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**Petroleum Geology
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Higher Education Review Enquiry
Department of Education, Employment & Workplace Relations

Higher Education Review

There is a need to preserve the old idea of a university where they teach and do research seeking knowledge for knowledge's sake. They do not necessarily need to receive commercially competitive salaries as they do not work as hard as people in private enterprise. I find it horrifying that universities are now run on a business basis with an overpaid Vice Chancellor with a large administration staff and with non performing departments gradually eliminated even though they represent important parts of human knowledge like classics, history, and sciences such as physics and chemistry.

With regard to professional studies in the mineral industry the training should be similar to the one that I went through at the Otago School of Mines which had a basic science degree in geology, physics, chemistry, mathematics (nowadays would include computer and environmental studies). On top of that and taught by experienced industry professionals would be courses in surveying (including GIS), basic Mining Engineering, Hydrogeology, basic Metallurgy, Mineral Dressing, Economic Geology, practical geophysics. There would be required practical work in vacations. Somewhere in the course would be several field camps teaching the sort of skills that I expect our Aus.I.M.M course will teach. These would include field geological mapping followed by the preparation of a cross-section, logging of cores and cuttings, bush survival skills – selecting camp sites, the knowledge that people require a about 1.1 litres a day and about 0.9 kgs dry food per day, being able to find oneself on a map, and remove a vehicle from a bog.

One answer to the present shortage of personnel would be to shorten the second part of the above course for existing graduates in engineering or other sciences to a one year graduate diploma.

As far as geology is concerned it is unfortunate that academic reviewers are censoring any criticism of the incorrect theory of plate tectonics to this extent that a special publication "New Concepts in Global Tectonics" had to be founded to allow publication of such papers.

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