

@THE COAL FACE

Vol 2 No 4: December 2017 - January 2018

HAVE A VERY MERRY COALFACE CHRISTMAS



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MERRY CHRISTMAS!

HERE @ THE COALFACE THE BEERS ARE ON ICE, WE CAN SMELL THE CHRISTMAS BANQUET COOKING AND HEAR THE SOUND OF SANTA'S SLEIGH AS WE PUT TOGETHER OUR LAST EDITION FOR THE YEAR.

And what a great year it's been! Of course, there's been some bad news but on a whole, it's been a positive year for our industry and the outlook ahead is promising. Check out our story on the global outlook for coal from World Coal Association Chairman Mick Buffier if you don't believe me.

We feature a lot of stories this month about projects which involve young people. From the school mines tour program, to youth unemployment initiatives, to funding for schools, when it comes to our kids, our industry is working hard to ensure their future is bright.

Not sure what to do over the school holidays? We've got a ton of ideas for fun things to do with the kids, great 4WD camping spots for that weekend away, and food wise we recommend getting yourself to Street Eats. (I'm still

salivating thinking about those Pork Bao Buns.)

Our community gift this month was one of our favourites, we hope all the kids who receive a toy from the Complete Parts Christmas Giving Tree enjoy them! For our readers we've got a lot of great prizes to give away. Make sure you include an email address on your entries if you want the chance to win. Prizes will be drawn February 1st and published in our next edition due out in early February.

Thank you to all our readers and we wish you a Merry Christmas and a safe and happy New Year.

GOING STRONG

AFTER A TOUGH FEW YEARS, 2017 HAS BEEN A GOOD YEAR FOR THE HUNTER COAL INDUSTRY. WE'VE SEEN STRONG SUSTAINED COAL PRICES, AND DEMAND AT NEAR RECORD LEVELS, LEADING TO MORE HUNTER COAL JOBS.

It's also encouraging that a rise in the coal price has been matched by strong demand for NSW coal across our main export markets including Japan, Taiwan, Korea and China.

The improvement in business conditions for mining also means more money in local wallets and cash registers, helping to improve the local economy, and drive growth more broadly across the Hunter.

There is more to do to make sure we can lock in these opportunities and secure more jobs and investment for our local mining communities that contribute so much to NSW.

We need Government policies that support mining here in NSW. This includes an efficient system for handling mining project approvals and a regulatory system that doesn't become a burden to mining operations doing business.

With the right Government policies, we'll build on these positive export figures, attract investment and create more jobs in our region.

Most importantly, we need to support our hardworking miners, supply businesses, their families and our terrific mining communities that help deliver a



Stephen Galilee
CEO, NSW Minerals Council

strong and stable economy for NSW.

While I'm sure 2018 will also bring challenges, the NSW Minerals Council will continue our strong advocacy on behalf of the Hunter coal industry, mining families, and our wonderful mining communities.

I wish all our miners, suppliers and their families a Happy Christmas and safe and prosperous New Year.



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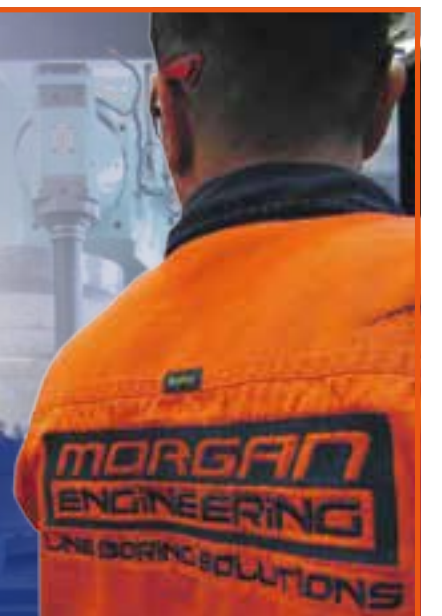
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A mobster’s son sits at his desk writing a Christmas list to Jesus. He first writes, “Dear baby Jesus, I have been a good boy the whole year, so I want a new...” He looks at it, then crumples it up into a ball and throws it away.

He gets out a new piece of paper and writes again, “Dear baby Jesus, I have been a good boy for most of the year, so I want a new...” He again looks at it and throws it away.

He then gets an idea. He goes into his mother’s room, takes a statue of the Virgin Mary, puts it in the closet and locks the door. He takes another piece of paper and writes, “Dear baby Jesus, if you ever want to see your mother again...”

YEAR, THROUGH THE RESOURCES REGULATOR, TO IMPROVE WORK CONDITIONS ON OUR MINING SITES.

The NSW Resources Regulator is implementing the Mine Safety Regulatory Reform: Incident Prevention Strategy, in consultation with the Mine Safety Advisory Council and external industry stakeholders. This reform ensures that the regulator is delivering on the recommendations of the review and is modelling best practice and deploying resources to where they are most needed.

Programs such as the targeted assessment program are making our mining sites safer places to work. The New South Wales Government has also introduced practising certificates to ensure that our miners are competent in safety-critical functions.

Thank you for your hard work in ensuring the Hunter region continues to drive our industry in NSW. I wish you and your families all the best over Christmas and the New Year.

Stay safe and I look forward to speaking to you @ The Coalface in 2018.

MY FIRST YEAR AS MINISTER FOR RESOURCES HAS BEEN BUSY BUT REWARDING. FROM MINE VISITS TO AWARDS NIGHTS, IT’S BEEN A PLEASURE TO BE AT THE FRONT OF IT ALL, REPRESENTING THE NSW GOVERNMENT AND THE HARD WORKERS IN OUR MINING SECTOR.

Just days into my tenure as Minister we avoided widespread blackouts – such as seen in South Australia with the help of coal-fired generators supplied with fuel from the Hunter. Coal will play a vital role again this summer, where NSW remains well-positioned to avoid disruptions in normal circumstances.

It was also in early February that our industry’s Resources Regulator confirmed a retired miner had been diagnosed with coal workers’ pneumoconiosis or “black lung”. It was the first case reported in NSW since the 1970s, but it illustrated to everyone the importance of work health and safety – an

area where there is never room for complacency. With around 21,000 people employed directly by the industry in this state, protecting our workers is a responsibility we take extremely seriously.

AS WELL AS HEALTH, WE HAVE A CONTINUING FOCUS ON SAFETY. THIS GOVERNMENT HAS TAKEN SIGNIFICANT STEPS THIS

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MICK BUFFIER, CHAIRMAN OF THE WORLD COAL ASSOCIATION WAS AT THE HUNTER BUSINESS CHAMBER MINING LUNCHEON SPEAKING ABOUT THE OUTLOOK FOR GLOBAL COAL AND WE LIKED WHAT HE HAD TO SAY.

The future for coal is looking good, particularly for us here in the Hunter with an increasing global demand over the next few decades, particularly for thermal coal.

Currently, coal provides over 40% of the world's electricity and around 30% of its total energy needs. Although those figures are expected to drop, coal is forecasted to provide 23% of the world's energy needs by 2040, with the growth of energy demand over that period still

making coal a critical component of the world's energy needs. In 2040 coal is projected to be the second largest fuel meeting primary energy demand after oil.

Australian coal exports for both metallurgical and thermal are predominately Japan, China, Korea and Taiwan and India but we will see Southeast Asia grow in significance over the next decades.

WE NEED COAL FOR MORE THAN ELECTRICITY.

As Mick pointed out, even with the rise of renewables, you must consider that what all those wind turbines and electric cars will be made of. Coal provides 70% of steel and 85% of cement and as more of the world becomes urbanised the need for those products will grow.

THE PARIS AGREEMENT INCLUDES LOW EMISSION COAL.

With coal still around for the foreseeable future it is of upmost importance to make low emission coal a critical part of it. As Mick said, "I believe energy security, affordability and the reduction of emissions all need to be considered."

Around the world we are seeing more and more coal fired plants being built using High Efficiency, Low Emissions (HELE) technologies. Carbon Capture & Storage (CCS) will also play an important part in the reduction of emissions.

With two thirds of Australia's electricity generation gone by 2035 we need to follow the example of other countries around the world if we expect to meet our own energy demands.

Clearly, coal is not going anywhere so now is the time for our government to get behind the new technologies for low emission coal which will allow us to access and use coal more cleanly and efficiently, and position Australia to deliver a high-quality coal suitable for new generation coal plants and steel making to the rest of the world.

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WANT A JOB?

THERE'S PLENTY GOING AROUND IN THE COAL INDUSTRY WITH MINING JOBS ON THE RISE THANKS TO THE STRONG TURNAROUND IN COAL PRICES AND AN INCREASED DEMAND FOR OUR HUNTER COAL.

The most recent figures from Coal Services show there were just over 20,600 coal production jobs in NSW as at July this year - over 1,300 more than at the same time last year.

Many of these new coal mining jobs are in the Hunter, with over 1,000 more local Hunter coal mining jobs than a year earlier, helping to boost the Hunter economy, particularly in mining communities like Singleton and Muswellbrook.

NSW Minerals Council CEO, Stephen Galilee said the growth was

also good news for the businesses across the state that supply mining operations.

"There's been a sustained recovery in business conditions for coal mining in NSW over the last 18 months, with increased commodity prices delivering jobs in our coal mining regions. Our NSW coal mining communities have done it tough over the past few years, so this jobs boost mining is really good news for local economies." Stephen said.



GO FOR GOLD

THE RECENT GOLD NUGGET DISCOVERY IN QUEENSLAND BY A LONE PROSPECTOR HAS GOT US WONDERING IF THERE IS GOLD WAITING TO BE FOUND HERE IN THE HUNTER.

A man discovered a 1.17 kilogram gold nugget valued at over \$60,000 in the bush near Townsville using only a metal detector.

Imagine if that rock you kicked out of the way in the dark as you headed back to your car after a shift was actually a golden nugget? What are the chances? Not good. Disappointedly, when we researched where gold had been found in the Hunter, the closest to home we found was a

nugget Merriwa in 1931. Experts in the field agree that the Hunter holds very little promise in the way of gold discoveries.

Yet in 2011 Perth-based mining company Gold of Ophir applied for 15 licenses to explore for gold covering over 4000 square kilometres from the Hunter, North West Slopes and New England. It abandoned those plans due to community pressure, but it does raise the question what do they know that we don't?

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HAVIN’ A GO

FOLLOWING THE DOWNTURN WE HAVE LOVED WATCHING THE INDUSTRY SLOWLY REBUILD. ALONG THE WAY WE HAVE COME ACROSS A FEW BLOKES GIVING IT A ‘RED HOT’ GO. DK HEAVY PLANT SERVICES IS ONE SUCH SHOP.

Call it a shameless plug or whatever you want, but we’re keen to have a look at these emerging businesses, give ‘em a plug, and inspire others to have go.

Starting a small business from home that involves making sure massive mining equipment gets on with the job takes guts, skill and determination.

David Komacha from DK Heavy Plant Services is one bloke setting an example we would love to see others follow. After building a reputation as a specialist digger fitter, in 2016 David decided to expand his ‘one man show’ sub-contracting company to employ others and supply specialist services to various mining companies in the Muswellbrook area.

Within the first few months David had a workforce of around 10 people and was supplying to Bengalla Mining Company and EMECO International. By six months David had increased his workforce to 30 and was supplying BHP Billiton. From there he set up a large permanent workshop and offsite facility in Muswellbrook capable of handling heavy earth moving mechanical

repairs for its rapidly growing list of mining customers.

David said, “Initially we were a small business that I managed with the help of the better half from home. We expanded rapidly and out-grew the home office and opened the large-scale workshop in Muswellbrook industrial estate. Currently the workforce sits around 40. We plan to expand even further with boilermakers for fabrications and repairs in the workshop and on mine sites.”

David continued, “Recently we managed to complete a back to chassis rebuild of a D11 dozer in the DK workshop in 21 days for BHP Billiton. Both us and the client were pretty happy with that. It’s all pretty satisfying at the end of the day.”

Speaking to Dave his genuine enthusiasm and passion for the job was pretty evident. Attitude is nearly as important as the actual job and this outfit has the right kind. @ The Coalface hopes the future only gets brighter for Dave and his crew. We wish him plenty of luck, but as they say, ‘the harder you work the luckier you get.’ DK’s hard work is already paying off.

A LOAD OF COAL

CHECK OUT SOME OF THE COAL HARD FACTS FOR THE YEAR.

COAL FACTS FOR 2016 – 2017 FY

Total Saleable Coal Production Volume - **198 MT**
Total Saleable Coal Production Value - **\$20 Billion**
Total Export Saleable Coal Production Volume - **170 MT**
Total Export Saleable Coal Production Value - **\$18.2 Billion**

Total Coal Royalties paid to NSW Government - **\$1.5 Billion**
Percentage of NSW’s energy needs coal provides - **80%**
Number of Coal Jobs - **20,500**
Number of Indirect Coal Jobs - **80,000**
No. of operating Coal Mines - **37**
Source: Coal Services P/L



CRAIG STRUDWICK RELEASES ONE OF THE FIRST ANIMALS IN THE AUSSIE ARK CONSERVATION AREA.

AUSSIE ARK REPRESENTS A RETURN TO NSW AFTER AN ABSENCE OF MANY DECADES DUE TO HABITAT DISRUPTION AND INTENSE PREDATION BY FERAL PESTS.

The species include the eastern bettong, which has been extinct in NSW since the 1920s, the long-nosed and southern brown bandicoot, long-nosed potoroo, brush-tailed rock wallaby, Eastern quoll, Hastings River mouse and the Parma wallaby.

Craig explained that Glencore's Liddell site has been providing kangaroo meat to Devil's Ark for some time, but they wanted to do more.

"We decided to look at what we might be able to provide in terms of broader support, and we've now allocated funding to 'predator proof' the entire Aussie Ark enclosure. We're obviously keen to see Aussie Ark replicate the success we've had with our partnership with the Queensland Department of Environment & Heritage, which is rebuilding northern hairy-nosed wombat populations." Craig said.

FIGHTING FERALS

AFTER HELPING TO SAVE THE NORTHERN HAIRY-NOSED WOMBAT FROM EXTINCTION IN QUEENSLAND, GLENCORE IS NOW SUPPORTING A NEW VENTURE IN NSW THAT AIMS TO PROTECT OTHER ENDANGERED SPECIES.

Glencore's Community Relations Manager Craig Strudwick recently attended the launch of the company's newest community partner: Aussie Ark at Barrington Tops in the Upper Hunter.

Aussie Ark has opened its first 60ha feral proof 'enclosure' and with Glencore's support will be building an additional

400ha area that's being developed adjacent to the highly successful Devil's Ark project, a conservation breeding facility for Tasmanian devils.

APPROPRIATE FAUNA SPECIES ARE BEING INTRODUCED TO AUSSIE ARK TO BECOME SELF-SUSTAINING POPULATIONS. FOR SOME OF THESE SPECIES,

YOUNG GUN JOINS @ THE COALFACE

IN A MAJOR COUP @ THE COALFACE HAS SECURED THE SERVICES OF VISIONARY INDUSTRY STAR JACOB MERRICK. AFTER LENGTHY NEGOTIATIONS, JACOB NOW HEADS UP THE DISTRIBUTION SIDE OF @ THE COALFACE.

Based in Singleton he will be working the front line making sure John Street businesses are kept up to date each month and reporting back insights on the local business community.

Keen to make his mark, Jacob has laid out his aggressive strategy and plans for growing the business by expanding his team. He is now looking to other local towns to recruit Distribution Managers to create what he calls 'The Dream Team.' If you know of any other young guns in other @ the coalface towns and villages, drop him a line @ The Coalface. Welcome legend!



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SO LONG SANTA

WITH CHRISTMAS LOOMING IT GOT ME TO REMINISCING ABOUT THE OLD DAYS OF AWESOME CHRISTMAS WORK PARTIES AND HOW THEY'VE UNFORTUNATELY BEEN LEFT BY THE WAYSIDE.

History tells us that plenty of good stories have been created with loose Christmas party behavior over the years. Plenty of excellent case studies in poor judgment and decision-making, wrong on many if not every level, occasionally embarrassing, immoral,

illegal or even life threatening. In the age of political correctness, social media and corporate risk aversion, celebrating the end of the 2017 will be no where near as good as it was partying like it's 1999 in 1998. In many ways it's a sad sign of the times.

If you're too young to remember, on this subject the olden days were better. There was a time when the company

PUBLISHERS OPINION



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WIN!

Christmas party was open to the whole family. The kids gorged themselves on lollies while being entertained by Santa and getting up to no good. The discipline slid directly proportionate to the number of drinks the parents downed. More new friends were made as coworkers came to be comrades or even close friends. It was an altogether better way of creating community spirit and ties. Of course there were always bitter rivalries no amount of beers could mend.

Kid free celebrations were even better and the longer hairstyles of the day along with the relaxed rules meant letting your hair down really meant something. Romances were born and families started. Gossip and story telling went well into the new year, the whole year or for years to come. People lost jobs, lost relationships and lost reputations. And it was worth it.

These days we just find other situations to get into the same old trouble. A lot has changed but people fundamentally haven't. The point of the story is to bring back a bit of the good old days so that in the future we have memories of the good old days back in 2017 when we learnt to party like it's 1999. Ban the phones though and always look out for your mates.

It's party time people, loosen up, let out those average dance moves and enjoy your hangover, any regrets and most of all the party time memories that make life better.

May your annual bonus be large, your leg of ham tasty and any time off bloody great. If you get none of the above, I hope the boss feels ashamed enough to give you ammo to bargain for better next year. Have a good one.

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ALL FOR FORUM

THE UPPER HUNTER MINING DIALOGUE'S ANNUAL FORUM SAW INDUSTRY AND COMMUNITY COME TOGETHER TO LOOK AT THE PROJECTS FROM 2017, AND TO DISCUSS THE YEAR AHEAD.

@ The Coalface was in attendance on November 22 at Club Singleton and got to see the results from some of the projects the UHMD has been hard at work on.

First up was the recently completed Hunter River Water Quality Study that showed positive news with good water quality and an overall improvement in health.

We also heard the results from the Cattle Grazing Study which showed cattle grazing on rehabilitated mine lands could be sustainable, productive and profitable with cattle reaching bigger weights than cattle on comparable unmined lands.

The School Mines Tours Program is proving to be a huge success with students already out on site seeing mine workings up close. This ambitious project will see over 1000 students visit one of the 13 mines sites involved and plans are for

it to continue for years to come.

IN A PARTNERSHIP WITH THE UNIVERSITY OF NSW THE DIALOGUE IS INTRODUCING STUDENT VR CLASSROOM MATERIALS AND ALL IN ATTENDANCE WERE KEEN FOR A DEMONSTRATION. USING THE LATEST TECHNOLOGY, THEY ALLOW STUDENTS TO EXPERIENCE WHAT IT'S LIKE TO BE DEEP UNDERGROUND OR BEHIND THE WHEEL MASSIVE HAUL TRUCK.

We heard from David Blackmore from the Division of Resources and Geoscience about the big changes ahead when it comes to the regulation of mine rehabilitation. Stephen Wills from Department of Premier & Cabinet also spoke about the review of the Synoptic Plan and how it would become part of a larger blueprint – The Hunter Regional Plan. There is a lot of exciting things happening when it comes to the future of the Hunter's mining landscapes so keep an eye out for our stories on this next year.

The Dialogue was

'AVE A LAUGH WITH

GREG HEDGES SMASH REPAIRS

PH 02 65272 1230

The 4 stages of life...

1. You believe in Santa Claus
2. You don't believe in Santa Claus
3. You dress up as Santa Claus
4. You look like Santa Claus

established to allow community and industry to collaborate and the forum provides an opportunity for all voices to be heard. Although those voices may disagree on issues, they are all speaking on behalf of our Hunter community and working towards a better future and @ The Coalface are proud to be involved.

For any additional information on what the Dialogue has been doing visit their website nswmining.com.au/dialogue/home



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It was coming up to Christmas and the Judge was in a jolly frame of mind.
"Now then, please tell me, what is the charge against you?"
"I was caught doing my Christmas shopping very early," replied the man in the dock.
"That doesn't seem like an offence to me. What do you mean by 'very early?'"
"Well, your Honour," said the defendant. "It was before the shop was open."

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Driving heavy vehicles, repetitive manual labour, and prolonged work postures put enormous stress on the spine. When the spine becomes dysfunctional it puts pressure on the nervous system resulting in low back and neck pain, headaches, and vertigo, among other things. These symptoms are merely a warning sign of a deeper degenerative process that will only get worse with time, and harder to correct.

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WESTPAC RESCUE HELICOPTER'S DANNY EATHER HAS LANDED

THE WESTPAC RESCUE HELICOPTER SERVICE HAS WELCOMED ITS NEWEST MEMBER OF ITS TEAM, SINGLETON'S DANNY EATHER, AS COMMUNITY LIAISON OFFICER FOR THE UPPER HUNTER REGION.

Whilst the role of community liaison officer (CLO) is not a new role for the WRHS, it is the first time during the Service's 42-year history that a CLO has been appointed and based within the Upper Hunter. This appointment is in recognition of loyal support provided by the Hunter communities and mining industry towards the Service. Whether its purchasing raffle tickets or merchandise, attending one of the many events, or a one-off donation or weekly contribution wage deduction, whatever you do in support can make a difference. The focus of this role will be to increase awareness of the Rescue Helicopter Service within the

community, working alongside our volunteer support groups to establish several signature events and grow our workplace-giving program across all industry groups within the Upper Hunter.

The WRHS has partnered with the Singleton Business Chamber in order to accommodate the new Upper Hunter Community Liaison within their office located at Shop 1, 106 George Street.

For more information on the Westpac Rescue Helicopter Service, to join a volunteer group within the Upper Hunter, or to organise a workplace visit, contact Danny at danny.eather@rescuehelicopter.com.au or call 0439 072 077.



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3. Receive reward upon successful commencement of referred person.





SANTA'S HELPERS RIDE INTO XMAS

THE ANNUAL NEWCASTLE TOY RUN CELEBRATED ITS 40TH ANNIVERSARY ON SUNDAY DECEMBER 3. HAVING BEEN INVOLVED FOR OVER A DECADE, PORT WARATAH COAL SERVICES STEPPED UP THEIR SUPPORT THIS YEAR BECOMING A MAJOR SPONSOR TO CELEBRATE THE MILESTONE.

The Newcastle Toy Run raises funds for disadvantaged families and provides toys to kids that would otherwise go without at Christmas. The toy run supports the Salvation Army Hunter Christmas Appeal and continues to grow.

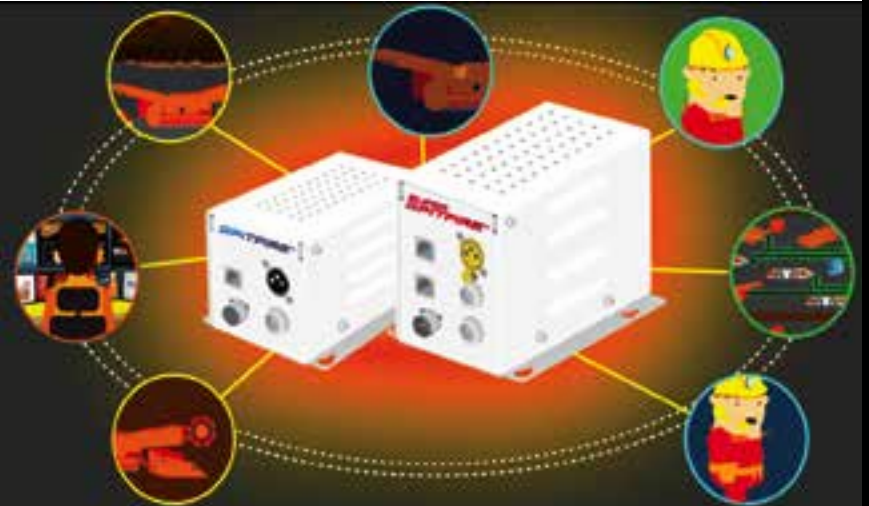
Over 10,000 riders set off from Stockton's Ballast Park and made their way into Wickham Park for a day of Christmas festivities for all ages including market stalls, a motorcycle display and plenty of activities for the kids.

The generous PWCS employees raised thousands of dollars with their Community Investment and

Partnership Program matching the dollar value each year, totaling over \$300,000 since 2003. Many employees were also in the action of the toy run themselves this year and over the years, taking to the streets as riders in the colourful convoy.

"We are proud to get behind an iconic community event like the Toy Run, supporting the Christmas Appeal - especially when our employees dig deep to support those in need during the festive season," Chief Executive Officer of Port Waratah, Hennie du Plooy, said.

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ROD AND RICHARD

A MINE COMMITTED TO IMPROVING HUNTER AGRICULTURE

IN RECENT MONTHS WE'VE BEEN TAKING A CLOSE LOOK AT THE NEW SPUR HILL / DRAYTON SOUTH UNDERGROUND PROPOSAL TO SEE HOW IT STACKS UP. THIS MONTH WE WENT TO SEE HOW SERIOUS THEY ARE ABOUT IMPROVING HUNTER AGRICULTURE AS PART OF THEIR PLAN.

The key stakeholders of Malabar Coal led by Chairman Wayne Seabrook, have been running agricultural enterprises for decades. That history is already making a meaningful impact on how they are running their mining business in the Upper Hunter.

We took a stroll around Spur Hill's Merton Vineyard property near Denman with Spur Hill Agriculture Chief Consultant, Richard Webb, a grazier and former stock and station agent. We were also joined by Vineyard Manager, Rod Muldoon. Richard has been involved since the inception of the Spur Hill project

with the responsibility of looking after their agricultural interests. Rod has taken care of the day-to-day task of improving the vineyard to its best over the last four years.

Along with the vineyard, Malabar also run substantial grazing and hay making country, which they are not only endeavoring to maintain, but substantially improve to bring it to peak productivity. The actual grazing land owned by Spur Hill is around 4500 acres along with additional small farms that are managed by the original owners. If the Drayton South proposal all comes together as part of the Spur Hill plan, then the company told us that they will do the same thing with the agricultural components of that land.

Richard said, "The substantial grazing properties within the former Drayton South proposal would have been impacted by an open cut. However, as Malabar is proposing only underground operations at Drayton South this allows continuation of the agricultural activity and Malabar will set about improving the productivity of these Hunter farmland properties. The agricultural integrity of the land will be improved and is an integral part of how we want to do things and what we are about. Under the management of Spur Hill Agriculture, it will happen."

"BEING AS PASSIONATE ABOUT THE LAND AS OUR NEIGHBOURS MEANS THIS PLAN CAN WORK," SAID WAYNE SEABROOK.

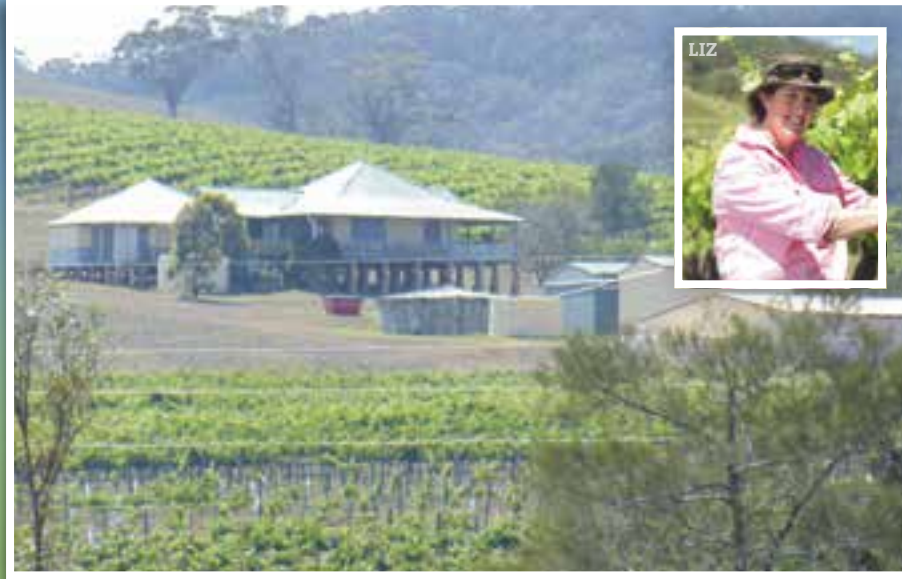
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is well underway from what we saw at the vineyard. They have actively gone about improving its productivity, grafting new varieties and also upgrading the infrastructure with new irrigation and improving the wine making facilities. A testament to that is wine maker Atsuko Ratcliffe's Small Forrest label that is produced there and is winning awards which they are all very proud of.

"WE ARE VERY PROUD OF WHAT OUR PEOPLE ARE DOING. THE STAFF ARE REALLY MAKING THINGS HAPPEN AND THEY ARE DOING A GREAT JOB," SAID RICHARD.

The team's talent has been further proven in the last month with viticulturist Liz Riley, who has been guiding the efforts in the Merton

vineyard, being awarded the 2017 Viticulturist of the Year by the Australian Society of Oenology and Viticulture (ASVO).

Liz said, "The ASVO is the Australian professional body for viticulturist and winemakers. It was a huge honour to receive this award, which has been judged by my technical industry peers."

Talking to Rod who manages the vineyard supply to the winery as well as selling fruit to other premium wine makers in the Hunter he said, "I've been here 4 years. We get about one hundred tonnes of grapes in a good year and Malabar is passionate about the vineyard. They could have just ripped it out but that was never part of the plan. This place would have fallen apart without

the investment that has been made. Malabar have invested quite heavily re-grafting new plants and there's been a lot of money spent even though the returns aren't huge. We've been able to lift the quality to the point where we're forward selling our fruit into the premium end of the wine industry. People are ringing us for fruit now. The investment in varieties is really paying off."

RICHARD TOLD US THAT MALABAR WERE VERY KEEN TO ENSURE THAT THEY HUSBAND THEIR LAND PROPERLY, INCLUDING DRAYTON, AND THAT THEY BELIEVE THEY ARE PROVING TO BE GOOD NEIGHBOURS TO THE SURROUNDING PASTORALISTS AND FARMERS.

"With Drayton it'll be good country

that will happen to have some mining under it. We're really trying to improve the assets that we secure. Things like fencing, irrigation and equipment so that we don't see country languish and it becomes more productive than in the past. With Drayton South there's huge scope to improve that land and we look forward to that journey. The Malabar people have a keen interest in agriculture through their families and their own enterprises. They're not foreign to seeing the benefits of making things happen. The great thing about this is that there is genuine coexistence with the underground proposal. The agriculture elements can stay as they are and be improved as well. Using the Drayton infrastructure there will be no need to impact on the agricultural lands and that means a great future for this side of the operation." Richard said.

@ the Coalface believes it is all very well to talk the talk, but at the end of the day this plan needs to walk the walk. From all we have seen, the agricultural intentions of this company have already gone further than that and broken into a run. It's great news for them and even better news for any opponents worried about what the future might look like, and more importantly how they won't be affected.

Take a look for yourself. Merton Vineyard is open for tastings on weekends at the cellar door and local markets as well. Tell 'em we sent ya!



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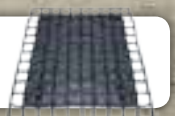
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BENGALLA MINING COMPANY HAS HAD ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL MOVEMBER CAMPAIGN IN 2017, SUPPORTING MEN’S HEALTH AND RAISING AWARENESS OF MENTAL HEALTH IN ITS WORKFORCE.

The wellbeing of their workforce is forefront in everything Bengalla do, especially when it came to supporting Movember. Fundraising and awareness activities ranged from mental health presentations, classic moustache awards and BBQ’s, to a silent auction for a pass to the V8’s.

To encourage the workforce to get involved in the campaign, raise awareness as well as much needed funding, employee Greg Nicholson

made a bet that he would shave his iconic beard (something that he last did 40 years ago) if the team reached a target of \$4,000 in donations. Midway through the month, the team smashed this target, sending Greg to the barber and requiring him to cancel all appearances as Santa Claus over the coming months. Greg could not be happier with the result and the donations received by the team stating he was “happy to make the

sacrifice for this great cause.”

IN ADDITION, THE TIMING OF A MAJOR SHUTDOWN AT THE COAL PREPARATION PLANT ALIGNED PERFECTLY WITH THE MOVEMBER CAMPAIGN, SPARKING AN IDEA FOR MOVEMBER TEAM CAPTAIN, TOM GRIFFITHS.

During the project to replace the buckets and chain on one of Bengalla’s stockpile reclaimers, Tom decided that the colour of the buckets was the perfect way leave a lasting reminder to help start a conversation about mental health, raise awareness as well as boost the donations to the team’s Movember campaign.

All the major suppliers for the project got on board and donated generously to the Movember cause with Sandvik, FL Smidth, Downer EDI, North West Mining, Ketten Wulf and Alfabs Engineering all making significant contributions. In total, the Bengalla Movember Team raised almost \$30,000.

Bengalla’s CEO, Cam Halfpenny was incredibly proud of the result stating that, “Bengalla is doing an amazing job at raising the profile on men’s health and I really appreciate the support from our workforce as well as suppliers that have donated generously to this wonderful cause.”

FUNDING REHAB

THE ROLE OF MINING COMPANIES IN THE LONG-TERM REHABILITATION OF OPEN CUT LAND CAME UNDER DISCUSSION AT A RECENT MEETING BETWEEN SINGLETON AND CESSNOCK COUNCILS AND MINING NSW.

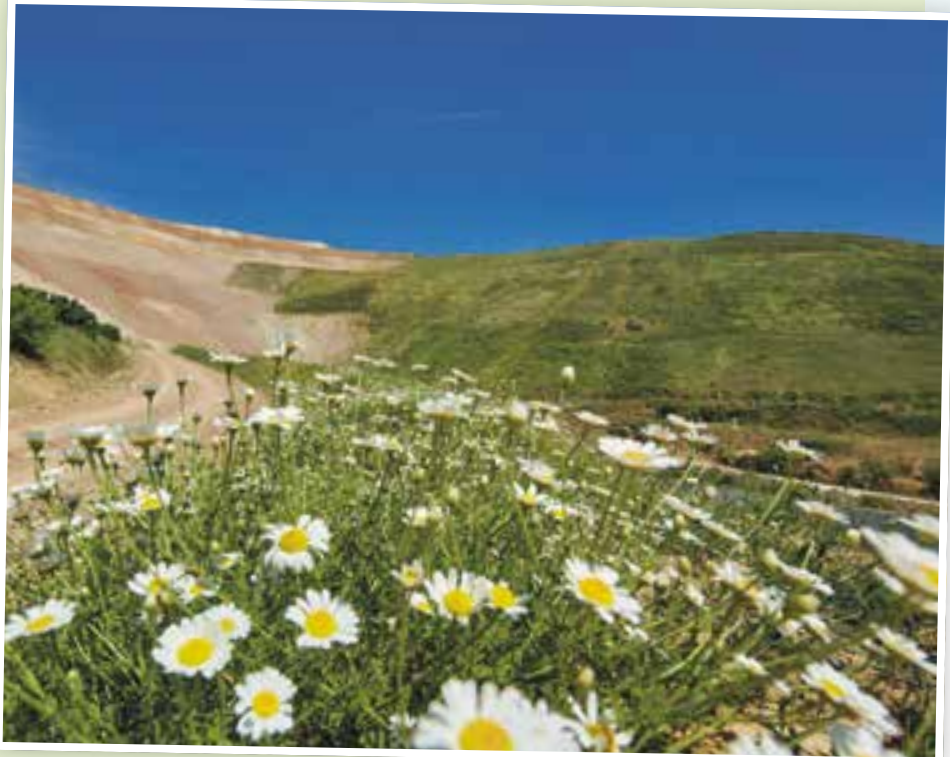
Mayor of Singleton, Cr Sue Moore and Mayor of Cessnock, Cr Bob Pynsent and Councillors from both councils, met with NSW Mining CEO Stephen Galilee and Policy Director Claire Doherty in Sydney. They called for industry support for a fund to facilitate the best use of post-production open cut mined land and the need for research into the economic potential and environmental impacts, particularly of final voids.

A suggested solution could be that money paid by open cut mining companies to mine subsidence be redirected to the rehabilitation of open cut mining land.

Cr Moore said yesterday’s meeting followed similar discussions with NSW Minister for Planning Anthony Roberts on 24 October 2017.

“This is an important conversation that needs to be had and I appreciate both Minister Roberts and Mining NSW opening their doors to us, and for their support generally for the idea,” she said.

“If a fund is established with sufficient resources, the economic and cultural potential of post mining land could become an asset for the people not only of Singleton and Cessnock, but NSW.”





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EDUCATING SAFE

AN INCIDENT AT MOUNT THORLEY WARKWORTH IN 2014 HAS LED TO AN EDUCATION PROGRAM TO HELP IMPROVE SAFETY IN THE WORKPLACE.



In October 2016, the NSW Department of Planning and Environment's Resources Regulator began an investigation into an alleged breach of the WH&S Act against Coal and Allied after an incident that occurred at MTW on 2 October 2014 which saw a worker seriously injured after falling from a grader. As an alternative to possible prosecution over the alleged breach, Coal and Allied submitted a proposal for an "enforceable undertaking". As part of the undertaking Coal and Allied have committed to a range of actions with a financial commitment of at least \$677,000. This is in addition to an estimated \$500,000

already spent on works carried out because of the incident. **A KEY COMPONENT OF THE UNDERTAKING IS THE DEVELOPMENT AND DELIVERY OF A PROJECT THAT IS TARGETED AT SCHOOL LEAVERS TO INFLUENCE THEIR THINKING AND BEHAVIOUR WITH REGARD TO SAFETY, BEFORE THEY ENTER THE WORKPLACE.** As part of the project an educational program incorporating a short film using virtual reality and a mobile app will be developed and trialed at two local schools. The project will be subject to an independent review and resources will be made freely available to create a long-term education program. After careful consideration, the undertaking was accepted as it provided for significantly better outcomes than prosecution alone would achieve. NSW Resources Regulator Chief Compliance Officer Anthony Keon said, "The undertaking by Coal and Allied is considered significant, and rightfully so, and has the real

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potential to create considerable, and broad, industry reach by focusing on the next generation of workers in the mining and other high-risk industries." Proactive programs like this are a positive step in improving the safety of our industry in the future.

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With a global portfolio of operations, we offer a diverse and inclusive environment with extraordinary career opportunities. Our strategy is to focus on creating a safe work environment where our employees feel strongly connected to our values and objectives, and where the capability of our people is key to our success.

COME AND BE A PART OF THIS SUCCESS.

Seeking Expressions of Interest | PRODUCTION SUPERVISORS

BHP Mt Arthur Coal is currently seeking Expressions of Interest for Production Supervisors with experience in Overburden, Coal, Mine Services and Statutory Compliance.

Our Supervisors work in the largest pit in the Hunter Valley, NSW with some of the biggest gear around, including 600 tonne class excavators and a fleet of Liebherr 282 trucks. If you join us, you will be accountable to lead a team of Production Operators to safely execute the mine plan and achieve productive outcomes. You will be actively involved in field leadership activities and will also carry out statutory inspections relating to compliance & procedures.

Located in the lifestyle friendly Hunter Valley region working a 4 panel rotational roster, this opportunity is well suited to someone who enjoys a challenge, loves to be around the largest equipment in a great operation and has some experience in a people leadership capacity.

ABOUT YOU

You must hold a current NSW OCE qualification (or mutually recognised equivalent qualification). In addition, you will also have:

- An unwavering commitment to safety, which is clearly demonstrated through your experience.
- A background in leading large teams in a frontline supervisory capacity.
- Collaboration skills to work across various stakeholders to ensure mining activities are performed in line with the mine standards and plans.
- A strong drive to work with your team to ensure they are delivering their best.
- Strong time management and an ability to manage multiple conflicting priorities.
- Communication and interpersonal skills which allow you to build relationships and achieve improvements.
- Sound Microsoft Office skills.

LOCATION

BHP's Mt Arthur Coal is the largest individual coal production site in the region. Located less than 5 kilometres from Muswellbrook, NSW we produce high quality, clean energy coal for international and domestic customers. Mt Arthur Coal can offer experience and great career development opportunities.

SUPPORTING A DIVERSE WORKFORCE

At BHP, we recognise that we are strengthened by diversity. We are committed to providing a work environment in which everyone is included, treated fairly and with respect. We are an Equal Opportunity employer and we encourage applications from women and Indigenous people.

We know there are many aspects of our employees' lives that are important, and work is only one of these, so we offer benefits to enable your work to fit with your life. These benefits include flexible working options, a generous paid parental leave policy and other extended leave entitlements.

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Please note, screening and interviews may take place prior to the advertised close date.

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PARALLEL ECONOMICS

COALMINE

RACETRACK REVS UP

DESPITE SOME CONCERNS AND OBJECTIONS, AN OLD COALMINE NEAR NEWY MIGHT SOON FUEL UP LOCAL TOURISM. THE PLAN WILL DRIVE PEOPLE OUR WAY AND ACCELERATE THE PERCEPTION OF THE POTENTIAL USES FOR MINE LAND WHILE GIVING PETROL HEADS A SERIOUSLY NEW FAVOURITE DESTINATION.

Black Rock Motor Park is a major parallel economic idea for a mine site that might become a reality. Perfectly positioned to attract people from Sydney and the local region, Wakefield near Newcastle is in serious contention for a \$30 million car enthusiast resort, thanks to businessman Tony Palmer. Black Rock Motor Park is proposed for the old Rio Tinto

Rhondda Colliery mine site and is modelled on the famous Spanish Ascari motoring enthusiast resort and driving track.

The development plans entails a seriously impressive \$30 million car enthusiast resort with a 4km track, training facilities, a pit lane building for the open display of up to 60 cars and storage for up

to 162 cars, and user amenities including 20 short-stay villas, a 20-room lodge, function centre, café and bars.

“IT’S A BIT LIKE A GOLF RESORT, BUT FOR PEOPLE WHO LIKE CARS, BUT WITH MORE OF A WELCOMING ENVIRONMENT THAN MOST RACETRACKS”, MR PALMER IS QUOTED AS SAYING.

Lake Macquarie City Council is assessing the proposal for the motoring enthusiast resort park on the former coalmine.

@ *The Coalface* think it’s a great idea if done right but a few residents aren’t happy despite it being a major boost for local

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How is Christmas exactly like your job?

You do all the work and some fat guy in a suit gets all the credit.

tourism. The developer said there had been close consultation with Lake Macquarie Council since March 2016 about the proposal for Australia’s first dedicated recreation resort park for motoring enthusiasts. Former racing driver Mr Palmer said Black Rock was aware of the opposition but didn’t want to be a bad neighbour.

It would host corporate driving events and launches, driving “experiences” in performance cars, public track days and driver training with dedicated facilities.

“We will have a private track where people can train, where cyclists can have time trials and events safe from cars, and where there will be facilities in a beautiful environment,” quoted Mr Palmer.



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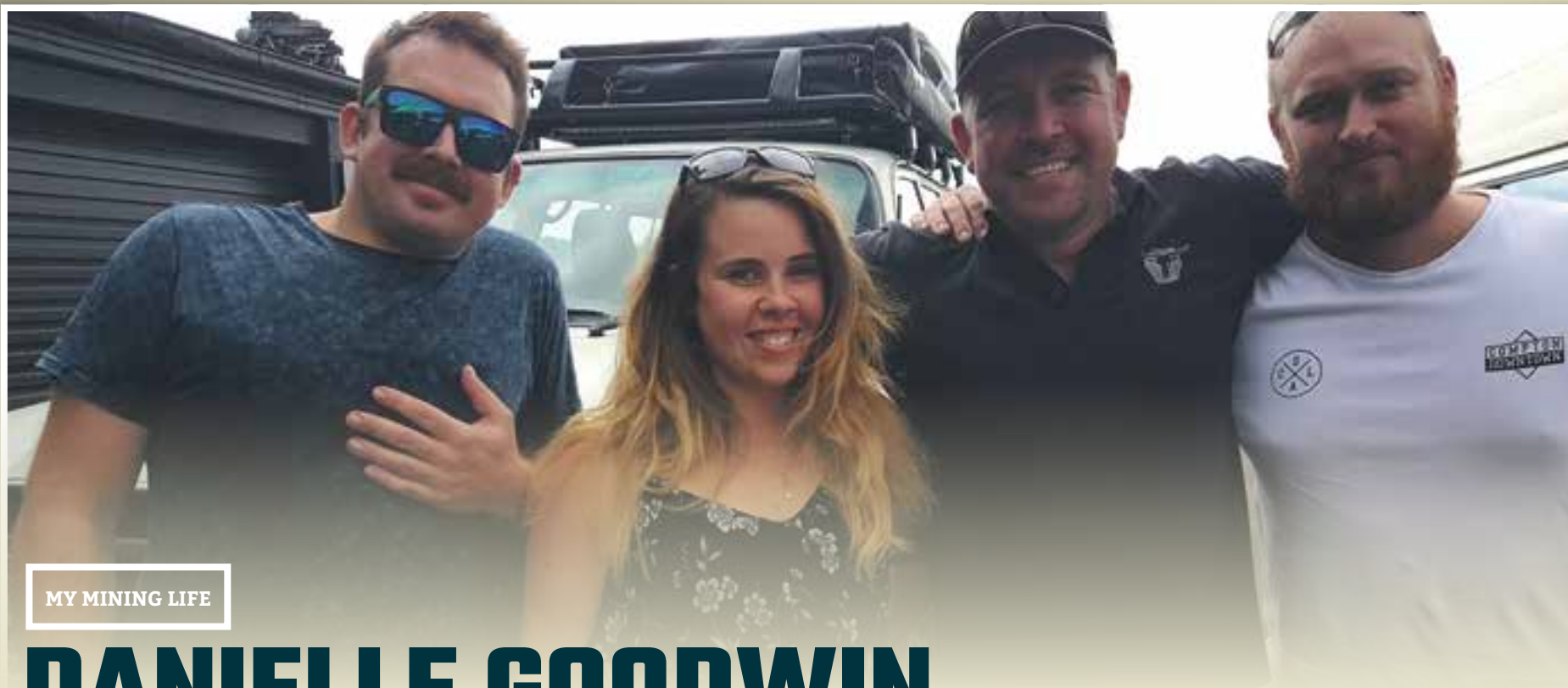
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MY MINING LIFE

DANIELLE GOODWIN

'SAWN-OFF'
AND THE BOYS

AFTER CRASHING HER MOUNT ARTHUR WORK CREW CHRISTMAS PARTY, ONE OF DANIELLE'S WORK MATES KINDLY CONVINCED HER TO TELL US ABOUT HER MINING LIFE. AFTER NEGOTIATING PAYMENT OF A FEW DRINKS FOR HER AND THE BOYS, WE WERE GOOD TO GO.

Who are you and what do you do?

I'm Danielle Goodwin. I work at Mount Arthur as a third-year apprentice plant mechanic.

Any nicknames good or bad?

I get called 'Sawn-off' because I'm so short. I'm probably the shortest out there in maintenance. Good things come in small packages I reckon!

Where do you live and how long you been in the Valley?

I'm in Muswellbrook and I've been there all my life. I went to Mussy High.

When did you start and what's the ride been like?

It's been pretty good; I got into the mines straight out of school. I always liked cars when I was young, playing around with dad in the shed

working on stuff. I applied for the apprenticeship and I was lucky enough to get it. I finished Year 12 and started my apprenticeship in 2015.

What's a usual day at work entail?

At the moment I'm on heavy crew so it can be working on diggers, drills and shovels changing hoses. Sometimes we have trouble with the hydraulics and do a lot of diagnosis. You learn every day, which I think is great. I'm on the 24/7 roster, day shift / night shift.

How big is the crew?

I'm on a good crew and the blokes aren't too bad. On my crew there's 5 fitters, me and two leco's. Everyone looks after each other and has each other's back. One thing I've learnt though is that men gossip more than women. Stories travel faster

through them then the girls. Especially Pup. He loves it.

What's the best thing about your job?

The best thing is that you get so many different experiences and it's always interesting. It's just another world. People drive past and think it's just a big hole. But you're in there on these big machines that are just great to work on. I do like being on heavy crew as opposed to trucks and stuff. I hope it's a long-term career. I love working with all these people with so much experience. It's not the same thing day in day out.

The worst thing?

It's starting to get hot. You go up to a machine with something wrong in the engine bay that's been running for six hours. Yep, that's bloody hot. Being the

apprentice, I often get the crap jobs. But that's ok, it's my time and everyone has to go through it, it's how you learn.

What's a funny story from work that you can tell?

I got covered in coolant one night changing a quick fill fitting. The fitter said he was crimping the hose, which I'm pretty sure he wasn't, as I got drenched in coolant. I was so soaked I had to have a shower mid shift. Some of the personalities can be pretty funny too. Two blokes on the crew stick close together and are lost without each other, we give them a bit of crap. But it's all in fun.

How different is your job to what you wanted to do when you were a kid?

I didn't have a big idea of what I wanted to do. I thought about going to uni and becoming a nurse, so this is a bit different.

What would your old man say about you when you were a kid?

I'm the youngest so it'd be

that I was a bit of a brat. A 'Witch with a B' mum used to call me. Dad was a bit shocked in the beginning, but he's gotten used to it. My brother is a fitter and he's a bit like dad and couldn't really believe it when I got the job. He still thinks he's the know it all and I love proving him wrong and saying I told you so... Ha-ha.

Family?

Two older brothers and an older sister. We're all pretty alike, the Goodwin gene runs strong in our family.

What do you do in the down time?

I bought a house by 21, which I'm proud of, so maintaining it. I was so happy when I was able to buy it. It's the best thing I've ever done. I've got a German Sheppard pup too, he's a bit of a turd and fulltime work. Going out with friends and because I've got a house, hanging out there. At Chrissy we're going down to Stockton for a fortnight on the beach in the caravan park, fingers crossed it doesn't rain.

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A PLACE IN HISTORY

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And the perfect place to do just that is at the Sir Edgeworth David Memorial Museum which is bursting at the seams with stories, photos and memorabilia showcasing the rich history of the Hunter coalfields.

The museum is run by the Coalfields Heritage Group, led by Secretary Brian J Matthews and Assistant Secretary Lexie Matthews who were both in residence when I popped in. These guys are passionate about the Hunter's history and are delighted to share that passion with all who come through the doors.

The Group has 22 volunteer

members and although most are retirees, they welcome everyone. "We are very proud that a high school student has become a member," Lexie says. "It doesn't matter what age you are, history is for everyone."

WHEN ASKED WHY THEY DEDICATE THEIR TIME THEY WERE BOTH IN UNISON. "WE LOVE HISTORY." LEXIE SAYS. "IT'S AS SIMPLE AS THAT."

And a huge part of that history that they are tirelessly researching and preserving is to do with coal mining in the Hunter. With such a wealth of information available they are a source for many publications and

videos about our industry.

"The researchers for the Last Stand at Nymbodia and the Lockout used our archives to help make those movies. We have documents here on 906 northern coal miles and many of those records don't exist anywhere else," Lexie tells me.

When asked how the museum came about Brian tells the story that back in 1996 a small group of locals got together to help preserve the Hunter's history. The Kurri Kurri High School gave permission for their then vacant and disused Sir Edgeworth David Memorial museum to become their headquarters and the Coalfield Heritage Group was formed. First on the agenda was to establish a local history archive. Today those archives are recognised as one of Australia's leading history centres with over 3.25 million pages of information.

They invite everyone from the community to come in and see what they are about. From teachers to researchers to the general public, all are welcome. "We love getting school groups involved in what we do, they ask the most surprising questions and look at things completely different which always makes it interesting," Lexie said.

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WE CAME ACROSS THIS TOOL AT THE MUSEUM AND EVEN THE HISTORY BUFF'S THERE DIDN'T KNOW WHAT IT WAS AT FIRST. DO YOU KNOW WHAT IT IS?

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For your chance to win, simply SMS the answer and your email address to 0438 474 290.

Limit of one entry per person.
LTPM/17/02507

All of Jim Comerford's private collection of documents was donated to the museum alongside with materials from many other renowned local historians and as a result you'll be surprised at what you can find tucked away on the shelves.

The museum is located on the grounds of Kurri Kurri High School and is open on Wednesdays, Sundays and some public holidays from 11-4pm. Other times can be made by appointment.

Anyone with an interest in our rich heritage here in the Coalfields should make the time to visit. You'll be amazed at what you discover.

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YOU'RE HIRED

CESSNOCK CITY COUNCIL HAS LAUNCHED THE YOUTH FIRST PROGRAM TOOLKIT WHICH GIVES COUNCILS ACROSS AUSTRALIA THE TOOLS TO SUPPORT YOUNG PEOPLE TO BE JOB READY.

Yancoal Austar Coal Operations is proudly supporting the new youth initiative which is hoped to have a positive impact on youth unemployment in the region. Austar Manager Brian Wesley said this is an important issue for our community.

"We are very aware of how training and education can make a genuine positive difference to the lives of others." Brian said.

THE GROUND-BREAKING PILOT PROGRAM FOR THE TOOLKIT SAW LOCAL YOUNG PEOPLE UNDERTAKE A TRAINING PROGRAM THAT UPSKILLED THEM AND SAW THEM OBTAIN RELEVANT INDUSTRY QUALIFICATIONS IN RETAIL AND HOSPITALITY.

Cessnock City Mayor Bob Pynsent said he is extremely proud to share this toolkit with every council in Australia and hopes they will roll it out.

"It was fantastic to see the transformation of the young people who participated in our program."

"I encourage every council in Australia to read the toolkit that has been developed for use by local government and consider rolling it out in their existing council facilities, as we have an opportunity to reduce the alarming statistic of youth unemployment and can change the course of a young person's life."

IF EVERY COUNCIL WAS ABLE TO GET 10 OF THEIR UNEMPLOYED YOUTHS INTO WORK USING THE YOUTH FIRST PROGRAM TOOLKIT, A MINIMUM OF 5,000 JOBS COULD BE FILLED NATIONALLY BY OUR YOUNG PEOPLE EACH YEAR.



COMPLETE PARTS CHRISTMAS GIVING TREE

COMMUNITY GIFT

TOGETHER WITH THE SINGLETON NEIGHBOURHOOD CENTRE, COMPLETE PARTS AND EQUIPMENT SOLUTIONS HAVE BEEN COLLECTING GIFTS AND DONATIONS TO HELP LOCAL FAMILIES IN NEED THIS CHRISTMAS.

When General Manager Craig Tanzer told us about it, we decided it was a bloody good idea and went and bought a ute-load of stuff to help out. Great work Complete we think you're a pack of legends. If you want to help too, simply

donate either a gift or non-perishable food item that may be used in a hamper and help make someone's Christmas merry and bright. You'll find them up behind Bunnings at Maison Dieu Singleton.

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MILLION DOLLAR PARTNERSHIP

BHP HAS COMMITTED OVER A MILLION DOLLARS TO BUILDING A MORE RESILIENT UPPER HUNTER COMMUNITY WITH THE EXTENSION OF ITS LEADING PARTNERSHIP IN THE REGION.

BHP has renewed its relationship with Upper Hunter Community Services (UHCS) for four years. Funding of \$1.14 million will support the Community Capacity Building Project, a significant and beneficial community development partnership.

BHP Mt Arthur Coal General Manager David Boshoff said renewing the partnership with UHCS and funding the Community Capacity Building Project was important to building a strong, sustainable and resilient community. **“SEEING THE WORK THE TEAM AT UHCS PERFORM**

WITH THE COMMUNITY EVERY DAY IS VERY HUMBLING, AND BHP ARE VERY PROUD TO BE INVOLVED,” “The Community Capacity Building Project has delivered, and will continue to deliver, far-reaching and quite profound support to the

community in which BHP operates. It is reassuring to know the level of service and support UHCS provides to the community and which our employees and contracting partners can access if they feel the need,” David said. Upper Hunter Community Services auspices quality services and community projects to promote the wellbeing of individuals, families and the community throughout the Upper Hunter region. UHCS Manager, Sue Milton, says it’s gratifying and

exciting that the work begun under the original partnership in 2012 will be strengthened and built upon. “The momentum we have generated through this partnership is important to continue so we can help our community grow sustainably and healthily and ensure we all remain on a strong footing. UHCS is pleased to partner with BHP and we’re excited for the future for UHCS as well as Muswellbrook and the surrounding region.” Sue said.



WIN!

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TOGETHER WE GROW

TOOLS FOR SCHOOLS

THE CFMEU NORTHERN MINING & NSW ENERGY DISTRICT HAVE BEEN SPONSORING A SECONDARY SCHOOLS GRANT PROGRAM SINCE 2011 WHICH PROVIDES VITAL RESOURCES TO SCHOOLS IN THE HUNTER.



KURRI KURRI HIGH

The CFMEU have long been recognised for supporting its Members and their families, with this program being a great example. CFMEU Members can nominate their child's secondary school to participate in the program and have the opportunity to receive resources that would otherwise not be available.

CFMEU NORTHERN DISTRICT SECRETARY SHANE THOMPSON SAID, "OUR UNION STRIVES TO ASSIST THE COMMUNITIES IN WHICH OUR MEMBERS WORK TO FUND WORTHWHILE INITIATIVES, IN THIS CASE IN SECONDARY SCHOOLS THAT WOULD OTHERWISE STRUGGLE TO ATTRACT ASSISTANCE."

Robert Moore from St Mary's at Maitland said they were delighted to be a part of the program. "We've been involved for a number of years and this year we received individual workbooks for the Economics and Business Studies students which have been a vital learning tool. It was also great to have the CFMEU's District Vice President Mark McGrath come along and speak with the students. They had great fun debating issues with him and learning more about role that unions play, not just in our

local mining industry but on a global scale." Robert said.

In addition to the resources provided to the school a component of the program is an essay competition where students write a small essay on "What Have Unions Ever Done for Us". Kurri High's Year 12 student Darcie Cliff was the winner of the essay and was awarded with an iPad.

NINE RECIPIENT SCHOOLS FOR 2017

- Alesco Senior College (Cessnock) received \$4,465 for equipment and resources.
- All Saints College, St Peter's Campus (Maitland) received \$5,000 for a learning space.
- Kurri Kurri High School received \$3,080 for notebook think pads.
- Maitland Grossman High received \$3,400 for a computer headset.
- Muswellbrook High received \$4,000 for 5 wireless headsets.
- Cessnock High received \$2,500 for the breakfast club.
- St Joseph's Campus Lochinvar received \$2,500 for a shade shelter.
- St Catherine's Catholic College (Singleton) received \$2,200 for furniture.
- St Mary's (Maitland) received \$1,800 for workbooks.



ST MARY'S MAITLAND

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and a
Happy New Year

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THAT'S SMART

THE UNIVERSITY OF NEWCASTLE'S AWARD-WINNING SMART (SCIENCE, MATHS AND REAL TECHNOLOGY) PROGRAM WILL DELIVER BRAND NEW SCIENCE SHOWS AT 19 PRIMARY SCHOOLS ACROSS THE UPPER HUNTER, THANKS TO A PARTNERSHIP WITH YANCOAL AUSTRALIA.

Yancoal's SMART investment saw the exciting new 'Future Earth' science shows brought to Upper Hunter schools over the last two months. The interactive show delved into this year's National Science Week theme, exploring resource conservation, energy efficiency, solar technology and bioplastics, presented by undergraduate science and engineering students. Yancoal's HVO and MTW mines have been a major sponsor of the University's SMART program and the Science and Engineering Challenge for over a decade. They have also recently signed a further 2-year

funding agreement ensuring the program continues through to the end of 2019. Yancoal MTW and HVO General Manager Jason McCallum acknowledged the positive difference the SMART program can make to the lives of local students. "We are proud to be supporting a program that encourages infant and primary school students to get involved in science, mathematics, and real technology related activities. This initiative is designed to enhance their understanding of SMART and will help drive the next generation of leaders towards our industry." Jason said.

2017 PARTICIPATING SCHOOLS

- Muswellbrook Christian School
- St Mary's Primary School, Scone
- Muswellbrook South Public School
- St James Primary School, Muswellbrook
- Jerrys Plains Public School
- St Josephs Primary School, Denman
- Singleton Heights Public School
- Mount Pleasant Public School
- Milbrodale Public School
- Broke Public School
- Denman Public School
- Martindale Public School
- Muswellbrook Public School
- Sandy Hollow Public School
- King Street Public School, Singleton
- Australian Christian College, Singleton
- Aberdeen Public School
- Scone Public School



COSTAIN'S RAVENSWORTH MINE REUNION

ON SATURDAY FEBRUARY 3 AT 7PM, SINGLETON DIGGERS WILL PLAY HOST TO A MEMORABLE EVENING WHERE OLD WORKMATES WILL BE REUNITED.

The reunion will celebrate the workers from the Costain's Ravensworth Open Cut Mine from 1971 through to 1998. Partners are welcome to attend, and the cost is \$20 per person paid at the door on the night. RSVP by January 10. Rodney George – 0407 721 547 or Lionel Finley.

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COOLAID

FIRST AID SKILLS WERE PUT TO THE TEST AT THE ANNUAL COAL SERVICES FIRST AID COMPETITION HELD AT THE NEWCASTLE MINES RESCUE STATION IN NOVEMBER.

Ten teams from mine sites as far afield as Ulan and Tahmoor came together to compete. Mines rescue brigadesmen, emergency response and first aid officers participated in a series of complex, simulated scenarios ranging from burns and breaks, to amputation and snakebite. As well as live enactments, participants were also challenged through Coal Services' virtual reality training.

The scenarios are as close to real life as it gets and require teams to manage environmental and equipment hazards as well as multiple injuries and distressed casualties. Teams are assessed on how well they respond to the scenario and the level of proficiency with which they administer first aid. There is also a theory component.

General Manager Mines Rescue, Regulation and Compliance, Matthew Fellowes commented that the competition is undertaken in good spirit, but teams also know the importance of what they do and the value these competitions provide.

"MANY OF THE PEOPLE WE TRAIN WORK IN REMOTE LOCATIONS AND IT IS A KNOWN FACT THAT TIMELY FIRST AID CAN BE LIFE SAVING. OUR REAL-TO-LIFE SCENARIOS ENSURE MAXIMUM PREPAREDNESS." MATTHEW SAID.

Kristy Prior, Partnership and Innovation Manager for Coal Services' CS Health business unit said, "The success of the day is dependent on the participation of the teams and the volunteers who help to make it happen. We would like to thank all those who took part as competitors, behind the scenes or as actors to enhance the realism."

2017 WINNERS WERE THE MANDALONG TEAM CAPTAINED BY IAIN PATTIE AND TEAM MEMBERS DANIEL WOOD, CLINT BRYANT, JOHN DOWNIE AND FIFTH STAND IN MAN, MICK COWAN.

Iain said it was a great day and they were all proud to have won amid such a competitive and highly skilled group. "On behalf of the team I would like to extend our thanks to Centennial Coal's Mandalong mine for allowing us the time and equipment to train. In particular John Turner who is a big supporter of the brigadesmen. We were also fortunate to have received coaching from multiple past competition winner Alex Lidwinski and we thank him for his time." Iain said.

All teams demonstrated exceptional skills and the tightly contested challenges can reassure those working in the mining industry that they will be well attended to should they find themselves in an emergency situation.

'AVE A LAUGH WITH



PH 02 65272 1230

What do you get when you cross a duck with Santa?

A Christmas quacker.

It was Christmas Eve in a supermarket and a woman was anxiously picking over the last few remaining turkeys in the hope of finding a large one.

In desperation she called over a shop assistant and said "Excuse me. Do these turkeys get any bigger?"

"No" he replied, "They're all dead".

GOOD NEWS FOR CHRISTMAS FOOD

ALL TOO OFTEN THE FOODS WE LOVE ARE DEMONISED BY SO CALLED 'FOOD GURUS'. WE'VE DONE OUR OWN RESEARCH LOOKING AT RECENT STUDIES TO FIND OUT THE TRUTH OF THESE STAPLE FOODS NEEDED FOR A CHRISTMAS FEAST.

BEER

To be clear this is not an encouragement to go out and down a case, we are talking about moderate beer drinking. One to two drinks per day can boost your metabolism and reduce your risk of heart attack and cancer.

Beer has no fat, cholesterol, or nitrates and is loaded with carbohydrates, magnesium, selenium, potassium, phosphorus, iron, calcium, biotin, folic acid, niacin, B-vitamins, and antioxidants. Plus it's good for the soul!

POTATOES

Because they're a high glycemic index food they tend to get lumped in with foods made from refined carbohydrates that must be avoided at all costs. But potatoes are extremely nutritious and are a rich source of carbohydrates, vitamin C, some B vitamins and trace minerals.

Because the nutrients lie just under the skin, it's best to cook it with the skin on and baking or roasting are

preferable to boiling so nutrients are not lost.

WHEAT

Wheat has become one of the most demonised of all foods because it contains gluten. Yet only about 1% of the population have a genuine gluten allergy.

Wheat is a good source of fibre, vitamins and minerals and decades of studies have found that gluten-containing foods such as whole wheat are vital for good health and associated with a reduced risk of diabetes, heart disease, cancer and excess weight.

COFFEE

Despite the prevalent thinking that to be healthy means cutting out coffee, the current evidence is mostly in favour of drinking coffee. Coffee drinking is linked to increased life expectancy, reduced risk of Type 2 diabetes and reduced risk of liver and prostate cancer, particularly in men.

And it's not just the caffeine, studies show that the other compounds in coffee are beneficial, so you can drink decaffeinated coffee too.

EGG YOLKS

We've all seen the hype over egg white only omelettes

with the poor old yolk being left by the wayside. Yet egg yolks are one of the richest dietary sources of choline, an anti-inflammatory nutrient essential for neurological function. Choline also helps produce the 'happiness' hormones, serotonin, dopamine, and norepinephrine. Egg yolks are also rich in lutein and zeaxanthin, two carotenoids that protect against vision loss.

SUGAR

Of all the so called 'bad foods' sugar has been slammed in recent years as being the worst. Yet our bodies prefer sugar to provide us with energy than any other source.

It occurs naturally in many fruits and vegetables and more importantly, it tastes great. Which is the problem as it's packed full of calories. You just need to find a way to limit the intake of your sugar and so artificial sweeteners make a great substitute. To date, artificial sweeteners have not been proved to cause any ill effects and will satisfy your sweet tooth without the calories.

Bring on the Christmas Feast!



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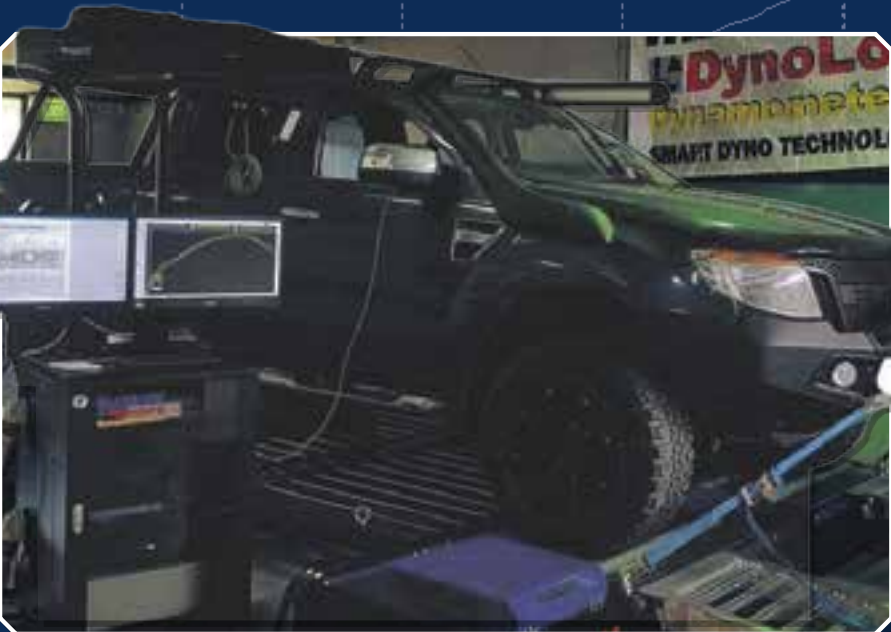
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Proudly celebrating 80 years in the Hunter this Christmas.



This Christmas The Bloomfield Group celebrates 80 years of operations.

As one of the few Australian family-owned mining companies in Australia, we are pretty proud of this achievement.

Our success is the result of a loyal workforce, an innovative approach to work and great relationships with the community and our suppliers.

From our family to yours, we wish you the best for the festive season.

Have a happy and prosperous New Year.

Stay safe over the holiday period.



GET GAINZ: PREPARE TO TRAIN WITH PURPOSE

**FORGET HORSE RACING.
IN THE MINING INDUSTRY,
POWERLIFTING IS THE
SPORT OF KINGS.**



Hitting the gym on the regular is all well and good, but unless you train with a purpose in mind, it's all lift and no gift. Aside from the good feelings you get after an intense gym session, the next best reward for training should be to improve your overall strength. Studies show that the best way to lose weight and get fit is by lifting heavy things.

Lifting weights builds lean muscle tissue and weight training has been shown to burn more calories than cardio. When you run on a treadmill you are definitely burning calories while exercising. However, once you stop so does the calorie burn. Weight training on the other hand gives you a metabolic lift after working out since your body is trying to help your muscles recover.

BASICALLY, LIFTING HEAVY THINGS HELPS YOUR BODY TO KEEP BURNING CALORIES LONG AFTER YOU'VE QUIT THE GYM FOR

THE DAY. POWERLIFTING IS A GREAT WAY TO GET AFTER YOUR EXERCISE GOALS.

In a nutshell, powerlifting is an individualised strength sport in which competitors attempt to lift as much weight as possible for one repetition in the squat, bench press, and deadlift. Jarrett King, from Rutherford based training centre Fit for Kings, explains.

"Power lifting is the test of your strength from one rep. When you train you'll do multiple reps and assisted work, but in competition you only get three attempts at the three different lifts," says Jarrett. "With each lift, people usually start with a lift they know they can do and then move onto something a little harder for their second lift and then for their third they'll usually go all out and test their absolute strength," he says.

THE SHOUT'S ON US!

WIN!



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SPORT @ THE COALFACE IS BROUGHT TO YOU BY THE CLUBBY AND LOCAL LIQUOR



JARRETT SAYS HE SEES A LOT OF MINING INDUSTRY WORKERS GETTING INTO POWERLIFTING BECAUSE OF THE FLEXIBILITY OF THE SPORT, WHICH ALLOWS YOU TO TRAIN ANY TIME OF DAY OR NIGHT WHICH MAKES IT ESPECIALLY APPEALING TO SHIFT WORKERS.

It's a sport that is great for people in the mining industry, especially if they're sitting behind the wheel or behind the desk all shift, because it gets you stretching and moving before you lift," Jarrett adds. "These movements will actually benefit you while you're sitting and working for long periods of time."

So, you could easily get stuck into the turduckens and beers this Christmas season, or, you could get stuck into the sport of powerlifting, get after it and prepare to train with purpose in the New Year.

Contact Jarrett and the team at Fit for Kings - www.fitforkings.net.au



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LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, DOWN TOOLS, THE SUMMER OF CRICKET IS UPON US. AND, IT'S THE BLOODY ASHES TOO! FOR THOSE OF YOU WHO WANT THE INSIDE EDGE ON WHAT'S GOING ON THIS SUMMER... EVEN IF YOU JUST DON'T CARE... HERE'S WHAT'S HAPPENING IN CRICKET THIS SUMMER, SO YOU CAN ATTEND OR AVOID, AS REQUIRED.

CRICKET FEVER IS COMING

Cricket season over summer is heating up! The Ashes series has only just kicked off and already this series is all set to be a belter. The Aussies are ready to dominate the Poms over five test matches and send them back to dreary olde London town with their tail between their legs.

The first test, held at the Gabba, will be followed by a five-day barnstormer in the city of churches, Adelaide, on the 2nd December, before heading west to Perth, where batsmen and bowlers will do battle with the Fremantle Doctor at the WACA on

December 14th. Then, while we're all scrambling around for last minute Christmas gifts, the lads will be training ahead of the Boxing Day Test, held, as is tradition, at the MCG in Melbourne on the 26th December. The fifth and final test will take place in Sydney on January 4th at the SCG.

By that time, we predict the Aussies to be four-nil up and looking ahead to the One Day Series where, again, us antipodeans will get another chance to towel up the English at their own game, again, and again and again.

The first of a five game ODI series kicks off on the 14th of January in Melbourne, followed by the GABBA on the 19th, the SCG just three days later on the 21st, Adelaide Oval on the 26th and Perth at the end of the month, on the 28th.

Oh... and if that wasn't enough the Twenty 20 series blasts off in February to round a full three months of cracking cricket action from some of the best players in the world. The International trans Tasman Tri-Series T-20 will be play out between the Brits, the Aussies and our Kiwi bros across the dutch... (sorry bru). By the end of summer, you'll be stinging for footy season to begin again.

So... Howzatt?!

If you're not a fan of cricket, we'd suggest you sort out your Netflix subscription! You're gonna need it.

THE GREATEST RACE OF ALL

THAT'S A WRAP, FOLKS, ON THE FIRST V8 SUPERCARS NEWCASTLE 500. WHAT A CITY! WHAT A WEEKEND! WHAT A RACE!

Boats lined up along the harbour and jets streaked across the sky, while a field of finely tuned V8 Supercars tore up the streets of Newcastle, leaving no race

fan disappointed. With more thrills and spills than trying to sip a cup of coffee on a roller coaster ride, the V8 Supercars Newcastle 500 was, without a doubt, one of

the most difficult circuits for a race car driver while also being one of the most spectacular racing events the world has ever seen.

Over 190,000 race fans

from all over the world converged on Newcastle, which hosted three days of exciting, adrenaline fuelled action that literally came down to the wire. In the final race of the weekend, Shell V-Power Racing's young superstar, Scott McLaughlin just couldn't drive his way out of a series of time penalties, which meant seven-times V8 Supercars champion and Holden Red Bull Racing superstar, Jamie Whincup could snatch the championship out from under the young driver's nose and comfortably win the final race of the weekend that saw Holden go 1, 2, 3, on the winners podium.

Standing trackside, you could feel the noise blasting from the exhaust as 1,400 tonnes of naturally aspirated 5.0 Litre V8 machine screamed up Watt St, climbing 28 metres



before spiralling down, turn after turn, beside Newcastle Beach, where race fans were treated to more than a few scrapes, dings and dents!

Our boy, Aaren Russell was in the wars more than once over the weekend, but said that he was "blown-away" by how good the event was in his home town.

Big time. Bring on 2018!

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THE TROOPY ADVENTURERS HAVE TAKEN THE HARD WORK OUT OF PLANNING A QUICK CAMPING TRIP OVER THE HOLIDAYS. HERE'S SOME OF THE BEST WITHIN SPITTING DISTANCE OF HOME.

THIRD CREEK REDHEAD BEACH

A cracker spot just south of Newcastle that's kid and dog friendly and comes with a beach, creek and sand dunes. This place ticks all the boxes. Be mindful to drop your tyre pressure as this beach has the softest sand going. Permits are required but they are cheap. I dare say you will catch us there sometime over the holidays.

WATAGAN MOUNTAINS

There are plenty of campgrounds up in the mountains, heaps of lookouts, the odd creek to swim in and some great water falls if you need a shower. We recently stayed at Gap Creek Falls but passed half a dozen other campsites on the

way there. I say just pick a spot and do a day or two of exploring!

MCBRIDES BEACH

For the keen 4wder! Drop the tyre pressure and take it nice and slow. Just south of Forster is this steep and rugged track that winds its way down onto one of the coolest beaches in the country. All you'll need is the beach rod, a few beers and your swag.

KARUAH RIVER

Cruise up the Buckets way and turn off into the Karuah State Forest. That's where you'll find a couple of camp sites where you can launch the tinny and go fishing all day, or if that's not your thing you can kick back and drink beers all day at camp. I

know what we'd be doing.

BRETTI CAMPING RESERVE

30mins north of Gloucester up the Thunderbolts way is this big open campground that's dog friendly and right on the creek! Perfect for the kids to swim in or to

throw the kayak in and go for a paddle. There is onsite drop toilets that'll keep the misso happy and more than enough space to go with a group of friends.

That's our hot tips for the month! and remember to

put your rubbish in the bins or take it with you when you leave!

Check out, join up and follow Troopy Adventures on Facebook for a heap more inspiration. Thanks for the tips legends!



'AVE A LAUGH WITH

GREG HEDGES SMASH REPAIRS

PH 02 65272 1230

What do you get if you eat Christmas decorations?
Tinsilitis!



Entries now **OPEN** for the NSW Women in Mining Awards

DO YOU KNOW AN OUTSTANDING WOMAN IN MINING?

The 2018 NSW Women in Mining Awards highlight the role that women play in our industry and recognise the achievements of the many outstanding women working in our mines and supply businesses.

AWARDS WILL BE GIVEN IN FIVE CATEGORIES:

- Exceptional Woman in NSW mining
- Exceptional Young Woman in NSW mining
- Outstanding Tradeswoman/Operator/Technician
- Gender Diversity Champion (male or female)
- Excellence in Company Programs and Performance

Winners will go on to represent NSW at the Women in Resources National Awards.



enter here: nswmining.com.au/events

MATTY WITH A NICE
DOLLY OFF THE FADS

CHRISTMAS CATCHING

THE LEAD UP TO CHRISTMAS IS THE PERFECT TIME TO STOCK UP THE FREEZER WITH PROVISIONS FOR A SOLID CHIRSSY DAY SEAFOOD FEAST. SO FIND A FEW HOURS AND GET AWAY FROM THE PRE FESTIVE MADNESS FOR A BIT OF YOU TIME.

PORT STEPHENS

Inside the bay is fishing exceptionally well for flathead and whiting in the all the usual areas such as up the Karuah River, up around Lemon Tree, the Myall River and along Jimmies Beach. Blue swimmers and mud crabs are also on the move, so its well worth soaking a couple of pots while hunting a fish or two. Be sure to keep an eye on them as it seems the share farmers are also out to pick off any unattended crabbing gear. We are still hearing plenty of reports of Jew coming from the deeper holes around the Bay.

OFFSHORE

The marlin season is really starting to show its face with plenty of reports of fish being caught already. Plenty of blues and a few stripes have been encountered already along the shelf with some serious blues hooked and lost on the big gear. Let's hope this continues and we see a great bite over the festive season and as we move into the new year. The FAD's have also started to show plenty of signs of life with some really good fish holding on the Port Stephens Fad. It pays to get out

early to have a crack as the traffic on them is starting to build. We haven't been paying much attention to the inshore reefs lately, but I'm sure there would be trag, snapper, kingfish and the odd jew around as the bait starts to stack up around the reefs and the warm currents start to push in.

LAKE MAC/NEWY/STOCKTON

There's plenty of action in the lake with the numbers of good pan sized snapper and flathead being the stand out, taking plastics and soft vibes around areas holding bait. Reports of squid have been a little slow around the lake but can't be far away as the weather and water starts to warm up.

The prawns in the channel will be worth spot lighting around the dark just before Christmas as well. Newcastle Harbour and Stockton Beach have been the topic of some huge jewies with multiple big fish coming from the Breakwalls and the southern end of Stockton Beach. The flattie flickers are also enjoying a good bite around the harbour too.

Merry Fishmas! Hope the big guy brings you a new rod – even better a new boat... Thrifty's

YOUNG GUN OF THE MONTH
CHARLIE, WITH A BREAM

SEND US A PIC
OF YOUR YOUNG
GUN TO WIN
A \$50 BCF VOUCHER
IF IT GETS PUBLISHED!



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Thank you for your
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We wish you a safe and relaxing
holiday season and look forward
to working with you in 2018

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www.maptek.com



IMITATION THE SINCEREST FORM OF FLATTERY

SOUNDING MORE LIKE THE NAME OF A COUNTER INTELLIGENCE AGENCY, THE LIEBHERR PR776 DOZER MAY NOT HAVE THE SAME SWEET RING TO ITS NAME AS A CATERPILLAR D10T DOZER HOWEVER, IT'S A MACHINE WORTHY OF KEEPING YOUR EYES ON.

Designed for tough mining and quarry operations, this 70t class dozer appears

positioned to take Caterpillar head on in a category that they've dominated for

nearly 40 years. Powered by a 12-cylinder diesel engine developing 565kW

(768 HP), this machine has without doubt, been created to compete with Cat and complements Liebherr's ever increasing range of mining machines.

One thing that you will immediately notice about this dozer is that it looks remarkably like the Caterpillar equivalent. With elevated sprocket (or high-drive system), this track-type tractor has assumed a feature that has become synonymous with Caterpillar, a design that Cat perfected and released on their first D10 in 1977, effectively raising the bar and changing the game for the entire industry.

While I haven't checked, I can only assume that Cat's patent has lapsed, for this is a major step forward for a competitor. If sales are as much about overcoming objections, as it is sprouting a product's features and benefits, this machine has addressed some critical stumbling blocks in one fell swoop. With a respected brand and the machine's drive system, Liebherr have in this instance, developed a machine worthy of the

market's consideration.

Established in 1949, Liebherr is entirely family owned and diversified across many categories that include Earthmoving, Mining, Cranes, Aerospace and Domestic Appliances. Headquartered in Switzerland, it's evident that this family has developed dominant market positions by offering high quality products, that are designed and controlled within the company.

While their mining and crane categories have prospered in Australia, their civil size construction machines have not garnered the same support. This is an area Liebherr will be keen to rectify and this dozer, the PR776, may well be their panacea to tackling this problem from the 'top-down'.

On behalf of the team at Components Only, I take this opportunity to wish you and your families a safe, enjoyable and recuperative festive period. 2017 has proven positive year for our industry and 2018 with luck, promises to be an even bigger one.

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KURRI COALFACE PEDAL 2018

CHARITY MOUNTAIN BIKE RIDE

SUNDAY 8 APRIL 2018

**STARTS 8AM
PELAW MAIN SCHOOL**

**DISTANCES:
10KM, 20KM, 40KM AND 60KM**

CHECK IN 30 MINS BEFORE EACH EVENT

MINES TEAM CHALLENGE
If you work in or are associated with the mining industry why not enter your team of 3 riders to take part in this 60km event, all riders start together and the first team finished will take out the Quarry Mining Trophy.

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21 February 2018
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for \$65 order before 21/2/2018

Harvey Norman **BUM**

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8.00AM	60KM DASH
8.00AM	60KM MINES TEAMS CHALLENGE
8.00AM	60KM GENERAL RIDE
9.00AM	40KM RIDE
10.00AM	20KM RIDE
10.00AM	20KM YR 5 & 6 SCHOOL CHALLENGE
10.00AM	10KM FAMILY RIDE

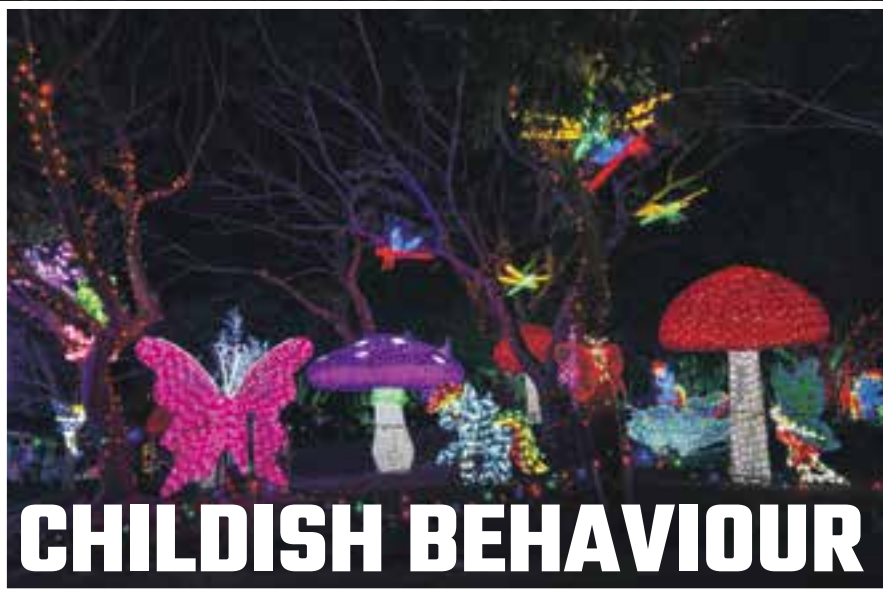
HOW TO ENTER

Entry forms can be downloaded from

www.rescuehelicopter.com.au/events

ONLINE ENTRIES CLOSE

Thursday 4 April 2018 or enter on the day



CHILDISH BEHAVIOUR

GETTING THE KIDS OUT OF THE HOUSE AND OUT OF YOUR HAIR DURING THE SCHOOL HOLIDAYS IS A MUST, SO HERE ARE SOME OF OUR FAVOURITE ACTIVITIES TO KEEP THEM BUSY.



REVOLUTION SPORTS PARK WICKHAM

With over 30 massive inflatables, dodgeball arena, bubble soccer, slam dunk lanes and every kind of bouncing surface for those who like a little jumping in their lives, this place is sure to wear out the kids and guarantees a whole lot of laughter as the big kids try to keep up.

www.revolutionpark.com.au



HOLY MOLY GOLF CHARLESTOWN

With two unique nine-hole courses, this is mini golf that takes fun to a

new level. The Caddyshack bar with its selection of cocktails, tunes and great grub will also keep the adults entertained. Still looking for some extra fun? Hire out one of their Karaoke rooms!

www.holeymoley.com.au



HEDDON GRETA DRIVE IN

Fill the car with kids and bring some chairs and blankets though snuggling is optional. You will need an FM car radio or a portable FM radio and don't forget the snacks.

www.drive-in.com.au

HUNTER VALLEY GARDENS XMAS LIGHTS

On until January 27, the 2 million lights on show will light up the darkest mood. With food and beverage stalls, roaming entertainment and nightly performances it makes a great night out for the family. We recommend purchasing an unlimited rides wristband for the Ferris wheel, carousel and swing chair and then you won't hear from the kids again.



www.huntervalleygardens.com.au
GJ'S BY THE LAKE

On Lake Liddell is an action-packed venue with indoor skydiving, laser tag, go karts and a rock climbing wall. This family owned business will get your adrenaline pumping whatever your age.

www.gjsbythelake.com



HUNTER VALLEY ZOO

The zoo is home to our most iconic Australian mammals as well as lions, meerkats, wolves and more. With free BBQ facilities, daily shows and educational talks, this zoo is great because it allows the kids to get interactive with the animals.

www.huntervalleyzoo.com.au



SINGLETON TENPIN BOWLING

With 12 lanes of tenpin bowling, computerised scoring, bumpers and more this place is great

GET ON YA BIKE

WIN!

THANKS TO THE TEAM AT HUNTER VALLEY MOTORSPORTS RUTHERFORD WE HAVE AN AWESOME KTM KIDS BALANCE BIKE TO GIVE AWAY THIS MONTH.

Valued at \$189, this bike is a perfect way to get the little tykes into motorsports while they are young.

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

Limit of one entry per person.
LTPM/17/02507



for young and old. Friday and Saturdays nights hosts their glow in the dark bowling and the dark makes it easier to ignore the kids getting up to mischief.

www.singleontenpin.com.au



HUNTER VALLEY HORSE RIDING AND ADVENTURES

With a selection of rides daily for both beginners and experienced riders, and even pony rides for the little ones, this is a great way to get the kids off their iPads and in the actual outdoors while you enjoy the beautiful Hunter Valley scenery.

www.huntervalleyhorseriding.com.au



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AS GOOD AS XMAS GETS

LITTLE JACK HORNER SAT IN THE CORNER EATING A CHRISTMAS PIE, HE PUT IN HIS THUMB AND PULLED OUT A PLUM, AND SAID, "WHAT A GOOD BOY AM I!"

Adam Francis is a name you might not know, but it's one you should do yourself a bloody big flavor by tracking down. He's the good boy of this story. Adam owns a pie palace down Argenton way at 431 Main Rd. This my friends,

is a story of my pilgrimage to that palace of the pie. It's a pilgrimage not even the Three Wise Men could beat. A couple of weeks ago I hung a bit of tinsel on the rearview mirror of the Kingswood and stuck a bit to the aerial too. I then

put pedal to the metal and headed down to the big smoke of Newcastle to buy the missus a couple of Chrissy pressies. First stop was Nauti & Nice at Hamilton to grab an outfit so the missus could spice things up

Xmas morning for the leader of the country... yours truly. The Mrs Clause getup I picked out leads me too believe its not the naughty kids Santa should be worried about, but his mischievous better half. She apparently doesn't feel the cold very much at the North Pole if the lack of fabric in the costume is anything to go by. The Santa outfit I nabbed also suggests the jolly one has a few behavioral issues himself. There'll be more than bells a jingling early on the 25th let me tell yah.

Anyway...On with the story. From Hamilton I headed towards Stockland Glendale to grab some perfume to go with the missus's Xmas outfit and around the corner, probably one of the most alluringly beautiful smells I've ever whiffed invaded my nostril's. It stirred things in me I hadn't felt for years; animal urges that made me feel primal to the core. Stopped in my tracks, in that moment all loyalties to the missus fled as my heart took me to what felt like forbidden fruit. I felt guilty, but my loyalty to my Mrs Clause would have to be ignored.

'AVE A LAUGH WITH



PH 02 65272 1230

Why is Santa so jolly?
Because he knows where all the naughty girls live.

I slammed on the brakes so hard the Kingswood nearly had a heart attack. Right there in front of me she stood. I couldn't resist, the urge was too strong. In front of me stood this thing of beauty...Little Jack Horner... Bakery that is - Adam Francis' Pie joint. A piery so good it's won Australia's No1 Pie for its chunky steak jobby. Santa will definitely be stopping by that good boy Adam's joint. Merry Xmas to me...it came early this year. If you want your Xmas to come early too I strongly suggest you swing on by. Merry Xmas, peace, loves and good wishes to you and yours. Stay safe, drive safe
Yo Ho Ho. Your Santa loving leader... Sol



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TRUCK TUCKER

AS MUCH AS I LOVE FINE DINING, SOMETIMES YOU JUST WANT TO KICK OFF THE THONGS AND RELAX IN THE AFTERNOON SUN WITH A COLD BEER AND SOME FINGER LICKING GOOD GRUB.

An initiative of Maitland council, Street Eats is about bringing mobile food to public places and is proving to be a very successful venture. Food trucks pop up in different locations to offer passerby's their unique street food and includes eateries like Bonjani Woodfired Pizza, Craft Street Eats, Red Belly Gourmet, El Poco Loco, Smokin' Hot N Saucy and All of the Things.

In addition, they are also running 'Get Togethers' over the summer where a bunch of the trucks will be in the same location at once. We headed to Morpeth on the picturesque banks of the Hunter River to see what all the fuss was about.

No snotty waiters, uncomfortable tables or morose background music. Instead we were greeted by smiling families lounging on green grass, laughter from kids playing in the river and inviting smells wafting on the breeze.

The place was packed and all the tables were taken, so we pulled up some turf and then hit the trucks determined to sample all that was on offer. The fish tacos, lamb rump with cous cous, crispy chicken bits and the pumpkin poppers were all tasty, but the clear stand out was Bao Brothers with their contemporary version of Taiwanese street food. The Pork Bao bun was unbelievably good, but just in case the first one was a fluke I ate three to make sure.

Choux Patisserie had a great selection of eclairs on offer which took care of dessert. Custardy rolls of goodness each bringing deliciousness to new heights. I sampled four before I had to admit defeat.

As the food coma kicked in I lay back on the grass, already daydreaming about the trucks I had yet to meet.

www.mymaitland.com.au/streeteats

SUMMER DATES

RH Taylor Reserve, Lorn
5.00pm to 8.00pm

- Friday 12 January
- Friday 9 February
- Friday 9 March
- Friday 13 April

Queens Wharf, Morpeth
5.00pm to 8.00pm

- Sunday 25 February
- Sunday 25 March
- Sunday 29 April

Committed to WORKING TOGETHER

Malabar Coal has developed a radically different proposal for EL5460, previously known as Drayton South. This new underground proposal has been designed to address community and stakeholder concerns about past proposals and minimise any possible impacts on our neighbours.

We understand that, if a coal mine is to be successful, it must coexist with local industries and gain its social licence from the community.

Malabar's plan will use the existing processing, handling and rail infrastructure at the Drayton Mine for the any future project, so that there are no new impacts for our neighbours.

Benefits of the underground only project include about 350 new direct, long term jobs for the region and many more indirect jobs.

Malabar's proposal will also generate significant economic and social benefits for the local area, for NSW more broadly and for the national economy. The project will provide ongoing support for local businesses and, over the 30 years of this project, provide \$1.7 billion of royalties to the State.

How is Malabar's proposal different from past proposals?

1. Malabar will only mine underground.

No need for blasting, with no dust and noise related impacts or impact on equine health or nearby properties. Mining operations will be invisible to the horse studs addressing any impact to the reputation or operations of the horse studs.

2. The portion of EL 5460 beneath and south of the Golden Highway has been relinquished.

This includes the land beneath the Godolphin and Coolmore horse studs and Golden Highway.

3. Better rehabilitation outcomes

Malabar will deliver a far more visually appealing final outcome at the existing Drayton Mine-site by using reject stone and rock from the underground mine at Spur Hill or an underground mine at EL 5460 to fill the legacy voids at the Drayton Mine.



BRINGING JOBS AND INVESTMENT TO THE LOCAL COMMUNITY

@ THE COALFACE TRIVIA

BROUGHT TO YOU BY THE SINGLETON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

What was the slang term coal ships were known by?
What was the slang term for a fist sized lump of coal?
What was the slang term for a small area left during the extraction of pillars? Answers next month.

- 1. What was the name of the miner killed in the Rothbury Riots?
Norman Brown
- 2. What critically endangered plant is found in North Rothbury? **Persoonia Pauciflora**
- 3. What road is the Rothbury Riot Memorial on? **Branxton Road**



@ THE COALFACE PRIZE WINNERS

VOLUME 2 – NO 3: NOVEMBER - DECEMBER 2017

Construction Utensils - gleighton251179@gmail.com, raynpam@yahoo.com.au
Roberts Meats Monthly Meat Raffle - janarooash@live.com.au
At the Coalface Book - des1601@gmail.com, brian2wendy@yahoo.com.au, bizkitjing@gmail.com, jac.1957@hotmail.com
Rugged Xtremes Crib Bag - bryan.russ50@gmail.com, npholdings@bigpond.com
Clubhouse XXXX - lvok1@hotmail.com

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL OUR WINNERS!

WINNERS!

@ THE COALFACE CROSSWORD

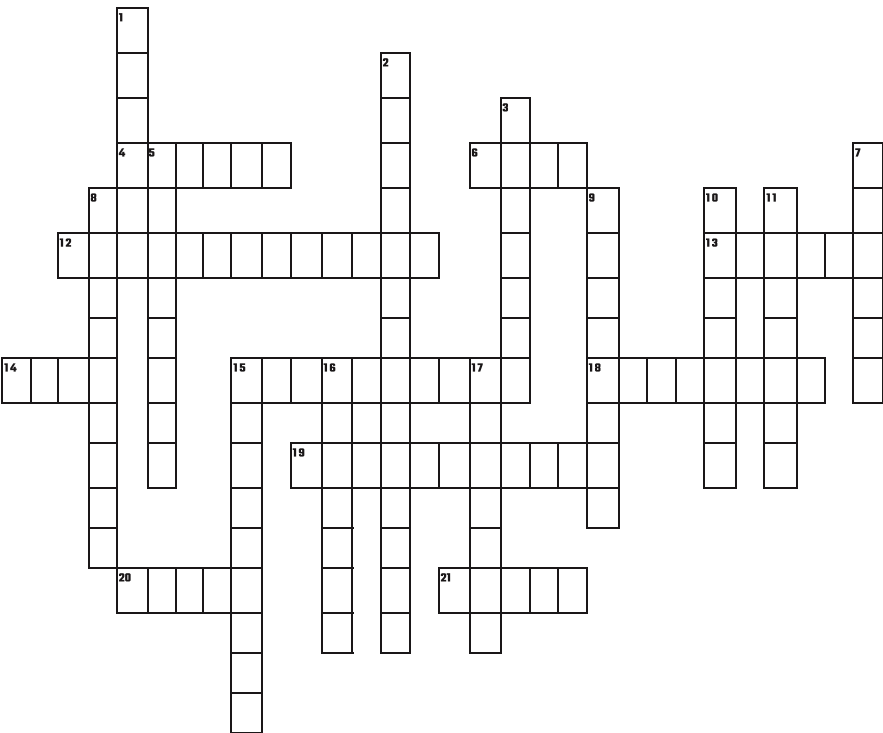
ACROSS

- 4. A popular Christmas beverage (6)
- 6. In 1843 the first one of these Christmas things was sent (4)
- 12. A Famous Christmas Ballet (3,10)
- 13. Which country is the largest exporter of Christmas trees (6)
- 14. What type of tree was the partridge sitting in (4)
- 15. Who starred in the movie White Christmas (4,6)
- 18. Santa Claus is associated with this Saint (8)
- 19. Another name for Santa Claus (4,7)
- 20. What is the colour of mistletoe berries (5)
- 21. Every elf has this ornament on the tip of their shoes (5)

DOWN

- 1. How many reindeer drive Santa's sleigh (4)

- 2. The biggest selling Christmas single of all time (5,9)
- 3. What month does the Russian Orthodox Church celebrate Christmas (7)
- 5. Who wrote Here Comes Santa Claus (4,4)
- 7. Jesus Christ was born in this (6)
- 8. Who stole Christmas (3,6)
- 9. What is the French name for Santa Claus (4,4)
- 10. What is the first name of the main character in A Christmas Carol (7)
- 11. What country is credited with the creation of Eggnog (7)
- 15. Where did the Nativity take place (9)
- 16. Stollen is the traditional fruit cake of this country (7)
- 17. Which reindeer's name starts with B (7)



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FIJI: LAID BACK LUXURY

DROP OUT OF THE WORKING WORLD TO RELAX IN ONE OF THE MOST LAID BACK AND LUXURIOUS PLACES ON EARTH; FIJI... SUN DRENCHED ISLANDS, WHITE SANDY BEACHES, SWAYING PALMS, BLUE LAGOONS, AND SOME OF THE WORLD'S FRIENDLIEST PEOPLE.

They say, Fiji is 'the way the world should be'. The word itself translates to "warm hello" and that's exactly what you'll get when you fly into Nadi, one of the largest towns and certainly the most culturally diverse.

Nadi is the perfect introduction to the slow-paced lifestyle of Fiji. Nadi Beach is a wide strand of white sand, perfect for lazing in the sun, drinking tropical cocktails and gazing out mesmerising sunsets. Just nearby, the spectacular Natadola Beach is a popular spot for swimming and body surfing. Other places to visit in Nadi include Sri Siva Subramaniya, the largest Hindu temple in the Southern hemisphere, the Sleeping Giant orchid gardens and peaceful Waqadra Botanical Gardens.

FIJI – RESORT STYLE

Now, if you're not relaxed by the time you leave Nadi for Plantation Island Resort, you've taken too many No-Doz!

One week on Plantation Island Resort and you'll never ever want to leave. The island of Mamanuca is one of the smaller islets in the chain of islands that make up the beautiful archipelago that is Fiji and the resort is a great place to spend time with the kids, rather than money on a fancy toilet and shower. The cottage rooms all have magnificent views of the gorgeous ocean where some of the most spectacular sunsets you've ever seen dance across the water every evening. Within the resort, there's three

separate swimming pools to lounge around on, spaced out along long stretches of beautiful white sandy beaches, where you can lay with a drink in one hand and a book in the other. If you prefer to get active there's plenty of water sports on offer. Hire a couple of ocean kayaks or paddleboards, dart around on jet skis, or slow down and snorkel over coral reefs till your hearts content. The island has surf lessons if you're keen to learn how to board ride and then bring your new skills back home to Newy.

BUT WHO'S WATCHING THE KIDS?

One of the best things about Fiji is that it is one of the most kid friendly holiday destinations in the world. Resorts offer kids clubs, creches, child minding and private nannies and host a ton of activities for all ages. This allows parents the opportunity to enjoy some peace and quiet, partake in activities not recommended for kids, or just enjoy a romantic dinner alone (perhaps followed by some more of those activities not recommended for kids...)

TEST THE SEA LEGS

When it's time to take a break from the resort lifestyle head to a nearby island called Modriki (sometimes also called Monuriki Island), which was where the movie *Cast Away* was filmed. 45-minutes in a speed boat and you're in a whole new world of laid back beauty and leisure time. Once



you get sick of Modriki Island (as if you would!), cast away and drift over to the Fiji's floating paradise, Cloud 9...

Located just offshore from the Mamanuca Islands, Cloud 9 is Fiji's only two-level floating platform with a fully stocked bar, Italian wood-fired pizzeria, and epic surround sound music selection. Grab a beer, or a bottle of bubbly, kick back, and chill out surrounded by turquoise blue waters and peaceful picturesque views. You



can even stand up on the railings and jump off into the clearest blue water you've ever seen.

Later, after you've exhausted yourself out there on Cloud 9, all you have to do is head back to hang out in one of the hammocks strung between the swaying palm trees and drift off to peaceful sleep and dream about more relaxation tomorrow... Yep, Fiji really is the way the world should be.

MAXIMUS Aussie Pumps

PUMPED UP!

CONGRATULATIONS TO JASON DESMOND FROM MANGOOLA, THE WINNER OF OUR AWESOME FIREFIGHTING PUMP COURTESY OF MAXIMUS AND AUSSIE PUMPS. VALUED AT \$1500 THIS LITTLE BEAUTY WILL MAKE SURE THE SUMMER BBQ'S NEVER GET OUT OF CONTROL!



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communities, sporting clubs and our suppliers.

Yes, we value-add, both through local manufacturing and re-manufacturing, but also
through investment in new technology and our people. And that's good for Australia.

J&S Engineering is focused on customer value, being a good corporate citizen, delivered
through environmentally sustainable world class manufacturing processes.



J&S Engineering and Maintenance Pty Ltd

PH 4932 7379 or 4932 8023

www.jsengineering.com.au