

**@THE  
COAL  
FACE**  
Vol 2 No 10: July - August 2018



**PAGE 10**  
**NEW RECRUIT**  
SAY HELLO TO @ THE COALFACE'S NEWEST RECRUIT, KYLE PEMBERTON.



**BENGALLA KICKS A MAJOR GOAL**  
IN A MAJOR COUP FOR THE LOCAL GROUP 21 RUGBY LEAGUE COMPETITION, BENGALLA MINING COMPANY HAVE SIGNED ON AS NAMING RIGHTS SPONSOR FOR THE NEXT 5 YEARS.



**BUSY BEES** PAGE 23

IT WAS A HUGE TURNOUT FOR THE RAVENSWORTH OPEN CUT MINE 6TH ANNUAL WORKING BEE AT THE SINGLETON SALVATION ARMY.

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# WHAT'S NEW?

THIS MONTH AT YOUR REQUEST WE'VE INTRODUCED SOME NEW PERMANENT ADDITIONS TO THE MAGAZINE.

There's nothing like a few trivia questions to turn a boring crib room into a highly contested quiz show, so we have brought back a new and improved trivia, this month the questions are on State of Origin so lace up your boots.

Another new feature is Bowdler's Beer Review. Our beer guru Richard will reveal all you need to know about his pick for beer of the month. And thanks to The Clubhouse, one lucky reader will get to win a sample of the beer for themselves. That's beerific!

Last month we introduced you to Stuart Barnett from Slater & Gordon. Stuart is the mining industry's go to man when it comes to coal miner's compensation and other legal matters and will be sharing his expertise with you. Do you own a family home with your partner and it's not in joint names? Then make sure you don't miss out this month's advice.

Make sure you also check out our article on Blackrock Industries. Steve Fordham's a man who never stops giving back to the community and his Second Chance for Change Program is just one great example. What's great about this program is it's not just about giving people a helping hand, but also giving them the tools to help themselves.

Our history page this month is not about the coal industry but instead looks at Singleton's military history. When we came across the story of Singleton local David Walker who has devoted over a decade to recording Singleton's military history, we knew we had to share it.

We hope you enjoy this month's magazine!



Publisher  
**Shane Davey**  
shane@thecoalface.net.au  
0408 759 088

Editor  
**Rebecca Connolly**  
rebecca@thecoalface.net.au  
0408 769 699

General Manager  
**Steven Reynolds**  
steve@thecoalface.net.au  
0431 734 443

Design  
**Catch Creative**

Advertising Enquiries  
**Shane: 0408 759 088**  
**Steve: 0431 734 443**

@ The Coalface  
14B/169 John Street  
Singleton NSW 2330  
www.thecoalface.net.au

## BUDGET BOOST

THE RECENTLY RELEASED NSW BUDGET CLEARLY SHOWS THE IMPORTANT CONTRIBUTION THE HUNTER MINING INDUSTRY MAKES TO THE STATE ECONOMY. THIS CONTRIBUTION HAS HELPED NSW INTO A STRONG ECONOMIC POSITION, AND WE NEED TO ENSURE THE HUNTER ALSO BENEFITS.

Royalties from the mining sector have been revised up by \$813 million, and will deliver a record \$1.8 billion this year alone, and another record \$2 billion next year to help fund improved services across the state. Mining royalties are expected to deliver around \$7.4 billion in revenue over the next four years.

**TO PUT THIS IN CONTEXT, \$7.4 BILLION IN MINING ROYALTIES WOULD PAY FOR ALMOST ALL OF THE NSW GOVERNMENT'S \$8 BILLION BUDGET COMMITMENTS FOR BETTER HEALTH FACILITIES ACROSS NSW, INCLUDING THE FUNDING OF 40 NEW**

### AND UPGRADED HOSPITALS ACROSS NSW.

Alternatively, this \$7.4 billion in mining royalties would pay for the bulk of the NSW Government's key Budget commitments on education, including the \$6 billion commitment to fund 170 new and upgraded schools across NSW, and the \$500 million plan to deliver air-conditioning in 1000 schools across NSW.

### IT'S A REMINDER OF JUST HOW IMPORTANT MINING IS TO NSW.

It's also a reminder why we need to ensure the benefits from mining reach our local mining



Stephen Galilee  
CEO, NSW Minerals Council

communities. So, it's good to see that Deputy Premier John Barilaro recently announced an additional \$50 million funding round for the Resources for Regions program on top of the previous \$240 million provided through this special fund for mining communities.

We will continue to seek more funding and look forward to more announcements in the future that will help improve quality of life in mining communities.

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During our visit, I was given a personal tour of the station's world-class training gallery and virtual reality facility that is delivering stronger outcomes for the industry both in and outside the workplace. The health and safety of workers should always be the number one priority of everyone in our industry, ensuring workers return home safely at the end of the day. Working closely with industry leaders, the NSW Government has carried out critical reforms to establish a more robust and efficient regulatory framework for industry-wide solutions and standards.

**ACCORDING TO THE LATEST NSW MINE SAFETY PERFORMANCE REPORT 2015-16, SAFETY STANDARDS HAVE SHOWN SIGNIFICANT IMPROVEMENT WITH A 14% DECREASE IN THE TOTAL NUMBER OF RECORDABLE INJURIES, DOWN FROM 1,118 TO 959.**

It's clear that mining remains a critical driving force behind the NSW economy, delivering growth to our economy, jobs to our communities, and higher standards of living for families throughout the state – and we have the numbers to prove it.

At the end of last year, there were

41 coal mining operations active in NSW with exports rising in value by more than 31% up to \$19.1 billion. According to this year's State Budget, mining royalties are expected to deliver \$7.4 billion in revenue over the next four years. This Budget has committed these returns to delivering essential services that communities across NSW rely on such as schools and hospitals.

**NO REGION BETTER EMBODIES THE SUCCESS OF OUR INDUSTRY THAN THE HUNTER WHICH RECEIVED A LION'S SHARE OF \$4.5 BILLION FROM THE \$10.4 BILLION**

**INJECTED INTO THE NSW ECONOMY BETWEEN 2016-2017. THE STATE GOVERNMENT WILL CONTINUE TO BACK PRIVATE BUSINESSES TO INVEST AND CREATE MORE JOBS IN THIS REGION.**

After visiting the wonderful team at Newcastle Mines Rescue Station and seeing such strong outcomes within the region, there is no denying that the mining industry in NSW is prospering and the safety of its industrious workforce in good hands.

**The Hon. Don Harwin, Minister for Resources**

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# SES KICKS OFF

**IT'S GAME ON AS RUGBY LEGEND NATHAN SHARPE LINES UP IN THE VALLEY.**

A bright sunny day greeted the newly formed SES Labour Solutions NSW team as they launched their new Rutherford office with ex-Wallabies captain and founder of SESLS Nathan Sharpe joining several clients, local not for profits and the SES team for the day. A proud Queenslander, Sharpe certainly copped his

fair share of banter over the mighty NSW Blues recent success on the field but with all jokes aside it was the future success of SES that was firmly on the agenda. **WITH A LOCAL TEAM BOASTING MANY YEARS OF EXPERIENCE IN LABOUR HIRE ACROSS OPERATIONS, TRADES AND BOTH BLUE AND WHITE-COLLAR ROLES,**

**SES ARE WELL EQUIPPED TO SERVICE THE HUNTER VALLEY, GUNNDAH AND WIDER NSW REGION.**

Sharpe and the team are focused on replicating the model that has served them success in QLD and WA by delivering genuine value to their clients through a unique partnership model and not simply being a "bums on seats" supplier.

**WITHIN THIS MODEL, SES SPOKE ABOUT ENSURING THAT THEY GIVE BACK TO THE LOCAL COMMUNITY AND HAVE ALREADY PARTNERED WITH THE WESTPAC RESCUE HELICOPTER JUMPING ON BOARD WITH THE COAL MINES KNOCKOUT RUGBY LEAGUE MATCH IN OCTOBER AND HAVE BEEN IN TALKS WITH SEVERAL OTHER LOCAL NOT FOR PROFITS ABOUT COMING ON BOARD WITH SUPPORT.**

"What we offer is a true partnership type model where not only do we focus on giving the client the best possible service, but we also look to engage and support local not for profit and sporting groups to ensure that we are giving back to the local community" Sharpe said.

# COAL TAKES OVER

**GOVERNMENT FORECASTS FOR 2018-19 WILL SEE COAL OVERTAKE IRON ORE AS AUSTRALIA'S LARGEST EXPORT.**

Coal is forecast to be Australia's largest export earner at \$58.1 billion in 2018-19 with iron ore exports forecast to earn \$57.7 billion in the same period, according to the latest commodity forecast from the Department of Industry's Office of the Chief Economist. The June 2018 Resources and Energy Quarterly shows coal is expected to earn \$60.2 billion in

2017-18 – its highest-ever annual level – including 182 million tonnes (Mt) or \$37.5 billion worth of metallurgical (steel-making) coal and 200.5 Mt or \$22.7 billion of thermal (energy) coal.

Coal has historically been Australia's biggest export earner and the latest forecasts confirm its ongoing resurgence and significant contribution to the Australian economy.



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# IN THE NEWS...

## AUSTAR'S UNCERTAIN FUTURE

Yancoal has commenced legal actions against the Resources Regulator after they prohibited all underground longwall mining following recent coal bursts.

Workers will be potentially stood down or redeployed to other Yancoal Hunter sites in the coming weeks whilst the investigation and court proceedings continue.

## OVER AND OUT

Austin Engineering's Muswellbrook facility has ceased operation. The company has promised that the workforce of approximately 100 staff will be paid redundancies in accordance with employee contracts and all long-service and annual leave will be fully paid.

An employee assistance program has been established to assist staff transition to alternative employment and a confidential counselling service will also be provided to those employees who wish to access the service.

## EMPLOYEES STRIKE BACK

Around 250 workers from Mount Pleasant coal mine downed tools for three days after a worker was injured in a rigging accident.

NSW government safety regulators are investigating the incident. Mine owner Mach Energy have confirmed the accident and the resultant three-day strike but said the matter was an issue for the contractor, G&S Engineering.

## SOUTH KOREA SULPHUR LIMITS

South Korea will be setting new limits on sulphur content in coal from July 1 which will potentially impact the Hunter coal industry.

Under the new regulations, Korean power stations will be restricted to burning coal with an average sulphur content of 0.4 per cent or less over a 12-month period.

Although sulphur contents vary from mine to

## BHP BATTLES

BHP is facing two class actions alleging it hired hundreds of mine workers as casual employees to avoid paying proper wages and benefits.

The class actions are being brought on behalf of 800 workers at the Mount Arthur Coal Mine against both BHP and labour hire companies Chandler Macleod and TESA by law firm Adero Law.

## RIX'S CREEK EXTENSION

Bloomfield Collieries Limited currently has approval to run Rix's Creek Mine, until June next year and are seeking approval to expand the open cut coal mine and extend operations until 2038. It's estimated an extra 25 million tonnes of product coal would be recovered over that period.

## MINING STUDENTS AT A LOW

There has been an alarming drop in students enrolling in mining engineering at some of Australia's top universities, with only eight graduating as mining engineers from the University of Western Australia in 2018. The University of NSW also received the lowest enrolment level in mining engineering in 40 years, accepting just eight enrolments in 2017. Youth research agency YouthInsight revealed that low consideration of a career in mining was driven by a lack of knowledge, with 45 per cent of respondents saying, "It's not an industry I've ever thought about" and 40 per cent saying, "I don't know anything about mining."

mine, Australia is internationally acknowledged as low-sulphur. A recent article by research company AME put the Australian average at less than 0.6%.

Although Korea is Newcastle's third-biggest market for thermal power station coal, it only accounts for about 15 per cent of total exports so many in the industry are confident the Korean regulations will have little impact.

## WILPINJONG MINE CHALLENGE DISMISSED

A legal challenge to Peabody Energy's planned extension of its Wilpinjong thermal coal mine by a local residents group has been dismissed by the state's Land and Environment Court.

"Peabody welcomes the court's decision to uphold the New South Wales government's approval process for the Wilpinjong Extension Project, allowing for the extension of operations until the end of 2031. The decision confirms Wilpinjong can continue to mine in accordance with its granted approvals," a Peabody spokeswoman said.

## A BLOW FOR HVO

Hunter Valley Operations has received a \$15,000 fine by the New South Wales Environment Protection Authority after a blast from its operations was found to have impacted on the community.

The blast occurred in January and the EPA found they exceeded license limits for air-blast overpressure at two monitoring points, Moses Crossing and Jerry's Plains.

WIN!

BRING ON BUNNINGS

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

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# WETLAND WINNERS

**THE NEWCASTLE COAL INFRASTRUCTURE GROUP (NCIG) HAVE BEEN RECOGNISED FOR THEIR OUTSTANDING WORK IN RESTORING WETLAND HABITAT ON ASH ISLAND BY THE PIANC 'WORKING WITH NATURE' AWARDS.**

The awards are announced every four years and aim to acknowledge initiatives which promote a proactive, integrated approach to sustainable infrastructure projects. NCIG was awarded a Working with Nature Certificate of Recognition at a recent ceremony in Panama City. This was the first Australian project to be recognised since the establishment of the awards in 2014.

For over 18 months NCIG have been working with many stakeholders to re-establish the endangered coastal saltmarsh

ecological community. The tidal wetlands around the Port of Newcastle are home to a number of threatened species and communities. The coastal saltmarsh vegetation community and numerous species of migratory shorebirds, such as the critically endangered Eastern Curlew and Curlew Sandpiper, are increasingly losing habitat along the Australasian-East Asian Flyway.

**NCIG CREATED HABITAT FOR MIGRATORY SHOREBIRDS IN AN AREA CLOSE TO THE TERMINAL SITE,**

**SPECIFICALLY ASH ISLAND IN THE HUNTER WETLANDS NATIONAL PARK. THE CONSTRUCTION OF HABITAT ON ASH ISLAND INCLUDED THE RESTORATION OF 24 HECTARES OF MIGRATORY SHOREBIRD HABITAT.**

NCIG's CEO, Aaron Johansen, said the certificate is testament to NCIG's commitment to the environment and the local Hunter Estuary wetlands. "The migratory shorebird habitat restoration project is unique, in its type and scale of any conducted within Australia. NCIG has been

very committed to delivering sustainable environmental outcomes through this project and are very excited to have been recognised for this in an international forum." Aaron said.

"It's an illustration that the process adopted through integrating stakeholder engagement, cutting edge research and sound environmental practices can achieve tangible outcomes which are considered world's best practice. The great beneficiary of this project however is local wetland communities and the vulnerable and endangered migratory shorebird species which rely on them." Aaron concluded.

**NCIG ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISOR, PHILIP REID SAID THEY WERE VERY PROUD TO RECEIVE THE RECOGNITION, BUT THE MOST REWARDING THING HAS BEEN THE OPPORTUNITY**


**TO WORK WITH THE MANY STAKEHOLDERS ON THIS FLAGSHIP PROJECT.**

"We have been working with National Parks and Wildlife Services, the University of New South Wales, the Hunter Bird Observers Club and other environmental groups, local contractors and government departments. From the very beginning everyone involved in the project saw the many benefits and were able to come together to make it a success." Phil said.

"We are very proud of what we have achieved, and we want to share it with the community. I highly encourage people to get out and to enjoy what we have created. It's not often that offset areas like this are located in a national park and are able to be accessed freely by the public."

Congratulations NCIG and keep up the good work!





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## INDUSTRY

# EVENT OF THE YEAR

MORE THAN 500 MINERS FROM ACROSS NSW WILL BE ATTENDING THE NSW MINERALS COUNCIL'S 2018 HEALTH, SAFETY, ENVIRONMENT AND COMMUNITY CONFERENCE (HSEC) HERE IN THE HUNTER.

The NSW Mining HSEC Conference is a busy three days on August 6, 7, and 8. The jam-packed conference program will feature a range of speakers from industry and government focusing on breakthroughs in workplace health and safety, community relations, and environmental management.

"This important annual event brings our industry together to discuss our challenges, identify innovation opportunities and celebrate excellence. The conference is also focused on how we can continue to improve the lives of our workforce and for local mining communities." NSW Minerals Council CEO Stephen Galilee told @ The Coalface.

**BUT THE SHOWCASE EVENT IS THE AWARDS DINNER WHICH ACKNOWLEDGES THOSE IN OUR INDUSTRY WHO HAVE SHOWN INNOVATION AND EXCELLENCE IN 'WORKERS HEALTH'.**

"As always, our award entrants are of a very high standard, demonstrating our industry's commitment to improving our workplace and environmental practices as well as our engagement with our local mining communities." Stephen said.

### FINALISTS - HEALTH EXCELLENCE

CS Health and Centennial Coal: Task rotation in an underground mine

Thiess Mt Owen: Mt Owen Positively Healthy - Site Health Score

### FINALISTS - SAFETY EXCELLENCE

Yancoal: Austar Coal Mine Rib Protection System

Glencore Coal (NSW) Pty Limited: Sizer Teeth Removal Innovation

### FINALISTS - COMMUNITY EXCELLENCE

Glencore (Ravensworth): Ravensworth, a community minded workforce

Upper Hunter Community Services and BHP Mt Arthur Coal: Strengthening Community Resilience through Partnership

### FINALISTS - ENVIRONMENTAL EXCELLENCE

Glencore - Ravensworth: Quantifying NO2 concentration in blast fumes using drone technology

Yancoal: Tasman Underground Mine Rehabilitation Project

Bengalla Mining Company: Bengalla Mine Rehabilitation of Agricultural Land

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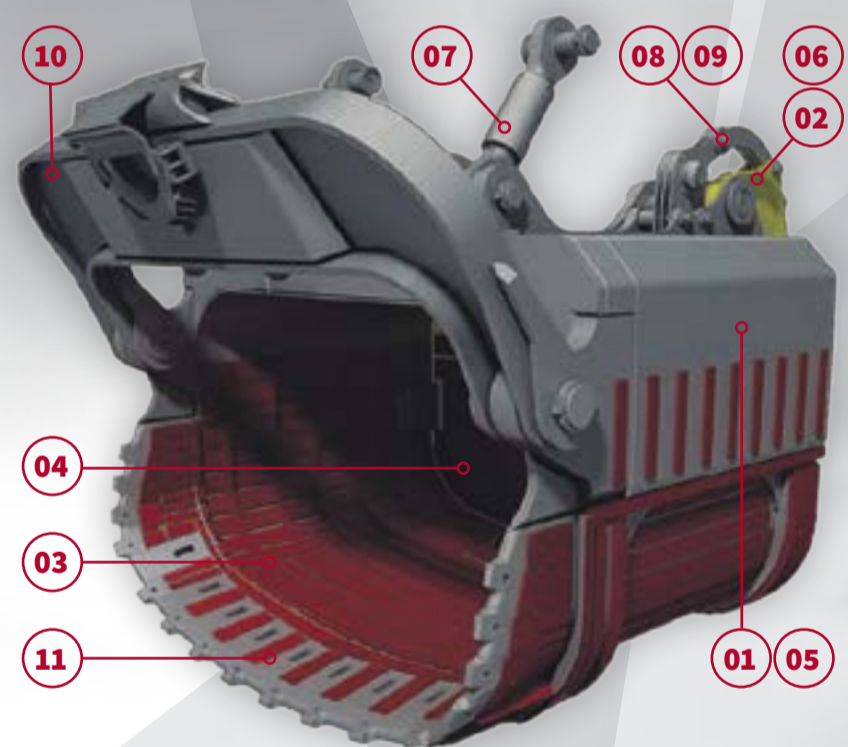
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KYLE PEMBERTON

PUBLISHERS OPINION

# A SET OF SKILLS WORTH INVESTING IN

**HOW MANY OF YOU THINK THAT THE IDEA OF GOING TO WORK EVERYDAY IS AS EXCITING AS A KID WAKING UP ON CHRISTMAS MORNING? NOT ME IF I AM HONEST. HERE @ THE COALFACE WE HAVE JUST WELCOMED KYLE PEMBERTON AS OUR NEWEST MEMBER OF STAFF AND EXCITED IS PRECISELY HIS ATTITUDE.**

Even when we went to get Kyle fitted out with his new hi-vis shirts you would have thought he was being fitted for a fine hand made Italian suit. He was pretty proud of himself and I have honestly never seen anyone so grateful to be given a chance. At 24 years of age his new role is the first job he has ever had. So why am I so proud to share Kyle's excitement at simply getting a part time job?

You see, Kyle faces a few more challenges and barriers than many of us, and learning difficulties mean that he sees the world through different eyes to the rest of us. That doesn't however mean he has less to give and in fact after meeting him and shaking hands on the deal,

I think he has more to give in many ways.

Kyle has started with us after a suggestion by Steve our GM to bring him on to help with distribution in Muswellbrook and spend a bit of time around the office doing a few odd jobs. He recently lost his dad and some time working with 'the boys' is something he really needs. I'm sure he'll equally benefit from his time working with 'the girls' @ The Coalface as well.

**EVEN BEFORE STARTING, KYLE HAS HAD A POSITIVE EFFECT AND IS HELPING US UNDERSTAND WHAT'S REALLY IMPORTANT. ENJOY THE SIMPLE THINGS IN LIFE, HAVE FUN AND BE GRATEFUL FOR ALL THAT WE HAVE.**

The point of all this is that opportunities for people with a disability need to be ramped up locally and within our industry. There are quite a few companies such as Quarry Mining in Beresfield in conjunction with Glencore who are already seeing the benefits of looking outside the square when it comes to some of the people that they employ.

Improved pride and morale are just the beginning. Have a serious think about whether or not your company could also step up to the plate. Raise the idea formally; make it happen... I doubt you will regret it. If you are already making it happen, then get in touch and let us know how it's all going, we'd love to tell your story.

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## SECOND CHANCES

**BLACKROCK INDUSTRIES IS UNDERGOING SOME BIG EXPANSIONS, AND ALONG THE WAY MAKING A BIG DIFFERENCE IN THE LIVES OF THOSE YOU WOULD NOT TYPICALLY ASSOCIATE WITH THE MINING INDUSTRY.**

We all know the success story of a young Steve Fordham starting off with less than \$20,000 to his name and a small truck and building one of the most recognised businesses around the Hunter industry today, Blackrock Industries. They now have over 100 employees and are branching out nationally, expanding into different fields including supply and land rehabilitation. But there's also another type of rehabilitation Steve is doing that we wanted to talk about.

Two years ago, with a bit of foresight and a vision for giving people a second chance in life, Steve embarked down a path that some may say was high risk. Today it's paying dividends not just for the company but changing the lives of those who have made a bad decision or two. The Blackrock Second Chance for Change Program is a rehabilitation program where inmates from St Heliers Correctional Centre come and work for Steve's company on release.

**"ONE THING AT BLACKROCK WE BELIEVE IN IS GIVING EVERYONE A SHOT AND AN OPPORTUNITY TO PROGRESS." STEVE SAYS WITH DETERMINATION AND A SMILE. "WE KICKED OFF WITH A HIGH INDIGENOUS EMPLOYMENT RATE AND NOW WHAT WE'RE ACTUALLY TRYING TO DO IS CROSS THAT NEXT SECTOR AND BREAKDOWN BARRIERS WITH PEOPLE WHO AREN'T OFTEN GIVEN SECOND OPPORTUNITIES."**

"We kicked off the Blackrock Second Chance for Change Program with St Heliers about 2 years ago putting the first two guys through. They went so fantastic it enabled us to help more people, so we have expanded that out to over 17 positions across the company." "These guys then get everything

from a basic understanding on employment. How to understand safety, how to interact in a mine setting and construction setting, and then hopefully the step will be to progress them through to the mine industry. Giving them these opportunities limits the statistics of reoffending." Steve said.

Mach Energy, Mount Pleasant Operation General Manager Richard Bailey, spoke highly of the initiative. "It has been extremely positive. There have been no concerns at all. I think it has been a real positive concept and has worked well for all businesses involved including St Heliers, Blackrock Industries, and us here at Mt Pleasant. We are very supportive of the initiative and the work Steve has done so far, and what he is trying to achieve in this field."

**ADRIAN SLATER WHO WAS ONE OF THE FIRST TO COMPLETE THE PROGRAM AND IS THANKFUL FOR THE OPPORTUNITY THIS INITIATIVE HAS PROVIDED HIM. "IT'S LIFE CHANGING. IT'S SOMETHING I NEVER THOUGHT WAS AN OPTION FOR SOMEONE LIKE ME. NOW I HAVE A GREAT JOB, A GREAT WORK CREW WHO I CAN'T WAIT TO SEE EACH DAY, A HOUSE AND MY FIRST BABY ON THE WAY. MY LIFE FROM BEFORE IS EXACTLY THAT, BEHIND ME. THANKS TO BLACKROCK AND MACH ENERGY FOR ALLOWING THIS CONCEPT, IT'S ALL FORWARD FOR ME AND ALL ABOUT PROVIDING A STABLE ENVIRONMENT FOR MY FAMILY TO GROW UP IN."**

Steve's program is a definite success, having a positive result not only for Blackrock and those involved, but for our community at large. We hope other companies follow his lead, as everyone deserves a second chance.



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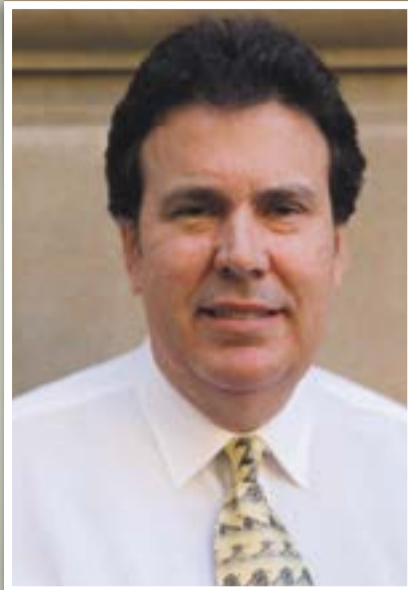
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# LEARN FROM THE LAWMAN

**STUART BARNETT IS OUR MINING INDUSTRY'S LEADING LAWYER. THIS MONTH HE HAS SOME IMPORTANT ADVICE FOR COUPLES WHO OWN A HOME.**



Recently I was approached for help by a widow following the passing of her husband. Though there was a valid will and most of their valuable assets and cash were in joint names, their home was only in the husband's name. Her question was, "Do I need to spend money on obtaining Probate of the Estate?"

**THE ANSWER WAS, UNFORTUNATELY YES. BECAUSE THE HOUSE WAS IN THE HUSBANDS NAME THE ONLY WAY TO HAVE IT TRANSFERRED INTO HER NAME WAS VIA PROBATE OF THE ESTATE. BUT THERE IS A WAY TO AVOID THIS.**

There are many reasons homes are purchased in one name even though it is their principle place of residence for a couple. It might be because of tradition, tax reasons or financing requirements. Many couples nearing retirement consolidate their assets and make binding nominations for their Superannuation funds, but they often forget about the family home.

It is relatively inexpensive to convert the title in the family home from individual ownership to a joint tenancy whereby both people own the property. So, when one partner passes, the property does not form part of the estate and instead automatically passes to the surviving partner.

The law provides that where a couple wish to convert the title into a joint tenancy the transaction is exempt from stamp duty. All that is required is a simple statutory declaration confirming

that the parties are in a bona fide relationship and that the property constitutes the principle place of residence of the couple and the payment of filing fees.

**HAVING THE FAMILY HOME AS A JOINT TENANCY WILL PROVIDE SECURITY TO THE SURVIVING PARTNER AT A DIFFICULT TIME AND IF THERE ARE NO OTHER ASSETS THAT REQUIRE PROBATE IN ORDER TO BE TRANSFERRED, MAY PROVE VERY INEXPENSIVE AS COMPARED TO THE COST OF OBTAINING PROBATE.**

If there is a mortgage, then you will require the permission of the mortgagee however usually this is not a problem.

If you find yourself in this situation and would like to consider converting the family home to a joint tenancy take some advice from a solicitor to see if it is worthwhile in your circumstances.

This is general advice and because your individual circumstances will vary I recommend seeking out specific advice for your needs.

**Stuart Barnett  
Slater & Gordon Lawyers**

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Walking out of Bunnings heading to my ute I realised my car keys were missing. I headed back into Bunnings and searched everywhere. Then it hit me, I must have left them in the ute. Frantically, I headed for the parking lot.

My wife, Rachel has scolded me a thousand times for leaving the keys in the ignition. My theory is the ignition is the best place not to lose them. Her theory is that the car will be stolen if I do that. As I burst out into the parking lot, I came to

a terrifying conclusion. Her theory was right. The parking lot was empty, no ute.

I immediately call the police. I give them my location and tell them my ute has been stolen. Then I make the most difficult call of all.

"Rachel," I stammered. "I left my keys in the ute, and it's been stolen."

There's silence. I think the call has been dropped, but then I hear Rachel's voice.

"Shane," she barks, "I dropped you off at Bunnings on my way to the grocery store!"

Now it's my time to be silent. Embarrassed, I say, "Well, would you come and get me?"

Rachel retorted, "I will, as soon as I convince these coppers I have not stolen your bloody ute!"



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# TO THE RESCUE!

**THIS YEAR SAW THE REINSTATEMENT OF THE MINES RESCUE CADET PROGRAM AND @ THE COALFACE GOT TO MEET THE LUCKY FOUR CADETS WHO HAVE BEEN GIVEN THIS GREAT OPPORTUNITY.**

The Mines Rescue cadet program gives four go getters the opportunity to learn the skills and competencies of a Mines Rescue Training Officer with the objective of gaining industry employment on completion of their two-year cadetship.

The program commenced in 2004 but ceased in 2014 with the downturn in the industry. Matthew Fellowes, General Manager Mines Rescue and Regulation and Compliance said the decision to reinstate the program this year reflects the changes to the current mining cycle and the upswing in employment opportunities. "It

also demonstrates our support of introducing and training young workers to the industry from our local communities."

Over a two-year period, the cadets will undergo extensive training in safety, equipment, maintenance and procedures including 12 weeks of underground work experience. Past cadets have gone on to roles in such as Mines Rescue employees, Production Managers, Undermanagers, Ventilation Officers, Deputies, Fire Officers and Health & Safety Advisors. After talking with this year's cadets, we have no doubt they will all go on to make their mark on our industry.



**Jackson Lambkin - Hunter Valley Mines Rescue**

No stranger to the industry, Jackson was an operator at Wambo before deciding to get into the rescue side of things. "It was a big decision to apply for the cadetship as it meant a big pay cut and I had to weigh that against the opportunities that it would create. In the end, my interest in the training and safety side of the industry won out and I was lucky enough to be selected for the program."

Jackson went on to say that he hasn't regretted his decision for a single second. "The experience has been great so far. Interacting with all the brigadesmen is a definite highlight. It's such a great bunch of people that I am learning from and working with. I've also enjoyed seeing how each mine operates. They each have their own individual style and way of doing things that makes it interesting."

Whether he's working in the training rooms or busy with maintenance Jackson always takes his work very seriously. "Some of the equipment we work on could mean the difference between life and death, so you have to make sure you are doing your job right."

Jackson said when his cadetship finishes he plans to continue working in the safety side of things. "I love working in mines rescue and I hope to continue to do so when I finish."

**Ashlee Singleton - Newcastle Mines Rescue**

After 8 years in the travel industry, Ashlee was looking for a change. "My dad has been part of the coal industry for more than 30 years and I have always been fascinated by it. When this opportunity came up I went for it."

Having just started a Certificate IV in Work Health and Safety at TAFE,

Ashlee will use it and the knowledge and the hands-on skills she's learning at Mines Rescue to further a career in the industry.

As a cadet Ashlee said every day is different. "I love the diversity and the challenge of learning something new every day. I work with an amazing team and the guys here are more than happy to share their vast knowledge."

Ashlee was involved in the recent

Coal Services First Aid competition as an assessor and played a casualty at the Newcastle Mines Rescue competition at Newstan. "Both experiences really hit home the importance of the safety training that we provide and how it can be applied in various situations. I would recommend this program for anyone wanting to gain insight into or a foot in the door to the industry."



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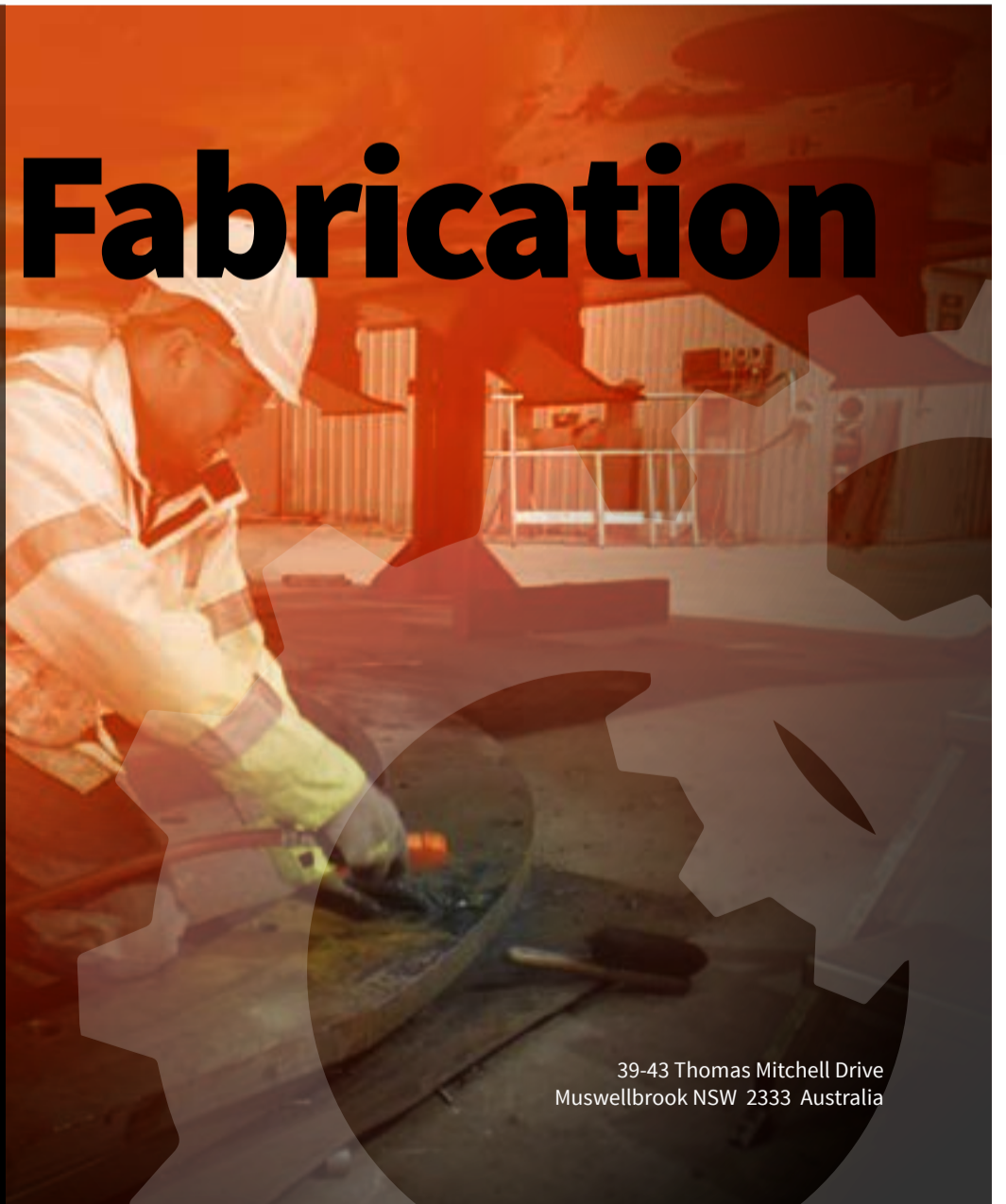
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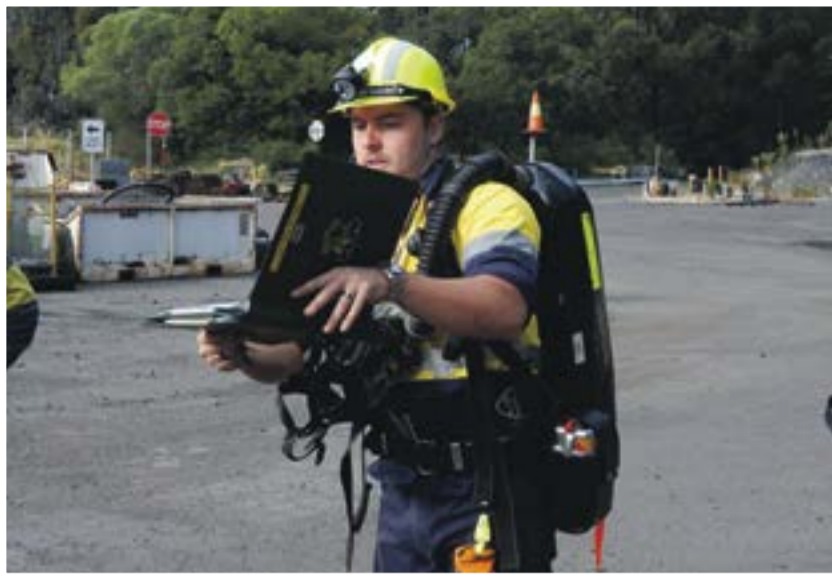
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# Fabrication



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**Luke Toole - Southern Mines Rescue**

Before the cadetship Luke was a carpenter, running his own business. On hearing of the cadetship, he thought it was too great an opportunity not to try for. "I wanted a new challenge even though it meant a huge change and was a big risk to take."

Luke said that he loves that he is always learning something new. "I just participated in the Newcastle Mines Rescue Comp which was a great experience. I also really enjoyed the 10-day brigades training."

Luke went on to say that that there's no typical day for a cadet. "I could be assisting with the Mines

Rescue courses, servicing and maintaining equipment or just helping the training officers with whatever they need."

"I would recommend the cadetship to anyone as it has been the best decision I have ever made. Coal Services have been such a great support and everyone I've worked with has welcomed me with open arms and been so willing to share their knowledge and teach me."

Luke will be looking for a start with a pit as an operator when the cadetship finishes in 2020 but he won't be stopping there. "I plan on going down the statutory path and getting my deputy certificate and this cadetship is the first step on that path."

**Chris Keller - Western Mines Rescue**

Chris spent 13 years in the army and when he came out was looking for a new career. "I saw the cadetship pop up on seek and it was like fate. I had always been interested in the mining industry and it offered everything I was looking for."

From the very beginning Chris said the cadetship has been great. "Coal Services put on a welcome day where I got to meet everyone from Mines Rescue and new starters from all over the industry. From day one everyone has been so welcoming and happy to share their experience and knowledge."

Chris said he recently took a tour of Mandalong to see firsthand their longwall operations. "The massive machinery was so impressive, and it really sparked my passion to get into underground mining when I finish the cadetship. The cadetship will set me up for so many opportunities, whether I go onto to a training role in Mines Rescue or even perhaps a deputy. I'm so grateful for this opportunity."

Chris said he recommends to anyone out there looking for a kick start in the mining industry to consider a cadetship. "Every day is different and has its own challenges, but I couldn't be happier."



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PARALLEL ECONOMICS

# DEFENDING OUR NATION

IT'S WELL KNOWN THAT THE HUNTER VALLEY IS ONE OF AUSTRALIA'S MAJOR DEFENCE FORCE REGIONS, BUT WE THINK THERE IS STILL A LOT MORE POTENTIAL TO BE HAD.

With the RAAF base at Williamstown and Lone Pine Barracks at Singleton, the Hunter Valley is no stranger to the Australian Military. With all that national security, not to mention billions in economic stimulus, why not open the door to unused or rehabilitated mine land for military use and even greater economic stimulus for our mining communities. Lone Pine is situated right on the outskirts of sunny Singleton and it also happens to sit smack bang at the

gateway to the major mining operations of The Hunter. Given the proximity of mine and military operations, sitting down to discuss how else The Hunter mining industry could contribute to our national security would be a meeting worth setting up. **ONE WAY COULD BE THROUGH EXTENDING AND ESTABLISHING DEFENCE FORCE MANUFACTURING FACILITIES AND EQUIPMENT PROVING GROUNDS THAT ADD TO OUR ALREADY CONSIDERABLE AND**

**DIVERSE ENGINEERING CAPABILITIES LOCALLY.** Another clear opportunity would be to look at planning final landforms to replicate specific geography from around the world for training purposes. We certainly have the mining hardware on the ground to do the job to the absolute highest standards. Secure mock urban areas could also be built to train for warfare in populated situations. Disused mine infrastructure could also become handy training aids.



WE COULD EVEN LOOK TO PARTNERING WITH ONE OF OUR ALLIES LIKE THE USA, FRANCE OR BRITAIN TO SET UP A FOREIGN BUT FRIENDLY MILITARY BASE.

Establishing a 'National Cadet Defence Base' could also be a valuable way of extending the regions potential and building a dedicated military

facility to foster future generations of our military and national security just makes good sense.

However you want to look at it, it's not hard to see some kind of viable and valuable military partnership working to benefit a whole lot of people locally, nationally and internationally... soldier on!

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# MINERS IN THE MAKING

**MORE THAN 100 COMMUNITY AND MINING INDUSTRY REPRESENTATIVES CELEBRATED THE 38 STUDENTS WHO SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETED THE TAFE NSW MUSWELLBROOK MINING SKILLS PROGRAM AT THE 2018 TAFE NSW MINING SKILLS PRESENTATION AWARDS EVENING ON JUNE 15.**

TAFE NSW Muswellbrook Mining Skills Program Manager, Kieran Kelly, says the evening was about celebrating the achievements of all the students.

“The Mining Skills Presentation Awards evening is a fantastic night to recognise the 38 students and what they have achieved, in

front of their community, family and industry peers.” Kieran said.

**EACH YEAR TWO STUDENTS ARE PRESENTED WITH AN OUTSTANDING STUDENT AWARD, NOMINATED AND RECOGNISED BY THE TEACHING STAFF FOR THEIR OUTSTANDING ATTITUDE,**

**APTITUDE, ATTENTION TO DETAIL, SKILL DEVELOPMENT AND THE COMPLETION OF THE SPECIAL PROJECTS. THE HIGHEST ACHIEVER FOR THE YEAR IS ALSO ANNOUNCED AS THE DUX.**

The two recipients of this year’s Outstanding Student award were James Drayton, apprentice at AGL Macquarie, and Lauren Booth, apprentice at Yancoal/Glencore, Hunter Valley Operations. Jennifer Chalker, apprentice at BHP Mt Arthur was named the highest achiever and DUX of the 2018 TAFE NSW Mining

Skills Program.

Kieran said the evening not only celebrates the students’ achievements, but is a great opportunity to showcase the course, which continues to capture the interest of leading industry partners in the Hunter Valley.

“The program teaches apprentices basic skills, particularly with regard to safety, and emphasises the importance of being aware of what other people are doing in the workplace to ensure safety precautions are met,” he said.

## ‘AVE A LAUGH WITH

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Ed and Ted are out walking in the bush when they come across a large hole. Looking in they can’t see the bottom.

“I wonder how deep it is?” Ed asks.

Ted replies, “Drop a rock in and count the seconds before it hits the bottom. That’ll be how many feet

deep it is.”

Ed finds a rock and drops it into the hole. There’s no sound.

Ted says, “Try something bigger.”

Ed finds a bigger rock and throws it into the hole, but there’s still no sound.

Ted says, “Try something really big.”

Ed looks around and sees a heavy railway sleeper, which he drags to the hole and drops in. Still nothing.

As they peer over the hole there’s a furious rustling in the undergrowth behind them. The two men turn just in time to see a goat charging directly towards them. They hit the ground as the goat launches itself over them and disappears down the hole.

“That was close.” says Ed.

A little while later, on their way home, they meet a farmer wandering around the bush. He seems quite upset and asks the men if they have seen a goat.

“We have as a matter of fact,” says Ted. “We were damn near knocked into the deepest hole I ever saw by a rampaging crazy goat. Lucky for us we got out of the way in time and the goat fell into the hole instead.”

“Well that couldn’t have been my goat,” the farmer said. “I tied mine to a railway sleeper.”

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## Trilift® Maintenance Support Products



### Raise equipment with the Trilift® Jack Stands

The **Trilift® 100T and 300T Jack Stands** are versatile, heavy duty jacks and stands designed to lift and support heavy earthmoving equipment. The jacks can be used singularly or as a pair.

Once the load is raised, spring loaded jaws lock into teeth on either side of the jack transforming the **Trilift® Jack Stands** into certified support stands. This feature eliminates the procedure of making the change from a jack to a support stand which increases safety and improves productivity by halving the time it takes to perform the task.

### A safer method to remove the Wheel Nuts - coming soon

The **Trilift® Universal Wheel Nut Tool** attaches to the Trilift® Variable Work Tables to provide a safer more efficient method of handling wheel nuts on large mining and earthmoving equipment.

The Trilift® Universal Wheel Nut Tool is designed and manufactured to access both outer and inner wheel nuts. By semi-automating this maintenance task, personnel are positioned at a safer distance from the task.

### Tyre Handling in the Workshop

The **Trilift® TH15000 Workshop Tyre Handler** has been designed to provide a maintenance tool for the safe removal and installation of wheel assemblies and front hub, brakes and seals.

**TH15000 resolves SAFETY ISSUES like:**

- Tyre fall and tyre failure incidents
- Access to wheel nuts that places personnel in the line-of-fire.

**TH15000 resolves SPACE ISSUES as:**

- it has a narrow footprint of 2833mm wide by 5366mm long allowing you to work in confined work bay space and does not require the adjacent work bays to be left vacant.

**TH15000 resolves TIME AND EFFICIENCY ISSUES:**

- in independent trials the TH15000 Workshop Tyre Handler was proven to be 60-75% more efficient - improving workshop productivity by 47%

**The Trilift® TH15000 Workshop Tyre Handler offers a ROI after handling 123 tyres.**

### Tyre and Component Rotating - coming soon

The **Trilift® CR20000 Component Balance Rotator** has been designed and manufactured to enable the handling and rotation of various components including large earthmoving wheel assemblies, final drives, dozer track frames and wheel motors etc.

Working in conjunction with an existing workshop overhead crane, this remote controlled unit allows maintenance staff to safely and efficiently lift and rotate wheel assemblies and other components within the confines of a single workshop bay.

### Tyre Storage

The **Trilift® Tyre Stand** has been designed as a convenient maintenance tool for the safe, temporary storage of a tyre and/or wheel assembly. This product will handle tyres and rims up to 15,000kg ranging in size from 27 R49 to 59/80 R63.

Load and unload the Trilift® Tyre Stand using the Trilift® TH15000 Workshop Tyre Handler or existing tyre handling equipment. Tie down hooks provide a safer method of securing the wheel assembly to the stand.

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MY MINING LIFE

# JAKE SMITH

MEET JAKE, A PLANT MECHANIC BY TRADE BUT AN ALL ROUND GOOD BLOKE BY DEFAULT.

**Who are you and what do you do?**

My name is Jake Smith and I'm a plant mechanic in the mines. I started in 2007 when I did my apprenticeship at Integra. I had a great time there and I've been in the mines since and I start a new job in a few weeks.

**Any nicknames good or bad?**

Turnstile or pothole.

**How did that come about?**

Just from football terms for my defensive efforts. Over the years the boys have given me stick about it.

**You're not that bad, are you?**

Nah I wouldn't think so, but I'll let them run with it.

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

I live here in Singleton and I've lived here all my life. I grew up on my parents farm just outside of town, there's always been plenty of good times out there. I've always been helping dad with the cows and machinery. Hopefully in the future I can get myself a farm or head back out to the family farm and run it.

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

Since the apprenticeship in 2007 its provided me plenty of opportunities and hopefully there's more to come. It's great when you have a trade you really enjoy.

**What's a usual day at work entail?**

12hour shifts. Out of bed and head to work at 6. Get our debrief and jobs for the day and then its full on into it. Working on machinery all day and hopefully a bit of job satisfaction. Then when knock off rolls around its off to the pub for a few beers.

**What's the best thing about your job?**

Just job satisfaction like I said before. Going to work on the big gear and to know you're making a difference. I've always tinkered around on the farm with the machinery and love getting into it. You'll find it hard for me to complain. I always look forward to working on the big gear.

**The worst thing?**

It's probably shift work as everyone says, working the weekends and missing special occasions and times with family and friends. Missing the kids sporting stuff and the all the small things they achieve, I think everyone would say it's a bummer, but it's the sacrifice we make to provide for them.

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

When I was an apprentice, I gave a tradesman a bit of lip and we had a bit of laugh, but it turned back on me. When I came back from crib all my tools were glued together, so I spent a bit of time getting them back apart. Fair to say lesson learnt.

**Were you ever sent for a long (weight) wait?**

Yeah as a work experience I got sent down the road and had to ask for a long wait. After about 15mins I cottoned on to what was happening and headed back to work with my tail between

my legs.

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

Nah, I achieved what I set out to. I left school and got an apprenticeship in the field I always wanted too. It worked out well. I love hands on work and getting dirty. There's a sense of achievement at the end of the day when you can stand back and say you repaired something and made a difference, that's at home, on the farm or at work.

**What would your mum say about you when you were a kid?**

I'm sure she'd say I was an angel, but I can guarantee I wouldn't have been.

**Family?**

I'm married, and I've got two kids, a boy and a girl. That keeps me busy these days with sports and keeping them happy, it's a full-time job. The wife is amazing and very understanding. I get away with a bit, playing golf and football. The young fella just started in the under 6's playing footy, so it's a bit of travelling. He enjoys his golf as well. The daughter's a little angel. They keep me busy don't you worry.

**What do you do in your downtime?**

I play a bit of football myself and when I can get a weekend off I play a bit of golf and take the family water skiing. So yeah, just spending a fair bit of time with the kids on my days off.

**You said you live in Singleton, what's the best part about living there?**

It's a close community, great lifestyle and it's not too far to get to Newcastle or down to Sydney, yet the kids get that country lifestyle upbringing in a great environment.





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# LEST WE FORGET

ON JUNE 27, THE SINGLETON RSL SUB-BRANCH (NSW) COMMEMORATED 100 YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE SINGLETON COMMUNITY.



DAVID WALKER WITH SINGLETON RSL SUB-BRANCH PRESIDENT GLENN MOUNT

To commemorate this remarkable occasion a celebration was held on June 23 at the Singleton Diggers Club. It was an incredible day filled with emotion and pride. During the centenary service, David Walker, an ex-serviceman, proud Singleton resident and historian, presented to the Singleton RSL Sub-Branch President Glenn Mount, a book detailing Singleton's Military History.

**DAVID SPENT OVER 11 YEARS RESEARCHING AND DOCUMENTING THIS INCREDIBLE BOOK. HIS ONLY AIM WAS TO ENSURE THAT SINGLETON'S LOCAL MILITARY HERITAGE JOURNEY WOULD NOT BE LOST TO FUTURE GENERATIONS.**

The book is a significant piece of work detailing Singleton's proud military history for the past 153 years and it will help ensure that the sacrifice made by the thousands of Singleton men and women who served over the years is not overlooked.

David said it all started

when he helped a few people look up some family history. "I was asked to track down some information and so I started talking to people and doing some research. The stories kept growing and growing and before long I had a collection."

"When I realised the 100-year anniversary was coming up, I decided to put everything together into a book to commemorate the occasion. That's when it got hard. I'd gathered so much material and trying to collate it and include all the stories was a real battle. I know I haven't been able to tell every story and I apologise to all those I have missed."

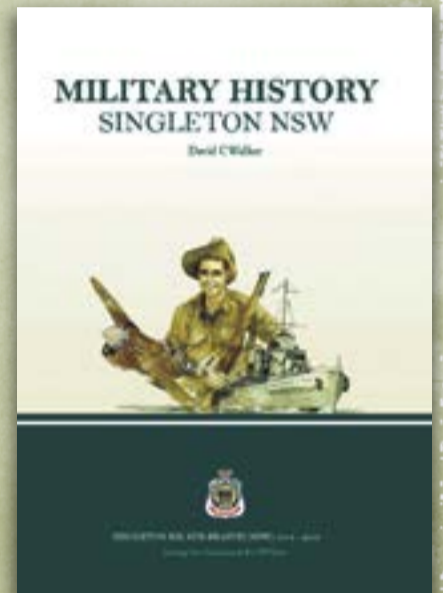
**THANKS TO A GENEROUS FINANCIAL SPONSORSHIP FROM GLENCORE, DAVID WAS ABLE TO HAVE 100 BOOKS PRODUCED TO GIFT TO THE SINGLETON RSL SUB-BRANCH (NSW) WITH THE CONDITION THAT ALL PROCEEDS RECEIVED FOR THE BOOK TO BE USED FOR NAME UPDATE, CONSTRUCTION, MAINTENANCE AND PRESERVATION OF**

## SINGLETON LGA MILITARY SERVICE MEMORIALS.

David's time and hard work was completely voluntary and he's reluctant to accept any praise. "It's not about me," he says. "It's about remembering the people who served." Well seeing as you are also one of those people David, we thank and salute you!

If you would like to purchase a book contact the Singleton RSL Sub Branch.

**Let their name liveth forever more. Lest we Forget.**



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**BENGALLA KICKS A MAJOR GOAL**

**IN A MAJOR COUP FOR THE LOCAL GROUP 21 RUGBY LEAGUE COMPETITION, BENGALLA MINING COMPANY HAVE SIGNED ON AS NAMING RIGHTS SPONSOR FOR THE NEXT 5 YEARS.**

The competition will now be known as the Bengalla Group 21 Rugby League Competition after the naming rights became available this year. It's a massive positive for both Bengalla and Group 21, with Bengalla acknowledging it was a great opportunity given the support Rugby League garnishes in our area.

"Rugby League in our local area has an extremely large following and we at Bengalla are appreciative for the opportunity to come onboard and partner with Group 21 as naming rights sponsor." said Cam Halfpenny CEO of Bengalla Mining Company.

Simon Walmsley President of the Group 21 responded, "This is such an exciting time for Rugby League here locally. To have a long-term relationship with Bengalla Mining Company provides certainty for the clubs and more importantly the players moving forward."

**"THERE'S A LOT OF RUGBY LEAGUE SUPPORTERS AND PLAYERS THAT WORK IN THE MINING INDUSTRY AND WE ARE VERY THANKFUL TO BENGALLA FOR ACKNOWLEDGING THAT, AND FOR PROVIDING THAT CERTAINTY FOR THE SPORT HERE LOCALLY INTO THE FUTURE. TO ACHIEVE THIS SPONSORSHIP OVER 5 YEARS ALLOWS US TO FOCUS ON THE**

**FOOTBALL AND PROMOTING THE QUALITY COMPETITION WE HAVE HERE."**

For Bengalla Mining Company it was an opportunity they could not slip by. "Most of our employees live in the local area; Scone, Aberdeen, Muswellbrook, Singleton and Denman. Many of our employees and their families play or are involved in some aspect of the competition, so Bengalla is honoured to have the opportunity to sponsor such a great community sporting competition."

"We're also committed to supporting activities that improve the health and wellbeing of our workforce, their families and the local community. This sponsorship supports encouraging people to be active and the development of local talent." Cam said.

The new sponsorship agreement has commenced and the Bengalla logo will soon adorn all the team's jerseys. Group 21 took the opportunity to discuss the competition and the successful year that has been.

"2018 has been a fantastic year in Group 21 and the competition is swinging on a pendulum in most grades, so I encourage any local supporters to really get out there at this back end of the season and support your club. Your support might be that extra drive your club needs" said Simon.



# RAVENSWORTH WORKING BEE



ON JUNE 30 OVER 50 EMPLOYEES FROM GLENCORE'S RAVENSWORTH OPEN CUT MINE GATHERED WITH SALVATION ARMY VOLUNTEERS AT THE SINGLETON SALVATION ARMY READY TO PITCH IN FOR THE MINING COMPANY'S 6TH ANNUAL WORKING BEE.

An industrious team of volunteers including tradies, staff, and children took to the tools to assist with general maintenance, improvements and gardening.

**GLENCORE'S MONIQUE POLLOCK SAID, "THE KEY FOCUS OF THE PROJECT WAS ON THE HUNDREDS OF LOCAL KIDS THE SINGLETON SALVATION ARMY SUPPORT ON A CONTINUOUS AND DAILY BASIS."**

"Many local children who are otherwise without, are provided the opportunity to learn and prosper thanks to the dedicated

and invaluable work done by Leanne and Peter Bennett and Salvation Army volunteers."

"It was great to see such community spirit, especially from the children participating at the working bee. They were very interested in how the Salvation Army support the local community, asking questions about what help is needed in our community and how the Salvation Army decides who to help."

**THE SALVATION ARMY'S PETER BENNETT SAID THEY WERE VERY THANKFUL FOR ALL**

**OF THE SUPPORT RAVENSWORTH VOLUNTEERS HAVE OFFERED TO THEM AND WERE TAKEN BACK BY THE ENTHUSIASM OF ALL INVOLVED.**

One of the donations made on the day were two very large boxes of non-perishable food collected by Ravensworth employees, Peter joked the boxes looked like something which would be dropped out of a Hercules.

Overall it was a fantastic day for both the Glencore team and the staff and volunteers of the Singleton Salvation Army.



# DRIVING FOR PROSTATE CANCER

THE INAUGURAL OUTBACK 4WD ADVENTURE KICKS OFF ON SEPTEMBER 22 AND WILL SEE ENTRANTS TRAVEL 2740KM FROM COBAR TO BROKEN HILL VIA THE SIMPSON DESERT.

The event is being held to raise funds for the Prostate Cancer Foundation of Australia. Geoff Andrews is a contractor at Rix's Creek who knows firsthand the terrible impacts of prostate cancer, losing his father to the terrible disease.

**"IN MINING WHERE A SIGNIFICANT PART OF THE WORKFORCE IS MALE YOU WOULD THINK THAT PROSTATE CANCER WOULD REALLY BE AT THE FOREFRONT, HOWEVER LITTLE IS SAID. I GOT INVOLVED IN THIS EVENT TO HELP BRING AWARENESS. 3,300 MEN DIE EVERY YEAR IN AUSTRALIA FROM PROSTATE CANCER WITH 1 IN 8 BLOKES AFFECTED. GETTING THE WORD OUT AND RAISING MONEY IS SO IMPORTANT AND THIS EVENT DOES BOTH THOSE THINGS." GEOFF SAID.**

Geoff and his team mates Andrew Gray and James Matt are working hard to be the top fundraisers and are currently in second place. "We want to thank D&L Transport, Bailey Property & Livestock, Simmons Bulk Haulage, and staff at Wandoan QLD Gas Project who have got behind us. Not to mention all the family, friends and locals."

**To donate to this great cause, go to [www.pcfarally.com.au](http://www.pcfarally.com.au) and get behind Geoff and his team - Team Entry 59.**



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# GET THE SHOW ON THE ROAD

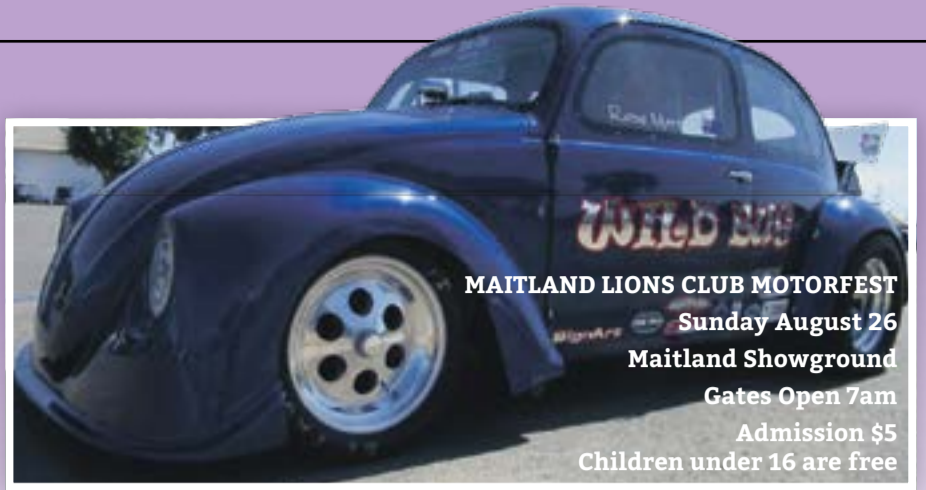
THE MAITLAND LIONS CLUB MOTORFEST IS BACK AT MAITLAND SHOWGROUND ON SUNDAY AUGUST 26 AND IT'S GOING TO BE LARGER AND LOUDER THAN EVER BEFORE.

This year along with the annual Show and Shine event, the Motorfest will also be hosting for the first time a Swap Meet. There will be plenty of stalls, hot rods and entertainment for the young and old.

Geoff Kilmurray from the Lions Club of Maitland says that this year the event will have a special significance as it sees Lions Club's from the Hunter joining forces to raise much needed funds for a new program. Maitland Lions, East Maitland Lions, West

Maitland Centennial Lions, Kurri Lions, Cessnock Lions, Cessnock Wine Country Lions, Branxton Lions and Raymond Terrace Lions are all working together.

**THE MOTORFEST SHOW HAS RAISED MUCH NEEDED FUNDS FOR MANY CHARITIES OVER THE YEARS, BUT THIS YEAR ALL THE FUNDS RAISED WILL BE DIRECTED INTO A NEW PROGRAM CALLED THE LIONS 4 KIDS IN NEED.**



**MAITLAND LIONS CLUB MOTORFEST**  
 Sunday August 26  
 Maitland Showground  
 Gates Open 7am  
 Admission \$5  
 Children under 16 are free

"The new program will assist families with serious ill children at the John Hunter Hospital and also when they depart the hospital. The project is too big for just one Lion's Club and we are all working together to get it off the ground. To see the clubs uniting together for this cause is fantastic and it's really going to make a big difference for those families." Geoff said.

"We are also thankful to have

Shannon's on board with sponsorship this year and we hope with the support of the community we can raise a lot of money to make the program a success."

So get yourself to Maitland Motorfest to support a fantastic cause and have a great day out!

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Ourcare Services is a not for profit community organisation the provides services to the frail aged, people with disabilities, and their carers so that they can remain living independently in their own homes.

As part of their many services they run a disability group program every Wednesday that encourages

clients to participate in activities that promote health and wellbeing and social connections.

This donation will go towards allowing Ourcare to purchase more activities and skill building components for the program.

For more information contact Ourcare on 02 6571 2300.

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

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# DOGWATCH IS CANCELLED



**BULGA OPEN CUT MINE HAS COME UP WITH A NOVEL WAY TO RAISE FUNDS FOR VICTIMS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE BY RAFFLING OFF A WEEKEND OF DOGWATCH SHIFTS.**

The Bulga workforce is a particularly tight community who well and truly understand how important it is to give back and support the communities they live and work in. So important in fact, they have their own dedicated donations committee made up of members from across the workforce.

This year, the troops have nominated three family/ domestic violence shelters as recipients: Carrie's Place at East Maitland, Jodie's Place at Cessnock and Singleton Neighbourhood Centre. The committee brainstormed what they thought was a needed cause and settled on domestic violence. They thought there are plenty of people doing it tough and they need a hand.

Bulga Mine Manager Nick Slater said of the initiative, "We have a workforce here that want to be involved with the local community and support those charities and

organisations where they live and that's why we formed the donations committee. The committee is there to identify the ideas coming from the workforce that deserve some support."

**APPARENTLY, IT ALL STARTED WHEN ONE OF THE OPERATORS IN THE PREP PLANT CAME IN TO THE OFFICE ONE DAY A SAID 'I'VE GOT AN IDEA! YOU'RE PROBABLY NOT GOING TO LIKE IT...'**

But like it they did and last year over \$12,500 was raised for autism awareness in local schools across the Hunter. It's a novel but simple idea where a worker can win three dreaded weekend dog watch shifts off or three other nominated days for the mid week workers.

The employees were unanimous in their praise for the initiative and its ability to bring workers together. The workforce has been overwhelmingly proactive in making the

initiative happen. It's also great to see so many men being so passionate about helping women.

Thanks also must go to all the local suppliers and contractors who have chipped in by donating prizes for the raffles; Cameron Machinery Co., Clean From Dirty Filtration, Fuchs, Hitachi, Komatsu, Liebherr, Valley Fasteners (Tradecore), Versamech, Westrac and Workpac.

**THE RAFFLE RUNS FOR A MONTH AND 100% OF THE FUNDS WILL GO STRAIGHT INTO HELPING PEOPLE ON THE GROUND.**

We're not sure exactly how much a fully paid weekend away from the dreaded dogwatch shift is worth to someone, but the site is confident of raising significant funds for each of the charities.

Well done people... well done... take a bow Bulga.

# BEARDS OF HOPE



**EACH YEAR, THOUSANDS OF DADS EXPERIENCE THE LOSS OF THEIR BABY THROUGH MISCARRIAGE, STILL BIRTH, NEONATAL OR INFANT LOSS. BEARDS OF HOPE IS A WAY FOR MEN TO GET INVOLVED AND HELP RAISE AWARENESS.**

The Beards of Hope campaign sees men across Australia grow a beard and then brave the shave in September all to raise money and awareness for Bears of Hope Pregnancy

and Infant Loss Support. "I believe this campaign is important for two main reasons, to drive awareness within our local community about the impact of the loss

of a baby on the Dads, and to show the Dads that they are not alone in their grief, that there is support available." says Campaign Co-Founder Toni Watson.

"It's giving them a platform to not only honor their baby but invites family and friends to support them by growing a beard themselves. It's crucial to their mental health that father's feel supported not just in the early days, but even years later, by having the opportunity to speak up about their experience."

**LOCALLY WE HAVE SEVERAL GOOD SPIRITED LEGENDS THROUGHOUT THE INDUSTRY GETTING ONBOARD. THERE ARE TEAMS FROM BLOOMFIELD,**

**TVP AND MANY OTHER BUSINESSES (THAT WE WOULD ALSO LIKE TO HEAR FROM) IN THE HUNTER. IDENTITIES LIKE GREG HARRIS, SEAN AND BRENDAN WILLIAMS, TERRY HOWARD, BEN MELDRUM, CRAIG EDWARDS AND GARRETT MCCAULIFFE TO MENTION A FEW.**

To get involved simply head to the website and register or if you are like our GM and still have the same facial hair from when you were 15, you can donate instead.

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

Local legend and TVP co-founder Brendan Williams has had his arm twisted by us here @ The Coalface. Should Toni be able to surpass the \$125,000 raised last year and hit a target of \$150,000, Brendan will shave his beard off at the Clubhouse Singleton in September with the other boys. Make sure you donate now and **Let's Send Brendan Bare!**



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## RACE TO THE RESCUE

**BRIGADESMEN FROM ACROSS THE REGION DESCENDED UPON CENTENNIAL COAL'S NEWSTAN COLLIERY ON JUNE 15 TO COMPETE IN THE ANNUAL NEWCASTLE MINES RESCUE COMPETITION AND DEMONSTRATE THEIR SKILLS UNDER PRESSURE.**

Brigadesmen from Ashton, Astar, Chain Valley, Integra, Mandalong, Myuna, Newstan, North Wambo and South Blakefield all competed in the competition with Team Orange, led by veteran brigadesman Bob Wilson being declared overall winners of the event.

The day's format included several underground and surface simulation exercises to demonstrate knowledge and the use of equipment in realistic scenarios, including exercises to test hazard awareness, underground search and rescue, first aid and fire-fighting.

**"THE NEWCASTLE COMPETITION FORMAT IS UNIQUE AND AS CLOSE TO A REAL-LIFE SCENARIO AS THESE BRIGADESMEN WILL EXPERIENCE. BRIGADESMEN RECEIVE A SIMULATED CALL TO DUTY EARLY IN THE MORNING AND ARE GIVEN INSTRUCTIONS TO ATTEND A PARTICULAR MINE SITE. TEAMS ARE FORMED AS THEY ARRIVE," EXPLAINED DARREN PARKER, ACTING REGIONAL MANAGER NEWCASTLE MINES RESCUE.**

'It not only tests their core skills, but also their ability to act and communicate effectively as a team,' he said. Darren went on to explain that teams include seasoned brigadesmen with active duty under their belt, and new brigadesmen competing for the first time.

'The competition is an opportunity to join new trainees with more

experienced brigadesmen to test what they have learnt in their intensive induction program but also to learn from the experience of others,' he said.

**THE PRIMARY PURPOSE OF MINES RESCUE IS TO PROVIDE EMERGENCY RESPONSE TO THE INDUSTRY IN THE CASE OF AN EMERGENCY. EVENTS LIKE THESE ALLOW THE BRIGADESMEN TO TEST AND HONE THEIR SKILLS IN PREPARATION FOR THE UNFORTUNATE CIRCUMSTANCE WHERE THEY MAY BE CALLED UPON.**

General Manager, Mines Rescue and Regulation and Compliance, Matt Fellowes said, 'Thankfully, major incidents requiring brigadesmen response are limited. As an industry we continually strive to create a safer work environment and these volunteer brigadesmen help to support a proactive safety culture onsite. They play a pivotal role in preventing significant incidents from occurring. They, and the mines they represent, can be proud of the skills they have demonstrated.'

The competition is the first in a series of regional competitions hosted by NSW Mines Rescue. Competitions will also take place in Singleton in July, and Wollongong and Mudgee in August. The winning teams from each region will be invited to compete in the Australian competition to be held in Queensland in October.





# MAGIC PILLS



WHEN IT COMES TO VITAMINS AND SUPPLEMENTS, THERE SURE IS A LOT OF HYPE. BUT WHEN IT COMES TO THE FACTS DO THEY MEASURE UP?

Take this pill and you'll be healthier! Live longer! Prevent cancer! Lose weight! Who doesn't want to believe in a magic pill that can make up for all your bad lifestyle choices. Over half of all Australians are taking some form of supplement or vitamin proving just how easy it is to fall for the clever marketing.

**BUT DO YOU NEED THEM?**

There's been plenty of large-scale randomised trials and studies over the years when it comes to vitamins and supplements. The results? When it comes to the majority of the population, there is no overall benefit from taking vitamins and supplements. And this isn't new evidence by any means. The majority of studies have been arriving at this conclusion for years.

Mostly, the only thing you're guaranteed to get from taking vitamins and supplements is some weird coloured stinky wee

and a dent in your wallet. But, be warned, there are studies suggesting they can be harmful. Studies showing an increased risk of cancers in relation to using certain vitamins, and increased mortality with the consumption of antioxidants.

Vitamins and supplements are all about the correct dose. Mega doses can be dangerous and vitamin toxicity is becoming more and more common. More is not better.

**SO WHY IS EVERYONE TAKING THEM?**

The problem is that the supplement industry is relatively unregulated. It makes billions of dollars every year and it's growing steadily. There's so much marketing nonsense about vitamins, superfoods and supplements it's hard to not fall for the hype that you need them.

Here in Australia, a lot of

our food is already fortified full of additional nutrients and vitamins. We are fortunate to have the most well-rounded diet in human history. For the average Australian, nutritional deficiencies are simply not a problem, so vitamins and supplements will have no statistical benefit.

**I NEED TO MAKE UP FOR MY BAD DIET**

Myth! Taking vitamins and supplements will not compensate for a poor diet! Just because you make poor food choices, this does not necessarily mean you are not getting the nutrients you need. A so called 'bad diet' normally comes down to too many calories consisting of too many fats and sugars, and not a lack of nutrients. Your diet may not be optimal, but taking a pill isn't going to counteract it. And if you are eating a well-balanced diet, well than there is no need whatsoever for additional vitamins.

Either way, it's not going to make a difference.

**VITAMINS AND SUPPLEMENTS CAN BE BENEFICIAL FOR THOSE WHO DO NEED THEM**

Vitamins and supplements have their place and can be beneficial for people who suffer from deficiencies or have special medical needs. But don't just assume that you are deficient in an area. Get checked out by a professional. Not some so called nutritional guru or naturopath. See your doctor.

**THE VERDICT - WHEN IT COMES TO VITAMINS AND SUPPLEMENTS, SAVE YOUR MONEY AND INSTEAD EAT YOUR FRUITS AND VEGGIES JUST LIKE YOUR MUMMY TOLD YOU.**

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This is the most advanced skateboard out yet. If Santa needs directions, send him to [www.amazon.co.uk](http://www.amazon.co.uk)



## THE APOCALYPSE IS HERE

IT'S ONLY A FEW MONTHS UNTIL WE HIT HALLOWEEN, SO WE THOUGHT WE'D GIVE THOSE OF YOU WHO LIKE TO GET INVOLVED A "HEAD" START.

Halloween in Australia has really picked up in the last few years, so if you want to be the coolest house on the street, you'll definitely want one or two of these life size zombie garden sculptures.

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# CHAMPION COWBOY

**HE'S ROUGH. HE'S TOUGH. HE'S 14-YEAR-OLD KADE ATTENBOROUGH FROM MUSWELLBROOK AND HE HAS JUST TAKEN ON THE WORLD NATIONAL JUNIOR HIGH FINALS RODEO CHAMPIONSHIPS IN DALLAS, USA.**

Featuring roughly 1,000 contestants from 43 states, 5 Canadian provinces, Australia and Mexico, the NJHFR is the worlds largest junior high rodeo final and now one of the notches on this youngster's belt.

It's been a life on the road

in recent years for the Attenborough family, with Kade's passion for bull riding taking them all around Australia.

**"HE'S A NATURAL," FATHER MATT ATTENBOROUGH SAYS GLEAMING WITH PRIDE. "HE JUST TAKES IT ALL IN HIS STRIDE. HE HAS**

**THE RIGHT COMMITMENT AND ATTITUDE AT SUCH A YOUNG AGE, THAT IF HE CONTINUES THIS COULD TAKE HIM ANYWHERE."**

Rodeo in America is a massive sport and the opportunities are endless, and the sponsorship dollars aren't too

bad either. "The USA are really into their bull riding. As you enter the towns, if they've had a successful local come from that area, there will be signs saying Welcome To [town] home of [competitors name] and what they have achieved. It's crazy." explained Matt.

Kade rode in the event not only to try for the title but also for the opportunity for an education scholarship in America. Unfortunately, after Round 2, Kade's score wasn't high enough to see him progress through to the final round but he should still be very proud of what he achieved.

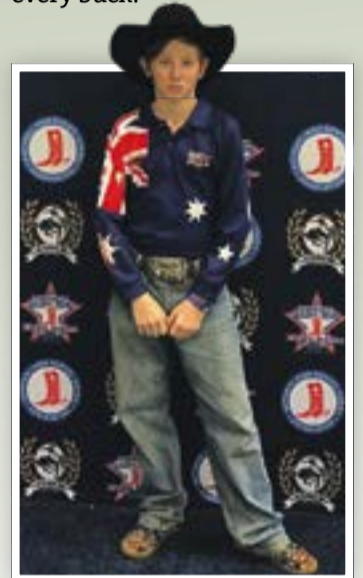
**"IT WAS MY FIRST TIME AT A HIGH SCHOOL FINALS AND IT WAS HUGE. IT'S UNBELIEVABLE. THINGS ARE GOING GREAT AND THE EXPERIENCE IS SOMETHING I WILL TREASURE FOR THE REST OF MY LIFE. I OWE A LOT TO MY MUM AND DAD FOR SUPPORTING ME IN CHASING MY DREAMS." KADE SAID.**

Kade also wanted to thank his parents work for allowing them the time off to support him. "I really want to thank HypO2 Hunter Valley for helping me get here." said Kade.

Kade is chasing a career in

bull riding though he does acknowledge it's going to take a lot of hard work as it's a fiercely competitive sport. But he's a kid that has taken the bull by the horns, so to speak, heading off to compete in America to make a name for himself. Not bad for a kid from the Hunter Valley who started riding poddy calves as a 9-year-old.

Kade's now back at home to get some practice and a few rodeos in before he heads back over to America, this time to Dallas for the World Junior Bull Riding Finals in Texas. We wish you all the best Kade, and we will be following your every buck!



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# KICKING UP A STORM

**THANKS TO THE SUPPORT OF CFMEU'S MT OWEN AND GLENDELL LODGES, A SMALL BAND OF DETERMINED ATHLETES DONNED THE GREEN AND GOLD TO TAKE PART IN A MULTINATIONAL MUAY THAI COMPETITION IN THAILAND.**

The 3rd International & Thai Martial Arts Games were held over 2 weeks in the heart of Bangkok and attracted some 1400 competitors from 62 countries. Among those representing the Australian team was a small contingent from local Raymond Terrace gym, Nova Martial Arts.

Gym owner, head coach and competitor, Rod Staader, led 8 men into the fray: Steve Raisbeck, Nathan Jones, Kurt Thorley, Mick Westwood, Rhys Cochran, Neil Moir, Joel Anderson and Joe Florence. Joel and Joe are both operators and proud CFMEU members and it was this that proved to be a decisive factor in the team's success.

Joel approached the Mt Owen Lodge seeking support for the trip and they were only too happy to get behind the boys. Brad Bates, Mt Owen Lodge Secretary presented Joel's case before the crews who wholeheartedly supported it.

**"WE SUPPORT SO MANY GREAT CHARITIES LIKE RONALD MCDONALD HOUSE AND WESTPAC RESCUE HELICOPTER, BUT WE ALSO THINK IT'S VERY IMPORTANT TO SUPPORT OUR OWN. SO, WHEN JOEL APPROACHED US WE WERE HAPPY TO BE ABLE TO HELP HIM AND THE GUYS OUT." BRAD SAID.**

The Glendell Lodge also got involved and thanks to the two lodges the trip was made possible. "The entire team would like to express their gratitude to all of those lodges' members and the CFMEU at large for so graciously helping to fund our campaign." Joel said. "We really would have struggled without the lodges backing us."

During the fierce competition Team Australia faced warriors from France, Russia, Brazil, Jordan, Afghanistan, Vietnam, Argentina, and the always heavily favoured and outrageously talented Thailand.

**"EVERY MEMBER OF TEAM AUSTRALIA FOUGHT WITH PRIDE AND HEART AND I AM PROUD TO REPORT THAT WE DIDN'T COME HOME EMPTY HANDED. IN FACT, A TOTAL OF 10 MEDALS WERE WON, INCLUDING 3 GOLD. FOR SOME, IT WAS THEIR FIRST FORAY AT SUCH A LEVEL, FOR OTHERS, ANOTHER NOTCH ON AN ALREADY IMPRESSIVE RECORD." JOEL SAID.**

It is not difficult to imagine the expense involved in getting 9 men to Thailand, feeding and accommodating them for 11 days

and nights, transportation costs, training whilst there and team uniforms. The sponsorship played a huge role in not only enabling the whole team to attend, but also in ensuring their readiness for competition.

Joel said that the trip was an unforgettable experience. "Along with the spoils of victory, we returned home with tales of borrowed mouthguards, deep fried insects, overzealous shop owners, brushes with the law (apparently the Thai police aren't big fans of open air shirtless training in public parks), injuries, weight cuts, cranky hotel staff, aircraft turbulence and getting on the wrong side of a Thai boy-band. We are so grateful to everyone that helped make it possible."

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**SOME GREAT RACES. WHILE DOING THE BATHURST 12 HOUR, HE MET ANDREW MIEDECKE WHO ASKED HIM IF HE WANTED TO RACE HIS V8 UTE.**

“My first ever national race was in the V8 Utes. I was thrown in the deep end there. It was a 2-driver combination, so I drove with Andrew’s son, George. We ended up winning at the Clipsal 500 which was huge. The adrenalin was beyond anything I’ve experienced. I was sitting on pole and I had that much adrenalin that I stuffed the start completely, but anyway we ended up winning that weekend.”

“So that’s how my Ute career started. That category was one of the toughest things I have ever done, it was such close racing, sometimes there’s not even a second apart in the Top 10.”

**DURING HIS TIME BEHIND THE WHEEL JEREMY HAS DRIVEN ON EVERY CIRCUIT IN AUSTRALIA. HE DROVE WITH STEVEN JOHNSON BACK WHEN DICK JOHNSON WAS RUNNING THE TEAM. HE’S RACED IN THE PORSCHE CARRERA CUP, BATHURST 1000 AND PLENTY OF OTHER BITS AND PIECES HERE AND THERE.**

These days Jeremy is racing an Aston Martin GT4 in the Australian GT series. “It took a while to learn the car, but we’re actually winning the championship now with 2 rounds to go. We’ve got Sydney Motorsport Park which is the undercard for the Supercars, then off to New Zealand.”

We asked Jeremy what’s his career

highlight been so far, and he said without a doubt the Clipsal 500. “It was really special in the V8 Utes coming from a state level racing, stepping onto the big stage. If I was to pinpoint one that would be it. But over the years, even to just to get on the podiums for the Utes is pretty special.”

**JEREMY ALSO RACED IN THE V8’S UTES AT NEWCASTLE. “YEAH THAT WAS A BIG WEEKEND. THE CROWD LINING UP IN THE MORNING WAS JUST PHENOMENAL AND NEWCASTLE EMBRACED IT SO WELL. I GOT THE LAP RECORD AROUND NEWCASTLE. I THINK WE FINISHED FOURTH FOR THE WEEKEND, SO WE GOT ON THE PODIUM FOR ONE RACE.”**

When it comes down to it Jeremy said the most important thing is preparation. “When you’re running your own team now like I am doing, it’s massive. 3 months preparation for just 1 race. You need a crew of about 8 and they are all a critical part of the team and its success.”

It’s been an amazing career for Jeremy so far and we look forward to watching him take out this year’s GT4 Championship.



# UTE BEAUT

**WHEN HE’S NOT BUSY RUNNING JMG MAINTENANCE AND FABRICATION AT MUSWELLBROOK, JEREMY GRAY IS DRIVING UP A STORM.**

“I’ve always raced motorbikes.” Jeremy tells us. “A bit of supercross and motocross at a younger age, and I’ve always had that need for speed. Then I started working with a guy that use to do hill climbs in a Torana. He asked me to come along and have a look and I ended up getting my license. I realised I could steer a little and decided to build my own car and then it took off from there.”

Jeremy’s first car was a cheap AU Falcon he found up in Queensland. He boarded a plane with his wife and their new baby son and his car seat and then drove all the way back home in it. “We did get pulled over in Scone because it didn’t have any rego, but I had gotten a special permit, so it was all good and we all made it home safely.” Jeremy said.

**SINCE THOSE EARLY DAYS JEREMY HAS DRIVEN SOME GREAT CARS IN**



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# SNAPPER FEVER

IT'S BEEN SNAPPER FEVER WITH PLENTY OF ACTION RIGHT ALONG THE HUNTER'S COAST WHETHER IT'S OFF THE ROCKS OR FROM THE BOAT. SOFT PLASTICS AND FLOATING BAITS AROUND DAWN AND DUSK PROVING DEADLY, LET'S HOPE THE BITE CONTINUES THROUGHOUT THE REST OF WINTER.

## LAKE MAC

Flatties and Bream are on the chew the lake reacting well to soft plastics and soft vibes.

Out the front in Salts Bay the Salmon are providing plenty of fun on light gear, for those looking at taking them on it pays to fish with

small lightly weighted clear soft plastics.

## BAY OF PLENTY

Lots of Blackfish are coming from the rock walls inside the bay so be sure to book a ticket with the locals and get in early as it's been standing room only.

Reports are that a few nice Jewies are also hanging out along the Marina walls. If your prepared to stick it out and soak some live bait's you will be in with a chance.

Bream fishing has been great as well, especially with the bit of fresh pushing down into the bay after the recent rain.

## FROM THE ROCKS

Great opportunities from



AL STEPPING UP HIS PLASTICS GAME IN THE LAKE ON THE FLATTIES.



YOUNG GUN DASH NEWELL AGED 4, WITH HIS CATCH AT NAMBUCCA HEADS

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the rocks at the moment, with the westerly winds taming the seas.

With so many rocky headlands and bays to explore especially around Port Stephens, arm yourself with a fist full of lures containing squid jigs, metal spinners and a few

soft plastics and even a bit of Cunjevoi. This will have most bases covered. Plenty of things to target, such as Squid from the protected bays, Snapper, Tailor, Drummer, Grouper, Blackfish and Bream around the washes.

Keep floatin' - The Thrifty's

# Northwest Mining

Mining for the future

Established in 2010, Northwest Mining Company is a mine support business based in Muswellbrook, NSW. Locally-owned and operated, we offer equipment hire, labour solutions and automotive services to clients across the Hunter Valley and are fast becoming a leading region provider.

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# SMOOTH OPERATOR

**IN THE NINETIES, CATERPILLAR FIRST IDENTIFIED THE NEED FOR LARGER GRADERS FOR MAINTAINING HAUL ROADS USED BY HEAVY-DUTY HAUL TRUCKS.**

Having paved the way (excuse the pun) with their 785 (150t), 789 (180t) and 793 (240t) class trucks, they were well progressed in developing their class topping 797 (at the time 327t), when in 1996 they introduced the Cat 24H.

The largest of all H Series graders, this turbo charged machine stood in a class of its own, effectively stamping its authority as the mining machine of choice, when grading haul roads of medium and large mine sites. Remaining

unchallenged, this machine has continued to evolve with the introduction of the 24M in 2007 and most recently the 24, heralding Cat's new generation of products that now exclude the letter modifier that we've all become so used to (a story for another day perhaps).

**SO, WHAT'S SO GOOD ABOUT THIS ONE? IF WE WERE TO PLAY 'BUZZ**

**WORD BINGO', THIS GRADER TICKS ALL THE RIGHT BOXES WITH IMPROVEMENTS ACROSS SAFETY, OPERATOR ACCEPTANCE, DURABILITY, VERSATILITY AND RELIABILITY.**

Thus, if we start with the assumption that this machine incorporates the latest bells and whistles, too broad for the scope of this article, it is perhaps most appropriate, that I focus on the key differences that define this machine from its predecessor.

To begin with, its heavier, gaining an 11% increase in weight, to sport a 'typically equipped' mass of circa 73t.

The addition of these kilos has resulted in greater blade down pressure and increased traction, allowing this machine to maintain a more consistent ground speed, when carrying a larger load on the 7.3m moldboard, working on grade, or turning under load.

Repowered with Cat's C27 ACERT engine, this grader now also has considerably more power than the smaller C18 previously used, resulting in a 15% improvement in low-end torque when compared with the M.

**NOT BAD, GIVEN THE UPSIZING NOW PROLONGS THE TARGET REBUILD LIFE**

**OF THE ENGINE BY AN ESTIMATED 33%, THAT WHEN COUPLED WITH A MODULAR APPROACH IN DESIGN, HAS IMPROVED COMPONENT CHANGEOUTS TIMES BY UP TO 70%, IN THE CASE OF THE TRANSMISSION AND COOLING PACKAGE.**

Unlike the graders of 'yesteryear' (and yes, I realise that was not all that long ago!) that were operated by lever and wheel, today's machines are operated via joystick control. Albeit the early resistance when introduced by Cat in their M Series graders in 2007, this method of operation has achieved widespread acceptance globally.

Interestingly, this technology has led to a 78% reduction in hand and wrist actions, that when paired with Caterpillar's Cat GRADE with Cross Slope systems, has improved operator productivity and haul road quality, resulting in lower truck tire wear, decreasing rolling resistance as well as reducing premature tyre failure; music to all ears, especially the number crunchers that sit in windowless rooms of ivory towers...

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**Harvey Norman**







# HARD ROCK

**THIS IS NOT YOUR ORDINARY BOY BAND, THE BOYS FROM TAKE MY SOUL KICK ASS AND LIFT THE ROOF OFF.**

Comprising 5 likeminded boys from various musical backgrounds, each tasting their own success with other bands, the boys have united and in under 12 months have already set the music scene alight.

Their music is being played internationally with regular air time in New Zealand and they have recently supported international acts Secrets (USA) and more recently Alien Weaponry (NZ). The boys have

already achieved so much in so little time. They are soon to drop their first EP which has been a work in progress for them, juggling work and late nights practicing around shiftwork to complete it.

**NOT BAD FOR A FEW TALENTED COAL MINERS AND THEIR MATES. TAKE MY SOUL IS MADE UP OF HAMISH UNAHI, JAMES STREZOV, CHRIS HIX, CHRIS ESHMAN AND BEN RUDDER.**

Hamish has just finished at

Bulga Underground after 6 years and was lucky enough to be transitioned across to Ravensworth Open Cut and is looking forward to life aboveground. Chris is an operator at Mt Thorley and Ben is the Store Manager at Persas.

The band have released their debut film clip "The Fall" which was produced locally by Holiday Music and currently has over 4,000 views on YouTube.

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The teacher said to his class one day, "Please stand up, anyone who thinks they're stupid."

Nobody stood up, so the teacher said, "I'm sure there are some stupid students in this class!"

At this point Little Johnny stood up.

The teacher said, "Oh Johnny! So, you think you're stupid then?"

Little Johnny replied, "No, I just felt bad that you were standing up on your own."

**WHEN WE ASKED WHAT GENRE TAKE MY SOUL WOULD FALL UNDER AND HOW THEY WOULD DESCRIBE THEIR MUSIC, HAMISH SAYS, "WE DON'T LIKE TO DEFINE OUR MUSIC BY A CERTAIN GENRE, WE ARE JUST HUMANS MAKING MUSIC THAT APPEALS TO A VARIETY OF PEOPLE."**

If I was to give these boys the biggest wrap they've had yet, I would say they are a cross between Linkin Park and Korn. There you go boys.

When asked about the direction of the band the positivity from all the boys

shone through. "Things have just moved so fast in under 12 months," says Hamish.

"We are so grateful for the great support we have received so far. We couldn't have got to where we are today without the local support of Jeff from Sun St Studio, Josh from Holliday Music, Clint from Sawtooth Studio, James from Studio 1618 and Josh and Buddy from Lost Light Bookings."

To stay up to date and find out when the boys are playing next, follow them on Facebook

**[www.facebook.com/takemysoulband](http://www.facebook.com/takemysoulband)**

## TOGETHER WE GROW.

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# PIE JULY

AS YOU ALL KNOW, JULY HAS BECOME THE MOST BORING MONTH OF THE YEAR. IT'S BLOODY FREEZING AND HALF THE POPULATION HAS GIVEN UP THE GROG FOR GOOD HEALTH AND A GOOD CAUSE.

Yes, siree my friends, it's slim pickings at Pielament House or 'The Club House Hotel' as some of you know it during Dry July. With so many off the grog I even considered closing the doors and heading to the summer residence in Tuncurry for the month but being winter it's bloody freezing up there as well. So,



I'm soldiering on with the support of a few battle-hardened beer lovers who understand that charity begins at home; my home and pub to be precise.

It takes a lot of courage for this brave lot, who despite intense pressure from their better halves to join the jolly non-drinkers for a month, instead continue to support me. Don't get me wrong, I kind of understand the quitters who are telling anyone who will listen about their amazing willpower by going alcohol free.

**ME MYSELF THOUGH, HAVE NEVER BEEN CALLED A QUITTER AND NEVER WILL BE. I'M GOING THE OTHER WAY AND SETTING UP TWO NEW CHARITY EFFORTS CALLED 'BEERS FOR A BETTER WORLD' AND 'PIES FOR PEACE' IN COMPETITION WITH 'DRY JULY'.**

## THE PIEMINISTER

How 'Beers for a better world' works is that every time some do-gooding temporary non-drinker proudly tells you they have given up for the month they automatically owe you a beer and then you donate the value of that beer to a worthy cause.

'Pies for peace' on the other hand is a way of keeping those who have been a bit too successful in their 'Beers for a better world' efforts out of trouble. There's nothing like a pie to line the stomach for a session on the beers and to stop drinkers getting all punchy from being drunk. So for every tenth beer I donate a pie in the interests of peace to that patron. Where do these peaceful pies come from I hear you ask? Merriwa Bakery... the home of flaky, meaty perfection.

**August you can not come quick enough...**

**Your fearless leader, Pieminister Sol**

## BEER O'CLOCK

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## BOWDLER'S BEER REVIEW

@ The Coalface beer expert  
Richard Bowdler brings you this month's beer review.

PONTOON IN A MONSOON PALE ALE by DEEP CREEK BREWING COMPANY

**Made:** Auckland, New Zealand

**Cost:** Around \$8 per 440ml can

**Alcohol:** 6.9%... woah!!

**Color:** Deep Amber (very unusual for a pale ale).

**Nose:** Quite mild fruity mixed hops. Nice.

**Taste:** Initially slightly sweet with complex hops overtones.

**Mouth:** A full bodied ale with plenty of taste. Exactly like it should be.

**Aftertaste:** Awesomely complex hops finish. Tastes kind of sweet

until the 6 second mark when the hops kick in. The bitter finish keeps growing and growing right out to a ripper bitter 15 seconds after a swig.

**Comments:** Easily the best IPA I've ever reviewed. Takes on all comers worldwide for taste and packs a kick like a mule. Usually increasing a beer's alcohol past 5.3% in the brewing process results in a badly degraded taste. These Kiwi legends have totally nailed it with a full bodied 6.9% Pale that tastes excellent.

**Score:** 10/10



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# THEATRE OF FOOD

WHEN THE BOSS ASKED ME TO DO A REVIEW ON MY RECENT VISIT TO THE KAVON, I HESITATED. HOW COULD I GIVE HONEST FEEDBACK WHEN I CAN'T EVEN REMEMBER WHAT THE ENTRÉE WAS AND SPENT MOST OF THE NIGHT HOLDING UP A STICK WITH A SKULL ON TOP.

The Kavon Theme Restaurant was the recent venue for a social function

I was lucky enough to attend and from what I do remember it was a

bloody top night. Whether it's a staff party or an entertaining night out

with friends, this is the place to go.

From the moment we entered the night was a non-stop interactive experience with ghouls, vampires and demons yelling at us. Not abusive yelling, it was some of the funniest, crudest, one-liners imaginable. The staff are so in character and over the top it's not right to not laugh.

As we settled in for the evening and ordered our first drinks, I was advised that we had to hold the skeleton skull up to order drinks. If we were to hold up our arm without the said skull, then all we would get would be a prostate examination. From that point in time I decided my arms were not going up without the stick, even to clap!

**AS I SAID, THERE IS NO WAY I CAN REMEMBER WHAT THE ENTRÉE WAS. WHAT I CAN TELL YOU THOUGH IS THAT THE JUGS OF BOURBON WERE MADE TO PERFECT CONSISTENCY.**

In an effort to bring you the facts, I rang a round a few others from the group. Not surprisingly, none of

the blokes could tell me what they ate. Luckily a few of the more sensible girls, who didn't spend the whole night holding up the skull, did remember.

It turns out the entrées were a selection of salt & pepper squid, lamb kofta and parmesan corn risotto. I now recall I had the salt & pepper squid and it was beautiful! The main meals were a chicken schnitzel with creamy bacon sauce and a medium to well done steak with sautéed bacon and leek.

The words on the night that I used to describe the steak was apparently a slurred "geez it's a bit dry." But by that stage of the night I would have used the same comment on anything that I imbibed that didn't come in a glass. Let's face it, once I start drinking, the thought of food is the last thing on my mind. Just keep the bourbon coming.

So, my feedback - do it! Book your staff Christmas party now! Don't wait. Your stomach will hurt so much from laughing you will think you have appendicitis!



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| CIGGY  | GDAY       | SHEILA  |
| COBBER | HARDYAKKA  | SNAG    |
| CROOK  | HUMDINGER  | STRAYA  |
| CUPPA  | KNICKERS   | STREWTH |
| DAKS   | LARGIE     | TUCKER  |
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S	U	Y	R	E	B	B	O	C	N	Y	K	K	I	P
X	B	K	K	G	R	Z	X	G	N	K	O	I	L	E
Z	M	K	N	N	Z	V	U	W	A	S	B	A	Y	R
D	D	A	R	I	I	A	O	Y	L	N	R	E	I	I
D	A	O	E	D	D	C	D	C	F	G	I	P	L	D
U	K	T	L	M	R	R	K	M	I	B	P	D	D	X
W	S	O	L	U	A	Z	I	E	R	E	K	C	U	T
Y	N	V	O	H	L	A	Y	A	R	T	S	I	N	C
H	A	E	Q	R	T	O	B	V	F	S	H	G	N	W
J	G	D	S	C	C	W	B	H	C	C	E	G	Y	S
U	A	N	G	C	U	B	E	B	A	H	I	Y	N	S
M	H	V	Z	F	P	S	B	R	O	L	L	Y	H	H
G	I	Y	L	Z	P	U	X	W	T	Y	A	J	Y	Q
I	C	R	A	M	A	T	E	R	S	S	C	G	I	K

## @ THE COALFACE PRIZE WINNERS

VOLUME 2 - NO 9: JUNE - JULY 2018

Singleton Outdoors RCS35  
Chainsaw - K O'Keefe

Complete Parts CAT793D -  
Elliot Smith

Roberts Meats Raffle - Paul Roeth

Taronga Zoo Family Pass -  
Gwenda Ritter

Clubhouse XXXX - Daniel Wilson

Café La Luna Cake - Scott Goodhew

WINNERS!

**CONGRATULATIONS  
TO ALL OUR WINNERS!**

## @ THE COALFACE TRIVIA

THIS MONTH: **STATE OF ORIGIN**

**Q1.** Who won the very first state of Origin match?

**Q2.** What team has had the longest winning streak?

**Q3.** What year did State of Origin become a three-match series?

**Q4.** What team scored the most points in a single series?

**Q5.** Who is the youngest ever player to play Origin?

**Q6.** Largest crowd attendance at an Origin game?

**Q7.** Longest-serving Origin coach?

**Q8.** Who has played the most Origin games?

**A5:** Ben Ikin first played for Queensland at the tender age of 18 years and 83 days, making him the youngest Origin player ever. **A6:** 2015 saw the largest ever crowd when 91,513 people turned up at the MCG. **A7:** Mal Meninga has been heading up the Queensland side for a decade, covering 30 matches and making him the longest serving coach in Origin history. **A8:** Both Darren Lockyer and Cameron Smith of Queensland each played 36 matches for the Maroons.

**A1:** In 1980, Queensland won the historic first game with a score of 20 - 10. Back then, the series was only one match. **A2:** Queensland can claim the longest winning streak of the sides, with nine consecutive years from 2006 to 2013. **A3:** For the first couple of years, the sides only played each other once for the title. It wasn't until 1982 that it became a three-match series. **A4:** New South Wales can brag about their clean sweep in 2000 when they scored a whopping 146 points in the series.

ANSWERS



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# BEAT THE BLUES

**WHAT BETTER PLACE FOR A COAL MINER TO FORGET ALL ABOUT WORK THAN THE BLUE MOUNTAINS. UNDERGROUND CAVES, REPURPOSED MINE SITES AND BULKY BOOTS AND JACKETS. WAIT. THAT SOUNDS FAMILIAR...**

Only a few hours' drive, the Blue Mountains offers some of Australia's most spectacular scenery with its breathtaking lookouts, sparkling waterfalls and hidden caves.

Our first stop was to Scenic World. Established in 1945, when Harry Hammon and his sister Isobel Fahey bought the lease of the Katoomba Colliery Limited, it had operated as a working mine since 1928. The showpiece of Scenic World is the steepest passenger railway in the world which takes you down into the rainforest on a 310 metre descent. Then it's back up the top to take in the amazing views from the Skyway and Cableway. Talk about being on top of the world.

**THE FOLLOWING DAY WE HEADED OUT FROM LEURA TO VISIT JENOLAN CAVES. THERE'S A BUNCH**

**OF DIFFERENT TOURS AVAILABLE TARGETED AT DIFFERENT LEVELS OF FITNESS, AGE AND GROUP SIZE. AS WE HAD THE LITTLE ONE WITH US WE TOOK ONE OF THE FAMILY TOURS TO THE IMPERIAL ORIENT CAVES.**

Straight up we realised that we had been given a dud of a tour guide. As I was explaining to my excited daughter about the cave we would be going into the tour guide turns to me and tells me to shush. Her boring commentary throughout the tour was frequently interspersed with "Don't touch. Be quiet. I'm talking." It felt like I was back in school.

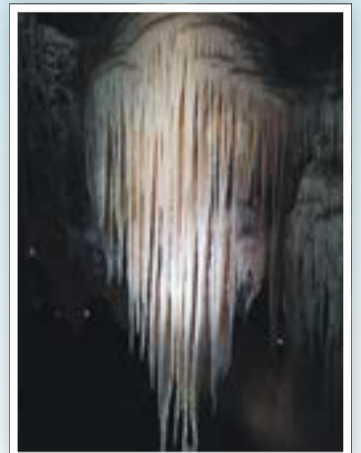
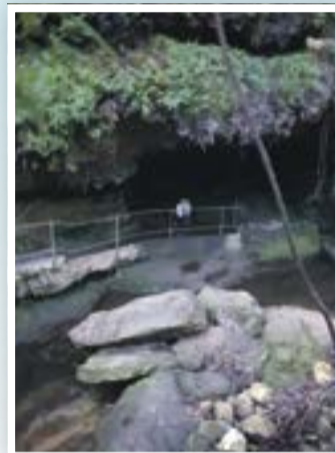
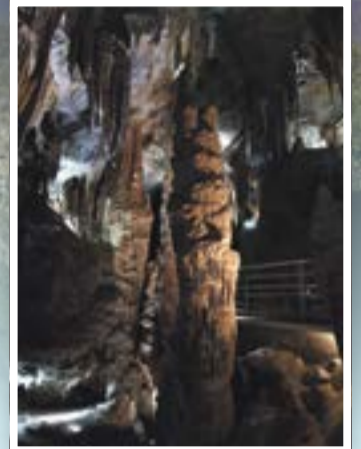
But the caves more than made up for the annoying guide. The immensity, the stunning natural architecture and when the lights went out the absolute darkness was like

nothing I'd experienced. Or as the little one said best. "Spooky."

As we were leaving we were a few metres ahead of the group. The guide patronisingly tells us to not wander as it's very dangerous being underground. My husband whose patience has finally worn thin turns and says, "I've been working in underground coal mines for decades. I think I can manage to walk through a tunnel." The guide pointedly ignores us from then on.

**ON THE FINAL DAY WE PUT ON THE HIKING BOOTS AND TOOK A WALK DOWN TO LEURA CASCADES AND ALONG SOME OF THE LOOKOUT PATHS TAKING IN THE VIEWS OF THE THREE SISTERS FROM ECHO POINT. WORDS CAN'T DO JUSTICE TO THE SHEER MAJESTY OF THIS PLACE.**

Regardless of what type of trip you're after the Blue Mountains is a great little getaway. Bring out your inner Bear Grylls and enjoys the abundance of outdoor activities like rock climbing and abseiling. Take it easy and stroll down to the lookouts or browse through the local shops. And at the end of your day find a cozy restaurant with roaring fireplace and relax.



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# Bailey



# AT TITAN WE DON'T COMPROMISE NOR SHOULD YOU

Whether we're supplying or servicing your tyres, wheels, tracks or axles you can rely on Titan for the most innovative and cost-effective solution for your business allowing you to fully concentrate on what you do best, moving, growing, and succeeding.



## UNDERCARRIAGE

Titan Australia is the distributor and service support provider of ITM undercarriage products, a worldwide leader in the design and manufacture of components and complete undercarriage solutions.

ITM, a 100% owned subsidiary of Titan International, is a world leading specialist designer and manufacturer of undercarriage components, covering the entire range of modern crawler machine applications in the construction, mining, utility, forestry, road building and agricultural industries. Titan Australia provide OE & Aftermarket specialist sales & service support for ITM products across Australia.

ITM is the supplier of choice to many of the worlds OEM's in the field of tracked machines including Atlas Copco, Bucyrus, Doosan, JCB, John Deere, Hitachi, Hyundai, Komatsu, Liebherr, Sandvik, Terex, Volvo and Wirtgen Group.

Our repair facilities located across Australia in Perth, WA; Emerald, QLD; and Muswellbrook, NSW, allow our customers easy access for repairs and maintenance. Each track shop features a range of specialised machinery designed to carry out a broad range of undercarriage services. This combined with the expertise of our service teams, ensures our customers undercarriage needs are met to the highest standards.



## SERVICES & REPAIRS

### UNDERCARRIAGE SERVICE AND REPAIRS

Titan provides complete inspection, repair and certification services for all customer undercarriage requirements from our workshops at the following locations...

- Perth - Western Australia
- Emerald - Queensland
- Muswellbrook - NSW

Other Services include, major track frame re-build, idler & roller exchange as well as C.T.S. Inspections.

### WHEEL SERVICE AND REPAIRS

The wheel is the most integral part of a ground vehicle. Every aspect of design and development is unique for each application.

By working with our customers we continually improve current designs and research technology to develop more effective products.

Our in-house wheel and rim inspection, repair and certification services are performed by our fully qualified staff in accordance with AS:4457.1: 2007 and related standards in Western Australia (WA), Queensland (QLD), New South Wales (NSW) and Victoria (VIC).



## WHEELS & TYRES

Titan Wheels Australia is the market leader in the design, development and manufacture of wheels to the 'off-highway' industry. Supplying the world's most respected original equipment manufacturers like Caterpillar, Volvo, Komatsu and Liebherr means that our product, service and delivery must consistently meet the high standards set by these companies.

In addition, Titan Australia designs, develops and manufactures wheels for the agricultural, construction and mining industries. From earthmoving equipment, trucks and tractors to forklift and industrial vehicles, no mobile tyre problem is too big or too challenging. We will get your vehicles on the move again fast, minimizing downtime and maximizing the return on your tyre investments. Titan offers a complete range of wheels, from 6" through to 63" in diameter, including fixed welded wheels, adjustable bolted tractor wheels, demountable (spider mount) rim options and clip-on dual applications.

Manufacturing capabilities are backed by the best wheel engineers, Customer Service Department and dedicated sales team all ensuring that components are manufactured to the highest standards and delivered on time. As a customer-focused and process-oriented company, no other wheel manufacturer can match our experience, capability, quality and design. Environmental accreditation along with attention to waste control is a reflection of our company values.