

HUNTER INDUSTRY, COMMUNITY, SPORTS & ENTERTAINMENT

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FACE**

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PAGE 18

**MATES
ARE GREAT**

MATES IN MINING ARE HERE TO REMIND YOU
THAT WE ARE STRONGER TOGETHER.



PHOTO CREDIT: PETER STOOP

A LASTING LEGACY

FOR OVER 100 YEARS YANCOAL'S AUSTAR COAL MINE PLAYED A SIGNIFICANT
ROLE IN THE HISTORY OF CESSNOCK AND SURROUNDING REGION.

PAGES 16 - 17

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ALMOST THERE!

AFTER A LONG AND LONELY ROAD, WE ARE FINALLY STARTING TO SEE AN EASING OF COVID-19 RESTRICTIONS AND IT'S THANKS TO THE EFFORTS OF EVERYONE IN THE COMMUNITY. OUR INDUSTRY HAS ALSO PLAYED ITS PART.

Okay so we're still a bit off having a catch up at the pub (which is what we all need after a day of homeschooling!) but every step forward is one to be grateful for. This month you'll read about some of the things our industry has been doing to not only protect its workers, but to also help support the community. But it all comes down to each individual making the right choices so thank you to everyone who has been doing the right thing.

We pay tribute this month to the long legacy of Austar as it moves into care and maintenance. For over 100 years this mine has had a significant role in the history of Cessnock and the surrounding region and has provided employment for entire generations of local families.

If you are finding current times especially tough, make sure you read about what MATES in Mining are up to. Although some of their work on sites is limited during the pandemic, rest assured they are still here for you if you need them.

We hope you enjoy this month's edition and stay safe!



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MINING PROVES ITS RESILIENCE AGAIN

WE ALL KNOW THAT MINERS ARE RESILIENT. THAT'S CERTAINLY BEEN TRUE IN RECENT YEARS, AS OUR INDUSTRY HAS WORKED THROUGH MANY TOUGH CHALLENGES TOGETHER.

The way our local workforce has met the challenge of operating under the current Covid-19 emergency has again shown the resilience that makes our industry world-class.

The first priority for the NSW mining industry has always been the safety of our miners and their families, as well as the thousands of local businesses that supply our local mining industry and the communities in which they operate.

It's been really impressive to see the way mining operations across the Hunter have implemented the critical national COVID-19 health and safety protocols.

Mines across the region have put in place extensive site-specific workforce protection measures in accordance with public advice, including enhanced monitoring, increased cleaning and sanitation, work from home policies, social distancing, screening measures for visitors and more.

You may have even seen our television commercials featuring mine workers from across NSW highlighting some of the practical ways our mine sites are making safety the number one priority.

THE WAY OUR MINING WORKFORCE HAS RISEN TO THE CHALLENGE OF THE COVID-19 CRISIS IS BEST SUMMED UP WITH THESE LINES FROM THE TV COMMERCIAL - "WE'RE DOING OUR BIT TO PROTECT OUR WORKMATES AND OUR FAMILIES. WE'RE ALSO DOING OUR BIT TO HELP THE ECONOMY."

However, like other industries mining is not immune to the current tough economic climate. We're seeing signs of some challenging times ahead for mining as the impact of the global economic downturn starts to bite, including a softening of commodity prices and demand.

This will make our challenge harder, but as we've seen time and again, our mine workers, our mining communities and our entire industry have risen to such challenges before and we will do so again.

There will be tough times ahead, but our industry and our local mining communities will overcome as we have always done.

STEPHEN GALILEE,
CEO, NSW MINERALS COUNCIL

OPINION

HARD AT WORK

AUSTRALIAN MINING WORKERS AND COMMUNITIES ARE CONTINUING TO STEP UP DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC, EVEN AS THE PROSPECT BECKONS OF SOME RESTRICTIONS BEING WOUND BACK.



TANIA CONSTABLE

With many sectors shut down and a lot of people out of work, our industry doesn't take its ability to continue operating – with health and safety as its highest value and first priority – for granted.

This means that workers, families and communities in the Hunter Valley and throughout NSW and the nation can continue to benefit from the highly skilled jobs which the industry has to offer.

KEEPING PEOPLE IN WORK AND MINES RUNNING HAS TAKEN A HUGE EFFORT FROM ACROSS THE INDUSTRY.

There are also a lot of METS businesses and suppliers who have pulled out all stops to keep supply lines open so the flow of safety equipment, fuel, tyres, spare parts and machinery has continued.

Looking after vulnerable people in remote Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities has been a big focus, along with supporting locally-led community responses.

This approach has been recognised across the board by resources ministers and unions who have supported the industry's approach to protecting workers and local communities.

When bushfires raged over summer, mining companies rallied to provide practical and financial support to firefighters and affected communities.

THAT SAME SPIRIT IS ALIVE WITHIN THE INDUSTRY AS WE LEARN TO LIVE WITH TODAY'S CRISIS.

The resources sector not only underpins Australia's economy – with \$290 billion in export earnings last year – it's also part of the identity of many communities and regions.

So to make those communities and regions even stronger in the future, what sort of high-growth policy options should be on the table?

Two things are very clear: stronger business-led growth will lead recovery; higher taxes will slow investment and growth and threaten jobs.

The minerals industry already pays its fair share of tax and royalties. There's \$31 billion a year that already funds doctors, nurses, hospitals, police, roads and bridges. Over 13 years, \$234 billion paid by the industry in company tax and royalties is enough to build 9500 schools or 340 hospitals.

Balanced policies will give everyone a fair share of the benefits from Australia's rich resources bounty, and a better tax system to support investment and creates jobs in our regions.

The National Cabinet has done some great work together to keep the community safe. That model can now supercharge economic recovery through sensible policy reform.

TOO MANY MINING PROJECTS TAKE TOO LONG TO DELIVER LOCAL JOBS.

Faster project approvals and removing red tape and duplication can help deliver recovery while preserving our precious environment.

Our smart mining and METS companies would benefit from larger R & D incentives, which could also benefit other industries including the defence sector.

Retraining and skills development could be fast-tracked, and there are also opportunities to support more exploration.

We should consider how to add value to exports by processing minerals into refined products.

The mining industry has always underpinned Australia's economic prosperity.

If governments grasp the opportunity for urgent reform as the post-COVID era dawns, the industry can do even more.

TANIA CONSTABLE
CEO, MINERALS COUNCIL OF AUSTRALIA

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IN THE NEWS...

HEY BIG MINE SPENDER

The direct spending of mining companies in the Hunter Valley has contributed to 23 per cent of the Gross Regional Product of the region.

That's according to the NSW Mineral Council's latest annual expenditure survey that has found the 28 participating mining companies directly injected \$13.7 billion into the NSW economy in the last financial year, up \$300 million from the previous year.

The number of mining jobs provided by the participating mining companies also increased by nearly 500 to 25,844 over the same period.

WARKWORTH LEFT LOCALS FEELING DUSTY

Warkworth Mining has been hit with a fine after dust from a blast resulted in a large dust cloud leaving their site last year.

The NSW Environment Protection Authority has fined Warkworth \$15,000 for failing to carry out blasting activities in a competent manner.

The mine blast occurred in August last year and resulted in a large dust plume travelling over private land and Mount Thorley Industrial Estate.

The NSW EPA received some complaints and commenced an investigation which concluded the mine did not have appropriate measures in place to minimise the impacts on people working and living in the surrounding area, including the industrial estate.

NEWSPAPERS GOING GOING...

Australian Community Media (ACM) will stop printing newspapers across the country until at least the end of June, impacting the Upper Hunter's local papers.

The Singleton Argus, Muswellbrook Chronicle, Scone Advocate and The Hunter Valley News will temporarily stop printing as ACM closes four printing presses including Tamworth due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

It is understood the company will resume regular printing from June 29.

Meantime, printing of the Quirindi Advocate has stopped until further notice but they will continue to update local news via their Facebook page and other channels.

MOUNT ARTHUR WORKER TIPPED OVER THE EDGE

It was a scary day at work for one worker at BHP's Mount Arthur mine at Muswellbrook when a truck reversed over a tip head in the Saddlers Pit area.

On April 13, the NSW Resources Regulator says a haul truck was reversing into a dump corner when the edge of dump appears to have collapsed - the truck ended up on a 45 degree angle over the edge of the dump and the operator had to wait five

hours to be rescued.

"Preliminary investigations suggest that the controls identified to manage the risks associated with using weathered material at the dump may not have been adequate and some of those controls were not implemented."

BHP says "the operator was rescued from the truck, and sustained no physical injuries and has been supported and monitored since the incident".

Investigations are continuing.

WYBONG ROAD ISSUES TARRED UP

Repair works have finished on Wybong Road at Muswellbrook.

Muswellbrook Shire Council has reopened the road to all traffic after cracks appeared on the road surface in early March.

Bengalla Mining Company has been working with Council to determine the cause of cracks that appeared on Wybong Road - the cracks that appeared between Overton Road and the entrance to the Mount Pleasant Mine and were 10 to 30 mm deep.

TRUCK COMPANY FINED OVER DEATH AT RIX'S CREEK

The employer of a truck driver who was killed at Rix's Creek mine has been fined \$90,000 over the December 2018 incident that left Stephen Norman with fatal head injuries when the tailgate of a truck swung shut on his head.

Richard Wayne Simmons whose family company ran four trucks at the Singleton mine under a long term contract operation was fined in the NSW District Court.

The Bloomfield Group who own Rix's Creek had already accepted an "enforceable undertaking" from the NSW Resources Regulator over the incident.

KEPCO FACE-TO-FACE WITH COMMUNITY IN COURT

A community group will now be able to challenge mining company KEPCO in court.

The Bylong Valley Protection Alliance's legal application to become a full party in the court case to defend the Independent Planning Commission's decision to reject KEPCO's open cut coal mine has succeeded.

The IPC last year rejected the mine as they found the risks to water, land, and future generations through its contribution to climate change were too great.

The case will be heard in the Land and Environment Court in August and the community group will be there as a part of proceedings as the IPC decided not to defend their decision.



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

UNEMPLOYMENT DOWN DOWN DOWN

Unemployment in the Hunter region has more than doubled since mid-February with an estimated 19,000 jobs lost in the eight weeks between mid-Feb and April 4th.

The Business NSW estimates are based on statistics from the Australian Bureau of Statistics with the regional estimates showing around 10,800 jobs were lost in the Newcastle and Lake Macquarie areas and more than 8,200 jobs were lost across the rest of the Hunter Valley.

The Hunter Business Chamber says that hospitality and tourism-related businesses are predictably the most severely affected but job losses have had an impact on nearly all industry sectors, including healthcare, where a drop of 2.5 per cent was recorded following a temporary spike in February.

MINES COVID SAFE

The NSW Minerals Council has strongly endorsed national health and safety protocols for COVID-19 at all mine sites across the state.

The Council says the protocols formalise many of the measures already implemented and represent the industry's commitment to meet government's expectations of performance for essential services.

There have however been a number of complaints made to the NSW Resources Regulator regarding mine sites not following protocol and making employees work for instance who should be self-isolating but CEO Stephen Galilee says protocols have been in place and implemented across most of the sector and if you're unhappy with them speak up.



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US AUSSIES AREN'T ONES TO THROW IN THE TOWEL. WE'VE COPPED SO MUCH THIS YEAR BUT WE AREN'T GIVING UP.

Look, 2020 has definitely been a bloody nightmare. Disaster after disaster and now the challenge of getting through and overcoming the Pandemic.

The media has been absolutely flooded with COVID-19 news, from propaganda, conspiracy theories, fake news and the odd factual information. As the President of America, Donald Trump would say, stay away from “fake news folks”.

Local businesses are among those being hit hardest by the pandemic and the isolation and social distancing that comes with it. But in the true Aussie spirit businesses are morphing with COVID-19, creating innovative strategies to stay afloat.

“We’re in this together,” is a statement that I have heard at least once a day and that’s the exact mindset we need to have to support each other, support local businesses and keep our economy going.

To navigate these unprecedented and uncharted waters the only way forward is to stay positive, productive and continue to adapt our ways of life to come out the other side. And that’s exactly what these local businesses are doing.

WE'D LOVE TO HEAR WHAT YOUR BUSINESS IS DOING. DROP US A LINE AT ADMIN@THECOALFACE.NET.AU



HORSE & JOCKEY HOTEL SINGLETON AND ALBION HOTEL SINGLETON
Takeaway food is now operating a car park collection service from the back of the Albion hotel, as well as offering a free delivery service to the Singleton community, 7 days Lunch & Dinner


Unfortunately, the team are no longer able to offer as cheap of meals as they have come to be known for because of the lack of income in other departments to help subsidise the food costs. They continue to offer some specials every day to keep things interesting, as we have had to shorten the menu as well.

The team thought of the idea of getting in 2L Growlers (Stainless steel or Glass containers) for customers to continue to have Tap beer at home. The Stainless keep selling out as quick as they can buy them. The pub offers a contemporary range of beers, some new additions from Newcastle based Foghorn Brewery and will even fill with spirits and soft drink mixers.

The Job Keeper subsidy has also been great support to give flexibility to grow new markets without the added cost of additional wages.

“We have had to change our product to adapt to the current needs,” said Manager Daniel Storey.

“The success of our new initiatives means we can keep 15 locals employed on the Albion Hotel, but you will still see some of the Horse & Jockey staff working there.”



NEW LAMBTON PHARMACY
The pharmacy started to make their own hand sanitiser as they became wiped out with people unnecessarily buying large quantities. They did this not only for their own use, but also for medical facilities and essential businesses so that they can stay open and be as safe as possible

Procedures were modified and put in place in the pharmacy so that high risk patients such as people like those with certain medical conditions, immunocompromised, those that were pregnant or with young babies and the elderly were protected.

New Lambton Pharmacy began a delivery service, where they hired staff to provide the extra needs of delivery to provide less contact.

They have pushed to provide factual information to combat the overflow of misinformation on social media.

“It’s extremely important for us here at the New Lambton Pharmacy to be able to provide people with the factual information including a general view on hygiene to help minimise the spread of COVID-19,” said Manager Eammon Pola.

ORANGE HIRE
The first process is to grab hand sanitiser which is rubbed thoroughly into employee hands for 20 seconds. Gloves are also worn to then grab the disinfectant to clean all equipment. It is applied to all areas of each machine or piece of equipment. Alcohol wipes are used to wipe down all door handles and hand rails.



Machines are then gurned down to ensure outside is washed and detailing can begin.

After every machine is washed detailed and disinfected, gloves are to be put straight in the bin.

“Of course, vehicle cleanliness is only one concern during the outbreak, which is why we’re maintaining a daily basis for every equipment going for hire,” Orange Hire Rep.

**THE NEW BLACK INDUSTRIES**
As soon as a client walks in procedures have been put in place for all employees to wash and disinfect

their hands, disinfect the entire area, advise the client to take a seat and make sure everyone is a minimum of 1.5 meters apart.

Hand sanitiser has been situated on every corner of the salon along with soap at all basins for clients to wash hands.

To reduce contact as much as possible, the salon no longer provides magazines, drinks or other unnecessary items.

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SKILLED has enabled Programmed to actively survey employees about their health and well-being, share important information with them relevant to their workplace host and have two-way connected conversations with them in real-time.



“We will continue to use SKILLED both to support the recruitment needs of customers as well as continue to maintain open and direct communications with many of our employees beyond COVID-19,” employee Stephen Brooks.



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DIALOGUE DOINGS

THE UPPER HUNTER MINING DIALOGUE AND ITS INDUSTRY PARTNERS CONTINUE TO IMPLEMENT SERIOUS INTERIM MEASURES IN RESPONSE TO THE ONGOING COVID-19 SITUATION.

In line with government health advice, the Dialogue has temporarily suspended all events and face-to-face committee and working group meetings in the short-term. The Dialogue is currently evaluating the forward program of activities including joint business chamber functions, community events and the annual forum.

Fortunately, the Dialogue was able to complete the first round of Joint Working Group meetings during early March and evaluate the extensive and quality feedback received at the 2019 Forum. The Dialogue is in a good position to communicate these outcomes to the Joint Advisory Steering Committee for further consideration and review as the Dialogue develops its priorities in 2020.

The COVID-19 situation has also had a considerable impact on the Dialogue's stakeholder engagement initiatives, including the launch of the 2020 School Mine Tours Program. Tours scheduled for May and June have had to be postponed due to

restrictions on school excursions and protection measures implemented at mine sites. The Dialogue will continue to closely monitor the situation and will seek to reschedule tours for later in the year if possible.

The new restrictions have also impacted the various community events the Dialogue had scheduled to attend. As a result, the Dialogue will seek to increase its online engagement and communications, and will expedite the release of a newsletter update to stakeholders.

While the tours program, meetings and community engagement activities have been put on hold, the Dialogue secretariat will continue to actively work on projects and communicate its activities to stakeholders as we all progress through this challenging situation.

WHAT ARE THE DIALOGUE'S INDUSTRY PARTNERS DOING?

Mine sites across the Upper Hunter and all of

NSW are implementing the new Resources Sector - National COVID-19 Protocols to help their mining workforce, mining families and mining communities to remain safe and healthy during this challenging time.

These protocols have been developed by industry leaders in accordance with public health advice, and include enhanced health monitoring and testing, increased cleaning and sanitation, work from home policies, social distancing, changed travel and transport arrangements, enhanced screening for visitors, and more.

Several industry partners participating in the Upper Hunter Mining Dialogue have communicated their responses to the ongoing COVID-19 situation, which include various initiatives such as funding for new workforce positions, funding for community organisations and programs, and supporting key contractors and suppliers on reduced payment terms and business support activities.

CHECK OUT THESE LINKS TO LEARN MORE ABOUT WHAT OUR INDUSTRY IS DOING:

BENGALLA MINING COMPANY

www.bengalla.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/Bengalla-Mining-Company-COVID-19-Website-Update-Landscape.pdf

BHP

www.bhp.com/vitalresources/

THE BLOOMFIELD GROUP

www.bloomcoll.com.au/sustainability/health-safety

GLENORE

www.glencore.com.au/en/Documents/20200324-Glencore-Australian-update-on-COVID-19.pdf

PEABODY ENERGY

www.singletonargus.com.au/story/6698952/glencore-peabody-ramp-up-health-checks/

THIESS

www.thiess.com/en/news/2020/our-covid-19-response

YANCOAL

[www.yancoal.com.au/content/Document/200323_Coronavirus_Media%20Statement\(2\).pdf](http://www.yancoal.com.au/content/Document/200323_Coronavirus_Media%20Statement(2).pdf)

You can also find more about what individual companies are doing through their websites which can be found at: WWW.MININGDIALOGUE.COM.AU/DIALOGUE/CONTACTS

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When Adam stayed out very late for a few nights, Eve became upset.

"You're running around with other women," she told her mate.

"Eve, honey, you're being unreasonable," Adam responded. "You know you're the only woman on earth."

The quarrel continued until Adam fell asleep, only to be awakened by a strange pain in the chest. It was his darling Eve poking him rather vigorously about the torso.

"What do you think you're doing?" Adam demanded.

"Counting your ribs," said Eve.

Protecting miners, families & communities

Taking action on COVID-19

Mining is a key local industry. And health and safety remains our industry's number one priority.

We're all adapting to new ways of working safely in response to coronavirus, to protect each other, our families and the community.

Our mines are following strict advice from health authorities and implementing new measures including increased health testing and cleaning, more protective clothing, physical distancing, travel limits, shift changes and alternative work arrangements, and more.

All while also doing our bit to help the economy.

So thank you to everyone working hard in our mines and in the businesses supplying our mines for everything you're doing.

Let's keep going and stay healthy and safe.

To find out more go to nswmining.com.au/covid-19

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PUBLISHERS OPINION

IT'S TIME TO KILL EACH OTHER... WITH BLOODY KINDNESS!

FEELING STRESSED AT TIMES IS A NORMAL PART OF EVERYDAY LIFE FOR MOST OF US. BUT WITH EVERYTHING GOING ON AT THE MOMENT, NORMAL STRESS LEVELS ARE BEING AMPLIFIED AND NOW MORE THAN EVER WE NEED TO SUPPORT AND BE KIND TO EACH OTHER.

WIN!

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So, what is the point of this month's column other than to be a warm, fuzzy, sensitive new age guy? Well I'm not trying to be a bloody sensitive new age guy here. F*ck sensitivity. (Please excuse my bad language.)
What I am trying to say is don't be an asshole for no good reason. Stressing people out for no good reason, or even worse, being a bully, it's just wrong.
If you need to bring others down for your own entertainment or for the acceptance of a brainless pack of sheep led by some bully, or you are trying impress people at work with a misguided sense of superiority or intelligence, or someone you're trying to suck up to, or amongst your friends; if you are that kind of sheep like person who just follows the pack, give yourself an uppercut and take a look in the mirror, you are an idiot.
Look, I'm the first to admit that there have been many times in my life when I have been all of the above and more – in other words, an asshole.
THE OLDER I GET THOUGH, THE MORE I TRY TO OWN MY WORDS, ACTIONS AND MISTAKES. I CONSTANTLY GET IT WRONG, BUT I TRY.
Recently a letter came in from a reader that had all of us here in the office stop and think about how thoughtless actions can have huge impacts. I won't name the person or even hint toward where it came from. The words were open, honest and raw and in no way felt like a whiny, poor me letter. Below is just a small piece of what the person had to say.



"My reason for writing this is to ask people to stop and think before they shatter someone's world. I'm lucky that I have a huge support network, others don't. Nasty barbs at the wrong person could tip them over the edge or worse, lead to suicide. None of us know how another truly feels or how they react to stuff."
"I WILL BE OK BECAUSE I CHOOSE TO BELIEVE THE BEST IN PEOPLE, NOT THE WORST AND AS I SAID, I HAVE AN INCREDIBLE NETWORK OF FAMILY AND FRIENDS."
"MIM, Mates in Mining is about lifting each other up not tearing each other down. We all know in a group dynamic there will always be people we don't like or get along with, but stop and think, 'Ok this person irritates the shit out of me, but in the scheme of things, is it that bad? Can I just let it slide? Do I need to be needlessly cruel to this person to make me feel better?' Most likely the answer will be "No". In conclusion I ask you to be genuine in your care for your mates, look out for each other."
Pretty simple but straightforward words from someone who has been on the receiving end, and someone who was deeply affected by someone else's careless actions that should never have happened in the first place.
Thanks for getting in touch reader. Thanks for reminding all of us about something that is really important – especially during these uncertain times. If you can't say something nice, then shut the f*ck up.

THE Right Response

FOR GLENCORE, EVERY EFFORT IS BEING MADE TO SUPPORT AND PROTECT THEIR EMPLOYEES, THEIR FAMILIES AND THE COMMUNITIES IN WHICH THEY OPERATE. WE HEARD FROM IAN CRIBB, CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER OF GLENCORE COAL ASSETS AUSTRALIA TO FIND OUT HOW THEY'VE BEEN HANDLING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC.

"Last month the Prime Minister, Scott Morrison, said that the unprecedented nature of the COVID-19 pandemic meant that Australia is confronting not only a health crisis but also an economic crisis as well. As a member of the mining industry we play an active part in addressing both of these issues," said Ian.
The mining industry continues to be a key pillar of both the national and the state economies in Australia. The resources sector accounts for 60% of total national export income and will be critical for any "post-COVID-19 recovery" effort in Australia.
The coal industry in Queensland and New South Wales contributes around \$58 billion in export income and continues to be the single largest source of electricity generation in both Queensland and New South Wales.
Last year the Glencore Coal business made a direct socio-economic contribution of around \$9.5 billion in Australia and so Ian believes the best thing they can do is to keep their business operating, employing people and spending money across their supply chains.
"In response to the COVID-19 outbreak in Australia, our coal business has enacted incident management plans, developed localised risk based plans at site, sought guidance from

independent expert medical advice and followed the directions from Federal and State health authorities," said Ian.
"I have to thank every one of our employees, contractors and suppliers that have been involved and adhered to the changes at our sites as we have focused on increased Education, Hygiene, Physical Separation, Self-Assessment Declarations, and Temperature Testing."
THE GOVERNMENT HAS IDENTIFIED MINING AS AN "ESSENTIAL ACTIVITY" WHICH RECOGNISES THE IMPORTANT ROLE THE MINING SECTOR PLAYS IN AUSTRALIA. HOWEVER, IT ALSO PLACES A BIG RESPONSIBILITY ON THE WHOLE INDUSTRY TO ENSURE ITS COVID-19 RESPONSE PLANS AND PROTOCOLS ARE IMPLEMENTED EFFECTIVELY.
"Every employee and contractor has a responsibility to themselves, their families, their workmates and the communities in which we live and travel through to minimise the risk of transmitting COVID-19," said Ian.
"I implore everyone to continue to complete your self-assessment declaration and temperature screening before you start work and then by following the protocols on social distancing and health and hygiene, both onsite and offsite.

This is not only for your own health and wellbeing, but also minimises the risk to the community and avoids increasing the burden on health care workers and the health system."
"I want to thank everyone for continuing to focus on safety and doing their jobs at a time of increased uncertainty and disruption for them and their loved ones."



OPINION

YOU CAN COUNT ON COUNCIL

IT'S AN UNDERSTATEMENT TO SAY THAT THESE ARE CHALLENGING TIMES, MADE EVEN MORE SO BECAUSE OF THE UNCERTAINTY SURROUNDING THE COVID-19 RESPONSE. WE SIMPLY DON'T KNOW HOW LONG IT WILL LAST, OR WHAT ACTIONS WILL BE REQUIRED NEXT. BUT WHAT YOU CAN COUNT ON IS THAT SINGLETON COUNCIL IS HERE FOR YOU NO MATTER WHAT, MOST FUNDAMENTALLY IN THE ONGOING PROVISION OF ESSENTIAL SERVICES AND THE PRESERVATION OF THE FUNCTION OF OUR COMMUNITY BOTH DURING THE CRISIS AND IN THE REBUILDING PERIOD.

As General Manager, under the guidance of the Mayor and elected Councillors, we also know we have a role to play in directly supporting our residents and businesses in these difficult circumstances.
Without a precedent to follow and because of the constant changes that characterise the COVID-19 situation, it's difficult to know the best course to take. We won't get it right every time, but we will keep trying our hardest. And that is why our Community Support Package is based on what we believe is the right thing to do for our residents and businesses now, while maintaining flexibility to respond to circumstances as they unfold.
WE ARE SPENDING AN UNBUDGETED \$1.8 MILLION AS PART OF OUR PACKAGE TO DATE, INCLUDING \$500,000 FOR A RAFT OF ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS.
A key component of our package is a proposed rates and charges rebate scheme, which means anyone who pays residential, business or farming rates and is financially impacted by COVID-19 will not pay a cent more for rates, waste and fixed water and sewer charges in 2020-21 than they did last year.
What's more, it will be easy for anyone in our community to qualify and apply, and for our staff to administer so there is no confusion and no frustration for people to access the help they need.
At the time of writing, Singleton is the only council in the Hunter to offer a rates rebate package. And that's while we already have some of the lowest rates and charges compared to other Hunter Councils, including:
• the fifth lowest average residential rate;
• the fourth lowest average Farmland rate;
• the third lowest average business rate;
• the third lowest average domestic waste management charge;
• the second lowest typical residential water bill; and
• the second lowest annual typical residential sewer bill.
Further, we have tightened our financial management so that between 2016 and the proposed 2021 budget, Council's operational expenditure has increased by less than 1% per annum. With limited increases in operational expenditure and increases in rate incomes, we

have been able to improve and maintain community assets, delivering on Council's promise to spend more money on asset maintenance and renewal.
AS A COUNCIL, OUR PURPOSE IS TO SUPPORT THE NEEDS AND WISHES OF THE PEOPLE OF SINGLETON TO CREATE THE COMMUNITY THEY ARE PROUD TO BE PART OF.
In these challenging times, we are fortunate to be in a position to ramp up the actions we can take now, as well as put measures in place to help rebuild our community post COVID-19 and enhance the resilience and sustainability of our LGA into the future.
We're also asking for direct feedback from our residents and businesses about how COVID-19 has affected you, and what assistance you need. I would ask all residents and businesses in Singleton to take our household or business surveys to help inform what further action we can take. For more details about the survey, or for more information about the Community Support Package, visit Council's website or Facebook page, or give us a call on 02 6578 7290.
JASON LINNANE, GENERAL MANGER, SINGLETON COUNCIL



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STUART BARNETT IS OUR MINING INDUSTRY'S LEADING PERSONAL INJURY LAWYER. THIS MONTH HE HAS SOME IMPORTANT ADVICE IN RELATION TO SIGNING AND WITNESSING IMPORTANT DOCUMENTS DURING COVID-19 ISOLATION PERIOD.

As we all know during the COVID-19 pandemic and consequent isolation requirements we still must carry on with many normal aspects of life. Some of the requirements include signing or witnessing a will, Affidavit, Statutory Declaration and some other legal documents.

The NSW Government has enacted emergency amendments to the Electronic Transaction Act and Regulations which facilitate signing and witnessing wills, affidavits and statutory declarations whilst complying with isolation requirements. Temporary arrangements are now in place until the 26 September 2020. I imagine that if necessary that date would be extended.

Under normal circumstances a witness must be present and observe a person signing the relevant document, this is done by the person signing the document and all witness being in the same room at the same time.

UNDER THE TEMPORARY CHANGES THE WHOLE PROCESS CAN BE DONE WITH THE USE OF AUDIO-VISUAL LINKS (AVL). SO, FOR EXAMPLE YOU COULD USE PROGRAMS SUCH AS ZOOM, WHATS APP AND FACETIME TO NAME BUT A FEW. THERE IS NO REQUIREMENT TO USE A PARTICULAR PROGRAM AS LONG AS IT ALLOWS FOR REAL TIME AUDIO VISUAL.

There is still a requirement that the signing and witnessing take place in real time. That means the person signing and the witnesses must all be participating in the same AVL so that the witness must be able to see the person signing. The witness can

either be sent the original document to place their signature on or can sign an identical copy of the document. This must be done as soon as possible after witnessing the signing of the document. The document also needs to be endorsed with a statement that the signature was witnessed over AVL in accordance with the Legislation.

The changes do not in any way reduce or change the existing requirements around satisfactory identification of the person signing the document or administering the oath or affirmation. Breaches of those requirements are taken very seriously by the Legal system. The traditional methods of signing and witnessing document remain valid if you can do so within the current restrictions and guidelines.



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



PH 6545 3033

Did you know the first French fries weren't actually cooked in France?

They were cooked in Greece.

UNITING REGIONAL NSW

A NEW CENTRAL AGENCY CALLED THE DEPARTMENT OF REGIONAL NSW (DRNSW) HAS BEEN ESTABLISHED WHICH WILL BE DEDICATED TO ISSUES THAT AFFECT REGIONAL COMMUNITIES.

The newly formed department brings together the NSW Resources Regulator, Primary Industries, Local Land Services, Resources and Geoscience and regional coordination across government.

Deputy Premier and Minister for Regional NSW John Barilaro said the new Department of Regional NSW will be better able to coordinate support for communities, businesses and farmers in the bush that have endured drought, bushfire and flood and now face the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

"We are urgently responding to the desperate needs of people in the regions and this new agency will work to ensure community wellbeing, resilient economies and strong key regional industries," Mr Barilaro said.

"We know that the issues faced by the people of Cootamundra are very different to those faced in Cooee

and so it is imperative we have a government designed to properly support every corner of this state.

"The COVID-19 pandemic has made a big impact on what has already been a devastating start to 2020, as farmers continue to suffer through the worst drought in recorded history and towns torn apart by bushfires continue to feel the effects months on.

"The new Department of Regional NSW will be a voice in government for people in the bush and will have a laser-like focus on the challenges and opportunities unique to regional communities, helping them to get through hardships many of us have not seen in our time.

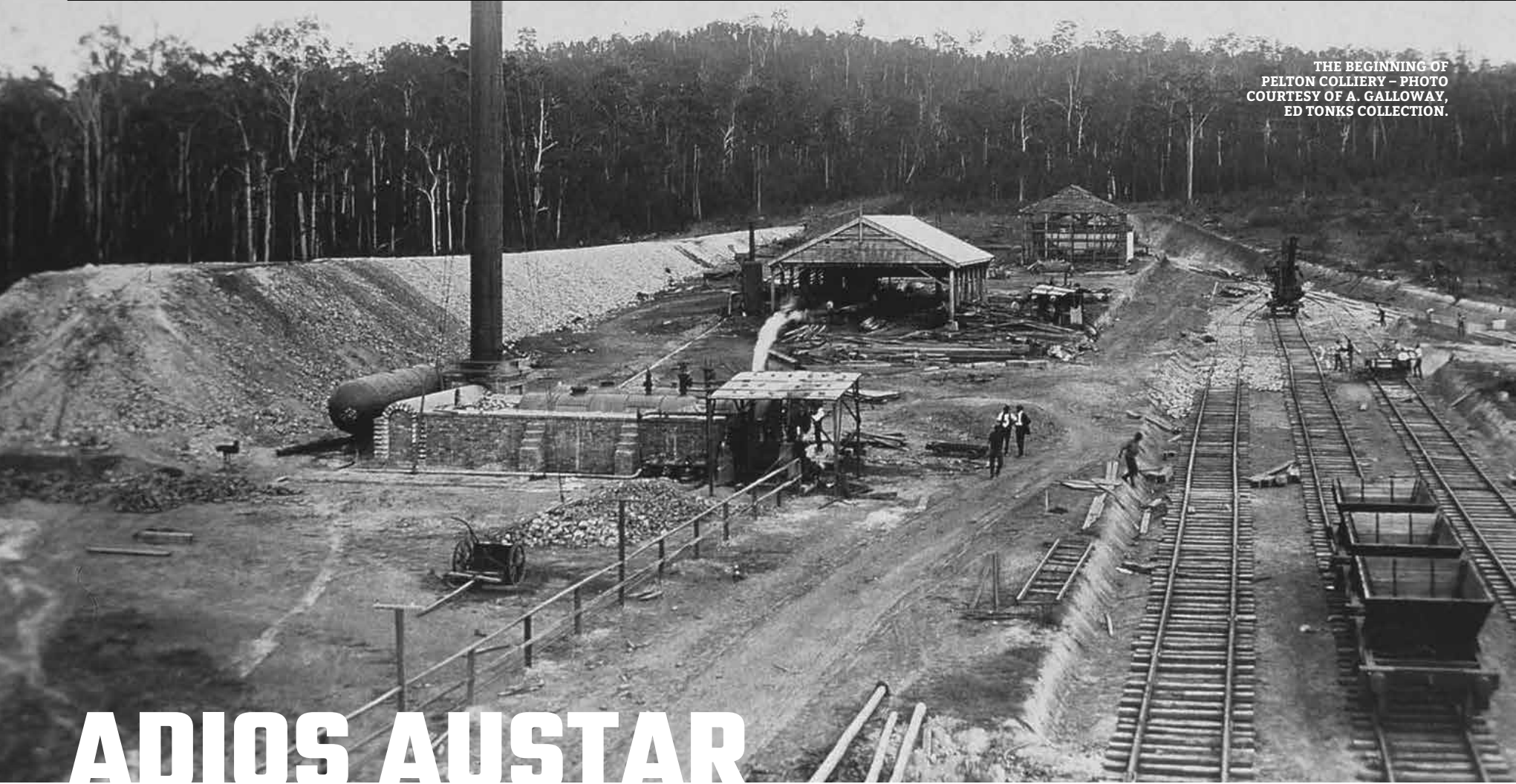
"THIS DEPARTMENT WILL ALLOW A MORE STREAMLINED RESPONSE TO REGIONAL ISSUES AS EXPERTS IN AREAS SUCH AS PRIMARY INDUSTRIES, LAND MANAGEMENT, RESOURCES, REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT, DROUGHT RESPONSE AND BUSHFIRE RECOVERY WORK CLOSER TOGETHER THAN EVER BEFORE."

The new department will drive the delivery of recent bushfire and COVID-19 stimulus and industry recovery packages along with the NSW Government's drought initiatives, \$1.7 billion Regional Growth Fund and \$4.2 billion Snowy Hydro Legacy Fund. It will be led by incoming Secretary Gary Barnes, currently the Coordinator General, Regional NSW, Department of Planning, Industry and Environment.

Regional NSW is the largest, most diverse regional economy in Australia, producing one-third of the total NSW gross state product and home to around 40 per cent of the state's population.







ADIOS AUSTAR

AS YANCOAL'S AUSTAR COAL MINE SUSPENDS PRODUCTION AND TRANSITIONS TO CARE AND MAINTENANCE OPERATIONS, WE TAKE A LOOK AT THE LONG HISTORY OF THE LAST COAL-PRODUCING MINE IN THE CESSNOCK AREA.

On 15 April 1916 surface operations commenced at Pelton Colliery in the South Maitland Coalfields. Over the next 104 years, various operations of both underground and open cut mining were conducted at Pelton and nearby Ellalong and Bellbird until in 1998 they were amalgamated and became Southland Colliery. In 2004, Yancoal purchased the mine, renamed it Austar Coal Mine and continued the proud heritage of mining the rich Greta seam.

Throughout its many owners and operators, the mine has had a significant role in the history of Cessnock and the surrounding region, providing employment and training opportunities for entire generations of local families.

It all began with 36 men and boys who were employed with only a third of them ever having worked underground before. Decked out in PPE consisting only of a hardhat, a pair of shorts, singlet



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and shin pads, these first miners used naked flames to see, air flow was created by an underground furnace and coal was cut by hand.

A lot changed since those early days, especially in health and safety, but one thing remained the same throughout the years. The tough work ethic of the thousands of workers and contractors who toiled above and below the ground. A work ethic that was embedded into the very culture of the mine.

BECAUSE YOU NEEDED TO BE TOUGH TO WORK AT AUSTAR.

It deservedly has a reputation as being one of the toughest mines in Australia. No other mine faced so many challenges with the size, variety, complexity and age of its surface and outbye structures. Infrastructure salvaged from old operations was put to work alongside some of the top modern machinery available. Austar's workforce continually had to adapt and learn as new technologies were introduced and mining challenges were faced.

Austar Operations Manager Brian Wesley, "During my time at Austar I have had the good fortune to experience and share the great work culture that Austar employees exhibit in overcoming the various challenges throughout the years."

"Austar has the badge of being the first mine to introduce longwall top coal caving into Australia and this was achieved at a time when the mine was on its knees after the Southland fire. Many clean skins were employed in the early stages of Austar and gained their mining experience in the tough mining conditions at Austar. It is a credit to the Austar workforce and its 'can do' attitude to achieve over 20 million tonnes of run of mine production from 2005 to 2020. There are many such examples of overcoming challenges through the Austar journey and I congratulate and thank the workforce for their efforts," said Brian.

AUSTAR'S BIGGEST SUCCESS STORY AND WHAT SEPARATES IT FROM OTHER MINES IS THE INTRODUCTION OF THE LONGWALL TOP CAVING (LTCC) SYSTEM IN 2006.

Designed and manufactured specifically to the requirements of Austar and in accordance with strict mining regulations, it was the first LTCC system to operate outside of China. Within months of operation, it was steadily on its way to meeting production targets. What set the LTCC system apart from other longwall systems was its ability to optimise resource recovery by incorporating a rear AFC with a retractable caving flipper at the back of each shield. This allowed recovery at times in excess of 85% of the entire seam.

During its many years of operation Austar also made a genuine positive difference to the local community, supporting many worthy projects and initiatives. Some notable highlights have included the long-term sponsorship of the annual Cessnock Mayoral Scholarship Awards and sponsorship of the Ellalong Hotel annual woodchop event, dedicated to Phillip Grant and Jamie Mitchell who tragically lost their lives in the 2014 mining accident.

At the end of March, Austar entered care and maintenance with a small workforce remaining on site and Yancoal will continue to evaluate mining opportunities to recommence production in the future. Regardless of what the future holds, the legacy Austar leaves behind is one to be proud of.



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COPING WITH COVID-19

AUSTRALIANS HAVE COPPED A LOT DURING 2020 INCLUDING THE PANDEMIC WE ARE CURRENTLY FACING, WHICH IS WHY IT'S IMPORTANT TO REMEMBER WE ARE STRONGER TOGETHER.

Let's be honest, isolation is sending us all a little bit loopy. We can no longer pop down to the pub for a beer, we can't have a backyard barbie with our mates, and we can't head to the gym. It's a time that impacts us all in some way or another. Whilst we should always make our mental and physical health one of our top priorities, this is a time to truly focus on our wellbeing and practice self-care.

It's affecting ourselves, our mates, our families and the communities that we belong to and in many different ways. After chatting with a number of people from a range of businesses and industries, it became clear that there were many different emotions running through the minds of people in the mining industry and wider community.

I'm sure you're familiar with MATES in Mining, an organisation close to the hearts of us here @ The Coalface. MIM has worked hard over the years to reduce suicide rates in both the construction and mining industries by educating and informing through toolbox talks and programs and providing a support network of communication and access to passionate field officers and mates.

The case managers and field staff at MIM are there to listen, help and assist. But it's more than that. These passionate, devoted and committed individuals are here to make a difference and the results throughout the industry proves that's exactly what they're doing.

IS WHAT YOU'RE FEELING NORMAL? ABSOLUTELY. EVERYONE IS DIFFERENT AND EVERYONE HAS DIFFERENT COPING MECHANISMS FOR DIFFERENT SITUATIONS. IT'S NORMAL TO FEEL DIFFERENT EMOTIONS AND SO I HAD A YARN TO FIELD OFFICER VINCENT BORG, FROM MATES IN MINING (MIM) TO SEE WHAT WE CAN DO TO HELP, AND WHAT YOU CAN DO TO REMAIN POSITIVE.

"I just wanted to take the opportunity to check in with you during these rather unprecedented times. COVID-19 has brought rapid and significant changes to our day-to-day lives and MATES recognises the potential impact this can have on the mental health of workers in the mining industry," said Vincent.

"While various training activities and our access to some sites might be limited in the coming period due to COVID-19, we want to assure you MATES in Mining is still very active and is here for you. We will be working hard during this time to



remain as connected as possible with you and your workforce. This will predominantly be via phone, email and social media."

WHILST MATES HAS PUT IN HUGE WORK TO SUPPORT INDUSTRIES AND INDIVIDUALS DURING THESE UNSURE TIMES, VINCENT ALSO WANTED TO EMPHASISE THAT JUST BECAUSE COVID-19 IS HERE IS DOESN'T MEAN WE CAN PUT OUR OTHER PROBLEMS AND STRESSES ON THE SHELF.

We still experience the common life issues, problems and crises that happen to normal people living normal lives from the moment we are born. Breakups, anxiety, financial issues, loss, depression, workplace bullying, surviving disabilities, lack of motivation and anything else that might arise – they still need to be addressed and managed, even with the added stresses of isolation.

This can be overwhelming, but the key to maintaining your wellbeing during the pandemic, following the pandemic and in the future is balance. You might be wondering how you could possibly manage this. The answer – STAY CONNECTED. That's where organisations like MATES in Mining, Beyond Blue, Headspace and Black Dog Institute can help. These organisations are available 24/7 and understand how overwhelming finding a balance during this time can be.

For our mining and construction industries MATES have a 24/7 national help line and case management services, Facebook page, website and an array of online support services available if you need to reach out.

MATES have also put together some posters available online with some great tips and support. These can be printed and put around the workplace, sent to colleagues via email or shared on social medias to share the message that we are all in this together.

"In terms of site visits (i.e. for Connector refreshers and general support visits etc), we will be guided by you in relation to your current workplace policies and of course we will adhere to all directives from the relevant health authorities," Vincent added.

Miners are essentials, they are still working hard, and they are working with new COVID-19 guidelines. All of us here @ The Coalface, our friends and our community are grateful and proud for the hard work we continue to see in our industry. Stay safe, stay healthy and keep mentally and physically active. Don't be weak to speak. COVID-19 has driven many members of the community to contact us with not only

ideas to improve health and wellbeing during our current situation, but also stories of people in our community experiencing a number of issues with or without COVID-19.

We're stronger together. Reach out, keep an eye on your mates and stay positive.

MATES IN MINING TOP TIPS TO COPE WITH COVID-19

CONNECTION

Social distancing does NOT mean social isolation. In these times some people will naturally be anxious. Contacting people in whatever way is appropriate (online, phone, over the fence, etc) is an important way to say we are stronger when we stay connected.

WHAT'S NORMAL

It is normal to have a range of emotions – sad, angry, confused, scared. Using skills that got through tough times previously may also be useful. Talking to your mates can help.

SELF-ISOLATED AT HOME

If you must stay home, stay healthy – eat well, sleep, keep up some exercise, keep your social contacts with friends, workmates and family on the phone or online, do some gardening or yard work, read, create something new. Try to avoid excessive use of alcohol or other drugs.

FACT OR FICTION

Get the facts. Be aware that everything you hear or read about the virus may not be true. Stay up to date from a trusted source like health.gov.au.

LIMIT YOUR WORRIES

Spend less time listening and watching media coverage if you find this upsetting. Focus on an activity that gives you energy and life.

OVERWHELMED

If you are feeling overwhelmed, talk to a mate, ring MATES on 1300 642 111 or Lifeline on 13 11 14. Helping your mate to talk to someone works. Talking with someone can help.

STRONGER TOGETHER

Remember Mates are Stronger Together. Helping your mates to talk to someone works.



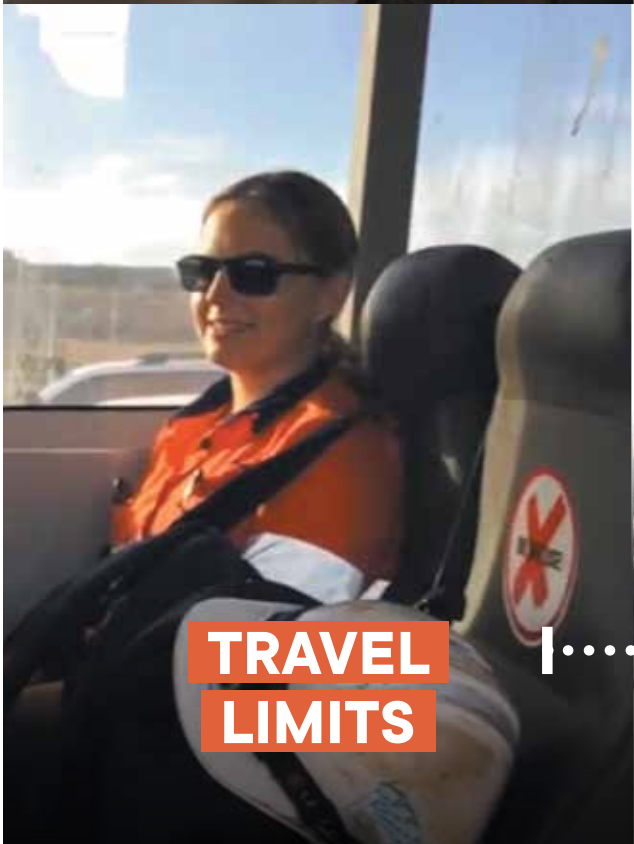
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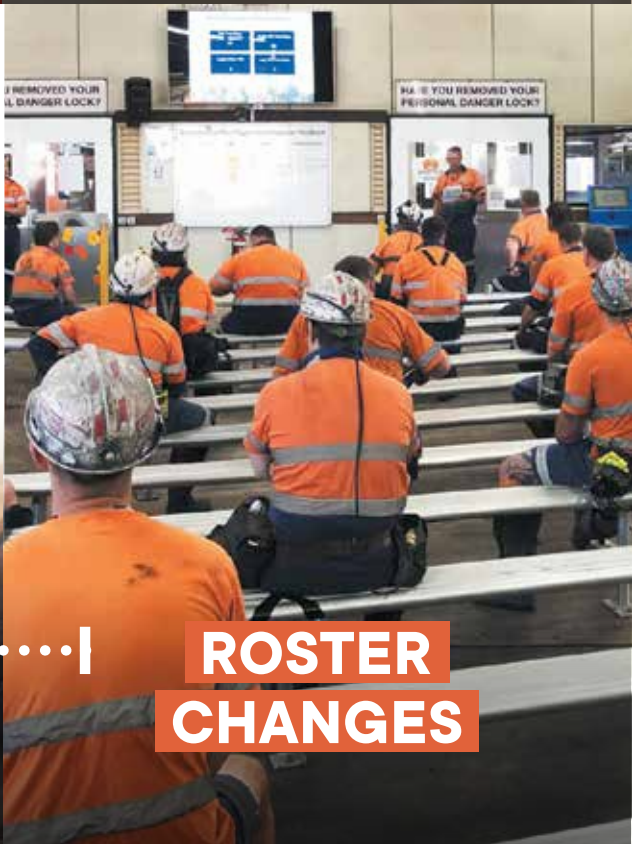
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THE WHOLE VIRUS THING HAS PUT A STRONG
FOCUS ON THE NATION TO START LOOKING
INWARD IN TERMS OF MANUFACTURING. SO
HOW ABOUT USING PRIME HUNTER MINE LAND
TO BUILD THE NATIONAL EPICENTRE OF A NEW
GENERATION OF AUSSIE MADE PRODUCTS.

This is a great idea, but it shouldn't also be an aggressive full boycott of international trading partners with any racist overtones in doing so. Remember we are major exporters too. Not least of which is the best coal on the planet.

So much of what we consume now comes from offshore and has for many years. We can still bring in a heap of stuff made overseas, just not everything. We can still export stuff too.

IT'S TIME!

Let's bring back a whole range of products we used to make, as a back-up and genuine market competitor so that local supply and capability are guaranteed and strengthen our sovereignty and self-reliance along the way.

From cars to food to medical supplies, electronics and a whole world of other items we use every day, let's make a good chunk of it all on home soil.

We have more smarts in each and every possible area and industry than we would need. Modern day manufacturing and automation processes have drastically reduced the gap in cost benefit to head overseas to get everything made in 2020.

So, let's build a futuristic manufacturing metropolis on Hunter offset or buffer mine land.

**A MASTER 'MINED' CITY POWERING AUSSIE
PRODUCTION, JOBS, WEALTH AND SECURITY.**

We are in the perfect place and have more of the large-scale infrastructure and access than anywhere else in the country than we would need.



The outcomes would be profound in the Hunter in terms of growth and on so many other fronts. For Australia too. Our coal industry is already one of the major foundations of the state and national economy. I'd love to see it also help kickstart a whole new level of national productivity that has the potential to deliver a new economic boost and confidence at similar levels.

**GOVERNMENTS AT ALL LEVELS COULD EASILY
GET BEHIND THIS AND MAKE IT HAPPEN.**

"Australia, I'll put another Australian processed shrimp on the Aussie made BBQ. Grab a few snags from my Aussie made fridge and we can sit down to watch the footy on my Hunter made widescreen TV (When it all gets going again). Oh, and if you intend on driving your Australian made car here, there will be a few Australian made soft drinks so that you don't blow the Aussie made breathalyzer on the way home by drink driving."

Australia... What are you waiting for!

OPINION

Towards a Fairer WORKPLACE

IN MY LAST CONTRIBUTION TO COALFACE I AGAIN WROTE ABOUT
THE IMPORTANCE OF THE COALMINING INDUSTRY TO OUR REGION
AND ITS ECONOMY, JUST AS I DID FOR MY FIRST SPEECH IN THE
PARLIAMENT IN 1996. I ALWAYS HAVE, AND ALWAYS WILL, DEFEND
OUR INDUSTRY AND ITS WORKFORCE.



Sadly, Stuart Bonds decided to make his most recent contribution all about politics: about him, One Nation and the CFMEU. The Union is an organisation I respect but Stuart has disdain for, although I understand he remains a Member.

Of labour hire, long service and contracting, Stuart said: "I've said it many times, this needs a formal investigation and if I have to get into parliament to get one, I'll do it".

His is a prescription to do something in two years, if elected. But these matters have been canvassed in the Parliament before and as the Anthony Albanese endorsed report Stuart referred to tells us, we don't need an inquiry, we need action and we needed it at least five years ago.

**THAT'S WHY LABOR PROMISED DURING
THE LAST ELECTION CAMPAIGN TO
AMEND THE FAIR WORK ACT TO
ADDRESS THESE PROBLEMS.**

Along the way the then Minister Matt Canavan claimed the Government already had a Bill before the Parliament to address the problems. But the truth is, his Bill would only have made the matter worse. Matt Canavan's Bill never made it through the Parliament before stumps were pulled

for the election, and curiously it has never re-appeared.

I do not recall hearing any criticism of the Government's Bill from Stuart Bonds during the election campaign. This is hardly surprising because in the Australian Senate, One Nation votes with the anti-union, anti-worker Coalition Government 98 percent of the time. You can't portray yourself as pro-miner when you support the Government of Workchoices. The same political party that sent the dogs and the balaclava-wearing thugs on to the wharfs in 1998, and the same Party which backed Rio Tinto against the mineworkers during the 1996 Hunter Valley No.1 dispute.

**I CUT MY TEETH ON THE
HUNTER VALLEY DISPUTE. I
DON'T NEED STUART BONDS
TO GIVE ME A LESSON ON
INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS LAW
OR BAD EMPLOYER BEHAVIOUR.
I'VE SPENT MY POLITICAL LIFE
DEFENDING OUR COALMINERS.**

Stuart Bonds mentioned the labour hire company TESA (formerly UMSS). UMSS was an admirable 1990s Union initiative to save retrenched miners from the unemployment queues, something that worked quite well until John Howard legislated to make it unworkable. Conveniently, Stuart fails to mention the Union's work in the Federal Court victory in the "Skeene Case", a watershed case on the rights of casuals.

One final correction, at least for this piece. Anthony Albanese didn't just endorse the CFMEU-funded McKell Institute report, he launched it.

Speaking about the report: Wage Cutting Strategies in the Mining Industry - the Cost to Workers & Communities - Albanese said:

"A 2014 study focused on Australia's mining sector estimated that for each new job in mining, 1.4 additional jobs are created in the local region where mining activity occurs. It's an important reminder of both how much mining underpins the vitality of much of regional Australia, and how important it is that regional communities diversify their economies."

"But mining companies are shirking their duty as employers, and the social licence that communities grant them on the understanding that they pay their workers decently. According to Dr Whelan's report, BHP's 2019 sustainability report showed 56 per cent of jobs in its Australian operations were contractors and not directly employed."

"At Mount Arthur, those workers are being paid \$106,000, compared to the rate in the union agreement of \$159,200. There is a lot of cause for concern. And it's exacerbated by a Government that does nothing to eradicate dodgy workplace practices that lead to the exploitation of casuals".

These challenges won't be fixed by a One Nation push for an inquiry. We already know the answers. We just need a Labor Government to fix a broken system.

**HON JOEL FITZGIBBON MP
Shadow Minister for
Agriculture and Resources and
Federal Member for Hunter.**

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BOSS GOSS



WHEN HE'S NOT HARD AT WORK AS BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT MANAGER FOR AUSTRALIA'S LEADING HEAVY EARTHMOVING EQUIPMENT RENTAL PROVIDER EMECO GROUP, RYAN FINN IS ONSITE CONNECTING WITH OUR INDUSTRY LEADERS. THIS MONTH RYAN CHATTED WITH THIESS MINE MANAGER TOM CARROLL.

As Mine Manager at Thiess' Mt Owen operations, Tom Carroll is focused on fostering a work environment that creates opportunities, encourages innovation and celebrates diversity.

With more than 18 years' experience in the mining industry, Tom has built a focused leadership style that empowers individuals and his team to consistently deliver.

He pairs operational expertise, having started his career as an operator, with his unwavering work ethic, built on his desire to continually outperform.

FROM FIRST JOB TO NOW

At the age of 16, Tom accepted his first job cleaning the kitchen at his local pub in Orange, New South Wales.

In year 10, he completed work experience with the team at Mount Thorley Warkworth mine where he learnt of the different career opportunities available within the industry. He continued to work across various mining roles, including truck driving and mill relining, prior to starting university.

While studying his Bachelor of Mining Engineering at the University of Wollongong, Tom furthered his coal mining

experience working underground for a number of contracting companies in the Illawarra region and Western Australia.

ON THE JOB

Tom's typical workday involves management meetings, pit tours and inspections, administration tasks and providing leadership to his team to ensure they maintain a safe and effective working environment.

Tom is focused on enabling his team to be exceptional and have fun at work. He believes regular face-to-face interaction is critical to ensuring safe and productive operations.

Tom is inspired by his team's commitment to continue to grow and develop personally and professionally.

KEYS TO SUCCESS

Tom's advice for people wanting to enter the mining industry and follow a similar career path to his is to continue to challenge yourself. He believes in pushing yourself to be the best leader that you can and along the way remain consistent, persistent and fair. He also recommends building a strong foundation of knowledge, mastering your people skills and setting big goals.

Tom's mindset on failure is that it's an important step along the way to success. He believes we all have failures and should see them as opportunities to fine-tune our attention to detail and develop processes to move forward and prevent the same failure from occurring again.

Tom also believes mentors are vital for personal development and career progression. He recommends finding the person you want to emulate and to start becoming them through your actions and intentions. He also believes that a good mentor helps guide you on whatever path you are on whilst being there for support and



to sound ideas off. Tom currently acts as a mentor for the AusIMM Women in Mining Network as a way of giving back to the community.

Tom says it's important to have balance and routine. He believes in eating healthy, exercising regularly and enjoying the things you love. For Tom that's as simple as a game of touch football with mates, spending time with the family and riding motorbikes with his son.

WHAT'S NEXT FOR TOM CARROLL?

Tom loves the expression "there is a role in your life for a time in your life". For him at this point of time that's being the best mine manager that he can be.

GLENCORE



SEPARATION

We're protecting the health and safety of our employees, their families and the communities in which we operate by implementing site-based COVID-19 response plans and protocols that focus on Education, Hygiene, Physical Separation, Self-Assessment Declarations and Temperature Testing.



TEMPERATURE TESTING

We understand that we have an important role to play in helping Hunter communities through these challenging times by keeping our business operating, continuing to employ people and continuing to spend money with local businesses.



HYGIENE

We thank our employees, contractors and suppliers for their continued support of the controls we have in place across our operations.

We're all in this together.

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SUPPLIER INSIDER

BEARCAT

Who are you and what do you do?

Glen Wolfenden – Sales & Marketing Manager (Oceania Region) for Camso Tyres, Wheels, Rubber Tracks and Track Systems.

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

Completed a Bachelor of Engineering Manufacturing degree. Worked in the heavy equipment auction sector which in some unusual way lead me into the heavy equipment - off highway tyre industry.

Describe a typical day at ‘The office’.

I wish there was such a thing as a typical day! Our philosophy at Camso is Road Free, so this inspires us to focus on serving customers

who work and play on surface that is not a road. If I’m not out in the field I’m typically meeting with our OEM partners and major accounts discussing new products or solutions to enhance their equipment capabilities.

What’s the best thing about your business?

We have a lot of “salt of the earth” people in the industries we service. Throughout my journey a lot of people have helped me to learn about niche industries and processes. I guess it’s my inquisitive nature. The best thing about our business is forming these relationships meaning we can repay them by developing products and services that enhance their life.

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

The big news, albeit a little bit old, is the acquisition and merger of our business (Camso) as part of the Michelin Group.

What is the biggest opportunity for your business right now?

Our philosophy is to continually ask ourselves “is there a better way?” So today our opportunities are looking at new products and systems that can enhance mining by way of productivity, safety or lower operating costs. Airless tyres for underground equipment and rubber track systems for new prototype equipment and retrofitting trailers are high on the list right now.

What was the last big achievement that was celebrated?

A long time ago through the hard work of many individuals in our business, including an industry legend Richard Blacker, introduced a specially designed “high ply” mining tyre for the coal mining industry. After years of testing and subsequent mining approvals our SOLIDEAL LIFEMASTER SKZ tyre hit the market fitted on to equipment such as SMV, PJB and VLI Drift runner. I realised not long ago that we have supplied around 10,000 units since it was released. We now do complete tyre, wheel and flatproofing assemblies to assist end user change outs through tyre dealers.

What is your favourite workplace tradition?

Our business locally started from family roots and our culture today is still centred around people, family and respect. It’s a credit to our management staff who have created plaques, planted trees and various other symbols to remember people who have worked for our business and have since passed. For me it’s also celebrating milestones with our staff members, which usually flows into a few beers.

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

Since 1973 we have been supporting businesses that support the region including tyre dealers, equipment suppliers, parts dealers and local manufacturers.

Does the company give back to the community or any causes close to your heart? In what ways?

Our business locally really felt for those recently impacted by the tragic effects of the bushfire crisis including our communities, team members and

wildlife. One Michelin Group Australia announced an initial donation of \$100,000 across 8 charities, including Country Fire Authorities and the RSPCA on behalf of our 1,250 employees across our business groups to aid the relief and recovery.

How big is the crew in the Hunter Valley?

Many people will see our Bearcat Tyres silver bullet on-site service and delivery trucks buzzing around the Newcastle and Hunter Valley region.

What’s the best thing about your job?

Being part of a global manufacturing group empowered to design and build high performance products that meet the mobility needs of the off-the-road vehicle market. I’m often at trade shows or fields days where we have products on display and people look at them and ask if they are concepts or prototypes. In most cases I can simply point them in the direction of a new machine factory fitted with our new products and say “there’s your answer”.

The worst thing?

Poor forecasting – it kills me when a great opportunity comes out of the blue and customers expect to have the order in full on the shelf.

If you had one piece of advice to someone just starting out, what would it be?

Very early in my career I was on a flight from Melbourne to Perth. I spoke with the gentleman beside me, along the way. Just as the plane touched down he gave me a piece of advice “Treat people how you would like to be treated yourself”. He just happened to be the Director of BHP. I live by that motto in my business and personal life today.

Anything else you want to say?

Whenever you’ve needed help or guidance we’ve always been there for you. Thank you for trusting in our Camso, Solideal and Bearcat products for the last 47 years and we hope to continue our partnership with class leading products and services for many more years to come.



MY MINING LIFE

James MARKHAM

SINCE A YOUNG AGE JAMES HAS ALWAYS WANTED TO HELP PEOPLE IN SOME WAY, AND THAT’S EXACTLY WHAT HE’S DOING NOW AS AN EMERGENCY SERVICE OFFICER IN THE MINES.

Who are you and what do you do?

My name is James Markham and I am an Emergency Service Officer at Mt Arthur Coal.

Any nicknames good or bad?

Jimmy. Have been called it since I was young.

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

I live in Muswellbrook, have lived here all my life.

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

I started in the mines when I was 16. Have been a plant mechanic for 7 years before taking on this new role in January.

What’s a usual day at work entail?

Usual day would be completing DNA’s, checking rescue equipment, responding to emergencies on site.

How big is the crew?

Our crew is made up of 3 ESO’s and 1 paramedic rotating across 4 crews.

What’s the best thing about your job?

Being able to work in a positive team environment and helping fellow workers in a time of need.

What’s something about your job that would surprise people to know?

We have the response capabilities to complete anything from a Band-Aid to a vertical rescue.

The worst thing?

Seeing harm come to fellow colleagues.

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

All fun times on the tools. Especially getting the apprentices to undo the hook or grabbing me a left-hand screwdriver. Could never find stripped paint though.

We also had a couple of mates that were good deck chairs because they folded under any hesitation.

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

It’s sort of similar as I’ve always had an interest in helping people.

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

She would say I am a little sh*t but could be the sweetest boy at the right times.

Family?

I am the youngest of 4 with 3 older sisters, 2 nephews and 2 nieces.

What do you do in your downtime?

When I am not at work I am also a retained firefighter for Fire and Rescue NSW. I respond to emergencies in town or head out on strike teams for bushfires. I also enjoy camping and helping the family out on the farm.

How is your job currently being affected by the current pandemic?

Currently we are in a lockdown phase with helping the site with medical assessments and providing tips on the updates from the government. We have a critical role on site to keep the flow of people whilst maintaining our social distancing.

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

I am a folder not a scruncher.



At The Bloomfield Group, we are taking ongoing action to minimise the risk posed by COVID-19 to help keep our workforce and community safe.

Our board, management, employees and contractors are local people. We have been working tirelessly to ensure the health and safety of our people and the broader community, while maintaining our economic contribution to the Hunter Valley and to New South Wales.

This time of constant change and uncertainty is challenging for all of us. We will continue to do what we can to support our workforce and our community.



To learn more about our response to COVID-19 visit bloomcoll.com.au

THE Bloomfield GROUP WE CARE. WE DELIVER.

DRAFT OPERATIONAL PLAN 2020-2021

The draft 2020-2021 Operational Plan is on public exhibition from Wednesday 22 April 2020 to Wednesday 27 May 2020.

You are invited to comment on the proposed actions of Council for the 2020-2021 financial year and be involved in the decision-making process.

Key inclusions are:

- capital expenditure on renewing and building new assets of \$45 million
- a rates and charges rebate package will be available for those financially-impacted by COVID-19
- actions to broaden Council’s income streams, support the community and stimulate the local economy
- continuation of major projects including the Town Centre Upgrade - Stage 2 and Arts and Cultural Centre
- program of community events to foster connectedness post COVID-19

The draft document is available for viewing on Council’s website at w.singleton.nsw.gov.au or contact Council’s Customer Service team on [T 02 6578 7290](tel:0265787290) or E.council@singleton.nsw.gov.au to request a hard copy to be delivered to you.

VIRTUAL COMMUNITY MEETING



Due to COVID-19 social distancing restrictions, the General Manager and senior staff will host an online community meeting on Wednesday 13 May 2020 from 4.30pm to 5.30pm.

All members of the community are invited. To register, please contact Council’s Customer Service team on [T 02 6578 7290](tel:0265787290) or E.council@singleton.nsw.gov.au to receive a link to the Zoom meeting. As well as your name and contact details, please let us know any specific questions you have to ensure we can respond. There will also be the opportunity to ask questions during the meeting.

If you are unable to be part of the online meeting, we are available to talk to you personally. Please contact us to make arrangements. A second virtual meeting may be held on 20 May 2020 according to demand.

Make a submission

Written submissions are invited and close on Wednesday 27 May 2020. All submissions received during the public exhibition period will be summarised and considered in a report to Council’s Ordinary meeting on 15 June 2020 when the draft 2020-2021 Operational Plan will be considered for adoption.

Please address your submission to the General Manager by post to: PO Box 314 Singleton NSW 2330 or email: E.council@singleton.nsw.gov.au





GO PINK!

AROUND 20,000 AUSTRALIANS WILL BE DIAGNOSED WITH BREAST CANCER IN 2020, AND WE CAN ALL MAKE A DIFFERENCE BY GOING PINK THIS JUNE.



'AVE A LAUGH WITH
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BUY ANY TORO MOWER AND YOU COULD WIN THE PRICE OF YOUR MOWER BACK

Nine year old Joey was asked by his mother what he had learned at Sunday school.

"Well, Mom, our teacher told us how God sent Moses behind enemy lines on a rescue mission to lead the Israelites out of Egypt."

"When he got to the Red Sea, he had his engineers build a pontoon bridge and all the people walked across safely."

"Then he used his walkie-talkie to radio headquarters for reinforcements."

"They sent bombers to blow up the bridge and all the Israelites were saved."

"Now, Joey, is that really what your teacher taught you?" his mother asked.

"Well, no. But if I told it the way the teacher did, you'd never believe it!"

It's been an extremely tough year for us Aussies. From bushfires, to floods and now a national pandemic that's affecting not only our nation, but the world. Despite these challenges, breast cancer continues to affect thousands of Aussies, their families and friends.

The National Breast Cancer Foundation (NBCF) works tirelessly all year round to raise much needed funds to help change these statistics, with no government funding. With a goal of zero deaths from breast cancer by 2030, they need our help.

The NBCF has launched the 'GO PINK' campaign for the month of June and I've already got involved by dying my hair pink! For the months of April, May and June I will be proudly sporting my pink locks and pink high-vis. Don't worry, if pink hair isn't your thing there are lots of other ways to get involved.

How can you get involved while currently having to stay home you ask? The NBCF have come up with some fantastic innovative options.

HERE ARE SOME IDEAS:

- Get the family together in pink clothes, the kids can colour pink drawings, and take a photo to share on social media.
- Hold a virtual pink event with your social club.
- Live stream a virtual pink fashion parade and strut your stuff.
- Host a pink exercise class online and pull on the pink lycra leggings.
- Live stream your shave from home.
- Create colourful content online.
- Share your pink pledge at work through email or video call.
- Dye your hair pink (my personal favourite!).

Or think of your own groovy way to go pink.

Share your online fundraising page with as many people as possible and ask them for a donation.

Jump online at www.fundraise.nbcf.org and register your pledge today. You can register as an individual or as a workplace, so let's all get involved.

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The test cell will be operational from mid May 2020.

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PROUDLY SUPPORTING AND SUPPLYING SOLUTIONS TO THE MINING INDUSTRY



BIG HEARTED BHP

BHP has established a \$50 million Vital Resources Fund to help support the regional communities in its areas of operation which are facing the significant challenge of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Spending will be focused on the regions surrounding BHP's Australian operations, including the Bowen Basin in Central Queensland, Roxby Downs and the Upper Spencer Gulf in South Australia, the Pilbara and Goldfields regions in Western Australia and right here in the Hunter Valley.

Anticipated areas of support include local and regional health networks for critical infrastructure, services and workforces, essential community services that keep regions strong, community mental health and resilience, social partners and community leaders to support rural and remote Indigenous communities. Over the longer term, they will also be working with governments at all levels to increase resources and training available to jobseekers.

The establishment of the Fund follows BHP's commitment to deliver \$100 million into small, local and Indigenous businesses by accelerating payments and reducing payment terms to seven days (from 30 days), and to employ a further 1,500 people to support its Australian operations.

GENEROUS GLENORE

Glencore have announced the launch of the \$25 million Glencore Community Support Fund to help ease the burden on the communities they work and combat the impact of COVID-19.

Glencore operates more than 180 sites and offices in over 35 countries and their top priority is to protect the safety and health of their people and the communities that host their businesses.

The scale and diversity of their operations means that the impact of the virus varies by location and their teams are working closely with governments, health agencies and other

key responders to identify their needs to provide the most effective response possible.

The \$25m fund is designed to be flexible and responsive and complement existing efforts by their local teams to provide the support their communities most need at this time. It will initially prioritise assistance to local health authorities and community organisations to help them respond to the immediate impacts of the crisis. Imperatives such as access to clean water, hygiene products and medical equipment will be important in some regions. In other, our efforts may focus on enabling students to continue learning, despite schools being closed.

GIVING IS GOOD MEDICINE

BENEFACTIC BLOOMFIELD

In 2019, The Bloomfield Group created The Mental Safety Toolkit as part of a WHS undertaking to focus on mental safety before, during and after a serious incident. Developed to help businesses be better prepared to manage mental health effectively in their workplace it has a specific focus on providing support during and after a serious incident and puts resources directly into the hands of business via a free App.

To help manage mental health during the efforts to minimise the impacts of COVID-19, Bloomfield has updated the Mental Safety App to provide much needed information and advice to the Group's employees, their families, the industry and the broader community.

The app has introduced a new category specifically dedicated to COVID-19. All the information is vetted by professionals in the field and is updated as more information is identified.

You can download the Mental Safety App via the App Store.

NEIGHBOURLY NCIG

NCIG is committed to supporting and investing in their local community, a tradition they have maintained for the past ten years through many community investment initiatives. Now more than ever they are dedicated to giving back and supporting their local community as we all face the social and economic challenges of the COVID-19 event.

NCIG have postponed their March round of Community Support Program (CSP) funding and will be redirecting its focus and financial support to organisations who provide primary social welfare programs such as mental health services and the supply of essential health and wellbeing services to the vulnerable and disadvantaged. The demand on these organisations will increase due to the effects of the COVID-19 situation and it is critical that these vital services continue to be provided within the community. If you work for, or know of an organisation who provides these critical services, please contact NCIG at communitysupport@ncig.com.au.



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Homebrew HERO

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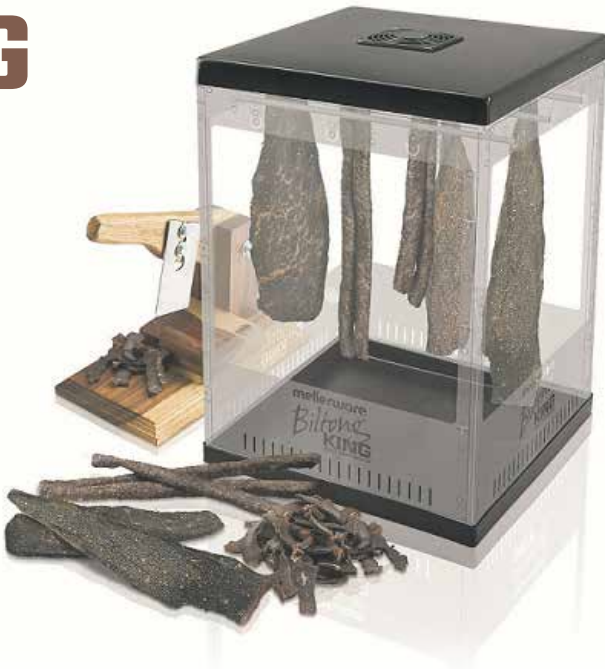
Now more than ever is the perfect time to pick up a hobby, and why not pick up a hobby that results in a frosty cold beer. The Brew Share Enjoy® Homebrew Starter Kit by Northern Brewer makes brewing delicious craft beer easy even for beginners. Simply choose your beer style and the kit will be delivered to your doorstep. Get brewing!

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KID CAGE

kiddiplay

MANY OF US ARE STUCK IN THE HOUSE WITH THE KIDS AND IF THEY'RE DRIVING YOU INSANE, WHY NOT LOCK THEM UP.

Send your kids into the Kids Indoor Playground Naughty Castle by kiddiplay and you're sure to gain a few hours of peace and 'you time'. Think a mini Megamania in your own home. Look, you can't lock them inside, but at least their minds will be locked on playing instead of nagging mum and dad. This might be the isolation saviour you've been looking for.

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This Kettlebell has six adjustable weights in one compact design, an innovate and money saving solution that is perfect for home workouts. With 8, 12, 20, 25, 35 and 40lb weights available at the turn of a dial, you can switch up your workouts within seconds. You even get access to 24 trainer-led videos for beginners and athletes alike. Let's build those muscles!



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HOME Herbs

IT'S NOT OFTEN YOU DESCRIBE A GARDEN AS SMART, BUT WITH THE BOUNTY INDOOR GARDEN BY AEROGARDEN IT DEFINITELY FITS.

If you've ever thought of growing your own herbs, then this is the way to do it. The smart garden grows 5 times faster than soil, instead growing in water. This little beauty can grow up to 9 plants at a time from fresh herbs, salad greens, vegetables and flowers. Think of the money you'll save on groceries. It also comes with everything you need to get started including a 9-pod seed kit - so get growing!

WWW.AEROGARDEN.COM

Your support helps us to save local lives

Through the current COVID-19 health crisis, the Westpac Rescue Helicopter Service, in association with our aeromedical partners, NSW Ambulance and NSW Health, will be vital in ensuring prompt access to specialist medical care for our communities.

Like all organisations across Australia however, this pandemic has dramatically changed the way we do business and our presence in the community, including our vital fundraising activities.

Despite the unique challenges we all face in the communities where we live, the Westpac Rescue Helicopter Service will continue to be focused on providing the best in aeromedical support for those most in need 24-7.

Our sincere thanks goes to everyone in our community who continues to support our mission, including Sponsors, Donors, our wonderful Volunteers and emergency services personnel throughout the region.

Thank you and please stay safe.

#WeAreHere

WWW.RESCUEHELICOPTER.COM.AU



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TAKE THE SHOT



WHILE WE WAIT FOR A COVID-19 VACCINE, IT'S MORE IMPORTANT THAN EVER TO MAKE SURE ALL YOUR OTHER VACCINATIONS ARE UP TO DATE, INCLUDING THIS YEAR'S INFLUENZA VACCINE.

CSIRO have started pre-clinical trials for two vaccine candidates for COVID-19. Vaccines generally take 10-15 years to develop, but they are working hard as part of a global alliance to streamline the process and have one ready within 12-18 months.

In the meantime, deliveries on this year's seasonal influenza vaccination commenced on March 30 so if you haven't been to your doctor or local chemist for your shot yet, then make it a priority.

Vaccination is one of the most successful and cost-effective

advances in global public health. Vaccines are given to many millions of people in Australia and billions worldwide to prevent disease and it's estimated they prevent 2 to 3 million deaths every year.

Australia has one of the world's most comprehensive national immunisation programs. About 94% of Australian children aged under 5 are fully immunised against 15 diseases. But even though most Australian parents vaccinate their children, the small part of the population who choose not to often have the loudest voice. Scientifically unsupported misinformation on the internet and social media about the safety of vaccines can lead to fears about vaccination when the real fear should be of the diseases that vaccines protect against.

VACCINATION IS ONE OF THE MOST EFFECTIVE WAYS TO PREVENT DISEASES.

A vaccine helps the body's immune system to recognise and fight pathogens like viruses or bacteria, which then keeps us safe from the diseases they cause. Vaccines

greatly reduce the risk of infection by working with the body's natural defenses to safely develop immunity to disease.

Vaccines protect against more than 25 debilitating or life-threatening diseases, including measles, polio, tetanus, diphtheria, meningitis, influenza, tetanus, typhoid and cervical cancer. With many diseases almost eradicated by the worldwide use of vaccines, it's easy to forget just how dangerous, and sometimes deadly these diseases are.

Some people believe that naturally acquired immunity, (immunity acquired from having the actual disease) is better than the immunity provided by vaccines. However, natural infections can cause severe complications and be deadly. This is true even for diseases that many people consider mild, like influenza. According to the World Health Organisation 650,000 people die of respiratory diseases every year linked to the seasonal flu.

Another important reason to vaccinate is community immunity (also known as herd immunity).

Community immunity protects the people in our community who can't be vaccinated. If most people within a community are immune to a disease, then community immunity protects those people who aren't immune by reducing their risk of infection.

VACCINES, LIKE ANY MEDICATION, CAN CAUSE SIDE EFFECTS. THOUGH THE MOST COMMON SIDE EFFECTS ARE MILD, SERIOUS SIDE EFFECTS ARE EXTREMELY RARE AND LONG-STANDING MYTHS SUCH AS VACCINES CAUSING AUTISM OR CAUSING AND CONTRIBUTING TO ALLERGIES OR ASTHMA HAVE LONG BEEN DEBUNKED AS ENTIRELY FALSE.

Vaccines have come a long way since 1796 when Edward Jenner used material from cowpox pustules to protect against smallpox and thus creating the world's first vaccine. These days vaccine development is a long, complex and heavily regulated process. Innovative techniques now drive vaccine research, with recombinant DNA technology and new delivery techniques leading scientists in new directions. Disease targets have expanded, and some vaccine research is beginning to focus on non-infectious conditions such as addiction and allergies.

As we all eagerly await a COVID-19 vaccine, it has never been more apparent of how vital vaccines are and how many lives can be saved by their use. It's time to pull up your sleeve (or pull down your pants) and take the shot.

1000 DAYS LTI FREE!

LIEBHERR-AUSTRALIA'S COMMITMENT TO THE SAFETY OF THEIR EMPLOYEES HAS BEEN PROUDLY REWARDED, WITH ITS NSW MINING EMPLOYEES REACHING A MILESTONE 1000 DAYS LTI FREE.

Liebherr-Australia's Mt Thorley mining branch successfully achieved 1000 days LTI free in late April. This means the team on site/in-branch/ across all/all over New South Wales have avoided incidents that result in an employee missing work due to an injury for 1000 days and counting.

The fantastic result is due to the effort, responsibility and encouragement of all employees, including the commitment and support from senior executives of the wider business.

The Mt Thorley mining branch delivers new mining equipment and provides ongoing service and support to all customers across New South Wales. Liebherr-Australia places great importance on routinely managing, revising and evolving safety procedures and policies to align with the company's HSE vision, 'Our people go home to their families fit & healthy every day'.

Not only do the entire Mt Thorley team complete regular internal and external auditing of all safety systems, they also conduct safety observation tours to capture safety interaction/conversation via a documented checklist.

Liebherr-Australia has an established Workplace Health & Safety Committee to shape and develop safety initiatives and improvements driven by the employees themselves.

"THE HEALTH AND SAFETY OF EMPLOYEES, CONTRACTORS, AND VISITORS IS A FUNDAMENTAL PRIORITY OF THE MT THORLEY BRANCH," SAID LYNDIA WOMBOLD, REGIONAL MANAGER NSW CUSTOMER SUPPORT, MINING AT LIEBHERR-AUSTRALIA.

From an employee's first day, safety is top priority including pre-starts, planned toolbox topics, industry trends, personal mini risk assessments, along with workplace and site inspections.

Liebherr-Australia provides internal training on its own policies, procedures and safe work instructions, emphasising that all employees are equal, and safety is everyone's responsibility. This is practiced through safety leadership and creating a dynamic safety culture to achieve set organisational safety KPIs.

Liebherr-Australia ensures its employees have



been thoroughly trained to rectify an incident immediately if it is safe to do so. The individual or manager are then tasked with documenting the incident into the National Action Register to ensure ownership and accountability, share the learnings, and begin the continuous improvement process.

LYNDIA CONCLUDED BY PROUDLY SAYING, "OUR BRANCH PLACES GREAT IMPORTANCE ON ENCOURAGING EMPLOYEES TO SPEAK UP WHEN THEY FEEL SOMETHING ISN'T SAFE. WE TAKE PRIDE IN ENCOURAGING ALL EMPLOYEES TO BE APPROACHABLE AND ACCOUNTABLE FOR OUR COLLECTIVE SAFETY."

Congratulations to all of Liebherr-Australia's Mt Thorley branch employees for not only looking after your mates, but also for working to continually improve the safety standard for yourselves and the wider mining industry.

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Our nation's strong safety culture allows us to return healthy to our families each night. Unfortunately some safety representatives "turn a blind eye" to workers wearing conventional beanies or hoodies under hard hats. This practice, removes the safety features provided by the helmet and renders them non-compliant as a safety device. That is why the TROFMOC was designed as a safety helmet accessory and certified compliant to Australian Standards.

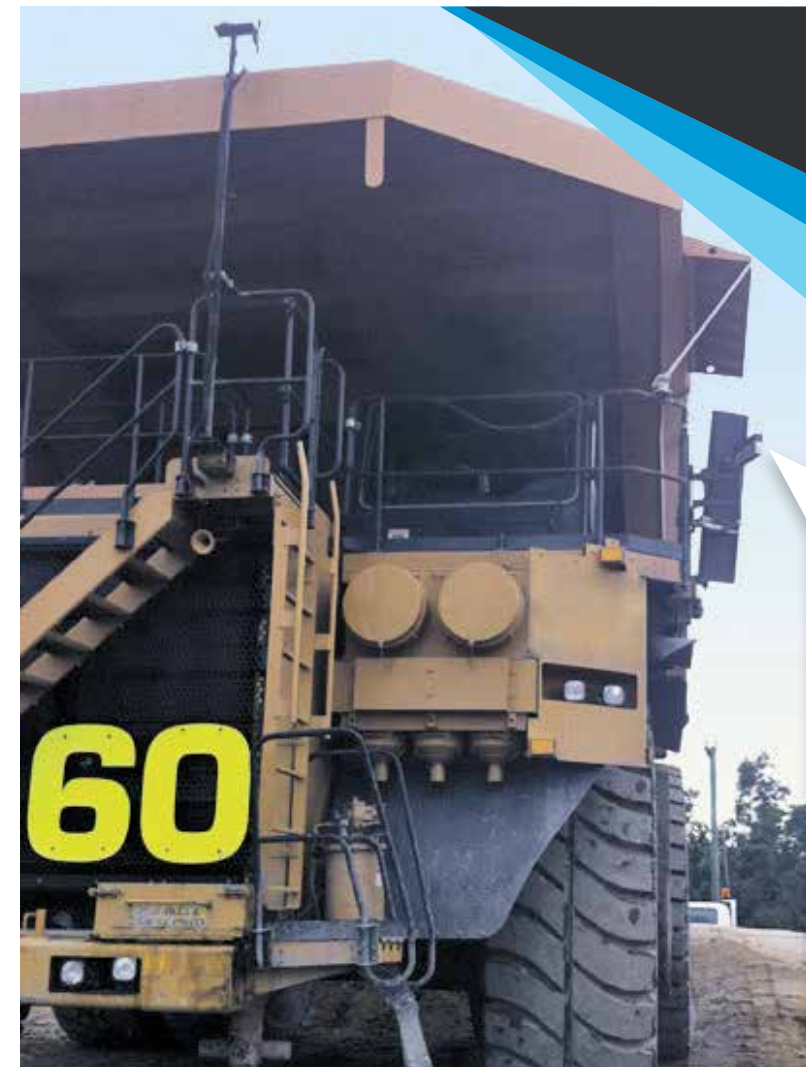


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A yellow CAT 973G motor grader is shown from a side-front perspective. It has a large, dark-colored front blade and a yellow ladder on the side. The machine is parked on a gravel surface, and the background shows a blue sky with white clouds. The image is framed by a white border with a black outline.

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

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

ALLSTAR’S DANCING DEVOTION

MAITLAND LOCAL GEORGIE RICHARDS IS ONLY 17-YEARS OLD AND HER PASSION FOR DANCE HAS ALREADY LED THE YOUNG PROFESSIONAL TO ACHIEVE STATE, NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL TITLES.

There’s something about Georgie Richard’s determination as an athlete, dancer and coach that is powerful and inspiring. Currently completing her HSC at All Saints College Maitland, the student trains at the Evolution of Dance (EOD), competes in dance competitions around Australia and the world and teaches her own classes creating routines for competitions with some of her teams placing nationally and winning state titles.

From the moment her mum enrolled her into dance classes at the age of 3, her love for dancing instantly came about and continued to grow immensely, dancing a range of styles including jazz, lyrical, tap, ballet and cheerleading. But hip-hop became her favourite style about 6 years ago and has since been the driving force behind her dancing career.

“Dancing gives me a sense of purpose and has taught me the drive and dedication needed in day to day activities but more importantly for school and building a career,” said Georgie.

Receiving multiple state, national and international titles herself also led to opportunities to travel overseas including destinations like Texas, Greece, Paris, Orlando, Turkey, London dancing at Disneyland, and even on Cruise Ships.

Both an athlete and coach at one of Australia’s leading Allstar dance and cheerleading programs, the EOD Allstars, Georgie

dances in an open age all girls hip-hop crew – Notorious Krew, adding “I love this team, they are not just teammates, they are family.”

THE CREW NOT ONLY WON NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS FOR THEIR DIVISION BUT OVERALL GRAND NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS FOR HIP-HOP, GOING ON TO WIN THE ONLY FULLY PAID BID TO COMPETE IN THE DANCE WORLDS COMPETITION IN ORLANDO, FLORIDA WHERE HIGH-QUALITY TEAMS COME FROM ALL OVER THE WORLD TO SHOWCASE THEIR ROUTINES. “THIS IS EVERY DANCER’S DREAM!” SHE SAID.

The crew perfected and critiqued their routine to get it to the high standard that gave them the win and turned their champion vision into reality. Notorious Krew worked so hard all season prepping for this win, but the hard work didn’t stop there.

“We continued to work hard by conditioning and strengthening our bodies as well as fuelling them with the most nutritious foods, to ensure we were fit to endure training and most importantly execute our routine to its full potential on that competition floor.”

Sport has been one of the hardest hit by the COVID-19 pandemic, with most sporting events cancelled or postponed worldwide. This has meant The Dance Worlds Competition has unfortunately been put on hold for the foreseeable future.



Georgie started to teach dance at the age of 14 assisting alongside senior coaches learning the ins and outs from how to create an innovative and dynamic routine to how to control and support a class. “Teaching dance has taught me many vital skills including leadership, time management, and great communication,” Georgie said.

EOD Allstars are seeing more positives than negatives coming from this situation. Georgie noted athletes are improving on flexibility and technique extremely fast due to the attention and focus given to every individual athlete. Online classes give coaches the ability to see everyone on an even playing field and give specific corrections to specific athletes, therefore, increasing the results of athlete progression.

“As coaches, we can continue with our regular class plans for teams as online classes give us the ability to communicate and demonstrate skills, drills, and choreography.”

Something that became clear when chatting with Georgie, was the optimism, positivity and undeniable encouragement that the EOD Allstars organisation has invested into their students. “The passionate coaches, hard-working athletes, tremendous facilities and positive culture is what produces such high-quality athletes and routines,” Georgie said proudly.

“I love dancing and coaching for this studio as the level of professionalism and passion is like no other - I cannot wait to get back into the studio and continue creating.”

Even during isolation Georgie aims to focus on her physical health by building muscle to improve the efficiency and precision of her dancing. Maintaining the happy status of her mental health during isolation, but also after the pandemic, has also become an important part of her everyday routine.

Smashing goal after goal throughout her career, Georgie’s dream is to own her own business directed at improving sports performance including nutrition, massage, team building and leadership as a coach.

Georgie closed with an inspiring quote close to her heart, “Life is not about waiting for the storm to pass. It’s about learning to dance in the rain.”

UNDERSTANDABLY THE TEAM WERE DEVASTATED BY THE NEWS, BUT NOTHING CAN HOLD THIS CREW BACK FROM REACHING THEIR GOALS. NOTORIOUS KREW MAY NOT BE ABLE TO OPERATE IN THE STUDIO, BUT DUE TO THEIR INNOVATIVE AND CREATIVE STAFF THE TEAM WERE ABLE TO CREATE ONLINE CONTENT AND VIRTUAL LIVE LESSONS WHERE COACHES CAN STILL MAINTAIN INTERACTION WITH THE ATHLETES.

CHECK OUT SOME AMAZING PERFORMANCES! WWW.EODALLSTARS.COM
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MAY IS THE TIME TO HOOK IN AND FISH

THIS MONTH WE SEE THE SEASONS COLLIDE WITH PELAGIC’S STILL HANGING ABOUT AND THE WINTER SPECIES STARTING TO FIRE UP. LET’S HOPE RESTRICTIONS RELAX A BIT MORE AND WE ARE ABLE TO HOOK IN AND ENJOY A BIT OF TIME AROUND THE WATER.



ITS BIG FIEWIE TIME AND AS RESTRICTIONS BEGIN TO EASE THERE’S NO BETTER PLACE TO SOCIAL DISTANCE THAN ALONG OUR LOCAL BEACHES.

This month we encourage you to Hook and Cook the humble flathead. These all round awesome fish can be found all year round just about anywhere a little bit of salt water is present. It’s not uncommon to stumble across these fish as far up the Hunter River as the Melville Ford Bridge at Aberglasslyn after a period of dry weather.

Estuaries are probably the most common places we encounter Flathead as they love to hang out around sand flats and anywhere rocks meet sand with the exception of Lake Macquarie where they can be found just about anywhere in the lake from half a metre of water to ten to fifteen metres.

Beaches hold great numbers of these fish so walking along the beach casting baits or lures into gutters

can be not only soothing for the mind but very rewarding.

Offshore it’s all about the forty metre line. You will find them on sand from the back of the breakers to the shelf but the forty metre line seems to be the spot.

Now to catch these little beauties throwing soft plastics/vibes would have to be the most successful way to target Flathead as they love bait on the move.

For bait it’s hard to beat an unweighted or lightly weighted Pilly on gang hooks slow rolled along the bottom. Prawns and mullet strips will also bring success if you find a patch offshore. Really anything will work to catch them, we’ve even caught them on bits of electrical tape on a hook.

KEEP FLOATIN’ – THRIFTY’S

FROM THRIFTY’S COOKBOOK

FLATHEAD TACOS

TACO INGREDIENTS

- ½ kg boneless skinned flathead fillets
- 1 packet of tortilla (12 wraps)
- ½ Spanish onion
- ½ Iceberg lettuce
- 1 Avo
- Coriander

BATTER

Mix ½ cup plain flower, ½ cup self-raising flower, 1 tsp baking powder together with soda water to make a thin batter.

SAUCE

Mix ½ cup Kewpie mayo, juice of one lime and Sriracha chilli sauce to taste.

METHOD

Shred lettuce, thinly slice onion, chop coriander, and cut avo into cubes and set aside for topping your tacos.

Cut the fillets down the centre then in half if needed (roughly 10-15cm long each piece) Batter and deep-fry Flathead fillets and season with salt once cooked.

Build the tacos and tuck in!



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GET YOUR Pub Feed Fix

OUR BELOVED PUBS HAVE TEMPORARILY CLOSED THEIR DOORS, BUT WITH PICKUP AND DELIVERY AVAILABLE AT THE WINDSOR CASTLE HOTEL, YOU DON'T HAVE TO MISS OUT ON A GOOD FEED.

The coronavirus and resulting social distancing laws have affected us all in some way, but it's great to see us Aussies standing together to adapt and overcome. Small local businesses like The Windsor Castle Hotel have also taken a new approach by offering pickup and delivery of their classic pub favourites.

When not dealing with a worldwide crisis, The Windsor Castle Hotel has it all, from a sports bar, bistro, outdoor beer garden, VIP gaming and TAB facilities, a drive-through bottle-shop and 15 accommodation rooms to top it off. Even now, the local pub is going above and beyond to serve their community.

LOCATED IN EAST MAITLAND, THE WINDSOR IS OFFERING PICKUP AND DELIVERY FROM THE BISTRO AND BOTTLE-SHOP. BUT THEY'VE TAKEN THEIR COMMUNITY SERVICE ONE STEP FURTHER, NOW STOCKING FRESH FRUIT AND VEGETABLE BOXES AND ESSENTIAL KITS OF TOILET PAPER, SANITISER, PAPER TOWEL, DISPOSABLE GLOVES, TISSUES, BIN BAGS AND ALL-PURPOSE WIPES FOR PURCHASE.

When you see a business striving this hard to keep moving, it truly shows that Aussie spirit. So, we decided to grab a couple of pub meals for lunch to take home.



Not only were we able to ring up and order over the phone, we were also able to pay over the phone for a contactless pickup. My colleague and I were told 15 minutes for our pickup order and they were spot on with the timing.

We ordered a Garlic, Cheese and Bacon Bread to share for starters and let's be honest, is there really anything better than cheesy garlic bread? Well yes, that's cheesy garlic bread topped with bacon. Fresh out of the grill, each bite melted in our mouths. We accidentally ate two pieces each before our huge mains, but we were determined to take in the lot.

MY MEAL WAS ABSOLUTELY, POSITIVELY DELICIOUS. HAVING BEEN ON A PUB FEED DROUGHT FOR ALMOST A MONTH NOW, A PUB STEAK WAS AN ABSOLUTE MUST.

I ordered the 300g Char-Grilled Rump served with thick-cut beer battered chips and salad and topped with the 'Ahoy' topper of crumbed prawn cutlets, bacon and garlic sauce. I had my steak medium rare and it was grilled to perfection, each mouthful thick and juicy. Trust me, you need to give this one a go.

My colleague ordered the Chicken Schnitzel Burger with bacon, lettuce, tomato, cheese and aioli on a toasted damper bun served with chips. The chicken schnitzel burger is an Aussie pub favourite, so expectations were high. Let's just say my colleague scoffed it down with a look of pure love in his eyes. He gave a double thumbs up as he rolled into his chair with a food coma.

OVERALL THE FOOD WAS EXTREMELY TASTY, HOT AND FRESH FOR PICKUP AND COOKED FLAWLESSLY. THERE WAS SOMETHING THAT ALSO MADE THE EXPERIENCE ONE TO REMEMBER.

On top of the neatly packaged meals, was a note from The Windsor Castle team along with a pack of hand-sanitiser, "We understand this is a difficult time for everyone and we cannot thank you enough for your support. Stay Healthy, Stay Safe, Stay Positive and Be Happy. Thank you, The Windsor Castle Team. Enjoy your meals!"

Thank you, The Windsor Castle Hotel, for a heartfelt eating experience during these unsure times.

VISIT THE WINDSOR CASTLE HOTEL ON FACEBOOK TO CHECK OUT THEIR TAKEAWAY MENU AND GIVE THE WINDSOR CASTLE A CALL TO ORDER NOW 02 4933 7276.

PIEMINISTER

I'M ON A ROLL!



I ♥ SAUSAGE ROLLS

I HAVE BEEN DEEP IN THOUGHT TACKLING THE BIG ISSUES DURING THESE CHALLENGING TIMES. ISSUES SUCH AS OUTLAWING VEGAN PIES, ZERO ALCOHOL BEER, ANYONE WHO VOTES GREEN, MAN BUNS, SKINNY JEANS ON MEN OVER 25, LYCRA WEARING MALE BIKE RIDERS WHO THINK THEY ARE DOING THE 'TOUR DE FRANCE', BUT JUST LOOK MORE 'TOUR DE CAMP'. RUN THE BASTARDS OVER I RECKON... I'VE ALSO DECIDED TO CUT OUT THE PIES FOR A WHILE AND CONVERT TO SAUSAGE ROLLS.

It's a pretty big and shocking decision I know, but desperate times call for desperate measures. Amongst all this chaos I needed to look at life from a different perspective. Sausage rolls are giving me that clarity. That's why I have taken the measures outlined above. It was about time someone stepped up to rid our country of these kind of un-Australian people, things, and what is now illegal un-Australian behavior.

So, what will this new strange world look like as we come out of lockdown? Well any baker caught serving up a vegan pie will be dragged through the streets with a carrot stuck up the you know where, before being put through an industrial mincer and used as burly mixed with a bit of cat food on the next fishing trip the Retired Bakers Fishing Club take up Port Stephens way. Fake beer drinkers will be made to sit in a corner and drink VB and rumbo cans until they come to their senses.

The man bun brigade will undertake enforced gender reassignment

before being sentenced to life imprisonment working as cheerleaders for Manly Rugby League. Same goes for skinny jeans wearers, but they will be sent to the Broncos. Greens voters and lycra wearers will be imprisoned in the old Maitland jail, which I am reopening, for the term of their natural life. They will see out their days listening to Abba songs at high volume on repeat played on one of those recorders we all had in primary school. Let's see how much their crimes against humanity mean to them then!

Anyway, as you can see, these sausage rolls have toughened me up a fair bit. I grab a lazy half dozen from a different Hunter bakery each day. After smashing through 'em, I wait half an hour for the extreme reflux to kick in and the extreme gut pain caused by a higher onion content than what comes in pies. I'll keep these extreme measures in place for a while until I have made the world, Straya and the Hunter the kind of place we all dream of living in. I'm on a roll!!! Solly – Your loving leader.

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@ THE COALFACE
PRIZE WINNERS

Volume 4 – No 6: April - May 2020

Crib Bag

Roberts Meats Raffle

Blue Flame Indian Restaurant Voucher

Car Wash Voucher

Red Rooster Voucher

Tony Simon

Belinda Lever

Peter Dingwall

Karly Brown

Paige Swan

WINNERS!

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL OUR WINNERS!

STRANGE BUT TRUE!

Did you know...

> Alligators will give manatees the right of way if they are swimming near each other.

> Baked beans are actually not baked, but stewed.

> Sunsets on Mars are blue.

> Magpies are considered one of the most intelligent animals in the world, and the only non-mammal species able to recognise itself in a mirror test.

> Bullfrogs do not sleep.

> Eight of the ten largest statues in the world are of Buddhas.

> The man who found the 5000 year old corpse Ötzi the Iceman in 1991 (Oldest natural European mummy) was also found dead frozen in ice in 2004.

> The small indents in the bottom of frozen pizzas are there to prevent air bubbles forming inside the dough.

> In 2005, Mark Zuckerberg unsuccessfully tried to sell Facebook for \$75 million. Back then it was called TheFacebook.

> The most popular item at Walmart is bananas. They sell more bananas than any other single item they have in stock.

LIFT OFF!

WE ALL NEED A HOLIDAY BUT WHERE TO GO WITHOUT BREAKING THE RULES? WHAT IF THERE WAS A PLACE THAT HAS FANTASTIC PPE MEASURES AND GUARANTEES THAT YOU WON'T BUMP INTO OTHER PEOPLE. YEP, I'M TALKING ABOUT SPACE.

It used to be that a holiday in space was something you could only read about in a science fiction novel, but I have news for all the wannabe astronauts out there, space vacays are here.

If you're prepared to part with a chunk of cash, (anywhere from a quarter of a million to a cool one hundred million depending on your destination), space travel is no longer just a dream.

Space tourism is quickly becoming a competitive business. Companies like SpaceX, Virgin Galactic and Blue Origin are all pioneering different ways to bring space travel to the public, but so far the only company to actually send private citizens into space is Space Adventures. In conjunction with the Russian Space Agency they have facilitated flights for the world's first private space explorers. 7 people paid in excess of \$20million (USD) each for a 10-day visit to the International Space Station.

Space Adventures are currently offering four different experiences ranging in price from \$20 million to \$40 million. There Circumlunar Mission is a 16 day return trajectory around the far side of the moon. The Space Station is a 10 day mission to the International Space Station. Spacewalk is an additional extra of the Space Station Mission where you can leave the space station and float above the earth. Or if you're after weekend break maybe the Low Earth Orbit multi-day mission is more for you. The first flights for these missions could take place in late 2021.

If those are not in your budget than Sir Richard Branson's Virgin Galactic flights might be more your style. Founded with the goal of making space tourism available to everyone, prices for their 90 minute earth orbit flights will

cost around \$250,000 and you can reserve a seat now for a \$1,000 deposit. It's expected after many years of delays that flights will commence by mid-year.

Then there's Blue Origin's New Shepherd spacecraft that holds up to six people for a 11 minute flight above the atmosphere. Large picturesque windows allow you to view the spectacular view of earth below you. Although prices for this have not been revealed, it's expected to cost hundreds of thousands of dollars per flight.

Elon Musk's SpaceX company has been more focused on designing, manufacturing, and launching rockets and spacecraft into space with the ultimate goal to enable humans to live on other planets. However as of February they announced a new partnership with Space Adventures to send private citizens further into space than ever before. The first missions are planned to be available in 2022, and cost upwards of \$100 million.

Okay so space flight is definitely not cheap. At least not yet. But last year Swiss bank UBS released a report estimating space tourism could become a \$3bn industry in the next 10 years. As the industry grows and more competitors enter the market, pricing will come down and so perhaps that space vacay on your bucket list might actually get crossed off. Especially with all the money you've been saving up because the pubs are closed.



BUT THE NEXT COUPLE OF YEARS ARE GOING TO SEE A REAL LIFT OFF IN SPACE TOURISM. WITH ORBITAL, SUBORBITAL AND LUNAR EXCURSIONS ALL IN THE PIPELINE YOU CAN TAKE A QUICK DIP JUST OUTSIDE THE ATMOSPHERE, VISIT THE INTERNATIONAL SPACE STATION OR WHO KNOWS, MAYBE THE STARS AREN'T THE LIMIT!



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