

February 2019

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Hitting the ground running

This is our first MinEx newsletter of 2019 and we are hitting the ground running. The first of 19 regional workshops takes place in Palmerston North on Wednesday February 20. Please enrol for that workshop now by downloading the MinEx App on [the Apple Store](#) or [Get it on Google Play](#). The App allows you to register and then take part in the workshop.



As well as hands-on training like these workshops (all providing 8 hours CPD), MinEx plays a constructive part in developing Government policy. Last year we put a lot of effort into a submission on the Government's new Health and Safety at Work Strategy.

Regrettably, there's little sign we have been listened to by MBIE and WorkSafe. Rather than it being a key priority to engage with industry bodies like MinEx to allow workplace health and safety issues to be addressed directly, the [Strategy](#) focuses on at-risk demographic groups, employing more health and safety staff and hiring consultants. See my wider comments in this newsletter. Suffice to say, MinEx will not let this drop and will be going back to officials and the Minister to put our concerns about the suits winning against the substantials.



I want us to lift our game on guarding. A recent fatality in Australia came about because a guard was removed; then I happened to see a NZ quarry offered for sale with unguarded machinery. That's also picked up in this newsletter.

We will now review whether we need to put together one of our MinEx booklets or fact sheets on guarding. In the interim, booklets on dust management and mental health are just about to be released. They provide helpful guides to these issues. Look for them [here](#).

We've also nearly completed a fact sheet on fatigue for which the driving factor is working long hours. [A recent Australian study](#) provides compelling insights into how long hours impact on the health of young workers. They are carrying more weight, showing more signs of diabetes risk and lower levels of good cholesterol. In other words, people in their early twenties working more than a 38-40 hour week are showing the same poor health symptoms as people twice and three times their age.

We regularly see extractive operations where people work 10-12 hour days. That may suit owners but its not in the best interests of the workers – or in the final analysis, any company.

We have recently released the [Safety Stats for the third quarter of 2018](#). Alarminglly we have seen a marked increase in occupational injuries, most notably hand injuries.

I'd be interested in your thoughts on that and other issues conveyed here in our first MinEx newsletter for 2019.

Keep safe

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Wayne".

Wayne Scott
CEO
AQA/MinEx

New strategy misses the mark

Neither quarrying nor mining are mentioned in the new Health and Safety at Work Strategy. That's concerning. We've made some real progress in our sector and we don't want to lose momentum.



I'm sorry but the Strategy's assertion that certain demographics are more at risk than others is bunkum. Jobs are not riskier than others because an older person within a small business happens to be doing it; jobs are risky because they are risky. The focus on workers at greater risk is a reflection of the industries they work in, not any demographic group of workers. It does not matter *who* is operating the machinery – it is the machinery itself that presents the hazards and thus needs to be managed.

Instead of allocating resources towards employing more health and safety staff and hiring consultants, we should see stronger support for MinEx and similar organisations which promote and support worker-driven improvements in health and safety.

Industry leaders and support staff need improved skills and knowledge in developing and implementing effective safety management systems. The focus needs to be on educating managers who are responsible for, and make decisions on, health and safety.

I'm a great fan of mentors and peer review such as operated in the UK by the AQA's equivalent the British Aggregates Association where all members take responsibility for checking on the health and safety of fellow quarries. This works much better than a visit by 'suit and ties'."

I note that Victoria University has just announced a partnership with WorkSafe for a postgraduate certificate, a postgraduate diploma and a Master of Health, in workplace health and safety. Sorry, but more people with degrees in H&S won't deliver the same benefits as working with experienced industry people.



Wayne and Minister Lees-Galloway pictured at a quarry visit last year

The Minister for Workplace Relations and Safety Iain Lees-Galloway says the next step for the Health and Safety at Work Strategy is for MBIE and WorkSafe to develop an action plan to flesh out the finer details of the Strategy. I will be raising the need for more industry-led responses when I next see him.

Be on your guard

Every accident causing harm is preventable but some are simply inexcusable. Far too many entanglement fatalities and serious injuries occur through lack of adequate guarding or guards being removed while plant is operating. Here's the site of one recent fatality in Australia.

What happened?

Last November, a worker was fatally injured when he became entangled in the rotating tail drum of a conveyor belt. The tail drum guard had been removed to allow rocks to be cleared and the conveyor was operating with the guard removed when the incident occurred.

Here in New Zealand, two similar health and safety failings within three months have cost Rotorua timber company Claymark Limited over \$680,000 in fines, reparations and costs.

In the most recent incident at the company's Vaughan Road site in Rotorua, a worker had his hand caught in machinery used to de-stack timber when trying to reinstate a dislodged chain. He lost the tips of his middle, index and little fingers.



What's really appalling is less than three months earlier a worker's hand had to be amputated after it was drawn into a wood planer at the business' Thames plant. WorkSafe inspectors found the guard supplied by the manufacturer sitting in a cupboard above the planer; there was no system of regular inspection to ensure guards were present and functional.



This photo appeared recently on real estate websites. Note the exposed tail drum on the crusher.

For whatever reason people do not see a problem with this.

We need everyone in the extractives sector to understand that operating plant without appropriate guarding **MUST NOT HAPPEN.**

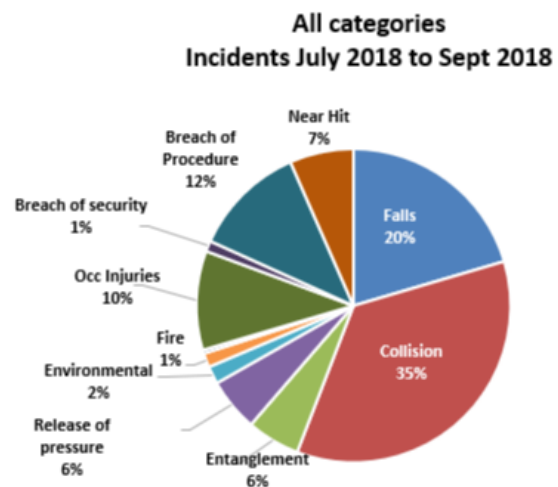
If the likelihood of a substantial fine does not phase you, have a serious think about the personal impact of a fatality at your workplace. The Australian entanglement cost the life of 21-year-old father of one, Connor Milne. This tragedy will have a lifetime impact on his family, fellow workers and owners of the quarry.

On Guard Recommendations

- **Always** stop and isolate a conveyor before undertaking work on the conveyor.
- **Never** operate a conveyor without the necessary guarding in place.
- **Always** operate and maintain the conveyor in a way that eliminates or reduces the occurrence of spillage, requiring the need to remove guarding to clear it.
- **Ensure** that workers operating or maintaining conveyors understand the hazards and risks and the critical controls, such as separation through fixed guarding and isolation lock-out, necessary to prevent serious injury or death.
- **Conduct** regular inspections and monitoring to ensure that critical controls are in place and are effective.

Safety statistics released

Safety stats for the third quarter of 2018 have [just been released](#) and once again collisions dominate the stats with 35% of reported incidents involving mobile equipment. These figures also show an alarming increase in occupational injuries with hand injuries dominating the statistics. We also continue to have far too many deliberate breaches of procedure.



The information provided by this data is essential in sharing learnings throughout the sector and I thank all of you who regularly send us your incidents and alerts. If you would like to assist us by supplying information please contact Lynley on office@minex.org.nz

Book now for the first 2019 MinEx workshops

Palmerston North - February 20

Blenheim - February 25

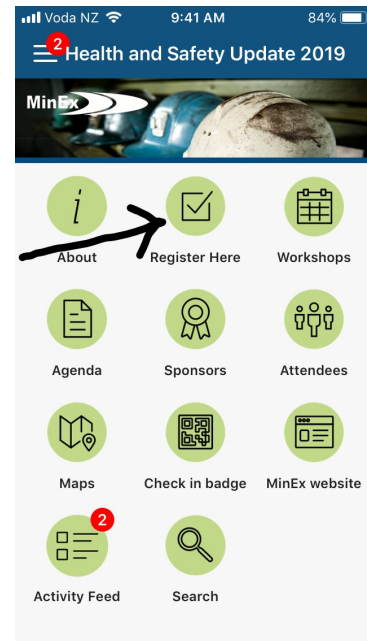
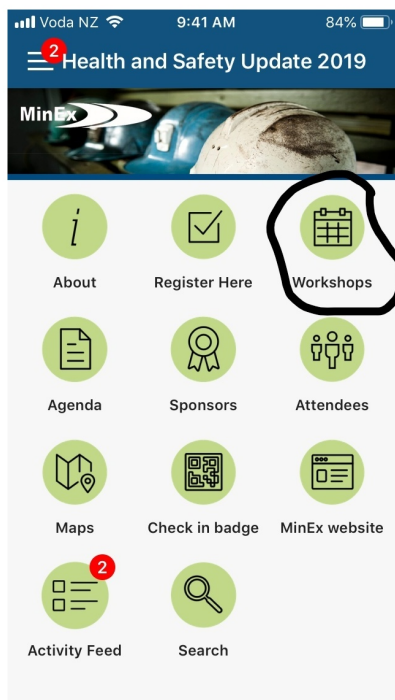
Nelson - February 26

This year we are running two half day sessions (on the same day) - so you can gain 2 lots of 4 hours of CPD in one day.

The focus will be on Operating and Safety systems, Emergency Management, Leadership and Legislation - and we would like to acknowledge WorkSafe and Brofil for their support.

The cost to attend is a modest \$100 + GST and you MUST register beforehand.

To register download the MinEx app on your Apple or Android phone (see links below) and click *Register Here* *Here*.



To find a date for a workshop (without registering), download the app and click on *Workshops*

Remember you MUST register to attend and registrations close two working days before each workshop. To secure your place REGISTER TODAY.

Why use the MinEx app

When you download the MinEx app you get more than just easy registration for the 2019 workshop series. Through the app you will be able to:

- log your attendance
- access handouts and presentations
- receive your attendance certificate
- network with other attendees
- view other MinEx workshops
- and more.



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