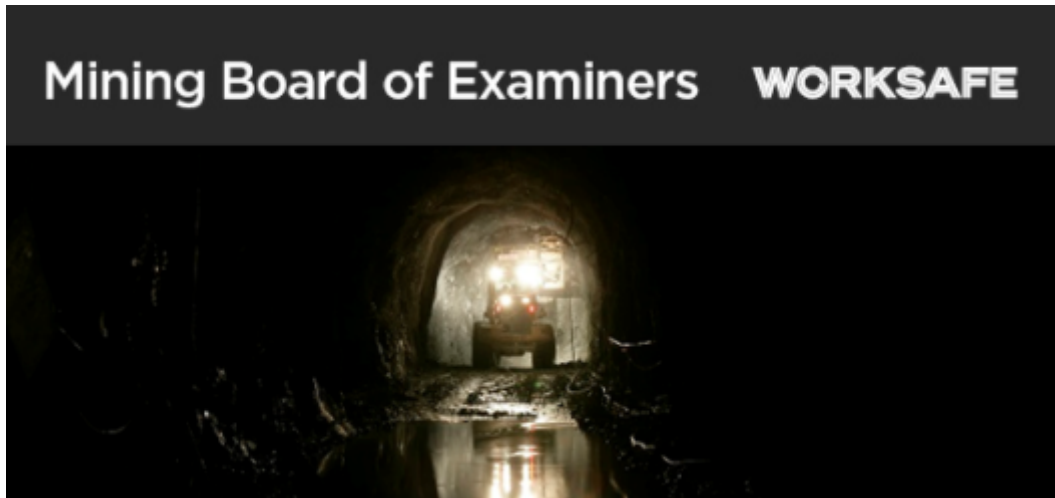
I'm more than happy to talk to anyone in our sector who has an interest in these qualification changes.

Submissions close 16 June.

[View the MinEx Submission on simplifying NZ Qualifications and other credentials.](#)

extractives industry well. While it will take more time and resources, this option will ensure greater industry engagement in development of a curriculum for qualifications in our sector.

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#### [Application deadlines for oral exam](#)

In March we told you about trialling block oral exams weeks for the rest of 2021.

We advised of exam dates in June, August and November in Hamilton, Christchurch and Dunedin.

We have now set deadline dates to submit applications to be considered for oral exam.

**16 - 20 August - Hamilton, Christchurch and Dunedin**  
**Deadline to submit an application for oral exam is 11 July**

**15 - 19 November - Hamilton, Christchurch and Dunedin**  
**Deadline to submit an application for oral exam is 10 October**

For all the background about Certificate of Competence processing and exam scheduling, click below.

[Find out more](#)

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## **AQA Sustainability Workshops 2021**

### **Hamilton 9th September**

### **Christchurch 16th September**

The AQA will be running a sustainability workshop in both the North & South Islands in September this year, covering benefits of sustainability and best practice, including a discussion panel of experts.

Each workshop offers 8 hours CPD.  
***More details coming soon!***

Be sure to click on the buttons below to inform us of your interest.

[Click HERE for the Hamilton Sustainability Workshop](#)

[Click HERE for the Christchurch Sustainability Workshop](#)

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## Want more workers? Look north!

Are there other regions willing to copy an initiative led by quarries and others in infrastructure that attracted dozens of young women to have a look at our sector?

Northland's Chapter of Women's Infrastructure Network (part of Infrastructure New Zealand) organised an open day in March, held at Golden Bay Cement's Whangarei site. More than 70 Northland high school girl students attended the event, supported by ten local and national infrastructure companies and training organisations.

Kelly Stevens, CBC's Process Engineering Manager says the girls were met by a range of technical and managerial women as they toured the quarry, workshops, plant, equipment and laboratories as well as displays from the other companies. They got to experience driving a small digger, operating other things in virtual reality, seeing a 60-tonne dump truck being loaded by excavators, cranes operating and a whole range of other activities.

Like other women hosting the girls that day, Kelly wishes she'd experienced something like this when she was at school rather than 'falling' into a quarrying job. The event is now poised to become one held annually.

Hats off to the Northland women who hosted the open day. When only 15% of our current workforce is women – and we are facing a looming labour crisis, especially in infrastructure and construction where we compete – I'd love to see other regions pick up on this initiative.

Email me for contacts if you want to be involved: [wayne@minex.org.nz](mailto:wayne@minex.org.nz).



***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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## ACT Safety Courses



Course Name	Dates	Booking Link
<b>Maintain &amp; Install Services for an Underground Operation - 2 Days</b> NZQA Unit 21821	21/06/2021 to 22/06/2021	<a href="https://book.actsafety.co.nz/event?id=223">https://book.actsafety.co.nz/event?id=223</a>
<b>Pneumatic &amp; Hydraulic Power &amp; Electrical Reticulation - 2 Days</b> NZQA Units 22057 & 21661	24/06/2021 to 25/06/2021	<a href="https://book.actsafety.co.nz/event?id=558">https://book.actsafety.co.nz/event?id=558</a>
<b>Conduct an Incident Investigation at an Extractive Site - 2 Days</b> NZQA Unit 16686, CoC	28/06/2021 to 29/06/2021	<a href="https://book.actsafety.co.nz/event?id=544">https://book.actsafety.co.nz/event?id=544</a>
<b>Plant &amp; Checks - 2 Days - FULLY BOOKED</b> NZQA Units 8902, 8905, 8909 & 8922	01/07/2021 to 02/07/2021	<a href="https://book.actsafety.co.nz/event?id=849">https://book.actsafety.co.nz/event?id=849</a>
<b>Explosives at an Extractive Site - 2 Days</b> NZQA Units 176394 & 21152, CoC	08/07/2021 to 09/07/2021	<a href="https://book.actsafety.co.nz/event?id=754">https://book.actsafety.co.nz/event?id=754</a>
<b>Underground Mines Emergency Protocol - 2 Days</b> NZQA Unit 30905	12/07/2021 to 13/07/2021	<a href="https://book.actsafety.co.nz/event?id=540">https://book.actsafety.co.nz/event?id=540</a>
<b>Storage, Stockpiles and Surfaces at Extractive Sites - 2 days</b> NZQA Units 15663 & 31091	19/07/2021 to 20/07/2021	<a href="https://book.actsafety.co.nz/event?id=524">https://book.actsafety.co.nz/event?id=524</a>
<b>Conduct an Incident Investigation at an Extractive Site - 2 Days</b> NZQA Unit 16686, CoC	19/07/2021 to 20/07/2021	<a href="https://book.actsafety.co.nz/event?id=546">https://book.actsafety.co.nz/event?id=546</a>
<b>Interpret &amp; Test for Gases in an Underground Mine - 2 Days</b> NZQA Unit 21281	27/07/2021 to 28/07/2021	<a href="https://book.actsafety.co.nz/event?id=225">https://book.actsafety.co.nz/event?id=225</a>
<b>Rehabilitation - 2 days</b> NZQA Unit 21151	29/07/2021 to 30/07/2021	<a href="https://book.actsafety.co.nz/event?id=525">https://book.actsafety.co.nz/event?id=525</a>

Visit the [ACT Safety](https://www.actsafety.co.nz/) website for details on training and courses you can do through ACT Safety.

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



## IOQNZ Webinars/Courses



Our next IOQ NZ webinars are as follows:



- **Hazard Management System** on 24 June 2021 - Registrations now open
- **Machinery and Equipment** on 18 August 2021 - Registrations will be open shortly

Two sessions: 8am and 12noon.  
Cost: \$25 member, and \$50 non-member.

Click below to register:

<https://ioqnz.co.nz/shop/product-category/webinars-courses/>

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

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## Tai Poutini Courses

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### A & B Grade Training 2021 Free Fees ([see eligibility criteria](#))

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

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

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

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.

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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