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MINING AND QUARRYING INTELLIGENCE

Wednesday 28 March, 2018

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Great to see this sort of initiative, and the need for youth in the industry acknowledged. Well done Tony King

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Neal Clementson

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## Worker confidence key to quarry safety

Cameron Massey - Tue, 27 Mar 2018

Overcoming self-doubt and a lack of worker confidence is vital to improving safety in the quarry sector, a training mentor says.

Workers need to be given positive reinforcement and encouraged to better qualify themselves, Southern Screenworks health and safety manager Keri Harrison told the delegates at WorkSafe's extractives training and supervisor forum in Palmerston North on Friday.

She says giving quarry workers the right mental tools to succeed will make the quarry industry safer.

"We need to support the industry to keep it safe and to make sure we've got plenty of skilled quarry managers out there."

After obtaining her B Grade ticket in 2016, Harrison went on to help tutor her workmates and quarry operators at other sites to gain their qualifications. She was one of the first to join the MinEx mentoring programme last year.

She has helped 13 quarry workers get their CoCs, four of whom have been since becoming a MinEx mentor.

### Helpful tools

Harrison often sees workers hindering themselves with a lack of confidence.

"We need to re-educate their mind into that of a manager's. We must give them confidence, people are scared they're going to look silly."

By using key phrases like risk appraisal, task analysis and risk assessment, Harrison prepares workers for their tests with trigger words.

"I think those key phrases are really important and it does get very repetitive. You've got to use them every day. The guys seem to remember really well, which is good."

As everyone learns and retains information in different ways, Harrison also takes people from behind the desk in an office outside to the working quarry site.

"We'll look at something, or I'll come up with a scenario and ask them to think about what they would do using the key phrases we've talked about. It seems to work quite well."

### Support for solo operators

It is important for experienced quarry managers to share and pass on their knowledge, Harrison says.

Quarry managers must be approachable and be able to communicate. Setting aside only a couple of hours each week for workers to focus on their studies undistracted can make a huge difference to information retention.

More encouragement and motivation needs to be given to solo-operators and who may be receiving little from their employer or quarry operator, she says.

"I think, as an industry we need to support these guys and girls. We need to be adaptable and we need to understand they may struggle associating CoCs with their worksite."

"That's where we need to make sure we know our roles as PCBU and we work together to improve the safety culture."

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[Bernie Napp](#)

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Dr Cornel De Ronde and Dr Fabio Caratori Tontini, both GNS Science geologists, are principal investigators on a National Science Foundation research vessel at Brothers volcano, just outside the southern boundary of the proposed Kermadec / Rangitahua Ocean...

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### Hinuera Stone paves its way

[Bernie Napp](#)

When a Waikato farmer, decades ago, put a cut into some strange volcanic rock on his land, his brother remarked: "That would look good on the side of a house". Hinuera Stone was born.



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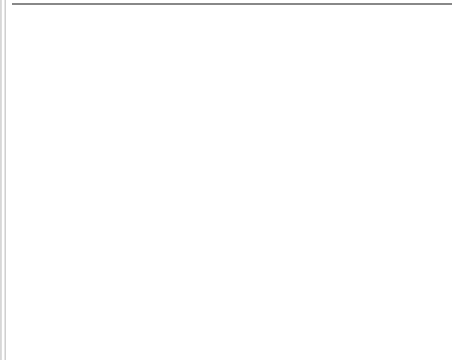
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**Wairoa Gorge Quarry**



**Location** 658 Wairoa Gorge Road, Wairoa Valley

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Organisation Factfile

**Graymont**



<b>CEO</b>	Stephane Godin
<b>Ownership</b>	Graymont Inc
<b>Description</b>	Quarry owner
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