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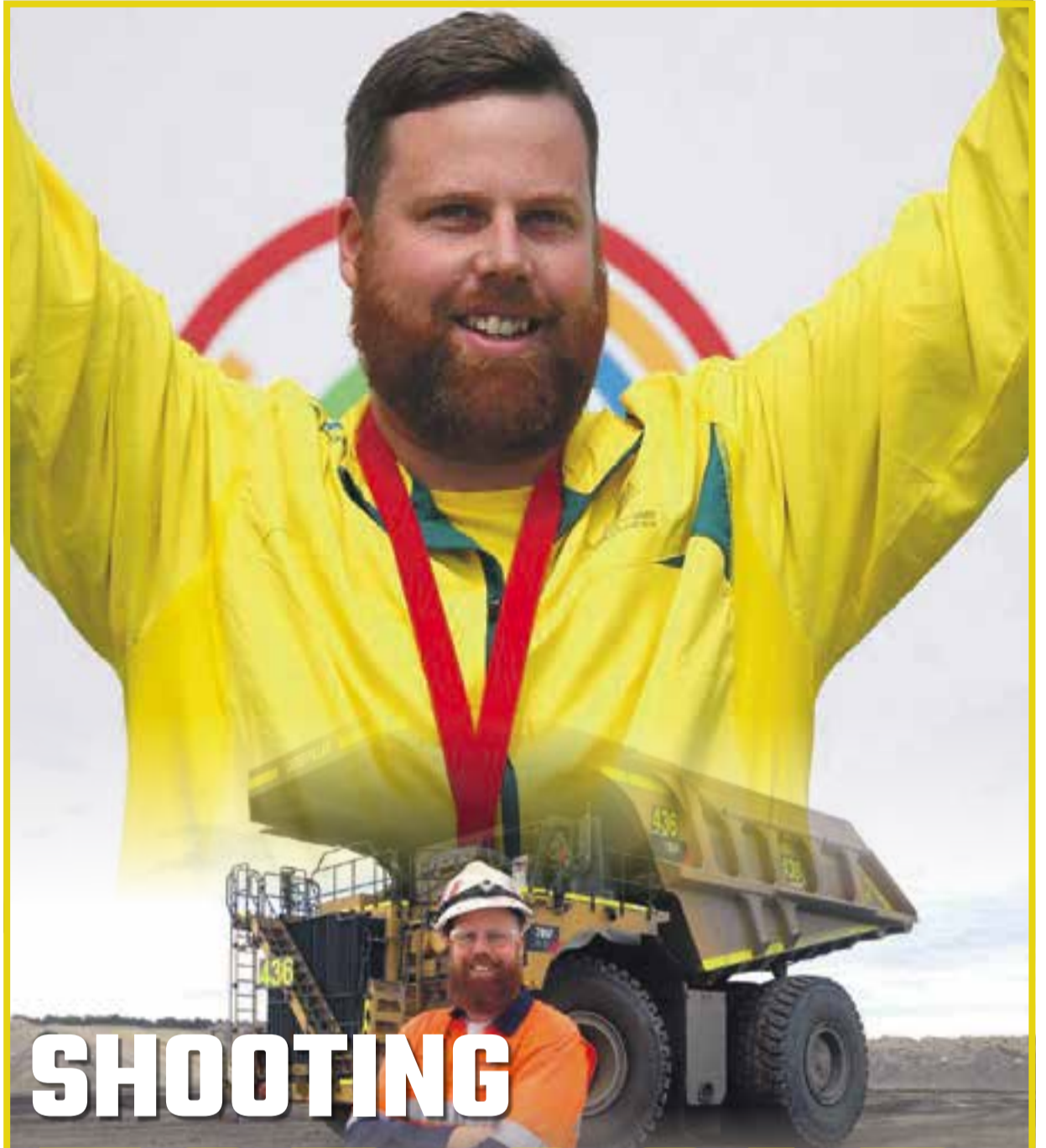
Vol 2 No 6: March - April 2018



## INDUSTRY EVENT OF THE YEAR

THE HUNTER COAL FESTIVAL'S MINING LEADERS LUNCH ON APRIL 6 WILL HOST FEDERAL MINISTER FOR RESOURCES SENATOR MATT CANAVAN AND HEAD OF GLENCORE'S GLOBAL COAL ASSETS PETER FREYBERG.

**PAGE 9**



## SHOOTING FOR GOLD

DAN REPACHOLI, AKA MINER DAN, HAS WON TWO GOLD AND TWO BRONZE MEDALS AT THE COMMONWEALTH GAMES AND IS HOPING TO ADD SOME MORE AT THE GOLD COAST COMMONWEALTH GAMES IN APRIL.

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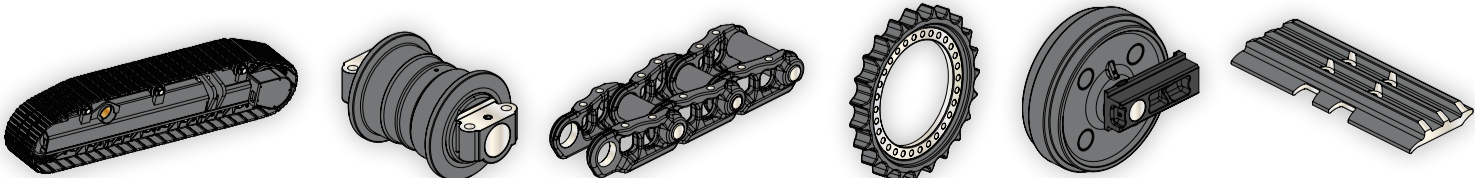
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# COAL UP! COAL UP!

THE BIG NEWS FOR US OF COURSE IS THE COAL FESTIVAL WHICH KICKS OFF NEXT MONTH. THIS YEAR ITS GOING TO BE BIGGER THEN EVER AND WE HOPE ALL OF YOU COME ALONG TO AS MANY EVENTS AS YOU CAN.

The mining industry is going from strength to strength with plenty of new ventures underway.

There's been a lot of action happening in the industry so far this year, with Hunter Valley Operations and Bloomfield Colliery both looking to expand and new projects for Malabar, United Wambo and Dartbrook in the making. Along with the recent news of the Bayswater Power Station upgrade it looks extremely promising for local jobs and the economy.

We were overwhelmed with all the entries for the Zacatak

Lures Competition, so thank you to everyone who entered and congratulations to our two lucky winners, Oliver and Kahlee. We also love seeing the Young Gun entries every month, keep em coming!

For health this month we are talking about 'Digital Detox'. It's hard to believe that in just a couple of decades our phones now have such influence over our lives. Find out some tips to help you take a step back.

Don't miss checking out My Mining Life this month as we look back with retired miner Pat Quinn reminiscing about the good old days.

  
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## LET THE FESTIVITIES BEGIN!

THE HUNTER COAL FESTIVAL KICKS OFF ON APRIL 6 WITH FESTIVITIES RUNNING UNTIL APRIL 15.

This will be the third Hunter Coal Festival and represents a great opportunity for the local community to come together and celebrate all the good things mining brings to the Hunter. The NSW Minerals Council is proud to once again sponsor the Festival this year.

The themes of this year's festival are 'community, coexistence, innovation and education' highlighting what mining brings to the Hunter. Our miners, their families and local suppliers are all vital to our 'community'. Our industry has 'coexisted' with agriculture and other local industries in the region for around 200 years. 'Innovation' in rehabilitation, health and safety is a critical focus of Hunter mining and we strive to 'educate' our decision makers and the wider community about how much our local industry contributes to NSW. The Hunter Coal Festival is

organised by the Singleton Business Chamber with support from Muswellbrook Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Muswellbrook Shire Council, and Singleton Shire Council.

**AS WITH PREVIOUS YEARS, ONE OF THE FESTIVAL'S MAJOR EVENTS WILL BE THE SINGLETON COMMUNITY DAY AND PARADE ON SATURDAY APRIL 7. DURING THE LAST HUNTER COAL FESTIVAL, THE COMMUNITY DAY ATTRACTED AN ESTIMATED 6,000 PEOPLE AND WE'RE HOPING FOR THE SAME THIS YEAR.**

There's been some tough times for our industry, however 2017 saw real improvement. We've seen higher and sustained commodity prices that have carried through to 2018. There are more local mining jobs in Hunter which is great news for the regional economy. We've also seen solid and steady demand for our coal from our traditional trade partners as well as emerging



Stephen Galilee  
CEO, NSW Minerals Council

markets in Southeast Asia.

**FOR THE FIRST TIME IN A NUMBER OF YEARS, IT FEELS LIKE WE CAN GENUINELY CELEBRATE AN UPSWING IN HUNTER MINING AND SHOW SUPPORT FOR OUR LOCAL INDUSTRY THAT CONTRIBUTES SO MUCH TO THE HUNTER AND TO NSW.**

The Hunter Coal Festival is a fantastic event that showcases the importance of our industry to the Hunter and to NSW as a whole. It celebrates the aspects of our industry that unite the community. I'd encourage all our mining families, local businesses and anyone who supports mining to get involved in this unique event.

**@THE  
COAL  
FACE**

Publisher  
**Shane Davey**  
[shane@thecoalface.net.au](mailto:shane@thecoalface.net.au)  
0408 759 088

Editor  
**Rebecca Connolly**  
[rebecca@thecoalface.net.au](mailto:rebecca@thecoalface.net.au)  
0408 769 699

Editorial Contributor  
**Daniel James**

Design  
**Catch Creative**

@ The Coalface  
14B/159 John Street  
Singleton NSW 2330  
[www.thecoalface.net.au](http://www.thecoalface.net.au)

Advertising Enquiries  
**Shane: 0408 759 088**  
[shane@thecoalface.net.au](mailto:shane@thecoalface.net.au)

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NEWS THAT AGL WILL SPEND \$200 MILLION TO UPGRADE THE BAYSWATER POWER STATION IS WONDERFUL NEWS FOR THE HUNTER.

The upgrade will create 90 jobs over the four years that it will take to improve the station’s capacity and efficiency.

This is excellent news all around. Not only will it provide jobs for the coal and related industries in the Hunter, but it will also provide enough energy for 100,000 homes –

all without increasing emissions. By replacing the original turbines with modern turbine technology, Bayswater will have an additional 100MW capacity. The four existing turbines will be replaced during planned unit maintenance outages and should be fully operational by 2022.

**THE COMMITMENT FROM AGL TO UPGRADE BAYSWATER – THE SECOND LARGEST POWER STATION IN NSW – WILL PLAY AN IMPORTANT ROLE IN OUR ENERGY SECURITY.**

The move is part of the company’s New Generation Plan, which invests across a range of technologies – coal, gas, wind, solar and potentially battery and pumped hydro – to deliver ongoing energy security.

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It comes after the company announced the closure of the Liddell Power Station last year, which is less than five kilometres from Bayswater.

The company will replace the energy lost through Liddell through a range of strategies, including gas-fired power plants, renewable energy such as solar and wind, and a battery system to be installed at Liddell.

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# BACK UNDERGROUND

**AUSTRALIAN PACIFIC COAL HAS LODGED AN APPLICATION TO MODIFY THE EXISTING MINING APPROVAL TO RECOMMENCE UNDERGROUND MINING OPERATIONS AT THE DARTBROOK COAL MINE.**

The modification proposes bord and pillar mining of the Kayuga coal seam (as an alternative to the approved longwall mining activities) and changes to the method of transferring coal to the train loadout facility. The modification also seeks to extend the period of approval by 5 years until 5 December 2027.

**AUSTRALIAN PACIFIC COAL SAYS THE REOPENED MINE WOULD EMPLOY 99 MINEWORKERS, WITH 26 JOBS CREATED DURING THE EARLY CONSTRUCTION PROCESS.**

The modification will not increase the footprint of approved mining operations nor involve

restart of the existing coal washery.

The environmental assessment is expected to be submitted in May, with determination of the application anticipated in the September quarter and first production within six months thereafter which will see mining recommence in 2019.

# POWER UP

**MICHAEL JOHNSEN MP, MEMBER FOR UPPER HUNTER HAS CALLED FOR THE NSW GOVERNMENT TO USE SOME OF THE FUNDS FROM THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT'S PURCHASE OF THE SNOWY HYDRO TO BUILD A NEW COAL FIRED POWER STATION IN THE UPPER HUNTER.**



"We need more base load power in NSW and the new generation high energy low emissions (HELE) technology coal fired power station is ready to build." Michael said.

**"WE HAVE THE INFRASTRUCTURE, WE HAVE THE NEED, WE HAVE THE EXPERTISE AND NOW WE HAVE THE FUNDS."**

In Mr Johnsen's opinion, investment into a new HELE coal fired power station makes sense. He says it will replace base load power from retired old generation power stations and ensure we have safe, secure and affordable energy for NSW for decades to come.

"When I'm talking with families and business, their main concern is rising energy costs. We can fix this by building a new

power station, increasing supply and lowering prices, so let's get on with it", Mr. Johnsen said.

**THE PURCHASE OF THE NSW AND VICTORIAN SHARES OF THE SNOWY HYDRO IS EXPECTED TO NET OVER \$4BILLION FOR NSW. IT WOULD BE SENSIBLE TO UTILISE SOME OF THOSE FUNDS TO SECURE POWER AND A LOWER COST FOR CONSUMERS.**

"The only thing stopping us from building a new HELE power station is the political will, that's not an excuse in itself. We have a responsibility to our citizens to provide low emissions, base load power at affordable prices, so let's get on with it", Mr. Johnsen said.



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## HUGE COMMUNITY DAY CELEBRATIONS... BE THERE!

SINGLETON SHOWGROUND WILL BE CENTRE STAGE FOR THE HUNTER COAL FESTIVAL'S MAJOR COMMUNITY EVENT ON SATURDAY, APRIL 7.

The Showground will host the Singleton Community Day from 11am to 4pm with a massive schedule of entertainment and activities planned to suit the entire family. Entry to the community day is free.

**PROFESSIONAL FREESTYLE MOTOCROSS STARS, FREESTYLE KINGS, WILL BE THE HEADLINE ACT FOR THE DAY – WITH THREE THRILL-PACKED DISPLAYS OF MOTORCYCLE AERIAL ACROBATICS SCHEDULED FOR 12.30PM, 2.30PM AND 3.30PM.**

Popular children's entertainers, The Little Scallywagz will bring big smiles to little faces with two performances at noon and 2pm.

For the big kids we have plenty of action too. The Australian champion mines rescue team from Wambo Mine will demonstrate its winning rescue skills at 1pm. The NSW tug o war championships will have heats throughout the day and the final for the title scheduled for 3pm.

Cash prizes and trophies up for grabs in the Coal Shoveling competition. Competitors will be timed as they shovel 400 kilos of coal into a bin. Register on the day or call Peter on 0427 712 613 for details.

**THE MINING INDUSTRY WILL ALSO BE ON SHOW WITH DISPLAYS BY MINING COMPANIES**

**AND THEIR COMMUNITY PARTNERS. THE INDUSTRY EXHIBITS WILL BE JOINED BY DISPLAYS BY COMMUNITY AND CHARITY GROUPS.**

Mining company representatives will be on hand at the displays to explain how their company operates and interacts with the community and answer any questions and there will be lots of giveaways and prizes.

In conjunction with the Upper Hunter Mining Dialogue's community engagement display, rehabilitation experts from the Upper Hunter's mines will be on hand to explain the rehabilitation process and answer any questions regarding how and why mined land is regenerated for its specified use post-mining.

The rehabilitation display will showcase mining companies' commitment to best practice rehabilitation including how companies progressively rehabilitate land disturbed by mining, the government bond system and the rules and regulations to which the mining industry adheres.

**PACKED FULL OF ACTIVITIES, ENTERTAINMENT AND INFORMATIVE DISPLAYS, THE SINGLETON COMMUNITY DAY IS GUARANTEED TO BE THE COMMUNITY EVENT OF THE YEAR.**



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# TIME FOR REHAB






**THE 2018 MINED LAND REHABILITATION CONFERENCE WILL BRING LEADING PROFESSIONALS, STAKEHOLDERS AND COMPANIES TOGETHER TO IMPROVE THE FUTURE OF MINING REHABILITATION.**

The 8th Annual Best Practice Ecological Rehabilitation of Mined Lands Conference is organised by the Tom Farrell Institute for the Environment (TFI) and the Hunter Environmental Institute (HEI) and is a significant event on the Hunter Region calendar. With more than 300 delegates anticipated to attend, it is one of the largest mining rehabilitation conferences in Australia.


Professor Tim Roberts is the Director of TFI and said “I am hoping that our 8th annual conference will bring together practitioners, professional rehabilitators, researchers, regulators and the general public to hear the latest research, on-ground experiences both successful and not-so successful, and to discuss ideas for future productive uses of the lands post-mining that fit with growth plans for the region and with the maintenance of endangered ecological communities.”

The conference will be held on April 12 at Wests New Lambton.

[www.tomfarrellinstitute.org/mlrc2018](http://www.tomfarrellinstitute.org/mlrc2018)



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## PAC ON TRACK


FEBRUARY SAW TWO PAC MEETINGS IN SINGLETON FOR MINE PROJECTS, WHICH IF APPROVED WILL HAVE GREAT ECONOMIC BENEFITS FOR THE HUNTER REGION AND OUR COMMUNITIES.

On February 6 the PAC meeting for the Hunter Valley Operations South Modification 5 saw only a handful of people turn up. The modification which has been approved by the Department of Planning and Environment will see the mine extract an extra 56.8 million tonnes of coal, resulting in an extra \$243 million in royalties and \$160 million in taxes and lifting its annual production from 16 million tonnes to 20 million tonnes. Workforce numbers would remain the same, which total

about 1500 across the North and South pits.


**ON THURSDAY FEBRUARY 8 THE PAC MEETING FOR THE UNITED WAMBO OPEN CUT MINE PROJECT AGAIN SAW A VERY SMALL TURNOUT.**

If it goes ahead, The United Wambo Open Cut Mine Project will sustain the existing 250 jobs at Peabody’s Wambo open cut and create an additional 250 mine workers jobs and a further 120 construction jobs during the development stage. The mine will extract 150 million tonnes of thermal and semi-soft coal over a 23-year period and will generate \$370 million in mining royalties for the state government. With minimal opposition for both projects and the Department of Planning and Environment already approving both projects, it looks promising that the PAC will also decide in their favour.





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# PLANNING AHEAD

**BLOOMFIELD COLLIERY HAS LODGED AN APPLICATION WITH THE NSW DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT TO CONTINUE OPERATIONS AT THEIR EAST MAITLAND OPEN CUT SITE UNTIL 2030.**

The mine is approved for operation until 2021 and is seeking to extend that for an additional 9 years, allowing the 90 staff to maintain their jobs until 2030.

Bloomfield Collieries CEO Brett Lewis is confident that the resources were there to justify an extension until 2030.

"It gives us the opportunity to mine out the full resource, which means we maintain jobs," he said.

Mr Lewis said the organisation has been working with the NSW government for the past several months in negotiating the extension and he was confident of a positive outcome in the coming months.

"We're hoping to get approval before the middle of the year. It'll really underpin the security of the mining operation and employment here," he said.



In addition to extending the operation until 2030, the proposed modification also includes a request to move the final void about 200m to the west. There'll be no change to existing production limits, which are capped at 1.3m tonnes of coal per annum.

Bloomfield Colliery has a long and proud history in the area, last year celebrating its 80th year of operation.

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## LEADERS LUNCH

**FEDERAL MINISTER FOR RESOURCES SENATOR MATT CANAVAN WILL DELIVER THE KEYNOTE ADDRESS TO THE HUNTER COAL FESTIVAL'S MINING LEADERS LUNCH WHICH IS BEING BILLED AS 'THE HUNTER'S MINING INDUSTRY EVENT OF THE YEAR'.**

Head of Glencore's Global Coal Assets Peter Freyberg will also speak at the Friday, April 6 lunch to be held at Club Singleton.

Singleton Business Chamber President Sue Gilroy said the Mining Leaders Lunch was shaping up to be a "not to be missed event."

**"WITH THESE TWO HIGH-POWERED SPEAKERS IT SHOULD BE THE MINING INDUSTRY EVENT OF THE YEAR IN THE HUNTER," MS GILROY SAID.**

"Senator Canavan is a senior and very important figure in the Turnbull Government. He has direct involvement in government decisions and policies and is a strong advocate for regional employment and economies.

"Likewise, as Head of Glencore's Global Coal Assets, Peter Freyberg

is one of the most important men in the coal industry. His insight into the state of the coal industry – both in Australia and world-wide – should be of vital interest to anyone who has an involvement in the mining industry"

Senator Canavan and Mr Freyberg's addresses at the lunch will be augmented by a presentation from the Upper Hunter Mining Dialogue, and presentations from Coal Services and Mine Wealth + Wellbeing.

For more information on the Hunter Coal Festival and the Mining Leaders Lunch including ticket purchases see [huntercoalfestival.org.au](http://huntercoalfestival.org.au) alternatively tickets can be purchased at [www.stickytickets.com.au/64635](http://www.stickytickets.com.au/64635)

# KEEPING COAL COMMUNITIES STRONG

PUBLISHERS OPINION

THIS MONTH'S OPINION IS ABOUT COAL COMPANIES, COMMUNITIES AND PEOPLE STAYING VISIBLE AND REMEMBERING MINING'S ROLE AND CONTRIBUTION TO OUR LIVES IN THE HUNTER AND BEYOND.

About four years ago I convinced a rag tag bunch of passionate locals including Peter Eason that we needed a festival to celebrate our coal people, industry and our coal communities. At the time the downturn was starting to kick in and the anti coal activists and mainstream media seemed to be getting the upper hand in speeding up our demise. Jobs were being lost by the thousands and many businesses and people were hitting the wall as well.

The industry went in to fight and fight hard. After years of somewhat flying under the radar and operating in a sometimes

perceived veil of secrecy, an openness and new visibility that had started a bit before I came on the scene really kicked in. The Hunter Coal Festival was just one small part of that effort.

People spoke up. Coal companies, communities and people alike came out and fought for their future. I believe community engagement stepped up a notch and the openness achieved in other areas did a lot to improve our credibility.

At the time you could see it on the street and all and one made their voice heard. You could hear it in every home and business. The whole lot

did major stuff to improve our image.

Then things changed a bit I think.

Energy prices and security went out of control and finally the general public and the media started to realise the importance of coal. Anti-coal activism also finally received a well-deserved reality check. Globally, the coal industry rebounded and so too did local jobs and confidence.

Now things have improved, I think we have started to slip back into some old habits. Despite the Coal Festival, important initiatives like The Upper Hunter Mining Dialogue and the solid ongoing work of the NSW Minerals Council and Minerals Council of Australia, we are forgetting to keep up the fight and visibility at a local level and

it is showing.

The industry seems to be retracting back a bit into the days of keeping its head down. Getting on with the job is fair enough, but a quieting down of our social licence presence and promotion at a local level is not going unnoticed. Town offices, initiatives and other stuff seem to be thinning and people on the street are telling me just that. It could be a figment of people's imagination, but I don't totally disagree. Don't get me wrong; the industry is still doing great work out there.

And it is not just the mining companies. Our everyday people and workers have stopped talking it up just as much.

So, what's the point I hear you ask? If we don't passionately keep fighting,

talking ourselves up and driving visibility within our communities, even when times are better like these, then we will slip backwards and we will have to start from the beginning again. We need company offices in towns not just for openness and accessibility but the significant economic benefits as well.

People need to stay vocal locally. Keep talking, promoting and fighting hard for our industry and local communities. Companies need to reinforce community visibility and passion so we don't lose any of the hard fought ground we have gained in recent years.

And next month, get out and enjoy the terrific events in this year's Hunter Coal Festival – it's time to celebrate!

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# TALK THE TALK

**THE UPPER HUNTER MINING DIALOGUE IS LOOKING FOR PEOPLE WHO WANT TO HELP MAKE THE UPPER HUNTER A BETTER PLACE FOR ALL TO LIVE.**

The Dialogue was formed in 2011 to address the cumulative impacts of mining through industry and community working together and is encouraging community members to join the Dialogue team.

The Dialogue's Chairman Dave O'Brien said there were a number of community representative

positions available on the Dialogue's Joint Working Groups.

Mr O'Brien said the working groups met quarterly and played an important role by helping the Dialogue choose and implement its strategies and activities including projects aimed at addressing mining impacts in areas such as air and water quality, land management and rehabilitation and planning the Hunter of the future.

"The Dialogue has had major successes over the past few years and it is important that it stays

relevant and focused on the issues prioritised by the community and industry," Mr O'Brien said.

**"IT IS VERY IMPORTANT THE VOICE OF THE COMMUNITY IS FULLY REPRESENTED ON THE DIALOGUE, SO WE ARE INVITING COMMUNITY MEMBERS FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST IN JOINING OUR LAND AND WATER MANAGEMENT AND EMISSIONS AND HEALTH JOINT WORKING GROUPS."**

Community members can express their interest in joining the Dialogue at [information@nswmining.com.au](mailto:information@nswmining.com.au)

[www.nswmining.com.au/dialogue/home](http://www.nswmining.com.au/dialogue/home)



## IT'S OFFICIAL

**MALABAR COAL LIMITED HAVE ANNOUNCED THAT ACQUISITION OF 100% OF THE DRAYTON MINE ASSETS IS NOW COMPLETED.**

The Drayton mine assets provide the infrastructure that will be used in Malabar's Spur Hill Project and includes a coal preparation plant, coal stockpiling facilities, a rail loop, administration offices, workshops and other services. The acquisition also includes Exploration Licence 5460 (EL) which contains the condition that restricts any potential development to underground mining only.

Malabar has commenced technical studies to prepare a development application which incorporates the existing Drayton mine infrastructure.

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# CONGRADUATION!

THE FIRST GROUP OF CHANDLER MCLEOD TRAINEES AT MOUNT ARTHUR'S DIVERSITY TRAINEESHIP PROGRAM GRADUATED WITH FLYING COLOURS AT A RECENT EVENT TO MARK THE PROUD MILESTONE.

On the day, the first 7 of 38 trainees graduated with a Certificate 2 in Surface Construction. The traineeship was delivered via a combination of class-based modules and 9 months behind the wheel of a haul truck. Through the program Indigenous and female participants from fields as diverse as hospitality, civil, nursing and hairdressing were able to realise a dream that would

otherwise have been very difficult to attain.  
Chandler Mcleod's spokesperson on the day summed it up with, "This group were not only highly motivated and grateful for the opportunity, they worked hard to attain their qualifications and prove they were also up to the job and committed for the long term."

All of the initial group have applied for max term contracts to continue their mining careers and Mount

Arthur should be proud of their commitment to bring this forward thinking program to life.



## Westlakes Stroke Recovery Club

Held at Wangi Workers Club on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of every month, the Westlakes Stroke Recovery Club offers recovery assistance, chair exercises, activities, outings, games and information in a friendly and welcoming environment.

We are looking for new members, and all are welcome to join.

For more information call **1300 650 544**



## COMPLETE COMMITMENT

**COMPLETE PARTS HAVE QUICKLY BECOME A HUNTER MINING SUCCESS WITH A BRIGHT FUTURE, SO IT'S NO SURPRISE THAT PART OF THAT INCLUDES HELPING TO BUILD BRIGHT FUTURES FOR PEOPLE JUST STARTING OUT.**

They decided one of the best ways to give back to the community and industry was to give five first year plant mechanic apprentices the chance to take their own shot at success.

When we went to say hi it was immediately clear the boys were enjoying themselves and the place has welcomed them with open arms.

A combination of mature age and school leavers, Clayton Kernow, Abraham Papworth, Brodie Sutherland, Joseph Thomas and Caleb Upward started coming through

the gate just over a year ago with the most recent starting in the last two months.

GM Craig Tanzer told us, "Apprentices are a long-term investment for us and we believe the training we can provide will yield valuable rewards into the future. This is a great opportunity for local people to join a dynamic and exciting company and it delivers another five people to the local industry workforce. They also provide personal gratitude as you watch them mature into responsible adults."

The apprentices get the opportunity to work on a bit of everything, we were told, giving them a set of skills as complete as the name on the building. Good luck guys...now get back to work.



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# FROM PIT TO POND

A MINING MATE RECENTLY GOT ME OUT TO TAKE A LOOK AT HIS NEW TOY - AN AMPHIBIOUS EXCAVATOR. A VERY UNIQUE AND EXPENSIVE TOY THAT IS FAST BECOMING A BUSINESS GOING PLACES OTHERS CAN'T.

Former OCE Mick Rose was pretty happy with mining life and the life it helped him build, but like a few others out there, often wondered how all that experience and knowledge could be used to create a new opportunity. With years of experience operating every piece of equipment on mine and civil sites you could think of, buying some machines and setting up as a contractor would seem the choice. With so much competition out there though it was clearly a risky choice.

**REGULARLY WORKING THROUGH CHALLENGES ASSOCIATED WITH WATER BASED INFRASTRUCTURE PROVED TRICKY AND HAZARDOUS WITH FEW OPTIONS TO DO THE JOB. THEN HE CAME ACROSS THE ANSWER. AMPHIBIOUS EXCAVATORS.**

An amphibious excavator is a type of machine that can perform dredging while afloat in shallow water. The excavator is adapted for removing silty clay, tailings dam work, clearing silted trenches, swampland

operation, and shallow water operation and are way more versatile than traditional barge-mounted dredgers and long reach excavators.

With loads of potential situations to use a machine like this and pretty much no direct competition, Mick decided to take the biggest punt of his life and bought one from overseas.

Any fears Mick might have had around getting work are disappearing as quickly as the dates available to hire it. @ The

## A COMPLETE LOAD

THANKS TO COMPLETE PARTS & EQUIPMENT WE HAVE A CAT 993K WHEEL LOADER DIECAST TO GIVE AWAY TO A LUCKY READER.

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**WIN!**



Coalface loves to see our people back themselves and succeed and we can only take our hats off to you for this great effort Mick.

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# IT'S HUNTER COAL FESTIVAL TIME

THE HUNTER COAL FESTIVAL WILL BE A CELEBRATION OF THE CO-EXISTENCE BETWEEN COMMUNITY AND THE MINING INDUSTRY AND RUNS FROM APRIL 6 – 15.

Organised by Singleton Business Chamber with support from Muswellbrook Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Muswellbrook Shire Council and Singleton Shire Council, events are scheduled to take place in Singleton, Muswellbrook, Newcastle and Kurri Kurri.

#### **MINING LEADERS LUNCH** - Friday, April 6

Billed as the "Hunter's Mining Industry Event of the Year, the Mining Leaders Lunch at Club Singleton features guest speakers Federal Resources Minister Senator

Matt Canavan and Head of Glencore's Global Coal Assets Peter Freyberg.

#### **SINGLETON COMMUNITY DAY AND PARADE** - Saturday, April 7

Preceded by a parade on John Street from 10am, the Singleton Showground will come alive for the festival's biggest community event, the Singleton Community Day. Packed with family-fun activities, including freestyle motorcross, coal shovelling and touch footy competitions, the NSW Tug O War championships, mines rescue demonstration, live music,

indigenous dance performances, petting zoo, children's activities and entertainers – including two performances by The Little Scallywagz and much more. The mining industry will also be on show with Hunter mining companies mounting multiple displays. Entry is free.

#### **MINE TOURS** - Saturday, April 7

Board a bus to one of three local companies (Glencore, Yancoal and Bloomfield Coal/Rix's Creek) offering tours of their mines. This is a rare and unique opportunity to see

working mining operations up close. Buses leave Albion Park from 9am. Tours are free but bookings need to be made in advance at [huntercoalfestival.org.au](http://huntercoalfestival.org.au)

#### **TOUCH FOOTY COMPETITION** - Saturday, April 7

Preceding the Singleton Community Day with an 8.30 am start, touch football teams compete for the Voice for Mining Hunter Coal Festival Cup. Teams of seven to 10 will compete in a round robin tournament with prizes and trophy for the winning team. This is a senior competition but teenagers are welcome to participate. For team or individual nominations contact Peter on 0427 712 613 or Janelle on 0413 606 424.

#### **KURRI COALFACE PEDAL** - Sunday, April 8

The Kurri Coalface Pedal offers a day of fun and fitness for mountain bike enthusiasts while raising funds for the Westpac Rescue Helicopter Service. The bush ride is designed for all levels of cyclists with courses ranging from hard to easy. For full details and registration see [www.rescuehelicopterservice.com.au/events/2018-kurri-coalface-pedal-mountain-bike-event](http://www.rescuehelicopterservice.com.au/events/2018-kurri-coalface-pedal-mountain-bike-event)

#### **SINGLETON CHAMBER LUNCH** - Monday, April 9

The festival gets down to business with NSW Minerals Council CEO Stephen Galilee presenting a mining industry update at the Singleton Business Chamber Lunch at Singleton Diggers. Tickets can be purchased at [www.sticktickets.com.au/64637](http://www.sticktickets.com.au/64637)

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**MUSWELLBROOK CHAMBER  
BREAKFAST - Tuesday, April 10**

The focus on business continues when NSW Minerals Council Stephen Galilee provides his industry update to Muswellbrook Chamber of Commerce and Industry at Muswellbrook Race Club. Ticket bookings are through the Chamber at [info@muswellbrookchamber.com.au](mailto:info@muswellbrookchamber.com.au)

**STEM TOURS - Wednesday, April 11**

Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths (STEM) streamed high school students get a first-hand look at STEM education at the University of Newcastle's Engineering Faculty. After visiting the university students visit the Port Waratah Coal Services coal loading facility to witness STEM learning in action.

**REHABILITATION CONFERENCE  
- Thursday, April 12**

Australia's mined land rehabilitation community gathers at the Tom Farrell Institute's Mine Rehab Conference to hear expert speakers who bring the latest innovations, on ground experience and thought-provoking ideas. The conference also includes mine tours for delegates. To be held at the Wests New Lambton with a bus tour on April 11 and workshops on April 13. For full details [www.tomfarrellinstitute.org/mlrc2018.html](http://www.tomfarrellinstitute.org/mlrc2018.html)

**COMMUNITY UPDATES  
- Friday, April 13**

An ongoing review of the Upper Hunter Synoptic Plan and new

regulations for rehabilitation of mined land will shape the future of the Upper Hunter. Members of the community have an opportunity to have input and see two presentations: Synoptic Plan Review Community Update with the Department of Premier and Cabinet Hunter Director Stephen Wills and Dr David Blackmore of the Division of Resources and Geoscience will give an update on the Rehabilitation Reform Program. To be held at Muswellbrook Workers Club from 10 am to noon, entry is free but people are asked to register through Sticky Tickets

[www.stickytickets.com.au/64786](http://www.stickytickets.com.au/64786)

**SINGLETON FIRELIGHT FESTIVAL  
- Saturday, April 14**

The Singleton Civic Precinct will be transformed into a blistering festival of music, food and fire for the "Singleton Firelight Festival". The evening event will see the Civic Centre lawn come alive with Utopian Fire Dancing, where performers will deliver a fiery mix of dance and theatrical tricks. A gathering space dedicated to the region's food and wine will also feature on the lawn. This will be the epicentre of the event where the community will

encounter drool-worthy eats from food trucks, wine and craft beer from local wineries and breweries. All that's left is to take a seat at one of the communal tables to enjoy the twinkle of lights overhead and the trendy beats of local bands perform on stage. Singleton Firelight Festival will warm up the town from 6pm to 10pm.

**CHARITY GOLF DAY  
- Sunday, April 15**

The Festival swings into its final day at Singleton Golf Course while raising funds for the Cancer Council. The event is a two-person ambrose with two shotgun starts at 7.30am and at 12.30pm. There will be presentations at 1pm and 6pm with great prizes and a charity auction. For team or individual nominations contact Les at the pro shop on 6572 4875.

[www.huntercoalfestival.org.au](http://www.huntercoalfestival.org.au)



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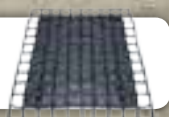
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# NEW RECORD!

COAL EXPORTS HAVE SET AN ALL-TIME RECORD IN 2017 AND THINGS ARE LOOKING VERY POSITIVE FOR 2018.

The latest trade data from the Australian Bureau of Statistics indicates the strength of coal exports in 2017 which were valued at \$56.5 billion, 35 per cent higher than 2016. This is the highest ever annual value of coal exports – the previous record was \$46.7 billion in 2011.

Coal was Australia's second largest export in 2017 behind iron ore, though historically coal has been Australia's biggest export earner. In 2017 thermal coal exports were 200 million tonnes (Mt) worth \$20.8 billion while metallurgical coal

exports were 172 Mt with a value of \$35.7 billion.

Overwhelmingly the destination of coal exports continues to be Asia, spanning from established north Asian markets to the fast growing economies of Southeast Asia and India.

In addition to export, revenue coal continues to make a significant contribution the domestic economy including providing 75 per cent of generation in the National Electricity Market, over 51,000 direct jobs and \$5 billion in royalties annually.



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## GET INTO MINING

THE WORDS 'SKILL SHORTAGE' HAS BEEN CROSSING PEOPLE'S LIPS SINCE LAST YEAR AND SO NOW MORE THAN EVER IT IS EXTREMELY IMPORTANT THAT WE ENCOURAGE NEW BLOOD INTO THE INDUSTRY.

Since the end of the downturn, mining companies have been nonstop announcing new jobs. But finding qualified and experience people to fill those jobs is becoming increasingly difficult. There is currently a strong demand for skilled tradespeople including fitters, operators, drillers and geologists.

Many who left the industry during the downturn have not returned but the biggest challenge that is being faced is encouraging young

people to get into the mining industry. Just last month we reported on 1,000 apprenticeships that were waiting to be filled.

The Minerals Council of Australia has reported that mining engineering enrollments are rapidly declining and has projected them to continue to do so. With 171 enrolments in 2017, 98 in 2018, 69 in 2019 and 47 in 2020. This is despite the increased demand for mining, energy and resources employees. According to SEEK, job ads in mining, resources and energy grew by 54 per cent in the last 12 months.

Now more than ever we need to increase the understanding among younger people of the vital role mining plays in providing the essential elements of daily life and to encourage young people to begin an education in mining.



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**POST DRAYTON AND POST DOWNTURN, WE CAUGHT UP WITH HIM AND HE HAS GONE FROM HUNTER COAL TO HUNTING DOGS.**

"Locally, and pretty much across most other rural communities, wild dogs are a big problem that is only getting bigger. Some of the damage, death and injuries to livestock can be heartbreaking. There are a lot of dogs out there despite baiting programs. Mine sites along with national parks and farming land are all prime locations for them to breed. While baiting is important and useful, these are cunning animals and the older dogs are known to teach the younger dogs to avoid them. In my time mining we always had dogs coming through. I had been in the mines operating dozers, graders and trucks since 1996. In underground and in open cut, the last time being at Drayton where I was retrenched along with the rest of the workforce. I've been trapping dogs now for about three and a half years and that's my job now. Just at Carabbe, I have caught 13 dogs in the last five weeks," said Vodka.

**DESPITE THE INITIAL DISTRESS AND UPHEAVAL**

**LOSING HIS JOB, VODKA SAYS HE IS NOT REALLY MISSING MINING.**

Vodka passionately talked to us about how the drought is making things worse as more dogs have come out from higher country due to lack of water and feed in locations which is making the packs roam further and wider. Make no bones about it, killing dogs is a confronting business, but Vodka stressed there is a right and a wrong way to do it.

"Obviously we are killing feral animals but we are very careful to do it humanely. The traps we use are specially designed with rubber jaws and offset to hold the dogs while not being overly cruel. They are checked daily and putting them to sleep is done as efficiently as possible to minimize distress to the animal. The courses I have done teach best practice and I hope to grow the business combining my mining experience to be one of the best in the business," stated Vodka.

The mutt you can see in the picture is called Lucky..."Lucky to be alive!" laughed Vodka. She is 50% Dingo and Alsatian as far as we can ascertain. She went from target to part of the family."

Every dog has its day Vodka and we hope you and Lucky have plenty of good ones to come. Best of luck and it's your shout for a couple of XXXX's next time you come to town.

**'AVE A LAUGH WITH**

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Bubba & Earl were in the local pub enjoying a beer when the decided to get in on the weekly raffle and buy a ticket each.

When the raffle was drawn, each had won a prize. Earl won 1st prize, a year's supply of gourmet spaghetti sauce and extra-long spaghetti. Bubba won 6th prize, a toilet brush.

About a week or so had passed when the men met back in the pub. Bubba asked Earl how he liked his prize, to which Earl replied, "Great, I love spaghetti! How about you, how's that toilet brush?"

"Not so good," replied Bubba, "I reckon I'm gonna go back to paper."

**EVERY TIME I RUN INTO VODKA DRYER HE RUNS INTO ABOUT TEN OTHER PEOPLE WHO KNOW HIM. HE'S A WELL-KNOWN CHARACTER FROM THE MINING INDUSTRY AND LOCAL COMMUNITY. THE ONLY ONES WHO DON'T LIKE TO RUNNING INTO HIM ARE THE LOCAL WILD DOGS!**

Well known for starting the powerful yet peaceful 'Shirts on the fence' 'You took my job you can have my shirt' protest

on the corner of Edderton road during the Drayton South open cut campaign, Vodka is from up near Widden these days.





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# THE HYPE ABOUT HYDROGEN

AS WE MOVE INTO A LOW EMISSIONS FUTURE, COAL COULD STILL PLAY A VERY IMPORTANT ROLE.

Coal is a complex and highly variable substance that can be converted into a variety of products, one of them being hydrogen. Hydrogen is produced by first reacting coal with oxygen and steam under high pressures and temperatures to form synthesis gas, a mixture consisting primarily of carbon monoxide and hydrogen.

The production of hydrogen from coal also offers environmental benefits when integrated with advanced technologies in coal gasification, power production, and carbon capture utilisation and storage.

**AUSTRALIA HAS AN ABUNDANT, DOMESTIC RESOURCE IN COAL. THE USE OF COAL TO**

**PRODUCE HYDROGEN FOR THE TRANSPORTATION SECTOR COULD REDUCE OUR ENERGY USE AND OUR RELIANCE ON IMPORTED PETROLEUM. WHEN HYDROGEN IS USED IN EFFICIENT FUEL CELL VEHICLES, EMISSIONS FROM THE TRANSPORTATION SECTOR CAN BE NEARLY ELIMINATED.**

Right here in Australia we are already seeing plans to convert our Victorian brown coal into liquid hydrogen for export. The Victoria government is working with Kawasaki Heavy Industries on a proposed plant which will produce liquid hydrogen to export to Japan to be used in hydrogen powered vehicles. Maritime authorities from Australia and Japan have signed a world-first deal to ship the hydrogen.

This is one of just many coal based hydrogen projects underway and it will be interesting to see what's in store for the future.



## WHO WILL TAKE HOME THE TITLE?

THE NSW MINING INDUSTRY AND SUPPLIERS AWARDS FINALISTS HAVE BEEN ANNOUNCED WITH SOME VERY DESERVING CONTENDERS THIS YEAR.

Showcasing the best of the NSW mining industry, the NSW Mining Industry and Supplier Awards recognise excellence within our world class mining industry and mining supply chain.

“Our Industry and Suppliers’ Awards are an opportunity to acknowledge the important role mining plays in NSW, particularly our economic contribution. Our world class mining industry provides jobs for tens of thousands of families and injects valuable economic activity and spending into mining communities right across NSW.” NSW Minerals Council CEO Stephen Galilee said.

The finalists for 2018 NSW Mining Industry and Supplier Awards include:

### MINING OPERATION OF THE YEAR

Centennial Coal -  
Myuna Herringbone System

Alkane Resources -  
Tomingley Gold Operations

### OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTION TO MINING

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Rob Cunningham -  
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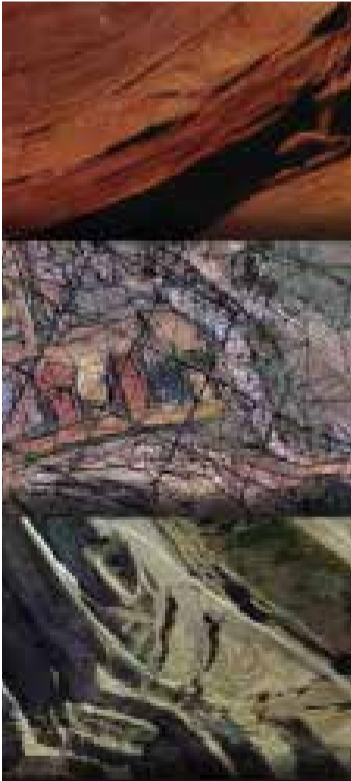
### YOUNG ACHIEVER

Steven Fordham -  
Blackrock Industries Pty Ltd

Robyn Teet -  
CMOC Northparkes Mines

Ben Hockey - PJJ Group

The awards night is held on March 15 and we are looking forward to bringing you the results next month.



“Future opportunities and growth make the nation’s mining industry an exciting place to forge a career. Essential to making the future possible is embracing new technology and innovation, such as using drones to survey mine sites.”



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# GET A ROCKET UP YA!

PARALLEL ECONOMICS

**LET'S GET A PRIVATE HUNTER VALLEY 'SPACE BASE' BUILT IN THE HUNTER. WAIT, WAIT! WE HAVEN'T LOST OUR MARBLES, THE EFFORTS, ACHIEVEMENTS AND SUCCESS OF ELON MUSK WITH SPACEX AND RICHARD BRANSON WITH VIRGIN GALACTIC PROVE IT'S FAR FROM A FUTURISTIC DREAM.**

Both Mr Musk and Mr Branson are well-proven and successful major investors in the future and potential of Australia. To put it simply, they love this place and of all the places that occupy space in their brains, Australia is right up near the top of the list.

**MUSK AND BRANSON ARE LEADING THE WORLD IN PRIVATELY OWNED SPACE COMPANIES. BUILDING A PRIVATE ENTERPRISE SPACE STATION ON MINE LAND COULD MAKE**

**SENSE. MANY PEOPLE ALREADY WHINGE THAN IT RESEMBLES A MOONSCAPE ANYWAY.**

Add our considerable local Airforce and Army infrastructure into the mix and it is fair to assume we also already have considerable supporting hi tech infrastructure and intelligence locally.

**A SMALL STEP FOR MAN, A GIANT LEAP FOR MANKIND IN THE HUNTER.**

The land is already there on buffer sites and current surrounding exclusion zones may well already be sufficient enough to accommodate. Let's see if the mining industry is prepared to donate some to get the idea going. That Tesla battery thing in South Australia became a reality after just a couple of Twitter mentions and conversations and was developed at lightening speed.

Anyone out there got Elon or Richard's mobile number?



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WEED REMOVAL



CLEANING A SETTLEMENT POND



CLEANING A PUMP INLET



TIGHT ACCESS AREA



COAL SETTLEMENT POND

# PAT QUINN

A COAL MINER FOR HIS WHOLE WORKING LIFE, NOW LOCAL HISTORIAN, NOT TO MENTION CITIZEN OF THE YEAR NOMINEE, PAT QUINN IS PROOF THAT THE HARD WORK DOESN'T END WITH RETIREMENT.



**Who are you and what do you do?** I'm Pat Quinn and I'm a retired miner and proud member of the Singleton Historical Society and the local Probus Club.

**Any nicknames good or bad?** Quinny, Trev, PT. The rest I can't mention!

**Where do you live and how long you been in the Valley?** I came to Singleton in 1948 at the age of 10. After I retired, my wife Ann and I travelled up and down the east coast to see what they had to offer, but in the

end, we decided they were good places to go for a holiday, but Singleton would always be our home.

**When did you start?** I started at Liddell State Coal mine as apprentice electrical fitter just a few days after my 16<sup>th</sup> birthday. Later it became Cummoock Colliery and I was there for 18 years. In 1971 there was a fire at the mine and it was closed. I initially went to Liddell Colliery and then to Hebden Opencut. I stayed at Hebden for 9 years and then went on to Mt Thorley until I retired after 41 years in the industry.

**What was it like working back then?** Totally different from today. In 1953 it was a transition between contract mining and the mechanisation of the industry. Electricity was basic. The industry was recovering from the great coal strike of 49' so it was very political and unionised. The work was hands on, you walked down the pit and out of the pit. You would never see a fat coal miner back in those days because of the laborious work. And because your crib tin wasn't big enough for much more than a sandwich!

**How big was a crew?** A coal cutter crew would have three who cut the coal and drilled the face. Then there was a shotfirer and his assistant, plus a loader who put the coal on the shuttle car and then onto the conveyor belt. There was also two who were called second class shiftmen who did stuff like putting up brattice and moving fans. The team was extremely close, if you didn't work together, it wouldn't work. Our workforce was mainly locals, and we socialised together outside of work. My days underground are the ones I remember the most fondly and that I've kept the most mates from.

**What's the best thing about your career?** Mateship. The friends that I made, who will remain so for our whole lives. Also, all the opportunities I was given I'm so grateful for. Opportunities to further studies and to travel overseas and around Australia to keep up with the mining technology.

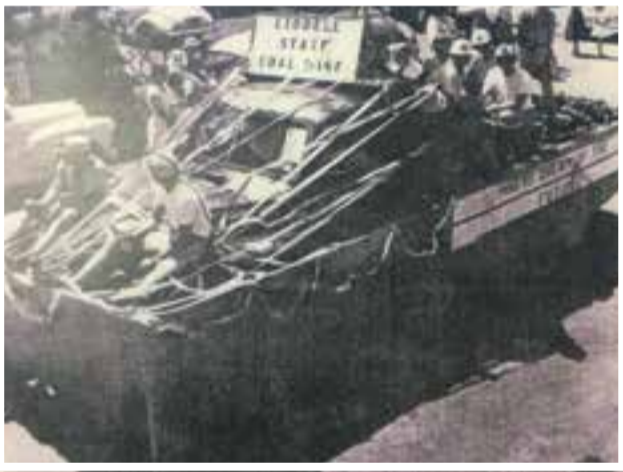
Looking back, I was so glad to see safety practices improve over the years. When I started not even boots were compulsory! No one knew first aid and there was no such thing as an induction. Such different days.

**The worst thing?** The strikes. Not long after my wife and I got married there was a 3-month strike and we were desperate. From that I learnt and have taught my children that you always put something away for a rainy day. The pay wasn't great either, I used to get \$4.25 a week, our apprenticeship was five years and the study for TAFE you did at your own expense. But you knew it would pay off in the end.

**What's a funny story from work that you can tell?** So many stories! In those days everyone had a laugh with each other and it was all in good fun. I remember when the shotfirer was looking for a new assistant and they asked one chap. They told him the only downside is if you touch the explosives and then touch your forehead you are going to get a headache. And he said well that doesn't worry me, I've always got a headache. Yeah, he was known to enjoy a drop and always had a 'headache'. In those days you all caught the bus to work because no one had cars and he was just one of the many blokes who would get picked up from the Clubhouse Hotel and dropped back off there.

**How different is your job to what you wanted to do when you were a kid?** I wanted to be a teacher, but my parents said to get a trade. I knew the state mine was looking for an apprentice carpenter, but I wasn't keen on that so instead I found out who the engineer was and rode to his house on my bike. I hear you are looking for an apprentice engineer I said to him which he replied no we aren't. But then he said let me think about it and a couple of days later he shows up at my door and says your hired.

**What do you do now?** I've been retired for 24 years and have done a lot of travelling overseas and around Australia with my wife Ann. I also am a keen golfer. I did consultancy work for 5 years but then quit that when I had a heart attack. Now, I'm a member of the Singleton Historical Society and member of the local Probus club, which involves organising trips, guest speaking, researching and history tours. Being retired means I'm busy 8 days a week!



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**'AVE A  
LAUGH WITH** **Tutt Bryant Hire**   
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A mother and her young son were flying Qantas when the son turns to his mother and asked, "If big dogs have baby dogs and big cats have baby cats, why don't big planes have baby planes?"  
The mother said, "Well, maybe that's something you could ask the stewardess."  
So, the boy asked the stewardess the same question. The stewardess responded, "Did your mother tell you to ask me?"  
The boy admitted that this was the case. "Well, then, tell your mother that there are no baby planes because Qantas always pulls out on time. You can ask your mother to explain it to you."

# A COALTASTROPHE

AUSTRALIA ARE WORLD LEADERS IN MINING SAFETY, BUT WE'VE SUFFERED DISASTERS IN THE PAST. THE WORST WAS THE MT KEMBLA COAL MINING DISASTER IN 1902 WHICH CLAIMED 96 LIVES. IN COMPARISON, CHINA IS HOME TO THE WORST COAL MINING DISASTER IN HISTORY. THE BENXIHU COLLIERY DISASTER OF 1942 WHERE 1,549 MINERS DIED.

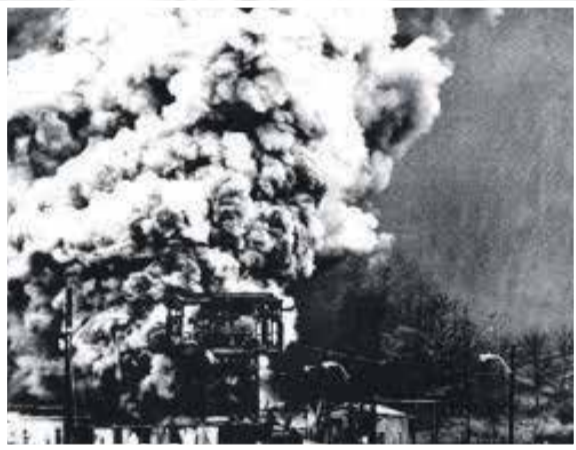
The tragedy occurred on 26 April 1942 in the Honkeiko coal mine, located near Benxi in the Liaoning province of China. The Japanese had invaded the area in the 1930s during the Sino-Japanese War and had taken over the mine. The Japanese forced Chinese labourers, some of whom had been captured from local military organisations, to work in the mine.  
Conditions were deplorable, food was scarce, clothing nothing but tattered rags and shoes were so flimsy they wore out within a week. Diseases such as typhoid and cholera were rampant due to the terrible conditions and poor health of the workers. The Japanese overseers were harsh disciplinarians, often using violence to force miners to their shafts. The mine was surrounded by a guarded perimeter making

it more of a prison camp than a coal mine, and many described the work as slave labour.  
**ON THAT FATEFUL DAY A GAS AND COAL DUST EXPLOSION IN THE MINE SENT FLAMES BURSTING OUT OF THE MINE SHAFT ENTRANCE. IN AN ATTEMPT TO CURTAIL THE FIRE UNDERGROUND, THE JAPANESE SHUT OFF**

**THE VENTILATION AND SEALED THE PIT HEAD WITHOUT WAITING FOR AN EVACUATION. THIS REPORTEDLY LEFT WORKERS STILL ALIVE WITHIN THE SEALED-OFF AREA OF THE MINE TO EVENTUALLY SUFFOCATE IN THE SMOKE.**  
Miners' relatives rushed to the site after the explosion but were denied entry by a

cordon of Japanese guards who erected electric fences to keep them out. Once the fire was out and the mine re-opened, it took 10 days to remove all the corpses and rubble from the shaft. The dead were buried in a mass grave nearby. Many victims could not be properly identified due to the extent of the burns.  
Of those killed, 1,518 were Chinese, and 31 were Japanese. The Japanese at first reported the death toll to be just 34. Initial newspaper reports were minimal and downplayed the size of the disaster as a minor event. Eventually what really occurred began to leak out.  
**AFTERWARDS THE JAPANESE ERECTED**

**A MONUMENT TO THE DEAD WHICH GAVE THE NUMBER OF DEAD TO BE 1,327. THE TRUE NUMBER IS BELIEVED TO BE 1,549, 34% OF THE MINERS WORKING THAT DAY, MAKING IT THE WORST DISASTER IN THE HISTORY OF COAL MINING.**  
The mine continued to be operated by the Japanese until the end of World War II in 1945. After the Japanese withdrew, the workers took control of the site and allowed the Soviet Union to investigate the accident. Their report revealed that the majority of the fatalities were not caused by the initial explosion and fire, but instead were the result of secondary carbon monoxide poisoning and suffocation.



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THE CANCER COUNCIL NSW RECENTLY CELEBRATED THE 5<sup>TH</sup> BIRTHDAY OF THEIR SINGLETON OFFICE AND USED THE OCCASION TO THANK EVERYONE WHO HAS CONTRIBUTED TO THE ORGANISATIONS LOCAL SUCCESS SO FAR. AMONG THOSE ATTENDING WERE REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE BLOOMFIELD GROUP.

The Bloomfield Group has provided significant financial backing for the office, enabling the local Cancer

Council team to provide essential services to the Singleton community. The Bloomfield Group Chairman John

Richards told us “We have been an active and passionate supporter of The Cancer Council NSW for a long

time. We like how the organisation puts services on the ground so that people in need have a practical local application.”

“We’re also mindful of the research Cancer Council NSW puts into cancer prevention and support. That’s why we’ve been helping the Cancer Council NSW office in Singleton through direct donations, golf days, and participation in the Relay for Life. Our support also extends to providing rental assistance, making it easier for the local Cancer Council NSW staff to focus on helping people in need.”

**“OUR CORPORATE VIEWPOINT IS THAT THE CANCER COUNCIL NSW SINGLETON OFFICE IS A KEY PART OF THE SINGLETON COMMUNITY AND SO MANY PEOPLE ARE BETTER OFF WITH THE CANCER COUNCIL IN TOWN. THIS IS A GOOD WAY FOR US TO GIVE BACK TO THE COMMUNITY.”**

Glen Parsons, Community Programs Coordinator for the Cancer Council NSW Singleton office says the organisation relies heavily on support from companies such as Bloomfield.

“People don’t seem to realise that without the mining industry so many things probably wouldn’t happen,” Glen said.

“We’re 96 percent community funded which means we would not exist without community support. It’s important to us that people realise what lengths The Bloomfield Group goes to to help us. This strong partnership between The Cancer Council NSW and The Bloomfield Group has been enormously beneficial to our local community.”

# TRANSPORT FOR TREATMENT

**YANCOAL HAS DONATED \$10,000 TO THE SINGLETON CANCER COUNCIL’S TRANSPORT FOR TREATMENT PROGRAM, WHICH PROVIDES AN ESSENTIAL NEED TO THE SINGLETON COMMUNITY.**

Mount Thorley Warkworth and Hunter Valley Operations have been sponsoring this vital program since it was established, working in partnership with Ourcare. The program last year saw 372 cancer patients from the Singleton area receive much needed free transportation.

Glen Parsons, Community Programs Coordinator for the Cancer Council says that the program makes a huge difference for cancer patients and their families who are struggling in difficult circumstances.

“We found that people were not attending appointments as they were unable to drive themselves, or there was no public transport available. Many people are unwilling to ask for help from friends or family as they are so used to taking care of themselves. We approached Coal & Allied with the idea for the program and they immediately got on board. We are so grateful to them, and to see Yancoal continuing to support the program is a huge asset for the local community.” Glen said.

Andrew Speechley of Yancoal said, “We’ve been supporting the cancer council in Singleton for a number of years now through the relay for life and the patient transfer program. This partnership is really special to us. It means a lot to us and our employees and it’s a program we want to keep showing support to.”



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- 12 month maximum term contract

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- Resume with two current referees
- Letter or Certificate of Competency
- Order 41 Coal Board Medical if completed in the last 12 months

**WHO WE ARE LOOKING FOR:**

Successful applicants will have:

- A minimum 12 consecutive months experience on a CAT 785, Komatsu 830E or equivalent
- A positive attitude and proactive safety focus
- Must live or be willing to relocate within 60 minutes of Muswellbrook

Please call Chandler Macleod’s Singleton Office on **02 6572 5915** for more information.

**SICK OF THE UNCERTAINTY OF BEING CASUAL?**

**REFER A FRIEND TO RECEIVE \$200**

**How to claim your reward:**

1. Contact your friend for consent to share details.
2. Send their full name, contact number and email address to [workforcehuntervalley@chandlermacleod.com](mailto:workforcehuntervalley@chandlermacleod.com)
3. Receive reward upon successful commencement of referred person.



COMMUNITY GIFT



# RURAL RELIEF

IT'S NO SECRET THAT THAT PEOPLE ON THE LAND HAVE BEEN DOING IT VERY TOUGH LATELY.

This month Complete Parts and @ The Coalface with the help of Kirkwood's Produce will lend a hand on the land with \$500 of emergency supplies. The drought has slowly taken a heavy toll and

recent storms delivered a painful beating. Kirkwood's see customers everyday who are struggling more than others so we have asked them to discreetly pay it forward and pick up the tab for one or two farmers

who could use a leg up with a few supplies. It might not solve all the problems but we hope it helps a bit. Farmers are as important as miners around here and Complete Parts want them to know we are thinking of them.

## MINES TEAM CHALLENGE!

FOR THE FIRST TIME THE KURRI COAL FACE PEDAL MOUNTAIN BIKE EVENT IS RUNNING A MINES TEAM CHALLENGE AND ALREADY THE COMPETITION IS HEATING UP.

Held on April 8 at Pelaw Main, this year's mountain bike event will be holding the inaugural Mines Team Challenge. Teams of three will be tackling the 60km course with the winner being the team with all three team members

crossing the line first. Already signed up for the chance to take home the trophy are Comm Steel, Quarry Mining, Morgan Engineering, AMP Control, Orica and Austar Coal Mine. Unfortunately, @ The Coalface doesn't have

the numbers to compete in the Team Challenge, but we have an entry in the solo 60km. Make sure you say hello when you overtake them!

For those that aren't up for the 60km, there's still the shorter course options along with the family ride and schools challenge. Online entries close on April 4, but late registrations will be taken on the day.

[www.rescuehelicopter.com.au](http://www.rescuehelicopter.com.au)



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Nick Carey

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## DERBY DAY

**GRESFORD'S BILLY CART DERBY AND EASTER FAIR IS ON SATURDAY MARCH 31 AND GLENCORE'S RAVENSWORTH OPENCUT WILL AGAIN BE COMPETING TO TAKE HOME THE TROPHY.**

Ravensworth Opencut are not only the major sponsors of this great family event, but they have also entered a team into the Derby and they are not alone.

This year the battle of the mines is back on with Mt Owen Complex, Liddell Coal Operations, Ravensworth CHPP and Ravensworth Opencut all vying for the prestigious trophy.

Whether it's modifying last year's Billy cart, or building a new cart from scratch, each mine is hard at work to make theirs the fastest, so they can take home the trophy, and more importantly the bragging rights.

Laura Barben, Ravensworth Opencut's Environment and Community Coordinator says the pressure is on for them, especially as they are the event sponsors.

"There was some contention last year about the winner, and this year the rivalry has definitely stepped it up a notch. But I'm backing our Bob the Billy Cart all the way." Laura went on to say that rivalry aside, the race was all about working together, having fun and supporting a great community event. "We'd love to see even more people there this year, especially those in the mining industry."

Be sure to head out to Gresford on Easter Saturday and check out all the action. There will be local stalls, jumping castles, cowpat lotto, gumboot throwing competition, performances and live music, not to mention all the fabulous food, guaranteeing an amazing day out for the whole family.

## 'AVE A LAUGH WITH

**Tutt Bryant Hire** 

EQUIPMENT - HIRE - SOLUTIONS

**PH 02 6571 2983**

Donald Trump is walking out of the White House and heading toward his limo when an assassin steps forward and aims a gun.

A secret service agent, new on the job, shouts, "Mickey Mouse!"

This startles the would-be assassin, and he is captured.

Later, the secret service agent's supervisor takes him aside and asks, "What in the hell made you shout Mickey Mouse?"

Blushing, the agent replies, "I got nervous. I meant to shout, "Donald duck!"

# Singleton, Muswellbrook & Newcastle



**April 6-15, 2018**



**SINGLETON**  
Business Chamber

## **Friday, April 6**

Mining Leaders Lunch  
- Club Singleton

## **Saturday, April 7**

Hunter Coal Festival Parade  
- John Street Singleton

Singleton Community Day, family fun  
day, mine tours and more  
- Singleton Showground

## **Sunday, April 8**

Kurri Coalface Pedal Mountain  
Bike Charity Ride  
- Pelaw Main/Kurri Kurri

## **Monday, April 9**

NSW Mining Update: Singleton  
Business Chamber Lunch  
- Diggers Singleton

## **Tuesday, April 10**

NSW Mining Update: Muswellbrook  
Chamber of Commerce and Industry  
Breakfast  
- Muswellbrook Race Club

## **Wednesday, April 11**

STEM Student Tours  
- University of Newcastle and Port  
Waratah Coal Services

## **Thursday, April 12**

Tom Farrell Institute Mine  
Rehabilitation Conference  
- Wests, New Lambton

## **Friday, April 13**

Synoptic Plan and Rehabilitation  
Regulations Community Update  
- Muswellbrook Workers Club

## **Saturday, April 14**

Singleton Firelight Festival  
- Singleton Civic Centre Lawns

## **Sunday, April 15**

Cancer Council Charity Golf Day  
- Singleton Golf Club



Centennial Coal



For information visit [www.huntercoalfestival.org.au](http://www.huntercoalfestival.org.au)



Mines Rescue

## ARE YOU A WORKPLACE ASSESSOR?



### WPTASS001 CARRY OUT WORKPLACE ASSESSMENTS

**For frontline assessors conducting  
workplace assessments**

Two day course includes:

- Planning assessments
- Organising assessments
- Conducting assessments following established assessment processes and using pre-developed assessment tools

**For bookings or information contact:**

**Hunter Valley  
Mines Rescue  
(02) 6573 9000**

**Newcastle  
Mines Rescue  
(02) 4922 4400**

**[www.coalservices.com.au](http://www.coalservices.com.au)**

This unit forms part of the nationally accredited course in Field-Based Training and Assessment (10235NAT) and is NSW Coal Industry Order 34 compliant. Mines Rescue is licensed to deliver this course by the course owner, Training Services Australia (RTO 1984).

**Mines Rescue Pty Limited (RTO ID 90508) ABN: 15 099 078 261**

## TARGETED TRAINING

**NSW MINES RESCUE WILL BE THE FIRST TO DELIVER NEW 'FIT FOR PURPOSE' TRAINING FOR THE MINING INDUSTRY'S FRONTLINE TRAINERS AND ASSESSORS.**

In the past there has been debate over the suitability of Training and Assessment qualifications and their 'fit for purpose' in the mining industry. In our industry, frontline trainers and assessors are tasked with delivering company or site-specific subjects or competencies in addition to their regular roles. They are not required to meet the Registered Training Organisation (RTO) industry criteria for delivering nationally recognised qualifications.

Mines Rescue have commenced the delivery of a new nationally accredited course called 'Course in Field-Based Training and Assessment – 10235NAT' targeted at those who deliver in-house non-accredited workplace training and assessment. The new course is comprised of one core unit focused on assessment, and one elective unit focused on training. This course, developed

by Training Services Australia, offers a consolidated program that focuses on the learning needs of workplace trainers and assessors.

Matthew Fellowes, General Manager Mines Rescue and Regulation & Compliance said that the course will specifically support frontline trainers and assessors to train workplace skills to meet internal organisational requirements. "We consulted with the mining industry about what they needed for their trainers and assessors, and what would work best. We found that our customers were mainly interested in just a small component of the Certificate IV Training and Assessment course. The decision to move away from the full course was driven by the need for a more targeted solution, which we are now able to provide, thanks to Training Services Australia," Matt explained.



## NEW TOOLS

**THE NSW RESOURCES REGULATOR IS ROLLING OUT NEW TOOLS ACROSS THE STATE TO ENSURE THE HEALTH AND SAFETY OF MINE WORKERS.**

Minister for Resources Don Harwin has announced that they will conduct workshops across NSW to help operators manage health risks in the workplace.

"Protecting our workers is a responsibility this Government takes extremely seriously," Mr Harwin said. "NSW has a comprehensive regulatory scheme in place to protect workers in the mining industry and we expect it to be followed at all times.

"A key requirement for mine operators is to develop health control plans and undertake health monitoring of their workers, and the NSW Resources Regular has developed a suite of new tools to help operators meet these requirements."

New tools and resources being made available for the industry include:

- educational videos on identifying and controlling health risks
- a health control plan guide
- tools that provide guidance on identifying, assessing and controlling health hazards
- resources that provide information about specific health hazards
- fact sheets

In addition to these new tools, the regulator will host a series of workshops tailored to various mines, both large and small, to ensure their health control plans meet current legislative requirements.



# DIGITAL DETOX

WHAT'S THE FIRST THING YOU DO WHEN YOU WAKE UP? CHECK YOUR EMAILS? LOOK THROUGH SOCIAL MEDIA? PLAY A GAME? IF YOU'RE REACHING FOR YOUR PHONE BEFORE YOU'VE EVEN RUBBED THE SLEEP OUT OF YOUR EYES IT MIGHT BE TIME TO CONSIDER A DIGITAL DETOX.

What is a digital detox? It's defined as a period of time during which a person refrains from using electronic devices such as smartphones or computers and is regarded as an opportunity to reduce stress or focus on social interaction in the physical world.

In Australia, 84% of us have smartphones, and on average we check them 150 times a day. One study found that the average Australian spends 2.5 hours every day on their phones, which might not sound like much until you consider that it totals to 38 days a year!

Aussie blokes where the worst culprits with 74 per cent admitting to having their phone at hand throughout the entire day, compared to only 60 per cent of females. And it seems there is no part of our lives where phones have not intruded, 1 in 10 Australians also admitting to using their phones while having sex!

**WHEN IT COMES TO ELECTRONIC DEVICES IN GENERAL, THE RESULTS ARE EVEN MORE SHOCKING. MORE THAN ONE-THIRD OF EACH DAY – 9.4 HOURS – IS**

**BEING SPENT IN FRONT OF A COMPUTER, PHONE OR TV, WHICH EQUATES TO ABOUT 143 DAYS EVERY YEAR.**

But what does it all this time immersed in our devices mean for our physical and mentally wellbeing?

Results from some of the studies that have been done are worrying. Social media appears to promote narcissism, smartphones could be causing insomnia, and screens seem to be making our kids less empathetic. Not to mention other tolls such as poor concentration and posture, sore eyes, depression, anxiety and feeling isolated.

Maybe it's time to take a break. There are digital detox retreats for those who wish to completely unplug, but family and work commitments make these an unrealistic option for most of us. Instead we've put together some of the top advice out there to help you stop being a glow face.

- Only use your phone when you're alone. When you are with people focus on them and not on your phone. If your out for dinner with friends, try putting everyone's phones together on the table. First one who picks their phone up pays for dinner!

- Turn all notifications off your apps. Choose a specific time each day to check on your apps and restrict yourself to a timeframe.
- Out of sight out of mind. Most people automatically reach for their phone when they see it and began flicking through apps or checking messages.
- Turn your data off. If you are always checking your social media feed while waiting for your lunch order or walking down the street, turn off your data so you can't.
- Leave your phone in your pocket or your bag when you are at meetings or at work. Put it on airplane mode unless you really need to be available.
- Take email off your phone. Only use email from your computer and only at specific time of the day.
- Don't take your phone with you into the bathroom, the bedroom or the kitchen. Choose one spot in the house where you use your phone, so it stops intruding on all aspects of your home life.
- Buy an alarm clock. Don't use the excuse of needing the alarm to take your phone to bed. Choose a time at night such as 6pm and put your phone away.


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## HURRY! EXHIBITION SPACES GOING FAST!!



**8TH ANNUAL MINE REHABILITATION CONFERENCE**  
**12 APRIL 2018 - NEWCASTLE**

Exhibition spaces are filling fast at our Mine Rehab Conference. The conference is set to run at Wests New Lambton, in the Starlight Auditorium. That means plenty of big spaces available for your business to showcase their latest products, technology and information. Put your business in front of the people in your industry - the decision makers, the implementers, the do-ers!


Wednesday  
Mine Site Tours

Thursday  
Conference & Dinner

Friday  
Workshops



For more information, please see our website  
[www.tomfarrellinstitute.org/mlrc2018](http://www.tomfarrellinstitute.org/mlrc2018)



## SAY CHEESE

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Using the original Polaroid format and adding in lots of new creative techniques, this is old school photography at its best and is perfect for beginners. Best of all, it will curb all those wasted shots that occur with digital cameras. Like those 200 photos you took of last night's dinner!

[www.polaroid.com.au](http://www.polaroid.com.au)

## TAME THE BEAST

DO PEOPLE RUN SCREAMING WHEN YOU TAKE YOUR SHIRT OFF AT THE BEACH, MISTAKING YOU FOR BIGFOOT? THEN BAKBLADE IS FOR YOU.

The BaKblade can be used wet or dry and has a long, curved ergonomic handle that lets you reach anywhere on your back to get rid of unwanted hair. It also has a detachable blade cartridge you can use to detail areas like your chest and abs.

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# WATCH OUT!

IT'S TIME TO STEP UP YOUR GAME BOYS!

The SEIKO Chronograph SNAF47P2 watch not only looks the goods, it tells the time too. Those poncy fandangled Apple smart watches may be all the rage, but nothing says old school style like a two-handed time piece with a leather strap.

With a ton of features including 100m water resistance, date display and an alarm function.

[www.watchdirect.com.au](http://www.watchdirect.com.au)

# SKULLDUGGERY

LEAVE BORING SPEAKERS BEHIND IN FAVOR OF THE FUN LOOK OF THE AEROSKULL NANO.

Crafted to look like a smiling, sunglass-wearing skull, this speaker isn't just whimsical; it's portable, compact, and packs 10 watts of high-performance power. Outfitted with a subwoofer, this rechargeable speaker keeps the party going for 8 hours and comes in a variety of cool colors.

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# BARK OFF!

TEACHING AN OLD DOG NEW TRICKS ISN'T EASY BUT HAVING THE RIGHT TOOLS HELPS.

The Lentek Bark Free device is wireless, water-resistant, and covers up to 50 feet. Using sonic wave technology, the tool works well for one dog but even better if you have multiple furry friends. Avoid loud barking and unhappy neighbors with this handy device that keeps barking at bay.

[www.ebay.com](http://www.ebay.com)

# 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

# EVEN WHEN IT'S GREY, NEWY SHINES AT SURFEST



NEWCASTLE'S MEREWETHER BEACH SHOWS OFF ITS SURFING CREDENTIALS TO THE WORLD, AGAIN!

It was fireworks at Surfest on the final day of the Burton Automotive Pro and the Grandstand Sports Clinic Women's Pro. Despite the overcast conditions the surfers still managed to shine with an incredible display of quality surfing action. Brother and sister, Mikey and Tyler Wright made history as the first siblings to surf in dual finals of a World Surf League (WSL) Qualifying Series (QS) event. Mikey eventually added his name to the winner's list alongside older sister Kirby, who saw success in Newcastle in 2010. Tyler came just short to Hawaii's Coco Ho who took her second Surfest title.

Mikey Wright now leads the Men's QS rankings and couldn't have started the year more perfectly as he looks towards qualifying for the 2019 Championship Tour and join siblings Owen and Tyler on the elite 'Dream Tour'.

**"I'M FEELING REALLY GOOD ABOUT THIS YEAR AND I REALLY WANT TO QUALIFY, AND THIS EVENT COULDN'T HAVE GONE ANY BETTER FOR ME," SAID MIKEY WRIGHT. "NEWCASTLE HAS BEEN GOOD TO ME; MY CLUB WON THE BOARDRIDERS BATTLE LAST WEEKEND AND THEN I WON HERE.**

I ALWAYS HAVE A GOOD TIME IN NEWCASTLE."

Hawaiian crowd favourite and 2011 Surfest Champion, Coco Ho (HAW) took out the Grandstand Sports Clinic Women's Pro in a hard-fought final over Mikey's sister and reigning two-time World Champion Tyler Wright (AUS).

"It was definitely anybody's day, but I was super energised and stoked and I think that always helps you win,"



Coco Ho said, with infectious smile post-win. "I am super stoked to think I can come back seven years later and still win. It means a lot to me and proves that I am still capable of victories."

## THE SHOUT'S ON US!



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# STRAIGHT SHOOTIN'

**DAN REPACHOLI, AKA MINER DAN, IS A STRAIGHT SHOOTIN' SON OF A GUN WHO HAS WON TWO GOLD AND TWO BRONZE MEDALS AT THE COMMONWEALTH GAMES IN DEHLI AND GLASGOW. COME APRIL, REPACHOLI WILL BE HOPING TO SHOOT STRAIGHT ON HOME TURF AT THE GOLD COAST COMMONWEALTH GAMES. @ THE COALFACE SAT DOWN FOR A SPORTS CHAT WITH THE HUNTER'S OWN, MINER DAN...**

**G'day, Dan. Thanks for taking some time out between training and working to have a chat. So, how did you get into shooting?**

No worries. Yeah, I started shooting back in 1994 when I was 12. Both my parents and my older brother were already involved in the sport and, I suppose at the time, it just seemed like a fun a thing to do.

**For sure. What is it about shooting that motivates you to compete?**

Well, I shoot because I want to be the best in my sport. I've competed for Australia for over 20 years. Some days you shoot straight and everything goes to plan and other days it doesn't, but, no matter what, it's always a great honour to represent your country and maybe even have a win, sometimes.

**When you're competing at the Olympics or Commonwealth Games, what do you tend to think about as you're about to make a shot?**

Ha... You would be amazed at what goes through any shooters head, let alone mine, while standing there for an hour and a half shooting alongside the best of the best. Strangely enough,

in my case, it's not really about shooting. I'll find myself thinking of just about anything, from what I had for breakfast that morning to what are the blokes at work doing. Haha. Mostly though, I just need to steady my thoughts and concentrate on hitting the target.

**Point straight ahead and shoot, eh!? Sounds like a metaphor for life! Do you have any advice for young sports men and women who might dream of competing at such a high level, like the upcoming Commonwealth Games?**

I think you should never be afraid to dream, because I know from experience that dreams can eventually turn into reality. You have to be prepared to work hard and listen to what your coaches are telling you. They can help you make those dreams real.

**You've worked in the mining industry for a while now. Where do you work and what do you do?**

Well, I used to work for Rio Tinto at Mount Thorley Warkworth, but I finished working there about 6 months ago. Now I manage a great team of dedicated professionals at RR Equipment

Repairs in Singleton. Basically, we specialise in boiler making, fitting, line boring, labour hire and machine rebuilds. The mining industry is a great industry to be a part of.

**It is. We love writing about people like you who do great things inside and outside the mining community. Speaking of, how do you balance work with training and other commitments, like family?**

Yeah, thanks. I mean, sometimes it's a struggle getting the balance right, but, like everyone I just try to do the best I can. I'm very lucky to have such an incredibly supportive wife and family. They are all very encouraging towards me and they all want to see me reach and achieve my sporting goals.

**Family support is definitely important. For sure. What are you most looking forward to about competing at this year's Commonwealth Games on the Gold Coast?**

I just want to train and prepare the best I can so that I can perform to the best of my ability. Shoot straight and walk away happy with my result, no matter what.

**Well, good luck, mate. The whole Hunter Valley mining community is right behind you, cheering you on!**

Watch Dan Repacholi represent Australia at the Gold Coast Commonwealth Games in April. Good luck, Dan!

## The Clubby

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tucker, drive through and good times!*



# PIT STOP

THE TROOPY ADVENTURER’S DITCHED THE 4X4’S AND DUSTED OFF THEIR BIKES, FOR A QUICK WEEKEND ADVENTURE.

Stepping out of Braxton bottleshop on Thursday evening with the obligatory post day shift largie, the weekend had officially commenced. My offsider Cal, our mate Discount Steve and I were going to motor the bikes North-West over the border for a couple of days at the Nidigully pub.

The Nindi pub is the oldest hotel still operating in Queensland and was originally a shearers quarters, before it was issued a liquor license in 1864. It is now a popular stop with truckies and travellers passing through. Early Friday morning, we were met with single digit temperatures to wake us up

and make us really appreciate the warm cuppa’ in Scone. We scooted up the New England to Quirindi then darted across to the Newell Hwy and continued through Gunnedah and up to Moree. Shooting over the border at Mungindi, we followed the Carnarvon Hwy for the rest of the journey to the pub.

**AFTER ARRIVING MIDAFTERNOON, WE PICKED OUT A RED-HOT SPOT TO SET CAMP JUST BEHIND THE PUB ON THE MOONIE RIVER. THE CAMPING IS FREE, AND THE PUB HAS HOT WATER SHOWERS TO FRESHEN YOU UP AFTER A LONG DAY IN THE SADDLE. GREAT MEALS ARE AVAILABLE 7 DAYS A WEEK, AND THE AMBER LIFESTYLE ENHANCERS ARE POSSIBLY THE COLDEST IN QLD!**

Friday night was a late one. First night fever struck hard, with a couple of dozen trips to the front bar and more karaoke style participation with the local muso then I’d care to admit. The wee hours seen us in a hazy, stumble back to camp. Giggling like school girls with the boys in attempts to try and gain access to our swags.

Saturday came and went, with most of the day spent

escaping the heat floating around the river. We enjoy the tucker at the pub again that evening and sensibly retired for an early night before the 700km run home tomorrow.

The boys and I were up at sparrows and broke camp early to beat some of the Outback heat. A couple of fuel stops and a gut full of the Colonel’s finest in

Narrabri had us home in the late afternoon.

Thanks to the Gully pub and it’s hospitable locals for a great weekend.

Also, a special thanks to the empathetic and compassionate NSW Highway Patrol officers, west of the range. We love your work.

**Cheers  
Dan - TA**



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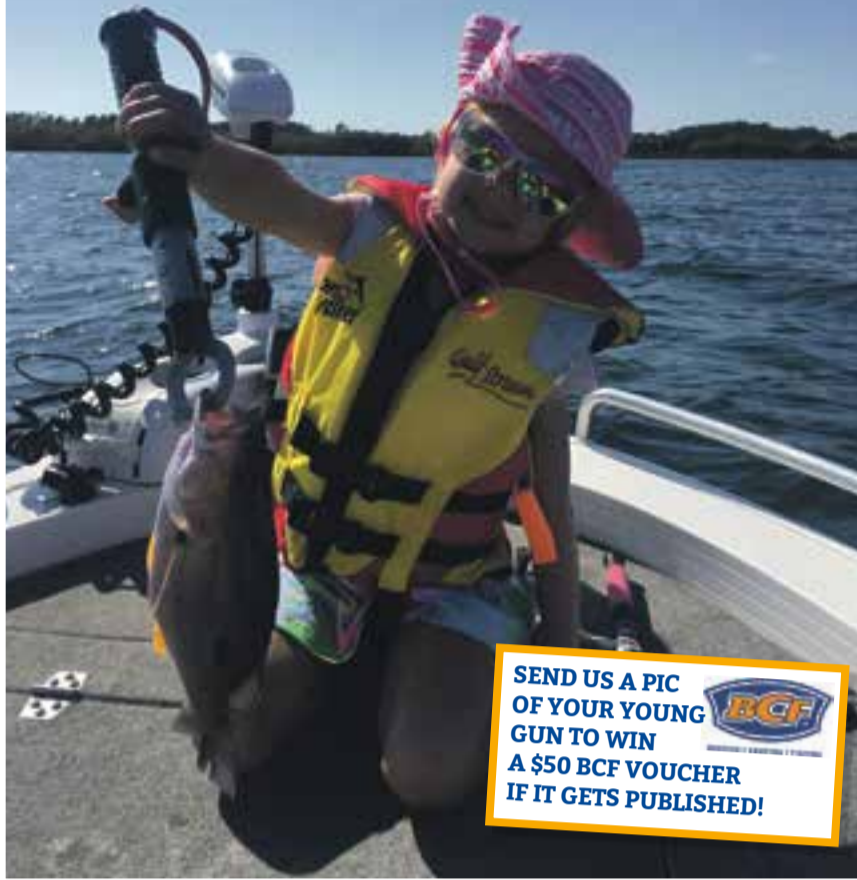


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YOUNG GUN AMELIA (4)  
WITH A MOSES PERCH



## BIG WINNERS

Thank you to everyone who entered the Zacatak Lures Competition. You made our job of selecting a winner impossible. So impossible that we ended up choosing two. We also want to say well done to all the dads out there who are passionate about fishing and are sharing that passion with their kids.

Congratulations to Oliver, who

after many trips out on the boat finally managed to catch his first marlin. And it is a beauty, weighing a whopping 70kgs! Oliver's dad Anthony and his mate Mick supported him throughout the catch but Oliver did the work.

Congratulations to Kahlee who landed a monster 22.5kg Spanish mackerel after an intense 15 minute battle out at South West Rocks.

# THE FISHING DOESN'T GET ANY BETTER

## OFFSHORE

We are currently in the middle of one of the best Marlin seasons we've ever seen, so if it's on the bucket list now's the time to head out and have a crack whether its hunting the inshore reefs or out wide on the car park. The Bluefin Tuna of the northern variety have been sighted up off the bay and with everything else that's happening we should see an epic run of these speedsters as well.

Dolphin fish are also plaguing the local fads and fish trap floats scattered east of the bay in 90 meters of water. While we are on the subject if you have a couple of days up your sleeve its well worth heading north a couple of hours to Harrington or Port Macquarie as

the Mackerel have arrived in great numbers with some solid Cobia mixed in as well.

## ESTUARY

In the Lake we are seeing good numbers of Arrow Squid taken around the drop over and Murrays Beach areas. School Jewfish are also being caught in good numbers on live squid and soft plastic lures worked around the bait schools. It's definitely still worth baiting up a trap for a crab as they are still in great numbers covering all local inshore waters.

## BEACHES

With the Sun easing off the burn autumn is a great time of year to hit the beaches with just about everything on offer in good numbers especially Tailor, Bream,

Whiting and Jewfish.

## AND DON'T FORGET THE PIRTEK NATIONAL FISHING CHALLENGE CELEBRATES 10 YEARS, WITH ANGLERS FROM ACROSS AUSTRALIA FLOCKING TO THE WORLD'S BIGGEST FISHING COMPETITION.

The Challenge is a major fundraising initiative that helps to raise funds for Prostate Cancer Foundation of Australia (PCFA) and awareness of the disease. The challenge is also a major fundraising partner for the Peter Duncan Neurosciences Research Unit.

This year's challenge will take place on Sunday 18 March 2018 and is offering a record \$210,000 in cash and prizes.

Event Director Michael Guest said,

"It doesn't matter whether you are an experienced angler or picking up a rod for the first time. The PIRTEK Fishing Challenge is all about getting together with your friends and family, having fun and supporting our charity partners."

For more information and to register - [www.pirtekfishingchallenge.com.au](http://www.pirtekfishingchallenge.com.au)  
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# HAVE YOU EVER...

HAVE YOU EVER WONDERED WHAT IT IS THAT MAKES ‘US’ AUSSIES SO INNOVATIVE? BE IT OUR ISOLATION FROM THE REST OF THE WORLD, OR SIMPLE WILLINGNESS TO ROLL-UP OUR SLEEVES AND GET ON WITH THE JOB, WE’VE A REPUTATION FOR INNOVATION.

Such is the solution pictured above, a purpose built ‘stretched’ Cat D11R Dozer created specifically for the Australian agricultural industry. Alongside other

inventions, this machine is not unlike other Aussie innovations such as the Black Box flight recorder or cochlear implant, in that, it was born out of

### BRING ON BUNNINGS

FOR MANY OF US HEADING TO BUNNINGS ON THE WEEKEND IS THE HIGHLIGHT OF THE WEEK.



Checking out the latest tools, picking up those bits and pieces for your latest DIY project, or grabbing a coffee after dumping the kids in the play area, it’s a handyman’s heaven.

**For your chance to win a \$100 voucher, simply SMS: BUNNINGS and your email address to 0438 474 290.**

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

WIN!

necessity, in the absence of a tangible solution.

Designed to pull a 10m, 40t blade plough, this Dozer’s chassis has been extended 21.5 inches and is fitted with a 3512B engine (better known for driving 150t Cat 785 dump trucks), upgraded torque convertor with lockup control, the addition of a second cooling system (installed on top of the ROPS) to cool the transmission and hydraulics, modified pre-cleaners and exhaust pipes as well as removal of all the electronics, thereby simplifying maintenance and addressing the many items that can render equipment unserviceable in the harsh and remote Australian outback. The

fifth of such machines produced, this Dozer is set to hit the dirt next month and if it’s anything like its siblings, will pull and pull hard all day, all without missing a beat!

As you might imagine, designing and manufacturing such a machine wasn’t all smooth sailing and in the early days, it had its fair share of naysayers. Yet, here it is, another Aussie innovation and (I believe it safe to say) machine unique in Australia and the rest of the world. A true market leader and solution for the agricultural sector.

If you know of a machine that warrants attention, drop me a line, I’d love to know more at [b.hailes@componentsonly.com.au](mailto:b.hailes@componentsonly.com.au)

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# TAKE A HIKE

WHEN IT COMES TO A GREAT DAY OUT WITH THE FAMILY YOU DON'T NEED A TON OF MONEY OR A HEAP OF EXPENSIVE EQUIPMENT. JUST A STURDY PAIR OF SHOES, AN OLD BACKPACK FILLED WITH WATER AND SNACKS, AND MOST IMPORTANTLY, A SENSE OF ADVENTURE.

If there's one thing the Hunter Valley has in abundance (apart from mines and wines) it's some bloody great walking trails. One of the most well-known trails in NSW is The Great North Walk. This 250 km path starts in Newcastle and heads in to the Watagans before finishing at Sydney. Currently the record for hiking the Great North Walk stands at 54 hours and 52 minutes, but the best thing about this walk is it's easily broken down into manageable sections depending on how fit you are,



how experienced you are and what you are looking for in a walk.

For those of you who require beer stops along the way try the very beginning of the walk which starts at Queen's Wharf in Newcastle. This easy stroll offers great ocean views and plenty of coffee shops and bars to refuel at along the way. Stop at all the heritage sites along the way including Fort Scratchley, Newcastle Obelisk and my favourite Murdering Gully. It's claimed a Glenrock coal miner was leaning over a waterfall trying to catch water for his tea when he fell. When his body was found the head was missing and to this day his ghost wanders around still looking for its missing head.

**FOR THOSE WHO TAKE THEIR HIKING MORE SERIOUSLY AND WANT TO HEAD INTO THE WILDERNESS, YOU ARE GOING TO WANT TO TRY SOME OF THE WATAGANS ATRAILS.**

There's lots of different

access points including Millfield, Quorrobolong and Freemans Waterhole and walks graded from easy through to hard. What you can expect from most of these trails is abundant foliage and wildlife, beautiful rock caves, refreshingly clear and cool waterfalls and absolutely breathtaking lookouts. Unfortunately, you can also expect leeches, bloody steep hills and no mobile service in areas. So, play it safe and always make sure you have good maps, a compass and you tell someone where you are going and how long you are likely to be.

Whether you take a leisurely stroll along the beach, a strenuous hike through tough terrain or simply meander down to the local, there is nothing as refreshing for the mind and the body as walking out the front door and seeing where your feet take you. So, ditch the work boots for hiking boots and take a hike!



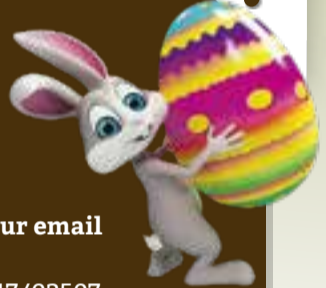
## CHOC OVERLOAD

IT'S EASTER TIME WHICH MEANS EASTER EGG HUNTS, PUBLIC HOLIDAYS AND BEST OF ALL - GORGING YOURSELF ON CHOCOLATE.

We have a delicious Easter Hamper to give away to kickstart your Easter celebrations.

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



WIN!

## Congratulations

Cancer Council NSW, Singleton Office



Reg Crick, The Bloomfield Group, Michael Johnsen, Member for Upper Hunter, John Richards, The Bloomfield Group, Glen Parsons, Cancer Council, Sue Moore, Mayor of Singleton, Clint Ekert, Cancer Council, Alan Richards, Bruce Richards and Luke Murray (The Bloomfield Group)

### The Bloomfield Group congratulates Cancer Council NSW for operating in Singleton for five years.

The many local families who've been affected by cancer know the tremendous work of the Cancer Council NSW.

So does the entire Bloomfield Group workforce at our Rix's Creek Mine.

We are locally owned and operated and are part of the Singleton community.

That's why we back vitally important community causes.

That's why we are a major supporter of Cancer Council NSW and particularly their Singleton services.

To everyone at Cancer Council NSW who has helped so many people in Singleton, thank you, well done.... and keep up the good work.


**Luke Murray**

Manager, Rix's Creek Mine



# THE EASTER CHICKEN VS THE EASTER BUNNY

THE EASTER BUNNY WON'T BE VISITING THE GRANDKIDS THIS YEAR BECAUSE I HAVE DECIDED IT'S TIME THEY UNDERSTOOD THAT THE ONLY BROWN EGGS A RABBIT CAN LAY ARE THE SMALL CRAPPY MINI EGG-SHAPED ONES THAT COME OUT OF THEIR BACKSIDE.



They don't even taste like chocolate! I learnt that the hard way as a 6 year old when I collected a basketful from my two pet ones and in the excitement of Easter morning shoved the lot in my gob at once. They may have been brown and egg shaped but they tasted nothing like chocolate and were crap to be honest. The Easter Bunny is history!!

So I bought two chooks recently, turned an old washery basket upside down for their new home, made a few modifications, and moved them in. It's like a fortress for chooks and the local cats were even impressed.

ANYWAY, AFTER ALL THAT HARD WORK THE NEW RESIDENTS HAD ME THINKING 'CHICKEN PIES'. SO, I FIRED UP THE KINGSWOOD, HEADED UP TO DENMAN BAKERY FOR A FLAKEY TOPPED PASTRY CHOOK BAG AND TO GRAB A BAG OF FEED FROM DENMAN DAPKOS RURAL SUPPLIES AS WELL TO FATTEN UP THE TWO NEW CLUCKERS. THE PIE WAS A CLUCKING RIPPA! FINGER LICKING GOOD AS THE COLONEL WOULD SAY.

Anyway, the kids have fallen in love with their new pets, feeding them and collecting the eggs.

We have made a deal that I will buy them a chocky egg for every real one they collect between now and Easter.


Come Easter morning I will then surprise them when they rush out to say hi to their beloved pet chooks. They'll find the little cluckers have moved out and in their place will be the promised chocolate eggs and a family sized chicken pie made the night before after introducing our feathered friends to their other purpose in life – Easter lunch!

**Happy Easter everyone...  
Pie Minister Sol**

## 'AVE A LAUGH WITH

The Police have found many dead crows on the Golden Highway and there is concern they may have died from Avian Flu. A pathologist examined the remains of all the crows and has confirmed the problem is not Avian Flu. The cause of death

appears to have been from vehicular impacts. However, during analysis of the paints founds on the bird's beaks and claws it has been determined that 98% of the crows have been killed by impacts with motorcycles and only 2% were killed by cars.

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The investigators then hired an ornithological behaviorist to determine if there was a cause for the disproportionate percentages of motorbike kills versus car kills. They quickly concluded that when crows eat road kill they always have a lookout crow to warn of danger. They discovered that while the lookout crows could shout "Cah" not a single one could shout "bike".

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# TOP OF THE TOWN

AS I SAT DOWN TO WRITE ABOUT MUSWELLBROOK'S REMINGTON RESTAURANT, I HAD A LOOK ONLINE TO SEE WHAT OTHERS THOUGHT. THE VERY FIRST REVIEW ON TRIP ADVISOR SAID, "THE STAFF AND SERVICE ARE PERFECT. THE RESTAURANT BELONGS IN MELBOURNE. THE FOOD IS SECOND TO NONE." I AGREE.

The reason I decided to check out Trip Advisor was because we often let the places we visit know we are coming. It means we nearly always get great food but I sometimes wonder if they try a little harder because they are expecting us. So, in due diligence I thought I should do some research online as well as talking to a few people I know from up that way.

**THE VERDICT: THE REMINGTON IS REGARDED AS MUSWELLBROOK'S FINEST DINING DESTINATION AND I AM CONFIDENT EVERYONE WHO WALKS THROUGH THE DOOR GETS TREATED THE SAME - REALLY BLOODY WELL!**

Head chef Darren Stokes has been at the helm since the place opened and really tries to do things a little bit different. A background in fine dining starting with Robert Molines and stints at some of the Hunters best restaurants along the way, he has cooked for everyone from Rod Stewart to Kerry Packer. "For me it's the food that's important not chasing

the fame. I try not to copy and do my own thing. I'm a family man and working here suits me very well," Darren told us.

Our feast on the day started with a trio of dips that were a cut above and full of flavor only achieved by someone who knows what they are doing. Delicious prawns with chilli and coconut milk followed and threatened to derail our appetite. From there a surprising delicately fried crocodile main and buttery aged sirloin on the bone finished us off. Dessert was almost beyond us but trust us. Don't skip it.

Manager Tamara Peterson sat down for a chat and told us, "We try to bring a little bit of class to Muswellbrook and be somewhere locals are proud to come. We recently won the Hunter Region Business Award for hospitality and tourism and Business of the Year which is great for the town as well."

"If we can source locally we do. We

work closely with Jason from Hunter Belle Cheese, free range egg supplier Hunter Country Farm, Pukara and local wineries including First Creek, Tamburlaine, Hollydeane and Two Rivers Small Forest."

The Remington left us completely satisfied and without a doubt we will be back soon. Great stuff guys.



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B	N	I	S	O	D	I	G	G	E	R	H	M	O	E
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L	H	Z	M	U	R	E	I	E	S	T	D	D	T	C
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W	V	H	K	B	A	O	T	U	E	S	A	H	I	R
B	S	U	A	C	I	L	U	A	R	D	Y	H	C	A
X	L	L	M	X	U	R	Y	Z	R	F	P	O	I	L
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V	U	U	S	L	O	N	G	W	A	L	L	C	J	I
O	B	H	E	T	A	N	O	T	E	D	M	N	E	P

@ THE COALFACE PRIZE WINNERS

VOLUME 2 – NO 5: FEBRUARY - MARCH 2018

- Crib Bag - carenbuckley1@hotmail.com, ashleeanne1992@hotmail.com
- Roberts Meat Raffle - cjw91@live.com.au
- Bunnings Gift Voucher – obrien.10@hotmail.com
- Aquasplash Gift Voucher - souths38@bigpond.com
- Rhino Rack Roof Rack – enquiries@hunterpetmotel.com.au
- Clubhouse XXXX - hairyvic@hotmail.com

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL OUR WINNERS!

MINING LOVE

THE RARE RECENT RAIN GOT A FEW MT OWEN MINERS ALL POETIC IN THE CRIB HUT AND AS IT FLOGGED DOWN THEY WROTE THIS AND SENT IT IN...THANKS GUYS, ALMOST BROUGHT A TEAR TO OUR EYE!

Hi-vis and workboots  
Hard hats and gloves  
We show up for the money  
Sure as hell not for love!  
Pre-starts and musters  
Toolbox talks and HIIT's  
103's and inspections  
So mundane, its the shifts!  
Day in and day out  
We stare at this dirt  
Following rules and procedures  
so as not to get hurt!  
Move windrows and bunds  
Dump waste and save coal  
There's money to be made

Digging in this big hole!  
It's dirty and dusty  
we all pray for rain  
We whinge and we bitch  
But are always back again!  
Because the friendships we make  
and the memories we create  
will far outlive  
all the moments we hate!  
The dirt is in our veins  
The diesel is in our blood  
And if we are truly honest  
We do it for the love!  
Letitia Russell  
Mt Owen





**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 2 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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10:00AM	20KM YR 5 & 6 SCHOOL CHALLENGE
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# GOING SOUTH

**THERE IS NOTHING LIKE A ROAD TRIP TO BLOW OUT THE COBWEBS, AND A DRIVE FROM THE HUNTER TO MELBOURNE VIA THE NSW SOUTH COAST IS ONE OF THE BEST.**

Road trips from our neck of the woods usually mean heading north. For lone rangers, couples and families alike, spending a 'take it as it comes' week cruising south down one of the most beautiful, relaxing and picturesque stretches of the Australian coastline won't disappoint.

A trip like this is more about forgetting than remembering, because within the first 24 hours your troubles, stresses and plans will all be forgotten. This is not a trip that should be planned very much at all in my opinion. Only vaguely deciding each day's destination and activities on the morning you wake up has the effect of slowing down time and making the trip a more delightful and surprising adventure. Taking it as it comes is the way to go.

But where will we stay I hear you ask? Anywhere you bloody well want my friends is the answer. From camping in out-of-the-way beachside van parks to staying in B and B's, basic motels and five-star luxury - mixing it up will make the trip memorable. I did a bit of everything and something different each night.

Definitely pack enough basic camping gear to increase your choices along the way even if you decide not to use it. Make sure you camp at least once like I did in the swag at the amazing little ocean front Tuross Beach Holiday Park.

**THE GENERAL RULE I APPLIED WAS NO MORE THAN A FEW HOURS DRIVING A DAY.**

From beautiful beaches and spectacular wilderness, to fun adventure and cracking food and wine, the South Coast is an unforgettable experience.

My first detour after leaving the Hunter was just south of Sydney through the Royal National Park on the Grand Pacific Drive towards appropriately named Coalcliff at the southern end. It's a spectacular spin through one of the world's oldest national parks and over the amazing Seacliff bridge. Taking the detours is the point here, that's where the special stuff is found.

Going south you can try Jamberoo Action Park and the zip-lines of the Illawarra Fly Treetop Adventures. Relax on some of the whitest sands in the world at Hyam's Beach, go diving, savour freshly shucked oysters and enjoy

a range of water sports, cycling and bushwalking.

Along the way pull in to the smaller towns for your pub, club, restaurant and take away feeds or at the flash end, are places like Rick Stein's at Bannisters in Mollymook. Batemans Bay is bigger but has plenty to offer and travelling through places like Narooma, Bermagui (great pub and feed here I can tell ya') and on to Tathra (where I crashed with friends for free), a beer in the pub on the headland is a must.

From here it was on into Victoria through national park and pretty towns towards Lakes Entrance where a three-star motel delivered a great night's kip. From there it was onto Portsea pub for a beer on the Mornington Peninsula. Melbourne then beckoned for a night on the town and a very flash feed.

Next day I did the big drive home in one hit which was a mistake. Stop along the way to break it up somewhere like Albury or Wagga. This was not an all that expensive trip really and it was mostly the little free experiences along way like a dip in the ocean or chat with a friendly local that made it great. So, get on your bike and start pedaling! Actually bad idea! I clocked up a surprising 2500k's so drive might be a better idea.



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