

# HUNTER INDUSTRY, COMMUNITY, SPORTS & ENTERTAINMENT

## @THE COAL FACE

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### GLENCORE GIVES BIG

PAGE 29

GLENCORE HAS GENEROUSLY DONATED A TOTAL OF \$1 MILLION TO THREE ORGANISATIONS THAT PLAY VITAL ROLES IN BUSHFIRE PREPARATION, RESPONSE AND RECOVERY.

## BACK TO SINGLETON 2020

PAGE 25-28

WE'VE GOT EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT THE BACK TO SINGLETON 2020 BICENTENNIAL COMMEMORATIONS.



PAGE 14-15

# VALIANT VOLUNTEERS

WE THANK THE BRAVE NSW RFS VOLUNTEERS THAT HAVE BEEN ON THE FRONT LINES, TIRELESSLY PROTECTING OUR FAMILIES AND HOMES FROM THE DEVASTATING BUSHFIRES.



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HELLO 2020!

HAPPY NEW YEAR! AND WHAT A YEAR IT'S ALREADY SHAPING UP TO BE. AS OUR COUNTRY CONTINUES TO BE DEVASTED BY BUSHFIRES WE ARE SO PROUD TO SHARE SOME OF THE STORIES OF THOSE WHO HAVE GENEROUSLY GIVEN THEIR TIME, THEIR MONEY, THEIR LIVES. IT TRULY IS PROOF THAT IN THIS COUNTRY WE ARE THERE FOR EACH OTHER WHEN IT COUNTS.

@THE COALFACE

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STANDING TOGETHER

STEPHEN GALILEE,  
CEO, NSW MINERALS COUNCIL

THERE ARE 13,000 MINERS WORKING IN THE HUNTER REGION. THAT'S NOT JUST A NUMBER. IT'S 13,000 PEOPLE WHO ARE CRITICALLY IMPORTANT TO THE FABRIC OF THEIR LOCAL COMMUNITIES.

Our miners have families, with children that go to local schools and play sports with local teams on the weekend. Our mining families support local retail stores, cafes and restaurants, and have their cars serviced by local mechanics.

Our local miners and their families are a central part of the lifeblood of the Hunter. That's why our mining community in the Hunter has grieved right along with everyone that has been impacted by the tragic bushfires that have hit our region and raged across NSW.

It's also why our miners have rolled up their sleeves like so many others, to lend a hand in the recovery effort providing donations as well as supporting employees who serve with the RFS.

A NUMBER OF MINING OPERATIONS ACROSS THE HUNTER HAVE PEOPLE WHO VOLUNTEER WITH THE RFS ON THE FIRE FRONT. COMPANIES ARE DOING A RANGE OF THINGS TO SUPPORT THEM, LIKE PROVIDING EXTENDED LEAVE WHERE NECESSARY AS THESE VOLUNTEERS WORK UNDER SOME OF THE HARSHTEST CONDITIONS IMAGINABLE TO PROTECT LIVES AND PROPERTY FROM THE FLAMES.

Some companies have also provided resources including monetary donations and supplies.

For example, Glencore operates eight mines across the Hunter and has been a strong supporter of Hunter communities during the drought. Amid the bushfire crisis Glencore stepped up again with a significant contribution to assist those involved with fighting the fires as well as with recovery.

Glencore will donate \$500,000 to Blaze Aid to assist with reconstruction for areas affected by the fires; \$250,000 to the local RFS units in the Upper Hunter and Mid-West regions; and \$250,000 to Aussie Ark to

help with wildlife rescue and rehabilitation.

Another of our major companies Yancoal has also made a significant contribution to the bushfire relief effort with a \$500,000 donation to the NSW RFS as well as matching donations from employees. Yancoal is also supporting employees volunteering as part of the bushfire fighting effort.

The Bengalla mining operation near Muswellbrook has also been supplying local Upper Hunter RFS units with hydrant water and drinking water as well as new firefighting equipment to help them combat fires in the region.

Orica is a major supplier to mining operations in the Hunter and has announced a one million dollar donation divided between the Victorian Bushfire Appeal and the NSW Rural Fire Service and will match employee donations to a range of bushfire charities.

Through the BHP Foundation, another of our long term Hunter mining companies BHP has donated \$2 million to the Red Cross to support emergency relief efforts to bushfire impacted regions through Australia. BHP's Mt Arthur Coal rescue team has also donated a variety of first aid items to WIRES (NSW Wildlife Information, Rescue and Education Services) including needles and syringes, trauma dressing, gauze, tape and bandages, Burn Aid and more.

Further west, Evolution Mining owns the Cowal gold mine near West Wyalong, and has given \$750,000 to NSW Rural Fire Service as well as \$1.5 million to Rural Aid.

Many across our industry have been directly affected by the bushfires, and the threat of further challenges still remain. Our local mining industry will continue to stand by our local families and communities impacted by the tragic bushfires, now and in the months to come.

STEPHEN GALILEE, CEO, NSW MINERALS COUNCIL

OPINION

TANIA CONSTABLE

HONOURER TO HELP

IN RECENT WEEKS I HAVE BEEN PROUDER THAN EVER TO LEAD THE MCA AS OUR INDUSTRY HAS SHOWN WHY IT'S SUCH A GOOD MEMBER OF REGIONAL COMMUNITIES IN ITS RESPONSE TO THE BUSHFIRES.

There is no doubt that Australia has suffered a difficult start to 2020. Bushfire risk is still high in many states, compounded in some areas by extreme drought, floods and high winds. The loss of life, property and wildlife has shocked the nation.

Yet the manner in which so many Australians, including many MCA member companies, has rallied to provide practical and financial support to firefighters and affected communities has been an inspiring show of the power of shared purpose.

THE MCA'S MEMBER COMPANIES HAVE DONATED TIME, MONEY AND SERVICES TO PLAY THEIR PART IN RESPONSE AND RECOVERY EFFORTS.

That's included providing support

to the Red Cross, the NSW Rural Fire Service (RFS) and fire brigades in Queensland, Victoria and South Australia, Blaze Aid, Aussie Ark and other wildlife rescue organisations. Companies have been generous in extending paid leave for employee bushfire volunteers and ADF reservists while matching employee donations to various appeals and organisations. One company converted a mine site water truck into a firefighting unit to protect small local communities.

Fortunately, only a small number of mining companies were directly affected. There were some MCA members who suffered however – one of those being Centennial Coal, which lost power and communications at

THE MCA IS PROUD OF THE FINANCIAL AND PRACTICAL SUPPORT MADE BY ITS MEMBER COMPANIES. HERE ARE JUST A FEW OF THE FANTASTIC DONATIONS MADE.

ANGLO AMERICAN - \$600,000 donation divided between NSW Rural Fire Service, Victorian Country Fire Authority Public Fund and the Rural Fire Brigades Association Queensland. Will match all employee donations made before 29 February with funds going to the Australian Red Cross Disaster Relief and Recovery Appeal

BHP FOUNDATION - \$2 million donation to the Australian Red Cross, special leave for employee bushfire volunteers, \$30,000 to Murrumbidgee relief, \$2 donation for every \$1 donated by employees to Red Cross, RFS, SA Fire, WIRES and RSPCA

CIMIC AND THIESS - Paid leave with no cap for employee bushfire volunteers, paid leave for those impacted by fires, matching employee donations up to \$1 million and providing plant, equipment and people in the relief and rebuilding efforts

DOWNER - \$500,000 donation to the Business Council of Australia's Community Rebuilding Initiative; assistance with road maintenance, tree removal, hazard identification and repairs and traffic management in several communities; direct assistance to the South Australia Koala rescue centre by washing hundreds of kilograms of soiled laundry daily

MINERALS COUNCIL OF AUSTRALIA - \$20,000 donation to the Australian Red Cross Disaster Relief and Recovery Fund

NEWCREST MINING - \$400,000 donation divided between the NSW Rural Fire Service and the Victorian CFA and will match up to \$200,000 of employee donations

ORICA - \$1 million donation between the Victorian Bushfire Appeal and the NSW Rural Fire Service and will match employee donations to a range of bushfire charities

RIO TINTO - \$1 million donation to the Australian Red Cross; matching employee donations up to \$1 million; ensuring any employees involved in firefighting and relief efforts are supported throughout this period with full leave entitlements

WHITEHAVEN COAL LIMITED - \$100,000 donation divided between Australian Red Cross and NSW Rural Fire Service and will match all employee donations

YANCOAL AUSTRALIA - \$500,000 donation to NSW Rural Fire Service; will match any bushfire-related donations during the current fire season; provided local fire brigades with equipment and other necessities; Yancoal-owned residential properties made available to those who have lost homes, and to the fire services as temporary respite accommodation; supporting employees involved in responding to fires in their communities through local organisations including NSW RFS.

FOR THE FULL LIST OF DONATIONS GO TO [HTTPS://MINERALS.ORG.AU/NEWS/MCA-MEMBERS-CONTRIBUTE-AUSTRALIAN-BUSHFIRE-RELIEF](https://minerals.org.au/news/mca-members-contribute-australian-bushfire-relief)

some sites and was unable to transport its coal for a period because of rail lines being out. It's a credit to the hard-working team at Centennial that the work they put in weeks in advance of the danger period with the RFS to identify at-risk infrastructure and create containment lines helped save several mines and the jobs at those sites.

As Centennial told the MCA: "The efforts of our own fire-fighting teams and those of the RFS and Fire and Rescue were phenomenal."

The company also reported that while there were no lives lost in the area, the community was traumatised by the impact of the fires and recovery will take a long time.

AS A REGIONAL INDUSTRY, MINING WILL BE WITH OUR COMMUNITIES EVERY STEP OF THE WAY ON THE LONG ROAD TO RECOVERY – WHICH WILL NO DOUBT TAKE YEARS.

There's a lot the minerals industry can do to work together in building resilience, support recovery and get behind communities. That will include helping the minerals workforce who may have been directly or indirectly affected by the bushfires with mental health support and services.

A smart approach to community investment will see money going to where it's most needed, including making the most of local procurement opportunities. The minerals industry could

provide expertise and experience in environmental and rehabilitation projects such as re-seeding and planting, drones and drone operators to survey affected areas and offer services and people for vulnerable species protection and feral animal control.

The Resources Industry Skills Organisation pilot which the MCA is facilitating could be expanded to support affected communities with reskilling and upskilling opportunities.

It's also clear that there is room to do better in community warnings and information by creating nationally consistent risk classifications – so if you travel between states you should see the same words and colours on a fire warning sign no matter where you are. This will save lives.

The way that the values of the minerals industry have been put into such immediate and practical effect will inspire pride in our workforce both in Australia and abroad.

THE BUSHFIRES HAVE TESTED OUR RESILIENCE AND COMMUNITY SPIRIT. BUT WE'VE RISEN TO THE CHALLENGE.

We thank all emergency service workers, community leaders and volunteers for their tremendous efforts.

As NSW and Australia rebuild and recover, the minerals industry will continue to support our regions and communities for as long as it takes.

TANIA CONSTABLE  
CEO, MINERALS COUNCIL OF AUSTRALIA



AGL Macquarie Pty Limited undertakes to fund projects following non-compliance with the Protection of the Environment Operations (Waste) Regulation 2014

AGL Macquarie Pty Limited (AGL Macquarie) has entered into an enforceable undertaking with the Environment Protection Authority following its failure to comply with the Coal Ash Order 2014 (the **Order**), in breach of the *Protection of the Environment Operations (Waste) Regulation 2014* (the **Waste Regulation**).

The enforceable undertaking requires AGL Macquarie to pay \$100,000 towards the installation of a ceilometer in the Upper Hunter Region and weed eradication in Col Fisher Park. A ceilometer is a device that determines the height of a cloud ceiling or cloud base.

AGL Macquarie has also committed to taking specific training and procedural measures to ensure that it complies with the Order and the Waste Regulation going forward.

AGL Macquarie has published this notice in accordance with the enforceable undertaking.

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# IN THE NEWS...

### CHANGES AFOOT FOR THE IPC

The Independent Planning Commission (IPC) is in for an overhaul after an extensive review by the NSW Productivity Commission.

The NSW Government has accepted all of the recommendations that have been made including establishing the IPC as a separate and independent agency; the IPC will act as a decision-maker on the State's most controversial projects rather than re-assessing the Department's technical work; and introducing accountability benchmarks for decision-making timeframes to ensure timely determinations.

The review came after numerous calls for the IPC to be looked into after many questioned decisions such as the refusal of the Rocky Hill open cut mine and the administrative error in the approval of the Bloomfield Group's 21-year extension to Rix's Creek.

The NSW Minerals Council say they are cautiously welcoming the Government's response to the review.

### ADIOS AUSTAR

Yancoal has made the decision to suspend production at Austar Coal Mine, which will go into care and maintenance from the end of March. In a company statement, Yancoal said it was committed to providing support and further career opportunities where possible to the 137 employees on site. This included offering voluntary redundancy to all employees, redeployment opportunities to other sites and retaining 44 employees to undertake ongoing care and maintenance works at Austar.

Yancoal has said they will continue to evaluate mining opportunities to recommence mining operations in the future.

### NOT JUST ANY DRAGLINE BUCKET

Bengalla mine has had a very special dragline bucket delivered.

The bucket is all painted up to support local organisation Where There's A Will to coincide with some fundraising the mine site has been doing.

### IF IT LOOKS MURKY, DON'T GO IN

A red alert warning has been issued for blue-green algae in the Hunter River upstream from Glenbawn Dam.

WaterNSW says the high alert warning means people should not undertake recreational activities where they may come into direct contact with the water and don't drink or bathe in it either.

Contact with the affected water also could pose a threat to livestock and pets - Livestock owners are advised to check stock water supplies for blue-green algae. They are also advised to remove stock from foreshores and avoid extraction of water, in areas where surface scums are visible or blue-green algae are suspected.

### RAVENSWORTH MINE WORKER LUCKY AFTER NOSEDIVING INTO A DITCH

A Ravensworth mine employee was taken to hospital after the light vehicle he was driving went over an embankment and dropped 14 metres.

### MUSWELLBROOK LOSES LEGEND

Known not only for his artistic talent, but also for his generous nature, Maxwell "Max" Watters died at the age of 83 years on Saturday. He was also the Muswellbrook Shire Citizen of the Year on two occasions, and a huge part of the state's art community with a collection valued at over \$5 million. Mayor Martin Rush released a statement saying, "Max was often given to saying, "art's been good to me" well today, collectively, Muswellbrook says Max, you've been good to us".

### LIFE SAVER FOR WILDLIFE

The NSW Government had thousands of kilos of carrots and sweet potato dropped into some of the hardest hit areas from bushfires including in the Yengo National Park where the Gaspers Mountain blaze has now been contained.

The supplementary food has been dropped in a bid to help species like the endangered Brush-tailed Rock-Wallaby.

Aussie Ark has been doing their bit as well, President Tim Faulkner and his staff have visited affected areas and discovered silent victims of the bushfires and drought including the platypus.

They've been working to save and relocate them as well as endangered Manning River Turtles and Hunter River Turtles in the Barrington Tops.

Mining giant Glencore has confirmed the incident happened and that the worker was treated on site before being taken to Singleton Hospital by Ambulance for further observation.

The incident has been reported to the Resources Regulator and an investigation is underway.

### FITZGIBBON GOING IN TO BAT

An additional 52 Councils will now receive up to \$1 million through the Drought Communities Programme, except for Singleton.

Hunter MP and Shadow Agriculture Minister Joel Fitzgibbon isn't impressed though that Singleton has missed out again and says he is doing all he can to get some funding the LGA's way.

The Government says they determine the funding through rainfall data and both agricultural and broader employment information.

### ISN'T IT BAD LUCK TO CROSS THE PATH OF A BOB-CAT?

The Hunter Valley Police District has been looking for those responsible for allegedly stealing a Bobcat from Mount Arthur mine at Muswellbrook.

Officers say the vehicle was stolen using a Tipper truck early on New Year's Day.

The Mitsubishi Tipper truck was later located burnt out in bushland upon Gibson Road, Sawyers Gully the following day.

### PINES AS OLD AS TIME SAVED

The prehistoric Wollomi Pines have survived the bushfire that ripped through their home.

Teams of firefighters from NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service and the NSW Rural Fire Service were winched into the top secret site to set up an irrigation system in the gorge to increase the moisture content and as the fires approached crews were winched in again and helicopters dumped water on the edges in a bid to reduce the fires impact.

It worked, and the pines which before 1994 were thought to be extinct, survived.

### HAY THERE! THANK YOU!

The Upper Hunter from Singleton and all the way to Tamworth saw the Burrumbuttock Hay Runners make their way through to Armidale on a special mission.

The more than 170 strong truck convoy loaded with hay, fodder and water made a pit stop at Singleton Pony Grounds for a night before going on to Armidale down the New England Highway.

The convoy was welcomed into Armidale where they helped farmers who aren't only drought affected, but bushfire impacted as well.



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

## BYPASS BUGGER UP FOR SINGLETON CBD

RECENTLY WE WENT TO AN INFORMATION SESSION AND DETAILED LOOK AT THE PROPOSED SINGLETON BYPASS. DESIGNED TO BYPASS THE TOWN, HAS IT ALSO BEEN DESIGNED TO BYPASS ANY POTENTIAL ECONOMIC BENEFIT FOR LOCAL BUSINESS AND RESIDENTS?

The RMS seems to have consulted god-only-knows-who in deciding that a wonderful opportunity to provide better and easier access directly to our main street and businesses in both the Northerly and Southerly directions is a bad idea.

Heading South, access has been planned. Going North though, we were told that the research demonstrated that being able to conveniently access town was a bad idea.

**CLEARLY NOT A SINGLE LOCAL WAS EITHER CONSULTED OR LISTENED TO.**

The main access points are either side of town and represent a confusing maze and considerable effort to get anywhere near the town centre for anyone heading North. In other words, people won't bother.

Singleton's proximity is pretty much the first viable country town stopping point for the considerable amount of traffic heading North on The New England out of Sydney at

the two-hour mark and one hour from Newcastle. Not having a full interchange at the most important point to access town and drive stopover/rest economic activity is short sighted at best.

**FOR A TOWN ACTIVELY LOOKING TO DIVERSIFY FROM A SOMEWHAT SINGLE INDUSTRY 'COAL TOWN', THIS EFFECTIVELY MAKES THAT JOB MUCH HARDER.**

At the meeting, our local state member Michael Johnsen seemed somewhat put out about any dissatisfaction with the plan. Sorry Michael, you represent us first and the RMS second.

As for the RMS, or 'Secret Service' as I personally prefer to call them, their consultation is poor at best, if not nonexistent. I actually own land right on it all and the few calls I have put in to talk to someone have either been not answered or my call not returned.

Other locals with significantly more knowledge and intelligence than me

have the same or similar views.

A Singleton Council spokesperson told us, "Council is committed to advocating for the Singleton Bypass and is equally interested in the design currently on exhibition, particularly access for the Town Centre.

"We are engaging external expert advice in our review of the proposed design."

"The lack of a full interchange at the Putty Road is a significant concern, and will be a particular focus in Council's consideration of the design and subsequent submission."

**ALL I HAVE SPOKEN TO WHO LEAD OUR TOWN THINK A FULL INTERCHANGE IS WHAT WE NEED.**

Other comments include not making it dual carriageway. That one I am not well enough informed to comment on, but I get the point.

RMS and the State Government need to revisit this and modify the plan... don't stuff up a huge opportunity!

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# SAFETY STARS

CELEBRATING ITS FIFTH YEAR, THE HUNTER SAFETY AWARDS HAVE ANNOUNCED THE 2020 FINALISTS WHO HAVE DEMONSTRATED POSITIVE APPROACHES TO WORK, HEALTH AND SAFETY (WHS) IN THEIR WORKPLACE.

With thirteen categories now available, the Awards received a high number of outstanding entries, making final judgement calls for 2020 a difficult task for judges.

Following the success of introducing an overarching wellbeing award in 2019, this year's event came with the addition of a 'Best Health and Wellbeing' category for both large organisations and small-to-medium enterprises (SME).

Entries demonstrated that there's a growing focus on mental health safety in the workplace in addition to physical wellbeing.

Hunter Safety Awards Founder, Sarah-Jane Dunford said the increasing value businesses put on all aspects of WHS in the workplace is a very rewarding thing to see as a judge.

"Every year we're impressed

with the range of WHS approaches and initiatives, but to see even more businesses emphasising the importance of mental health in their entries has been a very rewarding aspect of judging this year."

"MENTAL HEALTH ISSUES AFFECT MANY IN OUR INDUSTRY, MAKING IT SO IMPORTANT WE DON'T SHY AWAY FROM THAT AND I'M SO GLAD OUR AWARDS CEREMONY PROVIDES A PLATFORM TO CELEBRATE AND HIGHLIGHT THESE APPROACHES," SARAH-JANE SAID.

This year, the judging panel of industry experts and sponsor representatives had a great challenge on their hands choosing from so many worthy applications.

"Year after year the calibre of entries improves, making our job as judges tricky. It's so exciting to see the amazing WHS measures local businesses are taking to ensure safety in their workplace," said Sarah-Jane.

"I'm always honoured to learn how companies in the Hunter are developing new approaches that create a positive work culture surrounding WHS. Our finalists come from a vast range of industries and sectors and are creating world-first products that help inspire other businesses to embrace a positive WHS culture."

Awards will be presented across thirteen categories and will see the winners announced at a gala event on Friday, 20 March 2020 at Newcastle Exhibition and Conference Centre (NEX).

GET YOUR TICKETS AT [WWW.HUNTERSAFETYAWARDS.COM.AU/EVENT](http://WWW.HUNTERSAFETYAWARDS.COM.AU/EVENT)



CREDIT: FIREBUG PHOTOGRAPHY

## THE 2020 HUNTER SAFETY AWARDS FINALISTS

- Ampcontrol
- Aqua Assets Pty Limited
- ARTC
- Asset Training
- Asplundh
- Body and Mind 2000
- Brimble Rail
- Carter Heavy Haulage & Transport
- CHD Partners
- Corfad Civil and Construction Pty Ltd
- Critical Alpha
- Daracon
- Ethos Health
- Great Lakes FM
- Hunter Valley Tours
- John Holland Rail
- Keolis Downer
- LabourCo
- Laing O'Rourke
- Mainstream Industries
- Newcastle Coal Infrastructure Group (NCIG)
- North Construction & Building
- Norsu Group
- Novaskill
- Novecom
- Programmed
- Safe Industries Australia
- Singleton Council
- Tony White Group
- Warner Company
- WesTrac

'AVE A LAUGH WITH



PH 6545 3033

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

A young guy moves from Singleton to Sydney and goes to a massive department store looking for a job. The Manager says, "Do you have any sales experience?" The kid says "Yeah. I was a vacuum salesman back in Singleton."

The boss was unsure, but he liked the kid so he gave him the job. After his first day on the job the boss came down to the sales floor.

"How many customers bought something from you today?" "One." The boss says "Just one?!? Our salespeople average sales to 20 to 30 customers a day. That will have to change if you want to continue your employment here. One sale a day might have been acceptable in Singleton, but you're not in the boondocks anymore son."

The kid was quiet throughout this dressing down and the boss feels kinda bad. He asks, "So, how much was your one sale for?"

The reply, "\$101,237.65."

The boss is astonished. "What the heck did you sell?"

The kid says, "Well, first, I sold him some new fishhooks. Then I sold him a new fishing rod to go with his new hooks. Then I asked him where he was going fishing and he said down the coast so I told him he was going to need a boat. So we went down to the boat department and I sold him a twin engine Chris Craft. Then he said he didn't think his Honda Civic would pull it, so I took him down to the automotive department and sold him that 4x4 Expedition."

The boss said "A guy came in here to buy a fish hook and you sold him a boat and a TRUCK!?"

The kid replies, "No, the guy came in here to buy tampons for his wife, and I said, 'Mate, your weekend's shot, you should go fishing.'"

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# LUNCH WITH LATHAM

AT THE TAIL END OF 2019, MARK LATHAM WAS ASKED TO COME TO THE HUNTER BY FEDERAL ONE NATION CANDIDATE STUART BONDS TO DELIVER AN INFORMATION NIGHT ON THE MUCH ANTICIPATED FAMILY LAW REVIEW, AND TO VISIT WHAT STUART BELIEVES WILL BE ADANI 2.0, GLENORE'S GLENDELL.



During the catch up with Mark and Stuart they both passionately talked about Glencore's application for an expansion that will see the mines output double to 10 million tonnes and extend its life until 2044. With both believing the application will no doubt end up in front of the Independent Planning Commission (IPC). Mark expressed his frustration at the 'flip flop attitude' of the IPC claiming they are operating outside their original mandates and possibly operating illegally in some instances. "The commission is taking into account emissions created overseas from use of the coal which is not their job. Their job is to make sure the companies are working within the perimeters of the Australian law and looking after the community and environment in the scope of their business," said Mark.

HE WENT ON TO SAY THAT IF WE DON'T GET THE IPC PULLED BACK IN LINE NSW WILL MISS OUT ON MAJOR PROJECTS FROM PRIVATE INVESTORS AS NSW WILL BE PUT INTO THE TOO HARD BASKET FOR LARGE COMPANIES. THIS WOULD BE DEVASTATING NOT JUST FOR THE HUNTER BUT THE WHOLE STATE.

Of the application, Stuart said, "The combination of the claimed cultural significance of the site, the fact it has a near 150-year-old homestead smack bang in the middle of the lease and it claimed as being 'prime grazing land', all make the company's challenge all the more difficult."

Stuart told us that as fate would have it, he was the last person to live on the homestead grounds in 2006-2007 before Glendell mine was opened in 2008. He said nobody ever come and looked at the homestead whilst he was living there, there were no cultural gatherings either and in his view the land is terrible grazing land.

"Essentially the mine is looking at having to shovel tens of millions of dollars into relocating a house that is currently unliveable. This has nothing to

do with saving the homestead or the aboriginal culture or people suddenly caring about farmland. Those are just vehicles to push their climate change agenda," said Stuart.

As the lunch continued, conversation turned to talk of the Hunter's future. If you don't know Stuart, he is a man who passionately cares about the Hunter and he had a lot to say.

"We hear the words 'transition' get thrown around a lot these days. In fact, the Labor party even convinced the CFMEU to use that same language when describing the coal energy sector during the election. We need a 'just transition'.... But what does it mean? To tell you the truth, for all the time I have spent fighting this fight I simply don't know. But let's say we are going to transition, and I would say that in 30-40 years we may have to due to technological advancement, how would a forward thinking businessman perform this delicate task? Well to put it simply, you don't move out of your old house before you've completed your new one."

Stuart explained how we should look to America for a perfect example. "Look what happened to their mid-western states when their factories were moved overseas or their coal sector ground to a halt. We know what happens when highly skilled, high paying jobs leave these rural areas. You are left with towns and cities that are shadows of their former selves."

"Suicide numbers, drug addiction, depression, family breakdown and violent crime numbers all significantly increase. The only things that will decrease is the price of local housing, destroying all the accumulated wealth generated in the area."

"WE NEED TO START TO MOVE IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION BEFORE WE EVEN UTTER THE WORDS 'TRANSITION'."

Stuart said the bypasses are a good start as once completed they will allow faster travel to and from Newcastle and Sydney, but they are only

a sugar hit to the local community. Especially seeing as these contracts are being increasingly given to companies based overseas so the ultimate profits are taken offshore. What we need is a long term plan.

"We have long been a major supplier of energy to the state and we have all the infrastructure in place. We should be looking at a new clean coal fired power station. Or maybe we should be considering the nuclear option."

"The high speed rail network is starting to make more sense as the country's population grows. Wouldn't the Hunter be a perfect spot for the construction and ongoing maintenance of the trains?"

Stuart also suggested tax zoning as an option, where companies get a lower tax rate if they build or relocate to regional areas. And there's plenty of more ideas from this passionate man.

BUT REGARDLESS OF WHAT WE DECIDE FOR THE FUTURE, STUART SAID WE NEED TO ACCEPT THAT THE COAL INDUSTRY WILL BE HERE FOR DECADES TO COME. WE SHOULD REMEMBER IT HAS SERVED US WELL AND WILL CONTINUE TO FEED OUR FAMILIES LONG INTO THE FUTURE.

"One Nation's ongoing fight is for companies that are doing the right thing to be able to keep mining operations going and expanding. Our fight is for the rights of injured coal miners to receive their accident pay and entitlements. Our fight is to stop the exploitation of so called 'casual' coal miners and have then paid correctly. This is what One Nation fights for, and this is what I fight for."

Agree or disagree with Stuart, you have to respect his commitment to the community, the workers and to the mining companies and to the future of the Hunter.

"We are all wedded to the future and if we look at the real future, the children being born now, we need to think big and start thinking now if we are going to build a bigger, better Hunter for them."



## EXHIBIT AT EIMEX 2020

THE ENERGY, INNOVATION & MINING EXPO (EIMEX) 2020 IS RARING UP TO BE BIGGER AND BETTER THAN EVER AND WILL AGAIN HIGHLIGHT A RANGE OF EXHIBITORS FROM THE ENERGY, INNOVATION AND MINING INDUSTRIES.

Held at Gunnedah Showground on Friday 16 October to Saturday 17 October, eIMEx 2020 will comprise of indoor and outdoor exhibitor sites, information sessions, a Women in the Workforce Breakfast and an opening dinner to be held at Gunnedah Town Hall.

SECURE A SITE AT EIMEX 2020 AND DON'T MISS OUT ON EARLY-BIRD RATES.

For the site plan, costs and to register your interest to exhibit at eIMEx 2020, please visit [www.eimexgunnedah.net.au/exhibit/](http://www.eimexgunnedah.net.au/exhibit/) or contact Helen Cygan at [admin@eimexgunnedah.net.au](mailto:admin@eimexgunnedah.net.au)



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PUBLISHERS OPINION

# BEARDS OF DEATH

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I BELIEVE SAFETY ON THE JOB REALLY IS THE MOST IMPORTANT CONSIDERATION FOR EVERY SINGLE MINING OPERATION HERE IN THE HUNTER, AUSTRALIA AND THE REST OF THE WORLD. AFTER A FEW RECENT CONVERSATIONS HOWEVER, THE QUESTION IS; CAN THE PURSUIT OF SOME SAFETY INITIATIVES SOMETIMES BE A STEP TOO FAR?

I understand there will be a few who will look at the preceding statement and call me an idiot for even asking the question. Fair enough.

I do believe however that some initiatives go a bit too far, and the one that has prompted a raised eyebrow from me is the question of bearded workers. As I understand it, there is a push for mine sites to become 'beard free'. That means off with the whiskers or you are off the job.

This isn't the Army people. If we want to impose army like conditions, then its only fair we offer similar perks. Dental, free accommodation, better pensions and medical and any and all the other things.

My understanding is that beards may prevent dust masks working properly. At what level

though and which roles may require the strongest dust protection? For many men, their beards are an integral part of their identity and have been for all of their adult life. For some there are also religious or cultural reasons.

Whatever the reason, the tests are far from fool proof and even someone with the wrong shaped head can easily fail.

"SORRY MATE, YOUR HEAD'S A WEIRD SHAPE SO WE HAVE TO LET YOU GO."

While the intent might be honourable, the practical realities make this potential new rule a step too far. If we are going to bring this in then I am sure all equipment, buildings, carparks and whatever else need to be dust proofed as well. These are mine sites after all and that makes them inherently dusty.

So, what is the answer? I don't really know, but the relatively fast, easy and effective solution is design and supply a beard friendly mask. Certainly, look at the roles people do so that should a version of this new rule be introduced that only the absolutely high risk roles are part of the plan – and maybe hipsters with man buns.

OPINION

## MINERS ARE THE INDUSTRY'S GREATEST ASSET

THE LABOR PARTY STRONGLY SUPPORTS OUR COALMINING INDUSTRY; WE ALWAYS HAVE AND ALWAYS WILL. THE LIBS AND NATS SAY THEY DO TOO, BUT, UNLIKE LABOR, THEY DO NOT SUPPORT THE MOST VALUABLE ASSET: ITS WORKFORCE.

The question becomes: does One Nation support our coalminers?

One Nation's Senator Malcolm Roberts has asserted that both the miners' union and I have failed in our duty to offer support for our local coalminers. Nothing could be further from the truth. Senator Roberts has also, under parliamentary privilege, asserted that the union and Coal Services, the entity behind Coal Mines Insurance, have conspired to deny injured coalminers the support they deserve. This is absolute rubbish.

Coal Services is jointly owned and operated by the union and the New South Wales Minerals Council, and is heavily regulated by the New South Wales government. Coal Services and Coal Mines Insurance should be measured not only on the support they provide injured miners but also on the reductions in accidents and

lost injury time. Both measurements provide impressive statistics.

SENATOR ROBERTS HAS ALSO RAISED THE MATTER OF CREEPING CASUALISATION IN THE COALMINING INDUSTRY. HE'S RIGHT TO IDENTIFY IT AS A PROBLEM, BUT WE NEED SOLUTIONS AND HE'S NOT BACKING THEM. LABOR TOOK TO THE LAST ELECTION A PROMISE TO LEGISLATE TO GUARANTEE FOR A SAME-JOB, SAME-PAY REGULATORY FRAMEWORK AND TO ADDRESS THE UNFAIRNESS HIGHLIGHTED BY THE SKENE CASE IN THE FEDERAL COURT. WE PROMISED TO INSERT AN OBJECTIVE DEFINITION OF 'CASUAL' IN THE FAIR WORK ACT – THE ROOT OF THIS WHOLE ISSUE.

If Senator Roberts is serious about joining me and the union in supporting our miners, he will withdraw his vote in the Senate until the Morrison Government acts on casualisation and he will address the three things he could do in cooperation with the Labor Party. He could ensure that all of the benefits of union-negotiated EAs go across the whole workforce. He could ensure the right to be treated as a permanent when, for all intents and purposes,

a coalminer is a permanent. He could ensure broad access to the benefits available to coalminers insured by Coal Mines Insurance.

What about the National party? Senator Matthew Canavan visited the Hunter Valley during the federal and NSW elections, saying the Government had legislation to fix casualisation. But that bill only allowed employees to ask the employer to be considered as a permanent—to ask the employer. Well, good luck with that! That bill did not make its way through the Senate prior to the election, and the Government has not brought it back.

I challenge Minister Canavan and Senator Roberts to truly fix this issue: they can back an improved bill, one which addresses the casualisation problem by creating an objective definition of 'casual'.

HON JOEL FITZGIBBON MP  
SHADOW MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE AND RESOURCES AND FEDERAL MEMBER FOR HUNTER.

'AVE A LAUGH WITH

SingletonOutdoors

PH 6571 1589

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

Two blondes are hanging out and one of them pulls out a mirror.  
She looks into it and then says in a stunned voice, "There's a face in there. She looks so familiar."  
Her friend grabs the mirror, looks in it, and says "You're such an idiot. That's me!"

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# VALIANT VOLUNTEERS

LEANNE AND SOME OF THE HVFCC TEAM

**SINCE SEPTEMBER, NSW HAS BEEN RAVAGED BY UNPRECEDENTED BUSHFIRES. WITHOUT THE BRAVE NSW RFS VOLUNTEERS THAT HAVE BEEN ON THE FRONT LINES, TIRELESSLY PROTECTING OUR FAMILIES AND HOMES, IT WOULD HAVE BEEN MUCH WORSE.**

A little background about the NSW Rural Fire Service (NSW RFS). Starting back in the 19th century, it's now the world's largest volunteer firefighting organisation, with over 70,000 volunteers and a little over 900 staff. That's 2002 brigades, 108 local government areas and 45 districts. The NSW RFS not only deals with bush and grass fires, but also structural fires, motor vehicle fires, motor vehicle accidents, investigations, floods, spillages and more. But as we all know it's the devastating bushfires that have been pushing the RFS to its limits.

The area they are responsible for protecting encompasses a geographic area of 800,630 square kilometres, approximately 10.4 percent of Australia's land mass. So far this fire season, more than 100,000 square kilometres of that land has been burnt.

We headed over to Hunter Valley Fire Control Centre (HVFCC) in Bulga where we sat down with Leanne Bell, Operational Officer and Media Liaison. As you can imagine, Leanne's job is a difficult and

demanding one that has been hugely compounded by the recent bushfires. The HVFCC services both the Singleton and Muswellbrook Local Government Area's. Though we quickly learnt that the many brigades and districts don't operate alone, rather it's a symbiotic relationship that spans across every single brigade in NSW. And every one of those brigades have been pushed to the limits in what has been the worst fire season that Leanne has ever seen.



**"SO MUCH OF THE STATE HAS BURNED. BUSH FIRE SEASON STARTS IN OCTOBER AND NORMALLY WE SEE IT SLOWLY TRAVEL DOWN THE COAST, BUT THIS YEAR IT CAME SO FAST. WE DON'T NORMALLY END UP DOWN THE SOUTH COAST UNTIL FEBRUARY. THIS YEAR IT STARTED AS EARLY AS SEPTEMBER, WHEN WE STARTED SENDING UP TEAMS AND SPECIALISTS UP NORTH TO ASSIST," LEANNE TELLS US.**



"Then we started seeing fires along the mid coast and the big Gosper's Mountain fire started up and started approaching our district. From then it's been all hands-on deck on the home front, and it hasn't really stopped since. And it's not just our district that have been fighting here. We've been assisted by other districts when we needed it because we didn't have enough resources. Just as we support them, they support us, it's really a remarkable team effort."

The last couple of months have been incredibly tough and there's been volunteer firefighters on the ground every single day. Working 12 hour shifts, in intense conditions. Gale force winds, incredibly hot days and hardly a moment's reprieve.

There's also been the tragic loss of lives and property. But despite everything, Leanne says the attitude among the RFS remains positive. "At times it feels like it's never going to end, but these guys never give up. They are such amazing people that just keep going, nonstop."

I ask Leanne why she does it. "My brigade is my other family. We are all good friends and have built such strong bonds. Then there's the satisfaction of doing what you set out to achieve working as a team. Protecting people and their livelihoods and their properties is rewarding work. You also really appreciate and feel humble when people acknowledge what you do. Being thanked by strangers on the street. It really makes it worthwhile."



**70,000 PLUS AMAZING PEOPLE PUTTING THEIR LIVES ON THE LINE. COMPLETELY VOLUNTARY, NO PAY. WORDS ARE NOT ENOUGH TO THANK THEM. I ASK LEANNE HOW PEOPLE CAN HELP.**

"We've already received so much assistance which we are so grateful for. The community support we have received is simply fantastic. We've been contacted by some of the local mines to see how they can help and so many businesses have shown support. We've received so many donations of water and nonperishable items which has really helped. But what we appreciate most is financial assistance as we can then use it where it's most needed."

But no sooner than she says this, she's quick to demonstrate how selfless these guys are by pointing out other people that desperately need help.

"Please don't forget about all the other people that have been affected. The wildlife, the farmers. We encourage people to help organisations like Blaze Aid which helps farmers rebuild the thousands and thousands of kilometres of fencing that been lost. Or the Red Cross and the Salvation Army that are behind the scenes helping people and communities that have been affected by the fires."

Hopefully we've seen the worst of the bushfire season this year, but we've still got a lot of work to do to make sure we're prepared in the future. Leanne says they are still expecting a tough couple of months ahead. Although there's been some rain and a little reprieve, it's not enough and some fires continue to burn which they are still hard at work containing.

**WITH LIGHTNING THE MAIN CAUSE OF ALL THE BUSHFIRES, PREVENTING FIRES IS AN ALMOST IMPOSSIBLE TASK. ALL WE CAN DO IS TRY TO BE BETTER PREPARED AND READY TO TAKE ACTION TO CONTAIN FIRES AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE.**

A lot of people blame the lack hazard reduction as the reason why this fire season has been so deadly, but Leanne explains how it's only one tool among many and hazard reduction is much more complex than people realise.

"The life span of hazard reduction is only about two years. Certain types of vegetation can only be burnt over a certain period, you need to allow time for vegetation to rebuild between burns or you risk losing species of flora."

"Fire conditions will also determine whether it will even be effective. I've seen fires go straight through hazard reduction areas that are less than



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a year old, but then I've also seen fires that are stopped by areas much older. So many factors come into play," Leanne adds.

There's a lot of legislation that has to be met before any hazard reduction is approved. It can be daunting for landowners but it's actually pretty easy for a landowner to get the licence if they meet the environmental requirements. Because ultimately the responsibility lies with the landowners.

"There's many effective measures that landowners and land managers can take. Preparation is key. Hazard reducing by fire with correct licenses, slashing and remove understory fuel, approved clearing. Pick the assets you need to protect and put your preparation into it. Reducing fuel load is important, and many steps are very simple and easy," explains Leanne.

Leanne recognises that managing

large bush lots can be a challenge which is why the RFS is always there to provide advice. "We are always happy to advise. And not just the RFS but Local Land Services will also provide advice to landowners. We can assist with hazard reduction burning, and as part of your hazard reduction approval needs an inspection, we can also point out other things you can do and be on hand to help."

Talking to Leanne and some of HVFCC team, they are quick to dismiss what they do as heroic. They're just doing a job that needs to be done. But this I have to disagree with them. These guys are heroes. And we are so lucky to have them. And not only the brave people who make up the NSW RFS. The men and women of the National Parks Service, the Forestry Corporation of NSW and Fire and Rescue NSW. We thank each and every one of you.



**WANT TO BE A RFS VOLUNTEER?**

There are many reasons to join the NSW RFS. You may want to protect your families, your friends, your home and assets, your community, and your way of life. Volunteering also offers the opportunity to learn new and valuable skills and to meet people you wouldn't normally meet. It's also about being part of a wonderful tradition and an organisation with a very proud history.

THE NSW RFS will always need new volunteers. As young as 12 can start the process and there's no age limit. And they don't just need firefighters. There are roles in communications, support, catering, community engagement, leadership, aviation and heavy plant.

**FIND OUT MORE ABOUT VOLUNTEERING AT WWW.RFS.NSW.GOV.AU/VOLUNTEER/VOLUNTEERING-WITH-THE-RFS**

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# LEARN FROM THE LAWMAN

STUART BARNETT IS OUR MINING INDUSTRY'S LEADING PERSONAL INJURY LAWYER. THIS MONTH HE HAS SOME IMPORTANT ADVICE ABOUT POTENTIAL LUMP SUM BENEFITS AVAILABLE FOLLOWING AN INJURY IN THE COAL MINING INDUSTRY.

Unfortunately following an injury in or about a coal mine workers are sometimes left with a permanent injury and can potentially make a claim for what is called permanent impairment or loss of use of defined parts of the body, bodily function as well as pain and suffering. The benefits available, the method of assessment and the dispute resolution process available in those circumstances is different to those available to workers injured outside of the coal mining industry.

**SUCH CLAIMS ARE GENERALLY AVAILABLE THROUGH A TWO STEP PROCESS. FIRSTLY, THE WORKER MUST ESTABLISH THAT THEY HAVE SUFFERED PERMANENT IMPAIRMENT OR LOSS OF USE OF A LIMB OR PART OF THE BODY OR OF A BODILY FUNCTION AND THEN IF THAT LEVEL OF LOSS EXCEEDS A DEFINED THRESHOLD A SECOND CLAIM FOR PAIN AND SUFFERING CAN BE AVAILABLE.**


The Workers Compensation legislation that applies to Coal Miners contains a table of parts of the body and bodily functions for which a claim for impairment or loss of use can be made. A small sample of claims available include impairment of the back or neck, loss of use of limbs, impaired sexual function, loss of sight, taste or smell. Injured workers should take advice as to whether their injury gives rise to a claim as there are many more body parts and functions in the table.

The end result of a successful claim for permanent impairment or loss of use is that the injured worker receives a tax free lump sum. The lump sum is not a finalisation of compensation rights, rather it is one of the entitlements available following a workplace injury. The injured worker is still covered for weekly compensation for time off work, coverage for treatment expenses and further claims for lump sum benefits are available if the condition deteriorates.

A claim for a lump sum benefits is commenced by obtaining an assessment of the impairment or loss from a suitably qualified specialist. The assessment and a formal claim is then lodged with the employer and their insurer who will then obtain their own opinion from a doctor of their choice. Then follows negotiations to see whether the claim can be resolved. If negotiations fail then the matter proceeds through the Court system and the entitlements will be determined by a Judge.

**THE AMOUNT OF COMPENSATION AVAILABLE IS DEFINED BY THE LEGISLATION AND BASED UPON A PROPORTIONATE LOSS OF THE BODY PART OR FUNCTION. THERE ARE MANY CONSIDERATIONS TO TAKE INTO ACCOUNT BEFORE MAKING SUCH A CLAIM AND ADVICE SHOULD ALWAYS BE TAKEN FROM AN EXPERIENCED LAWYER BEFORE PROCEEDING.**

In the next article I will discuss the second potential lump sum available for pain and suffering, when it is available and how it is calculated.



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


**STUART BARNETT, SLATER & GORDON LAWYERS**

## 'AVE A LAUGH WITH

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

A young boy came home from school and told his mother, "I had a big fight with my classmate. He called me a sissy."

The mother asked, "What did you do?"  
The boy replied, "I hit him with my purse!"



PH 6545 3033

# DEDICATED DIALOGUE

THE UPPER HUNTER MINING DIALOGUE HAS ENTERED 2020 WITH ITS ADVISORY AND WORKING GROUPS COMMITTED TO THE SUCCESSFUL ONGOING COLLABORATION BETWEEN COMMUNITY AND THE MINING INDUSTRY AIMED AT MINIMISING THE IMPACTS OF MINING IN THE REGION.



PROJECTS AND STRATEGIES DEVELOPED BY THE DIALOGUE RESULT FROM INTERACTION WITH PARTICIPANTS AT DIALOGUE MEETINGS, AT THE DIALOGUE'S ANNUAL FORUM AND THROUGH SURVEYS AND THE DIALOGUE'S COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT PROGRAM. FEEDBACK FROM THESE SOURCES IS CONSIDERED BY THE WORKING GROUPS AND, WHERE FEASIBLE, PROJECTS AND STRATEGIES ARE IMPLEMENTED.

COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVES INTERESTED IN JOINING THE DIALOGUE'S WORKING GROUPS CAN EXPRESS THEIR INTEREST VIA EMAIL AT [INFO@NSWMINING.COM.AU](mailto:info@nswmining.com.au) AND MORE INFORMATION CAN BE FOUND AT [WWW.MININGDIALOGUE.COM.AU](http://WWW.MININGDIALOGUE.COM.AU)

The Upper Hunter Mining Dialogue (the Dialogue) was established in 2011 in response to community concerns about infrastructure and services, mine rehabilitation and water and air quality.

The Dialogue brings together local mining companies, community and business leaders, environment groups, residents, regulators and other industries to better understand and address these challenges by working together to develop and implement solutions.

When the Dialogue was established in 2011, it was initially focused around four key themes, with projects undertaken and overseen by Working Groups under each theme.

The Dialogue's senior group – the Joint Advisory Steering Committee – guides the Dialogue's focus to ensure current programs, strategies and projects align with priorities set by the community and working groups.

The individual Working Groups, which act as the "engine rooms" for the Dialogue by developing potential strategies and projects, include the environment-themed Working Groups which focus on water and land management and air quality while separate Working Groups focus on

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## 'AVE A LAUGH WITH BrookOutdoors

PH 6545 1066

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

A juggler, driving to his next performance, is stopped by the police. "What are these matches and lighter fluid doing in your car?" asks the cop.

"I'm a juggler and I juggle flaming torches in my act."

"Oh yeah?" says the doubtful cop. "Let's see you do it." The juggler gets out and starts juggling the blazing torches masterfully.

A couple driving by slows down to watch. "Wow," says the driver to his wife. "I'm glad I quit drinking. Look at the test they're giving now!"



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# APPRENTICES KICK START CAREER

THE FUTURE IS LOOKING BRIGHT FOR THE PROGRAMMED INDUSTRIAL MAINTENANCE, MUSWELLBROOK WORKFORCE WITH THEM TAKING ON 8 KEEN NEW APPRENTICES FOR 2020.

Each year Programmed Industrial Maintenance, Muswellbrook aims to recruit 5 new apprentices, this year smashing it out the park by supporting 8 new apprentices in their chosen career paths. Of those 8, the Muswellbrook branch took on 1 x 3rd Year and 2 x 2nd Year Engineering Fabrication Apprentices, that previously worked for MRS. "After the closure of MRS these apprentices approached our business and after reviewing their application and recognising that these



locals were unfortunately out of work due to no fault of their own, a decision was made to make positions available to them in our business so they were able to complete their apprenticeships," said Programmed Industrial Maintenance Muswellbrook's HSEQ Advisor Karlee Boyle. The apprenticeships currently underway at the Muswellbrook branch - such as a Certificate III - Business Administration, Certificate III - Engineering Fabrication Trade, Certificate III

- Mechanical Trade, Certificate III - Mobile Plant Technology, Certificate IV - Mechanical Trade and Certificate IV - Engineering Trade - provide vast opportunities for apprentices to develop in their diverse range of careers and progress into leadership and dual trade roles.

**"UPSKILLING OUR EMPLOYEES GIVES THEM AN OPPORTUNITY TO WORK ACROSS AN INCREASINGLY DIVERSE INDUSTRY TO THE HIGH STANDARDS OUR CLIENTS EXPECT," SAID KARLEE.**

"Each apprentice is given the chance to discuss the direction in which they would like their career to progress. In each trade there are different areas in which you can work in and although we support the apprentices through the whole trade, if an apprentice is wanting to learn more in a specific area, we are able to focus more on that area."

New apprentices start with a robust induction program allowing them to learn a range of new knowledge base focusing on safety and hazard awareness and identification. Programmed Industrial Maintenance are passionate about ensuring that when new apprentices commence work on the workshop floor, they are ready and have the skills to keep themselves and the personal around them safe.

"Young Workers and the safety of Young Workers is important to Programmed Industrial Maintenance (Muswellbrook). We have a tailor made young workers training module along with a Supervising Young Workers training module. This allows the whole team to be on the same page when it comes to supporting our new apprentices," said Karlee.

I recently sat down with Sam Sawkins, 1st Year Apprentice in Engineering - Fabrication Trade during his second week, "I'm stoked that I have been given the opportunity to develop my career in the Fabrication Trade with Programmed, being a boilermaker has been my dream for as long as I can remember. The people have been helpful, and it is a real team feeling coming into the workshop. Everyone has a real focus on safety which is good."

**THE SUPPORT EACH APPRENTICE RECEIVES DURING THE PROGRAM SHONE THROUGH EVERY CONVERSATION I HAD WITH MEMBERS OF THE WORKFORCE.**

"I have learnt so much in the short time I have been working at Programmed Industrial Maintenance. Everyone I have been involved with has been supportive and willing to show me skills that I will use for the rest of my career," said Olivia Daniels recently starting her Certificate III in Business Administration.

The Programmed Industrial Maintenance, Muswellbrook team expressed they view their apprentices as the future of their company, and they strive to develop highly skilled employees to join their team and become the leaders of tomorrow.

"Seeing each apprentice develop both a skill set and knowledge base that is the foundation of their future is something that we take pride in," said Karlee.

"We reflect on the success of our apprentices as they can only be as successful with the correct training and exposure to their trade."

# HUNTER COAL FESTIVAL

Organised by Singleton Business Chamber, a series of events is planned for October 2020 as part of the biennial festival.

Singleton Business Chamber president Sue Gilroy said, while events and details were still being finalised, a number of major events had been fully locked in including the popular Mining Leaders Lunch on Friday, October 30 followed by the Singleton Community Day celebration on Saturday, October 31.

Plans were also being finalised for an Innovation and Careers Expo in Muswellbrook on Friday, October 23. The Westpac Rescue Helicopter Service's Hunter Valley Mining Rugby League Charity Day, scheduled for Saturday, October 17, would also be a festival-associated event.

**MS GILROY SAID THE FESTIVAL LINE UP WAS SHAPING UP WELL WITH A SPREAD OF EVENTS AIMED AT ENTERTAINING AND EDUCATING THE COMMUNITY.**

Ms Gilroy said the Singleton Community Day was designed to be a celebration of the co-existence between the mining industry and community with family-orientated entertainment and activities featuring throughout the day. Free planned attractions included children's activities, industry sponsor community engagement and educational displays, bus tours to local mine sites and tug of war, touch footy and coal-shovelling competitions and more.

**"THE SINGLETON COMMUNITY DAY WAS A MASSIVE SUCCESS IN 2018, ATTRACTING AN ESTIMATED 6000 PEOPLE TO THE SINGLETON SHOWGROUND AND WE ARE VERY KEEN TO BUILD ON THAT IN 2020," MS GILROY SAID.**

THE HUNTER COAL FESTIVAL WILL RETURN IN 2020 WITH EVENTS FOCUSING ON THE FESTIVAL'S THEMES OF "COMMUNITY + CO-EXISTENCE + INNOVATION + EDUCATION".



"We are also currently talking to very high-level potential speakers to address the Mining Leaders Lunch and hope to make an announcement on that soon. We also believe the planned Innovation and Careers Expo will be a major event which will educate local people about the innovative strategies being developed and fulfilling career-paths available in the Hunter region through mining and other industries.

"It's also great to have the Westpac Rescue Helicopter Service's Hunter Valley Mining Rugby League Charity Day on board as an associated event; it's arguably the Upper Hunter's most visible event showing community and the mining industry working together.

"The festival is again enjoying strong support from the mining industry through sponsorship and hands-on involvement in the planning. Companies that would like to support the festival can still get on board through sponsorship; anyone interested in becoming a sponsor should contact the Chamber at [admin@singletonchamber.org.au](mailto:admin@singletonchamber.org.au) or phone 0417 432 081."



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WITH ALL THE TALK OF TURNING MINE VOIDS INTO A LAKES SYSTEM, WHICH I BELIEVE IS A GREAT IDEA, I THINK IT IS IMPORTANT TO ALSO PLAN FOR SPECIFIC INTENSIVE USES THAT DRIVE MAJOR ECONOMIC ACTIVITY ON THOSE POTENTIAL LAKES.

Turning the Hunter from what is now a mining district into a lakes district as certain mines come to the end of their productive life would be a terrific legacy.

Just having the lakes would be a great outcome in itself, but purposefully developing them into magnets for enthusiasts of all of the different on-water sports, pursuits and interests would make our region a world class aquatic destination.

IT WOULD ALSO TURN ALL SURROUNDING TOWNS AND VILLAGES INTO ECONOMICALLY SUSTAINABLE AND ATTRACTIVE LOCATIONS AND DESTINATIONS FOR THE FUTURE.

Imagine one with an artificial surf break capable of holding world tour events and hosting tourists as well.

Another could be an international standard site for sailing regattas, wind surfing, kite surfing and all those kind of thing as part of the world circuit.

Of course, a fishing lake purposefully stocked with the most prized fish would be a no brainer.

Another site could be more action adventure themed with a complimentary white-water course feeding into it, a water-skiing course, jet boats, power boat racing, jet ski course to name a few.

Infrastructure supporting each would be an employment boom during construction. The facilities must be world class to make it all work. The ongoing workforce would bring life, money and prosperity to every town in the district.

The industry needed to support it all would be naturally attracted to the region, creating an entire new industry of employment.

Grab your sunscreen and swimmers people...It is time to get wet!



# ‘SIXTY-MILERS’

IN 1799, THE FIRST SHIPMENT OF COAL LEFT AUSTRALIA FROM NEWCASTLE HEADED FOR BENGAL, MARKING AUSTRALIA’S FIRST COMMODITY EXPORT. TODAY, NEWCASTLE IS THE WORLD’S LARGEST COAL EXPORT PORT, SHIPPING COAL ALL OVER THE WORLD. BUT IN THE EARLY DAYS IT WAS ALL ABOUT THE COASTAL ‘SIXTY-MILERS’.

Although that first coal shipment was headed for international waters, back in the early days of the coal carrying trade, coal was predominately shipped from Newcastle to Sydney. These early ships were commonly known as ‘sixty-milers’, a name that refers to the approximate distance in nautical miles by sea from the Hunter River to Sydney.

The ships used in the international and coastal coal trades were very different. The interstate ships were larger than most ‘sixty-milers’ and the longer voyages required different crewing arrangements and a larger coal bunker capacity. The owners of the interstate coastal ships were usually more traditional ship-owners, some of whom specialised in carrying coal and coke.

Whereas the ‘sixty-milers’ had many owners and operators with some



PHOTO CREDIT: NORM BARNEY PHOTOGRAPHIC COLLECTION, HELD BY CULTURAL COLLECTIONS AT THE UNIVERSITY OF NEWCASTLE.

only operating one vessel, though most were coal mines or coal shippers. Among these were Coalcliff Colliery, Wallarah Colliery, R.W. Miller, Howard Smith and Coal and Allied.

THE HEYDAY OF THE ‘SIXTY-MILERS’ WAS FROM AROUND 1880 TO THE 1960S. IN 1919, A ROYAL COMMISSION IDENTIFIED TWENTY-NINE SHIPS ENGAGED IN THE COASTAL COAL-CARRYING TRADE.

The very earliest ‘sixty-milers’ were sailing vessels often made from wood, but during the late 19th century and the 20th century the typical vessel was small coal-fired steamers usually made of iron and steel. Weighing in at between 200 and 1500 gross tons, they were small vessels which allowed access to the ports in the area.

Over the years, many ports were used to load coal from the northern coalfields. Among these were ports at Newcastle, Morpeth, Swansea Heads, Hexham, Carrington, Lake Macquarie and Catherine Hill Bay. Each port was different, with both positive and negative aspects.

At Newcastle it was a difficult time for ships trying to negotiate the east-north-east facing channel leaving the river. At Hexham, because it was a river port, ships were required to make use of the tides to avoid running aground in shallow Fern Bay. Lake Macquarie could handle only very small craft due to the shallow opening of the lake to the sea at Swansea so only the very smallest of the ‘sixty-milers’ were suitable. Catherine

Hill Bay was the only ocean jetty port on the northern coalfields and under unfavourable weather conditions could be dangerous.

During the years, many ‘sixty-milers’ were wrecked, involved in collisions with other vessels or run aground. The most common cause for losses was bad weather or in some cases it was thought the rush to put to sea contributed.

In the second half of the 20th century as demand for coal in Sydney reduced, so did the coastal coal-carrying trade. On 22 July 2002, the final load of coal was loaded from Lake Macquarie for the short trip to Newcastle and the era of the ‘sixty-milers’ was officially over.

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Steve Crofts is General Manager NSW & Vic for Emeco International Pty Ltd, which is an ASX listed heavy earthmoving rental and maintenance business servicing all key mining regions across Australia. Steve started his career in Sydney as an apprentice Plant Mechanic with an OEM and over a 30-year career has worked in various maintenance, sales, asset management and commercial roles.

For the past 15 years, Steve has worked for Emeco, a business that has as provided him with the opportunity to expand his skills and knowledge base via role diversification, growth, strong leadership and great people. Steve believes that people are by far the most important resource in any business and has a firm belief that to be successful in any endeavour that you must have a strong work ethic and that backing yourself is essential.

FROM FIRST JOB TO NOW

Steve's first industry job was as an apprentice Plant Mechanic with Gough and Gilmour based in their Sydney workshop. After spending 10 years moving between dealer roles and various positions within the mining services sector, Steve commenced with Emeco at their Somersby office as NSW Maintenance Manager. Steve has since spent the last 15 years predominantly with Emeco where he has been fortunate enough to support the group in several challenging roles both in NSW and Western Australia and is the current General Manager for NSW and Vic.

WHY THE MINING INDUSTRY?

After completing his formal education, Steve applied for a number of mechanical apprenticeships both in the automotive and heavy vehicle sectors. During this process Steve



was lucky enough to be interviewed by businesses representing both these market segments and after seeing what an organisation such as Gough and Gilmour could offer in regards of training, travel and industry diversification, his mind was made up. Fortunately for Steve, Gough and Gilmour offered him an apprenticeship where he commenced in 1989.

CHANGES AND CHALLENGES AHEAD

Steve believes that the challenges and changes facing the mining industry in the short term will include the skills shortage (especially technical and trade positions), the transient nature of employees impacting on company culture and the increased pressure of regulation for businesses

to reduce their impacts on the local communities and environments in which they operate.

KEYS TO SUCCESS

The best advice Steve was ever given was, 'If you are given 60 seconds in which to make a decision, take 50 seconds to consider your response.' This still rings true for him today though it was first highlighted to Steve early on in his career when he was receiving management training. During an exercise where he was required to review several hypothetical emails with the task requiring that he prioritise them into order of urgency, Steve remembers his choices were somewhat questionable. What the task taught him though was to not get caught up in the headline or

allow your emotion to influence your decision making process, but to take the time to consider each of the messages in context to ensure that you understand the consequence, urgency and the influence that you really have over the outcome. Given that we are challenged daily with conflicting priorities, demands and decisions that seemingly require our immediate attention, ensuring your time and energy is focused in the right areas is essential.

Steve says that he has been very fortunate in his career as he has been able to work with some fantastic companies and people in various roles and locations across the country, all the time continually learning and maturing as a manager. His advice to anyone looking to forge a career in our industry would be always maintain a high work ethic, embrace opportunities that will allow you to expand your experiences and knowledge base, don't be afraid to back yourself, and look to identify a mentor who can provide guidance and support. Steve expresses that our industry offers such an amazing range of career opportunities, work locations and diverse business types, and he believes that anyone with the passion and desire to develop a successful career certainly has every chance to do so.

ALL WORK AND NO PLAY

It's important to balance your work and personal life. When Steve is not at work, he enjoys spending quality time with his family and friends and tries to make some time each weekend to lose himself in a good book. When weather and time permit, Steve's real passion is game fishing because it provides a great excuse to be offline for several hours at a time allowing the batteries to recharge. The occasional fish is a bonus!

MY MINING LIFE

# Carmen DILLON

THIS MONTH WE GAINED AN INSIGHT INTO THE LIFE OF A PURCHASING OFFICER WITH CARMEN DILLON.

Who are you and what do you do?

My name is Carmen Dillon and I'm a purchasing officer at Hunter Valley Operations.

Any nicknames good or bad?

No.

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

I live in Newcastle and have been out in the Valley for 3.5 years.

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

I started out at HVO in 2017 as a contractor working in the warehouse and worked through the transition on site where I was able to become employed fulltime as a purchasing officer. It's been an amazing opportunity. I've been able to learn a lot and have been given some great opportunities to enhance myself and my career.



What's a usual day at work entail?

Processing purchase orders and goods for site and ensuring all goods are on site on time and ordered on time.

How big is the crew?

In our team we have 8 employees currently.

What's the best thing about your job?

Being able to help others and constantly learning. I work with some great people so that is also a bonus.

The worst thing?

Being away from my 8-month-old for 10 hours a day, but having her picture on my desk definitely helps.

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

Plenty of great times, I think being 7 months pregnant onsite and waddling down to the warehouse to my office became a regular amusement. I think it was an ongoing bet to see how long I would last before having to stop work.

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

When I was a kid I wanted to be a hairdresser, so I think I have definitely gone in a totally different direction. I have been working in stores/purchasing for 10 years now and for 6 of those years it has been within the mining industry.

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

That I was very inquisitive and unique, I guess. Always able to go off and do my own thing and entertain myself.

Family?

Yes I have an amazing partner who works out in the mines as a bench hand who is very supportive and a beautiful 8 month old girl. My mum and dad live in Port Macquarie and my sister is a project manager down in Sydney.

What do you do in your downtime?

Spending time with my family and catching up with friends. I also like to work out and go camping.

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

I have 70% of my body tattooed and scarification on my leg.



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SUPPLIER INSIDER

# SAFE GAUGE

## Who are you and what do you do?

Safe Gauge Pty Ltd was established in 2019 with a focus on developing an innovative solution to safely pressure test hydraulics on mobile plant machinery. Our wireless pressure testing system allows technicians to be up to 50metres away from the 'line of fire' avoiding injury.

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

Safe Gauge actually started with just an idea in 2018 when Luke Dawson (Safe Gauge MD) thought of a safer way to complete a steering clutch and brake (SCAB) calibration on a D11 Cat bulldozer. Luke then contacted a highly experienced electronic design engineer to help turn his idea into a working prototype. After 18 months of research and development, we have undergone successful trials with major mining companies and OEMs and look forward for the product release in April 2020.

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

Every day with Safe Gauge

is different, we now have a small, but highly experienced team working together doing demonstrations in maintenance workshops and on mine sites. Our development team is always working on improvements and future models to suit different applications based on industry feedback.

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

It is very rewarding to be a part of the Safe Gauge team and contribute to making a positive difference to safety in the mining industry. Helping reduce injuries and fatalities, with a key focus of everyone going home to their family each night injury free.

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

Safe Gauge is an industry first when it comes to testing hydraulics and we are very excited to distribute our wireless pressure testing kits around Australia and overseas. Safe Gauge has lodged a worldwide PCT Patent application on our Wireless pressure testing system as there is nothing the same as our design on the market.

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

With the interest that has been generated during trials, we have a great opportunity to supply our wireless Safe Gauge kits to major mining companies, OEMs and maintenance facilities. The feedback just from our trials has created opportunity to design different models specific for different machines and applications.

## What are the biggest challenges facing your business?

As with any new company start up there are many challenges but with the team we currently have and continue to build we are all very keen to overcome any challenge that we may face.

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

Safe Gauge was started in 2019 and looks forward to expanding our innovative team, developing and providing more safety solutions for the mining Industry for future years to come.

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

Safe Gauge is proud to sponsor a child in The Smith Family as well as contributing to a recent Lifeline fundraising event for Peter Mendyk. Suicide awareness is a focus of ours and is a part of our culture within the company, simply looking out for your mates and helping each other when they need it the most. Lifeline 13 11 14

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

We have a small but highly experienced team within Safe Gauge, having 3 mechanics and 2 engineers doing their different roles within the company and a company secretary to keep everyone in check. Our team works extremely well together and are all excited about the opportunities ahead.

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

Making a positive impact on safety in the mining industry and working with a highly skilled team that learns from each other and is proud to represent Safe Gauge.

## The worst thing?

The necessary time frame it

takes to develop a product; it took 18 months to get to the trial stage but this was absolutely necessary to ensure the Safe Gauge wireless system is sound for production and can stand up to the harsh environment of the industry.

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

The mining industry has plenty of characters who keep everyone entertained which creates some funny stories! Scotty Butler would have to be the Safe Gauge funniest, who just the other day after visiting a local company had his personal car break down and one of the employees of that company turn up to help him back on the road. Scotty was quite appreciative after a big day!

## Anything else you want to say?

We really appreciate everyone's positive support for Safe Gauge and look forward to providing our solution to safely pressure test hydraulics in your workplace. If you would like more information please visit our website [www.safegauge.com.au](http://www.safegauge.com.au) and be sure to like our Facebook page. Thankyou!



## SINGLETON REFLECTS ON HISTORICAL, INDUSTRIAL AND CULTURAL CONTRIBUTION IN BICENTENNIAL COMMEMORATIONS.

It's 200 years since the European exploration of the area we now know as Singleton, and a year-long program of events is about to get underway in a reflection of the historical, cultural, social and industrial significance of the Singleton local government area.

The Back to Singleton 2020 program includes the first public viewing of the Dale Frank Botanic Gardens in the grounds of historic Hambledon Hill (c1864), sporting and industry events, and high teas in some of Singleton's most historic buildings.

The major focus is on 13 and 14 March, starting with Singleton Homecoming to take over John Street, Singleton on Friday night to launch the weekend, backed up by the family-friendly Singleton Day Out on the Civic Green on Saturday afternoon. Both are free events.

The Singleton Soiree will follow on Saturday evening, including MC Craig Hamilton, live jazz, canapés and a desert bar. Tickets cost just \$35 per person and are available from Council's website.

**"THE PROGRAM SHOWCASES ALL THAT IS SPECIAL ABOUT SINGLETON, AND WHAT THE PEOPLE FROM OUR AREA HAVE ACHIEVED SINCE THIS LAND SUSTAINED FIRST THE PEOPLE OF THE WONNARUA/WANARUAH, AND THEN OUR EARLY PIONEERS," MAYOR OF SINGLETON, CR SUE MOORE SAID.**

"There's no disputing Singleton played an immensely important role in the establishment of the colony of NSW and the nation of Australia; and that role continues today, as you can see just by looking at this program.

"Events range from a tour of ultra-modern global manufacturing plant Hedweld through to high tea at the Mechanics Institute, which was opened by Sir Henry Parkes in 1866."

After several failed attempts to find an overland route between Windsor and the Hunter River valley, John Howe is credited with leading the exploration party, with the assistance of two Aboriginal trackers, Myles and Mullaboy, that reached the Hunter River at modern-day Whittingham on 15 March 1820.

**IN HIS LETTER PENNED TO GOVERNOR MACQUARIE DOWNSTREAM AT WALLIS PLAINS**

**(MODERN DAY MAITLAND) DAYS LATER, HOWE SAID HE HAD "TRAVELLED THROUGH AS FINE A COUNTRY AS IMAGINATION CAN FORM".**

Members of the party were rewarded with land grants, and their names still echo in the local government area today - particularly Benjamin Singleton, whose land grant at the bend in the river would become the nucleus for the township.

Cr Moore said as well as honouring the past, the bicentennial year was also focused on the future as Singleton Council worked closely with the State and Federal governments on a number of issues to safeguard Singleton's economic importance and ensure the area continued to be a destination for people to live, work and visit.

"As part of a family with long ties to this area, I am committed to building on the hard work that has been done before us," she said.

**"I HOPE JOHN HOWE AND BENJAMIN SINGLETON, AND EVERYONE WHO WAS PART OF THAT EUROPEAN EXPLORATION PARTY IN 1820, MIGHT LOOK AT US TODAY AND BE PROUD OF WHAT SINGLETON HAS BECOME, AND SUPPORT OUR EFFORTS TO ENSURE IT WILL CONTINUE TO THRIVE INTO THE FUTURE."**

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# THE STORIES BEHIND THE

## ‘LIVING SCULPTURE’ UNVEILED

He might be best known for pushing conceptual boundaries with abstract artworks and sculptures exhibited in New York, Venice, Pisa and Boston, but Dale Frank’s latest creation is the first stage of his very own botanical gardens set to be unveiled as part of Singleton’s Bicentennial commemorations.

Dale will open up his 18 hectare property, the historic Hambledon Hill on 15 March 2020 to reveal a “living sculpture” with a dry garden filled with the intriguing textures of agave, cactus and succulents as well as enormous aloes, yukkass, prickly pears, dragon trees, and canary island palms.

Having meticulously renovated the sandstock-brick homestead before adding a sympathetic extension and external studio, the opening of stage one of the will also be the 10-year anniversary since Dale began planting.

Having begun as a hobby and with the assistance of son-in-law James Smith, the major aim was to create a dynamic garden that could withstand the drought-stricken Australian landscape, proving that the power of creativity — coupled with big, bold groupings of drought-tolerant plants from around the world — could transform even the most unpromising landscape into a work of art.



**“WHEN WE STARTED, THERE WERE SEVEN LARGE TREES IN A PADDOCK — THAT WAS IT,” DALE SAID. “I WANTED TO TRY AND HAVE A GARDEN THAT DOESN’T RELY ON WATER. THE ONLY WATERING [THE PLANTS] GET IS WHEN THEY ARE INITIALLY PLANTED, AND THE REST IS RAINFALL.**

“There were massive amounts of research done when considering our plant selection. There are an awful lot of species that I want, but can’t get into Australia. I brought in a lot of seeds from Africa and found a selection of plants from arid climates, or climates with unreliable rainfall, and used them to design a garden.”

Dale said opening the garden as part of Back to Singleton 2020 was the perfect opportunity to gauge community interest in visiting the garden.

“We will have guided tours every hour, but eventually the aim is to develop the garden further and the paths will form a natural walking area,” he said.

“I hope people get enjoyment from the gardens, and come away with the idea that you can plant things that are out of the ordinary and that don’t have to be labour-intensively looked after and watered.”

## FROM LOCK UP TO LANDMARK



Starting as a lock-up and then graduating to the first Council Chambers, it’s appropriate that the history of the building housing the Singleton Historical Society and Museum is as colourful as the artefacts inside.

The museum is undergoing an upgrade including a new roof in 2020 under a \$539,000 grant from the NSW Government’s Stronger Country Communities Fund, in a timely commemoration of the

bicentenary of the European exploration of the area we now know as Singleton.

A year-long program of events has been collated to mark the historic occasion, but there will be a particular focus on the weekend of 13-15 March in line with when the first European exploration party, led by John Howe and including Benjamin Singleton and Aboriginal guides Myles and Mullaboy, arrived at Whittingham.

The weekend will begin with Singleton Homecoming, a community street party on John Street on Friday 13 March 2020, to be followed by the family-friendly Singleton Day Out on the Civic Green on Saturday 14 March 2020. Both events are free.

The Singleton Soiree will follow on the evening of Saturday 14 March with a ticketed event to include MC Craig Hamilton, live music, canapes and a dessert bar.

**FOR PRESIDENT OF THE SINGLETON HISTORICAL SOCIETY AND 2019 SINGLETON CITIZEN OF THE YEAR PEGGY MOORE AND COMMITTEE MEMBER MICHAEL AKRILL, WHO ARE BOTH ALSO PART OF THE SINGLETON BICENTENNIAL COMMEMORATIONS WORKING GROUP, THE FOCUS IS ON THE HISTORICAL EVENTS OF 200 YEARS AGO.**

While it is well recorded that the exploration party set out from Windsor on 5 March 1820, it is only a surviving letter penned by John Howe to Governor Macquarie downstream some days later that points to the party’s arrival in the Whittingham area of Patricks Plains on 15 March 1820.

Howe’s previous attempt to find

an overland route to the Hunter River area was in 1819, which was dutifully recorded in a journal. But there are no such records of the successful 1820 expedition.

“While there is no surviving diary, we do know he did correspond regularly with Governor Macquarie,” Peggy said.

**AND IT IS THESE FRAGMENTS OF HISTORY THAT HELP TO PAINT A PICTURE OF THE EARLY DAYS FIRST OF ST PATRICKS PLAINS, AND THEN THE TOWNSHIP OF SINGLETON BUILT ON THE LAND GRANT BESTOWED ON BENJAMIN SINGLETON FOR HIS ROLE IN THE EXPLORATION.**

“The town was supposed to be at Whittingham, and that’s where the school and the courthouse were,” Mike said.

“But Ben Singleton, in his wisdom, saw that people had to cross the river and built an inn. Ben was very publicly-spirited with the things he did for the town, and gave to the town.”

Singleton Museum is located at 76 Bourke Street, Singleton and is open Tuesdays from 10am to 1pm and Saturday, Sunday and public holidays from 12pm to 4pm. For more information, visit [www.singletonmuseum.com.au](http://www.singletonmuseum.com.au)

# BICENTENNIAL COMMEMORATIONS

## HISTORY AND HIGH TEA

Maps recall the deeds of history with names such as Howe’s Valley, Mt Thorley and of course Singleton, but the Family History Society Singleton is piecing together the stories of the people behind them in a special bicentennial project for 2020.

On 15 March 1820, an European exploration party arrived at Hunter’s River from Windsor, led by the then Chief Constable of Windsor, John Howe with the assistance of Aboriginal trackers Myles and Mullaboy.

The party was a combination of free settlers and convicts, who were successful following a number of attempts in previous years under the direction of Governor Lachlan Macquarie to find an overland route to the Hunter’s River valley and suitable land for grazing and agriculture.

**THESE OF ARE SOME OF THE PEOPLE YOU WILL LEARN ABOUT IN THE BOOKLET THAT THE SINGLETON FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY IS PUTTING TOGETHER.**

President of the Singleton Family History Society, Lyn MacBain said the booklet would be available for the weekend of 13-14 March 2020.

“The booklet is about people who came or attempted to come, and you’ll be surprised at just how many people there are - we’ve got over 20 names,” she said.

“We’re looking at the details of where they came from, whether they were convicts of free settlers. It’s fascinating. Benjamin Singleton as we know came three times and settled on his land grant, and John Howe didn’t actually live

in Singleton, but his son John Kennedy Howe took up his land.”

“Then we have people like Thomas William Parr who made an earlier attempt but who went back to England.”

**IT WILL BE A BUSY YEAR FOR THE 54 MEMBERS OF THE FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY SINGLETON, WHO ARE ALSO INVOLVED IN HOSTING A HIGH TEA IN THE GRAND HALL IN THE HISTORIC MECHANICS INSTITUTE ON THE BACK TO SINGLETON 2020 PROGRAM ON 11 JULY 2020.**

The building at 74 George Street, Singleton was officially opened in 1867 by Sir Henry Parkes, and began as a training institute for trades before becoming the Singleton Council Chambers.

It has since returned to the arts as the headquarters for groups such as the Family History Society, Singleton Potters, Singleton Textile Artists, Singleton Artist Group, Singleton Tidy Towns and Singleton Quilters.

Designed by architect James Pender and funded by subscriptions and donations, the building comprises two levels plus an unusual sloping mezzanine, with a grand cedar staircase well worn by more than 150 years’ of boots.

Mrs MacBain is also the chairperson of the 74 George Street Committee.

“Its simplicity is its beauty,” Mrs MacBain said of the building. “It’s not ornate, it’s just a simple structure that has a beauty of its own. It is two-foot thick sandstone at the front, so it was built to last.”



## CELEBRATING 40 YEARS



They may export to 34 countries with bases in the USA and Brazil and a wish for an export terminal in Newcastle, but the Hedley family is keeping it all Back in Singleton in 2020 as part of the area’s bicentennial commemorations.

Leading global Manufacturer Hedweld will throw open the doors of its cutting-edge advanced manufacturing plant on Friday 13 March 2020 as part of the year-long program of events, as the bicentenary coincides with the 40th anniversary since Ian and Jan Hedley began the company at Mt Thorley.

From a chance meeting with an industrial land developer, the company has grown to be a global leader in designing, manufacturing, and distributing ladders to access large mining machinery, tooling to assist with handling of components on mining and heavy earthmoving vehicles, and agriculture innovations.

Hedweld will also mark a changing of the guard since daughter Kristy Hedley took over the role of Managing

Director in July 2019, with 80 employees and products in operation on mining sites around the world including Indonesia, South America, Morocco and Canada.

**“PEOPLE WHO COME FOR THE TOUR WILL SEE A BROAD OVERVIEW OF OUR EVOLUTION, BE ABLE TO CHECK OUT OUR WORLD CLASS MACHINERY – INCLUDING WELDING ROBOTS, AND BE ABLE TO MEET OUR TALENTED TEAM,” KRISTY SAID.**

“There’ll be a presentation on the past, present and future of the business and then people can have a look around at the plant and the products we produce.

“It’s an opportunity to see the latest developments in modern machining, including one machine out there [on the plant floor] that is literally the first of its kind in the world. We hope people come and find us. Mt Thorley isn’t that far [from the Singleton town centre].”

The Hedweld Facility Tour will be held on Friday 13 March 2020 from 10am to 12pm at 5 Thrift Close, Mt Thorley (enclosed shoes required). For more information, email [enquiries@hedweld.com.au](mailto:enquiries@hedweld.com.au)





EVENT PROGRAM



Singleton Homecoming  
John Street, Singleton  
Free street party  
13 March | 6-11pm



Singleton Day Out  
Civic Green  
Free family-friendly fun  
14 March | 11am-4pm

SINGLETON SOIREE

Singleton Soiree  
Civic Centre  
Old-time cocktail glamour  
Tickets \$35 per person  
14 March | 6-11pm

SENIORS FESTIVAL EXPO + HIGH TEA

Civic Centre  
A celebration of Singleton seniors  
19 February | 10am-2pm

SINGLETON COMBINED SERVICES DINNER

Singleton Diggers  
The annual Combined Services Dinner showcasing service club achievements  
2 March

SINGLETON INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY CELEBRATIONS

Sacred Spaces at the Sisters of Mercy Convent  
Singleton Business Chamber's annual lunch event, with inspiring guest speakers and networking opportunities  
6 March | 12pm

MONTHLY RALLY + BACK TO PONY CLUB DAY

Singleton Pony Club Grounds  
Members encouraged to dress in period clothes and past club members invited to attend  
8 March | 9am

HEDWELD OPEN TO THE PUBLIC – FACILITY TOURS

5 Thrift Close, Mt Thorley  
Public tours of the Advanced Manufacturing Facility and other workshops  
13 March | 10am-12pm

SINGLETON LUNCH, TENNIS + CROQUET

Howe Park Tennis Club  
Browse memorabilia, dress up in old tennis clothes or try a wooden racquet  
14 March | 12pm

OPEN DAY + EVENSONG AT ALL SAINTS' ANGLICAN CHURCH

40 High Street, Singleton  
Open day featuring a history of the church and Evensong at 6pm  
15 March | Church open all day

NEW EMPIRE BALLROOM RAGTIME DANCE ORCHESTRA

Sisters' Chapel at Sacred Spaces at the Sisters of Mercy Convent  
A fabulous concert for Singleton's Bicentenary featuring music of the 1920s. Tickets include Convent-made afternoon tea  
15 March | 2pm

SINGLETON HOSPITAL REUNION

Singleton Hospital, Dangar Road Singleton  
Enjoy breakfast on the lawns of the hospital followed by tours of the hospital and museum  
15 March | 8.30am onwards

SINGLETON GARDEN VIEWING

"Hambledon Hill", 535 Hambledon Hill Road, Singleton  
First public viewing of "Dale Frank Botanical Gardens" – stage 1 featuring rare species and plants  
15 March | 2-6pm

BUSHWALK TOGETHER

Catherine Vale Wines, 656 Milbrodale Road, Fordwich  
A day of singing, dancing and indigenous food, art and walks in the bush, organised by Broke Bulga Landcare Group  
15 March | 11.30am-2.30pm

SINGLETON TIDY TOWNS 2020 GARDEN COMPETITION

Singleton local government area  
The competition is open to all ages and all types of gardens in the Singleton LGA. Entries close 13 March and the winners announced at a presentation night  
20 March | 6.30pm

SINGLETON EMERGENCY SERVICES EXPO

Civic Park  
Free expo showcasing the roles of our emergency services and how people can prepare for an emergency  
28 March | 9am-12pm

PRESENTATION ON THE HISTORY OF THE CHRISTIAN ISRAELITE CHURCH COMMUNITY

Christian Israelite Church Hall, Goulburn Street Singleton  
Presentation on the history of the church detailing early members and how they influenced the development of Singleton  
29 March | 2pm

SINGLETON HIGH TEA + FASHION PARADE

Singleton York Street Digger's Club  
Fashion parade showcasing local clothing businesses and a high tea  
4 April

SINGLETON SHOW RODEO

Singleton Showground  
Watch talented riders test their skills including bull riding, steer wrestling, bareback and saddle bronc riding  
2 May | 12pm

HUNTER VALLEY FOOD + WINE FESTIVAL

May + June  
Enjoy the epicurean pleasures of the iconic Hunter Valley wine region with a range of events including gourmet dinners, vineyard tours, winemaking masterclasses and cooking classes

10TH PUTTY ROAD TRUCK DRIVERS MEMORIAL

Garry Miller Memorial Park, Putty Road Milbrodale  
Honouring truck drivers who ran the Putty and lost their lives, as well as those who dedicated a lifelong career to the industry  
16 May | Refreshments from 11am, Memorial Service 1pm

CYSTIC FIBROSIS BREATHE BALL

Venue to be confirmed  
Help to raise funds for vital research and equipment to assist local families with physio, medical costs and medications  
23 May | 6pm

SINGLETON BUSINESS EXCELLENCE AWARDS

Club Singleton  
Recognising excellence in business leadership, entrepreneurship, innovation, sustainability, business growth and employment practices in the Singleton LGA  
29 May | 6pm

SINGLETON NAIDOC CELEBRATIONS

Singleton Showground  
An opportunity to come together to celebrate the rich history, culture and achievements of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in Singleton  
8 July | 10am-2pm

HIGH TEA IN THE GRAND HALL

Mechanics Institute  
Experience the history and heritage of the building and its place in our community, as well as the arts and crafts of the groups that now use it  
11 July | 2.30pm

PRESENTATION ON THE ANCESTRY OF FOUNDING MEMBERS OF THE CHRISTIAN ISRAELITE CHURCH IN SINGLETON

Christian Israelite Church Hall, Goulburn Street Singleton  
Detailing the families of early members, where they are today and the contribution they made to the development of Singleton  
16 August | 2pm

GLENDON SCHOOL OF ARTS BACK IN TIME DEVONSHIRE TEA

Glendon Hall, Glendon Lane Glendon  
Celebrate the 110th birthday of the historic hall with a memorabilia display and Devonshire tea  
12+13 September

SINGLETON CHURCH SERVICE AND PRESENTATION ON THE LIFESTYLE OF MEMBERS OF THE CHRISTIAN ISRAELITE CHURCH

Christian Israelite Church Hall, Goulbourn Street Singleton Council Featuring musical items followed by a presentation and fellowship meal in the Church hall  
20 September | 3pm

SINGLETON SHOW

Singleton Showground  
Plenty for all ages to see and do including Sideshow Alley, pavilion displays and animal competitions in the arena  
25, 26 + 27 September

HUNTER COAL FESTIVAL

Various times + locations  
Highlights include a Community Day, Mining Leaders Lunch, Mining & Industry Careers Expo and the annual Hunter Valley Mining Charity Rugby League Day  
23 October

SINGLETON SHOW CAMPDRAFT

Singleton Showground  
Spectators can attend for free and see the amazing skill of horsemen and women compete for fantastic prizes  
24 + 25 October

FOR MORE DETAILS ON ALL THE EVENTS VISIT [WWW.SINGLETON.NSW.GOV.AU/BACKTOSINGLETON](http://WWW.SINGLETON.NSW.GOV.AU/BACKTOSINGLETON)



GLENCORE GIVES BIG

GLENCORE HAS GENEROUSLY DONATED A TOTAL OF \$1 MILLION TO THREE ORGANISATIONS THAT PLAY VITAL ROLES IN BUSHFIRE PREPARATION, RESPONSE AND RECOVERY.

\$500,000 of the donation has gone to Blaze Aid, a volunteer-based organisation that provides support to rural families and individuals after natural disasters. Blaze Aid is entirely funded by donations and the Glencore contribution will help pay for fencing tools and equipment, safety gear for volunteers, general day-to-day running costs and tool maintenance.

Another \$250,000 will go to Aussie Ark. Glencore has a longstanding partnership with Aussie Ark, which aims to create a long-term future for multiple native, endangered Australian mammals like the Tasmanian Devil, brush-tailed rock wallaby and eastern quoll.

Aussie Ark will use the funding to relocate wildlife impacted by bushfires and to provide veterinary services to animals that are suffering. Aussie Ark staff are currently assessing wildlife populations and in recent days have relocated a number of platypus, koalas, Hastings River turtles and brush-tailed rock wallabies, all threatened species.

THE NSW RURAL FIRE SERVICE WILL ALSO RECEIVE \$250,000 WHICH WILL GO TO THE RFS IN THE HUNTER VALLEY AND MID-WESTERN REGION OF NSW. THE MONEY WILL HELP ENHANCE THEIR ABILITY TO PREPARE FOR, AND RESPOND TO, BUSHFIRES.

The RFS is a volunteer-based firefighting agency that has been active for over 100 years and is the lead combat agency for bushfires. Glencore has also previously donated to the NSW RFS, funding fire reconnaissance and remote area firefighting motor bikes, an upgrade to fire depot facilities and electronic fire warning signage on public roads.

Glencore CEO Ian Cribb said like all Australians, they've been deeply saddened to see the destruction caused by the current bushfires and the catastrophic impacts on many families, communities and wildlife across the country and they were proud to be help these three fantastic organisations that play such a vital role in several aspects of bushfire preparation, response and recovery.



GET SWEATY!

WIN!

F45 PUTS THE FUN IN FUNCTIONAL TRAINING. WITH A NEW STUDIO OPENING SOON IN SINGLETON WE ARE OFFERING ONE LUCKY READER THE CHANCE TO WIN A MONTH'S FREE MEMBERSHIP FOR BOTH YOU AND A MATE VALUED AT OVER \$200 EACH.

Not only that, everyone who enters the competition will score a free 1 week trial.

FOR YOUR CHANCE TO WIN, SIMPLY SMS: F45 SINGLETON, YOUR NAME, AND YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS TO 0438 474 290.

Limit of one entry per person. NSW Permit No. LTPM/19/05181

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EMAIL: [SINGLETON@F45TRAINING.COM.AU](mailto:SINGLETON@F45TRAINING.COM.AU)  
WEB: [F45SINGLETON.COM.AU](http://F45SINGLETON.COM.AU)  
JOIN THE SINGLETON F45 EARLY BIRD LIST AT [HTTP://BIT.LY/F45SINGLETON\\_EARLYBIRD](http://BIT.LY/F45SINGLETON_EARLYBIRD)

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# PAY FOR Play

THE MANGOOKA WORKFORCE RECENTLY DONATED \$500 TO THE MUSWELLBROOK PCYC TO PURCHASE NEW OUTDOOR PLAY EQUIPMENT.

The Muswellbrook PCYC is a great local organisation that prides itself on encouraging young people to be active, developing their skills and building character and leadership. This generous donation by the Mangooka workforce will help them work towards those goals.

MUSWELLBROOK PCYC MANAGER DE-ANNE DOUGLAS SAID THE DONATION ALLOWED THEM TO PURCHASE SOME GREAT NEW EQUIPMENT.

“We were able to cross off a few things that had been on the kids wish list which was fantastic. The new equipment has made the outdoor area more functional, which encourages the kids to spend more time outdoors being active and having fun,” said De-anne.

Mangooka CHPP Manager Chris March was joined by Mangooka employees Anita Gurtman and Casey Wallace to present the \$500 cash donation to the PCYC on behalf of the Mangooka workforce.

“They were very appreciative, and the money will be well spent on large educational outdoor toys. The PCYC is doing an amazing job of also acting as a goods donation centre in support of the RFS volunteers. This in addition to the 295 families in need they supported at Christmas. The knock-on effect of supporting those supporting others completes the cycle,” said Chris.

For the Mangooka workforce, supporting important local organisations is something they are very dedicated to and the Muswellbrook PCYC is the latest in a long line of worthy recipients.

# ‘AVE A LAUGH WITH SingletonOutdoors PH 6571 1589

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

Farmer John lived on a quiet rural highway. After a few years traffic became so heavy and fast that his chickens were being run over at rate of three a day. One day Farmer John calls the police station and said, “You’ve got to do something about all these people driving so fast and killing all of my chickens.”

“I’ll put up a sign,” says the cop. The next day he has council workers go out and erect a sign that says: SLOW DOWN - SCHOOL CROSSING

Three days later Farmer John calls again and says the sign isn’t working. Again the cop sends out council workers and this time the sign says: SLOW DOWN: CHILDREN AT PLAY

The sign doesn’t work, and everyday Farmer John calls the cop to complain. After weeks of losing chickens Farmer John asks if he can put up his own sign. The cop says sure, just to shut him up.

The cop receives no more calls from Farmer John so considers the issue solved but curiosity gets the better of him so a few weeks later he decides to take a drive out there. Driving past Famer John’s his jaw drops. Spray-painted on a sheet of wood: NUDIST COLONY - GO SLOW AND WATCH OUT FOR THE CHICKS

# PRETTY IN PINK

ALFABS GROUP HAVE ALIGNED WITH THE NATIONAL BREAST CANCER FOUNDATION, DONATING \$10,000 FROM THE HIRE OF RIZZO.

The Alfabs Group Mining Division have just received their latest machine in its hire fleet which will be going onto long term hire with South32 at their Dendrobium Mine site.

The machine is the Torque Titan 10T Loader, and in support of the National Breast Cancer Foundation, Alfabs have decided to paint it pink. Fittingly named RIZZO, it is one of the latest, innovative designs to hit the mining industry, incorporating the latest and greatest technologies.

“IT WILL BE THE FLAGSHIP OF OUR FLEET AND HIGHLY RECOGNISABLE, THE FIRST OF MANY TITANS COMING TO NSW. WE HAVE NAMED MANY PIECES OF EQUIPMENT, BUT WITH RIZZO WE DECIDED TO TAKE HER THAT ONE STEP FURTHER,” SAID ALFABS SALES AND MARKETING COORDINATOR JESSICA REEVE.

The ‘Titan’ is a leader in Underground Utility Vehicles, using new technology and logic. The Explosion Protected Diesel Engine System has low diesel particulates and gaseous emissions. All this whilst reducing the overall life running costs and increasing utilisation and availability.

With their head office based in Kurri Kurri NSW and additional branches in Unanderra NSW and Mackay QLD, Alfabs has a long history of supporting worthy causes like The Westpac Rescue Helicopter, MS and The Cancer Council, and The National Breast Cancer Foundation (NBCF) is no exception.



Alfabs Group have always been community focused and committed to charities, holding different events and being involved in fundraising activities and sponsorships. “One we had not yet touched on was the National Breast Cancer Foundation,” Jessica said.

“1 in 7 women will be diagnosed with breast cancer in their lifetime and it touches on so many of us in different ways, whether it be a relative, friend or a friend of a friend.”

The NBCF receives no government funding to support their game-changing Breast Cancer research and Alfabs are proud to donate \$10,000 and paint RIZZO pink in support of the worthy cause. It’s support like this that allows the NBCF to continue.



# GET SPICY

THE BLUE FLAME MODERN INDIAN RESTAURANT SERVES FRESH, TASTY AND SPICY INDIAN FOOD SHOWCASING THE BEST INDIAN CURRIES FROM DIFFERENT REGIONS OF INDIA.

Try their Mughal inspired rice preparations or scrumptious tandoori breads baked fresh in their traditional tandoori oven.

FOR YOUR CHANCE TO WIN A \$50 VOUCHER, SIMPLY SMS: BLUE FLAME, YOUR NAME, AND YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS TO 0438 474 290.

Limit of one entry per person. NSW Permit No. LTPM/19/05181

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@BLUE FLAME MODERN INDIAN RESTAURANT

By submitting an entry, you consent to the use of your contact details for promotional and marketing purposes.

# EMERGENCY SERVICES EXPO

SATURDAY 28 MARCH 2020

CIVIC PARK | 9 > 12PM

- SES
- NSW Fire + Rescue
- NSW Police
- NSW Ambulance
- Coal Services
- Westpac Rescue Helicopter Service
- Local Land Services
- RMS
- Singleton Council
- Red Cross
- Salvation Army
- Rural Aid
- Rural Resilience
- NSW Parks + Wildlife
- Service NSW
- RFS
- Department of Family + Community Service

The Expo is designed to showcase the role our emergency services play, and how residents can prepare themselves for an emergency situation.

A RANGE OF DEMONSTRATIONS WILL BE CONDUCTED ON THE DAY, INCLUDING:

- Emergency simulations
- RFS Chainsaw demonstration
- Mascot race
- Competition for best dressed for kids (come dressed as your favourite emergency service!)



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The Littlest Battler

CHRISTOPHER POTTER SPENT FOUR OF HIS FIRST FIVE MONTHS IN HOSPITAL.

Christopher was born in December 2018 with a rare condition called tracheoesophageal fistula (TOF). This meant that his oesophagus did not connect to his stomach and he was born unable to swallow, and if left untreated, he would literally drown in his own saliva. This required him to have surgery within the first couple of days after meeting his parents, Joanne and Rob.

He had a pretty rough recovery as his condition was described as complex requiring him to be in hospital for six weeks.

Rob had just got home from work one day when Christopher was 7 weeks old. "Christopher had sounded rattly and Rob and I re-positioned him to his side as this normally helped - instead this time it had the opposite effect and he just stopped breathing. It was a very strange sound and I grabbed the phone and dialled 000 immediately," Joanne said.

**"I DIDN'T REALISE IT WAS ANY DIFFERENT TO PREVIOUS EPISODES UNTIL A COUPLE OF MINUTES INTO THE CALL WHEN IT BECAME CLEAR THAT THINGS WERE REALLY WRONG THIS TIME, I JUST KNEW WE NEEDED HELP," SHE SAID.**



FIND THIS INSPIRATIONAL STORY AND MORE IN THE LATEST EDITION OF RESCUE MAGAZINE

[www.rescuehelicopter.com.au/Media/Rescue\\_Magazine](http://www.rescuehelicopter.com.au/Media/Rescue_Magazine)

While Jo was on the phone to Triple 0, Rob moved quickly to provide his baby with CPR. Rob is in the Rural Fire Service and had undertaken first aid training which included children's first aid before Christopher was born.

This was the second time that Potters called Triple 0. A few days earlier, Christopher was transported back to hospital after going blue, floppy and unconscious. He was discharged the following day only to become seriously unwell a day and half later.

Within 17 minutes there were three ambulances, two police cars and the Rescue Helicopter had landed.

**"ROB AND JO'S QUICK THINKING SAVED THEIR LITTLE BOY'S LIFE," SAID SEAN VALANCE WHO WAS THE FLIGHT PARAMEDIC ON BOARD THAT FEBRUARY AFTERNOON.**

The helicopter landed at the school oval in Gwandalan in Lake Macquarie and he was flown immediately to the Children's Hospital at the John Hunter Hospital before being flown to the Sydney Children's Hospital for another major surgery.

Christopher has undergone two major and 12 minor surgeries.

"He still has some hurdles to jump, but he is a pretty strong little boy and doing well. He has the best medical team with him. Because of the amazing work of our emergency services the team at the Rescue Helicopter he was put in the specialist care he needed so quickly. We are so grateful to everyone," Jo said.

The Potter family were guests at the Belmont Base where they had the opportunity to re-meet some of the crew that were on board the day that Christopher was transported to Sydney.

# 2020 REUNION

**CALLING ALL PAST AND PRESENT EMPLOYEES OF THE HUNTER VALLEY BRANCHES OF WAUGH & JOSEPHSON, GOUGH & GILMOUR AND WESTRAC!**

Come along and share some old yarns, a few drinks and plenty of laughs at the Hunter Valley Branches 2020 Reunion to be held on Saturday March 14 at the Albion Hotel in Singleton.

**RSVP by February 14**

**DAVID BULL**  
0459809586 / [lottabull@outlook.com](mailto:lottabull@outlook.com)

**REBECCA (MARCH) CLARK**  
0488556619 / [marchymarchy@hotmail.com](mailto:marchymarchy@hotmail.com)

**facebook.com/groups/567303993837291/**





# SOCCER STARS



COMMUNITY GIFT

**COMPLETE PARTS ARE HELPING THE SINGLETON STRIKERS FC TO SCORE BIG IN 2020 WITH THIS MONTH'S \$500 DONATION. SINCE 1971 THIS TIGHT KNIT BUNCH OF PLAYERS HAVE BEEN PUTTING SOCCER ON THE MAP IN SINGO AND WE WANT TO HELP THEM KEEP UP THE GOOD WORK.**

The Singleton Strikers Football Club caters for both Junior & Senior Soccer Players (boys & girls) from Under 6s to Over 35's. Club Member Jackson Cox told us that the cash could help with some awesome new training equipment or other improvements around home base. We hope it helps make 2020 a year of big wins.

Keep up the great work and all the wonderful things you have brought to all the players and the community.



**Like all Australians, we've been deeply saddened to see the destruction caused by the current bushfires and the catastrophic impacts on many families, communities and wildlife across the country.**

In response to the bushfires,

Glencore has proudly donated a total of \$1 million to three organisations that play a vital role in several aspects of bushfire preparation, response and recovery: BlazeAid, the Upper Hunter and Mid-West Rural Fire Services units and Aussie Ark.

**GLENCORE**

Proudly supporting our communities



# 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

# THICK SKIN

TWO IN THREE AUSTRALIANS WILL DEVELOP SKIN CANCER BEFORE THE AGE OF 70. YET MANY OF US ARE LAX WHEN IT COMES TO SUN PROTECTION. WITH THE DAYS GETTING HOTTER AND BRIGHTER, HERE'S A REMINDER OF WHY IT'S SO IMPORTANT TO PROTECT YOUR SKIN.

For too long society has equated tanned skin with healthiness. When in fact it's the opposite. A tan means your skin has been damaged. In fact, 80% of fine lines and wrinkles are attributed to UV exposure. But wrinkles will be the least of your worries if you don't protect yourself from the sun. And it's so easy to do!

THE 5 SIMPLE STEPS TO PROTECT YOURSELF FROM SKIN CANCERS.

- Slip on protective clothing
- Slop on SPF 30 or higher sunscreen
- Slap on a hat
- Seek shade
- Slide on some sunglasses

Since it was launched by the Cancer Council in 1981, the Slip, Slop, Slap campaign has been one of the most successful health campaigns in Australian history. Updated in 2007 to Slip, Slop, Slap, Seek, Slide, it's helped prevent many unnecessary deaths. However, the sad fact is that Australia still has one of the highest rates of melanoma in the world with skin cancer the 9th most common cause of death.

The good news is that 95 per cent of skin cancers can be successfully treated if detected early. Every Australian should know the basics about skin cancer, what it looks like, and how to detect it early.

SO WHAT IS IT? SKIN CANCER OCCURS WHEN SKIN CELLS ARE DAMAGED, MAINLY BY OVEREXPOSURE TO ULTRAVIOLET (UV) RADIATION FROM THE SUN. THERE ARE THREE MAIN TYPES OF SKIN CANCER: BASAL CELL CARCINOMA, SQUAMOUS CELL CARCINOMA AND MELANOMA - THE MOST DANGEROUS FORM OF SKIN CANCER.

Basal cell carcinoma and squamous cell carcinoma are non-melanoma skin cancers and are the most common cancers in Australia, however most are not life-threatening. They are more common in men, with almost double the incidence compared to women.



Basal cell carcinoma (BCC) accounts for about 70% of non-melanoma skin cancers. It begins in the lower layer of the epidermis and though it can appear anywhere on the body it most commonly develops on parts of the body that receive high or intermittent sun exposure (head, face, neck, shoulders and back). BCC tends to grow slowly without spreading to other parts of the body and often has no symptoms, though some symptoms of BCC may include a pearly lump or a scaly, dry area that is shiny and pale or bright pink in colour.

Squamous cell carcinoma (SCC) accounts for about 30% of non-melanoma skin cancers. It begins in the upper layer of the epidermis and again usually appears where the skin has had most exposure to the sun. SCC generally grows quickly over weeks or months and symptoms may include a thickened red, scaly spot, a rapidly growing lump, a sore that has not healed or an area that may be tender to touch.

EXCLUDING THESE NON-MELANOMA SKIN CANCERS, MELANOMA IS THE THIRD MOST COMMON CANCER IN AUSTRALIAN.

Melanoma is a type of skin cancer which usually occurs on the parts of the body that have been overexposed to the sun. Though rare melanomas can occur inside the eye or in parts of the skin or body that have never been exposed to the sun. Often melanoma has no symptoms, however, the first sign is generally a change in an existing mole or the appearance of a new spot. Other symptoms include dark areas under nails or on membranes lining the mouth, vagina or anus.

Early detection is vital in combating skin cancer. Get to know your body and any changes such as new spots or moles should immediately be examined by your doctor.

UV LEVELS ARE HIGHEST DURING THE MIDDLE OF THE DAY. TAKE CARE TO BE SUNSMART WHEN THE UV INDEX IS 3 OR ABOVE. CHECK OUT THE CANCER COUNCIL'S UV ALERT ONLINE OR DOWNLOAD THEIR SUNSMART APP AT WWW.CANCER.ORG.AU/UVALERT WARNING SIGNS



MARK STENHOUSE, STENMAR HYDRAULIC ENGINEER

# SAFE SYSTEMS

THIS MONTH WE SAT DOWN WITH STENMAR HYDRAULIC ENGINEER MARK STENHOUSE, WHO SHARED HIS EXPERT KNOWLEDGE ABOUT FLUID POWER SAFETY AND COMPLIANCE.

For those of you who don't know, fluid power systems, most commonly hydraulic and pneumatic, are used as energy sources on mechanical plant in mines as they offer the advantage of high-energy transfer in confined areas. As they rely on the transmission and storage of pressurised fluid energy, they can be extremely hazardous.

Risks to the worker include minor to severe burns, lacerations and amputations, eye injuries and blindness and death. When an accident occurs, there may also be severe penalties to individuals and corporations which can include jail and/or large fines.

With such a high risk of fluid power systems causing serious harm, Mark explains why being aware of hazards and putting in place effective risk-based control measures is extremely important.

“THE MOST COMMON FLUID POWER HAZARDS INCLUDE HOSE WHIP AND HIGH PRESSURE INJECTION INJURIES,” SAYS MARK. “WHICH IS WHY WE RECOMMEND HOSE BURST VALVING AND PROTECTIVE

HOSE COVERINGS TO ASSIST WITH LIMITING EXPOSURE WHERE CLOSE PROXIMITY TO ENERGISED CIRCUITS IS UNAVOIDABLE. HOWEVER, THE PREFERENCE IS TO KEEP PERSONNEL AWAY FROM ENERGISED FLUID POWER WHENEVER POSSIBLE.”

Mark points out an important consideration when doing risk assessment, especially for large scale expensive equipment, is the risk of fire. Hydraulic fluid is usually a flammable oil-based liquid which can cause or dramatically enflame the risk of fire which should always be considered. Another identified risk to be aware of is unintentional (unexpected) machinery movement. Mark says this can easily occur in a system where fluid power hasn't been isolated and dissipated.

“As a general principle, safety standards require the isolation (removal) of energy in a machine to achieve a safe state for maintenance, cleaning and other adjustments. Whilst usually easy to achieve electrically, isolation can be a problem with fluid power due to complex control circuits which can trap and store energy. This is why hydraulic and pneumatic equipment should be exhausted of all residual pressure after isolation. Additionally, the absence of pressure should be verified and locked out,” Mark explains.

It was these risks that led Mark to acquire the rights to the Hydraulic Isolator product for Stenmar Group. The Hydraulic Isolator is designed to ensure simple and reliable asset protection and compliance and they've been very busy refining and improving the product which will be launched next month. Mark says the are very proud to be bringing to the market a product that can make workplaces safer.

Mark's final piece of advice. “As with all issues regarding safety, individual circumstances should always be considered and thorough risk assessment undertaken on all tasks and equipment.”

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# BULLDOGS CHARITY BASH

COMING BACK IN 2020 FOR ITS 3RD YEAR, THE A-PLUS CONTRACTING HUNTER VALLEY NINES FUNDRAISER COMPETITION IS SET TO PROVIDE PLENTY OF HIGH-OCTANE THRILLS AND RIVALRY.

Teams from all over the state will come together on February 29, 2020 at Sylvester Real Estate Sportsground Kurri Kurri to compete for the A-Plus Contracting Nines title.

The West Rosellas will be back again to defend their 2019 win with the Kurri Bulldogs eager to make a comeback after taking out top place the year before. Competing for the top prize of \$5,000 and runner up of \$1000, the competition is set to be fierce.

With over \$3000.00 raised for Kurri Kurri Rotary Club last year, team members and event organisers aim to smash that figure out of the park this year for the deserving organisation. “Our club, unlike others in the Newcastle Rugby League, is solely dependent on sponsors and club fundraising as we don’t have the luxury of our own leagues club,” said Bulldogs Director Angie Peterkin.

“THE EVENT IS OUR MAJOR FUNDRAISER FOR THE YEAR AND HELPS US TO FIELD A COMPETITIVE TEAM IN THE NEWCASTLE RUGBY LEAGUE COMPETITION. WE ALSO

USE THIS EVENT AS AN AVENUE TO RAISE FUNDS FOR OUR CHARITY AND COMMUNITY PARTNERS, AS OUR CLUB IS STRONGLY COMMUNITY FOCUSED.”

The event previously hosted charity league team and fan favourites the Mitch Day Memorial Bears last year, who narrowly missed a spot in the semis. Not only did the Bears raise much needed awareness for Bowel Cancer, the illness that took the young life of Mitch Day, brother of

Kurri Bulldogs Strength & Conditioning coach Josh Day, the winners Wests Rosellas generously donated \$1,000 of their match winnings to the cause.

“Andrew Hughes from A-Plus Contracting has been the event major sponsor since its inception, and the bulldogs are extremely lucky to have Andrew’s ongoing support,” said Angie.

“A-PLUS CONTRACTING ARE VERY GENEROUS SUPPORTERS OF MANY CHARITIES AND COMMUNITY GROUPS, ESPECIALLY LOCAL RUGBY LEAGUE, AND ANDREW HAS BEEN A VERY WELCOMED AND INTEGRAL MEMBER OF THE BULLDOG’S FAMILY; WITHOUT THE GENEROSITY OF INDIVIDUALS LIKE ANDREW OUR CLUB WOULDN’T EXIST.”

Gates open at 8am on the day with games commencing between 9:30 and 10am dependant on team entry numbers. With a fun festival feel, music played throughout the day for all tries scored, face painting, licenced bar, canteen, coffee cart and an ice-cream van – just to name some of the wide range of entertainment – it’s an event that is sure to create a flood of smiles and fun. Don’t miss out on this fantastic event and head on over to support our local players!



## MACHEnergy

Mount Pleasant Operation

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

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

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

For Applications or further information about the ACDF please visit:  
<https://machenergyaustralia.com.au/aboriginal-community-development-fund/>

# UPCOMING AUSSIE CHAMP

MUSWELLBROOK LOCAL AND CRICKET YOUNG GUN HARRY SCOWEN HAS SMASHED GOAL AFTER GOAL ON THE CRICKET FIELD AS HE STRIVES TO ONE DAY PLAY FOR AUSTRALIA.



At just 13-years-old Harry has already proven to be a top competitor on and off the cricket field. Training for hours on end at any chance he gets, the young star has been selected to captain the Hunter PSSA Primary Boys Cricket team for the NSW Schoolboy championships and won the Maitland Representative Player of the year award last year.

Most recently Harry was selected to represent Central North at the Kookaburra Cup held early January, a huge achievement with Central North zone running inland from the Queensland border down to Newcastle. Unfortunately, the tournament was cancelled due to conditions caused by recent bushfires.

HARRY STARTED PLAYING CRICKET AT 9-YEARS-OLD AFTER WATCHING A FRIEND FROM SCHOOL PLAY HIS SATURDAY MORNING MATCH AND DECIDED THAT CRICKET WAS THE GAME FOR HIM. “I ASKED MUM AND DAD IF I COULD SIGN UP FOR NEXT SEASON AND I STARTED WATCHING BATSMEN ON YOU TUBE TO LEARN AS MUCH ABOUT TECHNIQUE AS POSSIBLE,” HARRY SAID.

Now in year 7 at Muswellbrook High School, Harry lives on his family’s farm just outside of Aberdeen with his dad Luke, his mum Janette and his older brother Tom. He helps family out on the farm to pursue his cricket dream. “I have to help out on the farm if I’m to play cricket,” said Harry.

“Most of Mum and Dad’s time is taken up driving me all over the place for cricket so if I didn’t help out on the farm, they wouldn’t have time to get me places.”

Living on a property has been an advantage to Harry’s form, having the space to train and develop. “One day I’d love to put a pitch in the backyard with a net and power, I could spend hours out with the bowling machine,” Harry said passionately.

The all-rounder’s love for the game grows each year, now in his fifth season of playing cricket. Throughout his young career, Harry discovered a love for wicket keeping as well as batting, and is now working on improving his keeping skills for future seasons.

Inspired by the likes of professional cricketer Virat Kohli, Harry aspires to have his same mental toughness and skill with the bat, but also says his dad is a huge inspiration. “He is always helping me to improve my game and spends hours training at the nets with me,” said Harry.

“A LOT OF PEOPLE HAVE HELPED AND SUPPORTED ME ALONG THE WAY SO FAR AND I THANK MY MUSWELLBROOK AND MAITLAND COACHES FOR THEIR SUPPORT.”

“YOU MEET SOME PRETTY GOOD PEOPLE PLAYING CRICKET AND I’VE ONLY BEEN PLAYING FOR 5 YEARS, BUT I HAVE MADE SOME REALLY GREAT MATES AND

MENTORS ALREADY.”

Constantly setting goals for himself, his 2019 was goal was to reach 1000 runs which he smashed out of the park with 1009 runs for the season. He now hopes to score a century, or 100 runs, in a single innings and one day play cricket for his state and country. No doubt we will see the name Harry Scowen in Aussie cricket in years to come.



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Proceeds from this ad go to BUSHFIRE RELIEF

Pictured: RFS Firefighters in Batlow, NSW, 4 January 2020. Photo by Rohan Kelly / Newspix.

**Thank you.**

The disaster and devastation caused by the bushfires has tested the resilience and spirit of our community, especially in regional NSW.

Mining is a regional industry. And there are thousands of mining families proudly living and working across regional NSW.

On behalf of everyone in our industry, we sincerely thank all of the emergency service workers, community leaders and volunteers for the incredible sacrifice and effort made during these difficult times.

And our thoughts are with everyone who has been affected by the terrible bushfires, including many in the mining sector who have also been directly affected.

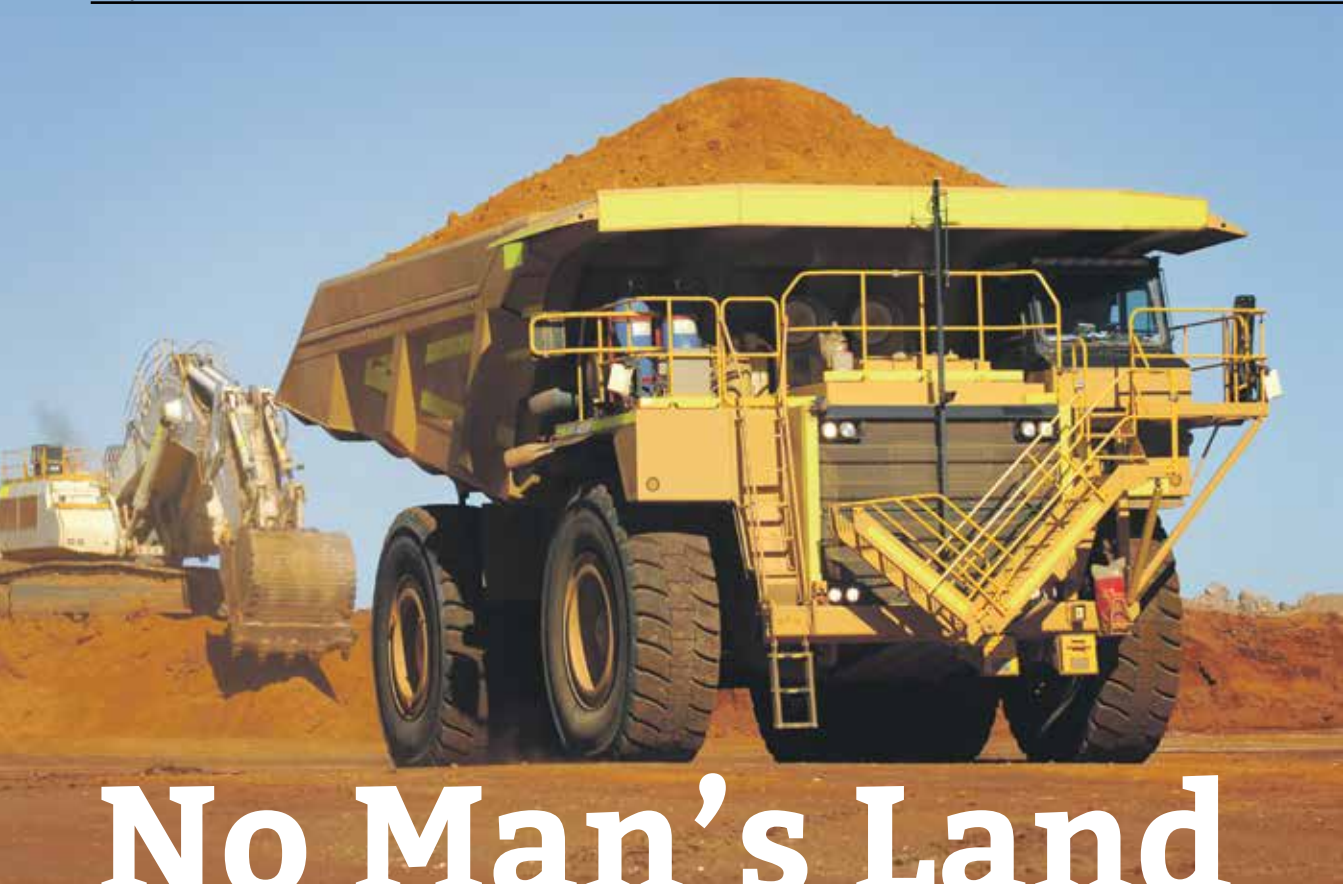
The road ahead to rebuild communities and lives will be a long one.

We stand with everyone in NSW, especially in regional communities.

And we will continue to support our regions as they rebuild and recover, today and into the future.







# No Man’s Land

ONCE THE CONTRACTORS TRUCK OF CHOICE, THE CATERPILLAR 785 MINING TRUCK, IS AS ROBUST AS IT IS VERSATILE.

Despite the many technological advancements achieved in recent decades, the DNA of this truck remains largely unchanged, a testament to its design and capability. A somewhat unwilling participant in the supersizing trend of mining fleets, this truck has, through no fault of its own, increasingly found itself in no man’s land; that area of the tennis court between the baseline and service line that makes it awkward to play ball. **DESPITE THESE SHIFTS, IT CONTINUES TO FIND PURPOSE ON MINE SITES, INCREASINGLY FULFILLING THE ROLE OF ITS YOUNGER 777 SIBLING. SUCH IS ITS VERSATILITY THAT POST THE LAST**

THANKS TO COMPONENTS ONLY, OUR HEAVY EQUIPMENT EXPERTS **COMPONENTS ONLY**

**DOWNTURN, IT WAS RETURNED TO WORK AND UTILISED MORE QUICKLY THAN ITS LARGER 789 BROTHER.**

Unlike many off-highway trucks in Caterpillar’s mining fleet, this mechanically driven truck has retained its engine. This decision is likely to please customers in Australia that desire (and appreciate) the robust heritage of the 3500 series powerpack and its reputation for reliability through multiple rebuilds.

Sporting a High Displacement 3512E Engine that produces a Gross Power of 1193 kW, the G Series truck is available in two power ratings, with a derated 1,450hp to match existing fleets or 1,600hp to provide faster cycle times (circa 5% reduction) than were previously attainable in the D Series truck. Sporting many of Caterpillar’s recent innovations, the new G Series truck also presents with modular radiator, improved ground serviceability, oil sight glass and 1,000 hour hydraulic fluid.

**THE FLAGBEARER OF THE 150T CATEGORY, THIS TRUCK HAS ONLY ONE TRUE COMPETITOR IN KOMATSU’S HD1500-7, A COMPETITION THAT IN REALITY, IS FOUGHT IN SPECIFIC REGIONS RATHER THAN THE GLOBAL STAGE.**

With a heritage spanning over 30 years, the secondary market for used and rebuilt components is reasonably abundant, making it a truck that is easy to support when compared to some of the larger, more exotic trucks now entering the market.

With a new cab that is quieter and larger, operators are rewarded with a smoother ride, nearly 35% more space as well as a full-size trainer door. Despite its shrinking stature, this truck continues to be a stalwart of Caterpillar’s range of mining dump trucks and is likely to continue in the Valley for many years to come, with I suspect, a big water tank strapped to its back.



## Frustrated at Work?

HOW TO DEAL WITH THE DRAMA **BY MARTHA VESSEY**

**IN THE LAST ISSUE I TALKED ABOUT SUPERVISORS, WHICH APPARENTLY STRUCK A CHORD WITH PEOPLE. (IN FACT, SOME WERE IN FAVOUR OF ANOTHER COLUMN ABOUT SUPERVISORS AND ALL THEIR FLAWS! SORRY, GUYS, BUT I CAN’T ALWAYS PICK ON OUR BELOVED LEADERS.)**

The response did get me thinking about why it seemed to resonate though, and I’ve decided that it’s to do with frustration. Now before all you deviants out there start sniggering about frustration of the sexual variety, that’s not what I’m talking about. (That’s your own problem, sorry.) I’m talking about all the frustrations we experience when we’re at work. Like not being listened to by a higher-up, for example. Or – for supervisors – knowing you’re being judged based on your crew’s behaviour, and having your crew play up.

**WE KNOW IT HAPPENS, SO WHAT CAN WE DO ABOUT IT?**

Let’s start with what to look for if you’re a supervisor. If you ever feel as though your crew is acting like a bunch of toddlers, maybe they are, in a way! That’s because toddlers tend to act out ... when they feel frustrated by something.

Sure, your fully-grown crew member may not crumple dramatically to the ground and kick their feet (I hope), but that frustration will be obvious in their overall behaviour.

I read a great article recently by Ben Brearly (BSc BCM MBA) that talks about this. He points out that workers who are frustrated have emotional outbursts. They’re less productive, more cynical and they stop trying. (Any of those behaviours ring a bell?) After all, if there’s a problem at work that affects your crew and it never gets fixed (or even acknowledged), why should they do more than the absolute, bare minimum?

**BREARLY LISTS SOME COMMON CAUSES OF FRUSTRATION IN ANY WORKPLACE. SOME BIGGIES INCLUDE NOT BEING HEARD; A LACK OF RECOGNITION, REWARDS AND CAREER PROGRESSION; AND POOR COMMUNICATION.**

So what can you, as a supervisor, do? Well, you can start by talking about

any problems directly. If someone is grumbling, take them aside and talk about it – without getting defensive. I can’t stress that enough. The idea is to listen and to allow them to vent.

You can work with your crew to figure out what the underlying issues are, and brainstorm some solutions together.

You can try to trust your crew enough to be honest with them. No doubt you have your own directives from higher-up. Why not let your crew know?

**AND ... YOU CAN GIVE YOUR CREW A LITTLE PRAISE WHEN IT’S DUE.**

They often go out of their way to make things run smoothly during their shift and/or set areas up for the next crew, and it can be pretty disheartening (frustrating, even) to feel as though you’ve done a great job on shift, only to cop a negative “pep talk” at the start of your next one.

Crews, keep in mind that solving work problems isn’t a one-way street, and your supervisors get frustrated with you, too.

If something is bothering you, it’s not enough to whinge about it in the crib room. Can you really expect anything to change if you only talk about it when your supervisor’s not around?

Try not to give your OCE a reason to treat you like a toddler. If you’re playing up at work because you’re frustrated by something, keep in mind that your misbehaviour won’t actually affect any of the people you’re frustrated by!

It will only do one of two things. It will either make work harder for your colleagues when they’re left to pick up your slack (nice one), or it will get you into trouble when you get caught misbehaving.

We spend so much of our time at work that we might as well try to make it as pleasant as we can. Confronting frustration when it happens is a good way to start.



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## RISING STAR

**RACING IS IN THE BLOOD OF 12-YEAR-OLD KOBİ WRIGHT, STARTING HIS ROOKIE SEASON IN THE JUNIOR FORMULA 500 CLASS.**

Passionate youngster Kobi Wright has been around the racetrack right from birth, watching his dad and champion sprintcar racer Andrew Wright tear up the track. The Muswellbrook local has already claimed a 3rd place finish in the Feature at Cullen Bullen since his debut in September 2019.

With 5 race meetings under his belt and another 10 to finish off the season, Kobi is a busy young star,

also playing rugby league and touch football, and just starting year 7 at St Joseph's High School, Aberdeen.

Under the guidance of his dad Andrew, Kobi has jumped into racing head on with hopes of continuing the Wright Racing name. "My Dad has been my biggest role model," said Kobi.

**"HE NEVER GIVES UP WHEN THINGS GET TOUGH ESPECIALLY IN HIS RACING AND ALWAYS SUPPORTS ME 100% IN WHATEVER I AM DOING."**



Andrew Wright has been racing for the past 25 years, winning title after title, multiple awards and leading the way for Kobi's career. With a champion racer dad and coach like Andrew, the future looks bright for young Kobi.

Kobi aims to continue learning his race craft as he strives for more podium finishes throughout the remainder of the season. "Racing is really good and I am enjoying learning how to drive the car, but it can also be a bit nerve racking at times," Kobi said.

"My Mum didn't want me to race as she thought it was too dangerous. I broke my collarbone playing Rugby League, she changed her mind

and said racing didn't seem that dangerous, the next week there was a race car in the shed but I had to wait 8 weeks for my collarbone to heal before I could even sit in it!"

Kobi's dad Andrew, mum Hollie, sister Abbie and pop Ray all travel with him to every race meeting to cheer on the racing young gun. With the support of his family Kobi said, "I aim to continue racing Junior Formula 500 until I turn 16 and I would then like to start racing Sprintcars and be competitive in Australia and America."

With thanks to his sponsors KOAB Industries, Eliminator Race Wings, Osborn Transport and Scotty's Fabrication and Paint, Kobi looks to finish of the season with a bang. No doubt you'll see the Wright name continue to dominate the racing scene for years to come.

## What's FISHING

A CRACKING SNAPPER TO KICK OFF THE NEW YEAR. AL MANAGED TO SNAG THIS ONE FISHING SOFT PLASTICS FROM THE TINNY OUT OF THE BAY.



**THE HOLIDAYS ARE OVER, SO YOU'LL HAVE TO COME UP WITH SOME INVENTIVE EXCUSES TO GET OUT AND ENJOY THE WARM WEATHER AND ALL THE GREAT FISHING ON OFFER.**

### OFFSHORE

Things are looking sensational at the moment off the coast with plenty to keep us occupied during a day offshore. All the Fad's are producing some nice Dollies and the inshore reefs are firing with the little blacks and the odd stripe turning up.

We are seeing great numbers of Snapper, Kingfish, Trag and the odd Pearl perch on the deeper reefs off the Bay.

The current on the shelf has been holding things up a bit. Things can change overnight out wide so it's a waiting game to see what will happen.

### INSIDE

The Estuaries have been fishing well with all three major estuary systems producing a good number of Jewies which have been reacting well to soft vibes and live baits.

Flathead across all the local estuaries are also being found in great numbers. Soft vibes and plastics with smaller lighter weighted offerings are proving to be deadly in the estuaries.

Lake Mac is extremely Squidish at the moment with the tasty little morsels showing up in huge numbers especially around the drop over.

Chasing Crabs and Prawns should be something to consider after the recent rain on the coast. Head out on and just after the next full moon for the Crabs and after dark for the Prawns.

### BEACHES

Whiting and Jewies are probably the target species to be gearing up for from the beaches as we roll through February.

**Keep floatin' - Thrifty's**

### FROM THE THRIFTY'S COOKBOOK

Singapore Chilli Crab Sauce

Ingredients

15gm Fresh ginger

2 Long chilli (add more to suit spiciness)

3 Shallots

3 Cloves of garlic

50ml Tomato sauce

90ml water

1 tsp sugar

½ tsp salt

1 tsp White rice vinegar

350gm cooked Crab (cleaned and broken down) or 150gm of Crab meat.

1-2 eggs lightly whisked (depending size)

Splash of Cooking oil

Method

Blend ginger, chilli, shallot and garlic to form a paste.

Heat oil in pan and add the paste.

Stir till it bubbles.

Add the tomato sauce and water. Then add sugar, salt and vinegar for seasoning. Simmer for a few minutes then pour the whisked egg over the sauce. Turn off heat, stir lightly so the egg is only partially cooked.

Add crab meat or crab sections to sauce, stir and serve immediately.

1 YEAR OLD RYAN BAKER FROM BRANXTON WITH HIS 92CM JEWIEISH CAUGHT AT HAWKS NEST.



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**Mangoola Coal**

**Ref. No. RE0143**

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It is essential that you have previous experience operating large mining excavators, preferably Liebherr 996 or similar excavators in a mining environment. You must also have a sound medical history and ability to pass a pre-employment medical assessment. You will possess a positive attitude and a proven track record of reliability, a high level of safety awareness, an attitude for outstanding performance, and a willingness to contribute to a winning team.

With a high level of safety awareness and an attitude for performance, candidates must also reside within 80km of Mangoola Mine.

**For further information please contact:**

Rachel Emanuel, Human Resources Officer on 02 6549 5621

**Applications Close:**

1 March 2020

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# Dive WITH Dolphins

DOLPHIN SWIM AUSTRALIA GAVE US THE UNIQUE EXPERIENCE OF SWIMMING WITH WILD DOLPHINS AT NSW'S BEAUTIFUL NELSON BAY AND IT WAS MAGNIFICENT.

Dolphin Swim Australia operates the first and only permitted wild dolphin swim in NSW. The fantastic team have worked hard to create the first and only wild dolphin swim of its kind in the world.

A 5am start saw us up bright and early, excited and not knowing exactly what to expect as we departed Nelson Bay marina. It was clear as soon as we boarded the boat that the entire Dolphin Swim Australia team are very professional and extremely passionate about what they do and the safety of their local, wild marine life.

My brother joined me on the experience, and we were suited up in our wetsuits, snorkel and goggles as we listened to the safety briefing and training. Jacob and I sat there with big, goofy grins as the nerves and anticipation started to kick in. The boat was packed, with some people visiting as far away as Switzerland to take part in the amazing interaction. We were assigned to group three, giving us the chance to watch the first two groups glide through the water only metres away from dolphins, including a couple of tiny baby calves which was incredible. One of our instructors pointed out how wobbly the little fella was in



the water as he leapt out with his mother, still learning the ins and outs of diving.

By the time it was our turn to dive, we were jumping out of our skin to get in the water. We entered the net, grabbed onto the rope and with guidance from our swim leader, slid into the water where we were pulled gently with the boat. Dolphins love noise, so we screamed and yelled as much as we could to keep them entertained.

**THERE WERE AROUND 5 DOLPHINS SWIMMING WITH US EXCITEDLY THROUGH THE WATER AS CLOSE AS 2 METRES FROM US. THE ONLY WAY TO EXPLAIN HOW I FELT IS PURE JOY. I HAVE NEVER EXPERIENCED ANYTHING LIKE IT.**

We spent around 15 minutes with the beautiful creatures and climbed out exhausted and exhilarated. My brother looked at me and said, "holy moly that was the coolest thing I have ever done" and I had to agree with him.

With tonnes of photos taken by the swim team throughout the day and a video of each group in the water, you can remember the experience for the rest of your life. I know I'll never forget it and will without a doubt do it again in the near future.

You're even given a certificate of achievement at the end which I have proudly displayed on my desk at work.

Swimming with dolphins in captivity is a common tourist attraction around the world, yet many of these dolphins die prematurely due to stress or illness. Swimming with people in shallow pools and towing people through the water are not natural behaviours of these beautiful mammals.

**IN 2010 CEO ANDREW PARKER FULFILLED HIS DREAM, CREATING A PROGRAM IN WHICH WILD DOLPHINS CHOOSE TO SWIM WITH HUMANS IN THEIR OWN NATURAL HABITAT, AND IN WHICH NO HARM COMES TO EITHER SPECIES.**

After thorough research and regulation, the swim ensures that the team never chase or harass dolphins and that no harm comes to any dolphins as a result of each swim with them.

I encourage everyone to book in with Dolphin Swim Australia to experience the pure beauty of our beautiful marine life in their natural habitat. A unique, ethical, spiritual and exciting adventure, you'll absolutely love it!



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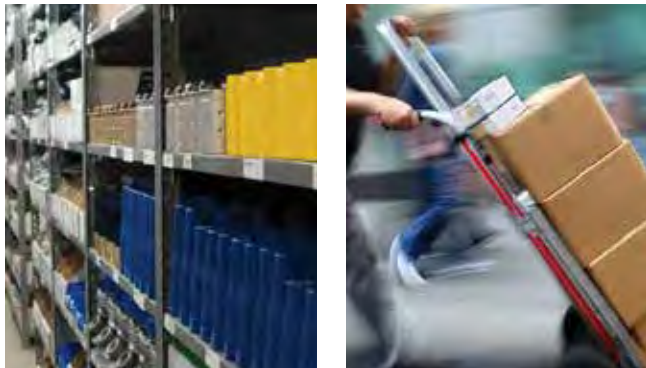
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# TACO TIME!

AMERICA’S OWN TACO BELL HAS LAUNCHED ITS MEXICAN INSPIRED RESTAURANTS IN AUSTRALIA, WITH THE FIRST IN NSW HITTING JESMOND ON DECEMBER 3, 2020.

‘AVE A LAUGH WITH



PH 6545 1066

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

Claire, after retiring from a busy life in business, travels around the country visiting antique shops trying to find bargains. One day she goes to an antique shop in Broke. Claire speaks to Victoria, the shop’s owner, “When I was in here last week I saw a big mug with a flat head that holds a lot of beer. I’d like to buy it.” “Sorry,” replied Victoria, “but I can’t possibly sell you that.” “Oh, what a pity, but why not?” inquired Claire. “Because,” said the owner, “that’s my husband.”



Taco Bell has hit the streets of Jesmond, bringing a variety of Mexican inspired foods that include tacos, burritos, quesadillas, nachos and some fun desserts and beverages. After weeks of hype, my friend and I went to enjoy a fiesta of flavour for a Humpday feed. Located in Jesmond Shopping centre, the modern restaurant features an open kitchen so you can see your order being made, a large bell for customers to ‘ring and show appreciation’ (which kids were going crazy for) and self-serve kiosks for timely convenience. **AS USUAL WHEN I DRIVE PAST THE AREA, THE RESTAURANT WAS VERY BUSY. WHEN YOU ORDER FROM A BUSY FAST-FOOD JOINT IT CAN SOMETIMES BE A HIT AND MISS WITH WAITING TIMES AND FOOD QUALITY BUT SHORTLY AFTER ORDERING, OUR FOOD WAS READY, FRESH AND HOT. PERFECTO!** I ordered the Crunchwrap Supreme meal, a toasted tortilla in the signature six-sided wrap filled with seasoned beef, nacho cheese sauce, crunchy tostada,

sour cream, lettuce and tomato. Also served with a side of seasoned hot chips and beverage. My mate enjoyed the California Burrito in a soft tortilla wrap, packed with chicken, tasty cheese, black beans, guac, sour cream, fresh lettuce and fiesta salsa. **TO PUT IT SIMPLY, BOTH MEALS WERE EXQUISITO. WITH TRULY DELICIOUS MEXICAN FLAVOURS, PERFECTLY COOKED MEAT AND FRESH INGREDIENTS WE BOTH AGREED IT WAS A HIT.** Something I absolutely loved about the menu was the variety of portion sizes, from meals to individual tacos and burritos and even a range ‘snackaritos’ for those looking for a quick snack on the go. For those hot summer days enjoy a cold beer, refreshing cider or my personal favourite a frozen margarita. And for the kiddies a frozen slushy to quench their thirst after a delicious Mexican feast. Muchas gracias Taco Bell! We will be back.



AAHHHH... AUSTRALIA DAY, MY FAVOURITE DAY OF THE YEAR! SHE WAS ONE TO REMEMBER THIS YEAR! OR SO I’M TOLD, I CAN’T REMEMBER A BLOODY THING.

Waking up two days after the event in a pool of vomit on the back seat of the Kingswood in the front yard, I consulted a few friends and family on the events of the day, and what a day it apparently was. First up, yelling at me in language that can only be described as colourful through the locked screen door, the missus was clearly excited about my artistic remodeling of the front yard. The way I put a new circular driveway in for her, using the donut method and the Kingswood, really is a lesson in landscaping that that old stripper Jamie Durie would have been proud of in his Backyard Blitz days. Talkin’ about strippers, apparently enquiries for my new stage show ‘Bare Bummed Aussies’ are coming in thick and fast. **I DIDN’T EVEN KNOW I HAD A NEW STAGE SHOW!** But anyway, in my excitement to celebrate this great nation of mine on the big day, I took off up the street just after lunch, just after

taking off all my clobber except for an Aussie flag cape. Apparently, I moved like lightening courtesy of the neighbours Blue Heeler mistaking my old sausage for a sausage that fell off the barbie. Stupid dog! **EVERYONE KNOWS YOU CAN’T BUY SAUSAGES THAT BIG.** The only thing that saved my crown jewels was legging it over another neighbours fence and grabbing a tray of fresh baked cream lamingtons off their nicely set lunch table. I threw them at the dog to distract him, keeping one for myself of course. They were delicious! Not so was the look on the old duck who baked em’s face. Exhausted after being chased by a mongrel dog, I was now being chased up the street by an irate grandmother with vengeance in her eyes and legs that moved faster than Cathy Freeman’s. Spitting all sorts of profanities at me along the way, thankfully she accidentally spat out her false teeth as well, giving me the opportunity to get away. **BACK HOME I CALMED DOWN AND COOLED DOWN WITH TWO OR THREE BEERS AND A RUMBO. CARTONS AND A BOTTLE THAT IS.** A game of backyard cricket followed and by the look of my other neighbours windows, I scored another deluge of six’s this year with big hits over the fence. The ‘For Sale’ signs now either side of my joint only further confirm my status as ‘Australia Day Party Animal of the Year’. **TILL NEXT YEAR PEOPLE... ‘ADVANCE AUSTRALIA YEAH!**

I COULD EAT A HORSE

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Book in now for the next 5 day MSHR courses commencing soon and secure your MSHR training and certificate:

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Locally owned and operated, Northwest Mining Company is based in Muswellbrook and provide labour, equipment and automotive services throughout the Hunter Valley.

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

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HEROES

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LADDER
- POLE

RADIO

RESCUE

RESPECT

ROPE

SIREN

SMOKE

THANKFULL

TREES

WATER

@ THE COALFACE  
PRIZE WINNERS

Volume 4 – No 3: December 2019 – January 2020

Components Only - Crib for the Crew	William Swan
Roberts Meats Raffle	Kerry Hardy
Crib Bag	Shane Thurston
\$50 Horse & Jockey Voucher	John Marsh
Complete Parts Truck	Jason Lodge
Café La Luna Cake	Chris Davies

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL OUR WINNERS!

STRANGE BUT TRUE!

- Did you know...

  - Butterflies taste with their hind feet.
  - Tomato sauce was sold in the 1800's as medicine.
  - A donkey will sink in quicksand, but a mule won't.
  - A lion in the wild, usually makes no more than 20 kills a year.
  - India has a Bill of Rights for cows.
- Dartboards are made out of horse hairs.
  - Grapes explode when you put them in the microwave.
  - In 1980, a Las Vegas hospital suspended workers for betting on when patients would die.
  - In every episode of Seinfeld there is a Superman somewhere.
  - The Bible is the world's most shoplifted book.



Celebrating each individual

NEW

- Singleton-Scone EXPRESS bus for SGS students
- Fees reduced by av 18% in 2020

SINGLETON TALK

- 6pm, Wednesday 19 February 2020
- All Saints' Anglican Church HALL, Goulburn St, Singleton
- Meet our Principal & SGS Team
- Listen to SGS Singleton families talk about their experience.
- Meet our bus drivers and check out our express bus!
- Understand how we celebrate each individual to find your own groove in our SGS Community.

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FUN IN FIJI

Overlooking Viti Levu's idyllic Coral Coast on one side and its own private beach and lagoon on the other, the Shangri-La's Fijian Resort & Spa is a one stop shop for a fantastic holiday experience. Only a one hour drive from Nadi airport, from the moment you arrive you'll never want to leave.

What's not to love. Snorkelling in crystal clear water and exploring coral reefs bursting with aquatic life. Happy hour cocktails by the pool followed by indulgent dinners watching breathtaking sunsets. Relaxing massages on the beach in your own private cabana. And best of all, a fantastic kids club and nanny service. I mean who wants to spend a family holiday actually looking after your own kids!

Entering the resort to the sound of beating drums and song, we were greeted by smiling Fijians handing out refreshing local drinks as they hung shell leis around our necks. All the while greeting us with a nonstop "Bula! Bula! Bula!" (which means hello in Fijian). It's the warmest welcome I've ever received and sets the tone for the rest of the stay. Fiji is definitely one of the friendliest places on earth. If I had a dollar for every time someone exuberantly greeted me with "Bula!", I'd have enough money for an endless holiday in Fiji!

**AND HOW EASY IT WOULD BE TO STAY THERE FOREVER.**

When you're not spending your days lounging around sipping cocktails you can get out an experience the Fijian culture by visiting a local village or partaking in a traditional Kava ceremony. Or jump aboard a river boat or 4WD and explore the natural beauty of the country on one of the many and varied tours on offer. Though to be honest you don't even need to leave the resort as there



WITH OVER 50 LUXURIOUS RESORTS PEPPERING THE 300 PLUS ISLANDS THAT MAKE UP FIJI, IT'S LITTLE WONDER THIS ARCHIPELAGO IS THE PERFECT HOLIDAY DESTINATION. WE VISITED THE SHANGRI-LA'S FIJIAN RESORT & SPA AND LET ME TELL YOU IT DID NOT DISAPPOINT.

are so many activities available the moment you step outside your door.

If water sports are your thing then there is tons to do. They have their own Aqua Park. This is where you'll find a bunch of screaming kids rushing up and down plastic slides, each followed by a bedraggled parent trying to maintain their dignity as the slip over again and again. Or stay on top of the water on a stand-up paddle board or kayak. Or at least try to! Don a snorkel and explore the beautiful coral reefs only metres from shore. Or if you want to stay completely dry, view the incredible marine life from a glass bottom boat.

**THEN THERE'S THE REALLY FUN STUFF.**

The jet ski tour is a great way to see some of the coast as you race along the water. There's parasailing, wakeboarding and even flyboarding. But for me, the one experience that I was not going to miss out on was scuba diving with sharks. Okay, so they were only small reef sharks, but scuba diving in itself is a thrilling experience, especially when you are exploring some of the most beautiful reefs in the world. Add to that the experience of sharks coasting by you at arm's length while in a feeding frenzy. This is a bucket list experience!

When you need to dry off there is one thing these resorts all know how to do well. That's fatten you up with excessive eating and drinking. Huge buffet breakfasts to kickstart the day, plenty of delicious cocktails to keep you hydrated and a bunch of different restaurants to try out each night, all with menu's showcasing the local produce. It would be rude not to try it all wouldn't it?

Fiji is a beautiful country full of friendly people. And the best thing, there's always another resort to try!



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