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Evolution

2020 will be remembered for many reasons but not all are virus related. @020 marks the 150th anniversary of the founding of the Ballarat School of Mines, Australia's third oldest tertiary institution which continues today providing mining industry education as Federation University Australia. A milestone that many other mining education providers are yet to achieve. Celebrations of this milestone event are different that those initially planned due to COVID 19 but the anniversary is still being celebrated. It would be nice to see other mining schools celebrating anniversary's like this in the future but that may not be the case.

Whilst in Ballarat celebrations are occurring elsewhere other things are developing. The UK's last mining school is the historic Camborne School of Mines and now is part of the University of Exeter. The following decision was made for the September 2020 intake (<https://www.exeter.ac.uk/undergraduate/courses/mining/miningb/>)

Entry for September 2021

Our BEng and MEng Mining Engineering programmes are currently paused and will not be accepting applications for September 2021 entry.

Camborne School of Mines has always been responsive to the changing demands of prospective students and the mining industry, and as such we are reshaping the opportunities for students wishing to study mining, and relating topics, to meet these demands.

The University is steadfastly committed to mining teaching and research at the CSM in Penryn, which maintains extremely good employment outcomes, one of the highest international rankings within the University and an excellent reputation.

Please note that our undergraduate geology and postgraduate mining programmes are not affected and continue to receive applications for September 2021.

The obvious question is will this herald the cessation of mining engineering education at Camborne, the news article at <https://www.cornwalllive.com/news/cornwall-news/concerns-future-historic-camborne-school-4481708> may provide some answers. An alternative view may be that the undergraduate goes but their successful postgraduate programmes (MSc and post graduate diploma) continue.

It may be that the programmes at Camborne put on hold come back. But it does get once they think that mining programmes are subject to the same laws of evolution that life on our planet work on. The old saying of evolve or face extinction applies to mining education. COVID 19 has forced all mining education providers at all levels to rethink delivery of programmes. Perhaps this should go further and enable a frank discussion of what do we as academics, industry and other interested parties want mining education to look like in the future. Should it be the same as today? Does new subject matter need to be introduced to reflect the new reality that is mining today and in the near future? Should micro-credentialing be a part of the future direction? What else can be considered? We need to initiate these discussions at a local, national and international level now to ensure that mining engineering education not only survives but emerges in the post COVID normality stronger and more able to develop talent and individuals to serve the industry of the 21st Century and beyond. This is where journals such as this can have an impact on the world.