

## Extractives sector plans ahead in face of lockdowns – AQA

Simon Hartley - Fri, 19 Feb 2021

The latest Covid-19 lockdown is already taking a toll on the extractives sector – aside from workplace distancing – with the postponement to March of a meeting of company CEOs, due to take place this week in Wellington.

In an update to Aggregate and Quarry Association and MinEx members, chief executive Wayne Scott says Auckland's lockdown was a reminder there is a long way to go to exit the Covid tunnel.

"We may face delays and interruptions from time to time, but we must continue planning and working," Scott tells members.

He outlines several industry events to pencil in to calendars, including the QuarryNZ conference and annual MIMICO awards, multiple MinEx workshops and the annual Rock the Future school competition for pupils.

Top of Scott's list is the annual QuarryNZ conference in Wellington in mid-July – postponed last year. It will feature the annual [MIMICO Environmental and Community award](#), which just opened for entries.

MIMICO awards judge Bernie Napp says there are many positive work practices and projects going on in the extractives sector which deserve recognition, and he is encouraging in particular entries this year from the smaller quarry operators.

"We're at a time where we are under increasing scrutiny from government and others. These awards showcase the fact that we're doing a good job and we need to get that out there," Napp says.

Scott says the conference committee has re-booked at Sky Stadium (aka the Cake Tin), with the event starting Wednesday 14 July and concluding with its gala dinner on Friday 16 July.

### Rock our Future school competition

Scott says organising is now underway for the third annual Rock our Future competition for primary schools.

"This year the pupils who enter are being asked to visit a quarry and write about what they learned," he says.

This will provide a real opportunity for quarries around the country to engage with local communities, not just with the pupils but also their parents, teachers and community, he says.

In 2019, students had to invent a quarry of the future; last year it was rehabilitating a former quarry site; and this year they are being asked to visit a local quarry near their school and write an essay describing their experiences.

The project is open to pupils in Years 5-8 and schools are being encouraged to combine the competition in to their technology and/or science learning.

Entries close on 9 July, with judging in July/August and winners announced in September. There are four \$1000 prizes for each winning school and the successful entrants each get \$100.

*Pictured: AQA CEO Wayne Scott with Newbury School pupils in Palmerston North, among last year's Rock our Future winners.*

### 16 MinEx workshops March-October

MinEx's one-day regional workshops start in Marlborough next month and will wrap up in Whakatane in October; each workshop will held in two half day blocks, with lunch in-between.

Scott says members will be updated on operating and safety systems, emergency management, leadership and legislation. CPD hours can be claimed.

WorkSafe will have a High Hazards Unit inspector at each meeting, who will be co-presenting, and there will be an Institute of Quarrying member assisting at some workshops.

Workshop schedule, costs vary between \$150-\$165 +GST:

- Mon March 15 Blenheim
- Tues March 16 Nelson
- Thurs March 18 Greymouth
- Mon April 12 Kerikeri
- Tues April 13 Dargaville
- Thurs April 15 Te Kuiti
- Weds April 21 Greymouth
- Mon May 17 Palmerston North
- Tues May 18 Waipukurau
- Thurs May 20 Gisborne
- Thurs June 3 Ashburton
- Mon June 21 Dunedin
- Tue June 22 Invercargill
- Thurs June 24 Cromwell
- Mon October 11 Paeroa
- Tues October 12 Rotorua
- Thurs October 14 Whakatane

Registration: <https://www.minex.org.nz/training-and-co...>

