



Welcome to the August Train Brain.

The recent figures showing just 4% unemployment – in other words virtually no unemployment – confirm the challenge we face in the extractive sector to train, attract and retain good workers.

It's great to see the next generation of talent coming through, as witnessed by Blackhead Quarries where mostly younger staff helped it take no fewer than five awards at the TransDiesel dinner at the QuarryNZ Conference (see a profile of Jason Blair in this Train Brain).

We are stepping up as an industry on training. Witness the lead item on [One News](#) recently where Fulton Hogan has worked with Civil Contractors and Ministry of Social Development to set up an Infrastructure Skills Centre at its Yaldhurst facility near Christchurch. Some of the first 12 recruits for the 6-week intensive course spoke very positively about what they were experiencing. I'm working with Fulton Hogan and the Infrastructure Skills Centre on this initiative and hope to have more to say soon.

Certainly, we all need to up our focus on training. There were some wise comments at July's QuarryNZ Conference by IOQNZ President Dean Torstenson, who said he would not have hired himself at age 20 (complete with mullet) and we all need to give our young people the same opportunities we had to train and learn. And as Dean said, that doesn't mean a half hour's induction then expecting perfection.

As an industry we are improving but it can't be left to the bigger players to develop or seize all the opportunities. This month saw the start of MITO's innovative [SpeedMeet 2021](#), where trades and service industries go into more than a dozen schools from Auckland to Queenstown to show them what careers are available. I hope many of you have taken the opportunity to engage with school leavers at these meetings.

A similar initiative organised by another ITO Connexis – [Girls with Hi Vis](#) – was run in June in regions from Auckland to Southland to show young women the opportunities in careers in infrastructure. Given the increasing shortage of workers in every sector, the message is that where training might once have been something some extractive sites did – it now needs to be a focus for every site.

Look at the article in this Train Brain from Dr Mary Obele about how sites need to provide

decent facilities for women workers if they want to attract staff from half the population. And read Chief Inspector Paul Hunt's message that good training is recognised when it comes to WorkSafe applying a risk rating to an extractive site (with more visits and likely requirements if you are a more at-risk site).

Given the wet Winter we've been having, this may be a good time to read your Train Brain and look at what you might do to improve your own skills – or help create the conditions where others, and the sites they work on, can benefit.

Stay warm and safe



Wayne Scott
CEO MinEx and AQA

On the hunt for HPIs

A thin line of luck is all that's saved the New Zealand extractives sector from having more fatalities and serious injuries.

That was the comment to the QuarryNZ Conference from WorkSafe's Chief Inspector for Extractives, Paul Hunt.



He was signalling that WorkSafe is now focused on what he terms High Potential Incidents (HPIs) which have the capacity to see a worker killed or maimed. On average there has been around one or more every 3-4 days at an extractives site for the last three years. There has been about one death a year.

"I see these types of incidents and I think we've just been lucky (not to have more)" Paul told the conference.

"We are almost killing people at the same rate all the time."

He touched on the finding of last year's Brady report in Queensland which identified that the frequency of HPIs were the best measure of risks to extractive workers – and that fatalities came in bursts. WorkSafe extractive inspectors were now adopting the HPI model as the best means of measuring risk.

Paul says there is currently a 1 in 3000 chance of dying in a quarry; if someone worked a 40-year career in quarrying, statistically they face a 1.3% chance of being a fatality on the job and a 5-6% chance of serious injury.

"And if you looked at it really brutally, some of those people sit in offices." This means the risks are even worse for those in the field.

He says WorkSafe has spent the last two years verifying where all quarries on a 1,400 strong data base of potential sites were located. Not all were operating and inspectors had been despatched 'into the wilds of New Zealand' only to sometimes find shallow depressions in the ground.

WorkSafe now had a risk rating for all quarries.

“We are happy to share that risk rating with the individual sites but we aren’t going to talk about any other quarries.”

If inspectors saw new plant or better training or performance, this might lessen the risk rating.

Those with higher risk ratings would be visited more often.

Paul said WorkSafe had now published seven [quarterly extractives health and safety reports](#). He urged operators to print them out and put into smoko rooms. The most recent report, first quarter this year, includes details of 21 high potential incidents. You can also request the reports by emailing hhu.extractives@worksafe.govt.nz.

Dust, dames and dunny dignity

The early focus of Mary’s talk was about what our grandmother might know about us. We have around one fatality per year on average in New Zealand quarries and there are around 100 across all sectors. She compared this to an estimated 900 deaths per year in New Zealand from occupational diseases, mainly of the lungs.

Mary said that she liked the MinEx range of [materials](#), from codes of practice to fact sheets designed to reduce industrial accidents and occupational disease risks, including advice on reducing exposure to respirable crystalline silica and dust in general.



She outlined some keys to good practice in dust management:

- keeping stockpiles relatively low;
- letting dust settle before exiting the cab;
- having enclosed cabs with air conditioning and regularly serviced filters;
- using vacuum cleaners to remove dust in cabs;
- keeping workers away from dust;
- washing off dust before eating, drinking, smoking and chewing gum;
- using respirators when necessary;
- developing a Dust Management Plan.

Mary reckons we should study our dust problems more. She asked, where is the silica in New Zealand? Is silica a health problem for our quarries workers and their neighbours? The last paper was done in 2003, she would like to see that updated for our more modern conditions nowadays. She’ll be following that up soon.

Mary’s grandmother then made a plea for sites to look after their women workers. Three Ps make women different – periods, pregnancy and parenthood.

Women can bring a different perspective to a quarry site. They can be easy on the tools and equipment. They can have an eye for detail. Or be great with customers. If they’re

mums, they should be good at time management, be dedicated and finish tasks.

“It’s not just a question of throwing in an extra wharepaku (toilet) for the wahine (women). What about some dunny dignity?” Mary reminded us that toilets should be clean, have a bin and a lock, and somewhere to wash our hands.

With a backdrop of some spectacular old quarry photos from around the world, Mary challenged quarry operators to ask themselves these questions:

“Would you like your pregnant girlfriend to work in your quarry?”

“Would your mum want to work that night shift?”

Mary has talked to a lot of women in the quarry sector and some feel that, sometimes, they may be seen as the problem. “If they don’t fit in, then there is something wrong with them. Maybe it’s about setting up quarry work so that everyone thrives.”

Mary noted increasing labour shortages in the sector. “Is the answer very simple? Just hire more women and treat them well.”

Dr Mary Obele is a Specialist Doctor in Occupational and Environmental Medicine. She was the keynote speaker in the IOQNZ Jim McDonald lecture tour this year and won the 2021 Lyn Jordan Memorial Award for the best technical paper given at this year’s Institute of Quarrying New Zealand conference.

Working with others brings rewards

Less than four years ago Jason Blair was on a downward slope; managing luge slopes in Canada to be precise.

The 33-year-old returned home to Otago and took up a position with Blackhead Quarries as manager of its Walton Park sand operation. His only experience in the sector was working as a uni student at Blackhead’s Balclutha quarry, now managed by Craig Upston (his cousin) and before that Craig’s father Doug (his uncle). In July, Jason took out two awards at the QuarryNZ Conference – achievements he largely puts down to the input of others.

The first was the Winstone Aggregates Safety Award awarded to Walton Park. Jason observed the process of bagging sand manually exposed workers to a lot of dust, not to mention the risks involved in physically moving 40,000 or more 25kg bags of sand. Now there’s automated bagging and palleting.

“Staff involvement was a huge part of that,” he credits. Their thoughts on how to minimise dust creation were central to the



Jason also personally won the R D Hassad Award, given for the most outstanding contribution given to an IOQNZ member. This reflected the fact that when last year’s QuarryNZ Conference was cancelled due to Covid-19, Jason as Otago/Southland chair of IOQNZ, organised a regional two-day event in Gore. It had an impressive range of speakers, attracted 120 attendees, and sponsors including; MIMICO, TransDiesel, TerraCat, Komatsu, MITO, Russett, Real Steel, AB Equipment, Advancequip, Cable Price, Equip 2, Oil Intel, Crushing & Mining Supplies, who all stepped up to support it.

investment that's eliminated much of the risk.

A second project recognised by the award was; convert a manual pre-start process with no documentation into a digital format.

Workers now do their pre-starts on a tablet which can immediately log any issues, report any hazards or incidents and accumulate the data. "We've all been learning along the way," says Blair. Managers now use the same technology to record their daily quarry inspections. The systems are being used across Blackhead Quarries four sites at Logan Point, Walton Park, Blackhead and Balclutha as well as drill and blast, and mobile crushing sites.

Again, Jason credits his branch committee but he does acknowledge July was a special month for him. As well as his two awards, he gained his A Grade CoC. His message to those thinking about a future in the quarry sector? Get involved and do the training – from there it's a downhill run to achieve what you want in life.

Registrations NOW OPEN!

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 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.

Be sure to click on the buttons below to register today.

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

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

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



Mining Technical Seminar



Save the dates:

- **Tuesday 23rd November**
- **Wednesday 24th November**

Are you a mine supervisor or specialist COC holder?

MinEx will be running two courses over two consecutive days in Greymouth in November 2021.

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

More details coming soon!

Mining Board of Examiners **WORKSAFE**



[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.

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](#)



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

NZ Mines Rescue



View the NZ Mines Rescue training programmes for August through to October on the links below:

[2021 NZMRS CoC North Island Training](#)

[2021 NZMRS CoC South Island Training](#)

[2021 Site Senior Executive Training Programme](#)

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

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 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

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



ACT Safety courses



Course Name	Dates	Booking Link
Human Factors US26855	16-17 August	https://book.actsafety.co.nz/event?id=551
Maintain & Install services for an underground operation US-21821	23-24 August	https://book.actsafety.co.nz/event?id=541
Environmental impacts and an extractive site US-21156	26-27 August	https://book.actsafety.co.nz/event?id=939
Rehabilitation US-21151	30-31 August	https://book.actsafety.co.nz/event?id=526
Regulatory Requirements to manage and extractive site US-7142	31 August – 2 Sept	https://book.actsafety.co.nz/event?id=380

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

IOQNZ webinars/courses



Webinars

The next IOQ NZ webinar is ***Working with Machinery and Equipment*** scheduled for:

- 18 August 2021. Facilitator: Chris Gray
- Cost is \$25 member and \$50 Non-member

To register for sessions:

8am:

<https://ioqnz.co.nz/shop/webinar-working-with-machinery-and-equipment-18-08-21-8am/>

12 noon:

<https://ioqnz.co.nz/shop/webinar-working-with-machinery-and-equipment-18-08-21-12/>

Leadership Mini Online Course - *Exploring Ethics in the Workplace*

The Institute of Quarrying is launching a suite of leadership mini courses that you will be able to complete online at your own pace. The first mini online course will take approximately 4 hours to complete.

For more information on the course content – please click here:

https://ioqnz.co.nz/wp-content/uploads/InfoSht_MC1-ExploringEthics.pdf

To register:

Members \$100:

<https://ioqnz.co.nz/shop/exploring-ethics-in-the-workplace-members/>

Non-Members \$200:

<https://ioqnz.co.nz/shop/exploring-ethics-in-the-workplace-non-members/>

For more information email loq@xtra.co.nz

MITO courses



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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