

@THE COAL FACE

Vol 2 No 7: April - May 2018



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BIG BOOST TO LOCAL JOBS AT
RIX'S CREEK



WONDER WOMEN

MEET THE WINNERS OF
2017 WOMEN IN MINING AWARDS.

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SUPER UNION

MICHAEL O-CONNOR AND PADDY
CRUMLIN HEAD UP THE NEW
CONSTRUCTION FORESTRY,
MARITIME, MINING
AND ENERGY
UNION (CFMMEU).

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WELL DONE!

IT'S BEEN A MONTH WORTH CELEBRATING WITH THE WOMEN IN MINING AWARDS AS WELL AS THE INDUSTRY SUPPLIER AWARDS, AND OUR CONGRATULATIONS GO OUT TO ALL THE WINNERS.

We are proud to present to you all the deserving award winners this month, it's far to infrequently that our industry stops to congratulate itself, so we love the chance to shout out about it when it does. With this in mind we couldn't help but talk about our industry being the bloody best in the world in this month's publisher's opinion. We'd love to hear from you if you agree.

And if you don't tell someone else. It seems everyone had an opinion this month, in addition to our monthly columns from Minerals Council CEO Stephen Galilee and Minister for Resources Don Harwin, we also got to hear from Singleton Mayor Sue Moore and Westpac Rescue Helicopter Service CEO Richard Jones. It's important

to us to share the views of people in our community and industry, especially when those views agree with ours.

Travel took a turn for the cold this month as we headed to Russia. Don't worry, plenty of vodka shots helped keep us warm. Back on home turf we tried some tasty baos and took a ride on the wild

side down at Penrith White Water Rafting. Sometimes this job is so tough!

But as always, the glue of the magazine that brings it all together is the stories of everyday people in our industry. The quiet and hardworking achievers that try to hide from us thinking their stories aren't worth telling. They are.

HUNTER MINING JOBS ON THE UP

THERE HAS BEEN AN INCREASE IN CONFIDENCE AND GROWTH IN LOCAL COAL MINING JOBS OVER THE LAST TWELVE MONTHS, FOLLOWING THE RESURGENCE IN COAL PRICES AND STRONG DEMAND FOR OUR QUALITY LOCAL COAL.

The most recent figures from Coal Services show that there were 1,085 more Hunter coal jobs in December 2017 than at the same time in 2016, taking the region's overall coal mining job numbers to 13,138.

More mining jobs is good news for the more than 3,000 Hunter businesses that supply mining operations in the region, helping them employ thousands more workers.

More mining jobs also means more people with more money in their wallets in our mining towns, delivering better conditions for

retailers and small businesses.

With the right policy settings that make the most of growing opportunities, our coal mining industry can continue to deliver employment, investment and economic stability well into the future.

Newcastle Knights winger Nathan Ross knows exactly how important mining jobs are to the Hunter.

He recently told the media - "I worked as an underground miner, so I understand that mining is the beating heart of the Hunter and really important to thousands of families across the region."



Stephen Galilee
CEO, NSW Minerals Council

That's why Nathan will be gearing up in the Knights high-vis mining kit for this year's Voice for Mining Family Day on 9 June when they take on the Sydney Roosters at McDonald Jones Stadium.

@THE
COAL
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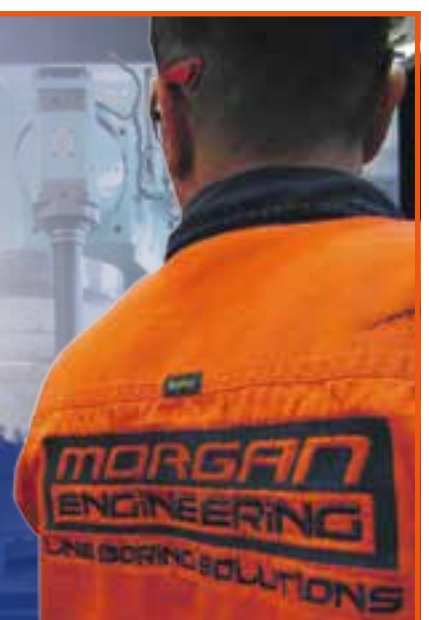
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ONE OF THE HIGHLIGHTS OF THE YEAR IN OUR SECTOR IS THE ANNUAL INDUSTRY AND SUPPLIERS AWARDS DINNER.

It is an opportunity to catch up with old friends, to make new ones, and to recognise the hard work and commitment to excellence that characterises so much of our industry.

It was another reminder of the importance of mining to our State's economy. Coal, copper and gold are our most valuable exports, and almost everyone relies on us every day for electricity generated by our coal.

IT WAS A PARTICULAR PRIVILEGE TO RECOGNISE THE WOMEN IN OUR INDUSTRY.

Their contribution is too often overlooked, but anyone who

works in mining knows that their achievements are worthy of celebration.

Congratulations should go to Nicole Brook from Glencore, who won the award for this year's most exceptional woman in NSW mining.

Kristy Christensen from South32 won the award for the most exceptional young woman, and Hana Newbury from Peabody was the most outstanding technician.

This is an industry that employs more than 40,000 across the state, and I am privileged to represent your interests and share in your success.

SUPERUNION

THE FAIR WORK COMMISSION HAS GIVEN APPROVAL FOR THE MERGER OF THE CFMEU, THE MARITIME UNION OF AUSTRALIA (MUA) AND THE TEXTILE CLOTHING AND FOOTWEAR UNION OF AUSTRALIA (TCFUA).

The new union - named the Construction Forestry, Maritime, Mining and Energy Union (CFMMEU), will have more than 140,000 members — making it one of Australia's largest trade unions.

National Secretary for the CFMMEU, Michael O'Connor, says they are committed to a change of government and to changing the rules to restore balance and

fairness into our communities.

"Big Business has too much power, we have record levels of inequality in our community, and working families are finding it hard to make ends meet. We will be fighting every day to restore the fair go. What you can expect from us is a clear focus on what we have to do to turn our country around." Michael said

International President of the new union, Paddy Crumlin, called the decision a proper recognition of trade union rights being directed towards the will of the membership.

"Wherever there is a need to defend the interests of Australian workers, we will be there with them in their workplaces and communities." Paddy said.

BIG BOOST TO LOCAL JOBS

MORE NEW JOBS AND TRAINEESHIPS AT RIX'S CREEK MINE AS EXPORT MILESTONE ACHIEVED.

Rix's Creek Mine has announced a further thirty new full-time jobs at the former Integra / Camberwell open cut site, taking total full time employment to 130 since the Bloomfield Group took over in late 2015.

Exceeding initial job predictions, the new positions have recently been filled by a variety of workers and professionals including machine operators, environmental experts, engineers, project managers and administration staff.

Further, more than 1,200 applications have been received for two recently advertised traineeships at Rix's Creek Mine which will be prized career starts in the sector. More traineeships will be advertised by Rix's Creek Mine in the future.

Just over two years ago the former Integra / Camberwell site lay idle following the withdrawal of its former overseas owner which put operations into care and maintenance amidst falling coal prices.

Identifying synergies with its neighbouring mine

operating since 1990, The Bloomfield Group decided to purchase the facility and has been able to re-employ many of those who were laid off. Many of those re-employed are Singleton locals.

The resumption of operations has proceeded better than expected, with the mine marking the milestone of 1.5 million tonnes exported.

Some of those to be employed at the mine more recently include Mining Engineers Riley Lewis and Michael Levey, Environmental

Officer Hannah Bowe and Environmental Advisor Chris Quinn.

"The luck is all ours that this mine is thriving again," Singleton resident Riley Lewis said

"There's a strong sense of stability at the mine now and a can-do attitude which comes from the The Bloomfield Group culture

"It's a fantastic company to work for - a place where people stay for the long term. There are generations from the same local families here."

Rix's Creek Mine Manager

Luke Murray said the company placed an emphasis on employing local people.

"We're a family-owned company and have been for more than 80 years," Mr Murray said.

"We're all about employing people from the community and supporting the community in many other ways.

"It's a good feeling that we've been able to turn this mine around and create so many local jobs."

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FUTURE GROWTH

MT ARTHUR COAL IS UNDERTAKING AN AERIAL SEEDING PROGRAM AS PART OF AN ONGOING EFFORT TO REDUCE AIRBORNE DUST.

Two operations are planned during Autumn and Spring and the first operation will begin in April 2018. Each operation will take approximately 1-2 days weather permitting.

THE AERIAL SEEDING PROGRAM WILL USE AN AIRCRAFT TO SPREAD SEED AND FERTILIZER OVER A LARGE AREA OF MT ARTHUR COAL'S EXPOSED DUMPS TO REDUCE DUST EMISSIONS. THE GROWTH WILL STABILISE THE DUMP SPOIL AND REDUCE AIRBORNE DUST.

A Mt Arthur Coal representative said the aerial seeding process requires significant pre-planning in order for the operation to be successful. "For optimal affect the seeding must be undertaken in specific seasons. During this first seeding in April a Cresco 750 horsepower single engine aircraft with be used to cover a total of 206ha of the length of the pit, predominantly targeting the higher levels. A total of 9.6 tonnes of seed and 20.6 tonnes of fertilizer will be used."

The operation is part of ongoing efforts to reduce airborne dust from Mt Arthur Coal's exposed

dump spoils that aren't yet ready for rehabilitation . Mt Arthur Coal uses multiple techniques to reduce dust emissions, however stopping airborne dust from dump spoils is difficult as it is inaccessible for machinery. The use of an aircraft enables Mt Arthur Coal to access these areas and the use of natural growth enables a long-term solution for dust suppression.

Mt Arthur Coal has put their strong Local Buying Program to good use during this operation with the seed and fertilizer for the works being purchased through Denman Dapkos, whilst D. Hollingsworth Pty Ltd have been engaged for the preparation and maintenance of the airstrip which is located on Mt Arthur Coal's environmental offset property "Shandoo", near the Muswellbrook Industrial Estate.

You can expect during these periods to witness the low flying aircraft in this vicinity dispersing the products, with the occasional trips over Thomas Mitchell Drive to restock.



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DOUBLE R REVS UP IN THE HUNTER

TALKING TO LAST MONTH'S COVER MODEL AND OLYMPIC SHOOTER DAN REPACHOLI, HE THREATENED TO SHOOT ME IF I DIDN'T RUN A STORY ABOUT MINING SUPPLIER DOUBLE R EQUIPMENT REPAIRS WHOSE NEW SINGLETON BRANCH HE HEADS UP. WHO AM I TO ARGUE WITH A 7-FOOT GIANT PACKING A PISTOL?

All jokes aside, Dan's story about Double R is an interesting mining tale that we love to hear. A young bloke named Rusty Russell starts an apprenticeship. Works in mining in PNG and Peru. Comes home after six years and decides to go out on his own and starts up with a ute at Wilpinjong and a rough plan most likely mapped out on the back of a beer coaster in a Mudgee pub in 2005. A dozen or so years later that plan has evolved into a leading mining and agriculture enterprise spread across five locations. Dan tells the story, "For the last few years I've been driving trucks for Rio. Before that I worked with Double R eight years ago and helped set up the line boring part of the business in Mudgee. Rusty was the best boss I've ever had, and I didn't particularly want to leave the first time. We've been in contact ever since. (For the record, Rusty said Dan was one of the best too and first pick to run the

a great transition from driving trucks to be back in a thinking role driving a business. Culture is a huge thing in the company and one of the main reasons I came back. We're all about being a team and if you don't fit into our team then it is just not going to work." Dan told us that Double R Singleton all came about due to the reputation and relationships the company had built up in Mudgee and some of those companies kept asking them to come to Singleton.

TALKING TO RUSTY HE WAS PROUD OF WHAT THE COMPANY HAS ACHIEVED, "THE TEAM IS WHAT MOTIVATES ME, WITH A GREAT TEAM ATTITUDE YOU GET TO NOT ONLY GROW A COMPANY, BUT MORE IMPORTANTLY GROW PEOPLE'S LIVES."

"In the early days we were working our asses off to deliver what we promised. Then in 2013 the industry was tanking and things didn't look so good. Work halved, expenses didn't. We had a go when things were tough but it all worked out in the end."

The company has gone on to win a swag of awards including NSW Business Chamber 2017 Western NSW Regional Winner - Excellence in Business.

ON THAT RUSTY LET SLIP, "I MANAGED TO DROP THE F BOMB IN THE ACCEPTANCE SPEECH AFTER A RED EYE FLIGHT BACK FROM WA. I SAID IT WAS ALL ABOUT BUILDING A GREAT TEAM - A F*%ING GREAT TEAM!"

Community is a big part of what they do. In the Hunter they are sponsoring the Pokolbin Reds Rugby Union team and actively looking at the local community to see where else they can get involved. In Mudgee they back Pink Up Mudgee Day and many other things including motocross and horse racing.

Across all branches there is now over 100 in the company with 22 based out of the Singleton.

Plans for the Hunter Valley are to be known as a one stop shop and continue to build the engineering side including boiler making, line boring, fitting and continue to expand into buckets and bodies - just continue to grow with the local industry.

Safe in the knowledge Double R looks good for the future and Dan won't shoot me, best of luck guys!



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NEW MINE OWNERS GET SERIOUS RE: REHAB

THE NEW OWNERS OF DRAYTON AREN'T MUCKING AROUND WHEN IT COMES TO REHAB. JUST ONE WEEK AFTER TAKING OVER THEY'VE FIRED UP THE HEAVY EQUIPMENT TO MAKE SURE REHAB IS A PRIORITY.

Any worries the community might have had regarding how Malabar Coal intends to do business are being put to rest. Just one week after officially taking ownership of the site on February 26, Malabar Coal has proudly informed us that it has begun rehabilitation of the Drayton Mine.

THE FIRST BULLDOZER COMMENCED WORK ON THE MINE SITE IN THE UPPER HUNTER THAT WEEK - THE FIRST STEP IN A TWO-YEAR REHABILITATION PROGRAM.

Malabar Coal Chairman Wayne Seabrook said he was extremely pleased to see progress so quickly, "Malabar has been eager to start rehabilitating the site since taking ownership and have hit the ground running to restore the land thanks to the effort of the staff at the mine led by local mining engineer Rob Hayes.

@ The Coalface has gotten to know the people behind this project and looked very closely not only at their plans but talked extensively with the people charged with bringing the vision to life. Without trying to sound biased, they are delivering even more than they say they will. They are people of their word in all we have seen so far and if this down to earth open and progressive approach continues, there is no doubt one of our most controversial mines will become one of our most admired.

Mr. Seabrook said, "Mine rehabilitation is a multifaceted process and one we take extremely seriously. It is critical that miners fulfill their obligations to the community by restoring the land for our future generations. We have had some preliminary conversations with members of the local community about the different ways the land might be used once we have finished rehabilitation. We will continue to engage with the community as we work our way to a final decision."

"It's been great to formally take control of these assets and to be able to get to work so quickly. I've really enjoyed being on site and meeting our newest employees. At Malabar Coal, we do what we say we will do. Getting started on the rehab so quickly is an important way for us to show our commitment to living up to our promises."

@ The Coalface look forward to seeing and hearing lots more about progress on this project and what will be achieved and sharing it with the community.



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What is equally amazing is just how well developed our local industry was to ride out the tough times and come out on top. So what makes the Hunter coal industry so special?

In my opinion it is our people who give us the edge. At the top end of our coal companies we have tough, tenacious and brave leadership prepared to take the calculated risks and make investments to give us the edge and stability well into the future.

At the production end of the scale (arguably the more important job) is turning those plans and decisions into real and saleable product for export. Everyday miners show a level of skill, work ethic, teamwork and dedication that in many cases bridges decades. It's this depth of experience and smarts that makes our miners and industry the worlds best.

Vision, constant innovation,

training and education have given us an unrivalled edge and knowledge base that means new ideas and ways of doing things are often developed right here and then exported to the world. We set the standard and others follow or copy it.

ON SAFETY, INNOVATION AND CONDITIONS WE ARE VIRTUALLY UNCHALLENGED. SAFETY IS THE NUMBER ONE SITE BASED CONSIDERATION AND HAS BEEN FOR A LONG WHILE.

And all coal is not the same. There's the good, bad and the ugly, and Hunter coal is at the particularly attractive end of the scale. Very high in energy and great for steelmaking, our coal quality is very important these days and should mean our industry enjoys a long future. In global markets, trust and reliability is a key consideration and the key coal customers of the world

demand reliability of supply and quality and in this our track record is second to none – something very few coal producing nations can say.

And as much as we love to hate them, our government largely understands and encourages our potential as an industry. Well except for the Greens that is! For everything the powers that be get wrong they also get plenty right. Allowing the development of our coal resources and other mining industries has bankrolled an economic foundation that truly makes us the lucky country.

Nations around the world can only dream of the people and industry we have and the relative political stability we enjoy further cements us as world champions of coal.

When you also fold in some of the most developed and functional mining infrastructure in the world and consider our convenient and accessible location to the globes biggest customers – there you have it! The Hunter Valley, the best coal producers in the world.

PUBLISHERS OPINION



WATERWORKS

THE UPPER HUNTER MINING INDUSTRY IS A RELATIVELY LOW USER OF WATER FLOWING THROUGH THE HUNTER RIVER SYSTEM, ACCORDING TO NEW FIGURES RELEASED BY THE UPPER HUNTER MINING DIALOGUE.

In 2016, the mining industry only used just two per cent of the water in the system according to figures collated by the Dialogue's water accounting project. This compares to 36 per cent extracted from the river and used by non-mining businesses and residents.

The water accounting project's results also show most of the water used by the mining industry comes from sources other than the river.

The mines sourced 55 per cent of all the water they used from onsite rainfall and runoff and a further 28 per cent was sourced from deep aquifers that are of limited used to other water users due to their high salinity.

ALMOST HALF OF THE WATER – 47 PERCENT - USED IN THE MINING SECTOR WAS RECYCLED AND RE-USED.

The water accounting project was initiated through the Dialogue to gain a better understanding of mining's interaction with water resources in the region and identify opportunities for water management opportunities.

Dialogue Chairman Dave O'Brien said the water accounting project's annual findings were valuable tools to use in the Dialogue's work bringing together the mining industry with local residents, businesses, environmental groups and regulators to work together to

minimise the cumulative impacts of mining.

"The water accounting project provides the Upper Hunter Mining Dialogue members and the community with information about mining's interaction with water resources in the region, allowing for a more informed discussion," Mr O'Brien said. "The project allows the mining industry to be a leader in the area of water management and provides the facts on water usage to the community. We understand water usage is something in which the community has a strong interest.

"The unique makeup of the Upper Hunter Mining Dialogue, which includes all active mining companies in the Upper Hunter, allows us to collect this water usage data which is very valuable, particularly in times such as the current drought."

The water accounting project

focuses on the Hunter River and its tributaries from Glenbawn Dam downstream to Singleton – where Upper Hunter mines and the major water supply dams are located – and collects the water usage data annually.

Upper Hunter mines get their water from a variety of sources and must be licenced for any water they take from rivers and groundwater.

ACCORDING TO THE DATA RELEASED BY THE DIALOGUE, ONLY 10 PER CENT OF THE WATER USED BY MINES CAME FROM RIVERS AND ALLUVIAL AQUIFERS.

As part of the Hunter River Salinity Trading Scheme Upper Hunter mines are only allowed to discharge into the Hunter River at times when river flows are high. Despite a wetter than average year in 2016 generating higher than average river flows, only four per cent of mine water was discharged into the river.



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OPINION

THE STATE GOVERNMENT'S RESOURCES FOR REGIONS PROGRAM WAS ESTABLISHED TO BENEFIT COAL MINING COMMUNITIES, SO SINGLETON SHOULD HAVE A PERMANENT SPOT ON THE PROJECTS LIST.

There's no doubt the program has been an enormous boost for our community. Singleton has been fortunate in a range of projects, including almost \$12 million for the first phase of upgrades for John Street and Ryan Avenue, \$16.7 million for the Hermitage Road and Cycleway Upgrade (in partnership with Cessnock City Council) and \$6 million for the Singleton Regional Livestock Market Upgrade, which was officially opened only recently.

HOWEVER, THERE HAS BEEN LESS SUCCESS IN THE MOST RECENT FUNDING ROUNDS.

Our \$7 million application to continue the revitalisation of John Street resulted in news we had received half the amount requested, coming on top of public speculation about how the funds were distributed and to where. Further, as an initiative put in place to benefit the people directly involved in one of the State's biggest income streams, the goal posts appear to be in constant flux.

THE LATEST DEVELOPMENT THAT COUNCILS MUST MEET 50 PER CENT OF THE TOTAL COST OF THE PROJECT THEY ARE APPLYING FOR RAISES SERIOUS DOUBTS OVER WHETHER SINGLETON CAN TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE PROGRAM AT ALL.

It must be said that if such a

condition had been imposed on previous funding applications, jobs such as John Street and Ryan Avenue simply would not have happened. Singleton voiced concerns about the allocation of funds under the program last year, and our campaign has since gained significant momentum. In December, I was chosen to be part of a Hunter Councils delegation that will seek the support of the Minerals Council to meet with the Deputy Premier to discuss the future of the program.

It's also been a hot topic at the Association of Mining and Energy Related Councils and Country Mayors because in our view, the changes are just not fair for smaller rural communities like ours.

I am seeking a meeting with Minister for Resources and Minister for Energy and Utilities, Don Harwin, to discuss the Resources for Regions program among other issues, including the future of post mining land.

THE PEOPLE IN MACQUARIE STREET MUST NOT FORGET WHERE THE REAL POWERHOUSE OF NSW IS, NOR WHERE THE BIGGEST CONTRIBUTION OF MINING ROYALTIES COMES FROM. AS MAYOR, IT'S MY JOB TO MAKE SURE I'M THERE AT EVERY OPPORTUNITY TO REMIND THEM.

MORE FOR GLENCORE

GLENCORE IS BUYING RIO TINTO'S HAIL CREEK COAL MINE AND THE VALERIA COAL PROJECT IN QUEENSLAND FOR \$1.7 BILLION.

The acquisition follows Glencore's \$1.1 billion deal last year with Yancoal for stake in HVO and MTW, and further extends the mining giant's grip on coal in Australia.

The agreement will see Glencore acquire 82% interest in the Hail Creek coal mine and adjacent coal resources, as well as 71.2% interest in the Valeria coal resource for a total cash consideration of US\$1.7 billion.

Glencore is already the world's biggest exporter of thermal coal used for power stations, and Hail Creek will give it a bigger stake in metallurgical coal used for steelmaking. Last year Glencore managed the production of more than 87 million tonnes of saleable coal from their 17 operational mines in Queensland and New South Wales.

The acquisition is subject to regulatory approvals and is expected to be completed in 2018.

'AVE A
LAUGH WITH

Tutt Bryant Hire

EQUIPMENT - HIRE - SOLUTIONS

PH 02 6571 2983

I got a new pair of gloves today, but they're both 'lefts'.

Which, on the one hand is great, but on the other it's just not right.

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WONDER WOMEN

MEET THE WINNERS OF THE 2018 NSW MINING WOMEN IN MINING AWARDS.

The Minister for Mental Health, Minister for Women, and Minister for Ageing Tanya Davies presented the awards which recognise the increasing contribution women make to the NSW mining industry. “Women make significant contributions to a range of industries across NSW every day and mining is no exception. These awards are an excellent celebration of the achievements and opportunities for women pursuing a career in mining,” Minister Davies said.



Exceptional Woman in NSW Mining
Nicole Brook - Glencore Coal Assets Australia
Nicole has worked tirelessly to promote the mining industry and been a fierce champion and mentor for many men and women. Nicole is an outstanding role model for women in the industry driven by high performance and an unrelenting desire for excellence. “I’m deeply honoured to have been selected from a cohort of women with such depth and breadth of talent. My hope is that by getting my story out there, and the stories of other amazing women, we can show that gender is no barrier when it comes to a rewarding career in the mining industry.”



Exceptional Young Woman in NSW Mining
Kristy Christensen - South32 Illawarra Coal
Kristy is well known for her work in fostering a truly inclusive workplace and breaking down barriers that can prevent women from working on certain tasks in the mining industry. She was paramount in leading the charge to get onsite parenting rooms installed to support breastfeeding mothers returning to work as well as instrumental in the creation of welcome packs for new female employees. “I’m proud to support women in an industry that has typically been designed for a predominately male workforce. I’ve done lots of work trying to get more females in the industry and setting it up for them, so it’s great to get recognition for that.”



Gender Diversity Champion
Deirdra Tindale - BHP / WIMnet
No stranger to the awards, Deirdra has previously been nominated for Exceptional Women in Mining. Since joining the industry Deirdra has worked diligently in advancing women in mining and was responsible for establishing the Hunter Valley Women in Mining Network. She also chairs the WIMnet NSW committee. “I’m incredibly honoured and proud to receive the award and it is great to see the awards recognising volunteer efforts. For many who are out there championing women in mining it’s not part of their job, but they are doing it in their own time in their own way. These awards help prove that it’s worth the effort.”



Excellence in Diversity Programs and Performance in NSW
Diversity and Inclusion at GHD – GHD
GHD are committed to diversity and inclusion as employee Jody Altmann knows first-hand. Currently working part time as she manages her family life, GHD still supports her in a leading technical role within the company. “I encourage companies and women to enter these awards next year, there is great networking opportunities and great recognition for all the efforts you’ve made to get where you are now.”



Outstanding Tradeswoman / Operator / Technician
Hana Newbury - Peabody, Wilpinjong Coal Mine
Hana started her career as a diesel mechanic when she took on an apprenticeship at Wilpinjong Mine in 2010. Just a few years out of gaining her trade, she is an active member of the Mines Rescue team and a step-up leading hand. “I’m blown away to see the amount of support that I and all the other entrants and finalists have received from their companies and from the industry. This award shows the sky really is the limit for women in trade roles.”

No one has ever paid

Because the mine workers of this region continually support the Rescue Helicopter.



REPRESENTATIVES OF THE NSW MINING INDUSTRY AND MINING SUPPLIER BUSINESSES JOINED WITH OVER 40 MPS AT THE 2018 INDUSTRY AND SUPPLIERS AWARDS DINNER.

‘AVE A LAUGH WITH
Tutt Bryant Hire
EQUIPMENT - HIRE - SOLUTIONS
PH 02 6571 2983

Hello, Gordon’s pizza?
No sir we are now Google’s pizza.
OK. I’d like to order a delivery.
Sir, you want the usual?”
The usual? You know me?
According to our caller ID data sheet, the last 12 times you ordered meat lovers. But may I

suggest vegetarian?
What? I hate vegetables.
Your cholesterol is not good, sir.
How do you know?
We crossed the number of your fixed line with your name and we have the result of your last blood test.
Okay, but I don’t want that pizza, I

NSW Minister for Resources, Energy, Utilities and the Arts Don Harwin welcomed the 300 guests to the dinner, praising the contribution made to the NSW economy and regional communities by the NSW mining industry, the thousands of NSW mining supplier businesses, and the more than 40,000 people working in the industry across the state. His praise was echoed by NSW Deputy Premier and Minister for Skills and Small Business John Barilaro who delivered the keynote address, highlighting the importance of mining in fostering the growth and strength of regional communities. Deputy Premier Barilaro also spoke of the critical importance of the mining industry to the NSW economy. The awards were presented by Minister Harwin and the deserving winners were:

OUTSTANDING SUPPLIER
Ampcontrol
MINING OPERATION OF THE YEAR
Tomingley Gold Operations - Alkane Resources
YOUNG ACHIEVER
Robyn Teet - Northparkes Mines
OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTION TO MINING
Rob Cunningham - CMOC-Northparkes Mines
NSW Minerals Council CEO Stephen Galilee said the entries for this year’s awards were outstanding, reflecting the quality of our State’s world class mining sector. “Our Industry and Suppliers’ Awards highlights the vital role mining plays in NSW, particularly our economic contribution.” Stephen said.
CONGRATULATIONS TO THIS YEAR’S WINNERS AND TO ALL THE ENTRANTS!

already take medicine.
Excuse me, but you have not taken the medicine regularly, 4 months ago you only purchased a box with 30 cholesterol tablets at Priceline.
I bought more from another chemist.
It’s not showing on your credit card statement.
I paid in cash.
But you did not withdraw that much cash according to your bank statement.
I have another source of cash.
This is not showing as per you last income tax unless you bought them from undeclared income source.
WHAT THE HELL?
I’m sorry, sir, we use such information only with the intention of helping you.
Enough! I’m sick of this privacy invasion. I’m going to an Island without internet, TV, where there are no phones and no one to watch me or spy on me!
I understand, but you need to renew your passport first as it expired 5 weeks ago.

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Sue and Bob, a pair of tight wads had been married for years. Every year at the show Bob wanted to go for a joy ride in the stunt plane but would never fork out the \$50.

Finally, one year he decided to do it, but Sue would not agree. Sue and Bob started arguing. The Pilot who was between flights heard their arguing and said, “I’ll tell you what, I’ll take you up flying, and if you don’t say a word the ride is on me, but if you make one sound, you pay \$50.

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A
CONTRACTOR’S GIG

IT CAN BE A TOUGH GIG AS A CONTRACTOR AS YOU HAVE TO TAKE THE WORK DAY BY DAY. JOHN PURDON HAS BEEN CONTRACTING TO THE SAME SITE FOR NEARLY 30 YEARS AND HAS LIVED THROUGH ALL THE UPS AND DOWNS OF LIFE AS A CONTRACTOR.

Back when he was a little kid, John would knock around the mines with a friend of the family who was a union delegate, so it’s no wonder that he ended up with a life in the mining industry.

John did an apprenticeship as a mechanic and was in and out of the mines doing different things for his early years, but then either in 90’ or 91’ (the memory is a little rusty) he started driving trucks for Newcastle Wallsend Coal Company at their Pelton and Ellalong sites, later part of Southland Colliery, before becoming what we know today as Austar Coal Mine. In those early days it was John’s job to cart the reject from the washery. He borrowed a couple of trucks to get him started and Purdon Harris Haulage began.

AS THINGS PICKED UP JOHN’S BUSINESS BEGAN TO EXPAND. “IN THE GOOD YEARS I CAN REMEMBER HAVING 8 TRUCKS AT ONE STAGE AND 14 BLOKES. MY SON MICHAEL CAME INTO THE BUSINESS AND ALTHOUGH THERE WERE PLENTY OF TIMES WHEN IT LOOKED LIKE THE WORK WOULD FINISH UP, WE KEPT GOING.” JOHN TOLD US.

There was plenty of tough years for John and his crew, the hardest ones after the 2003 fire where there was hardly any work and they had to make do with whatever jobs they could find. Even though work was scarce, John made sure his blokes were looked after, even when it meant he sacrificed.

In an industry that is constantly

changing, the job John does has changed very little since he began, in fact some of his trucks have been around since before he even started out there. No fancy Bluetooth or cruise control, but they still get the job done. John says the biggest changes he has seen over the years are in safety. “There were great improvements in safety back in the early days but these days it’s all gone a bit over the top if you ask me. If the safety culture keeps going as it is I reckon it’s more likely to cause accidents, then prevent them.”

EVEN TODAY, WHEN HE SHOULD BE ENJOYING A HARD-EARNED RETIREMENT, JOHN STILL HASN’T PUT DOWN THE REINS BECAUSE HE WANTS TO KEEP TAKING CARE OF HIS GUYS. HE LOOKS BACK ON HIS TIME WITH MOSTLY FOND MEMORIES AND SAYS THAT HE WAS ALWAYS TREATED WITH RESPECT. “THEY’VE ALWAYS BEEN MORE THAN FAIR AND TREATED US WELL, THAT’S PROBABLY WHY I’VE MANAGED TO STAY FOR SO MANY YEARS.”

It was hard to get John to agree to talk to us, as he doesn’t think his story is any different from most blokes out there who did what they had to do to take care of their families. But we think that his incredible work ethic, his loyalty for his guys, and his longevity in an industry that can be tough on contractors deserves recognition. We wish every contractor out there had his integrity.

CHOPPER
CHIEF BRIEF



ON THE 15TH OF MARCH I HAD THE GREAT HONOUR OF SPEAKING AT THE NSW MINING INDUSTRY AND SUPPLIERS AWARDS DINNER IN SYDNEY. HOSTED BY THE NSW MINERALS COUNCIL, THE EVENT RECOGNISED WORLD CLASS ACHIEVEMENTS BY LOCAL MINERS IN AREAS OF SAFETY, SUSTAINABILITY, PRODUCTIVITY AND LEADERSHIP.

The event also offered me the opportunity to thank the NSW Mining Community for the vital support it has offered the Westpac Rescue Helicopter Service for several decades. Importantly, it coincided with the wonderful news that the NSW Minerals Council had extended its partnership with our Service for a further three years.

I want the wider mining community to know that your support continues to make an incredible difference to our Service. We are now operating 24-7 from three bases at Belmont, Tamworth and Lismore. Our crews are on standby for any callout between the Hawksbury River through to the Queensland Border and west to areas including Mudgee, Coonamble and Wee Waa.

In April 2017 the Service commenced operations in the AugustaWestland AW139 helicopters. These Italian built aircraft enable our Crews to fly further and faster, saving valuable time and precious lives. The on-board medical capability of this aircraft is

often described as a flying ICU. With a re-configurable cabin, the AW139 can fly two stretcher patients side by side, carry a neonatal crib and has advanced medical equipment and life support systems.

ALONG WITH OUR PILOT AND AIRCREW OFFICER, EVERY FLIGHT HAS MEDICAL PROFESSIONALS ON BOARD THROUGH OUR STRENGTHENING PARTNERSHIP WITH NSW HEALTH AND NSW AMBULANCE.

Road incidents are an unfortunately common type of mission flown by the Service in our region, but daily our crews respond to a wide range of community needs. No matter the age, gender or scenario, the Service is there for people injured on the roads, farms, workplaces, in the ocean, on the sporting fields or in the bush. We are very proud that still today nobody has had to pay to be assisted.

From everyone within the Service, I thank the mining industry for your ongoing support. This includes the

NSW Minerals Council, Coal Services, the mining companies, mining suppliers and with specific thanks also to the mine workers that make donations through their payroll and participate in our events. The CFMEU has long stood by our side and ensured our Service stays strong for our community. As we have evolved through time the strength our relationship with the CFMEU and its members has been incredible and we are ever grateful that you help us to carry out our work.

Lastly, I thank all those emergency services personnel that work with us on every mission. This includes the Mines Rescue teams, NSW Ambulance, Fire and Police. Also, the SES, VRA, Doctors, Nurses and all health professionals. Together we ensure the best possible care for every community member. Thank you, and please stay safe.

**Richard Jones OAM
Chief Executive Officer,
Westpac Rescue
Helicopter Service**



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Lawyers Gemma Bunner and Kerri Shaw both come from a long line of coal mining families and have taken a big leap of faith to start their own business and bring legal services to the area.

“We’ve both spent many years working in large firms gaining invaluable experience, however we wanted to be part of something more. Being raised in coal mining communities, we felt that was where we could make the biggest difference. We want to offer a personalised service that is often lacking in the bigger firms and we couldn’t think of a better place to raise our families and become a part of a community then here.” Gemma said.

Gemma and Kerri both specialise in coal mining injuries and workplace safety on mine sites. Their specialised knowledge of the compensation system as it applies to workers injured in or about a coal mine will no doubt be an asset to our coal mining community. The rights and entitlements of injured coalminers are unique and differ from other workers in NSW, so it is reassuring to know that we have their expert services available.

“WE ARE BOTH COAL MINERS’ DAUGHTERS. IT IS A PRIVILEGE THAT NEITHER OF US TAKE FOR GRANTED AND HAS GIVEN US A

UNIQUE APPRECIATION OF THE COAL INDUSTRY HAVING GROWN UP WITHIN THE COMMUNITIES IT EMBRACES.” GEMMA TOLD US.

In addition to their expertise in personal injury law, Shaw & Bunner Legal are also experienced in the areas of conveyancing, can help with the drafting of wills and powers of attorney, assist with the administration of estates and much more.

When I went to visit Gemma and Kerri it was clear that they are both very passionate about what they do and are committed to establishing themselves here. “We have only had our doors open for a month, but we have already received so much support which we are very thankful for. Lots of people have dropped in to say hello which is great. We are looking forward to extending our involvement within the community in the coming months.” Kerri said.

@ The Coalface commends Gemma and Kerri for their commitment to the local community and providing us with a much-needed service. If you need some legal advice, head to their office on Maitland Street or even just pop in to say welcome to the neighbourhood! It’s good to see a couple of coal kids done well and that’s why we’re only too happy to give them a plug!

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up to hundreds of jobs and millions of extra \$\$ into the local economy.

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be just the ticket to fatten our fortunes faster than cows could grow.

Like many other areas it could all have extra value added with a uniquely Hunter branded premium place of origin guarantee. The story doesn’t just stop with what’s mentioned above. Goats, venison and other specialty meat breeds all have huge market potential as well.

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DIANNE KIME

MY MINING LIFE

THIS GIRL REALLY LOVES HER NEW MINING LIFE - WELL TO BE HONEST IF YOU HAVE EVER MET DI, SHE LOVES LIFE IN GENERAL! SHE ALSO LOVES A WINE AND A CHAT, SO WE SAT DOWN OVER A FEW JARS AND SHE GAVE US THE LOWDOWN ON GOING FROM HAIRCUT TO OPEN CUT.

Who are you and what do you do?
I'm Di and I'm an operator for Chandler McLeod at Mount Arthur mine where I recently finished my haul truck training and have been fortunate to be kept on. Before that I was a hairdresser from the age of 15 if you can believe it! I still get hit up in the crib room for the occasional haircut.
Any nicknames good or bad?
Disey

Where do you live and how long you been in the Valley?
I live in Singo and I've been here ten years and before that I was in Maitland. I came to Singo for hubby's job. He's not in mining, he runs supermarkets. Let's just say he's a fresh food kind of bloke.
When and why did you decide to become a miner?
I became a miner I suppose because I was fortunate enough to get an

opportunity for a new career path and I'd had enough of precious people and hairdressing. The difference between mining and hair is alot less stress believe it or not! It's a lot less taxing on the body as well. I love the people and I love the camaraderie and the work environment is really positive. Not everyone might say that, but I love the fact that you learn every day, it's really rewarding.
What's a usual day at work entail?
It's a 12.5-hour day. But it's no where near as boring as it sounds and time flies when you're having fun. I can do anything from 10 to 50 runs depending where you're at on the day. It's a fun thing to do but of course we always take it very

seriously with 350 tonnes strapped to your backside.
How big is the crew?
I work across four crews now and there must be 100 or more on each, so there's always plenty of people to mix with, which means crib time is always a laugh.
What's the best thing about your job?
The best thing about the job is the skills that you learn and obviously the financial stability the career provides. I love the people too.
The worst thing?
It would probably be night shift, but I am sure everyone says that. I love my beauty sleep!
What's a funny story from work that you can tell?
There are more that I can't so let's just leave it there!
Hobbies?
Riding pushies a bloody long way - up to 100 km's sometimes. And eating good food and drinking good wine with great friends and family... I love a sundowner when I'm off work.
How different is your job to what you wanted to do when you were a kid?
Oh my god...extremely different. In saying that I never wanted to be a hairdresser either. I always saw myself as a nurse type. It's taken a while but at least I now wear a uniform I'm proud of.
What would your parents say about you when you were a kid?
I was a worrier and I thought too much about what other people thought. Working on a mine site is the best way to knock that out of you.
I'm a people person and mine sites really are people places. They might be big but they are really personal.
Family?
Two nearly adults and two step kids that are even older. I can't believe I am saying that because I am not that old! Geez time flies... We're a great mix of a modern family. The old man is a bloke I couldn't live without and has been a massive support for my new career.
What do you do in the down time?
Bikes, beach and talking the head off anyone prepared to listen.

SAVING LIVES

FOR MORE THAN 90 YEARS MINES RESCUE HAS BEEN HELPING MAKE SURE OUR WORKERS MAKE IT HOME SAFE TO THEIR FAMILIES. BUT IT TOOK TERRIBLE TRAGEDIES BEFORE THAT BECAME POSSIBLE.

In the early days of coal mining, terrible and tragic mining disasters occurred due to poor safety standards and lack of rescue services. Between 1887 and 1921, 293 miners were killed in NSW alone.
Then on September 1st, 1923, the Bellbird Mine Disaster occurred in which 21 miners lost their lives. A fire occurred that was likely caused when liberated gases exploded. Miners working underground are believed to have perished from carbon monoxide poisoning while attempting to flee to the surface. Another miner died in the rescue efforts.
AFTER THE DISASTER A CORONIAL INQUEST AND ROYAL COMMISSION EXTENSIVELY DEBATED THE VALUE OF BREATHING APPARATUS AND THE ESTABLISHMENT OF CENTRAL RESCUE STATIONS. AS THE WORST DISASTER TO OCCUR IN THE NORTHERN DISTRICT IT WAS GIVEN WIDE COVERAGE IN THE PRESS, HIGHLIGHTING THE

HAZARDOUS NATURE OF COAL MINING.
It focused much needed attention and increased public awareness on the need for an organised system of mining rescue using the latest developments in artificial breathing apparatus. Ultimately, it is believed to be a key event that led to the change of legislation and the eventual formation of mines rescue stations in NSW.
This issue of establishing mines rescue stations staffed with trained personnel was not a new idea and had been advocated since the early part of the 20th century with many in the mining community supporting it. However, it took the Bellbird tragedy and the election of the Lang Labour Government before action was taken. A bill to establish mines rescue stations was tabled in the NSW parliament on 13 November 1924 but was stalled. Then in 1925 Labour introduced their Mines Rescue bill. It differed from the previous in that it placed the obligation of financial

liability for funding the stations on the mine owners. The bill was passed without trouble and the Mines Rescue Act became operational on 31 December 1925.
THE ACT GOVERNED THE ESTABLISHMENT OF RESCUE STATIONS AND BRIGADESMEN TEAMS, AND INSTIGATED EQUIPMENT AND MAINTENANCE STANDARDS. THIS LEGISLATION REMAINS THE FOUNDATION FOR GOVERNING MINES RESCUE OPERATIONS IN NSW TODAY.
The first mines rescue station in NSW began operations on 20 March 1926 at Abermain. Stations in Newcastle, Wollongong and Lithgow opened shortly thereafter. These central rescue stations were equipped with sets of breathing apparatus, other necessary appliances and a motorcar.
The focus on safety and incident prevention has come a long way since 1925. During the last nine decades it has been a major contributor to significant improvements in safety to the point where NSW coalmines have one of the highest safety records in the world.



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GLENCORE PONY'S UP

SINGLETON PONY CLUB IS THE LATEST JUNIOR SPORTS ORGANISATION TO HAVE RECEIVED FUNDING ASSISTANCE FROM GLENCORE'S JUNIOR SPORTS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM.

The program provides grants of up to \$7500 to non-profit junior sports groups for projects that address the long term needs of junior (under-18) participants. Singleton Pony Club received \$6000 to assist in the establishment of the ex-Singleton Army Barracks Hospital as a clubhouse.

As a result of the funding they were able to conduct extensive repairs and renovations to improve and upgrade the clubhouse. These included extensive electrical wiring, wall and floor repairs, weather proofing the building, handrails for safe access, decking repairs and establishing water supply, waste water and sewage.

Brian Pease, President of the Singleton Pony Club said the club and all the members are very appreciate of Glencore's support.

"The money provided by Glencore has

provided the Singleton Pony Club an opportunity to have a functioning clubhouse with an office, canteen, meeting room and facilities, that will support the riders and their parents well into the future."

Glencore has now provided assistance to more than 220 sports clubs in NSW and Queensland through the Junior Sports Development Program, part of a Community Investment portfolio that will see almost \$5 million invested in communities associated with the company's mining operations.



SIMPLY LOVING TAYLOR

THIS MONTH COMPLETE PARTS AND @THE COALFACE HAVE DECIDED THERE IS NO ONE MORE DESERVING OF THIS MONTH'S \$500 COMMUNITY GIFT THAN THIS LITTLE BATTLER. THIS BEAUTIFUL KID HAS GONE THROUGH MORE IN HIS LIFE THAN MOST DO IF THEY LIVE TO 100.

COMMUNITY GIFT

Taylor Roman Lojszczyk arrived on 2nd February 2011. At 4 months of age, he was diagnosed with Craniosynostosis. This is a rare condition in which one or more of the fibrous sutures in an infant's skull prematurely fuse together and therefore changes the growth pattern of the skull, resulting in an abnormal head shape and abnormal facial features. Taylor has undergone extensive surgeries in his short life and will continue to need treatment as he grows.

Simply Loving Taylor Incorporated was set up not only to help Taylor and his family but to also help other families in similar situations.

www.simplylovingtaylor.org.au



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One day the first-grade teacher was reading the story of the Three Little Pigs to her class. She came to the part of the story where the first pig was trying to accumulate the building materials for his home. She read,"...and so the pig went up to the man with the wheel barrow full of straw and said, "Pardon me sir, but may I have some of that straw to build my house?" The teacher paused then asked the class, "And what do you think that man said?"

One little boy raised his hand and said, "I think he said 'Holy Sh*t! A talking pig!'"

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SUN SMART KIDS

THANKS TO GENEROUS FUNDING BY THE PORT OF NEWCASTLE, LOCAL PRIMARY SCHOOL STUDENTS ARE PARTICIPATING IN AN INNOVATIVE NEW SUN SAFETY PROGRAM.

Sun Smart programs in schools have been around since 1998, but the Cancer Council is always looking for new ways to keep students safe and to keep sun safety forefront in their minds.

Glen Parsons, Community Programs Coordinator for the Cancer Council NSW Singleton office has come up with an innovative way to do just that.

Glen's idea was to create large SunSmart stands

specifically for schools where students can access sunscreen at all times. These large interactive visual displays are easily erected and provide a constant reminder to practice sun safety.

GLEN APPROACHED THE PORT OF NEWCASTLE WHO IMMEDIATELY SAW THE BENEFITS AND GOT ON BOARD. THE FIRST STAGE OF THE PILOT PROGRAM SAW THE CONSTRUCTION

OF 15 STANDS WHICH WERE OFFERED TO PUBLIC SCHOOLS IN THE NEWCASTLE AREA.

Port of Newcastle CEO, Geoff Crowe, said he was pleased to support the Cancer Council's SunSmart stands through its Community Partnerships Program.

"The SunSmart stands are a great initiative to get into our local schools, ensuring the 'slip, slop, slap' message will always be

top of mind for students. A large number of the Port's employees work outdoors around the Port, so sun safety is something we take very seriously – both at work and at home with our families," said Geoff.

Merewether Public School was one of the schools that jumped at the opportunity to participate in the program. Principal, Greg Cullane said the program complimented what they were already doing at the school. "This program is a fantastic way to help keep our kids sun safe. What we also particularly like

is that we can easily take the stand to swimming carnivals or outdoor events when sun protection is of paramount importance." This rollout to Newcastle schools is only the first step and planning is already underway to bring it to primary schools in the Upper Hunter. With the positive results it has already received we have no doubt that it will become a successful nationwide program and we encourage everyone to support it.

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FILLING THE CHOPPERS COFFERS

THE NSW MINERALS COUNCIL HAS EXTENDED THEIR PARTNERSHIP WITH WESTPAC RESCUE HELICOPTER SERVICE FOR A FURTHER THREE YEARS WITH A VERY GENEROUS CONTRIBUTION OF \$270,000.

NSW Minerals Council CEO Stephen Galilee said they were proud to continue the partnership. “The Westpac Rescue Helicopter Service plays a crucial role saving lives across NSW, including in our regional mining communities. Our contribution of \$270,000 over the next three years will help to ensure the public can continue to access to this vital service when it is needed the most.” Mr Galilee said.

The Westpac Rescue Helicopter Service currently undertakes more than 1000 missions each year across the Hunter, New England – North West, Central Coast, Central West and Mid North Coast regions. This area covers approximately 132,000 square kilometers and includes a population of 1.2 million people.

THE CEO OF THE WESTPAC RESCUE HELICOPTER SERVICE RICHARD JONES, WELCOMED THE NEW AGREEMENT AND HIGHLIGHTED THE IMPORTANCE OF THE LONG TERM

PARTNERSHIP WITH THE NSW MINERALS COUNCIL AND THE MINING INDUSTRY IN GENERAL.

“Partnerships like those we share with the NSW Minerals Council and regular giving from the region’s mine workers means we can keep providing this service to the community free of charge. The ongoing commitment from the mining industry is extensive, providing assistance throughout our volunteer network and to the families of those who have been airlifted. This financial support ensures benefit for the entire community, whether they’re at work, at home, on the roads, playing sport or in need of medical treatment,” Mr Jones said.

The service is now operating 24-7 from three bases at Belmont, Tamworth and Lismore Airports and because of partnerships like this one with the Minerals Council nobody has ever had to pay to be assisted.

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NO BOOTS ABOUT IT

A NEW STUDY FUNDED BY THE COAL SERVICES HEALTH & SAFETY TRUST AIMS TO IMPROVE SAFETY FOOTWEAR FIT TO REDUCE INJURIES.

Researchers from the University of Wollongong (UoW) and Mack Boots have developed a new work boot prototype as part of a study aimed at improving safety footwear in underground mines.

THE STUDY DETERMINED THAT UNDERGROUND MINING WORK BOOTS NEED TO BE REDESIGNED FOR BETTER FIT AND COMFORT AND WORKERS NEED TO BE BETTER EDUCATED ABOUT FIT AND BOOT SELECTION.

“Unfortunately, many work boots currently worn by underground miners are uncomfortable and are potentially contributing to the high incidence of lower limb injuries sustained in this occupational group,” explained Jessica Dobson, PhD Candidate Biomechanics Research Laboratory.

“Current underground coal mining work boots are designed more for safety in regards to preventing crush injuries and foreign material entering the boot, rather than functionality while walking.”

THE RESEARCH TEAM SURVEYED THE JOB DETAILS, WORK FOOTWEAR HABITS AND FOOT PROBLEMS AND LOWER LIMB PAIN HISTORY OF AROUND 360 WORKERS.

“It was clear from the survey that current work boots do not appear to be meeting the requirements of miners who work in this challenging environment. Despite the introduction a decade ago of a structured lace-up boot to improve ankle support, the frequency of foot problems, lower limb pain and lower back pain reported by these miners is still high, irrespective of the work boot type they wear.” said Ms Dobson.


One of the findings of the study showed that while miners had rated their

boot fit as reasonable to good, it wasn’t actually the case. Miners wore boots that were substantially longer than their feet, but the width of the forefoot and heel areas of the boots were not wide enough for the wearer.

“IT APPEARS WORKERS NEED TO BE EDUCATED HOW TO FIT THEIR BOOTS ACCORDING TO OTHER PARTS OF THEIR FOOT THAN JUST THE FOOT LENGTH.” SAID MS DOBSON.

Working with Mack Boots the team developed a work boot prototype that was made wider across the forefoot and heel relative to standard safety work boots. Workers participating in the study reported improved comfort, with the majority of participants preferring the new boot prototype over the work boot they currently wear.

The results will allow the development of work boot fitting guidelines to assist miners when selecting a work boot suitable for their foot shape, and to guide boot manufacturers on what design features are needed to create a work boot that better meets the needs of underground coal miners.



PROTOTYPE BOOT

BEAT CANCER @ WORK

40% OF PEOPLE OF WORKING AGE WILL BE DIAGNOSED WITH SOME FORM OF CANCER. THAT’S NEARLY HALF OF YOUR WORKMATES. BUT THANKS TO THE CANCER COUNCIL’S BEAT CANCER @ WORK PROGRAM, WE CAN ALL BE BETTER INFORMED AND EQUIPPED TO DEAL WITH THE TERRIBLE IMPACTS OF CANCER.

Glen Parsons, Cancer Council’s NSW Community Programs Coordinator, knows all too well the terrible impacts cancer has not just on the life of someone who is diagnosed, but also on their family, friends and workmates.

“We see a lot of people come in our doors who have been diagnosed or have a loved one who has been diagnosed, and they don’t know what

to do. And a lot more never make it through our doors, so they never learn about the information and support available to them.” Glen said.

In early 2016, Glen came up with the idea to get out to workplaces and provide information and guidance on how to deal with cancer. Beat Cancer @ Work delivers 15-minute talks and



education resources to businesses, community groups and service clubs to help educate the organisations, managers and workers on how to reduce the risk of cancer. The talks cover three main areas – inform, prevent and support.

“Providing workplace education simply makes great sense. We also let workers know about invaluable services like transport to treatment, home help and legal and financial assistance programs.” Glen said.

Since October 2016, Glen and his team have conducted



education resources to businesses, community groups and service clubs to help educate the organisations, managers and workers on how to reduce the risk of cancer. The talks cover three main areas – inform, prevent and support.

“Providing workplace education simply makes great sense. We also let workers know about invaluable services like transport to treatment, home help and legal and financial assistance programs.” Glen said.

Since October 2016, Glen and his team have conducted

talks at 55 businesses and reached 5000 workers across the Lower Hunter. This year thanks to a generous grant for the Newcastle Permanent Charitable Foundation, they have purchased a vehicle dedicated to deliver the program throughout regional NSW and reach even more workers.

Ravensworth Open Cut was one of the businesses who took part with 437 crew attending talks over 4 sessions. Laura Barben, Environment and Community Coordinator said the program had been organised to have the least impact on production. “We

received great feedback from the workers who attended, and they really engaged with the program. I would encourage all businesses to take part as it can really make a difference in their workers lives.” Laura said.

The program has been designed to work with organisation’s requirements and talks can be catered to specific issues. They are completely free and are open to all businesses regardless of size. If you are interested in speaking with Glen or booking a talk at your workplace email Glen on glenp@nswcc.org.au or call 0428 101 252.



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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.

MALABAR COAL BRINGING JOBS AND INVESTMENT TO THE LOCAL COMMUNITY

ALL SYSTEMS GO AT THE DUNGOG RODEO

EVERY YEAR SINCE 1979, WHITE KNUCKLES, GOLD BUCKLES, BULLS AND BLOOD, DUST AND MUD, BOOTS AND CHAPS AND COWBOY HATS HAVE BEEN A STANDARD FEATURE OF THE DUNGOG RODEO, ONE OF THE HUNTER VALLEY'S FINEST CAMPDRAFT EVENTS.

As you read this, cowboys and girls from all over the Hunter Valley will be nursing bumps and bruises after a wild weekend of bareback bronco bucking, bull riding and steer wrestling at the 2018 Dungog Rodeo. The event seems to get bigger and better every year and 2018 might just have been the rodeo's best yet.

This year saw some of the Valley's best (and maddest) riders go mano-a-mano against some of the toughest beasts in the land. With plenty of scrapes, bruises and broken bones, not to mention the amount of prize

money on offer, the decision to compete at this year's rodeo was a no brainer for most.

CROWDS WATCHED ON LIVE FROM THE SIDELINES WHILE RIDER'S SHAKED, RATTLED, AND ROLLED ALL OVER THE PLACE IN THE BULL PEN, BEFORE TURNING TO THE BIG SCREEN TO CATCH ALL THE THRILLS AND SPILLS ALL OVER AGAIN, ON THE ACTION REPLAY.

Crowds were up on previous year's as country music fans flocked to watch Kurri Kurri country music superstar, Kirsty Lee Akers knock 'em dead with

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her authentic firebrand of country music. Akers performed her number one hit song Burn Baby Burn, which we reckon started more than a few fires about the place. Thankfully, due to the recent rains and muddy

terrain, the fires were contained to the campgrounds nearby.

If this year's Dungog Rodeo is any indication, 2019 is shaping up to be even bigger and even better. See all you mad bastards then!



KNIGHT'S NEW RECRUITS SPEAK UP

WITH THE NEWCASTLE KNIGHT'S NEW NRL SEASON WELL UNDERWAY, @TCF RECENTLY MET UP WITH NEW RECRUITS, SLADE GRIFFIN AND HERMEN ESE'ESE, TO FIND OUT HOW THEY ARE SETTLING INTO LIFE AS A NEW KNIGHT OF THE REALM FOR NEWCASTLE AND THE HUNTER VALLEY.

G'day boys, thanks for taking time out to speak with us. We know that, for some reason, not everyone in Hunter Valley mine country is a red and blue blooded fan of the Knights, but, nonetheless, we do know they'll appreciate you both speaking to us. So, how are you blokes travelling so far this season?

SG: No worries. Yeah, look, everything is going well; so far so good. All us new players are settling in well. Newcastle is a great club to play for and the city is just beautiful.

HE: I'm travelling well at the Knights. Like Slade said, it's a great club to play for, and after the first few games, I reckon the season is shaping up to be a good one.

Good to hear. From the sidelines it's been great to see a couple of wins under the belt (at the time of writing). What's the feeling like in the sheds at the moment.

HE: It's a good vibe in the sheds, especially after our Round 1 and 2 wins, all the boys were on a high, and hopefully we can keep it up as the season continues.

SG: Yeah, I'd have to agree. There's a great feeling amongst the team at the moment. We thought if we started the season with a high completion rate and got stuck in the grind with other teams that we might be able to come out on top. There's a lot of excitement around here, especially with the likes of key players coming in and helping build our combinations. We just need to keep turning up to each game and putting in the maximum effort, I think that's all the town asks."

Big time. That's all anyone asks, we reckon. Show up, put in the effort and get the rewards. So, what do you reckon, do you think the Knight's have a shot at making the top eight this season?

SG: Yeah, I do, ever since we signed Mitch Pearce, I was actually thinking we'd be really disappointed if we didn't make the top eight. I think all the boys have taken on that expectation. We know there's a lot of hard work to do between now and then, but there's definitely a feeling of excitement of being a top eight team this year.

HE: I agree, I think we've got a big chance of cementing our spot in the top eight, especially with the roster we have. But, we can't get too far ahead of ourselves. We'll need to take it game by game.

To keep that motivation and momentum going, can we suggest digging out a copy of the '97 Grand Final and having a watch of that. The last 90 seconds are brilliant.

HE: I haven't watched the 97' grand final in full, yet, but I will one of these days. Obviously, the Club has had a lot of success back in the day so hopefully we can move forward and be successful again, soon.

SG: Ha! Yeah, the Old Boys are always in the sheds talking about the grand final wins back then, showing us clips and so on. I've watched highlights of that game a few times and heard a lot of stories. It's a big part of the club's history and I think it speaks a lot for the good culture we have at the club.

Well, good on your boys. Slade, Herman, thanks heaps for sitting down with ATCF. All the best for a top eight spot, and maybe even a shot at the Grand Final. See you at the Voice for Mining Day, later in the season.

HE: No worries, cheers.

SG: Thanks. And thanks to all our supporters in the mining industry. We can't wait to play for you all at the Voice for Mining day. Cheers.



NEWCASTLE KNIGHTS UPCOMING FIXTURES

Saturday 7th April - Week 5
Knights vs Broncos

Friday 13th April - Week 6
Storm vs Knights

Saturday 21st April - Week 7
West Tigers vs Knights

Friday 27th April - Week 8
Sea Eagles vs Knights

Friday 4th May - Week 9
Knights vs Rabbitohs

Friday 11th May - Week 10
Knights vs Panthers

Saturday 19th May - Week 11
Titans vs Knights

Sunday 27th May - Week 12
Knights vs Sharks

Saturday 2nd June - Week 13
Eels vs Knights

Saturday 9th June - Week 14
Knights vs Roosters

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Mining supplier, the Firestorm Group is in its 15th year of operation and is branching out into a very interesting new side project. Kicked off by the owner's passion for muscle cars, they have established Midlife Crisis Customs or MC Customs as it will be known. MC Customs will be Australia's largest open-air car yard for USA, Muscle and Classic vehicles. It will also boast a workshop for servicing and project design and modifications. A one stop shop of the vintage kind based at Rutherford.

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be available to bring your ideas to life! Their workshop specialises in servicing & maintenance and their team of master mechanics also offer performance upgrades if you are seeking to jam more horses under your bonnet. They can even finance your next most outrageous purchase.

This joint is all about passion and providing an experience you won't forget. @ The Coalface reckons this new venture will be a ride to remember...drop in and dream on.

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The chairman of the board of our company called me into his office to tell me the good news. I was being promoted to Vice President of Corporate Research and Planning.

I immediately asked for my new title to be changed to

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Vice President of Corporate Planning and Research.

'Why?' asked the chairman.

'Because,' I said, 'our company uses abbreviated job titles, and I don't want to be known as the VP of CRAP.'

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I LIKE BIG BITES AND I CANNOT LIE

THE MARLIN WENT FROM MADNESS TO BALLISTIC LAST MONTH WITH CRAZY NUMBERS ENCOUNTERED.

The bait holding on all the inshore reefs have been copping a serious jousting from the angry blacks and the bite on the shelf has also followed in similar fashion. Let's hope we see this continue into April with an epic Blue Marlin bite to finish off the season.

In other pelagic news the FADs are holding good numbers of Dolphin fish, though the Long Tail Tuna have been a little slow to show in our neck of the woods. There's reports further north of some good numbers, so let's hope they push down soon for some traditional long line burning.

INSIDE

With the recent rain the estuaries have been seeing some serious Jewie action with plenty to be caught in the Bay and Newcastle Harbor, especially around the break walls.

BEACHES

With the mullet running so is everything else - especially Tailor, Bream, Whiting and Jew. Be sure to spend a day or two soaking baits or spinning lures on one of the local beaches over April - you won't find a better time to be on the beach fishing.

FISHING THE TOP END

We took a recent surprise trip to Darwin for Mungo's 60th birthday bash. After arrival we told him we were taking him fishing with Darwin Harbour Fishing charters. A sleepless night followed for the excited Mungo with much talk about how he was going to out fish the three boys, including Alex 'can't catch fish' Thrift.

Upon arrival at the fishing spot, Mungo found it hard to get through the "phantom bites" produced by rival angler Simon. He struggled early on but redeemed himself with a solid Pearl Snapper, which to this day we still haven't

heard the end of and grows in size everyday. We caught our bag of Golden Snapper and Black Jew. In the process of catching the Black Jew, Ben and Simon were quickly sorted out by a very large Tawny Nurse Shark, which was caught twice on small baits. We would like to thank Darwin Harbour Fishing Charters for a great days fishing and for cooking up the catch at a local restaurant on Stokes Hill Wharf. Over dinner we were all copping it about Mungo's fish of the day! This is living Barry!

Fine fishing to you all! - Thrifty's



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BRAGGING RIGHTS

IN KEEPING WITH THE THEME OF INNOVATION, THIS MONTH I TAKE A LOOK AT THE FINNISH DESIGNED AND MANUFACTURED SLEIPNER DB120 TRAILER.

Introduced four years ago, the first unit deployed completed 7,743km in 12 months, significantly improving fleet optimisation, flexibility and maintenance requirements of the tracked fleet, resulting in a 37% reduction in costs. If you haven't heard of Sleipner or seen their equipment in action, I encourage you to have a look, searching Sleipner DB120 on You Tube. For mine operators, relocating their tracked fleet is generally problematic. Be it dozers, drills or excavators, owners have traditionally been forced to 'walk' their machines or use conventional mine site trailers, the former being a long, laborious and costly task (imagine walking a turtle down to your local shops), tying up labour and resulting in the accelerated wear and tear of a machine's undercarriage. Such were the challenges of Ossi Kortessalmi, when in 1996 in the Finnish Lapland, he conceived and developed the first of many transportation solutions targeting the heavy earthmoving equipment sector. A relative newcomer to the Sleipner stable, the DB120 trailer can operate with a maximum payload of 120t and is at ease carrying a Cat D11T of Komatsu D475A Dozer. Weighing 56t and hitched to a 40t Articulated Dump Truck (ADT), this trailer incorporates a double articulation turning point, that provides a turning radius of less than 11m (in practical terms, tighter than a 100t dump truck). With the ability to load a D11T in less than two minutes and a maximum loaded towing speed of 15km/h (30km/h without load), one quickly appreciates the effectiveness of this trailer's design. Utilising a unique 'drag brake' on declines, the trailer lowers brake surfaces at the tail of the trailer, forcing the ADT to pull the unit downhill against the natural weight of the machine, thereby eradicating the risk of 'jack-knife' and significantly decreasing the demands on the brakes of the tow unit. Marvellous stuff! If you'd like to know more, Nick Bolton of Equipment Placement can help and is contactable on mobile 0459 599 977.



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THE ART OF RAFTING

RECENTLY THE FAMILY AND I HEADED DOWN TO PENRITH WHITEWATER STADIUM TO TRY OUT WHITEWATER RAFTING. IF SPENDING MORE TIME OUT OF THE RAFT THEN IN IT IS ANY INDICATION, THEN I DEFINITELY MASTERED THE ART OF RAFTING.

Penrith Whitewater Stadium was built specifically for Sydney 2000 Olympic Games and is the only man-made river of its kind in the southern hemisphere. It's constructed using natural and man-made materials to recreate the characteristics of a wild river. With 14,000 litres per second of raging whitewater flowing over obstacles, it's a challenging and exciting ride for the best paddlers in the world. session. Our youngest participant was 17 and the oldest 40 and it's hard to say which age group screamed the loudest. We started the day gearing up and receiving a safety briefing. They warn us about the concrete boulders and what to do when you're sucked in a rip and spat out downstream. If it's supposed to be a pep talk it's not working... Each raft allows for up to 8 people plus the guide. On our first ride down the course we lose 2 paddles, we've almost capsized and we've had a casualty



who's been jabbed with an oar in the unmentionables. (Which should almost be statistically impossible to hit such as small area considering the freezing water.) Despite all this, or maybe because of it, we've all loved every second of it and cannot wait to go again. As we head off on our second loop now brimming with confidence, we quickly realise the instructor must have been taking it easy on us last time. He heads straight into a giant rip, yelling instructions to paddle right, paddles left, paddle back and in all the confusion the raft flips and I'm heading down stream desperately trying to follow the safety briefing of feet first. As the water dumps me on the side of the bank and I realise I've escaped unscathed, I turn to see how the others doing and discover they all have washed out alongside me. Everyone has a giant grin on their soaked faces and we're all yelling over the top of each other about how awesome that was, who flipped out the highest, and of course, whose bloody fault it was. It might just be the overdose of adrenalin I've received but I realise I'm having so much fun. Despite the fear of being submerged, the risk of oars connecting with body parts and the guarantee that the raft is only a temporary refuge, white water rafting is one of the most fun things I have done for a long time. Bring it on! At \$94 per person it's a little pricey but money well spent in my book. I'll be back again to try out the self-guided rafting!

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Leading a country is hungry and thirsty business so pie ovens stocked with baked luxuries from as far afield as Cessnock, Maitland, Merriwa and everywhere in between are installed in all rooms on top of a bar fridge filled with golden cans of Gold to keep me happy.

THE WHOLE PLACE IS COVERED IN WALL TO WALL SHAG PILE CARPET AND YES THAT INCLUDES THE ACTUAL WALLS TOO. IT'S

'AVE A LAUGH WITH

A couple had not been getting along for years, so the husband buys his wife a cemetery plot for her birthday.

Well, you can imagine her disappointment. The next year, her birthday rolls

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around again and this time he doesn't get her anything. "Why didn't you get me a birthday present!?" she asks angrily.

"Are you kidding me?" he replies, "You didn't use what I got you last year!"

ALL DONE IN A KIND OF ELVIS MEETS DONNY TRUMP WITH A BIT OF SADDAM HUSSAIN STYLE THROWN IN FOR GOOD MEASURE.

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diet of frozen Four & Twenties and have all been taught to go for the crotch first and ask questions later.

State dinners are catered for by local pie shops with last month's taken care of by Greta Bakehouse who served up a superior sausage roll for entrée and followed it up with a main course of curried steak pie. Suffice to say international relations with India have never been so solid.

Faithfully yours...Top Dog, Pieminister...your brother from another mother...See you Anzac Day for coins on the grass 25 April to celebrate our finest...Sol x



BOW TO THE BAO

I'M NO STRANGER TO THE BAO BROTHER'S FOOD TRUCK, SO WHEN I HEARD THEY HAD SET UP A PERMANENT EATERY ON HUNTER STREET, I PUT ON MY FAVOURITE FAT PANTS AND HEADED OUT.

The Bao Brother's menu is inspired by Asian style street food and their signature dishes are baos. A bao is a steamed bread roll with fillings and Bao Brothers have a reputation of being bao masters. In a previous review of Maitland's Street Eats I was introduced to the Pork Bao and I've been dreaming of it ever since.

No bookings are required

at this casual and friendly eatery. Covered wall to wall with pictures of Asian martial artists and low lighting, it's got a unique and funky feel.

Everything on the menu sounds so good so we decided to try it all. Ordering is simple, just mark the dishes you want on their order form and then hand it over to the waiter. There's no liquor licence or BYO, but I don't mind as I'm

here for the food and a beer will just take up space in my stomach.

Not long after we order the waiter comes back to politely tell our table that the chef has advised we've ordered too much and we might want to think about reducing our order. I tell him he doesn't know who he's dealing with!

It's not long before the first dishes start arriving at the table. Mushroom spring rolls with soy mayo and truffle. Delicious. Fries with daikon, porcini and parmesan. Delectable. Popcorn chicken with mayo



and chilli. Delightful. Unusual looking rice cakes with goughgang. Divine.

AND WE HAVEN'T EVEN STARTED ON THE BAO'S YET.

I sample the chicken, soft shell crab and mushroom bao's and they're all great though the mushroom is the standout. As the pork bao's hit the table I'm getting the sweats and I've already popped a button on my pants. But I'm here on a mission and the pork baos are even better than I

remembered. I manage two until I tap out in submission.

The waiter comes to check on us and sees a couple of bao's still forlornly sitting on the plate. He smiles and asks if we still want our next round of duck bao's. Humiliated, I've no choice but to cancel them otherwise there's no way I'm walking out of here.

Defeated I call it quits but I leave sated and happy. And best of all I've now got the perfect excuse to go back.



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MINING MEMES OF THE MONTH



A SHOT OF RUSSIA

WHEN YOU THINK OF THE TOP PLACES FOR A RELAXING HOLIDAY, RUSSIA IS PROBABLY NOT ON YOUR LIST. BUT IF YOU WANT TO IMMERSE YOURSELF IN AMAZING ARCHITECTURE AND CULTURE, AND YOU DON'T MIND A SHOT OR TEN OF VODKA, THEN RUSSIA IS THE PLACE TO GO.

The world's largest country has a lot to offer, charming and idyllic countryside, cultural and literary riches, and architecture like nowhere else in the world. A landscape of cathedrals, museums, castles and palaces dripping in history and for half of the year enveloped in snow and ice. What better place to escape from a hot Australian summer and to enjoy a white Christmas.

Even though the iron curtain has long been lifted, Russia is not the easiest place to book a holiday. Getting a visa requires time and effort but once in place there is very little other bureaucracy to deal with.

ARRIVING IN MOSCOW AND HEADING OUTSIDE THE AIRPORT WE ARE GREETED WITH A PICTURE PERFECT SNOWY LANDSCAPE LIKE SOMETHING OUT OF A FAIRYTALE.

After checking into our hotel, the Metropol, we headed straight to the Red Square. Entering the arches of Resurrection Gate and seeing the vast square and buildings lit up in the night sky is impressive. St Basil's Cathedral, which looks to me looks like a giant gingerbread house, is hands down the most unusual but dazzling church I have ever seen.

The next morning, we head back to the Red Square, this time to visit Lenin's mausoleum. The preserved body of Vladimir Lenin rests here and we join the solemn queue to respectfully walk past. This is not a place where you want to take a selfie and crack a joke, the armed guards lining the area emphasise that.

The next few days are spent much the same, sightseeing around Moscow and visiting museums and galleries. When we need a break from the cold

we take a meal at a restaurant or a pub. The food is hearty and good, but our taste buds may be biased by the shots of vodka brought to the table before every meal. In Russia it's not unusual to be offered vodka before water. Or maybe they think it is water!

There's a few markets scattered around where we of course buy Russian hats which are called ushankas and matryoshka dolls (nesting dolls). Despite these few markets targeted at tourists, on the whole Moscow does not have a touristy vibe which is refreshing.

After a few days in Moscow we take the Sapsan express to St Petersburg. Travelling at speeds over 250km, it knocks out the journey in 4 hours. The train stations in Russia are beautifully ornate and worth a visit even if you're not catching a train.

ARRIVING IN ST PETERSBURG THE ATMOSPHERE IS MORE WELCOMING, AND PEOPLE FRIENDLIER. THE HIGHLIGHT OF ST PETERSBURG IS THE HERMITAGE MUSEUM. AN AMAZINGLY BEAUTIFUL BUILDING FILLED WITH



THE WORLD'S BEST ART. TRYING TO TAKE IT ALL IN IS VISUALLY OVERWHELMING.

Christmas day saw us wandering St Petersburg enjoying the views and trying to stay warm. We watched people ice fishing on the frozen Neva river as we huddled further into our winter coats. With a temperature of around -25 degrees Celsius and a chill factor of -40, I could only marvel at these people who seemed immune to the cold. For us even taking a photo had to be weighed up with whether the reward was worth the effort of your fingers almost freezing off when you took off your gloves.

As my Russian adventure drew to a close, I was sad to see it end. Although we had spent most of our time sightseeing

and eating, Russia has much more to offer, especially for the adventurous. There's plenty of activities like skiing or trekking in the mountains, scaling an active volcano or white-water rafting. For us the extreme cold made just putting on your layers of clothing as you entered and exited a building more than enough exercise. Though we had been running a daily competition to see who would slip over the most in the snow and ice each day, with the loser being the one to pay the dinner bill each night.

On the whole Russia is a place of majestic beauty and it was an amazing cultural experience. The people sometimes came across as cold as the weather, but it often only took a smile for them to warm up. Or maybe it was the vodka...



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