



Train Brain December 2020

The French have a phrase - Déjà vu – which describes a sensation you've already experienced.

Déjà vu rippled through the MinEx office recently just after we had happened to send a letter on the 10th anniversary of the Pike River disaster to new Workplace Relations and Safety Minister Michael Wood. It advised him that new regulations for quarrying and mining have been promised since 2013; we reminded Hon. Michael Wood that Iain Lees-Galloway who held the portfolio for most of the last Government's term of office said the new regs would be in place by Christmas 2018; MinEx (and industry) is yet to see the final draft.

Then one of our staff unearthed a letter from July 2015 addressed to previous National Minister of Workplace Relations and Safety, Michael Woodhouse by MinEx Chair Chris Baker. It noted the 2013 regulations had been pushed through (post Pike River) in unprecedented timeframes; operational and drafting errors had emerged which made the regs at worst an impediment to safety or investment.

Chris Baker observed there appeared to be some resistance within Government to making the necessary changes despite industry and Government commitment to improving safety performance.

Five years on, I'm unclear if it's 'resistance' or simply the wheels of Government turn so incredibly slowly that they often stymie even the Ministers' who are supposedly in charge.

It's time a fourth Minister for Workplace Relations & Safety (Andrew Little also held the portfolio briefly) brought out a firehose of CRC and de-rusted the nuts which are holding back seven years of promised progress.

Also, in this Train Brain we celebrate the success of MinEx Board member and mining engineer Kristy Christensen who has been named as one of the top 100 women in the mining/extractive sector. Well done and well-deserved Kristy.

I also comment on the outcomes of our series of MinEx workshops around the country; Covid-19 caused a pause but we soldiered on and I'm pleased with the turn-outs and outcomes from the 16 workshops MinEx ran from Blenheim in February to Te Kuiti in November.

And we foreshadow next year's planned workshops – yes, it's December so time to begin booking ourselves into the year that follows.

We also carry details of various upcoming training courses including for the first time some which are run by the Employers and Manufacturers Association (EMA), should you be a member.

Hoping you have a safe festive season and your holiday leaves you refreshed and ready for the year ahead.



Wayne Scott
CEO MinEx and AQA

Workshops at a time of pandemic



Before Covid-19 struck – Wayne Scott at the Blenheim workshop in February

Little did we know when we gathered in the warmth of a Marlborough day in late February what the year would bring. That workshop set the tone for the series, even though interrupted by Covid-19. The focus of the workshops was on Operating and Safety Systems, Leadership and Legislation. A WorkSafe inspector, and IOQNZ representative co-ran the workshops with me, and I wish to thank WorkSafe, IOQNZ and our sponsors for

their support. I'd also like to thank those who led six different webinars which supplemented the in-person workshops from mid-April to late May.

I am considering offering more by way of webinar in 2021, though the benefits of being able to attend a gathering and swap notes over the coffee cups is immeasurable. (See early details of 2021 workshops below.)

We continue to get a lot of positive feedback about the MinEx workshops; more than 370 people attended them this year after 350 last year and that's not including the webinars. At \$150 these provide a low-cost way to get up to speed with health and safety and WorkSafe's priorities.

So, here's an indicative schedule of 2021 workshops:

- Week commencing 15 March – Blenheim, Nelson, Greymouth
- Week commencing 12 April – Kerikeri, Dargaville, Te Kuiti
- Week commencing 17 May – Palmerston Nth, Waipukurau, Gisborne
- Week commencing 21 June – Dunedin, Invercargill, Cromwell
- Week commencing 11 Oct – Paeroa, Rotorua, Whakatane
- Ashburton -TBC



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

Kristy makes global list of inspiring women

MinEx Board member Kristy Christensen has been named among 100 women who highlight the wealth of female talent in the extractive sector worldwide.

Kristy, a Te Kuiti based mining engineer and consultant, is the New Zealand woman chosen from a record 626 nominations in the [fourth edition of the 100 Global Inspirational Women in Mining](#), run by Women in Mining UK.

Kristy says she wears two hats – one as a senior mining engineer for an ironsands



After a move to a Wollongong mine, she fell pregnant. “After two years of infertility, when the day came, I was terrified and nauseous at seven weeks and I had no idea what to say to my workplace and when. I was the first to be in this situation and it felt lonely.” Kristy says her boss provided incredible support and she then

company – the other as an advocate for more female-friendly workplaces in the extractives sector.

Now in her thirties, Kristy qualified as a geologist at Auckland University and had two years at Heritage Gold at Waihi before moving to an underground coal mine in central Queensland – the only woman in the 1,200 strong workforce. On her first day she was banned from going underground for the first half hour because her co-workers didn't believe a woman would work in a mine. She then faced issues including no female toilet on shifts that lasted up to 12 hours and PPE designed for men.

worked to ensure there were the procedures and support for future 'underground mothers.' She and her husband Jamin now have two children.

Since returning to New Zealand, Kristy has established a consultancy business [Shesfreetobe](#) from her Waikato base to assist women working in the extractive and wider business sectors who want to improve their approach to recruiting and retaining female staff.

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



Fiona joins the BoE



Speaking of MinEx Board members, I'm very pleased that Fiona Bartier has been named among six highly experienced extractives industry practitioners appointed to the New Zealand Mining Board of Examiners commencing 1 December 2020.

Both Fiona and Matt Mules join returning members Michelle Crompton, Stephen Bell, Garth Elliott and Tim Kennedy.

Fiona goes onto the BoE with 20 years' experience in the mining sector with a special interest in health and safety, and training and development. She holds a Site Senior Executive CoC and has also been a member of the MinEx Board since 2018.

Fiona has worked in management roles for research organisations, industry groups, and mining companies. Fiona's interest in training and development and her extensive

networks in mining have greatly assisted MinEx and will be of great benefit to the BoE.

Matt Mules has worked in the underground construction industry for 16 years in the United Kingdom and New Zealand. Matt is currently the Site Senior Executive for the \$1bn Central Interceptor project in Auckland. Matt is also a member of the NZ Tunnelling Society Board of Directors. Matt's special interest in health and safety, training and development, and his extensive industry networks in tunnelling will be of great benefit to the Board.

Amongst its work the BoE is conducting a review of CoC requirements in anticipation of changes expected once the new regulations are in place.

EMA courses



[The Employers and Manufacturers Association \(EMA\)](#) is an NZQA-registered private training establishment (PTE) providing a comprehensive range of health and safety training programmes including online courses, webinars, short courses, certificate and diploma-level courses, seminars and conferences.

It runs training regularly in Rotorua, Whakatane, Tauranga, Hamilton, Auckland (Manukau, Central, West and North Shore) and Whangarei, or at your site.



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

Act Safety Training



ACT Safety provide courses relating to A & B Grade COC Unit Standards, and the A & B Grade surface Extraction Training Schedule, details on their [website](#).

View the full training schedule for [2021](#).

December 2020 Training schedule:

BGT 2021-02	Wednesday 9 December 2020 & Thursday 11 December 2020	US 7143v8 US 7144v8	Inspect and report on extractive site and operations. <i>Level 5, Credit 10</i> Review and implement plans for ongoing operations of an extractive site. <i>Level 5, Credit 15</i>	3	MITO 20-776 ZOOM	\$950	8.00am- 4.00pm
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For course bookings go to the [booking Rooster](#) or contact Irene:

Email: irene.volschenk@actsafety.co.nz

Telephone: (09) 2709592

Mobile: (021) 035 2097

IOQNZ Webinars/Courses



For information email loq@xtra.co.nz

MITO Courses



2021 MITO SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS CLOSE IN TWO WEEKS!

Applications for the 2021 MITO scholarship programme close at
5pm, Friday 11 December

There are over 70 scholarships available across six categories totalling up to \$110,000

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- A comprehensive range of continuing professional development classes with emergency management and response a specialty.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT

Email: training@minerescue.org.nz

Phone: (03) 7627828

Tai Poutini Courses



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

Students may be eligible for free fees, see more information [here](#).
Contact Nicole Scalmer on 03 769 9645 or nicoles@tp.ac.nz



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