

@THE COAL FACE

Vol 1 No 3: November-December 2016

WINNER IS A GRINNER

MT OWEN CHPP MANAGER NEIL HASSETT WINS PROSPECT AWARDS MINE MANAGER OF THE YEAR.

Ask Neil Hassett about the most important part of his job and you won't hear a word about mining. The most important job in his world is that of being a grandfather.

In what was a very popular win, the Glencore veteran picked up the award in Sydney this month – well he would have if he wasn't with family in Hawaii.

Starting in mining at Liddell CHPP in the 70's as a fitter, Saxonvale (Now Bulga) followed in 1982, then Howick CHPP before a move to Mt Owen in 2002 as Production and Maintenance Supervisor, Neil progressed to Superintendent before taking over the reigns in 2011.

As all who know him would attest, he oversees one

of the best run facilities where standards are not so much set, but are a way of life and work.

He said, "My job is made easier due the fact that I work with really great people, I'd particularly like to mention previous Manager Greg Queenan and Operations Manager Ashley McLeod, both have given me invaluable advice and direction.

Ashley said, "He's such a humble guy and he thoroughly deserves an award just for him. There are many examples of him extending his hand beyond just what the business requires. And as he says 'some days are diamonds, some days are stone' enjoy this diamond mate!

"I don't mind admitting that I love the place, it's a great place and people, and they have given me numerous opportunities in in both my career and life."



COAL PRICE PROVING RUMOURS TRUE

GLENNIES CREEK IS BACK IN TOWN! 275 JOBS AND EVERYTHING THAT COMES WITH THEM WILL BE A HUGE SHOT OF CONFIDENCE FOR SINGLETON AND BEYOND. THERE'S ALSO PLENTY OF REASONABLY INFORMED TALK AND OF COURSE GOSSIP AROUND FURTHER MOVES ON THE HORIZON.

The one to watch from community speculation was always the former Integra underground now owned by Glencore. Glencore not only know what they are doing, but if anyone is capable of just getting on with the job, it's them. Glencore must be applauded, as they are a company clearly prepared to assess the risk and invest in our local industry with not just this project but also Bulga and United. The 2017 start date can't come quick enough.

SO WHAT ELSE IS ON THE HORIZON?

With other positive developments including the commencement of operations at the Wambo United joint venture and the ramp up at Mt Pleasant with Mach Energy, who else could be dusting off the cobwebs to provide even more welcome jobs, supplier contracts and additional stability and economic prosperity for the Hunter?

Tinkler and friends didn't buy Dartbrook for nothing, so the potential is definitely there for him to suit up the hi-vis and get moving. He seems to have been suspiciously on the

low down of late and rumour has it that he is comfortably ensconced up Aberdeen way plotting his next move. It could be a well-timed trademark play with coal prices playing into his hand yet again. Flip it for a handsome profit to a motivated producer to start production, try and turn it into an unlikely open cut, or simply try and solve the problems with the current underground and hit the start button. Despite some doubts around the whole thing, there is no doubting there would be positives for the local economy and beyond.

On top of this there is continual speculation around the divestment of Rio's assets. A change in ownership would see these enviable assets continue well into the future under stable management without the uncertainty that currently surrounds the operations. We won't name names, but the speculation is gathering considerable momentum at the moment. Who knows what will happen, but one thing is for sure, if any of the above comes to pass it will be nothing but good news for all.

GLENCORE GETS BACK TO WORK

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THINGS ARE HEATING UP

WELCOME! MAITLAND, CESSNOCK AND THE SURROUNDING AREAS ARE SUCH A BIG PART OF OUR HISTORY AND ARE DESTINED TO BE INTO THE FUTURE AS THINGS START TO HEAT UP ACROSS THE VALLEY.

This month we are serving up a good dose of Hunter heartland. From the palpable excitement of our industry climbing out of the trenches to what's been happening around the traps.

We spent some time with the Bloomfield people who have been part of the Maitland area story for such a very long time and reveal how the ties that bind our community and mining industry together can be so well done. There's a lot happening and there are a few bits and pieces on things like Maitland Art Gallery and the Levee revitalisation transforming the city and its mood. We speak with the Hunter success story and community champions that are Quarry Mining at Beresfield and look into some agricultural stuff from Tocal and up

Singleton way. We also talk to the most amazing young lady we have ever met and are inspired by the story she has to share with us all.

Clean coal technology gets a run and is well worth a read. We also hear from Minister Anthony Roberts about why our part of the world is so important. Training and the other stuff is there too if you're interested.

On the fun stuff we feast on tapas up Cessnock way and drop in for a few at Harrigan's in wine country. We also go to the movies and we suggest now is the time for you to pack up the car and drive on in too. Sol gets poetic and loved up with Blakeney's pies and this month it is not one to miss from the Pie Minister of Australia.

If winning is more your style, then we have a bag full of booty from flying lessons to meat trays to watches to a gym membership and more.

Santa's revving up the sleigh like the market is revving up our industry and community's. We hope there is optimism and joy in your world and the year is finishing well.

Your feedback, your support and the ways you have embraced @ The Coalface have got us to issue three and look like taking us quite a bit further. So from us to you... the biggest of thanks, cheers, on ya' we say!

Enjoy the sunny days. The team.



Bloomfield Collieries superintendent, Rag Crick, in front, with employees (from left) Frank Reis, William Dunn, Bob McKinnon, Les Campbell, Lance Munay, Terry Greenbree and Jim Eccleston.

Peace. 10 years of it, in the mine

MAITLAND & CESSNOCK THE BEATING HEART OF HUNTER MINING

MAITLAND AND CESSNOCK SIT AT THE HEART OF THE NSW MINING INDUSTRY AND HAVE BEEN IMPORTANT MINING TOWNS FOR OVER 100 YEARS. WITH A RICH HUNTER HERITAGE AND STRONG MINING HISTORY, THESE TOWNS ARE DEEPLY CONNECTED TO OUR INDUSTRY'S DEVELOPMENT, AND CAN CLAIM TO BE THE HISTORIC SPIRITUAL HOME OF COAL MINING IN THE HUNTER.

This strong mining heritage continues, with over 3,300 mine workers and their families living in Cessnock and Maitland, where they continue to be integral to the fabric of their communities.

Our local miners have endured some tough times over the past few years, yet our local mining industry has continued to make an important contribution, including in Maitland and Cessnock.

As well as providing thousands of direct local mining jobs, over 700 local businesses in Cessnock and Maitland have continued to supply local mining operations, sharing in over \$500 million in mining spending each year, even during the tough times.

And things are starting to look up.

In recent month's we've seen some signs of improvement for Hunter coal. The price of thermal coal has risen strongly this year, and the news is even brighter for coking coal, with spot prices reaching close to US\$230 a tonne. While it's still too soon to claim a 'recovery', there are more encouraging signs on the horizon.

The independent International Energy Agency (IEA) estimates that Australian coal exports will increase by 37 per cent by 2040. In particular, the IEA has highlighted the likely growth in demand in our region, as electricity generation from coal-fired power across South East Asia will increase from 32 per cent to 50 per cent.

In the same report, the IEA



Stephen Galilee
CEO, NSW Minerals Council

highlighted that Australia, including NSW, will be set to significantly increase its share of the seaborne coal export market as a result of new power stations coming online across our region.

This is good news for Hunter mining towns like Maitland and Cessnock, as greater demand for our local coal means more jobs and stronger local businesses into the future.



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THE HON ANTHONY ROBERTS
MP, MINISTER FOR INDUSTRY,
RESOURCES AND ENERGY,
LEADER OF THE HOUSE



economic success and will continue to do so into the future.

There's no doubt you are the heart and soul of the State's coal sector and I can assure you not a day goes by where I don't think of the men and women who day-in, day-out, go to work in our mines to power this State.

It's the contribution of the men, women and families of great communities such as Muswellbrook, Singleton and the wider Hunter Valley that keep the lights on in NSW, as well

as building our roads, hospitals and schools.

This December, I'll be marking three years' overseeing our State's resources sector, so I know full well the tremendous contribution made by mining in the Upper Hunter.

It's difficult to comprehend the requirements put on our miners until you actually see first-hand

the operations they are involved with. I have had the privilege of visiting a number of operations during my time as Minister for Industry, Resources and Energy, yet every time I arrive on site I am still struck by the sheer scale of what is being undertaken.

These operations are world-class and an impressive sight. But they also serve as a reminder to me that these are large scale industrial sites that must ensure best practice when it comes to providing the safest work environment possible.

We as a government will never compromise on ensuring the highest health and safety standards for every miner and we continue to work with all relevant parties to ensure the best regulatory framework for this sector is maintained.

The recent downturn in coal prices was severe enough to bend the industry, but would never be enough to break it. And that's because of the spirit, dedication and work ethic of our miners in the Upper Hunter.

Thank you for your enormous contribution to NSW.

A STATE OF MINING

THE HON ANTHONY ROBERTS MP, MINISTER FOR INDUSTRY, RESOURCES AND ENERGY TOLD US WHY THE UPPER HUNTER MINING INDUSTRY DESERVES TO BE, AND IS BEING RECOGNISED.

NSW is a mining State and has been for generations. The people of the Upper Hunter have played

a critical role in growing and supporting the mining sector, which has driven our State's

LETTER FROM YOU

EACH MONTH @ THE COALFACE FEATURES SOME FEEDBACK FROM OUR READERS. WE WANT TO HEAR YOUR OPINIONS ON EVERYTHING – THE GOOD, THE BAD AND THE INTERESTING. DROP US A LINE.

Guys, congratulations on getting the mag back out there. Good to see and loving it so far!

I'm writing in to raise my concerns on the casualisation of the industry's work forces. I am lucky to still have a job employed directly in the community rather than the mines and enjoy the benefits and security of full-time employment,

but I am concerned none the less for my mates and colleagues who are employed as casuals. I have seen an increase in the numbers of casuals in the industry in the work I do, with what started as contract and 'true' casual work but is now a culture of full-time casuals, fulfilling permanent positions. I'm not sure on the legalities around this, doesn't seem legitimate to me, but my concerns are for many casuals it doesn't provide them with the security that they need to put down roots in the community, buy a house or even get a loan. The trend towards casuals is concerning, would be great if you guys did a story on it or we got some perspective on what to expect and why. - Zak Mason Singleton

@ The Coalface thinks this is a valid point, but we also understand the need for some flexibility depending on market conditions. What people think is a fair and honest balance is something we would like to hear more about.

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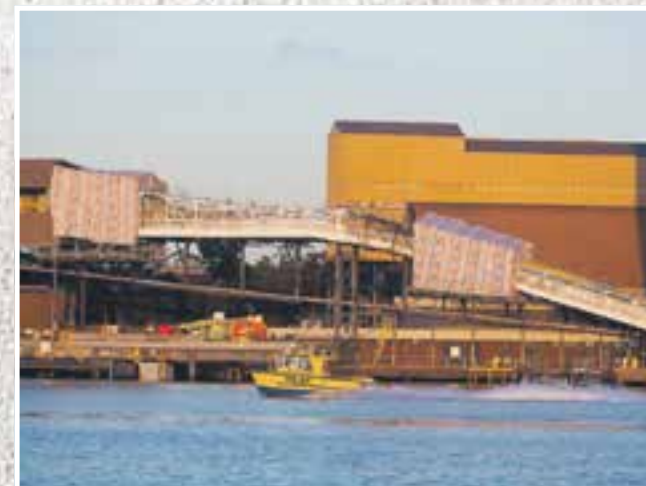
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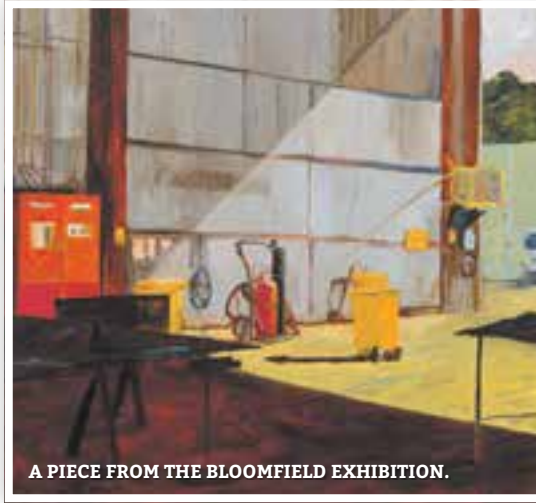
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BLOOMFIELD - A LIVING PORTRAIT

WHEN WE THINK OF COAL MINES WE THINK DIRTY, DARK AND NOISY, BUT A NEW EXHIBITION BY ARTIST LINDA GREEDY AT MAITLAND REGIONAL ART GALLERY WILL INSTEAD SHOWCASE THE COLOUR, BEAUTY AND SPIRIT OF A MINE.

When Bloomfield Mine invited artist Linda Greedy onto their site to capture the spirit of the mine she was initially overwhelmed by the vastness of the site and the imposing machinery and equipment. But once she began to talk to the people it didn't take long for the sense of community, family and friendship that was prevalent to become her inspiration for the project.

The project came about from the Maitland Regional Art Gallery partnering with Bloomfield Colliery to pay homage to the legacy of the Hunter coal industry. An industry that has touched every single person in the community in the 79 years since the mine was opened. The official opening of the exhibition will be held as part of the Gallery's



A PIECE FROM THE BLOOMFIELD EXHIBITION.

Summer Exhibition Launch which will also feature the Olive Tree Twilight Markets on 26 November 2016 from 3pm to 5pm.

If you can't make this uniquely Australian event you can check out the exhibition during museum hours from 12 November 2016 through to 29 January 2017.

PORT PARTY TIME

PORT WARATAH CELEBRATES THEIR 40TH ANNIVERSARY THIS YEAR AND CONGRATULATIONS ARE INDEED IN ORDER WHEN YOU LOOK BACK ON THEIR LAST 40 YEARS OF COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT.

It's been a significant year for Port Waratah with the introduction of their two new ship loaders, which are safer and more environmentally and technically advanced than their replacements. These will help the integral role Port Waratah plays in our mining community, and industry.

But it's the giving back to the community that should be congratulated. Over the last 3 years alone they have donated 2.1 million dollars to over 270 different programs and initiatives.

Here's just a few of the

things that Port Waratah has gotten behind in recent years:

- Surf Life Saving Clubs
- Harrys House
- Throsby Creek Clean Up
- Mattara Festival
- Firstchance
- Lifeline
- Kooragang Wetland Rehabilitation

It's great to see such strong community commitment and with the approval for Terminal 4 we think it's safe to say that the positive social economic benefits for Newcastle and the Hunter will only increase in the years to come.



NEWCASTLE HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS AT THE THROSBY CREEK CLEAN UP.



BACK IN THE RING

THE CMFEU IS FIGHTING TO PROTECT MINER'S RIGHTS TO FAIR ACCIDENT PAY AS WAS SET DOWN MORE THAN 30 YEARS AGO.

In the high risk industry of coal mining, accident pay is an award entitlement that our miners are undeniably deserving of, and this has been the case since it was introduced in 1973.

At its beginning, it was a basic 26-week entitlement awarded by the Coal Industry Tribunal. Then in 1980, it was substantially increased to a total of 78 weeks entitlement and this has remained the industry standard to this day.

We all know that accident pay works to "top-up" an injured employee's weekly wage. In other words, it bridges the gap between statutory workers' compensation payments and the normal weekly rate of the injured worker. And in the case of a miners wage this can be quite a substantial amount and heavily relied upon.

The accident pay clauses in the coal mining awards have operated without controversy for more than three decades. However, in 2010 with the making of modern awards, all awards that contained an Accident Pay Clause had inserted into them, a "sunset" provision that had the effect of deleting accident pay as of 31 December 2014.

The insertion of this sunset provision was not intended to do away with accident pay, but was based on the mistaken belief that by 2014 there would be a national workers' compensation scheme for

all workers and therefore, there could be a common accident pay standard for all industries. This was made in 2008, at the height of the Rudd Government's push for uniform OH&S and Workers' Compensation laws and we all know how well that worked out.

So the CFMEU made an application in 2013 to delete the sunset provision in the new *Black Coal Mining Industry Award 2010* and in October 2014 the Full Bench delivered its decision and decided to grant the CFMEU application and the award continued to contain an accident pay standard of 78 weeks in total.

Then when the matter seemed concluded, in September 2015, submissions were again presented to the President of the Fair Work Commission by the Coal Mining Industry Employer Group essentially asking to re-open the award proceedings so that a lower accident pay entitlement could be inserted into the award.

The CFMEU and the Collieries Staff Union have objected arguing that accident pay in the coal mining industry has already been dealt with and the application was both unfair and impermissible.

Despite the CMFEU fighting the application, on 17 October 2016 it was decided that the case would go ahead. This is unlikely to be heard of until mid-2017, so it looks like a long battle ahead.

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We know you've heard a whole lot about how evil coal is from unrealistic fringe dwellers and media sensationalists, but it's not quite the devil it's made out to be. Don't get us wrong; using it the wrong way and not adapting to new technologies is a recipe for potential disaster, but's that not the path the industry is on.

Nearly half of the world's electricity comes from coal and that demand is set to increase over the next 20 years. That's a fact no one can hide from or argue with. Here in NSW, over 80% of our electricity comes from the resource. No one can deny that use is going to change anytime soon. What we can and are changing now is how we use it as we move towards a more renewable future.

The World Coal Association wised us up on how dramatically things are changing.

It all begins with technology called HELE. So what is HELE? Simply put, high efficiency, low emission technologies developed to increase the efficiency of coal fired plants. They allow power generators to operate at higher temperatures and greater pressure while at the same time reducing by up to 40 per cent

of emissions generated per watt of electricity. So less work and better outcomes for more gain.

And what does this mean for us? HELE technologies can significantly reduce the amount of carbon dioxide and greenhouse gases being released into the environment compared to current methods.

If every coal fire power plant

increased their efficiency rate to 33 – 40 per cent this could cut a staggering two gigatonnes of emissions annually. This is the equivalent to India's annual emissions or a hell of lot of the global cow farts that also add significantly to emissions issues.

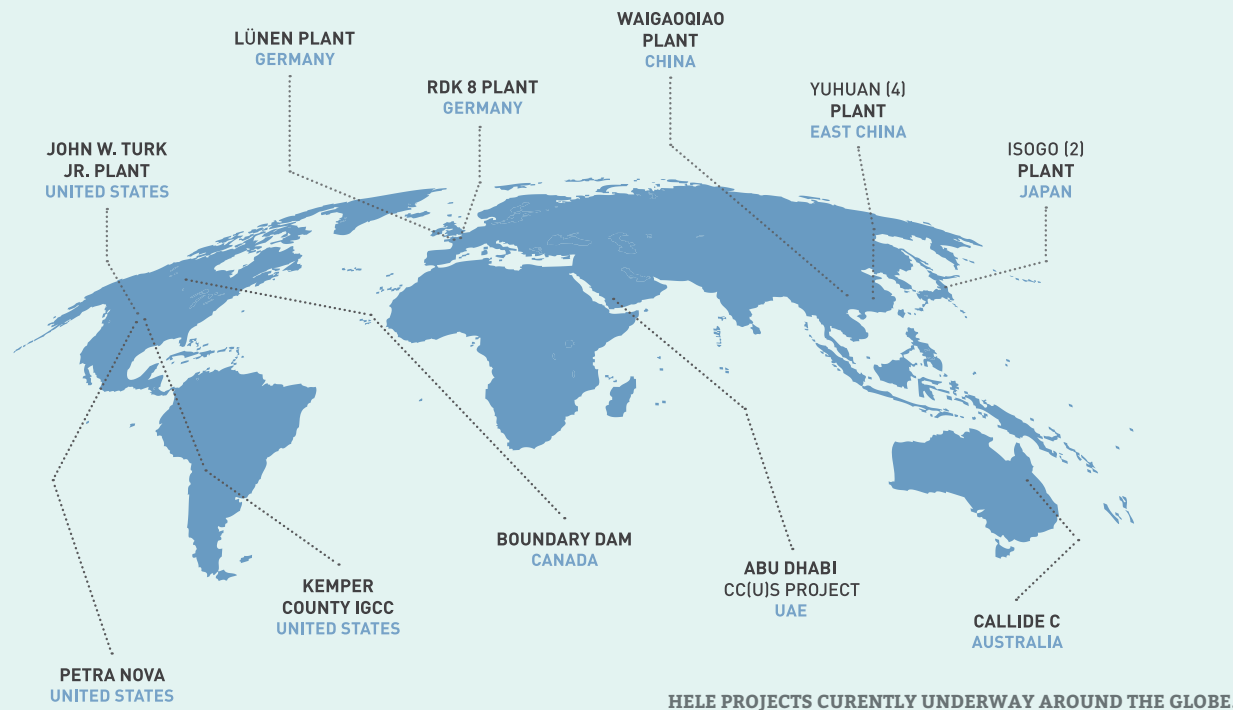
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Carbon Capture and Storage (CCS) technology works by capturing CO2 as its being released, compresses it and then transports it to a safe storage site. These sites are geological formations deep underground. It puts the CO2 right back where it started from, just

minus the coal. Currently there are 22 large scale projects in operation or under construction globally that are leading the way in the future of coal.

With CCS and HELE technologies we can reduce emissions to more sustainable levels.

So what's does that mean for you and everyone else? Coal can, does and will have a future alongside renewables for more than a while yet, and with a bit of luck that means our jobs and maybe our kids will have a future within the industry here in the Hunter. So keep up the cleaner coal future you are helping to create every day.



AN IMPORTANT CONVERSATION

ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT FORUMS AROUND MINING KICKS OFF ON DECEMBER 6.

The Upper Hunter community and mining industry will come together for a day of education, discussion and planning at the Upper Hunter Mining Dialogue's annual forum on December 6. The annual forum caps off a successful year for the Upper Hunter Mining Dialogue which has fostered greater community engagement and direct involvement between community and the mining industry.

The Upper Hunter Mining Dialogue uniquely brings together the mining industry with local residents, businesses, environmental groups and regulators to work together to minimise the cumulative impacts of mining.

BRINGING COMMUNITY AND MINING TOGETHER

To be held at the Muswellbrook Race Course, the annual forum will focus on the Dialogue's current projects like grazing trials, emerging issues and the future course of the Dialogue.

With about 100 people made up from community, government and

the industry expected to attend, the forum offers a major opportunity for attendees to both participate in the Dialogue's activities and learn more about the work being done behind the scenes by the Dialogue.

The forum will feature expert speakers, panel discussions and workshops focusing on future land use for mining land, potential opportunities for final voids, rehabilitation of mined lands and future plans for the Dialogue.

The results of research recently conducted by the Hunter Research Foundation through a series of in depth interviews with Dialogue participants will also be released and discussed at the annual forum.

While seating is limited, people who are interested in attending the forum can indicate their interest at info@nswmining.com.au



NEW BLOOD FOR BLOOMFIELD



THE BLOOMFIELD GROUP HAS BOOSTED THE HUNTER VALLEY ECONOMY WITH NEARLY 100 NEW JOBS AT RIX'S CREEK NORTH OPERATIONS.

When Integra closed down their open cut and underground operations back in 2014 and hundreds of locals lost their jobs it was a devastating blow for the community and the industry. But supporting the growing confidence in the industry the open cut mine has been newly acquired by the Bloomfield Group and is back in operation.

For the staff who lost their jobs when Integra went into care and maintenance it was a chance to come back and many did just that. In total over 1000 applicants applied for positions varying from operators to mechanical and electrical tradies, supervisors and environmental officers.

The Bloomfield Group Chairman John Richards said "It's very pleasing to be providing employment and economic opportunities when the coal industry has been facing so many challenges. He went on to say "The response from the community has been overwhelmingly positive. For 25 years Rix's Creek Mine has been working together with Singleton and surrounding communities and it's pleasing that we can take this relationship to another level."

The underground operations have been bought by Glencore who have yet to declare their intentions but we hope it will be back in operation soon.

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PUBLISHERS OPINION

COMMUNITY DOES SOME HEAVY LIFTING

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND SUPPORT HAS BEEN AFFECTED BY THE DOWNTURN, BUT THE SPIRIT IN OUR COAL MINING COMMUNITIES AND INDUSTRY NEVER WANED.

A mate reminded me recently of the good stuff that still happens when times are tough. It's easy to see only the negatives sometimes and I was as guilty as anyone. Whether it's people in the community or people in the industry, both have worked bloody hard through the tougher times to keep it all going. This month is about celebrating all the great people in our community and our industry for what they do. Maitland, Muswellbrook, Cessnock and Singleton, there just are not enough Australia Day honours to recognise those who have stepped up, gave up and taken up the responsibilities and tasks our communities just couldn't do without. Our service clubs, our sporting clubs, our educators and people who just quietly do the stuff they do without a fuss or

recognition. You know who you are...thank you. The Westpac Rescue Helicopter, health related causes, kids sport, the elderly, the homeless, the unlucky, the environment, the arts and education are just some of the areas where countless good things have been done. The nights and days invested and the lack of sleep and sanity people have sacrificed has made and continues to make a difference. Money, whether donated, raffled or sizzled on a barbie, has kept a lot of it going by supporting that hard work. Money helps to keep the people doing the things they do. **A lot of that money has come from the mining industry.** To the skeptics, millions have been given and millions more

will be given each year. Most in the industry do it willingly and with passion. What I think our industry is not doing well though is showcasing and celebrating the industry achievements in the community, not for adulation or bragging, but to better show the community that the industry is proactively engaged. Our mining companies like to keep it quiet. Community relations are an authentic way to showcase industry commitment. Humility is admirable, but 'flying under the radar' certainly does nothing to promote our industry or even more importantly, the goals of those who we support and many could use all the promotion they can get to help raise their profile. To the people in our industry and community I know who really do the hard yards on the ground. The Trav's, the Dave's, the Tash's, the Bel's and the Kate's. The

Bernie's, the Danny's, the Craig's, the Deidra's, the Suzie's and the Reggie's. To the Di's, the Drew's and the Joe's. The Tracey's, the Sol's, the Kari's, the Gill's, the Mike's, the John's, the Martin's and Matt's and the people above them that sign off on the important stuff. It's a long list and intentionally so. I know I have missed or don't even know many. I could fill this entire magazine if I kept going, but I've named a few some will know and many won't, to remind you that despite the headlines, mining is and always will be a very human business and part of this community. You are all the finest of people and good to the core. Inspiring, generous of spirit and true leaders of our community's in your own unique and special ways. You are the dreamers and the doers... keep up the good work. The whole lot of you should shout yourself a beer... you've bloody well earned it!



PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS WITH MAYOR BOB PYNSENT AND CESSNOCK COUNCIL GENERAL MANAGER STEPHEN GLEN

MINING SUPPORTING EMPLOYMENT FOR OUR KIDS

YANCOAL HAS PROVIDED FUNDING FOR A NEW PROJECT TACKLING YOUTH UNEMPLOYMENT IN OUR LOCAL AREA.

A new landmark program launched by Cessnock City Council hopes to address the serious concern of

the youth unemployment in the Hunter region. Stage one of the project sees 20

young people undertaking work placement at Council facilities including the Hunter Valley Visitor Centre. Participants will gain training, valuable qualifications and will learn skills in customer service, RSA, RCG, first aid, communications and work health and safety. The volunteer trainees will be provided with training and support to assist them in securing paid work at the end of a 10-week involvement. If the program is successful it will likely be rolled out to every council across Australia. It's great to see mining business like Yancoal supporting our youth and we hope to see more of it in the future. It is also testament to how much more our industry does than just mining.

'AVE A LAUGH WITH



Little Dinky bought his Grandma a very nice, luxurious toilet brush for her birthday. But when he went to visit her a couple of weeks later, it wasn't in the bathroom. Little Dinky asked his Grandma, "Gran, what happened to the toilet brush I gave you?" "Darling, I'm sorry but I just didn't like it. After all those years, I've gotten used to the toilet paper, and this new thing was just too scratchy."



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COAL GETS THE GREEN

THE LONG HISTORY OF MUSWELLBROOK COAL GETS TO FINISH WHAT IT PROUDLY STARTED OVER 100 YEARS AGO.

Muswellbrook Council has green lighted the go ahead for Muswellbrook Coal to keep contributing to the region for another 6 years in a well supported decision by Council this month.

It seems the good news for our local industry keeps on coming for now and both community and industry confidence is continuing to rise. Approvals such as this are vital to Hunter resident's and local businesses future.

Mike Kelly, Muswellbrook Chamber of Commerce and Industry President, was upbeat about the potential it delivers to local business and the community.

"The Chamber is really pleased to see operations able to continue to 2022 and we are obviously very happy that employment will be maintained which is great for the community. Allowing such an historic operation to continue to optimize the resource is a good result for all and it gives the company time to consider options for future expansion."

Senior Operations Manager, Grant Clouten said, "A win for the community and employees of the mine. It's also pleasing to know we have support across multiple groups within the community for the mine to continue operations. For the company though what we are most proud of is that we will maintain and even slightly increase our workforce to around 160.

THE FUTURE LOOKS GOOD FOR MUSWELLBROOK COAL



BUSH BLOOMS AT BLOOMFIELD

THE BUSH IS BLOOMING THANKS TO SUCCESSFUL REMEDIATION WORK AT THE OLD WASHERY SITE ON BUCHANAN ROAD.

Most people think that former mine sites leave permanent scars on the landscape but as you can see by the attached images this is clearly not the case.

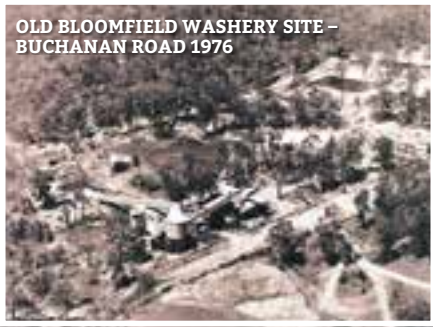
40 years ago if you took a drive along Buchanan Road at East Maitland you would pass straight through an active coal mine washing plant site. Now you'll see grazing cattle and native forest and it's hard to believe that it's the same place.

The Bloomfield Group Chairman John Richards is proud that they are getting it right when it comes to rehabilitation. "It always gives us a sense of achievement when utilised land is tidied up and returned to natural form. It's almost impossible to tell what used to happen here, and that's what we always try to achieve whether it's an old washery or an old pit site."

The Bloomfield Group utilises



VIEWS TODAY FROM BUCHANAN ROAD



OLD BLOOMFIELD WASHERY SITE - BUCHANAN ROAD 1976

multiple rehabilitation techniques, including stripping topsoil ahead of mining for use in rehabilitation and backfilling in a manner to blend with the surrounding topography.

Appropriate grass and tree seeding

'AVE A LAUGH WITH

"Madam, your son just called me ugly!"

The mother apologizes shamefacedly, "I'm so sorry, I must have told him like a thousand times it is wrong to judge people just from how they look..."

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GREENER PASTURES

MINING BUFFER LAND HAS BECOME AN OPPORTUNITY FOR COMPANIES LIKE RIO TINTO TO EXPLORE NEW PROSPECTS AND HAVE A POSITIVE IMPACT ON THE ENVIRONMENT AND OUR COMMUNITIES.

Legislation requires that mining companies purchase land surrounding their sites and designate it as a buffer zone with certain restrictions on its use, but as Coal & Allied has demonstrated this can benefit both the mining company and the community.

This has certainly proven true for Michael & Mel Hassett, a young couple who successfully tendered for buffer lands from the company. The 559 hectares of land on the outskirts on Singleton borders the beautiful Hunter River and the Hassett's are operating a dairy farm on its green pastures with over 400 head of cattle.

This hardworking couple are up before the sun and their day finishes long after sundown but being 4th generation dairy farmers they love what they do.

But they would never have had the opportunity without the support of Rio Tinto owned Coal & Allied who were confident the couple had what it takes to manage a multi-million dollar enterprise.

It is great to see young families having the opportunity to relocate

and operate a business on the scale required to be a successful. These days with land and startup costs it's almost impossible to get a successful farm going.

Peter Bowman from Coal & Allied's Land and Tenements team says they are encouraging knowledgeable, passionate and dedicated people to lease their lands and the Hassett's are a perfect example. Their land management skills and dedication to safety means they are having a positive impact on the land and are an economically sound investment.

Coal & Allied's leaseholders don't just include dairy farmers. They also lease lands for industrial hemp production, beef farming and even an emerging recreational equestrian market has also found a home on their land.

With times tough for dairy farmers, it's great our mining industry is there to offer support. And we can take that one step further and make sure we are buying the branded milk products that make a huge difference to farmers like Michael and Mel.

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Snooping down around Maitland this month @ The Coalface decided to pop in on Quarry Mining. If you don't know them, Quarry's a family business started over 34 years ago, supplying drilling consumables to mines. We spoke to Kari Armitage who runs the show, about business, the industry, life and what it takes to prosper these days.

Under Kari's leadership, Quarry has gone from strength to strength and now has 40 staff and operations in Beresfield, Mackay and Sydney. These days they service mining regions across NSW, QLD and Tasmania along with the current large tunnel infrastructure projects in Sydney.

"When I first got here Mum and Dad had dial up email which they'd check once a week and we didn't have a computer system so to speak," said Kari, "I met our General Manager, Phill Breese, an ex-underground miner, employed him and he hit the road. What we achieve together by helping our customers with everything from finding one small missing hose fitting, to providing a whole drilling solution or an innovative product to solve an industry wide problem is what has built this place."

To give you an idea of what Kari and Quarry is about, she told us a funny 'little' story; "On site one day with a rep, the site store manager says to him 'Is that little thing over there really your boss?' 'Don't let her fool you, she might look little, but she grows 10 feet tall when she's cranky! We know Kari to be one of

the nicest around, but she's a 'no bull' person to say the least, so we'd wholeheartedly agree!

She continued, "I love the teamwork that comes with being a miner. It's a hard job in a hazardous environment. I have so much respect for those who spend their days underground. I think it takes a particularly strong-minded person to do the job and I respect that a lot, and it's taught me a lot as well. You have to be tough."

2016 HAS BEEN THE TOUGHEST YEAR YET

"I hate that it went gangbusters and people got greedy when things were booming. People thinking they can just go in with no skill or experience and take home huge money was the wrong way. We've got the skill, the smarts and commitment and that's why we are still around and will be for a long time yet. Every day is a



"WE'LL ALWAYS MAINTAIN THE EXCEPTIONAL PRODUCT, SERVICE AND MANUFACTURING WE'VE BEEN KNOWN FOR AND STRIVED TO PROVIDE."

huge challenge to make sure that this business survives in the mining supply chain.

"In the last few years there has been a real focus on our products and the mines are really squeezing the price out of us and everyone else. In many ways I understand it, they were under pressure so it's only to be expected we shoulder our share of the load. We saw it coming though and we had a bit of time to plan and build robustness into the business. You have to learn and never take it for granted. Complacency is your enemy.

"The biggest impact has been working out how to continue to

manufacture in our own back yard. Recently we've had to take some of our core products and make them in lower cost countries to be competitive. We are the last manufacturer of this type of mining drilling consumables left in Australia now and we are determined to keep as much of it here in the Hunter as we can.

"In 2017 we will be continually looking at R n D projects and are also branching out in to a different area of mining. Watch this space for some news on that in early 2017.

On top of this there are plenty of other positives on the horizon with Quarry signing a deal to distribute




what has been a very tough road with a heap of class and professionalism. "

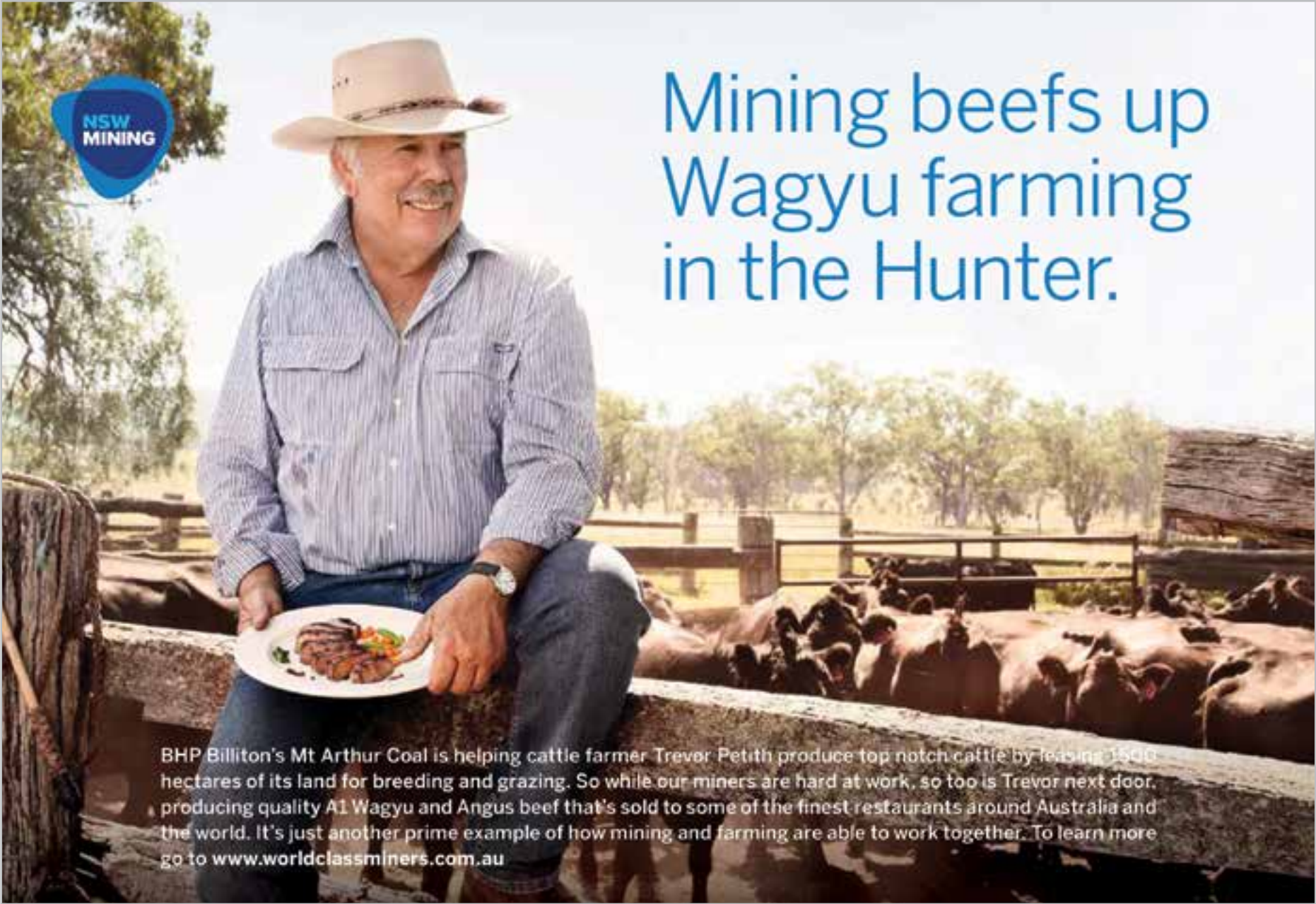
"Tony Cade for his incredible inspiration when I felt 'It's all just too hard' he called me and we spoke about all things people like us do for the region. I didn't lose focus for minute in the 12 months that followed that conversation. "

"Katie Brassil is that strong woman in my mining life as well as a great friend. She gives me a little dose of reality in the most delicate way when I need it. She understands being a woman in this industry and how not to make a fuss of that and just get on with it. She is always there when I need her."

Culturally Quarry are about as community as they come. From big support for the Rescue Helicopters to Books in Homes' which gives each Beresfield Infants School student 3 new books, 3 times a year. They also ride their bikes to raise money for various charities all the time, which keeps them fit and healthy as well. Community is a huge part of what makes them tick.

On Kari's secrets to staying alive, chocolate, exercise, her beautiful 7-year-old daughter and the band The Waifs are the key ingredients. May Quarry lead the way for many years to come, and we are sure they damn will.





Mining beefs up Wagyu farming in the Hunter.

BHP Billiton's Mt Arthur Coal is helping cattle farmer Trevor Petith produce top notch cattle by leasing 1500 hectares of its land for breeding and grazing. So while our miners are hard at work, so too is Trevor next door, producing quality A1 Wagyu and Angus beef that's sold to some of the finest restaurants around Australia and the world. It's just another prime example of how mining and farming are able to work together. To learn more go to www.worldclassminers.com.au

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WESTRAC STUDENTS AT THE NEWCASTLE FACILITY.



WESTRAC ON THE RIGHT TRACK

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Located in the world's largest Caterpillar dealer facility, the Newcastle WesTrac Institute introduces students to the very latest in Cat equipment management. The Cat brand is easily the best known in the world and their big, heavy machines are synonymous with the mining industry. The opportunity to have hands on training on these awesome machines is what makes WesTrac a leader in the industry. Their huge facility has the capacity to train up to 350 apprentices at any one time. Their huge state of the art workshop means there's plenty of room to maneuver all those Cat bad boys. They also train up to 4,000 students in post-trade courses

annually making it easy for workers to upskill. Mr. Gary Sewell, the newly appointed NSW Training Manager for WesTrac Institute says, "We have the most amazing facilities, the best I have seen in any RTO within Australia. We are committed to be the RTO of choice for the broad heavy equipment industry in NSW." **TRAINING PROGRAMS THAT BUILD SKILLS FOR LIFE** The Institute not only offers onsite training, but they will come to your workplace or teach you online and as no two training needs are the same and their programs are designed to address this. To find out more and the courses offered contact Mr. Gary Sewell on (02) 4923 7469.

CHEERS BIG STEERS

THE Tocal COLLEGE STEER CHALLENGE GETS BIGGER AND BETTER EVERY YEAR THANKS TO SUPPORT FROM COAL & ALLIED.

The Coal & Allied Community Development Fund has supported the competition since 2012 and each year the turnout has increased with 260 students involved this year. There were 12 local high schools in the competition with the young students showing off their cattle handling skills. Paterson Primary School also represented the even younger young 'uns and placed a respectable 5th in the competition. The sought after first prize went to Hunter River High School for the second time in 5 years. The interactive steer challenge



THE TRUE CHAMPION OF THE DAY.

sees schools "borrow" a steer from Tocal and feed and prepare it for showing while learning about the beef industry. The program runs during school terms over 85 days allowing students to learn about commitment and responsibilities. Events like these encourage young people to get into the industry and help ensure its future. That and the fact that everyone loves a steak.



WINNING STUDENTS FROM THE STEER CHALLENGE.

CHRIS BENNETT



MINER TAKES A SIDE BET ON THE HORSES

SHOWING THE DIVERSITY AND RESILIENCE TO TOUGH OUT THE DOWNTURN, CHRIS BENNETT OF SINGLETON EARTHMOVING TOOK AN UNLIKELY DETOUR ON HORSEBACK AND LEARNT A FEW LESSONS.

Chris has a message he thinks everyone in mining should listen to - especially now that things look to be on the up. Diversify so you don't get caught out again. Like many mining contractors in the region, it was sink or swim when things were a bit tough. Although they're only just beginning to get better now, the down turn also taught him a few lessons and created some unlikely opportunities that made sure they diversified in other ways to stay in the game. **DIVERSIFICATION SHOULD BE A KEY PART OF EVERYONES LONG TERM STRATEGY** Chris relayed an interesting story to us, so we went out to investigate and see what he had to say. Not really knowing one end of a horse from the other, Chris told us about a call he got one day from Phillipa Burns asking if he could build a first class dressage arena. He said yes right away before realising he didn't actually have a clue. Mining earthworks are a little bit different he quickly remembered. Chris went on to tell the story,

"Making a competition grade dressage arena wasn't something we'd normally do, or had ever even considered to be a legitimate opportunity, but with the assistance of an old self proclaimed surveyor in Bernie Wood, a bit of research and the operational skills of Darren Cully, we managed to put it together to a standard that surprised everyone. And we kept it all local to make sure the benefits stayed here. The job was done with help from Hebden Quarry, sand from Denman, and huge timber poles trucked in by Crawfords from Millfield making it a really great local project. You don't know where opportunities lie and while this wasn't a huge one we did learn a big lesson out of it. Opportunity is like coal; you just need to mine every seam to get the best value out of your business whatever the conditions. While many are getting excited about potential mining opportunities on the horizon, now is also the time to plan for the future because industry cycles will always be a reality of life.

TOGETHER WE GROW.

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MAITLAND LANDS
ON ITS FEET

THE ONGOING LEVEE DEVELOPMENT AT MAITLAND HOPES TO BRING BACK TO LIFE THIS ONCE BUSTLING COAL CITY.

It used to be that Maitland was the place to be, a busy mall, beautiful architecture and history and amazing parks and facilities. Over the past couple of decades new competition from Greenhills and Rutherford saw its popularity slowly declining to the point that

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walking up the mall was more reminiscent of a ghost town then a lively city centre. Fortunately, that’s all changing and its mainly because of the Levee development. The Levee is connecting the city to the beautiful Hunter River and making it accessible for people to enjoy. Dining, busking, entertainment and events are now on offer helping to turn it into a cultural and entertainment hub well worth a visit. Construction has just begun on the second component of the development, the Riverlink Building, a \$9.92 million creation of a public open space, amenities and a café which will connect the Hunter River and High Street. Maitland Council General Manager David Evans is pleased with the progress of the development. “It’s great news that work is starting on The Riverlink Building. The community has embraced The Levee and this project will strengthen the city’s historic relationship with the Hunter River.” Already local businesses say the first stage of developments have increased their business and are looking forward to Maitland becoming a premier lifestyle precinct when the project is finished in 2017. When you look at the broader picture from not only Maitland, but also Singleton’s main street upgrade and the Muswellbrook town centre investment, it certainly appears a bright new day is dawning for our coal communities across the Hunter.

NEWCASTLE IS IN POLE POSITION

THE HON ANTHONY ROBERTS MP, MINISTER FOR INDUSTRY, RESOURCES AND ENERGY AND LEADER OF THE HOUSE, WAS GUEST SPEAKER FOR THE RECENT HUNTER BUSINESS MINING EVENT HELD AT NOAH’S ON THE BEACH.

All the important names of the Hunter Mining Industry attended the October 25 meeting and @ The Coalface managed to sneak in while no one was looking to find out what the future was looking like for our industry. The mood was positive due to the recent increases in coal prices and the talk was big, but unfortunately it did seem that all the talk was about what was in store for Newcastle and as often happens the Upper Hunter was barely mentioned. Its great Newcastle is getting attention and the plans for the V8 race to be held annually, the new cruise ship port and other economic opportunities are fully deserved and supported. However, the Upper Hunter does a hell of a lot of work for the NSW

economy and the support back from the government in terms of funding and initiatives has been a bit lacking in past years even with Resources for Regions. Mr. Roberts did make mention of this unfair history of our communities going largely unrecognised and said change was underway to make sure we got our fair share. We look forward to the Hunter taking a bigger slice of pie and taking first place as the regional powerhouse that it is.

THE HON ANTHONY ROBERTS MP ADDRESSING THE HUNTER MINING INDUSTRY. (IMAGE: AJM PHOTOGRAPHY, HUNTER BUSINESS CHAMBER)

MINING AGRICULTURE

GREATER PARALLEL ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY EXISTS FOR AGRICULTURE

NOT ONLY CAN AND DOES MINING AND AGRICULTURE COEXIST, AGRICULTURE COULD BE PUSHED EVEN FURTHER IN PURSUIT OF INNOVATION, OPPORTUNITY AND PARALLEL ECONOMIC BENEFIT ON MINE LAND.

Imagine creating 20 world-class innovative productive and profitable agricultural enterprises in one hit while showcasing the mining industry as a leading agricultural innovator and high value developer. It’s no secret that the mining industry has some of the brightest minds in agriculture, science, land and natural resource management and environment. Now imagine putting a few of those people to work creating a highly diversified, productive and future thinking farmland development. Using principles like those applied to residential and commercial precinct development, create a farming community of the future. The untested thinking around this concept is to take say 1200 acres and divide it up into 20 properties with centralized infrastructure that supports the ‘agricultural resident landowners’.

Designed and landscaped like a gated community, 20 agricultural enterprise properties of around 50 acres each could undertake production of things like:

- Aquaculture
- Breeding
- Hydroponics
- Produce
- Seedlings
- Poultry
- Equine
- Cattle
- Piggery
- Nursery
- Market garden
- Forestry
- Education
- Turf
- Medicinal cannabis
- Citrus

Supporting this would be a central hub or ‘town centre’ servicing, supporting and value adding to the enterprises with infrastructure such as:

- Processing
- Distribution
- Warehousing
- Retail and wholesale
- Engineering
- Plant hire
- Management, support and marketing services

High in concept but actually somewhat basic in achievability, the above is only a small portion of what could be realised in a relatively short period of time. It would attract external investment, create a spirit of entrepreneurial agriculture thinking, bring new people and skills to the Hunter and be a significant economic driver.

HELPING A LITTLE LEGEND

WE DID TOSS AROUND THE IDEA OF PUTTING THIS MONTH’S COMMUNITY GIFT TOWARDS OUR CHRISTMAS PARTY, BUT A REMARKABLE YOUNG LADY NAMED JESSICA KOWALSKI CONVINCED US OTHERWISE.

You’ll get to know Jess yourself as we’ve featured her amazing story in this month’s edition. For the last 5 years, Jess has been running a Christmas Hamper program alongside the Maitland Neighbourhood Centre. What’s makes this even more impressive is she’s only 10!

The Christmas Hampers provide food and toys to local families who are doing it tough. In past years through the mining downturn, its seen miners who’ve been laid off before Christmas lining up too, because tough times can come to anyone at any time. In the spirit of Christmas @ The Coalface partner, Bearcat Tyres is writing a cheque for Jessica’s much needed cause for \$500.

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A HARD ACT TO FOLLOW

FEW COULD MATCH THE CAREER, ACHIEVEMENTS AND TIME SPENT IN MINING OF THIS BLOKE. WANT TO KNOW HOW TO GO THE DISTANCE? THIS MAN COULD TEACH YOU A THING OR TWO.

Reg Crick isn't so much well known in mining – he is mining. If ever someone bled black then it's Reg, and he wouldn't change anything, except one thing.

In 1964 Reg started a 52-year journey in Hunter Valley coal. Fresh from his leaving certificate he had a choice of options and chose to place his bet on a surveying cadetship at Newstan Colliery. He managed to get his Mining Survey qualifications in 1969 and looking to progress, he applied for a job as a mine surveyor at Bloomfield. Hard work and dedication met with a bit of luck as he studied for his

Undermanager's certificate in the 70s. Just as he became qualified, his superior retired and at the ripe old age of 23 he became Undermanager. Having taken to this mining thing like a duck to water, Reg continued studying and got his Mine Manager qualifications around 1977 and true to form became Mine Manager at Bloomfield.

46 YEARS IS A LONG TIME TO BE A COALMINER!

A short 46 years later and he has done just about every job there is to do in mining. Enviro, human resources, industrial relations and public

relations are all desks he's parked his feet under.

Reg said, "Being a smaller organization it allowed me to obtain a diverse set of skills. The underground closed in 92 but I was already in open cut by then. In 1989 when the Rix's Creek mine opportunity came up, I was fortunate to head up the team that presented the case to regulators and the public to open the mine. It was the biggest challenge of my career and I am very proud of what we achieved in the face of opposition and complexity. We have been very successful and enjoy terrific relations with the town despite being so close to the edge of town since we started. We set up the very first Community Consultative Committee that delivered a collaborative nature and open communications."

Reg continued, "Bloomfield has been a pleasure. They have always been innovative and progressive and I've loved being part of that."



THE MAN BEHIND BLOOMFIELD, REG CRICK

Reg then became serious as he told us about the single most important thing. Safety performance. He has lived it in ways he wished he hadn't. And that's where the one thing he regrets was revealed. Though a long time ago, there have been five fatalities and that is something that's hard. It's important that the standards we have now are so good and are a great comfort to him.

Now a member of the board, General Manager of Mining and Business Development, it's onward and upward enjoying the daily challenges.

Personally, his family fitted into mining life well but his son and daughter took their own paths out of the industry. The over achiever even won Australian and Pacific sailing titles and in 83 won the world championship with good friend Terry Kyrwood.

Down time fits in a bit of beach and lake fishing and he thinks that while there's a lot of fish to be caught, there's too much water mixed up with them.

A few of his favourite things include Bistro Molines, fishing The Drop at Swansea, The Royal Motor Yacht Club in Toronto, a beer at The George Tavern and time out at Halliday's Point.

On a final note Reg proudly made the point, "One thing I've been fortunate with is to never have been unemployed because I've worked with a great company and people. I'm not sure too many can say that."



A LEGENDARY LAST LAP

THE LAST EVER FORD SIX-CYLINDER AND V8 ENGINE ROLLED OFF THE PRODUCTION LINE LAST MONTH, MARKING THE END OF AN ERA FOR AUSTRALIA'S OLDEST CAR MANUFACTURER. FOR 91 YEARS, SINCE 1925, FORD AUSTRALIA HAVE BEEN BUILDING THE ENGINES FOR ONE OF AUSTRALIA'S BEST LOVED MOTOR CARS.

Holden fans shouldn't get too cocky, either. Sadly, Ford is the first of the big three Australian car makers to switch off the factory lights after the demise of the local industry was announced in 2013.

The finishing up at Ford also means it's the end of the road for the Ford Falcon, an iconic piece of Australian motoring history and culture, and the spark for plenty of heated

debate amongst Aussie rev heads, especially around the time of the Bathurst 1000. And this means those of us who support the blue oval badge and are lucky enough to own one will now be driving around in a collector's item.

It's a damn shame, because the latest model Falcon XR6 and XR8 looks the goods too. Sleek, stylish and mean as, unlike that sad looking nightmare model from the late 90s. You know the one we're talking about. The one that looked like the robot from Short Circuit and had about as much head room as a bloody submarine! The Ford Falcon XR8 Sprint is an entirely different kind of beast, looking more like the T-1000 from Terminator 2, especially when the lights are on.

The Sprint's underpinnings are a development of the R-SPEC settings for the double wishbone (front) and multi-link (rear) debuted by Ford Performance Vehicles in 2012. There are new geometries and spring rates, re-valved ZF Sachs monotube dampers and staggered Pirelli P Zero tyres, instead of the traditional Dunlop Super Maxx rubber.

Armed with a bespoke Sprint version of Ford's supercharged 5.0-litre V8, and helped by an 'overboost' function, it packs up

Give one a spin at Highway Ford, Maitland. Phone: 1300 823 730

to 400kW of power and 650Nm of torque, though, Ford's spec sheet quotes 345kW and 575Nm. It's the last in a long line of V8 rear-wheel drive sports sedans to be designed, engineered, developed and manufactured in Australia by Ford. It went on-sale back in May, priced at \$59,990 (plus on roads) for the six-speed manual and \$62,190 (plus on roads) for the six-speed auto.

THE AU XR FALCON RANGE OF THE LATE 90'S HASN'T AGED WELL, STILL LOOKING A LOT LIKE THE ROBOT FROM SHORT CIRCUIT.



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REST ON THE GROUND FOR STABILITY

MAKING MINERS OF THE FUTURE

EVEN DURING THE TOUGH YEARS, BENGALLA MINE'S APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM HAS STAYED STRONG.

Every year before Christmas, Bengalla partners with MIGAS Apprentices & Trainees to host four young starters for their 4-year apprenticeship program and this has not changed even during the tough times of recent years.

The four lucky apprentices undergo hands on experience at Muswellbrook TAFE's Mining Skills Centre during their first year which is integral to them learning the skills they need to conquer the industry.

On completion of the program they will be qualified electrical or plant engineers and will have Bengalla's

commitment to training to thank.

Each year Bengalla also supports their workforce of 16 apprentices to participate in their Apprentice Development Program which involves them working on a community project. This year in early December they will be building an Indigenous Meeting Place in Muswellbrook.

It's great to see these apprentices learning not only the skills to set them up for a successful career but also learning the importance of supporting the communities they live in.

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ON THE FLY

FROM WADERS TO REELS, TYING FLIES TO THE ART OF CASTING, EVERYTHING ABOUT FLY-FISHING CAN BE PRETTY INTIMIDATING, ESPECIALLY IF YOU'RE A BEGINNER.

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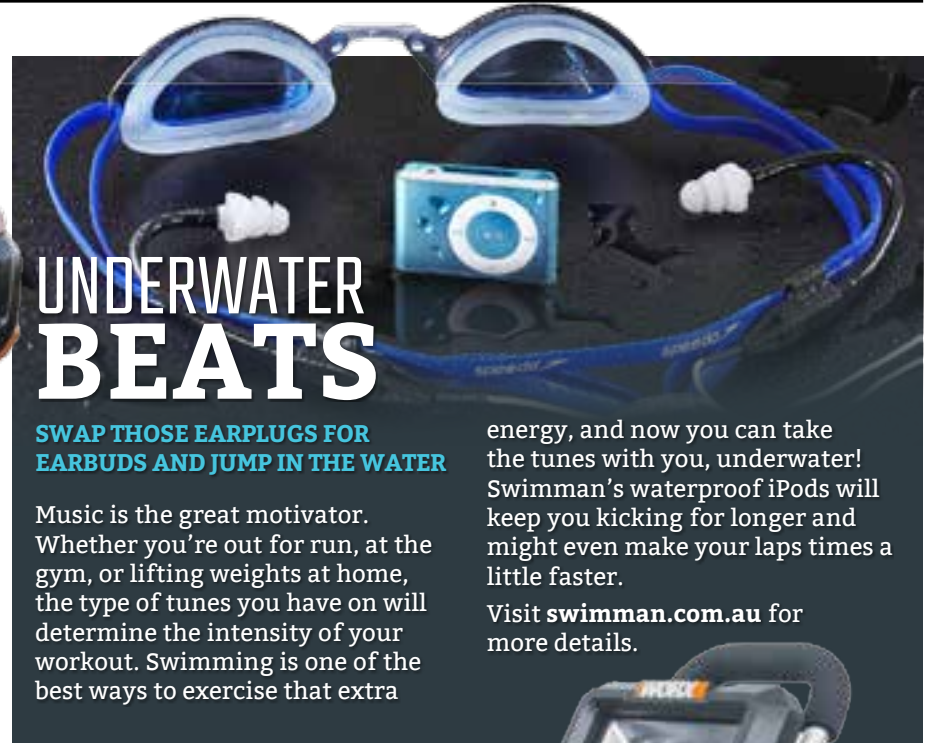


TAME THE BEAST

IN THEORY, YOU COULD BRING THE MEAN LOOKING FORD RANGER WILDTRAK TO THE WORK SITE, BUT WE ALL KNOW IT'S WAY MORE FUN TO DRIVE IT A LONG WAY AWAY IN THE OTHER DIRECTION!

And doesn't a little bit of luxury go a long way? From heated seats and mirrors, to 18-inch wheels, parking sensors including front and rear camera, powered driver's seat and of course floor mats, the Wildtrak certainly makes the work-life balance a little easier. Plus, the five-star ANCAP safety rating means the kids will be safe and sound on your weekend warrior road trips. From \$57,890 (plus on-roads).

Visit ford.com.au for more details.



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energy, and now you can take the tunes with you, underwater! Swimman's waterproof iPods will keep you kicking for longer and might even make your laps times a little faster.

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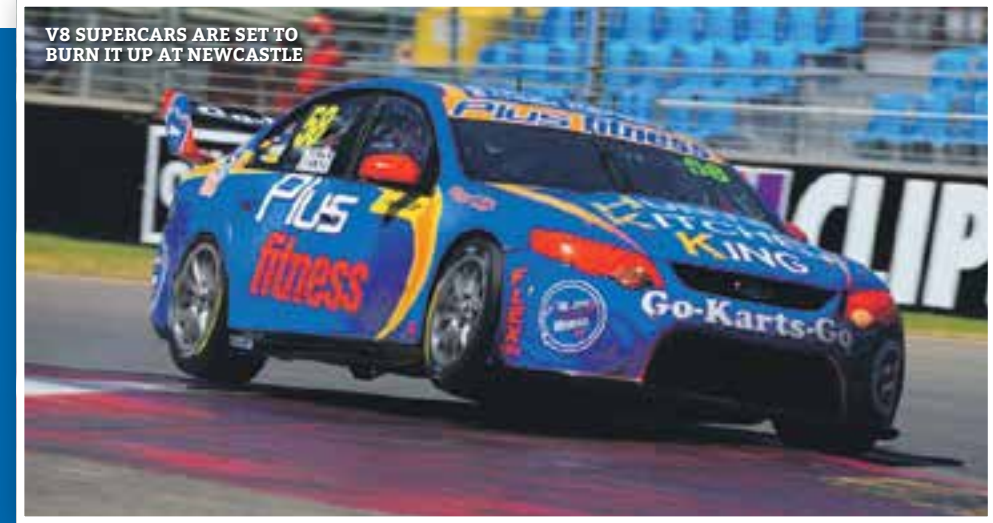
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READY, SET, NEWCASTLE!

2017 WILL SEE NEWCASTLE HOSTING THE V8 SUPERCARS, PREVIOUSLY HELD AT SYDNEY OLYMPIC PARK.

How good is this?! Off the back of the recent success of the Supermoto event held on the Newcastle foreshore, the city will now host the V8 Supercars 500 championship for the next five years! NSW Premier, Mike Baird made the announcement while visiting God's country back in September. The race meet was previously held in Sydney, out at Olympic Park, but will move to Newcastle Foreshore at the end of the 2017 race calendar. The boffins that think about that sort of stuff have made early predictions of just over 80,000 visitors to the region, all coming from near and far to hear the grumbling roar of 55, eight-cylinder

V configuration engines rolling with impunity around the world's most beautiful coastline. Sounds good, doesn't it? 22-year-old Newy born racer Aaren Russell, who drives for Lucas Dumbrell Motorsport, told the Newcastle Herald it's "a bloody awesome idea" and promises to be "one of the best tracks we go to" in 2017. The awesome

track hasn't been finalised, yet, but it's been proposed by some that it should take in Nobby's and Newcastle beaches on the Shortland Esplanade, right along the water's edge, before heading up towards Watt St and then back to the starting line along Wharf Rd. There's no doubt that locals from the Hunter Valley and Newcastle love their sport, and with the Knights not looking too flash at the moment, the V8's coming to town will give us all another reason to cheer with passion and with pride. Hopefully one of the local mining companies will stump up for a corporate box for a few of us! Regardless, I'd say most of us will be there anyway.



NEWCASTLE BORN RACE AAREN RUSSELL CAN'T WAIT TO RACE ON HIS HOME TURF.



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BEN STILL IN THE HILARIOUS MOVIE, DODGEBALL: A TRUE UNDERDOG STORY.

BALLS AND ALL

DID YOU KNOW THAT THERE'S A DODGEBALL LEAGUE IN MAITLAND AND NEWCASTLE?

Nah. Neither did we... And to be honest, we've not really thought about the game since Vince Vaughn and Ben Stiller had us doubled over in pain from too much laughter watching their movie, *DodgeBall: A True Underdog Story*. The rules of the game are pretty simple; two teams of six players try to throw balls at each other while trying to avoid being hit themselves. Each match lasts about an hour, with a five-minute break between halves. The Newcastle league has just wrapped up, with Thursday nights at Howzat Newcastle being the scene of pain and laughter for the last ten weeks or so. The Maitland league is about get under way over at the Maitland Indoor Sports Centre, in Rutherford. This season's teams

include the formidable sounding Hotdoggers, Sitting Ducks, and Mutive Scoregasms. That last team sounds like they might be tough to beat off on the night! Issac McIntyre from Newcastle Dodgeball League, who organizes both competitions says, "this isn't Friday afternoon PE class. New players are itching to get out onto the court and they hate to be called out for stepping over the line and into the no-contact zone, or not staying behind the attack line." We're no Dodgeball pro's, here @TheCoalface, but we reckon that you'd best scrub up on the rules before becoming a dodgy Dodgeball superstar like White Goodman and Peter La Fleur. Get more information and get involved at newcastledodgeball.com

WINNERS ARE SWIMMERS

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The Swimman underwater ipod in a classic silver is up for grabs. Best used while smashing out laps at the pool, it also works quite well in the bath! Valued at over \$200 and available from swimman.com.au, one lucky reader will score one for free. **For your chance to win, SMS: SWIMMAN and your email address to 0438 474 290.** Limit of one entry per person.



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SHANE
COMPLETING THE
PORT MACQUARIE
IRONMAN EARLIER THIS YEAR.



WILLIAM BURKE FOLLOWING
IN HIS DADS FOOTSTEPS.

Working rotating rosters is a tough gig but try adding a 20 hour training schedule to your week. But the upside to working night and arvo shifts means that Shane can be out training in daylight while most of us are stuck behind desks.

In an average week, Shane will swim over 10km, cycle over 300km and run over 60km. But it's not the job or the training that leaves him exhausted, it's running around after his two young sons that pushes his limits.

"It's a balancing act most of the time, family comes first but it's a bit of a juggling act to manage everything especially as it's always changing. I'm so lucky to have an amazing wife supporting me and my kids are always yelling at me to keep going Dad. It's an awesome feeling having them cheering

me on, it makes all the hard effort worth it when I cross that line. That and having a few well deserved beers after!"

When Shane has an event on it's become a family tradition to pack up the campervan and head out to a new destination. They've had some great holidays to places they probably

would not have even considered before Shane got into the sport. Though to Shane it's still just a hobby.

"It's really just a hobby, but one that I'll admit I'm a little addicted too, there is such a good vibe in the ironman community and I've made such good friends but hands down the best thing is having my kids look up to me. My son William has even competed in a couple of kids Ironmen events trying to be like his old man. It's those things that make me keep pushing."

**BEFORE HE EVEN
STARTS WORK, SHANE
HAS EXPENDED
MORE ENERGY THEN
MOST OF US DO IN
AN ENTIRE WEEK OF
WORKING OUT**

Shane doesn't think there's anything special about what he does. We ask him how he motivates himself to get up early before work to hit the road or pool. "It's easy if you like what you're doing, some days it's harder to find the motivation but you just have to suck it up. There's always the thought in the back of mind that I'm lucky to be doing this, that a lot of people can't do what I take for granted."

Perhaps we all should wipe the cobwebs from our bikes and see what we're missing out on. Or maybe just stick to watching it on television!

SHAPING COAL INTO IRON

ONLY FIVE YEARS AGO THE MOST EXERTING THING WAMBO U/G OPERATOR SHANE BURKE DID ON A WEEKEND WAS CARRY THE SLAB IN FROM THE CAR AFTER FINISHING WORK. NOW HE'S OUT TESTING THE LIMITS OF HIS BODY AND MIND COMPETING ON THE IRONMAN CIRCUIT.

We've all seen them on the television, those guys and girls that spend hours battling the currents in the water, endless cycling on the bike and then finishing it off pounding the pavement. And we all wonder what on earth makes them do it.

For Shane, it simply started with a wish to get into shape before his son was born. He was spending a typical

day on the lounge with a beer in one hand and the remote in the other when one of those do good get fit ads flashed up warning about the risks of diabetes and heart disease. For the first time, it hit home that he'd better do something to make sure he was going to be around for a long time. He pulled his rusty bike out of the shed, pumped up the tyres and so it began.



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reverse travel and eliminating the need for K-turns at loading and unloading sites.

Now don't get us wrong, Cat was no slouch, launching their 291

tonne capacity 794AC truck, 18M Grader and for real impact placing a 994K Wheel Loader in the middle of their display (a real whopper let me tell you, when viewed inside a

convention haul, sorry hall...) For those Cat, Liebherr and Hitachi reps out there reading this article, don't be disheartened, we intend on providing a full wrap up of each of your displays in our coming issues.

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DAN THE DOLPHIN

FINGER LICKIN'
GOOD!

SO MANY FISH...SO LITTLE TIME

Some better weather has brought on a few opportunities to get out and about over the past month. Overall the fishing across the region has been great with plenty of reports from all areas. Lake Mac has been the stand out again with plenty of reports of Flathead and School Jew on the bite.

IMPOUNDMENT NATIVES

Lake Glenbawn found the fish firing with plenty of bass and yellowbelly on the attack throughout the day. A mix of classic Aussie bibbed deep diving lures did the damage as the fish were

found suspended along the submerged river beds with 50mm AC slim invaders, Serge lures and Ferral Catts providing the goods.

The snapper hunt is still on with a few good fish reported caught from Broughton Island to Seal Rocks. We managed a couple of hours recently before the wind kicked us off the water. During October the snapper were found tucked in close to Broughton island taking lightly weighted plastics.

MARLIN BURST

An early Marlin bite happened off the bay with a mix of striped and the odd blue marlin hooked and caught on and around



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A blind man with a guide dog comes to a town square, takes the dog by the tail and starts whirling him around. "What on earth are you doing?!" asks a passer-by. The blind man replies, "Nothing, just looking around a bit."

the car park early to mid October. Watch this space as the water heats up so will the pelagic fishing offshore. Fisheries have also started the deployment of the FADS along the Hunter coast GPS co ordinates and deployment status information can be found at www.dpi.nsw.gov.au

FLATTIE FLICKING ALLWORTH

Had a bit of fun fishing the Allworth flathead classic on the 29-30th of October.



SNAPPY DAN

With the weather heads forecasting shocking weather with gale winds and plenty of rain, we were blessed with a couple of cracking days for the comp. We found the fishing over all to be hit and miss with the bite turning it on early both days. We had plenty caught and released although all our fish came up short behind the winning fish that came in at 74cm and runner up at 64cm the best we could manage was a 60cm fish caught early on the first day amongst the mangroves on very slow rolled Zman MinnowZ and SwimmerZ. Hook in kids... It's fishin' time. 'Till next month, **Thrifty's**



THE PROFESSOR OF LOVE

THIS MONTH OUR RESIDENT LOVE RAT, THE PROFESSOR OF PIE, THE ONE AND ONLY SWANKY PIE MINISTER SOL SOLMAN DECIDED TO WRITE A POEM OF LOVE FOR HIS FAVOURITE PIE JOINT DOWN MAITLAND WAY.

To my beautiful Blakeney...
My love how I have missed you... Oh how I've yearned to kiss you
When I look into your pies... My brain almost fry's
I only have pies for you... I only have pies for you
Oh Blakeney's how I love you... How I live for your warm embrace

Oh Blakeney's how I love you... For your frigging awesome taste
Oh Blakeney's... Oh Blakeney's... If you were a woman I'd leave my wife
Your bog standard's a ripper... one of the best I've had in my life
When I kiss you with my sweet lips... Always remember this...Your booty of delicious meat...Is so full it makes me weak

Nothing compares to you my love... You are like an angel from the



HIGH ON THE HOG

TWO AUSTRALIAN BBQ CHAMPIONS TAKE ON THE WORLD AND THEY WANT HUNTER BEEF ON THE PLATE NEXT.

Lesser known and traditionally cheaper cuts of meat are used to produce mouth watering treats which are cooked at between 110-130 degrees celsius. Michael Willcocks and Mitch Davis who spend quite a bit of time in

Barbecue in the Hunter and wider Australia is undergoing an evolution with people trading up their gas grills for solid fuel barbecues to jump on the Low & Slow cooking trend.

the area, recently represented Australia at the Jack Daniels World Championship in Lynchburg Tennessee. The Jack is the largest International event and the hardest to qualify for. Approximately 30,000 people head to Lynchburg, Tennessee every Fall and leave like stuffed pigs.

"The Hunter has some amazing beef and produce in the area that lends itself toward this style of outdoor cooking," explained Michael Willcocks. "There is a great competition up in Gloucester in May which has teams travel from all over Australia to compete. Anyone

I have never found Stacy saucy my love... Keep that twinkle in your eye... I'll be back down Maitland way so no need to cry
Oh Blakeney's...Oh Blakeney's you are always in my top five and that is not a lie... So never worry my love you'll always be a favourite pie.
Your body fits my mouth just like a glove... and all I can say from me is that it really is true love.
Till next we meat.... Remember... Ours is a love that can't be beat.
Yours eternally, **Saucy Sol xx**



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HARRIGAN’S IRISH PUB

FAMOUS FOR THEIR FOOD BUT LOVED FOR THEIR LAGERS.

Wandering in to Harrigan’s on a Thursday, I was greeted by a sign that read ‘Céad Mile Failtá’, which I found out is Celtic for ‘A thousand welcomes’.

And welcomed I was as the friendly staff had me greeted and seated in short order. As I made my way to the register to order from their new summer menu I took in the traditional Irish décor which conveyed a stylish and relaxed atmosphere. Scattered around were a number of families clearly enjoying



the laid back vibe with their kids.

Back at my table I was keen to sample the James Squire Tasting Paddle waiting for me– a selection of four brews ranging from light to dark, a steal for \$15. Take your paddle back to the bar you’ll receive a pint of your favorite ale on the house.

I didn’t wait long at all before I was served a plate of golden garlic bread – the best I’ve ever had. Next up was their version of a vegetarian pizza topped with sweet potato hummus, baby spinach, pimentos, corn, and mint yoghurt. The chunks of caramelized onions were a bit too much for my liking, and I’m still

DRIVE IN

THE HEDDON GRETA DRIVE IN LETS FAMILIES AND FRIENDS COSY UP TOGETHER AND WATCH THE LATEST MOVIES. UNTIL SOMEONE LETS ONE GO AND FORCES EVERYONE TO EVACUATE THE CAR.

With only four operational drive-in cinemas left in NSW we are lucky to have one in our backyard and it’s well worth a visit to this iconic venue.

With an upgraded system featuring Digital DCI it’s come a long way from the where it started back in the sixties and even the hard core movie goers are not going to complain about the view. Until that giant bloody moth gets stuck on your windscreen.

Prices are reasonable – only \$30 per vehicle for up

to 8 people! You’d be hard pressed in this day in age to do anything as a family for that amount of money. While they don’t have any EFTPOS facilities, there is an ATM in the restaurant but make sure you have cash to pay at the gate on arrival.

There is nothing quite like sitting under the stars and watching a movie with the kids while scoffing down a bucket of hot chips and sauce. If you prefer you can bring your own food and drinks have a picnic out of the boot. All you need to do is tune in your FM radio, sit back and enjoy.

If you’ve never been to Heddon Greta Drive In, you’re missing out. And as they say, if you don’t like the movie, slash the seats.

For session times go to drive-in.com.au or check out their Facebook page.



THE SEATS MAY HAVE CHANGED BUT THE EXPERIENCE IS STILL THE SAME.

‘AVE A LAUGH WITH



A priest asks the convicted murderer at the electric chair, “Do you have any last requests?”

“Yes,” replies the murderer. “Can you please hold my hand?”



PURPLE HAYES TAPAS BAR IS NEW RESTAURANT ON THE SCENE THAT HAS GOT TONGUES WAGGING AND MOUTHS SALIVATING.

Having opened their doors just a few short months ago, Purple Hayes Tapas Bar is already a favorite with the locals. Owner Lana Hayes has really put her heart and soul into the place, spending four solid months restoring the old milk bar haunt into a thriving, family friendly restaurant.

Walking through the door the amazing décor grabs your attention. Beautifully decorated tables and booths are offset by the dark floorboards and black ornate ceilings sparking an air of relaxed sophistication. The purple walls are covered in Lana’s impressive collection of music and movie memorabilia and bricked-in archways frame stunning music murals created by Maitland artist Mel Carol.

But enough of the décor it’s time to get down to the real business. The food. I love tapas, who doesn’t love ordering a bunch of different dishes instead of being stuck with one plate. And that’s what tapas is all about, offering up a variety of selections to enjoy with family and friends. Not to say you can’t dine by yourself and order one. Or two... Or three...

I sampled a variety of dishes including the Thai Beef Salad and

a tasting plate consisting of an Arancini Ball, Duck Spring Roll, Veggie Slider, Goats Cheese Tart (yum!) and Chicken Skewer with homemade dipping sauces. Every single ingredient marries perfectly with the next; their exclusive use of local fresh produce shines through in every tasty bite. Next time I’ll be sure to try to the sushi plate and the garlic and chilli prawns which are menu favourites.

Drink options are impressive, with a fine selection of wines and craft beers, as well as their signature Purple Hayes Cocktail and much more. They even have slushies for a hot summers day.

Another great thing that they’ve done is create a kids play area in the corner allowing mums and dads to have a time out with coffee and cake. The kids meals come out in their own little cardboard car to the delight of the little ones.

Purple Hayes Tapas Bar is located at 61 Vincent St Cessnock, open from 10.30am – 9.30pm Tuesday through Saturday with live music every Friday night. Perfect for family gatherings, private functions or simply a quick after work catch up with friends. Go on and see for yourself what all the fuss is about, you won’t be disappointed.



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BAND OF SKULLS COMING TO NEWCASTLE
TO CELEBRATE THE RELEASE OF THEIR FOURTH ALBUM ‘BY DEFAULT’, THE UK ROCK TRIO IS HEADING BACK TO AUSTRALIA THIS NOVEMBER!

With a string of headline national shows as well as a headline spot at Perth’s Disconnect festival, this will be the first time Australian audiences will be able to experience the sheer brilliance of the album in the flesh. “We went back to square

one”, says Matt Hayward. “It’s definitely a new era,” says lead singer Russell Marsden. “The first three records were like a trilogy, a piece of work in of themselves. We took a breath, took a look at what we’d done, and started from scratch again.”

Having toured relentlessly with the likes of Queens of the Stone Age, Red Hot Chili Peppers, The Black Keys, The Dead Weather and Muse, as well as countless music festival appearances (including memorable performances at Splendour in the Grass and Bluesfest), it’s no wonder Band of Skulls have garnered a reputation as one of the most exciting live bands in the world!



Band of Skulls will be performing one show only at the Cambridge Hotel, Newcastle on Saturday November 26th. Visit www.secretsoundstouring.com for further details.

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@ THE COALFACE CROSSWORD

ACROSS

1 What word for a ‘swag’ is also the name given to Australia’s first cloned sheep?

6 What Japanese company’s logo features three overlapping tuning forks?

7 Which side of the road do most countries in the world drive on - right or left?

8 Who is the founder of ‘Clean Up Day’ in Australia?

9 From which country do Proton cars originate?

11 From which country did the smorgasbord originate?

14 What word applies to a handbag without straps or handles and a pedal in a motor vehicle?

15 What plant is traditionally worn on St Patrick’s Day?

16 What word for the upper bony part of the nose is also the name of a card game?

18 Which famous comedian and actor said: “Behind every great man is a woman rolling her eyes.”

21 What type of acid is in a car battery?

22 Which celebrity chef was awarded an MBE in 2003?

23 Which colour ‘Wiggle’ was Greg Page?

DOWN

2 What does the second ‘A’ in Qantas stand for?

3 Heineken beer originated in which country?

4 A wainwright makes and repairs which means of transport?

5 What is the most common species of domesticated bird in the world?

10 Which well known Australian author created the ‘Louis The Fly’ jingle?

12 What liquid is known as ‘Adam’s Ale’?

13 By what nickname do we better know Andrew Barton Paterson?

17 Which word describes the field of study that deals with the health and care of the aged?

19 Which country has more wild camels than any other?

20 What facial feature is the ‘Mona Lisa’ missing?

23 What word for a stock market dividend also means ‘to surrender’?

CONCERT SEASON HEATS UP IN THE HUNTER

THE HUNTER VALLEY IS THE PREMIER LOCATION FOR OUTDOOR CONCERTS AND THIS SEASON’S LINE UP IS SET TO ROCK YOUR SOCKS OFF.

Over recent years Pokolbin has become the Hunter’s music capital with tens of thousands of people attending concerts at Hope Estate, Bimbadgen Estate and Roche Estate (formerly called Tempus Two).

The acts are as big as it gets, The Rolling Stones, Tom Jones, Alicia Keys, Elton John, Meatloaf, Fleetwood Mac, Lionel Ritchie, The Eagles, Bruce Springsteen and Cold Chisel have all strutted their stuff on the stage for us. With each venue having its ups and downs, when choosing what concert you want to go to we advise to pick solely on the music playing and don’t worry about whatever you’ve heard about the venue. If you love the act you’ll have a great time, especially since they all sell tons of wine!

HERE’S OUR RUNDOWN OF EACH VENUE

Bimbadgen Estate started hosting A Day on the Green back in 2002 and they promise great entertainment in a comfortable setting, take a picnic and your fave chair, basically there are no restrictions on what you can bring

in except alcohol. The vibe at ADOTG concerts is more relaxed, they have a bunch of different acts playing that don’t always carry the big names like Hope Estate and Roche Estate do, but it’s reflected in the cheaper tickets. Their tastes run to the more eclectic in music acts and they are always a strong support for Australian talent. Hope Estate on the other hand brings in the big talent and tickets normally reflect this. Higher priced tickets mean more expectation from patrons and that probably has a lot to do with the whining you hear while lining up for entry. Restrictions on the size of chairs, umbrellas and shade shelters are all their for safety reasons due to the huge crowd numbers but when you listen to security telling an irate customer they can’t bring their super-sized beach chair in you do tend to feel sorry for them. The security that is!

They also restrict any food or drinks coming in and this pisses people off which always amazes me, I’m sure they wouldn’t show up at

the pub with an esky and a picnic basket and Hope Estate is a licensed venue looking to make money like any other.

Roche Estate is like the shy girl in the corner waiting to be asked to dance, even though it has a long history of hosting events they are relatively few and far between. They do have a top notch setup and I will can’t wait to get all heated up at their Red Hot Summer Tour.

2016-2017 SEASON LINE UP

November 26	Hope Estate (Baby Animals, The Screaming Jests and more)
December 3	ADOTG Bimbadgen (Garbage, The Temper Trap and more)
December 10	Hope Estate (Culture Club)
February 11	ADOTG Bimbadgen (Simple Minds, The B-52’s and more)
February 12	Hope Estate (James Taylor and more)
February 18	Hope Estate (Bruce Springsteen)
February 25	Hope Estate (Suzi Quatro)
March 25	Roche Estate (Icehouse, James Reyne and more)
April 1	ADOTG Bimbadgen (Blondie and Cyndi Lauper)
April 8	Hope Estate (Barry Gibb)

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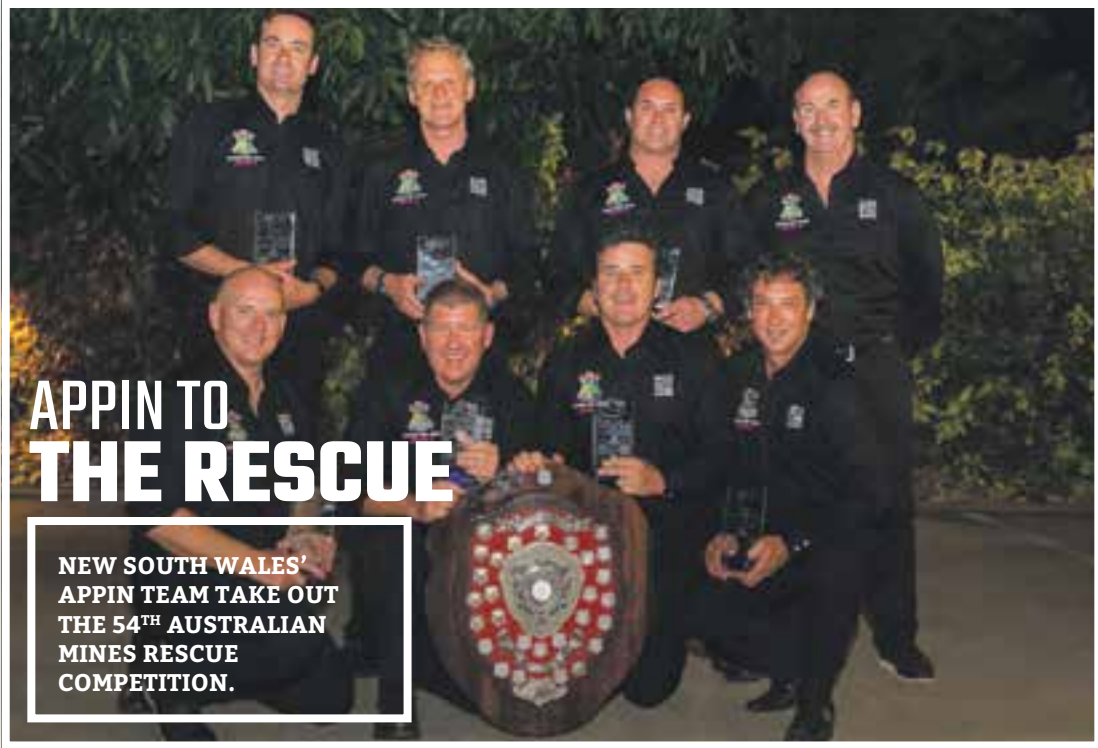
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APPIN TO THE RESCUE

NEW SOUTH WALES' APPIN TEAM TAKE OUT THE 54TH AUSTRALIAN MINES RESCUE COMPETITION.

We all know how valuable Coal Services Mines Rescue is to our industry. Although safety is first and foremost and the NSW industry is one of the safest in the world we all know accidents happen no matter how hard we try to prevent them. What we can do though is make sure accidents are responded to in a manner that will ensure the best outcome for those that are hurt. And making sure our response teams receive the best training is one of the ways to achieve that.

Which makes the annual Australian Mines Rescue competition a serious business. This year Rio Tinto's Kestrel Mine played host to the event, helping put 60 mines rescue brigadesmen from across Queensland and New South Wales through their paces. The competition did more than just decide the national champion; it provided Australia's most elite brigadesmen with the invaluable opportunity to test themselves against the best of the best, and reassure

the underground mining industry of their exceptional skill level. The eight teams compete in a series of scenarios designed to mirror the reality of emergency response situations. The scenarios consisted of a challenging mix of underground and pit-top scenarios. These included technical skills assessment, firefighting, search and rescue exercises as well as testing their first aid skills. A theory exam challenged the depth of teams' mines rescue knowledge and

a scenario using virtual reality technology allowed the teams to simulate their application of skills and hazard awareness. The win went to the South 32's Appin team with Queensland's Oaky North team runner up and third place going to Grosvenor mine. New South Wales Mines Rescue State Manager

Steve Tonegato said "It was fantastic to see a New South Wales Appin team win the event on the day, but we should not lose sight that the real winners of competitions such as these are actually our mining communities. These events are critically important in building skills and capabilities that continue to protect our industry and its workers".

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With locations across the Hunter you can check out their website www.igym247.com.au to find one near you.

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Limit of one entry per person.

LTPM/16/01100



DOES THIS BEDROOM SCENE LOOK FAMILIAR?

MAKING NOISES IN THE BEDROOM

BELIEVE IT OR NOT, SLEEPING COULD ACTUALLY BE THE MOST IMPORTANT THING YOU DO IN THE BEDROOM.

Do you get kicked out of bed because you snore like a freight train? Do you wake up in the morning feeling tired? Do you sometimes wake up choking or short of breath? If this sounds like you then it is quite likely that you suffer from sleep apnea. Sleep apnea occurs when your throat becomes partly or completely blocked while you sleep. As a result you stop breathing from a few seconds, or in severe cases over a minute and your body wakes you in response. This continuous waking throughout the night can be harmful in many ways. It can lead to high blood pressure, heart attack, stroke, diabetes, headaches and personality changes.

In dire situations it can even lead to a lack of interest in sex or impotence. And as with nearly every other health associated risk there are three major factors that will contribute to your risk of suffering from sleep apnea. Being fat, drinking excessively and smoking. Funnily enough these three things often lead to a lack of interest in sex with you from your bedroom partner! Seriously though, if you think you may be suffering from sleep apnea see your doctor. Some of these health risks should not be taken lightly. It also may be time to seriously start thinking of making some lifestyle changes, not just for yourself but for your family. Not only will you feel better, your partner will appreciate the results as well!

TIME TO WIN AGAIN!

ADINA LADIES' OCEANEER

Just as happy in the water as it is on dry land, Adina's Oceaneer matches performance based technology with eye catching designs and is truly a watch for every woman.


The SW16 Ladies Oceaneer is valued at \$499.

For your chance to win, simply SMS: WATCH and your email address to 0438 474 290.

Limit of one entry per person.



'AVE A LAUGH WITH



PH 02 4946 9800


A girl asks a boy: "Peter, how much do you love me?"

The boy looks her in the eyes, "Look up at the stars, that's how much I love you."

The girl is confused, "But it's morning, there are no stars?"

Boy nods, "Exactly!"


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MINING FOR SES VOLUNTEERS

THE SES IS ALWAYS THERE FOR OUR COMMUNITIES AND PLENTY OF OUR MINERS ARE PART OF THE TROOPS. BUT IT'S UP TO US TO MAKE SURE IT STAYS THAT WAY.

When those flood waters are rising over the hood of your car or when a tree has fallen through your child's bedroom window the SES is always there to make it safe. We take them for granted but unfortunately dwindling member numbers at many of our local branches means they may not be there when we really need it. Denman, Aberdeen, Scone and Muswellbrook are especially seeking new volunteers to fill up their ranks.

@ The Coalface is calling out for our readers to step up and consider becoming a volunteer for this invaluable service. Hands down the biggest reward for being a SES volunteer is helping people. That warm fuzzy feeling will warm you up even if your standing out in the drenching

rain. But there are so many other benefits. Lifelong friendships, community involvement and of course the snazzy outfits. The SES is a Registered Training Organisation and as a member you can attain qualifications in Vertical Rescues, First Aid, Logistics, Land Rescue and Management. These tickets can kick start you to new career goals or boost your current employment. You'll also get to train with some pretty cool stuff, boats, cars, chainsaws and even drones. Next time we see the SES guys and girls out there in extreme weather getting people out of trouble we hope one of them will be you! With all those extra skills, we're betting you would also be a bit more handy on a mine site as well.

SCHOOLING SUSTAINABLE ENVIRONMENTS

BENGALLA MINE ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISOR, LAUREL MCGINNITY, TALKED TO ST JAMES PRIMARY SCHOOL ABOUT SUSTAINABLE ENVIRONMENTS BECAUSE IT'S NEVER TOO EARLY TO GET KIDS INVOLVED IN OUR ENVIRONMENTAL FUTURE.

Bengalla Mine prides themselves on fostering a healthy and sustainable environment and believes it important to encourage this thinking in our schools. They were delighted to send representatives to talk to year 3 and 4 students at the school about how important sustainable environments are and to help them develop an understanding of the diversity of living things and the environment. They look at the importance of natural vegetation

and resources and learn about the way the people of the Upper Hunter value environments for the use of mining. They hope to teach our kids that caring for the local environment is important, regardless of if it's a mine site, a school playground or a local park. But kids being kids, if they could at the very least teach them to clean up after themselves there will be a lot of happy parents out there!



LAUREL MCGINNITY AND ST JAMES PRIMARY SCHOOL STUDENTS



SMALL CHANGES HAVE BIG REWARDS

"I CAN'T CHANGE THE WORLD FOR EVERYONE. BUT I CAN CHANGE IT FOR SOME."

For most of us helping others in need seems too daunting a prospect so we do nothing. But a remarkable young girl named Jessica Kowalski is changing the lives of others...and she's only 10. A self-taught reader

from 2, Jess was 4 when she stumbled across an article about the Maitland Neighbourhood Centre not having enough food for Christmas hampers. So she took her piggy bank and bought food because she didn't think it was fair that

others would miss out on Christmas lunch. And that's how it began. This is the 5th year Jess will do hampers and each year it becomes bigger. It's not just giving hampers though, the logistics, time, meeting people, putting out posters, pickups and deliveries go all year. Last year it took 3 days to hand out 220 hampers, a big job, but Jess is just happy to know families are getting to celebrate Christmas. Christmas Day for Jess is not typical of most kids. Instead of playing with new toys and visiting family, Jess serves food to people to help them smile. Jess hasn't stopped there. When she was seven, Jess wondered what the kids in these families would do on their birthdays. THE PIGGY BANK CAME BACK OUT Birthdays in a Bag began. It costs \$50 to make a bag, with decorations, cake mix and a gift; it has everything a kid would need to celebrate. Jess insists no recognition comes to her or the donors, so the parent can take the bag, set it up and the child will think it's from them. Jess says it's like two gifts, the memory for the child and the pride the

parent feels. Her latest project is hygiene bags for homeless men and women. A good friend of Jess's passed away from bowel cancer and he was a strong supporter for everything she did. He wrote her a last letter telling her to never stop, so the Hygiene Bags are in his memory. With much needed basics, info on bowel cancer and a beautiful letter from Jess, they are available to anyone from Singleton to Maitland. Because of her work Jessica was the Maitland Junior Citizen in 2014 and spent two years on the Australian Day committee impressing all with her empathy and attitude. We know what you're thinking, no kid could achieve this all on their own. Well you're wrong. Jess's mum Angela said from day dot they've never pushed her to do anything, it was Jess who pushed them to do it. Jess's dad David works at Bulga and Jessica has grown up with the kind of living most miners have. As soon as Jess comprehended people out there did not have what she did so she decided to do something. David said "Like most, we

thought it's just too big a problem, Jess showed us you can just chip away at it and make a big problem smaller." As for what's in store for the future, Jess said. "I'm going to focus on what I'm doing now, keep trying to help people and just be happy." Everyone has a neighbourhood or community centre taking care of people doing it tough and they rely on our support. Donating goods or food, volunteering or cash donations are always appreciated. Send a hat around your workplace like the guys at Bulga do, they've raised a ton of money which management matched dollar for dollar. Or give up your Kris Kringle like the guys at Coal Services did and donate the money instead. Call your local community centre now or send an email to the Kowalski's at davidkowski@bigpond.com. As Jessica says, "You have to open up your heart and then find a place to start, whether it's your Neighbourhood Centre or just going and helping the old lady across the street, go for it."



TRAVIS BATES (COAL & ALLIED), KATRINA MCKELVEY, KIRRILI LONERAGAN, ANDREW HODGE (COAL & ALLIED) AND SINGLETON HEIGHTS PUBLIC SCHOOL STUDENTS.

DANDELIONS GROW ON MINES

COAL AND ALLIED ONCE AGAIN SPONSORED A LOCAL BOOK WEEK MUCH TO THE DELIGHT OF OVER 2000 EXCITED STUDENTS.

Students from schools including St Mary's Scone, Muswellbrook Public School and Denman Public all got a sit down with author Katrina McKelvey and Illustrator Kirrili Loneragan of the much-loved children's book, Dandelions. The entire event is funded by Coal and Allied who are strong believers

in the importance of encouraging literacy in our kids. And the best way to do that is to make them love reading and drawing. The only downside is now the kids have been read to by Kirrili, it's going to put the pressure on us parents to buff up our oratory skills!

CHANGE IS INEVITABLE OUR JOURNEY BEGINS NOW

Lindy Harris
Prinipal/Director



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brewed beers, including a few local drops from the lads at Murray's. While you're there fill up on a full rack of sticky BBQ pork ribs and a plate of super crunchy chips. Or, drop by Newcastle's first micro-brewery, Foghorn Brewhouse on King St. All the beers are brewed and served on site and they serve pizza and steak, which makes beer and food matching a bit of a no brainer.

Want to steer clear of beer? Maybe a glass of vino is more your style? If so, work your way to Reserve Wine Bar where you can impress your mates, or your date, with your superior knowledge of "foine woine". Share plates are the way forward here, where the roast duck or a scotch fillet will become best mates with a glass of Hunter Valley Shiraz. For something a little more relaxed, Parry St Garage is perfect for a classy, but casual, quality, but cheap night out with the SO. They've got beer and wine, and cocktails too to wash down anything from a plate of meatballs, wood-fired pork belly, or pappardelle pasta.

Now, if you reckon you've still got room for dessert, then you need to get your self to Newcastle's first aristan gelateria, Popolo, on King St, opposite the cinema. The flavours change almost every day, but Coalface reckons a double scoop of Chocolate and Oreo will round out your night beautifully. And, if you're keen to kick on, we'll meet you at the Star Hotel for a couple more drinks... Cheers!

Whether you're keen to head out and paint the town with your mates, or you've got a designated date night to plan with your SO (significant other), the Coalface's quick guide to a night out in Newy has got you covered.

To start your evening, if it's beers and a decent feed you're after, head over to the Grain Store for a world-class selection of independent, Australian

you covered.

mean you can whip up breakfast in bed for the SO in the next morning. questapartments.com.au

ROMANTIC EVENING: Crown Plaza Newcastle – Beautiful harbour views and walking distance to all of the above make this the place to stay the night on a romantic city getaway. crownplazanewcastle.com.au

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CHEAP & COZY: Ibis Newcastle – No frills, but super comfy beds and friendly staff will ensure you sleep better than if you passed out on the park bench. ibis.com

THREE'S A CROWD: Quest Newcastle Apartments – These big rooms will sleep a crowd of friends and family, including the kids. The cooking facilities





TAKE A HIKE!

HERE IN THE HUNTER WE HAVE ONE OF THE BEST NATIONAL PARKS JUST WAITING FOR YOU TO GO OUT AND EXPLORE AND IMPROVE YOUR FITNESS TO BOOT.

Next weekend instead of sitting on your butt in front of the TV, get out and get into Watagan's National Park.

Whether on a bike, horse, ute, foot or quad there are so many trails to check out, each with their own rewards.

There are crystal clear underwater caves with water so cold it will take your breath away. Views all the way to Newcastle and across the Hunter and you'll see our native animals in their true habitat, which is a nice change from roadkill.

There's some fantastic spots to camp with the family, but make sure you go for a hike before cracking open the esky full of tinnies.

So get out there and get moving. But don't forget your maps, phone, first aid kits and plenty of water! Accessed through Cooranbong and Quorrobolong this place will take your breath away. Literally.





SAND BETWEEN YOUR TOES

WHITEHAVEN BEACH'S PURE WHITE SAND IS THE BEST IN THE WORLD.

HAMILTON ISLAND IS THE PERFECT SPOT FOR YOUR NEXT FAMILY HOLIDAY.

Clear blue skies, crystal clear aquamarine waters, dazzling white sands and cocktail hour every single day. What more could anyone ask for?

You can wake up in the morning to the call of islands native birds and take a trek to greet the sun at the island's highest point. Or like most people, enjoy your holiday lie-in before enjoying a delicious breakfast overlooking the water. You're going to need to fuel up because the selection of activities on offer means you want to take advantage of every glorious sunlit minute.

THE GREAT BARRIER REEF

You can't miss checking out the Great Barrier Reef. There are smaller more intimate trips available for the serious divers or those looking for something more

private. Take one of the large catamarans for the more touristy option of checking out Reef World. Or maybe a helicopter or seaplane if boats are not your thing? Just watch out if book on a day with strong winds and swells because a boat full of vomiting tourists may take a little away from the experience. Reef World even has an overnight Reef Sleep experience and we guarantee you've never seen a sky full of stars like what you will experience lying in the middle of the ocean.

LET'S GET WET

Sailing, kayaking, fishing, snorkeling, paddleboards, catamarans, diving. Hamilton Island has it all. The Jet Ski Tour is overpriced but worth every cent. They let you rip up the waters and if you're brave enough you can take a quick dip out in the middle of the deep ocean.

Just want to hang out on the water's

edge? There's more pools than you can count and a ton of beach chairs just waiting for you in the shade of picture perfect palm trees.

FEED ME

You can eat at a different restaurant every night of your stay. Fresh seafood with a matching wine to BBQ pizzas with a coke. It's holidays, who wants to count calories! The local general store carries your basics if you want a night in, however be warned all food does need to be flown in so prices are high.

KID FRIENDLY

Kids clubs, activities and babysitting mean that mummy and daddy get to take a break while the kids have the time of their lives. The Wildlife Zoo hosts a collection of native animals, though it's pretty lame and best left for the international tourists. There's also a bowling alley, mini golf, go kart and laser tag which will surely wear out those little ones. And the big boys too.

STILL LOOKING FOR SOMETHING TO DO?

- Head over to Dent Island for a game of golf on a championship course.
- Ease those overworked muscles at either of the islands two spas.
- Take a day tour to Whitehaven Beach, one of the world's top beaches.
- Take a deep water turtle discovery tour.
- Hire a buggy on your first day and go explore.

OUR VERDICT

Yes, Hamilton Island is more expensive than some of your other sunny holiday destinations. But you don't need a passport and at least you know your money is going back into our country. We guarantee once you start experiencing all the amazing things on offer you will soon stop counting your coins and have the holiday of a lifetime.



No one has ever paid

Because the mineworkers of this region continually support the Community's Own.



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