

@THE COAL FACE

Vol 2 No 11: August - September 2018



TRAPPED!

READ SOME REMARKABLE
STORIES ABOUT MINERS WHO
SURVIVED BEING TRAPPED
UNDERGROUND, INCLUDING
BEACONSFIELD MINER
BRANT WEBB.

PAGE 20



BYE BYE BULGA

WE SAY GOODBYE TO ONE OF THE
HUNTER'S BENCHMARK MINING OPERATIONS.

PAGE 14



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HARD WORK DELIVERS



As the old saying goes, 'From little things big things grow'. Thirteen years ago a small local delivery service started with one ute and one truck and they are now running a fleet of seventy eight. The Pit Patrol business now also comprises retail, their own mechanic shop and of course admin to 'keep the show on the road'.

In the face of large multi-national logistics companies only a mad person would think they stood a chance.

THEY DIDN'T COUNT ON THE GRIT, DETERMINATION AND GUTS OF THE PEOPLE WHO HAVE BUILT THE DREAM OVER THE YEARS.

That determination also included continual growth through five years of a blistering downturn. Backing themselves along with the strength and vision to diversify and broaden the business has seen Pit Patrol come out the other side with new contracts and new fleet. Spending over \$1m in last

three months alone is huge commitment and a sign of just how serious the company is about being the industry's number one choice.

Existing contracts with Peabody, Bengalla Mining and BHP Mt Arthur make Pit Patrol the preferred supplier in nearly all pits in the Hunter and Mudgee areas. A new 5 year contract with Glencore to service all sites including HVO and a 3 year contract

with Whitehaven servicing all Gunnedah and Narrabri, Boggabri sites is another proud testament to the company's commitment to the mining industry.

Beating the 'big guys' in the freight business at their own game is a big scoop for a local business and a lot of people in the right places recognize the value of a superior bespoke service that strives to understand the unique demands of the mining industry. The

ability to handle emergency and general freight Australia wide 24/7 along with performing some logistics 'miracles' for the major mining companies has been a cornerstone to success.

Culture and the importance of safety underpin what keeps driving this company forward and their eyes on the road ahead. Across the state and Australia wide, Pit Patrol delivers in every sense of the word.



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DOUBLE DOWN

THIS MONTH'S MAGAZINE MARKS TWO YEARS BACK IN BUSINESS FOR @ THE COALFACE AND THANKS TO YOU ALL IT'S BEEN A GREAT TWO YEARS.



Time flies when you are having fun and that's certainly been the case for the team who puts this magazine together for you every month. As we showcase all the ups and downs of our industry there's always plenty of laughter, sometimes a few tears and of course, a couple of beers.

It's not only been a great couple of years for us, but it's been great for our industry. Coal is still the backbone of the Hunter and will be for many years to come.

This month we gave a teary fond farewell to Suzie Messner from

Bloomfield. We have no doubt we will continue to hear about plenty more good deeds from this community crusader and we wish her all the best as she takes a well-deserved retirement.

We also said goodbye to Bulga Underground this month. Over 36 years, 825 permanent employees and over 1000 contractors all contributed to make Bulga a successful underground operation and to set Australian production records. Every one of them should be proud of the legacy they leave behind.

For history this month we brought you the remarkable stories of miners who have been trapped underground. Their stories are proof of the dangerous, dirty and dark conditions that our underground coal miners face every day just doing their jobs. They deserve our utmost respect.

THANKS TO ALL OUR READERS, OUR CONTRIBUTORS AND OUR ADVERTISERS FOR HELPING MAKE THIS LITTLE MAGAZINE POSSIBLE. CHEERS!

HUNDREDS GATHER FOR ANNUAL MINING CONFERENCE IN THE HUNTER

MAINTAINING A SAFE AND HEALTHY WORKPLACE IS THE HIGHEST PRIORITY FOR OUR INDUSTRY. WE ALSO PLACE GREAT IMPORTANCE ON ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT AND SUPPORTING OUR LOCAL MINING COMMUNITIES.

That's why our Health, Safety, Environment and Community Conference held each year in the Hunter is such an important event for mining in NSW.

Our Conference was sold out this year with more than 500 people from the Hunter and across NSW gathering to share ideas and listen to a range of speakers from industry and government.

The Conference brought our industry together to discuss our challenges, identify innovation opportunities, and celebrate excellence. The conference also focused on how to further improve health and safety for our workforce and quality of life for our local mining communities.

The Health, Safety, Environment & Community Awards are a highlight of the Conference, showcasing the

best innovations from across the industry in NSW.

Our award entrants were of a very high standard, demonstrating our industry's commitment to workplace safety and environmental management, and supporting local mining communities.

SPECIAL CONGRATULATIONS MUST GO TO GLENCORE THIS YEAR FOR WINNING TWO OF THE FOUR AWARD CATEGORIES, WITH THE GLENCORE RAVENSWORTH OPERATION WINNING BOTH THE ENVIRONMENT AND SAFETY CATEGORIES. CONGRATULATIONS TO THIESS MT OWEN WHO TOOK OUT THE AWARD FOR HEALTH EXCELLENCE AND TO BHP MT ARTHUR COAL TOOK OUT THE COMMUNITY EXCELLENCE AWARD.



Stephen Galilee
CEO, NSW Minerals Council

The achievements of our award winners highlight the importance of our HSEC conference. As an industry, we continually strive to improve our workforce health and safety, minimise our impact on the environment, and find new ways to support our local communities.

Stephen Galilee
CEO, NSW Minerals Council

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THE HON. DON HARWIN,
MINISTER FOR RESOURCES

SAFETY FIRST

AS ALWAYS, THE HEALTH AND SAFETY OF WORKERS IN OUR MINING INDUSTRY IS A LEADING PRIORITY FOR THE NSW GOVERNMENT.



Headed by the Resources Regulator, the State's mining watch dog, a thorough state-wide safety sweep of over 100 mines, quarries, and petroleum sites and facilities right across NSW was conducted this past May in the largest operational deployment of personnel and resources since the Regulator's establishment in 2016.

CHARGED WITH UNDERTAKING CRITICAL COMPLIANCE MEASURES, THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THIS REGULATORY BODY HAS BEEN VITAL IN ENFORCING AND DELIVERING A BROAD RANGE OF ACTIVITIES AND INITIATIVES WITHIN THE MINING SECTOR.

The State plays an important

role in supporting these efforts and ensuring that the industry continues to develop and grow. All of this must be delivered within the parameters of an effective regulatory framework that protects the interests of those employed in the industry, the community, the environment as well as private investment in the sector.

Of the small number of concerns raised during the state-wide blitz, the Regulator was effective in helping identify appropriate actions that could be undertaken to address non-compliances on issues ranging from work health and safety to mine site rehabilitation.

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WIN!



BILLION OF \$10.4 BILLION INTO THE STATE'S ECONOMY IN 2016-17, THE HUNTER'S MINING INDUSTRY IS ARGUABLY THE ENGINE ROOM OF NSW. AS NSW'S LARGEST MINING COMMUNITY, THE RESULTS OF THE BLITZ SHOWED THAT SAFETY REMAINS AT THE FOREFRONT OF INDUSTRY OPERATIONS IN THE HUNTER VALLEY.

Despite the breadth of its thirty-odd mining operations, the Hunter still sets a commendable standard for mining conditions throughout the sector, delivering especially strong compliance rates in relation to rehabilitation activities and work health and safety obligations.

As always, it's safety first for mining in NSW. The State understands that the protection of our dedicated workforce and ensuring they return home each day is the central pillar upon which this bustling industry relies. And the positive result of the Resources Regulator's safety blitz stack up.

I'd like to congratulate the rigorous measures undertaken by the Regulator and commend industry operators for both their compliance and performance as we strive to keep mining in the Hunter and NSW in the safest of hands.

The Hon. Don Harwin, Minister for Resources

KEEPING AUSSIE MANUFACTURING STRONG



GUTS, DETERMINATION AND INNOVATION ARE ALIVE AND WELL AT RUTHERFORD MINING SUPPLIER J & S ENGINEERING.

Keeping manufacturing and local jobs alive and well in the face of offshore competition has seen many fall where J & S have thrived. How do they do it? Investment in technology and people that allows some of the regions smartest engineering minds to create solutions that lead the market where others imitate.

THEY MUST BE DOING SOMETHING RIGHT.

John and Sue Armstrong

started J&S Engineering more than 30 years ago in a small workshop in Rutherford. Today J&S Engineering has 7500 sqm of undercover workshop facilities and employ 100 staff.

Boasting one of the most comprehensive integrated CNC Machining and Heavy Engineering capabilities on the East Coast, J & S have gone the distance to become a company that not only the mining industry relies upon, but also generations

of staff and the Hunter community itself.

JUST ONE GREAT EXAMPLE OF HOW J&S CONTINUES TO INVEST IN TECHNOLOGY IS THE INTRODUCTION OF THE LATEST METROLOGY MEASURING ARM AT THEIR RUTHERFORD FACILITIES.

In the past the company re-manufacture methodologies have included manual techniques to determine condition of components after service life. Tools

included micrometres, calipers and gauges. These practices are time consuming and require considerable checks and balances to ensure quality data is captured.

The Metrology arm is a portable CMM unit which has the ability to capture data or directly compare critical features to a 3D model. The unit can be used to measure critical features on a component and easily determine relative positioning between features which would otherwise be difficult and inaccurate with traditional measuring devices.

THE INTRODUCTION OF THE METROLOGY ARM

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Continuous improvement is key to strong Australian manufacturing, and J&S's commitment to strong Australian manufacturing is at the heart of all they do. Aussie, Aussie, Aussie, Oi, Oi, Oi!

'AVE A LAUGH WITH

PH 02 6572 1230



The children were lined up in the cafeteria of a Catholic school for lunch.

At the head of the table was a large pile of apples with a note written by the nun.

'Take only ONE. God is watching.'

Further along the lunch line was a large pile of chocolate chip cookies on which a child had written a note.

'Take all you want. God is watching the apples.'

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IN THE NEWS...

SCRUBBED

The closure of Wallaby Scrub Road is set to go ahead with Singleton Council receiving approval in principle from the Department of Industry.

The approval relates to the closure of 5.99km of Wallaby Scrub Road from the intersection of Putty Road but excludes a portion of Crown road adjoining the road corridor. The closure is also conditional that the land is sold to adjoining landholders Warkworth Mining Limited and Miller Pohang Coal Company Pty Limited.

BACK TO WORK

Production will recommence at Austar after the NSW Resources Regulator lifted all prohibition notices following the coal burst incidents to allow limited longwall activities under controlled conditions.

Yancoal have recalled all employees who were stood down or redeployed to other Yancoal-owned underground operations to recommence production.

APPRENTICESHIPS ABOUND

The NSW Government is offering 100,000 free apprenticeships to ensure there is a strong pipeline of skilled workers across the state. The new \$285 million skills and training package means that as of July, free apprenticeships will be offered to newly enrolled apprentices in any course.

Deputy Premier and Minister for Skills John Barilaro said NSW needs more apprentices to ensure we have a strong pipeline of skilled workers for the NSW job market. “We know that without skilled workers, our economy will stall. This sort of free training offer has never been made before, so I encourage people thinking about skilling up, or starting a new career to make the most of it.” Mr Barilaro said.

The 100,000 free apprenticeships will be on offer over the next four years and include all 121 courses currently funded under the Smart and Skilled program.

A BLOW FOR HVO

More than 100 workers at Hunter Valley Operations are preparing to lose their jobs, according to the CFMEU. The union was called to meetings with managers at HVO which is joint-owned by Yancoal and Glencore.

“They formally advised us they were going to make 116 jobs redundant,” CFMEU Northern District president Peter Jordan told ABC radio.

A Glencore spokesman says HVO has begun consultation with employees and the CFMEU over the proposed restructure at the open cut mine and that all discussions on the restructure would be open and transparent, involving workers from all areas of HVO.

LOOKING FOR LEGENDS

Nominations are being sought for latest batch of outstanding Singleton citizens to join the Wambo Coal Singleton Hall of Fame.

Peabody Energy has partnered with Singleton Council to recognise individuals, families or local organisations who have achieved significant prominence at a state, national or international level in their field of endeavour since the Hall of Fame’s inception.

Nominations close on 7 September 2018, with this year’s inductees to be announced at a gala event on 14 November 2018.

DROUGHT DOUGH

With 99 per cent of the State now in drought the NSW Government has announced further support with a \$500 million Emergency Drought Relief Package, taking the total drought support to more than \$1 billion.

Premier Gladys Berejiklian said farmers are facing one of the driest winters on record, resulting in failing crops, drastic water shortages and a diminishing supply of fodder to sustain livestock.

For more information on the NSW Government’s emergency drought relief package visit www.droughthub.nsw.gov.au

A TON OF TRUCKS

Caterpillar has manufactured and delivered its 50,000th articulated truck since the first Cat-branded articulated truck was manufactured in Peterlee, United Kingdom in 1985.

It is the third truck milestone for Caterpillar this year, following the 5000th 793 mining truck and the 1000th 797 mining truck.

BOOM TIME

The production phase of Australia’s mining boom is continuing to create prosperity and jobs through massive export growth, with new records for coal exports released by the Australian Bureau of Statistics.

Australia’s exports of goods and services surpassed \$400 billion for the first time in 2017-18, due mainly to growth in resources exports which accounted for 55 per cent of total exports.

Coal exports were only just behind iron ore, reaching a new record high of \$60.1 billion in 2017-18 – up 11 per cent or \$5.9 billion from the previous year.

MORE HOPE

New Hope Corporation has made a binding commitment with Wesfarmers to double its interest in the Bengalla Joint Venture (JV) for \$860 million.

New Hope currently holds a 40 per cent interest in the Bengalla coal mine and the deal with Wesfarmers will allow them to acquire up to a further 40 per cent for a possible 80 per cent in total.

RALLY FOR RIGHTS

A recent rally at Muswellbrook led by the CFMEU called out on Hitachi to start treating their tradesman as ‘coalminers.’

The CFMEU’s Northern Mining and NSW Energy District President Peter Jordan said more than 50 tradesmen across the district were seeking to secure enterprise agreement conditions in line with the miners they toil alongside.

“Although they work in coal mines every day, Hitachi is refusing to recognise them as mineworkers. The issues mainly centre on those workers not being treated truly, in every respect, as coalminers,” Peter said.

Industrial action including rolling stoppages will continue until Hitachi offers a better deal.



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REHAB COMES BEFORE COAL

AS MACH ENERGY AND THIESS WORK TOWARD FULL OPERATIONS AT MOUNT PLEASANT, @ THE COALFACE SAW RECENTLY JUST HOW HARD THEY'RE ALSO WORKING ON PRE-PRODUCTION REHAB AND MAKING MUSWELLBROOK A PRIORITY.

Mount Pleasant Environment Superintendent Klay Marchant and External Relations Manager, Ngaire Baker recently showed us around the operation so we could see first hand how site preparations are forging ahead to ensure the mine is in world class shape to be able to work harmoniously with the community and residents of Muswellbrook. It was clear to us that both the Thiess

and MACH team genuinely care about getting this right and that it is a commitment they are very serious about. Reducing impacts and getting a better outcome is a cornerstone of this mine's development and it's not something the people of Muswellbrook are going to have to wait to see. As part of her role, Ngaire is in charge of community relations and she made it very clear, "At the end of the day we

really want to look after Muswellbrook as much as we can. Striving to get it right and do it right is paramount. There's a real sense of pride around this job. What we are doing here is crucial to the town and we fully understand that."

MACH ENERGY IS TAKING THEIR OBLIGATIONS AROUND DUST AND NOISE MITIGATION ABOVE AND BEYOND REGULATORY REQUIREMENTS SO THAT THE MINE IS VISUALLY APPEALING PRIOR TO THE COMMENCEMENT OF FULL OPERATIONS.

The team are committed to a sympathetic landform approach. Building an effective visual and noise barrier at Mount Pleasant is a priority to minimise dust and work is well underway with a natural sympathetic landform approach as opposed to the old style 'bread loaf' look.

Klay went on to explain, "It's not going to look like your average bund. It's going to have contours and peaks and valleys. An open grassy woodland with native grass, trees and shrubs plus a cover crop of Japanese millet to stabilise the soil and minimise dust impacts. This is a very important visual bund to Muswellbrook. Mitigating the visual and noise impacts are an absolute priority and good ground cover is vital to achieve that."

WE ALSO SAW THAT ROCK PILES AND STANDS OF TREE HOLLOWES HAVE BEEN INCORPORATED TO ACCOMMODATE AND PROMOTE A HABITAT FOR LOCAL FAUNA. HAVING ONLY BEEN INSTALLED A MONTH EARLIER, ON OUR VISIT WE DISCOVERED A FIELD MOUSE WHO HAS ALREADY TAKEN UP RESIDENCE IN ONE OF THE TREE HOLLOWES. WE COLLECTIVELY NAMED HIM 'STUART LITTLE'.

This is a mine that will develop via a strict program of progressive rehab. Klay said, "As soon as we have got dump available we'll rehab it straight away. The biggest challenge at the moment is the drought. It's making the job a bit more complex but in the context of what our local farmers are trying to contend with our problems there are insignificant to theirs, so we will just work for the best outcome under the conditions to achieve what needs to be done."

It's amazing to see how quick things can happen on a mine with the right sort of commitment. The mine has even constructed a high-quality sealed road for all light vehicle and non-heavy vehicle movements straight into the pit areas. There was no requirement to undertake the works but they believe it's the right way to go about things.

NGAIRE SUMMED IT ALL UP, "WHAT WE SAY WE ARE GOING TO DO, WE WILL DO."



THIESS ENVIRONMENT AND COMMUNITY SUPERINTENDENT MICHELLE ECKERSLEY, TRAINING COORDINATOR JAMES "BEEKY" RODGERS WITH MACH ENERGY'S EXTERNAL RELATIONS MANAGER NGAIRE BAKER.

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KATERINA STOJAKOVIC ACCEPTING THE AWARD FOR BHP MOUNT ARTHUR COAL FOR EXCELLENCE IN COMMUNITY

WORTHY WINNERS

OVER 500 PEOPLE FROM ACROSS NSW WERE IN ATTENDANCE TO CELEBRATE THE WINNERS OF THE 2018 NSW MINERALS COUNCIL HEALTH, SAFETY, ENVIRONMENT AND COMMUNITY CONFERENCE AWARDS.

"It was great to see our Award winners recognised for their excellence and innovation by such a large number of their industry peers, and on behalf of all our members I warmly congratulate them for their achievements," NSW Minerals Council CEO Stephen Galilee said.

WINNER - HEALTH EXCELLENCE

Mt Owen Positively Healthy

- Site Health Score - Thiess Mount Owen

For the past five years, Thiess Mt Owen has been running an annual Positively Healthy program with around 20 percent of the workforce participating each year. With the support of Ethos Health, the company aimed to increase employee participation and achieve real weight loss and positive overall health outcomes across the mine's workforce.

WINNER - SAFETY EXCELLENCE

Sizer Teeth Removal Innovation - Glencore Ravensworth

Crusher teeth require replacement up to three times a year usually involving the use of a 6.4kg copper sledgehammer to strike the used teeth, loosening them so they can be removed. The constant swinging and striking with the sledgehammer poses significant fatigue, ergonomic and soft tissue injury risks to the maintenance technician undertaking the teeth removal. The maintenance team at Ravensworth came up with a newer, safer method to eliminate

the use of the sledgehammer by redesigning the teeth themselves so a hydraulic flange splitter could be used to pull the teeth apart.

WINNER - ENVIRONMENT EXCELLENCE

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

The current method of monitoring dust levels is complicated by the difficulty in gathering sample data to assess the accuracy of the standard industry guidelines. Ravensworth addressed this issue by combining drone technology and gas sensors to gather accurate and quantifiable Nitrogen Dioxide concentration data from blast plumes. Results of the project have shown a correlation between the fume colour/intensity and Nitrogen Dioxide concentration which both supports and allows for future calibration of the standard industry guidelines.

WINNER - COMMUNITY EXCELLENCE

Strengthening Community Resilience through Partnership - Upper Hunter Community Services (UHCS) and BHP Mt Arthur Coal

As part of BHP Mt Arthur's commitment to the local community, the Community Capacity Building project (CCB) was developed as a four-year, \$1.14 million partnership between BHP and UHCS. The collaboration has helped several local and regional organisations by connecting them with the appropriate community agency or service, providing them with a meeting space within the UHCS building and assisting them with event planning, networking and grant applications.

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL THE WINNERS!

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PUBLISHER'S OPINION

GETTING THAT OPPORTUNITY

IF I'VE BEEN ASKED ONCE, I'VE BEEN ASKED A THOUSAND TIMES, "HOW DO I GET A START IN THE MINES?"

Even before coming on board at @ The Coalface as General Manager, this was a question I would always hear. Just like in every industry in our society, sometimes it's not what you know, it's who you know. While that does also happen in our industry, there's still plenty of ways you can increase your chances of getting that coveted position.

I'm going to put it plain and simple – nothing will beat preparation! Recruitment companies will certainly agree with me here. A cover letter is great and well done for having one, but from someone that's been there and done that, and assisted others successfully, here's a tip; if it's a criteria-based application, don't send in a bloody stock standard cover letter. Address the criteria. Break it down and reflect it on your previous work (paid or unpaid) or life experiences and give examples. If you don't you may not get a second look in. In fact, the person who addresses the criteria will often get a look in over the "who you know" in most cases.

IF A JOB ADVERT LISTS SEVERAL THINGS IN THE CRITERIA, DON'T SUBMIT YOUR LIFE STORY. ADDRESS THE CRITERIA CLEARLY AND SIMPLY AND REFLECT ON AN OCCASION YOU'VE PUT IT IN PRACTICE. AN EXAMPLE: MUST WORK WELL IN A TEAM. THEY DON'T WANT TO HEAR "I'VE BEEN A PART OF THE LOCAL FOOTY TEAM FOR 10 YEARS AND WON A PREMIERSHIP, SO TEAM WORK IS WHAT I DO."

You must answer each question with as much relevance as you can. Treat

TOP GRADE

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

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WIN!

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it like your first date. Don't ramble on with words to fill the space, instead go for quality responses with reference to past work experiences that will justify your answer. Remember, you don't have to flow it in one full letter. Complete an opening about what sets you apart and then separate each criterion and answer it.

Most people won't have it that their resume needs to be fixed. Previous jobs and a few referees don't cut it in this day and age. If you want to get that job, you need a smooth flowing informative resume at first glance. Not a resume that looks like a note to your child's teacher, or a novel listing everything including the time you were asked to clean a bathroom. Grab their attention quick and smart!

CONSIDER GETTING A PROFESSIONAL TO HELP YOU WITH YOUR RESUME, IT'S WORTH THE PRICE. YOU MAY ALSO WANT TO DO SOME RESEARCH INTO THE POSITION THAT IS BEING OFFERED. FIND SOMEONE WHO IS ALREADY WORKING IN THAT JOB AND ASK THEM FOR SOME TIPS.

Above all, keep it professional and remember, these days most employers will use social media to research potential employees. So, keep your social media clean!

MINER'S ART

RETIRED MINER RON SAMPSON HAS FOUND A WAY TO TURN PEOPLE'S JUNK INTO INCREDIBLE AND IMAGINATIVE ART.

There's nothing more that Ron enjoys then puttering around in the shed creating inventive sculptures and artworks from, believe it or not... scrap metal and old tools.

Ron's always been interested in art and design, but never had much time to for it during his working career, first in the army and then in the mining industry out at Mt Thorley.

BUT WHEN HE FINISHED UP IN MINING, RON FINALLY HAD THE TIME TO SPEND ON HIS HOBBY

AND IT WASN'T LONG BEFORE IT TURNED INTO SOMETHING MORE.

"I'd always done some drawing, science fiction kind of stuff, I like it to be a bit out there. One day I decided to try and make something from one of my drawings and that's when this all started."

Ron said.

From his first piece which was a water feature, it wasn't long before Ron was building up a collection, each piece more remarkable then the last.

"I'D LOOK AT AN OLD PIECE OF SCRAP AND I'D SEE A SHAPE OR FORM AND IT WOULD GO FROM THERE. SOMETIMES IT WOULD TURN OUT TO BE WHAT I HAD ENVISIONED, BUT SOMETIMES IT WOULD EVOLVE INTO SOMETHING COMPLETELY DIFFERENT."

RON SAID.

When it comes to making the pieces, Ron's old school and it's mostly done by hand and with basic tools. He's got a MIG welder on which he's completely self-taught and loves to play around on his 100-year-old anvil.

Ron is proof that it's never to late to follow your passion and try something new. Make sure you check out his amazing work on his Facebook page.

www.facebook.com/metalartdesignsofsingleton

RON SAID.

LEAGUE LEGEND VISITS MT ARTHUR

RUGBY LEAGUE LEGEND CAMERON SMITH WAS THE KEY NOTE SPEAKER AT STELLAR RECRUITMENT'S "INSPIRING GREAT LEADERSHIP" EVENT AT MOUNT ARTHUR COAL.

The exclusive event saw Cameron imparting insights into life as an elite athlete, what it takes to be a great leader and creating a high-performance culture. With four NRL Premierships, 11 State of Origins and two World Cups under his belt, as well as being named the international player of the year twice, Cameron knows what it takes to be at the top of the game.

Stellar's Manager, Mining, Mark Powell said that they were very pleased to have Cameron speak at the event. "It was a great morning session at Mt Arthur Coal with the BHP's leadership team. Stellar's 'Inspiring Great Leadership' event with Cameron Smith really broke down what it takes to be a great leader."

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BECAUSE OF HER WE CAN

**NAIDOC WEEK 2018 CELEBRATED THE INVALUABLE CONTRIBUTIONS
THAT ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER WOMEN HAVE
MADE AND CONTINUE TO MAKE TO OUR COMMUNITIES, OUR
FAMILIES, OUR RICH COUNTRY AND TO OUR NATION.**

The week saw some amazing events being held but the highlight was the Upper Hunter NAIDOC Awards Night. The venue was sold out in the lead up to the night, and it was clear to see why with so many wonderful stories paying respect to the women of the now and of the past who with great drive have succeeded and contributed to our communities along the way.

The night was entertaining and the tributes wonderful. Hosts Darryl and Karen Egan kept the crowd engaged, while this year's trophies had jaws dropping. It is a credit to the committee of organisers.

The winners of the Awards were well deserved and would have been a hard selection with so many wonderful nominees. This year there was 21 winners with a special category to fit this year's NAIDOC theme 'Because of her, We can'.

2018 WINNERS

Apprentice of the Year – Joell Cochrane (Sponsored by Ochre Opportunity Hub)

Artist of the Year – Aiden Powell (Sponsored by Yancoal)

Because of Her, We Can! – Amanda Howard, Jean Hands & Deirdre Heitmeyer (Sponsored by Blackrock Industries)

Community Contribution – Warren Taggart (Sponsored by Mission Australia)

Elder of the Year; Female – Jeanine Pascoe (Sponsored by Ungooroo Aboriginal Corporation)

Elder of the Year; Male – Glenfor Morris (Sponsored by Wanaruah Local Aboriginal Land Council)

Junior Scholar of the Year; Female – Kitanya Eckerman (Sponsored by Muswellbrook & Singleton Girls Academy)

Junior Scholar of the Year; Male – Jayden Hines (Sponsored by Wanaruah NAIDOC Committee)

Junior Sportsperson of the Year; Female – Jasmine Vesper (Sponsored by Bengalla Mining Company)

Junior Sportsperson of the Year; Male – Tyler Powell (Sponsored by Bengalla Mining Company)

Posthumous Award – Aunty Carol Tudor (Sponsored by Singleton Council)

Professional Achiever of the Year – Elizabeth Howard (Sponsored by Muswellbrook Shire Council)

Senior Scholar of the Year; Female – Sarah Smith (Sponsored by Singleton High School)

Senior Scholar of the Year; Male – Daniel Ellis (Sponsored by Singleton High School)

Senior Sportsperson of the Year; Female – Alexandria Field (Sponsored by Hunter Valley Aboriginal Corporation)

Senior Sportsperson of the Year; Male – Jake Price (Sponsored by Upper Hunter Shire Council)

Volunteer of the Year – Natasha Kellett (Sponsored by Integrated Living)

Youth of the Year; Female – Katie Van Vliet (Sponsored by Glencore Australia)

Youth of the Year; Male – Marcus Morris (Sponsored by Glencore Australia)

**'AVE A
LAUGH WITH**



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A study found that the average Australian walks about 3000 kilometres a year.

Another study found that the average Australian drinks 120 litres of beer a year.

That means the average Australian gets about 25 kilometres per litre!



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Throughout the Bulga Underground history there have been three very successful mines: South Bulga, Beltana and Blakefield South. Each have made their own substantial contributions, and together they are responsible for building Bulga's illustrious reputation not just locally, but internationally.

During the 36 years of operation Bulga Underground set many records with record tonnages and production levels surpassing other underground mines. They demonstrated plenty of innovation and problem solving, working with international partners and being recognised around the world for their achievements.

It's a reflection on the high standards and professionalism shown throughout the life of the mine that its record coal production and ground-breaking innovations were achieved without the loss of a single life and they can be proud of the legacy they are leaving behind.

THE FIRST COAL WAS CUT UNDERGROUND ON 23RD MARCH 1992.
ON THE 4TH MAY 2018 THE FINAL COAL WAS CUT MARKING 36 YEARS.
TOTAL COAL CUT WAS 106,247,223 TONNES.

contractors working alongside each other and each playing a part in the making the mine a success. Operations Manager, Charlie Spence says one of the biggest strengths of Bulga has been the underlying workplace culture and the pride and dedication of the workforce.

"South Bulga started on a shoestring and right from the get go there was a strong sense of ownership among the workforce. You felt like you were part of something bigger than yourself. We were breaking records and having a good time doing it. The underlying workplace culture always made you feel empowered and it made it a great place to work." Charlie said.

It's certainly been an



employer of choice in the industry and many who have worked at Bulga have gone on to make a mark in the industry.

SETTING RECORDS

Bulga broke many records when it came to productivity at all three of its mining operations.

In 2005, Beltana broke the Australian longwall production record, with an output of 955,049 tonnes. This achievement was quickly trumped when one million tonnes of coal, from longwall and development, was mined in a single month. Beltana was the first coalmine outside China to achieve this level of production, and the mine received international recognition as one of the best underground operations/workforces in the world.

Keeping up the same incredible levels of production was Blakefield South. In 2014 a record breaking 1 million tonnes of coal was produced for three consecutive months, a substantial achievement for an underground mine and a milestone in Australian mining.

When the decision



was made to close the underground operations, the workforce at Bulga saw it as an opportunity to go out strong. For the last year of operation, they smashed out their budget and production goals. Although the forecast was for 4.1 million tonnes, they did a whopping 6.2 million. This goes to show the committed attitude of the entire workforce right to the very end.

COMMUNITY COMMITTED

Bulga has always strived to be not just accepted by the local community but welcomed. Whether it was working with the vineyards it operated under or working with dairy farmers whose property they drilled gas through, it was always about working together for mutual benefit.

What is unique about Bulga is that their activities took place beside and below the thriving Broke Fordwich wine tourism area, the only mine to ever mine underneath commercial vineyards. It involved 2 years of extensive planning, consultation and trials and was a success.

They've mined under Charlton Road 16 times, Broke Road 3 times and privately-owned vineyards, farms and properties with

little impact. They've even mined under the irrigation & town water supply pipelines and powerlines, without any interruption to supply.

Throughout the life of the mine they supported countless local events, ran community BBQ's, working bees and family days, and directly funded many local organisations, most significantly, Broke Public School.

AN OFFICIAL HISTORY OF THE BULGA UNDERGROUND WILL BE PRODUCED BY HISTORIAN RAY CHRISTISON LATER THIS YEAR. HERE'S A SNIPPET OF HIS WORK.

SOUTH BULGA COLLIERY 1991-2003

The first underground mine in Australia operating a single longwall to produce more than four million tonnes of coal per year. In 1996 the mine achieved labour productivity exceeding 24,000 run of mine tonnes per employee. This was double that of the next most productive underground mine, and well ahead of most open cut mines.

BLAKEFIELD SOUTH MINE 2009-2018

Blakefield South was internationally recognised as a leader in the application of Extended Reach Drilling (ERD) to meet the requirements of gas drainage in a coal mine. The project, commenced in 2009, required close partnership between Bulga Coal Management and PathFinder, a subsidiary of Schlumberger, and a number of innovations to adapt oil industry techniques to the context of Blakefield South.

BELTANA HIGHWALL MINE 2000-2011

In September 2004 Beltana Highwall Mine achieved the highest production per employee of any coalmine in NSW, either underground or open cut. By the end of 2004 Beltana had produced a record breaking 6 million tonnes of coal. As production

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LEARN FROM THE LAWMAN

STUART BARNETT IS OUR MINING INDUSTRY'S LEADING PERSONAL INJURY LAWYER. THIS MONTH HE HAS SOME IMPORTANT ADVICE IN RELATION TO A POWER OF ATTORNEY AND ENDURING GUARDIANSHIP.

Many of you will know someone who, through injury, age or disease is unable to manage their financial affairs or health needs. Or as you approach retirement your financial advisor may ask you the question; "have you a Power of Attorney and Enduring Guardianship in place?" You probably said to yourself, "what are they and do I need them?"

A POWER OF ATTORNEY



ALLOWS YOU TO APPOINT A PERSON OR PERSONS TO MANAGE YOUR FINANCIAL AFFAIRS ON YOUR BEHALF. A ENDURING GUARDIANSHIP ALLOWS YOU TO APPOINT A PERSON OR PERSONS TO MANAGE YOUR LIFESTYLE MEDICAL AND GENERAL HEALTH WHEN YOU ARE UNABLE TO DO SO YOURSELF. WHETHER YOU NEED ONE IS A PERSONAL DECISION BUT REMEMBER THIS, ONCE YOU LOSE YOUR MENTAL CAPACITY IT'S TOO LATE.

You may execute a Power of Attorney for practical or business reasons, like appointing a person (known as your attorney) for a specific task or period. For example, you are going on an overseas holiday and you need documents to be signed while you are away. Alternatively, you may execute an Enduring Power of Attorney to allow your attorney to manage your financial affairs

even after you lose your mental capacity.

An Enduring Guardianship will allow your attorney to make health, medical and lifestyle decisions for you if you lose the mental capacity to do so yourself. This might include decisions about what medical treatment you will receive, whether you will be placed in a nursing home or even whether attempts are to be made to revive you in the event that are unable to sustain your own life without artificial assistance.

YOUR POWER OF ATTORNEY AND ENDURING GUARDIANSHIP ARE VERY IMPORTANT DOCUMENTS AND YOU SHOULD ONLY

APPOINT SOMEONE THAT YOU TRUST. IF CIRCUMSTANCES CHANGE YOU MUST TAKE STEPS TO EXECUTE UPDATED DOCUMENTS AND DESTROY THE OLD ONES.

Just like you review other aspects of your affairs, the adequacy and relevance of these documents should be reviewed periodically. A lawyer can prepare and

witness both types of documents for you at a relatively inexpensive cost. 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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PARALLEL ECONOMICS

LETS BUILD A HUNTER ARBORETUM

WHAT IS AN ARBORETUM I HEAR YOU SAY? AN ARBORETUM IS A BOTANICAL GARDEN DEVOTED TO GROWING TREES FOR CONSERVATION, SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH AND EDUCATIONAL PURPOSES.

Pronounced "arr-boor-eetum" The term arboretum was first published by John Claudius Loudon in 1833 in The Gardener's Magazine. Arboreta specialise in growing particular types of trees. We actually have one already in Canberra. But with this kind of thing, another one would be a welcome addition that could support the national one.

The National Arboretum Canberra features 94 forests of rare, endangered and symbolic trees from around Australia and the world. Many of the trees are still young but two of the forests are over 100 hundred years old. Over 44,000 trees from over 100 countries are growing across the huge 250-hectare (618 acre) site, making it one of the world's largest living collections of rare, endangered and significant trees.

WITH THE WEALTH OF MINE SITE TALENT AND EXPERTISE WE ALREADY HAVE AT OUR DISPOSAL HERE IN THE HUNTER, CREATING A VERSION OF OUR OWN ON HUNTER MINE LAND WOULD BE BLOODY EASY.



At the Canberra example the Village Centre is the first point of arrival for many visitors at the Arboretum, offering an elegant and memorable welcome. This award-winning, architect-designed building with panoramic views over Canberra provides a variety of high-quality visitor services and facilities, including a restaurant, cafe, gift shop, information hub, and the National Bonsai and Penjing Collection.

The unique nature-themed Pod Playground abuts the northern side of the Village Centre, and the Canberra Discovery Garden is located on the southern side. In time, the Arboretum will be home to 104 forests of rare, endangered and symbolic trees from Australia and around the world.

Here in the Hunter we are already home to many endangered and heritage species and the opportunity to showcase them all together offers so much value in terms of science and tourism. It could take mine site rehab to a whole new level and the benefits to the community would be considerable. Bring it on we say.

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Who are you and what do you do?
I am Jonathon McTaggart the Chief Operating Officer for MRS Services Group, a diverse service support company for the mining and civil construction industries. MRS are a One Stop Shop with four main service arms consisting of Mechanical, Fabrication, Automotive and Civil & Construction.

Where did you start and how did you end up where you are now?
I have been with MRS and its associated entity since 2003. I was a boilermaker and line borer at the start and

progressed with the growth and opportunities as the journey escalated.

Describe a typical day at ‘The office’.
Emails, coffee and interactions with business units and teams are a part of my typical day.

What’s the best thing about your business?
Our people and the industry we work in. Both dynamic and deliver great outcomes to support our customers that in turn support industries across the globe.

What is the big news in your part of the mining industry right now?
Purchasing of our workshop (EMF) Engineering Maintenance Facility. With over 10,000sqm of undercover workshop and 150T crane capacity to carry out full machine rebuilds or builds our EMF is a one stop shop.

What is the biggest opportunity for your business right now?
Machine and Component rebuilds and refurbishments as well as Civil Construction and infrastructure projects both locally and metropolitan areas.

What are the biggest

challenges facing your business?
Skilled trade labour is our major challenge as faced by many businesses. Pay rates vs recoverable is on the horizon in the market as next challenge.

How long have you been doing business and business in the Valley?
I have been involved in mining maintenance since June 1996 to 2003 as a tradesman and business development and management from then on to current date with MRS.

Beyond the day to day how does your company get involved in the community or other causes close to its heart and values?
Involvement and support to Vinnies Sleep out and Westpac helicopter are causes close to us. We also provide sponsorship to sporting groups each year as well as hold internal fund raisers for Cancer Council, Black Dog and RSPCA each year.

How big is the crew in the Hunter Valley?
Our crew cover from Gunnedah to Sydney with almost 300 talented people supporting our customers.

What’s the best thing about

your job?
I believe being able to provide long term sustainable employment for our people is my job, and in turn this provides my greatest reward of my job but also delivers security to families and the community.

The worst thing?
Injuries to people in the work place. No winners when this happens.

What’s a funny story about work that you can tell?
Nothing specific but in the office we do try and share a Friday funny for a laugh.

MRS... what’s the best thing about it?
Our People. Together they enable us to offer a diverse range of services to our customers through our “EMF” and Field teams. The opportunity for continued professional development for all our people through trade up skilling, leadership and management training as well as tertiary education.

Anything else you want to say?
We do spend a lot of time at work and feel you should celebrate success and have an element of fun and enjoyment in your work place.

MY MINING LIFE

JOHN WELSH

Who are you and what do you do?
My name is John Welsh and I’m a retired miner.

When did you start in mining?
September 14, 1981. Prior to that I did 4 years at Liddell Power Station and I kept ringing the FEDFA office up until I ended up getting a start there at Old Bayswater which is now Mt Arthur Coal. I was on permanent nightshift for 14 years which I enjoyed. It was great back then. 8hr shifts and everyone was involved with their communities and they were flourishing. Nowadays people can’t commit to things because they work every second weekend. The roster I finished on wasn’t too bad, but the ones out there that they call a lifestyle roster, they aren’t good for people with kids in school or involved in community groups.

What was it like when you started back there compared to now?
A lot better than they are now. (He says with a laugh.) The culture was great back in those days. You could have a bit of a joke and that back then. Probably a change I don’t agree with is the dispatch system, I think whilst there’s the need for the business to track things, I feel there’s too much lost time. In more recent times, it’s the casualisation of the workforce. If someone is doing the same job after 6 months there should be a legislation that they are offered a fulltime job. They say people are their most important commodity, now it’s time to walk the talk. It’s just got out of hand. You will see more loyalty in turn I believe, with people being given that support from companies.

If you could change one thing in the industry, what would it be?
I believe the best managers and the best times I’ve seen, are under people with industry experience. It’s great for people to go through university to get the legislation and mining design skills, but the best culture and results come from those that have been in the pit and have life skills. It’s alright

JOHN WELSH’S MINING WORKDAYS MAY BE OVER, BUT HIS MINING LIFE WILL NEVER BE.

Wilson plus more that were great team members.

What’s the key to a successful pit?
Morale. Definitely Morale. You can’t enforce it. You have to be a leader with the right people under you, not just those who tell you what you want to hear. Respect and transparency with the workforce is a big one. Rewarding your employees is another big one. It doesn’t take much, but it goes along way. Listening to questions, new ideas and not just hearing them. Communication is the most crucial thing to a successful pit.

What advice do you have to give someone starting out in the industry?
Become a member of the union, the union does the right thing by you. If you feel like something seems right or wrong, speak up don’t walk past it. At the end of the day it might not be you that’s affected but it could be the bloke next to you.

‘AVE A LAUGH WITH



A bloke has a car crash into the back of a dwarf’s car and does a lot of damage.

The dwarf gets out and seeing the damage says, “I’m not happy”.

The bloke says back to him, “well which one are ya then?”

If you could go back and do anything different, would you?
Probably not. I call a spade a spade and enjoyed my time with a great workforce.

What’s life after mining been like?
Travelling has been a big part. We’ve been heading to places all around Australia like Port Augusta, Alice Springs, Tassie and Ayers Rock. Hopefully we can go and do the Murray next year. It’s been great to see our beautiful countryside. For now, its home with the family and spending a little bit of time with the grandkids.



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Our Maintenance division is seeking expressions of interest from the following trades for up and coming work in the Hunter Valley area:

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- Have a minimum of two years industry experience
- Produce Proof of Right to work in Australia
- Local Mine inductions would be favourable.

The successful applicants will have the highest regard for safety and will be required to actively contribute in HSE based activities to ensure the health, safety and wellbeing of yourself and others.

You will have the ability to be flexible to deliver in a continually evolving environment and possess strong team work ethics.

As part of the recruitment process, suitable applicants will be required to complete pre-employment medical testing including drug and alcohol screening.

Please submit your application containing your resume with at least three contactable referees by clicking the ‘Apply’ button below. Alternatively, you can apply via our website www.monadelphous.com.au/careers and search for job reference number **200182404**.

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TRAPPED!

WHEN YOU WORK UNDERGROUND, ONE OF THE BIGGEST FEARS IS BEING TRAPPED WITH NO WAY OUT. HERE ARE SOME REMARKABLE STORIES OF MINER'S AROUND THE WORLD WHO HAVE SURVIVED BEING TRAPPED UNDERGROUND.



SAN JOSÉ MINE
In 2010, 33 miners were trapped at a gold mine in Chile for a record 69 days and what was to become the most prominent rescue story in history. It all began with a cave-in on August 5. Rescue efforts commenced and 17 days after the accident a note was discovered taped to a drill bit. “Estamos bien en el refugio, los 33.” (English: “We are well in the

shelter, the 33 of us.”) The world’s attention was captured, and help was offered. Three drilling teams, the Chilean government, NASA, and many private corporations all cooperated to complete the rescue. On October 13, the men were winched to the surface one at a time, in a specially built emergency evacuation capsule, as an estimated 1 billion people watched.



BONNIEVALE GOLD MINE
On March 19, 1907, a thunderstorm flooded a gold mine at Bonnievale in Western Australia trapping miner Modesto Varischetti.

Unbelievably, Modesto survived in an air pocket and his workmates could hear him tapping from below the waterline. 6 days later, two divers using a long air hose and deep-sea diving equipment reached Modesto and were able to provide him with food, candles and other necessities. Every day the divers would visit Modesto while water was being pumped. Finally, after 9 days, they tied a rope around Modesto’s waist and started the difficult climb back to the surface through deep water and sludge.



BEACONSFIELD MINE
The Beaconsfield Mine collapse in Tasmania on April 25, 2006, captured the attention of Australia. The collapse occurred when a small earthquake triggered an underground rock fall in the gold mine. At the time there were 17 people in the mine and 14 were lucky enough to escape immediately. Three men were unaccounted for; Larry Knight, Brant Webb and Todd Russell. Larry had tragically been killed in the initial rock fall, but Brant and Todd were still alive, trapped in part of the telehandler in which they had been working. Brant and Todd were partially buried under some rubble but were able to free themselves by cutting through their clothes and boots using Stanley knives. They had no way of knowing if rescue was coming or what had

happened to the other miners. As the days went by they were able to survive by collecting groundwater that was seeping through the rock overhead in their helmets. It was not until April 30 that rescuers first heard Brant and Todd and knew they were still alive. Rescue attempts were hampered by fears of further rock falls and rock five times harder than concrete made the rescue timeline unpredictable. A hole was drilled through which a PVC pipe was inserted allowing rescuers to send in fresh water, food and communications equipment. For eight long days this pipe was their connection to the outside world. Finally, on May 9, Brant and Todd were freed after 14 days underground. On the same day the funeral of Larry was held, marking it as a day of both triumph and tragedy.



SHEPPTON MINE
On August 13, 1963, the roof of the Sheppton anthracite coal mine collapsed and three miners were trapped below ground; Henry Throne, David Fellin and Louis Bova. The miners were believed to be dead and rescue crews were unable to access the shaft because of the

threat of additional cave-ins as well as the presence of poisonous carbon dioxide. At the insistence of Fellin’s brother Joe, who believed that the miners were still alive, a small borehole was drilled from the surface. After several days it was discovered that Henry and David had survived in a small, narrow chamber. Rescuers dropped provisions to the miners and subsequent larger boreholes were made, including the final large hole which allowed the two surviving miners to be raised to the surface on August 27 after 14 days. It was later discovered that the other miner Louis Bova, had gone in another direction and did not survive the cave-in. His body was never recovered.

MACHIN IT SPECTACULAR!

FOLLOWING THE SUCCESS OF THE INAUGURAL SINGLETON CULTURAL SPECTACULAR, MACH ENERGY ARE NOW BRINGING YOU THE 2018 MUSWELLBROOK CULTURAL SPECTACULAR ON SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 15.

This free family friendly event is an initiative of MACH Energy’s Aboriginal Community Development Fund and will showcase Aboriginal culture and tradition at its very best. Held at the Muswellbrook Showground, it kicks off from 2pm and will finish off with a firework display at 9pm which is guaranteed to be spectacular! With plenty to see and do, attendees will be able to enjoy cultural workshops, cooking demonstrations, market stalls, rides, performances and enjoy some traditional bush tucker. The event is drug & alcohol free and entry also includes a free sausage sizzle.

www.facebook.com/muswellbrookculturalspectacular



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support with many riders and sponsors from our local mines and suppliers. This year’s riders include Andy Olrich (PWCS), Jayden Rowett (Downer), Luke Redgrove (MTW), Anthony Fleming (Bengalla), Simon Mead (Wambo), Jarrod Baker (ARTC), Brad Harris (Bloomfield) and Jarret Pacheco (MTI). Each year the ride aims to raise as much funds as possible, with all funds raised going directly to Camp Quality to help kids and their families battling cancer. Show your support by donating now. www.1000ks4kids.org.au/newcastle



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SCONE PUBLIC SCHOOL

COMMUNITY GIFT



THIS MONTH COMPLETE PARTS AND @ THE COALFACE'S \$500 COMMUNITY GIFT WILL GO TOWARD NEW PLAY EQUIPMENT FOR SCONE PUBLIC SCHOOL.

The Scone Public School P&C have been hard at work raising funds for a much-needed project. Currently, students have minimal areas in the school's back playground area to play. P&C Committee member Simon Davis said that the project has seen the current play equipment

removed from site and it will be replaced with new equipment as well as landscaping of the area. "This project has been underway for some time and this donation will be a valuable contribution to the successful completion of this project. Thanks, Complete Parts!" Simon said.



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POSTIE POWER

CHRISTMAS IS COMING EARLY FOR THE CANCER COUNCIL AS A GROUP OF 12 LOCAL MEN DON RED JUMP SUITS AND HOP ON POSTIE BIKES ALL TO RAISE MUCH NEEDED FUNDS.

What started off as the idea for a "boys trip" quickly turned into something more as 12 local lads take on the challenge of a near 1000 km backroad journey from Muswellbrook to Port Macquarie on the iconic postie bike.

The epic journey will take 6 days starting from October 3 and the riders are Matthew Merrett (Komatsu), Jordan Solly (AGL), Lincoln Churcher (Titan), Cameron Davis (Downer), Broque Smith (Downer), Jackson Cook (AGL), Jayden McCarthy (CDJV), Dominic White (Downer), Jaeger Shepherdson (Westrac), Tate Barry (Bengalla), Malcolm Kendall (Bengalla), Nick Johnson (MAC). Jayden Galvin (Downer) will be driving the safety vehicle.

"WE WANTED TO DO OUR PART IN

RAISING MUCH NEEDED FUNDS FOR A CAUSE THAT AFFECTS EVERYONE. MANY OF THE MEN HAVE BEEN AFFECTED BY CANCER IN ONE WAY OR ANOTHER SO IT'S A SUBJECT CLOSE TO OUR HEARTS." MATTHEW MERRETT SAID.

"We hope to set an example for others that you can make a difference if you put your mind to it. It's a big effort for all of us so we really hope people get behind us and help us raise money for a great cause." Matt continued.

The boys are aiming to raise \$10,000 and are getting close to their target but we think their amazing effort should be worth a whole lot more. Get behind this great cause and head to their fundraising or Facebook page to support.

www.doitforcancer.com.au/fundraisers/Team-Le-Tour-De-Post
www.facebook.com/groups/362584627586960/about

A BLOOMIN' HARD ACT TO FOLLOW

SUZIE MESSNER FROM THE BLOOMFIELD GROUP HAS BEEN ONE OF THE MINING INDUSTRY'S STAUCHEST COMMUNITY CHAMPIONS AND A HUGE PART OF THE @ THE COALFACE STORY. AS SHE BIDS FAREWELL TO THE INDUSTRY THIS MONTH, WE JUST WANT TO SAY THANKS.

After many years of work at Bloomfield, Suzie has announced her retirement. She has been a great support and voice of both guidance and common sense to this publication and countless important community and industry initiatives and the industry and community are all the better for what she has achieved over the years. As Community Liaison Officer for Bloomfield she has worked with countless local charity groups, local business organisations and local government initiatives. Never one to suffer fools or seek the limelight, her quiet but tenacious determination and warmth has seen her make a significant contribution.

NO-ONE IN THE INDUSTRY WHO HAS WORKED WITH BLOOMFIELD, PARTICIPATED IN THE UPPER HUNTER MINING DIALOGUE, OR WORKED FOR THE MANY OTHER CHARITIES SUZIE WAS INVOLVED WITH WILL EASILY FORGET HER.

Glen Parsons from the Cancer Council was just one person keen to tell us of her contribution, "Suzie has been the inspiration and lifeblood of our partnership with The Bloomfield Group for many years and in many ways. She was both the instigator and inspiration in many of the fundraising projects that Bloomfield Group participated in with the Cancer Council. Suzie has been a hard-working advocate and promoter of us and many others and for that we are truly thankful for efforts and wish her all the best."

Her work in support of the coal industry and its many challenges and successes have been significant. Often in this industry we hear from people whose words speak louder than their actions, but for this very quiet achiever her actions have always far exceeded her words.

Enjoy the next chapter Suzie! Thanks for everything.



GO FOR BROKE

THE BROKE VILLAGE FAIR IS ON AGAIN SO MAKE SURE YOU HEAD TO MCNAMARA PARK ON SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 9.

The Broke Village Fair will see the beautiful village come alive with 5,000 happy fair goers and the line up this year is bigger than ever. Wander through the impressive vintage and classic cars, trucks and motorbikes display or check out the display of lovingly restored machinery by the hardworking team from the Hunter Valley Vintage Farm Machinery.

AT CENTRE STAGE ITS NON-STOP ACTION ALL DAY WITH LIVE MUSIC, WHIP CRACKING, TUG-O-WAR COMPETITION, ROCKER COVER CAR RACING, CHAINSAW SCULPTING AND BUSH POETRY PROVIDING FAIR DINKUM ENTERTAINMENT.

Over 60 market stalls showcasing food and local wine will be sure to please any palette and the for the kids there will be a petting zoo, face painting, magic, laser tag, jumping castles and rides.

Event sponsors Bulga Open Cut will also be operating free mine tours to Bulga Open Cut throughout the day, where you can learn up close about the whole mining process.

All this for a gold coin entry fee with monies raised going to local community groups including the Broke Fire Brigade.

www.brokevillagefair.com.au



COUPLE'S COUNSELLING

THIS MONTH IN HEALTH WE TALKED TO LOUISE HOSIE FROM HUNTER VALLEY MEDIATION ABOUT THE BENEFITS OF RELATIONSHIP COUNSELLING FOR COUPLES.

Counselling is not just for couples whose relationship is on the rocks but is something everyone could benefit from so we are giving away an Introductory Couples Counselling session with Louise.

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NEW CHAMPS

WHITEHAVEN'S NARRABRI MINE TAKES OUT THE 2018 HUNTER VALLEY UNDERGROUND MINES RESCUE COMPETITION, PUTTING AN END TO WAMBO'S 10-YEAR REIGN.

After coming a close second in 2017, Narrabri pulled out all the stops this year to bring an end to the 10-year domination of Peabody's Wambo team. By all accounts Narrabri's win was a stellar effort with Wambo named runners up.

The Narrabri team also took out the highly contested First Aid Award, and captain Dave Malone was given the honour of taking home the Wayne Wallace Best Captain Shield. Dave humbly received the winners shield on behalf of his team.

"THIS RESULT WAS ONLY ACHIEVABLE DUE TO THE EFFORT THAT EVERY ONE OF THEM PUT INTO TRAINING AND PREPARATION, OFTEN AT THE SACRIFICE OF THEIR OWN FAMILY TIME TO GET READY TO COMPETE. THIS WIN IS A REFLECTION EVERYONE'S EFFORTS, TEAM WORK, SKILLS, COMPETENCY AND COMMITMENT TO THE TASKS THAT WERE THROWN AT US," DAVE SAID.

"I would also like to sincerely thank our General Manager, Steve Bow, our Mine Manager, Gerald Linde, and our Mining Engineer Manager Brian Williams, and Matt Hall our Safety and Training Coordinator for their commitment to supporting us with our preparation and training efforts. The team at Hunter Valley Mines Rescue should also be commended on their efforts for once again pulling together an excellent event that each year continues to test our skills and competency."

Until this year Dave was a member of the Wambo team and reflected on how the mentoring and skills development afforded him by the Wambo team has helped shape his achievement of captaining a winning side.

"Finally, I would like to acknowledge the Peabody Wambo team and their efforts today. They are an exceptional team, and this is a bittersweet

moment for me. I wish them well when they travel to Russia later this year to represent Australia on the world stage at the International Mines Rescue Competition," Dave concluded.

HUNTER VALLEY MINES RESCUE REGIONAL MANAGER, DAVID CONNELL REFLECTED ON THE CHANGING OF THE GUARD SAYING, "NARRABRI SHOULD BE CONGRATULATED ON THEIR PERFORMANCE. THIS WAS BY NO MEANS AN EASY FEAT. THE HARD WORK THEY HAVE PUT IN OVER THE LAST FEW YEARS HAS PAID OFF."

"This is a win, not only for Dave Malone and the boys, but for Whitehaven. It is a testament to their investment in building a high level of capability in mines rescue and emergency preparedness. This should provide peace of mind to their workforce, having such highly skilled and specialised brigadesmen ready to respond in the event of an emergency. I also have no doubt the benefits of their training are felt in their day to day operations with these men providing safety leadership in their workplace, and to the extended communities if and when required." David said.





TIME FOR A TUNE UP?

WE DON'T WAIT UNTIL OUR CAR BREAKS DOWN BEFORE SENDING IT IN FOR A SERVICE, SO WHY DON'T WE DO THE SAME FOR OUR RELATIONSHIPS?

There's nothing more devastating than when a relationship ends, yet most of us don't take any action when things start heading in that direction. We keep up ongoing maintenance on our cars, houses and even our bodies, yet we don't give the same treatment to the most important thing in our life. We all take our partner for granted at times, so it's

important to recognise the warning signs that your relationship might be in trouble before it's too late.

- You've stopped communicating
- You don't make time for each other
- You fight or bicker frequently
- You feel resentment
- You are unable to compromise over issues
- You think about leaving

SOUND FAMILIAR? THEN MAYBE IT'S TIME TO THINK ABOUT SENDING YOUR RELATIONSHIP IN FOR A SERVICE, AND THAT'S WHERE COUNSELLING CAN HELP.

We spoke with Louise Hosie from Hunter Valley Mediation to find out more about counselling for couples. Louise works from Muswellbrook and most of her clients are from the

mining industry. "I know the mining industry well and the demands it can place upon couples with things like shift work and fatigue," Louise said. "The latest census showed that in 2016 over half of the people employed in the local mining industry suffered a relationship breakdown and I believe that with counselling many of those breakups might have been avoided."

SO WHY DON'T WE SEEK HELP WHEN SO MANY OF US ARE SUFFERING AND SO MANY FAMILIES END UP TORN APART?

There's a lot of stigma still attached to counselling that we need to abolish. Counselling is for everyone and for any reason. What makes counselling so effective is having an impartial third party see things that we can't, and then being able to provide advice and effective strategies.

Louise said that people think that if they attend counselling they will be judged or blamed but that's not the case at all. "It's a welcoming environment and it's all

about working together. The most common thing I hear from couples who come to see me is a lack of communication. Sometimes it's as simple as getting them to start talking again. There's so much to gain from counselling. Not just preventing the end of a relationship, but even more importantly, improving that relationship."

If you are interested in finding out more about sending your relationship for a tune up, head to www.huntervalleymediation.com.au



'AVE A LAUGH WITH

PH 02 6572 1230

A blind man walks into a store with his seeing eye dog. All of a sudden, he picks up the leash and begins swinging the dog over his head. The manager runs up to the man and asks, "What are you doing?!" The blind man replies, "Just looking around."

QUARRY MINING (NEW MATERIAL?)



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IT'S THE FINAL COUNTDOWN


THIS YEAR'S BENGALLA GROUP 21 RUGBY LEAGUE COMPETITION HAS BEEN JAM-PACKED WITH ACTION AND ENTERTAINING FOOTBALL, IT HAS GONE BY SO FAST THAT WE ARE NOW ON THE EVE OF THE FINALS SERIES. SO, WHO WINS FROM HERE?

ABERDEEN TIGERS

Last year's Premiers the Tigers are the undeniable competition favorites having won the pre-season Scanlon Shield and the Minor Premiership for the first time since 1959. With local coach Shane Hasslemann and Daniel Hoogerwerf back on deck the Tigers have been in good hands.

Ben "The Magician" Baker exploded onto the scene this year and smashed a long-term record for highest point score for a season. Featuring some big names with the likes of Liam Foran, Guy Thompson, Daniel Hoogerwerf, Ben Baker and competition favorite the unstoppable Josh Schmiedel, the questions have been posed; will they go all the way? And who will be their biggest threat? We will attempt to answer that question with a breakdown of the other teams left in the finals.

Tip - Injury free, this team will be near unstoppable. Required - Discipline. There's a few short fuses and there is a difference between looking macho for the camera and letting your footy do the talking.



From the opening rounds of the competition back in April, the competition has had its twists and turns, and now heading into the Finals which team will take home the shield?



SCONE THOROUGHBREDS

Under the watchful eye of new coach Aaron Watts, the thoroughbreds have coasted along flying under the radar, pretty much like Aberdeen did in season 2017.

Having the usual top guns in the side with the likes of Daniel Ritter, Wes Suckley, Gary McKeon and Joel Harrison, Scone sailed into second place when everyone was talking a 90's repeat of an Aberdeen v Muswellbrook back to back fight for the shield.

Before June 30, the boys from the horse capital acquired a few big-name signatures to bolster their

side with the signing of former Denman Premiership winning prop Ben Hagan brother of club President Tom "The Butterfly" Hagan and Joe Adams, Hayden Topliss and Tim Watson.

With a side on paper like this I expected to see a closer result than when the last time the two sides met, but we all know, Grand Finals aren't won in April through to July. Injuries pending, Scone seems to be enjoying the under-dog title.

Tip - Be careful of the sleeping giant! On paper this side is a dream for any coach. Required- The boys need to be spot on with their timing and execution.

MUSWELLBROOK RAMS

With the incoming coach Troy Hilder taking the reins from Bomber Jones and Steve Haylen, who steered the Rams to two consecutive home Grand Finals, no person was under more pressure in the Group.

With several retirements and players moving on Hilder's recruitment was under the radar and he delivered. Josh Scrymgeour, Rumone Jackson and Bailey Wooden just to name a few have been delivering though one feels there is more in the tank with these boys.

2017 Player of the Year Dylan Thorne was named as co-captain with Adam Grech until another streak of misfortune saw Grech sidelined for the rest of 2018.

Bolstered by the return of Andrew Pritchard and Rohan Pottinger, the Rams have a talented side that have been hot and cold.

Tip - If they're on they're on. With their full speed and their timing down pat, look out! Required - The old saying "Great individuals don't win games. Great teams win games." Focus on "your role" and have faith in the bloke next to you.





SINGLETON GREYHOUNDS

Taking on the role of Coach is a pressure job in any first-grade team, let alone Jye Bayley who is a resident of the club as well! The bloke must want to save money on haircuts.

With reserve grade missing the finals for the first time in years, the club has put their faith in the youngest first grade side (on average) in first grade to take them through from 4th to premiers just like Aberdeen and Denman have done over the past few years.

Missing a lot of big name players from the years gone by the young dogs, or pups, of James Bradley, Morgan Amidy and Cody Argento are really stepped up for the club this year and are right at home in first grade.

It's going to take a monster effort for the forwards in the final series to lay a platform for these young talents to do their thing. They possibly may fall short of the big one this year, but their experience will benefit them for a big 2019 season. They take on Muswellbrook knowing in their last encounter they were able to stay in the arm wrestle until the final minute and steal a win through a Luke Gardner try.

Tip - Youth, desire and dedication can be a lethal weapon if the forwards do their job. Required - Jake Smith and Thomas Johnson to get the biggest game out of their forwards' lives!

Photo by Singleton Photo Centre



HUNTER VALLEY MINING CHARITY RUGBY LEAGUE KNOCKOUT COMPETITION

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MAJOR SEMI FINAL VENUE McKinnon Field, Aberdeen	
SATURDAY 11th August 2018	
League Tag	11.45am Scone v Merriwa
Under 18s	1.00pm Singleton v Scone
Reserve Grade	2.25pm Aberdeen v Scone
First Grade	4.00pm Aberdeen v Scone
MINOR SEMI FINAL VENUE Olympic Park, Muswellbrook	
SUNDAY 12th AUGUST 2018	
League Tag	10.00am Greta Branxton v Muswellbrook
Under 18s	11.15am Muswellbrook v Greta Branxton
Reserve Grade	12.40pm Murrurundi v Muswellbrook
First Grade	2.15pm Muswellbrook v Singleton
THE LOSER OF THE MAJOR SEMI FINAL WILL HOST THE PRELIMINARY FINAL ON SATURDAY 18th AUGUST 2018	
League Tag	11.45am Loser Major v Winner Minor
Under 18s	1.00pm Loser Major v Winner Minor
Reserve Grade	2.25pm Loser Major v Winner Minor
First Grade	4.00pm Loser Major v Winner Minor
THE WINNER OF THE MAJOR SEMI FINAL WILL HOST THE GRAND FINAL ON SUNDAY 26th AUGUST 2018	
League Tag	10.30am Winner Major v Winner Final
Under 18s	11.50am Winner Major v Winner Final
Reserve Grade	1.20pm Winner Major v Winner Final
First Grade	3.00pm Winner Major v Winner Final

'AVE A LAUGH WITH

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A Kiwi was in Australia to attend a test cricket match (Aus vs. Kiwi) and was feeling a little crook so he went to see an Aussie doctor. The doctor said that he had some bad news and that he would have to remove his testicles. The Kiwi said, 'Ay, na mate na get stuffed.' So, he went for a second opinion from another Aussie doctor. The second doctor told him the same thing and the same reaction came from the Kiwi. Finally, the Kiwi decided to go get a third opinion from a Kiwi doctor. The Kiwi doctor told him, 'Sorry mate but we are gonna have ta chop ya balls off.' The Kiwi then said, 'Thank God for that, them Aussie doctors wanted to remove my test tickets!'



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LIVING LIFE

LIVE LIFE GET ACTIVE HAS RECEIVED A \$10,000 DONATION FROM KOMATSU THANKS TO SINGLETON RESIDENT KAREN GARNHAM.

The Live Life Get Active program was established in 2014 with the goal of building a fitter, healthier and happier Australia. It now boasts more than 150 branches across Australia with one right here in Singleton. It offers free health, fitness and nutritional education both online and in your local park by employing local sports trainers and coaches and engaging with councils and local businesses.

“LIVE LIFE GET ACTIVE CHANGED MY LIFE.” KAREN TOLD US. “I STARTED THE FIRST CAMP 3 YEARS AGO. I CAME ALONG BECAUSE I WANTED TO FEEL BETTER ABOUT MYSELF, AND THE MORE I GOT INVOLVED THE BETTER I STARTED FEELING. TO HAVE THE SUPPORT OF THE GROUP IS WHAT MAKES ALL THE DIFFERENCE.”

Karen is the Regional Component Planner at Komatsu in Singleton and applied for a grant from her company in a program called ‘Live Your Dream’ which encourages staff to support community programs.

“I’ve been at Komatsu for 19 years and I applied for the grant by telling them how Live Life Get Active had changed my life, how it has helped the community, and how it’s even made me a better employee. For them

to donate \$10,000 to the program is so wonderful.”

COMMONWEALTH GAMES HEPTATHLETE GOLD MEDALIST JANE FLEMMING IS ONE OF THE FOUNDING MEMBERS OF LIVE LIFE GET ACTIVE AND RECENTLY VISITED SINGLETON TO TALK TO THE BRANCH MEMBERS AND INSPIRE NEW ONES.

“The program has been a massive amount of work, but we have now launched 152 camps across Australia and we are in lots of rural areas like Singleton.” Jane said. “Our vision is to be in 1000 communities across Australia within 5 years and to make a true social impact by improving the health and wellbeing of thousands of people.”

Each branch exists because of local business support and it’s generous donations by companies like Komatsu that keep the program growing. All the exercise classes are free to everyone in the community and sessions include yoga, boxing and cross training.

Singleton sessions are held at Rose Point Park and all are welcome to come along. It’s as simple as getting on their website and registering.

www.livelifegetactive.com



KAREN GARNHAM AND JANE FLEMMING

OFF ROAD CHAMPIONS

THE HEDWELD MILBRODALE MOUNTAIN CLASSIC WAS A SUCCESSFUL WEEKEND FOR OFF-ROAD ENTHUSIASTS WITH WELL OVER 1500 SPECTATORS ATTENDING THE 32ND EVENT.

The event was not only Round 3 of the NSW Off Road Championship but also Round 1 of the Long Course Series and Round 2 of the Tri Challenge Series and attracted a field of 56 local and interstate entrants.

Matthew Martin and his navigator Kerri Martin were the winners of The Bob’s Stansfield Outright Award in the ProLite Buggy, Justin Guy was named ‘2018 Man of the Mountain’ which is awarded to the fastest lap of the long course track and local Singleton resident Kristy Hedley took out the Best Female Performance.

DIRECTOR OF HEDWELD, JAN HEDLEY, SAID THAT IT WAS AN AWESOME WEEKEND OF OFF ROAD RACING. “WE SAW SOME VERY SPECTACULAR ACTION FOR THE ESTIMATED 1500 SPECTATORS IN ATTENDANCE AND MUCH NEEDED FUNDS WERE RAISED FOR OUR CHARITIES, CANTEEN, WITMORE ENTERPRISES AND SIMPLY LOVING TAYLOR INC.”

With plenty of spills, roll overs and sideways action the weekend provided plenty of entertainment for the crowd. Hunter Valley Off Road Racing Association (HVORRA) members had a little bit of carnage with both Ian Cotton and Michael Baxter doing spectacular synchronised roll overs. Also, Rikki Hedley put an end to her weekend after losing a front wheel and spearing into some large ironbark trees.

The event would not have been possible without the sponsors, so a big thanks to Hedweld Group of Companies, Bulga Coal, Win TV, M&K Watercarts, Brison Contracting, Lancaster Motor Group and Myne Signs. We can’t wait for next year!

For a full list on results go to www.hvorra.com.au



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LOCAL LIQUOR
THERE’S ONE NEAR YOU

ALEX WITH A MIGHTY
COPETON COD



WINTER IS HERE

JULY SAW US PULL ON THE WINTER WARMERS AND HIT THE WATER. WITH SO MUCH ON THE CHEW IT MADE THE FREEZING GET UPS AT THE CRACK OF DAWN ALL WORTHWHILE. IF YOU DIDN'T VENTURE OUT BE SURE TO MAKE THE EFFORT IN AUGUST AS THINGS SHOULD CONTINUE VERY SIMILAR TO WHAT WE SAW LAST MONTH.

OFFSHORE

With the westerly's well and truly kicking in we are being provided with some awesome smooth and calm days. We are seeing plenty of action with lots of quality snapper coming from all the inshore reefs. Floating pillies and plastics fished around the edges are proving deadly. Kingfish are also on the chew taking live baits and jigs out on the deeper areas with Allmark off the Bay and Texas off Norah Head providing the goods.

Don't be surprised if you stumble across a few solid Bar Cod and Snapper while looking for a King out at Allmark as well.

For those willing to head wide to chase a Tuna or two this month, it will be well worth a look as a few nice Yellowfin and Big Eye Tuna have been encountered recently off Port Stephens.

CASTING FOR COD

The annual Copeton Cod trip has been and gone and again it lived up to its better name of Lake Misery as it's more like a casting trip then a fishing or catching trip. (Realistically it's just an excuse to get away with the mates.) We did end up seeing a few fish dropped and one fish measuring in at 101cm was caught which saved the trip.

BEACH AND ROCK

Much the same as all other forms of fishing we are seeing plenty of action on our coastline with lots of Drummer and Blackfish coming from the rocks and Bream and School Jew are plentiful along the beaches.

ESTUARY

Winter Jewies would have to be the best option around our local estuaries now especially inside the bay with the Corlette Wreck and the holes behind Middle Island off Soldiers Point producing some big fish over 20kgs. Bream and Blackfish are also plentiful along all the local break walls. Both the marina walls at the bay to Stockton and Newcastle and Lucy's walls at the heads of Lake Mac.

Keep floatin' - Thrifty's



YOUNG GUN: YOUNG GUN JAKE ROBINSON (9) CAUGHT HIS FLATHEAD USING MULLET BAIT IN NEWCASTLE.

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





MAKING ITS MARK

CONTINUING OUR REVIEW OF CATERPILLAR'S MINING MACHINES, THIS MONTH WE LOOK AT THEIR 994K WHEEL LOADER.

Released in Australia the first quarter of 2016, this machine rounds out Caterpillar's range of purpose-built mining wheel loaders, that include the 992K and 993K.

Superseding the 994H, this machine has been designed to load the 785, 789 and 793 haul trucks, making its mark with circa 20% increase payload capacity over its predecessor.

AS THE FLAGSHIP OF CAT'S MINING WHEEL LOADERS, THIS MACHINE WEIGHS A WHOPPING 239 TONNES AND COMES IN STANDARD AND HIGH-LIFT CONFIGURATIONS, PROVIDING USERS AN ADDITIONAL 857MM IN MAXIMUM LIFTING HEIGHT. Sporting a much larger

payload capacity, the 994K has been a major step change for Caterpillar, surpassing Komatsu's WA1200-6 in size. This scale increase, has improved productivity, resulting in fewer passes to load large mining trucks, offering rated payloads of 40.8 tonnes as a standard lift machine and 38.1 tonnes in high-lift configuration. When matched with the popular 793F, the high-lift configured 994K can load this dump truck in six passes, five passes when matched with the 789 series truck and four when loading the 785. Depending upon mine and material, a range of buckets are available to ensure maximise loading efficiency is achieved. Like the 24 Grader discussed in the last issue, the 994K has been designed with servicing in mind, with engine oil change intervals kept at 500 hour minimums as well as modular design assisting component changeouts. Powered by Caterpillar's own 3516E engine, the loader produces net power of 1,739 hp (1297 kW), that when matched with the high ambient package available, can operate in temperatures as high as 50 degrees Celsius (particularly important for our friends located in the West of our 'sunburnt' country).

THE 994K IS NOT THE ONLY OPTION AVAILABLE TO MINERS. KOMATSU OFFER THEIR OWN MECHANICALLY DRIVEN WA1200-6 AS WELL AS THEIR ELECTRIC DRIVE, P&H BRANDED WHEEL LOADERS. Previously known as LeTourneau, until acquired by Joy Global in 2011, these impressive electric drive machines stand alone, with the mother of all loaders, the L-2350, weighing in at 266 tonnes, with a payload capacity of an impressive to 72.5 tonnes...

Of course, depending upon who you talk to, the feedback and opinion of each machine will always vary, more often than not, based upon brand and personal colour of 'persuasion'.

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KYLE AND THE CREW FROM
PIRTEK MUSWELLBROOK

MEAT THE CREW

PIRTEK MUSWELLBROOK

THIS MONTH WAS THE FIRST OF OUR MONTHLY MEAT THE CREW WITH KYLE. EACH MONTH KYLE WILL GO OUT TO MEET WITH A CREW AND SUPPLY THEM WITH BREAKFAST, LUNCH OR AFTERNOON TEA AND REPORT BACK ABOUT HIS EXPERIENCE.

This month I had the privilege of going along to Pirtek Muswellbrook and meeting Gus, Johnny and the boys. The morning started off nice and early picking up the egg and bacon rolls to be there for their pre-shift debrief.

Once I arrived Gus took me on a tour of the business and showed me everything from the warehousing, how hoses are made, right through to how the operation works when a job comes in. It was very impressive to see the procedures they have in place to ensure that there are no steps missed and that the jobs are done in an efficient and safe manner. The operational area had been recently upgraded and even the floor was marked with no-go zones so as people knew if they were entering that area they needed to have the appropriate safety gear, or if anyone was working you needed to ensure they knew you were entering in the area.

During the pre-shift debrief Johnny gave a run down of all the jobs that were on for the day, whilst Bailey Carter advised the boys what stock had come in and when some items




can be expected. Everyone then had the opportunity to bring up any safety items and there were several things that were brought up. They even talked about it being an extremely windy day so to be careful with having the side box lids on the trucks up incase they were caught in the wind and damaged.

The boys all enjoyed their egg and bacon rolls and were so accommodating and polite, I can't wait to catch up with them again. Thanks for having me guys and thanks for the Pirtek Pack.

Check out next months magazine to see where we end up next! If you would like Kyle to come along to your business send us an email now!
info@thecoalface.net.au

'AVE A LAUGH WITH



PH 02 6572 1230

A husband and wife who work for the circus go to an adoption agency looking to adopt a child, but the social workers there raise doubts about their suitability.

The couple produce photos of their 50-foot motor home, which is clean and well maintained and equipped with a beautiful nursery.

The social workers are satisfied by

this but then raise concerns about the kind of education a child would receive while in the couple's care.

The husband puts their mind at ease, saying, "We've arranged for a full-time tutor who will teach the child all the usual subjects along with French, Mandarin, and computer skills."

Next though, the social workers express concern about a child being

raised in a circus environment.

This time the wife explains, "Our nanny is a certified expert in pediatric care, welfare, and diet."

The social workers are finally satisfied and ask the couple, "What age child are you hoping to adopt?"

The husband says, "It doesn't really matter, as long as the kid fits in the cannon."



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SERVO PIES CAN REALLY SUCK

THIS MONTH'S COLUMN IS MORE A PUBLIC SERVICE HEALTH WARNING THAN POSITIVE REVIEW. AS THE LEADER OF THIS GREAT NATION, THE HEALTH AND DIGNITY OF MY SUBJECTS IS ONE OF MY HIGHEST PRIORITIES.

A few years ago I was reminded that not every pie is a good pie on a road trip mission to help an old mate named Pedro out of pickle. Anyway Pedro, the son of an outback roo shooter and an amorous 1960's Mexican exchange student living out west at the time needed a bit of moral support.

You see his 23-year-old Blue Heeler Chihuahua cross bitch named 'Conchita' had bit the red dust way out west after eating a roadhouse pie on a stopover at a Wilcannia Golden Fleece servo. The pie was like the town. Crap. When they stopped, within 20 mins the cops turned up and asked how long they were staying and advised not to stay over night! I'm told it's better now, but to give you an idea of what Wilcannia was like back then, every single shop in this desolate town had its windows boarded up and covered in spray paint, and caged in. The

liquor store (which looked more like a prison) owner apparently took all the stock home at the end of each day otherwise it would all have been nicked by the next morning.



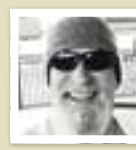
Anyway, at the time little 'Conchita' being the little bitch that she was, wanted a pie for lunch so they stopped at the servo who's cook was a lady who smoked over the stove,

wore an eye patch and swore like a wharf. The pie she served up clearly wasn't fit for consumption and was more gristle than meat. But the dog seemed to love it Pedro recalled with tears in is his eyes as Conchita promptly chocked to death on a chewy bit.

IF YOU WANT TO KNOW WHAT KIND OF A DOG ME AND EVERYONE ELSE THOUGHT CONCHITA WAS, LOOK UP URBAN DICTIONARY ON THE INTERWEB AND IT DESCRIBES THE POOCH PERFECTLY.

Now I'm not going to condemn every servo pie, I'm just saying it's risky. Good servo pies are rare – be careful. My tip is to not take the risk and stock up on as many pies as you need at the Merriwa Bakery before heading any further out west. Safe travels people.
Pieway Man Sol





BOWDLER'S BEER REVIEW

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

ASAHI SUPER DRY by ASAHI BREWERIES

Made: China under license to Japan
Cost: \$3.30 / Stubby
Alcohol: 5.0%
Color: Very light golden.
Nose: Very light smell, sweet.
Taste: Malty but refined malty... not full on like a traditional ale's malt hit... Filtered.
Mouth: Light, crisp and enjoyable without being watery.
Aftertaste: A very mild hops finish that peaks fast at the 3 second mark, begging for a second swig.

Comments: Asahi is the cream of the crop for Japanese beer. It's identical in taste to the previously brewed in Japan stuff so moving their brewery to China had no impact on quality. A seriously smooth, easy drinking dry. It makes a great all-nighter that everyone seems to enjoy.
Score: 9.5 / 10



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STEAK OUT

WHEN IT COMES TO FOOD REVIEWS, AND ESPECIALLY STEAK REVIEWS, IT’S THE ONE TIME IN OUR OFFICE ITS OPEN WARFARE BETWEEN THE BOYS!

We pleaded our cases, unsuccessfully tried arm wrestling, but eventually the decision was made using a time honoured method - rocks, scissors, paper. I crushed my opposition with rock and with that I was off to Muswellbrook and the new On Par Steakhouse restaurant.

ON PAR STEAKHOUSE LOCATED AT THE MUSWELLBROOK GOLF COURSE IS WHAT THE PEOPLE OF THE UPPER HUNTER HAVE BEEN NEEDING FOR A LONG LONG TIME!

Speaking with a local who has already become a regular in the short time they’ve been open, he tells me “I’ve never had a bad meal there” and that “just the thought of my weekly visit to tantalise my taste buds is what get me through the week.” It is unfair that most of you will be stuck at work reading this eating stale sandwiches while you can only ogle the photos. What you can do though is make the call now and book a table because I’m telling you

ON PAR STEAKHOUSE

Bring in this coupon and the guys will fix you up with one of their popular menu items - their perfectly cooked Half Kilo T-Bone for only for \$34.95!!

COUPON EXPIRES 30/9/2018



SAVE!

the steaks are A-mazing and are cooked to perfection. If ribs are your preference, you must experience the Sticky Smokey BBQ Pork Ribs, we insist. If steak isn’t your thing and you’re a vego tagging along, I’m pretty sure there’s a fresh garden salad on the menu.

BUT I’M NOT HERE FOR SALAD. I’M HERE FOR THE BRONCO CHALLENGE.

Consisting of a 330gram steak, 2 sausages, half rack of ribs, 6 wings, corn on the cobb, crunchy slaw and fries, plus ice cream, this is not for the faint hearted. You get 30mins to get it all in and then you get the glory of your name up on the bread breakers board.

When I showed up I was devastated to learn that I needed to pre-order and it was only available at dinner. I consoled myself with

ordering the mighty half kilo T-Bone and what can I say but succulent, tasty, mouth-watering, juicy...well you get the picture. Open for Lunch 11.30am - 2.30pm and Dinner from 5.30pm, grab the family, friends or work colleagues and book in now! And be sure to tag us on Instagram with your Bronco Challenge Prize “if” you can do it that is!



TAKE A JUMP



THIS MONTH I HEADED WITH THE KIDS TO GRAVITY X AT RUTHERFORD TO TEACH THEM A THING OR TWO ABOUT TRAMPOLINING OLD SCHOOL STYLE.

In my day trampolines were death traps. Basically, a piece of elastic material held down by feet gouging springs and if you didn’t break an arm or two jumping on one when you were a kid then you weren’t doing it right.

These days, a trampoline is as safe as a padded cell in the loony bin and the only thing dangerous about one is a windy day when all the stupid safety

netting acts like a giant sail and your whole trampoline ends up in the neighbours yard.

Anyway, back to the topic at hand as I’m not here to whine about how mollycoddled kids are these days, but instead to let you know about a whole new way of trampolining that is sure to please the young and old alike.

GRAVITY X IS JUST ONE OF THE LATEST INDOOR TRAMPOLINING

PARKS THAT ARE POPPING UP ALL OVER THE WORLD AND PROVING TO BE VERY POPULAR. ESPECIALLY TO PERSONAL INJURY INSURANCE LAWYERS...

Rows and rows of inbuilt trampolines all over the floor and even the walls make for plenty of bouncy, jumping, flipping and falling fun. No sooner than the kids were given the all clear to hit the floor then they took off jumping.

At a more sedate pace I bounced my way across the floor, running through my old repertoire of tricks in my mind. What would I show off first? The traditional forward somersault, my signature back flip? It had been more than a few years since I’d done any, but surely it’s like riding a bike. Right?

WRONG. AS I LANDED FLAT ON MY BACK WITH BOTH THE WIND AND MY PRIDE KNOCKED OUT OF ME, I REALISED THAT JUST MAYBE IT WAS TIME TO FINALLY GROW UP AND START ACTING LIKE A RESPONSIBLE PARENT.

So, I headed over to the cafeteria, got myself

a coffee and spent the next hour browsing Facebook and completing ignoring the kids while they ran wild. As we headed home, the kids were exhausted, but they’d had an amazing time and were already pestering me to go back. They couldn’t stop raving about who did the biggest jump, who’d fallen over and I’m pretty sure I only imagined them sniggering at me behind my back.



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@ THE COALFACE PRIZE WINNERS

VOLUME 2 – NO 10: JULY - AUGUST 2018

Bunnings Voucher – Erin Townsend
Cool Crib 1 – James McIntyre
Cool Crib 2 – Joe Ling
Roberts Meats Raffle – Brad Anderson

Beer’s On Us – J. Burzynski
Clubhouse XXXX – Zachary Clark
Café La Luna Cake – Glenn Richardson

CONGRATULATIONS
TO ALL OUR WINNERS!

@ THE COALFACE TRIVIA
THIS MONTH: MUSIC

Q1. What does R&B Stand for?
Q2. Who was the first woman to be inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame?
Q3. ‘Houses of the Holy’ is the fifth studio album by which English Rock band?
Q4. Who interrupted Taylor Swift’s acceptance speech at the 2009 VMA’s?
Q5. Victoria Beckham was a member of which English pop group formed in 1994?

Q6. Who played lead guitar for the British Rock Band Queen?
Q7. K-Pop is a genre of music that originated in what country?
Q8. What was the name of Michael Jackson’s first solo album as an adult?
Q9. Which pop star sang the national anthem at the 50th Super Bowl?
Q10. Who was named the ‘The Big O’?

A1: Led Zeppelin
A2: Aretha Franklin
A3: Rhythm and Blues
A4: Kanye West
A5: The Spice Girls
A6: Brian May
A7: South Korea
A8: Off the Wall
A9: Lady Gaga
A10: Roy Orbison

ROMANTIC GETAWAYS

IT’S TIME TO DUMP THE KIDS WITH THE GRANDPARENTS AND WHISK YOUR PARTNER AWAY FOR A NIGHT. HERE ARE 5 DESTINATIONS THAT ARE SURE TO FIRE THINGS UP.



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www.cabinshuntervalley.com.au



QT - SYDNEY

Remember the old TV show Satisfaction set around a Melbourne brothel? The QT has either taken its inspiration from them or else bought out their old set furnishings. Its burlesque style is sure to sexy things up with reddish floor-length drapes, fur throws, large baths and open plan duo shower heads. The mini bar is also stocked with all the ingredients for a hot night in: condoms and DIY martini sets. Internet and the movie channel are free. Even those special movies...

www.qtsydney.com.au

CASUARINA ESTATES - POKOLBIN

If role playing is your thing than look no further than the fantasy themed suites at Casuarina Estates. Each suite has been styled with its own unique theme and the names say it all. Choose from Suzi Wong, Palais Royale, Out of Africa, Love Boat, Casanovas Loft, French Bordello or Moulin Rouge.

It’s a fine line between tacky and tantalising and we will let you decide which side this place lands on.

www.casuarinaestate.com.au



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When the sun goes down, light the candles and cozy up under the stars. You can always use the old ruse ‘watch out, snake!’ to make sure your partner jumps into your arms.

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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.