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As the year comes to a close, it's hard not to get caught up in the chaos of Christmas. But take a moment to reflect on the year that's been. For our mining industry there's been a few lows, but a lot more highs. It's looking very promising that 2020 is going to continue on the upward trend we've seen for the last few years.

For us here @ The Coalface, it's been an absolute pleasure and a privilege to bring you the community and industry stories of the Hunter for another year. We hope there are many more years to come.

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!



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DESPITE THE WORST DROUGHT IN A GENERATION AND SEVERE BUSHFIRES, 2019 HAS BEEN A REASONABLY GOOD YEAR FOR THE HUNTER MINING INDUSTRY. WE'VE SEEN HEALTHY DEMAND AT NEAR RECORD LEVELS, LEADING TO MORE HUNTER COAL JOBS.

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

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

however, more is needed to properly reform planning in our State.

Most importantly, we need to support our hard-working miners and their families, supplier businesses, and our terrific mining communities that help deliver a strong and stable economy for NSW.

As we look to 2020, the NSW Minerals Council will continue our strong advocacy on behalf of the Hunter coal industry and the mining families that rely on it to ensure

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

There are challenges ahead for our industry, in particular a planning system in NSW that is still a direct threat to jobs and investment. We've been calling on the NSW Government to stand up for mining families and fix the planning system. There has been some signs of support, including from the Deputy Premier,

better outcomes for our wonderful mining communities.

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

STEPHEN GALILEE, CEO, NSW MINERALS COUNCIL



A BIG YEAR FOR MINING

OPINION

THERE'S NO DOUBT 2019 HAS BEEN A BIG AND LARGELY POSITIVE YEAR FOR AUSTRALIAN MINING.

Demand for mining workers across Australia continues to grow, creating new job opportunities particularly in regional communities.

Growing investment by mining is helping to secure Australia's long-term prosperity, with more than \$2.3 billion spent on minerals exploration in 2018-19 – up 19 per cent from the previous year.

Resources exports delivered a new record full-year trade surplus of \$49.9 billion – confirming the importance of the mining industry and the production phase of the mining boom to the Australian economy.

Exports of our world-class coal, including that mined by the hard-working men and women of the Hunter, were up to \$69 billion – part of the resources sector accounting for six in every ten dollars in export revenue in 2018-19.

Of course, our industry's success is not all about dollars of course. Booming exports and the royalties and company tax paid by mining means more funding for teachers, nurses and police.

And it's great that support from Australians for the nation's world-leading minerals industry continues to increase.

THE MCA'S 'THERE'S MORE TO AUSTRALIAN MINING' CAMPAIGN – FOCUSED ON EFFECTIVE MINE REHABILITATION AND HOW MINING AND FARMING WORKED TOGETHER – BOOSTED SUPPORT AND REDUCED OPPOSITION TO ITS LOWEST LEVEL IN YEARS.

It's also positive that we've got a pro-mining government in Canberra, which is listening to regional communities who value sustainable jobs and commonsense policies over the noise made by a small minority.

It hasn't been all good news for the industry however. For example, while the Productivity Commission's study of resources sector regulation is a positive first step, it needs to result in fewer and better regulations and better performance by regulators and governments.

When we are underperforming competitor nations in critical areas, business taxation is high, environmental laws are inefficient, prescriptive and uncoordinated, approvals are too slow and approved projects are bogged down in dubious legal challenges, it's clear we've got a long way to go.

Governments can't claim to support

mining when they allow unelected panels like the Independent Planning Commission in NSW to block projects which will create hundreds of much-needed long-term jobs in regions like Mudgee.

Meanwhile, energy costs are too high for businesses wanting to set up in regional NSW and restrictive workplace relations are a drag on productivity.

Our education and training system hasn't kept pace with changing workforce needs. This means our member companies are frustrated by the lack of job-ready graduates when the industry is expanding and new export markets like India are opening up.

As demand for skilled workers grows across Australia as the mining

production boom continues, our training and workforce development will need to be more flexible and of higher quality.

We also have to lift our game on health and safety. Our industry needs to show that we are improving our systems and practices to reduce injury and fatalities, while improving both physical and mental health.

This is important not just to the 240,000 people who work in Australian mining, but also their families and communities.

As we farewell 2019, the MCA wishes all Coalface readers and their families a very Merry Christmas and a safe and happy New Year!

THE NEW RESOURCES SKILLS ORGANISATION PILOT WHICH WILL BE ESTABLISHED BY THE MCA AS PART OF THE MORRISON GOVERNMENT'S HALF-BILLION DOLLAR OVERHAUL OF THE VOCATIONAL EDUCATION AND TRAINING SYSTEM WILL CREATE A PATH FOR OUR WORLD-LEADING MINERALS INDUSTRY TO TRIAL NEW WAYS OF WORKING WITHIN THE CURRENT NATIONAL TRAINING SYSTEM.

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IN THE NEWS...

LOCAL POLICEWOMAN RECOGNISED FOR HER AMAZING WORK

Senior Constable Sheree Gray has taken out the Rotary Community Award at the 2019 Rotary Clubs of NSW Police Officer of the Year ceremony.

The Rotary Community Award recognises the exceptional efforts of NSW Police Force employees who have worked for the benefit of the community, putting service above self whether on or off duty.

Senior Constable Gray has been a part of the Hunter Valley Police District for the past 18 years performing her duties as the Youth Liaison and Crime Prevention Officer and has been an instrumental part of the local community as an ambassador for promoting partnerships between police and the public.

LOCAL BULL RIDERS BUCKING THE WORLD

Gresford’s Cliff Richardson was one of only two Australian riders invited/qualified to compete at the World PBR Finals and qualified after the PBR Australia event at Wodonga where he went 3-for-3 scoring 90 points.

The tough as nails Aussie competitor had three cracking nights of bull riding in Las Vegas, covering bulls to put himself in 9th spot overall in the World Finals.

The finals event in Australia was held at the Townsville Entertainment Centre and Cliff’s brother Lachlan Richardson took out that event.

NEW GM AT MOUNT ARTHUR HAS HOMEGROWN ADVANTAGE

BHP Mount Arthur has a new General Manager.

The former General Manager David Boshoff decided to resign from the position in September and will become the project director at the controversial Adani Carmichael mine and rail project in Queensland.

Adam Lancey, a long time Hunter Valley resident and BHP employee, will be taking up the position.

OPPOSITION LEADER SAYS IT’S MORE THAN JUST HOT AIR

Opposition Leader Jodi McKay visited the Upper Hunter earlier this month urging the government to acknowledge the air quality problem in the region.

“This is not about attributing blame, this is not about attacking coal mining, this is about recognising that in Singleton with 17 open cut mines there is an inherent issue with dust in particular,”

“What we know is that there have been more than 600 alerts through the air quality monitoring network over the last year, that’s double last year and it doesn’t matter what the EPA or the local member says the issue is there and there is one that needs

to be addressed by government,” she said.

“What I’m saying to government today is that there needs to be a greater emphasis put on this area, this particular area contributes so much to the economy of this State, there are many people who have jobs here, thousands of jobs generated here in the Hunter in direct and indirect employment,” said the Opposition Leader.

Jodi McKay also called out Upper Hunter MP Michael Johnsen for ignoring the community and not addressing their concerns on the issue.

He responded saying that the Opposition were undertaking an anti-mining campaign, using information from anti-mining sources in the Upper Hunter.

TWO CAUGHT LIGHTING FIRES DURING TOTAL FIRE BAN

Two people were caught lighting a fire during two separate Total Fire Bans.

Emergency services were called to a home on Long Point Road near Singleton and spoke to a 26-year-old man who allegedly lit a fire to burn rubbish. To make matters worse the fire had been lit not 40 metres from a shed that contained petrol, oil and fertilisers. He’ll face court in 2020.

Police were also called to a Muswellbrook home where as they walked into the backyard the 37-year-old female resident quickly threw a bucket of water over the fire and told police she was just cooking something different for her children for dinner. Police say she will be dealt with for breaching a total fire ban.

SINGLETON ON A HIGH

Singleton has been chosen to be the spot for Australia’s largest pharmaceutical grade facility to grow medicinal cannabis.

Startup Canngea is the company behind the plan setting up Australia’s largest pharmaceutical grade indoor facility to grow and manufacture high quality cannabis products and is the only company

with a contract in the country.

Canngea will construct the first facility of its kind in Australia, equipped to provide an end-to-end solution to clients - growing, harvesting, extracting, packaging, labelling and distributing client’s branded products, with industry leading technology.

It is on track to start construction in 2020.

SINGLETON FIRIES SMOKING OUT BROKEN ALARMS

Singleton Fire and Rescue NSW has received more smoke alarms for the community thanks to Glencore.

The fire fighters at Singleton kicked off a safety program a couple of months ago following the Britliffe Close house fire tragedy that saw three children killed on June 26 this year.

It prompted them to send out a strike team of fire fighters who door knocked on more than 1000 Singleton homes checking on fire safety such as smoke alarms and making sure families had a plan in place should the unthinkable happen to their home.

Between June and August they installed 306 smoke alarms out of the 1017 homes they visited.

AUSTRALIA PACIFIC COAL DIG BACK

Australian Pacific Coal will be lodging an appeal against the decision on Dartbrook mine.

The mothballed Dartbrook mine was given the green light by the Independent Planning Commission (IPC) on August 9 this year, but the IPC only approved the mine to open for five years to 2022.

That decision came despite very strong opposition to the project particularity from Upper Hunter Shire Council and locals.

Now the Board has resolved to lodge an appeal against the determination on their Modification 7 Submission.

“The Board continues to consider whether, in addition to appealing against the Mod 7 determination, a further modification application (Mod 8) will be lodged to seek further flexibility in relation to the manner in which the Dartbrook Underground Coal Mine can be restarted and operated.”

Paving THE WAY

ON ITS 10TH ANNIVERSARY, THE WAMBO COAL SINGLETON HALL OF FAME SAW A RECORD 12 NEW INDUCTEES HONOURED WITH A SPECIAL PAVER IN THE SINGLETON CIVIC PRECINCT.

The dozen new inductees were welcomed into the ranks at a special ceremony on November 20 at Singleton Civic Centre.

Among those honoured at the ceremony included long-standing councillor and SES volunteer John Martin and his late wife Jan Martin who were inducted in the community service category, along with long-time businessman Richard Martin, Jenny Doran, Michael McCrone, Vera Smith (deceased), David Walker, David Williams and Gail Solman.

Local organisations the Country Women’s Association Singleton branch, the Rotary Club of Singleton and red Cross Singleton NSW Branch were also inducted in the Community Service category.

Ian Hedley, who started his business, Hedweld at Mt Thorley and which has grown to a world leader in the design and manufacture of innovative products, was inducted in the business category.

RUN IN A PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN SINGLETON COUNCIL AND PEABODY WAMBO COAL, THE HALL OF FAME WAS ESTABLISHED IN 2009 TO RECOGNISE THOSE PEOPLE WHO WERE BORN IN, OR HAVE A STRONG ASSOCIATION WITH SINGLETON AND WHO HAVE ATTAINED PROMINENCE AT A STATE, NATIONAL OR INTERNATIONAL LEVEL IN THEIR FIELD OF ENDEAVOUR.

Chair of the Wambo Coal Singleton Hall of Fame Committee, Cr Godfrey Adamthwaite, said it was a fitting way to mark the 10th annual induction ceremony with 12 new additions.

“Since the first inductions in 2009, we have paid tribute to 46 people, plus 12 more tonight who are recognised and celebrated with a

paver on our Hall of Fame,” he said.

“This isn’t an ordinary footpath – it’s a pathway laid with the achievements of the individuals, families and organisations who helped make Singleton what it is today.”

“All 12 of tonight’s inductees are most deserving of this great honour to take their place on a prestigious list of individuals, families and organisations, and stand as an example to us all to strive for the highest levels of achievement in whatever field we choose.”

“I congratulate all inductees and their families over the course of 10 years, and thank Peabody Wambo Coal for their ongoing support since the inception of the Hall of Fame to recognise the outstanding people in our community.”



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BUY ANY TORO MOWER AND YOU COULD WIN THE PRICE OF YOUR MOWER BACK

A family had twin boys whose only resemblance to each other were their looks. Opposite in every way, one was an eternal optimist, the other a doom and gloom pessimist. Just to see what would happen, on Christmas day their father loaded the pessimist’s room with every imaginable toy and game. The optimist’s room he loaded with horse manure.

That night he found the pessimist crying bitterly and asked him why. “Because my friends will be jealous, I’ll have to read all these instructions, I’ll constantly need batteries, and my toys will eventually get broken,” answered the pessimist twin.

Passing the optimist twin’s room, the father found him dancing for joy in the pile of manure. “What are you so happy about?” he asked. To which his optimist twin replied, “There’s got to be a pony in here somewhere!”

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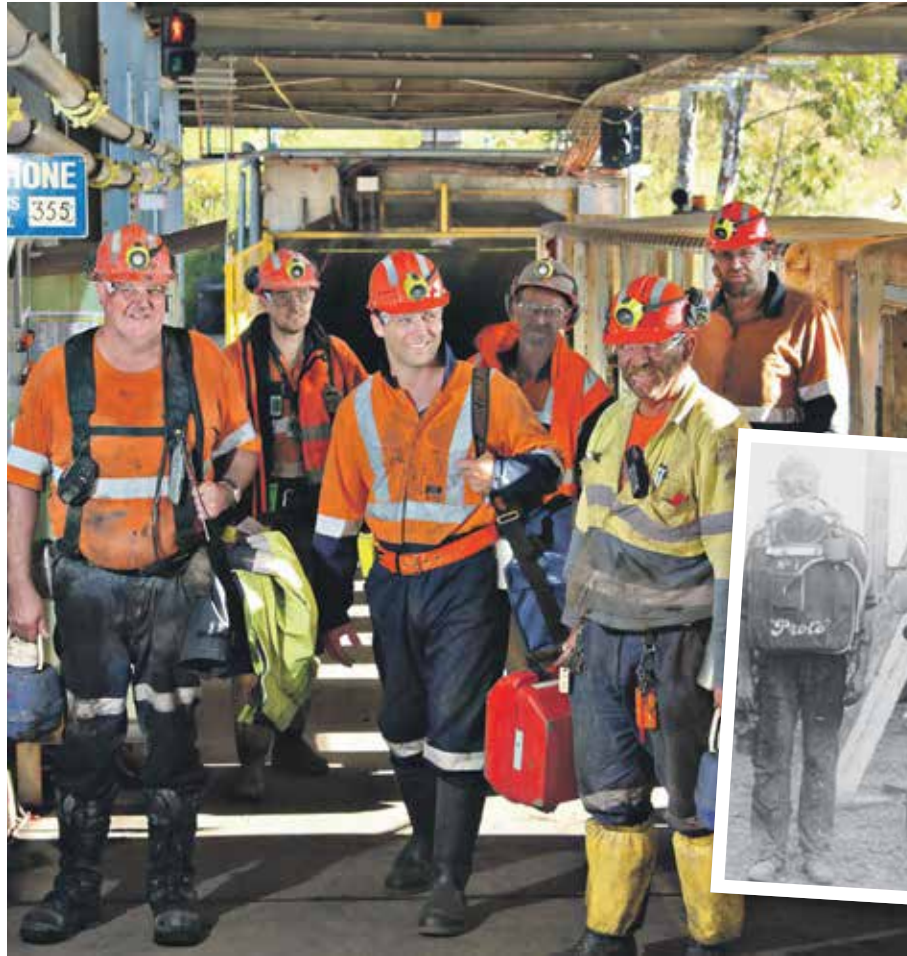
Coal Services is an industry-owned organisation committed to providing critical services and expertise to the NSW coal mining industry. Jointly owned by two shareholders, the NSW Minerals Council and the Construction, Forestry, Maritime, Mining and Energy Union (CFMMEU), their purpose, vision and values are aligned to focus on the safety and health of our industry and its workers.

Heading up the organisation is CEO Lucy Flemming, who sat down with @ The Coalface to reflect on the year 2019 as it comes to a close.

"It's been a busy year for the industry and for Coal Services. Across our industry we have seen indicators of growth which are also reflected in parts of our business, such as attendances at training and occupational health services," said Lucy.

Lucy explained that these are just some of the company's services that help to deliver on their purpose, 'to protect'.

"Many of your readers will be familiar with the work we do. For example, health surveillance, dust monitoring, mines rescue safety



training and workers compensation. Our organisation exists for the sole purpose of protecting the health and safety of workers in the industry; to make sure workers go home to their loved ones after every shift."

"WE HAVE WORKED HARD AS AN INDUSTRY TO MAINTAIN SOME OF THE BEST HEALTH AND SAFETY STANDARDS IN THE WORLD. THIS DOESN'T JUST HAPPEN, BUT IS A RESULT OF CONCERTED EFFORTS TO SAFEGUARD AGAINST INJURY AND OCCUPATIONAL DISEASE. OUR INDUSTRY'S REGULATIONS, SAFETY CULTURE AND IMPROVEMENTS IN TECHNOLOGY AND WORK PRACTICES OVER THE YEARS HAS CERTAINLY HAD A POSITIVE INFLUENCE."

And the statistics certainly back that up. At the end of June 2019, the NSW coal industry claims frequency rate was 4.3%. Compare that to the year 2001-02, when around 1 in 4



workers sustained a workplace injury and the claims frequency rate was around 25%. The claims frequency rate has declined steadily since that time to around 1 in 23 workers, a reduction of more than 80%. A remarkable achievement.

"The results we are achieving in NSW are a reflection of the commitment of all of our industry stakeholders working together. By no means does it mean that we have nothing more to do. Prevention is really the focus and our priority; and everyone has

a role to play in this. The work we do supports workers, employers, the Resources Regulator and other industry bodies to help keep workers safe," said Lucy.

Coal Services work with a collaborative model unlike any other worldwide, connected through a common purpose – to protect. They do this in many ways.

Under the NSW Coal Industry Act 2001, Coal Services is tasked with executing NSW government Orders 34 (training), 40 (dust abatement),

43 (health surveillance) and 42 (dust monitoring) to work with coal mining companies on dust mitigation and control techniques and health surveillance.

They also operate a Specialised Health and Safety Scheme that provides an integrated suite of services aimed at preventing injury and illness in the workplace. These services help employers to identify, assess, monitor and control many risks inherent in the NSW coal mining industry.

"Managing health and safety is our business. We regularly review our processes as part of business as usual activity. As industry has changed in line with technology and mining processes, so too have our health and dust monitoring processes," Lucy explained.

"We will continue to grow and adapt just like the industry will in the coming years, but we will never forget our core purpose – to protect," said Lucy.

THE YEAR IN REVIEW



AT 30 JUNE 2019 THERE WERE 41 COAL MINING OPERATIONS IN NSW, RESPONSIBLE FOR WINNING 256 MILLION TONNES OF RAW COAL DURING THE YEAR.

During the year there was net job growth of 4.3 per cent, taking the production workforce at NSW coal mines to 22,308 full time equivalent workers.

In the twelve months ending 30 June 2019:

- 10,917 pre-placement and periodic



medical assessments to monitor the health of the workforce and protect against occupational disease.

- 19,719 attendances at Mines Rescue training courses, helping to build safety leaders for the industry. This figure includes attendances at the Generic Underground Induction for coal mines which has grown for the third consecutive year.

- 3,696 respirable and inhalable dust samples on workers across every coal mine site in the state.



Airborne dust exposure standard exceedance rates in the NSW coal industry continue to improve year on year which is significant from a health risk perspective.

- 14,096 calibrations of gas detection equipment to help keep mine environments at safe levels of flammable and noxious gases.

The above are just some of the preventative services Coal Services provided that support all NSW coal mine workers, employers and the communities in which they operate.

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TERRIFIC TURN OUT

COMMUNITY, GOVERNMENT AND THE MINING INDUSTRY CAME TOGETHER IN RECORD NUMBERS IN A COLLABORATION OF IDEAS AIMED AT BOTH MINIMISING THE IMPACTS AND INCREASING THE OPPORTUNITIES FROM MINING AT THE UPPER HUNTER MINING DIALOGUE'S ANNUAL FORUM ON NOVEMBER 19.

'AVE A LAUGH WITH

PH 6545 1066

BUY ANY TORO MOWER AND YOU COULD WIN THE PRICE OF YOUR MOWER BACK

What do you call a snowman in the summer?
 A puddle.

A record turnout of 160 people gathered at the Singleton Civic Centre for the forum with a combined goal of developing ideas aimed at making the Upper Hunter a better place for all to live.

The Dialogue was formed in 2011 as a collaboration between the mining industry, government agencies and the community with the aim of lessening the cumulative impacts of mining.

After eight years since the Dialogue's inception, the Annual Forum continues to draw a wide range of attendees with important interests and views.

DIALOGUE CHAIR SARAH WITHELL WELCOMED THE DIVERSITY OF REPRESENTATION AND VIEWS AS AN OPPORTUNITY FOR "TRULY RESPECTFUL ENGAGEMENT".

"The Dialogue's Annual Forum is an important event for the Upper Hunter to help shape the Dialogue's path moving forward. It provides an opportunity for people to make a difference through respectful dialogue and work on outcomes together," Ms Withell said.

"Ideas for projects and potential solutions to the current issues are discussed and developed by forum attendees with all having the opportunity to contribute their views. All of the ideas discussed at the forum will now be further analysed and prioritised by the Dialogue's working groups – which are made up of community, government and industry representatives – and likely initiate new Dialogue projects.



"BY LISTENING TO CONCERNS, COLLECTIVELY TAKING ACTION AND DEVELOPING SOLUTIONS, EVERYONE CAN PROSPER."

In fact, at this year's forum, attendees witnessed the launch of the Dialogue's new procurement hub which was developed by the new Economic and Social Development Working Group the formation of which was an idea arising from last year's forum discussion.

Attendees also heard from Division of Resources and Geoscience Executive Director Stephen Wills who provided an update on the NSW Government's long-term land use planning projects and activities.

As well, preliminary data on a project evaluating air quality changes in the Upper Hunter and other regions was presented at the forum. This project resulted from discussions at the 2018 forum and seeks to understand how the air quality has changed in the Upper Hunter and if this is consistent with other regions in NSW. Preliminary data shows similar results across the areas being compared but will be further analysed before a final report is released.

The 2019 Annual Forum also featured 27 displays from mining companies, NSW Government agencies, local government, community and business groups which allowed attendees to discuss environmental issues or network face to face with the mining and business experts on procurement opportunities.

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Thank you

Despite ravaged by drought, Hunter communities continue to rally together at events and fundraising initiatives to support the community's own Westpac Rescue Helicopter. Thank you to these communities and our amazing volunteers, who despite facing adversity, continue to generously support our Service.

Whilst we will be ready to respond 24-7, please take care this festive season and enjoy a safe Christmas and New Year.

OPEN YOUR HEARTS

FROM THE CATASTROPHIC DROUGHT TO THE BUSHFIRES AND THE HIDDEN MANY WHO ARE FACING OTHER REAL STRUGGLES IN LIFE, IT REALLY IS A GREAT TIME OF YEAR TO OPEN YOUR HEARTS AND WALLETS.

A lot has been said and written in recent times around helping others facing tough times and loss. I couldn't agree more that this is a particularly important time to step up and do what you can if you can.

Christmas can be particularly hard in tough times as it is the season where society, people and communities focus on celebration.

What is there to celebrate though if you have been out on your land putting bullets through the heads of cattle or other livestock you have lovingly and painstakingly been raising to provide a living for your family. Prized breeders that in some cases have been bred up over a generation are literally being lost to drought.

Then there are the fires. At the time of writing this, 612 homes have been lost along with the lives of a number of people. Not a great way to start the Christmas season is an understatement in the extreme. Then there are the phenomenal stock and infrastructure losses. If our firefighters and the RFS are not truly some of the bravest most selfless people in our communities then I would love to know who is.

Thanks Giving FOR at Christmas

Here @ The Coalface, we like many, are determined to do our bit. With no intention to blow our trumpet, but as an example, our crew have discussed at length about where we can spread a bit of love. So, from toys for kids, to Xmas hams for community lunches, a carton of coldies for the firies and cold hard cash to people tirelessly helping farmers, plus some others, we are proud to do what we can this particularly challenging year. Have a think about what you can do at your workplace or within your circle of friends. It doesn't have to be much, only what you can manage. Imagine how much we can do if we all put in. Then hopefully, everyone will get a bit of Xmas joy. Have an awesome, safe and prosperous Xmas. Heaps of bloody joy to you all!

IN EVERYDAY DAY COMMUNITY LIFE, THERE ARE ALSO THE PEOPLE WHO THROUGH NO FAULT OF THEIR OWN SUFFER A RANGE OF CHALLENGES FROM MENTAL ILLNESS TO PLAIN BAD LUCK THAT PUTS THEM IN CHALLENGING AND SOMETIMES TERRIFYING POSITIONS. HOMELESSNESS, DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND LIFE THREATENING HEALTH CHALLENGES ARE JUST A FEW.

WIN!

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MACHINE MINING

LIKE MUCH OF THE WORLD AROUND US, MINING IS CHANGING FAST. NEW, SMARTER AND FASTER MACHINES DRIVEN BY ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE (AI) ARE TAKING ON LARGER AND MORE IMPORTANT ROLES ON MINE SITES. SO IS THIS SOMETHING TO FEAR OR EMBRACE?

If you're a fan of the Terminator movies and their (fictional) depiction of 'evil AI' in the form of Skynet trying to take over the world, you'd probably be living in fear. Thankfully that's just a movie, and it's a much different and better story in the real world.

THE REALITY IS THAT AI AND AUTOMATION ARE MAKING MINING SAFER AND MORE PRODUCTIVE.

When the MCA wanted to find out how AI and automation will shape the future of mining to help our

members prepare for it, we asked EY to look into the crystal ball.

They mapped every job along the value chain of mining – from exploration to customer services – and the skills that were needed for each.

EY then had a close look at the many examples of applying new technology to mining from around the world – what technology did they bring in, what new skills were needed to accompany them and critically, what did this mean for workers?

They then applied those insights to give a glimpse of the future, finding that 77 per cent of jobs in Australian mining will be enhanced or redesigned due to technology within the next five years.

Innovative practices will enhance the performance and productivity of 42 per cent of Australian mining jobs, with a further 35 per cent of occupations being redesigned and upskilled leading to more valuable employment opportunities.

SO WHAT DOES THIS MEAN? ESSENTIALLY, NEW AND DIFFERENT JOBS.

Automation will create the opportunity for reskilling and work in new areas. These enhanced and new skills will help create more productive and safer mines. Training will help make jobs such as metal fitters, machinists, building and engineering technical and experts in electronics and mechatronic future ready.

For example, a shot-firer working on a drilling team will have the opportunity in Australia's future minerals workforce to use drone technology to monitor automated rigs.

MODERN MINES WILL BE FOCUSED ON USING TECHNOLOGY TO WORK SMARTER AND SAFER.

Mining companies have been rolling out AI and automation at their sites across the country. Importantly, it has not meant job losses.

Recently when BHP announced they will be progressively introducing autohaul trucks at their Goonyella

coal mine in Queensland, they confirmed there would be no employee redundancies, either forced or voluntary.

In fact, the announcement would see 50 new roles created on site at Goonyella. BHP is investing millions in Central Queensland schools, TAFES and universities to make the Bowen Basin and the local workforce a strong focus for mining technology and skills.

On the other side of the country at BHP's Jimblebar mine, autonomous haulage has reduced significant events involving trucks by 87 per cent, and reduced haulage costs by 20 per cent.

Rio Tinto is also embracing AI and laying claim to the world's largest robot – an autonomous train in WA. Thankfully they describe their robots as nice 'more C3PO than The Terminator'!

Using AI, Rio Tinto runs a 1,700km railway in the Pilbara, safely and efficiently moving iron ore from 16 of their mines to their shipping terminals. About a quarter of their trucks are also autonomous and they're planning to expand their fleet.

AUTOMATION AND AI SHOULD BE EMBRACED AS A NEW TOOL TO IMPROVE MINING – MAKING IT SAFER, MORE PRODUCTIVE AND MORE PROFITABLE.

Australian mining will continue to take advantage of innovation, technology and new ways of working to create high-paying, high skilled jobs in a safer environment.

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ABOVE AND BEYOND

IN 2019, THE WESTPAC RESCUE HELICOPTER SERVICE HAS CONTINUED ITS ROLE AS A VITAL COMPONENT OF THE REGION'S EMERGENCY CARE CHAIN. AS THE YEAR ENDS, THE SERVICE WILL UNDERTAKE ALMOST 1,500 MISSIONS ACROSS NORTHERN NSW EQUATING TO ABOUT 2,000 FLYING HOURS.

This work has included a variety of emergency situations where the helicopter has delivered Critical Care Medical Teams, NSW Ambulance Paramedics and NSW Health Doctors to provide lifesaving medical treatment, as patients are transported to specialist hospitals locally or to major trauma hospitals such as the John Hunter.

To keep the helicopters flying, the Service's engineering team brings experience from all over the world and this year they carried out the largest heavy maintenance on one of the AW139 aircraft. This project took just over two months and

"Despite facing many challenges this year, the business community has continued to support the work of the Rescue Helicopter, encouraging their staff to support us through wage deduction programs and other initiatives," Eather said.

"Local business big and small, as well as local communities, have supported our events as sponsors or as attendees, ranging from dinners, golf days, pig races, horse rides, sporting events including bowls and rugby league days and many more. The support, in the face of drought and the other issues facing

TREVOR'S STORY

IT WAS FIVE YEARS BEFORE TREVOR BENDEICH KNEW THAT HE WOULD KEEP HIS LEG AFTER A MOTOR BIKE ACCIDENT, AN INCIDENT THAT CHANGED HIS LIFE FOREVER AND INTRODUCED HIM TO THE VITAL AEROMEDICAL SERVICE PROVIDED BY THE WESTPAC RESCUE HELICOPTER.

Trevor had just knocked off from his shift at the Mount Thorley Mine, near Singleton, on the 28 November 2008.

"A ute pulled out in front of me. I don't remember much about the accident except that when I went to stand up, there was this almighty pain in my leg that dropped me immediately," Trevor said.

As 'luck' had it that day, a major piece of mining infrastructure had just been delivered to the nearby mine which had been escorted by two NSW Police Highway Patrol cars. The Police immediately swung into action and called NSW Ambulance who tasked the Westpac Rescue Helicopter to the incident.

One of Trevor's work mates came upon the accident and while Trevor does not remember, he asked him to call his wife Lisa. According to Lisa the 13 kilometre journey with her friend driving was the longest she had ever experienced. It had been drizzling with rain and when she arrived, emergency services personnel had Trevor covered in a waterproof sheet for protection.

"She thought I was gone," Trevor said. "I remember the rotors of the helicopter and arriving at the John Hunter Hospital and thinking this is exactly how they told us it would work," he said.

Trevor joined the mine in 1982 and not long after that became involved

in Mines Rescue. He had undergone training with NSW Ambulance and the Rescue Helicopter so when he was transported and handed over to the medical team at the hospital, he felt comforted that he knew he was in the best possible hands.

Over the next five years, Trevor underwent nine operations to his leg.

"My bones were like mashed potatoes. But I was incredibly lucky that my surgeon was a 'newbie' and keen to try out new ways to keep my leg. He and the team at the John Hunter were amazing and used a number of contraptions that looked like tea towel racks to mend my bones and protect nerves and vessels. I have good use of my leg with the slight exception of a stiff ankle. I certainly know when it's going to rain - my ankle tells me so... but not so much right now sadly."

Trevor became a member of the Rescue Club (a club for people who have been assisted by the Westpac Rescue Helicopter Service) when, now retired pilot, Ian Osborn visited him a few days after his accident to see how he was recovering. Trevor and his family visited the Belmont Base recently and inspected the AW139 aircraft and met staff and other members of the Rescue Club.

"I had been giving a few dollars from my pay for a long time before the accident. It's a great service and I had seen it at the mines to help fellow miners out. I even thought about becoming a volunteer crew member back in the day. It is so impressive now and such a great thing for people who need it," he said.



included more than 2,400 hours of work - which will continue for each of the remaining three aircraft within the fleet during 2020.

"ALL OF THIS ACTIVITY IS ONLY POSSIBLE WITH THE SUPPORT OF THE COMMUNITY AND OUR DEDICATED AND PASSIONATE TEAMS OF VOLUNTEERS IN EACH AREA," WESTPAC RESCUE HELICOPTER COMMUNITY LIAISON OFFICER DANNY EATHER SAID.

our rural communities, has been unwavering and truly appreciated." "Our very existence as a world-class aeromedical service grew from a community wish to have a dedicated Rescue Helicopter. This remains at the heart of who we are and everything we do and we extend our sincere appreciation to the community for their ongoing support in allowing us to achieve this 24/7 year round," Eather concluded.



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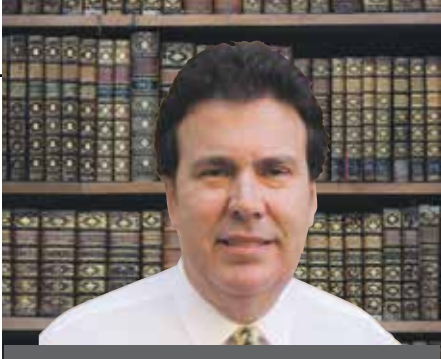
STUART BARNETT IS OUR MINING INDUSTRY'S LEADING PERSONAL INJURY LAWYER. THIS MONTH HE HAS SOME IMPORTANT ADVICE ABOUT CLAIMS FOR WORKERS COMPENSATION FOR INDUSTRIAL DEAFNESS, THE THRESHOLDS THAT YOU NEED TO CROSS TO MAKE A CLAIM, AND AMOUNTS POTENTIALLY AVAILABLE.

In the last edition of Coalface magazine, I discussed Industrial Deafness generally and in particular, against whom a claim should be made. In this article I discuss who the insurer is, the relevant thresholds applicable to coal miners and the potential benefits you can claim.

In terms of Insurance most employers in the Coal Mining Industry are insured for Workers Compensation through the industry Insurer, Coal Mines Insurance. However, for a variety of reasons, that is not always the case. If you work for a Contractor and in particular a contractor who has employees who work both inside and outside of the coal mining industry, then an enquiry as to who the Insurer is should always be made.

IN ORDER TO BE ABLE TO MAKE A CLAIM FOR A LUMP SUM BENEFIT FOR INDUSTRIAL DEAFNESS YOU MUST HAVE SUFFERED AT LEAST A 6% BINAURAL HEARING LOSS DUE TO EXPOSURE TO LOUD NOISE AT WORK. BINAURAL HEARING LOSS REFERS TO THE COMBINED EFFECT OF LOSS OF HEARING IN BOTH EARS. THIS IS NOT AN AVERAGE, THERE IS A FORMULA DOCTORS USE TO CALCULATE BINAURAL HEARING LOSS THAT TAKES INTO ACCOUNT THE LOSS IN BOTH EARS.

There is a significant difference in the threshold that a worker must cross to claim a lump sum benefit as between persons employed in the coal mining industry as opposed to those who are not. A worker not engaged in the coal mining industry suffering from Industrial deafness must have suffered a 11% whole person impairment, which is the equivalent of a 20.5% binaural hearing loss. In comparison a person exposed to loud noise in the coal mining industry must cross the 6% binaural hearing loss threshold mentioned in the preceding paragraph.



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

ONCE YOU REACH THE 6% BINAURAL HEARING LOSS THRESHOLD YOU HAVE A POTENTIAL CLAIM FOR A LUMP SUM. GENERALLY SPEAKING, YOU WOULD EXPECT TO RECEIVE A PROPORTION OF \$85,995.00, WHICH IS THE CURRENT MAXIMUM AVAILABLE. THE PROPORTION WOULD BE BASED UPON YOUR PERCENTAGE BINAURAL HEARING LOSS CAUSED BY EXPOSURE TO NOISE AT WORK AND AFTER A DEDUCTION FOR THE AGING PROCESS.

In some circumstances it is also possible to claim an additional lump sum benefit, for what is called, pain and suffering. In order to be able to claim this second lump sum you would need to have suffered a binaural hearing of not less than 15.4%. There is a cap on how much a worker can receive for pain and suffering and the amount received is a proportion of the maximum and based upon the effect of the injury or loss upon the worker. As such the amount an individual may receive differs between claimants. Whilst persons exposed to loud noise in the coal mining industry can claim pain and suffering those not exposed in the coal mining industry cannot claim for pain and suffering.

A claim for industrial deafness is made by submitting a claim supported by an assessment of the workers hearing loss. If the hearing loss is disputed then the worker is generally referred to what is called a Medical Panel for an assessment, except for limited circumstances the findings of the Medical Panel are binding on the parties. Medical Panels are administered and arranged through the District Court of New South Wales. As this is the last article before Christmas may I take the opportunity to wish you all a merry Christmas and happy new year and most importantly stay safe at work and at home.

SWEET!

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COME AND CELEBRATE!

A WHOLE-OF-COMMUNITY COMMEMORATION IS IN THE WORKS FOR SINGLETON'S BICENTENNIAL NEXT YEAR, WITH A YEAR-LONG PROGRAM OF EVENTS THAT INCLUDES THE HUNTER COAL FESTIVAL.

Mayor of Singleton, Cr Sue Moore officially launched the Back to Singleton 2020 program at a special event on Monday 25 November, attended by representatives from community organisations, businesses and sporting clubs who will host events as part of the 200th anniversary since John Howe led the first European exploration of the Singleton local government area in 1820.

The Hunter Coal Festival, a celebration of the relationship between the people and industries involved in the Hunter's largest economic force and including a community day, Mining Leaders Lunch, Mining & Industry Careers Expo and the annual Hunter Valley Mining Charity Rugby League Day, all to be staged in October 2020.

THREE MAJOR COMMUNITY EVENTS WILL ALSO BE HELD ACROSS THE WEEKEND 13-15 MARCH 2020.

The first event is the Singleton Homecoming on Friday 13 March 2020, a community street party on John Street from 6pm to 11pm.

Then the free festivities continue on Saturday 14 March 2020 with family-friendly fun at Singleton Day Out on the Civic Green from 11am to 4pm.

Old-time cocktail glamour will come to Singleton Civic Centre for Singleton Soiree also on Saturday 14 March 2020, with ABC personality and Singleton son Craig



MAYOR OF SINGLETON, CR SUE MOORE, GENERAL MANAGER JASON LINNANE AND SINGLETON HISTORICAL SOCIETY PRESIDENT PEGGY MOORE.

Hamilton on MC duty from 6pm to 11pm. Ticketing details will be announced shortly.

CR MOORE SAID THE WIDE RANGE OF EVENTS HAPPENING THROUGHOUT THE YEAR WERE A SHOWCASE OF ALL THERE WAS TO LOVE ABOUT THE SINGLETON LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA.

"The Singleton Bicentennial Commemorations Working Group put out the call to all community groups, businesses, organisations and individuals to be involved, and they did not disappoint," she said.

"There's an amazing variety of events with something for everyone – from Devonshire tea at the 110-year-old Glendon Hall and vintage tennis through to tours of global industries and botanic gardens of rare species."

"It also includes ABC personality and Singleton son Craig Hamilton broadcasting live from Singleton."

"It's well known that Singleton played an important role in the establishment of the colony of NSW, and the nation of Australia – and that role continues today, as you can see by just looking at this program."

"Back to Singleton 2020 is an open invitation to everyone to come home, come back or come and see what Singleton is all about. I hope everyone will get a copy or head to Council's website to see the full program, and start planning their year of commemorations."

THE FULL PROGRAM IS AVAILABLE AT WWW.SINGLETON.NSW.GOV.AU



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WE HAVE FEATURED NIVEK INDUSTRIES A FEW TIMES AND FOR VERY GOOD REASON. WHEN IT COMES TO INNOVATION, THIS IS A COMPANY AT THE TOP OF THEIR GAME.

TED, which stands for 'Tracked Elevating Device', is the machine the company is built around. What started as a life saving device to help safely remove difficult and dangerous to handle belly plates on heavy earthmoving equipment, has now evolved into a multi-faceted and versatile machine capable of a range of tasks, making life on the job a whole lot easier and safer for fitters.

In terms of the evolution of the company over the last few years, it all started with Kev working out of a shed at Greta, then two brothers working out of their parent's farm shed. That evolved into a machine that the mining industry couldn't ignore, and it took off from there.

Now they have a manufacturing facility at Maison Dieu in Singleton working at full capacity to try and keep up with the high demand generated through high performance and reputation. Nivek Industries is now a team of 8 fulltime staff that will only grow larger.

THE BUSINESS IS DOING VERY, VERY WELL AND AWARDS AND RECOGNITION IS FLOODING IN FROM INDUSTRY AND THE NSW PREMIERS OFFICE.

Marketing Manager Rachel Fraser proudly told us, "Recently we won two awards with the HMA. Excellence in Export of Manufactured Goods and the coveted Board Award. For us, that's a massive accolade, considering its industry recognition; they're acknowledging we have something impressive and see immense potential in our business, which is particularly encouraging for a relatively young company. On top of that we were recently finalists in Minerals Energy and Related services at the Premiers Export Awards in Sydney, and a finalist in Excellence in Mine Safety, OH&S at the National Mining Prospect Awards in Brisbane."

Nivek's export footprint is taking



off as well, expanding to places like Great Britain, Canada, Indonesia, Papua New Guinea, Africa, Mongolia, the USA and beyond. That export market is driving innovation even further and, in some cases, they have been designing modifications to cope with extreme climates from ice and snow to hotter desert like conditions and tropical environments. TED really is one tough little bugger. All up, there are now around 230 units in operations around the world.

ALSO VERY SATISFYING FOR THE COMPANY IS THE FACT THAT THERE ARE QUITE A FEW MINES LOCALLY AND INTERSTATE THAT ARE ACTIVELY COLLABORATING WITH THEM ON FURTHER INNOVATION TO MAKE TED SUITABLE FOR SOME REALLY IMPORTANT SOLUTIONS ON SITE.

Operations Manager Jeff Merchant finds this particularly exciting. "Sites come to us saying we would love to be able to use TED for specific complex tasks. One recent request was to lift a steer idler at exactly the right angle to get it into ultra-class dump trucks. Another site asked us to come up with an idea to take hoist pumps out of 930Es. Sound suppression removal on 793s has been another one of many recent requests."

"What started as a belly plate lifter, now has around seventeen attachments with more in the design phase, all making maintenance safer and easier. The other great thing about our machine, is that it isn't limited to work on one brand or type of machinery, or even just in the mining industry. TED is now supporting maintenance across a wide range of industries including; smelters, refineries, crushers, forestry, and more and more in civil works. Wherever you have heavy machinery to maintain - TED can assist," Jeff explains proudly. They really are just discovering how far they can take it in collaboration with industry. Whether it be site specific or job specific, the innovations will continue

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without a doubt bringing safety and versatility to a whole new level.

WHEN THE QUESTION OF SHIFTING MANUFACTURING OFF-SHORE WAS ASKED, THEY WERE ADAMANT AND PROUD THAT THINGS STAY HERE.

"It's extremely important to us to keep the benefits of local jobs and high Australian standards. It's Australian designed and we want to keep the work in Australia. Wherever practical, we use local people and suppliers. The argument that Australian Manufacturing can't compete doesn't wash. Our quality and innovation are our competitive advantage and that business model works. We want more jobs here for more people," said Jeff proudly.

"It's a lot of hard work but a lot of fun and very rewarding," were the unanimous words both Jeff and Rachel ended our chat with.

Designed by fitters for fitters, Nivek's journey of innovation simply won't stop any time soon.



STEPPING UP TO THE JOB

RUTHERFORD BASED MINING SERVICES COMPANY TEFOL, HAVE GROWN ON A FOUNDATION OF INNOVATION AND DEDICATION. THEIR INDUSTRY REVOLUTIONISING 'TEF STEPS' ACCESS SYSTEM FOR HEAVY EARTHMOVING EQUIPMENT DEMONSTRATES WHY THEY ARE A FORCE TO BE RECKONED WITH.

We recently sat down with the team behind 'Tef Steps' and it soon became clear why this unique access system is winning fans at the big machine end of town.

Access systems for heavy mining equipment take a battering in harsh mining environments and are historically failure prone. Repairing and refurbishing the full range at work in the industry, Tefol identified some inherent issues and potential improvements. The team knew there would be demand and an appetite for something that was more reliable and robust. It's fair to say it was an emerging market due to strengthening OHS systems and policies and safety culture.

The development time frame was all customer driven said the team behind his innovative product.

"THIS PRODUCT STARTED 12 YEARS AGO. WE HAD CUSTOMERS COMING TO US SAYING WE WANT A LADDER DESIGNED FOR THIS OR THAT, BECAUSE WE ARE NOT HAPPY WITH WHAT IS IN THE MARKET."

Credit must go to owners Brett and John Willis who saw the opportunity and had no hesitation in going for it and investing in the products potential.

"Less maintenance is a big thing and an area we also really focused on, so being able to say our solution requires around 40% less maintenance is a point of pride. We make them so that in eight years on the side of a dozer there is minimal structural problems."

A key thing that Tefol did differently early on was to integrate the hydraulics into the machine eliminating a key point of failure over other systems. They integrate what powers the ladder into what powers the rest of the machine hydraulically.

Fewer moving parts, fewer operating parts, fewer failure points, and rather than having a pump specifically to run the ladder, the machines pumps have been proven over decades to be much more reliable than something that is bolted on. It's a little bit more work up front but it saves big in the long run. It does make it a little more expensive to produce, which they acknowledge, but they make no apologies for that, because that investment pays back way more in the long run.

In terms of units in operation there would be 200 - 300. They're in Western Australia, heaps in Queensland and NSW of course, plus Victoria and New Caledonia. They are currently looking at taking it all to gold mines in Utah in America as we speak.

IT'S GREAT TO SEE HUNTER COMPANIES AND HUNTER PEOPLE TAKING ON THE WORLD.

When we speak of innovation, something else the team does is make all their own electronics on site, including circuitry, hardware and programming, flow control programs, board design, coding - the whole lot all under one roof. It gives them a great flexibility to customise for specific requests and environments.

The team went on to say, "The whole approach ensures that not only does the product grow and evolve, but we as a company do as well. We are a team that has pretty much all stuck together and all of us have been here from the beginning. It's all about constant evolution and improvement. Our close relationships with our customers mean any issues are ironed out quickly and easily and improvements are integrated quickly."

"WE ARE 100% AUSTRALIAN MANUFACTURING AND THAT'S SOMETHING WE ARE REALLY PROUD OF."

On local collaboration, "We try to use suppliers right here in Rutherford and and the Hunter Valley and there are at least six main ones just a few streets away. Companies like Emeco who work with us sandblasting and painting, SLS do all our profile cutting, Hunter Valley Steel supply everything we need on that side of things. We love using local companies and collaborating. Bannisters Transport are another who get our stuff to our customers. Valley Fasteners help to source a lot of what we need."

Tefol's next big development will be to move into rail with a product specifically designed for that market and which will be a huge development.

From 15 years ago, with just two brothers and a truck when they started, they have come a long, long way. Keep up the good work!

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FESTIVE FENCING

THIS MONTH'S PARALLEL ECONOMICS IDEA IS A BIT DIFFERENT, IN THAT INSTEAD OF CREATING A NEW INDUSTRY, LET'S HELP ONE CLOSE TO OUR HEARTS AND WHO REALLY NEED IT – FARMERS.

Between the drought and the bushfires, it's been a tough, tough time. The drought has meant the fires have had a field day destroying farm infrastructure at unimaginable levels. Fire by its very nature is not a fence's best friend, and thousands upon thousands of km's have no doubt been lost.

WITH LITTLE TO NO FARM INCOME DUE TO THE DROUGHT, REBUILDING THOSE FENCES IS AN IMPOSSIBLE MOUNTAIN TO CLIMB.

So, what can we do? On our mine, buffer and offset lands there exists tens of thousands of hectares of quality stands of hardwood. So what I am suggesting is that we set up an interim industry-run fence post and strainer supply chain.

In our workforce exists thousands of experienced woodcutters and others who would be willing to help out by going out and selectively harvesting suitable timbers and turning them into new fence posts. No this would not be an open slather chop fest but as mentioned earlier, selectively planned and executed.

NO DOUBT THE SPIRIT OF GENEROSITY AMONGST THE MINING RANKS WOULD SEE MANY WILLING TO DONATE DOWNTIME TO HARVEST THE VALUABLE AND MUCH NEEDED RESOURCE.

Mining companies could help by clearing the way to make it happen and helping with things like coordination, fuel, and transport to get it all where it needs to be.

For the most in need out there, we could also look at helping with installation where critically needed.

This is a short-term business idea that will generate no money whatsoever, but for those on the receiving end, it could be just the kind of thing to help kick start those most devastated on the land back into business.

Sharing our considerable resources makes a lot of sense in this time of giving and hope. Hope you all have a great festive season, and maybe start sharpening the chainsaw for a bit of Christmas cutting.

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Clarks Mining Services wish you peace, joy and love this Christmas. May this time of giving and family last throughout the year.

Established in 1990, Clarks Mining Services remains an Australian, family owned and operated company, bringing multi-generational mining and engineering expertise to all our work. Based in the beautiful Illawarra, we ship Australia wide as well as Internationally.

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SUPER SHOVELS

UNTIL THE LATE NINETEENTH-CENTURY, COAL WAS MINED USING THE OLD PICK AND SHOVEL. THEN CAME ALONG POWER SHOVELS. IN THE SECOND HALF OF THE 1900'S WE SAW MANUFACTURERS COMPETE TO MAKE THE BIGGEST AND MOST BADASS SHOVEL. HERE ARE OUR THREE FAVOURITE 'SUPER SHOVELS'.



BIG BRUTUS

THE MOUNTAINEER

The Hanna Coal Company's Marion 5760 'The Mountaineer' was the first of the 'super strippers'. In 1956 it took its first bite of dirt in Ohio. It had an operating weight of 2750 tons and its top boom rose 48.8 metres into the air. With a shovel load of 90 tons it could move 7500 tons of material every hour and even had an elevator inside its centre pintle carry the crew from ground to cab level. The Mountaineer was the beginning of a new area of super strippers.



THE CAPTAIN

Believing in the theory that bigger is always better, only a decade after The Mountaineer the Hanna Coal Company built the Marion 6360. Nicknamed 'The Captain' it dwarfed the Mountaineer. With a boom length of 66 metres, height of 64 metres, and weighing 12700 tons, it was the largest shovel and also one of the largest land vehicles ever built. The shovel was scrapped in 1992 after receiving extreme damage from an hours long internal fire.



The Bucyrus-Erie 1850-B electric shovel was known as 'Big Brutus' and was the second largest of its type during the 1960s and 1970s. The shovel was designed to dig from 6.1 to 21 meters. At 16 stories tall (48.8 metres) and weighing in at 5500 tons, it is today the largest electrical shovel still in existence, preserved as a national landmark in a mining museum in Kansas and paying homage to the days of the Super Shovels.



TOGETHER WE GROW.

THANKS FOR GROWING WITH US

Monadelphous' Maintenance & Industrial Services have experienced high levels of success and growth over the past year servicing mine sites across NSW – From Pit to Port.

Our success comes down to great people. From our industry leading workforce, to the world class people across our supplier network and the mine owners we work with everyday, we would like to say thank you.

As we bid farewell to the success of 2019, we will continue to deliver even greater resources to rapidly respond to our clients needs and deliver the highest level of service and value for our clients operations. Our branch's across the Hunter Valley, Mudgee and Gunnedah allow us to flex when required and rapidly respond to our clients short term critical needs. At Monadelphous we are passionate about building long lasting relationships built on our core values Safety, Integrity, Teamwork, Loyalty & Achievement.

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BOSS GOULD



WHEN HE'S NOT HARD AT WORK AS BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT MANAGER FOR AUSTRALIA'S LEADING HEAVY EARTHMOVING EQUIPMENT RENTAL PROVIDER EMECO GROUP, RYAN FINN IS ON SITE DECONSTRUCTING OUR INDUSTRY LEADERS. THIS MONTH RYAN CHATTED WITH HVO'S BRUCE GOULD.

Bruce Gould is the Production Manager and MEM at Hunter Valley Operations. Bruce has had a long list of unique roles over the years including Stockman, Labourer, Meat Worker, Operator, Supervisor, Superintendent and now Manger but describes himself as a typical Australian bloke who enjoys boating, fishing and camping.

Bruce classifies himself as a continuous improvement junky and shared a lot of insightful information, but his key advice was that rather than seeing challenge as an obstacle, see challenge as an opportunity to grow.

FROM FIRST JOB TO NOW

Bruce's first job was as a Ringer / Stockman at 16 years old after he had left school and was paid \$106 per week. Bruce began his career in the mining industry in the Mt Todd Gold Mine in the Northern Territory after working for a number of contracting companies on civil jobs. Since then has worked for companies such as Glencore, Thiess, Ensham Resources, McMahons and Hennerly & Walker.

Education is important to Bruce and he holds a Certificate in Animal Production, Manager of Engineering and Mining, and OCE Ticket.

ON THE JOB

Bruce enjoys being able to bring a younger worker through the ranks onsite from operator to step up to supervisor etc. and being able to watch that person grow and mature at every stage.

Bruce's goal is to create a "McDonalds mine site" at HVO where all operations

are standardised to ensure a consistent and safe approach to mining that will lead to improved production and planning across the site. Bruce expressed that at McDonalds when you order a Big Mac it comes the same way every time due to standardisation and that is what he envisions at HVO.

CHANGES AND CHALLENGES AHEAD

In Bruce's opinion, people worry about regulation however he views regulation as a positive as it drives best practice and ensures mine sites are good corporate citizens. As a result of the number of mine sites in the Hunter Valley, Bruce believes that noise and dust will continue to be a point of focus in the next 3 - 5 years and expressed that HVO are taking measures to ensure their footprint on the community is reduced.

KEYS TO SUCCESS

Bruce's advice is to treat each day like it is an interview by putting your best foot forward and having energy in everything that you do. As a leader, people are always looking at you so it is important to conduct yourself in a positive manner and always be on your game. Bruce also believes that people don't get lucky, but in fact you create your own luck through your actions and hard work.

Bruce is an avid audiobook listener and is big on the self-help / improvement category. He recommends "Turn the Ship Around" by David Marquet, "Good to Great" by Jim Collins and "Extreme Ownership" by Jocko Willink and Leif Babin to help you make positive improvements in your life.



'AVE A LAUGH WITH

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What do you call an elf who sings? A wrapper!

WHAT'S NEXT FOR BRUCE GOULD?

Bruce is currently working on improving the culture at HVO as well as improving the day to day operations. Bruce's focus for the future is on ensuring that HVO is creating quality returns for its shareholders and expresses this will be achieved through high safety and environment standards, investing back into the business and improving the productivity and utilisation of their assets.

THE MANAGEMENT AND STAFF AT ALLWELD SERVICES PTY LTD WISH YOU AND YOUR STAFF A VERY Merry Christmas



Dear valued Customer, our trading hours are changing over the Christmas holiday period;

BERESFIELD MUSWELLBROOK BRANCHES		
DECEMBER		
23 Monday		7am - 4.30pm
24 Tuesday		7am-2pm
25 Wednesday		CLOSED
26 Thursday		CLOSED
27 Friday		8am-2pm
30 Monday		8am- 2pm
3 Tuesday		8am-2pm
JANUARY		
1 Wednesday		CLOSED
2 Thursday		7am-4.30pm

FLAME N ARC REPAIRS		
DECEMBER		
23 Monday		7am - 4.30pm
24 Tuesday - 31 Tuesday		CLOSED
JANUARY		
Wednesday 1		CLOSED
Thursday 2		7am-4pm

We would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your support during 2019 and look forward to your continuing our association in 2020.

Merry Christmas from our family to yours



This year, the support of our people, our community, partners and suppliers has been invaluable. For that support, we say thank you. From our family to yours, have a safe and happy Christmas.



WE CARE. WE DELIVER.

BRADY GIBBONS

A CRUISEY DAY ON THE TOOLS FOLLOWED BY A CHILL ARVO JAMMING WITH HIS BAND IS THE USUAL FOR LEAD GUITARIST AND FITTER BRADY GIBBONS.

Who are you and what do you do?

Hey, my name is Brady Gibbons, 24 years old and I'm a fitter for UGM Mining Australia.

Any nicknames good or bad?

I cop a fair few nicknames, sometimes something different every day. My friends call me Brad which is strange and another common one is B-man.

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

I was born and raised in Belmont and lived there up until late last year, I'm now living at Macquarie Hills.

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

I'm a Marine Mechanic by trade, decided to put boats in the past and focus on the industry I am now working in. I am really enjoying the work, colleagues and learning something new daily.

What's a usual day at work entail?

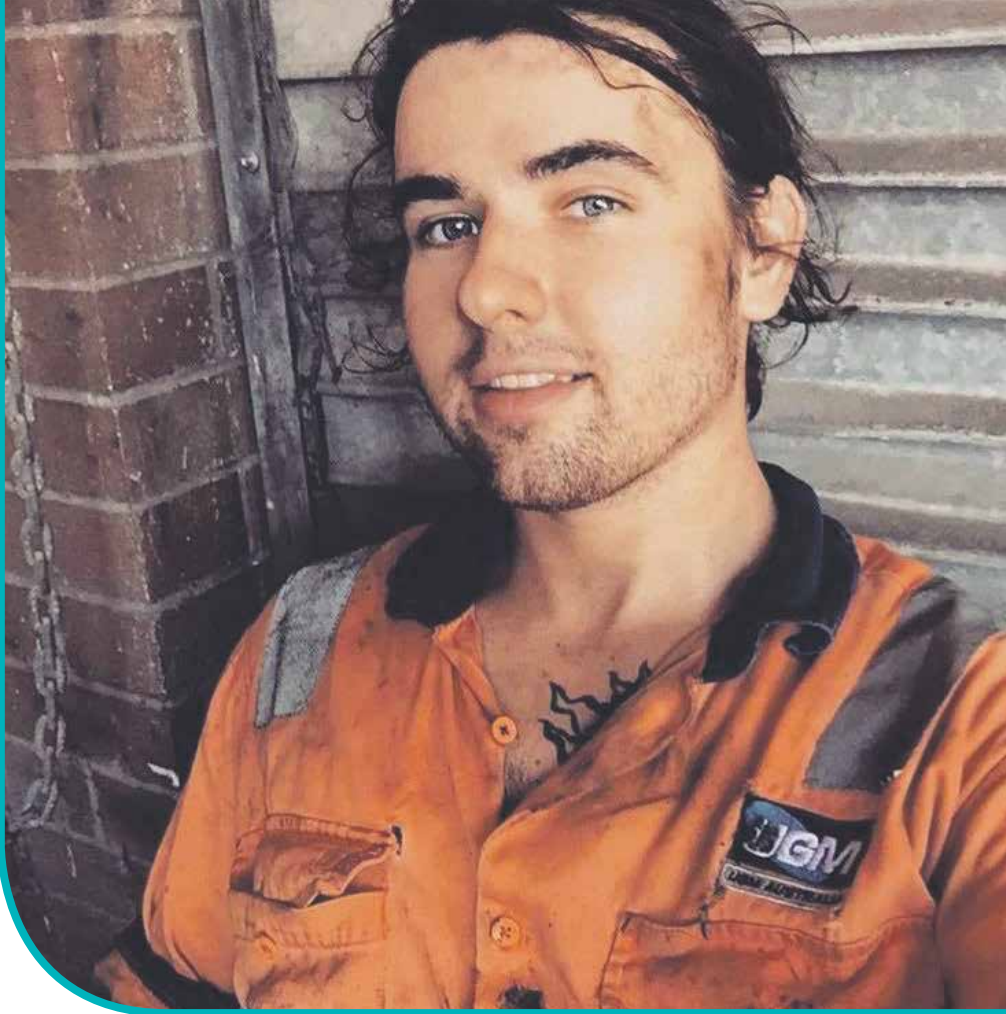
The usual day at work for me involves a cruisey drive to the workshop which isn't far from home, slip the boots on in the changeroom, sign in at the door, fill in my pre-task and time sheet, then either continue ongoing jobs or approach a supervisor for a new task on either a Road Header or other underground vehicles such as Eimco's and Driftrunners.

How big is the crew?

The crew is quite large, I would say up to about 30-35 on day shift, that includes boiler makers, fitters, trades assistants, storeman and supervisors. Roughly 10-15 on arvo/night shift.

What's the best thing about your job?

Besides the mateship and positivity in the workshop I would have to say getting to do something different every day and I can't complain about my hours.



The worst thing?

I would have to say only getting 1 break a day.

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

Ah there are too many to choose from, there is a lot of sabotaging mates toolboxes and stuff like that. A bit childish but we find it very amusing watching their moment of realisation something is not the same or tools are stuck together with cable ties etc...

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

I never really thought about work much growing up as a kid, I always thought I would become a professional skateboarder or famous musician. After leaving school and working at the mariner repairing boats, I instantly loved using tools and the feeling of job satisfaction.

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

My mum would always say I was a happy kid with heaps of energy, also been told I have had a lot of wisdom from a really young age.

Family?

I am the youngest of the family, I have an older brother Jack, who is a

professional drifter and tradesman panel beater, the eldest sibling Sophie is a firefighter, works at Williamstown airport and loves singing, my dad is a well-known and respected musician around the Hunter region and my mum is a nurse and also a bit of a free spirit.

What do you do in your downtime?

There is nothing in this world I love more than simply catching up with my best mates for a couple beers and conversation, other than that I skateboard, have beach days, play guitar, jam with other musically talented friends, go to gigs, festivals and pubs.

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

Besides my full-time job through the week I also am the lead guitarist of a Newcastle band called New Black Shades, regularly gig in Newcastle and up and down the coast. The boys and I have been in the studio this year with some new tracks you can find on Spotify and YouTube, along with two other albums. The band and I are heading up the coast in December to play some shows before heading back to Newcastle to play on Christmas Eve so keep an eye out for us.

EXPRESSWAY SPARES



Who are you and what do you do?

Expressway Spares has been in the supply of new, used and reconditioned parts and components suitable for Caterpillar for over 50 years. To better serve our customers the company diversified into parts and components suitable for Hitachi in 2016.

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

Expressway Spares was founded by Gerard Cassegrain in December 1964 and established in Wauchope NSW. The business was originally started to support the local logging industry but later diversified into the general earthmoving and mining industries. We have expanded our business into four key locations – Hunter Valley in NSW, Mackay in QLD, Perth in WA and Gunnedah in NSW.

Describe a typical day at 'The office'.

We have many areas that form our business so a day may involve, dismantling a Hitachi EX3600 or a Caterpillar D11R for our parts inventory, rebuilding a customer complete machine, reconditioning components for our inventory, unloading containers and stocking shelves with new parts, testing a customer's transmission on our dyno, attending an emergency breakdown onsite or taking a call from a customer needing parts for his machine.

What's the best thing about your business?

Expressway Spares has many loyal customers from small operators to large corporations.

We are well known for our family-oriented culture and we have staff members who have worked for us for decades.

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

We are currently expanding our workshop facilities in the Hunter Valley Branch by installing a new four bay workshop. This will increase our workshop capabilities to eight component rebuild bays and two fabrication and body repairs bays. This workshop expansion is due for completion in early 2020.

What is the biggest opportunity for your business right now?

Continuing to provide quality parts and components with exceptional workmanship to our existing and new customers.

What are the biggest challenges facing your business?

The ever-changing industry and demand. We have a dedicated team focused on Research and Development, Quality Assurance and Product Knowledge to keep our commitment to continual improvement.

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

The Company has been in business for 55 years. We opened our branch in the Hunter Valley in 2002 although we had been servicing our customers from the Head Office in Wauchope NSW for many years prior.

Community or other causes close to its heart and values?

We support many different causes across Australia including local sporting teams or the supply of goods to auctions or raffles to raise money for charities or schools. The staff support the Westpac Rescue Helicopter, Red Shield Appeal, Surf Life Saving, and Movember. We have raised a total of \$11,600 up until June 2019 for the Beyond Blue Charity. The biggest campaign organised by the Hunter Valley staff was the "Buy A Bale – Hunter Valley Campaign" in 2018 where staff from all branches raised \$7,055 and we matched the donation making the total \$14,110.

How big is the crew in the Hunter Valley?

Currently we employ over 90 full time staff based in our Hunter Valley Branch.

What's the best thing about your job?

Watching our Company grow into the successful business it is today.

The worst thing?

Not having what our customers need now!

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

With over 300 staff we have many characters and everyday creates a new funny story!

Anything else you want to say?

We look forward to a continued working relationship with our current customers and building new business relationships throughout the industry.

'AVE A LAUGH WITH



BUY ANY TORO MOWER AND YOU COULD WIN THE PRICE OF YOUR MOWER BACK

Santa was very cross. It was Christmas Eve, and nothing was going right.

Mrs. Claus had burned all the cookies. The elves were complaining about not getting paid for the overtime they had worked making toys and were threatening to go on strike. The reindeer had been drinking eggnog all afternoon. To make matters worse, a few of the other elves had taken the sleigh out for a spin earlier in the day and had crashed it into a tree.

Santa was furious. "I can't believe it! I've got to deliver millions of

presents all over the world in just a few hours, and all my reindeer are drunk, the elves are walking out, and I don't even have a Christmas tree! I sent that stupid little angel out hours ago to find a tree and he isn't even back yet! What am I going to do?"

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

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

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BRAIDEN BALL • AGE 8

What do you love most about Christmas?
How Santa delivers presents and we all get to celebrate as a family.

Why do people put trees up at Christmas time?
So that they can decorate it, have a bit of fun decorating it and Santa can put presents like under it.

What do you want for Christmas?
A phone, a scooter and a basketball hoop.

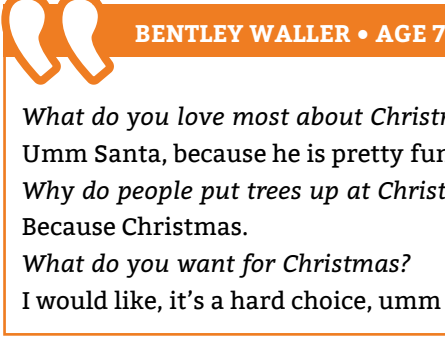


ALEXANDER HALAMEK • AGE 7

What do you love most about Christmas?
The presents of course!

Why do people put trees up at Christmas time?
So Santa can put presents under the tree and not just the floor.

What do you want for Christmas?
I would like a really cool hot wheels set and a Rodger Dodger Hot Wheels Car.



BENTLEY WALLER • AGE 7

What do you love most about Christmas?
Umm Santa, because he is pretty funny.

Why do people put trees up at Christmas time?
Because Christmas.

What do you want for Christmas?
I would like, it's a hard choice, umm cars.



SOPHIE INGRAM • AGE 6

What do you love most about Christmas?
Hanging out with my family and eating Christmas lunch.

Why do people put trees up at Christmas time?
Because to celebrate Christmas.

What do you want for Christmas?
Kids make up, new sunglasses and a hello kitty bag.

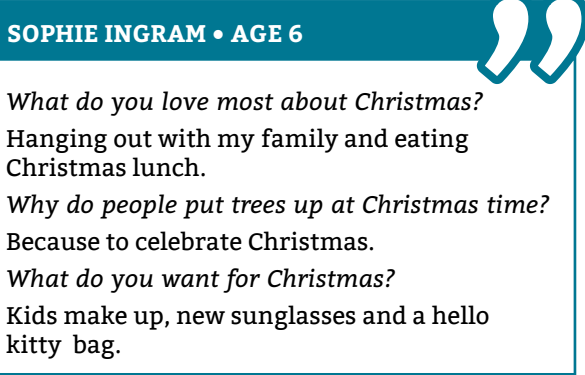


CHELSEA BALL • AGE 7

What do you love most about Christmas?
Hmm that Santa comes, and I like to go to Aunty Kerries house.

Why do people put trees up at Christmas time?
Because so Santa can put all the presents under and it's because it sometimes snows in places and trees get snowy.

What do you want for Christmas?
A baby girl like Levi, an electric scooter, a new bike, a new helmet and umm LOL that has a code on it that you need to find.

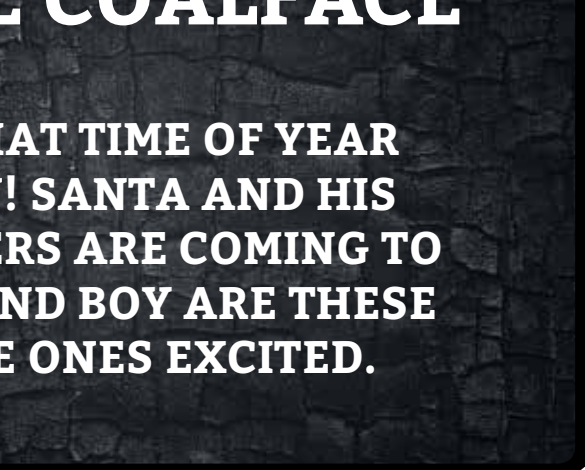


JAXTON WALLER • AGE 5

What do you love most about Christmas?
Making decorations for our home.

Why do people put trees up at Christmas time?
So you can get presents.

What do you want for Christmas?
A Ninja Turtle set!

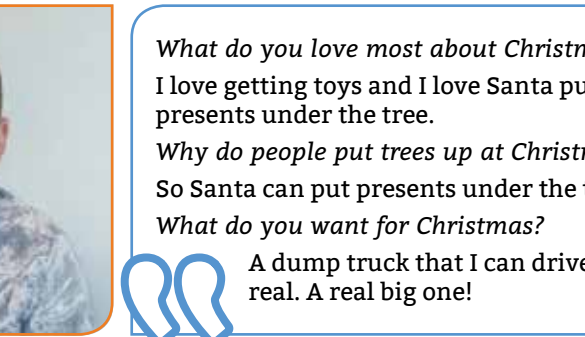


MATILDA BEGGS • AGE 3

What do you love most about Christmas?
I like it when we have candy canes on the tree.

Why do people put trees up at Christmas time?
Because they need to when it's Christmas time.

What do you want for Christmas?
A singing giant Elsa doll and singing big Anna doll from Frozen.



HARRY BEGGS • AGE 4

What do you love most about Christmas?
I love getting toys and I love Santa putting presents under the tree.

Why do people put trees up at Christmas time?
So Santa can put presents under the tree.

What do you want for Christmas?
A dump truck that I can drive that is real. A real big one!

Kids @ THE COALFACE

IT'S THAT TIME OF YEAR AGAIN! SANTA AND HIS REINDEERS ARE COMING TO TOWN AND BOY ARE THESE LITTLE ONES EXCITED.



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

www.minerals.org.au



12 TREES OF CHRISTMAS

THE INAUGURAL 12 TREES OF CHRISTMAS COMPETITION IS SUPPORTING THE SAMARITANS CHRISTMAS LUNCH IN SINGLETON, ORGANISED SPECIFICALLY FOR THOSE WHO MAY OTHERWISE BE UNABLE TO CELEBRATE.

For more than 12 years, Samaritans has hosted the Samaritans Christmas Lunch to help those less fortunate including those who have no family nearby, are lonely, have no money to celebrate or are homeless.

In its first year this year, the 12 Trees of Christmas competition will support the lunch by raising awareness, funds and 12 trees to turn the venue into a festive space from December 19 to 21. "It provides a truly worthwhile community activity to help those less fortunate in Singleton and the surrounding areas by offering a meal, entertainment and even a visit from Santa, with gifts for every guest," said Event Coordinator, Samaritans Kim-Cherie Davidson.

"WE ARE CONTINUALLY ASTOUNDED THAT SADLY SO MANY PEOPLE HAVE NOWHERE TO GO ON CHRISTMAS DAY AND DO NOT HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO GIVE TO THEIR FAMILIES SOME FESTIVE JOY AND A CELEBRATORY MEAL WITH COMPANY."

On the day, the guests are looked after by some incredible volunteers, who give up their Christmas Day to help those less fortunate to

celebrate in a safe and friendly atmosphere, away from the season's high risks of depression, suicide and domestic violence.

The 12 Trees of Christmas comp is a Christmas tree and decorating competition aimed to have 12 decorated trees donated to Samaritans Christmas Lunch in Singleton to help decorate the venue. The competition will also raise awareness about The Lunch and some funds for the fantastic cause.

Each entrant will need to supply a tree and decorations, however, they can be shop bought, recycled or handmade and will be one decorated Christmas tree entry per business, organisation or individual. The winner is decided by the public voting for the entries on display at the Singleton Centre and will be named Samaritans Singleton Christmas Tree 2019.

"The success of the Lunch is entirely due to the support of local leaders, businesses, organisations and individuals and by entering the 12 Trees of Christmas competition, you become part of Team Christmas 2019," said Kim-Cherie.



HOW TO VOTE

At the display will be a bucket to collect votes and gold-coin donations. The tree that receives the most votes will be named Samaritans Singleton Christmas Tree 2019.

All money raised helps support Samaritans Christmas Lunch in Singleton.

EVENT COORDINATOR
KIM-CHERIE DAVIDSON

DATES

Registration by Friday, December 13 at 4.30 pm.

Set up on Wednesday, December 18 at the Singleton Centre, formerly known as the Singleton Town Square

Display Thursday, December 19 to Saturday December 21 at the Singleton Centre, formerly known as the Singleton Town Square.



THE CFMEU LODGE AT LIDDELL COAL HAS GENEROUSLY DONATED \$1500 TO THE CHARITY, 'LADIES OF THE LAND'.

The 'Ladies of the Land' charity with the assistance of the CWA delivers a shoe box full of little luxuries to the hardworking women of the land just in time for Christmas. With the ongoing drought, fires and low commodity prices it's really been a tough year for these ladies.

Liddell Lodge wanted to do something to help celebrate these wonderful women for all they do, much of which often goes unrecognised by family, friends and the community.

Liddell Lodge Member Tony Jones said they have put together 30 boxes. "Thanks to the efforts of Sarah Moffitt and some very kind donations from the Priceline Pharmacy in Singleton we can now hopefully bring a smile to the faces of 30 ladies this Christmas. It's not much but we hope that it will show them how much they are appreciated. We'd also like to wish everyone on the land doing it tough this year a very Merry Christmas. We appreciate everything you do."



Singleton Neighborhood Centre GIVING TREE

THIS MONTH COMPLETE PARTS ARE AT IT AGAIN HELPING SINGLETON NEIGHBOURHOOD CENTRE CELEBRATE CHRISTMAS WITH A DONATION TO FILL THE HEARTS AND STOCKINGS OF THOSE DOING IT A BIT TOUGH.



This year's Christmas tree is already full of pressies in the foyer of Complete Parts and ready to bring a smile to kid's faces come Christmas morning. By the time Santa comes to town we suspect there will be even more to help spread the joy.

It's a cause close to Complete Parts family's heart and again they want to make it a Christmas to remember!

Get involved and spread a bit of cheer as well by heading up to Complete Parts and drop some prezzies under the tree!

Merry Christmas!

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Christmas At The Cri!

21st - Christmas Dinner @ The Cri! Bring the family. Carols by Candlelight with Santa & The Singleton Town Band

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MANGOOLA CONTRIBUTE TO GREAT CAUSE



THE ANXIETY IN CHILDREN PRESENTATION

THE MANGOOLA WORKFORCE RAISE \$8000 FROM THEIR ROSTER RAFFLE FOR UPPER HUNTER COMMUNITY SERVICES.

The Mangoola fundraising committee in conjunction with Mangoola Coal have come together to support Upper Hunter Community Services (UHCS), hosting a Roster Raffle that raised \$8,000 donated to UHCS on November 22.

“UHCS were identified as an exemplary community organisation with multiple charitable arms that service different pillars of the Muswellbrook and Denman community,” said Mitchell Green, Environment and Community Coordinator, Mangoola Coal.

“The Mangoola workforce are the major donors to this fundraising event and contributed to the success.”

The funds created opportunities for 4 main benefactors providing the community with events and services that truly make a difference, including the “Toybox Comes to Town – Magic Show”.

Running from mid-October to mid-December the Muswellbrook Lions Club donated their time and cooked up a fabulous BBQ with UHCS Muswellbrook Neighbourhood Services. “It’s a fun morning bringing families together and providing an opportunity for TOYBOX families from across our venues to all come together for a school holiday activity,” said UHCS Manager Mel Atkinson.

THE GENEROUS FUNDRAISING ALSO PROVIDED AN OPPORTUNITY FOR UHCS FAMILY SUPPORT SERVICE TO ORGANISE A FREE INFORMATION EVENING ON OCTOBER 23 WHICH HAD AN

OVERWHELMING RESPONSE WITH 170 PEOPLE IN ATTENDANCE. “THE EVENING WAS ALL ABOUT DEVELOPING TOOLS TO EMPOWER CHILDREN WITH ANXIETY,” SAID MEL.

“With the money received from Mangoola’s workforce fundraising we were able to bring Dr Lauren McLellan, Clinical Psychologist and Lecturer from Centre for Emotional Health, Department of Psychology, Macquarie University to Muswellbrook to address the audience on the topic.”

Fun Time Playgroup, UHCS Family Support Service, Hunter Park Family Centre and Aboriginal Family Support Team also received funding providing an opportunity to better equip the all-inclusive Fun Time Playgroup that they offer in Muswellbrook each Monday morning during school terms.

The UHCS Youth Development Project received funding to explore future opportunities with local schools and partners with Young People, Youth Services, Youth Centre’s, Community Services, Schools, Government Agencies and the wider community to develop/ implement responses to meet young people’s needs, support young people to play a part in community development and promote positive perceptions of our young people.

Each event and program were a complete success in bringing the community together with the generous contribution from Mangoola Coal. It’s great to see companies like Mangoola pushing to support their community.

GET TRUCKED!

THANKS TO COMPLETE PARTS & EQUIPMENT SOLUTIONS, WE HAVE AN 1:50 SCALE CAT M-SERIES MOTOR GRADERS MURAL TRUCK TO GIVE AWAY THIS MONTH.

Limit of one entry per person.
LTPM/19/04020

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

WWW.COMPLETEPARTSANDEQUIPMENT.COM.AU

FOR YOUR CHANCE TO WIN SIMPLY SMS: COMPLETE PARTS AND YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS TO 0438 474 290.

WIN!



Sing STARS

IF YOU DIDN'T GET A CHANCE TO SEE THE AMAZING TALENT AT THE 27TH ANNUAL PERFORMANCE OF STAR STRUCK EARLIER THIS YEAR, THEN MAKE SURE YOU GET TO ONE OF THESE WONDERFUL CHRISTMAS EVENTS.



Star Struck is a NSW Department of Education annual performing arts event showcasing dance, drama and music. This year saw more than 3500 students from over 110 schools across the Hunter and Central Coast performing together.

For some of these talented kids the show is not over, with a selection of Star Struck vocalists performing around Newcastle and the Hunter at some fantastic Christmas events throughout December. With many successful careers being forged by Star Struck, you can be assured that these performers are star quality.

Star Struck’s Operations Manager, Casey Horner said the December events were a great opportunity to continue to showcase the amazing talents of the Star Struck performers.

“We are very excited to be performing at these events. Being invited to perform is really a testament to the talent of our performers. Star Struck is very fortunate to have great support from local businesses and the community and we are especially thankful for the support of our principal sponsor Glencore. It’s because of that support that these students are able to shine,” said Casey.



WATCH TALENTED STAR STRUCK PERFORMERS AT THESE HUNTER EVENTS

Star Struck Rooftop Takeover
Monday 9 December
to Friday 20 December

Performing every weekday night from 6-7pm at Westfield Kotara Rooftop. Enjoy a dinner with family and friends as the Star Struck performers sing all your favourite Christmas carols.

Glencore Upper Hunter Christmas Spectacular
Saturday 14 December

Head to Muswellbrook Showground for a free live concert headlined by Damien Leith and featuring the Star Struck performers. Plus plenty of activities for the kids and local market stalls to browse. The fun kicks off at 4pm.

Star Struck 2020

Friday 12 June and Saturday 13 June

Star Struck will be back bigger than ever in 2020. Save the date!

Downer

Relationships creating success

Downer is the leading provider of integrated services in Australia and New Zealand. Through trusted relationships and world leading insight we work closely with our customers to design, build and sustain assets, infrastructure and facilities.

We are currently seeking a number of experienced trades to join our team. With opportunities to work at Open Cut Coal Mines in the Hunter Valley of NSW. You will be working on shift for our Clients in state-of-the-art workshops.

Customers are at the heart of everything we do

We are the leading provider of integrated services in Australia and New Zealand.

Through trusted relationships and world leading insight we work closely with our customers to design, build and sustain assets, infrastructure and facilities.

WHAT WE OFFER

- Living in the Hunter Valley, close to major cities and beaches
- 4 panel roster – work every 2nd weekend
- Permanent employment on a competitive rate PLUS leave entitlements
- Excellent benefits program including discounted health insurance, salary sacrifice options and discounts on travel/accommodation etc.

TRADES REQUIRED

AUTO ELECTRICIANS

- Auto Electrical trade qualification
- Air Conditioning trade qualification
- Sound knowledge of CAT equipment is preferred
- Demonstrated experience in maintaining large scale earthmoving equipment in a mining situation is preferred

DIESEL PLANT MECHANICS & ULTRA CLASS MECHANICS

- Relevant Plant Mechanic/Mobile Plant trade with certificate of proficiency with demonstrated experience working on mobile plant
- Experience within an open cut mining operation
- Proven experience with Caterpillar, Hitachi, Liebherr, O&K and Komatsu equipment

FITTERS, ELECTRICIANS & BOILERMAKERS

- Proven Trade Skills
- Preferred experience working on Mine Site and CHPP
- Ability to work in a team environment

TYRE TECHNICIANS

- Preferably a minimum of 2 years of Earthmover tyre fitting experience on mine sites
- A certificate II in Automotive Mechanical Tyre Fitting Heavy Cert AUR21913 or equivalent
- A valid and current Drivers Licence
- A current WorkSafe forklift (HR) licence
- Ability to undergo a National Police Check
- Possess a high level of initiative and the ability to work well under pressure
- An understanding that safety is paramount, with a high attention to detail to abide by site safety procedures

For further questions please contact Michael Bernard E: Michael.Bernard@downergroup.com

PLEASE NOTE Downer do not accept resumes via email and please ensure you attach copies of your Resume, Licences, Trade Papers/tickets and proof of eligibility to work in Australia i.e. passport/birth certificate to your online application. Notwithstanding the location of this position, all qualified Australian citizens and permanent residents from all locations are encouraged to apply. We thank all applicants for their interest; however, only those under consideration will be contacted.

FUNDS FOR FARMERS

A GROUP OF 4WD LOVERS HAVE BANDED TOGETHER TO RAISE MONEY FOR TENTERFIELD FARMERS DOING IT TOUGH, PROVING THAT ANYONE CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE IF YOU JUST GIVE IT A GO.



For most of us Christmas is a time of joy and happiness. But what kind of Christmas is it going to be for those families who have been heavily affected by the relentless drought? For those who have lost their livelihoods and are struggling just to make it through Christmas.

Those were the thoughts that Singleton local Mikala Thomas and her friends Brittany Jane, Daniel Sloan, Justin Spears and Jack Stace were thinking as they watched drought conditions worsen across the state.

"We were sick of sitting on the

sidelines and watching our fellow Australians suffer, people that spend their entire lives putting food on our tables. We decided we could do something and so we started a fundraiser to help these families through the drought and make their Christmas a little more cheerful," said a passionate Mikala.

Mikala and her friends chose to focus their efforts on the Northern NSW town of Tenterfield. The people of Tenterfield have been told that their water supply only has a few months left. Not only have they been hit hard by the drought, but they

have also recently had to use some of their quickly diminishing water supply to battle devastating local bushfires.

ON THE 21ST OF DECEMBER THIS COMMITTED GROUP WILL BE PILING INTO THEIR 4WDs AND HEADING UP TO TENTERFIELD TO GENEROUSLY HELP OUT PEOPLE WHO ARE DOING IT TOUGH.

"We contacted town representatives to find out what resources the people in the town really need. All the money we are able to fundraise will be used to purchase cases of water, animal feed, like bales of hay

and other supplies that we hope will help until the drought breaks. The more people that donate the bigger the difference we can make," said Mikala. "We also welcome anyone to come along for the trip or just get involved in any way they can."

You can help this great cause by donating through their Go Fund Me page. If you can't donate money there are other ways to help. Spread the word, help with transportation, donate goods or supplies. Follow the example of these generous people and remember that Christmas is a time for giving.

DONATE NOW AT WWW.GOFUNDME.COM - SEARCH CHRISTMAS DROUGHT RELIEF

WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/EVENTS/519571938772153/ OR CONTACT MIKALA ON 0467309765 / MIKILEA@LIVE.COM

GENEROUS Grants

GLENCORE IS SUPPORTING SCHOOLS ACROSS THE HUNTER AND MID-WEST REGIONS WITH SOME GENEROUS P&C GRANTS FOR MUCH NEEDED IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS.

In a first for its long-standing community grants program, Glencore this year dedicated a round of its funding for projects identified by school P&C committees. Eleven projects, worth almost \$200,000, were chosen from NSW applications.

"We've supported many partnerships with the NSW Department of Education, including our long-standing partnership with Star Struck and our Galuwa scholarship program for future Aboriginal leaders," Glencore's Community Relations Manager, Craig Strudwick, explained.

"Our sites have also supported various projects at schools within their local communities for many years. P&C Associations provide valuable support with a variety of projects that also aim to enhance education and children's welfare, so it seemed a logical progression to approach these committees with an offer to fund projects on their respective wish lists."

Jo Scott, Singleton High School Principal, and Cheryl Holz, Singleton High School P&C President, were ecstatic to receive the news of the grant.

"The Glencore P&C grant will enable us to upgrade an outdated classroom to transform it into a dynamic, state of the art, future-focused STEM/ Flexible Learning space to meet 21st century learning outcomes," they said.



SINGLETON HIGH SCHOOL PRINCIPAL JO SCOTT, ONE OF THE HAPPY BENEFICIARIES OF THE GLENCORE GRANTS

SCHOOL PROJECTS FUNDED

Broke Public School | \$50,000 for playground and related active equipment.

Cudgong Valley Public School | \$16,000 to help with an all-weather sports court.

Denman Public School | \$11,500 to upgrade water bubblers and water bottle filling stations.

Gulgong High School | \$10,700 for the purchase of interactive technology resources.

Jerry Plains Public School | \$13,800 for the installation of a P.A. Emergency System.

Kirkton Park Public School | \$15,000 for their iLearn expansion project.

Mudgee Public School | \$14,000 towards a sound-field hearing system in Infant and Support Unit classrooms.

Muswellbrook South Public School | \$15,000 to support the construction of a roof over existing decking.

St Catherine's College, Singleton | \$10,000 for a new Cricket Net System.

Singleton High School | \$15,000 to upgrade and refit an outdated classroom into a specifically future-focused STEM/ Flexible learning classroom.

Singleton Heights Public School | \$15,000 for development of a community congregation area and outdoor learning space.

'AVE A LAUGH WITH



BUY ANY TORO MOWER AND YOU COULD WIN THE PRICE OF YOUR MOWER BACK

After being away on business for a week before Christmas, Tom thought it would be nice to bring his wife a little gift.

"How about some perfume?" he asked the cosmetics clerk. She showed him a bottle costing \$50.

"That's a bit much," said Tom, so she returned with a smaller bottle for

\$30.

"That's still quite a bit," Tom groused.

Growing disgusted, the clerk brought out a tiny \$15 bottle.

Tom grew agitated, "What I mean," he said, "is I'd like to see something real cheap."

So the clerk handed him a mirror.



Wishing our employees, community and local businesses a Safe and Happy Christmas and a successful 2020!

- MACH Energy's Mt Pleasant Operation



MACHEnergy
Mount Pleasant Operation

Coal Services

Part of our
local industry



Our purpose: To protect

Our vision: To partner with industry for a safe workplace and a healthy workforce

CS Health
NSW Mines Rescue
Coal Mines Technical Services
Coal Mines Insurance

Visit our website to learn more about how we protect industry
www.coalservices.com.au



ALCOHOL ANTIDOTE

AS WE ENTER THE SILLY SEASON, IT MEANS WORK PARTIES, CATCH UPS WITH FAMILY AND FRIENDS AND LOTS OF GOOD TIMES. AND AS WE ALL KNOW GOOD TIMES ARE OFTEN FOLLOWED BY HORRIBLE HANGOVERS. SO WE SET OUT TO FIND THE TRUTH. IS THERE SUCH A THING AS A HANGOVER CURE?

Everyone knows us Aussies don't mind a little tippie and especially around the festive season. But what do you do when that little tippie becomes a total topple and you end up with a debilitating hangover?

Many factors, including weight, gender, when you last ate and how quickly you consume alcohol will affect your blood alcohol concentration and contribute to what kind of hangover you will incur.

It's thought that you must reach a peak blood alcohol concentration of at least 0.11 to develop a hangover, which for some lightweights may equate to 2-3 drinks, while for others it will require much more. Some lucky sods are resistant to hangovers altogether!

For those who do suffer from hangovers it could be worth looking into what you are drinking. Carbonated drinks like champagne and fizzy drink mixers contain carbon dioxide which allows alcohol to be absorbed into the bloodstream faster resulting in a nasty hangover.

Then there are congeners. During the process of fermentation, substances are formed called congeners which contribute to a drink's flavour, aroma and colour. Congeners are difficult for the liver to break down and are thought to be a cause of hangovers. Some spirits like vodka and gin have none, whilst in whiskeys and red wine they will be in high amounts.

But regardless of what you drink, once you have too much there's generally no avoiding the hangover and you might suffer any of the usual symptoms such as fatigue, headache, nausea, dizziness, thirst and sensitivity to light or sound. All of which will leave you searching for that cure!

THROUGHOUT HISTORY, THERE HAVE BEEN MANY REMEDIES FOR CURING A HANGOVER. FROM INGESTING NASTY CONCOCTIONS, UNDERGOING WACKY SPIRITUAL TREATMENTS, TO EVEN DRINKING DIFFERENT TYPES OF LIQUOR IN A CERTAIN ORDER. ONE THING THEY ALL SEEM TO HAVE IN COMMON IS THAT THEY SOUND WORSE THAN THE ACTUAL HANGOVER.

One of the oldest hangover remedies on record comes from ancient Mesopotamia. Basically, it was a soup made of licorice, beans, oleander, oil, and wine. Oleander is toxic and induces vomiting, so it might be a case of what doesn't kill you makes you stronger!

Several ancient cultures (including Assyrian and Roman) would grind up the beaks of birds and eat them. In medieval Europe, the hangover cure was raw eels. In Mongolia during the time of Genghis Khan, it was pickled sheep's eyes. A medical dictionary from the 16th century called for ingredients such as the ashes of scorpions, dog excrement and wolf's liver!

These days we've at least reduced the disgusting factor of most of our hangover cures. There are some who will recommend supplements such as ginger or ginseng. Then there's electrolytes or specially formulated hangover drinks. Or if you can't manage an oral treatment how about the latest fad of having an IV treatment.

New IV lounges offer a variety of different intravenous fluids containing a blend of saline, vitamins and medicines such as anti-nausea. Treatment costs range from roughly \$80 to \$875. Although IV drips are generally safe, potential complications can arise.

BUT AFTER LOOKING AT ALL THE RESEARCH AND ALL THE SO CALLED SCIENCE, UNFORTUNATELY I'VE CONCLUDED THAT HANGOVER CURES ARE BASICALLY A MYTH. ALL YOU CAN DO IS TRY YOUR BEST TO EASE THE SYMPTOMS.

The best advice is to eat a hearty breakfast to boost your blood sugar and drink plenty of water to beat that dehydration. Then take some pain relief and go back to bed and sleep it off.

But when it comes down to it there is only one reliable way to prevent a hangover: avoid drinking alcohol completely, or drink in moderation to avoid inebriation.

But I prefer the advice of the American writer Dorothy Parker who declared, "the best way to avoid a hangover is to stay drunk."

FIRED UP

WITH THE WEATHER BEING THE DRIEST IN YEARS, IT'S LAID THE GROUNDWORK FOR SOME VERY DANGEROUS FIRE CONDITIONS THIS SUMMER. WE'VE ALREADY SEEN TERRIBLE BLAZES AND THE EXPERTS WARN IT'S LIKELY TO GET WORSE.

The Bureau of Meteorology said it was the driest winter in almost a decade, but all you need to do is ask any farmer and they will tell you that they've seen more beer spilt than rain this winter.

We've already experienced some devastating fires and the experts all agree that we could be in for some serious problems with more dry and hot weather forecasted.

Fire safety is deadly important so take the time to read our fire safety advice and make sure you and your family are prepared.

Have a fire plan

Make sure everyone in your home knows what to do if a fire occurs. Sit down as a family and discuss what you will do with pets, valuables and most importantly people! Remember leaving early is always the safest choice.

Be prepared

There's lots of simple things you can do around the home and yard, like keeping the lawn mowed and bushes trimmed and removing flammable materials. Always have a source of water available and hoses that reach around your whole house.

Be in the know

Before fires even start, you should always monitor the fire danger ratings to make sure you know the right way to respond.

Severe – You should only stay if your home is well prepared and you're ready to defend it.

Extreme – Only stay if your home is prepared to the very highest level and is specially built to survive a bushfire.

Catastrophic – Is as bad as it gets. No homes are built to withstand a fire in these conditions. Leaving early is your only safe option.

LISTEN TO ADVICE

In the event of a bushfire, it's important that

KEY CONTACTS

Bush Fire Information Line
1800 NSW RFS (1800 679 737)

NSW Rural Fire Service
www.rfs.nsw.gov.au [f](#) [@nswrfs](#)

Report a Fire Emergency **CALL 000**

you stay up to date on conditions in your area. There are 3 bushfire alert levels which are designed to help you know what is the safest thing to do at that time.

Advice – A fire has started. There is no immediate danger. Stay up to date in case the situation changes.

Watch and act – There is a heightened level of threat. You need to start taking action to protect you and your family.

Emergency warning – You may be in danger and need to take action immediately. Any delay now puts your life at risk.

It's important to stay tuned to radios, websites and download the 'Fires Near ME' app to keep up to date with the latest news so you can act fast.

Donate or Volunteer

Anytime you see that charity box or raffle raising money for our hardworking volunteer firefighters, dig deep. Or give up your time and volunteer at your local rural fire service.

BUSH FIRE MYTHS

THE RFS HAVE BUSTED THE MYTHS. KNOWING THE FACTS MAY SAVE YOUR LIFE.

MYTH Filling the bath tub when a fire is approaching to sit in

FACT The NSW RFS recommends that you fill your bath and sinks with water in case the water supply to your home is cut off. This water can then be used to put out small spot fires that may start in and around the home.

MYTH There will always be a fire truck available to fight a bush fire threatening my home

FACT There will never be as many fire trucks as there are houses. Do not depend on a fire truck being available at your home.

MYTH A house can explode if it catches on fire

FACT Houses do not just explode, it's what you have stored under your home that may explode. You should consider what flammable and explosive items you have around/under your home and where you should store them in order to reduce the risk to your home.

MYTH It won't happen to me

FACT No one can guarantee that it won't happen to you. If you prepare and nothing ever happens then you have lost nothing. If you do not prepare your family and home in order to best protect them from a bush fire you may not live to regret it!

MYTH Standing on my roof hosing it down with water will help

FACT During a bush fire more injuries occur from people falling off roofs than from burns! Filling your gutters with water and hosing down your roof will help stop spot fires due to ember attack, but any hosing should be done from the ground.

MYTH If I know the back streets in my suburb or town really well, it will be ok for me to leave at the very last minute

FACT Smoke from a fire can limit visibility. You may become confused or disorientated. Power lines and fallen trees on roads may be hard to see making driving dangerous. It is always better to leave early before the fire arrives.

MYTH I'll be fine; the bush is a few streets away

FACT Most houses are burnt in bush fires because of ember attacks. Embers can cause fires many kilometres in front of the main fire and can start falling up to an hour before the fire arrives at your home. You need to make sure that your home is properly prepared to withstand ember attack.



FESTIVE MONOPOLY FUN

EVERYONE LOVES THE CLASSIC GAME MONOPOLY, AND NOW YOU CAN ENJOY THE CHRISTMAS VERSION! PERFECT FOR BOXING DAY BOARDGAMES.

WWW.GAMESMEN.COM.AU

Monopoly is the world’s favourite family board game and it’s the perfect way to bring everyone together for a game of fun and excitement. With the biggest holiday of the year approaching, the Monopoly Christmas edition is perfect to get into the festive spirit. Play as one of six bespoke tokens, including Rudolph, a snowman and Santa himself!

Christmas KEEPSAKE

WWW.DINKLEBOO.COM/AU

THE “FIRST CHRISTMAS” PERSONALISED STORY BOOK BY DINKLEBOO ALLOWS YOU TO CREATE A STORY ABOUT YOUR SON OR DAUGHTER’S FIRST CHRISTMAS, SOMETHING THEY WILL TREASURE FOREVER.

Imagine the excitement in your child’s eyes when they see

themselves in their very own book. There’s nothing more magical than a child’s first Christmas and this book allows them to remember that Christmas forever. You can personalise the child’s name, gender and two parents to star in the book and of course Santa Claus makes an appearance.



SUPER STORAGE

INNOVATIONS ARE SELLING THE CHRISTMAS STORAGE CHEST OF YOUR DREAMS AND I’M TELLING YOU THIS IS A MUST HAVE FOR CHRISTMAS PREPARATIONS!

We’ve all been there, wrapping everywhere, tape stuck to your arm, can’t find the scissors for the 10th time and Christmas decorations covering the lounge room floor. But there’s no need to dread that

Christmas set up any longer with this bad boy. Have all your wrapping and decorative needs at your fingertips with storage for 400 lights, 50 ornaments, 30 rolls of wrapping paper, 60 cards and 12 ribbons so they’re easy to see and reach.

WWW.INNOVATIONS.COM.AU



BoozeBud ADVENT CALENDAR

BEER



CHRISSY COUNTDOWN

TIS THE SEASON TO SAMPLE 25 OF AUSTRALIA’S BEST CRAFT BEERS WITH THE BOOZEBUD ADVENT CALENDAR.

Advent Calendars are definitely one of the best parts of growing up, getting to eat a choccy every morning until Christmas. Well now adults can get involved with brews from 4 Pines, BentSpoke, Balter, Hop Nation, Stomping Ground, Modus Operandi, Bridge Road and more. Crack one (or 25) open this festive season.

WWW.BOOZEBUD.COM

100 Dates!

STRUGGLING TO MAKE PLANS FOR THE HOLIDAYS? IT CAN BE HARD TO FIND NEW THINGS TO DO EACH DAY, BUT NOT WITH THE 100 DATES BUCKET LIST SCRATCH POSTER BY GIFT REPUBLIC.

With a carefully selected list of 100 dates to go on with your loved one, you won’t be stuck on ideas these holidays. Scratch of each date and mark off your bucket list along the way. This unique poster will look amazing on the wall at home and will be sure to intrigue any guest!

WWW.AMAZON.COM.AU



PERFECT PRANK



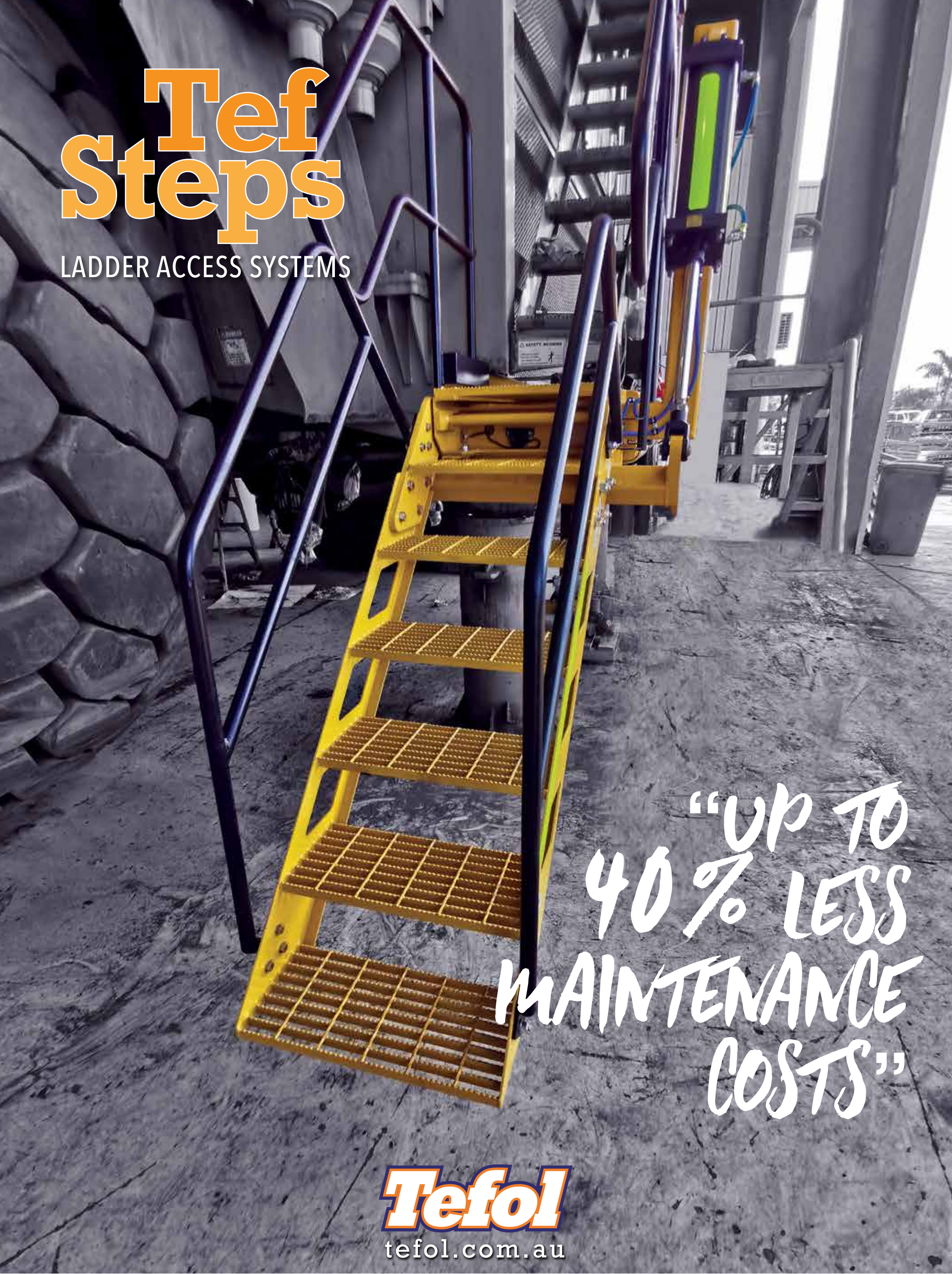
HAS THE WIFE BEEN A PAIN THIS YEAR? DON’T KNOW WHAT TO GET FOR YOUR KRIS KRINGLE? YELLOW OCTOPUS IS SELLING PRANK CHRISTMAS COAL AND IT’S THE PERFECT PRESSIE FOR THE COAL-HEARTED.

I’m pretty sure most of us have been threatened with the gift of coal for Christmas if we didn’t behave, and to the demise of naughty little kids everywhere this is now a very real possibility. You can now purchase a box of coal for your loved one, colleague or friend. Grab your piece of coal, beautifully gift-boxed with two sizes to choose from and a lovely certificate of authenticity inside.

WWW.YELLOWOCTOPUS.COM.AU

Tef Steps

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tefol.com.au

Museum RECEIVES RARE Memorabilia

LOCAL RUGBY LEAGUE LEGEND ALEX KOWALSKI HAS GENEROUSLY DONATED HIS CHAMPIONS POLAND RUGBY LEAGUE JERSEY TO THE GRETA MUSEUM ON THE EVE OF THE SILKY OAK FESTIVAL.

Greta Branxton Colts Rugby league junior Alex Kowalski played his entire life with the Colts from 1995 to 2019, recently retiring from club Rugby League after a successful career. Kowalski played for Poland’s International Emerging Nations Rugby League Tournament in 2018 and had the honour to captain the team against Hungary in their warmup test match before the tournament. At the end of the tournament the unranked Poland had played 4 games against Hong Kong, Japan, Vanuatu and Philippines and went through undefeated scoring 178 points and only 26 scored against them. “A lot of the guy’s families came through camps throughout Australia,” said Kowalski. “It was a real good eye opener to hear the hardship their families went through and the team used



FROM THIS TOURNAMENT AND FOLLOWING HIS RETIREMENT, ALEX DONATED HIS RARE CHAMPIONS POLAND RUGBY LEAGUE JERSEY TO THE GRETA MUSEUM ON THE EVE OF SILKY OAK FESTIVAL TO CELEBRATE 80 YEARS SINCE GRETA ARMY CAMP OPENED AND 70 YEARS SINCE THE GRETA MIGRANT CAMP OPENING.

these stories as motivational drive throughout the tournament, their families made great sacrifices to come to Australia,” he added proudly.

Alex is a grandson of Polish migrants who passed through the Greta migrant camp and ended up making Greta home like many families

around the townships. “It has a couple of local guys names on it like Ethan Niszczoł (tournament top point scorer), Josh Day (Trainer) and Troy Lowrey (Trainer),” said Alex. Kowalski is Poland’s 23rd capped player and also became most capped player on September 28 this year where he travelled to Lodz, Poland to play Poland’s first ever home international match against Czech Republic. The team won 34-18 with Kowalski getting a double. “I was waking up around 7am, walking over a kilometre to meet the others before heading to the day events being one children’s hospital, five school visits and training every evening, the earliest I got back to my apartment was 9pm - I was clearing 40kms a day and had blisters on both feet by Thursday,” Alex shared. “BUT IT WAS WELL WORTH IT, PLANTING THE SEED AND INTEREST IN RUGBY LEAGUE OVER THERE AND JUST TO SEE KIDS WHO NEVER HEARD OF THE GAME WITH THE BIGGEST SMILES BY THE END OF THE CLINICS.” “Especially finding out kids were staying during their lunchbreak to learn how to play and even staying back after school for an hour and half, it was a great feeling.” Alex received individual sponsorship from HVL Group (Hunter Valley Lubrication) and some kind donations from Greta Branxton Rugby League community who donated their spot on the jersey to Red Nose.

MAKING WAVES

ELLIE LAMBKIN IS A 16-YEAR-OLD SURFING YOUNG GUN, PASSIONATE SPORTSWOMAN AND SUN, SURF AND SAND LOVER AND SHE’S MAKING WAVES IN THE WORLD OF SURFING.



Merewether local Ellie Lambkin grew up around our beautiful Newcastle beaches and now takes advantage of having the ocean at her doorstep, hitting the waves whenever surf’s up. Heading to the South Coast each Christmas holidays with her family, Ellie learnt to surf at the age of 7. Ellie and her sister received a beginner foam surfboard each for Christmas a few years later and as she puts it, “I was hooked from then on.” Ellie received her first fiberglass board at the age of 12 and started hitting the water every single day. Living close to the water, she would ride her bike down to the beach every morning before and after school for a surf. This began the start of Ellie’s career as she transitioned into serious surfing and competition. When she’s not in the water Ellie loves sports, school and walking her dogs, not to mention her love for food! The sports star excelled in touch football, oztag, long distance running and soccer but soon found surfing was her calling.

ELLIE TOOK HOME HER FIRST WIN IN THE PORT STEPHENS WILDCARD TRIALS, RESULTING IN FREE ENTRY TO THE SURFEST SANBAH CADET CUP WHERE SHE WENT ON TO PLACE 4TH. FROM THERE THE PASSIONATE ATHLETE HAD A FINAL FINISH 2 YEARS IN A ROW IN THE OPEN WOMEN’S OF THE KING OF THE BOX, PORT STEPHENS. It doesn’t end there, with Ellie coming 3rd in regionals, 2nd in the Youth Slash & Bash, reaching state titles for the school’s all-star event, enjoying a semifinal finish in the Ripcurl Gromsearch in Victoria and multiple quarter final finishes in Billabong and Ripcurl comps. Ellie has also taken home a few open women’s board rider’s events. “Another achievement for me is not getting smashed on the reef while surfing in Samoa as it was so heavy there!” said Ellie. Inspired by the likes of champion Merewether surfer Philippa Anderson, Ellie aims to also make a career out of surfing, hoping to make the world tour. “She not only helps me develop in my surfing skills but inspires me along with many other girls

to never give up no matter what,” said Ellie. “Whenever she is home from competing on the QS (qualifying series) she is always helping everyone out. Philippa has been on the QS for many years now and a few years ago she was two spots off qualifying for the world tour.”

“SHE IS STILL STRIVING TO GET THERE WHICH I FIND IS EXTREMELY INSPIRING AND SHE’S THE BIGGEST LEGEND,” ELLIE ADDED.

November saw Ellie compete in the Coffs Harbour Billabong Parko Grom Stomp and her local comp the Mattara Surf Classic at Bar Beach, with comps every weekend for the next few months. “I’m so lucky to have such supportive parents to take me to all these comps,” said Ellie. Sponsored by Slimes Boardstore and Foam Riders, Ellie has goals of making it to the Ripcurl National Final this year but says “My main goal is just to keep enjoying my surfing!”

NEW COACH FOR COLTS



Born in Auckland New Zealand, Liam moved to Sydney in 2001. A talented footballer in his junior years, Foran was selected in both NSW and Australian Schoolboys sides. In 2007 Foran signed with the Melbourne Storm and made his first-grade NRL debut in 2008. After stints with the Auckland Warriors and Sydney Roosters, Foran signed on with the Manly Sea Eagles for the 2011-12 seasons being part of the premiership winning squad in 2011 and playing 7 NRL games across the two seasons. After finishing with Manly in 2012, Foran played 2 seasons in the English Superleague in 2013 and 2014 before returning home to Australia. MORE RECENTLY FORAN HAS LED THE CHARGE FOR THE ABERDEEN TIGERS IN THE LOCAL GROUP

THE GRETA BRANXTON COLTS HAVE SIGNED FORMER NRL AND ENGLISH SUPERLEAGUE PLAYER LIAM FORAN AS CAPTAIN COACH ON A 3-YEAR DEAL, A MAJOR COUP FOR THE LOCAL CLUB.

21 COMPETITION JOINING THEM IN 2017 AND IMMEDIATELY DELIVERING RESULTS IN THE WAY OF ABERDEEN’S FIRST TOP FLIGHT PREMIERSHIP IN OVER 10 SEASONS. The reigning Group 21 player of the year and halfback of the year said he was thrilled to be joining the Colts. “I am super excited about the challenge that awaits me at the Colts, I am looking forward to working with the local junior and senior players and re-establishing the Greta Branxton Colts as a force to be reckoned with in the Group 21 competition. Family means everything to me and one of the most important things for me is having the support of my wife and our 3 beautiful children and I intend to make the Colts a family friendly club where partners and children are heavily involved in all aspects of the club.”

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RAZER UNDERGROUND GRADER

BIS HAS LAUNCHED RAZOR, A CUTTING-EDGE UNDERGROUND GRADER DEVELOPED WITH SAFETY AT THE FOREFRONT OF THE DESIGN PROCESS.

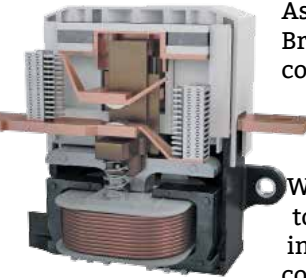
Razor was designed with miners, for miners featuring 55% greater engine power than comparable machines. With

four gears rather than three, the Razor has greater flexibility on difficult ground, perfect for the mining environment. The operator compartment layout improves access to all controls and provides greater visibility of the blade and steering tyres and there is access both sides to save much needed time.

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HIGH-POWER PROTECTION

EATON'S HAS INTRODUCED A NEW ADVANCED CIRCUIT PROTECTION SOLUTION FOR ELECTRIFIED VEHICLES THAT COMBINES THE FUNCTION OF FUSES, PYRO SWITCHES AND CONTACTORS INTO A SINGLE COORDINATED DEVICE.



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As electric vehicle power levels increase, Breaktor solves the ever-increasing coordination challenge between fuses and contactors, and offers extremely fast, safe and reliable protection for high-power battery and inverter systems. With less than 5-millisecond actuation up to 1,000 volts and 30,000 amps, Breaktor improves vehicle safety and protects components from any level of overcurrent condition more effectively than traditional circuit protection methods

Solar Solution

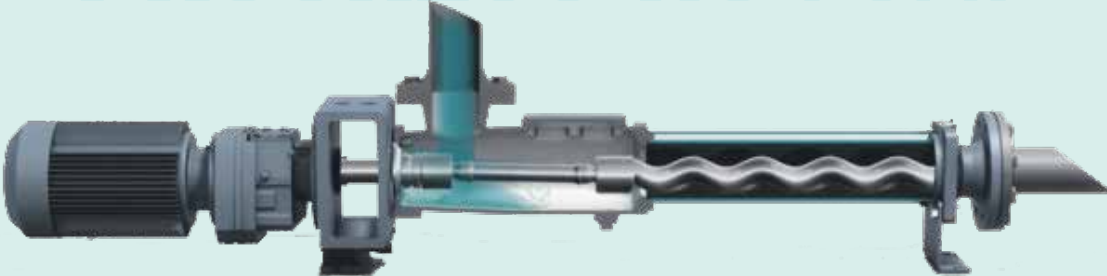
EACH BATCH OF 'TEFTRAILERS' ARE ENGINEERED TO MEET EXACTING REQUIREMENTS AND ARE HAND BUILT USING MILITARY GRADE COMPONENTS WHERE REQUIRED.

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The breakthrough design enables sewage to be transferred through cost effective pipes up to 3" at high volume. Tsurumi latest cutters achieve heads up to 49



metres and flows to 1410 lpm. The extra head capability ensures the effluent is processed while removing any blockages and increasing productivity.

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LOOKING FOR A SUPER QUIET DUST SUPPRESSION UNIT? THE NEW AND IMPROVED V12S DUST CONTROL CANNON FROM EMI CONTROLS IS DEFINITELY WORTH CONSIDERING.

At only 60 dBA within a radius of 20m, the V12s Dust Control Cannon operates at the same noise level as normal speech. That makes it ideal for use in mine sites where noise emissions are strictly

regulated. But the V12s is also suitable for use in materials handling, recycling and scape metal yards, wood processing, materials warehousing and landfills.



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Again wishing our employees, suppliers, community partners and the communities that host our mining operations a safe and Happy Christmas and New Year.

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KEEPING A LOW PROFILE

IN RECENT ARTICLES I’VE FOCUSED ON THE POPULAR OFF-ROAD DUMP TRUCK COLLOQUIALLY KNOWN AS THE ARTIC. RANGING IN SIZE FROM 25T THROUGH TO 60T, THESE RUGGED OFF-ROADERS CAN TRAVERSE AREAS THAT OFF-ROAD RIGID DUMP TRUCKS ARE GENERALLY UNABLE TO CONTEND WITH.

Available in a range of configurations, artic dump trucks offer owners an array of options with reference to applications and have been used as concrete mixers, container trucks, hook loaders as well as water and service trucks to name but a few. Despite their attractiveness, miners have become increasingly conscious of their safety in regard to stability and challenges experienced with

rollovers. Albeit the introduction of stability assist systems in some models, manufacturers and service providers have increasingly focused on innovations that assist in reducing the incidence and frequency of accidents.

ONE SUCH INNOVATION RELATES TO WATER TRUCKS, SPECIFICALLY THE DESIGN OF THE TANK AND DISTRIBUTION OF WEIGHT WITH REFERENCE TO THE CENTRE OF GRAVITY. THE TAIPAN WATER TANK MANUFACTURED BY AES EQUIPMENT SOLUTIONS IN WESTERN AUSTRALIA IS A TANK THAT TICKS ALL THE RIGHT BOXES.

Owned and operated by NRW Holdings, AES specialises in welding and fabrication offering



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asset refurbishment, blast and paint services, mechanical and electrical repairs as well as water, service and tipper modules.

Designed internally, AES’ water tanks have been tried, tested and refined over many years having been deployed in field by NRW before being distributed to the open market under the Taipan brand. Known for their build quality, there’s a lot to like about these water tanks when compared with other options available in the market.

IMMEDIATELY RECOGNISABLE FOR THEIR LOW PROFILE, THE TAIPAN’S ARE A GOOD-LOOKING TANK WITH A CLEAR DESIGN FOCUS TO AESTHETICS, SERVICEABILITY AND SAFETY.

Sporting a low centre of gravity, these tanks are instantly recognisable with the tank’s wheel arch overhanging low over the front and back of the rear wheels, stainless steel combing along the side of the tank concealing all piping and rear stairwell with handrails leading to the upper deck of the tank. Supplied in a plug and play format, these tanks can be fitted (and commissioned) to a truck within three hours and come complete with control module, magnum sprays, safety rails and hydraulically driven water cannon.

At 32,000L capacity, the volume of this tank is class leading and with their low profile and good looks are a hit among rental providers and contractors running large fleets of water trucks. In Australia the Cat 740/740B is unquestionably the target market for this tank with a large percentage of heavy earthmovers opting for this arrangement. Combined with their reliability and proven track record in some of the harshest conditions in Western Australia, it’s no wonder they’re so desirable.

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ATTENTION: SHIFT SUPERVISORS!

BY MARTHA VESSEY



ARE YOU BEING THE BEST BOSS YOU CAN BE? (3 THINGS YOUR CREW WISHES THEY COULD TELL YOU)

First and foremost, I recognise that it’s a tough job you’re doing. You’ve got hugely different personalities to balance. You have to keep your crew safe and productive, and you’ve got company KPIs to meet. No easy feat.

Your crew does understand that, I promise.

But if you’re willing to consider what your crew needs from you, you might end up making your own job easier.

I’ll start with a big one:

RESPECT SHOULD GO BOTH WAYS.

You may have heard the saying “A person who feels appreciated will always do more than what is expected.” Well, ladies and gents of management, it’s true.

Apparently, the old-school approach to crew management was to come down hard on operators to “keep them honest.” Yikes.

I’m sure these days, most supervisors understand that penalising a crew 1) en masse and 2) before it’s warranted, only leads to frustration and resentment within that crew. If you do still think that way, how’s that working out for you?

I’m willing to bet you’d have a disgruntled workforce on your hands. They may not say anything, but that discontent will be reflected in their work standards, the amount of sick leave

they take, and in staff turnover.

Think about it. As an operator, why would I push myself to work harder if that’s the attitude I’m faced with? Most people are essentially decent; that doesn’t change when you take a job as a coal miner.

“BEEFING UP” THAT WINDROW TAKES LONGER THAN YOU THINK.

If you were a dozer or digger operator before becoming a supervisor, you’ll have an idea of how long each job takes. If you’re newer to the position, though, try to keep in mind that every extra job you ask an operator to do takes time they might not really have.

Most of your operators want to do a decent job, but when they’re asked to do several things at once, the standard of their overall work is going to slip. That’s frustrating all around.

Mining’s an ongoing process, remember. No one expects everything to be perfect by shift change.

TRUST IN – AND USE – YOUR OPERATORS’ EXPERIENCE.

Don’t you love it when your own bosses cruise through your work area ten times an hour to see how you’re running your shift? Oh, you don’t? Neither do your operators.

I’m not suggesting you should spend all day in your office on eBay, but how about giving your

crew a little breathing space? Give them time to go out and actually have a look around after the pre-shift briefing.

If they a chance to figure things out for themselves without you spoon-feeding them instructions, they might even come up with a more efficient plan.

Yes; the job we do is hazardous, but it’s also not rocket science – especially not if you’ve been doing it half your life, as many operators have.

When those same operators have suggestions, why not – gasp - take them on board? They’re the ones who are, in a literal sense, at the coalface, after all.

I mean, if you’ve ever had a higher-up ignore your input, or if – god help you – you’re a parent of teenagers, you’ll know how frustrating it is to be ignored or dismissed out-of-hand.

When operators offer their thoughts, it’s not a criticism of you, and it won’t undermine your authority. Most suggestions come from a genuine desire to make work better, and there’s no faster way to demoralise a crew than to ignore those suggestions and concerns.

Try to unglue the two-way from your hand, and leave your crew to it when you can. That will mean less frustration – and probably more production - all around.

And hey, if it all goes horribly wrong, you can always blame night shift.

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SOCIAL RIDE FOR SUICIDE

ABERDEEN SOCIAL RIDERS ARE COMING TOGETHER ON DECEMBER 14, MAKING THEIR WAY FROM MINE TO MINE ON A MISSION TO RAISE MONEY FOR MENTAL HEALTH.

With mental health and suicide on the forefront of people's minds in recent months, the Aberdeen Social Riders put together a social ride in hopes of raising money for organisations Where there's a Will and Mates in Mining.

Many members of the non-for-profit group work in the mining industry, including Andrew Groeneveld, a crane operator at Tutt Bryant, and so working with the mining community to support and promote suicide awareness in their own workplaces and local area was a no brainer for the passionate riders.

The ride will start at Kelly's Top Pub in Aberdeen and continue on to visit Thiess, Glencore, New Hope, BHP, Yancoal, Peabody and Bloomfield and stopping at the Cock Fighter's Tavern for refreshments.

Aiming to get together most weekends to not only socialise and enjoy a ride but also raise money for worthy causes and support local businesses, the group supports their community any way they can.

RIDING TOGETHER FOR A BIT OVER 12 MONTHS, THE SOCIAL RIDERS HAD THEIR FIRST BIKE SHOW FUNDRAISER SEPTEMBER 2018 AT THE KELLY HOTEL IN ABERDEEN, RAISING \$4,200 FOR LOCAL COMMUNITY GROUPS ABERDEEN PUBLIC SCHOOL, THE LOCAL FIRE STATION AND CARE CADETS. "IT JUST MAKES US PROUD TO DO SOMETHING WHEN WE CAN FOR THOSE WHO NEED IT, NOTHING MORE THAN THAT," SAID ANDREW.

"A few of us were on a charity ride and that's how we meet. We got talking and found out we



all lived within a couple of blocks from each other and decided to go for lunch to Gundy, that's how we kicked it all off."

The Aberdeen Social Riders Facebook page has almost 250 followers, with each ride bringing together an average of 15 bikes of all shapes and sizes but are hoping to get around 50 bikes on their mine ride for such a great cause.

Starting at the Aberdeen Top Pub at around 9:30am, riders make their way to a location for lunch, enjoying a feed and passing a jug around to see how much money they can raise for those in need at that location. The average day out is around 5 to 6 hours.

The group also take night trips which are often a longer ride. These night trips are aimed at raising money for the town that they visit and donate to organisations like The Men's Shed and Buy a Bail.

"ANYONE IS WELCOME TO JOIN, JUST LIKE US ON FACEBOOK. WE ARE AN EASY-GOING GROUP WITH THE OUTLOOK TO RAISE MONEY FOR LOCALS THAT NEED IT MOST. WE ARE OPEN TO SUGGESTIONS FOR CHARITY RIDES AND FUNDRAISING," SAID ANDREW.

The Aberdeen Social Riders have fantastic support from local businesses Kelly's Top Pub, Crofts Bakery, Dimmock's Meats, Sydney Street Tyres and Muswellbrook Motors. Show your support and give these legends a wave or buy them a schooey when you see them out and about next.

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FESTIVE FISHING SEASON



THESE HOLIDAYS IT'S A GOOD TIME TO HOOK UP THE TRAILER AND HEAD AWAY FOR A FEW DAYS OR EVEN A FEW WEEKS. 'WE'VE BEEN EVERYWHERE MAN', AND WE CAN TELL YOU IT'S ALL WORTH THE DRIVE.

OFFSHORE

The Marlin have hit and look to be traveling along the shelf in pretty good number. So far Blue and Striped Marlin are being encountered and the Blacks can't be far away.

With the offshore Pelagic fishing firing up don't forget the local Fads. They all should be firing well as we get closer to Christmas providing plenty of action for everyone.

Closer to shore Snapper continue to be productive across the reefs and as the water continues to warm, we will see School Jewies, Trag and King Fish move in on the inshore reefs.

It's also Sand Flathead time of year along the coast, they seem to hang out along the 40m line.

AROUND THE DAMS

The Bass fishing has continued to be productive with all kinds of lures finding a bite. From bouncing plastics and vibes along the bottom with the sun high in the sky to the surface early and late afternoon.

INSIDE

We have had a great start to the prawning season with things looking a lot better so far compared to last year with some good catches of Prawns coming from all the local estuaries.

Whiting and Flathead have taken up residence over the shallows with Kingfish pushing in around the manmade structures such as

Swansea Bridge to the drop over and the Breakwalls in the Port Stephens and Myall Lakes areas. Stick baits, plastics and live baits have been getting the bites.

ROAD TRIPPIN' FISHING

With five shifts off we decided to head to the Lucinda with a 7 day window of very friendly fishable weather on the cards.

We quickly unloaded our gear at the Lucinda Sport Fishing Lodge and headed straight out to the reef. With neap tides, fishing the shallows on the reefs was tough going so we ventured off into the deeper water targeting pinnacles in the 40 to 70 metre mark using jigs. It wasn't long before we found ourselves in the thick of some pretty good fishing. We had managed to find Coral Trout, various Emperors and Green Job fish in our first outing.

With a day off to restock our gear and gather supplies the tides were starting to look better to target GT's on stick baits and poppers around the reefs.

We picked out an isolated reef on the eastern edge about 70kms out and headed out on arrival we had masses of bait being worked on the last of the run out tide it wasn't long before our lures found the feeding fish below with an epic bite consisting of GT's, Spanish Mackerel and some huge Red Bass on the top water followed by some more jigging in between tides.

On our last morning we hit some of the inshore ground around Palm Island in the search for one last GT for the trip and again this awesome place failed to disappoint with its natural beauty and the fishing combined as we found the biggest GT of the trip and a few Spanish to round out a huge week away.

KEEP FLOATIN' - THRIFTY'S

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WHAT'S ON

CHRISTMAS IS FAST APPROACHING AND THAT MEANS HOLIDAY FUN! HERE'S THE BEST EVENTS AROUND THE HUNTER VALLEY TO PUT YOU IN THE FESTIVE SPIRIT.

CHRISTMAS IS ALL ABOUT GETTING TOGETHER AND CELEBRATING WITH FAMILY AND FRIENDS.

AVID Property Group will be hosting the Waterford Christmas Carols bringing together the community to enjoy live performances, a magic show, sausage sizzle, a visit from Santa and so many more activities and entertainment for everyone to enjoy.

What: Waterford Christmas Carols
Where: Waterford Sales & Information Centre, 2 Settlers Boulevard Chisholm, NSW 2322
When: Saturday December 14, 2019 from 5:00pm until 9:00pm



ACTIVITY @ THE COALFACE

ROLL UP, ROLL UP! THE CIRCUS IS COMING TO CESSNOCK SHOWGROUND. EXPERIENCE INCREDIBLE ACTS, STUNNING SPECIAL EFFECTS, TALENTED ARTISTS AND WORLD-CLASS MAGICIANS IN THIS MAGICAL CHRISTMAS DISPLAY.

What: The Magic Christmas Circus - Cessnock
Where: Cessnock Showground, 111 Mount View Drive, Cessnock, NSW 2325
When: Friday December 13 until Sunday December 22, 2019



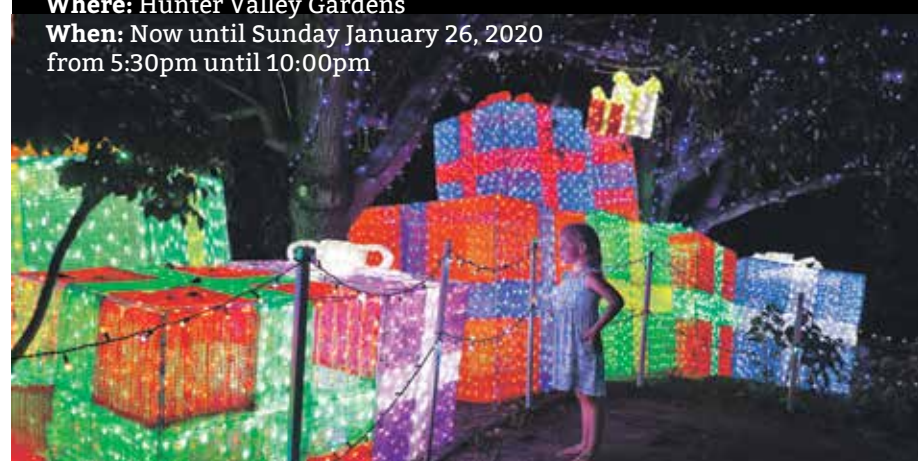
GET THE FAMILY AND FRIENDS TOGETHER TO CELEBRATE THE FESTIVE SEASON AT MAITLAND GAOL. BRING YOUR OWN DRINKS AND ENJOY A DELICIOUS GRAZING TABLE ON SOME COMFY BEANBAGS ON THE EXERCISE FIELD.

Enjoy a 1.5-hour tour of the Maitland Gaol grounds, learn about what the prisoner's Christmas was like and hear stories of the heroes and villains that were here at Maitland Gaol during its 150 years of operation.

What: Deck the Walls - Christmas tour
Where: Maitland Gaol, 6-18 John Street East Maitland, NSW 2323
When: Friday December 20, 2019 from 7:00pm until 9:30pm

GET EXCITED FOR THE LARGEST LIGHTS DISPLAY IN THE SOUTHERN HEMISPHERE, THE CHRISTMAS LIGHTS SPECTACULAR. THIS YEAR, HUNTER VALLEY GARDENS WILL DAZZLE GUESTS WITH STUNNING LIGHTS LIKE NEVER BEFORE WITH A SERIES OF NEWLY CREATED IMMERSIVE DISPLAYS INCLUDING WHITE CHRISTMAS SCENE, COMPLETE WITH SNOW CAVE AND WHITE TOPPED TREES.

What: Christmas Lights Spectacular
Where: Hunter Valley Gardens
When: Now until Sunday January 26, 2020 from 5:30pm until 10:00pm



CENTRAL NEWCASTLE IS BRINGING TO YOU THE PERFECT CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION. COME ALONG AND BE ENTERTAINED WITH LIVE PERFORMANCES, CHRISTMAS CAROLS, SANTA CLAUS, AND CHRISTMAS FOOD FOR A DAY THAT'S SURE TO BE SPECTACULAR!

What: Once Upon a Christmas Spectacular
Where: Central Newcastle, 290 Hillsborough Road, Warners Bay NSW, 2282
When: Saturday December 22, 2019 from 9:00am until 5:00pm

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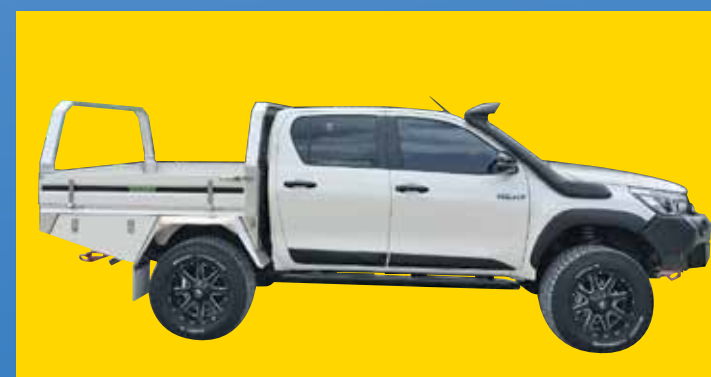
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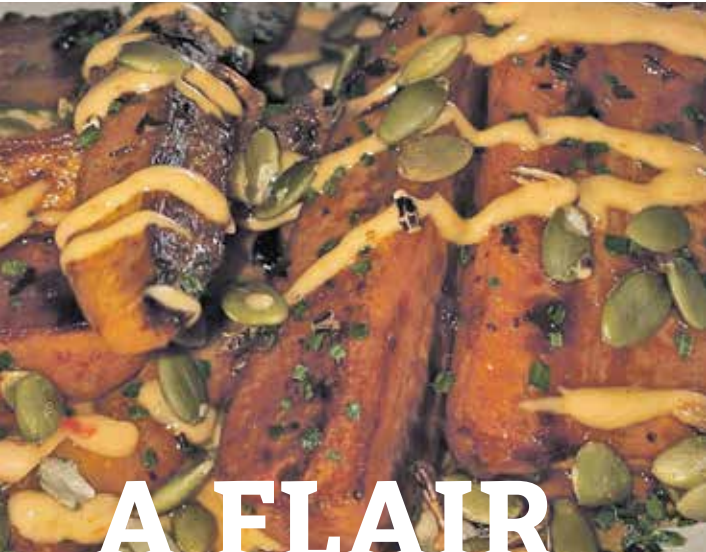


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A FLAIR FOR FLAVOUR

AT THE HEART OF THE EDWARDS NEWCASTLE WEST IS COMMUNITY, AND THAT’S EXACTLY WHAT YOU FEEL WHEN YOU WALK THROUGH THE DOORS.

The Edwards is not your typical restaurant, it’s more of an experience. Boasting a stunning bar and restaurant, beer garden, café and even a record shop, the Edwards truly invites you in.

The interior is modern and fresh and creates the perfect atmosphere for a relaxing lunch with family or funky dinner with mates topped with tunes and cocktails. We took a seat and the menu immediately caught my interest. I love to try new things and the menu had familiar flavours yet also a unique flare to each dish.

SIMPLY CATEGORISED UNDER SMALL, MEDIUM, LARGE, SIDES AND DESSERTS, THE LUNCH MENU HAS THE PERFECT SIZE MEAL FOR ANY APPETITE.



I decided to go for the Smoked beetroot, mulberries, quinoa, pearl barley and a miso brown butter dressing. And what an absolutely delightful combination of ingredients. It was fresh, flavoursome and to top it off it was one of the healthier dishes I’ve tried in my lifetime. Delicious and healthy? Say no more I reckon.

I took my Mum for lunch this time around and I’m pleased to say she was extremely impressed after indulging in the Eddies burger with course ground beef, double cheese, iceberg, onion, tomato, aioli, mustard and ketchup on a milk bun served with fries. Describing her dish as “particularly satisfying”, my small sized mother did her best to smash as much of it as she could and enjoyed a hot, full flavoured coffee on the side.

To share we enjoyed the Wood fired carrots in smoked honey and garlic and I cannot express in words how much I love these, but I will give it a go – absolutely, freakin’ amazing. If you love veggies as much as I do then you’ll absolutely love the



unique, sweet flavours of this perfectly paired and cooked dish. They’ve truly nailed putting a unique spin on the beloved carrot.

MY MOTHER AND I CERTAINLY ENJOYED OUR EXPERIENCE AT THE EDWARDS AND CAN’T WAIT TO HEAD BACK SOON FOR THE DINNER EXPERIENCE. ALL FOOD IS SOURCED LOCALLY AND THERE IS A HUGE SELECTION OF COCKTAILS, BEERS AND WINES TO QUENCH YOUR THIRST.

Not to mention they are also involved in all different types of events, exhibitions, live acts and aim to ‘open doors to all things big, small, weird and wonderful.’

If you loved a relaxed vibe and catching some tunes after Friday knock off, be sure to hit up the beer garden, the perfect environment to hang out with friends and family. This area can also be booked for functions so get onto your bosses for your upcoming Christmas parties now!

LOOKING TO BOOK A TABLE? HEAD TO WWW.THEEDWARDS.COM.AU

PIE MINISTER

THE 12 PIES OF XMAS AND HOW TO MAKE ‘EM.

THE PIE BUSINESS IS BIG BUSINESS THIS TIME OF YEAR. IT’S GOOD FOR AN ON THE GO SNACK WHILE SHOPPING FOR PRESSIES FOR THE GRANDKIDS, OR WHILE OUT SHOOTING WILDLIFE FOR TUCKER TO GET YOU THROUGH THE HOLIDAY SEASON.

KEEP CALM AND EAT A MINCE PIE

Between now and the fat bastard breaking into homes across the world on December 25 there’s a lot to eat. If you know me, you know I love eating pies.

There’s all those Christmas parties and piss ups to cater for, and the need to feed all those bludging rels too tight to bring a plate when they come to stay or visit. Being the season of joy and goodwill though, I’ll stop the whining and put on a feed wherever and whenever I’m asked ‘till after I’ve opened my pressies Christmas morning.

I still believe in Santa you see, and I for one ain’t risking landing on his naughty list. I don’t want to score a lump of coal instead of the new 12 gauge, jet ski and set of vintage Dragway mag wheels for the Kingswood I put in my letter to Santa a month or so ago, explaining what I rightly deserve for being a very good boy all year.

I JUST HOPE HE HASN’T FOUND OUT ABOUT THAT ONE LITTLE MISTAKE I MADE A FEW MONTHS AGO WHEN I DID A NUDIE RUN DOWN THE MAIN DRAG WITH A STRATEGICALLY PLACED SPARKLER LATE ONE NIGHT AFTER A FEW TOO MANY.

Anyway, the first pie of Xmas is bacon and egg in honour of waking up Xmas morning, simply grab a square one with bacon from Coxy’s and when you get home fry an egg and slide it on top. Yum, yum pigs bum!

The second pie of Xmas involved is called the ham sandwich. Simply

slice two thick slabs of leg ham, grab a Crofts from Aberdeen, use the ham as bread and the pie as a filling. Like making love only better. Third on the list is a simple surf and turf where I open the top of a Blakenys from Maitland and shove in half a kg of king prawns. Oooh Yeah!

Fourth comes the porky pie. That’s the one where you say I’m just ducking down the shops but you actually end up at the Clubhouse pub and down six quick ones before ducking across the road for a quick mince at Bake and Break to sober you up a little and get the beer smell off your breath.

Number five come alive courtesy of the Merriwa Bake House and I call it Santa’s revenge. It’s a curry job washed down with a dozen cans of rum. The next morning you’ll understand why.

Last but not least is the Sweet Baby Jesus. Grab a six pack of fruit mince pies from Woolies and a nice bottle of Johnny Walker and sit out on your front porch wearing nothing but a Xmas hat singing Xmas carols, the neighbours, the police and the evening news will all love it!

WHY ONLY SIX I HEAR YOU ASK WHEN IT SAYS TWELVE IN THE HEADLINE? I’VE RUN OUT OF SPACE! SO JUST DO IT ALL TWICE AND YA DONE.

Merry Christmas my loyal lovelies and subjects. Get drunk, get nude, stay safe. All my love...

Pieminister Sol x

I COULD EAT A HORSE

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CHRISTMAS TIME
WORD SEARCH

P	O	L	E	Y	H	E	H	S	T	T	D	E	C	T
B	E	L	L	S	O	C	O	R	L	A	O	A	O	I
Y	A	L	S	U	L	A	E	T	S	O	R	Y	X	N
O	O	C	G	Q	L	E	O	H	E	D	R	D	S	S
J	W	C	N	Z	Y	V	E	N	S	L	G	A	A	E
S	N	O	I	T	A	R	O	C	E	D	T	M	C	L
J	A	Y	K	R	P	R	E	S	E	N	T	S	H	M
H	T	R	C	I	E	Z	Y	R	I	S	L	S	I	Z
G	N	R	O	M	M	I	U	L	I	Z	L	P	M	M
I	A	E	T	C	H	D	N	R	I	E	J	N	N	N
E	S	M	S	T	O	R	H	D	G	M	L	A	E	O
L	O	J	R	L	F	C	R	N	E	E	A	V	Y	E
S	D	O	P	Y	D	N	A	C	I	E	N	F	E	L
J	N	H	Y	A	D	I	L	O	H	C	R	A	G	S
E	G	G	N	O	G	S	T	H	G	I	L	A	C	G

ANGELS
BELLS
CANDY
CANE
CARDS
CAROLS
CHIMNEY
CHRISTMAS

DASHER
DECORATIONS
EGGNOG
ELVES
FAMILY
HOLIDAY
HOLLY
JOLLY

JOY
LIGHTS
MERRY
MISTLETOE
NOEL
NORTH
POLE
PRESENTS

REINDEER
RUDOLPH
SANTA
SLEIGH
STOCKINGS
TINSEL
TOYS
TREE

@ THE COALFACE
PRIZE WINNERS

VOLUME 4 – NO 2: NOVEMBER-DECEMBER 2019

Components Only – Crib for the Crew	Darren Tracey
Crib Bag	Blair Colins
Roberts Meats Raffle	Dave Beveridge
\$50 Horse & Jockey Voucher	Fiona Murray
A Little off the Top Hair Cut	Leanne Caban, Kelli Tracey, Wendy Connors & Warrick Cole
Café La Luna Cake	Ann Cameron

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL OUR WINNERS!

THIS MONTH'S
@ THE COALFACE TRIVIA
CHRISTMAS

- Q1. Which ornament is on the tip of each elf's shoes?
Q2. What colour are the berries on Mistletoe?
Q3. How many points does a snowflake traditionally have?
Q4. Name all 8 original Reindeers.
Q5. What is the first name of Scrooge from the novel, A Christmas Carol?
Q6. What are the two other names for Santa Claus?
Q7. What Christmas decoration was originally made from strands of silver?
Q8. What Christmas Beverage is also known as 'Milk Punch'?

A1: BELLS
A2: WHITE
A3: 6
A4: BLITZEN, COMET, CUPID,
DASHER, PRANCER, VIXEN,
DANCER & DONNER
A5: EBENEZER
A6: SAINT NICK
A7: TINSEL
A8: EGGNOG
B KRIS KRINGLE



THE LAST FRONTIER

IF YOU'VE EVER SEEN AN EPISODE OF 'DEADLIEST CATCH,' YOU WILL HAVE SEEN A SMALL SNAPSHOT OF DUTCH HARBOR, ALASKA.

'Dutch,' as the locals call it, is an out of the way spot in the middle of the Aleutian Islands chain. It's a port that covers the southern part of Amaknak Island, and it's joined by bridge to the nearby (and oddly named) Unalaska Island, where most of the community lives. (True story. If you mail something from there, you have to put 'Unalaska, Alaska' and then the postcode.)

If you can tear yourself away from Alaska's well-travelled (and tourist-heavy) 'Inside Passage', Dutch Harbor-Unalaska is worth a look.

Dutch Harbor-Unalaska is one of those road-free places with about ninety per cent of the State only accessible by plane or boat. It's a 3.5-hour flight from one of Alaska's major cities – Anchorage. If flights are actually running, that is.

Alaska is the territory of the bush pilot, with six times as many pilots and sixteen times as many aircraft per capita as anywhere else in the US.

Unalaska Airport is a dangerous spot to land. Its single, short (1,200m) runway is wedged between a mountain on one side, and open water at both ends. Aleutian Islands weather is also notoriously changeable, and if (when) the wind kicks up, pilots must either contend with strong crosswinds, poor visibility and thermals on approach, or divert to a longer runway – over 300 kilometres away.

BUT THERE'S A GOOD REASON THAT THE AREA CONTINUES TO SURVIVE; FISH. SPECIFICALLY, COD, HALIBUT, SALMON, HERRING AND SEVERAL SPECIES OF CRAB.

Dutch Harbor is a deep-draft port, and it doesn't freeze over in winter. Because of that, international shipping and commercial fishing are thriving industries, and in fishing season, the population swells from its usual 4,700 to over 10,000 people.

Unalaska is a hilly, windswept, rugged island. Most of its year-round community lives nestled into its foothills and valleys, or on the shoreline of its East Channel.

In summer, Unalaska's green hills are covered in wildflowers and berries. Tourists can explore its windswept beaches and enjoy its balmy weather, which averages between 5 and 11 degrees Celsius.

In winter, the snow-blanketed town looks like a scene on a Christmas card. With winter temperatures hovering between 0 – 4 degrees the snow doesn't always last, but if you're lucky, you might get to experience a true, American 'white Christmas'.

FOR A SMALL ISLAND, IT HAS A LOT OF HISTORY. The Aleutian Islands are a relatively short

distance across the Bering Sea from Russia, and the Russians actually 'owned' the Islands before America did. (Although of course the indigenous Inuit people – the Unangan – have been there for 10,000 years.) There's even a Russian Orthodox church on West Broadway Avenue that overlooks the harbour itself.

In World War Two, the Japanese Navy attacked the Dutch Harbor's Naval Base and the US Army fort as part of the 'Aleutian Islands Campaign.' Pillboxes constructed for defence still remain all over the Islands, and 'Bunker Hill,' which has a 360-degree view over the area, is now a popular walking track.

Unalaska is a haven for birdlife – especially seabirds, which number in their millions. You'll probably even spot the famous American Bald Eagle ... although if you picture it as a majestic predator, Dutch Harbor might spoil that image for you. You're more likely to spot this particular predator sitting on crab-pot stacks, 'majestically' waiting for scraps from the fisheries.

Alaska is known as the 'Last Frontier,' and when you visit Unalaska, you can kind of see why. It's isolated, and every aspect of life there is determined by its unpredictable Arctic weather. It's the 'real' Alaska, and the real Alaska should not be missed.



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