



Welcome to the October Train Brain.

The continuing presence/risk of Covid remains top of mind on any health & safety agenda. Our only way through it is a 90%+ vaccination rate.

I'm aware, as with any segment of New Zealand society, there will be people reading this article that are either vaccine-hesitant or have had limited access to vaccination.

I speak for the MinEx Board in saying that as with any other issue, we chose to take the advice of those with the most specialist knowledge. Sure, there's one or two GP's voicing doubts about the vaccination but they are at odds with all the epidemiologists and others who spend their lives studying viruses like Covid.

My message to you if you are not yet vaccinated, is go and get the jab – for yourself, for your family, for your work colleagues or employees.

We may yet get to the point that you will be restricted in what you can do if you are not vaccinated. Whilst not a requirement at this point, you may like to read the analysis of top law firm [MinterEllisonRuddWatts](#) which we summarise in this Train Brain.

Also in this edition, we try to explain the complex changes in vocational education which started to take effect this month. We also look at a MITO initiative to take the extractive careers message into schools.

We also catch up with our first RockUp® graduate Owen Thornton who is now a year+ on into his career in extractives, and at 19 years of age has his sights set on working at Australian and South African mine sites.

We report on a nasty incident with an e-cigarette which left an Aussie mine worker with nasty burns and the batteries which have caused numerous other injuries overseas.

There's also an update on how our MinEx workshops have been progressing and our New Year plans.

Stay safe

Wayne Scott
CEO MinEx & AQA

Can you require your workforce to get the jab?

The answer to that question is probably. The Government has indicated it has no plans to force people to have vaccinations beyond those in roles currently covered by the Vaccination Order (border and MIQ workers, teachers, nurses etc).



These are either those workers at heightened risk of exposure to the virus or people like teachers who have public (students and parents) engagement – and thus at risk of exposure and spread. MinterEllisonRuddWatts takes the view that any employer has the right to similarly require staff to get vaccinated if they are at any risk of exposure to Covid and thus the risk of spreading it.

In an assessment entitled [Can we vaccinate? Yes we can](#), the law firm says each PCBU or business should have a plan in place around the issue of vaccination.

Note there are some qualifications and variables so please take the time to read the legal opinion.

MinEx workshops update

We've managed to run most of the workshops planned this year, despite the Covid lockdowns. The one at Paeroa planned for October had to be postponed because it was too close to where an Auckland case had been travelling. We are booked back into Paeroa on Tuesday 9 November for the last workshop for 2021. That will conclude the 16 workshops.



The Mining Technical Courses we had planned in Greymouth on 23 & 24 November has been rescheduled for 23 & 24 March 2022.

As for next year, I'm planning to start our workshops a couple of months later than the usual February start. My reasoning is, so many other meetings and events have been postponed this year and rebooked for early in 2022, including the AQA's Sustainability forums. So, we will look to start in April. Details coming soon.

A guide to the reform of vocational education

Q. How long can an acronym last in the reform of tertiary education?

A. Well MELT has now melted but MITO, as our ITO, remains under RoVE until the end of next year.

Sorry if I'm appearing a bit tongue in cheek – I've actually changed tune and have now become quite a supporter of the Reform of Vocational Education (RoVE). I was involved with helping set up MELT which brought together the Manufacturing Electronics, Logistics & Transport sectors. As of the start of this month, MELT became Hanga-Aro-Rau Workforce Development Council for manufacturing and processing, extractives and drilling, transport (including heavy and commercial), postal, warehousing and related engineering. Its role is to provide leadership, to develop standards and qualifications (with industry input), to endorse learning programmes and moderating assessments.

MITO transferred these functions to Hanga-Aro-Rau (and some of its staff including Coral Carlyle who has done excellent work on extractive qualifications). But MITO will continue to arrange training until the end of this year (and scholarships into next year) and will merge its training functions into Te Pūkenga – the new national organisation which brings together all our polytechnics and vocational education under one umbrella.

As said, I was a sceptic when these complex RoVE reforms were first unveiled a couple of years ago. I'd seen something very similar in Australia and that took years to bed in. I'm now more confident that these changes will deliver better outcomes for our sector, both in the refinement of industry driven qualifications, and delivery of training that meets the needs of the extractives sector.

First RockUp® graduate going gangbusters



Owen Thornton

RedBull Powder Company's South Island manager Matt Cowie couldn't be more pleased with his newest trainee who he reckons is going great in learning how to create himself a successful drilling and blasting career.

Owen Thornton joined the company in July this year after being the first to graduate from the RockUp® programme, developed by MITO with support from MinEx and AQA.

It gives Year 11 to Year 13 pupils a hands-on introduction to the mining and quarrying industry, emerging with a micro-credential.

Matt says: "He's got a great work ethic and big aspirations to go further, which is refreshing and inspiring to see. You can see in parts of the extractive sector the workforce is ageing. So, it's great to have young guys like Owen coming through."

Owen himself says he loves what he's doing and sometimes can't believe he gets paid for it too. He's mostly working at the OceanaGold's Macraes mine, currently learning to master the art of loading blast holes and helping with manufacturing explosives for both open pit and underground mining.

"It's all hands-on learning at the moment and every day there's something different."

In January he'll apply for his controlled substances licence which will open new pathways and

knowledge.

Owen has his own five-year plan to gain licences and training to operate an MPU emulsion truck and shottirers qualification before heading overseas to travel, doing what he loves.

Owen says his RockUp® training confirmed extractives was the career for him. His work placement was at Road Metals in Kaikōura. “It showed me the right pathways and gave me the right contacts.”

MITO promotes extractive careers

On the back of Owen Thornton’s success and the interest shown in the first year of the RockUp® programme, we have assisted MITO in preparing a value proposition for students considering a career in the extractives sector.

MITO’s vocational careers advisors are currently discussing this and the programme with schools across the country, particularly in areas where quarrying companies have offered to host a student (one day per week for up to 10 weeks) while they complete their level 2 unit standards. We are hopeful a number of schools will offer students the opportunity to experience what working in a mine or quarry is like during 2022.

If you are interested in finding out more about the RockUp® programme, contact Wayne on 021 944 336 or email wayne@minex.org.nz.

Vaping devices can cause nasty burns

A MinEx Board member recently alerted us to an incident earlier this year in an Australian mine where a vaping device spontaneously ignited in a worker’s pocket while travelling in a ute with co-workers. Reportedly, the event was not unlike fireworks going off and flying around the inside of the vehicle. The worker received serious burns to his left leg.

(Photo courtesy of WA Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety.)
http://www.dmp.wa.gov.au/Documents/Safety/MSH_SB_181.pdf



Thermal and chemical burns from an exploding e-cigarette battery

This incident is consistent with reports of other e-cigarette devices causing spontaneous combustion events in the US and UK. Some have resulted in fatalities. In another incident an e-cigarette in a car explosion damaged several other vehicles. Fires in apartments and other places caused by e-cigarette batteries are not uncommon.

An American university study estimates more than 2,000 visits to US emergency departments from 2015-17 for burns and explosion-related injuries caused by e-cigarettes – and suggests there may have been many more injuries which didn't get hospital treatment.

The vast majority of those injured were men who had e-cigarette batteries in their pockets when these exploded. Coils or keys in a pocket can produce a dangerous mix of metal with lithium-ion batteries increasing the risk of a short-circuit occurring.

So, if you are a vaper, you'd be very wise to avoid carrying spare batteries in a car or your pockets.

Those employing people who work in confined spaces are best to add this issue to their risk management plans and put in place appropriate controls.



MinEx

Toolbox Resources

A new **Toolbox** training tab has been added onto the **MinEx** website with content to use for your **Toolbox** talks.

www.minex.org.nz/training-and-cocs/toolbox

New dates

AQA Sustainability Workshops 2022

Hamilton 9th February

Christchurch 16th February

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

Each workshop offers 8 hours CPD.
Details of venue on registration confirmation.



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



MinEx

Health and Safety in NZ extractives

**MinEx Health & Safety Workshop Paeroa
Tuesday 9th November
8 hours CPD on offer**

To register go to the MinEx website:
<https://www.minex.org.nz/training-and-cocs/workshops/>

**Mining
Technical
Courses**

MinEx

**Postponed to:
23rd & 24th March 2022**

Are you a mine supervisor or specialist COC holder?

MinEx will be running an electrical and a mechanical course over two consecutive days in Greymouth.

These are packed with useful sessions for anyone from supervisors up with 8 CPD hours available for each day.

Save the date more details coming soon!



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

Tai Poutini courses



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 remaining 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

Remember to keep all evidence of CPD activities when you apply for renewal of your CoC



IOQNZ webinars/courses



Webinar – Communicating Effectively in the Workplace – 9 November 2021

Webinar – Social Licence to Operate – 11 November 2021

Webinar – Working with Machinery and Equipment – 18 November 2021

Sessions: 8am and 12 noon

CPD Hours: 1-hour unrestricted Learning

Cost: Members \$25, non-Members \$50

To register for the webinars – click here: <https://ioqnz.co.nz/shop/product-category/webinars-courses/>

ACT Safety courses



Course	Cohort	Date	Booking link
Mines Rescue Unit standards 7146 & 30905	A-Grade Tunnel	27/01/2022 To 28/01/2022	Book
Inspect and Report Unit Standard 7143 & 7144	A-Grade Tunnel	23/02/2022 To 25/02/2022	Book
Gases Unit standards 21278 & 21281	A-Grade Tunnel	01/03/2022 To 02/03/2022	Book
Regulations Unit Standard 7142	A-Grade Tunnel	21/03/2022 To 24/03/2022	Book
Ventilation systems Unit standard 7145	A-Grade Tunnel	04/04/2022 To 05/04/2022	Book
Stockpiles Unit standards 31091 & 21821	A-Grade Tunnel	21/04/2022 To 22/01/2022	Book
Basic Ventilation Unit standard 17705	A-Grade Tunnel	19/05/2022	Book
Underground extraction Unit standard 30903	A-Grade Tunnel	13/06/2022	Book

View the full list of [courses for 2022](#) or Visit the [ACT Safety](#) website for details on training and courses you can do through ACT Safety.



**TAKE CHARGE OF
YOUR CAREER!**

Apply for a 2022 MITO Scholarship
\$190,000 available across 12 categories

2022 SCHOLARSHIPS: APPLICATIONS NOW OPEN!

Time to take charge of your career with a 2022 MITO scholarship! If you are working in the automotive, extractives, gas, transport or logistics industries, a MITO scholarship is a great way to advance your career by completing a national qualification. With over 70 scholarships available across twelve categories totalling over \$190,000, there are numerous opportunities available. [Apply now at MITO.NZ](https://www.mito.org.nz)



250+ JOBSEEKERS LOOKING FOR WORK!

Looking to hire your next apprentice? Why not take a look at the MITO Job Hub! Here you can browse a list of jobseekers in your area who are actively looking for work and contact them directly. We currently have over 250 jobseekers listed from around the country. Remember, you can list job vacancies on our Job Hub, and if it's an apprenticeship role, we'll promote it on our social media pages too! Visit the [MITO JOB HUB](https://www.mito.org.nz)

Visit the [MITO website](https://www.mito.org.nz) for details on qualifications and courses you can do through MITO. Contact MITO on 0800 88 21 21 to enrol.

NZ Mines Rescue

For information contact the Commercial Training Manager on 021 193 8863 or email: colin.mcdonnell@minerescue.org.nz





Head to our [MinEx Website COVID-19 page](#) for valuable information on vaccines



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