

HUNTER INDUSTRY, COMMUNITY, SPORTS & ENTERTAINMENT

@THE COAL FACE

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Available online @ thecoalface.net.au

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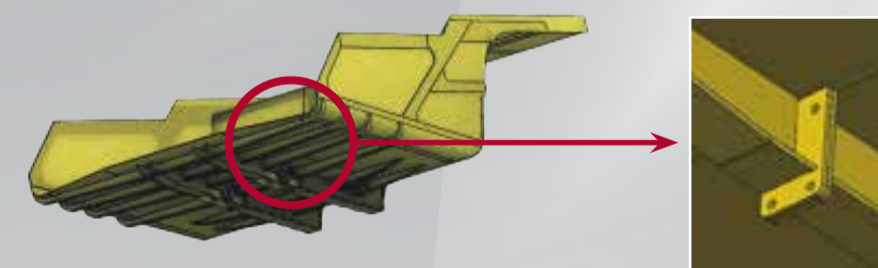


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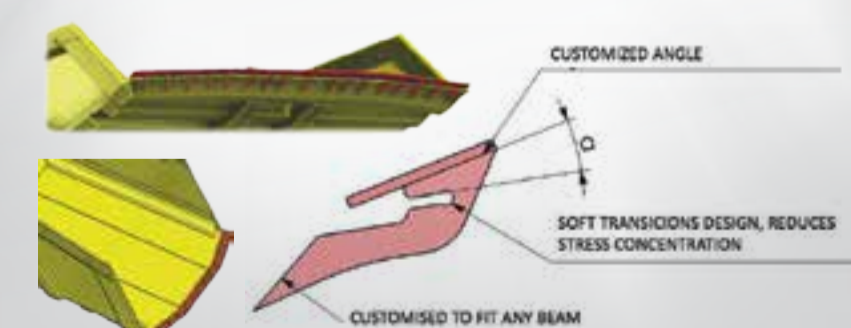
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MERRY COALMAS!

IT'S HARD TO BELIEVE ANOTHER CHRISTMAS HAS ROLLED AROUND ALREADY. WE HOPE YOU'VE ALL BEEN A LITTLE NAUGHTY THIS YEAR, SO SANTA BRINGS YOU COAL...FACE!

It's been a great year for our industry and there's lots to celebrate as we head towards the New Year. Forecasts for our industry are very promising and all indications suggest we aren't going anywhere for a long time.

This month our magazine is bigger than ever as we've tried to fit everything in our Christmas edition. There are extra competitions, extra jokes and of course a ton of stories celebrating the Christmas spirit.

We've brought back Kids @ The Coalface - Christmas style. This time they're dishing out the dirt about Santa and

how to get off his naughty list. Don't miss checking it out, if you don't find it hilarious you are a grinch!

We reveal our favourite resorts this month and the best activities to keep the kids busy over the holidays. Or maybe you want to try out hunting on your holidays? We've



got everything you need to know about hunting in the Hunter and it's one way to make sure you've got plenty of meat for your Christmas banquet.

WE WISH YOU A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR. WE HOPE YOU AND YOUR FAMILIES STAY SAFE AND HAVE PLENTY OF GOOD TIMES. TRY NOT TO MISS US TOO MUCH - WE'LL BE BACK IN FEBRUARY!

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COAL HERE FOR THE LONG HAUL

2018 HAS BEEN A GOOD YEAR FOR THE HUNTER COAL INDUSTRY. WE'VE SEEN STRONG SUSTAINED COAL PRICES, AND DEMAND AT OR NEAR RECORD LEVELS, LEADING TO MORE HUNTER COAL JOBS.

Ongoing strong demand for coal across our main export markets including Japan, Taiwan, Korea and China has increased economic activity in the Hunter region leading to more opportunities for local businesses.

The improved business conditions have meant more money in local wallets and cash registers, helping to improve the local economy, and drive growth more broadly across the Hunter.

THIS YEAR WE'VE SEEN MORE SIGNS THAT THERE IS A STRONG FUTURE FOR OUR LOCAL MINING INDUSTRY. FOR EXAMPLE, THE HIGHLY RESPECTED INTERNATIONAL ENERGY AGENCY ESTIMATES THAT GROWTH IN DEMAND FOR COAL IN THE ASIA PACIFIC WILL MORE THAN DOUBLE BY 2040. THIS IS GOOD NEWS

FOR THE HUNTER, WITH OUR INDUSTRY WELL PLACED TO MEET THIS DEMAND.

Meanwhile the Greens' have announced that they want to end all coal mining in NSW by 2030, a move that would cost \$11 billion in revenue and more than 13,000 jobs over the next two decades. And just for good measure they also want laws to make coal mining a criminal offence!

It's crazy, but with an election due in NSW in March next year it's also a timely reminder of the need to support Hunter mining.

MOST IMPORTANTLY, WE NEED TO SUPPORT OUR HARD-WORKING MINERS AND THEIR FAMILIES, SUPPLIER BUSINESSES, AND OUR TERRIFIC MINING COMMUNITIES THAT HELP DELIVER A STRONG AND STABLE ECONOMY FOR NSW.



Stephen Galilee
CEO, NSW Minerals Council

While I'm sure 2019 will bring challenges, the NSW Minerals Council will continue our strong advocacy on behalf of the Hunter coal industry, the mining families that rely on it, and for better outcomes for our wonderful mining communities.

I wish all our members, miners, suppliers and their families a Happy Christmas and safe and prosperous New Year.

Stephen Galilee
CEO, NSW Minerals Council

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MINING
CHRISTMAS**

THE HON. DON HARWIN,
MINISTER FOR RESOURCES

THE FESTIVE SEASON IS ALL ABOUT TRADITION. AND WHILST THERE MAY BE NO CHRISTMAS TRADITION QUITE LIKE A SIZZLING HOT DAY AT THE BEACH SPENT WITH FAMILY, THE NSW GOVERNMENT IS WRAPPING UP 2018 WITH A TRADITION OF ITS OWN. THIS CHRISTMAS, WE ARE CELEBRATING YET ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL YEAR FOR MINING IN NSW.

Coal mining is an industry more challenging than almost any other, and one that remains unrivalled when it comes to supporting heartland communities like the Hunter all across regional NSW.

The mineral resources sector is the bedrock of our economy and a leading industry for job creation, especially in regional areas. As at the end of June 2018, the coal industry employed over 21,000 people directly in addition to over 80,000 indirectly in both mine and non-mine related services.

In 2017-18, NSW produced around 194 million tonnes of coal. Coal

production alone is valued at \$22 billion - supplying over 80 per cent of the value of the State's mineral production and meeting around 80 per cent of NSW's supply requirements.

AS OF THIS YEAR, OUR DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT ALSO ESTIMATES RECOVERABLE COAL RESOURCES IN NSW ARE OVER SEVEN BILLION TONNES. AND IT'S LIKELY THAT SIGNIFICANT COAL RESOURCES ARE STILL YET BE ADDED TO THIS TOTAL.

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the strength and growth of our State relies heavily on the continued success of mining production. As home to 38 of the State's 41 active mining sites, a majority of this wealth comes directly from the bustling engine rooms of the Hunter. By collaborating closely with this community, the NSW Government are ensuring households and businesses across NSW have access to secure, affordable and reliable energy all through the dry, hot summer and beyond with a strong pipeline for development.

CURRENTLY, WE HAVE OVER 55 MAJOR MINING PROJECTS IN

THE PLANNING AND APPROVAL PROCESS, PROMISING INVESTMENT OF AROUND \$19 BILLION IN NEW CAPITAL EXPENDITURE WITH THE POTENTIAL TO CREATE AROUND 8,100 NEW JOBS.

As a state, we are entering into the New Year with a strong outlook for the industry and positive resolution for our miners, thankful for their commitment in keeping the Christmas lights on and the beers chilled this holiday season - a tradition NSW frankly cannot afford to lose.

The Hon. Don Harwin, Minister for Resources

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WHILE IT'S A LONG ROAD AHEAD BEFORE THEY EXTRACT THE FIRST TONNE OF COAL FROM THE MAXWELL UNDERGROUND PROJECT, MALABAR COAL IS MAKING RAPID HEADWAY ON ANOTHER IMPORTANT JOURNEY: REHABILITATING THE OLD DRAYTON OPEN CUT MINE.

For Malabar, world-class mining means world-class rehabilitation. It's a fundamental responsibility they have taken seriously from day one. Within a week of taking control of the site, they commenced rehabilitating the old open cut that they have no use for.

Six months later, the team has made great strides. They currently have around 30 people working on site, who have so far shaped 108 hectares for final rehabilitation and seeded 79 hectares.

REHABILITATION ALSO MEANS BEING ATTENTIVE TO THE THOUGHTS AND PERSPECTIVES OF THE COMMUNITY. TO THAT END, THEY HAVE HAD CONVERSATIONS WITH LOCALS ABOUT THE DIFFERENT WAYS THE LAND COULD BE USED.

They recently hosted community information sessions at the Jerrys Plains School of Arts and Maxwell Infrastructure site near Muswellbrook. These sessions were a great opportunity for them to hear from their neighbours first hand and answer any questions they had about plans for the area.

One use for the land they have settled on is a solar farm. 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. Working at capacity, the solar farm would generate enough energy from the sun to power about 10,000 local homes.

IN THESE EARLY STAGES, THE REHABILITATION OF THE DRAYTON MINE IS ONE SMALL WAY THE COMMUNITY CAN MAKE AN ASSESSMENT ON WHAT THE COMPANY DELIVERS, NOT JUST ON WHAT THEY PROMISE.

It's their job to keep making good on their promises, so the community can rest assured they are a company that will do what they say they will and, in time, experience the substantial benefits of the Maxwell Underground Project.

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CONNECT FORUM

A REFRESHED FORMAT FEATURING INCREASED ENGAGEMENT BETWEEN THE COMMUNITY, BUSINESS AND THE MINING INDUSTRY DREW A RECORD TURNOUT TO THE UPPER HUNTER MINING DIALOGUE'S ANNUAL FORUM ON NOVEMBER 20.

With about 150 participants gathering at the Muswellbrook Race Club, the forum featured networking and information sessions where local business people and community representatives could visit more than 30 displays and talk directly to experts on subjects including procurement, rehabilitation, mine regulation, air and water quality and the progress of the review of the Upper Hunter Synoptic Plan.

UPPER HUNTER MINING DIALOGUE CHAIRMAN DAVE O'BRIEN SAID THE FORUM WAS A BIG SUCCESS WITH NOT ONLY MORE PARTICIPANTS THAN PREVIOUS

YEARS, BUT ALSO A GREATER SPREAD OF REPRESENTATION FROM ACROSS THE UPPER HUNTER COMMUNITY INCLUDING LOCAL BUSINESS PEOPLE.

"As part of the refreshed format, this year's forum really focused on offering opportunities for local businesses to interact face to face with mining company procurement personnel," Mr O'Brien said.

"The Dialogue's industry partners provided key personnel from their procurement departments, so people could talk directly to the experts on how the industry and local businesses can do better business together."

The procurement exhibits were complemented by displays from both Singleton and Muswellbrook business chambers and business development officers from Muswellbrook and Singleton councils.

"THE DISPLAYS OFFERED A VERY VALUABLE OPPORTUNITY FOR BUSINESS AND THE MINING INDUSTRY TO CONNECT AND THERE WERE MANY REALLY GOOD AND INTERESTING CONVERSATIONS WHICH WILL BE FURTHER DEVELOPED," MR O'BRIEN SAID.

As well as the focus on business, the forum also featured displays from mining industry rehabilitation and air and water quality experts as well as exhibits from the Department of Primary Industry, Department of Premier and Cabinet, Office of Environment and Heritage, Department of Planning and Environment, NSW Environment Protection Authority, NSW Resources Regulator and the University of Newcastle.

Following the networking sessions, participants formed into working groups to recommend solutions to issues as well as how to best take advantage of opportunities raised during the day. Those recommendations will now be reviewed and developed by the Dialogue.

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IN THE NEWS...

**NEWS ANNOUNCER
JESSICA ROUSE FROM RADIO
HUNTER VALLEY HAS THE
LATEST NEWS STORIES**

PAY DAY

Mining giants BHP Billiton and Peabody Energy have both moved to 30-day payment terms for local businesses.

BHP Billiton said businesses won't need to apply for the new payment terms, they will automatically be moved to 30 days on Dec 1st.

Peabody Energy is putting the 30-day payment terms into place as well for all small to medium-sized businesses.

NATIONALS PRESELECTION

The election race is well and truly underway in the Upper Hunter. The National Party held their preselection in mid-November for the state seat re-endorsing Michael Johnsen as the candidate for the March 2019 State Election.

So far for the Upper Hunter seat Country Labor have Martin Rush, the Shooters Fishers and Farmers Party have endorsed Lee Watts and The Greens Party candidate is Tony Lonergan.

Federally, the Nationals also held their preselection for the New England seat. Barnaby Joyce was voted in as the candidate unopposed.

The Federal Election is expected to be held on either May 11th or May 18th, 2019.

WE LIVE HERE

Two Upper Hunter councils have joined together to kickstart an initiative to help drought-affected businesses.

Muswellbrook Shire Council and the Upper Hunter Shire Council have launched their 'We LIVE Here' cards which will work like an EFTPOS giftcard once they're loaded and will only be able to be used in the two shires, ensuring local expenditure and economic development for the region.

The project is a drought relief initiative giving a helping hand to businesses who are struggling in the devastating drought gripping the region.

Muswellbrook Mayor Martin Rush said, "it's really about keeping money in the local Upper Hunter economy".

DROUGHT VISIT

The National Coordinator General for Drought visited the Upper Hunter to listen, plan and act. Major General Stephen Day was appointed to the role in late August to oversee and direct the Federal Government's drought efforts to farmers across the country.

He has been travelling across Australia to drought-affected areas to see first-hand the specific challenges each region faces in what is a devastating and challenging time for many.

"The approach I took was which the Prime Minister agreed to was that I would listen, I would plan and then I would act, and I was pretty fussy about making sure I didn't get that order mucked up," said Major General Day. "It's very tough out there."

Major General Day added that the people in the Upper Hunter "are looking adversity in the eye and they are doing an extremely good job at dealing with it, now I'm not underplaying the challenges out there but I felt very proud to meet these wonderful Australians who are getting on with the challenges and dealing with the drought each day, not always but often with a smile on their face."

BUYING BENGALLA

New Hope Corp Ltd have revealed they are buying a further 10 percent stake in Bengalla mine from Japan's Mitsui & Co Ltd for \$215 million.

The purchase will bring New Hope's interest in Bengalla to 80 percent. The Mitsui transaction comes three months after Wesfarmers Ltd struck a deal to sell its stake in the Bengalla mine to New Hope, which held a 40 percent stake in the mine at the time.

COAL COMEBACK

Coal is making a comeback. According to the latest World Energy Outlook (WEO) from the International Energy Agency (IEA), there will be a strong demand for coal in Asia through until 2040.

The WEO estimates the growth in demand for coal in the Asia Pacific will increase by 492 mtce (million tonnes of coal equivalent) by 2040.

Minister for Resources and Northern Queensland Senator Matt Canavan said our coal industry is well placed to meet the demands of Asia while demand drops in other countries.

"These figures show a bright future for Australia's coal industry. They're also a short, sharp shock for those who have set out to destroy confidence in our world-class coal industry. Coal is here and it's here to stay," he said.

WATER SPOT

Hunter Valley Operations has been issued with \$30,000 in penalties by the EPA after the alleged discharge of mine water into Bayswater Creek in May this year.

EPA director Hunter Karen Marler said the discharge was caused by a combination of issues relating to the pumping of mine water without correct procedures being in place to prevent an offsite discharge.

"HVO reported the incident to the EPA as required, undertook actions to respond to the incident, including the removal of the mine water from Bayswater Creek, and has reviewed and improved its operations at the Newdell Load Point Facility," she said.



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OPINION:

WATTS RUNS FOR UPPER HUNTER ELECTORATE

THERE'S SOMETHING LACKING IN NSW PARLIAMENT AND WE ALL KNOW IT. COMMON SENSE. UNFORTUNATELY, COMMON SENSE ISN'T ALL THAT COMMON THESE DAYS.

As a resident in the Upper Hunter for decades and having raised my family here, I know just how important mining is to our economy and our community. Yet it doesn't seem that the polities in

Macquarie Street quite understand this. At the last election I ran as an independent and was the only candidate who stood in support of the workers and families of Drayton South. I thought this was a common-

sense approach to take but obviously others didn't think so.

IT WAS A SAD TIME TO SEE AN "US" AND "THEM" DIVISION AND FOR MINERS TO FEEL LIKE THEY WERE SECOND CLASS CITIZENS – THEY ARE NOT.

Mining is a critical part of our economy and miners are a critical part of our community. We all live together, play sport together, send our children to schools together and we are one community.

I supported the electricity workers who were fighting against the sell-off of our electricity network and was humbled that the ETU put me as 1 on their how to vote.

I support local workers and their families, not just through words, but through my actions and I am proud to stand beside them when the chips are down.

At the end of the day like most people I am sick of both major parties not listening and consulting, or just being unapproachable.

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up to both major parties and hold both of them to account no matter who is in Government.

I have listened to workers who are worried about casualisation and worse companies wanting a fly-in fly-out workforce, there is no need for that in the Upper Hunter.

These are mums and dads who are trying to pay their bills and put bread on the table but are worried about their job security.

OUR ELECTORATE IS THE POWERHOUSE OF THE STATE ECONOMY AND WE

HAVE ALL BEEN TAKEN FOR GRANTED FOR TOO LONG. BUT THAT'S JUST MY OPINION. IF YOU FEEL THE SAME OR DIFFERENT, I WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU.

As an elected representative your bosses are the people and workers you represent, not the Ministers and bureaucrats in Sydney. You are expected to fight for your community without fear or favour.

I'm ready for this. I'm ready to listen. And I'm ready to deliver. **Lee Watts, Shooters & Fishers Party Candidate**

FOND FAREWELL

THE UPPER HUNTER MINING DIALOGUE BRINGS COMMUNITY AND THE MINING INDUSTRY TOGETHER IN AN "OUTSTANDING SUCCESS" STORY, ACCORDING TO DIALOGUE STALWART GILL EASON.



Gill was reflecting on her time and work with the Dialogue which started with the UHMD's inception. With a move to the warmer climes of Queensland imminent with her husband Peter, Gill this month tendered her resignation from the Dialogue's Joint Advisory Steering Committee.

It was a resignation sadly accepted but with huge gratitude for the work and effort Gill put into the Dialogue over the past years, according to Dialogue Chairman Dave O'Brien.

"GILL HAS BEEN A GREAT VOICE FOR THE COMMUNITY FROM THE DIALOGUE'S VERY START," MR O'BRIEN SAID. "SHE HAS PROMOTED THE COMMUNITY'S CONCERNS BUT ALSO LISTENED WITH THE COMMUNITY'S BEST INTERESTS AT HEART."

"She has been a fantastic contributor – I will personally miss her, and I know all of the people involved in the Dialogue will miss her as well. The Dialogue thanks her for her huge contribution and we wish her and Peter all the very best."

Gill believes the Dialogue has had many achievements. "Importantly it has increased awareness of the 'real' facts as opposed to what is reported or said. It has given people the real story of what's happening with mining without the emotions; just the facts," she told us.

"AND, IT HAS CREATED A MUCH BETTER RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN COMMUNITY, BUSINESS AND MINING."

Gill remembers a good relationship between community and mining wasn't always the case; in fact, a strained relationship was what prompted her to get involved.

Although, as President of the Singleton Business Chamber, she was already involved with conversations around the growing issues with mining companies and the NSWMC, the real momentum for the formation of the Upper Hunter Mining Dialogue happened in 2010 with public meetings to discuss the issues.

"I was there at those original meetings; there was a lot of people, the Singleton Civic Centre was busy. There had started to be pushback regarding mining development. A lot of the issues were environmental such as air and water quality issues, but also traffic was bad, there was no room at hotels and rents were getting very high. Many businesses were getting tired of the issues including the drain on business

employers as their employees migrated to the higher paying mining jobs."

Following the public meetings, the Upper Hunter Mining Dialogue was formed in 2011 and Gill was fully involved from the start – originally as a member of the Social Impacts and Infrastructure Working Group and then as one of three community members of the Dialogue's governing body, the Joint Advisory Steering Committee, when it was formed in October 2015.

GILL LOOKS BACK AT THE DIALOGUE'S ACHIEVEMENTS WITH PRIDE – IN PARTICULAR ITS PROJECTS. "THE PROJECTS THAT HAVE COME OUT OF THE DIALOGUE HAVE BEEN WONDERFUL. THEY PROVIDE REAL RESULTS TO THE PUBLIC THAT SAY THESE ARE THE FACTS; THIS IS THE STATE OF PLAY."

And, while not all points of view presented at the Dialogue working groups are agreed upon, Gill says they are treated with respect.


"I thoroughly enjoyed working with the people of the Dialogue," she says. "The different points of view; seeing things from a different perspective. People around the table are very respectful of differing points of view."

And Gill believes the Dialogue continues to serve an important, ongoing purpose. "We didn't set out to solve all the problems of the world, we just chipped away at the biggest issues of the time and made some real progress. "I think it should continue. The projects that are ongoing need to continue. These projects allow the community and the mining companies to come together. There has been so much learning. It's the only way we are going to get consensus and solutions to the issues."

Community members interested in filling the vacancy on the Dialogue's Joint Advisory Steering Committee due to Gill's resignation can register their interest at info@nswmining.com.au.

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PUBLISHERS OPINION

CHRISSY IS AS HARD FOR SOME AS IT IS A GREAT TIME FOR OTHERS. THIS YEAR LOOK OUT FOR THOSE THAT MIGHT BE HAVING A HARD TIME FOR WHATEVER REASON AND SPREAD A BIT OF JOY THEIR WAY IF YOU GET THE CHANCE.

Most of us get to spend extra fun times with friends, family and colleagues over the festive season and it's the best time of the year. For those that can't see much to celebrate due to hard times, relationship or health challenges, depression or a million other reasons, it really is the time for others to step up and show them

the joy.

Even if you risk the chance of being labeled one of those Christmas crazies by those who demand a low-key, non-celebratory, bar humbug approach to festivities and all things Santa, this year take the risk and challenge yourself to be *that* Christmas nut bag that brings joy to all.

YOU WILL FIND IT MORE REWARDING AND FUN AND WHO CARES IF YOU EMBARRASS YOURSELF TO FAMILY AND FRIENDS. THAT'S THE WHOLE POINT; TAKE THE SERIOUS OUT OF CHRISTMAS AND SHOW THOSE WHO CAN'T SEE THE FOREST FOR THE CHRISTMAS TREES THAT IT DOESN'T HAVE TO BE A SHITE TIME.

It could be as easy as giving someone whose face says they have more than a bit on their mind a regular smile or simply friendly hello. If someone is being a little bad tempered, or maybe even a bit of an arsehole, now is the time to try and see past that, rise above it and just sensitively try and ask or find out what's going on without being annoying or too intrusive. It could be that they are just a horrible person but more often than not there is more going on. See if they're willing to grab a beer, wine or coffee and help them lighten the load and crack a smile.

LONELINESS SUCKS THE LIFE OUT OF PEOPLE AND NO MORE THAN AT THIS TIME OF YEAR. MAKE TIME FOR OTHERS. IF YOU CAN, AND YOU NOTICE IT, YOUR TIME, A TALK AND YOUR UNDERSTANDING AND GENUINE INTEREST CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE TO OTHERS.

Lastly...Give. If you're doing alright and can afford it, your community

needs you. From homelessness to mental health to people struggling financially, make sure every kid gets a pressy Christmas morning and every person shares some nice food on the big day. Alternatively give your time to a worthy cause in the lead up. Happy Christmas to all.

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What do you call people who are afraid of Santa Claus? Claustrophobic.





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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...

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

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NEW HORIZONS

THE STEREOTYPE OF A COAL MINER IS A BIG BURLY BLOKE WHO'S BEEN WORKING WITH HIS HANDS DIGGING COAL SINCE HE LEFT SCHOOL. THE TRUTH IS, OUR INDUSTRY WELCOMES ALL TYPES, AT ALL STAGES OF THEIR LIFE.

MAHLI GOERKE
APPRENTICE FITTER
MAHLI GOERKE IS ONLY 19 YEARS OLD BUT SHE'S ALREADY BEEN KNOCKING AROUND THE MINING INDUSTRY FOR A FEW YEARS GETTING HER HANDS DIRTY. AND HER HAIR...

"I never much liked school, so in Year 10 when the opportunity for work experience came up, I thought I'd have a crack at it. I've been riding motorbikes since I was 4 and grown up helping Dad in the shed working on his cars so I've always had a strong interest in all things mechanical. I took my resume to a local workshop and asked if I could

do a few weeks work experience and they were happy to take me on. I fell in love with it. After the 3 weeks work experience, they offered me an apprenticeship and I haven't looked back since."
Mahli started as a diesel mechanic

apprenticeship but this year changed over to Mobile Plant Technology apprenticeship with Migas Trainees & Apprentices and started working out at MACH Energy's Mt Pleasant Operations. Mahli is also the only female

fitter on site but that's never been an issue. "The boys out here are great. I look at them like brothers. The worst part about my job is being blonde and my hair being filthy all the time," she says with a laugh.

"COMING TO THE MINE WAS THE BEST DECISION I EVER MADE. IT'S JUST A COMPLETELY DIFFERENT ENVIRONMENT AND I AM THE ONLY APPRENTICE ON SITE, SO I HAVE BEEN GIVEN A LOT MORE OPPORTUNITY. EVERY DAY IS DIFFERENT. I LOVE A CHALLENGE. SOME DAYS I WILL BE ON SERVICES AND OTHER DAYS I WILL BE ON ENGINE WORK. AND SOMETIMES I HAVE BEEN OUT IN THE PIT FOR BREAKDOWNS AND THAT'S WHAT I LOVE. I HAVE ALWAYS WANTED TO BE A BREAKDOWN FITTER BECAUSE I LIKE HAVING TO THINK AND DIAGNOSE."



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WHAT WE DO
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We aim to enhance sustainability of mining in the Hunter Valley.

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KENT FEREBEE
OPERATOR
AFTER 29 YEARS AS A CHEF WORKING IN AMERICA AND FRANCE, KENT IS NOW AN OPERATOR, WORKING BEHIND THE WHEEL INSTEAD OF BEHIND THE OVEN.

Kent's now been in the industry for almost 4 years. He currently drives the trucks but is keen to gain more skills in the industry. "I started as a trainee operator at MTW on a two-year traineeship, that how I got into the industry. It was a big adjustment for me at the beginning, swapping to any new profession after doing something for so long, the learning curve is always a bit of a battle," Kent says. Kent came to Australia first back in 2000 to work for the Sydney Olympics

but then met a girl and had his daughter. Although the relationship didn't last, Kent could not abandon his daughter, so he ended up becoming a permanent resident. Kent said one of the better things about this industry is that he can switch off on his days off. "Working as a chef was always so full on and unpredictable whereas with this job, although there are lots more potential dangers, it's also much less stressful."

"What I also love about my job is the great crew which makes for a great atmosphere. I enjoy the work and it's turning out to be a great decision even though it's been such a big change. I may consider starting my own business sometime down the road, but that's just a thought. Because I have so many years as a chef, I don't want to throw that all down the toilet but at the same time I'm enjoying what I'm doing right now."

"I DON'T HAVE ANY FAMILY HERE IN AUSTRALIA BESIDES MY DAUGHTER, WHO LIVES 2HRS AWAY. ALL MY FAMILY IS STILL BACK IN THE STATES. THAT'S WHY I CHOSE SINGLETON, AS IT'S CLOSE TO HER. I WAS LOOKING FOR A CAREER CHANGE AND THAT'S WHEN I DECIDED TO GET INTO THE MINING INDUSTRY. LIKE MOST PEOPLE I'D HEARD YOU COULD EARN GOOD MONEY WHICH WAS DEFINITELY ONE OF THE DECIDING FACTORS."

DAVE HAMILTON
TRAINEE OPERATOR
AFTER 40 YEARS AS A PLASTERER AND A MASTER OF HIS TRADE, DAVE'S PROOF THAT IT'S NEVER TOO LATE TO TEACH AN OLD DOG NEW TRICKS.



Dave's spend 40 years in the building industry before making a huge change and becoming a trainee operator with Workpac at Bengalla. "It certainly is a different world to the building industry. For starters you have smaller teams and as I have always worked for myself it's a big learning curve. There are a lot of diverse personalities out there." Dave tells us with a grin.

Getting back into a classroom and learning also took Dave a bit of getting used to. "We had a lot of class work to start off with. After so many years in the building industry and then suddenly having to learn a whole different curriculum, it took a while for the brain to click in, but I got through it in the end." Then it was time to get behind the wheel with a trainer for a few weeks learning the ropes before he finally got to cleared to drive solo.

Dave is looking forward to what's ahead of him in the industry. "There's a lot more training and more skills to be learnt on different equipment and I'm eager to learn all I can. I find the downtime hard, like if we're stopped for an environmental issues or machine breakdowns, I just like to keep going and stay busy. I'm keen to look at getting my drill skill as they work rain, hail or shine most of the time."

"I DID DAY SHIFT FOR WHILE BEFORE TRANSFERRING TO NIGHT SHIFT WHICH IS COMPLETELY DIFFERENT. YOU HAVE TO BE SO MUCH MORE AWARE OF THINGS AROUND YOU GIVEN THE VISIBILITY. THE FIRST NIGHT I HAD A TRAINER UP WITH ME AND DID A COUPLE OF LAPS AND THEN SET ME FREE AND AWAY I WENT. I'M NOW SOLO ON CREW THOUGH THERE IS SO MUCH TO STILL LEARN."



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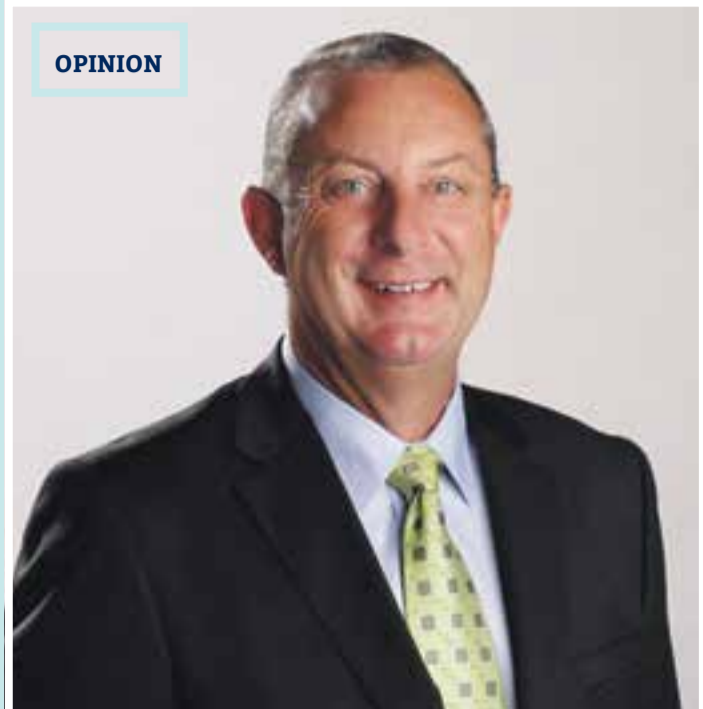
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OPINION



FOR MANY YEARS I HAVE PROMOTED OUR REGION OF THE UPPER HUNTER ELECTORATE AS THE HOME OF THE WORLD'S CLASS MINES, WINES, EQUINES AND BOVINES. THESE INDUSTRIES ARE NOT, NOR EVER HAVE BEEN, MUTUALLY EXCLUSIVE. MANY FAMILIES IN UPPER HUNTER HAVE BROTHERS, SISTERS, SONS, DAUGHTERS, UNCLES AND COUSINS WHO WORK IN THE VARIOUS INDUSTRIES FOR WHICH UPPER HUNTER IS RENOWNED.

A healthy, diverse economy is vital to our regional economy, and provides us the lifestyle that we love and cherish in the Upper Hunter. From the time I became Member, I have been working with and supporting those industries, and their workforces: the farmers, the wine makers, the horse breeders and the miners.

When it comes to public office holders and political aspirants in Upper Hunter, sadly I often feel like the lone and unequivocal voice speaking out on behalf of the needs of working families and our communities.

THE CONTRAST BETWEEN MYSELF AND MY POLITICAL OPPONENTS IS QUITE STARK.

A prime example of this would be the Labor-endorsed candidate for Upper Hunter who has been report in the media as claiming that "there is too much mining" in Upper Hunter, and he has not been supportive of co-existence in Upper Hunter, saying: "no amount of cooperation between various landholders is going to cure the impact and the land use conflict between thoroughbred breeding with open cut coal mining."

THIS SORT OF LANGUAGE DOESN'T HELP THE INDUSTRY, IT DOESN'T HELP JOBS, NOR DOES IT REFLECT THE COMMUNITIES IN WHICH WE LIVE IN UPPER HUNTER.

It pays to look at the facts and figures regarding the mining in the Upper Hunter Electorate.

In 2016/17 financial year the figures with regards to the Mining Industry for the State Electorate of Upper Hunter showed that there 4,642 employees, with \$614 million paid directly by mining companies in salaries and wages. \$780 million is spent directly by mining companies in business purchases with 1,027 local businesses supported.

The enormous economic and social benefits cannot and should not be taken for granted.

Ultimately, I believe in a common sense, co-existence approach to industry in Upper Hunter which should be about one thing: jobs for our communities.

The idea of having our local Upper Hunter mining industry limited, talked-down or legislated out of existence remains unacceptable to me.

Michael Johnsen, MP, Member for Upper Hunter

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PH 6543 1066

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"Boss, can I take tomorrow off? My wife really needs help with Christmas cleaning," asks Joe.

"Are you out of your head, man? I can't give you a day off for this!" rumbles the boss.

"Oh thanks a lot, boss," Joe smiles, relieved, "I knew I could rely on you!"

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LEARN FROM THE LAWMAN

STUART BARNETT IS OUR MINING INDUSTRY'S LEADING PERSONAL INJURY LAWYER. THIS MONTH HE HAS SOME IMPORTANT ADVICE IN RELATION TO STAYING SAFE AND BEHAVIOR OVER THE CHRISTMAS PERIOD.



For many the Christmas party season has already commenced and for others it soon will. Not only will you be partying with family and friends, but you may also potentially be attending work place Christmas functions and work-related events with clients, sponsors and the like. Alcohol is often provided and with that feeling of relaxation sometimes comes errors in judgement.

THINKING ABOUT HOW YOU WILL TRAVEL TO AND FROM EVENTS IS VERY IMPORTANT. IF YOU DECIDE TO DRIVE, THEN YOU NEED TO BE DISCIPLINED ABOUT HOW MUCH ALCOHOL YOU DRINK. IT IS EASY TO LOSE TRACK OF YOUR DRINKING OVER A PERIOD OF TIME IN A FESTIVE ATMOSPHERE. YOU DON'T WANT TO GIVE YOURSELF AN UNEXPECTED CHRISTMAS PRESENT OF NOT HAVING YOUR LICENSE OR WORSE.

If you happen to be caught with a blood alcohol reading in the high range of 0.15 or greater then you potentially face maximum fines \$3,300 for a first offence and \$5,500 for a subsequent offence together with maximum prison terms of 18 months for a first offence to 2 years for subsequent offenses. In terms of your license the minimum disqualification is 12 months and to get that you would need to convince the Court to reduce the automatic disqualification of 3 years for your first offence. Your license will also be taken away from you on the spot.

THERE IS THEN A GRADED REGIME OF PENALTIES FOR MID-RANGE OFFENCES WITH A READING OF 0.08 TO LESS THAN 0.15 AND LOW RANGE OFFENCES WITH A READING OF 0.05 TO LESS THAN 0.08. EVEN SO, AT THE BOTTOM END OF THE SCALE THERE ARE PROVISIONS FOR FINES OF UP TO \$2,200 AND AUTOMATIC DISQUALIFICATION

OF 6 MONTHS. LEARNERS AND P PLATE DRIVERS CANNOT HAVE ANY ALCOHOL IN THEIR BLOOD WHEN DRIVING.

Whilst the criminal penalties for drink driving can have a serious impact upon you and your family, people often forget about other potential penalties. If you hurt someone or worse in an accident could face harsher penalties. If you damage property your comprehensive insurance may be voided by the presence of alcohol, so you could face large claims for damages. You may be injured yourself and not have any insurance coverage, let alone the effect of the loss of your license on your employment.

WHETHER YOU DRIVE OR NOT YOU SHOULD ALSO BE AWARE OF YOUR BEHAVIOR AT WORK CHRISTMAS PARTIES OR WORK SPONSORED EVENTS. NOT ONLY ARE YOU SUBJECT TO CRIMINAL LAWS, BUT YOUR COMPANY WILL LIKELY HAVE POLICIES RELATING TO BEHAVIOR AND BRINGING THE COMPANY INTO DISREPUTE. SOMETHING DONE OR SAID UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF ALCOHOL MAY HAVE SERIOUS CONSEQUENCES IN THE LIGHT OF THE NEXT WORK DAY.

Taking all the above into account please have an enjoyable and safe Christmas and try to refresh over whatever break you are taking.

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

'AVE A LAUGH WITH

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Last Christmas my parents came to stay with me. When you're young, you go back to your mum and dad's for Christmas, but when you get to a certain age they come and stay with you. Which is nice. Proves that life moves on and you are looking after them, as they looked after you.

We were sitting there last Xmas eve at ten in the evening watching a movie. I turned to mum and dad and said: "Bed! Now!"

My mum replied: "But John - the movie has only just started"

Me: "I don't care. Go to bed. And don't think you're sleeping in the same room, either. You might get away with that kind of thing under your roof - but I'll think you'll find I pay the bills round here!"

THE CHRISTMAS TREE FARM

PARALLEL ECONOMICS

OVER TIME WE HAVE COME UP WITH MANY DIFFERENT IDEAS AND WAYS OF MAXIMISING MINE LAND, THIS IDEA IS THE EASIEST SO FAR AND COULD SPREAD A LOT OF JOY EACH YEAR.

WITH THE GROUPS INVOLVED WORKING TOGETHER ON A BIT OF REGULAR MAINTENANCE THROUGHOUT THE YEAR, COME CHRISTMAS SEASON THE TREES WOULD BE READY TO HARVEST AND BRIGHTEN UP EVERY HOUSE.

The Community Christmas Tree Farm is such a simple idea I don't know why we haven't thought of it before.

Kids love a Christmas tree and so do plenty of the big kids. Going out and picking a fresh one cut to order that's perfect for you and your clan is a simple joy and experience that will last a lifetime and most likely become an annual tradition.

SO HOW COULD IT WORK?

One of the mines close to a local community could set aside a modest three or four acres that was on a boundary well away from mine activity with reliable access to water.

Then working in collaboration with mines rehab people and potentially a community organisation like Men's Shed, Lions or Rotary, plant a farm and watch it grow.



Working with other community organisations like Vinnies and the Salvo's for example, a good portion of the trees could be allocated free to the community for organisations who could put them to good use. People struggling would get a terrific dose of Christmas spirit and places like community centres, aged care facilities and schools could all join in without cost.

The rest of the community could then come and buy their trees with the family creating a wonderful Christmas tradition. All proceeds after a few costs could then go to the community groups who help run it to do more good things out there.

The idea is low impact but high social return and feels as good as sounds. Who knows it may even get a mine owner onto Santa's nice list.

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SCONE PUBLIC SCHOOL WERE THE RECIPIENTS OF THIS YEAR'S BENGALLA APPRENTICE COMMUNITY DAY, WITH AN UPGRADE OF THEIR ENCLOSED PLAYGROUND AND THE CONSTRUCTION OF A CUBBY HOUSE.

The Bengalla Apprentice Community Day has been running for the past five years with previous years projects all focused in the Muswellbrook area. This year it was Scone who were on the receiving end of the generosity and hard work of Bengalla's apprentices and tradesmen.

The apprentices and the principal from Scone Public School consulted together on the plan then the apprentices budgeted and organised building materials and tradesmen to assist under the supervision of their supervisors.

The planning stage was 3 weeks and the build time was 3 days. They built a cubby house, they removed old play equipment, filled soft fall low spots, laid synthetic grass, installed sensory learning bars and concreted a mosaic tiled area.

BENGALLA SUPERVISOR BRUCE CONNELLY SAID IT WAS A PROGRAM THAT NOT ONLY HELPED THE RECIPIENT, BUT ALSO HAD A POSITIVE INFLUENCE ON THE APPRENTICES AND SHOWED THEM THE IMPORTANCE OF GIVING BACK TO THE COMMUNITY.

"Everyone benefits from this program

GET TRUCKIN'

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and on this occasion none more so than the special needs children at Scone Public School. It was magical seeing the looks on their faces when

they inspected the finished cubby house and play area," Bruce said. Well done to Bengalla and their Apprentices in leading the way.



GROW WITH US IN MUDGEE

Monadelphous' Maintenance & Industrial Services continues to experience high levels of growth both nationally and on the east coast. Our fixed and mobile plant business units service mine sites across NSW – From Pit to Port. We have the resources to rapidly respond to our clients needs. To continue to deliver the highest level of service and value for the clients operations, we have expanded into the Mudgee region. Our Mudgee branch is supported by our larger operations in the Hunter Valley allowing our local branch to flex when required and rapidly respond to our clients short term critical needs. At Monadelphous we are passionate about building long lasting relationships built on our core values Safety, Integrity, Teamwork, Loyalty & Achievement.

MUDGEE OPERATIONS

Our Mudgee Operations offer local Mechanical and Electrical trades for our clients all under One roof – Boilermakers, Fitters and Electricians.

Our branch also offers the area's largest local scaffolding service with over 60 tonne of scaffold available in our Mudgee yard and a further 150 tonne available at short notice from the Hunter Valley. Our Mudgee Workshop is equipped to fabricate anything our clients require and our fabrication and paint workshops in the Hunter are setup to fulfill our clients larger structural steel requirements.

MUDGEE OPPORTUNITIES

Mudgee is forever bustling. With a vibrant wine industry and numerous events every weekend it offers a perfect rural lifestyle. A convenient 3 hour drive to Sydney or Newcastle.

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Who are you and what do you do?
I'm Billie Sharpe General Manager for Biglift Cranes and Heavy Haulage. We do Mobile Crane Hiring, Heavy Haulage and Transport.

Where did you start and how did you end up where you are now?
We're 100% locally owned. So, we started here and stayed here, keeping the money right here.

Describe a typical day at 'The office'.
Hectic but calm, it's actually really hard to describe.

What's the best thing about your business?
The people.

What is the big news in your part of the mining industry right now?
Everyone seems to be talking about the dust...

What is the biggest opportunity for your business right now?
There are always opportunities, it's about finding the right one.

What are the biggest challenges facing your business?
Being competitive within our field.

Community or other causes close to its heart and values?
We are big supporters of the Muswellbrook PCYC and try and help when we can. Westpac Helicopter, Rotary Club, Drought Relief. All in all we believe everyone deserves a fair go.

How big is the crew in the Hunter Valley?
Big it's Biglift! No just 12 of us.

What's the best thing about your job?
The versatility of what we do keeps it really interesting.

The worst thing?
Inductions.

Big Lift... what's the best thing about it?
The family owned vibe with the corporate professionalism. I love the middle ground we have found.

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A few days after Christmas, a mother is in the kitchen and hears her young son playing with his new electric train in the next room. She hears the train stop and her son saying, "All of you sons of b*tches who want off, get the hell off now, cause this is the last stop! And all of you sons of b*tches who are getting on, get your asses in the train, cause we're going down the tracks."

The mother goes nuts and tells her son, "We don't use that kind of language in this house. Go to your room for two hours. When you come out, you may play with your train, but I want you to use nice language."

Two hours later, the son resumes playing with his train. The mother hears, "All passengers who are disembarking from the train, please remember to take all of your belongings with you. We thank you for riding with us today and hope your trip was a pleasant one. We hope you will ride with us again soon."

As the mother begins to smile, the child adds, "For those of you who are pissed off about the two-hour delay, please see the b*tch in the kitchen."



THE LIFE OF A COUNTRY BOY, COME FARMER, COME MINER, COME COUNCILLOR. MURRAY O'KEEFE TAKES US ON AN INSIDE LOOK INTO HIS LIFE AND WORKING AT WHITEHAVEN.

Who are you and what do you do?
I'm Murray and I'm one of the Mining Superintendents at Whitehaven Coal's Maules Creek Mine. I've got a pretty mixed bag of responsibility at present with a focus on some reasonable sized mining projects, most notably

the Autonomous Haulage Project we are undertaking with Hitachi.

Any nicknames good or bad?
These days I'm pretty restricted to Muzz which is nice and simple. At my previous job 'Muzz' was already taken so the clever work around was to dub me

MY MINING LIFE

'Murray Cod' – Cod stuck pretty well and is still on all my old work shirts.

Where do you live and how long have you been in the Valley?
These days my wife and I live on a little property on the Namoi River just north of Gunnedah. We moved up here in July 2014.

How big is the crew?
We have around 620 full time roles on site at present, just over 400 in the production side of the world. So we run crews of about 100 at present.

What's the best thing about your job?
Two things stand out. Firstly mining satisfies my desire to 'do something' physical. I had a go at a fulltime office role in my first year after high school and found it just wasn't for me. Secondly my role is about leading people to achieve things as a team. I thrive on being part of a high functioning team and my current role gives a lot of opportunity to grow and develop teams and watch them share in well-deserved success.

The worst thing?
Moving from shift work to a Monday to Friday role a couple of years ago has given me the opportunity to take on opportunities like my MEM ticket. However this has made it a lot harder to fit in sport and keep my diet and exercise on the right track. It's an excuse I know, but frankly I haven't got the balance adjusted quite right just yet.

What's a usual day at work entail?
There is no such thing as a typical day! Being serious, the first third of my day starts with interacting with

the off going and oncoming supervisory teams and then flows into spending time with them in the field to assist and follow up actions. Next, it's shorter term planning activities then my other main focus is on longer term projects and activities.

embarrassing photos as part of Mines Rescue training. Or have the photos taken of you.

How different is your job to what you wanted to be when you were a kid?
I'm pretty confident I wanted to drive Thomas the Tank engine as a kid, so I'm part way there by being able to mine the coal Thomas needs.

What would your mum say about you when you were a kid?
Talked too much, dug too many holes (good job experience) and never wanted to sit still and focus on one thing at a time.

Family?
Married my amazing wife Sarah in September this year. No kids yet but a fair amount of two and four leg lawn mowers (cattle & chooks) to keep us busy.

What do you do in your downtime?
Sariz does an amazing job of managing our farm (on top of her day job) and she is kind enough to let me help lift heavy things, work with cattle and cut laps in a tractor on my days off.

I'm also privileged to have been elected as a Councillor for Gunnedah Shire two years ago – it's been a really rewarding way to get heavily involved in such a fantastic community and region.

I'm still enjoying playing rugby and can't ever see a future where I don't aim to use most of my annual leave on snow skiing which are both great ways to unwind and switch the brain off from work.

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CLAIM TO FAME

TWO INDIVIDUALS AND ONE ORGANISATION ARE THE NEW ADDITIONS TO THE WAMBO COAL SINGLETON HALL OF FAME AFTER A SPECIAL INDUCTION CEREMONY LAST MONTH.

Community stalwart Ruth Rogers, dedicated Aboriginal elder Uncle Warren Taggart and the Singleton Scouts were announced as the 2018 inductees. Their names will now be added to the pavers on the Hall of Fame outside Singleton Council's Administration Building.

Run since 2009 in a partnership between Singleton Council and Peabody Wambo Coal, the Hall of Fame was established to recognise those people who were born in or have a strong association with

Singleton and who have attained prominence at a state, national or international level in their field of endeavour.

CHAIR OF THE WAMBO COAL SINGLETON HALL OF FAME COMMITTEE, CR GODFREY ADAMTHWAITE, SAID THE OCCASION WAS ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT EVENTS ON THE COMMUNITY CALENDAR AND WAS THANKFUL TO PEABODY WAMBO COAL FOR ITS ONGOING SUPPORT.

"The Wambo Coal Singleton Hall of

Fame is a night for us all to come together to recognise the people in our local government area who have made long-standing contributions not only to our community, but to their fields of endeavour. All three of this year's inductees are very worthy of this recognition and will take their place on a prestigious list of individuals, families and organisations that now stand as an example to us all to strive for the highest levels of achievement in whatever field we choose," he said.

RUTH ROGERS – COMMUNITY SERVICE

After arriving in Singleton more than 30 years ago, Ruth Rogers has been an important part of the community ever since. She was integral in establishing the Singleton Area Military Support Network for the Wives of Personnel, and now works with military veterans, in particular soldiers and their families dealing with post-traumatic stress disorder. As a result, she was recognised with a Ministerial Commendation in 2017, delivered personally by the NSW Minister for Veterans Affairs. Ruth has served as a Singleton councillor and is also dedicated to small business as a past president of the Singleton Business Chamber.

WARREN TAGGART – COMMUNITY SERVICE

Dedicated Aboriginal elder, Uncle Warren Taggart has worked tirelessly to both preserve and share

the rich history and culture of the Wonnarua people, including conducting regular tours of the culturally significant Baime Cave. He a long-time member of the Singleton Aboriginal Advisory Committee and has been instrumental in the organisation of NAIDOC Week activities as well as regularly delivering Welcome to Country at various events throughout the local government area. Named the 2016 Elder of the Year (Male) at the Upper Hunter NAIDOC Awards, Warren is particularly passionate about educating children and authored a colouring book aimed at preschoolers, illustrated by his daughter Kerri-Ann.

SINGLETON SCOUTS – COMMUNITY SERVICE

The Singleton Scout Group was formed in 1917 and the troop flag originally donated by prominent Singleton family the Dangars. After celebrating its 100th anniversary the group now has more than 80 members aged between six and 18 years. Scouting fosters the physical, intellectual, social and spiritual development of youth through the "Scouting Method" and the Singleton Scout Group has a significant involvement in community events including Clean up Australia Day activities, Broke Road Clean Up and assisting at the Singleton Show and Shine and the Milbrodale Classic.

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FROM THE MOUTHS OF KIDS



CONNOR WARD - AGE 10

If Santa only works one day a year, what does he do on the rest of his days?
Eating! He just sits around eating, that's how he gets his jelly belly. He also takes care of the reindeers and cleans them.

If you get your name on the naughty list, can you get off it?

If you do end up on the naughty list, you can redeem yourself by doing good deeds and stuff like cleaning your room.



WE HIT THE STREETS OF THE HUNTER TO FIND OUT WHAT THE JOLLY BLOKE IN THE BIG RED SUIT DOES ALL YEAR ROUND, AND IF IT'S POSSIBLE TO GET OFF THE NAUGHTY LIST!

BROOKLYN BURGESS - AGE 5

If Santa only works one day a year, what does he do on the rest of his days?

Makes more Christmas presents for the good kids

If you get your name on the naughty list, can you get off it?

Yes. You have to be nice to everyone and be kind and caring



KOBY MEISSNER - AGE 8

If Santa only works one day a year, what does he do on the rest of his days?

Makes the presents and wraps them.

If you get your name on the naughty list, can you get off it?

Nope. You are stuck there



OLLIE PEARCE - AGE 6

If Santa only works one day a year, what does he do on the rest of his days?

Tells the elves what presents to make for which kids. He does get every single Saturday off though

If you get your name on the naughty list, can you get off it?

Yes. Be good. Eat all your dinner and do what your mum and dad tell you to do



ROWDY NEWELL - AGE 3

If Santa only works one day a year, what does he do on the rest of his days?

Get beers and drink them like Dad

If you get your name on the naughty list, can you get off it?

Yes, you can if you get Daddy's stubbies out of the fridge



RUBY MARCO - AGE 7

If Santa only works one day a year, what does he do on the rest of his days?

Watches everyone and make sure they are behaving. He then puts them on the naughty or nice list

If you get your name on the naughty list, can you get off it?

You have to be nice and help people and be respectful



DASH NEWELL - AGE 5

If Santa only works one day a year, what does he do on the rest of his days?

Boxing with the elves and drinking wine

If you get your name on the naughty list, can you get off it?

You can get off the naughty list by helping your mum and dad and by giving Santa some prawns and chilli jerky



Wishing our hard working miners, suppliers and all Hunter businesses a Merry Christmas and a safe and happy 2019.

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SHOULDER TO SHOULDER

AT LONG LAST MUSWELLBROOK MEN'S SHED HAD AN OFFICIAL CEREMONY TO OPEN THEIR PREMISES WITH AROUND 2000 COMMUNITY MEMBERS ATTENDING THROUGHOUT THE DAY.

Although Muswellbrook Men's Shed has been around for about 5 years now, the shed was officially opened by members both past and present. The unveiling plaque says it all - "To strive is to Achieve - Shoulder to Shoulder."

The Men's Shed concept has been around for some time now and is an opportunity for any blokes in the community to come along and participate, and/or become a member. The Men's Shed vision is to provide support to other guys that might be doing it tough, or for anyone to get out of the house and away from the wife with likeminded people for a laugh and a chat.

"IT WAS A BRILLIANT DAY," SAYS MUSWELLBROOK MEN'S SHED PRESIDENT DAVE SORENSON. "WE ARE VERY HUMBLLED BY THE COMMUNITIES' SUPPORT, AND THE LARGE NUMBERS THAT TURNED UP ON THE DAY."

"Through the support of Upper Hunter Community Services, we were able to secure Wayne Wiggem from the Blackdog Institute who gave a great speech on Mental Health, focusing on men and how we need to take care of ourselves both physically and mentally, and don't just push things to the side. That it's important to put your hand up if something isn't right. It was very inspiring," he added.

THE UPPER HUNTER COMMUNITY SERVICES ALSO ASSISTED IN GETTING THE GLENCORE ABORIGINAL HEALTH BUS TO THE EVENT FOR FREE HEALTH CHECKS.

"Over 35 men registered on the day," says Sorenson. "From that a lot left with referrals for their GP to have issues further investigated. From that, four of them have since been diagnosed with diabetes and one was urged to seek urgent attention surrounding a mental health issue. I encourage men to go along to your doctors for a checkup now, rather than when it's too late. I can't thank the Health Bus enough."

The day also provided the mining companies and other businesses the opportunity to hold stalls to engage with the community. The kids were kept well entertained too with free face painting, a jumping castle and an artificial mine in the form of a sand pit, where the kids had a heap of fun using equipment to dig coal out themselves.

The Men's Shed would like to thank all the businesses and people who supported them, and encourage any guy out there looking for something to do to jump on Facebook and make contact, or just come along to the shed for a chat and see what their about.

RED DOOR KITCHEN CHRISTMAS LUNCH

THIS MONTH THE COMPLETE PARTS AND @ THE COALFACE \$500 COMMUNITY GIFT GOES TO THE RED DOOR KITCHEN IN MUSWELLBROOK.

We take the things we have at Christmas for granted; the presents, the family gatherings and the good times. Have you ever sat back and thought of those doing it tough at Christmas?

Complete Parts sure did and that's why this month we are supporting the great work that the volunteers do at the Red Door Kitchen,

especially the time they take out on Christmas Day to prepare a fantastic lunch for anyone to come along and enjoy.

If you have spare time to volunteer on the day, or a Thursday throughout the year, contact the Red Door Kitchen Muswellbrook on Facebook. Any donations would be welcomed.

KINGS IN THE MAKING

KINGS ENGINEERING HOSTED A FAMILY DAY TO WELCOME SEVEN NEW APPRENTICES AND THEIR FAMILIES TO THE RUTHERFORD BASED ENGINEERING COMPANY.



Greg Hurney, General Manager of Kings Engineering said, "The beginning of an apprenticeship is a major milestone in the life of these young men and women. It is one of the highlights of the year for the entire team at Kings and we all take great pleasure in helping them develop their skills as a tradesperson and seeing them grow as young adults in our community."

The new apprentices include two young locals - Sean Ayscough and Noah Ambrum - who entered the Kings Apprentice and Work Experience Initiative through the Youth Express KauKan program. KauKan is a Wonaquah word meaning 'one who is able' and the KauKan program helps support businesses and provide employment for Indigenous people.

"WE'RE DELIGHTED WE CAN PROVIDE A MEANINGFUL EMPLOYMENT PATHWAY FOR LOCAL PEOPLE AND I'D LIKE TO THANK YOUTH EXPRESS FOR

HELPING US TO DO THIS. KINGS IS A WONDERFUL LOCAL SUCCESS STORY AND WE'RE PROUD WE CAN SHARE THE JOURNEY WITH THESE TALENTED YOUNG APPRENTICES," SAID GREG.

Lori Parish, Kaukan VTEC Program Manager said: "Our relationship with Kings has given Kaukan VTEC participants the opportunity to secure a career and their dream job. These young Aboriginal men had a desire to secure an apprenticeship and therefore they are role models in their local community. Their success can inspire other young Aboriginal youth to succeed."

The new apprentices are; Lauren Vanderclay - Electrician, Corey Gunn - Electrician, Cooper Owen - Plant Mechanic, Zane Folpp - Plant Mechanic, Noah Ambrum - Fitter, Sean Ayscough - Machinist and Brayden Hughes- Boilermaker. Dylan Walsh will also join Kings as a boiler maker at its Wallerawang operation.



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PIT PERSON OF THE MONTH

Who are you and what's your role at Pit Express?
Janean Angus - Office Manager

How long have you been with the company?
11 great years.

What's the best thing about the job and the company?
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IN MEMORY OF OUR MATES



FOR THE LAST FOUR YEARS THE AUSTAR COAL MINE ANNUAL GOLF DAY HAS BEEN PLAYED FOR THE MITCHELL GRANT MEMORIAL SHIELD IN HONOUR OF JAMIE MITCHELL AND PHIL GRANT WHO TRAGICALLY LOST THEIR LIVES IN A MINING ACCIDENT IN 2014.

Workers in the mining industry have a unique bond. In many mines, work mates aren't just mates, and crews aren't just crews, it's an extension of your family. You go to work knowing that the person beside you has your back, as you have theirs. In underground mining this bond is forged stronger than anywhere else. That's the case for the employees as Austar. 7 years ago, they started up a social golf day just to get together with each other outside of work and have a few beers and a great day. The day is great for

morale in the workforce and a great networking opportunity for people in different departments to interact and engage in a social environment. It's a proven fact that teamwork and a happy workforce deliver better results in all measured areas. **IN 2014, A TRAGEDY STRUCK THE MINE WHEN WORKMATES JAMIE MITCHELL AND PHIL GRANT WERE TRAGICALLY KILLED AT WORK. IT HAD AN IMPACT NOT ONLY AT THE MINE AND ITS WORKERS, BUT THROUGHOUT THE WHOLE COMMUNITY. FROM THAT**

POINT FORWARD THE ANNUAL SOCIAL GOLF DAY WAS IN HONOUR OF THEIR FALLEN MATES AS THEY CONTESTED FOR THE MITCHELL GRANT CHARITY SHIELD. In the first year, the employees, contractors and suppliers raised \$22,000 for the Mitchell Grant Family Fund, a fund set up after the tragedy to help assist the families of their fallen comrades. Since then the day has raised funds for Westpac Rescue Helicopter, two workmates who were battling cancer, and the Children's Hospital at John Hunter. The day always starts with a toast to their mates taken too soon. This year the event was held at Cessnock Golf Course and saw over 70 people attend. The numbers were down compared to the previous years as the last-minute event required a venue and day change. Event Organiser Mark Murray said they would continue to hold the event every year. "My belief is, while this pit is still operational, we should keep the day happening as it's playing in memorial of our mates."

HO HO HOSE



FOR THOSE PEOPLE WHO ARE DOING IT TOUGH ON THE STREETS, CLEAN CLOTHES CAN MAKE A WORLD OF DIFFERENCE AND TECPRO AUSTRALIA ARE VERY PROUD TO LEND A HOSE.

How do you wash your clothes when you're homeless? In 2014, this simple question inspired two young men to begin a mobile washing service called Orange Sky for people experiencing homelessness around the Brisbane city area. Today they provide regular laundry and shower services in 22 locations nationally, including Newcastle. **ORANGE SKY RUN THEIR LAUNDRY AND SHOWER SERVICES OUT OF VANS. EACH VAN REQUIRES 2 HOSE REELS AND** **THAT'S WHERE TECPRO AUSTRALIA HELPS.** Tecpro have provided cost price hose reels for their vans making it easier and faster for the Orange Sky volunteers to set up and pack up the mobile service at each location. Orange Sky co-founder Nic Marchesi said they were grateful for Tecpro's support. "Tecpro's hose reels help the volunteers operate more efficiently when setting up and packing down. This allows us provide more washing and showers for our friends on the street."

SENIOR CITIZENS CENTRE

FESTIVE FEAST



CHRISTMAS IS UNDERWAY AT SAMARITANS WITH STAFF AND VOLUNTEERS BUSILY PREPARING FOR THE RETURN OF CHRISTMAS LUNCH IN SINGLETON.

With the support and generosity of the local parish, volunteers, sponsors and supporters, Christmas Lunch in Singleton will be held at the Senior Citizens Centre from 11am to 2pm on Christmas Day. Already on board are Mt Owen Complex as a sponsor and The Bloomfield Group Foundation as a supporter, and there are still plenty opportunities for local businesses, organisations and individuals to be part of this community lunch in the heart of the Hunter.

"In 2017, we were unable to host the event due to a lack of resources to coordinate on Christmas Day and so we are excited about making sure 2018 is a memorable year for everyone in the community," Event Coordinator, Kim-Cherie Davidson, said. **BY INVITING THE COMMUNITY TO ENJOY A FREE LUNCH, ENTERTAINMENT, A GIFT AND COMPANY, THE LUNCH ENSURES THAT NO ONE HAS TO EXPERIENCE CHRISTMAS ALONE OR GO WITHOUT DURING THE FESTIVE SEASON.** "At Samaritans, we go the extra mile at Christmas time. Our Christmas Day Lunch ensures people who are lonely, isolated or experiencing disadvantage are included in the joy and celebration of the season," Kim-Cherie said. This year's event will again work in partnership with the Anglican Parish of Singleton, committed volunteers and generous sponsors who have eagerly awaited the return of the event. "Christmas Lunch in Singleton has previously seen around 100 people from the local area enjoy a delicious lunch on Christmas Day, some of whom may not have otherwise been in a position to celebrate. We know the event is much loved by the community and we are grateful to the people and organisations who have helped us to re-establish it," Reverend Juleen Partridge said. **To be part of Christmas Lunch in Singleton as volunteer, donor, supporter or sponsor give Kim-Cherie a call on 0427 867 969 or email kimcherie.davidson@samaritans.or.au or phone the Parish office from Tuesday to Friday between 9am and 1pm.**

TAKE A SEAT



THERE WERE PLENTY OF HAPPY BUMS AT CALVARY CESSNOCK RETIREMENT COMMUNITY AS THEY WELCOMED IN THE LONG-AWAITED NORDIC WELLNESS CHAIR.

The Nordic Wellness Chair is specifically designed to calm and relax agitated residents by using subtle vibrations, light music and rocking motions. Purchasing a chair has been a goal for Calvary Cessnock staff who have worked tirelessly to raise funds. Through fundraising activities and donations from local businesses including Bloomfield Group, Nurses Now, Rover Coaches and Repco, the team were able to purchase the chair. Chairman of the Bloomfield Group John Richards said they have many employees from the Cessnock area and are always proud and honoured to be able to assist their local communities. "Calvary play an important role in caring for members of our community and I commend them for their efforts in finding additional ways to support residents." John said.

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WHEN IT COMES TO OPERATING A TRUCK FOR THE FIRST TIME, THERE ARE THOSE THAT THINK THEY KNOW EVERYTHING, THOSE WHO KNOW NOTHING AND EVERYTHING IN BETWEEN. STEVE BURGESS FROM OPEN CUT TRAINING HAS SEEN THEM ALL.

With nearly 50 years in the industry, Steve has devised one of the best systems to assist those beginning in the mining industry, or for those that need that extra bit of guidance to have things run smoothly.

When OCT started operating 7 years ago, I got firsthand

experience of Steve and his training methods. It was at a training room on a mine site and he had set up a large container (the sand pit) on a stand. It boasted an immaculate layout of your typical loading unit with all the necessary model machinery and made the

training so much easier to understand and learn. “TO DATE I HAVE TRAINED OVER 600 TRAINEES ON TRUCKS,” SAYS STEVE. “SOME PICK IT UP QUITE SIMPLY, AND OTHERS IT’S JUST A MATTER OF PROVIDING EXTRA ASSISTANCE.”

It’s from this extra assistance that the sand pit training was born. The project is a great starting method for people new to the industry and allows Steve and other industry experts from the

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mine to take people through the process from digger to dump, and what is expected of them to achieve a safe productive workplace.

Steve said they use this approach as it can assist even experienced operators that think that they are doing things right to pick up the small details.

“Tiny details can make a big difference in the operation. Our system is about reading the play and ensuring, firstly the safety of the employee, and secondly that things run smoothly once they enter the pit.”

STEVE’S SEEN THE INDUSTRY CHANGE A LOT OVER THE YEARS. IN THE DECADES GONE BY, HE

WOULD GENERALLY SEE SOMEONE CONVERTING FROM THE CONSTRUCTION BACKGROUND INTO THE MINING INDUSTRY, SO THEY HAD SOME EXPERIENCE AND UNDERSTANDING. NOWADAYS, IT’S PEOPLE FROM A WHOLE RANGE OF BACKGROUNDS.

“These days I see people from all backgrounds; from hairdressers to chemists to ex police force, and so the aim of this training is to arm them with more knowledge, so they can be effective assets. The sand pit training system is a fantastic way to improve things in a pit production wise, though it won’t do it all for you. You have to have a good attitude and be willing to listen to input.”



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SEX IS GOOD

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That's right, we're probably the only ones who will tell you that getting loaded and getting it on at your work Christmas party is a good thing. Well, for your health anyway. There's a ton of reasons why sex is good for you and not just because of the big 'O'. We're talking about a bunch of health benefits that should encourage all of you to ramp up your engines these holidays.

IMPROVED HEART HEALTH

Sex is good for the old ticker. It's a great way to raise your heart rate and keep your estrogen and testosterone levels in balance, all which lowers your risk of a heart attack.

BURNS CALORIES

The average calories burnt during sex is around 5 per minute. Sexual arousal sends the heart rate higher and the number of beats per minute reaches its peak during orgasm. So, the longer and more vigorous your time in the bedroom the better.

LESS STRESS

Sex can help you after a stressful day by raising endorphins and other hormones giving you an instant mood boost. It can also help calm you down if you're angry or cheer you up if you're sad.

LOWERS BLOOD PRESSURE

Any type of aerobic exercise is good for lowering your blood pressure and that also goes for sex. It also releases the hormone oxytocin which has a direct effect on lowering blood pressure.

REDUCED RISK OF PROSTATE CANCER

Although not yet proven, it does appear that men who ejaculate more are less likely to develop prostate cancer. And for all you single guys out there the good news is that it applies even without a partner.

SLEEP BETTER

Orgasms release the hormone prolactin, which can help you feel sleepy and relaxed. It certainly beats counting sheep!

MAKES YOU HAPPY

Sex increases the heart rate and stimulates the brain to release more serotonin, the happiness hormone and a key anti-depressant. Sure, a chocolate cake can do the same, but it's not guilt free.

BOOSTS IMMUNE SYSTEM

Some research suggests there's a link between how often you have sex and how strong your immune system is. An important illness fighting substance Immunoglobulin A has been shown to be higher in those who frequently have sex. Next flu season try ditching the echinacea and hitting the sheets instead.

STRENGTHENS THE PELVIC FLOOR

For many ladies a weak pelvic floor can be a cause for some embarrassment and sneezing in public a thing to be feared. The good news is that when you have an orgasm it causes contractions in the pelvic floor muscles and strengthens them.

LESSENS PAIN

Before you down a couple of Panadol, instead try for an orgasm as it releases a hormone that helps raise your pain threshold. And even if you don't achieve orgasm sex can still help block pain.

KEEPS YOU YOUNG

Sex boosts the anti-ageing hormone dehydroepiandrosterone and one study found that people in their 60's having regular sex looked between five and seven years younger than those who weren't.

LIVE LONGER

One study found a link suggesting that getting it on twice a week can increase your lifespan by three to eight years. That means you could get in an extra 832 bonus orgasms just by having bi-weekly sex.

GLOWING SKIN

Sex promotes skin renewal due to the faster blood flow during sex increasing the level of oxygen in the body. This boosts the levels of nutrients that replenish the skin. Sweating also cleans your pores, making skin brighter and decreasing the risk of developing dermatitis.



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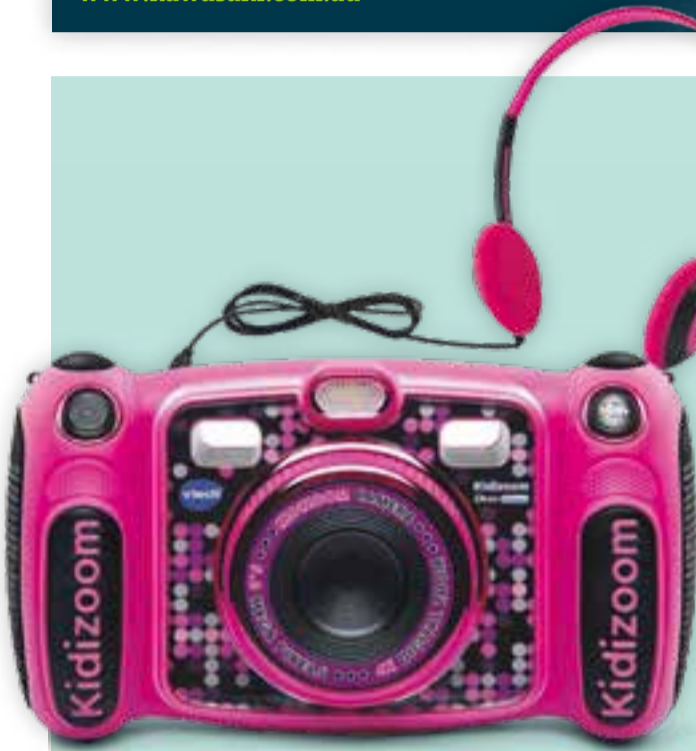
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HUNTER VALLEY HUNTING

THERE'S PLENTY OF OPPORTUNITY FOR HUNTERS HERE IN THE HUNTER VALLEY AS WE ARE UNIQUELY PLACED CLOSE TO SOME PREMIER HUNTING REGIONS, HOME TO A VARIETY OF GAME AND FERAL ANIMALS SUCH AS DEER, PIGS, FOXES AND RABBITS.

Hunting is a great pastime that the whole family can be involved with. You can hunt to put beautiful free-range meat on the table, for the challenge of pursuing a wily old buck or stag, to harvest introduced pests like foxes or simply to spend some time out in the bush.

ALTHOUGH SOME OF THE BEST HUNTING CAN BE FOUND ON PRIVATE PROPERTY, IN NSW WE HAVE A WONDERFUL PUBLIC LAND HUNTING PROGRAM WHERE, WITH THE APPROPRIATE LICENCING, YOU CAN BOOK ONE OF THE

MANY STATE FORESTS AND GO OUT FOR A HUNT.

The Hunter Valley is situated centrally to a range of State Forests that are open for hunting. There is Watagan and Olney to the South East and Nundle and Hanging Rock to the North West which are some of the most productive forests in the state.

The NSW Department of Primary Industries administers the public land hunting program and licencing scheme. In NSW, a Restricted Hunting Licence is required to hunt on public land and more information

on this can be found on the DPI website: www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/hunting

LOCAL HUNTING CLUBS ARE GREAT PLACES TO HELP YOU GET STARTED. THE HUNTER VALLEY BRANCH OF THE AUSTRALIAN DEER ASSOCIATION AND THE SINGLETON HUNTING CLUB MEET REGULARLY AND HAVE ENTHUSIASTIC AND KNOWLEDGEABLE MEMBERS TO HELP BEGINNERS AND SHARE TALL TALES.

It is immensely rewarding to be able to harvest, process and eat your own wild game. Most people do not realise,

but Australia is home to six different species of deer that were introduced by early acclimatisation societies from Britain. Their legacy continues today and still provides outstanding recreational opportunities

Harvesting wild deer can provide a significant portion of your household's meat and it can be processed into all the same cuts as a you would for lamb such as eye filets, cutlets, ribs, chops and of course whole shoulders and legs. Venison is a lean meat that benefits from either

low and slow or fast and hot cooking depending on the cut.

You can hunt with either a rifle, shotgun or bow and each have their own unique challenges. Of paramount importance is your proficiency with whatever tool you choose to ensure an ethical and humane harvest.

WHATEVER YOUR MOTIVATION FOR HUNTING, ONE THING IS FOR SURE, IT IS ALWAYS A FANTASTIC EXPERIENCE GETTING OUT INTO THE BUSH. GET OUT THERE AND ENJOY YOUR PUBLIC LAND.

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Santa was very cross. It was Christmas Eve, and nothing was going right. Mrs. Claus had burned all the cookies. The elves were complaining about not getting paid for the overtime they had worked making toys and were threatening to go on strike. The reindeer had been drinking eggnog all afternoon. To make matters worse, a few of the other elves had taken the sleigh out for a spin earlier in the day and had crashed it into a tree.

Santa was furious. "I can't believe it! I've got to deliver millions of presents all over the world in just a few hours, and all my reindeer are drunk, the elves are walking out, and I don't even have a Christmas tree! I sent that stupid little angel out hours ago to find a tree and he isn't even back yet! What am I going to do?"

Just then, the little angel opened the front door and stepped in from the snowy night, dragging a Christmas tree. The angel said, "Yo, fat man! Where do you want me to stick the tree this year?"

And thus, the tradition of angels atop the Christmas trees came to pass...

IT'S ALL ABOUT HAVING FUN

IT'S OFTEN BEEN THAT THE REFEREE'S ROLE IN SPORT IS THE LEAST LIKED, THOUGH NOWADAYS WITH SUPPORTERS AND THE PLAYERS INTERACTING MORE OFF THE FIELD, THE IMAGE OF REFEREE IS CHANGING.



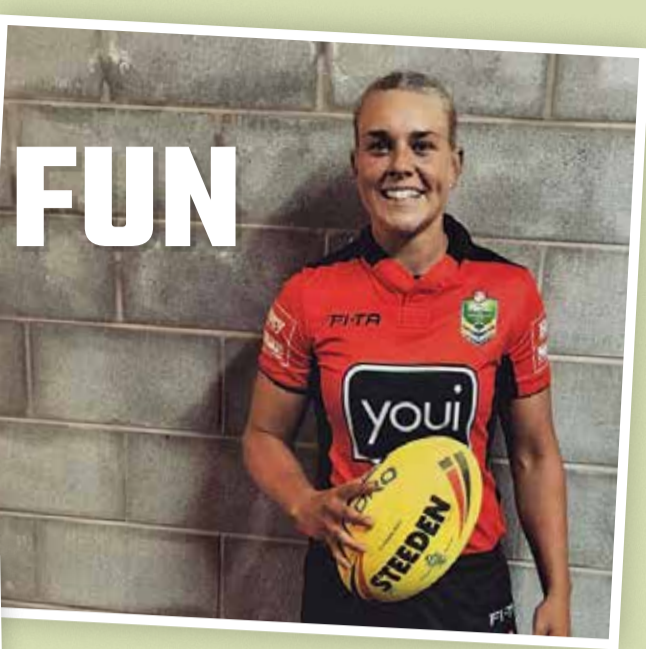
Even though people are passionate about their clubs and are sometimes looking for the easy way out when their team loses (blame the ref!), today's referees in Group 21 are some of the best in Country Rugby League.

Refereeing is a rewarding role, but unfortunately even though the stigma that was once attached to it has lessened, the hardworking guys and girls still often don't receive the respect they deserve.

IN GROUP 21 THERE ARE A LOT OF YOUNG REFEREES COMING THROUGH THE RANKS, AND IF WE WANT TO SUSTAIN A COMPETITION MOVING FORWARD, WE NEED TO ENCOURAGE THEM RATHER THAN ATTACKING THEM.

They do make mistakes. They are human. And because they are human that's why you should treat them as such. They are willing to listen, it's the way you approach them. You can point out a few techniques after the game, they are happy to engage with people. When they leave the field, feel free to let them know if they've done a good job. This makes them want to improve more than negative comments will. Attacking them may get it off your chest but it won't assist you or your club.

IF YOU OR SOMEONE YOU KNOW ARE INTERESTED IN BECOMING A REFEREE, CONTACT YOUR LOCAL



REFEREE'S ASSOCIATION. COURSES WILL BE RUN IN FEBRUARY OR MARCH NEXT YEAR. THE INITIAL FOUNDATION 1 (F1) COURSE IS A 3.5-HOUR FACE TO FACE ON THE LAWS OF THE GAME AND THEN YOU ARE OUT REFEREEING.

"We are encouraging people to register for a course and give it a go, especially females as the women's game is going from strength to strength. Ex-players and touch referees can be fast tracked into the system. We also encourage Indigenous and Pacific Islanders to register as well," says Shayne Hayne NRL Referees - Emerging and Development Coach.

"Refereeing can be very rewarding, it allows you to meet new friends and travel around the country and get paid for doing it. It allows you to be a mentor to the players because you're enforcing the rules and upholding the integrity of the game. Referees demonstrate impartiality no matter who's playing and good referees possess other strong character-building qualities such as integrity, fairness and courage," Shayne added.



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- ✓ I stood beside the families of **Drayton South** when others didn't.
- ✓ Hundreds of questions and speeches in Parliament in **support of mining**.



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At the end of the day, what matters to you matters to me so let's get in touch.

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Authorised by Lee Watts, 29 Parker Street Scone NSW 2337.

VOLVO

(VERY ODD LOOKING VEHICULAR OBJECT)

It was a marvellous car and fabulously safe; the envy of many a teen I am sure (or at least those that didn't own a car at the time...). European, it afforded me safe, reliable driving, offering a certain comfort in the sound it produced when you shut the doors.

So good were the aerodynamics of this model machine,

that at speeds over 115km/h it felt as though it was beginning to float and would emit a high pitch whistle much like the tone created when boiling a brew in an older style kettle on a gas cooktop... It was a Very Odd Looking Vehicular Object. Not today however, they're luxurious, good looking and (even) sporty. Who would have ever thought...

While now run by different owners, the

WHEN I WAS 17, I PURCHASED A 1981 244GL VOLVO OFF MY PARENTS. POO BROWN, IT WAS ONE OF THE MANY SPECTACULAR COLOURS AVAILABLE AT THE TIME THAT ALSO INCLUDED SKY BLUE, BEIGE AND URINE YELLOW.

brand invariably evokes images that I'm sure management today (in both corporations) would prefer to be forgotten.

AND SO IT IS, WE COME TO THE VOLVO R100E, VOLVO CONSTRUCTION EQUIPMENT'S (VOLVO CE) 95 TONNE FLAGSHIP OFF-ROAD DUMP TRUCK THAT HAILED FROM THE TEREX TR-SERIES DUMP TRUCKS FOLLOWING VOLVO CE'S PURCHASE OF TEREX TRUCKS IN 2014.



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Sturdy as hell, with a loyal following in countries outside of Australia, the TR series trucks are known as solid workhorses and although amazingly safe, are terribly ugly with a very large pig nose at the front. Now sporting the Volvo brand, this truck is a frog turned princess and as far as heavy earthmoving equipment is concerned, a real head turner.

Manufactured in Scotland, these trucks have been developed for mining and quarrying applications that also include the smaller R45D, R60D and R70D size trucks. Squarely aimed at Cat and Komatsu's range of rigid haul dump trucks, these trucks are destined to garner loyal supporters globally and round out for Volvo CE a comprehensive range of artic and rigid haul dump trucks. Speak to any Volvo equipment owner and they will tell you there's nothing better, with the feedback on their excavators and wheel loaders always positive.

A TRUE 100T WORK HORSE, THIS TRUCK IS IN A HOTLY CONTESTED SEGMENT OF THE MARKET, COMPETING WITH CATERPILLAR'S 777G DUMP TRUCK AS WELL AS KOMATSU'S 785-7 DUMP TRUCK.

Powered by a Cummins QST30, it was launched earlier this year having undergone extensive testing in South Africa and Sweden, operating in both hot and coal climates as well as hard rock and coal environments. Excelling in sites with particularly steep grades, this truck leverages the heritage of Terex, with the respected experience and technology of Volvo. To the credit of Volvo CE, it is a compelling truck and a machine that will sell well in markets we're Terex and Volvo have established pedigree.

Here in Aus, I can't help but feel that the mining market will be a tough nut to crack and if the truck is to experience success here, may well be better positioned with quarrying clients that have the flexibility to choose and manage equipment outside of the big mining players. Albeit still being a Very Odd Looking Vehicular Object, this is a truck I'm sure many an owner will be proud to say that they own.

MERRY CHRISTMAS, MAY YOU AND YOUR FAMILIES HAVE A SAFE, REJUVENATING FESTIVE SEASON; WE'VE GOT A BIG 2019 AHEAD OF US ALL.

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REYNOLDS WINS, MCLAUGHLIN CHAMPION

THE SMELL OF BURNING RUBBER AND THE THUNDERING OF V8'S DOMINATED THE FORESHORE AS THE NEWCASTLE 500 FIRED UP.

In what was another successful year for the organisers, it was Erebus Penrite Racings David Reynolds who took out first place on the day, though it was the DJR Team Penske's Scott McLaughlin who took out the overall V8 Supercars championships. It was a drama filled weekend with

Shane van Gisbergen snapping at the heels of McLaughlin with only 2 points separating them on the Saturday after some brilliant driving from van Gisbergen. However, that lead to McLaughlin increased to 53 points overnight after a 25 second penalty from a pit lane indiscretion to van Gisbergen cost him to go from a 2-point gap, to a 53-point gap.

REYNOLDS STARTED THE FINAL DAY ON POLE POSITION. AFTER A CRAZY PIT LANE CONGREGATION WITH JUST 20 LAPS TO GO AFTER THE SAFETY CAR WAS CALLED FROM JAMIE WHINCUP CONTACTING FABIAN COULTHARD, MCLAUGHLIN CRAFTILY TOOK THE LEAD. IN THE FINAL 10 LAPS, MCLAUGHLIN MADE WAY FOR REYNOLDS WHO WENT ONTO FINISH THE RACE IN FIRST POSITION.

Exiting the car after more than 6,500kms across Australia and New Zealand, 25-year-old McLaughlin

could not contain his excitement. "Yes! I have to pay respects to Shane, we raced hard all year. With 30 to go I thought this could be on and it was the longest 30 laps of my life. Holy smokes, I just can't believe we've done it," McLaughlin said after finishing.

IT WAS AN ICONIC DAY FOR THE SPORT AND NEWCASTLE WITH CRAIG LOWNDES RETIRING AFTER 22 YEAR AS A FULLTIME RACER.

Lowndes made his way to his car past all his fellow competitors, pit teams and many past greats of the sport that had helped mold his career into what it was. Although he would have liked a podium finish, the day was a fitting tribute to a man that has provided so much for his sport. It was a proud moment for many Hunter Valley fans watching him compete in his 667th Supercars race start right here in our backyard and a memory that will not easily be forgotten.



'AVE A LAUGH WITH BrookOutdoors PH 6543 1066

An Avon Lady was delivering products in a high-rise and was riding in the elevator. Suddenly, she had the powerful urge to fart. Since no one was in the elevator, she let it go - and it was

a doozy. Of course, the elevator then stopped at the next floor, so she quickly used some Avon Pine-Scented Spray to cover up the smell. A man entered the elevator and

immediately made a face. "Holy cow! What's that smell?" "I don't know, sir. I don't smell anything. What does it smell like to you?" "Like someone crapped a Christmas tree."

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CHEERS FROM US!

WITH THE FESTIVE SEASON UPON US WE FIND OURSELVES SPENDING A BIT OF TIME AROUND OUR MANY WATERWAYS, WETTING A LINE AND ENJOYING A BREW OR TWO.

OFFSHORE

Snapper and a few kingfish continue to be the mainstay along the coast keeping the offshore enthusiast busy as we wait eagerly for the water temps to rise. Once this happens, we should see change as the Trag and School Jew start to take up residence on the local reefs.

On the Pelagic front the warm water has been teasing us for a couple of weeks now coming in then pushing back out. Still not a lot to report on the FAD's or on the Marlin other than the odd encounters but keep an ear to the ground as it won't be long.

INSIDE THE BAY

Kingfish are also being encountered in good numbers especially around the two marina break walls and Sally shores areas. Fishing live squid baits has been the key to success. These can be found in good numbers in shoal bay or can be caught from the rocks around the marinas. It's been great to see the numbers of kingfish increase every year since the commercial trapping was banned.

Other things of interest around the bay have been Flathead smashing lures in just about any shallow area in the bay and Jewfish continue to be plentiful in the holes behind Middle Island with squid baits proving to be deadly.

THE LAKE

Very similar story to the bay with plenty of Flathead and School Jew to be caught throughout the lake. The biggest difference in the lake is the Arrow Squid numbers are starting to improve and well worth bouncing a few jigs. While waiting for the Witches hats, soak for either Blue swimmers or a Mud crabs as you never know where your likely to come across a muddy in the lake.

BEACHES

It's definitely Whiting time of year with great numbers starting to show up. A few solid Bream in the mix along all our local beaches with the standout being Birubi end of Stockton beach, chewing on beach worms and Pippies.

Keep floatin' - Thrifty's

HAYDEN 'BULLROUT' MAHER WITH A TAILOR CAUGHT AT SWANSEA



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ISLAND PARADISE

The new bistro operators are lovely people, but when your belly is rumbling for a great feed, I'm more interested in the tucker than the people. Anyway, enough about my greedy guts.

I confess I've eaten here a couple of times since the 'family' has set up shop for a quick \$10 dollar lunch. Satay's, Panang Curry and the usual Aussie fare like burgers are all delivered wonderfully fresh and full of flavour. I even tried the \$10 Sunday roast recently – winner winner pork roast dinner. Get down for it. You won't be disappointed.

THE REAL STORY WITH THIS REVIEW HOWEVER IS WHAT THE GIRLS SERVED UP WHEN THEY KNEW FIVE OF US WERE COMING TO



MOST PUB BISTRO'S OFFER A GREAT FEED, BUT THE NEW ISLAND CUISINE FAMILY RESTAURANT AT THE CLUBHOUSE HOTEL IN SINGLETON BLEW OUR LUNCHTIME SOCKS OFF RECENTLY WITH THEIR MALAY INSPIRED FOOD. IT REALLY IS SOME OF THE BEST WE'VE EATEN IN TOWN.

PUT THEM THROUGH THEIR PACES FOR A BANQUET LUNCH. WE LEFT THE PLANNING AND FOOD CHOICES TO THEM THIS TIME. A VERY WISE DECISION IT TURNS OUT. THEY WENT ALL OUT.

As I said the food I had on previous visits was great...and then it started. Massive platters began hitting the table in quick succession. First up was hand made entrees of spicy chicken, spring rolls and dim sims; bloody delicious and well above the usual pub quality. Then came a mountain of sweet sticky pork ribs that went down a treat. At the same time a mixed grill and seafood topped Schnitzel landed that two truckies and their families couldn't finish. Brilliant.

Then the magic really started to happen as a huge family sized bowl of special traditional soup called 'Bulalo' was dropped in front of us. AMAZING! Huge bits of melt in your mouth beef in a beef broth with ginger and green leaves. So delicately flavoured, satisfying and delicious, it was my favourite. Yummy whole fried fish with a chilli jam and an awesome Pad Thai topped it all off and we were well and truly done.

These guys are doing a great job and the Aussie and Asian food is a bit special for a pub. Make sure you give them a try for a quick lunch, or better still go for a banquet and let them put together some of their true magic.

I'll be back.... many times.



PIEMINISTER

MURRURUNPIE

LATELY ALL I SEEM TO BE DOING IS TRAVELLING THE HIGHWAYS AND BYWAYS LOOKING FOR PIE PERFECTION. THIS MONTH YOUR SEASONED PIEWAY MAN HAS HIT THE ROAD AGAIN – THIS TIME ON THE NEW ENGLAND PIEWAY.



Heading north to Tamworth Caravan Park to pick out and reserve my spot for the upcoming country music festival in January, I readied myself for the trip.

Given the country themed nature of the journey I decided to dust off the life-sized bullhorns hood ornament as I do this time every year and fix it to the front of the Kingswood. I also stuck an oversized RM Williams and Bundy Rum sticker across the back window to give me even more of that country cred.

For travelling attire I dusted off my old Cuban heeled RM's that give me those few extra inches in height and a distinct 'you've been rogered by a wild stallion up the back passage' kind of cowboy walk. I completed the look with a pair of old wranglers, a western shirt and the old ten-gallon Akubra I won in a fist fight with Lee Kernaghan in the carpark at last years Golden Guitar awards.

With my butt strapped into the country's finest set of wheels I was on my way. Willy Nelson blaring 'On the road again' from the tape

deck and a Willy Nelson cigarette resting in the ashtray ready for my planned overnight halfway stop at Murrurundi's White Heart Hotel. An hour and a half later I landed in the home of the Murrurundi Mavericks, King of the Ranges stockman challenge, 847 people and 3 pubs completely surrounded by the mountains of the Liverpool Range on the banks of the Pages River - which now resembles a barely leaking hose due to the drought.

The name "Murrurundi" is often erroneously thought to come from an Aboriginal word meaning "nestling in the valley". It does in fact mean "five fingers", a representation of the rock formation visible at the northern end of town and the more important fact that you need five fingers to properly hold a pie.

AND LET ME TELL YA...THIS IS THE PLACE TO HOLD A PIE! FOR PERHAPS MOST FAMOUSLY THIS TOWN IS ALSO HOME TO A TRUE PALACE OF PIES, THE UNPASSABLE BALMAIN TIGER COLOURED 'LIFE OF PIE' PIE SHOP.

So, I lit up my Willie Nelson to get my hunger going, marched in and grabbed a mixed dozen of meaty delights and sat down out the front and smashed through 'em like Cheech and Chong at Christmas dinner. On that note, stop there just like Santa does every year! Merry Christmas peoples!

BEER O'CLOCK

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BOWDLER'S BEER REVIEW

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

WHITE RABBIT DARK ALE

malty craft beer that is open brewed for a fruity nose. Made with Carafa, Crystal and Pale malts, this excellent ale is bursting with flavour.

Cost: \$26 / 6pak
Alcohol: 4.9%
Color: Dark Chocolate
Nose: Surprisingly fruity. I wasn't expecting that at all but it's only the smell. No fruitiness at all in the taste. A complex and well-crafted beer.
Taste: Really Smooooooth with a mellow

Made: Victoria, Australia
Info: A dark, chocolate malt overtone. Balanced.
Mouth: Silky full bodied and easy drinking. A beer the blokes will love for the body and taste and the girls will love for the smoothness and lack of a bitter hops hit. Winner!
Aftertaste: A very smooth, refined finish with a complete lack of bitter hops.
Comments: A truly amazing dark ale that is a big favourite with seasoned drinkers and part timers alike. This beer is a huge hit on the uni student scene in Newy and Sydney and it's not hard to see why.
Score: 9.5 / 10

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MEAT THE CREW WITH KYLE

SECRET SANTA

THIS MONTH I WAS TOLD THAT RATHER THAN DOING A MEAT THE CREW, I’D GET INTO THE CHRISTMAS SPIRIT AND BUY SECRET SANTA PRESENTS FOR 6 PEOPLE I HAVE MET IN MY TIME @TCF. IT WAS A HARD JOB TO CHOOSE FROM SO MANY GREAT PEOPLE I’VE MET BUT, HERE’S WHO I PICKED AND WHY.

Gus Mather – Pirtek Muswellbrook

It was my very first Meat the Crew and Gus made it very special and made me feel a part of the team. Gus is like that with everyone. He is an all-round good bloke who is there for everyone. Merry Christmas Gus.

Ngaire Baker – MACH Energy Australia

Ngaire is a lovely lady and has a very busy role, though never too busy to offer a smile and always has a warm welcome for whoever walks in her door. I am glad I can call her a friend.

I WOULD ALSO LIKE TO SAY MERRY CHRISTMAS TO EVERYONE THAT HAS HAD ME COME ALONG AND ENJOY TIME WITH YOUR STAFF THIS YEAR, AND A BIG MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ALL OUR READERS (ESPECIALLY THE ONES THAT READ MY ARTICLES!) TAKE CARE EVERYONE AND I LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU ALL IN 2019, WHEN THE BULLDOGS WIN THE NRL PREMIERSHIP.

Genelle Scotts – Bengalla

Genelle is just wonderful. I have been delivering lunches to Bengalla for some time and always enjoy running into Genelle for a chat. She is extremely kind and is always so nice to me.

Danny Eather – Westpac Rescue Helicopter Service

Danny is a champion and has been a good mate since I met him in this role. What he does for the rescue helicopter is amazing and I just want him to know that we all appreciate what he does for our communities.

Billie Sharpe – Biglift Cranes & Heavy Haulage

Billie has a wonderful personality and is always positive and upbeat. I think she does a great job with her staff and is always involved in community events. I do like Dave too, but Billie takes this one on the condition she gives Lyndsay employee of the month.

James Barben – NSW Minerals Council

James has to be one of the smartest guys I have ever met. He is also great for a laugh. I enjoy catching up with James when he’s around, especially for a schnitzel lunch.



CHILDISH BEHAVIOUR

GETTING THE KIDS OUT OF THE HOUSE AND OUT OF YOUR HAIR DURING THE SCHOOL HOLIDAYS IS A MUST, SO HERE ARE SOME OF OUR FAVOURITE ACTIVITIES TO KEEP THEM BUSY.

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Try your luck by hitting floating golf balls into one of the prize nets on the lake for your chance to win cash jackpots and prize vouchers. Or if Putt Putt is more your thing, the 18-hole course is located right beside the Aqua Golf lake. A bit of golfing fun for the whole family.
www.golftothemax.com.au

BROADMEADOW FAIRY GARDEN
This enchanted little fairy garden is sure to give the kiddies a whimsical experience. While exploring the winding paths you are sure to spot some frogs, mushrooms, fairies and even a mailbox for the little ones to send a letter to the Fairy Queen. A pretty little spot for tea parties and picnics.
www.newywithkids.com.au/fairy-garden-broadmeadow



BLACKBUTT RESERVE
Blackbutt Reserve is beautiful natural attraction where you can explore the bushland, enjoy nature trails, wildlife exhibits or just let the children enjoy the playgrounds over a picnic. There are animal feeding times, reptile shows and much more! This is a great option for a family day out. Best of all entry is free though you do need to pay for parking.
www.newcastle.nsw.gov.au/Blackbutt-Reserve



GO-KARTS-GO!
The track at Go Karts Go in Kearsley is the longest and fastest track in the Hunter Valley region. The 850m track is suitable for everyone from beginners through to the very experienced. If you have a competitive side this one is for you!
www.gokartsgo.com.au/hunter-valley

HUNTER VALLEY GARDENS CHRISTMAS LIGHTS SPECTACULAR
Running all the way through until January 26, the Christmas Lights Spectacular has over 1.5 million lights on show and is sure to impress the whole family. With food and beverage stalls, roaming entertainment, Santa’s workshop display and nightly performances it makes a great night out for the family. We recommend purchasing an unlimited rides wristband for the Ferris wheel, carousel, super slide, swing chair and inflatable zones and then you won’t hear from the kids again.
www.huntervalleygardens.com.au

HUNTER VALLEY ZOO
The zoo is home to our most iconic Australian mammals as well as lions, meerkats, wolves, monkeys and more. With free BBQ facilities, daily shows and educational talks, this zoo is great because it allows the kids to get interactive with the animals and they can even feed the kangaroos and birds. And with the arrival of the two new Cheetah’s, Aibu and Jabari, the kids are sure to enjoy themselves. And if you really want to treat yourself to something special, book their Meerkat encounter.
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J	W	C	N	Z	Y	V	E	N	S	L	G	A	A	E
S	N	O	I	T	A	R	O	C	E	D	T	M	C	L
J	A	Y	K	R	P	R	E	S	E	N	T	S	H	M
H	T	R	C	I	E	Z	Y	R	I	S	L	S	I	Z
G	N	R	O	M	M	I	U	L	I	Z	L	P	M	M
I	A	E	T	C	H	D	N	R	I	E	J	N	N	N
E	S	M	S	T	O	R	H	D	G	M	L	A	E	O
L	O	J	R	L	F	C	R	N	E	E	A	V	Y	E
S	D	O	P	Y	D	N	A	C	I	E	N	F	E	L
J	N	H	Y	A	D	I	L	O	H	C	R	A	G	S
E	G	G	N	O	G	S	T	H	G	I	L	A	C	G

@ THE COALFACE PRIZE WINNERS

- VOLUME 3 – NO 2: OCTOBER - NOVEMBER 2018

Singleton Outdoors Mower - M. Vesper

Components Only Wheel Dozer - Justin Thiecke

Rugged Xtremes Crib Bags - James McIntyre, Grahame Eather
- Roberts Meats Raffle - Brett Blackshaw

Beer's On Us - Paul Harris

Clubhouse XXXX - Peter Deaves

Café La Luna Cake - Ken Perrett
- CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL OUR WINNERS!

@ THE COALFACE TRIVIA
THIS MONTH: CHRISTMAS

Q1. Which ornament is on the tip of each elf's shoes?

Q2. What colour are the berries on Mistletoe?

Q3. How many points does a snowflake traditionally have?

Q4. Name all 8 original Reindeers.

Q5. What is the first name of Scrooge from the novel, A Christmas Carol?

Q6. What are the two other names for Santa Claus?

Q7. What Christmas decoration was originally made from strands of silver?

Q8. What Christmas Beverage is also known as 'Milk Punch'?

A3: 6

A2: White

A1: Bells

ANSWERS

A4: Blitzem, Comet, Cupid, Dasher, Prancer, Vixen, Dancer & Donner

A5: Ebenezer

A6: Saint Nick & Kris Kringle

A7: Tinsel

A8: Eggnog

PARADISE

THIS MONTH WE BRING YOU THE BEST FAMILY RESORTS FROM AROUND THE WORLD WHERE YOU CAN SOAK UP SOME SUN AND RELAX WHILE THE KIDS PLAY.

ATLANTIS PARADISE ISLAND – BAHAMAS

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www.atlantisbahamas.com



SOFITEL NUSA DUA RESORT - BALI

This lavish 5-star beachfront resort is a fun haven for families. Activities at the kid's club include cooking classes, be a 'princess' for a day and kids' yoga. Plus, there's plenty of pool and beach activities. Parents can relax in the gorgeously landscaped pools and gardens or unwind at the spa before enjoying a drink at one of the bars.

www.sofitel.accorhotels.com



PARADISE RESORT – SURFERS PARADISE

There's a giant water park, ice rink, rock climbing, laser tag and an adventure park to wear out the kids. For parents you can relax in the lagoon pool and spa or try your hand at a cooking class. Then indulge in some wine and beer tasting and enjoy live music after dumping the kids in the free kid's club.

www.paradiseresort.com.au



SUNWING KAMALA BEACH PHUKET THAILAND

What we like most about this resort is it has rooms designed specifically for bubs, equipped with everything you need to care for young children. With seven pools, waterslides and a pool bar, you'll probably spend most of your time in the water but there are plenty of on land activities too. The kids MiniLand boasts a playground, playhouse and playroom, plus plenty of shows to keep them entertained.

www.sunwingkamala.com

OUTRIGGER FIJI BEACH RESORT - FIJI

Hire a Meimei nanny to watch the little kids while the bigger kids enjoy the kids club. That leaves you free to go exploring; hiking, snorkeling, paddle boarding, kayaking, or just relax at the spa. With "Talai" Butler service, Kava ceremonies and fire walking, this resort showcases the ancient culture and traditions of Fiji with impeccable five-star service.

www.outrigger.com/fiji



INTERCONTINENTAL DANANG SUN PENINSULA RESORT - VIETNAM

Inspired by Vietnamese temples and traditional villages, this resort offers plenty of cultural experiences. The free kids club will keep the little ones busy while you relax in a cabana on the private beach or take a dip in one of the resort pools. Or spend your day exploring the gorgeous Son Tra Nature Reserve before enjoying the excellent cuisine at one of their restaurants.

www.danang.intercontinental.com



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