

@THE COAL FACE

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BELIEVE AND ACHIEVE

PAGE 40

DEAN MCHARDIE LOST HIS ARM TO SKIN CANCER IN 2015 BUT CONTINUES TO PROVE TO HIMSELF AND EVERYONE AROUND HIM THAT ANYTHING IS POSSIBLE.



SKILLS



SKILLED STUDENTS

PAGE 10

AN AWARDS CEREMONY HAS CELEBRATED 33-FIRST YEAR MINING APPRENTICES FOR THEIR ACHIEVEMENTS IN THE TAFE NSW MUSWELLBROOK MINING SKILLS PROGRAM.

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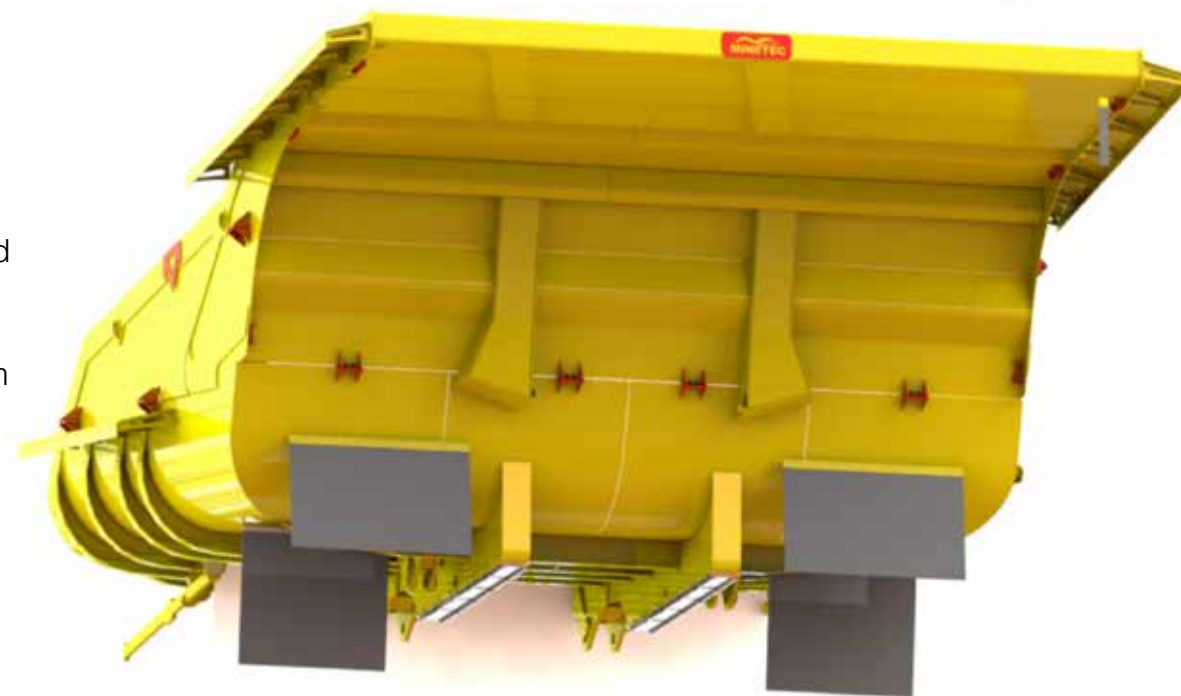
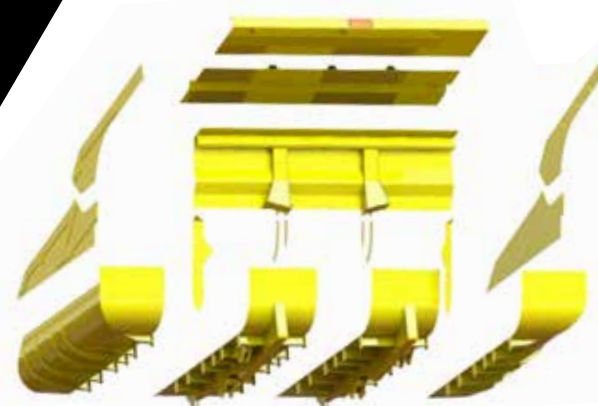
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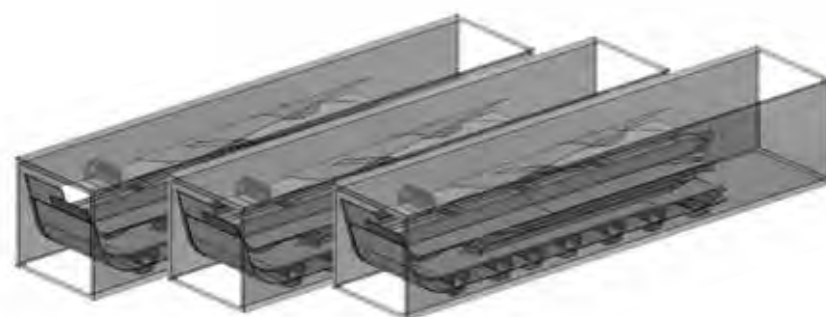


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SETTING THE STANDARDS

IF THERE'S ONE THING THE NEW SOUTH WALES MINING INDUSTRY IS GOOD AT IT IS INNOVATION, AND THIS MONTH INNOVATION HAS BEEN AT THE FOREFRONT.



OPINION

MINING KEEPING LOCAL HUNTER BUSINESSES OPERATING

OUR HARD WORKING MINERS ACROSS THE HUNTER MAY NOT REALISE IT, BUT THEIR EFFORTS TO KEEP THE MINES GOING BY WORKING COVID-SAFELY ARE ALSO SUPPORTING THOUSANDS OF OTHER PEOPLE ACROSS THE REGION

Tens of thousands of people work in nearly 3,300 local businesses across the Hunter that supply the mines with everything from manufacturing and engineering services to supply of components and catering.

The jobs of many more local people are also being supported at least in part because the miners of the region are spending their own money in places like cafes, restaurants, and retail stores across the Hunter, and by doing so helping to keep local businesses going.

TO HIGHLIGHT THIS, NSW MINISTER FOR FINANCE AND SMALL BUSINESS DAMIEN TUDEHOPE RECENTLY VISITED THE REGION TO SEE FIRST HAND SOME OF THE LOCAL BUSINESSES SUPPORTED BY OUR INDUSTRY.

He visited Quarry Mining to check out their world-class manufacturing of drill bits and other components supplied to our local mines as well as to infrastructure projects in Sydney.

The Minister also had coffee at Singleton's Cervo's Cafe where he met with representatives from local business chambers to hear how local businesses and mining are working together to keep the local economy strong.

During his visit, the Minister commented, "There is no doubt that NSW has a world-class mining sector. Mining plays a huge role in the NSW economy - it not only employs thousands of workers across our regions, but is the state's largest export earner."

"HERE IN THE HUNTER VALLEY, THE COAL INDUSTRY IS CRITICAL FOR SUPPLYING NSW'S ENERGY NEEDS AND ALSO SUPPORTS COMMUNITIES AND SMALL BUSINESSES WITHIN THE REGION."

Like everyone else, the coal sector has also been affected by the covid-19 pandemic, with slowing global economic growth continuing to put downward pressure on coal prices.

The first priority for our Hunter mining operations has been to keep our miners, their families and their communities safe. Now, with so many people relying on the local mining sector for their livelihoods, our local mining operations are also doing everything possible to minimise any impacts from covid-19 on local mining jobs.

STEPHEN GALILEE, CEO, NSW MINERALS COUNCIL



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OPINION

ROLE MODELS IN RESOURCES

THE MCA WAS DELIGHTED RECENTLY TO HOST THE BHP WOMEN IN RESOURCES NATIONAL AWARDS TO CELEBRATE THE MANY VARIED AND IMPORTANT ACHIEVEMENTS OF WOMEN IN RESOURCES.



TANIA CONSTABLE

These awards celebrate initiatives that create a more diverse, safer, fairer and stronger sector. Over seven years, these awards have identified an amazing group of ambassadors, mentors and role models. The awards help to inspire women of all ages who are thinking about a career in resources, including girls who are still at school. The top award – the Dyno Nobel Exceptional Woman in Australian Resources Award – was won by someone who will be very familiar to Coalface readers. Renata Roberts is the Chief Corporate Services Officer, The Bloomfield Group in Singleton. Renata was a worthy winner for her leadership, her capability and agility throughout her career, and for community outreach through the HR Hub and Educators Forum initiative. The other winners were also exceptional: BHP’s Kathryn Young for impressive technical leadership and mentoring; Bell Bay Aluminium’s Brett Robins for achieving a 50 per cent increase in female participation; Vanessa Davies from the Compass Group which supports long-term unemployed women; Newmont’s Jennifer Ward for her strong leadership and influence on-site, and Larnie Mackay who picked up the Maptek Women in Resources Technological Innovation Award. Larnie won for her innovation and perseverance in leading the development of the first and so far only electronic tablet device certified for unrestricted use in underground coal mining in Australia. BUILDING A FUTURE MINERALS WORKFORCE MEANS BUILDING A MORE DIVERSE AND INCLUSIVE WORKFORCE. In 2019 Australian mining directly employed 243,000 people including 40,000 women – up from fewer than 9,000 women in 2001. That’s great progress, but with women making up only 16 per cent of the workforce there’s still a big job ahead. In the past five years the gender pay gap in mining has dropped from 17.6 per cent to 13.8 per cent. And there are more companies with flexible working policies and paid parental leave. Another good sign is that the proportion of women in management has increased to 17.7 per cent, which means the proportion of women in management roles is keeping pace with the growth in the number of women in our workforce. SHARING BEST PRACTICE, RESEARCH AND GOOD IDEAS IS ESSENTIAL TO MAKING THE BUSINESS CASE FOR DIVERSITY AND ACHIEVING A MORE INCLUSIVE AND DIVERSE CULTURE AND WORKFORCE. The awards ceremony, hosted with news anchor Chris Bath, can be viewed on the MCA’s YouTube channel and includes interviews with all six winners as well as Edgar Basto, President of Minerals Australia from awards principal sponsor BHP and MCA Chair the Hon Helen Coonan. Thank you to everyone who entered these awards for sharing your stories and raising awareness of the diverse careers in science, technology, engineering and mathematics – as well as the trades and social sciences – that exist in the resources sector. We look forward to you and all our women in resources building on your success in future years to do more and inspire others! TANIA CONSTABLE CEO, MINERALS COUNCIL OF AUSTRALIA

IN THE NEWS

NO PAY TO STAY AWAY

Mineworkers classified as vulnerable to Covid have been left without pay for nearly 12 weeks after told by BHP to stay home. In April BHP announced a nationwide policy that mineworkers considered vulnerable to health impacts from Covid would be provided with paid leave. This included people aged 65 or over and 50 for indigenous workers, or even younger if they had an underlying health condition. BHP refused to pay their wages and the Union is now fighting to recover lost pay after alleging the policy is discriminatory. Labour hire company Chandler Macleod is also under fire after refusing to cover pay or provide alternative work for workers at BHP’s Mount Arthur mine in the Hunter Valley.

DRIVING TIPS FOR TEENS

Young people are being encouraged to become safer drivers under new Singleton Community Drug Action Team (CDAT) initiative. The team is launching into a new phase to support young people on the road with 10 sponsored positions in a Safer Driver Course available for learner drivers in the Singleton local government area. As the new CDAT chairperson, Road Safety Officer at Singleton, Muswellbrook and Upper Hunter councils, Alison Balding will be working to generate support, education and prevention activities for young people. Participation in the program also adds 20 hours to the young person’s learner logbook.

CASH FOR CLUBS

Singleton sporting clubs and associations can now apply for a share of \$68,500 for local projects via round one of Singleton Sports Council’s dollar-for-dollar grant funding program. The funding can be spent on equipment, minor repair work or upgrades, hosting events or assistance towards planning, professional and application fees. Sporting clubs must be affiliated with the Sports Council to apply for the grant. Applications close on October 23.

THUMBS UP FOR THIESS

Glencore has awarded Thiess a contract extension to provide mining services at Mount Owen in the Hunter Valley. The 18-month contract extension is said to bring in \$340 million revenue to the CIMIC Group’s global service provider. Operating at Mount Owen since 1994, Thiess Managing Director Douglas Thompson said they look forward to continuing their long association with Glencore and the Hunter Valley community.

COVID CUTS FOR GLENCORE

Glencore will stop operating two of the five excavators at its Glendell thermal coal mine in Australia in response to falls in coal prices. This comes following a 2-3 week closure of the company’s Australian coal mining operations that started late last month. The excavators will stop operating in November but will be available for Glencore to restart should coal prices start to increase. It’s estimated around 60 support jobs will be lost or effected as a result.

WAVE OF LOVE FOR WILDLIFE

Glencore has renewed their 3-year partnership with Aussie Ark pledging a total of \$600,000 towards the organisation’s conservation outcomes. Aussie Ark has been working for almost 10 years to create healthy ecosystems and sanctuaries in a mission to protect endangered Australian native animals such as the Bush-tailed rock wallaby. Glencore’s support has had a significant impact on the success of Aussie Ark, particularly during the bushfire crisis. Aussie Ark President Tim Faulkner expressed his thanks for Glencore’s generosity and their commitment to the organisations cause.

SINGLETONIANS FIND FAME

Eight nominations have been received by Singleton Council for the 11th annual Wambo Coal Hall of Fame. The committee will make a decision on the final recipients and how they will receive their award when they meet on October 15. Wambo Coal Hall of Fame recognises members of the community and organisations who have made an outstanding contribution to Singleton.



AGL Macquarie Pty Limited undertakes to fund environmental projects following the release of fly ash from a pipeline at the Bayswater Power

AGL Macquarie Pty Limited (AGL Macquarie) has entered into an enforceable undertaking with the Environment Protection Authority following the release of fly ash from a pipeline (Event) at the Bayswater Power Station, in breach of the Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997 (NSW). The enforceable undertaking requires AGL Macquarie to pay \$500,000 towards environmental projects of benefit to the local community as approved by the EPA. AGL Macquarie has also committed to implementing other measures to ensure that the Event does not reoccur. These include further testing on the pipeline using suitable technology and carrying out any rectification works required (pending the replacement of the whole of the pipeline once the required planning approvals are obtained in accordance with existing environment protection licence conditions) and providing industry training. AGL Macquarie has published this notice in accordance with the enforceable undertaking.

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PIONEERING Pathways

HUNTER VALLEY MINES PROVIDE ONSITE WORK PLACEMENT OPPORTUNITIES TO LOCAL STUDENTS, AS PART OF AN INITIATIVE TO HIGHLIGHT PATHWAYS FOR LOCAL YOUTH AND PROMOTE A FUTURE IN OUR INDUSTRY.

Mines and organisations around the Hunter have committed to supporting young people through a number of programs and school to work initiatives. Most recently, Bengalla Mining Company and Glencore welcomed Hunter Valley students on to the mine site as part of work placement. Bengalla joined forces with Youth Express to facilitate the work placement, enabling Muswellbrook High School Students Aidan Butchard and Justin Ryan to receive 35 hours of practical on the job experience in Electro-technology as part of their HSC studies at Muswellbrook TAFE. The experienced technicians at Bengalla created a varied schedule that enabled both students to gain experience across the workshop, infrastructure and breakdown crews to further enhance their knowledge for the electrical course that they are studying. Youth Express is a not-for-profit organisation that works closely with industry, schools and TAFE to place students in real-life work placement opportunities. These placements are a mandatory requirement for senior

students undertaking Vocational Education as part of their HSC. "It is great that Bengalla are supporting senior high school students in their chosen vocational subject area and their HSC," said Jane Thompson, Work Placement Team Leader at Youth Express. **"IT GIVES THE STUDENTS REAL LIFE WORKPLACE EXPERIENCE AND EMPLOYERS THE OPPORTUNITY TO IDENTIFY POTENTIAL APPRENTICES."** Glencore's Mt Owen Glendell Mine has also been providing support to students looking to make a career in the mining industry, hosting Year 10 student Callan Hungerford from St Catherine's Catholic College Singleton. Callan made contact with Mt Owen back in March asking if work experience was possible, which due to COVID-19 was postponed. Fortunately, still very keen to get some valuable Year 10 work experience in Mining-Environmental Science, Callan made contact again in September and was able to come on board. Tasked with a broad range of

environmental science and engineering aspects including environmental monitoring & compliance, rehabilitation inspections, biodiversity offset area inspections, soil & water sampling, geology & coal sampling, surveying, blasting, operations supervision and coal handling & preparation to name a few; Callan spent time with personnel ranging from graduates through to manager level within the business. "The work experience program I participated in with Mt Owen Glendell Operations gave me the unique opportunity to experience what it is like to work in a local coal mine," Callan said. **ALTHOUGH LIVING IN SINGLETON, CALLAN SAID HE HAD NEVER BEEN IN A MINE TO SEE ITS OPERATIONS. "I COULDN'T BELIEVE THE SHEER MAGNITUDE OF THE PITS - THEY ARE ENORMOUS, AND EACH PERSON PLAYS A PART IN BRINGING THE OPERATIONS TOGETHER, TO NOT ONLY PRODUCE ONE OF AUSTRALIA'S BIGGEST EXPORTS, BUT ALSO EMPLOYMENT TO OUR LOCAL COMMUNITY," HE ADDED.**

"I was also able to sit in a dump truck and an operator took me out to experience what it feels like to collect a load; I had no idea how massive this vehicle was until I was standing on the ground looking up at it!" Callan was able to experience job roles directly related to an Environmental Officer and multidiscipline Engineering (Mining, Surveying & Process). It's opportunities like these presented by Glencore and Bengalla that highlight the pathways available for youth in the local area. It's also a great way for employees to identify potential apprentices. **GIVING STUDENTS WORK PLACEMENT OPPORTUNITIES TO FURTHER SOLIDIFY THEIR**

CALLAN HUNGERFORD FROM ST CATHERINE'S CATHOLIC COLLEGE SINGLETON ON SITE AT GLENCORE'S MT OWEN GLENDELL MINE.



KNOWLEDGE AND GAIN FURTHER INSIGHT INTO CAREER PATHWAYS IS SOMETHING THAT NOT ONLY SUPPORTS LOCAL YOUNG PEOPLE, BUT ALSO PROMOTES A FUTURE IN THE RESOURCES INDUSTRY. Bengalla prioritises the development of school to work pathways, and support education for local students as part of their strategic map, through a number of ways. Fiona Hartin, Community Relations Specialist at Bengalla Mining Company, says the mine actively participates in Career Days at Muswellbrook High School and invites Year 10 students on site for work experience. "We are always striving to develop effective linkages between the school to work initiatives that highlight pathways for youth in the local area," she said. "We are more than happy to have been able to facilitate this and see this as a partnership that will continue long into the future to benefit young local students." This was evident with the experiences and opportunities organised for the two students. They were placed with experienced technicians and rotated across different areas within the business. With electricians who work on planned maintenance, breakdown crews as well as within their infrastructure team; there was plenty of opportunity for Aidan and Justin to experience a day in the life of an electrician and get hands on. Equally Glencore supports their local communities by welcoming and attracting talented young people to experience the ins and

outs and endless opportunities of the resources industry. Anthony Billings is a Glencore Environment & Community graduate himself and was excited to be sharing his knowledge with Callan. "Whether it is science, engineering, or the environment if there is an opportunity to support the passion of today's youth it will only benefit the future of today's industry," said Anthony. **"AS A GRADUATE MYSELF I AM PASSIONATE ABOUT THE ENVIRONMENT AND THE LEGACY LEFT BEHIND AFTER MINING; IT WAS GREAT TO PROVIDE MY OWN KNOWLEDGE AND ADVICE TO CALLAN WHILE HE EXPLORES HIS PASSION IN THE ENVIRONMENT."** Discovering the different pathways into a career in mining, or any other industry for that matter, is vital in promoting a future for our local youth. It's great to see companies like Glencore and Bengalla Mining Company taking charge in supporting the future of our industry. Callan summed up his experience by thanking Glencore's Mt Owen Glendell management and team for giving him the opportunity to experience different roles in the field he is looking at for his future. "I am very grateful to the Mt Owen and Glendell personnel that showed me their roles and educated me on how they contribute to the mines' overall operations," he said. "I am looking forward to continuing with my education with a goal of joining the mining sector in the future."



Aidan Butchard and Justin Ryan from Muswellbrook High School on site at Bengalla Mining Company.

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D11 HEAVEN

NEXT GEN D11 DOZERS CONTINUE LONG HISTORY AT BENGALLA MINE WITH MORE THAN 20 YEARS AND NUMEROUS ADDITIONS AND UPGRADES OF THE MODEL.

ADAM FREEMAN (BENGALLA - MOBILE MAINTENANCE SUPERINTENDENT), SIMON ALLAN (WESTRAC NSW - MINING SUPPORT MANAGER), WARWICK GLOSTER (BENGALLA - MAINTENANCE MANAGER), GREG GRAHAM (WESTRAC NSW / ACT - CEO), CAM HALFPENNY (BENGALLA - GENERAL MANAGER), JODY SCOTT (WESTRAC NSW / ACT - MINING GENERAL MANAGER), GARY RAYNER (WESTRAC NSW- MINING BUSINESS MANAGER), BEN KING (BENGALLA - MAINTENANCE CAPITAL AND PROJECTS SPECIALIST) AT THE DELIVERY OF A NEW CAT D11 NEXT GEN DOZER.

In 1998, New Hope Coal’s Bengalla mine purchased its first four Cat® D11 dozers, marking the start of a long relationship with the machines. **LAST MONTH THE MINE TOOK DELIVERY OF THE FIRST OF FOUR D11 NEXT GEN MACHINES FROM LEADING CAT DEALER WESTRAC. THE FIRST TWO ARE UPGRADES FOR RETIRING DOZERS THAT HAVE CLOCKED UP TENS OF THOUSANDS OF OPERATING HOURS, WHILE ANOTHER TWO ARE BEING PURCHASED TO REPLACE HIRED MACHINES.**

Maintenance Capital and Projects Specialist Ben King has worked at the Bengalla mine for more than 15 years and is well acquainted with all the D11 models that have been put to work at the site. “They’re a really good, reliable machine and very modular,” Ben said. “The operators really like them – they’re a big 104-tonne machine that is suitable for ripping through hard rock seams and they’re really well supported by WesTrac.” According to Ben, with the life of the mine now extended to 2039, the new Cat D11s will be put through their paces. “Originally, we ran the D11s for about 5,000 hours a year and

expected to get a total 50,000 hours out of them,” he said. **“WITH THE LATER MODELS WE’RE ACHIEVING ABOUT 6,500 HOURS PER MACHINE EACH YEAR AND DO A MID-LIFE REBUILD AROUND 7,500 HOURS AND A FULL ENGINE REPLACEMENT AT 15,000 HOURS BEFORE STARTING THE CYCLE AGAIN.** “We expect to see even further increases in operational hours with the Next Gen D11s.” “The other thing we have to consider is that because the mine is so close to town, we’ve always had to be mindful of noise so these Next Gen D11s come factory fitted with sound suppression kits.” “From an economic point of view, they provide greater efficiency, improved productivity and a higher level of safety than their predecessors so there was no question that when we were ready for an upgrade, these were our number one choice.” **“EVEN WITH COAL PRICES REDUCING, OUR GOAL IS TO MAKE MONEY ON EVERY SHIPMENT AND THE NEW D11S ARE HELPING US ACHIEVE THAT.”** According to Ben, the high-precision onboard Cat MineStar™ system, which incorporates a range of

optional tools including Terrain for grading and Command for dozing, means operators could have their daily tasks pre-determined based on research and technical data. “Our technical teams can upload data and instruct the operators on the most optimum ways to work for every shift,” he said. “It provides some real productivity gains to ensure we continue to keep the cost per tonne down.” While on holiday in the USA last year, Ben toured the Caterpillar® factory where the dozers are built and was able to see some of the machines destined for Bengalla moving through the production line. **“I’VE BEEN INVOLVED WITH THE D11S SINCE I STARTED AT BENGALLA 15 YEARS AGO AND WAS CLOSELY INVOLVED IN GETTING UP THE BUSINESS CASE FOR THE PURCHASE OF THE LATEST MACHINES, SO I FEEL LIKE THEY’RE MY BABIES,” HE SAID.** “Having the opportunity to see them being manufactured was something quite special.” WesTrac NSW and ACT Executive Officer Greg Graham and General Manager Mining Jody Scott were on site at Bengalla for delivery of the first Next Gen D11.

Greg said input from longstanding clients such as New Hope Coal had been instrumental in helping WesTrac work closely with Caterpillar to incorporate a range of previous aftermarket additions as factory fitted options. “New South Wales has some of the most stringent safety compliance requirements of any mining jurisdiction in the world,” Greg said. “For that reason, WesTrac and our clients have worked closely with Caterpillar to see a number of features being incorporated into the equipment design rather than added later.” Jody said some of those options included fire suppression systems and the ground-level electrical centre. “Fire is one of the biggest safety issues on NSW mine sites and those in other states,” he said. “Incorporating these systems with OEM input is a significant advantage when it comes to robust performance and rapid response in the event of an incident.” “Likewise, if clients can opt for ground-level electrical controls to be factory fitted to new equipment, there’s a greater level of convenience and assurance than if they are fitted later.”

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HIGH ACHIEVING APPRENTICES

**FIRST-YEAR MINING APPRENTICES HAVE BEEN
RECOGNISED AT AN AWARDS CEREMONY
FOLLOWING THEIR COMPLETION OF THE NSW
MINING SKILLS PROGRAM IN MUSWELLBROOK.**

An award ceremony has recognised the achievements of 33 first-year mining apprentices who have completed the program.



Now in its 15th consecutive year, the comprehensive 18-week program complements the course delivery of machining, electrical, metal fabrication or automotive qualifications to apprentices employed by resource companies throughout the Hunter.

The program equips the apprentices with the fundamentals of each trade area, and they receive an overall education on mining, including several visits to mining and heavy industry environments.

THREE STUDENTS WERE HIGHLY PRAISED AT THE AWARD CEREMONY AT TAFE NSW SCONE. THOMAS MCDONALD, AN AGL MACQUARIE APPRENTICE FROM MUSWELLBROOK, WAS AWARDED HIGHEST ACHIEVER (DUX). WHILE PORT WARATAH COAL SERVICE APPRENTICE TYLER MCDONALD AND HITACHI MACHINERY APPRENTICE JUSTIN BROWN RECEIVED OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENTS.

Award-winner Thomas McDonald is studying a Certificate III in Mechanical Engineering at TAFE NSW Muswellbrook. He said the program had enabled him to pursue his career goals.

"I'm thrilled to have been recognised with this award and I have learned a lot of new

skills from TAFE NSW teachers who are experts in the industry.

"The program provided me with a good taster of each of the key trade areas which are important to absorb so that I can make informed career decisions."

"I HAVE COMPLETED THE TAFE NSW MUSWELLBROOK MINING SKILLS PROGRAM WITH VALUABLE KNOWLEDGE, INDUSTRY CONTACTS AND A CLEAR INSIGHT INTO HOW THINGS WORK IN THE INDUSTRY."

TAFE NSW Regional General Manager Jason Darney said the ceremony recognised all students' achievements.

“In developing the next generation of mining industry leaders, it is critical that job-seekers have access to high quality education and training.

“All 33 apprentices have excelled in their efforts to gain a strong understanding of the resources sector and the role they will play within it and we congratulate them.”

For more information about courses for a career in the mining industry visit www.tafensw.com.au or call 131 601.

PUBLISHERS OPINION

JEREMY BUCKINGHAM, YOU ARE AN IDIOT

While I think most rational people will no doubt ignore his post, the fact he has close to 100,000 followers on social media means he is out there spreading this ill-informed rubbish to a wide audience and when I saw it I was compelled to come to the defence of the workers in our industry.

What Jeremy does not realise, or if he does he has conveniently chosen to ignore, is that the life he leads is courtesy of our hardworking miners. The house he lives in, the car he drives, the food he eats. Even the device he used to make that post is thanks to the mining industry.

Contrary to popular belief, pretty much all miners are on board with energy transition. Fortunately, the great majority are significantly better educated than Jeremy and understand that transition will take a while yet.

THE VORACIOUS APPETITE OF HUMANS LIKE JEREMY AND THE REST OF US SIMPLY MEANS THAT RENEWABLES ARE NOT QUITE READY TO KEEP SOCIETY FUNCTIONING.

It will likely happen, but it will take time. In the meantime, our hard-working miners will continue to lift the billions still without power around the world out of poverty. They will also keep many economies of the world including ours, powering forward by providing reliable energy, produced to world class environmental standards.

They will also keep a great many Australian



communities along with their families and friends contributing positively to our way of life.

As for your drugs comparison, mine workers by definition of what they do have nothing to do with drugs as their livelihoods depend on it.

Every mine worker that I have the privilege of knowing are decent, hardworking people. To insinuate that because of the work they do they are responsible for killing people has to be one of the worst attacks on our industry that I have seen. Shame on you Jeremy.

I RECENTLY CAME ACROSS A FACE BOOK POST BY EX-POLITICIAN JEREMY BUCKINGHAM CALLING ALL OUR HARD-WORKING MINERS NO BETTER THAN ICE AND HEROIN DEALERS. IT MADE MY BLOOD BOIL.

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LET'S DRILL!

A WORLD FIRST SCIENTIFIC DRILLING PROGRAM IS SET TO REVEAL AUSTRALIA'S HIDDEN WEALTH.

MinEx CRC, the world's largest mineral exploration collaboration has launched a world-first scientific drilling program, the National Drilling Initiative (NDI), which will sample rocks from vast undercover and unexplored regions of Australia.

The NDI will help us to understand the evolution of our continent, provide clues about where to search for new mineral deposits and bring forward the next generation of mineral exploration technology.

Australia has a rich mining heritage and is blessed with abundant mineral resources. However, vast areas of Australia are poorly understood because prospective rocks are hidden below younger rocks, soils and sand.

In collaboration with Geoscience Australia and geological survey organisations in every state and territory, the NDI will manage and deliver a seven-year program with multiple drilling campaigns spread across the continent. Holes are now being drilled in regions to understand the geology in three dimensions.

THE NDI IS NOT AN EXPLORATION PROGRAM ITSELF; INSTEAD, IT SEEKS TO PROVIDE NEW EVIDENCE ABOUT THE EXISTENCE OF MINERALISING SYSTEMS FOR EXPLORATION COMPANIES TO ENCOURAGE THEM TO TAKE UP THE SEARCH.

"It is a necessary action by Government to lower the risk for explorers to come into previously unexplored terrain. Without this pre-competitive work, explorers will invest their money elsewhere, most probably outside of Australia," said MinEx CRC CEO, Andrew Bailey.

"Drilling is vital to mineral discovery; however, it's also expensive and consumes significant energy and water. MinEx CRC seeks to push costs down and improve the safety and efficiency of drilling."

In addition to utilising conventional drilling methods, the NDI will deploy innovative mineral exploration technologies currently being developed by MinEx CRC and sponsoring organisations.

These technologies will reduce the environmental footprint of the drill program (smaller drill site, lower water and energy usage), improve safety and deliver greater volume and detail of information at a lower cost. The NDI will provide a testing platform to refine and optimise these technologies, bringing them closer to market.

Novel drill monitoring and optimisation technology, sampling techniques, downhole geophysical sensors and low-cost Coiled Tubing (CT) drilling technology will be deployed in each of the NDI programs planned.

THE FIRST OF THE NDI DRILLING CAMPAIGNS IS ALREADY UNDERWAY IN THE NORTHERN TERRITORY. DRILLING IN NSW IS DUE TO COMMENCE IN 2022 THROUGH A COLLABORATION WITH MINEX CRC AND THE GEOLOGICAL SURVEY OF NEW SOUTH WALES (GSNSW).

GSNSW is a major participant in the NDI program, committing \$16 million to the program over 10 years. The program will focus on five areas in our state's central and far west, where metallic minerals potentially exist under a layer of younger barren geology. The areas selected are North Cobar, South Cobar, Broken Hill (Mundi), Forbes and Dubbo.

GSNSW will undertake geological mapping, airborne electromagnetic and other geophysical surveys, hydrogeochemistry, biogeochemistry, and drilling from 2019 to 2028. Drilling is planned from 2022 to 2026 and will avoid sensitive areas such as state significant aquifers and national parks.



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BEST UNDER PRESSURE

Brother John entered the 'Monastery of Silence' and the Chief Priest said, "Brother, this is a silent monastery, you are welcome here as long as you like, but you may not speak until I direct you to do so."

Brother John lived in the monastery for a full year before the Chief Priest said to him:

"Brother John, you have been here a year now, you may speak two words."

Brother John said, "Hard Bed."

"I'm sorry to hear that," the Chief Priest said. "We will get you a better bed."

The next year, Brother John was called by the Chief Priest. "You may say another two words Brother John."

"Cold Food," said Brother John, and the Chief Priest assured him that the food would be better in the future.

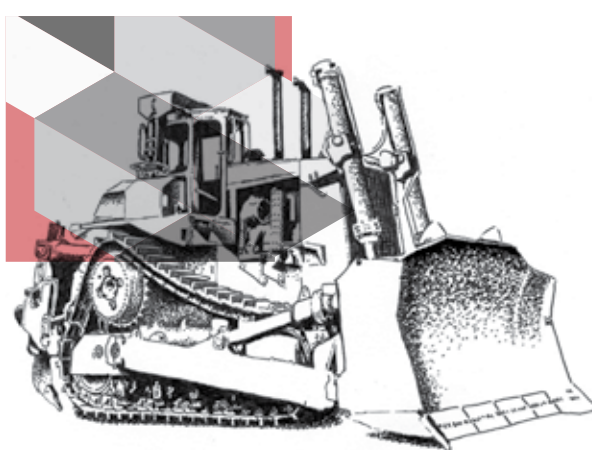
On his third anniversary at the monastery, the Chief Priest again called Brother John into his office. "Two words you may say today."

"I Quit," said Brother John.

"It is probably best," said the Chief Priest. "All you have done since you got here is complain."

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LEARN FROM THE LAWMAN

STUART BARNETT IS OUR MINING INDUSTRY'S LEADING PERSONAL
INJURY LAWYER. THIS MONTH HE HAS SOME IMPORTANT ADVICE
ABOUT YOUR WHAT HAPPENS WHEN, AS AN INJURED COALMINER,
YOU ARE ON RESTRICTED DUTIES AND YOUR ENTITLEMENTS IN
THOSE CIRCUMSTANCES.

In a lot of cases injured coal miners
end up being certified fit for suitable
duties or restricted duties following
an injury. Often the restricted duties
are for a short term whilst the worker
works their way back to full duties.
In some cases however they are long
term or permanent.

GENERALLY, THE PROCESS OF A
RETURN TO WORK ON SUITABLE
DUTIES BEGINS WITH A DISCUSSION
WITH YOUR TREATING DOCTOR. A
SIRA CERTIFICATE IS THEN ISSUED
BY THE DOCTOR. THE CERTIFICATE
WILL SET OUT THE RESTRICTIONS
APPLICABLE OR THE TYPE OF WORK
THAT THE INJURED WORKER IS FIT TO
PERFORM AND THE PERIOD IN WHICH
THOSE RESTRICTIONS WILL APPLY.
CERTIFICATES ARE USUALLY FOR
ONE MONTH AT A TIME AND REVIEW
DATE IS NORMALLY STATED.

The restrictions endorsed on the
certificate may be physical ones,
examples of which might include
limits on the weight that the worker
can lift, the type of plant that a worker
can drive and the like. It is also not
unusual for there to be restrictions
in the amount of time the worker can
perform certain tasks or to require
regular breaks. For example, working
underground for no more than 4 hours
or operating plant for less than a full
shift. In some cases it could be as
simple as being fit for full duties but
not to work overtime.

IN THE EVENT THAT THE INJURED
WORKER SUFFERS A LOSS OF
WAGES AS A RESULT OF BEING
ON RESTRICTED DUTIES THEN
THERE IS POTENTIAL TO CLAIM
COMPENSATION, THIS IS SOMETIMES
CALLED "MAKE UP PAY". IN THE
COAL MINING INDUSTRY THIS COULD
HAPPEN AS RESULT OF BEING PLACED

ON A DIFFERENT SHIFT, PERFORMING
DIFFERENT DUTIES, LOSING
PENALTIES AND ALLOWANCES OR
NOT BEING ABLE TO WORK ANY
OR AS MUCH OVERTIME AS THE
WORKER WORKED PRE-INJURY.

Weekly compensation or make up pay
can also be claimed in circumstances
where the injured coal miner is
forced, because of the injury, to leave
the industry and find more suitable
work. Often the wage available in
those circumstances are less than
those available in the industry,
thus triggering a claim.

There are limits to the amount that can
be claimed when on restricted duties.
The compensation cannot exceed the
statutory maximum applicable at
the time of the claim. This can mean
that the injured worker is not fully
compensated for their actual loss.



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

STUART BARNETT,
SLATER & GORDON LAWYERS

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BEST UNDER PRESSURE

This is the first year I'm not going
to Hawaii because of Covid.

Normally I don't
go because I'm poor.

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LADIES IN THE LIMELIGHT

WOMEN IN RESOURCES HAVE STEPPED INTO
THE LIMELIGHT IN 2020, WITH A NUMBER OF
AWARDS RECOGNISING THE TALENT, DIVERSITY
AND CALIBRE OF OUR INDUSTRY LEADERS.

Women in mining are stepping up and standing
out this year, and our industry is ensuring they are
recognised for their contribution. And of all years
for women to shine, it's amazing to see it during a
time leadership and inspiration are needed most.

NATIONAL COVID-19 RESTRICTIONS COULDN'T
STOP US FROM CELEBRATING THE OUTSTANDING
ACHIEVEMENTS OF WOMEN IN MINING IN
AUSTRALIA, AS WELL AS THE GREAT STRIDES
THE MINING INDUSTRY IN NSW AND AUSTRALIA
IS TAKING TO IMPROVE DIVERSITY.

On June 16 the NSW Minerals Council announced
the Women in Mining Award winners for 2020 in a
special online live event, and the Hunter Valley did
not disappoint. Renata Roberts, Chief Corporate
Services Officer from the Bloomfield Group took
home the Exceptional Women in Mining Award
for her commitment to employee health and
wellbeing as well as driving a number of programs
for the broader industry benefit.

PEITA HEFFERNAN IS THE 2020 OUTSTANDING
TRADE, OPERATOR OR TECHNICIAN AWARD
WINNER. PEITA IS A TRAINEE ASSESSOR AND
OPERATOR AT GLENCORE'S BULGA COAL

AND HAS EXCELLED IN HER ROLE THROUGH
HER DEDICATION TO COACHING AND
MENTORING EMPLOYEES.

The event also saw Leah Miller, Coal Handling
and Preparation Plant (CHPP) Maintenance
Delivery Superintendent with Yancoal's Mt
Thorley Warkworth mine awarded the Exceptional
Women in Mining Award. This award was very
well deserved by Leah, after she not only found
a pathway into the mining industry with no
trade or engineering qualification but went on to
absolutely excel in every role she took. Leah now
leads a large team and continues to kick goals.

Then on August 24, The Women in Industry
Awards for 2020 were held online instead of the
yearly gala dinner. The quality of nominations
made it a competitive year, but another one of our
former Hunter Valley mining legends took out
the Excellence in Mining Award. Although Sarah
Withell has now made the move to Whitehaven
Coals Executive Team in Sydney, she has left
an inspiring legacy here in the Hunter Valley
following her role with BHP.

Most recently, winners of the BHP 2020 Women

in Resources National Awards were announced
in an online award ceremony on September 16,
broadcast by TV news anchor and journalist, Chris
Bath. Renata Roberts was again recognised for
her leadership across a number of areas and her
strength and dedication to employees and the
community throughout her career.

Being able to recognise these women with such
awards is significant in our efforts to one day
have equal gender representation in a typically
male dominated industry. Whilst we are seeing
more and more women come on board and climb
the ranks with 40,000 women out of a 243,000
workforce reported working directly in Australian
mining in 2019, there's still a ways to go in
achieving 50/50 representation. These awards take
us another step closer.

WE ALSO HAVE TO GIVE A SHOUT OUT TO ALL
OF THE WOMEN WHO WERE NOMINATED AND
THE FINALISTS. MANY OF THESE WOMEN WERE
NOMINATED FOR MORE THAN ONE AWARD
AND EVEN TOOK HOME A FEW AWARDS
IN DIFFERENT CATEGORIES. YOU'RE ALL
WINNERS IN OUR BOOKS.



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IMAGINE A RURAL HUNTER VALLEY MINE SITE BEING A MECCA FOR SURFING. ARTIFICIAL SURF BREAKS HAVE GONE FROM A PIPE BARREL DREAM TO REALITY AND THE DESIGN AND TECHNOLOGY HAS BECOME A COMMERCIALY VIABLE REALITY. LET'S BUILD ONE ON MINE LAND NEXT TO SINGLETON.

Up Yeppoon way, an ex-mine engineer has brought his unique wave pool design to life. Others around the country like URBNSURF in Melbourne are killing it as tourist attractions. The Surf Lakes website states, "Surf Lakes' vision is to make the gift of surfing and the ocean experience accessible to all, and our motto is "Everybody Gets a Break". With that in mind, Surf Lakes exists to bring value to the community and shareholders via the provision of world-class surfing waves and surfing related entertainment in safe, family-friendly facilities. Surf Lakes' is proudly Australian owned, designed by a team of experts who are passionate about this exciting project. Our aim is to spread the thrill of surfing and while doing so develop healthy and happy communities."

THE ECONOMIC TRANSFORMATION POTENTIAL OF AN ARTIFICIAL WAVE POOL FOR SURFING WOULD BRING HUGE TOURISM BENEFITS TO SINGLETON. WE ALREADY HAVE SURFING AUSTRALIA PREPARED TO LOOK AT POTENTIALLY BEING INVOLVED.

The Yeppoon lake uses technology akin to a giant

pebble being dropped in a still pond. It's massive and can take 1000's a day surfing a variety of breaks from pro to beginner.

Where we live is perfectly strategically positioned to develop a major facility of this kind that would significantly tap into Sydney, Newcastle and the adjacent 3 million or so per year tourists that come to the Hunter.

On top of that, our local mining industry would significantly add to being able to achieve a project like this in terms of donation of prime land, engineering, environmental and construction. I would doubt there would be a better location nationally with the talent and expertise to help bring this to life.

SINGLETON SUFFERS SOMEWHAT BY A SINGULAR COAL MINING IDENTITY AND A PROJECT LIKE THIS COULD REDEFINE IT AND BRING ADDITIONAL ECONOMIC SECURITY. ALL WHILE WORKING PARALLEL TO PRODUCTIVE MINING OPERATIONS.

I have no doubt the development costs would materialise relatively easily as well with who we can tap into already.

Developing something like this in concert with Surfing Australia as a potential endorser / industry partner would help first and foremost to get it right, but further to signal to key stakeholders the seriousness of the proposal.

It's a swell idea, let's get the waves rolling to make this happen.

OPINION

'LET THE ENERGY FLOW'



A LITTLE MORE THAN SIX YEARS AGO, THE ABBOTT GOVERNMENT REPEALED THE GILLARD GOVERNMENT'S SOPHISTICATED AND LEGISLATED CARBON-PRICING MECHANISM. IN DOING SO HE GUARANTEED THE "CARBON WARS" WOULD REMAIN A FEATURE OF THE AUSTRALIAN POLITICAL LANDSCAPE FOR AT LEAST ANOTHER DECADE. THAT SUITS SCOTT MORRISON JUST FINE.

Many people cheered, believing they'd dodged a bullet. But the reality is, if Gillard's architecture had remained in place, today's energy prices and carbon pollution would be lower, manufacturing job numbers would be higher, the electricity grid more reliable, and like the GST, people would barely know it was there. Liddell would still be shutting down, but no earlier than planned. Bayswater, Eraring, and Vales Point would still be operating too.

Investors would be making good returns off a more modern and predictable energy system, resources companies would still be exporting our coal, gas and iron ore. Most important, the "carbon wars" would be behind us and environmental activists would be starved political oxygen.

SINCE 2014, COALITION PRIME MINISTERS HAVE BEEN TELLING US THE POLICY ARCHITECTURE THEY'VE HAD IN PLACE WILL BE SUFFICIENT TO KEEP ENERGY PRICES DOWN, REDUCE CARBON OUTPUT, AND TO KEEP OUR ELECTRICITY GRID STABLE AND RELIABLE. BUT DESPITE THAT, THEY KEEP CHANGING DIRECTION. THEY PROPOSED A NATIONAL ENERGY GUARANTEE (NEG), A CLEAN ENERGY TARGET (CET), AND AN EMISSIONS

INTENSITY SCHEME (EIS). UNABLE TO SECURE INTERNAL PARTY SUPPORT, EACH OF THOSE CARBON POLICIES IS NOW HISTORY.

Last week's series of Government announcements are an admission that six years have been lost on the energy reform front and Scott Morrison is now scrambling to fix the consequences of his inaction. But that is no reason to oppose what he's doing. COVID-19 means the cost of his inaction will now be greater. A scramble and catch-up it must now be, free of ideology and free of the stubbornness that got us here.

After telling us for six years farmers can participate in the carbon market, the Coalition Government has now admitted they can't. Labor should let Scott Morrison finally fix it. After Scrapping the Rudd Government's \$1.7 billion Carbon Capture & Storage program, Scott Morrison wants to right his wrong. Labor should not stand in his way.

Labor may not in every case like the way Scott Morrison plans to go about righting his wrongs. But there is a case for not letting the perfect stand in the way of the possible. The first recession in 30 years and one million unemployed – on Scott Morrison's watch – strengthens the case for facilitating his re-think.

As Liddell withdraws from the market, we need to put more "firming power" back in. Gas, pumped hydron and battery will all play a role and we can do it all right here in the Hunter region and remain the powerhouse of NSW. That's a good thing.

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

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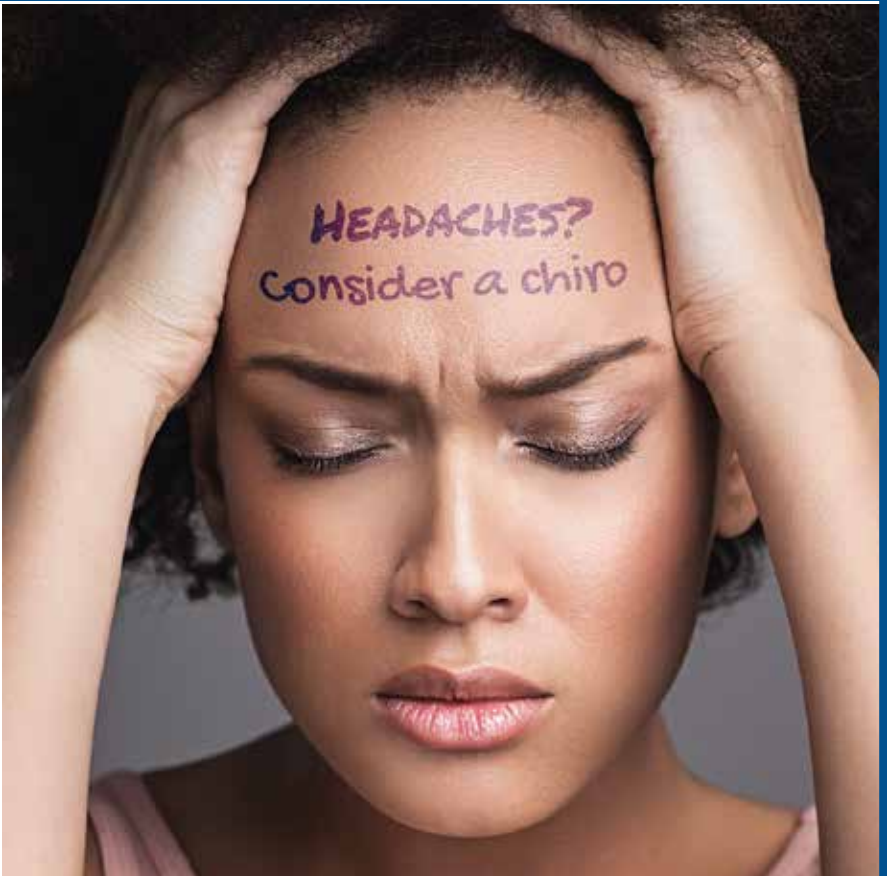
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FAREWELL PAT

RETIRED COAL MINER AND LOCAL HISTORY LOVER PAT QUINN WAS A LONGTIME SUPPORTER OF @ THE COALFACE. AS MOST OF YOU WILL KNOW, A LITTLE OVER A YEAR AGO PAT PASSED AWAY. SADLY, WE DID NOT HEAR ABOUT HIS PASSING UNTIL RECENTLY. ALTHOUGH IT COMES LATE, WE PAY TRIBUTE TO A MAN THAT WE ADMIRE GREATLY.

I first met Pat not long after starting with @ The Coalface. Pat was loquacious and friendly and I would happily sit and listen to him reminisce about his days in the industry. It didn't take me long to realise that here was a rich source of fodder for the magazine. Our very first history page was created to showcase the gear that Pat and his mates used to take underground at Liddell State in the 50 and 60's which he had lovingly kept. Pat then went on to help us with many more stories. But it wasn't just Pat's incredible knowledge of our area's history and mining heritage that made a lasting impact on me. Pat epitomised what it was to be a miner. Hard working, loyal, genuine. He made me proud to be a voice for the industry. But let's go back to the start. Pat came to Singleton in 1948 at the age of 10 and from that day Singleton would remain the place he would call home. Only a couple days after his 16th birthday he started at Liddell State Coal mine as

apprentice electrical fitter. While he had wanted to be a teacher, his parents encouraged him to get a trade and even at that age a sense of responsibility was forefront in everything he did. Though if Pat was going to do something he was going to do it his way. He knew the State Mine was looking for an apprentice carpenter but he wasn't keen on that so instead he took it upon himself to find out who the engineer was and ride over to his house on his bike. "I hear you're looking for an apprentice engineer", says Pat. "No, we aren't." was the reply. But lo and behold a couple of days later the engineer shows up at Pat's door and tells him he's hired. No doubt impressed with Pat's go-getter attitude. Gaining a trade in the mining industry in those days was hard work. An apprenticeship was five years and the study for TAFE you did at your own expense. The pay wasn't great either, with Pat bringing home \$4.25 a week. But as Pat said, you knew it would pay off in the end.



PAT WITH THE LIDDELL STATE MINE SHIELD WHICH IS PROUDLY DISPLAYED AT SINGLETON MUSEUM

AND IT DID FOR PAT. HE STAYED AT LIDDELL STATE MINE FOR 18 YEARS AND THOSE YEARS WORKING UNDERGROUND WAS WHERE HE LEARNED FIRST-HAND THE INCREDIBLE BONDS THAT ARE MADE BETWEEN MINERS. HE WAS THERE FOR THE TRANSITION TO CUMMOCK COLLIERY AND WAS THERE FOR THE WELL-KNOWN FIRE IN 1971 THAT ULTIMATELY LED TO THE CLOSURE OF THE MINE AND THE END OF HIS UNDERGROUND JOURNEY.

Next for Pat was a short stint at Liddell Colliery before moving to Hebden Opencut for 9 years before his final move to Mt Thorley where he stayed until retiring after 41 years in the industry. It was at Mt Thorley that Pat got to up his education. The engineer in charge left for Qld and Pat had only a few weeks to pass his engineers exams so he could be appointed electrical engineer in charge. He was proud to say he was the head leco in charge of everything from light bulbs to draglines. When I would speak with Pat about his long career there was always one thing that shone through everything he said. Mateship. He would boast about the friends he made that remained mates for his whole life. He would regale me with stories of what they would get up to when he worked at the State Mine. The workforce was mainly locals and they socialised together outside of work and the stories Pat would fondly recount often involved a laugh. As he would say, in those days everyone had a laugh with each other, but it was always in good fun. But it wasn't always good times, it was a hard and dangerous job. I remember Pat telling me, "You won't find a single retired mineworker who hasn't seen the worst of the job or has been on site when someone lost their life or a terrible accident has occurred." When I asked him why they would keep going back he looked at me like I was being stupid. "You always showed back up for your next shift because you never considered doing anything different." To spend 41 years in an industry allowed Pat to see so many changes. He was especially pleased about the safety practices that he saw improve over the years. When he started not even boots were compulsory, no one knew first aid and there was no such thing as an induction. The work was hands on, you walked down the pit and out of the pit. You would never see a fat coal miner back in those days he used to say. Pat married young in 1957, and had two children, Christine and Mark, with his first wife. But it didn't work out and in the early 60s he met Ann and they had a son, Matthew. He was so very proud of his whole family. A good education was important to him and he was so very proud of his kids and grandkids achievements. **WHEN PAT RETIRED, A NEW LIFE STARTED FOR HIM, ONE WHICH QUICKLY TURNED FROM INTEREST TO PASSION TO LOVE. PAT AND ANN JOINED THE SINGLETON HISTORICAL SOCIETY AND FOR THE NEXT 20 YEARS DEVOTED COUNTLESS HOURS TO PRESERVING THE HISTORY OF SINGLETON.** Also a member of the local Probus



PAT WITH HIS BELOVED WIFE ANN

he would joke, "Being retired means I'm busy 8 days a week!" Ann shares the story how at the end of the Retired Mineworkers Association 50th dinner someone came up to Pat after his speech and asked him, "where can I buy the book." But there was no book, it was Pat's encyclopedia memory. Never one to rely on notes and never one to run out of things to say. If he didn't know the answer to a question you could bet he would soon find it. A true lover of history, a dedicated husband and father, and truly generous in giving his time to community organisations, it's no surprise that Pat was a Citizen of the Year Nominee. It's just one of the many accolades he deservedly received. Ann and Pat were married on September 6th, 1969. In 2019, on their 50th wedding anniversary, it also became the day that would be forever remembered as the day Pat passed away. Pat, although you are no longer here with us your stories will stay with us forever.

Club, Pat went on to develop town tours, escorting visiting historical societies and clubs around the streets of Singleton, regaling them with stories. He was always busy organising trips, guest speaking, researching and conducting the history tours. As



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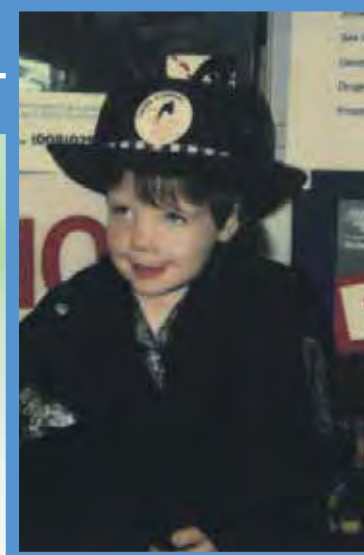
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THEN AND NOW

WE'RE BACK WITH ANOTHER MONTH OF GETTING TO KNOW OUR INDUSTRY LEADERS AND WHAT LED THEM TO THE MINING INDUSTRY. HERE'S THE STORIES OF SOME OF OUR @ THE COALFACE MATES.



CASSANDRA WALKER

GENERAL MANAGER, NORTHWEST MINING

I grew up in Muswellbrook and went to Muswellbrook High School. In 2008 I was offered employment at a local parts company; I always had a fascination for blue collar work and was eager to learn. Then in 2013 I was offered to do a Diploma of Business to further grow my management skills. Once completed, I still wanted to learn more, so I undertook another Diploma in IT & Web Development. I soon realised I didn't like that field so much and decided to go back to Uni to undertake a Bachelor of Business. 2014 was a busy year – I married my now husband, accepted a new job at Northwest Mining (NWM) and

applied at Uni for my Bachelor of Business and studied via distance education in my spare time. In 2015 I took on a HR role at NWM and developed my skills through university and practical learning. I really value learning and development, so in 2018 I applied at another university to undergo my Masters Of Business which I have successfully completed in August 2020 and I was promoted to General Manager in October last year. I have had many mentors to help me excel both in my professional life and personal. Northwest has been an amazing company to work for and the possibilities are always endless.



BRAD KEBBLEWHITE

GENERAL MANAGER, SOLID ENGINEERING

Where do I start? I've had a very diverse, exciting and successful working life to date and my plan is for it to stay that way! I started my working life as a 13-year-old paperboy, before progressing onto McDonalds, and worked one day a week at a local real estate office doing "work experience". In the January 2000 after completing my HSC I started my first full time job as a real estate agent. It was at this young age I set a goal to be a successful business mentor myself in the future. My real estate career saw me become a business owner for the first time when I went into partnership with a colleague. Newly married and with baby number one a career change was on the cards. For the next seven or

eight years I worked seven days a week. My 9-5 was industrial sales and my nights and weekends were running a new business my wife and started that was a DJ, party & wedding business. Around 2010 I sold my business and moved into a sales manager then operations manager role with a local mining supplier. I really loved the mining industry and the comradery shown by all of those working in it. After working with some small to medium businesses for around 12 months, I took a long-term consulting role with Solid Engineering in 2017 and went on to become the General Manager, a director and a shareholder. I am looking forward to many more happy, successful and exciting years with the team at Solid Engineering.



RHYEN SLANEY

OPERATIONS MANAGER, HMS GROUP

Like many, I started off from relatively humble beginnings. Growing up in Maitland, NSW and having a love for anything mechanical. After HSE, I secured a fitting apprenticeship with Nepean Longwall, eventually making my way into a mechanical designer role. At 22, I was fortunate enough to be assigned design team leader for a new longwall being supplied to the then Glencore, Tahmoor Mine. This opportunity early into my working career engraved my

passion for working with end users to provide mechanical design solutions. Fast forward to the present, I am now the Operations Manager at HMS Group, providing safe, ergonomic design solutions to industries across Australia. Being such a dynamic workplace, I am able to enjoy working across all areas of the business, from working on the tools, designing, visiting clients and running the day to day operations.



SIMON TROETH

INDUSTRY POSITIONING AND ENGAGEMENT, MINERALS COUNCIL OF AUSTRALIA (MCA)

I am proud of my origins on a farm in south-western Victoria, where my 82-year-old dad still raises cattle and sheep and breeds a few racehorses. I grew up on a horse (although mostly falling off George the ill-tempered Shetland pony in the photo) before graduating to mechanical horsepower as soon as I could get my licence! My career started in journalism before taking me on a colourful journey on life's rich tapestry across politics, consultancy, industry groups and even a few months as a fibreglass labourer. In my role at the MCA, it's a great thing to be able

to help represent Australia's extraordinary mining industry and the people who work in it. At the MCA I lead a team which looks after membership, campaigns, media, social media, partnerships and engagement. One of the best parts of my job is getting out on site in NSW, the Pilbara and Queensland and meeting the awesome men and women who work in the industry. Mining is great for Australia and our regional communities in so many ways and the people in the industry are the best! Thanks to the Coalface team for your support.



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SUPPLIER INSIDER

COOLON LED LIGHTING

Who are you and what do you do?

My name is Mark Kiswa and I look after New South Wales as a part of Coolon LED Lighting Team. With years of experience in lighting, I provide value to clients through my thorough approach considering all factors in any given project.

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

Whilst building my knowledge on business through my university degree I was working in the lighting industry where I identified my passion for lighting. Upon finishing my degree, I was lucky enough to land a job in the best lighting company in the industry.

Describe a typical day at 'The office'.

My office is every mine site all over NSW, so no workday is ever the same! Also, assessing lighting works best in the darkness, so it's more of a typical night at work. It's a mix of travelling to various industrial sites from gold to coal mines and meeting great people who work there. If I'm not on site - I'm behind my desk preparing individual lighting designs to find the best solutions for the application.

What's the best thing about your business?

Me! Kidding. It's being able to make a difference. After over 30 years of experience, hundreds of visited industrial sites and thousands of fittings working successfully in the field, we can really see the difference Coolon lighting makes. It improves the safety, efficiency, and performance of any site. We always build with the customer in mind, whether it is reducing downtime, saving money, or improving safety. This is one of the main reasons we are a preferred supplier to many industrial sites in NSW and nation-wide.

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

We are working on a state-of-the-art smart lighting system, which will be a ground-breaking technology that redefines the qualities of industrial lighting.

What is the biggest opportunity for your business right now?

We've been exporting internationally for a while, but the scale of international orders is rapidly expanding, especially to Europe, Asia and South America. We are excited to show the world what we Aussies have to offer!

What are the biggest challenges facing your business?

Covid-19 has limited our site visits, but we managed to adapt and keep

delivering the outstanding quality our clients have come to expect. It's been a privilege to be able to support the Australian mining industry through these anxious times.

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

Coolon has been working with Australian mining for over 30 years, 25 of them in the Valley. After all this time spent on constant site visits and talking to you, we've come to understand the industry like no one else and engineer our luminaires for your tailored needs and wants.

Community or other causes close to its heart and values?

Lighting pollution has been a large talking point in the Hunter Valley with neighbouring communities being close to mine sites. So we meticulously plan the lighting designs to be the best of both worlds: give the best light levels to the site and minimize the lighting pollution!

How big is the crew in the Hunter Valley?

I am the key point of contact in the Hunter Valley, supported by an innovative team at head office with over 100 employees ready to assist.

What's the best thing about your job?

Travelling all over NSW and getting to know amazing people I would have never otherwise met. My role allows me to educate colleagues, engineers and end-users to improve their understanding of the importance of high-quality lighting. It is inspiring to work for a company who stayed true to their original direction despite opportunities to move manufacturing out of Australia.

The worst thing?

Driving for 5 hours one-way only to learn the visit has been postponed.

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

Adapting to the circumstances of COVID has been interesting... for both myself and my Labrador Bruno. With video meetings becoming a regular occurrence I often find Bruno is attempting to introduce himself as an unannounced special guest whilst I am halfway through convincing clients I am a highly trusted lighting expert. I am not sure if recent projects won are a result of my skills or Bruno's special appearance, but I am pleased to announce we are now a package deal.

Anything else you want to say?

We are a proud Australian Manufacturer. Every single luminaire is engineered and manufactured in Australia and in times like these it is crucial to support Australian jobs and economy where possible.

Who are you and what do you do?

Sam Barnes, East Coast Service Manager at Banlaw.

Any nicknames good or bad?

Barnsy, pretty standard nickname. Luckily I haven't been labelled with anything embarrassing, well nothing that has stuck anyway.

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

I first started with Banlaw in 2011 as a field service technician working both interstate and overseas in places such as Asia and West Africa until I took the role as service manager at the end of 2018. I've had many challenges along the way but that's one of the things I like about it as it keeps me excited to come to work every day. Banlaw has always supported me in my career development, since 2018 I have completed a diploma of leadership and management and I'm currently taking part in the Hunternet Future Leaders program.

What's a usual day at work entail?

I've learnt to come to work with an open mind at Banlaw, every day is different and it can change in a blink of an eye. But usually it consists of coffee, meetings, quoting, strategic planning, organising my teams work and managing customer repairs/breakdowns.

How big is the crew?

The East Coast Service team is a group of 6 technicians.

What's the best thing about your job?

During my travels for work I have had the opportunity to visit the most amazing places both in Australia and overseas that I would never would have went to if it wasn't for work. West Africa was an amazing experience and I even had the chance to take some time off and travel Europe on the way home.

SAM MY MINING LIFE Barnes

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

Nearly all our products come into our workshop at Gateshead as raw material and leave as a complete part, tested and ready to use in the field. There are not many companies that still engineer, machine, manufacture, assemble and test all in Australia let alone the Hunter region and it's something I'm extremely proud of.

The worst thing?

So much of my work is being in front of a computer and I miss being out on site and in front of the customer.

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

A few years ago I was on a job in Gunnedah staying in a camp up there and one of the guys

I was working with ate so much food for dinner when we got back home the next day he was in so much pain he ended up going to hospital in an ambulance. After he got rid of a few to many pork chops from the night before he was all good, doctor didn't have to lift a finger.

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

As a kid I always imagined I would be in a hands on roll requiring physical work, that's what I love doing in my spare time. I could never imagine being in a position based in an office and actually enjoy it but I've found myself excited by the opportunity to take ownership of a department and drive success from a team while given the freedom to achieve business goals.

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

Every time I walked out the door to ride my bike "don't hurt yourself!" I came back nearly every time with a new battle scar.

Family?

I've only got a small family, but they have always been supportive and encouraged me to be ambitious and chase my dreams. Sometimes you need a little push to step into something your unsure about and that's how I've ended up where I am today.

What do you do in your downtime?

I love getting out and away in my spare time and enjoy everything outdoors, camping, dirt bikes, fishing, 4wding and generally travelling around exploring new places.

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

My apprenticeship was my first ever job and Banlaw is only the second job I have ever had apart from running the milk on a mate's dad's milk run when I was younger.



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@ THE COALFACE | OCTOBER-NOVEMBER 2020 23

HAVE YOU CHECKED ON YOUR MATES?

THIS YEAR HAS BEEN AN ABSOLUTE SHOCKER AND IT'S NO SECRET THAT IT HAS CERTAINLY TAKEN A TOLL ON ALL OF OUR MENTAL HEALTH IN SOME WAY.

R U OK? Day this year was more important than ever, and our mining companies and leaders went above and beyond to encourage employees to have meaningful conversations and connect with those around them. Let's remember to take care and reach out to our mates every day of the year.



BANLAW

To start the conversation, Banlaw grabbed some delish donuts for the team to enjoy, whilst taking time out to ask work mates R U OK?

"As you can see from our cheeky photo's, the donuts were a hit and a way for all areas of the business to mingle and remind staff the importance of prioritising their mental health and looking out for those around them," said Internal Sales Coordinator, Lauren Tonks.

With the combined efforts of their Newcastle and Perth offices, Banlaw successfully raised \$216 for suicide prevention.



NORTHWEST MINING

The team at Northwest Mining started the day bright and early with a mental health toolbox talk for R U OK? Day and encouraged the guys to participate by wearing their TradeMutt shirts – a workwear brand, with the mission to make the invisible issue of mental health impossible to ignore. 5% of TradeMutt's profits go towards 'This is a Conversation Starter Foundation'.

This led into a BBQ lunch for everyone, cooked by the company owner Shayne Clark. "We discussed some statistics on mental health and chatted about how to start conversations if you're concerned about someone's mental health," said Shayne.

"Everyone was keen to be involved and engaged in the conversations, it was a great day."



MCLANAHAN

This year with COVID-19 restrictions in place the McLanahan team's participation in R U OK? Day was a little different compared with previous years when they have hosted an R U OK? Day ambassador at their Newcastle premises.

Still wanting to make a difference, McLanahan donated over \$2,000 to Craig Clarkes in his Coals to Newcastle Ocean Swim to raise money for Beyond Blue.

"Wow what an amazing generous donation from the McLanahan team. Hugely appreciate your kind praise and lifting the fundraising campaign over the \$30,000 mark. Thanks heaps. I will be in touch."

All staff members received an R U OK? lanyard and a yellow iced cupcake with the R U OK? flag.



DK HEAVY PLANT SERVICES

RU OK? – that is what everyone was asking in the DK Heavy Plant Services (DKHPS) Workshop on September 10.

Too often people struggle in silence, do not know what resources are available, or even where to start when talking about their mental health.

Sue Milton, General Manager of Upper Hunter Community Services, was able to share with the DKHPS workforce simple advice and resources on these issues and whilst together enjoyed a great afternoon tea and conversation.



MORGAN ENGINEERING

The R U OK day message is important to Morgan Engineering, but not only just one day a year. Mental Health is important to the Morgan Engineering workforce all year round. This year R U OK? Day coincided with the company's fortnightly Toolbox talk, and Business Development Manager Graham Sutton said that everyone got involved with the conversation.

"It was a great opportunity to discuss what mental health means to our company," said Graham.

"With many of employees on shift work and having to spend a lot of time away from their family and friends, it's important for the whole Morgan Engineering team to be there for each other and check on their mates."

BENGALLA

The Bengalla Team celebrated R U OK? Day this year, focusing on teaching people that there is more to say after the initial R U OK? It is important to keep the conversation going and check in on your work mates.

To support the initiative employees enjoyed a coffee and a Kit Kat before and after shift to start the conversation with their work mates. The four important steps include:

- Ask R U OK?
- Listen without judgement
- Encourage action
- Check in

It was an opportunity for team mates to check in on each other and it was well supported from all of site.



MACH ENERGY

R U OK Day saw Tom, Chloe and Matt take the opportunity to catch up over coffee and acknowledge that a conversation could change a life.

There was discussion around keeping an eye on your mates, actually asking R U OK? and what's next after you've asked the question. The team remembered there's more to say after R U OK? such as;

- How are you travelling?
- You don't seem yourself – I am here if you want to talk about anything.
- Have you been feeling this way for a while?
- Have you thought about talking to your doctor or a health professional?
- Just wanted to check in and see how you're doing.

PERSAS

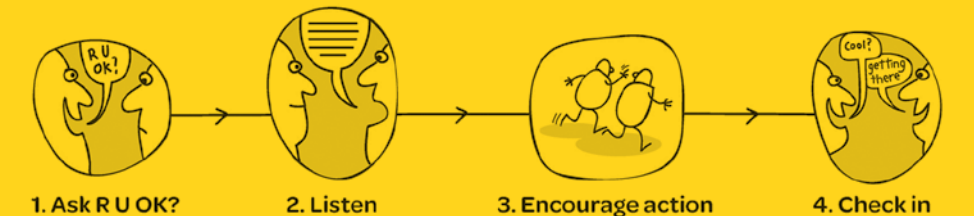
The PERSAS team enjoyed each other's company during a BBQ and discussed the benefits of R U OK? Day, while social distancing of course.

One thing that was emphasised on the day was not waiting until the next R U OK? day to have open discussions regarding each other's wellbeing, instead keeping it as an open page where employees can talk to each other at any time.



Ask R U OK?

Start a conversation using these 4 steps

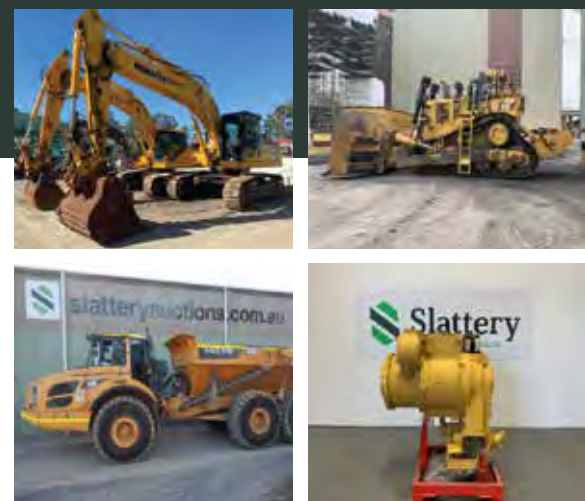


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THIS MONTH THE COMPLETE PARTS AND @ THE COALFACE \$500 COMMUNITY GIFT GOES TO THE SINGLETON HISTORICAL SOCIETY & MUSEUM.

The Singleton Historical Society & Museum was formed in 1960 by locals dedicated to preserving the rich history of the Singleton district. Today, its volunteers continue to serve the community and are deserving recipients of this donation.

Located in Burdekin Park, the building that houses the Museum has its own long history. From 1840 it was a lock-up and gaoler's rooms, then from 1899 until 1941 it served as the offices of Singleton Council.

In 1961 the newly formed Society shared a couple of rooms with the Singleton Brownies in the building. Then as the years passed and they begin to amass more and more items they took over more of the building to meet their needs. In April 1970 the Museum was given the use of the gaol cells which were set up as display areas and opened to the public.

THEN 1970S SAW SOME BIG CHANGES AS THE DISTRICT EXPERIENCED THE GROWTH OF THE COAL INDUSTRY. THE HISTORY OF SINGLETON WAS CHANGING.



THE SINGLETON HISTORICAL SOCIETY & MUSEUM IS RUN BY A DEDICATED GROUP OF LOCAL VOLUNTEERS.

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An agreement with the Northern Agricultural Association in 2010 enabled the Museum to share the cost of restoring a damaged historic sheep pavilion at the Showground. The bigger farm machinery was moved to the Showground and then in 2015 the Showground

pavilion was extended.

Today the Museum is home to an abundance of interesting artifacts including Singleton's first ambulance cart, a convict bell embedded in a tree trunk, handicrafts and furniture. The Rural Museum at the Showground showcases a huge range of heavy rural farm machinery dating back to the last century. There is truly something to interest everyone and we recommend that you take the time to visit and learn about the rich and fascinating history of our district.

YOU CAN ALSO FIND OUT MORE ABOUT THE MUSEUM ON THEIR FACEBOOK PAGE OR WEBSITE WWW.SINGLETONMUSEUM.COM.AU

The Museum is open on Tuesdays from 10am to 1pm and on Saturdays & Sundays from 12pm to 4pm. The Rural Museum is open by arrangement.

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STUDENTS HAVE A YARN

ST JAMES' MUSWELLBROOK WELCOMES A NEWLY CONSTRUCTED YARNING CIRCLE THANKS TO THE GENEROSITY OF MALABAR RESOURCES.

Fully funded by Malabar, the Yarning Circle will give students and teachers at St James' Primary School in Muswellbrook the opportunity to sit together and enhance their understanding of Indigenous culture.

A Yarning Circle is an important part of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture and a harmonious and collaborative way of communicating. It promotes respectful relationships and provides an open environment to share cultural knowledge.

In August Malabar designed and installed the Yarning Circle which involved the placement of more than 5000kg of sandstone blocks.

Malabar's Manager of Health, Safety, Environment and Community, Donna McLaughlin said, "We are delighted to continue building our relationship with St James' and other schools in the region by providing resources that help their specific needs."

"We look forward to seeing the Yarning Circle develop as native plants and artwork are added to the space, which will further facilitate cultural learning and understanding."

The new space was enthusiastically received by students. "Thank you for this amazing and

respectful area where we can teach others about our customs and traditions," said year 6 student Tushawn.

St James' Aboriginal Education Teacher, Tania Thompson expressed how thankful they are to have a designated place for our CREST Crew to meet and yarn.

"WHEN WE MEET AS A WHOLE GROUP FROM K-6 AROUND THE YARNING CIRCLE, IT GIVES STUDENTS THE OPPORTUNITY TO BOND, FORM STRONG TIES, AND UNITE AS ONE MOB," SHE SAID.

"Communicating, sharing and problem solving as a team are some of the extremely important life skills that we refine when meeting for Yarning Circle."

"We learn to listen to one another and to respect the ideas and opinions of others regardless of their age, as we all have wisdom to share."

St James' will use the Yarning Circle as an extension of their classrooms and teaching practice to foster knowledge of Indigenous culture by engaging both indigenous and non-indigenous students and teachers.



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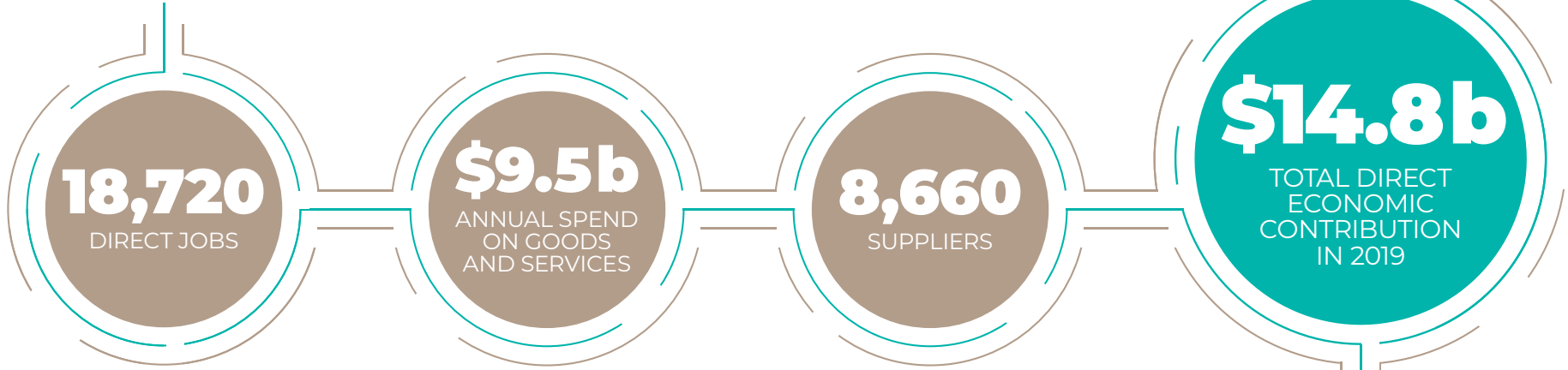
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To see how our contribution adds up, visit www.glencore.com.au

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NSW LEADS NATION WITH NEW FACILITY

AUSTRALIA'S ONLY INDEPENDENT UNDERGROUND MINE EXPLOSIVES TESTING FACILITY HAS OPENED AT FREEMAN'S WATERHOLE NSW.

Paving the way for improvements in mine safety and innovation in the mining industry, the new testing facility is under the control of the NSW Resources Regulator's Mine Safety Technology Centre (RR). The facility, which is discreetly built on the site of a quarry to reduce impact on the surrounding environment, will be used to determine if locally made explosives are viable and meet vital safety requirements to protect the wellbeing of workers.

DEPUTY PREMIER AND MINISTER FOR REGIONAL NSW JOHN BARILARO RECENTLY LAUNCHED THE FIRST ROUND OF EXPLOSIVES TESTING AT THE NEW FACILITY AND STATED THAT IT POSITIONS NSW AS THE NATION'S LEADER IN MINE SAFETY DEVELOPMENT.

"Currently, there are few explosives that can be used in underground coal mines and these kinds of explosives have a very short shelf life, they don't travel well and need to be developed and tested locally," Mr Barilaro said.

The RR is responsible for regulating the mining industry in NSW, which includes work, health safety matters through to environmental issues such as mine rehabilitation.

Anthony Keon, Executive Director of the Resources Regulator said the new testing facility is critical to ensure that people can have confidence in the materials and explosives being used underground. "The establishment of this facility

will ensure that we're not stifling innovation," said Anthony.

"IT WILL GIVE INDUSTRY AND EXPLOSIVE MANUFACTURERS ACCESS TO THIS TEST WHICH HAS PREVIOUSLY BEEN UNAVAILABLE FOR ALMOST DECADES."

"There are limited facilities of this type throughout the world and because of the limited shelf life on these products we really need something locally based in order to open up those opportunities

ignition of methane."

Geoff Slater, Manager at Mine Safety Technology Centre said the development of explosives specifically for underground coal mines started back in the 1890s at the Greenwich Naval Facility London. Early tests used a small bore cannon and this influenced majority of test facilities since that time.

"The facility at Freemans Waterhole uses concrete culverts and water



for NSW companies and for the NSW mining industry."

"What the test is trying to do is ensure that explosives when used properly don't ignite methane; and we've seen through numerous incidents throughout the world and even recently in Queensland the ramifications of when there isn't an

bags to reduce the noise emissions during testing," said Geoff.

"Extensive computer simulations were used to determine the best optimum use of the water." Test rounds at the facility will be scheduled to meet the needs of industry, at up to two to three times per year, restricted to work hours on weekdays.

DON'T SWEAT IT

AS IT STARTS TO WARM UP IT'S TIME TO START THINKING ABOUT HOW TO STAY HYDRATED SO THIS MONTH WE BRING YOU THE LATEST IN HYDRATION INNOVATION.

Recently I sat down with two researchers from The University of Newcastle who have spent the last three decades researching in the areas of chronic fatigue, sweat, protein, amino acids and metabolism.

Among the many things Professors Hugh Dunstan and Tim Roberts have been studying are the causes of fatigue resulting from exercise and sweating and the role played by amino acids in the recovery process.

Amino acids are the building blocks for protein and protein provides the fuel we need to function. Hugh explained how when you are deficient in essential amino acids you enter into a catabolic state which can have many adverse effects on your body.

"If your body doesn't metabolise enough protein from the food you eat it will instead begin to break down muscle. Depending on how hard you exert yourself it can lead to muscle soreness, fatigue, reduced performance and a longer recovery time," said Hugh.

"DURING OUR RESEARCH WE FOUND THAT SWEAT CONTAINS SIX KEY AMINO ACIDS. THESE AMINO ACIDS ARE LOST AT A MUCH HIGHER RATE THAN OTHERS DURING EXERCISE. WHILE THEY CAN BE REPLACED THROUGH NORMAL METABOLISM, THIS PROCESS TAKES A LONG TIME. MEANWHILE, THE EFFECTS OF FATIGUE AND SORENESS HAVE STARTED TO KICK IN."

Using their many years of research they looked at how they could replace these amino acids instantly and by doing so reduce fatigue, improve performance and aid recovery. Their solution: the creation of a customised blend of amino acids and electrolytes.

Through their company InnovaAte, Tim and Hugh have patented their first two products, ElectrAAte and OptimaAte. They are the first company to bring these amino acids to the market in the hopes to benefit everyone. Because it's not just for

those who exercise. Whether working outdoors on a hot day, sitting in an air-conditioned office or lying by the pool, we are all losing sweat even when we don't notice it. Especially during the warmer months.

"We saw through our studies that roughly 80% of the general population were in a catabolic state and could potentially benefit from replacing amino acids," said Hugh. "By replacing these amino acids as we are losing them it can help with fatigue, performance and even general aches and pains."

AS MANY OF OUR LONG TIME READERS OF THIS HEALTH PAGE WILL KNOW, I'M SOMETHING OF A SCEPTIC WHEN IT COMES TO SUPPLEMENTS. BUT I DO LOVE GOOD SCIENCE AND THAT'S EXACTLY WHAT'S BEHIND THIS PRODUCT. HOWEVER, NOT CONTENT TO JUST LOOK AT THE RESEARCH, THIS TIME I'VE PUT MY OWN BODY ON THE LINE AND BECOME A GUINEA PIG FOR COALFACE READERS.

It's only been a couple of weeks since I've started taking ElectrAAte, a blend of amino acids and electrolytes, and preliminary results are in. First the bad news, my wrinkles haven't gone away, and I still can't do a chin up.

But there's plenty of good news. For the last week I've woken up before my alarm clock every morning feeling refreshed and ready to go. A long time runner, I've always been plagued by stitches but since taking a dose of ElectrAAte before each run I haven't had single stitch. I've also not had a single cramp and I can see a general improvement in muscle recovery. To sum it up, I've been pushing myself harder and feeling better than ever.

Whilst this is only my own anecdotal experience and I can't rule out the placebo effect, the results I've had are enough to convince me that these guys know what they are talking about. You can bet I'll be keeping an eye out for more innovations from InnovaAte.



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A relevant addition to any workshop, the Jack Stand is ideal for field service vehicles and maintenance activities. It not only reduces risks associated with manual handling keeping your workers safer, but also increases productivity and reduces operational costs. Replace those heavy steel stands and timber blocks with this safer, lightweight option.



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PART OF HITACHI CONSTRUCTION MACHINERY'S MINI EXCAVATOR'S, THE HITACHI ZAXIS55U-5 IS THE SECOND LARGEST IT'S RANGE.

Tight work areas are easy to navigate with this machine's excellent controllability and short rear-end swing design. If you thought you were a confident operator before, wait until you jump into one of these bright orange beauties. And you'll be even more confident with more dollars in your pocket – the mini excavator has low fuel consumption meaning less money and time refuelling!

HITACHICM.COM.AU



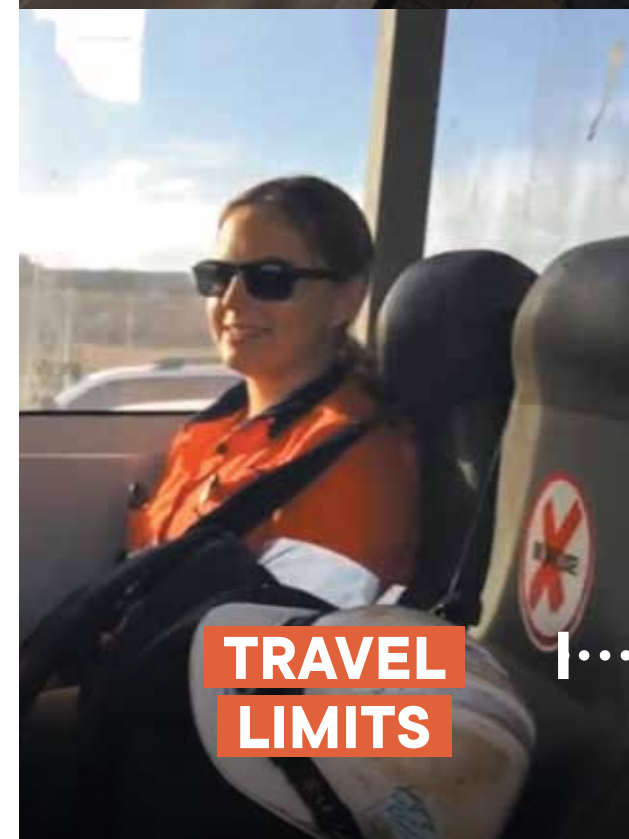
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Good. Better. Best.

Available in backhoe and face shovel configurations, these machines are highly regarded and operate globally. Instantly recognisable in their distinctive Hitachi orange, you're most likely to find the EX2600, EX3600 and EX5600 backhoes working in the Valley.

Sitting in the sweet spot of Hitachi's diggers is the EX3600. A stalwart of the Australian mining industry, Hitachi has deployed locally over 100 of these 370t excavators since launching the EX3600-5. Now in its third iteration, the Japanese manufactured EX3600-7 is Hitachi's latest generation machine built upon customer feedback and the Company's learnings in the field.

IN A DEVELOPMENT IMMEDIATELY BROADENING THE APPEAL OF THIS EXCAVATOR, MINERS NOW HAVE AN OPTION OF POWER PLANT WITH BOTH THE CUMMINS QSKTA60 OR MTU 12V4000 ON OFFER.

Combined with improvements in the machine's hydraulic system, operators can reasonably expect reductions in fuel consumption between 4 – 7% compared with the previous model (the

HITACHI'S RANGE OF MINING EXCAVATORS IS A DOMINANT FORCE IN AUSTRALIA. WITH SIX MACHINES IN THEIR MINING LINE UP, THEY HAVE A SOLUTION FOR EVERY SIZE AND TYPE OF MINE, FROM THE VERSATILE 120T EX1200-7 EXCAVATOR THROUGH TO THEIR EX8000-6 WEIGHING IN AT A WHOPPING 837T.



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EX3600-6 with Cummins engine configuration). Further, intelligent management systems including main pump electric regulators on each individually controlled hydraulic pump as well as, a hydraulic regeneration circuit, permit this machine reduced pump demand, enhancing engine power, lowering fuel consumption and increasing productivity.

All too aware of the detrimental effects of dust and moisture

ingress, Hitachi has introduced slit-less solid conduit harnesses and junction boxes. In the instance of damage, electrical harnesses between junction boxes can be replaced individually, ultimately reducing maintenance time and cost. Likewise, the cab riser now features a pressuriser system to minimise dust infiltration and extend the service life of electronic components within.

Improving upon a product that customers already like, the hydraulic

hoses between the boom and main piping have been rearranged from an arch to underslung configuration removing the need for clamps, reducing deflection and increasing reliability. And I could go on, with features too numerous to contemplate in this article.

FIND OUT MORE TODAY BY CONTACTING YOUR LOCAL HITACHI REPRESENTATIVE OR GO ONLINE AT [HTTPS://HITACHICM.COM.AU/PRODUCTS/EXCAVATORS](https://hitachicm.com.au/products/excavators).



OFF-ROAD ADDICTION

IF YOUR IDEA OF A DIRTY WEEKEND INCLUDES ACTUAL DIRT, MUD, SAND, SPEED AND NEGATING RIDICULOUS OBSTACLES, THEN A SIDE-BY-SIDE (SXS) OFF-ROAD BUGGY COULD BE RIGHT UP YOUR ALLEY!

There's no better way of getting your fix of off-road action than by strapping yourself and a mate or family member into a machine that is dedicated to being driven through paddocks, up rock ledges or along the gnarliest rutted dirt tracks.

The idea that you can have a vehicle dedicated to doing the rough stuff on the weekend without having to worry about the impact that vehicle damage has on getting to work on the Monday, is something that can have more appeal than taking a 4WD (that may also be your daily driver) off-road for the purpose of pushing the limits of that vehicle.

THERE ARE DEDICATED KIDS' SIDE-BY-SIDES AND EVERYTHING IN BETWEEN TO SUIT ANY SKILL LEVEL FROM THE NOVICE WEEKEND WARRIOR, FARMER JOE, RIGHT THROUGH TO THE SEASONED PROFESSIONAL RACER.

There are sedate, farm-spec models with trays

for load-carrying, models built for pure weekend fun, right through to high-powered 1000cc race buggies with long-travel suspension, built to take on the likes of the Finke Desert Race, so there are plenty of options to suit your ability and budget.

Of course, you're going to need land to drive it! If you don't own your own property or know someone that does, don't despair - there are plenty of off-road parks available all over Australia. Not all off-road parks allow the use of side-by-sides due to council restrictions, so it pays to check first.

The two main parks that are easily accessible from the Hunter area are TJ's 4B Park on the Putty Rd southwest of Singleton, and Bylong Creek 4x4 Park, west of Denman. Both have camping and accommodation facilities and hundreds of acres of bushland and maintained tracks that range from easy to extreme. You'll generally have to book in for a day trip, weekend or extended stay.

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TJM 4x4 EQUIPPED
Hunter Valley

WHAT ABOUT ROAD RULES I HEAR YOU SAY? WELL EACH PARK OR DESIGNATED AREA WILL COME WITH ITS OWN SET OF RULES, BUT THE GENERAL RULE IN A SIDE-BY-SIDE IS NEVER EXCEED YOUR ABILITY TO GET BACK TO WHERE YOU STARTED FROM WITHOUT INJURING YOURSELF OR SOMEONE ELSE.

It's pretty simple - you should always put safety first, even when you are on private property. Always make sure the buggy is fitted with roll-over protection that is in good condition, wear seatbelts where fitted and helmets to protect your noggin in the event of a roll-over or against stray tree branches and rocks.

If you're new to the whole world of side-by-sides, we suggest checking out some of the footage from the Finke Desert Race or perhaps getting out to an off-road racing event to check out the action firsthand.

You can check out event details at aorra.com.au/events or www.offroadracing.com.au. It's a safe bet to give you plenty of inspiration to get in and start ripping it up for yourself - there's simply no better way to experience a dirty weekend!



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PARA TRIATHLETE TURNS LIFE AROUND

If anyone can prove that anything is possible it's Coal Services' Safety & RTW Coordinator, Dean McHardie. Dean lost his arm back in 2015 to a

NEVER GIVE UP AND NEVER LOSE SIGHT OF YOUR GOALS – THAT'S THE LIFE MOTTO OF DEAN MCHARDIE WHO LOST HIS ARM TO SKIN CANCER IN 2015.

form of skin cancer called Basil Cell Carcinoma and following depression post-surgery has turned his life around both mentally and physically. Dean has lived and worked around Australia at different mining operations from Groote Eylandt, Olympic Dam, and Peak Gold in Cobar NSW before returning back to NSW joining Fire & Rescue NSW Cobar fire station. Now working for Coal Services based out of Newcastle, Dean is passionate about health and safety as well as sharing from his experiences the effects of skin cancer and life as an amputee.

BY SHARING HIS STORY, DEAN HOPES TO GET THE MESSAGE OUT THERE TO MINE WORKERS THE IMPORTANCE OF GETTING CHECKED. "IT HAS BEEN AN ADVENTURE, THE DAY TO DAY THINGS YOU TAKE FOR GRANTED I SOMETIMES HAVE TO THINK ABOUT THE BEST AND EASIEST WAY FOR ME TO DO THAT, SUCH AS OPENING A JAR," SAID DEAN.

"I have my ups and downs and days I will feel sorry for myself, then I think that there are people in far worse situations than me." Suffering depression after becoming an amputee, Dean said everything turned around for him after having

a coffee with a station officer from Katoomba fire station who was supporting him and his family. "Tom could see I was struggling, and he got me into running, and from there I wanted to prove to myself and those around me that if you put your mind to anything you can achieve anything," he said.

AND ACHIEVE HE DID. HOURS OF TRAINING AND HUNDREDS OF KILOMETRES ON THE LEGS LATER, DEAN HAS COMPETED IN 50KM AND 100KM TRAIL RUNS AND NUMEROUS TRIATHLONS; HIS FAVOURITE MEMORY CROSSING THE FINISH LINE WITH HIS SON AT ULTRA-TRAIL AUSTRALIA.

Dean has also represented Australia, with his first time competing here in Newcastle at the Oceania para triathlon in 2019. "It was a feeling of pride," said Dean.

"Standing there with the best para triathletes from Australia and the Oceania region was surreal; I definitely learnt a lot in that first event."

"I then backed it up 5 days later in Devonport Tasmania for the International Triathlon Union World Cup event with some of the best para triathletes across the world which was truly a humbling experience."



Dean uses his running and triathlons to prove to himself that he can do it and hopes that when he's out there competing it gives those around him a boost and encourages those to dig deep and keep going.

With the support of his wife and family throughout his entire journey, Dean also expressed the importance of reaching out to those closest to you if you're struggling. "Reach out and speak to your mates, there's nothing wrong with asking for help, if you need help don't be afraid to get help," he said.

"Life is an adventure there is so much to see and experience and remember to get a skin check."



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THE BASS SEASON HAS OPENED UP! WITH SOME RECENT WARM WEATHER WE ARE SEEING THE BASS REALLY FIRE UP WITH GREAT NUMBERS AND SOME CRACKING SIZED FISH IN BOTH OUR LOCAL CREEKS AND RIVERS.

A few recent trips throwing a few lures in the river around Morpeth producing the goods with a few solid fish hitting the 50cm. On the other hand, the Dams have been a bit of a hit and miss with the recent fish kills taking its toll on the stocks. Given a bit of time the fishing will improve.

IN THE BAY, LAKES AND RIVERS

It would be hard to put a finger on the number one target at the moment in around the estuaries but one things for sure the chances to catch a cracking fish probably won't get any better than over the next month or two.

Around the lake the Jewfish population is going crazy. Fish have been caught using live baits, plastics, and soft vibes around bait schools throughout the lake. Flathead are definitely starting to fire up to soft plastic/vibe offerings. A prawn imitation fished along the edges on a run out tide in all locations especially as the Prawns start to move out of the estuaries over the warmer months is a sure bet. On the Prawn topic, this will be worth a shot

in Swansea Channel as of this month around the dark moon. Soaking a few crab traps will also be worth it from now, it definitely pays to put in the effort around the full moons though.

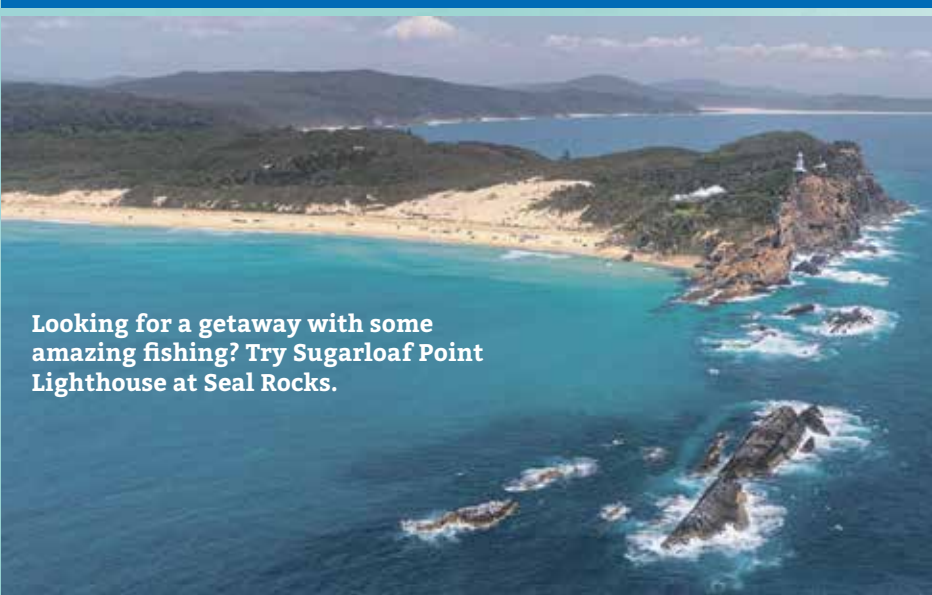
OFFSHORE

The East Australian Current is starting to kick into gear and this not only means we will see the first run of marlin for the season but it will be game on for those looking for a bit of fun around the FADs as they begin to be deployed off the coast.

The inshore reefs have been keeping things interesting with a few nice Snapper showing up with the deeper reefs being the pick for those bigger fish. Sand Flathead will also be an option as the bigger fish thicken up along the forty to fifty metre line. With some luck these early north east winds back off to allow the warm water to push in as we usually see a run of Hoodlum Kings over the next month or two as the water temp inshore begins to rise especially on the north side of Broughton to Seal Rocks.

KEEP FLOATIN' – THRIFTY'S

IN THE SPOTLIGHT



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If you are anything like me, your active wear and trackies have had the ultimate work out, your friend catch ups have been virtual and you probably can't remember the last time you glammed up and went out for a bit of fun.

As the spring weather kicks in and the Hunter starts to blossom we are finding ourselves searching for things we can do safely and within the rules while letting our hair down and having some fun...well let me tell you this October, look no further than spring racing!

Duane Dowell, General Manager of Muswellbrook Race Club, said like most local businesses and venues, 2020 has been a tough year however, the Club is enjoying being able to finally welcome back race goers and events are ramping up this month with Spring Carnival in full swing.

"It's not quite back to normal but now we can have people back at the races, things are feeling great," Duane said as he confirmed Hunter locals are embracing the opportunity to return to the stunning Upper Hunter venue.

"THERE'S STILL NOT A LOT ON IN THE HUNTER VALLEY AT THE MOMENT WITH THE ONGOING CANCELLATION OF SO MANY EVENTS, SO THERE'S A GREAT OPPORTUNITY FOR PEOPLE TO COME AND ENJOY A RACE DAY," DUANE SAID.

Under Covid rules, up to five hundred people can attend a race



meet which Duane said is operating slightly differently to normal.

"We continue to adapt," he said after confirming various spaces have been reconfigured to fit the rules.

"For our upcoming Ladies Day we can't have a luncheon however we can have groups of up to six at our outside tables and the tables are spaced out. We are offering grazing platters and we still have BBQ lunch and bar facilities available."

"Because we have such wonderful grounds, people are just enjoying being able to be out and about enjoying the setting any racing," he said.

And there are plenty of events on the calendar with Denman Cup also on the agenda in the lead up to the Melbourne Cup.

"It's selling quickly," Duane said when it comes to the iconic race day which always pulls a large crowd. "You'll want to book tickets early, and really for any of the events, we want to make sure people don't get disappointed."

AND WHEN IT COMES TO THE RACE THAT STOPS THE NATION, IT IS PROVING TO BE A POPULAR ONE FOR MANY LOCAL ESTABLISHMENTS WITH HUNTER PUBS, CLUBS AND HOTELS ALSO WELCOMING PATRONS BACK FOR THE MUCH LOVED MELBOURNE CUP LUNCH.

Kim Jacobs, Marketing Manager from Harrigan's Hunter Valley said they are looking forward to welcoming people to the annual event, even with the added COVIDsafe restrictions.

"People will have to be seated, this year," Kim said, "you can't be up and wondering around. We are limited to a total of sixty people and group bookings can't be greater than ten."

"There will be a COVID marshal at the event but other than that, all the favourites are on, including a three-course meal!"

Big screens will host the racing and don't you won't miss out on the chance to dress up with prizes up for grabs for best dressed male and female.

Whether it's a casual catch up track side for a good 'ol country race meet, attending one of the more glam events or getting a small gang together for a Melbourne Cup lunch, this spring, more than ever, is a great chance to enjoy the elements of spring carnival in the Hunter!

So grab your tickets, your fascinators and see you track side!

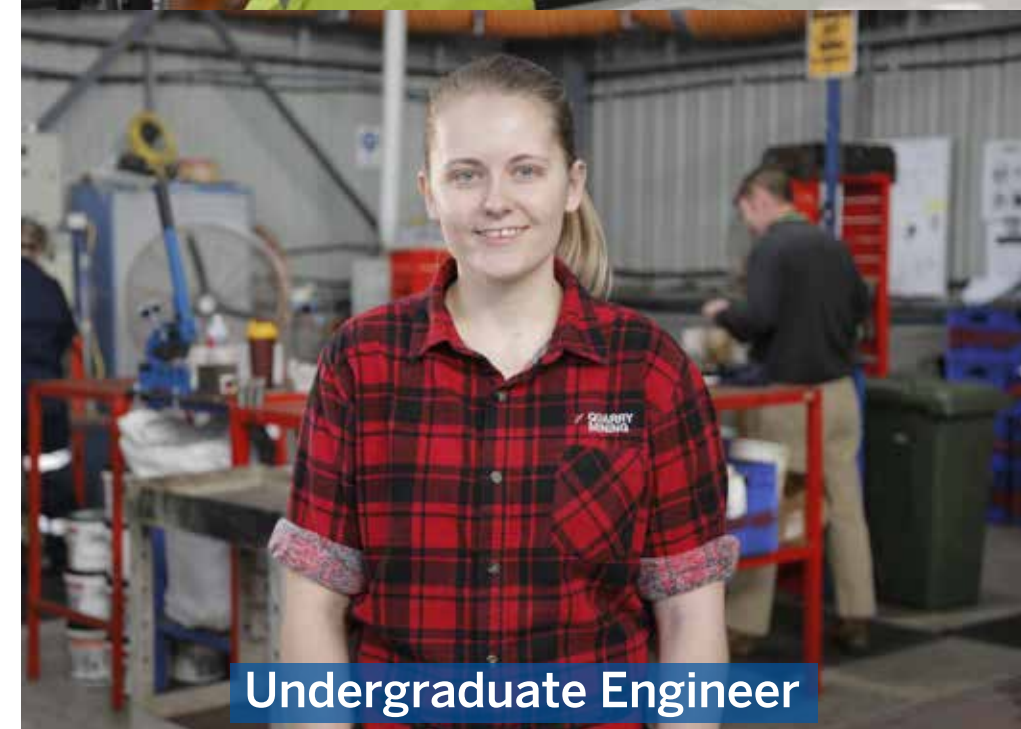
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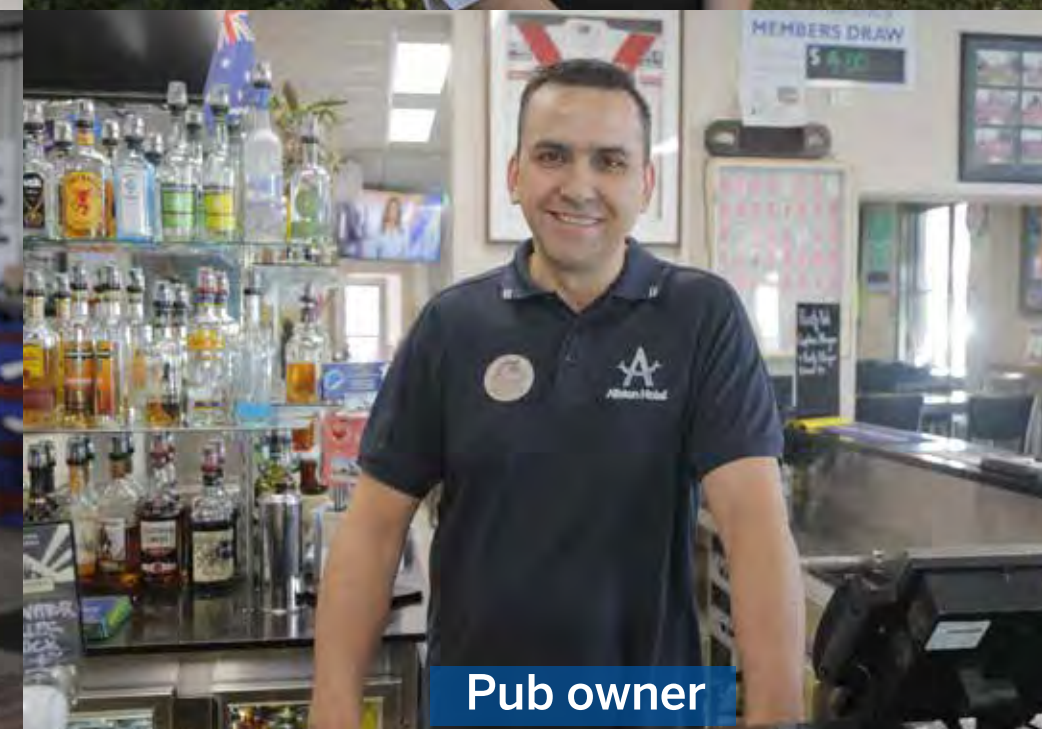
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EXQUISITE CUISINE
AT COQUUN

Not only have they created an absolutely delectable menu of refined, mostly locally sourced cuisine inspired by native flavours; Coquun has also established a unique and welcoming meeting ground for people to come together and enjoy.

COQUUN IS ON WONNARUA COUNTRY AND RESPECTFULLY ACKNOWLEDGES THE ANCIENT HISTORY OF THE LAND AND IT'S FIRST PEOPLE, DRAWING INSPIRATION FROM NATIVE FLAVOURS AND CUSTOMS. RELAXING VIEWS OF THE HUNTER RIVER AND WARM AND WELCOME SERVICE FROM STAFF MAKES IT THE PERFECT SPOT FOR A RELAXING BREAKY OR LUNCH IN THE SUN.

The menu is fresh and modern with a beautiful selection of wines, beer and cocktails to tastefully accompany each dish. My sister joined me on our visit to Coquun on a sunlit Wednesday lunch, and we enjoyed taking in the scenery as we selected our entrée's, mains and beverages.

Browsing the assortment of cheeses, charcuterie, sausages and smaller plates to start, we decided on the Marinated Olives and the Salt and Vinegar Brussels Sprouts. Never having tried a variation of the traditional brussels sprouts (which my sister and I are not fans of), I was pleasantly surprised to find they were absolutely delicious, with a crispy tang. If you have a fussy kid that refuses to eat healthy foods, this may be a game changer. The olives were also fresh and well marinated; I went through them like popcorn.

COQUUN IS A MODERN AND ELEGANT CAFÉ, BAR AND BISTRO CHARMINGLY SITUATED ALONG THE HUNTER RIVER IN MAITLAND SERVING BRIGHT AND BEAUTIFUL FLAVOURS OF THE NATIVE FOOD BOWL.

WE SHARED THE DAMPER DIP BOWL; WE CAN NEVER SEEM TO GO PAST A DAMPER DIP. THE TOASTED DAMPER DIPPED INTO A MELTED, HERBY CHEESE WAS ENOUGH TO MAKE US BOTH LOOK AT EACH OTHER WITH OUR EYES WIDE WITH EXCITEMENT. NEEDLESS TO SAY, IT WAS A RACE TO SEE WHO GOT TO HAVE THE LAST BITE AND IT WAS GONE WITHIN MINUTES.

On to the Cheese and Bacon Burger with Fries; a classic favourite. Except it was anything but 'classic'. The beef was a high-end super thick, juicy patty that was absolutely full of flavour. It was the kind of meat that just melted in your mouth. The burger also had a bush tomato type relish that was unique in taste, fresh and a great addition to a beautifully cooked patty. Served with a side of crispy fries, it filled us up quick smart.

We ran out of time for dessert, but we had to mention some of the delicious options. The Dropped White Chocolate Panna Cotta caught my eye with wattle seed and sesame crack, caramelised white chocolate and eucalyptus caramel. And for next time, we have already decided on the Pear, Rum, Ginger Pudding, Caramelised Fig, Honey Macadamia Hunter Valley Gelato.

Our quick Wednesday lunch on our work break turned into a delightful experience that made us wish we could stay for a cocktail or two.

If you're looking for a lunch or dinner spot this weekend, head to Maitland, take a stroll along the river and make your way to Coquun.



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THE PIE MINISTER @ THE COALFACE

LIGHTS! CAMERA! PIES! ACTION! I RECENTLY HAD THE LONGEST MOST VIVID DREAM I HAVE EVER HAD IN MY LIFE. IT FELT AS THOUGH I WAS IN A HEIGHTENED DREAM STATE FROM THE MOMENT I HIT THE PILLOW UNTIL THE LOCAL MAGPIES HERALDED DAWN THE NEXT MORNING.

We all dream, but to be fair, I dream bigger than most. In this most recent session of tapping into my higher consciousness, I dreamt up a movie plot and full script for the world's latest superhero 'Pieman'.

Of course, there is only one person capable of bring this epic story of love, courage, physical perfection and bravery to life – yours truly 'Pieman' Sol.

SO LET ME START FROM THE BEGINNING.

The opening scene sees a new baker open up a pie shop smack bang across the road from Blakeney's in East Maitland. From the outset it is clear something is not right with the new entrants to the pie market.

THE MOST OBVIOUS GIVEAWAY WAS THE FACT THAT THEY SPECIALIZED IN VEGAN PIES.

We all know that a vegan pie shop would not only sell crap tasting pies, but be knocked back by any self-respecting council at the development approval stage, or burned to the ground by angry community minded pie loving locals.

Anyway, with the Blakeney's crew sensing evil in their midst with their regular meat pie loving customers entering the shop looking like zombies only never to come out the front door again, a desperate call goes out to 'Pieman'. From the clouds above then appears a back to the future style vehicle from another dimension, only instead of a DeLorean it is a hybrid rocket ship styled futuristic Holden Kingswood being piloted by my good self in superhero mode.

Landing in my signature 'smoking burnout' style, I skid to a stop in the middle of the road between the two shops and emerge from my ride surrounded by acrid smelling tyre smoke.

With a look of determined anger, I then start throwing pie shaped missiles at the suspect pastry joint before storming the building without fear of personal safety. Catching the villains by surprise, I crash through the cool room doors to find all of the Blakeney's customers chained to the wall, hooked up to weird contraptions pumping a hippy looking purple liquid into their bodies via their nipples.

WITH MY SIGNATURE 'SUPERHERO DROPKICK', I START PUNTING PIE

AFTER PIE AT THE ALIEN'S HEADS AND BODIES RENDERING THEM LIFELESS AND DEFEATED.

I then unhook the poor souls from their purple hell and lead them out to safety and across the road to Blakeney's for a life-giving meat bag that restores them to normal.

Witnesses to the whole episode then crowd around me offering thanks through tears and cries of relief.

"Yet again, you've saved the world Sol!" they scream before you see me jumping into my spaceship themed Kingswood and flying off to another mission in a cloud of tyre smoke.

Eat you heart out Spielberg... or at least eat a Blakeney's pie. Yours in Hollywood Sol.

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BEST UNDER PRESSURE

Today at the bank an old guy asked me to check his balance. So I pushed him over.

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@ THE COALFACE
PRIZE WINNERS

Volume 4 – No 10: September - October 2020

Crib Bag	Franck Dubois
Roberts Meats Raffle	Kathleen Hateley
Banlaw Fuel Voucher	Lorna Wilson
Hunter Pet Motel Voucher	Suzanne Short
Newcastle Distilling Co. Spirits	Kevin Longworth
Kids Rule Gift Voucher	Danielle Sivell

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL OUR WINNERS!

STRANGE BUT TRUE!

Did you know...

› The state of Ohio gives out different colored license plates for those convicted of DUI.

› In Japan, you are equally likely to die from being struck by lightning as you are from being shot by a gun.

› If you made \$1 every second, it would take you 2,921 years to have more money than Bill Gates.

› In 2013 Toy Story was remade shot-for-shot with real toys and real people and can be found on YouTube.

› February used to be the last month of the year, which is why it has the shortest number of days.

› In September 2007, a guy named Kevin Shelley broke 46 wooden toilet seats with his head in one minute to create a world record.

› Samuel Jackson has a clause in his film contracts that allows him to play golf during film shoots whenever he wants.

› In 1945 the first atomic bomb was created, and was nicknamed “The Gadget”.

STUNNING SRI LANKA

THOUGH WE ARE ALL STILL STUCK WITHIN OUR BORDERS, IT’S NEVER TOO EARLY TO START DREAMING ABOUT A HOLIDAY. THIS MONTH WE BRING YOU A PLACE THAT IS PROBABLY NOT ON YOUR BUCKET LIST. UNTIL YOU READ THIS.

I’ve driven in crazy traffic in many countries but our first morning in Sri Lanka made me glad we had taken the easy option and arranged for a driver and van to take us from the airport to the historic north of the country, home to ancient kingdoms and some of the world’s holiest Buddhist sites. Our driver Rohan had the world’s calmest temperament, which was needed to cope with the constant squeeze of traffic into our lane, swarming motorbikes and the odd elephant crossing the road.

Our first stop was the 2,400 year old city of Anuradhapura, the location of many beautiful and significant Buddhist stupas and the Jaya Sri Maha Bodhi, a sacred fig tree planted in 288 BC which is reputed to be from a branch of the historical Sri Maha Bodhi in India under which the Buddha attained Enlightenment, and the oldest living tree in the world with a known planting date.

Following beautiful Anuradhapura, we travelled to the Dambulla Cave Temple complex which contains around 160 statues of Buddha, Hindu gods, and Sri Lankan kings, and from there we visited Sigiriya, site of a 1500-year-old fortress on top of a rocky outcrop that dominates the landscape. Climbing the steps to the top and seeing the stunning views was a major highlight.

BREAKING UP THE HISTORIC PART OF OUR HOLIDAY, WE TOOK AN OPEN JEEP TOUR THROUGH MINNERIYA NATIONAL PARK TO SEE DOZENS OF ELEPHANTS, WATER BUFFALOES, AND MONKEYS ALONG WITH MANY BIRDS BEFORE DISCOVERING THE FANTASTIC RUINS AND TEMPLES OF THE ENORMOUS 1,000 YEAR OLD CITY OF POLONNARUWA.

After three amazing days of exploring the amazing historic northern cities, we felt we deserved a couple of days lazing by the beach

with cocktails in hand so we headed to the east coast village of Pasikudah, whose beautiful beach is seeing a growing number of 5 star resorts at very reasonable prices.

Our next stop was down the coast to pretty Arugam Bay, a famous surf town which was filled with an incongruous mixture of young European surfer backpackers in bikinis or shorts drinking beers and conservative Muslims fasting through Ramadan.

From here we left the coast to head up to Ella, a bustling tourist hill-town renowned for hiking trails such as Little Adam’s Peak and local teas or juices, and home to one of the friendliest B&B’s we have ever stayed in. Ella is also the starting point of the famous Ella-Kandy train, the country’s most scenic train route which heads through picturesque tea plantations and waterfalls to Sri Lanka’s second biggest city Kandy, our last stop before home.

SRI LANKA IS ONE OF THE BEST HOLIDAYS WE’VE EVER HAD, WITH A MESMERISING DIVERSITY OF CULTURES, HISTORY, LANDSCAPES, AND EXTRAORDINARILY FRIENDLY PEOPLE AND I CAN’T RECOMMEND IT ENOUGH FOR YOUR FIRST INTERNATIONAL TRIP ONCE THE BORDERS OPEN. OUR 3YO GINGER DAUGHTER WAS LIKE THE SECOND COMING OF THE BUDDHA, WITH HUNDREDS OF REQUESTS FOR SELFIES FROM LOCALS OBSESSED WITH HER HAIR.

It was fascinating to see the changes in religion, language and culture as we travelled throughout different parts of the country, as the country is predominantly Catholic in the west, Buddhist in the north, Muslim in the south east, and Hindu in the south. Because of this, if you are visiting it is important to remember some of the rules around religious sites, such as not taking photos with or turning your back on statues of the Buddha and wearing appropriate clothing in temples and mosques, but that is a small price to pay for visiting such a beautiful and unique island.

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