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COAL SERVICES FIRST AID
COMPETITION.

PAGE 35

COALY COW!

MALABAR COAL HAS SUCCESSFULLY BEEN
HOSTING 50 ANGUS CROSS CHAROLAIS
STEERS ON REHABILITATED PASTURE AT
THE CLOSED DRAYTON SITE.

PAGE 12

**PAGE
8-9**

WORTHY WINNERS

MEET THE WINNERS OF THE NSW MINING INDUSTRY AND SUPPLIERS AWARDS AND THE WOMEN IN MINING AWARDS.



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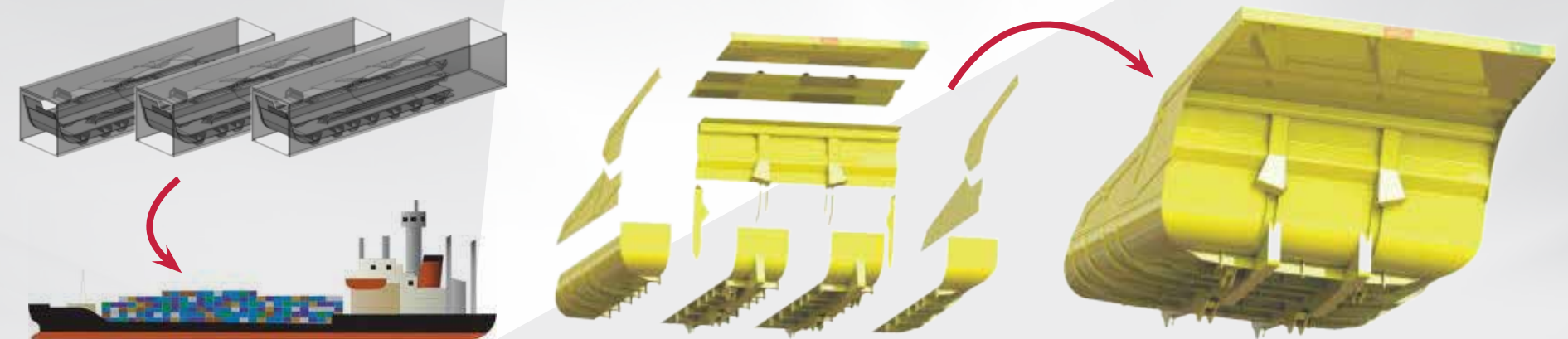
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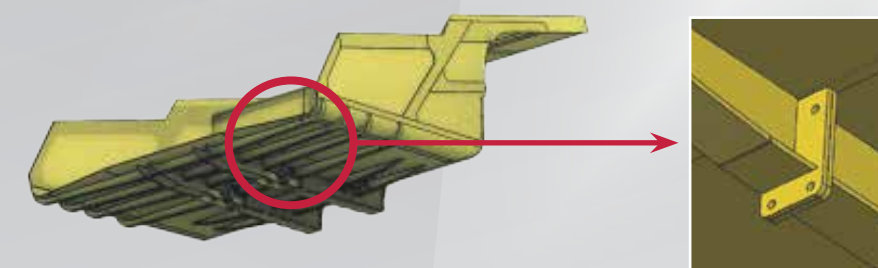


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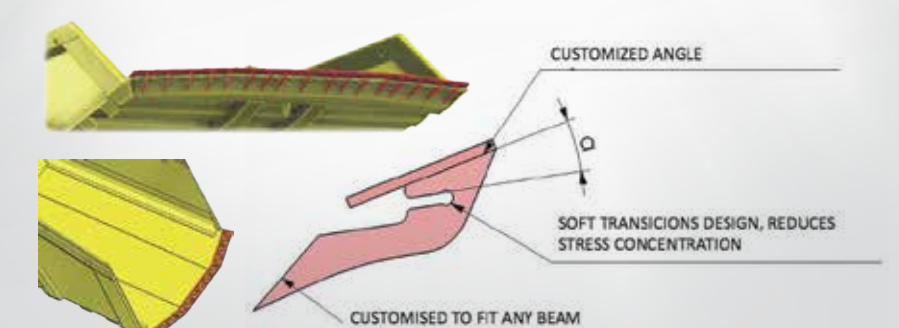
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Coal Champs

THIS MONTH WE RECOGNISED EXCELLENCE IN OUR INDUSTRY WITH BOTH THE NSW MINING INDUSTRY AND SUPPLIERS AWARDS AND THE WOMEN IN MINING AWARDS.

Both of these awards give our industry the opportunity to showcase the people and businesses that go above and beyond. With Peabody's Wambo Coal taking out three awards this year, they are a clear example of how to do things right and create a workplace that encourages success.

We wrap up the election with a one on one with both the winner of the Hunter electorate, Joel Fitzgibbon, and also the contender that came out of nowhere to have a sensational result, Stuart Bonds. After months of

covering both the State and Federal elections it's finally over and we promise to stop torturing you with any more politics!

THIS MONTH IN HEALTH WE BUST ALL THE MYTHS ABOUT ORGAN DONATION AND ENCOURAGE YOU TO GET ON THE AUSTRALIA ORGAN DONATION REGISTER. THERE IS NO EASIER WAY TO SAVE LIVES AND IT ONLY TAKES A COUPLE OF MINUTES.

Speaking of saving lives, we headed down to the Northern Region First

Aid Competition at the Newcastle Mines Rescue station where we were entertained and educated by the best first aiders in the business. Congratulations to Centennial Coal's Mandalong who were named overall winners for the third consecutive year.

Make sure you check out our community story on the Singleton Cancer Council. The work these guys do is simply amazing and if you or someone you know is suffering through a cancer diagnosis there is

no better place to get help.

We again bring you 'Kids @ The Coalface'. This month we combine two things that guarantee crazy antics; kids and pets! Due to popular demand 'Kids @ The Coalface' will continue to be a monthly feature so contact us now if you would like your kid included.

As Winter well and truly takes hold we hope you all get the chance to cosy up in front of the fire with @ The Coalface. Just don't chuck us in there for extra fuel until you've read us!



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SUPPORTING MINERS

NSW DEPUTY PREMIER JOHN BARILARO RECENTLY STOOD UP IN STATE PARLIAMENT AND PRAISED THE 'QUIET AUSTRALIANS' IN THE HUNTER - OUR LOCAL MINING WORKFORCE WHO 'GO TO WORK EACH AND EVERY DAY IN THEIR HI-VIS IN A SECTOR THAT'S SO IMPORTANT - MINING.'

It was an encouraging show of support for our 12,000 Hunter miners, their families and supply businesses from the newly elected NSW Government. It was especially good to hear this level of support from the Deputy Premier himself who now has responsibility for mining as part of his Ministerial portfolio.

Even more encouraging was that within just a few weeks of being assigned responsibility for mining issues the Deputy Premier was in the Hunter to spend time at two of our world-class mining operations - BHP's Mount Arthur mine and Peabody's Wambo operations.

While this early support is heartening, we still need to see progress from the NSW Government in a number of areas. One key challenge will be to address the growing backlog of mining projects currently in the planning

system that could create or secure thousands of jobs for the Hunter.

There are 25 mining projects currently in the NSW planning system that have the potential to deliver almost \$11 billion in investment and over 13,000 jobs over the next two decades.

While our mining communities are well represented by their local MPs, all politicians should pay close attention to the messages sent by the voters at the recent elections. If the Hunter mining industry is to continue to provide jobs and economic prosperity for the region and the State, we need policies that support our sector and the thousands of people it supports every day.

Stephen Galilee, CEO, NSW Minerals Council



Stephen Galilee
CEO, NSW Minerals Council

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REWARDING HARD WORK

MTEC HAVE COME A LONG WAY SINCE THEY STARTED, AND THEY KNOW THEY COULDN'T HAVE DONE IT WITHOUT A GREAT CREW AND SO CELEBRATING THEM IS SERIOUS BUSINESS.

Recently the company held a mid-year function to recognise and celebrate everyone's hard work. It's a simple but great example of a business determined to create a culture people want to be a part of. The program kicked off a few months ago and was a deliberate effort from the company to highlight how valued their people are.

TO REMIND THEM OF THIS WAS THE CHANCE TO WIN A BIKE THAT YOU CAN NORMALLY ONLY DREAM OF.

They told us, "After four months of promoting our employee incentive to win a motorbike, we finished off sponsoring the Toby Price lunch with a legend and hosted by the Singleton Rugby Club. Toby kindly signed the KTM and was wrapped with what we were doing."

From a party to celebrate it all, the whole crew then came together for legendary day on tools better designed for relaxation – golf sticks and cold glasses.

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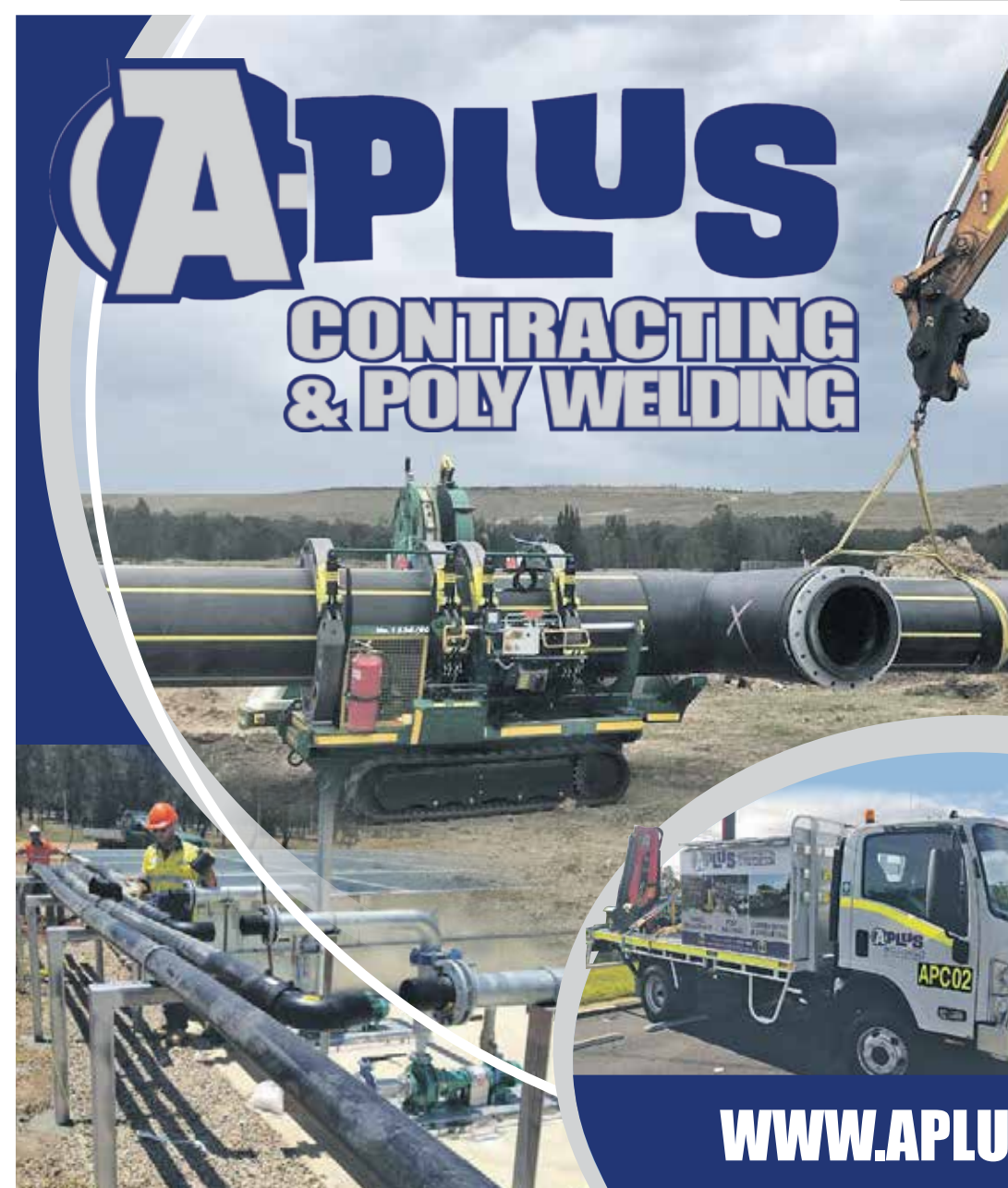
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IN THE NEWS...

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



A BIT TOO MUCH SULFUR HANGING AROUND

The Nature Conservation Council (NCC) says levels of sulfur-dioxide exceeded World Health Organisation (WHO) standards hundreds of times in Hunter.

The high levels of SO2 pollution were found through the NCC's analysis of NSW Government air-quality data between May 2015 and May 2019 that saw the levels exceeded 336 times across New South Wales.

The NCC has found that high SO2 levels are associated with low birthweight in newborns, respiratory disease and premature death. SO2 also helps form highly hazardous fine particles (PM2.5) that are associated with increase death rates and a range of diseases.

The primary source of SO2 is the burning of fossil fuels, especially emissions from coal-fired power stations and vehicle emissions.

Between May 2015 and May 2019, levels of SO2 detected at 17 air-quality monitoring stations in the Hunter, Central Coast and Sydney exceeded the WHO standard (average 7 parts per billion over 24 hours) 336 times.

In Muswellbrook there was 120 exceedences, in Singleton there were 19 and in the Newcastle Port area there was 180 exceedences of SO2 levels.

THUMBS UP FOR BOGGABRI

The Independent Planning Commission has signed off on changes to modifications to five elements of the existing project approval for Boggabri Coal Mine.

The company currently has permission to extract up to 8.6 million tonnes of run-of-mine coal annually until December 2033, operate a coal train loading facility, handling and preparation plant and rail loop and spur line.

The Modification application seeks to secure biodiversity offsets through alternative mechanisms and extend the timeframe for securing the offsets until February 2020, use an approved stockpile area for its product coal, undertake drilling and exploration activities within the approved disturbance area, transport small tonnages of coal by road for testing and marketing purposes, and realign a small section of the Project boundary with the adjoining Tarrawonga Coal mine.

THE PROOF WILL BE IN THE PUDDING

Muswellbrook Shire Council after trying again and again, have had their rate variation permanently approved so some major projects can get underway like the huge entertainment venue in town.

The Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal approved Council's application for a permanent 15.23 per cent single year increase.

The approval replaces a temporary special variation of 12.43%, which expires on 30 June 2019.

Muswellbrook Mayor Martin Rush said the residential rates will stay the same as they were last year.

"Although the headlines figure will be 15.13 per cent the impact on the residential rate will only be 5 per cent and indeed no more than last year because last year it was approved for that one year and this years' application was only to continue it on a permanent basis," he said.

THE WHOLE HUNTER GIDDIED UP TO SCONE TO HORSE AROUND

After a hiatus last year while White Park Arena was under construction, the Bengalla Scone Charity Rodeo was back in May.

The Junior Rodeo attracted a crowd but that was beaten by the 4000 people who packed into the new undercover arena to watch the Australian Champions of each event compete on some of the best stock in the country.

Scone Charity Rodeo President Jade Smith said it went even better than he expected and better still to have the rodeo at the new arena.

"At the end of the day we just wanted to see that shed full and it was and it certainly created a great atmosphere."

MORE BOOTS ON THE GROUND

The Hunter Valley Police District's ranks will be boosted by two new probationary constables.

At the Police Academy in Goulburn 1261 new probationary constables graduated and will complete 12 months on-the-job training and study of the Associate Degree in Policing Practice by distance

education with Charles Sturt University before being confirmed to the rank of constable.

Superintendent Chad Gillies is excited to see a boost to his ranks.

"I met with our two new probationary constables Jordan and Michael, both are in their early 20s and very very keen to become a part of the police family."

SINGLETON MAYOR AFTER THE DEPUTY PREMIER FOR CASH

The Deputy Premier and Minister for Resources John Barilaro was in the Upper Hunter in May delivering another Resources for Regions funding announcement.

\$4.6 million was announced for nine projects affected by mining activity, but none of those are in Singleton.

John Barilaro personally pledged to review the funding program at a meeting with Mayor Sue Moore where he also committed to finding another source to fund Council's \$8.5 million Roads Upgrade program targeting four major transport routes servicing the area's 17 coal mines.

Mayor Sue Moore said the Resources for Region program was established to benefit mining-affected communities in NSW, yet Singleton – which contributes \$340 million in royalties to the State's coffers each year – continues to miss out.

RIX'S CREEK SOUTH FLYING CLOSE TO THE WIND

Rix's Creek South is seeking approval for an extension of mining life before their June deadline.

Bloomfield Group is now awaiting a determination from the Independent Planning Commission (IPC) for their modification application (MOD 10) is to extend the 21-year approval period for coal extraction by nine months to 24 March 2020.

The current consent that Bloomfield Group has to extract coal runs out on June 24, this year.

PHOTO CREDIT: JESS DUGAN PHOTOGRAPHY



DYNAMIC DISPLAYS

THE UPPER HUNTER MINING DIALOGUE HAS BEEN BUSY ENGAGING WITH THE HUNTER COMMUNITY AND IS SOON COMING TO AN EVENT NEAR YOU.



REV YOUR ENGINES!

THE REGIONAL PLANNING PANEL HAS GIVEN CONDITIONAL APPROVAL FOR THE BLACKROCK MOTOR PARK WITH PLANS TO BE UP AND RUNNING BY 2022.

The \$77 million Motor Park complex is set to be located on the former Rhondra Colliery site in Wakefield and is a great example of a how former mine land can be repurposed.

The development proposal comprises a private motor track circuit and facilities

Days and the Mangoola Coal Family Day. The Dialogue display is scheduled to visit local shows and events throughout the year.

THE DIALOGUE'S VIRTUAL REALITY (VR) VIDEO ALSO MADE A POPULAR DEBUT AT RECENT EVENTS; THE VR VIDEO WAS ON SHOW AT THE Tocal Field Days and Mangoola Family Day and attracted hundreds of viewers.

Through the use of VR goggles, users see and hear the workings of a mine in a setting which looks and sounds like reality.

Video users have a 360-degree field of vision and can visit different locations and operations at a mine including inside working coal loaders and moving haul trucks.

As part of its educational program, the Dialogue aims to work with schools to allow students who are not located within travelling distance to mines to "visit" mine sites through the VR experience.

providing for activities based around a motoring experience, such as go-cart racing, driver training and a 4WD track. In addition, it will offer accommodation facilities a visitor centre and function rooms, making it a quality facility for all people, not just motoring enthusiasts.

The approval is conditional with the developer required to address some noise and operational conditions, but it is looking positive that the start flag will be waving on this one soon.

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NICHOLAS SAINTY



DAVID HARVEY



JEFF HANLON AND ALBERT SCHEEPERS



MICK BUFFER

YOUNG ACHIEVER: NICHOLAS SAINTY – DRILL AND BLAST SUPERINTENDENT, PEABODY, WAMBO COAL MINE

Nicholas’ cast/doze project helped improved Wambo’s efficiency and profitability, making it the lowest cost-per-unit mine in Peabody’s Australian platform. When Peabody faced difficulties internationally, Nicholas saw the psychological toll on his colleagues and how it was impacting their professional lives. Nicholas rallied his workmates, providing constant support and feedback, contributing to the resilience of Peabody in the NSW mining sector.

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THE NSW MINING INDUSTRY AND SUPPLIERS AWARDS RECOGNISE EXCELLENCE WITHIN THE NSW MINING INDUSTRY AND MINING SUPPLY CHAIN AND THIS YEAR’S WINNERS EXEMPLIFY THE BEST OF OUR INDUSTRY.

and reliability and a collaborative approach with customers. Hitachi has been using this success to support the Humpty Dumpty Foundation, to purchase life-saving medical equipment for children’s hospitals across Australia and purchasing carbon credits which go towards domestic biodiversity reforestation.

MINING OPERATION OF THE YEAR - PEABODY, WAMBO COAL MINE

In its 50th year, Wambo has both open-cut and underground operations and has led the way in

achieving more cost-per-unit-moved than all of Peabody’s other mines. Wambo puts this down to its focus on achieving a positive and supportive management team which encourages its workers to use their initiative, providing them with a sense of purpose. In 2018, Wambo spent \$68.5 million with 194 local businesses and paid \$52.7 million to 390 employees who shop in and around Singleton. Women make up 40 percent of all new-to-industry appointments, showing that they are serious about making changes in workplace culture.

appointee to the NSW Coal Innovation Council Director of ACALET (ACA Low Emission Technologies Ltd), Australian National Low Emissions Coal (ANLEC) R&D Limited and CO2CRC. He is also the Chairman of the World Coal Association, an Associate of the IEA Coal Industry Advisory Board and a peer reviewer of the IEA World Energy Outlook. Mick has been with Glencore since 2001 and is the Group Executive for Sustainable Development and Industry Relations.

OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTION TO MINING - MICK BUFFER, GLENORE

Mick has 35 years’ experience in the coal mining industry in Australia and holds numerous titles including Director and Deputy Chairman of NSW Minerals Council, Ministerial

EXCEPTIONAL WOMAN IN NSW MINING - SARAH WITHELL, BHP

Sarah commenced her career in mining as an Environmental Scientist in the remote Gulf of Carpentaria. Since then she has become BHP’s first female head of Health, Safety and Environment and first female member of the NSW Energy Coal Asset Leadership Team. She was accountable for delivering the State and Federal approvals to enable Mt Arthur Coal Mine to produce 36 million tonnes per annum - at the time, the largest approved coal mine in Australia. Sarah has been a mentor in the WIMNet NSW Mentor Program since 2016.

EXCEPTIONAL YOUNG WOMAN IN NSW MINING - BROOKE LEES, CMOC NORTH PARKES MINES

Starting off as a journalist, Brooke took a graduate role in the mining industry in 2011 and is now an Organisational Development Specialist at Northparkes Mines where she manages a number of

Worthy Winners

THE 2019 WOMEN IN MINING AWARDS SHOWCASES THOSE MAKING AN IMPORTANT CONTRIBUTION TOWARDS A STRONGER AND MORE DIVERSE MINING SECTOR AND IS AN ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF THE INCREASING ROLE WOMEN ARE MAKING IN THE INDUSTRY.

programs to better connect the community with Northparkes. Throughout her career, Brooke has taken her role as a mentor very seriously, starting an onsite support group for female workers, running programs through the Northparkes Employee Pipeline and encouraging more women to think about careers in mining.

GENDER DIVERSITY CHAMPION - TIM WITNEY, BHP, MT ARTHUR COAL MINE

An active member of BHP’s inclusion and diversity council, Tim mentors a number of young women across

BHP’s Mt Arthur site and one his main focuses is working with return-to-work mothers. Since starting at Mt Arthur in 2017, Tim has helped increase the indigenous workforce to 13 percent, increase the female workforce to 28 percent and has achieved a 100 percent retention rate of female employees.

EXCELLENCE IN DIVERSITY PROGRAMS AND PERFORMANCE IN NSW - PEABODY, WAMBO WOMEN PROGRAM

Peabody’s Wambo mine is smashing the myth that mining is not appealing to women. Since 2018,

Wambo has seen a 20 percent increase in applications from women and 40 percent of the successful candidates from assessment centres. This has increased Wambo’s overall female participation to 25 percent. To achieve this, the mine implemented a range of strategies including a centralised employment assessment centre, training for senior Wambo staff on diversity and inclusiveness, promoting STEM subjects at the mine’s school and university engagements.

OUTSTANDING TRADESWOMAN / OPERATOR / TECHNICIAN - MADDISON CLARKE, KRH MINING

As the only tradeswoman in the workshop at KRH Mining, Plant Mechanic Maddison prides herself on challenging perceptions of females in the workplace. Maddison’s commitment and determination to open the door for future generations of tradeswomen has seen her take on the role of mentor for other young women who are considering careers in the mining sector.



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ELECTION BOOST FOR COAL

OPINION

THE RE-ELECTION OF THE MORRISON GOVERNMENT IS WELCOMED BY THE AUSTRALIAN COAL INDUSTRY AND IT IS A BOOST FOR THE COAL REGIONS OF NSW.

The Coalition government has been a consistent supporter of the sector and has recognised its valuable economic contribution as a major employer, the provider of tax revenue and royalties and at \$66 billion our largest export earner.

While elections are about an array of issues, in coal-related electorates in both NSW and Queensland, Labor members and candidates recorded strong swings against them. In the seat of Hunter the first preference swing against Labor was over 14%.

Anti-coal policies concerning new coal mines, the suggestion of ‘transitioning’ of coal workers elsewhere and resisting coal-fired power generation have damaged the Labor Party, and as they reset their policy platform, they need to quickly reverse their anti-coal positions.

SUGGESTIONS THAT COAL WORKERS ARE SECOND CLASS CITIZENS HAS RIGHTLY BEEN VIEWED AS INSULTING.

In the lead up the election some senior Labor politicians said thermal coal had no future and it was a good thing if international demand fell away. While the Australian Greens want to outlaw thermal coal exports and its use in domestic electricity generation. It’s therefore not hard to see why there has been justifiable pushback from coal workers.

By contrast Resources Minister Matt Canavan has been an active and very effective supporter of the coal sector and his advocacy has engendered trust throughout the coal regions.

Looking ahead conditions are encouraging with growing coal demand from Asia expected. Yet we need to be in a position to take advantage of this ahead of our competitors. Therefore, cumbersome and lengthy processes should not unnecessarily delay approvals for new coal mine developments and expansions. This can be achieved without compromising already stringent environmental regulations.

FINALLY, AS THE NEW FEDERAL GOVERNMENT CONSIDERS OPPORTUNITIES TO LOWER ELECTRICITY COSTS, IT SHOULD ENCOURAGE PROPOSALS FOR NEW BUILD HELE COAL PLANTS WHICH OFFER THE CHEAPEST AND CLEANEST ENERGY FOR AUSTRALIAN HOUSEHOLDS AND BUSINESSES.

The Coal Council of Australia will work closely with the government to achieve these objectives for the benefit of the Hunter and surrounding regions.

**Greg Evans, Chief Executive
The Coal Council of Australia (CCA)**



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A man gets on a plane and is seated next to a young kid. The kid won’t stop talking during the flight, so the man turns to him and says, “Lets talk.”

The kid replies, “Okay, what do you want to talk about?”

The man replies, “How about string theory?”

The boy says, “That’s a very interesting topic. But first, do you know why rabbits, horses, and cows all have different poop even though they all eat grass?”

The man replies, “I have no idea.”

The boy smiles and says, “How do you expect to discuss string theory when you don’t know sh*t.”

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COALY COW!

FOR THE LAST 6 MONTHS MALABAR COAL HAS BEEN HOSTING 50 ANGUS CROSS CHAROLAIS STEERS ON REHABILITATED PASTURE AT THE NOW CLOSED DRAYTON OPEN-CUT MINE WITH POSITIVE RESULTS.

As Malabar restores the former open-cut mine (now known as Maxwell Infrastructure) to pastures and native woodland, it has been in conversation with its neighbours and local farmers about alternative uses for the land as it is made productive and sustainable for future generations.

Malabar Chairman Wayne Seabrook said the introduction of the cattle demonstrated an

encouraging trend toward mining and farming working together.

“The cattle are coming along well and have put on weight since coming to site. It’s pleasing to see the cattle thrive on the rehabilitated land, given the drought conditions being experienced in the Hunter Valley,” he said.

“THE LAND WE ARE REHABILITATING WAS GRAZED PRIOR TO MINING AND WE’RE NOW SHOWING THAT IT CAN BE RETURNED TO HEALTHY GRAZING PASTURES. BRINGING THE STEERS ONTO THE LAND IS JUST ONE SMALL EXAMPLE OF WHERE MINING AND FARMING CAN WORK TOGETHER PRODUCTIVELY FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE ENVIRONMENT AND THE LOCAL COMMUNITY,” HE ADDED.

Local agister Rob Parish purchased the steers from Coolie Angus, a beef cattle business based in the hills of Merriwa, with Malabar providing the land, water and fencing for grazing.

“It’s great collaborating with a responsible mining company that understands the importance of grazing for farmers and their cattle,” Mr Parish said.

Having the steers on the rehabilitated pasture is also expected to benefit the land. It should allow greater control over weed species, promote species diversity and reduce the risk of bushfire. Rehabilitated pasture can also provide more feed for stock during the drier conditions than the non-rehabilitated land.

IT’S SHOWTIME!



REGISTRATIONS ARE NOW OPEN FOR THE HIGHLY ANTICIPATED ASIA-PACIFIC INTERNATIONAL MINING EXHIBITION (AIMEX).

LEARN TO LEAD

GREG MOWBRAY IS A LEADERSHIP SPEAKER, AUTHOR, MENTOR AND CONSULTANT WHO IS BRINGING A WORLD CLASS LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITY TO SINGLETON.

The recent Federal election results showed that regional Australia is often forgotten in the discussion about the most important issues that face our Nation. For Singleton and surrounding areas that’s all about to change, with an opportunity for some world class leadership development being offered on 25 June, in partnership with the Singleton Business Chamber.

“One of my favourite quotes from US leadership guru, John C Maxwell is ‘Everything rises and falls on leadership,’ Greg tells us. “Basically, it sums up my philosophy of leadership. All the good, the bad and even the ugly that happens in our businesses, our organisations and institutions, our community groups and our governments, all comes back to the quality of the leaders.”

“I strongly believe that most people want to be better leaders, they just don’t know where to start. For the past 20 years I have been providing opportunities for people and organisations to get better at leadership.”

ON TUESDAY 25 JUNE, IN PARTNERSHIP WITH SINGLETON BUSINESS CHAMBER, GREG WILL BE OFFERING HIS SIGNATURE ONE DAY WORKSHOP, BECOMING BETTER LEADERS, AT SINGLETON DIGGERS ALROY PARK CLUB. IT’S A JAMMED PACKED DAY OF LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT AND IT FOLLOWS ON FROM A SOLD-OUT EVENT IN SINGLETON IN MARCH.

Greg said they had such great feedback and ongoing interest from the first event that they decided to come back. Chamber president, Sue Gilroy has put her support behind the event. “Our members were delighted with the high-quality leadership workshop delivered by Greg Mowbray and expressed their interest in developing their skills even further to complement the one-day course,” she said.

THE BECOMING BETTER LEADERS PROGRAM HAS BEEN DELIVERED TO THOUSANDS OF ASPIRING AND

ESTABLISHED LEADERS ALL OVER AUSTRALIA OVER THE PAST 10 YEARS. IT FOCUSES ON A COUPLE OF KEY THINGS.

Firstly, Greg reinforces just how important leadership is in the success of organisations. There is strong evidence that the better the leader, the better the success.

Next, Greg contrasts leading verses managing. “Many of us think we are doing really well, and we might be, but what we are really doing is just managing. We point out the big difference between the two,” the expert says.

Finally, Greg provides a world class, proven framework for moving from just managing to becoming a highly effective leader. People walk away with a clear action plan on what they need to do to become better leaders.

‘AVE A LAUGH WITH

END OF FINANCIAL YEAR SALES ON ALL KAWASAKI AND SUZUKI GEAR

A little boy goes to his dad and asks, “What is politics?”

“Well son, let me explain it this way: I’m the breadwinner



PH 6545 3033

of the family, so call me capitalism. Your mother is the administrator of the money, so we’ll call her the

government. We’re here to take care of your needs, so we’ll call you the people. The nanny we’ll call the working class and your baby brother, we’ll call him the future.”

The boy goes off to bed thinking about what dad had said. Later that night he hears his baby brother crying so he gets up to check on him and he has

soiled his nappy. The boy goes to his parents’ room and finds his mother asleep. Not wanting to wake her, he goes to the nanny’s room. Finding the door locked, he peeks in the keyhole and sees his father in bed with the nanny. He gives up and goes back to bed.

The next morning, the boy says to his father, “Dad, I think I understand the

concept of politics now.”

The father says, “Good son, tell me in your own words what you think politics is all about.”

The boy replies, “Well, while capitalism is screwing the working class, the government is sound asleep, the people are being ignored and the future is in deep sh’t.”

More than 6,000 mining industry professionals and 2,000 exhibitor personnel are set to take over Sydney’s Showgrounds across three days from August 27-29 in what is Australia’s largest and longest running mining exhibition and conference.

Over 500 exhibitors will set up shop for the exhibition which brings together decision makers and mining leaders from all across the world.

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The AIMEX Conference brought to you by Davey Bickford Enaex, will focus on key themes surrounding the changing of mindsets and how to survive the impact of future technological, social and environmental changes. The conference will also look at the rise of automation and robotics and the use of AR and VR to enhance safety training for staff amongst other topics.



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I'd say they're succesfull because when you need us we are 24/7. We're out the door in ten minutes and to the destination as quick and safe as possible.

Tell us something personal about yourself?
I grew up racing motorbikes around Australia. I used to ride for Honda. I stopped doing that when I needed a job to help pay for it all.



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Change is Coming

CHANGES TO ABORIGINAL HERITAGE LEGISLATION ARE UNDERWAY WHICH COULD MEAN CHANGES FOR FUTURE MINING DEVELOPMENTS IN THE HUNTER VALLEY.

@ THE COALFACE

ACH. The release of this draft Bill represents a major step in creating new stand-alone legislation that respects and protects ACH for current and future generations, and also provides clear and consistent processes for economic and social development.

The key aims of the proposed new model include:

- broader recognition of ACH values that could include intangible items such as story lines and mythological places;
- decision making by Aboriginal people through the creation of new local committees;



- better site information management through new systems and processes;
- improved protection, management and conservation of ACH; and

- greater confidence in the regulatory system by providing better upfront information, clearer consultation processes and timeframes, and regulatory tools that can adapt to different types of projects.

Consultation on the proposed legislation has been undertaken since 2011, involving a wide range of stakeholders including Aboriginal people and organisations, local government, development proponents, rural land managers, mining bodies, infrastructure providers, heritage professionals and government agencies.

SO, CONSIDERING THE BILL AS IT STANDS, WHAT MIGHT ITS IMPLEMENTATION MEAN FOR FUTURE MINING DEVELOPMENTS IN THE HUNTER VALLEY?

A key criticism from industry regarding the current model is that the approval pathway is not clear, can take a long time to navigate and provides little assistance when conflicting views require mediation. This is always going to be a challenge when trying to balance conservation with development.

The new model is likely to require development proponents to consult and

negotiate directly with local ACH committees. These discussions would make reference to a range of ACH values, maps and management plans (to be created) for each region that would inform land-use planning.

In effect, the proponent and the committee would enter into a stand-alone Project Agreement prior to development consents being approved, rather than have ACH matters evaluated during the Environmental Assessment process.

IMPORTANTLY, MANDATORY MAXIMUM TIMEFRAMES FOR NEGOTIATING PROJECT AGREEMENTS, ALONG WITH DISPUTE RESOLUTION AND APPEAL PROCESSES WILL ALSO BE DEVELOPED WITHIN THE NEW MODEL.

Despite this lengthy development and consultation phase, still more additional targeted consultations to refine the draft Bill are proposed and the NSW Government will consider the draft Bill following those consultations, meaning any new legislation may yet be a while away.

Joel Deacon, Archaeologist - Arrow Heritage Solutions.

WOMEN IN MINING MOVEMENT



RECENT INCREASES IN FEMALE PARTICIPATION AT THE TAFE NSW MUSWELLBROOK MINING SKILLS PROGRAM SHOWS UPTURN IN MINING GENDER BALANCE.

HOWEVER, THE FUTURE IS LOOKING BRIGHT IF THE FEMALE TO MALE RATIO IN THE TAFE NSW MUSWELLBROOK MINING SKILLS PROGRAM IS ANY INDICATION OF PROGRESS.

Over its 14 years the number of female participants has risen from 0 to 9 and this year they make up 29% of the class, which is almost double the industry average.

“Resource companies are making considerable efforts to attract and retain women,” said TAFE NSW Regional General Manager Susie George.

“TAFE NSW fully supports this and takes pride in our role of teaching, mentoring and encouraging our female students to become well-qualified and confident industry participants.”

Hosted by Port Waratah Coal Services and employed by Programmed Training Services as a first-year electrical apprentice, 22-year-old Antonia Moncrieff is a student of the program. “My experience has been absolutely positive,” said Antonia.

“I HAVEN’T OBSERVED ANY MEN VERSUS WOMEN DYNAMIC, IN EVERY INTERACTION WE’RE JUST ALL WORKING TOGETHER TO ACHIEVE A GOAL THAT BENEFITS THE COMPANY,” SHE ADDED.

Port Waratah Coal Services Chief Executive Officer Hennie du

Plooy says they are committed to diversity and inclusion, fairness and equality but this commitment takes active leadership. Today, five of eleven senior leaders in its senior leadership team are female; three years ago, there was only one female in that team.

“This is a result of Port Waratah purposefully engaging with our people, formalising the Diversity and Inclusion program and giving our Diversity and Inclusion Working Group authority to initiate projects and actively seeking out more diversity in our candidate pool when recruiting,” the CEO added.

FORMER STUDENT OF THE PROGRAM AND CURRENT SECOND-YEAR APPRENTICE AT BHP MT ARTHUR COAL, 28-YEAR-OLD JENNIFER CHALKER, ADDED ON THE NEED FOR DIVERSITY IN THE INDUSTRY, “IF YOU ARE WILLING TO LEARN AND PUT IN THE EFFORT YOU WILL GAIN THE RESPECT OF YOUR CO-WORKERS REGARDLESS OF YOUR GENDER OR THEIRS.”

NSW Women in Mining Network co-chair and BHP Lead Corporate Affairs NSW, Deirdra Tindale, says increasing female participation in the sector has been found to significantly benefit mining companies and local communities.

Deirdra said, “We have seen that diversity delivers improved productivity results, greater



access to talent, stronger employee retention and reduced employee turnover.”

“It is wonderful to hear that the TAFE NSW Muswellbrook Mining Skills Program is close to reaching a 1:3 ratio of males to females. This is positive progress and assists with working towards BHP’s aspirational goal of 50/50 gender balance by 2025.”

As organisations in the industry continue to push for a 50/50 gender balance, both men and women can look towards a positive future of equality and diversity in mining.



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THE RACE IS OVER

THE FEDERAL ELECTION IS FINALLY OVER AND WHILE MANY IN THE HUNTER ARE NOT SURPRISED AT THE OUTCOME, IT SURE HAS SENT THE MEDIA INTO A FRENZY. INSTEAD OF LISTENING TO THE SENSATIONALISED STORIES OUT THERE, WE HEARD DIRECTLY FROM BOTH THE WINNER OF THE HUNTER ELECTORATE, JOEL FITZGIBBON, AND ALSO THE CONTENDER THAT CAME OUT OF NOWHERE, STUART BONDS.

JOEL FITZGIBBON, FEDERAL MEMBER FOR HUNTER HAS HELD THE HUNTER SEAT SINCE 1996 WITH NEVER AN OPPOSING CANDIDATE COMING CLOSE BEFORE. THIS YEAR HE SAW THE LARGEST NEGATIVE SWING OF HIS CAREER AND HE TALKS ABOUT WHY.

Today's Australia is a prosperous one. The Labor Party and the trade unionists that formed it can take much of the credit. More particularly, they can claim credit for ensuring our wealth is more evenly and fairly shared. Coal miners for example,

enjoy good wages thanks to their capacity to bargain collectively and the leadership of their union representatives. They are but one of many examples of the benefits of strong Labor representation.

Many of those same workers are now self-funded retirees or plan to be. They've been astute enough to use their good earning years to build a nest egg for their years in retirement. At local polling booths on election-day, local mineworkers pushed one another out of the way to vote One Nation. Self-funded retirees did something similar.

LABOR CAN'T AND SHOULDN'T EXPECT MINEWORKERS, WHO HAVE WORKED HARD TO GET AHEAD, TO THANK IT FOR THEIR COMFORTABLE FINANCIAL CIRCUMSTANCES. WHAT MATTERS IS WHETHER LABOR'S COMMITMENT TO THEM REMAINS STRONG. IT DOES.

But Labor made big mistakes. We did so in a number of ways. I have space for just three examples. First, Labor's leadership seemed unwilling to clearly articulate its appreciation for the great wealth mining brings to our economy and the well-paid jobs it provides.

Second, while Labor took a necessary and light-touch climate change policy to the election, we left ourselves exposed to a scare campaign by announcing it without the capacity to fully explain its impacts. If you leave yourself open to a scare campaign it's what you can expect.

Third, when Labor said it would take from the rich and give to the poor, it failed to properly define who the rich are. Did they only live in Sydney's Eastern Suburbs or Melbourne's Toorak? Or did the "savings measures" extend to the

miners of the Hunter and Central Queensland? Voters were left in doubt, so many took the safe option. In some regions the safe option became a Prime Minister who stood for nothing except a promise to change nothing. In our mining regions many couldn't stomach the idea of voting for the "Nats" (who also went backwards) so they parked their protest vote with One Nation, a political party they know can't win and therefore, can do limited harm.

Labor's many positive policies were overwhelmed by other distractions. For many, we looked too different, too complex and too risky.

Labor will be back; hopefully smarter for the experience. We'll remain committed to the same ideals and objectives we've always held; a more prosperous society in which every individual has an opportunity to participate and thrive.

ONE NATION CANDIDATE STUART BONDS WAS THE YOUNG UPSTART OF THE ELECTION, WITH ONE OF THE BEST ONE NATION RESULTS IN THE COUNTRY. STUART SHARES HIS EXPERIENCE AS A FIRST-TIME CANDIDATE.

I'm extremely happy with the outcome despite not winning. I accomplished what I set out to achieve. Which was to give workers and the mining industry a voice. And that voice was heard all over the country.

We saw some phenomenal results

and I am confident that next time we will do even better. For a first attempt with no money, no volunteers and working at the mine throughout it all, I am so proud of what we achieved.

This wasn't a solo effort, without the support of the community and people putting their trust in us we wouldn't have made the impact we did. Thank you to all the people that had faith in us. For people to change the political views that they've held for so long is such a huge step and it means that there is a real chance for everyday people like me to have a go.

The election should have been a big wake up for Labor, but I still don't think they are looking to represent

the people. Albanese has already come out against Adani and it proves that they are not listening to what people want. The unemployment in that area is huge and Adani will bring

jobs and prosperity. It's immoral to stop it going ahead.

THE PEOPLE OF THE HUNTER HAVE SPOKEN AND PROVED THAT WE DON'T WANT MINING TO WIND BACK, WE WANT TO GROW AND WE NEED A PARTY WHO WILL WORK TOWARDS THAT. I DON'T CARE IF THAT PARTY IS ONE NATION OR LABOR.

I agree with Joel about Labor needing to come back to the centre and stay true to the old school Labour

principles, do I believe it's going to happen, unfortunately probably not. The amount of the money that comes out of this area is huge and so far Labour has not done a good job of bringing it back in. That needs to change.

After the election Pauline came down here and it was the first time I got to meet her in person. Even though I believed in her and what she stood for and I had spoken to her many times on the phone, it wasn't until spending time with her I got to see just how nice a person she is. It's a real shame what the media have done to her. She cares. Sure, she has a fiery streak, but I don't think she could have survived this long without it.

I'm back at work fixing machines but I'll continue to represent our industry and would be proud to have another crack again as the One Nation candidate. If it's not me though, I will be fully supporting the person that stands for One Nation.

I hope I've proved to everyone that you don't need to be a 'politician' to have your voice heard. Tell your story, own your mistakes and fight for what you believe in. It's all about getting fair representation here in the Hunter. The great power of democracy is that people get their say. And we've proven that here in the Hunter.

Lastly, I have to thank my campaign manager Cobra One, my family, my workmates and every single person who got behind me. It's not a result for me, it's a result for all of us.



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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 TOTAL AND PERMANENT DISABILITY INSURANCE BENEFITS.

In the last article I talked about Income Protection Insurance. Today I discuss a related insurance benefit, Total and Permanent Disability Insurance, often referred to as TPD. Whilst not strictly speaking a legal issue, it’s a question I often get from clients who have suffered a workplace injury.

TOTAL AND PERMANENT DISABILITY INSURANCE PROVIDES FOR A LUMP SUM PAYMENT IN CIRCUMSTANCES WHERE SERIOUS ILLNESS OR INJURY AFFECT YOUR ABILITY TO WORK.

It is an insurance product that can be obtained in conjunction with Life Insurance, as part of your Superannuation or as a standalone product. Just like Income Protection Insurance, there is a cost or a premium, which is paid either by you to the insurer direct or is deducted from your superannuation find.

If you have purchased TPD Insurance either with your Life Insurance or as a product in its own right, then you are likely aware of the rules and benefits. Others who have TPD as part of their Superannuation may not be as aware of those details. If you have TPD as part of your Superannuation, then on your benefit statement there will be details of the potential benefit and you should ask your Fund for details of the product.

TPD INSURANCE POLICES WILL CONTAIN A DEFINITION OF WHAT CONSTITUTES TOTAL AND PERMANENT DISABILITY. THESE DEFINITIONS WILL DIFFER FROM PRODUCT TO PRODUCT.

There can be wider definitions such as being unable to work in any occupation or narrower definitions where you are unable to work in your usual occupation. Often the definitions are accompanied by the words “to which you are suited by training, education or experience”.

When considering taking out or continuing TPD insurance there are many things to consider such as your financial obligations and family and personal needs that would continue in circumstances where you are permanently unable to work as well as the ongoing costs of the insurance and other benefits entitlements that you may be entitled to in those circumstances.

IT IS VERY IMPORTANT THAT YOU FULLY UNDERSTAND THE RULES OF THE POLICY INCLUDING YOUR OBLIGATIONS OF DISCLOSURE WHEN TAKING OUT THE POLICY. EQUALLY YOU NEED TO UNDERSTAND WHAT YOU WILL NEED TO ESTABLISH IN ORDER TO RECEIVE BENEFITS UNDER THE POLICY.

The Insurer will require medical evidence to establish that you meet the definition of Total and Permanent Disability, remembering that just because you are off work for a long period that does not necessarily mean that you are Totally and Permanently Disabled. In the event that your claim is denied then policies often include the right to request a review or you can take legal advice to ascertain whether you can challenge the decision in the Courts.



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

STUART BARNETT, SLATER & GORDON LAWYERS

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OPINION

CONGRATS TO COALITION

THE RE-ELECTION OF THE COALITION AND PRIME MINISTER SCOTT MORRISON ON MAY 18 SENT A CLEAR MESSAGE THAT AUSTRALIANS SUPPORT MINING AND THE REGIONAL COMMUNITIES WHERE OUR WORLD-CLASS MINERALS COMPANIES OPERATE.



TANIA CONSTABLE

This is a win for regional jobs, particularly in the big resources states of New South Wales, Queensland and Western Australia.

There is now a clear mandate for resources projects that have lawful approvals to proceed, such as the Adani coal mine in central Queensland and the Yeelirrie uranium mine in Western Australia. IN THE HUNTER, SITTING MEMBER JOEL FITZGIBBON WAS RETURNED BECAUSE HE SHOWED THAT HE WOULD STAND UP FOR COAL MINING AND PARTICULARLY FOR REGIONAL JOBS.

Australia’s resources sector generates more export revenue than all industries combined, pays the highest average earnings and directly employs more than 240,000 highly skilled workers across our communities.

The mining industry generates \$12 billion in royalties for state governments and paid \$18.6 billion in company tax in 2017-2018 – funding teachers, nurses, police and infrastructure projects.

THIS MEANS A STRONGER MINERALS INDUSTRY IS GOOD FOR AUSTRALIA.

Lower taxes and economic provide opportunities for large and small business to be successful, and

also mean that the mining industry will continue to develop the nation’s minerals for the benefit of everyone.

The Coalition’s investment in higher education and skills will help the resources industry boost competitiveness and deliver more highly paid, highly skilled jobs in mining.

In delivering on its policies for resources, skills, environment and a stronger economy, Australia’s minerals industry urges the Coalition to measure its success against whether these initiatives create jobs, strengthen regional communities and promote growth.

THERE ARE A NUMBER OF PROMISING POLICIES WHICH WILL SUPPORT GROWTH IN MINING.

The Critical Minerals Strategy will promote investment and provide priority status for research projects.

There will be \$3.4 million over four years to encourage more women into STEM education and careers.

And more money for Geoscience Australia’s Exploring for the Future program, the Junior Minerals Exploration Initiative and \$100 million to support the development of hydrogen technologies is all good news for mining.

MCA WOULD LIKE TO SEE THE GOVERNMENT AND OPPOSITION DELIVER A BIPARTISAN APPROACH ON RESOURCES TO DELIVER NEW JOBS, NEW INVESTMENT, AND HIGHER STANDARDS OF LIVING, PARTICULARLY FOR THE GREAT PEOPLE OF THE HUNTER.

We will work closely with all MPs and Senators elected to the 46th Parliament to secure bipartisan support for consistent policies across jurisdictions that will further develop Australia’s world-class minerals industry for the benefit of all Australians.

We will also be working to build our industry’s advocacy through our Friends of Australian Mining supporter network.

The Friends of Australian Mining network will provide a stronger voice for mining, our workforce and regional communities.

If you work in the mining industry or are friends or family of someone who works in mining, join us to help support the world-leading Australian mining industry and your community.

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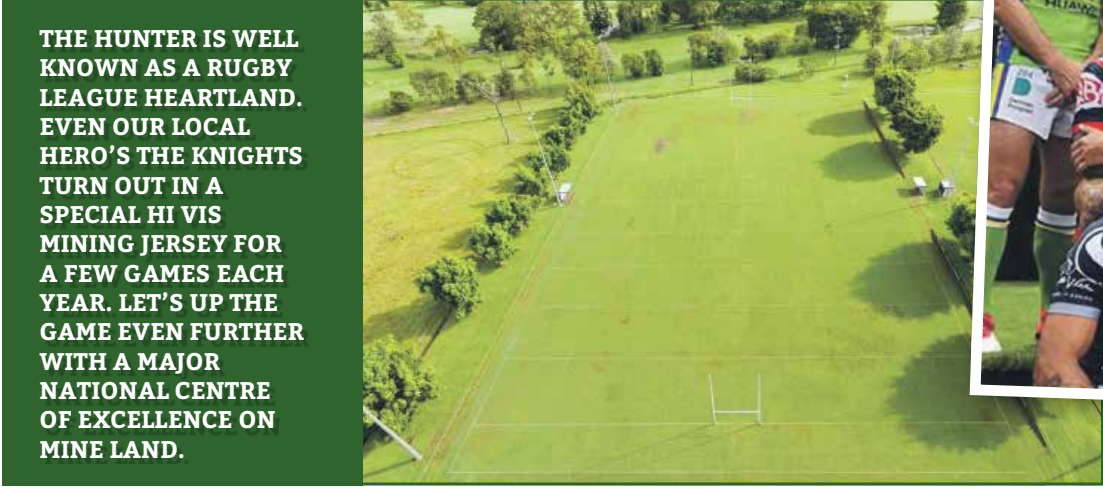
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LEAGUE LAND



THE HUNTER IS WELL KNOWN AS A RUGBY LEAGUE HEARTLAND. EVEN OUR LOCAL HERO'S THE KNIGHTS TURN OUT IN A SPECIAL HI VIS MINING JERSEY FOR A FEW GAMES EACH YEAR. LET'S UP THE GAME EVEN FURTHER WITH A MAJOR NATIONAL CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE ON MINE LAND.

The NRL has built a fairly new top level centre of excellence at Olympic Park and that is a great thing. The only thing though, and it's really more for the elite of the game only.

IMAGINE IF WE TOOK IT TO ANOTHER LEVEL AND TO COMPLEMENT THE SYDNEY FACILITY, WE BUILT WHAT WOULD PRETTY MUCH BE A 'LEAGUE TOWN' IN ITS OWN RIGHT.

Built much like a military base, the idea is to create a place that would be the national spiritual heartland of League at all levels. Starting with each of the

NRL franchises, each would have a precinct in its own right. In each precinct could be a playing field, a training field, administration and barracks style accommodation. Central to the precincts could be shared catering, education, fitness and training, medical and entertainment.

I know it sounds like a lot of footy fields, but when you then open each franchise facility up to all of the feeder clubs and right down to junior league from all the clubs across the nation aligned with each national club, you pretty much would have a population of tens




The mining communities in the region would benefit enormously with a constant influx of sports tourism.

Plenty of local jobs would be a neat side effect as well.

Game on people, let's kick this one off!

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COAL LEADERS

SIR JOSEPH COOK

Sir Joseph Cook was born on 7 December 1860 at Staffordshire, England, and was the son of coal miner William Cooke and his wife Margaret.

Growing up in poverty, Joe was already working at the coal mines from the age of 9 and then when his father was killed in a pit accident in 1873, he became the family wage-earner at the age of 13.

Like with Fisher, it was the early years working in the coal mines that shaped his political views. By the age of 25 he had been elected successively to all the executive positions in his union lodge where he supported tariff protection as a method of improving working conditions in the coalmining industry.

At the age of 26 Joe migrated to Australia and settled in Lithgow where he worked at the Vale of Clwydd colliery. He served in the important position of check-weighman in his mine, and as secretary and president of the miners' lodge.

JOE BELIEVED THAT NO ONE CLASS IN SOCIETY OUGHT TO BENEFIT AT



SIR JOSEPH COOK.
PHOTO: STATE LIBRARY OF VICTORIA

THE EXPENSE OF ANY OTHER AND THAT THERE SHOULD BE NO UNNECESSARY RESTRICTIONS ON PERSONAL FREEDOM. HE SUPPORTED THE ENCOURAGEMENT OF IMMIGRATION, ELECTORAL REFORM, OLD-AGE PENSIONS, THE APPOINTMENT OF A HIGH COMMISSIONER IN LONDON, AND AN AUSTRALIAN FLOTILLA OF THE ROYAL NAVY.

Joe began his 20-year tenure in the federal Parliament in 1901, becoming the leader of the Free Trade Party in 1908. The following year he formed a coalition with the Liberal government headed by Andrew Deakin. He was elected and became the sixth Prime Minister in 1913 but had inadequate support in Parliament and was voted out of office the following year. His most notable achievement was the Defence Act of 1909.

ANDREW FISHER

Andrew Fisher was born on 29 August 1862 at Ayrshire, Scotland and was the second son of coal miner Robert Fisher and his wife Jane.

Despite a law prohibiting boys under twelve from working in the pits, Andrew began work at age 10 after his father developed pneumoconiosis. It was while working at the coalface that Andrew's politics were formed. At the age of 17, he became involved in the mine's struggle between unions and management and was secretary of the union for a time.

With limited prospects in Ayrshire, Andrew and his younger brother James emigrated to Australia arriving in Queensland in 1885. Finding no work on the Ipswich coalfields they moved to the Burrum field, where Andrew obtained work with the Queensland Colliery Co. at Tornbanlea.

After leaving Burrum, Andrew headed to the goldfields at Gympie where in 1886 he joined the Amalgamated Miners' Association and eventually became one of the most significant members of the Gympie labour movement.

ANDREW'S POLITICAL PHILOSOPHY CONTAINED NO CONCEPT OF CLASS WARFARE. HIS SOLUTION TO CLASS DIVISION WAS TO PROVIDE



ANDREW FISHER.
PHOTO: STATE LIBRARY OF VICTORIA

PARLIAMENTARY REFORMS IN BANKING, INDUSTRIAL SAFETY, WORKERS' COMPENSATION, LAND AND EMPLOYMENT, AND SO ELEVATE THE LIVING STANDARD OF THE COMMON LABOURER.

While he was Prime Minister a number of important projects were undertaken. The Royal Australian Navy was established, the Commonwealth Bank was set up, the Northern Territory of South Australia was transferred to the Commonwealth, the federal capital of Canberra was founded, and the construction of the trans-Australian railway line linking Perth to the other capitals was begun. As well as introducing maternity allowances, Fisher acknowledged the need for greater political equality for women.

Andrew Fisher was the 5th Prime Minister of Australia serving three times, in 1908-09, 1910-13 and 1914-15.



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ANNABELLA GRABER - AGE 6

Tell us about your favourite pet.
My dog Candy Cane.
What's the naughtiest thing your pet has done?
Jumping, scratching, digging in the garden, eating my helmets and eating the phone cable.
What is the best thing about having pets?
Playing with it, patting it and feeling its fur and also getting licked in the face.

COLTON MASON - AGE 4



Tell us about your favourite pet.
Our dog Tori is the best pet.
What's the naughtiest thing your pet has done?
The worst thing she's done is bite my finger.
What is the best thing about having pets?
The best thing about having a pet is patting them.



ISABELLA TEASDALE - AGE 5

Tell us about your favourite pet.
My dog Meg is a Bulldog. She's cute and fluffy and likes to eat. She gets excited when I come home from school.
What's the naughtiest thing your pet has done?
She did a poo on the carpet and it stunk for a whole day!
What is the best thing about having pets?
She cuddles me when I get home from school or when I'm sad.

Kids @ THE COALFACE

WE ALL LOVE OUR PETS, BUT NO ONE LOVES THEIR PETS MORE THAN THE KIDS OF OUR COMMUNITY. THIS MONTH OUR KIDS TOLD US ALL ABOUT THEIR FURRY FAMILY MEMBERS.



ETHAN GRABER - AGE 9

Tell us about your favourite pet.
Candy Cane our dog.
What's the naughtiest thing your pet has done?
Destroyed mums brand new bra.
What is the best thing about having pets?
They are loving and fun.



ISLA MAREE - AGE 1.5

Tell us about your favourite pet.
Buppy (puppies) and Titty (kittens).
What's the naughtiest thing your pet has done?
Titty peed and pooped in my tent.
What is the best thing about having pets?
Cuddles.



RILEY ASHTON - AGE 10

Tell us about your favourite pet.
We have bunnies and fish. My favourite is Benny the bunny.
What's the naughtiest thing your pet has done?
Tried to run away.
What is the best thing about having pets?
They are good company.

PAIGE ASHTON - AGE 7



Tell us about your favourite pet.
My favourite is Benny the bunny cause he's soft.
What's the naughtiest thing your pet has done?
Scratched my brother Riley.
What is the best thing about having pets?
We get to play with them and they're soft to pat.



SCARLET ASHTON - AGE 4

Tell us about your favourite pet.
Fish.
What's the naughtiest thing your pet has done?
Be mean to other fish.
What is the best thing about having pets?
They do funny things.

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Authorised by Tania Constable, Minerals Council of Australia, 44 Sydney Avenue, Forrest, ACT, 2603.

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Who are you and what do you do?

My name is Michelle Waters and I work for Orica as a Mobile Manufacturing Unit (MMU™) Trainee Operator at Glendell Mine.

Any nicknames good or bad?

My best friend calls me Chelle, but nothing noteworthy from my workmates, although it's early days yet!

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

I live in Newcastle and I've been working in the Hunter Valley since February 2019. Prior to this role, I worked at Orica Kooragang Island as a Project Administrator for 18 months.

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

I started in February this year as a Trainee Orica MMU Operator at Mount Thorley Warkworth and have continued my training at Glendell Mine.

I really didn't know what to expect, as it is totally different to anything I have done before. Prior to Orica I held a position as a Site Administrator for 9 years with Rio Tinto at Argyle Diamond Mine and Clermont Mine, so I was familiar with both underground and surface mining but had never come across anyone that was an MMU™ Operator.

I spoke to a few people at Orica and some of my friends in the mining industry to find out a bit more about what an MMU™

Operator did. Orica have some fantastic MMU™ operator profile films on their YouTube channel, and I thought that is something I would really enjoy.

I had never driven a truck prior to my traineeship, and I required a HR licence for the role. I really wasn't sure how I would go driving a truck, but I'm happy to say I love driving the trucks and learning how to operate them. There is way more to it than I had ever expected, and has really pushed me outside my comfort zone, but it's been great.

Prior to this, I barely ever even looked under the bonnet of my car, but now love learning all about the trucks. I'm very fortunate to be working with such a great team of people that are a wealth of knowledge, very patient who are great teachers and mentors.

What's a usual day at work entail?

I'm up what I used to consider was super early, at 3.30am to travel up to site, but now it's just normal. The day commences with our prestart safety meeting, then a prestart check on the MMU™ is conducted. I ensure the truck is loaded with the product our customer requires, depending on the type of blast. Once on site, the team works with the Shotfirers to load the blastholes. Once the truck runs out of product, I head

MICHELLE WATERS

A 3:30AM WAKE UP DOESN'T STOP THIS DEDICATED PROFESSIONAL. FROM A SITE ADMINISTRATOR TO MMR TRAINEE OPERATOR, MICHELLE REPRESENTS WHAT IT TAKES TO CHAMPION WOMEN IN MINING.



back to our reloading facility to reload the truck and head back to the bench to continue loading. As a trainee I'm gaining the skills and technical knowledge of the MMU™ of how to operate safely and efficiently.

How big is the crew?

We just have a small crew of 4 people, who are specialised operators and we work together as a team to safely load and deliver product to our customers.

What's the best thing about your job?

I have a great crew that I work with that like to have a laugh! I really enjoy driving and operating the truck, as it's so different to anything I've ever done.

The worst thing?

I'm not looking forward to the winter mornings in the Valley. I'm still used to the warm winter days in the Kimberley. I might look a bit like the Michelin Man come those frosty mornings!

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

One of the guys always reads out the trivia questions in the paper every morning before work. One thing I know is that our crew had better stick to our day jobs, as we're not much good at trivia and we are never going to win "Who Wants to be a Millionaire".

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

I always wanted to work with horses when I was a kid. I sure never

ever imagined I would be an Operator!

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

That I have always been very determined and independent, as well as organised, and that I've always loved animals. I guess not much has changed!

Family?

I grew up in Armidale and I have a younger sister that is a lawyer in Canberra.

What do you do in your downtime?

My favourite thing to do in summer is to go to the beach - I think Newy has some of the best beaches in Australia! I like to keep fit, going to the gym and beach walks.

I love getting dressed up and going to the races and having fun trying to pick a winner! I also love showing cutting horses and am an accredited NCHA judge for cutting horse shows.

What is one thing about that you that would surprise people to know?

I was a Rodeo Queen and Miss Showgirl many years ago. I also discovered from these experiences that I enjoyed public speaking.

I also love entering competitions and recently won a trip to Japan and Fiji for 7 nights for two people! Last year I won tickets to the Newcastle Supercars. I've always got my eyes out for competitions to enter.



RITEDRILL

Who are you and what do you do?

James Murphy. I'm a mechanical engineer for a local mining company and the owner and director of RiteDrill.

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

I completed an apprenticeship at Branxton Engineering and worked at Gibbs Fabrication before starting at Reedrill. I stayed through all the changes in hands; Reedrill, Svedala, Metso, and Terex | Reedrill, leaving just prior to Bucyrus taking over. I held roles from Product Support Technician, Service Manager, then Engineering Manager working across Australia and in the USA, and assisting in the design and manufacture of the first Reedrill SKSS Rigs. In 2006 I secured fulltime employment with the Bloomfield Group as a Project Engineer - initially in the Bloomfield CHPP and then Rix's Creek (South) open cut. In 2016 I scaled it back to 2 days per week working in the Project Department across all sites.

RiteDrill started from my kitchen bench in 2012. When I outgrew my garage, I rented an office and some stores/

workshop space from a good friend in Hexham - circa 2015. From there we moved to a bigger space in Beresfield, and finally into our own, purpose-built facility in Rutherford over the Christmas break of 2017-2018.

Describe a typical day at 'The office'.

I start early. I attend to emails in my home office - as it's quiet and there's no phone. I'm always at work by 6.30am. Our days activities centre around the support of our clients. From identifying and sourcing parts, solving technical issues and engineering modifications as required. I also conduct monthly drill rig audits on-site as requested by some of my clients.

I try to leave about 4.30. It's important to get home for family time. It doesn't always happen though - there are days when I'm still running around at 8.00pm.

What's the best thing about your business?

We are small enough to adapt our processes to suit our clients needs very rapidly. Our reactivity is key. I push my guys to maintain a very high standard of customer service and to continually improve that. The best thing about us is our team -

without a doubt. We have a very dedicated team. They are elite in their individual areas of expertise. Our combined capability is something we're extraordinarily proud of and is yet to truly be tested. RiteDrill would not be what it is today without my team.

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

In the Hunter - the industry is watching Rix's Creek closely to see if their extension is approved. As far as Drilling goes, CAT's new drills are rolling out. They are interesting as they bring with them some new, production-benefitting features.

What is the biggest opportunity for your business right now?

RiteDrill was raised during an industry-wide recession. We're hoping the recent upwards trend in the Valley will allow us to consolidate ourselves. Consolidation is important. It helps everyone sleep easier at night. Concurrently, I see opportunities for further growth, and we need to hold our position at the front to realise those future opportunities.

What are the biggest challenges facing your business?

From a business focus - growing pains. We've installed a "fibre to the premise" internet service, and a server to handle our data, transmission, and storage requirements. Introducing policies and procedures business-wide to ensure we comply with all legislation also consumed a lot of time and human resources.

In our industry; Extensions and Approvals - ongoing projects like Vickery 8 Rix's Creek can affect us as a business and as individuals, as we all have mates who will be more acutely affected pending the outcome.

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

Our operations have always been Valley-based. We try to keep our network of suppliers local as much as possible.

Our client base is mostly in NSW, but stretches nationally into QLD, South and Western Australia. Internationally, RiteDrill sells into England, Canada, USA, and Mexico.

What's the best thing about your job?

It doesn't matter if it's getting a machine running or bringing online a new start-up business as a supplier. The best part about my job is helping people.

The worst thing?

When we can't source or supply the parts or solve a technical issue - especially for older machines. I lose a lot of sleep over those ones!

Anything else you want to say?

Even though our focus is drills - we supply many of our customers with some left-field products. From washing machines to liquid nitrogen storage dewars. We have been involved in oil and fuel farms, as well as de-watering and dust reduction projects. As I said - I have an amazing team with a vast expanse of knowledge and capability. I am very proud of them.

Community or other causes close to its heart and values?

Australia's largest employer is the small business sector, which needs to be nurtured. Australian manufacturing is declining, and it's sad to think we might one day lose that skillset nationally. RiteDrill support several small businesses, and some larger ones, who's core is manufacturing.

We value innovation just as much as we value old-school.

We value family. I have a husband and wife who work for me, and a father who subcontracts his son as our IT expert. We don't work weekends, because that's family time. The only exceptions are emergency callouts.

We value the raising of good tradespeople - who become good tradespeople, by learning from good tradespeople.

How big is the crew in the Hunter Valley?

RiteDrill is quite a small concern, really. If you include my wife and I - there's a total of ten.

What's the best thing about your job?

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KEEPING IT LOCAL

DK HEAVY PLANT SERVICES PAYS HOMAGE TO THE SUCCESS THEY HAVE ACHIEVED WITH THE ASSISTANCE OF BENGALLA'S STRONG EMPHASIS ON EMPLOYING LOCAL SERVICES.

As Bengalla celebrates their 20-year anniversary, DK Heavy Plant Services Dave Komacha is the first to congratulate them on their milestone and also the first to thank them for their ongoing commitment to local businesses.

“Cam and his team at Bengalla are unique and something to aspire to when it comes to workplace culture and the utilisation of local businesses and employment,” says Komacha, speaking of Bengalla’s Cam Halfpenny.

“It’s as though they know that obligation is there, but it’s something that is second nature. That they actually thrive on the feedback of the success of local businesses succeeding.”

KOMACHA’S THOUGHTS ARE SOMETHING THAT HAS BEEN ECHOED ABOUT BENGALLA’S CULTURE OVER THE PAST FEW YEARS THROUGHOUT

THE COMMUNITY. DK HEAVY PLANT SERVICES HAS SINCE GROWN LARGER THANKS TO THE LIKES OF BENGALLA AND NOW HAVE TWO LOCATIONS IN MUSWELLBROOK, INCLUDING THE FORMER AUSTIN ENGINEERING OFFICES.

“We have expanded our operation and with our growth in business now have two locations, one in Carramere Road and the other in Blakefield Road, Muswellbrook. After dealing with the likes of Bengalla and their professional dealings and culture, I guess you can say we are taking a leaf out of their book,” Dave said.

“We now employ over 80 workers and have a big emphasis on employing local people. DK Heavy Plant Services is also strong in the

development and training culture of the business and currently employs 4 apprentices and offers the opportunity and encouragement for employees to upgrade their skills,” he added.

WE ALL HEAR THE SUCCESS STORIES OF PEOPLE STARTING OUT WITH A VISION AND A BANK LOAN GOING ON TO CREATE A SUCCESSFUL BUSINESS. KOMACHA’S IS SOMEWHAT SIMILAR, THOUGH HE WANTED TO ENSURE THAT WHAT HE ENVISIONED DIDN’T GET LOST WITHIN THE EXPANSION AND PROFITS OF THE BUSINESS.

“We’ve all seen what can happen in the boom with expansions. It is taking a common-sense approach and ensuring you have the right mix and that your workforce is happy.”

“To accommodate our workforce, and to follow through with my vision for the future of the business, our expansions also include another of my passions which is farming. There are some plans and innovative ideas I have for us here locally to assist the agricultural industry and have some exciting new advancements in that field that will also increase production and utilisation of the equipment,” Dave added.

It will come as no surprise that DK Heavy Plant Services also have a strong involvement within our local community, offering support to local organisations and individuals to further their own success. From sporting clubs to assisting people with barriers and illnesses, DK Heavy Plant Services is backing the community that backs them.


▶

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CANCER CHAMPS

THIS MONTH WE HEADED DOWN TO MEET THE TEAM AT CANCER COUNCIL SINGLETON AND FIND OUT ABOUT THE AMAZING THINGS THESE GUYS DO FOR OUR UPPER HUNTER COMMUNITIES.

Glen Parsons, Community Programs Coordinator, Clint Ekert, Community Relations Coordinator and their team of hardworking and selfless volunteers spend their days working hard to improve the lives of cancer sufferers and their families in the Upper Hunter.

When Glen started with the Cancer Council in March 2011 one of his first missions was to find a home in the Upper Hunter for the Cancer Council.

“I’d been driving from Broadmeadow every day covering areas from Maitland to Dungog to Merriwa to the Murrurundi Range. 20,000kms in 6 months was a lot of kms on the old Camry. We knew it was time to set up a permanent presence in the Upper Hunter,” Glen told us.

“We researched all the options and decided Singleton was the best fit. It made sense as it was right in the middle of where we needed to be and gave the best possible coverage. On February 7, 2013 we had our official opening of our Singleton office. Young local cancer survivor Tia Morgan opened the office for us because we thought that best represented what we were about. Community.”

The minute you step through the doors of the office you will be greeted with a smile and a cuppa from people who understand what you are going through and are there to help in any way they can.

“WE’RE A ONE STOP SHOP,” SAYS GLEN. “IF WE CAN’T HELP YOU THEN WE KNOW WHO CAN. ONE OF OUR MAIN CHALLENGES IS THAT NOT ENOUGH PEOPLE KNOW ABOUT ALL THE SERVICES WE OFFER AND THAT’S SOMETHING THAT WE WANT TO CHANGE.”

Services include a legal and financial assistance program where financial

counsellors will help a person free of charge with their finances and pro bono solicitors who will help create wills or access superannuation for those with a terminal diagnosis.

“We have lots of other things we can help with too such as financial assistance. We know there is a cost to cancer and people struggle and we can help to offset that,” Glen says.

“All of these things can be a great comfort for families that are dealing with a devastating situation. We even have counsellors that can help throughout the process. But above all, you will find information and support,” he adds.

But these guys aren’t just sitting in the Singleton office. They are always out and about servicing all the little communities that make up the Upper Hunter.

“CANCER DOES NOT DISCRIMINATE AND SO WE HAVE TO GET OUT AND EDUCATE PEOPLE WHEREVER THEY ARE. IF THEY’RE ON A FARM, IN A MINE, OR WORKING IN THE LOCAL SHOP, WE’LL BE THERE,” SAYS GLEN.

These days Clint heads up the fundraising side of things, while Glen works on creating and maintaining their programs.

“Clint inspires people to fundraise and then I get hold of that money and spit it back into the local community. Support, prevention, screening and advocacy are the four things we are focused on,” Glen says passionately.

One of the programs that Glen is most proud of is their Transport to Treatment program and after hearing about it you’ll understand why. For people diagnosed with cancer in the Upper Hunter, just getting to treatment can be extremely difficult and costly. For example, when you’ve got to get from Merriwa to Newcastle for a series of chemotherapy treatments, there’s no public transport and you’re looking at almost a 400km round trip in a car.

Glen tells the story of what set the program in motion. “One day I had a man phone up and ask me for advice. His wife had cancer and they only had enough money to get her to treatment or to buy food for the week. When I heard their story I knew this was not good enough and I made it my mission to get free transport for everyone. Three months later it was done and no one has paid since. It might not sound like much but if the least I can do is get a person safely from their house to life saving treatment, well that’s a good start.”

By offering the transport to treatment service, it’s not just a financial burden that’s lifted from the person. There’re also emotional and physical burdens, such as trying to transport yourself, having family members take time off work, or having to make desperate decisions like the couple in the story.

Another important program Glen works on is in prevention.

He regularly visits workplaces to hold preventative cancer talks. Whether your organisation has 2 people or 200, he’ll be there to talk about their services and the vital importance of things like screening. Glen’s major focus for the next 18 months is around bowel, breast and cervical screening.

“Recent statistics show that if a person uses the free bowel cancer kit from the government and they are diagnosed with stage 1 bowel cancer there is a 99% chance that they’ll be cured and come out the other side. For us to push that information is extremely important,” Glen says.

THEN THERE’S THE FUNDRAISING SIDE OF THINGS WHICH CLINT HEADS UP. “ALL THE TOWNSHIPS THROUGHOUT THE UPPER HUNTER ARE EXTREMELY GENEROUS,” CLINT SAYS. “WE ARE NOT GOVERNMENT FUNDED AND IT’S THE COMMUNITY SUPPORT THAT ALLOWS US TO OPERATE.”

Clint explains how fundraising works best when the community gets behind an event. Relay for Life is a great example of that and it’s been a resounding success over the years. Recently he’s been hard at work bringing us ‘The Stars of the Hunter’. This exciting event on June 29 has received incredible community support and no doubt will be a fixture on the Upper Hunter calendar in years to come.

Last but not least Glen talks about advocacy. “I just cannot emphasise enough how important the people in this community are to what we do,” says Glen. “Without volunteers we could not operate. Debbie Rae is a great example of that. Like all our volunteers, Deb is passionate and loves helping. She and all the other volunteers are the real heroes.”

CANCER COUNCIL INFORMATION SUPPORT LINE	13 11 20
69 JOHN STREET, SINGLETON	02 6572 5400
WWW.CANCERCOUNCIL.COM.AU	
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RIDING OFF INTO THE SUNSET

THERE ARE A COUPLE OF PEOPLE WHO WITHOUT @ THE COALFACE WOULD NOT EXIST. BRAD ‘SOL’ SOLMAN AND HIS AMAZING WIFE KATRINA ARE TWO OF THOSE PEOPLE.

The reason for this little story is to just say thanks! You see Sol and Katrina have sold the pub! The Clubhouse, AKA ‘the Coalface pub’ has long been our home away from home and where all our most important work gets done.

When we restarted the magazine three years or so ago, Brad and Katrina gave us a heap of moral support and advice and backed us financially with advertising from the very start. Solly had bought the Clubhouse about six months before, fulfilling a lifelong dream of owning his own pub after a long career in mining. The thing about Solly and Katrina though is that they have always, in my experience, loved seeing others fulfill their dreams as well. They did everything they could to help us fulfill ours.

Planning the new version of @ The Coalface over beers at the Clubhouse, Sol was keen to reprise his role as our resident ‘Pie Guru’ - or ‘The Pie Minister’ as many of you know him. Typical ratbag story’s and adventures of a pie loving ‘politician’ in the vein of ‘Sir Les Patterson’. It has become a popular little corner of stupidity amongst our pages.

WHILE THE PUB ADVENTURE MIGHT BE OVER, SOLLY WILL CONTINUE ON AS @ THE COALFACE’S ‘PIEMINISTER’.

At the time of our catch-up, Sol told us that the adventure had so far lasted 3 years 4 months 16 days and 20 hours. And he should know, the two of them have quite literally worked their arses off, taking only Christmas day off in all that time.

“One of the big reasons we went for it was because people said we couldn’t do it. So, I thought I’d prove them wrong...Once again!” Sol told us in typically humble style.

“The highlights have been the characters in the pub. I won’t name any names, but let’s just say each and every regular has given us a laugh and much more over our time.” He went on, “After this we are just going to put our feet up and do absolutely nothing for the first couple of weeks while we catch our breath and recharge and get through the winter.

“IT WAS AN ADVENTURE AND ABSOLUTELY WORTH DOING. BLOODY HARD WORK THOUGH

AND I’D RECOMMEND ANYONE TO DO IT. GIVE IT A GO. CHASE YOUR DREAMS. DON’T LET ANYONE TALK YOU OUT OF IT!’ HE SAID.

A legendary drinker in his younger days, he didn’t drink much while running the pub, but he says he’ll be a regular back at the bar drinking at the Clubby.

“On the weekends we will spending a lot of time with the grandkids playing rugby league with boys, some might play soccer, and whatever the granddaughter thinks is a good idea, we will do. I want to spend time with the folks as well. They’ve all missed out on a lot,” Sol told us.

“I couldn’t have done it without the missus. I might even give her a day off now – maybe Tuesdays! Our kids Bo, Kirk and Kris were a great help as well. It really has been a family business and Katrina’s sister Bronwyn and Jess were a huge help along the way as well,” reflected Sol.

We wish you guys all the best, @ The Coalface couldn’t have done it without you as well. See you for a beer soon mate.



COMMUNITY GIFT

THIS MONTH THE COMPLETE PARTS AND @ THE COALFACE \$500 COMMUNITY GIFT GOES TO THE OPEN DOOR AT SINGLETON NEIGHBOURHOOD CENTRE.

THE OPEN DOOR

Singleton Neighbourhood Centre provides countless invaluable services to our community and this month we got a taste of one for ourselves.

Manager Judy Mitchell and her hardworking team of staff and volunteers at The Open Door greeted us with open arms, and a delicious and nutritious breakfast when we headed down to check out their free breakfast program.

But it’s not just a hearty breakfast you will find at the Open Door. Any and all are welcome to drop by and use their shower or laundry facilities, sit down for a coffee or a chat, or access all the other amazing services this organisation is involved in.

The Singleton Neighbourhood Centre relies completely on community



support and donations and they need your help. Donations of clothing, food, blankets, toiletries and funds are all desperately needed this winter.

Open to any and all the free breakfast runs Monday to Thursday from 8.30am to 11am. Drop into 21 Mary Street, Singleton.

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ONE OF OUR OWN

OUR VERY OWN VALUED TEAM MEMBER TINA KIRBY IS THE QUEEN OF ADMINISTRATION HERE @ THE COALFACE AND NOW ALSO THE PROUD OWNER OF THE WANDERING GYPSY.

Tina has worked with us here at The Coalface for the past 3 years as our star of admin and mailing. The bright humour and fantastic banter Tina brings to the team is something else, and now you can also experience this beautiful human at your next function.

The Wandering Gypsy is a beautiful 1974 Escort transformed into a super cute caravan bar. The mobile caravan bar comes with qualified RSA bar staff, glassware, eskies, ice and barware. It's the perfect package!

TINA'S FAMILY HAVE BEEN A MASSIVE SUPPORT AS SHE MADE THE DECISION TO BRANCH OUT WITH THE NEW VAN. HER PARTNER CHRISTIAN IS AN OPERATOR AT WAMBO AND HAS BEEN IN MINING HIS WHOLE WORKING LIFE. "I HAVE HAD HIM COME WORK WITH ME AT A WEDDING AND HE NAILED IT," TINA SAID.

Christian and Tina are also parents to Harloh 3 and Leilahni 20 months. "Harloh likes to help me in the Caravan at home and pretends to serve drinks to anyone close by," Tina added.

Over the past 3 years Tina has become more and more involved in the mining industry. Speaking of The Coalface Tina said, "I love the work environment and I am always

TINA AND THE WANDERING GYPSY



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learning something new. I get to work some pretty cool people too!" "The majority of my family work in the mining industry so it's always been a part of my life and it's good to be able to learn a bit more about how it works and what happens in the mining community from all angles."

Tina has worked and run many types of venues and functions as a bartender throughout the years. The bartending expert loves working with new people and working at different venues, so contact Tina for your next function.

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END OF FINANCIAL YEAR SALES ON ALL KAWASAKI AND SUZUKI GEAR

A magician worked on a cruise ship in the Caribbean. As it was a different audience each week, he would always repeat the same tricks.

However, every week the captain's parrot saw the shows and began to understand how the magician did every trick. Once he understood, he started shouting out the secrets in the middle of the show, "Look, it's not the same hat." "Look, he is hiding the flowers under the table."

Finally, after a week, the parrot said, "Okay, I give up. Where the heck is the boat?"

The magician was furious but couldn't do anything, it was, after all, the captain's parrot.

One day, the ship had an accident and sank. The magician found himself with the parrot, adrift on a piece of wood, in the middle of the ocean. They stared at each other with hatred but did not utter a word. This went on for a day, then another, and another.

Finally, after a week, the parrot said, "Okay, I give up. Where the heck is the boat?"

BIKKIES AND CAKES FOR A CAUSE

BENGALLA HAS YET AGAIN SHOWN THEIR SUPPORT FOR COMMUNITY ORGANISATION THE CANCER COUNCIL BY HOSTING AUSTRALIA'S BIGGEST MORNING TEA ON THURSDAY MAY 23.

Bengalla Mining Company saw a huge turnout as colleagues gathered together over tea and treats, to help raise funds to support those impacted by cancer.

Cakes, biscuits, slices, pastries and tarts filled the breakroom as colleagues took a well-earned break from work to support a great cause.

Normally a space where employees have their lunch, it had been transformed with colours of blue and yellow, images of the iconic daffodil and not to mention Dougal the giant Cancer Council bear.

The Bengalla crew were joined by the Cancer Councils Community Programs Coordinator Glen Parsons and Singleton Volunteer Deb Rae, with Glen kicking off the morning with an important message of Cancer awareness and screening.

BEFORE EVERYONE SCOFFED INTO THEIR MORNING TEA, GLEN ALSO THANKED BENGALLA FOR THEIR CONTINUED SUPPORT, "THE MONEY THAT'S RAISED HERE TODAY WILL BE PUSHED STRAIGHT BACK INTO THE UPPER HUNTER TO HELP CANCER PATIENTS."

"Thank you so much for your support, this year's biggest morning tea is likely to raise touching around 5 million dollars."

As staff tucked into the delicious snacks, you could hear conversations about screening for cancer and people sharing their own stories. It was a great morning to not only increase awareness amongst staff, but also get people talking and

taking that message home with them.

Cancer Council NSW helps people affected by cancer and their carers with travel to treatment and Bengalla has been a massive supporter of this initiative in the Upper Hunter.

Fiona Hartin, Bengalla's Community Relations Specialist, shared how much it means for the Bengalla team to be supporting such a great cause and seeing the direct affect their support and fundraising is having on those living with cancer.

"It's nice to know that not having access to transport and not having access to money is no longer going to be an issue for cancer patients and their families in the Upper Hunter with this support," said Fiona.

"IT'S NOT JUST ABOUT PULLING COAL OUT OF THE GROUND, BENGALLA IS ALL ABOUT COMMUNITY," GLEN ADDED. "I CAN NAME OVER 20 THINGS BENGALLA HAS DONE TO DIRECTLY SUPPORT THE CANCER COUNCIL AND OUR COMMUNITY AND WE ARE EXTREMELY GRATEFUL."

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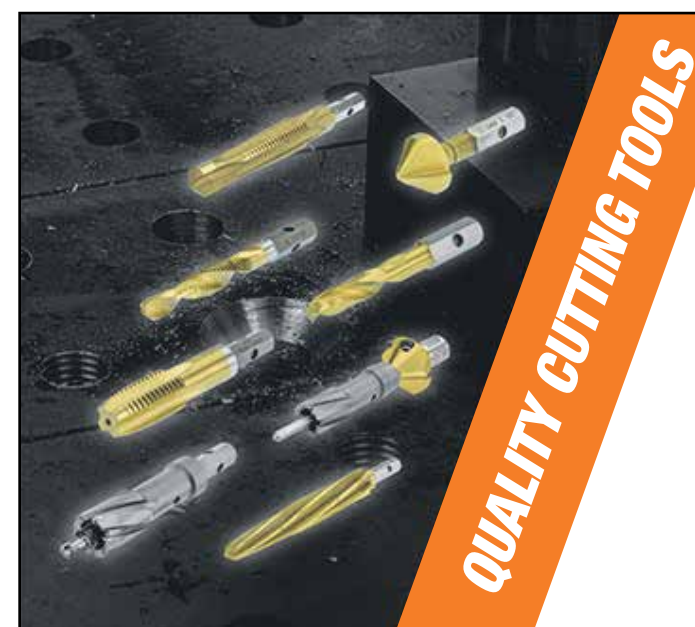


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ONLY 1 IN 3 AUSTRALIANS ARE ON THE AUSTRALIAN ORGAN DONOR REGISTER ALTHOUGH 2 IN 3 AUSTRALIANS ARE WILLING TO DONATE. STOP MAKING EXCUSES AND SIGN UP NOW.

By making the simple decision to donate your organs and tissue when you die you can transform people's lives. There are around 1,400 people waiting for a life-saving transplant and by spending a minute of your life registering, you could ensure that someone gets to go on living theirs.

There are so many misconceptions around organ donation and so we are going to bust some of those myths that may be preventing you from signing up.

I DON'T WANT MY BODY TO BE DISFIGURED.

Organ and tissue retrieval is performed by highly skilled surgical and health professional teams and your body will be treated with dignity and respect. The surgical incision made during the procedure will be closed and covered as in any other operation and will not be visible beneath the person's clothes so your family can still have an open casket viewing if desired.

IT'S AGAINST MY RELIGION.

All major religions including Christianity, Islam, Buddhism, Hinduism and Judaism support organ and tissue donation as an act of compassion and generosity. The organ and tissue donation process can accommodate religious and cultural end of life requirements.

DOCTORS WON'T TRY AS HARD TO SAVE MY LIFE IF I'M A DONOR.

The doctor's first priority is always to save your life. Organ and tissue donation is only considered when the

MY FAMILY CAN DECIDE WHEN I DIE.

If you want to become a donor you must talk to your family about it now. Many families end up deciding against donation because they are unsure what their loved one wanted. Even if you have signed up to become a donor your family still needs to know as they will be asked to confirm your decision and be involved in the process.

person has died or death is inevitable, at which time the Australian Organ Donor Register is checked and the family is asked to confirm their loved one's donation decision.

I'M TOO OLD OR UNWELL.

Age is not a barrier. The oldest donor to date was a 107-year-old woman who donated her corneas. People who smoke, drink or lead unhealthy lifestyles can still donate. While your age and medical history will be considered, what matters is the health of the organ.

I'M ALREADY REGISTERED ON MY DRIVER'S LICENCE.

State based driver's licence donor registries no longer exist. If you previously registered to be a donor on your driver's licence, you now need to join the Australian Organ Donor Register.

I DON'T WANT TO DONATE CERTAIN PARTS OF MY BODY.

You can list your decision to donate for transplants, including which organs and tissue you want to donate. Donated tissues and organs will never be used for medical research unless explicit written permission is given by your family.

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A man is being arrested by a female police officer, who informs him, "Anything you say can and will be held against you."

The man replies, "Boobs!"

TO THE RESCUE

OUR NSW COAL INDUSTRY HAS AGAIN MADE US PROUD AT THE ANNUAL COAL SERVICES FIRST AID COMPETITION HELD FRIDAY MAY 24.



Ten teams competed in this year's event putting their first aid skills to the test. Morale was high, teams were prepared, and the day kicked off to a cracking start as judging commenced.

Glencore had 4 mine sites participate including Bulga Open Cut, Ravensworth, Mangoola and Integra. Mandalong and Myuna took part from Centennial Coal. Thiess's Mount Owen, South 32's Dendrobium, Peabody's Metropolitan and SIMEC'S Tahmoor sites also competed for the title.

TEAMS UNDERWENT A NUMBER OF PRACTICAL SCENARIOS, A THEORY PAPER, HEALTH ASSESSMENT AND A VIRTUAL REALITY COMPONENT. ALL PARTS STRESSED THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING ABLE TO APPLY FIRST AID SKILLS TO ANY SITUATION THAT MAY ARISE IN A WORKPLACE OR DOMESTIC ENVIRONMENT.

Judges assessed each team's proficiency in administering first aid with little to no equipment to distressed casualties, as well as how they managed environmental and equipment hazards.

The practical scenarios that were designed to reflect everyday situations. From spider bites, burns and gardening accidents to falls, lost limbs and injuries caused by intoxication, Coal Services did a great job of covering all basis.

The scenarios felt real. Each scene had been simulated with accuracy and detail to produce a sense of urgency and legitimacy. Artificial wounds, live patients, reproduced scenes and brilliant acting provided each team with the opportunity to apply their skills to real situations.

AT THE END OF THE DAY, ONE TEAM TOOK TOP PLACE AFTER A DAY OF FIRST AID EXCELLENCE



AND SKILLED PERFORMANCE. THE TEAM FROM CENTENNIAL COAL MANDALONG WERE NAMED OVERALL WINNERS FOR THE THIRD CONSECUTIVE YEAR.

It's organisations like Coal Services and their dedication to providing critical service and expertise to the NSW coal mining industry that prepares the workforce for critical domestic and workplace situations like presented in this year's competition.

Whilst the day is a bit of fun for our industry, companies and teams take it very seriously. Safety is extremely important, especially in the mining industry, and this competition equips people with the tools needed to apply first aid to any situation that may arise.

LOOK OUT ON THE COAL SERVICES FACEBOOK PAGE TO KEEP UP TO DATE WITH ANY FUTURE PROGRAMS AND INFORMATION.

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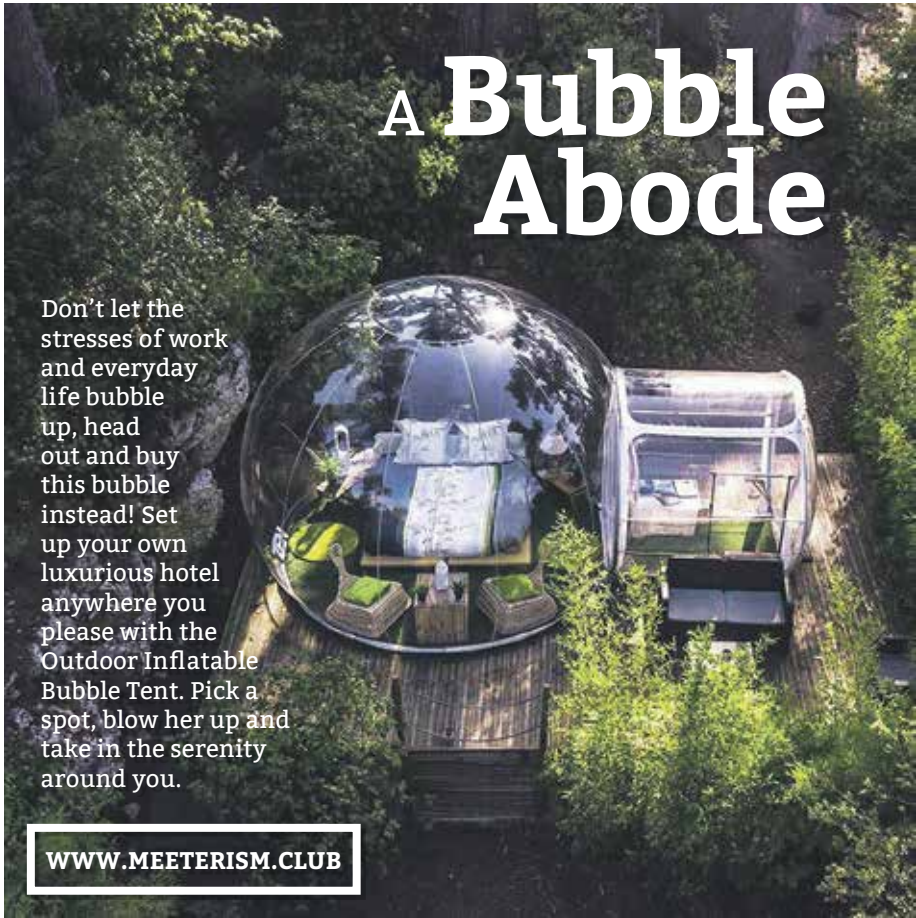


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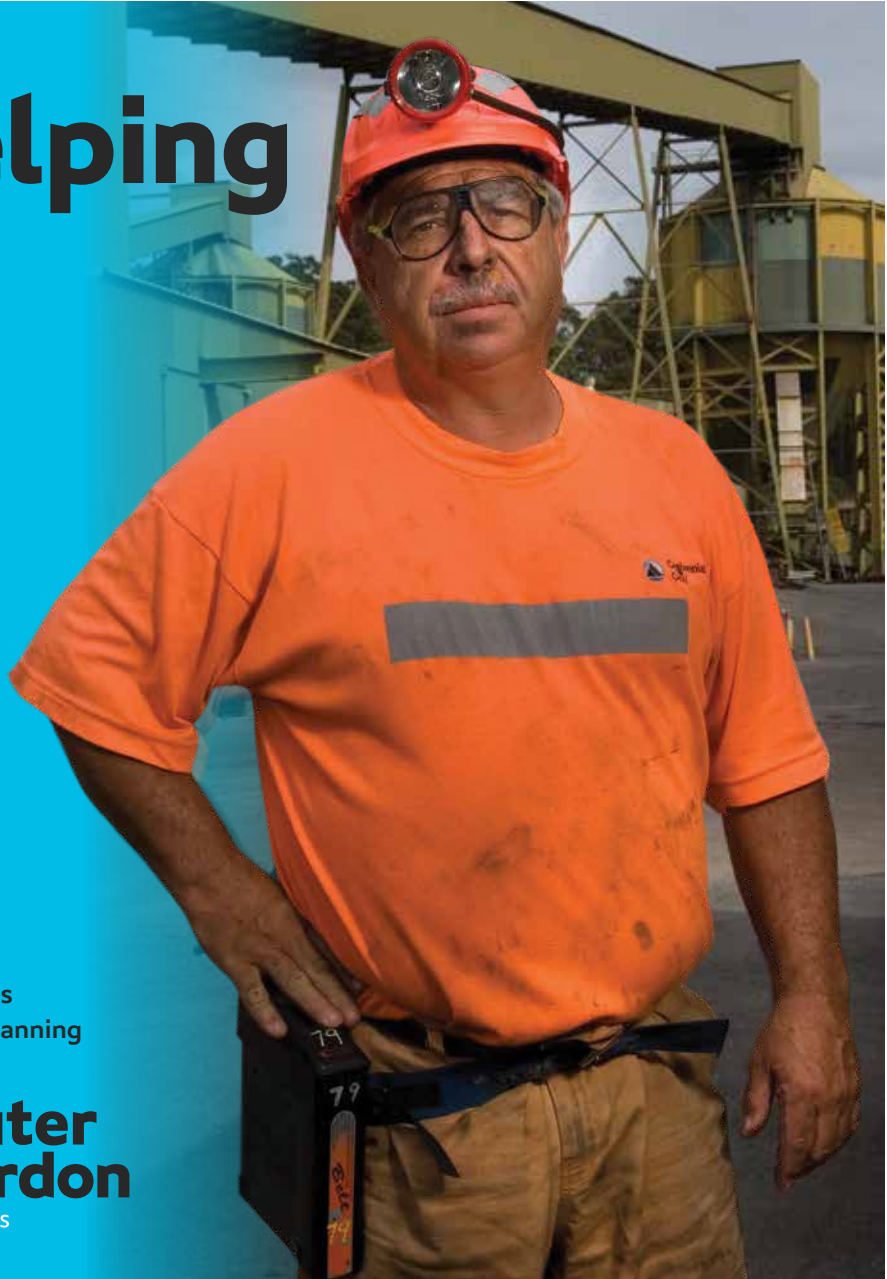
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CHAMPION HORSE RIDER 26-YEAR-OLD LAUREN BROWNE HAS MOVED FROM STRENGTH TO STRENGTH AS SHE STRIVES TOWARDS HER GOAL OF REPRESENTING EQUESTRIAN AUSTRALIA AT THE TOKYO 2020 OLYMPIC GAMES.

Our now local Muswellbrook girl grew up on a crop and sheep farm in Western Australia with her, as she puts it, “non-horsey family.”

Lauren jumped on her neighbour’s pony at just 8-years-old and never looked back as her passion for horses developed into a true love. “I have always had a love for animals - horses just took the cake,” Lauren said.

Smashing goal after goal, Lauren has really made a name for herself in the riding scene. Lauren represented Australia at the 2007 Prince Philip Mounted Games in America for 3rd place and at the 2010 Tetrathlon in America winning the riding section.

Browne also won the CCI4 Star at the 2017 Perth International 3DE and completed her first CCI5 Star at the Australian International 3DE in 2018.

The young riding star isn’t stopping there, aiming to compete at the highest possible level. “After representing Australia at a Pony Club level, I now strive to represent Equestrian Australia,” said Lauren.

“IT WOULD BE A DREAM COME TRUE TO EITHER ACHIEVE THIS AT AN OLYMPIC GAMES OR THE WORLD EQUESTRIAN GAMES.”

Malabar Coal has proudly shown their support of the rising champion through a recent sponsorship deal, providing Browne with valuable

financial assistance. “The financial support of Malabar is crucial in assisting in my competition and training pathways,” added Lauren.

“The support ensures that I am able to attend the competitions and lessons which I require to ensure optimal performances. In order to be selected on an Australian team you can’t just have one good performance, you have to constantly be producing competitive results which is both financially and time consuming.”

LAUREN WAS ALSO GIVEN THE OPPORTUNITY TO VISIT AND VIEW THE REHABILITATION OF THE NOW CLOSED DRAYTON OPEN CUT MINE. “IT WAS VERY INTERESTING TO VISIT THE MINE SITE AND SEE THE REHABILITATION PROCESS,” SAID LAUREN.

“It was interesting to see the different stages, and the time and effort being put into the site. I was amazed by the land which is completely rehabilitated and is now running cattle and considering the drought the cows looked superb and there was plenty of grass available.”

When asked about her thoughts on an Equestrian Centre on a rehabilitated site Lauren chuckled. “Wouldn’t that be something if they could turn it into an equestrian facility - I would be all for that!”



KEEP AN EYE OUT FOR UPCOMING COMPETITIONS ON LAURENS FACEBOOK @LAURENBROWNEEVENTING

BENGALLA GROUP 21

WHAT A MONTH OF RUGBY LEAGUE IN THE BENGALLA GROUP 21 COMPETITION! LEADING INTO THE JUNE LONG WEEKEND, PLAYERS ARE NO DOUBT WELCOMING THE BRIEF RESPITE BEFORE WE KICK BACK INTO A VERY TOUGH COMPETITION.

FIRST GRADE

The first 6 games of the competition have seen the Scone Thoroughbreds out of the barriers and leading the pack undefeated after some polished displays of Rugby League. It has left the hardened league supporter asking the question - will this side be beaten this year? Of course any team can be beaten on the day, but it will take something massive for it to happen to this squad.

Aberdeen headed into the break without yet being able to field their whole first grade side at any one time. Now a question mark remains over club favourite Daniel Hoogerwerf and his injury sustained in the last game.

The Denman Devils won their last game against the Singleton Greyhounds in a Saturday night match that had more first responders and ambulance staff than referees at the ground. We wish all those players injured a speedy recovery.

RESERVE GRADE

The competition front runners and undefeated Merriwa Magpies have battled droughts and tough times out west but that has only hardened the boys from “the war” as each week they give the township something to celebrate. When the boys are on fire and the town is behind them, Merriwa is a dreaded place to play at as an opposition.

Scone are snapping at their heels and another victory over Scone in the coming weeks would do their confidence well leading into September. Merriwa have done enough one would imagine looking at the remaining 9 games to warrant making the statement they will finish top 4. How the remaining 3 semi-finals spots pan out between Scone, Singleton, Aberdeen and Muswellbrook will be a fight of the titans.

UNDER 18’S

If this is a sign for the future of our competition and the clubs can retain even 80% of the players, the Group is in great shape talent wise moving forward. The 5 teams have produced some quality games and some individual player performances that will have talent scouts peeking into our area for sure.

Singleton remain undefeated but were given a surprise shock by a gutsy 12 man Denman Devils side in their last game. Even though short on numbers, the match provided some great entertainment for the crowd. If you haven’t been out early enough to cheer on these youngsters, be sure to make an effort in the next few rounds. You won’t be disappointed. It will be a tight finish for 4th if the Devils juniors can string together a few wins in the next couple of rounds.

LADIES LEAGUE TAG

The girls from the Scone are flying high once again in this competition, undefeated after 6 rounds. With the standard speed, agility and rock solid defence, the Sofie Casson led side is back at their brilliant best. After they only scraped home in the dying minutes of the last match against the Murrurundi side, it was somewhat of a shot across the bow to let the Scone girls know that the competition is just warming up.

With combinations still clicking right through to the 5th position Singleton Greyhounds could some of the remaining 4 teams vying for a semi final spot keep the girls from Scone claiming the minor premiers title? The Merriwa Ladies have shown great teamwork winning the CRL 9s at the beginning of the season. Add also the talent at Muswellbrook and the Mick Kirkpatrick coached Greyhounds. It’s a matter of who dares wins from here in.

TO KEEP UPDATED ABOUT GAMES THIS MONTH AND ALL THE WEEK TO WEEK INFORMATION, FOLLOW FOOTY FEVER ON FACEBOOK.

BENGALLA GROUP 21 LADDERS AFTER ROUND 6	
FIRST GRADE	
Scone Thoroughbreds	12 points
Aberdeen Tigers	6 points
Denman Devils	4 points
Singleton Greyhounds	2 points
RESERVE GRADE	
Merriwa Magpies	12 points
Scone Thoroughbreds	10 points
Aberdeen Tigers	8 points
Singleton Greyhounds	8 points
Muswellbrook Rams	6 points
Denman Devils	2 points
Murrurundi Mavericks	2 points
Greta Branxton Colts	0 points
UNDER 18’S	
Singleton Greyhounds	12 points
Aberdeen Tigers	8 points
Muswellbrook Rams	8 points
Scone Thoroughbreds	6 points
Denman Devils	0 points
LADIES LEAGUE TAG	
Scone Thoroughbreds	12 points
Murrurundi Mavericks	8 points
Muswellbrook Rams	8 points
Merriwa Magpies	7 points
Singleton Greyhounds	5 points
Aberdeen Tigers	3 points
Denman Devils	0 points

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BEWARE THE SLEEPING GIANT

KOMATSU HAVE A VENERABLE REPUTATION IN RELATION TO THEIR ELECTRIC DRIVE AC HAUL TRUCKS. AS THE FIRST MANUFACTURER TO INTRODUCE AC DRIVE ULTRA-CLASS TRUCKS IN 1996, KOMATSU'S PEDIGREE IN AC RIGS IS SECOND TO NONE.

Their mining diggers however have not fared as well in Australia. Despite their reliability, they have been much maligned and never quite achieved the critical mass that their competitors have in our country.

Be it discrimination by colour, operator acceptance and/or efficiency in application, they have largely failed to win over the hearts and minds of Australian miners.

HAILING FROM THEIR DEMAG HERITAGE THE KOMATSU DIGGER HAS ALWAYS CARRIED A REPUTATION FOR RELIABILITY.

A simple 'mechanical' machine, these hydraulic excavators have sported some of the best mean times between failure in the industry however, in a market where cash is king and time is money, these diggers have quite simply failed to keep up with the pace.

With the Hydraulic Excavator/Shovel increasing becoming the primary digging tool of choice, this has affected Komatsu's deployment rate of their machines in Australia versus that of their competitors.

KOMATSU HOWEVER, ARE NO DUMMIES.

Japanese owned, they are the second largest manufacturer of construction and mining equipment worldwide that have perfected the art of mining through organic growth and strategic acquisition. Following the purchase of Demag completed in 1999 and more recently Joy Global in 2017, they have through a culture of continuous improvement, continued the incorporation of technology and know-how in sound operating platforms. With their indigestion now in check, I suspect that we will be seeing more of Komatsu's 'canary yellow' before too long.

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A husband and wife are grocery shopping. The husband picks up a case of beer and puts it in the cart. "What do you think you are doing?" asks the wife. "They're on sale, only \$10 for 24 cans," the husband replies defensively. "Put them back, we can't afford

them," demands the wife. Later the wife puts a \$20 jar of face cream in the cart and the husband quickly pulls her up on it. "I need it," the wife says. "It makes me look beautiful." "So does 24 beers," the husband replies. "And it's half the price!"

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walk across the old suspension bridge if you felt the need for a few beers and a feed. We felt the need.

THE EVENT WAS HELD OVER A WEEKEND WITH THIRTY TARGETS BEING SHOT ON THE SATURDAY AND TWENTY TARGETS BEING SHOT ON THE SUNDAY WITH THE PUB PUTTING ON A BAND FOR US OUT THE BACK ON SATURDAY NIGHT. IT WAS SAFE TO SAY THERE WAS A FEW DUSTY PEOPLE ROLLING OUT OF THEIR SWAGS FOR THE SUNDAY SHOOT.

3D Archery for those that don't know is a style of competitive archery where you take aim at a variety of rubber game animals at various unknown distances and are scored on your accuracy.

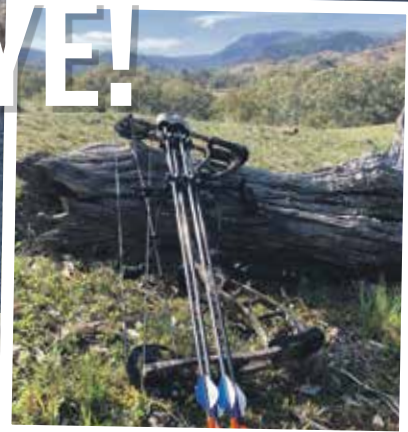
All in all, it was a great weekend meeting new people and enjoying a very addictive sport, although I didn't score particularly well, I'll definitely be back

again. If you're ever passing by the Victoria hotel at Moonan Flat be sure to drop in for a beer and check out the big stumps full of arrows up behind the bar.

If you're interested in 3D archery google search your local area to find the closest club and head on out to a try archery day, the kids will love it to. Cheers Cal

BULLSEYE!

IS THERE ANYTHING BETTER THAN A WEEKEND AWAY IN THE TROOPY? YEP, A WEEKEND AWAY IN THE TROOPY WITH A BOW AND ARROW.



A few months back I took the trusty troop carrier away for a new experience where I was lucky enough to participate in my first 3D archery state shoot. This particular event was held at Moonan Flat, hosted by Cessnock Archers and supported by the legends at the famous Victoria Hotel.

With the location being at the foothills of the Barrington Tops National Park, the surrounding countryside was amazing. Rolling green mountains with incredible panoramic views that you could sit back and enjoy all day.

We set up camp on the other side of the river from the pub with only a short



'AVE A LAUGH WITH SingletonOutdoors

PH 6571 1589

END OF FINANCIAL YEAR SALES ON ALL HONDA MOTORCYCLES, QUADS AND SIDES BY SIDES

An 8-year-old girl goes into the office with her dad on 'Take Your Kid to Work Day'.

As they are walking around the office the young girl starts crying so her father asks her what's wrong.

As the staff all gather round, the young girl sobs loudly, "Daddy where are all the clowns you said you worked with?"

JUNE.. COLD, WET, WINDY... FISHY



Rav's No.1 planner Murray with a quality Lake Mac lizard. Ray tells us he's been having plenty of success flicking a few lures around the quiet bays from his Yak. He reckons the only thing better is when he manages to out fish the wife... That's living Murray.

It's time to also dust off the cedar floats and whippy rods as the Blackfish are starting to fire up along the local breakwalls.

OFFSHORE

The fishing has been consistent with good numbers of Trag on the reefs and Flathead on the sand with the odd Snapper and King taking up the slack in between.

Be sure to chase a few Squid if you find yourself around a bit of rocky ground.

OFF THE ROCKS/BEACH

Both these areas are showing great numbers of Bream and Taylor.

The other thing to think about from the rocks is fishing for Drummer and Grouper. It's really hard to beat an afternoon chasing these thugs.

WINTER IS HERE AND WITH THE SUDDEN CHANGE IN WEATHER THERE'S PLENTY OF ACTION HAPPENING. FOR A START ALL THE SOFTIES HEAD TO THE LOUNGE AND HIBERNATE WHILE THE hardcore brace themselves FOR THE NEXT PHASE OF FISHING MADNESS TO BEGIN.

THINGS TO KEEP IN MIND THROUGHTOUT JUNE

Calamari are everywhere. It's amazing where you will find them this time of year, where you don't is the question.

Bream will be in huge numbers around the heads and along the beaches as they start the spawning run.

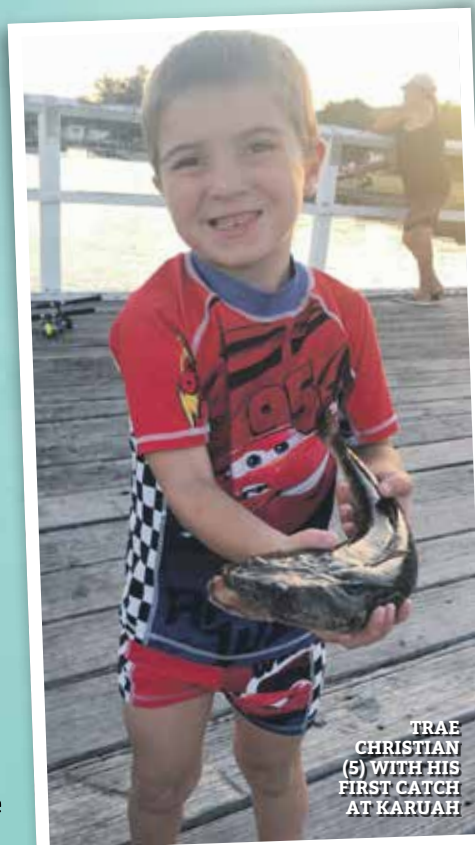
Water temps tend to drop off and the Snapper head for the inshore reefs for the winter, a session should be top priority over the next couple of months weather it's from the boat or off the rocks.

Deep water fishing for Kings and Bar Cod will be back on the cards as the currents begin to back off.

LAKE MAC/INSIDE PORT STEPHENS

Both of these areas have been fishing well with Flathead moving back up into the top parts of the estuary's and the Bream feeding up to move out.

It's amazing to see the Longtail Tuna still hanging around in great numbers. Hard to tell how much longer they will hang around so make the most of it while you can.



TRAE CHRISTIAN (5) WITH HIS FIRST CATCH AT KARUAH

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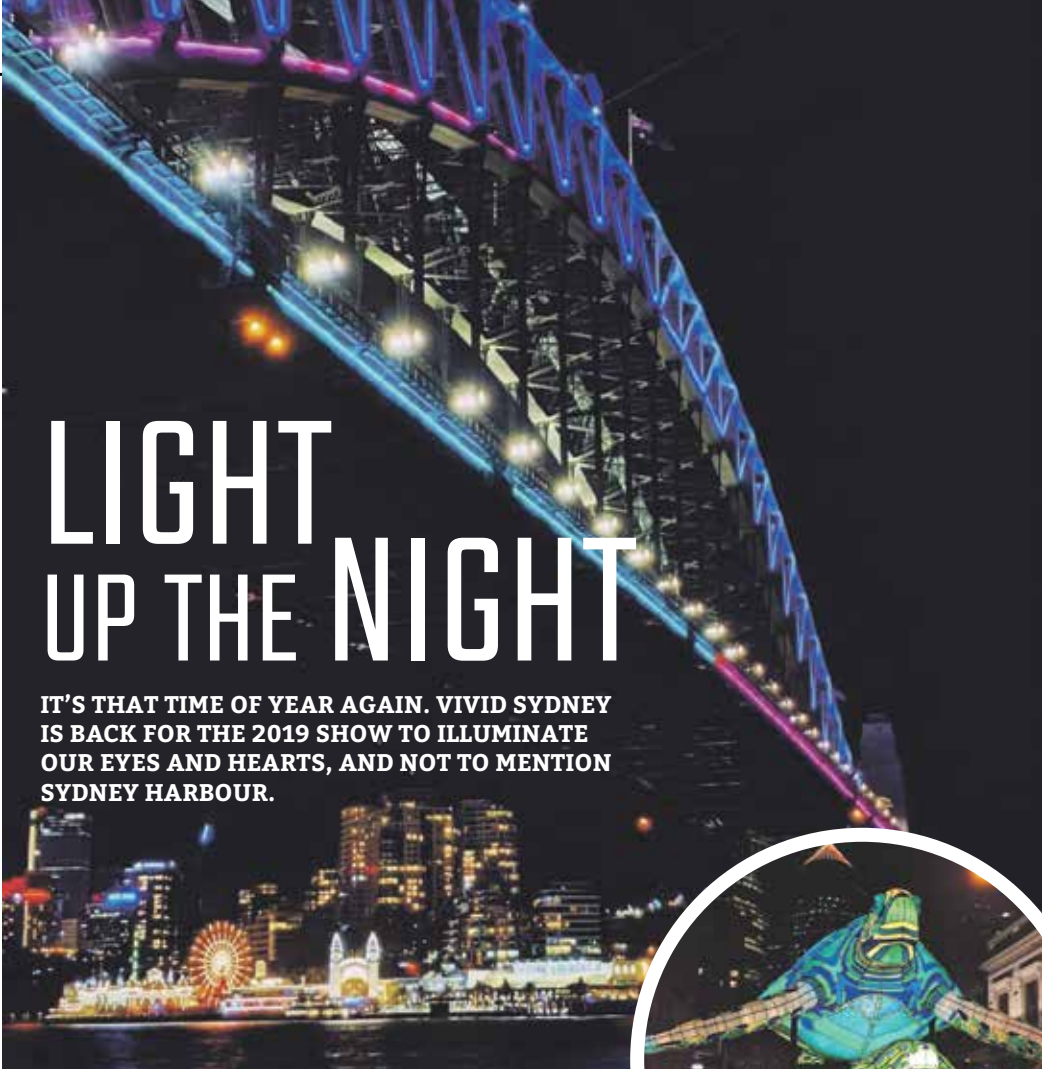
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LIGHT UP THE NIGHT

IT'S THAT TIME OF YEAR AGAIN. VIVID SYDNEY IS BACK FOR THE 2019 SHOW TO ILLUMINATE OUR EYES AND HEARTS, AND NOT TO MENTION SYDNEY HARBOUR.

Vivid Sydney has been labelled the 'largest festival of light, music and ideas in the Southern Hemisphere' and my gosh it is breathtaking. The magical festival runs over 23 days from Friday May 24 until Saturday June 15.

At 6pm each night, Sydney Harbour is lit up with a stunning array of light and colour displayed through unique ideas and platforms. A show where art, music, culture and technology intertwine to transform the city into an artistic paradise.

OPENING NIGHT DID NOT DISAPPOINT. THOUSANDS FLOCKED TO THE CITY TO TAKE IN REMARKABLE VIEWS AND CATCH THE MANY SHOWS THAT VIVID HAS TO OFFER. MY FRIENDS AND I JOINED THE OPENING CROWD FOR A NIGHT OF RADIANT BLISS.



It's difficult to know where to start with so much going on around the harbour, and there are too many programs, activities and displays to name on one page. So, I am going to present to you my favourites. I arrived at what is usually Sydney Harbour's Custom House, now a canvas for artists from *Spinifex Group*. The large-scale, underwater fantasy was enrapturing as splashes of colour spread across the historical facade. The thought-provoking presentation inspired me to appreciate the beauty of our aquatic wildlife.

Many of the artistic shows and artworks were thoughtfully created to invoke different feelings of inspiration and many to create vision into a particular subject. It's the audience's job to unravel the story behind each piece and I absolutely loved this part of the experience.

The interactive Jungle Boogie experience was nothing short of an inspirational message. The thing I loved about this display was its inclusive and accessible nature, providing access to adults, kids and those of all abilities. The forest scene lit up animals, birdlife and trees to beautiful tunes and sounds.

When you touched any key on the exhibition, musical notes were emitted and lights began to dazzle the audience. The more people that got involved and keys pressed, the grander the show. I take my hat off to artist *Pink Cactus* for creating an engaging message of inclusion and appreciation of our wildlife.

OF COURSE, I HAVE TO MENTION THE HARBOUR LIGHTS. A COLLABORATIVE COORDINATION OF LIGHT LIT VESSELS MOVE ACROSS THE WATER CREATING A COLOUR SPECTRUM THAT DANCES ACROSS THE OCEAN SURFACE. THE MESSAGE TO THIS SHOW? I TOOK IT AS, LIFE IS BEAUTIFUL.

I could go on and on about the different shows I visited along the way, but you really need to experience its beauty for yourself. Take in each and every light, every show and message and experience the wonder and charm of artists from all over the world. There's not long left of the free event for 2019, so if you can't make it this year, then you should definitely book now for 2020.

VISIT WWW.VIVIDSYDNEY.COM FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT EACH EXHIBIT.

OUR COUNTRY GOLDEN GIRL

SINGER SONGWRITER AMBER LAWRENCE HAS CAPTURED THE HEARTS OF RURAL COMMUNITIES ALL OVER THE COUNTRY THROUGH HER AUTHENTIC SONGS ABOUT AUSTRALIA.



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An accomplished singer, songwriter, mother, radio and TV presenter, mentor, volunteer for multiple charities and multi award winner; Amber Lawrence has shone bright throughout her career as an inspiration for our community.

Amber took home 3 prestigious awards at the 2018 CMAA Golden Guitar Awards and also welcomed her first child with fiancé Martin Newman that same year. The new mother went on to co-host the 2019 awards show and has shown no signs of slowing down on her successful, multi-faceted career.

THE STAR HAS GROWN A DEVOTED RURAL FOLLOWING PERFORMING FOR COUNTRY TOWNS THROUGHOUT AUSTRALIA AND TRAVELLING TO RURAL, CLOSE-KNIT COMMUNITIES LIKE MUSWELLBROOK AND ABERDEEN. "IT'S SO HEART-WARMING TO GET TO SMALL TOWNS, AND FIND OUT WHAT'S SPECIAL ABOUT THEM," AMBER SAID.

"Every town has a few things it's known for, whether it's the sunset, the great bakery, the river, the beach or the people, and I love to find out all about it."

"The smallest country town can be the best gig of the year; every day

is different in this job and I love it," Amber added.

ALONG WITH HER LOYAL COUNTRY FOLLOWING, LAWRENCE HAS CREATED A HUB OF COUNTRY MUSIC IN HER HOMETOWN OF SYDNEY, SURROUNDED BY FAMILY, FRIENDS AND FANS.

Amber started to take singing more seriously a little later in life than many in the music industry. The now star wasn't a musical child prodigy though dabbled in music, signing lessons and karaoke here and there for fun.

It wasn't until Ambers music teacher suggested that she listen to some different genres that she began looking into a singing career.

Achievement after achievement, Amber has redefined what it means to be a go getter. The singer won the Golden Guitar for Female Artist of the Year in 2015 along with many other awards since then.

Lawrence was then given the opportunity to perform for the military in Afghanistan in 2016, a moment to which she jumped at. "Singing for our Troops in Afghanistan was incredible," Amber said.

"To be in such a dangerous place, but

bringing some love and light to our Australian troops for just a short time was so special."

IN 2017 AMBER SANG HER OWN SONG '100 YEAR HANDSHAKE' FOR THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES DONALD TRUMP AND THE PRIME MINISTER OF AUSTRALIA, AMONG MANY OTHER DIGNITARIES. "THAT WAS A PINCH MYSELF MOMENT - SINGING IN NEW YORK, JUST ME AND MY GUITAR, A SONG ABOUT AUSTRALIAN AND AMERICAN RELATIONS IN FRONT OF THE WORLD'S LEADERS," SAID AMBER.

Amber supports many charities including RSL DefenceCare, Special Olympics and The Stroke Foundation and also mentors young artists in the Australian Music Industry.

The caring artist continues to go above and beyond for communities, fans and organisations around her. Don't miss Amber Lawrence's inspiring and authentic 2019 tour.

Amber's next Hunter Valley performance will be at the Upper Hunter Farmers Benefit in Aberdeen on Saturday July 27 and the 'Your Town Your Tour' at the Paterson School of Arts Friday November 15.

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SENSATIONAL SEAFOOD

WHEN IT COMES TO DINING ON THE WATER, YOU DON'T GET MUCH CLOSER TO THE OCEAN THAN SCRATCHLEYS ON THE WHARF, NEWCASTLE.

This harbor front restaurant is renowned amongst Novocastrians as being one of the top Seafood Venues in Newcastle and the Hunter Valley, and for good reason.

As you drive up Wharf Road, it's impossible to miss the stunning architecture of the sail-like establishment. Before you even step through the doors, the views overlooking the picturesque ocean and the salty sea aromas draw you in.

As the friendly and attentive staff lead us to our waterfront table, we began to realise how close to the ocean we really were. Overlooking the ocean in every direction you look, it's obvious this restaurant boasts uninterrupted views all year round.

THE MOONLIT HARBOUR WAS MESMERIZING AS WE ORDERED OUR DRINKS AND HAD A LOOK AT THE MENU FOR DINNER. I CAN ONLY IMAGINE THE SCENERY OVER A SUNLIT LUNCH, WATCHING THE BOATS OF THE HARBOR SAIL BY.

I ordered the char-grilled Marlin Fillet with sautéed bacon, shallots, seeded mustard herb roasted potatoes, smoked paprika aioli and sweet soy drizzle.

And making a return for this month's edition, the pickiest eater in the world, my partner, ordered his signature Chicken Schnitty and Chips (hold the salad) served house crumbed golden fried with a rich gravy and fries.

As an iconic seafood restaurant, it's great to see there is a variety of options to please the not so fishy palate's.

MY MARLIN DISH WAS GRILLED TO PERFECTION. EVERY SINGLE INGREDIENT IN THE DISH COMPLIMENTED THE OTHER. THE ZESTY SMOKED PAPRIKA AIOLI ADDS THE PERFECT TANG TO THE MELT-IN-YOUR-MOUTH FISH. ADDING EVERY INGREDIENT TO EACH MOUTHFUL, IT WAS THE PERFECT MIX TO CREATE DELIGHTFUL, FRESH FLAVOUR.

The Chicken Schnitty, in my partners own words, was tender and juicy and was fried a crispy golden brown. The dish was consumed within a solid 4 minutes, almost a new record for the worlds pickiest eater. A top schnitty in his books.

For the true seafood lovers, I watched as towers of fresh, vibrant coloured seafood were delivered to surrounding tables. A venue famous for these towers of seafood, that's sure to be my choice for my next visit (with the company of a less picky eater).

Whether you're heading to Scratchleys for lunch or for dinner, you won't be disappointed. Book for a romantic dinner, take the family for lunch or even book for a function or wedding, and don't forget the takeaway window for those picnic perfect days.



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NEWS PEOPLE! I'VE SOLD PIELAMENT HOUSE. YEP YOU HEARD IT HERE FIRST. AUSTRALIA'S MOST IMPORTANT BUILDING WILL NOW JUST BE CALLED THE CLUBHOUSE HOTEL AGAIN. NO TEARS PLEASE.

Big But why I hear you ask? Let's just say \$25,000,000 can buy you almost enough pies to last a lifetime, a decent fishing boat and a couple of six packs to cheers it sayonara.

Oh... if the walls could talk. From late night games of euchre with world leaders to being the unofficial secret holiday home of the late greatest Australian Prime Minister Bob Hawke...we've seen it all.

Julian Assange even applied for asylum after being booted from the Ecuadorian Embassy. Being a little bit paranoid he withdrew his application though due to the very real fear that Pamela Anderson would ditch him and come after me. Being the legendary pants man that I am it was probably a smart decision. Not only that, the missus would have knocked her out.

ANYWAY, EVERY GREAT JOURNEY MUST COME TO AN END AND MY KEG

IS JUST ABOUT EMPTY. OH, HOW I WILL MISS THE OWNERS OF ALL THE HUNTER BAKERIES DROPPING IN FOR A COLD BEER WHILE DROPPING OFF A FEW HOT PIES.

I loved sharing a yarn, a pie and a beer sitting under the priceless artwork adorning the historic walls of Pielament House. The priceless artwork featuring all the greats including St George, The NSW Blues and Singleton Greyhounds will now be moved to our castle up in the Heights.

So where to from here I hear you ask? Well after fitting a new pie warmer into the Jayco we intend hitting the road for a national pie tour. First destination will be the Bamaga Bakehaus, a short 47 hour or 3,188.8 km drive up the road from Singo to the tip of Straya.

From there it will be a quick 5,451 km 73-hour trip over to Anderson St Port Hedland just to visit some old mates at The Boulevard Bakehouse. Of course, we will throw a few random roadhouse pies in along the way, and if we get desperate, I'll get the missus to knock up some roadkill pies too. From there who knows?

Yes, like the famous line I came up with for Terminator...I'll be back! I will still be your Pieminister, so you can stop sooking now. You can't keep me away from a Hunter pie for long. Talk to ya from the road next month.

Cheers from 'The Clubby'. Sol

BEER O'CLOCK

WIN!

WIN A 4 PK OF HOLGATE TEMPTRESS CHOC PORTER AS FEATURED IN THIS MONTH'S BEER REVIEW.

FOR YOUR CHANCE TO WIN, SIMPLY SMS: BEER'S ON US, YOUR NAME, AND YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS TO 0438 474 290.



Limit of one entry per person.
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BY SUBMITTING AN ENTRY, YOU CONSENT TO THE USE OF YOUR CONTACT DETAILS FOR PROMOTIONAL AND MARKETING PURPOSES.



BOWDLER'S BEER REVIEW

@ THE COALFACE BEER EXPERT RICHARD BOWDLER BRINGS YOU THIS MONTH'S BEER REVIEW.

HOLGATE TEMPTRESS CHOC PORTER

Name: Temptress Choc Porter

Made: Holgate Brewhouse, Victoria Australia

Info: A traditional black beer with a modern twist. Brewed with rich cocoa and vanilla beans. Malts used are ale, vienna, crystal, brown and chocolate.

Cost: \$4.90 / stubby, \$24 / 4pak

Alcohol: 6.0%

Color: Black as Midnight.

Nose: Chocolate malty - nice!

Taste: A pleasant slightly burnt malt that is the hallmark of a good black.

Mouth: This porter is full, heavy and smooth. A proper black beer for drinkers who are not scared of a schooner of heavy-duty ale.

Aftertaste: Finishes with a mild hops bitter hit from 5 to 9 seconds after a swig

Comments: I really enjoyed this beer. An awesome black with lots of malt and a great smell. A bold, full bodied beer that has a great mild hops finish that would kick ass with a meat pie or a good steak. This porter won the Australian international beer awards for best porter in 2010 and 2015. Holgate Brewhouse have a winner here and it is easy to see why.

Score: 9.5/10. Packing more of a hopsy finish than most black beers in combo with its liquid smoothness, make this one of the best black beers I've ever had.

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C	A	T	E	B	L	A	N	C	H	E	T	T	O	B
U	O	H	N	I	C	O	L	E	K	I	D	M	A	N

BEN LEE	HUGH JACKMAN	MIRANDA KERR
CATE BLANCHETT	ISLA FISHER	NICOLE KIDMAN
CHRIS HEMSWORTH	KEITH URBAN	PAUL HOGAN
ELLE MACPHERSON	KYLIE MINOGUE	PORTIA DE ROSSI
ERIC BANA	LARA WORTHINGTON	RUBY ROSE
HEATH LEDGER	LIAM HEMSWORTH	STEVE IRWIN

@ THE COALFACE PRIZE WINNERS

VOLUME 3 – NO 7: MAY-JUNE

ASN Meals	Brad Bale	Café La Luna Cake	Vanessa Blyton
Components Only Crib for the Crew	Adam Hughes	Oliver Boots	Amie Dhu
Crib Bag	Ken Fletcher	Ledlenser	Joshua Partington
Roberts Meats Raffle	Diane Bailey	Raw Dog Food	Tony Farr
Beer's On Us	Karin Mc Rae	Star Struck – Allison Lowe, Debbie Dye, Craig Woodley, Trish Cox, Kerrie Northey & Linda Stevens.	
Clubhouse XXXX	Denise Hodgson		

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL OUR WINNERS!

THIS MONTH'S @ THE COALFACE TRIVIA ALL THINGS AUSTRALIAN

- Q1. Who is 'Matilda' in the song Waltzing Matilda?
Q2. What year did Vegemite appear on Australian supermarket shelves?
Q3. What is the National flower of Australia?
Q4. In what year was Paul Keating elected as Prime Minister?
Q5. What worldwide pandemic killed more than 12,000 Aussies in 1919?
Q6. What was the first album to sell more than 1 million copies in Australia?
Q7. By total area, Australia is the 6th largest country in the world? True or False?
Q8. How many Senators are there in Australian Parliament?

A6: Whispeting Jack by John Farnham	A7: True	A8: 76	A3: The Golden Wattle	A4: 1991	A5: The Spanish Flu	A2: 1923
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CRUISE THE CANALS

A COMBINATION OF INCREDIBLE CANALS SURROUNDED BY MARBLE PALACES AND STONE SIDEWALKS, THE UNIQUE CITY OF VENICE, ITALY IS ENCHANTING TO SAY THE LEAST.

This mesmerising city is built on the waters of the Adriatic Sea and presents picturesque sights that you would expect to only find in movies. The only way I can begin to describe the experience is that it's like visiting the most beautiful painting you have ever seen.

I HAVE NEVER BEEN SO ENTHRALLED BY A CITY'S BEAUTY AND ELEGANCE. FROM THE MOMENT I ARRIVED, VENICE DREW ME IN AND I FELT THE NEED TO EXPLORE.

I made my way over the Famous Rialto Bridge, a stunning overpass leading me to the Rialto Market filled with local vendors selling fresh produce, fish and spices. This is a must for any visitor as it gives you the chance to experience life in Venice and the local commercial hub.

The locals are used to the hustle and bustle of living in a popular tourist destination and mostly greet you with "Buongiorno" and a smile.

You get an overwhelming feeling of nostalgia as you cruise the network of channels that weave through the captivating architecture of local homes and buildings dating back over thousands of years. There's honestly no place on earth like it.

THERE ARE NO ROADS OR CARS IN VENICE MEANING THE ONLY WAY TO GET AROUND IS EITHER BY FOOT OR BOAT, THOUGH THIS JUST ADDS TO THE AMAZING EXPERIENCE.

Not to worry, you will never have to wait long for transport with hundreds of gondolas, water taxis and boats filling the waterways.

Of course, the most authentic and unparalleled way around is by the traditional gondola. Possibly the most recognisable feature of Venice, each gondola is manned by a well-dressed local Gondolier. You regularly hear the Gondola drivers singing Italian songs or sharing the history of Venice with the on-board tourists.

AS YOU CRUISE THE CANALS YOU GET TO TAKE IN THE HEART OF THE HISTORIC CITY. IT'S OBVIOUS WHY MANY DESCRIBE VENICE AS ONE OF THE MOST ROMANTIC CITIES IN THE WORLD.



When you jump on a gondola, ask them to take you to the Piazza San Marco, also known as Saint Mark's Square. This was the first place I visited when I jumped out the boat and made my way on foot and I suggest you do the same.

The bustling piazza is one of Europe's most famous meeting places, lined with shops, cafes with exquisite traditional foods and museums. While you're there be sure to grab some Italian Gelato as you explore, it's bloody delicious.

I'll also warn you now, DO NOT feed the pigeons or seagulls. I am not joking when I say the seagulls are almost 4 times the size of those we have in Australia and they will not leave you alone.

Whilst avoiding the ravenous birds, be sure to check out Saint Mark's Basilica Cathedral and take in its sophisticated and elegant design as you listen to the bells of San Marco.

The food in Venice is delectable, the locals are lovely, the culture is unique and the architecture is absolutely magnificent. The experience is like no other, so start saving and get your butt to Venice!



MACHEnergy Mount Pleasant Operation

MACH Energy Australia oversees commitments relating to the Aboriginal Community Development Fund (ACDF)

MACH Energy welcomes the opportunity this provides for us to make a meaningful contribution to the sustainability and well-being of Aboriginal communities in the Upper Hunter Valley

ACDF - "Targeting issues, needs & opportunities of local Aboriginal communities"

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