

# HUNTER INDUSTRY, COMMUNITY, SPORTS & ENTERTAINMENT

## @THE COAL FACE

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### CHARITY DRIVE

THE MINING INDUSTRY SHOWED UP FOR THE INAUGURAL UPPER HUNTER CHARITY GOLF DAY IN SUPPORT OF THE WESTPAC RESCUE HELICOPTER SERVICE.

**PAGE 25**



### A FAIR SHARE

SINGLETON MAYOR SUE MOORE CALLS FOR SINGLETON TO BE GIVEN ITS FAIR SHARE IN THE NEXT ROUND OF RESOURCES FOR REGIONS FUNDING.

**PAGE 16**



## POWER RANGERS

MALABAR COAL HAS CONFIRMED THEY WILL BE DEVELOPING A SOLAR FARM ON THE OLD DRAYTON MINE SITE AND THEIR TEAM OF POWER RANGERS HAVE BEEN WORKING HARD TO MAKE IT A SUCCESS.

**PAGE 8**



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# PUTTING THE COAL IN THE COALITION

IT'S BEEN A CRAZY MONTH WITH THE RECENT UPSETS IN GOVERNMENT AND WE HAVE TO WONDER HOW IT WILL AFFECT OUR INDUSTRY.

It's going to be an interesting time leading up to the elections with the reshuffle of the Liberal Party. Scott Morrison or ScoMo as they are calling him, has aimed up and is finally listening to the people of the nation. "We are on your side." It does appear we finally have someone willing to put their hand up and say we are reducing the cost of energy, rather than pedaling the "only renewable" agenda. It will be one to watch leading up to the next election, though Morrison has started off on the right foot. Let's

hope the rest of his footsteps follow the same path.

This month we heard from both Singleton and Muswellbrook Council about their Resources For Regions funding, or rather the lack of it. Of any town in NSW, Singleton deserves a fair share of funding and it would be a travesty if they again missed out this round. We hope those in Sydney are listening!

This month we decided it was time to talk to the real experts about our coal industry. Yep, we were out talking to kids and the answers they gave us to

our questions are hilarious. Kids @ The Coalface is going to be a regular feature so contact us if you would like your kids involved.

Our health page talks about donating blood and the benefits not just for the recipient but also for the donor. Donating blood is a simple and rewarding way to help others and not enough of us do it. Plus, free cookies!

Enjoy this month's magazine!



SCOTT MORRISON  
HOLDING UP COAL  
IN PARLIAMENT

## MINING MATTERS

MINING IS GOOD FOR JOBS, GOOD FOR COMMUNITIES AND GOOD FOR NSW. AND WE'RE MAKING SURE THIS MESSAGE IS HEARD LOUD AND CLEAR RIGHT ACROSS REGIONAL NSW AND IMPORTANTLY, IN SYDNEY.

You may have already seen some of our new ads on TV. It's part of the NSW Minerals Council's campaign to highlight the tens of thousands of people in NSW in jobs created by, or related to, the NSW mining industry.

Over 40,000 people across NSW are directly employed in mining, including thousands right here in the Hunter. There're also tens of thousands more working in jobs that provide services to mining, including thousands of people in Sydney.

Our campaign introduces real people in real jobs from our vital regional mining communities across NSW to highlight the contribution mining makes to jobs. This includes our world class Hunter miners, as well as the tens of thousands more people that work in businesses that supply services

to our mines.

We want people to know that it takes a lot of other workers in a vast array of industries to keep our mines going. Mining relies on thousands of people working in a wide range of businesses including mechanics, manufacturing workers, accountants, chemical engineers, drone pilots, software engineers, lab technicians, environmental scientists, business analysts and many others.

As part of the campaign we highlight an accountant in the CBD of Sydney, a mine manager from the Central Coast, a pilot from Narrabri, a miner from Hunter, a farmer from Parkes and an environmental scientist from Newcastle.

We want our political leaders, as well as the broader community to know that mining provides more



Stephen Galilee  
CEO, NSW Minerals Council

than just direct mining jobs and that our industry makes a vital contribution to NSW.

Early next year, our politicians in the NSW Parliament will ask for your vote. We want them to understand how important an employer mining is in this State and how, with the right policies, mining can continue to generate more jobs across NSW for decades to come.

Stephen Galilee  
CEO, NSW Minerals Council

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THE HON. DON HARWIN,  
MINISTER FOR RESOURCES

IT WAS MY GREAT PLEASURE LAST MONTH TO ATTEND THE NSW MINING'S HEALTH, SAFETY, ENVIRONMENT AND COMMUNITY CONFERENCE IN THE HUMMING ENGINE ROOM THAT IS THE HUNTER VALLEY.

Attracting more than 500 senior industry personnel, this annual event brings the industry together to discuss its greatest challenges, identify innovation opportunities, and celebrate excellence. It gives our most prized players - everyone from frontliners to managers to industry specialists - the chance to meet one another, share their ideas, and collaborate in pursuit of a safer and smarter future.

The safety of our miners is a top

priority for the NSW Government and I believe the progress this industry has made in terms of mine safety is something that we can all feel immensely proud of.

**OF COURSE, OUR RECORD ON SAFETY IS ONLY AS GOOD AS OUR WORST DAY - AND FORTUNATELY THOSE DAYS ARE FEWER THAN EVER.**

The industry's safety performance is now better than other industries such as agriculture, transport and storage

# SWEET!

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and construction and the NSW mining industry is statistically one of the safest in the world.

**MOST NOTABLY, THE TWO NATIONAL WORK HEALTH AND SAFETY TARGETS TO REDUCE FATALITIES BY 20% AND LOST TIME SERIOUS INJURIES BY 40% IN THE TEN YEARS 2007-08 TO 2015-16 WERE ACHIEVED BY INDUSTRY. SIMILAR TEN-YEAR TARGETS TO 2022 HAVE BEEN SET AS PART OF A NATIONAL STRATEGY TO IMPROVE HEALTH AND SAFETY PERFORMANCE.**

This progress isn't just good news for workers and their families, but

for the industry as well. Since 2013, there has been a 20% decrease in the rate of lost time injuries and industry is on track to meeting the national target to reduce the number of lost time incidents by 30% by 2022. This is all satisfying, but there is still work to do, because your industry is more challenging than almost any other.

We can take satisfaction from progress, but we can never be satisfied until we achieve our common goal of a zero-fatality and zero serious incident industry.

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

# NSW MINING

*Good for jobs. Good for NSW*



# KONICHIWA!

LAST MONTH SAW SOME OF OUR FEDERAL MP'S VISIT JAPAN TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE VITAL ROLE AUSTRALIAN COAL PLAYS IN PROVIDING ENERGY SECURITY AND SUPPORTING JAPAN'S ADVANCED STEEL INDUSTRY.

The visit was organised by our coal industry through the COAL21 Fund and was led by former Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Trade and current Whitehaven Coal Chairman Mark Vaile.

The trip included inspections of one of the world's most efficient coal-fired power stations – JPower's Isogo plant – and the large-scale Kimitsu steel plant operated by Nippon Steel.

**THE PRIORITIES OF THE MISSION INCLUDED UNDERSTANDING THE INTEGRAL ROLE OF AUSTRALIAN COAL IN JAPAN, HOW ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY IS IMPROVING EFFICIENCY AND DEVELOPING A GREATER UNDERSTANDING OF ENERGY POLICY FROM ONE OF AUSTRALIA'S KEY TRADING PARTNERS AND THE WORLD'S THIRD-LARGEST ECONOMY.**

Significant policy discussions also took place with counterpart organisations and government agencies including lead energy policy department, the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry.

Australian coal is integral to Japan's energy supply and economy, with our thermal (energy) coal representing 73% of imports and coking (steel-making) coal comprising 47% of imports.

Japanese officials emphasised our enduring coal trade links, underpinned by reliability of supply and the premium quality of Australian coal. They especially noted the importance of high quality thermal coal from the Hunter Valley and Gunnedah basins, which is helping to power one of the world's leading economies.

**FEDERAL MPS ON THE TOUR INCLUDING CRAIG KELLY, TIM WILSON, MILTON DICK, MEMBER FOR PATERSON MERYL SWANSON, GEORGE CHRISTENSEN AND JASON FALINSKI WERE UNANIMOUS IN THEIR VIEW THAT OUR COAL TRADE NEEDS TO CONTINUE AND GROW, ASSISTED BY STRONG POLICY SUPPORT IN AUSTRALIA.**

Mr Vaile said the visit was constructive, focusing on coal supply issues, technology advancements and approaches needed to establish a first-class energy system.

"The Australian delegation was impressed with the investment and uptake of new low-emission coal technologies as well

as the commitment by Japanese policy makers and industry to a strong energy policy with coal as its cornerstone," Mr Vaile said.

Japan is Australia's largest coal customer at \$16.5 billion in 2017 and our longest-term coal export partner with the trade spanning more than 60 years. With Australia's coal exports reaching a record high of \$60.1 billion in 2017/18, our coal trade with Japan is economically and strategically important to both nations.

Japan is not only a coal customer but is a leading power equipment manufacturer providing world leading high efficiency low emission (HELE) plants and Integrated Gasification Combined Cycle (IGCC) technologies. Japanese power companies have plans to build another 30 HELE coal plants.

@ The Coalface hopes that the MP visit will help our government see the benefits of building HELE coal plants in Australia and especially right here in the Hunter.



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# IN THE NEWS...

## PLEASANT PLANS PASSED

The Independent Planning Commission has approved MACH Energy's proposal to extend the life of Mt Pleasant for a further six years.

MACH already has approval to extract 10.5 million tonnes per annum of run-of-mine (ROM) coal from the mine until December 2020 and the extension will allow them to continue open cut mining operations until the end of 2026.

The extension will see the production of an additional 63 million tonnes of coal and royalties exceeding \$350 million.

## BLACK LUNG BACK. OR IS IT?

The NSW Resources Regulator has determined that the first reported case of dust disease in NSW since the 1970's was not in fact black lung disease. The worker who died in January 2018, was found to have a spontaneous form of lung disease known as Idiopathic Pulmonary Fibrosis, not mixed dust pneumoconiosis as first diagnosed.

In more dust news, the Regulator is investigating a new case of suspected dust disease. The case relates to an 89-year-old coal worker who has been diagnosed with mixed dust pneumoconiosis. The retired worker spent much of his career in the Southern coalfields in NSW. The Regulator's Major Investigation Unit is now investigating the case to determine whether there were breaches of the work health and safety laws and to see if there are any learnings to further strengthen the regulatory framework.

## DARTBROOK DUO

Australian Pacific Coal and Stella Natural Resources (SNR) will become equal joint venture partners on the Dartbrook coal project.

SNR will pay Australian Pacific \$20 million for a 50 per cent stake in the Dartbrook mine, which the two companies plan to restart.

The mine has been on care and maintenance since 2006 and Australian Pacific sought approval earlier this year for bord-and-pillar mining as an alternative to the site's already-established longwall mining and hope to recommence operations in 2019.

## SCRUB SOLD

Singleton Council has agreed on a purchase price to sell the Wallaby Scrub Road to adjoining landholders Warkworth Mining Limited and Miller Pohang Coal Company for a purchase price of \$27.5 million plus costs.

The proposal to close the road was driven by the Mt Thorley Continuation Project, which required the acquisition of the Wallaby Scrub Road corridor to continue operations.

General Manager Jason Linnane said the community rightfully expected the best value for the asset. "Council has made very balanced and considered decisions to close the road throughout this process and made a determination tonight that the sale was the best outcome for the community, notwithstanding the impact of the road closure."

## RIX'S CREEK REVIEWED

A review by the IPC has found that the proposed expansion of Bloomfield's Rix's Creek open cut mine has merit, but further improvements need to be explored, particularly in relation to rehabilitation and final landform.

The project will now return to Bloomfield and the Department of Planning and Environment for response and further assessment before coming back to the IPC at a later date for determination.

## TWO AWARDS ARE BETTER THAN ONE

Port Waratah Coal Services has been awarded the Hunter Business Award's inaugural Excellence in Sustainability and Outstanding Employer of Choice.

CEO of Port Waratah, Hennie du Plooy said sustainability considerations are integral to Port Waratah's day to day operations and that their people are the heart and soul of our business. He thanked the Hunter Business Awards for its recognition and said the company looked forward to representing the region in the state awards later in the year.

## ON CONDITION

Fresh conditions have been placed on the Ashton South East coal mine, with the IPC moving to provide greater community certainty around the mine owner's responsibilities. The Yancoal owned mine lodged a modification application with the Department of Planning and Environment to clarify its responsibilities relating to its proposed open cut mine and the conditions imposed by the NSW Land and Environment Court in 2014.

The company's application did not seek to modify the Court's ruling that the mine could not go ahead unless Camberwell farmer Wendy Bowman chose to sell her property to Yancoal.

After examining the evidence before it and taking into consideration community's concerns, the IPC has decided to modify some of the conditions of consent to "increase community certainty" around the project. Under the revised conditions, Yancoal is still required to reach an agreement with Mrs Bowman about the acquisition of her property before any work on the mine can take place.

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# SOLAR SITE

MALABAR COAL IS STEPPING UP TO THE PLATE WITH THEIR FUTURE INTENTIONS OF CREATING A SHOWCASE MINING OPERATION THAT WILL EXCEED PUBLIC EXPECTATIONS.

Malabar Coal Ltd has confirmed its intention to develop a solar farm on a portion of the old Drayton Mine site. The 'Maxwell Solar Project' is proposed to have an installed capacity of about 25MW and provide 50 more jobs for the local area during construction.

Wayne Seabrook, Malabar Chairman, said the project is a great use for a site that has previously been subject to open cut mining, "When we looked at it, it made great sense to put a solar farm here. The site is adjacent to the major electricity generation hub in NSW – with the Liddell and Bayswater Power Stations located nearby – and we would have access to high voltage power lines meaning a simple and low-cost connection to the grid."

Malabar have always said they are open to considering different, compatible uses for the previously mined area. Using the land in this way means the site can continue delivering economic benefits and employment for the region for

years to come.

"The Maxwell Solar Project is another example of our commitment to the local area, the local economy and, above all, to coexistence with a wide range of industries and activities", Wayne said.

**WORKING AT CAPACITY, THE SOLAR FARM WOULD GENERATE ENOUGH ENERGY FROM THE SUN TO POWER ABOUT 10,000 LOCAL HOMES.**

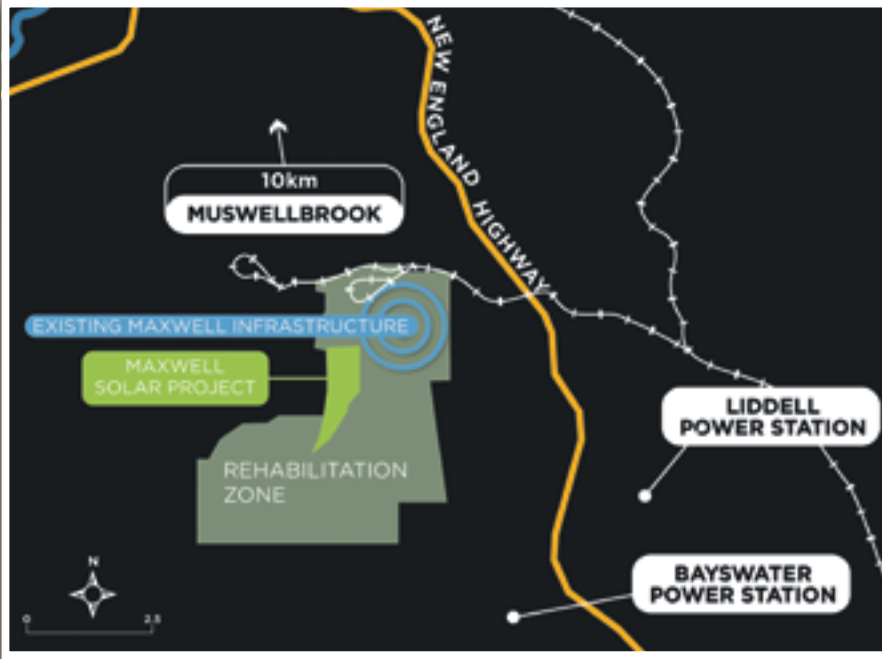
"While we work to finalise our development application for the Solar Project, rehabilitation of the remaining areas of the old open cut is continuing at pace with more than 30 people on site working to get the job done." Wayne concluded.

Due to the size and expenditure (over \$30 million) of the proposal, Malabar will be submitting a request for a State Significant Development to Department of Planning and Environment.

Every time @ the Coalface talks

to Malabar they impress us with their open-mindedness and genuine desire to mine the best way possible with all stakeholders' interests in mind. They never need to be pushed and if this is what the

future of local mining could look like then a lot of previous divisions and issues simply won't come into play. Well done guys and we look forward to seeing what else is ahead.



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# CASUAL CAUSE

**THE FULL FEDERAL COURT HAS UPHELD A DECISION THAT CASUAL WORKERS MAY BE ENTITLED TO PAID LEAVE IF THEY WORK IN ON-GOING, REGULAR ARRANGEMENTS.**

The recent decision to uphold the court's 2016 Skene v Workpac Federal Circuit Court judgement means that workers described as casuals by labour hire companies may not meet the definition of a casual worker under the Fair Work Act and may therefore be eligible for annual leave and other entitlements.

The 2016 case involved CFMEU member Paul Skene, a fly in fly out haul truck operator employed as a casual by labour hire company Workpac in two Central Queensland coal mines for two and a half years. The Federal Court found that Mr Skene could not properly be considered a casual under the Fair Work Act due to the regular and continuous nature of his work on a fixed roster. The court decided

Mr Skene was therefore entitled to receive accrued annual pay on termination of his employment.

**CFMEU NATIONAL PRESIDENT TONY MAHER SAID THE CASE WOULD CAUSE ALARM IN THE MINING INDUSTRY, WHERE USE OF CASUAL LABOUR HIRE WORKERS IS OUT OF CONTROL.**

"Labour hire employees are now a significant proportion of the workforce at most coal mines, with the vast majority employed casually. In many cases they are casual in name only, working side by side with permanent employees on the same rosters over extended periods, but with no job security."

The decision has the potential to have far reaching implications for the casual labour hire workers in the mining industry.

# LIGHTS! CAMERA! ACTION!

**THE WORKSHOP AT QUARRY MINING WAS TRANSFORMED INTO A TV SET FOR THE NEW COAL21 AD.**

The ad will continue the successful and well-received theme that if Australian coal is being used by other advanced economies such as Japan and Germany to provide reliable and affordable power while reducing emissions, it's time to do the same here.

Quarry Mining Managing Director Kari Armitage said it was a privilege to work with the team from Industrial and Lightracer again and to have their Beresfield workshop play host.

"This campaign is important for the mining industry and we fully support its message. It's time for Australia to get onboard with HELE technologies like they are doing around the rest of the world." Kari said.

COAL21 drew on the wealth of talent in member companies for the ad, with Shaun Booth from Glencore joining Raelene O'Brien from Peabody for the filming.

Look out for the ad later this year!



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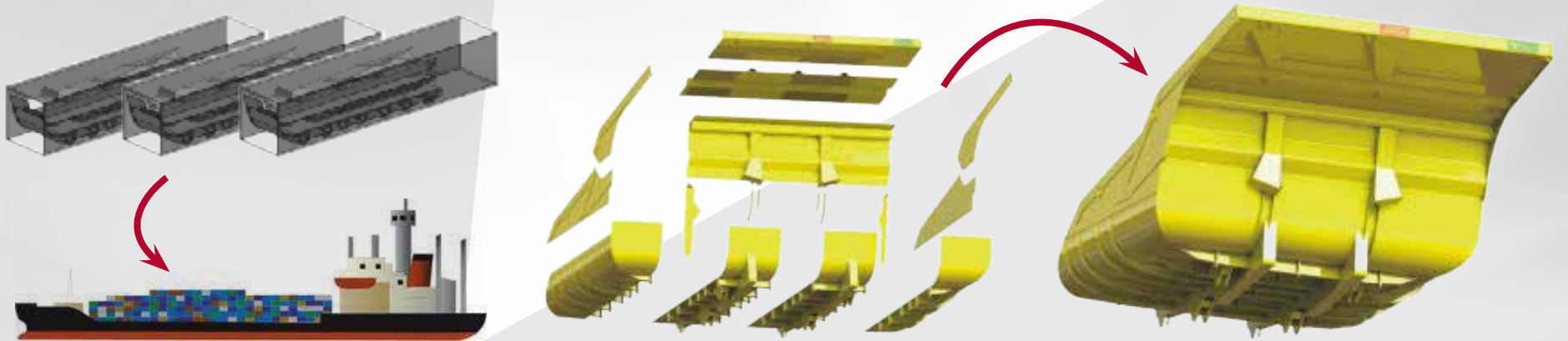
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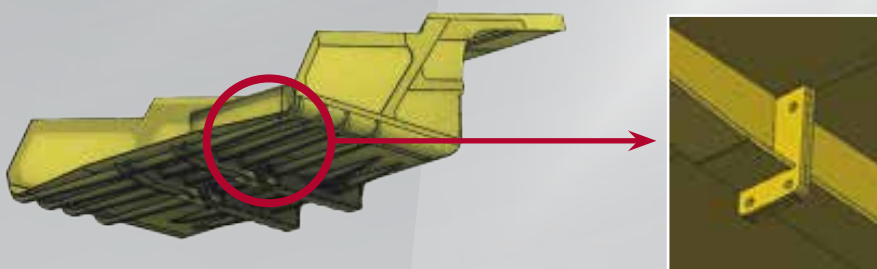


## ANGLED SIDEWALLS FOR ACCELERATION OF MATERIAL WHILE UNLOADING



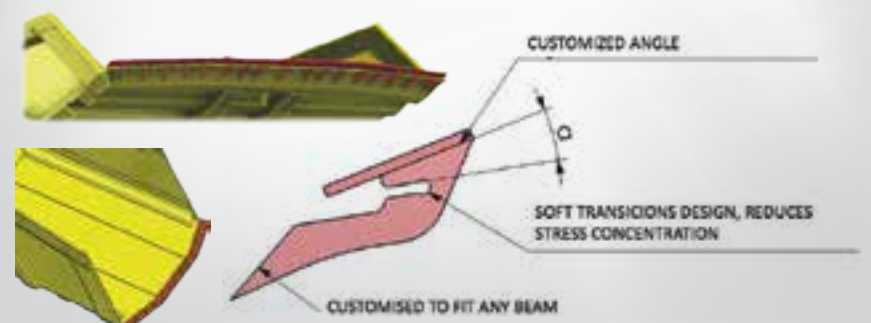
- ▶ REDUCES CARRY BACK
- ▶ CURVED FLOOR-SIDEWALL SECTIONS
- ▶ REDUCES CARRY BACK ISSUES

### INNOVATIVE DESIGN FEATURES



- ▶ G4 DESIGN REPLACES UNDERFLOOR BOLSTER BEAMS FOR 'T' DESIGN BEAMS
- ▶ REDUCES CONCENTRATION OF STRESS.

### OPTIONAL MINETEC DUCK TAIL DESIGN





PUBLISHERS OPINION

# SUPPORT FOR OUR STRUGGLING FARMERS

IT'S HEARTBREAKING TO SEE HOW TOUGH IT IS FOR PEOPLE ON THE LAND AT THE MOMENT. MINERS ON THE OTHER HAND ARE ENJOYING MORE PROSPEROUS TIMES.

With that in mind, it's great to see so much support coming from thousands of individual miners and companies large and small within the industry to support those affected by

the drought. The people and companies of the mining industry are very generous in times of need and these are times of great need. Talking to people in the

pub, the street and the supermarket, everyone understands just how dire things have become. Like mining, agriculture is one of the resource pillars of

our society. As important as energy is though, the fruits of our land arguably sit a rung above.  
The sad truth though is that even if the heavens open up with a bit of the life giving wet stuff right now, it's still going to take at least a couple of years to get things back on track. For some it will be too late anyway. If we don't get any consistent rain things are going to get far worse very fast.  
**FROM WORKING MINERS BUYING RAFFLE TICKETS IN A PLETHORA OF LOCAL COMPETITIONS TO COMPANIES LIKE CENTENNIAL COAL WHOSE WORKERS RECENTLY HELD A BBQ AT ITS MANDALONG MINE TO HELP. JUST RECENTLY GLENCORE ALSO DONATED OVER \$200,000 IN DROUGHT RELIEF ALONG WITH COMPANIES LIKE BLOOMFIELD WHO ARE JUST AS FOCUSED ON LOOKING**

**AT WHAT THEY CAN GIVE AND WHAT THEY CAN DO FOR FARMERS.**  
These initiatives are just the tip of the iceberg and I would bet my shirt there is something happening on each and every mine site and most likely several initiatives. Get behind as many as you can.  
Well done to everyone who is doing their bit. Please remember though that the job is far from done. Keep giving and do what you can till the tide turns however long that might take. In fact, lets step up the game. See what else the company you work for and the mates you work with could do and make more happen. Let's show our people on the land that end of the day while we don't always agree on everything, we stand together when things get tough. Well done to everyone doing their bit...Keep up the good work!

## 'AVE A LAUGH WITH

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A ventriloquist is touring Norway and puts on a show in a small fishing town. With his dummy on his knee, he starts going through his usual dumb blonde jokes.

Suddenly, a blonde woman in the fourth row stands on her chair and starts shouting, "I've heard enough of your stupid blonde jokes. What makes you think you can stereotype Norwegian blonde women that way?

What does the color of a woman's hair have to do with her worth as a human being? It's people like you that make others think that all blondes are dumb. You and your kind continue to perpetuate discrimination against not only blondes

but women in general, pathetically all in the name of humour!"

The embarrassed ventriloquist begins to apologise, and the blonde interrupts yelling, "You stay out of this! I'm talking to that little guy on your lap!"



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AGL GENERAL MANAGER  
KATE COATES



## POWERFUL DEBATE

ON AUGUST 24, AGL GENERAL MANAGER KATE COATES SPOKE AT THE HUNTER BUSINESS MINING LUNCH ON THE FUTURE OF LIDDELL AND BAYSWATER POWER STATIONS.

It was a full house at Merewether Surfhouse, with the future of the Hunter's electricity industry being a hot topic for our industry.

The focus of Kate's talk was AGL's NSW Generation Plan which will see Liddell close in 2022, a plan that has been in the works for many years and now more than ever is a contentious topic. It highlights the two options for Liddell.

Option 1: Close it in 2022

and replace in with different technologies including gas, wind, solar and hydro, at a cost of around \$1.3 billion. Consumers will pay a cheaper levelised cost of energy – somewhere around \$83/Mwh.

Option 2: Keep Liddell open for another 5 years at a cost of almost a billion dollars. The cost for consumers will be around \$106/Mwh and AGL says there will be an unreliability of demand as they struggle to keep the power station

## GET A LOAD OF THIS!

WIN!

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working well past it's used by date.

**SEEMS LIKE A SIMPLE CHOICE? BUT THERE ARE MANY WHO DON'T BELIEVE THAT AGL CAN DELIVER AND ELECTRICITY WILL BE MORE UNRELIABLE AND MORE EXPENSIVE THAN IT ALREADY IS. ARE THEY GAMING THE SYSTEM AS MANY HAVE SUGGESTED?**

There is no doubt that replacing Liddell with low emissions generations is the better option. As Kate said, "Transition has arrived, and the future is happening now. AGL is uniquely placed to drive that change." What is in doubt is whether replacing Liddell will be able to provide the same baseload power and reduce costs to consumers.

Kate also talked about the Liddell

Innovation Project which is looking at future uses of the Liddell site and the existing infrastructure. AGL says they are working on ensuring that the Hunter economy is not affected and that local jobs are maintained. They are seeking proposals that will deliver social and commercial value for the site. Again, it sounds great but will AGL deliver?

To throw more uncertainty into the mix, AGL chief executive Andy Vesey has resigned after four years in the role during which he has been in a standoff with the Federal Government over the Liddell closure. You must wonder if this will have any impact on the company's plans.

Did we hear someone say HELE plant on the site? Stay tuned.

## TOGETHER WE GROW.

### POSITIONS AVAILABLE

Ref 200182404

Monadelphous is a leading Australian engineering group providing construction, maintenance and industrial services to the resources, energy and infrastructure sectors. We are an S&P/ASX 200 company working for blue-chip customers on some of Australia's biggest projects.

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

• Boilermakers • Fitters • Scaffolders • Riggers • Electricians • Industrial Painters

**Successful applicants must:**

- Be based in the Hunter Valley
- Provide evidence of current Working at Heights certification
- Have a minimum of two years industry experience
- Produce Proof of Right to work in Australia
- Local Mine inductions would be favourable.

For more information and to apply, visit [www.monadelphous.com.au/careers](http://www.monadelphous.com.au/careers)

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.

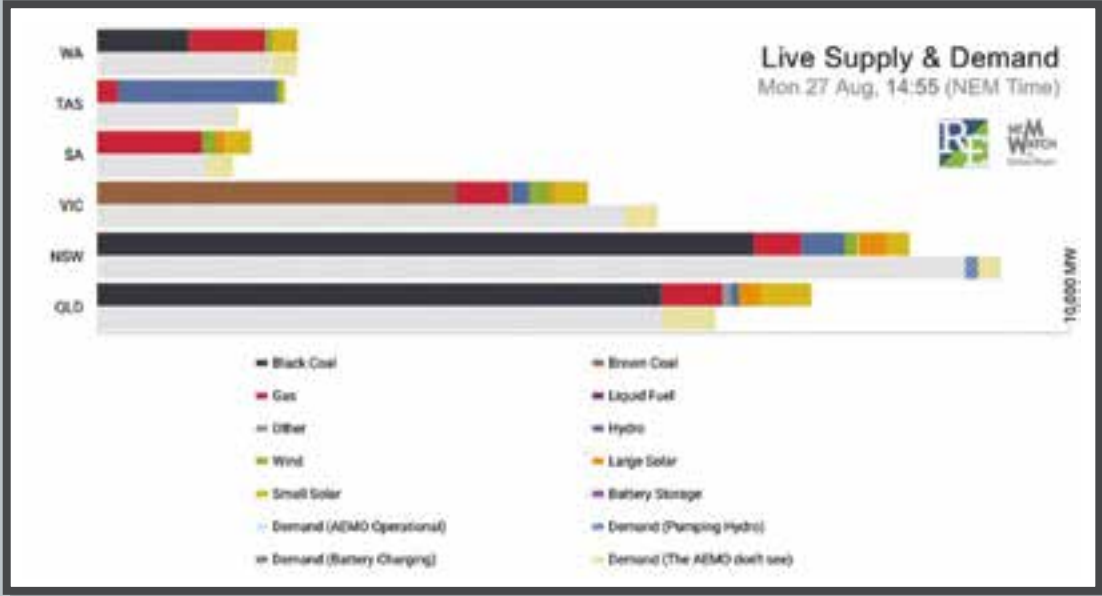
As part of the recruitment process, suitable applicants will be required to complete pre-employment medical testing including drug and alcohol screening.

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](http://www.monadelphous.com.au/careers) and search for job reference number 200182404.

Monadelphous is an equal opportunity employer supporting diversity in our workforce.







# ARM YOURSELF WITH THE REAL ENERGY FACTS

THE ENERGY DEBACLE SEEMS TO BE PLAYING OUT IN EVERY MEDIA OUTLET, BUT WHAT ARE THE FACTS? HOW DO YOU ARM YOURSELF WITH THE INFORMATION TO MAKE YOUR OWN DECISION WITHOUT BEING INFLUENCED BY MAINSTREAM MEDIA AND POLITICAL AGENDAS? WE HAVE THE ANSWERS FOR YOU!

**LIVE ENERGY PRICES**  
Stay up to date with all live pricing and electricity movement via the app Pocket NEM. There are multiple options you can select and see the generation of output by region, powerplant and fuel.

**WEBSITE GRAPH**  
From [reneweconomy.com.au](http://reneweconomy.com.au) you will be able to obtain a live shot of what is

contributing to the power grid, with a bar graph that shows supply and demand, including the breakdown from each state and energy source that is contributing to the grid.

**THIS MUST BE A GOOD THING FOR CONSUMERS? RIGHT?**  
While variable renewable generators are bidding into the market at negative prices, they are outcompeting other

generators such as coal, gas and pumped hydro who have higher base energy production costs such as fuel, maintenance and staffing. While this may reduce prices at that moment there are flow on effects.

**WELL IT'S A FREE MARKET... ADAPT OR DIE?**  
Unfortunately, uncertain weather patterns determine the availability of variable renewable generators

meaning that these generators cannot provide reliable power. So, at night time when the sun isn't shining and when the wind isn't blowing we rely on baseload generation from coal, gas and pumped hydro. With baseload generators having a base cost to produce electricity, they cannot compete with negative electricity prices and as such become unprofitable and cannot continue operations. This poses an obvious problem...

**WHO IS LEFT TO PROVIDE POWER WHEN THE VARIABLE RENEWABLE ENERGY GENERATORS ARE IDLE?**  
A certain amount of baseload generation must remain in the market to achieve reliable and affordable power. In the NEM this is largely supplied by coal with gas and pumped hydro playing a smaller role. With baseload generators forced from the market, leaving gaps in supply, electricity prices rise astronomically. Any generator that can supply the market when variable renewables aren't producing power will stand to make large profits such as the expensive diesel generators installed in South Australia.

**WHAT ABOUT BATTERIES?**  
There is much hype around the potential for renewables to supply batteries which would provide the baseload

power when weather conditions are not suitable. There are several issues with battery technologies, not the least that they are wildly expensive.

To supply both the NEM and charge batteries there would need to be a significantly greater renewable energy generation capacity installed which would be extremely costly. Beyond that, the technology is not yet capable of providing a NEM or industrial scale solution. For example, the world's largest lithium ion battery in South Australia is capable of supply to the Tomago aluminium smelter for around eight minutes. The cost to supply the entire NEM for a period of say 5-7 days without supplementary generation would simply be mind boggling!

**WHERE TO FROM HERE?**  
It is clear that reliable, baseload generation is critically important. With some of Australia's ageing coal fleet coming towards the end of their usable life, something needs to be done to maintain supply and drive down costs.

Australia is an energy rich nation. With coal, gas and an untapped nuclear potential we could be an energy superpower with low cost generation supporting a thriving economy.

Perhaps we could have our cake and eat it? What are your thoughts?



# APPRENTICES BATTLE IT OUT

THE STATE OF ORIGIN MAY BE OVER, BUT THE BATTLE BETWEEN NSW AND QUEENSLAND CONTINUED AT THE HVTC SKILLS CENTRE IN RUTHERFORD.

Thirty first year apprentices from Glencore sites across the Hunter, Mudgee and Queensland put their trade skills and work-readiness to the test as part of the 2018 Glencore Interstate Skills Competition. The rigorous two-day program saw apprentices tackle theoretical and practical exercises representing the core areas of their training to date, including machining, fabrication, electrical, hydraulics, safety and first aid.

**GLENCORE PROJECTS AND TRAINING ENGINEER PAUL GILL SAID THE COMPETITION HAS BEEN RUNNING FOR MORE**

**THAN 12 YEARS AS A FUN WAY OF TESTING WHAT THE APPRENTICES HAVE LEARNT SO FAR THROUGHOUT THEIR TRAINING.**

"It is the first time in their training that the apprentices are tested in a fully simulated scenario, which allows us to see how well they cope under pressure. The Competition helps us assess individual progress and identify areas they may need to focus on in the future." Paul said.

HVTC CEO Sharon Smith said HVTC was honoured to have hosted this year's event.

"Training is the core of our business, so we

understand the value in giving apprentices and trainees a way to validate their knowledge and skills in real-world settings. Initiatives like the Glencore Interstate Skills Competition are a good way to monitor an individual's progress, showcase their strengths and weaknesses and identify potential gaps in their training that may need to be addressed." Sharon said.

As fierce as the competition may be, it's not about picking winners and losers, but providing ongoing support for the apprentices to give them the best possible chance of succeeding in their chosen fields.



# 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.



# RIGHTS TO REGIONAL RESOURCES

THE STATE GOVERNMENT RECEIVES MORE MINING ROYALTY MONEY FROM THE SINGLETON AND MUSWELLBROOK LGA'S THAN ALMOST ANY OTHER SOURCE. THEY ARE ALSO ARGUABLY TWO OF THE MOST MINING AFFECTED COMMUNITIES IN THE STATE.

While Muswellbrook is reasonably happy with their wins last year, Singleton's Mayor, Sue Moore, isn't pulling any punches about our regions eligibility for Resources for Regions (RFR) funding having been overlooked in the last round of grants.

We fully accept that RFR funds need to be spread around but given significant traffic and other impacts these two great communities proactively work with, perhaps it should be a 'what should be funded?' versus a 'will we be funded?' annual

conversation with the RFR powers that be for both Councils.

While we try not to be too political @ The Coalface, we wholeheartedly support Sue and in fact believe there is a strong case that both Singleton and Muswellbrook should be a permanent if not high priority recipient of RFR grants.

On the ground the sentiment from local residents is unanimous in the belief that our situations and eligibility are unique and should be given special consideration... We agree.

## SINGLETON

**Opinion: Cr Sue Moore - Mayor of Singleton.**

With the disappointment of the most recent Resources For Regions announcements still fresh in our minds - when no money came our way - Singleton Council has lodged two robust applications in the latest round of the NSW Government program.

The Singleton Town Centre Revitalisation Project Stage 2B and Singleton Roads Upgrade Program including four projects targeting the roads workers use to access the

mines and other mining-related employment amount to a combined total of \$13,353,000.

**WE ARE OF THE STRONG VIEW THERE SHOULD BE NO CO-CONTRIBUTIONS REQUIRED UNDER THE FUND, AND THE GOVERNMENT HAS HALVED THE REQUIREMENT TO 25 PER CENT.**

However, as a demonstration of the importance of these projects, Council will contribute 50 per cent of the cost and has made application for the remaining \$6,676,000 under the Resources For Regions fund.

## The kind of service your grandparents remember with the excitement they want the grandkids to experience.



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CR SUE MOORE –  
MAYOR OF SINGLETON



That's from a local government area with 17 coal mines in operation producing \$5.6 billion of regional mining exports and contributing to a Gross Regional Product of \$4.8 billion.

**IF THAT'S NOT A SNAPSHOT OF A MINING-AFFECTED COMMUNITY, THEN WHAT IS? WHAT'S MORE, THESE PROJECTS MEET THE OBJECTIVES OF THE RESOURCES FOR REGIONS PROGRAM, AND THEN SOME.**

The \$4,853,000 Singleton Town Centre Revitalisation Project Stage 2B addresses mining traffic management, contributes to the attractiveness of the town centre, will improve safety and travel times. The \$8,500,000 Singleton Road

Upgrade Program includes Glendonbrook Road Rehabilitation; Elderslie Road approaches; Cessnock Road bridge replacement; and Moses Crossing approach upgrade. These projects are critical to ensuring vital routes remain open and improving safety and travel times for the 9,070 workers living outside the Singleton LGA who rely on these roads to get to work.

**OUR LGA CONTRIBUTES MORE TO MINING OUTPUT THAN ANY OTHER IN THIS STATE.**

Further, given the quality of the projects, our significant financial contribution and the obvious benefits to the community, I respectfully submit to the Deputy Premier John Barilaro and the member for Upper Hunter Michael Johnsen MP that there is no reason Singleton could be overlooked this time around.

#### **MUSWELLBROOK**

**Opinion: Fiona Plesman – General Manager, Muswellbrook Council.**

Earlier this year, Muswellbrook Shire Council received news of its success in Round 5 of the NSW Resources for Regions funding program, which will provide up to

fifty percent of the funds for major Council infrastructure within the Shire.

The Resources for Regions fund, which is open to those Councils with significant mining activity, recognises that whilst the mining industry makes a significant contribution to the economic prosperity of NSW, mining activity can also place additional stress on regional communities and its infrastructure.

Additional funding won through successful grant applications enables Council to bring forward planned improvements to the community's infrastructure - such as on mining affected roads, upgrades to traffic safety, and water and sewerage assets.

**BY BUILDING AND ENHANCING INFRASTRUCTURE ACROSS THE SHIRE, COUNCIL IS ABLE TO ADDRESS SOME OF THE IMPACTS MINING HAS ON THE COMMUNITY'S INFRASTRUCTURE AND ENHANCE THE LIVEABILITY FOR RESIDENTS IN OUR COMMUNITY.**

Muswellbrook Shire Council has a proud track record in

successful funding applications and has demonstrated it has the capacity to deliver large projects through robust strategies for procurement, project management and risk management.

Council appreciates the support made available through the Resources for Regions program. This year's round of funding matches the Council's \$2.5 million for the Denman Town Centre Revitalisation project, which has already commenced, and \$7.7 million for traffic safety improvements, road renewals and upgrades of the region's local road networks.



FIONA PLESMAN  
GENERAL MANAGER,  
MUSWELLBROOK COUNCIL



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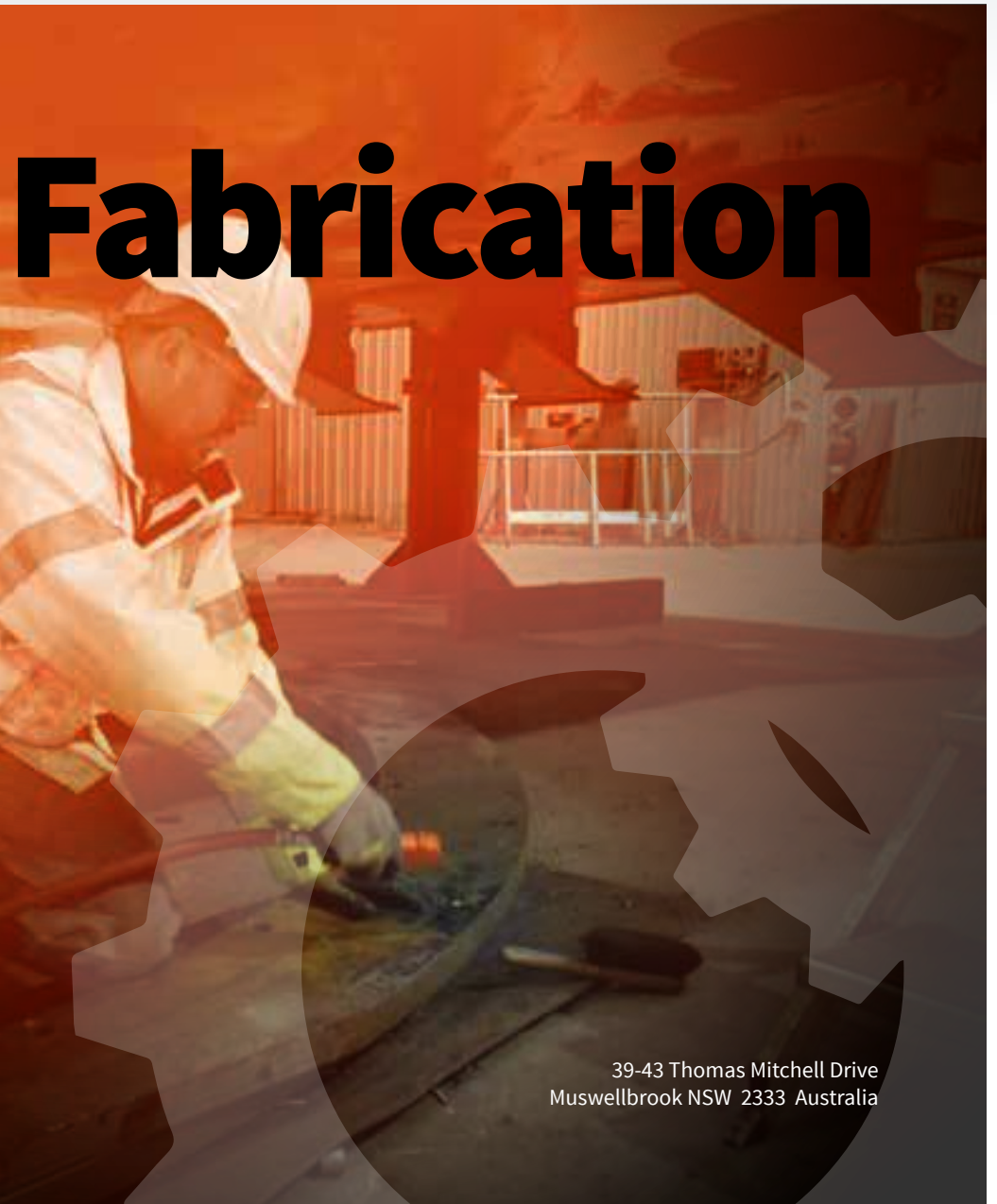
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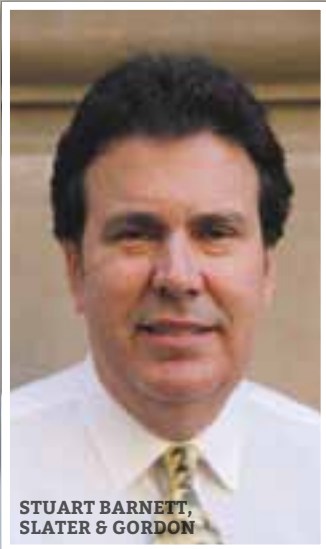
# Fabrication



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# LEARN FROM THE LAWMAN



STUART BARNETT,  
SLATER & GORDON

Have you ever been in a situation where you are calmly driving your car and suddenly you hear sirens, you look around for the source and you see flashing lights either behind you or coming towards you? Many people feel an immediate sense of panic or uncertainty. You probably say to yourself where do I go and what are my obligations?

**THE ROAD RULES (NSW) 2014 DEAL WITH YOUR RIGHTS AND OBLIGATIONS**

STUART BARNETT IS OUR MINING INDUSTRY’S LEADING PERSONAL INJURY LAWYER. THIS MONTH HE HAS SOME IMPORTANT ADVICE IN RELATION TO YOUR RIGHTS AND OBLIGATIONS ON THE ROAD WHEN FACED WITH AN APPROACHING EMERGENCY VEHICLE.

**IN THESE CIRCUMSTANCES. INDEED, THE RULES THAT APPLY TO EMERGENCY VEHICLES OVERRIDE OTHER ROAD RULES EVEN IF THOSE OTHER RULES WOULD NORMALLY HAVE REQUIRED THE EMERGENCY VEHICLE TO GIVE WAY TO YOU. THESE RULES APPLY IN CIRCUMSTANCES WHETHER THE EMERGENCY VEHICLE IS DISPLAYING FLASHING LIGHTS OR SOUNDING A SIREN OR BOTH.**

Your first obligation is not to move into the path of an approaching emergency vehicle, secondly, if you find yourself in the path of an approaching emergency vehicle you must move out of the path of the emergency vehicle as soon as you can do so safely.

The law also provides that you must give way to an emergency vehicle, so don’t

be tempted to race across an intersection to get across before the emergency vehicle. Remember the behavior of the driver of the emergency vehicle is likely to be unpredictable, they may use parts of the road you would not expect them to use and they may even override roundabouts, footpaths and medium strips.

If you are stationary when you detect the approaching emergency vehicle then you must remain stationary, otherwise you must slow down and if necessary stop to avoid a collision.

**FACED WITH THIS SOMETIMES DIFFICULT SITUATION, DRIVERS NEED TO MAKE A QUICK DECISION AND ACT UPON IT IN THE SAFEST POSSIBLE MANNER. YOUR DECISION MAY BE INFLUENCED BY THE ROAD AND TRAFFIC CONDITIONS AND HOW**

**EARLY YOU DETECT THE APPROACHING VEHICLE. IF IN DOUBT DON’T MAKE ANY ERRATIC MANEUVERS AND LET THE EMERGENCY VEHICLE NAVIGATE AROUND YOU.**

A breach of the Road Rules may incur a fine, but there could be other more costly ramifications. In the event of a collision you may end up being found to be in the wrong and liable for the costs of the property damage to your vehicle and the emergency vehicle or worse you and others might be seriously injured.

**READERS SHOULD ALSO BE AWARE THAT FROM 1<sup>ST</sup> SEPTEMBER 2018 DRIVERS WILL BE REQUIRED TO SLOW TO 40KPH WHEN PASSING A STATIONARY EMERGENCY VEHICLE DISPLAYING BLUE OR RED FLASHING LIGHTS AND NOT INCREASE YOUR SPEED**

**‘AVE A LAUGH WITH**

PH 6571 1589

**SingletonOutdoors**

**NOW HIRING TORO MOWERS AND HAND HELD EQUIPMENT**

On Monday I said to my boss, “I’ve a dentist’s appointment this afternoon. Can I leave at 2 and make up the time later in the week?”

“Yeah, that’s no problem,” he said.

On Friday he came up to me and said, “What’s this? You’ve put on your timesheet that you finished at 5 on Monday.”

I replied, “Yeah I know. I told you I’d make the time up.”

**UNTIL YOU ARE A SAFE DISTANCE PAST THE SCENE. IN THOSE CIRCUMSTANCES YOU MUST ALSO GIVE WAY TO ANY PERSON ON FOOT IN THE VICINITY OF THE EMERGENCY VEHICLE.**

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**



## WHO’S WHO IN THE ZOO

PARALLEL ECONOMICS

IMAGINE IF STEVE IRWIN CAME FROM THE HUNTER INSTEAD OF THE SUNSHINE COAST – AUSTRALIA ZOO WOULD BE A WORLD-FAMOUS TOURIST ATTRACTION RIGHT HERE IN THE VALLEY.

Make no mistake, zoos are big business. Taronga Park Zoo and its sister facility Taronga Western Plains Zoo in Dubbo along with many others around the country are proven tourism winners. Hunter Valley Zoo is a small but successful local enterprise in the wine region already.

**SO, WHAT IF WE STEPPED IT UP A GEAR AND JOINT VENTURED WITH AN ORGANISATION LIKE AUSTRALIA ZOO TO SET UP A MAJOR HUNTER VERSION ON MINE LAND DONATED TO THE IDEA. MILLIONS OF ADDITIONAL TOURISTS WOULD BE ATTRACTED TO THE AREA ALONG WITH TENS**

**OF MILLIONS OF EXTRA ECONOMY BOOSTING DOLLARS.**

Or we could even start small and make a big impact like they have in Tamworth. Tamworth Marsupial Park is a free entry Family Park (not a zoo), in a natural bush setting, just 2kms from the town CBD. The Park is totally maintained and upgraded by a small band of friendly, dedicated and passionate volunteers.

Maintenance and upgrading of the Park is totally funded by visitor donations, sponsorships and successful applications for funding from government bodies. Marsupial Park has a small selection of mainly native bird and animal exhibits to delight and educate people of all ages and nationalities.

There are covered picnic areas, free gas barbeques and private bush picnic areas throughout the Park. There is a huge Adventure Playground that was built by

around 1000 volunteers from the community over 6 days. The Park is a very popular place for local and out of town schools to bring their students for environmental studies.

The Park is also a haven for wild animals and birds. Kangaroos, lace monitors, echidnas, possums, carpet pythons and more, all call the Tamworth Marsupial Park their home.

**LARGE OR SMALL THE POSSIBILITIES ARE AS ENDLESS AS ARE THE POTENTIAL LOCATIONS. THE MUSWELLBROOK COAL SITE ALREADY HAS ADJOINING LAND THAT WOULD FIT THE JOB PERFECTLY. AS DOES RIX’S CREEK IN SINGLETON. LAND FORMING WOULD BE RELATIVELY EASY FOR OBVIOUS REASONS AND BOTH TOWNS COULD RECEIVE MASSIVE BENEFITS.**

Crikey... what a good idea!

**THE MEGA MONTHLY MEAT RAFFLE WORTH \$150 COMPLIMENTS OF**

**ROBERT’S MEATS**

The Hunters best butcher of hand-picked meaty goodness!

**FOR YOUR CHANCE TO WIN, SIMPLY SMS: ROBERT’S MEATS, YOUR NAME AND YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS TO 0438 474 290.**

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

BY SUBMITTING AN ENTRY, YOU CONSENT TO THE USE OF YOUR CONTACT DETAILS FOR PROMOTIONAL AND MARKETING PURPOSES.

**WIN!**



# GLENCORE

## Proudly Supporting our LOCAL COMMUNITIES

In the past 10 years, we've provided over \$80 million  
to help more than 100 community partners.





# VALLEY MAINTENANCE SOLUTIONS

SUPPLIER INSIDER

## Who are you and what do you do?

My name is Glen Rae. I am the Managing Director of Valley Maintenance Solutions. We supply maintenance solutions to the mining industry as well as labour support.

## Where did you start and how did you end up where you are now?

I started in the mining industry as a Boilermaker over 20 years ago. I have had various roles with different contracting companies since then. I have been employed as a Supervisor, Safety Advisor and a Maintenance Manager. I started Valley Maintenance Solutions in January this year as my position as Maintenance Manager become redundant with my past employer and I felt that there was a market for personal, quality service within the field.

## Describe a typical day at 'The office'.

At this stage we are still building as a company so there isn't a typical day for me just yet. I can be welding

on site or operating a crane or even fabricating in our new workshop. The majority of my time though is spent talking to our existing clients and making sure that the service we are providing is above standard as well as letting potential clients know that we are here, and we can offer a professional, safe service at a cost efficient rate.

## What's the best thing about your business?

Our people. They have shown trust in me and VMS to leave long term employment and take a risk by coming on board to a new company within a highly competitive market. We have a good mixture of experience and youth that will help the business grow. Employing local people with the right attitude toward safety and work is something that we are proud of.

## What is the big news in your part of the mining industry right now?

I'd have to say the opportunities that keep coming up with new mines

opening and other mines in the planning stages.

## What is the biggest opportunity for your business right now?

We are still very young as a company so every opportunity that comes up is big for us. In saying that we have the people to make the most of these opportunities and create ongoing relationships with our clients.

## What are the biggest challenges facing your business?

Our biggest challenge is getting new clients to trust us as a new business. The clients we have now have been loyal as they know that they are getting value for money and work done to a high safety standard. Another challenge would be a shortage of tradespeople in the valley. Every contractor I talk to is struggling to find skilled employees.

## How long have you been doing business and business in the Valley?

I have been involved in

mining in the valley for 21 years. VMS kicked off in January this year.

## Community or other causes close to its heart and values?

We sponsor a couple of local sporting clubs. I'm sure in the near future we will be on board in sponsoring any cause that helps the community and its people.

## How big is the crew in the Hunter Valley?

We currently have 9 permanent and 4 casual employees at our Mt Thorley workshop. We are after boilermakers and riggers for permanent and casual roles now as we have more work coming up.

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

Being able to help someone through employment has a good feeling about it. The people that we have employed to date appreciate the opportunity and I'm finding the payback from



this is loyal employees who will go the extra mile to get the job done.

## The worst thing?

I'd love a holiday but at this stage of the business I think that is a while off, so I'd have to say the amount of time it takes to keep the business running smoothly.

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

I can't think of anything specific, but I do enjoy a joke so most days at work there is a story.

## Anything else you want to say?

Thank you to all of our current clients for taking a chance on us. To all of our future clients: Take the chance.

# KIDS @ THE COALFACE

THIS MONTH WE WENT OUT AND ASKED THE KIDS SOME QUESTIONS ABOUT OUR INDUSTRY AND WE LOVED THEIR ANSWERS!



## Harloh Kirby - Age 2

Dad: Christian, Operator, Wambo Open Cut

What does your dad do?

Get monies

What is coal and what do we use it for?

Its name is coal and it hurts your finger.



## Phoebe Martin - Age 4

Father: Daniel, Operator, Hunter Valley Operations.

What does your dad do?

My dad works in the mines for long hours and makes me cakes.

What is coal and what do we use it for?

Coal is a rock that poor people get for Christmas when they have no money.



## Dayne Vitnell - Age 5

Mother: Miranda, Operator, Hunter Valley Operations

What does your mum do?

Mum drives the trucks and dad fixes them

What is coal and what do we use it for?

What you get from Santa when your naughty. For electricity.



## Isabella Reynolds - Age 5

Father: Steve, General Manager, @ The Coalface

What does your dad do?

Works on his laptop and writes stuff, and has lots of meetings.

What is coal and what do we use it for?

It gets taken by trains to people who need it. At our house we use it to stop the door from blowing open on a windy day. (Lump of coal is used as doorstep)



## Ava Connolly - Age 4

Father: Chris, Shift Engineer, Austar Coal Mine

What does your dad do?

He goes under the ground and digs up rocks. He takes a very big lunchbox.

What is coal and what do we use it for?

Daddy takes it out of the ground so it doesn't have to stay there in the dark by itself.



## Knox Miratana - Age 4

Father: Dallas, Fitter/Operator, Mt Arthur Coal

What does your dad do?

He fixes trucks

What is coal and what do we use it for?

Poo. Making trucks dirty.



MY MINING LIFE

# BEN NIZNIK



**BEN NIZNIK RECKONS HE WORKS AT A DREAM PIT AND WOULDN'T WANT TO WORK ANYWHERE ELSE.**

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

My name is Ben Niznik and I am a Plant Operator at Rix's Creek and I've been there close on 10 years now since I started a traineeship in 2008. My dad has been a shotfirer at Rix's Creek since 1993 and he was the one that encouraged me to get into the industry. At the time when the traineeship came up I was 6 months into a carpentry apprenticeship, so I had to make a big call on that one and here I am today.

**Any nicknames good or bad?**

Yeah in my traineeship I picked up the nickname 'Mags' because of the big earrings I wear in my ears, and when I was in my 20's and had a lot of face piercings they called me 'Tackle box', because it looked like I was chunked into a tackle box. Now since I have grown my beard I get called Ben-Laden for obvious reasons, so yeah, I have a few nicknames.

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

I am currently living in Stockton. I have been there about six months and it's beautiful. Before that I have

always lived in Raymond Terrace. I usually travel with mates from work and only live 500m from the beach. It's unreal to have that good life work balance.

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

2008 with the traineeship. There's been a lot of changes in the industry, but for me personally I have really enjoyed it. I was lucky enough to start off at a great pit. I learnt a lot from a lot of good operators and it's put me in good stead. The morale is good, everyone has each other's back and looks out for one another. It doesn't matter who you are, everyone is very approachable from the mine manager right through the workforce. It's a great place to work.

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

I get to work and catch up with everyone and have a laugh with the guys. Get in there and have a look what machine you're on and where

you're working, then we have the prestart and then go out and get into it. Personally, I love working on the grader. It's 5x8hr shifts with the option of 12hr. I can't complain about the roster there, it's fantastic and it reflects through in the positivity in the workforce.

**How big is the crew?**

It'd have to be between 30 and 50 blokes, they aren't big crews in comparison to other mines.

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

I'm just happy. A lot of people go to work on a Monday to Friday and they aren't happy. When I go to work, I like the people I work with. I like the culture there. I like that it's safe. I always drive away wanting to go back the next day.

**The worst thing?**

I can't complain, I'm very lucky.

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

I used to travel with an electrician and one night I got home and I couldn't find my phone. I had left it in his car and he ended up sending a message out to everyone in my phone saying my sexual preferences have changed. So yeah, for months and months after that I had to justify myself to everyone and respond to messages. Even my father rang me. I still cop it on occasions, 'Have you been texting anyone lately.'



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

I always wanted to do anything with my hands. I liked playing in the sand pits as a kid with the dump trucks and stuff, so yeah, I have always had that connection to wanting to do mining.

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

To you she would say I was a nice young man, but it probably would've been a different story, I was always cheeky and always running around mucking up.

**Family?**

I currently have a girlfriend and looking to next year hopefully purchasing my own home.

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

I do a lot of surfing, I play soccer as well. I spend time obviously with the girlfriend. Catch up with mates and go for a schnitzel and beer with the boys. I am launching a hybrid clothing and apparel company called Hops & Iron. I have always liked sports and exercising and having a beer with the boys. So, I thought why not combine the two for people that have similar interests, into a brand that appeals to people. That they can wear to exercise or out socially. Check it out at on Instagram - Hops & Iron Apparel.



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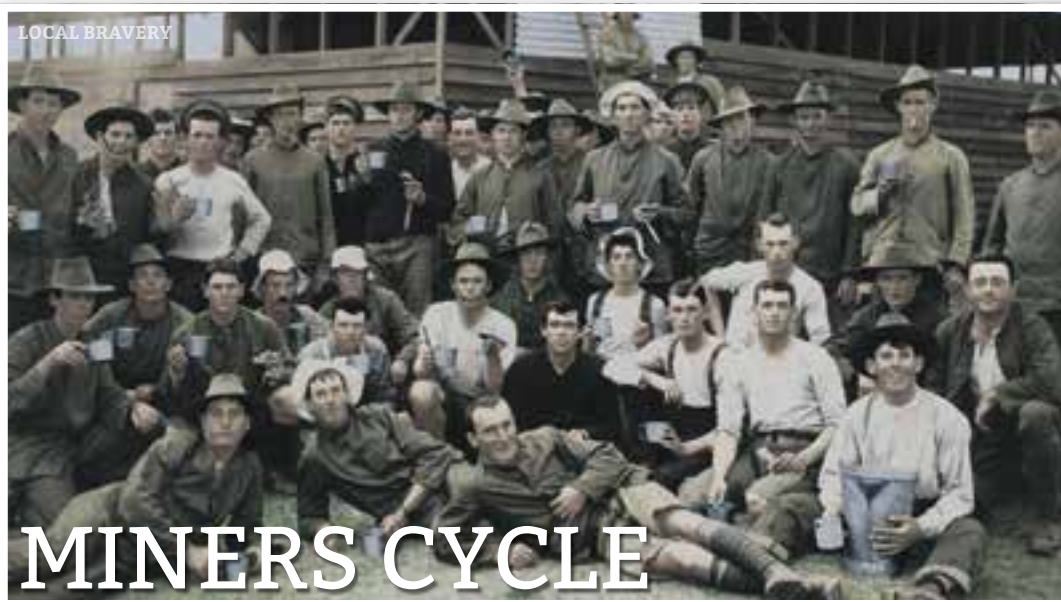
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# MINERS CYCLE INTO HISTORY

THE BRANXTON GRETA MEMORIAL CYCLEWAY IS A FANTASTIC INITIATIVE OF THE LOCAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE TO CELEBRATE LOCAL HEROES OF WAR – A GREAT MANY OF WHOM WERE MINERS.

The cycle way which will run for around 4km's from the Branxton Memorial Rotunda to the Greta Memorial Rotunda will pay homage to the brave locals who served and to those who also died. The Official Patron of the project is none other than His Excellency, the NSW Governor General David Hurley AC DSC (Ret'd) Governor, New South Wales.

A great reflection of the significance of the project. Chairman of the project Brett Wild told us, "This is the largest living memorial planned for the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Armistice Day. Not only is the project a major vital piece of Hunter connectivity infrastructure, but it is also a significant memorial to the sacrifice of locals and miners."

"A miner's reflection point on the corner of New England Highway and Branxton road is planned as a significant part of the project to the sacrifice of miners that not only enlisted in the war, but also kept the vital supply of resources such as coal that was essential to the war effort through the production of steel."

BELOW IS THE STORY OF **ATHOL CORDELL, A MINER AND SOLDIER OF THE GREAT WAR, JUST ONE OF THE MANY STORIES OF OUR HERO MINERS.**

Athol Cordell was a 21-year-old miner on the Greta Coalfields when he answered the call of King and Country and enlisted in the Australian Imperial Forces on the 30th November 1915. Private Cordell and his unit, the 35th Battalion (Infantry) embarked at Sydney on the 1st May 1916 bound for Plymouth in England. After training in England, the 35th Battalion proceeded overseas to France on the 1st November 1916 to enter the fighting. He was admitted to hospital with Scabies early in 1917 before receiving a shrapnel wound to the left hand in June which required his repatriation to England for treatment and recovery.

Private Cordell was considered fit enough to return to his unit during March 1918 and he arrived at the Australian Infantry Base Depot at Estaples in France on the 20th March. On the 8th August Private Cordell was wounded for the second time receiving a bullet wound to the left forearm. The severity of the wound required Private

Cordell to return to England for treatment and recovery and he was admitted to Boscombe Military Hospital at Bournemouth, Dorset, where he stayed for a month before being transferred to No.1 Australian Auxiliary Hospital at Harefield Middlesex.

Private Cordell's war was over. His injuries were considered sufficient enough for him to be returned to Australia which he did on board HMAT A29 Suevic arriving in Melbourne on the 5th January 1919.

Athol Cordell was discharged, medically unfit for military service, on the 14th April 1919. He received the 1914/15 Star, British War Medal and Victory Medal. The name Cordell, A is inscribed on a memorial panel of the Branxton Memorial Rotunda and will be dedicated on the Branxton Greta Memorial Cycleway.

Athol sought compensation from the Repatriation Department during 1924 however there is no record of his receiving compensation for his injuries. Athol Cordell died during November 1940 aged 46.

For further information head to the website at [www.bgmc.org.au](http://www.bgmc.org.au)

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COMMUNITY GIFT

## WE ARE WARRIORS

THIS MONTH COMPLETE PARTS AND @ THE COALFACE'S \$500 COMMUNITY GIFT WAS GIVEN TO THE WARRIOR DISABILITY GROUP.

Some of the members of the Warrior Disability Group have never been on a holiday! So, when we heard they were planning a trip to Forster we knew we had to pitch in and help out.

Located in Muswellbrook, the Warrior Disability Group offers activities, one-to-one support and in-home support for people with disabilities and our own Kyle Pemberton is a proud member.

To find out more about this great group contact Sally on 0432 680 936.

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## COMMUNITY @ THE COALFACE

# LEAPING LEADERS

IN AUGUST, WE SAW 25 LOCAL LEADERS BRAVELY ABSEIL DOWN THE FACE OF MCDONALD JONES STADIUM TO RAISE MONEY FOR THE WESTPAC RESCUE HELICOPTER SERVICE.

Our industry was strongly represented with Shaun Sears, Port Waratah Coal Service General Manager, Rhys Patterson, Orica Hunter Valley Area Business Manager, Kari Armitage, Quarry Mining General Manager and David Boshoff, Mt Arthur Coal General Manager, all leaping for this great cause and raising well over their target goals of \$2500.

**BUT IT WAS COAL SERVICES CEO LUCY FLEMMING WHO LED THE CHARGE FOR THIS GREAT CAUSE, RAISING AN OUTSTANDING \$13,578, WELL ABOVE ANY OF THE OTHER FUNDRAISERS.**

Lucy said the exhilarating experience was something she never thought she would do. "I had never abseiled before and was really apprehensive when they invited me to be part of this event. Luckily, I got in a practice run with our Mines Rescue trainers who are experts in this field."

Lucy thanked everyone who has supported her in this challenge. "I am very humbled by the number of people and organisations who have donated to this worthy cause. Thank you so much."

**THIS GREAT EVENT SAW THE LEADERS RAISE \$76,410 FOR THE WESTPAC RESCUE HELICOPTER SERVICE.**

Westpac Rescue Helicopter Service CEO Richard Jones said that he has been overwhelmed by the passion and generosity of the all the leaders. "It's clear to see that the Hunter is home to many big hearted and brave individuals. Each leader has gone above and beyond to raise vital funds for the Westpac Rescue Helicopter Service."

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L-R: NICK SLATER (BULGA MINE MANAGER), KIM NEVIN (JODIE'S PLACE), SUE GEORGE (SINGLETON NEIGHBOURHOOD CENTRE), LIZZIE SCROOPE (CARRIE'S PLACE), STACY FELLOWES (DONATIONS COMMITTEE) AND BULGA'S C CREW MINING.



# BIG HEARTED BULGA

BULGA OPEN CUT COAL OPERATIONS HAVE OPENED THEIR HEARTS AND POCKETS TO REACH THEIR FUNDRAISING TARGET FOR THREE LOCAL DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND HOMELESS SHELTERS.

The Glencore coal mine nominated Carrie's Place, Jodie's Place and Singleton Neighbourhood Centre as recipients of the site's annual fundraising event, setting an ambitious target of \$15,000 to be shared among the groups.

Funds were raised through a giant raffle that offered first prizes of a fully paid weekend off night shift (for rostered employees) and three-day shifts (for dayworkers) with more than 750 tickets purchased.

Bulga donations committee member Stacy Fellowes said the response from employees had been exceptional.

**"I THINK WE WERE ALL SHOCKED TO HEAR THE NUMBERS FROM THE SHELTERS IN RELATION TO DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND HOMELESSNESS,**

**PARTICULARLY IN OUR LOCAL AREAS. IT'S REALLY HAD AN IMPACT ACROSS ALL OF OUR WORKFORCE AND THE RESPONSE TO THE FUNDRAISER WAS AMAZING, AS WE'VE COME TO EXPECT FROM THE TEAM HERE AT BULGA."** STACY SAID.

Aside from the two major prizes, several of Bulga's suppliers also jumped on board and donated a variety of consolation prizes: Cameron Machinery Co, Clean From Dirty Filtration, Fuchs, Hitachi, Komatsu, Liebherr, Valley Fasteners (Tradecore), Versamech, Westrac and Workpac.

"We want to thank everyone who bought tickets obviously, but also the suppliers who donated items for inclusion in the raffle that helped make it such a big success," Stacy said.

# CHOP SHOT

ON AUGUST 28, THE MUSWELLBROOK RSL GOLF CLUB PLAYED HOST TO THE INAUGURAL UPPER HUNTER CHARITY GOLF DAY IN SUPPORT OF THE WESTPAC RESCUE HELICOPTER SERVICE.

The golf day attracted more than 40 teams for a fun day of golfing which resulted in \$30,000 to be raised for the community's own Rescue Helicopter and ensuring no one ever has to pay to be assisted.

Community Liaison Officer for the Rescue Helicopter Service, Danny Eather said the day went even better than he could've expected and thanked those involved for their time and generosity.

**"OUR SPONSORS AND THE WIDER UPPER HUNTER BUSINESS COMMUNITY ARE JUST AMAZING SUPPORTERS OF THE**

**SERVICE. WHETHER IT HAS BEEN CASH OR IN-KIND SUPPORT THEY HAVE ALL GONE ABOVE AND BEYOND TO MAKE THE FIRST YEAR AN AMAZING SUCCESS," HE SAID. "THE RESCUE HELICOPTER SERVICE WOULDN'T EXIST WITHOUT THE CONTINUED SUPPORT OF THE COMMUNITY."**

Danny also said it was a massive team effort in bringing the day together, with thanks to the members of the Lions Club of Muswellbrook and the Lioness Club of Muswellbrook who worked alongside our

MUSWELLBROOK RSL TAKE OUT THE WIN



Helicopter volunteers on the day. Special thanks also to Daryl Egan and his team at Muswellbrook RSL Golf Club.

PowerFm and 2NM's Stolzy

and Jessica hosted their live show on the day, with a swag of special guests that were participating in the Golf Day. Well done to all involved who made the day a success.

Overall winners of the golf day were the Muswellbrook RSL team of Brodern Adam-Smith, Andrew Spradbrow, Lachlan Nicol & Hayden Nicol. Well done!



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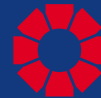
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**DRIVING WITH CARE**

**THE UPPER HUNTER CANCER COUNCIL WAS HOST TO AN EVENT CELEBRATING THE ONGOING SUCCESS OF THE TRANSPORT FOR TREATMENT PROGRAM IN SINGLETON.**

The Transport for Treatment program now has 30 locations across the state and transports 22,000 patients every year. Here in Singleton it saw over 400 cancer patients access free transportation services last year and that number is growing every year making it an invaluable asset to our community.

The program has been operating for over 5 years thanks to the generous support of Yancoal's Mount Thorley Warkworth (MTW) and Hunter Valley Operations (HVO) and with the assistance of Ourcare Singleton.

HVO Environment and Community Manager Andrew Speechly acknowledged the important role the Transport for Treatment program plays in supporting people who are affected by cancer who live in rural areas and is pleased they have been able to provide funding to support the program over the past five years.

"Access to medical treatment for people living outside of regional centres can sometimes be difficult and this program enables patients who live locally to access free transport to treatment centres. We are proud to support initiatives that contribute to

addressing local needs and improving the lives of people living in the communities where we operate." said Andrew.

**EX-MAYOR OF SINGLETON JOHN MARTIN ATTENDED THE EVENT AND GAVE A HEARTFELT TALK ABOUT HIS FIRSTHAND EXPERIENCE WITH THE PROGRAM. JOHN REQUIRED RADIATION TREATMENT IN HIS BATTLE WITH CANCER AND WAS ENCOURAGED TO PARTICIPATE IN THE PROGRAM.**

"I needed treatment for 5 days a week for 2 months and Ourcare took care of everything. It was as easy as registering and then Ourcare arranged all my appointments and organised the drivers. The drivers were always on time and friendly and they made a difficult time so much easier. It's a fantastic program and we are lucky to have it here in Singleton." John said.

Cancer Council Community Programs Coordinator Glen Parsons said the event was a chance to recognise all those who have supported the program. "Community supporters like MTW and HVO help us deliver our vital services for people affected by cancer and we can't thank them enough." Glen said.

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LAUGH WITH**



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Bill walks into his boss's office one day and says, "Sir, I'll be straight with you, I know the economy isn't great, but I've got three companies after me, and I'd like to respectfully ask for a raise." After a few minutes of haggling the boss finally agrees to give him

a 5% raise and Bill happily gets up to leave. "By the way", asks the boss as Bill is leaving his office, "which three companies are after you?" Bill replies, "The electric company, water company, and phone company."





# EIMEX SET TO IMPRESS

THE INAUGURAL ENERGY, INNOVATION & MINING EXPO HELD IN GUNNEDAH FROM NOVEMBER 1 - 3 IS SHAPING UP TO BE A GALA EVENT WITH EXHIBITOR BOOKINGS FLOWING IN.

The 3-day event will be jam packed with activities starting with a Breakfast recognising woman in the work force. A seminar and exhibitor presentation program will run each day with topics ranging from Workplace related issues; Energy Costs in

Agriculture; Mental Health; Education/Training Opportunities; The Environment and Drone Operations to name a few.

**DAMIEN THOMLINSON, COMMANDO VETERAN OF THE WAR IN AFGHANISTAN, WILL BE THE GUEST SPEAKER AT THE GALA DINNER AT THE TOWN HALL ON THE FRIDAY NIGHT. THE NIGHT WILL ALSO FEATURE ENTERTAINMENT AND A PRESENTATION TO THE WINNER OF THE STUDENT INNOVATION COMPETITION.**

Whitehaven Coal is the major sponsor and they will be conducting tours to their Maules Creek Mine. There will also be tours to inspect a Solar Powered irrigation bore.

Radio station 88.9fm will be broadcasting from the event with the opportunity for exhibitor interviews. There is still time for exhibitors to book a site as this new event is a great opportunity to network and showcase your business.

Entry will be free however a gold coin donation to the Westpac Rescue Helicopter would be appreciated.

**Enquiries: [admin@eimexgunnedah.net.au](mailto:admin@eimexgunnedah.net.au) or 0409 368 444**

# GET SMART

THANKS TO LONG TERM PARTNER YANCOAL AUSTRALIA, THE UNIVERSITY OF NEWCASTLE'S INSPIRATIONAL SMART PROGRAM IS ON THE ROAD, DELIVERING 25 SCIENCE SHOWS AT EIGHT PRIMARY SCHOOLS ACROSS THE HUNTER.

SMART (Science, Maths and Real Technology) Science Shows support the K-6 science and technology curriculum and aim to inspire, inform and involve young people in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) through interactive science demonstrations, robots and multimedia.

THANKS TO YANCOAL'S SUPPORT, OVER 1000 'FUTURE SCIENTISTS' WILL HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO EXPERIENCE SMART SCIENCE SHOWS AT THEIR SCHOOLS AND LEARN ABOUT EXCITING POSSIBLE FUTURE CAREER CHOICES IN STEM.

Yancoal's Hunter Valley Operations and Mount Thorley Warkworth mines have been a major sponsor of the University's SMART program and the Science and Engineering Challenge for over a decade. Mount Thorley Warkworth General Manager Jason McCallum acknowledged the positive change the SMART program can make to the lives of local students.

**"THIS INITIATIVE DOES A FANTASTIC JOB AT ENCOURAGING INFANT AND PRIMARY SCHOOL**



**STUDENTS TO GET INVOLVED IN SCIENCE, MATHEMATICS, AND REAL TECHNOLOGY RELATED ACTIVITIES IN A MEANINGFUL AND HANDS ON WAY. WE ARE PLEASED TO SUPPORT ITS ROLLOUT TO MORE SCHOOLS ACROSS THE UPPER HUNTER," SAID JASON.**

"Every year the Science and Engineering

Challenge conducts inspirational STEM events right across Australia. We are very proud to work in partnership with Yancoal in the Upper Hunter," said SMART Team Leader, Shelley Wilson. "The Hunter has some of the best and brightest students in the nation and we want to encourage them to consider STEM careers."



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

**WHO WE ARE LOOKING FOR:**

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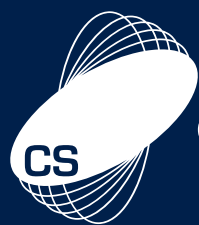
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CS Health

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## COMPLETELY COMPLIANT

**THE DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT'S COMPLIANCE TEAM TOOK TIME OUT TO ANSWER OUR QUESTIONS ON EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT COMPLIANCE.**

### What is new in the compliance space?

The Compliance team is currently undertaking a campaign of night time unannounced inspections of extractive industries in the Hunter Valley. We are focusing on noise and air quality controls by the mines during the night and early hours of the morning over the winter and spring period.

The team aims to build on our good relations with the industry and attended the recent NSW Mining Council conference, setting up a booth to provide updated information, education and to raise awareness of what our expectations are regarding compliance.

Technical experts discussed the Department's new Guideline for Social Impact Assessment, and Environmental Impact Assessment and post approval requirements. It was useful to meet industry members face to face in a more informal way.

### What is the community's role in compliance?

The community plays an important role in assisting the Department's compliance team to do their job, and we encourage the community to talk to us about any suspected non-compliances on 1300 305 695 or by emailing us at [compliance@planning.nsw.gov.au](mailto:compliance@planning.nsw.gov.au).

It is important that when reporting suspected breaches of conditions that they can clearly identify the issues, provide any relevant information about their complaint and respect those handling the complaint.

### What are the common complaints made to the Department about mining operations?

On the top of the list were issues relating to air and noise impacts,

concerns about mitigation or acquisition of properties and commencement of construction or activities occurring prior to an approval being granted.

During 2017-18, the Department investigated more than 760 community concerns relating to state approved projects across NSW.

### What is the compliance team doing to ensure accurate public reporting by companies?

The team reviews all reports such as annual reports and independent environmental audits to ensure they comply with the conditions of approval and relevant guidelines. These reports help the community to understand how operations are being managed and whether they are complying with approval conditions.

It is very important that these reports and independent environmental audits are accurate and to raise awareness on this important issue, the Department has recently engaged with more 55 consultants to better inform them of their obligations.

### How do you carry out your compliance assessments?

To ensure proponents are complying with their strict conditions of consent, the compliance team conducts announced and unannounced inspections as well as surveillance. We also undertake targeted audits and involve other regulators where possible to ensure a whole of government approach.

Recently we have been conducting remote monitoring using aerial photography and the Department is investigating the use of drones.

When the Department receives information about a suspected breach, either through complaints or reports, it will conduct an analysis of all available information. This analysis may be followed up with an inspection or a request to the proponent for more information.

Officers can use their formal investigative powers to gather evidence relevant to the investigations, request information or conduct formal interviews. This preliminary assessment may provide enough information to establish whether a breach has occurred, or is likely to have occurred.

Based on that information, the Department may choose to proceed with an enforcement response or determine no response is required.

### What enforcement options are there?

The Department can issue the highest on-the-spot fines in the country for breaches of conditions. Fines can range from \$3,000 to \$15,000. Companies can also be prosecuted in court for breaching conditions, with the most severe breaches attracting fines of up to \$5 million and criminal convictions.







Did you know that 1 in 3 Australians will need blood in their lifetime? Some may be in an accident and need a transfusion. Others have medical conditions which mean they need blood products regularly to stay alive. There are no perfect substitutes for human blood and it's only through blood donations that these people will survive.

**EVEN THOUGH 1 IN 3 AUSTRALIANS WILL NEED BLOOD, ONLY 1 IN 30 AUSTRALIANS DONATE BLOOD.**

You've probably walked past one of the Red Cross Blood Service's vans and thought to yourself, I should donate, yet keep walking and think next time. I'm here to tell you to stop at the van or get online and make an appointment today because there are so many benefits in donating. Not just for the people whose lives you save, but for yours too.

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It's an amazing feeling knowing you are doing your part to save lives. Every time you donate blood, you can help up to 3 or 4 individual recipients.

#### **HEALTH BENEFITS**

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SINGLETON'S JAMES BRADLEY RECEIVES THE 2018 ROOKIE OF THE YEAR AWARD FROM GARRY GARDENER, WHO ON THE NIGHT WAS AWARDED GROUP 21 LIFE MEMBERSHIP

GROUP 21

NIGHT OF NIGHTS

THERE WAS A LOT TO CELEBRATE THIS YEAR ON THE BENGALLA GROUP 21 PRESENTATION NIGHT WITH THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE ROOKIE OF THE YEAR AND GROUP 21 PLAYER OF THE YEAR, AS WELL AS LOCAL RUGBY LEAGUE GREAT GARRY GARDNER AND GROUP 21 SECRETARY JANE WALMSLEY BECOMING LIFE MEMBERS.

Club Singleton was full of team colors on the biggest night for Group 21. Aberdeen Tigers front rower Guy Thompson took out the prestigious Bengalla Group

21 Player of The Year Award. Guy missed the last part of the season, though had tallied a total of 16 points to edge out Singleton's Thomas Johnson and Muswellbrook's

Dylan Thorne. Thompson said, "I was surprised to be honest after having to sit out a few weeks, though I am

very honored to receive such a prestigious award. It would've been nice to finish off with a premiership, but that's footy and it just makes me hungrier for next year. I have lost grand finals before growing up, but this loss has hit me close to the heart and lit a flame inside me." The Rookie of the year was a tightly contested competition with Singleton's James Bradley

who has had a boom year in First Grade taking out the honors. Bradley has been an integral part of the Greyhounds line up, and with the exciting news of former NRL star Frank Paul Neuasala signing for the red and white, the forward back with have that extra grunt next year and lay a great platform for Bradley to work off. Expect to see and hear lots more next year about this explosive kid.

- PLAYER OF THE YEAR 2018**  
1st Grade: **Guy Thompson** - ABERDEEN  
Reserves: **Jake Collison** - SCONE  
U18's: **Nathan Clerke** - SCONE  
Ladies League Tag:  
**Holly Fisher-Webster** - GRETA BRANXTON
- ROOKIE OF THE YEAR 2018**  
**James Bradley** - SINGLETON
- COACH OF THE YEAR 2018**  
**Shane Hasselmann** - ABERDEEN / **Jye Bayley** - SINGLETON
- TEAM OF THE YEAR**  
Fullback: **Bailey Taylor** - Muswellbrook  
Winger: **Daniel Ellis** - Muswellbrook  
Centre: **Ben Baker** - Aberdeen  
Centre: **Justin Apthorpe** - Scone  
Winger: **Tim Smith** - Scone  
Five Eight: **James Bradley** - Singleton  
Half Back: **Liam Foran** - Aberdeen  
Lock: **Daniel Ritter** - Scone  
2nd Row: **Guy Thompson** - Aberdeen  
2nd Row: **Josh Schmiedel** - Aberdeen  
Front Row: **Clive Tuifua** - Denman  
Hooker: **Daniel Hoogerwerf** - Aberdeen  
Front Row: **Michael Radford** - Scone



# HUNTER VALLEY MINING CHARITY RUGBY LEAGUE KNOCKOUT COMPETITION

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# GRAND STAND FINISH

SCONE  
THOROUGHBREDS

THE 2018 BENGALLA GROUP 21 GRAND FINAL DELIVERED ALL THAT WAS EXPECTED PLUS MORE. PHYSICAL, FAST PACED, WET AND CONTROVERSIAL PRETTY MUCH SUMS UP WHAT WAS A FANTASTIC DAY FROM RUGBY LEAGUE IN THE HUNTER VALLEY.

The day commenced with the **Ladies League Tag**, with both Scone and Muswellbrook vying for the shield. The Scone side had been dominant all year and continued that into this match.

Hannah Rando opened the scoring which was followed up by player of the match Rebecca Hills first of 2 tries for the match and the Ladies League Tag highest point scorer Samantha Elphick kicked her first of 3 goals to

take it to a 10-nil lead.

Muswellbrook struck back with a try to speedy 15-year-old Matilda Jones, but from there on in it was the ladies from the horse capital that ran away with the match with a final score of 38-4.

**SCONE THOROUGHBREDS 38** (Sofie Casson 3, Rebecca Hill 2, Hannah Rando, Celie Nolan, Georgia Watts tries; Samantha Elphick 3 goals)

**MUSWELLBROOK RAMETTES 4** (Matilda Jones try)

In the **Under 18s Grand Final**, the Singleton Greyhounds were the competition favorites. Their opponents the Scone Thoroughbreds paid no attention to odds and knew if they dug deep and put on their best performance of the season, it was anyone's game.

Scone's Thomas Eveleigh showed class in a performance demonstrating why he is one of the most dynamic players in his age group. Under 18's player of the year Nathan Clerke partnered up with player of the match Corey

Harris in the Halves which proved a difficult combination for the Singleton side.

Singleton tried valiantly and outstanding performances from Hayden Bourke, Ronin Haddin and Brendan Chalker weren't quite enough for them to overcome the thoroughbreds on the day.

**SCONE THOROUGHBREDS 18** (Ronin Haddin, Wes Riley, Thomas Eveleigh tries; Nathan Clerke 3 goals)

**SINGLETON GREYHOUNDS 4** (Cooper Bailey try)

In **First Grade**, the ground from all the rain and wear from the previous games was always going to play an important role. Aberdeen seemed to find themselves bogged in the worst part of the field for most of the time they were in their end. In what commentator Paul Benkovic attributed at the end of the match "was one of the best and toughest games of rugby league I have seen in a long time", the game certainly delivered.

Josh Watson opened the scoring with a crawl to the tryline, whilst the Tigers hit back through Josh

Schmiedel who for a second rower has the speed of a sprint champion. Hayden Topliss has shown in the back half of the season why he is a highly rated player in the comp and delivered the match winner with a beautiful right foot step and a try under the posts.

The closing minutes of the match seen a bustling Guy Thompson make his way to the line, though it was deemed held up. Adamant and distraught at the belief he got it down, the decision will leave the Tigers hungry and determined for a big 2019 campaign.

JJ Apthorpe was awarded

man of the match. Had the result been different, it would almost be certain that the Tigers enforcer Marcus Marsh who produced a mammoth game, receive the award. Other Standouts were; Scones Daniel Ritter, Josh Adams and Ben Hagan, whilst for Aberdeen Harry Douglas, Daniel Hoogerwerf and Ethan Christianson had massive games.

**SCONE THOROUGHBREDS 10** (Josh Watson, Hayden Topliss Tries; Jake Watts Goal)

**ABERDEEN TIGERS 6** (Josh Schmiedel try; Ben Baker Goal)

**Reserve Grade** was all and more than what the fans expected. Aberdeen going for their 3 peat, whilst Scone trying to keep the flag flying for the club on the day was always going to be a recipe for an entertaining match. Scone had upset Aberdeen's 2018 season campaign, having knocked them off in the major semifinal to be the first team in to the 2018 Grand Final.

The Reserve Grade Player of

the year Jake Collison led the Scone Thoroughbreds who were determined to prove that the prior game was not luck. The scores were locked up at 6 a piece at the opening of the match. Aberdeen enjoyed a slight time in front before Scone quickly struck back to take the lead for the rest of the match.

Jake Collison added to his accolades for the year taking out the Player of the Match, whilst Ryan Hawkshaw, Jake Watts and Tom Hagan also

had dominant matches.

For the tigers the stand outs were Grant Savell, Isaac Boyle, Stephen Hinschen and Dave "the magician" Murnane who pulled off another freaky try that only he could.

**SCONE THOROUGHBREDS 20** (Ryan Hawkshaw 2, Chris Brennan tries; Jake Watts 4 goals)

**ABERDEEN TIGERS 14** (Matt Thompson, Jesse McLean, Dave Murnane tries; Grant Savell goal)

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JOSH WITH DYLAN HENNESSEY

# A TOUCHING STORY

TOUCH FOOTBALL IS A SPORT PLAYED IN MOST REGIONS AND TOWNS. THE CHANCE TO THROW TOGETHER A WORK TEAM, OR A MIXED TEAM WITH THE PARTNER. RARELY DO WE HEAR ABOUT THE SUCCESS OF THOSE WHO PROGRESSED ONTO THE BIG STAGE.

Josh Moffitt is his name and footy is his game. All kinds of footy as a matter of fact. Josh has excelled at Rugby League, dabbled in soccer and in the off season six years ago he started touch football to keep his fitness up and improve his skills, whilst also hanging out with his mates. 6 years later, he reflects on what started out as a bit of fun and now has taken him to not only

national success, but international as well.

**"MY HIGHLIGHT SO FAR HAS BEEN MAKING THE AUSTRALIAN TEAM TO PLAY IN THE YOUTH WORLD CUP," SAYS THE DYNAMIC PLAYER. "I HAVE HAD GREAT SUPPORT ALONG THE WAY FROM MY FAMILY, BUT ALSO CURRENT AUSTRALIAN PLAYERS DYLAN**

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**HENNESSEY AND SCOTT BUCKLEY, WHO I'VE HAD THE PRIVILEGE OF PLAYING ALONGSIDE OF AND ALSO BEING COACHED BY."**

Josh has just returned from the World Cup where he was part of the successful and undefeated Australian Under 20s team. Proud father Tad Moffitt who works at Ravensworth mine said, "He killed it! They beat New Zealand in the Grand Final 12-7 after going through undefeated." Even over the phone it was clear in Tad's voice that he was bursting with pride for his young fella's achievements. "He won the State Cup last year, the Nelson Bay Tournament and they also won the Central Coast Tournament and Josh was named Player of the Final at each one."

Tad goes on to say, "Dylan Hennessey is a real role model for him, he and his wife are great touch players and both of them and their kids have been a great influence on him. They're great people."

Tad was a very handy sports player back in his day as well, though he credits Josh's mum for the young man Josh has become and his success. "Lynda is a terrific mother, she has done really well with the boys. We divorced sometime ago, though I can't credit her enough for what she does. She's done a super job."

In closing Josh says, "I'd like to thank Bendigo Bank, Adam McEwen, all of the people who have supported my fundraising and most importantly my family who have always been behind me."





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## A SPANO IN THE WORKS

**WHEN SPANO GUTIERREZ HANDS ARE NOT BUSY HOLDING A SPANNER WHILE WORKING AT BENGALLA COAL AS A BREAKDOWN SUPERVISOR, THEY'RE CLASPED AROUND THE WHEEL OF THE CAR THAT HAS BEEN DOMINATING THE NORTHERN TERRITORY SPEEDWAY SEASON.**

Spano's been driving for over 10 years, but this year his hard work and efforts are paying off as he returns from the Northern Territory with a bunch of wins under his belt and a determination to now make his mark on the NSW season.

Spano began his racing

trip with victory in the Darwin Title at Northline Speedway in June, followed by dominating all four nights of the Top End Challenge. Then to top off the season he took out the Northern Territory AMCA National Title at Darwin's Northline Speedway with some sensational racing.

In all Spano won six of the seven race meetings he competed in.

Spano has been living in Singleton for the past six years but prior to that he spent most of his life in the Northern Territory so bringing home the NT Title holds a special significance for him.

**"WE WENT UP TO NT TO DO BUSINESS AND WE DID. TO WIN MY MAIDEN STATE TITLE WAS DEFINITELY**

**THE ICING ON THE CAKE. I'VE CONTESTED MULTIPLE NT TITLES OVER THE YEARS AND I HAVEN'T BEEN LUCKY ENOUGH TO COME AWAY WITH THE WIN SO THIS IS A REAL SUCCESS."** SPANO SAID.

Spano said it wouldn't be possible without the support of his fiancée Lisa Williams and crew chief Col Goodhew and of course, his car which boasts a 253 Holden engine and Holden differential package.

"The secret to my winning is the car and the setup Col does. I just drive it. Both him and Lisa do so much behind the scenes and the success I achieved is as much due to them as it is me. I also must thank my sponsors from here in Singleton, Vicki Taylor and Todd Keaton from Endless Engraving @ The Blue Shed. I couldn't do it without them."

Next for Spano is the NSW season which is about to kick off. He's got a new car but still has the same go get 'em attitude. "Last year I came third so this year I've got the new car with

### 'AVE A LAUGH WITH

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Wife: I have something very serious to tell you.

Husband: What's up?

Wife: According to DNA test results, this is not our child.

Husband: Well don't you remember? When we were leaving the hospital, we noticed that our baby had a wet nappy and you told me, "Honey, go change the baby, I'll wait for you here."

the latest 350 Chev and quick-change differential package. Basically, bigger and better adjustments which will improve handling. I'm really excited to get stuck into the season and hopefully bring home some wins."

Good luck Spano!

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# IT'S SPRING CARNIVAL TIME!

IT'S THE BEGINNING OF SPRING AND THE FISHING FEVER'S REALLY SETTIN' IN.

As we all start to defrost after winter, spring is the best time to hit the water. It's the time of year crabs and prawns start to move around after winter and the local estuaries are alive with all kinds of fish big and small.

## OFFSHORE

Snapper on the inshore reefs and Kingfish on the wider grounds

have been proving very consistent throughout August.

The Start of September has already proven to be a great time to throw some soft plastics at Snapper around the Islands off the coast of Port Stephens with some cracker fish being landed lately.

YOUNG GUN NIXON HARROD CAUGHT THIS WHITING WITH LIVE YABBIE AT ELANORA ON THE GOLD COAST



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## FRESH WATER

If exploring the various rivers and creeks of the Hunter in search of Aussie bass is your thing, then now is the time to dust the cobwebs off the rods and hose the kayak off. With the annual bass closed season drawing to an end at the start of September we will see some hungry bass heading back up stream after a busy schedule spawning over winter.

The local dams are also starting to fire up with the Bass reacting well to suspended hard bodies and soft plastics rigged with beetle spins for a reaction bite over the top of the weed beds. If you find the fish schooled in the deeper water its still well worth jigging ice jigs and blades.

## ESTUARIES

Blackfish are still one of the main targets along all the local jetties and breakwalls with great numbers of fish being encountered.

Fishing for Blackfish makes the perfect day out fishing with the kids.

Spring is the start of serious Lizard fishing in our Estuaries as the bigger fish start to move up into the shallows to feed.

Salts Bay Lake Mac is still producing great numbers of Salmon for those looking for plenty of fun chucking plastics around with the light gear.

**Cast off people... it's boat floatin' time – Thrifty's**

# FIGHT FOR FISHING!

A GROUNDSWELL OF CONCERN HAS ERUPTED OVER 25 PROPOSED NEW MARINE PARKS THAT EXTEND FROM NEWCASTLE TO WOLLONGONG.

The NSW Government Marine Estate Management Authority has developed the Hawkesbury

Shelf Bioregion Marine Park proposal. While areas of the Marine Parks cater for activities such as snorkeling, kayaking and catch and release fishing, most concern is around the proposal to lock out anglers and spearfishers from key shore and boat based recreational fishing locations along the coast line.

The proposal has been developed

based on a risk assessment of threats to the bioregion with recreational angling coming in at 18th in the list of priorities. Despite this, the proposal focuses largely on stopping recreational angling and fails to deal with higher ranked threats such as urban stormwater discharge, sewerage runoff and foreshore development.

In response, Labor's Shadow

Minister for the Environment and Heritage, Penny Sharpe MLC, has said the proposal doesn't go far enough and has called for a massive contiguous marine park from Port Hacking to Pittwater.

It seems to us that this proposal is unfairly aimed at recreational fishing. What do you think? Is this the thin end of the wedge? Have you say before 27 September at:

[www.marine.nsw.gov.au/key-initiatives/hawkesbury-shelf-marine-assessment](http://www.marine.nsw.gov.au/key-initiatives/hawkesbury-shelf-marine-assessment)



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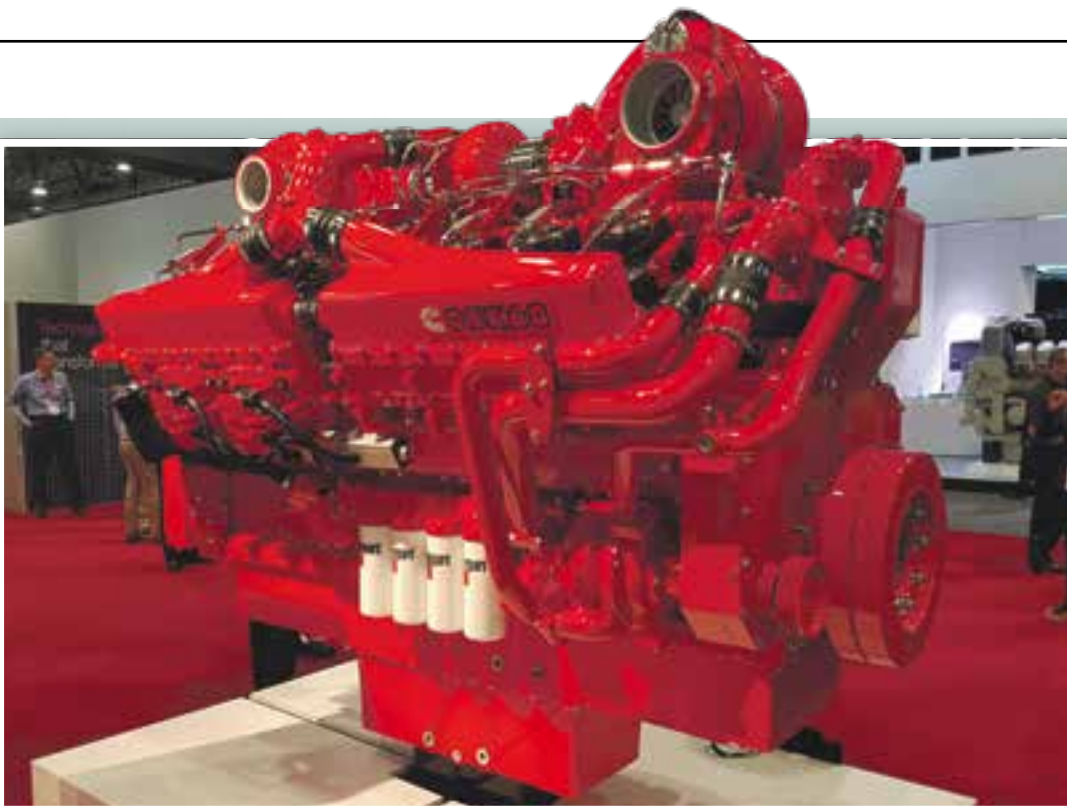
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## CUTTING THROUGH THE RED TAPE

**WHILE NOT ALWAYS RED IN COLOUR, CUMMINS' RANGE OF MINING ENGINES ARE UTILISED BOTH ABOVE AND BELOW GROUND.**

Outside of Caterpillar that manufacture their own engines, Cummins' engines are optioned by most major Original Equipment

Manufacturers (OEM) that among other brands include Liebherr, Hitachi and Komatsu. Operating in the world's

harshest conditions, Cummins is highly regarded, offering power solutions in marine, agriculture, road transport, generators and locomotives. In mining, they're performance and reliability are measured in hours (aka availability) and the dollars they cost

to operate, and they are invariably compared against Caterpillar, MTU Detroit and more recently, Liebherr's own internally manufactured range of engines.

**IN THE HUNTER VALLEY, CUMMINS ENGINES ARE REGULARLY USED BY OUR MINERS AND MINING CONTRACTORS. OFTEN INCLUDING THE QSK19, QSK45 AND QSK60, THESE ENGINES ARE GENERALLY FOUND IN HITACHI AND LIEBHERR DIGGERS AND MORE OFTEN THAN NOT, KOMATSU'S HAUL TRUCKS.**

As you might appreciate, given their cost to operate, the selection of engine, can be as important as the machine itself. In a haul truck powered by a Cummins QSK60 for example, it is not unreasonable to expect a life-to-overhaul target of between 28,000 to 30,000 hours, with filter changes (depending upon mining operation) circa every 500 hours and sometimes more.

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Cummins largest engine is the QSK95. Designed for ultra-class haul trucks and single-engine powered excavators, this engine is a real mean beast, producing 4,400 hp. Fitted with quad-turbocharging, this system allows trucks to accelerate faster under full payload as well as climb steep haul roads in less time.

Sounding more like the excerpts of a superhero novel, it makes me wonder if there could be a broader marketing play to be had here, by partnering with the likes of Superman, incorporating catchphrases such as 'faster than a speeding bullet, more powerful than a locomotive, able to leap tall buildings in a single bound...'. Until next we speak.

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# WORK IT BABY!!!

WELCOME TO SPRING MY SOFT AND PUDGY LITTLE FRIENDS. YES, IT'S THAT TIME OF YEAR! TIME TO DUST OFF THE DUNLOP VOLLEYS, BREAK OUT THE SPANDEX AND GET YOURSELF A BUDGIE SMUGGLER READY SUMMER BODY. WITH THAT IN MIND MY REVERSE DIET HAS ALL THE ANSWERS.

Many years as the Hunter's number one footballer has taught me a lot about fitness and how to avoid it. Some of the finer points are that diet is as important as exercise and that you only get out what you put in – or in the case of exercise... put off.

On the diet side no doubt many of you have seen or have a copy of my best-selling book 'Fit to Fat'. It's kind of like the opposite of what people like Paleo Pete and all those Instagram models' rabbit on and advise about. You see, my diet regime promotes eating your way to a kind of perfection only the mother of a sumo wrestler could understand, and a reasonable doctor be horrified by.

It all starts with pies. Lots of them. 2 for brekky, 3 for lunch and at least

that again for din dins. For liquids, its thickshakes when you wake and beer's the go for the rest of the day. Bourbon or Jack cans can be substituted at any time of the day. Follow these tips and you will be attracting gasps of admiration on the beach and just about everywhere else this summer. From my experience everyone seems to love a larger chap in Speedos in summer.

**AS FOR EXERCISE...THE ONLY HEAVY LIFTING YOU SHOULD BE DOING IS IN THE PUB.**

You won't see results overnight; it takes a good three months to achieve physical perfection, so today is the day to start. If some quack of a doctor or hospital appointed nutritionist challenges you, ignore them. My half century plus of living this way surely

counts for more than the measly 10 or 12 years they spent at quack school with their rugger bugger mates.

So, what about the Volleys and Spandex I hear you say. Well nothing is the answer. Well other than Spandex as the name suggests expands which comes in handy on this diet. The Dunlop's on the other hand are good for throwing at the dog when he or she pesters you too much to take it for a walk – you don't want to lose any precious kilos.

Stay fat and fabulous my friends. Oh, and if you are after a good pie... Dungog pies are the pick of the month and perfect to get you started.

**See you on the beach!**  
**Sol.**

## BEER O'CLOCK

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## BOWDLER'S BEER REVIEW

@ The Coalface beer expert

Richard Bowdler brings you this month's beer review.

**LITTLE CREATURES PALE ALE by LITTLE CREATURES BREWERY**

**Made:** Western Australia.

**Cost:** \$4.80 / Stubby.

**Alcohol:** 5.2%.

**Color:** Deep Gold.

**Nose:** Hint of fruity hops.

**Taste:** Slightly sweet, slightly hopsy. Pleasant.

**Mouth:** Mid bodied and smooth.

**Aftertaste:** A really late bitter finish around the 7 second mark.

**Comments:** Quite a nice, easy drinking Pale Ale that has a proper bitter finish. A real mid bodied IPA.

**Score:** 8.5 / 10

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# A TASTE OF COUNTRY



WHETHER IT'S A CASUAL FIRST DATE, A LAID-BACK PARENT'S GETAWAY, OR LUNCH WITH THE FAMILY, THE RELAXING ATMOSPHERE AT TASTE OF THE COUNTRY MAKES THE PERFECT SETTING.

The award-winning café and retail outlet is located in the shopping village at Hunter Valley Gardens and is a must experience. Enjoy an outdoor table overlooking the village or eat inside while you take in the country style atmosphere. The quirky signs make for a fun read and you can buy your favourite to take home to the mancave.

It makes for a great place just

to sit down for a coffee and a chat. Oh, and did I mention the hot chocolate is made from real chocolate that comes on a stick and dissolves in your mug (or in your mouth).

**BUT FOR ME, NOTHING KICKS OFF A PERFECT DAY LIKE THEIR BIG BREAKFAST WITH BACON, EGGS, SAUSAGES, MUSHROOMS AND HOMEMADE THICK CUT BREAD.**

Now I'm a little fussy when it comes to breakfast, but I can honestly say that at A Taste of Country the chef delivers every time. Last visit I forwent the big breakfast and instead opted for scrambled eggs and bacon on thick cut bread. This clever thinking allowed me to still have space for a plate of their scrumptious pancakes with banana and all the toppings. Sweet!

## 'AVE A LAUGH WITH

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### HUGE SAVINGS ON ALL 2018 SUZUKI MOTORBIKES AND QUADS

An old, tired-looking dog wandered into the yard. I could tell from his collar and well-fed belly that he had a home.

He followed me into the house, down the hall, and fell asleep on the couch. An hour later, he went to the door, and I let him out.

The next day he was back, resumed his position on the couch and slept for an

hour. This continued for several weeks.

Curious, I pinned a note to his collar: "Every afternoon your dog comes to my house for a nap."

The next day he arrived with a different note pinned to his collar:

"He lives in a home with four children and he's trying to catch up on his sleep. Can I come with him tomorrow?"

The missus went for the Chicken Burger with avocado and salad which she rated. I'm pretty sure the main reason she chose it was because she knows how much I hate avocado and wanted to make sure I didn't end up eating most of her meal like I normally do!

Once you finish your meals, take the time to check out the local shops in the village, before heading over to the park for some more chill time, or try your hand at a game of aqua golf. Taste of The Country Café should be on top of your to do list for a leisurely day out. Thank us later.




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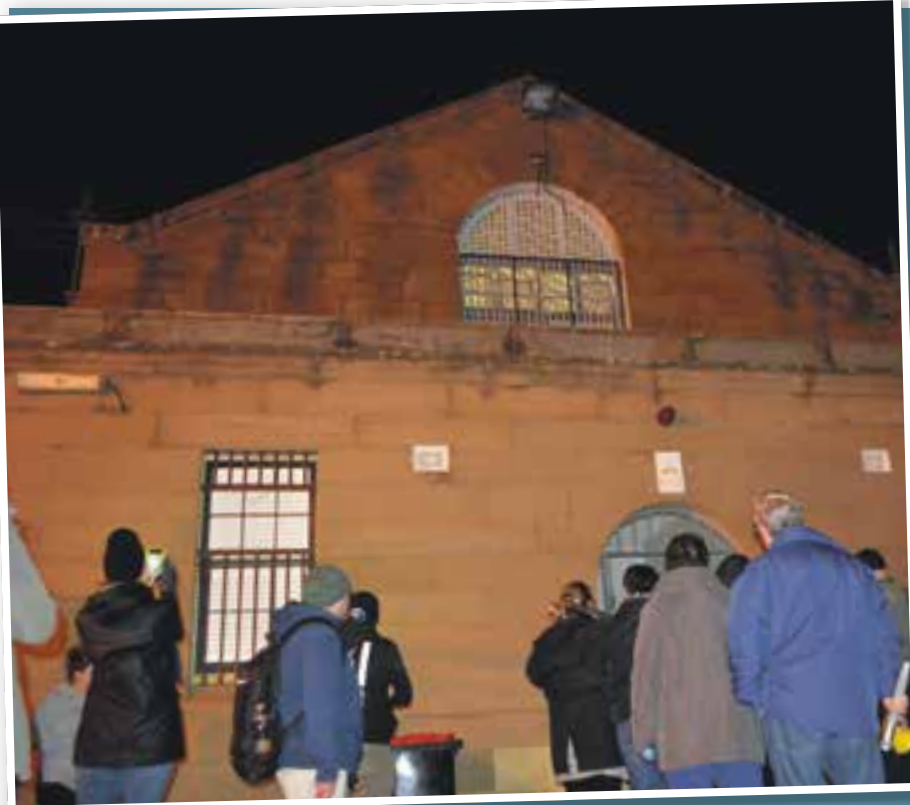
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## A GHOSTLY TASK

IT MAY HAVE OFFICIALLY CLOSED ON JANUARY 31, 1998, BUT THE OLD MAITLAND GAOL STILL SEES THE ODD SHADY CHARACTER COMING THROUGH ITS DOORS. WELL IT DID WHEN THE COALFACE TEAM WENT TO CHECK OUT THEIR GHOST TOUR!

We arrived on a cold and windy night and immediately heard screaming and yelling from inside the goal. What were we in for? Then I noticed the sign for laser tag and realised I was simply hearing some enthusiastic kids. That's right, you can now play your own real-life Call of Duty at the jail.

**BUT WE WERE NOT THERE FOR THE LASER TAG. WE WERE THERE FOR THE 90-MINUTE GHOST TOUR. ALTHOUGH I PUT ON A BIT OF A SKEPTICAL FRONT TO THE CREW I WAS WITH, I APPROACHED THIS WITH AN OPEN MIND.**

At the beginning of the tour, our guide Renata explained the rules and what to expect, and even what not to expect. It was made very clear that every person would experience something different. We were warned that we might feel something brush up against us, a smell, a blowing on the neck or even just cold shivers, or that feeling you get when someone is watching you. Unfortunately, I was told it was unlikely that I would see silhouettes of spirits walking about, but you never know.

For me it was one of the most interesting and informative tours I've been on. Hearing all the stories about the inmates, some notorious, some terrifying, many of them anecdotes that have been handed down from guards or prior residents. All of it fascinating.

**BUT THE QUESTION I KNOW YOU ARE ALL ASKING. DID I HAVE A GHOSTLY ENCOUNTER? IT'S DEFINITELY A DIFFERENT EXPERIENCE IN THAT PLACE,**

**LET'S JUST SAY THAT. I WAS A BIT SKEPTICAL OF THE EMF DEVICES WE WERE CARRYING, AND IT SEEMED MORE LIKELY THAT IT WAS OUR MOBILES THAT WERE TRIGGERING THEM RATHER THAN GHOSTS.**

Then we went into the bath house that is built into the exterior wall of the goal and we all had to pick a shower cubicle in the large communal shower. I seen the biggest cubicle in the back left, and thought right, only a bad ass would get that, I'll take it.

So, there I am. Standing there. Facing the wall. No phone on. Nothing. Just dead silence until the girls in the cubicle next to me look at me with fear on their faces and ask, "did you say that." I gave them a look of don't be silly, "no I didn't say anything." The lights go out. Pitch black. Just me in a room full of strangers and a thick wall on both sides. Nothing is happening except for tour leader Renata coaxing the spirits.

**AND THEN THE IT HAPPENS. MY EMF DEVICE STARTED GOING CRAZY. MY MOBILE IS SWITCHED OFF AND THERE'S NOTHING AROUND ME THAT COULD BE TRIGGERING IT. EXCEPT... WELL, I'M STILL TRYING TO FIGURE OUT HOW IT HAPPENED, BUT I GUESS IT'S A MYSTERY I'LL NEVER BE ABLE TO SOLVE.**

The tour all in all was interesting, very educational and even I must admit a little spooky. I most definitely recommend you grab some friends together and try it. Make sure you keep an open mind!

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@ THE COALFACE PRIZE WINNERS

VOLUME 2 – NO 11: AUGUST - SEPTEMBER 2018

- Components Only – John Overton

Hunter Valley Mediation – Dan Adams

Clubhouse XXXX – Allison Lowe

Roberts Meats Raffle – Michele Dark
- Metal Art – Suzanne Holliday

Café La Luna Cake – Daniel McDonald

Beer’s on Us – Christopher Ritter

Young Gun – Nixon Harrod

CONGRATULATIONS  
TO ALL OUR WINNERS!

@ THE COALFACE TRIVIA  
THIS MONTH: AUSSIE SPORT

- Q1:** Which horse won the Melbourne Cup in 2002?

**Q2:** What was Sir Donald Bradman’s batting average?

**Q3:** Who is Australia’s only Formula One driver?

**Q4:** Who won the Brownlow Medal in 2003?

**Q5:** Who was the most recent Australian to win the men’s singles title at Wimbledon?

**Q6:** Which Australian was named the most valuable player in the US’s WNBA?
- Q7:** Which Australian has won the FIM World Motorcycle Championship 5 times?

**Q8:** How many gold medals did Australians win at the 2002 Winter Olympic Games?

**Q9:** Of our Australian male swimmers, who has won the most Olympic gold medals?

**Q10:** What Australian company is the largest surfwear manufacturer?

- A10:** Quicksilver

**A9:** Murray Rose

**A8:** 2 – Steven Bradbury and Alisa Camplin

**A7:** Michael Doohan
- A6:** Lauren Jackson

**A5:** Lleyton Hewitt

**A4:** Mark Ricciuto, Nathan Buckley, Adam Goodes
- A3:** Mark Webber

**A2:** 99.94

**A1:** Media Puzzle

ANSWERS



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## THE CALL OF THE WILD

**ZOOFARI LODGE AT TARONGA WESTERN PLAINS ZOO IS THE PERFECT WAY TO GO BEHIND THE SCENES IN STYLE.**

I love zoos but find that I spend most of my time trying to spy a sleeping animal at the back of its enclosure and often come away disappointed. When I heard about the Zoofari Lodge overnight experience at Dubbo Zoo, I knew I had to fork out the extra bucks and give it a go.

The Zoofari Lodges offer 15 luxurious African-style lodges located right on the zoo grounds. When we arrived in the early afternoon we checked into our lodge and immediately I knew this was going to be different from any zoo experience I'd had before.

Our lodge was aptly named the Giraffe Lodge and directly faced the African Savannah where I could see giraffes strolling about only metres from our deck. A couple of curious kangaroos hopped over to check us out. Antelopes, ostriches, zebras and more were all roaming about before our eyes. The lodge itself was also impressive, with a rustic safari style but with all the mod cons including ensuite and air-conditioning. That's what I call glamping!

**WHEN I FINALLY MANAGED TO PULL MYSELF AWAY FROM THE AMAZING VIEW WE HEADED OVER TO THE**

**GUEST HOUSE TO ENJOY A COUPLE OF PRE-DINNER DRINKS BEFORE A DELICIOUS AFRICAN-INSPIRED BANQUET DINNER.**

Then it was time to get down to business. Our first behind the scenes tour started off as the sun was going down and we jumped on board the Safari bus. I have to say that exploring the zoo in the dark by torchlight while listening to the roar of lions in the distance is simply thrilling. Each stop of the tour involved up close and personal interaction and lots of feeding. After the tour we headed back to the lodge where I drifted off to sleep to the calls of the wild and imagining myself in Africa.

**IN THE MORNING WE WERE UP BEFORE THE SUN FOR OUR NEXT TOUR WHICH WAS JUST AS HANDS ON AND EXCITING AS THE NIGHT BEFORE. BETWEEN THE TWO TOURS WE GOT TO SEE ALMOST ALL THE ANIMALS AND CERTAINLY ALL THE SHOW STOPPERS. ELEPHANTS, HIPPOPOTAMUSES, RHINOCEROSSES, LIONS AND WE FINALLY GOT TO MEET THE GIRAFFES UP CLOSE AND EVEN HAND FEED THEM SOME CARROTS.**



## 'AVE A LAUGH WITH

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**NOW STOCKING HONDA MOTORCYCLES**

A young couple, just married, were in their honeymoon suite on their wedding night. As they were undressing for bed, the husband who was a big burly man tossed his trousers to his bride and said, "Here, put these on."

She put them on and the waist was twice the size of her body. "I can't wear your trousers," she said.

"That's right and don't you ever forget it. I'm the man who wears the pants in this family."

With that she flipped him her underpants and said, "Try these on."

He tried them on and found he could only get them on as far as his kneecaps.

"I give up, I can't get into your underpants!" he replies.

"That's right, and that's the way it's going to stay until your attitude changes."

After working up an appetite it was time for a huge buffet breakfast which I devoured more eagerly than some of the animals. After checking out we took a bicycle ride around the zoo. All the animals we just had just met up close were hiding or sleeping and it really brought home just how special the experience was. So our advice? Go west my furry and ferocious friends!

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