

HUNTER INDUSTRY, COMMUNITY, SPORTS & ENTERTAINMENT

@THE COAL FACE

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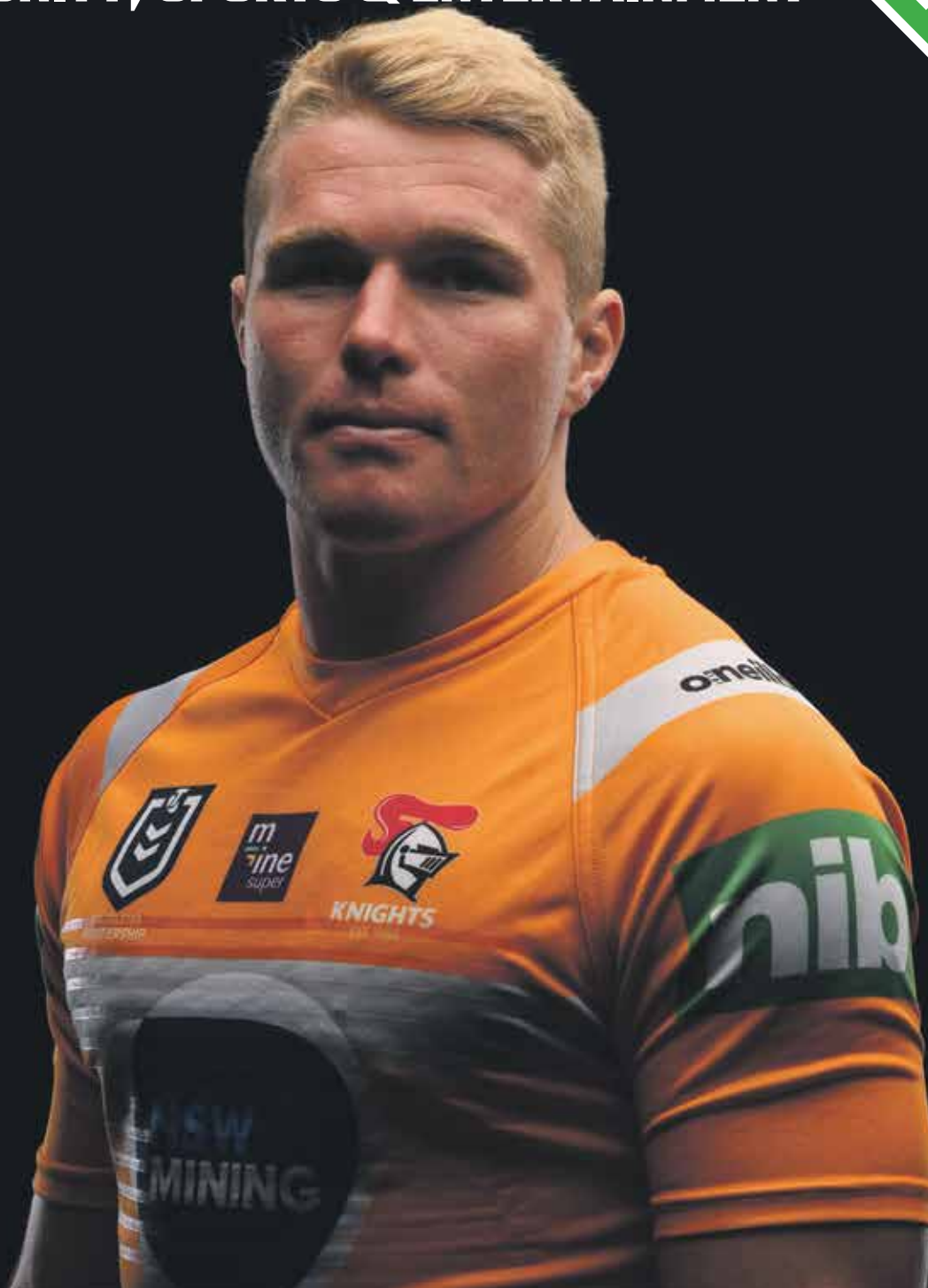
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TOUR TIME

THE UPPER HUNTER MINING DIALOGUE'S
SCHOOL MINE TOURS PROGRAM IS
GEARING UP FOR ITS BIGGEST YEAR YET.

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FREE

GAME TIME

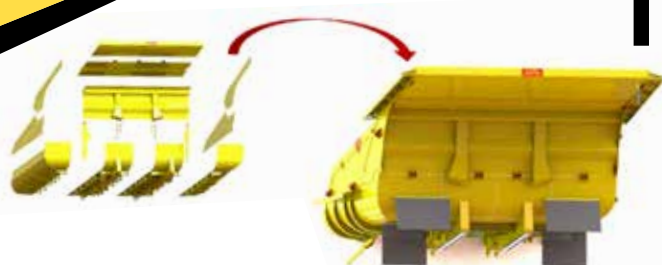
SINGLETON LOCAL JOSH KING
AND HIS NEWCASTLE KNIGHTS
TEAMMATES WILL DON THE
HI-VIS MINING JERSEYS AND
CELEBRATE OUR INDUSTRY AT
THE VOICE FOR MINING FAMILY
DAY ON SUNDAY APRIL 4.

PAGE 8-9

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MINING PARTS

The Future of Haul Truck Trays has Arrived

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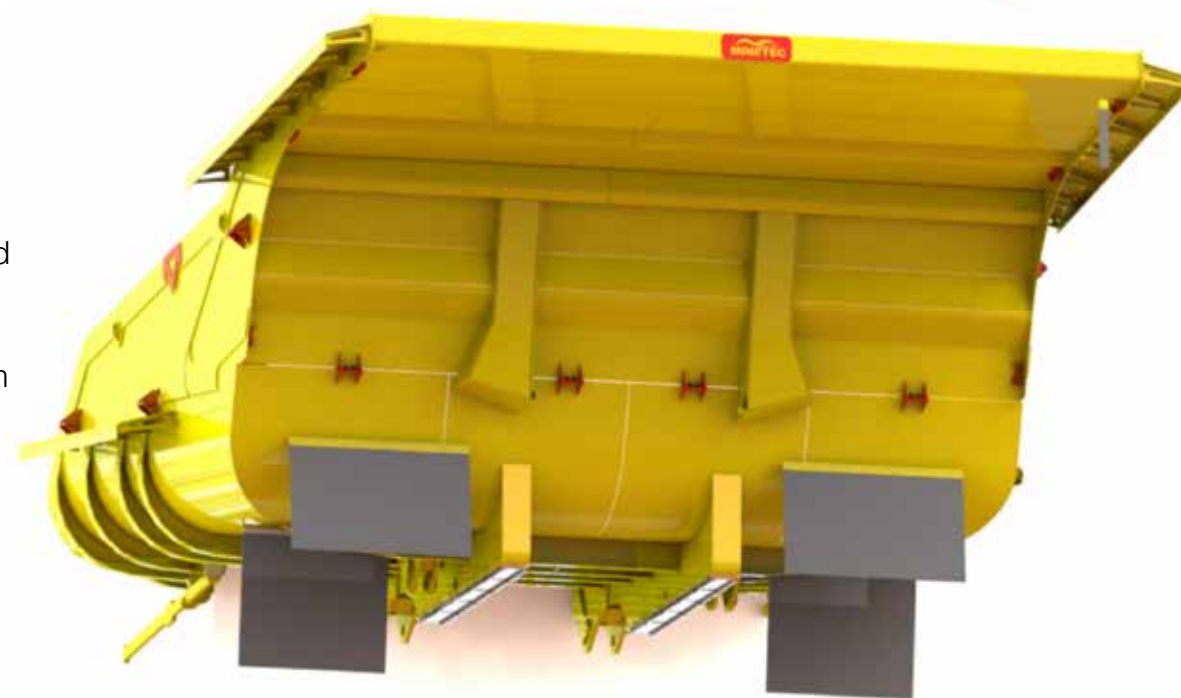
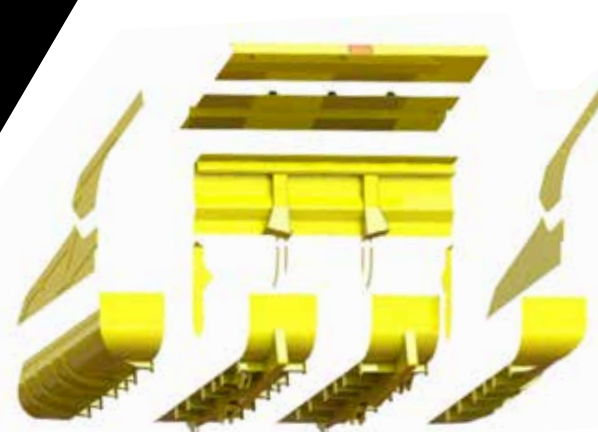


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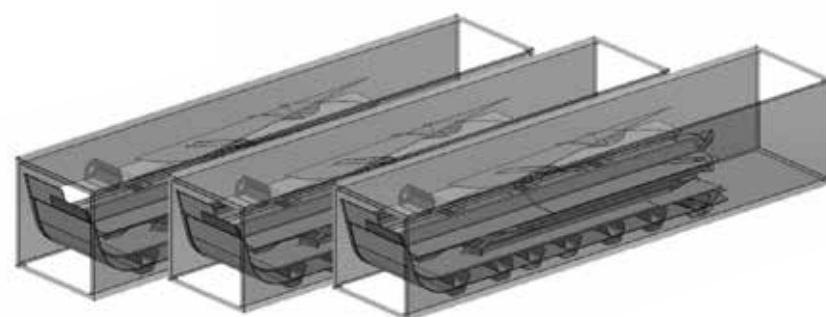
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FOSTERING OUR FUTURE

ENSURING A RESILIENT AND DIVERSE FUTURE FOR OUR INDUSTRY IS NOT SOMETHING WE CAN DO ON OUR OWN. THIS MONTH WE CELEBRATE THE MANY PARTNERSHIPS THAT HELP STRENGTHEN OUR INDUSTRY.

Across all facets of our industry there are partnerships that help our industry diversify, grow and ensure careers for the next generation.

Starting with the Upper Hunter Mining Dialogue's School Mine Tours program that gives young students the opportunity to tour local mine sites and learn firsthand the effects of mining on their day to day lives and the vast opportunities for a career in mining.

Students will also benefit this year from the re-launch of PRIME (Pathways to Resource Industry and Mining Employment). This program is aimed at helping Hunter secondary schools better appreciate how science, maths and geography apply across the lifecycle of a mine and the type of skills and jobs required to support mining operations.

Then there is the long term partnership between the NSW

Minerals Council and the Newcastle Knights which will soon be celebrated by thousands of miners at the annual Voice for Mining family day. This partnership extends far beyond just support for a local rugby team. There are many parallels between the sporting and mining industry and the partnership seeks to raise awareness of how they both beneficially impact our lives.

We also share the story on an amazing partnership between major industry players coming together to support a local Indigenous business, showing a generosity and commitment to embracing diversity that is an example we should all try to follow.

These partnerships and the many more across our industry demonstrate the commitment to ensuring not just a strong future for our industry, but a better future for all.



OPINION

GAME ON!

FOR EIGHT SEASONS THE NEWCASTLE KNIGHTS HAVE WORN THEIR NOW FAMOUS HI-VIS JERSEYS TO SHOW THEIR SUPPORT FOR THE MINERS OF NSW, AND ESPECIALLY THE MINERS OF THE HUNTER.

Last season this support was even more important, as our miners worked hard to maintain operations under strict protocols to keep their workmates, families, supply businesses and communities COVID-safe.

The resilience of our Hunter mining communities has been amazing and we're starting to see good opportunities on the horizon with coal prices improving and strong demand from our export markets.

IT'S BEEN A POSITIVE START TO WHAT WE ALL HOPE WILL BE A BETTER YEAR, MADE EVEN BETTER BY THE NEWS THAT OUR ANNUAL 'VOICE FOR MINING' FAMILY DAY IS ALSO BACK ON IN 2021.

The annual celebration of the partnership between mining and the Knights, sponsored by the NSW Minerals Council, was drastically scaled back in 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

However, on Saturday 4 April this

year the Knights will once again take to the field at McDonald Jones Stadium in their hi-vis replica mining jerseys as they take on the St-George Illawarra Dragons.

Voice for Mining Family Day celebrates the 40,000 miners that live in NSW, inviting workers and their families to cheer on the Knights at their home ground in hi-vis.

The 2021 event will be conducted under strict COVID-19 safety protocols, in line with NSW Government capacity restrictions.

The Knights showed toughness, talent and promise last season, and some terrific signings have boosted an already strong squad for the season ahead. We wish the team every success as we all look to a more positive future on and off the field in 2021.

Stephen Galilee, CEO, NSW Minerals Council

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OPINION

BETTER TRAINING FOR MORE JOBS

OUR MINING INDUSTRY NEEDS MORE SKILLED WORKERS NOW AND INTO THE FUTURE TO MEET GROWING DEMAND FOR AUSTRALIA’S WORLD-CLASS RESOURCES.



And the nature of work in the Australian minerals industry – including in the many great mines across the Hunter Valley – is constantly evolving. The need for enhanced skills in existing roles and technical skills in new roles across areas such as data analytics, robotics and artificial intelligence will only keep increasing. These changes will require a workforce that is more diverse and digitally connected between different locations. Workers will need skills and capabilities that are adaptable, transferable and relevant to our future needs. As an industry, we know that skills development is central to our success. This means more flexible, higher-

quality and responsive training and workforce development. **TO RESPOND TO CHANGING WORKFORCE NEEDS, THE MCA WITH THE SUPPORT OF THE AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT IS COORDINATING THE MINING SKILLS ORGANISATION PILOT, OR THE MSOP FOR SHORT.** The MSOP has an ambitious approach to lead industry engagement in the VET sector, develop and test nationally recognised training alongside the existing system and work with key players to boost the quality and extent of training for the mining industry. Our training system is currently not meeting the needs of workers, learners or the industry. So we need to explore new methods of assessment, encourage public, private and university providers to work better together and advising

on the needs of the Hunter and other key mining regions. **THE MSOP HAS AN INITIAL GOAL OF AT LEAST 5000 NEW APPRENTICESHIPS TO MODERNISE TRADES TRAINING, EDUCATION AND DEVELOPMENT.** This will focus on the in-demand profession of Heavy Duty Diesel Fitters and developing models that better align industry need and apprentice knowledge. We need to ensure that we use the best new technology to deliver training faster, especially in the growing areas of automation and the application of digital technologies. There’s a crucial need to attract and retain the best staff. That’s why we are working to position mining as an industry of choice by creating a longer and stronger talent pipeline

for mining and METS. Finally, qualifications reform will forge stronger alignment between industry need and available qualifications. Finding ways for industry to make qualifications more relevant to skill needs now and into the future is a key priority for the Pilot. We’re working with employers, broader industry, government and the training sector to achieve these goals and make a long-term positive impact on education for existing and new members of our workforce. When we emerge from the COVID-19 pandemic, a strong mining sector and a highly skilled and highly-paid workforce will ensure Australia has a faster economic recovery that benefits all Australians. **Tania Constable**
CEO, Minerals Council of Australia

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IN THE NEWS...

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



BRAKE FAILS AT BHP

The NSW Resources Regulator has released a safety alert for the mining industry after an unattended truck rolled and collided with infrastructure in a wash bay at BHP’s Mount Arthur mine.

On January 10 this year, the regulator says an operator parked a CAT haul truck on the workshop deadline for defect repair - the truck was parked, the engine was off, but soon after the operator disembarked from the vehicle it started rolling backwards.

The operator unsuccessfully tried to stop the vehicle but it rolled 65 metres colliding with a pump and associated infrastructure in the wash bay.

Initial investigations found the park hump wasn’t constructed to site standard and the park brake in the truck had not been selected and the fail-safe park break didn’t activate when the ignition was switched off.

BHP said no one was injured, a thorough investigation has been undertaken and they continue to assist the regulator with their investigation.

WORK ON WYBONG ROAD

Muswellbrook Shire Council approved at an extraordinary meeting last week to allow for MACH Energy to temporarily close a section of Wybong Road East from the Mt Pleasant mine entrance to Overton Road.

It’s to allow for road reconstruction works to get underway that will greatly improve the road by providing wider travel lanes, sealed shoulders and a uniform road surface.

Deputy Mayor Rod Scholes said shutting the road completely actually shortens how long the roadworks go on for.

The detour is via Bengalla Link Rd/Denman Rd/Sydney St/ New England Highway.

HYDRO-YAY?

A network of 13 regional hydrogen technology clusters have been unveiled across the country and one will be in Newcastle.

The cluster will be a partnership between a number of organisations including the Hunter Business Chamber and The University of Newcastle who have received funding from National Energy

Resources Australia.

The Newcastle Cluster is one cog in the national wheel for the hydrogen strategy. The National cluster will operate as a virtual network and aid in the development of the hydrogen supply chain, reduce overlaps and identify gaps in the development, deployment, and commercialisation of new hydrogen-focussed technologies.

A LEGEND MOVES ON TO A NEW ROLE IN MUSWELLBROOK

A legend in Muswellbrook has retired from her role after 15 years at the helm. De-Anne Douglas was farewelled from her role as manager of the Muswellbrook PCYC in January by her colleagues and members of the community that she has devoted hours upon hours to helping and making a better place.

She put in place many programs throughout the community that have helped hundreds, if not thousands of locals who have found themselves in a tough spot.

De-Anne will still be in town, just in a new role with local company Blackrock Industries.

MORE FOR MACH

MACH Energy Australia has submitted an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to the NSW Government to boost the Mount Pleasant coal mine’s output and mine life.

The company has applied to increase the extraction, handling and processing of run-of-mine (ROM) coal to 21 million tonnes per annum from its current 10.5-million-tonne rate. Upgrades to coal handling

preparation plant and coal handling infrastructure will also be required for the output increase.

Mount Pleasant’s additional coal reserves, including lower coal seams in the north pit will be mined to increase extraction.

The current 10.5-million-tonne rate has been approved until December 22, 2026 and MACH hopes to boost the time limit of mining operations at Mount Pleasant until December 22, 2048.

FIREY NIGHT SHIFT AT MT ARTHUR

An investigation is underway after a machine caught fire at BHP’s Mount Arthur mine last month.

On Tuesday evening Liebherr 996 caught alight at Mount Arthur - a BHP spokesperson told Radio Hunter Valley “the fire suppression system was activated by the operator, allowing them to exit the machine safely and without injury.”

Thankfully no one was injured at the time of the incident. The truck is a Theiss owned and operated machine and as the fire was only contained to the engine bay it will be able to be rebuilt.

BIG BATTERY BOOM

A battery, about eight times the size of the battery in South Australia will be built in the Hunter Valley.

CEP Energy has announced they will be building a 1200 megawatt battery in Kurri Kurri - the company is sourcing its power for the battery from rooftops around the country, many of them are owned by the property giant Pelligra which has around 10 million square metres of rooftop space that can be utilised.

The battery will fall into the Hunter Economic Zone - one of the Renewable Energy Zones created by the NSW Government last year.

Construction is expected to get underway this year.

NOT ALL FINE FOR MACH

MACH Energy Australia has been fined by the NSW Environment Protection Authority for an alleged pungent smelling blast fume at Muswellbrook’s Mount Pleasant Mine.

The NSW EPA said it’s thanks to the community who reported their concerns and photos to the EPA’s Environment Line for investigation, following the blast, which could be seen and smelt in the vicinity on June 15, 2020.

Neighbouring properties were impacted with residents reporting they needed to seek shelter from the noxious fume released by the blast. The EPA said MACH Energy failed to warn the neighbours of potential exposure to the blast plume and did the blast under conditions that meant the blast fume went beyond the mine site.



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LEVELLING THE PLAYING FIELD

RECENTLY @ THE COALFACE WE WERE PRIVILEGED TO ATTEND A TEAMWORK AND LEADERSHIP FORUM WHERE SOME OF OUR INDUSTRY'S MOST ACCOMPLISHED FEMALE LEADERS DISCUSSED THE OPPORTUNITIES FOR WOMEN IN THE MINING INDUSTRY, AND THE IMPORTANCE OF DIVERSITY, WITH PLAYERS FROM THE NEWCASTLE KNIGHTS U19 TARSHA GALE TEAM.

IN ADDITION TO ITS SUPPORT FOR WOMEN'S RUGBY LEAGUE, THE NSW MINING INDUSTRY CONTINUES TO PROMOTE GREATER OPPORTUNITIES FOR WOMEN IN MINING. THIS INCLUDES THE 2021 NSW WOMEN IN MINING AWARDS IN JUNE. ENTRIES ARE OPEN FOR THE FOLLOWING CATEGORIES:

- Outstanding Trade, Operator or Technician
- Excellence in Diversity Programs and Performance
- Gender Diversity Champion
- Technical Innovation
- Exceptional Young Woman
- Exceptional Woman

Award entries close on Friday 26 March. More information can be found at WWW.NSWMINING.COM.AU/EVENTS.

There are a lot of similarities between mining and rugby league, both of which have been male dominated for many years. But now there are increasing opportunities and support for women in both fields.

Having started only four years ago, the Women's NRL Premiership is now broadcast on free-to-air TV and continues to grow. The elite pathway program for young female footballers in Newcastle is proudly supported by the NSW Minerals Council, as part of the industry's sponsorship of the Newcastle Knights.

AND IN NSW THERE ARE SOME INCREDIBLE WOMEN DOING AMAZING THINGS IN LEADERSHIP ROLES AND IN NON-TRADITIONAL JOBS IN THE MINING INDUSTRY.

Members of the Newcastle Knights young women's Tarsha Gale squad recently got to learn about this firsthand at Bloomfield Colliery, where they took part in the forum and were also given a tour of the mine site.

Joining them were some of the most accomplished female ambassadors from our region's mining industry including some of the women recognised for leadership and achievements at the 2020 NSW Women in Mining Awards, like Renata Roberts from The Bloomfield Group and Leah Miller from Yancoal. Also in attendance were Michelle Lawson from Glencore

and WIMnet, and Katie Brassil from Centennial Coal.

Each of these leaders graciously took time from their busy schedules to come along and provide fantastic advice to the young players and to share their inspiring stories on the different paths they took to leadership in a male dominated industry. Advice that could not only apply to sporting careers, but to future careers in any industry.

Katie Brassil is the Executive General Manager External Relations for Centennial and strongly supports the development of women's sport in her role as member of the Board of both the NSW Minerals Council and the Board of The Wests Group, which owns the Newcastle Knights.

"They're learning that there are so many different diverse ways that you can come into the mining industry. And what we've learned is that these young women are passionate, committed, they're juggling studies, part-time work and they are training and looking forward to career and pathway development into a national rugby league team."

"It's the market that drives this and the community in general is very excited about opportunities for women in football. In relation to mining, we've come ahead in leaps and bounds over the last couple of decades. You just have to look at the winners of the NSW

Women in Mining Awards to find wonderful ambassadors and leaders who are committed, passionate and happy to give back to the people coming up behind them."

Tarsha Gale squad member Kayla Romaniuk shares what she took away from the chance to meet successful women in the mining industry.

"We learned about teamwork and women working in a male-dominated industry, which was a real eye opener for us girls because it is our pathway in football at the moment. Teamwork is important in sport and it's really important in the workforce as well and we learned how important communicating with teammates and work mates is."

"Tarsha Gale has given us a really good pathway to start our rugby league career. It's given us different aspects to learn about the game, including teamwork. It's growing, which is good and similar to women in mining. Both are going really well and growing and that's what we want."

Tasha Gale squad Tamika Bull summed up what it was like hearing about the experiences of leading women in mining in NSW.

"IT'S A DIFFERENT SITUATION, BUT IT GIVES GIRLS LIKE US HOPE THAT WE CAN FOLLOW IN THEIR FOOTSTEPS TO BE JUST AS SUCCESSFUL AS THEM."



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COVERAGE

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Since then we have successfully completed back to back rebuilds for Mt Arthur BHP for mobile and ancillary division and have built a team of strong plant mechanics who are very passionate about their PCR work.

DK Heavy Plant Services would like to thank BHP Mt Arthur for their continued support of our local business and other Muswellbrook businesses helping our Muswellbrook economy to thrive.

With BHP's support over the years it has enabled us to employee Muswellbrook local workers into our workforce. Without the support of BHP and other mine sites in the area we would not have been able to grow our business to include around 150 local jobs.



BEFORE

2017



2021



AFTER

2017



2021



AFTER

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2021



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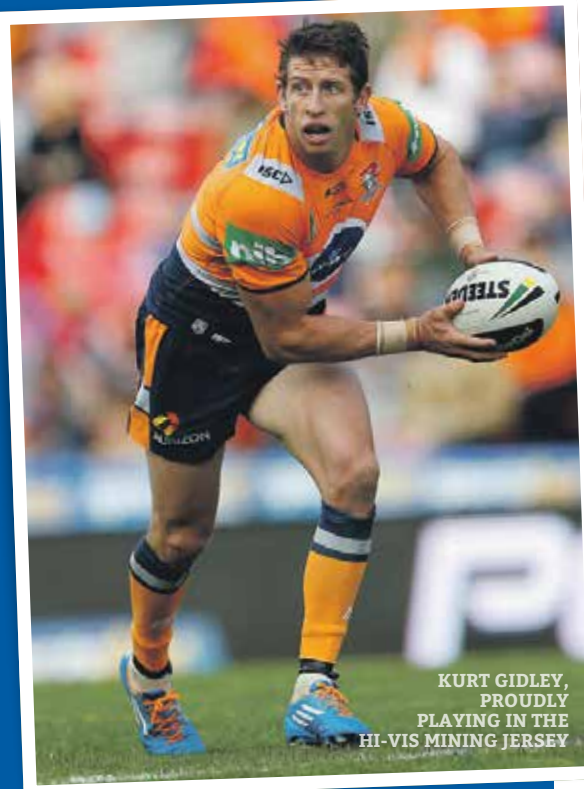
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KURT GIDLEY, PROUDLY PLAYING IN THE HI-VIS MINING JERSEY

GAME TIME

THE VOICE FOR MINING FAMILY DAY IS BACK ON SUNDAY APRIL 4, WITH THE NEWCASTLE KNIGHTS ONCE AGAIN DONNING HI-VIS MINING JERSEYS TO CELEBRATE THE MINING INDUSTRY.

The Voice for Mining Family Day brings together thousands of miners and their families to celebrate the contribution the mining industry makes to our communities.

Sport can stir all sorts of emotions, like pride, excitement and inspiration. For former NSW and Newcastle Knights captain Kurt Gidley, pulling on the replica hi-vis mining jersey for the first time in 2014 was one of the more emotional days of his career.

Gidley, whose brother Matthew also won an NRL premiership with the Newcastle club in 2001, has a strong connection with the rugby league community and the mining industry.

His father Geoff drove coal trains between Narrabri and the Port of Newcastle for almost 30 years. And his brother Adam also worked in rail for a decade. So the connection to those hi-vis colours during his playing days was strong.

And eight years after captaining the Newcastle Knights to their first win in hi-vis, he is reflecting on how much it meant to him, his family, and Newcastle Knights fans in the Hunter Valley and across Northern NSW.

"I REMEMBER MY FIRST IMPRESSIONS WHEN I DROVE IN. THE BIG PIECES OF MINING EQUIPMENT WERE A REAL EYE OPENER, SEEING THEM UP CLOSE. AND RUNNING OUT OF THE TUNNEL AND SEEING ALL THE HI-VIS. IT WAS EXCITING AND THERE WAS A GREAT DEAL OF EXPECTATION, BUT THEY ARE GREAT MEMORIES," HE SAID.

"It was a totally different scene from what we would normally see, and it was a real show of unity from our supporters, people who are proud to work in the mining industry.

"I felt a great deal of responsibility on Voice for Mining round. I have a lot of mates and former teammates that have worked in and around mining and I really wanted to represent everyone. I wanted to play tough and resilient like people who work in the industry... and I wanted them to be proud of my

performance and the team's performance."

That overriding emotion is something that the current players connect with too, including star fullback Kalyn Ponga whose father Andre has worked in mining in NSW.

"My old fella is tough and that's exactly what the jersey is. He's hard working, he's dedicated and when we put that jersey on, that's what we want to be," Kalyn said.

"Before we run out, that's probably the first thing we talk about, look around the room, look at what you're wearing. Not only that, look in the stands and the people of Newcastle are hardworking. I think everyone that knows Newcastle knows that. When we put this jersey on, we want to do them proud."

Kurt was the first player to captain the team in mining hi-vis, giving the annual game and the jersey even more meaning. Gidley tells us that he didn't speak to his Dad a lot about his work when he was younger, but he knows the sacrifices he made and how hard he worked for his family.

"I THINK IT WOULD HAVE BROUGHT HIM A LOT OF PRIDE TO HAVE HIS SON PLAYING IN THE HI-VIS. IT'S SOMETHING THAT RESONATED WITH MY DAD IN THE INDUSTRY HE WORKED IN," KURT SAID.

"He was always really proud of me and my brothers when we were playing footy. But I think that day, maybe a little more as he sat there in his hi-vis vest and seeing me running out and captaining the team, it would have been a bit emotional.

"It was emotional for me. I'm always passionate and emotional before every game. I was representing my family - my Dad, my brother Adam who worked at Pacific National for ten years. It stirred some emotion for me personally, but I think it resonated with the rest of the team too that it was more than just a normal game.

"There will always be a strong connection there because we represent the Hunter region, and I'm sure in the future we will continue to see the sons of coal miners coming into the team."



(L-R) JOSH KING, KALYN PONGA, LACHLAN FITZGIBBON, HYMEL HUNT

MINING AND RUGBY LEAGUE HAVE ALWAYS SHARED A STRONG CONNECTION. WHILE KURT'S DAYS OF DONNING THE HI-VIS ON THE FIELD HAVE ENDED, NEW GENERATIONS OF PLAYERS WITH STRONG MINING TIES STRENGTHEN THE CONNECTION. PLAYERS LIKE SINGLETON LOCAL, JOSH KING.

The high standards of professionalism in mining have helped Josh prepare for the demands of a career in the NRL with the Newcastle Knights.

Josh, pictured on the front of this month's magazine in an exclusive photo shoot for NSW Mining spent three years as an electrical apprentice in mining before securing a contract with the NRL club to play football full time.

And the Knights forward says that his time in mining was a great way to prepare for the pressure that comes with playing professional sport.

"Punctuality, what we're wearing and of course safety. That level of professionalism, being at work at a specific time simulates what we need to do in footy, along with teamwork and working with different people every day."

Josh is looking forward to pulling on the hi-vis as part of a bigger season for him in 2021, after a 'special' game at Voice for Mining Family Day last year against the Cowboys.

"I didn't get a whole lot of games in 2020 and that was one of the first games I got to play. To be able to play in front of our home crowd in hi-vis, even though with COVID there wasn't a full capacity crowd it was a special day. To come away with a gritty 12-0 win over North Queensland made it even better.

"EVERY WIN THAT WE CAN GET IN THIS HI-VIS JERSEY IS PRETTY SPECIAL."



VOICE FOR MINING FAMILY DAY FACTS

The biggest win for the Knights in mining hi-vis was a 45-12 win against the Dragons in Mudgee in 2019

Club try scoring record holder Akuila Uate has the most tries in hi-vis (6) including a hattrick in the first Voice for Mining Family Day game in 2014.

The club record attendance for Voice for Mining Family Day at McDonald Jones Stadium was 26,822 in 2013.

The most exciting finish in hi-vis came against the Tigers in Tamworth in 2018 when Shaun Kenny-Dowell scored in the corner in the 77th minute to seal a 2-point win.

Kalyn Ponga's father Andre is one of many people connected to the club that have worked in the NSW mining industry

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OPINION

Putting The Collective Back Into Bargaining

MOST MINeworkERS' PAY AND CONDITIONS ARE SET BY THEIR ENTERPRISE AGREEMENT (EA). BUT THERE'S A BIG DIFFERENCE BETWEEN EAS ACHIEVED THROUGH GENUINE COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AND THE DODGY EAS THAT HAVE BECOME RIFE IN THE INDUSTRY THROUGH THE MISUSE OF LABOUR HIRE.

A boss and an individual worker don't have equal bargaining power, especially in the mining industry where the employers are often big multinationals. Under Australia's Fair Work Act, enterprise bargaining is a way for workers to band together to get a fairer share of the profits of a business, beyond the legal minimums. Collective bargaining over decades in the coal industry has delivered EAs with substantially better pay and conditions than the Black Coal Industry Award. Pay rates are about a third higher and agreements contain improved protections in areas from shift penalties, allowances and leave arrangements to rostering, notice and termination. **BARGAINING CAN BE TOUGH. BUT WHEN WORKERS STAND TOGETHER THROUGH THEIR UNION, ASSERT THEIR RIGHTS AND APPLY PRESSURE – THROUGH INDUSTRIAL**

ACTION IF NECESSARY – THEY CAN TAKE ON THE BIGGEST EMPLOYERS AND WIN SIGNIFICANT IMPROVEMENTS.

But this is a world away from the sham bargaining we frequently see today. Many labour hire companies want an EA so they can lock in low rates to bid for contracts and undercut permanent workers. Companies usually do this by developing a document with no input from workers, and then put it out to vote – sometimes to just a handful of people. But once the Fair Work Commission (FWC) approves it, the EA can be used to employ many hundreds or even thousands. The union has successfully challenged many of these EAs in the mining industry, when we can prove they don't meet legal requirements around genuine agreement or satisfying the Better Off Overall Test (BOOT). Many other EAs in our industry are deeply unfair but don't breach any laws. To start, the BOOT test only requires EAs to ensure workers are better off than the Award - not industry standard pay and conditions. This is a failure of the system. And the Fair Work Commission regularly approves EAs that allow for casual work, even though casual work is not allowed for under the Black Coal Award. While EAs must be better off 'overall' than the Award, under the Fair Work Act they don't need to contain every Award provision. So by having an hourly rate slightly above the Award minimum with a 25% casual loading, the FWC can and regularly does decide that workers would be better off overall than the Award and give their stamp of approval. This is a perverse outcome that leads to terrible disparities between mineworkers. If genuine casuals are needed, loadings should be applied to industry standard rates, not Award minimums. Despite what some believe, the Union can't veto the making of Enterprise Agreements. We



may bargain on behalf of members, we may recommend members vote for or against an EA and we may be named in an EA in order to represent union members covered by it, but EAs only become valid by being voted up by a majority of employees and approved by the Fair Work Commission. **TO STAMP OUT SHAM BARGAINING, WE NEED FAIRER WORKPLACE LAWS. 'SAME JOB SAME PAY' LAWS FOR LABOUR HIRE WORKERS WOULD BE A GOOD START, TO STAMP OUT THIS TOXIC BUSINESS MODEL DESIGNED TO UNDERMINE THE BENEFITS OF GENUINE BARGAINING.** But we also need all workers in our industry to be active participants in bargaining. I urge all coal workers to get a copy of your own EA if you are covered by one, find out how it compares to others in the industry, join the union and encourage your workmates to do as well. When your next opportunity to bargain comes around, strong union density puts you in the best position to get a better deal. **Peter Jordan, CFMEU Northern Mining and NSW Energy District President**

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RTDrill has unveiled its latest down-the-hole hammer drill rig, the RTD32, which is now available across Australia through CRAM.

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ON THE ROAD AGAIN

THE UPPER HUNTER MINING DIALOGUE'S SCHOOL MINE TOURS PROGRAM IS GEARING UP FOR ITS BIGGEST YEAR YET.



The School Mine Tours 2021 program gives students from across the Upper Hunter an opportunity to participate in one of 31 scheduled tours across 13 mine sites. A record 22 schools from across the Upper Hunter region have confirmed their involvement meaning that more than 1100 students will have the opportunity to tour a local mine site. **THE DIALOGUE TOURS PROGRAM SEES YEAR 5 AND YEAR 9 STUDENTS TOUR WORKING MINES IN THE UPPER HUNTER AND LEARN FIRST-HAND ABOUT THE EFFECTS OF MINING IN THEIR DAY TO DAY LIVES. THE TOURS ARE FREE AND ARE OFFERED TO ALL SCHOOLS IN THE UPPER HUNTER REGION.** Following a call from community representatives at the Dialogue's 2016 Annual Forum, the program was designed in 2017 by a Dialogue Working Group made up of teachers, community, mining industry and local government representatives. Using educational materials and messaging developed by the Dialogue Working Group, the tours program offers a fact-based, first-hand education experience to teach local students about the impacts and benefits of coal mining in the Upper Hunter. In first full year of operation in 2018, 17 schools in the Singleton-Muswellbrook educational catchment participated in the program. The "tours route" was expanded in 2020 to include schools from the Upper Hunter LGA catchment however the 2020 program had to be put on hold due to Covid-19 safety protocols and

restrictions on school excursions. This year's schedule includes schools from the Singleton, Muswellbrook and Scone catchments. The tours are scheduled to kick off in March and continue through the year until October.

GAME TIME!



WIN!

BE A PART OF THE CROWD THAT CELEBRATES MINING COMMUNITIES AT THE VOICE FOR MINING FAMILY DAY.

This year the Voice for Mining Family Day will be held at McDonald's Jones Stadium on Sunday April 4 where the Newcastle Knights will again don their hi-vis mining jerseys to celebrate the mining industry. You too can be a part of the celebration as we have 4 x Family Passes up for grabs. And on top of that each family will go home with Newcastle Knights NRL players hi-vis training shirt! **FOR YOUR CHANCE TO WIN SIMPLY SMS: VOICE FOR MINING, YOUR NAME, AND YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS TO 0438 474 290.**

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JOINING FORCES

LOCAL ABORIGINAL MAN FROM SINGLETON VICTOR PERRY HAS A VISION – TO CREATE JOBS AND PROVIDE OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE INDIGENOUS COMMUNITY. THANKS TO THE SUPPORT FROM SOME MAJOR INDUSTRY PLAYERS AND PLENTY OF HARD WORK HE HAS ACHIEVED A MAJOR MILESTONE ON THAT JOURNEY.

Over 30 years ago Victor started working in his family's business primarily focused on land management and conservation. Throughout the years he's chased after new business opportunities but found it difficult to break through the financial and operational barriers required for significant company growth. Then a fateful encounter with Dylan Dyer, a specialist in Indigenous SME development and an advocate for Indigenous business start-ups changed everything. Yunaga Civil & Earth (YCE) is a small family business, specialising in civil and earthmoving for the mining and construction sectors as well as offering consultation services on the protection and conservation of Aboriginal heritage. YCE had a vision and growth strategy, however it needed funding assistance, technical expertise, quality equipment and support services so they put out a call for industry support.

WHAT HAPPENED NEXT WAS ALMOST THE PROVERBIAL 'PERFECT STORM' OF COLLABORATION, WITH MAJOR PLAYERS COMING TOGETHER TO OFFER THEIR COLLECTIVE EXPERTISE, CAPITAL, SERVICES AND PRODUCTS.

SME aggregator ServeGate was instrumental in connecting and introducing the companies that included civil construction experts Daracon Group, who provided YCE with a working capital loan, as well as national Caterpillar® dealer and equipment provider WesTrac who supplied the heavy machinery and Aboriginal owned and operated recruitment agency Asquith Workforce who supplied fully qualified personnel to YCE's operations. And through it all Dylan provided guidance and unwavering faith in what Victor was trying to achieve. In addition to the collaborative support, YCE also secured an AU\$2m small Indigenous-owned business grant from the National Indigenous Australians Agency (NIAA), a Federal Government-backed organisation committed to improving the lives of all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. The Government grant and the loan provided by Daracon Group was used to enable YCE to get its fleet established and provide employment opportunities to Indigenous people. The support came full circle last month when YCE celebrated making its final repayment of the working capital loan to Daracon at an official

cheque-handing ceremony hosted by the lender to commemorate the milestone. The ceremony also provided YCE the opportunity to give thanks to the companies that had been instrumental to its growth.

"FROM THE VERY BEGINNING WE'VE HAD OVERWHELMING SUPPORT FROM EVERYONE. THEY'VE GONE ABOVE AND BEYOND. WE ARE NOW IN A POSITION TO EMPLOY OUR FIRST FULL-TIME INDIGENOUS EMPLOYEE WHICH IS A MAJOR MILESTONE," SAID VICTOR.

"It's through the support and guidance provided by everyone that our vision has become a reality. On behalf of everyone at YCE, we thank all our partners."

Managing Director of Daracon Group Jon Mingay said that through a clear vision and persistence, YCE has grown to become a successful, reputable and reliable Indigenous civil and earthmoving company. "Victor, with the support of the ServeGate team, already had a strong business plan and clear idea of where and how they wanted to grow," said Mr. Mingay. "Today they are now a viable option to be considered on all projects which is a credit to their ongoing hard work as well as the quality

of service provided."

Caterpillar® dealer WesTrac was also a willing partner going above and beyond to assist YCE, with Chief Executive for NSW/ACT Greg Graham reinforcing the Company's support for Indigenous and workplace diversity. "Supporting Indigenous Australians is one of four key diversity categories we are focused on," said Mr. Graham. "At WesTrac we value helping local communities as well as embracing diversity as an important part of our philosophy and culture."

"YCE's successful growth makes it an outstanding role model for other Indigenous companies to aspire to, and we hope that through this collaboration we encourage other companies to consider committing to similar partnerships."

Victor says they are very proud of what they have achieved thanks to the collaboration, as it has set them up for a very promising future. "We have worked hard, and our partners have all worked hard to get us to where we are at, but it's just the first step. We are here to support as many local businesses as we can, to build a better community by working together, and to leave a legacy for the next generation."



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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 POTENTIAL ENTITLEMENT TO HEARING AIDS WHEN YOU ARE SUFFERING FROM INDUSTRIAL DEAFNESS.

Unfortunately, work-related noise induced hearing loss or industrial deafness is common in the coal mining industry. In addition to lump sum compensation for loss of hearing and in some cases pain and suffering as a result of industrial deafness workers can be entitled to the cost.

I am sure those amongst the readers who suffer from industrial deafness can attest to the fact that loss of hearing can have an enormous detrimental impact on the workers work, social and home life. Inability to hear directions and warnings at work, social isolation, and arguments at home due to having to ask comments to be repeated and over the volume of the TV are all examples cited by clients over the years. Hearing aids can make a difference.

A CLAIM FOR HEARING AIDS IS A CLAIM FOR A MEDICAL EXPENSE UNDER THE WORKERS COMPENSATION LEGISLATION.

In order to qualify for hearing aids, you must first have a hearing loss arising from your employment. Once you have established that you have industrial deafness, often by bringing a claim for lump sum benefits you can bring a claim for hearing aids if you have the appropriate evidence.

The test to determine whether you are entitled to hearing aids is whether they are reasonably necessary as a form of treatment for your condition. Whilst the level of hearing loss is an indicator it is not the final determining factor, for example, I have seen workers with hearing loss less than 10% binaural who were able to obtain hearing aids on the basis that they were reasonably necessary. Other evidence such as the existence of tinnitus may also be relevant if the hearing aids assist with that condition.

Whilst a high percentage hearing loss may well speak for itself in terms of hearing aids being necessary there

can sometimes be a dispute when the hearing loss is comparatively small, for example under 10%. In those circumstances often the best way to establish that the hearing aids are reasonably necessary is to have a trial of hearing aids and then the worker can give evidence that they assisted with the condition.

THERE ARE GOVERNMENT IMPOSED LIMITS ON HOW MUCH THE INSURER WILL BE LIABLE FOR WHEN PAYING FOR HEARING AIDS.

SIRA approved hearing aid providers are aware of those limits and if you advise them that you are making a workers compensation claim they will provide you with a quotation that is in accordance with the guidelines. In extreme or unusual circumstances an application can be made to the Court for a payment over and above the guidelines.



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

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NEED FOR DEED

A UNIQUE DEED HAS CEMENTED A PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN COUNCIL AND MINING COMPANIES TO ENSURE THE FUTURE OF SINGLETON.

In what is thought to be a unique approach, the management of millions of dollars for the social and economic benefit of the future of Singleton has been formalised with the signing of the Community Economic Development Fund Deed.

Signatories Singleton Council, Glencore and The Bloomfield Group will oversee the use of the proceeds from the Community Economic Development Fund, which was developed last year with a portion of the proceeds from Voluntary Planning Agreements (VPAs).

The objectives of the Fund are to help proactively manage the impacts of mining through projects, activities and events to increase economic growth and productivity, foster innovation, support and grow jobs, increase business profitability, improve living standards, reduce social issues and promote health and wellbeing for the communities of the Singleton LGA.

MAYOR OF SINGLETON, CR SUE MOORE SAID IT WAS A UNIQUE COLLABORATION BETWEEN COUNCIL AND MINING COMPANIES TO SURE UP THE FUTURE OF SINGLETON BY SETTING ASIDE SOME OF THE PROCEEDS FROM MINING PROJECTS NOW.



"Best of all, the Deed commits the signatories to working together to oversee how these funds will be best used to benefit the community," she said.

"It's an extra layer of transparency and a demonstration to the community that the best interests of the people of Singleton – both now and those who will come after us – are truly at the heart of the Community Economic Development Fund.

A Joint Management Board will consist three Council representatives, Mayor Cr Sue Moore, Cr Sue George and Cr Godfrey Adamthwaite, who along with senior staff of Glencore and The Bloomfield Group will consider and provide recommendations to Council on proposals for consideration for funding under the Fund.

It is envisaged the Joint Management Board will meet for the first time this month, and at least once a year thereafter.

"With such a strong connection to the Singleton LGA, we are pleased to be a major contributor to the Singleton Community Economic Development Fund," Glencore Coal Assets Australia Chief Operating Officer, Ian Cribb said.

"We look forward to working with Council and other fund partners to deliver community outcomes."

The Bloomfield Group Chief Development Officer Geoff Moore said the local company looked forward to continuing to work with Council and the community and welcomed the opportunity to review projects that will directly benefit local people.

"Through this unified approach, funding can be applied across a wide range of projects that are consistent with the funding criteria to provide a benefit to the local community and support the social and economic future of Singleton," he said.

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PRIME TIME

NSW MINERALS COUNCIL AND REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT AUSTRALIA (RDA) HUNTER RE-LAUNCH PARTNERSHIP TO BUILD AWARENESS OF MINING SECTOR CAREER OPPORTUNITIES.

Regional Development Australia (RDA) Hunter and NSW Minerals Council (NSWMC) on February 16 launched the second iteration of their partnership, PRIME (Pathways to Resource Industry and Mining Employment).

PRIME is a two-year partnership that sees NSWMC work alongside RDA Hunter which has a strong reputation for implementing industry-skilling and workforce development initiatives to increase awareness of the NSW mining industry and its career opportunities.

The collaboration will help Hunter secondary school students better appreciate how science, maths and geography apply across the lifecycle of

a mine and the types of skills and jobs required to support mining operations. The project includes the implementation of mining-specific content, scenario-based learning activities and real-world problem solving in the classroom.

BASED ON THE STRONG FOUNDATIONAL YEAR IN 2020, IT IS ANTICIPATED THAT EVEN MORE SCHOOLS WILL ADOPT THE PRIME PROGRAM IN 2021. TWENTY SCHOOLS ACROSS THE HUNTER PARTICIPATED IN 2020.

Minerals Council CEO Stephen Galilee said the NSWMC was happy to be working with RDA Hunter to promote the breadth of mining industry career opportunities in the Hunter.

“NSW’s mining sector is consistently innovating and our aim in continuing this successful project with RDA Hunter is to build a motivated future talent pool by encouraging interest in the diverse and interesting job opportunities available in the industry,” Mr Galilee said

“A career in mining can be highly rewarding and the skills acquired in the industry can open a pathway to other similar industries. The PRIME project builds on the work we already do in the region’s schools to support young people develop the knowledge and skills needed for a sustained career in mining and we’re looking forward to the 2021 program.”



NSW MINERALS COUNCIL STEPHEN GALILEE, LEFT, AND REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT AUSTRALIA, HUNTER, COMMITTEE CHAIR JOHN HUNTER TAKING A COVID SAFE APPROACH TO THE LAUNCH OF THE 2021 PRIME PROGRAM.

ACCORDING TO CHAIR OF RDA HUNTER JOHN TURNER, THE ORGANISATION WORKS TO SUPPORT INNOVATION-DRIVEN INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT AND JOBS GROWTH IN THE HUNTER AND IS PLEASED TO SUPPORT YOUNG PEOPLE CONSIDERING A MINING INDUSTRY CAREER.

“The mining sector continues to be a large employer and important driver of economic growth in the Hunter region,” Mr Turner said.

“We’re delighted to be NSW Mineral Council’s partner of choice in the PRIME project and contributing our significant experience as a connector between Hunter schools and industry to deliver graduates with relevant industry knowledge and skills.

“We’re looking forward to working with NSW Minerals Council again in 2021 to help highlight the career opportunities that will continue to exist in the sector well into the future.”

This year the PRIME partnership will see participating Hunter high schools receive two Oculus Virtual Reality headsets each and programs to give students a ‘real’ mining industry experience; lesson plans pertaining to the lifecycle of a mine; real-world industry challenges set by the mining industry for resolution by student teams and teacher professional development sessions.

PARALLEL ECONOMICS

THE SINGLETON CONTAINER PORT

THERE HAS BEEN A LOT OF DISCUSSION AND NEWS ARTICLES AROUND USING NEWCASTLE AS A CONTAINER PORT TO DRIVE SIGNIFICANT ECONOMIC BENEFIT TO THE HUNTER, NSW AND AUSTRALIA ITSELF. MAYBE THERE IS A WAY.

While I fully understand that there are contractual issues around positioning a container terminal at the Hunter Port due to the Botany facility having a clause preventing it, I wonder if there is a potential loophole. A loophole where instead of the terminal being located at Port of Newcastle, the terminal is instead located just up the railway line on repurposed mine land at say Singleton or Muswellbrook.

To exploit the potential loophole containers may not even have to touch the ground in Newy. If properly set up, purpose-built rail infrastructure could in fact see containers lifted directly from ships onto railway carriages before being whisked a short distance up the line to a fully-fledged container distribution facility on mine land.

THE FACILITY VERY CONVENIENTLY WOULD ALREADY BE CONNECTED TO WORLD CLASS HIGHWAY INFRASTRUCTURE SO THAT THE TRUCKING INDUSTRY COULD PLUG INTO THE SYSTEM WITH EASE AND DISTRIBUTE MILLIONS OF TONNES OF FREIGHT UP AND DOWN THE EAST COAST OF AUSTRALIA AND SERVICE GREATER SYDNEY WITH EASE.

The workforce needed would be a jobs and growth economic bonanza for the Upper Hunter of huge proportions.

Add on to that all of the supporting businesses that would be needed to be set up to service and help keep it all running and the potential is obvious.

Future growth and need for the entire state and beyond to the nation would be catered for

with relative ease in context of the huge scale. Reduced potential container handling costs may be an import/export windfall for those needing these kinds of services in terms of reduced costs that inevitably come with using the congested and expensive Sydney Port and road network of the NSW capital.

More cost-effective land, access and lower wage costs due to more affordable regional living for the workforce would be reflected in a highly competitive plan.

Sydney can only handle so much; the Hunter could handle a whole lot more and be the major support/relief facility to the primary container hubs that are currently in existence.

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Aboriginal Community Development Fund

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

The Fund seeks to support partnerships that target issues, needs and opportunities which are priorities for local Aboriginal communities in areas such as health; economic development; cultural and community development and education in the Upper Hunter Valley, NSW.

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OPINION

THE FUTURE OF THE COAL INDUSTRY IS STRONG

MY COLLEAGUE CHRIS BOWEN SAYS LABOR OWES “OUR COAL MINERS AND COAL MINING COMMUNITIES MORE THAN RESPECT, WE OWE THEM HONESTY”. I COULDN’T AGREE MORE. BUT LET’S BE COMPLETELY HONEST. SURE, THE LONG-TERM OUTLOOK FOR COAL IS UNCERTAIN - IN THE TRUE MEANING OF THE WORD - BUT THAT’S TRUE OF MANY OF THE COMMODITIES WE EXPORT.

Australia’s coal generators are aging and each of them will come to the end of their physical and economic lives at some point. The Hunter Valley’s Liddell plant in 2023, Queensland’s youngest in 2050. But the lion’s share of Australia’s coal is exported, mainly to Asia. Each year we export around \$26 billion worth of thermal coal for electricity generation and around \$43 billion worth of metallurgical coal for steel making. Let’s deal with metallurgical coal first and quickly. In the absence of the still mythical “green steel” revolution, the growing nations

of Asia are going to be hungry for our high-quality metallurgical coal for many decades to come. That is also true of our iron ore, the other ingredient critical to the steel making process. I know of no economist or investor predicting the demise of iron ore in the foreseeable future. Global seaborne thermal coal volumes doubled between 2006 and 2019. But predicting future global demand for thermal coal is challenging. As the Reserve Bank has pointed out, there are many variables, including the pace of economic growth in developing

countries, changes in the cost and capabilities of different technologies, and changes to government policies. **WHAT IS MORE CERTAIN IS AUSTRALIA’S CAPACITY TO COMPETE, BOTH IN QUALITY AND PRICE.** One tool available to governments striving to reduce their country’s carbon emissions is to buy more Australian coal which is cleaner and more efficient than the product of our competitors. Conversely, exporting less Australian coal will add to emissions. And despite our high wage costs in Australia (a good thing), our embrace of technology has allowed us to remain price competitive on global markets. Despite demand uncertainty, investors have expressed a vote of confidence in the industry. In thermal coal dominated NSW, \$6 billion worth of expansion projects await regulatory approval. Those who rail our coal to port also have capacity expansion plans.

In arriving at their decisions, these fully funded investors have no doubt taken note of what’s happening in Asia. In the midst of a deep global recession, China’s coal-fired power generation grew by 38 gigawatts last year. That’s the equivalent of 19 new Liddell power stations. Indeed, China has 127 new coal-fired plants in the pipeline. They are not alone, Indonesia is building 52, India 28, Japan 22, and Vietnam 17. Many of India’s units were built in the last decade, they have a long way to run. That in part explains the huge

financial commitment they’ve made in the Adani coal mine.

For completeness, South Korea is temporarily shutting-down 28 of its oldest coal-fired generators as it switches to gas in an attempt to address air pollution. No doubt other older stations across Asia will come off-line as new plants are commissioned.

THE VALUE OF THE COAL INDUSTRY TO THE AUSTRALIAN ECONOMY, THE JOBS IT CREATES, AND THE CONTRIBUTION IT MAKES TO GOVERNMENT COFFERS IS WELL KNOWN. WE WOULD BE A LESS WEALTHY COUNTRY WITHOUT IT. OUR COAL MINERS KNOW THIS, THAT’S ONE OF THE REASONS THEY ARE SO PROUD OF WHAT THEY DO.

They know the world will change. Like me, many support action on climate change. But what concerns them is those who would unnecessarily accelerate change at the expense of their jobs. They are wary of those who say the energy system is in transition, when they know what they really mean is, they want it to transition.

In the Hunter we’ve been successfully diversifying our economy for decades. Along the way we’ve leveraged off the wealth of the coal mining industry to do so. We haven’t been waiting for Beijing, Tokyo or Seoul, we’ve just been getting on with it. That’s the truth.

**Hon Joel Fitzgibbon MP
Federal Member for Hunter**



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A herd of buffalo can only move as fast as the slowest buffalo. When the herd is hunted, it is the slowest and weakest ones at the back that are killed first. This natural selection is good for the herd as a whole, because the general speed and health of the whole group keeps improving by the regular killing of its weakest members. In much the same way, the human brain can only operate as fast as the slowest brain cells.

Excessive intake of alcohol, as we know, kills brain cells. If we apply the same principle of natural selection, then it makes sense for the alcohol to attack the slowest and weakest brain cells first. Therefore, regular consumption of beer eliminates the weaker brain cells, making the brain a faster and more efficient machine. That’s why you always feel smarter after a few beers.

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SUPPLIER INSIDER

CCH PLANT MAINTENANCE

Tell us about the business?

CCH Plant Maintenance is a small mechanical business specialising in Caterpillar equipment. We are based in Rutherford NSW and service the mining, earthmoving and agricultural industries in the Hunter Valley region.

We offer a large range of services including machine diagnostics, machine repairs, component change outs, component rebuilds, machine rebuilds and air conditioning.

We do this all with fast and friendly service and consider ourselves to have a superior level of knowledge and expertise. We value providing timely communication; safety; and regulation compliance.

How long have you been doing business?

Since June 2017 – almost 4 years now.

How many people work for the business?

We have 4 employees - two field service technicians and two office staff. We are currently hiring and growing quickly.

Describe a typical day at 'The office'.

A typical day for us is performing a range of tasks including from mechanical and diagnostics service, air conditioning maintenance and repairs, and full commissioning checks, to quality documents sheet, data graphing, injector trim codes, and electronic diagnostics. Every day is

different. We might be on a mine site, construction site or farm. We go where the work is!

What's the best thing about the business?

We are proud to be a small family owned business that provides a service that is honest, reliable and professional. We love that our small operation supports larger businesses in mining, civil and agriculture to run efficiently and continue what they do best without interruption.

The worst thing?

Not being physically able to be in 10 places at once!

What are the biggest challenges facing your business?

The biggest challenge facing

CCH Plant Maintenance is being a smaller company competing against larger companies and trying to get our name out there in our industries. It's also challenging ensuring we have enough resources to keep up with the demand for our services from our clients. We are selective with our team and make sure they meet the highest standards that CCH Plant Maintenance promises to deliver.

What is the biggest opportunity for your business right now?

The biggest opportunity for us at the moment is growing our service to the mining industry while also building important relationships with smaller customers in the agricultural and civil industries.

What is the business most proud of?

We are most proud of the achievements we've made in the last six months since making the decision to grow and really make a mark in the Hunter Valley. We have quickly secured a mining contract as a vendor while also gaining new customers in the agricultural industry as word-of-mouth spreads.

Community or other causes close to its heart and values?

We come from the land and farming families and value the resources the land provides all of us in the community. We are committed to supporting operations in the mining, civil and agricultural industries so they can operate smoothly and efficiently and continue providing Australians what they need.

Any funny or heartwarming stories to share?

We named the business after our three kids - Courtney, Cameron and Hayden. Now that they're adults they don't want to work for their old man!

Any employees that deserve a shout out?

My wife Linda has technically been employee of the month every month since we opened. She's my rock and makes everything possible.



Who are you and what do you do?

My name is Jai Brook, I'm 26 years old and currently work at Bulga Open Cut employed by Glencore as a multi skilled operator.

When did you start in the mining industry and what was your first job?

I started open cut mining in 2016 as a trainee driving the haul trucks 789-797 models which led me to now being a

dozer operator.

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

When I was younger, I wanted to join the army. You could almost say it's on the same line when you're the dozer operator on a busy dump haha

What's a usual day at work entail?

Always start the day off with a coffee and a prestart pump up with the crew. We will thoroughly go through a detailed prestart meeting and if necessary, a 1 on 1 conversation with the OCE about the allocated task we have received. I'll head out to my job and machine and do an area inspection and a 103 inspection on the machine I'm operating. I'll then carry out the task I've been allocated to complete. We work the lifestyle roster with 12.5hr day/night shifts with 2 crib breaks a shift.

What's the best thing about your job?

Easily the culture – we are surrounded by great values and enthusiasm. Spending 13+ hours at a site with a good bunch of people that I now call good mates makes my mining career even more enjoyable.

The worst thing?

Besides when you're on your

last shift and your about to go on your 5 days off...there's nothing. I'm grateful to work where I work.

What's the biggest challenge you've had to overcome?

Trying to juggle work/business/husband and father role. I haven't mastered it yet but always trying my best.

What has been your proudest achievement?

Work related – getting a full time job with Glencore and being upskilled.

At home – my wife and I becoming parents to our beautiful boy Harlyn who is now almost 3 years old.

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

The challenges we face daily. We are touching parts of the world that have never been seen before so a lot of things can change, and hazards can arise.

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

There's a lot of funny work stories I have locked away but funniest thing we have on crew are the nicknames. There's a dirt mover (myself), earth mover, dirt worm, dirt whisperer, dirt destroyer, etc. There's a dirt name for almost everyone LOL

What do you do in your downtime?

Besides trying to be the best husband and father I can be, working out, going away for family trips, I myself and 2 mates/business partners, currently own and direct an activewear company called aftrmth active. (www.aftrmth active.com) We started the business to start conversation and spread the message around mental health and suicide prevention. In our 2 years in business, we have been quite successful in delivering our message and we look forward to always striving forward to making a change and helping those around Australia and soon to be the world.

The mining industry gets more than its fair share of criticism. What is your view of our industry and the impact is has?

I can openly say our mining group and a lot of other mining companies do a lot for their local community. Whether it been fundraisers, financial contributions or building a new park for the local kids, we really do give a lot back which makes me proud to work in the mining industry and I think everyone should feel somewhat proud when they are representing a company.

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PIT PERSON OF MONTH
Who are you and what's your role at Pit Express?
Steve Cox and I'm a general freight courier.

How long have you been with the company?
I've been here five months.

What's the best thing about the job and the company?
Working with Cindy...haha!

Why are they are so successful?
Just a great crew of people!

Tell us something personal about yourself?
I've got two kids who inherited some sort of sporting prowess that definitely passed me by. Not sure how that happened. Oh and of course a great wife.

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FEBRUARY FUNDRAISER

THE DK HEAVY PLANT SERVICES TEAM BANDED TOGETHER FOR A DAY OF GAMES AND FUN ON FEBRUARY 5, RAISING AWARENESS AND A WHOPPING \$4,555 FOR OVARIAN CANCER.

The Fundraiser was held at the DK Heavy Plant Services (DKHPS) facility on Thomas Mitchell Drive in Muswellbrook, with a set up out the front of the sheds showcasing a Hitachi EX5500 & EX3600 bucket that the team had completed major structural component replacements on and painted to support Ovarian Cancer Australia.

Each month DKHPS supports a fundraiser, having supported organisations like R U Okay Day, Breast Cancer awareness and other various charities in the past, this month supporting Ovarian

Cancer Australia in light of Ovarian Cancer Month. "When choosing the charity for February to support, we started to do some research and it just happened to be Ovarian Cancer Month in February," said DKHPS Administration Assistant, Michelle Meissner. "We conducted further research and found that ovarian cancer Australia doesn't receive as much support as other charities and that ovarian cancer is a silent killer effecting a lot of women in Australia."

"WITH MORE AND MORE WOMEN

ENTERING THE MINING INDUSTRY IT WAS A GREAT OPPORTUNITY TO SHOW OUR SUPPORT TO WOMEN BOTH WITHIN OUR WORKPLACES AND MINE SITES."

The morale on the day was high and every member of the DKHPS team were really keen to get involved, from egg and spoon races and sack races to ball toss games. They also 'auctioned off' each off the participants to the highest bidder to raise money. "The auction on the day raised an amazing \$4555, all donated by our employees, suppliers and clients," said Michelle.

"It was a lot of fun watching the guys race and there were some 'hot' contenders on the day."

THE FINAL EVENT OF THE DAY WAS A "TUG OF WAR" OF

APPRENTICES VERSUS TRADIES AND TENSIONS WERE RUNNING HIGH, WITH THE APPRENTICES COMING OUT ON TOP. "BUT THE BIGGEST HIGHLIGHT WAS SEEING EVERYONE COME TOGETHER FROM DIFFERENT COMPANIES AND MINE SITES TO SUPPORT AN AMAZING CAUSE," MICHELLE CONCLUDED.

A big thanks to the DKHPS team for a great day for a great cause and also to those who participated from Hunter Valley Operations, BHP Mt Arthur, ESCO, Allweld Muswellbrook, Warburton Estate Agents, Hunter Valley Lubricant, Top Dressed, Elite Air and Electrical, Biglift Cranes and Heavy Haulage, Muswellbrook Floral Studio, Muswellbrook Signs, Hydraulink Muswellbrook and Muswellbrook Domino's.

MIGHTY MAILRUN

THE ANNUAL QUARRY MINING MAILRUN CHARITY BIKE RIDE IS SET TO GO AHEAD ON APRIL 11 AND REGISTRATIONS ARE NOW OPEN TO TAKE PART.

In 2019, the Quarry Mining Mailrun Charity Bike Ride raised close to \$42,000 for Singleton Family Support Scheme (SPSS) and after unfortunately not going ahead in 2020 due to Covid, the ride is back for 2021.

The popular ride has been running for the past 8 years, attracting lots of visitors to the region and raises money for a great cause, the SPSS. Singleton Family Support Scheme is a not-for-profit charitable organisation that has supported families in the Singleton local government area for over 30 years. SFSS aims to work with families to empower them to make decisions that keep their family unit safe and well.

THERE ARE FOUR DISTANCES FOR RIDERS TO CHOOSE FROM - 100KM, 65KM, 40KM AND 20KM SO THERE IS SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE.

All courses will take you through the picturesque agricultural landscape of the fertile Hunter Valley along lightly trafficked, tarred roads and all entrants receive a free lunch and drink at the finish area and free entry into the pool at the Singleton Gym & Swim for a refreshing shower and/or swim after the ride.

Beginning at Civic Avenue in between the Swim and Gym and the Civic Centre, Singleton, the start times vary depending on what distance you are riding with 100km course riders starting between 7-7:30am, 65km course riders between 7:30-8am, 40km riders 8-8:30am and 20km riders 8:30-9am.

Registrations close on Friday April 9 at 5pm but

people are welcome to register on the day for a slightly higher registration fee.

"Through your involvement in this event you can assist us to provide essential services to the community so that all families can receive the support they need in stressful times," said SPSS Project Officer, Diana Deaves.

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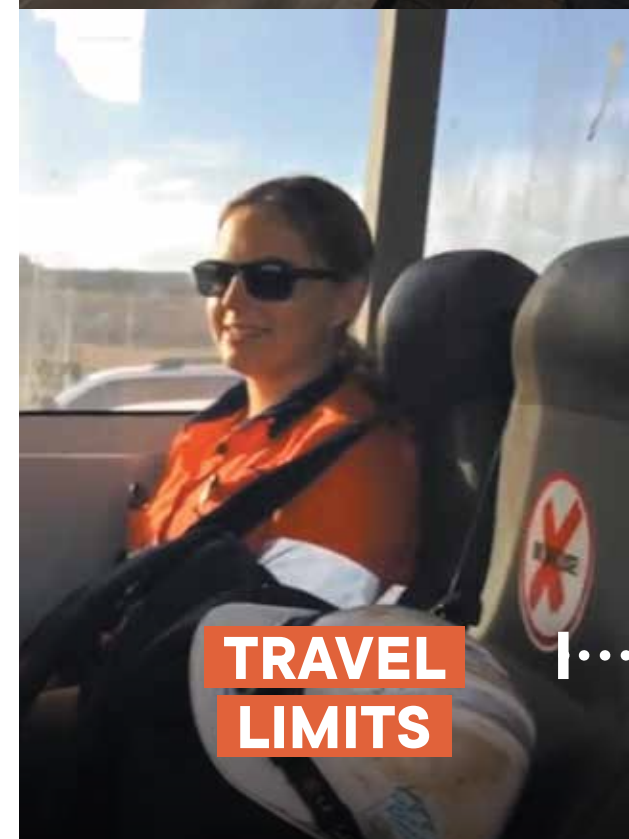
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COOL KAYAK

IF YOU'RE LOOKING FOR SOME AWESOME FAMILY FUN ON YOUR NEXT OUTING, YOU'LL LOVE THE 2021 MIRAGE ITREK FIESTA.

Currently the only one of its kind on the market, this kayak has 4 comfortable seats and two MirageDrives with Glide Technology and Kick-Up Fins. It's lightweight and spacious design makes for easy transport and enough room to bring the whole family along. It delivers the same stability and rugged rigidity as a solid boat, so you can head out and cast a line or simply take it out for a cruise.



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PROACTIVE APPROACH

THIESS' MT OWEN TEAM ARE TAKING A PROACTIVE APPROACH TO ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT TO ENSURE DUST, NOISE AND BLASTING EMISSION IMPACTS ARE MINIMISED ON OUR LOCAL COMMUNITIES.

Working together with their client, Glencore, the team has developed a range of controls including leadership training and education sessions, noise and dust risk forecasting, targeted sound power testing of operating equipment and real-time monitoring technology. Thiess Senior Environment Advisor Linda Lunnon said the real-time data enables their operational team to monitor dust and noise levels

and respond swiftly to changing weather conditions. "Paired with regular visual inspections, the technology provides further guidance throughout each shift, enabling our leaders to readily modify operations as needed," Linda said. "The system also triggers SMS alerts to relevant personnel if dust or noise levels reach a defined threshold," she said.

"This provides a prompt for operational staff to reassess controls and implement further actions if required."

"Our forecasting systems also allow us to plan for adverse weather conditions."

"DUST AND NOISE ARE TWO OF THE HIGHEST ENVIRONMENT RISKS FOR OUR PROJECTS IN THE HUNTER VALLEY, AND WE ARE CONTINUALLY MONITORING AND REFINING CONTROLS THAT CAN ASSIST IN MANAGING THESE RISKS."

Thiess' Environment team believes engaging their people is critical to effectively manage risks.

"We prioritise continued support and coaching of our people to ensure they understand the context and importance of our environmental controls and can get optimal value from the systems we've developed," Linda said.

"We educate them on the monitoring of data, trends and how they can apply their knowledge to minimise short-term and longer-term community impacts."

Thiess Environment and Civil Manager James Anderson recognises his team's ability to stay abreast of emerging environmental trends in industry and legislation to reduce risks and identify and action opportunities for their client.

"Our Mt Owen team works closely with our wider operations in the Hunter Valley to collaborate on solving problems and achieve tailored dust and noise management solutions," James said.

MORE BROADLY THE MT OWEN TEAM WORKS WITH THIESS' WIDER OPERATIONAL AND TECHNICAL TEAMS TO DESIGN AND DELIVER INTEGRATED SOLUTIONS THAT OPTIMISE OVERALL MINING AND REHABILITATION EFFORTS.

"Each project leverages our global insight to provide local value, with our head office team offering industry-leading environmental insights across each of our operating countries," James said.

"Our proven experience managing the full suite of environmental services on mine sites ensures we continually deliver exceptional outcomes for our clients."

GET WITH THE PROGRAM

THE MINING INDUSTRY LEADS THE WAY IN PROVIDING THE BEST PPE TO PROTECT ITS WORKER'S SKIN. NOW IT'S TIME TO GO ONE STEP FURTHER.

Despite a deluge of information on the dangers of skin cancer over the last few decades, Australia remains a global skin cancer hot spot, with mortality rates continuing to rise. Health experts have long stated that early detection is key to preventing its proliferation, yet clearly not enough is being done to reverse the numbers. A big part of the problem comes from many Australians not regularly getting skin checks.

As the most common cancer affecting working age Australians between 15 and 39 years old, workplace health expert and founder of Health@Work Kristina Billings, believes that workplaces

could have a huge role to play in the early prevention of skin cancer and potentially saving the lives of many employees.

"It's time for businesses to lead the charge and set up skin testing at work. Mining companies organise and encourage on site flu injections annually for their workers, now it's time to do the same for skin checks."

When Kristina lost a close friend to cancer, it was the driving catalyst for her to launch Health@Work, a workplace health services provider that conducts thousands of skin checks every year.

In 2019, Health@Work conducted

3,440 skin checks, detecting over 800 suspicious moles, lesions, sunspots and cancers. Of those, 133 (17%) turned out to be melanomas. Melanoma is the deadliest form of skin cancer however it is one of the most curable if it's detected and treated early. Which luckily was the case for one employee who participated in the program and shared their story.

"I THOUGHT 'OKAY, I'LL GIVE IT A GO. THEY FOUND A SUSPICIOUS SPOT SO I FOLLOWED IT UP WITH A TRIP TO THE DOCTORS SHORTLY AFTER - IT TURNED OUT TO BE MELANOMA. I HAD THE SPOT CUT OUT AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. IT'S SCARY TO THINK THAT, IF IT WEREN'T FOR THE PROGRAM, I PROBABLY WOULDN'T HAVE GOTTEN CHECKED AT ALL. I'M INCREDIBLY GRATEFUL."

Kristina explained that when it comes to health, Australians are unfortunately somewhat nonchalant by nature.

"Telling the public to go and get their yearly skin check through plain, repetitive marketing is not effective. It has become white noise. Conversely, the workplace can be a convenient place for employers to role model to their staff the importance of protecting yourself against sun dangers."

"This year, I'm calling on Australian CEOs and HR professionals to join our fight in saving lives - take the lead by implementing skin check programs. I want Australian workers to feel like getting their skin checked is no skin off their nose."

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ONE STEP AHEAD.

IT WAS THE BEST AND WORST OF TIMES

50 YEARS FROM NOW (PERHAPS EVEN SOONER), ACADEMICS WILL REVIEW RECENT EVENTS WITH MUCH VIGOR. THEIR RESEARCH AND REVIEWS WILL FOCUS UPON THE RATIONALE OF MODERN ECONOMIC THEORY, PRINCIPLES OF LEADERSHIP, THE EFFECTS OF PANDEMIC/S ON GLOBAL ECONOMIES AND THE IMPACTS (OR LACK THEREOF) OF CLIMATE CHANGE ON GLOBAL ECONOMIC GROWTH.

See, since the beginning of the Global Financial Crisis (GFC) in 2008 nothing has been normal. Of course, for us Aussies, we've been the lucky ones, seemingly sidestepping the global threats with little impact to our lives and prosperity. With (relatively) stable governments, record low interest rates and a resilient if not booming resource sector, we are the 'lucky country' where our fears stem from the relentless march of the Aussie dollar and the resulting effects that these movements will have on our terms of trade. So, what's this all got to do with 'yellow goods'?

Central banks broadly have three leavers to drive economic growth, monetary policy (interest rates and quantitative easing; now almost impotent), fiscal policy

(taxation; we've still got room to move) and infrastructure that provides lasting national assets to increase economic efficiency and importantly, drives employment. Here, markets look to Caterpillar to gauge the health of global markets. Why? Markets consider Caterpillar a reliable bellwether of global economic activity, operating on the notion that companies and governments tend to only commit to capital expenditure if they are confident in the economic outlook and, their own financial standing. Thus, if a market is strong and the outlook positive, it stands to reason that orders of equipment will rise to meet the growing needs of an expanding economy. So, what is it that the tea leaves are telling us?

HARD TO TELL, ECONOMICS IS AN IMPERFECT SCIENCE THAT NEED TO BE CONSIDERED IN CONTEXT OF COUNTRY, SECTOR, AND MACHINE, WITH MARKETS ALL TOO OFTEN MOVING AT DIFFERENT SPEEDS.

Despite Caterpillar reporting poorer results in 2020, green shoots are appearing, with the mining equipment market showing signs of recovery at the end of last year. Despite what many are calling a 'structural' decline in coal, I reckon it's going to be with us for a little while yet with countries including Japan, South Korea, Taiwan, India, and China (go figure) all demanding our black gold.

More telling is the performance of Iron Ore, Gold and Copper that stand to gain most from the global stimulus aka massive injection of cash. Albeit with a somewhat of a lag effect (i.e., by the time equipment is ordered and delivered) the results for the last quarter of 2020 were telling by mineral with distributions of equipment with gold miners up 50% year-on-year as mines attempted to cash in on substantially higher gold prices compared with a 55% decline across coal and the oil sands. The results for copper and iron ore while modest at 13% and 5%, respectively, are likely to increase in the coming quarters as the global stimulus flows through the system.

Shipments by product were noteworthy with mining trucks (by volume and value) accounting for 60% of total industry deliveries during the final quarter of 2020, representing the sharpest growth across all product lines. This demand

was followed by dozers and wheel loaders that were both up over 30% in sharp contrast to hydraulic shovels/excavators that declined by 10% (with electric shovel deliveries declining by over 60%).

AUSTRALASIA REMAINS THE LARGEST REGION FOR OVERALL DELIVERIES HOWEVER DECLINED YEAR-ON-YEAR BY 20% WHILE LATIN AMERICA SAW INCREASES ATTRIBUTED TO THE REGION'S EXPOSURE TO COPPER, GOLD, AND IRON ORE.

Most telling is North America that 10-12 years ago was second to Australasia in market size and now ranks behind all other regions except Europe and the Middle East. One can't help but think that with Trump (and his penchant for coal) now gone, North America's prospects of any sustained recovery may be limited.

Confused? Hey, I get it, I wouldn't blame you for a bit of naval gazing. Take heart though, with a market awash with cash and economists predicting potential beginning of a '10-year super cycle' we may well be in for a highly prosperous decade, the caveat being of course that 'an economist is an expert who will know tomorrow why the things he predicted yesterday didn't happen today...!'

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Gilroy Gears Up

AT JUST 19 YEARS OLD RYAN GILROY IS WELL ON HIS WAY TO HIS DREAM OF RACING IN V8 SUPERCARS COMPETITION, RECENTLY MOVING INTO THE TOYOTA 86 SERIES AS THE NEWEST MEMBER OF SIEDERS RACING TEAM.

Starting racing fairly late at the age of 14, Ryan has pushed hard to get where he is today. His natural talent for the sport saw him competitive from the minute he jumped behind the wheel and from that moment forward he has been a force to be reckoned with.

Before moving into car racing last year with RaceAway Track Time, Gilroy raced some of the top go-kart racers in the country adding a number of titles to his belt. The move to cars then saw him race at Bathurst in November 2020 and he went into 2021 on the back of a pole position win and a couple of class wins in Production Touring Cars Competition.

Ryan's development work last year with RaceAway Track Time set him up to move into the Toyota 86 Series, and Sieders Racing Team jumped at the opportunity to bring the young talent on board. "It is an unbelievable opportunity to learn and grow as a driver," said Ryan.

"THE TEAM HAVE THE EQUIPMENT AND SKILLS TO WIN AND I WILL BE PUSHING HARD TO ACHIEVE SUCCESS WITH THEM THIS YEAR."

Sieders Racing team have been a prominent name within motorsport for many years, with David Sieders winning the V8 Ute Series

back in 2016 and Aaron Borg winning the Toyota 86 Series in 2019.

Getting the opportunity to race with such a prominent, successful team such as Sieders Racing has always been a goal of the young gun. Nevertheless, he was shocked but extremely grateful he had achieved that goal.

Growing up Ryan was inspired by the likes of all the top drivers in Supercars, like Craig Lowndes and Mark Winterbottom, but said his biggest inspiration has always been his dad. "My dad definitely had the biggest influence on me getting into the sport," said Ryan.

"Dad is just a massive car and bike lover and has always had fast cars and fast road bikes (Ford supporter)."

"He has always watched the Bathurst 1000 since 1969 and has never missed a race."

And now he gets to watch his son race on those same tracks. Ryan and the Sieders Racing Team kick off at Bathurst as a support category for the Supercars from February 26 to 28 for the Bathurst 500 Sprint. Televised live on both Fox Sports and Channel 7 Sport, make sure you don't miss our local legend take on some of the best.



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SUPER SWIM

THE COALFIELDS UNITED SWIM CLUB WITH THE LEADERSHIP OF CLUB CAPTAIN ISABELLA METCALFE, HAS COME TOGETHER THIS MONTH TO RAISE FUNDS FOR THE STARLIGHT FOUNDATION, TAKING PART IN A NUMBER OF EVENTS FOR THE 2021 SUPER SWIM.

Collectively, the Coalfields Team set the goal of swimming 100 kilometres and raising \$2350 during the nationwide Super Swim challenge from Jan 26 - Feb 24, 2021. Now well over 450kms and \$3,000, they have absolutely smashed that goal out of the park.

This comes following the success of last year's fundraiser organised and facilitated by now 16 year old Club Captain Isabella Metcalfe. The passionate swimmer invited Club members to form a squad team to swim for the Laps for Life fundraising challenge for ReachOut during March 2020.

Facing the unique situation of Covid and due to Government regulations and social distancing the team were forced to stop swimming before 31 March 2020 but still managed to raise \$1,977.

"THIS YEAR I TRIED TO FIND EVENTS WHERE CLUB MEMBERS CAN SWIM TOGETHER TO RAISE AWARENESS AND FUNDS TO BENEFIT OTHERS," SAID ISABELLA.

"The event raises funds for the Starlight Children's Foundation, which aims to help brighten the lives of sick children and their families across Australia."



STARLIGHT SUPER SWIM TEAM MEMBERS L-R: KAIDEN HUSSEY, PHOEBE JENSSEN, TANIKAH BARBER, CLAIRE BRIDGE, MAY WESTER, JOSHUA HENRY, SCARLETT COX, ABIGAIL GLOVER, ISABELLA METCALFE, PHEBE GLOVER, EDEN FISCHER & LARA FISCHER

"One of our team participants has recalled her own experiences when she was hospitalised and how excited she was by a visit from Captain Starlight."

A total of 12 Coalfields Club members took part in the Starlight Super Swim ages ranging 5-18yrs. Several older team members took the plunge on January 26 as early as 7am under the supervision of Club founder Ellena Morris at Cessnock Pool. Club members also used the Return & Earn scheme to raise funds for the Super Swim Team as well as actively promoting their individual endeavours for donations.

THE MAIN DRIVER OF THE FUNDRAISING EVENT AT HER LOCAL CLUB, ISABELLA HAS ALWAYS HAD STRONG TIES WITH HER COMMUNITY.

Currently in Year 11 at St Phillip's Christian College, Cessnock, Isabella has enjoyed over 10 years of membership with Cessnock District

Girl Guides as Junior Guide Leader and coaches' gymnastics. She received the Cessnock City Council Australia Day 2021 Maree Callaghan Award Young Female Achiever for outstanding Leadership for Young People and was also nominated by Hunter Hands of Hope for her volunteering efforts with local organisations.

It's fantastic to see the younger members of our community get out there and encourage others to make a difference. "It's encouraging to see our youth Club members willingly participate in these swimming events," said Isabella.

"PERSONALLY, I GAIN EXTREME SATISFACTION IN ENCOURAGING OTHERS TO USE THEIR TALENTS AND CHALLENGE THEMSELVES TO REACH GOALS; IT STRENGTHENS MORALE WITHIN THE CLUB WHICH EXTENDS OUT INTO THE BROADER COMMUNITY."

We congratulate Isabella and the Coalfields United Swim Club on their amazing fundraising efforts.

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THE FISHING IS MAD GET CRACKING!

IF YOU'RE PLANNING A FISHING TRIP THERE ARE SO MANY OPTIONS TO TAKE YOUR PICK FROM. THIS IS ONE OF OUR FAVOURITE TIMES OF THE YEAR TO BE OUT ON THE WATER, WHETHER ITS CHASING THAT PB OR TAKING SOME TIME OUT TO RELAX.

OFFSHORE

As mentioned, everything will be on the cards from Trag, Snapper, Jewies and Kings on the reefs, to Flathead over the sand for those looking to bag a few table fish.

We decided to chase some fish for the table recently with Snapper being number one on the target list and we weren't disappointed fishing plastics over the shallow reefs off the bay. The bite was something we'd expect during the middle of Winter, we managed some cracking Snapper around the reefs, a bag of Flathead from the sand, and a dozen Squid fishing the quiet bays on the way home.

PELAGIC'S

The hot water has hit the mid North Coast with a bang resulting in plenty of warm water moving around. We have started to see the current push in close and with it we are seeing a more consistent inshore black Marlin bite from the port of gold and even a few nice Dolgies in the mix. It would pay to target the Fads though if

you're looking to target a few Dolgies. On the shelf we are starting to see a few Stripes and Blues turn up as well. A little further north, the Mackerel, Cobia and Longtail Tuna are steaming south, turning up at all the usual hang outs. I wouldn't be surprised if we don't see more than one Spanish hit as far south as Port Stephens with this warm water pushing south this year.

BEACHES

Beach Jewies continue to fire and should get better as we see the Mullet start to run. We managed to tag and release a couple of Jewies recently from the beach. It will be interesting to see where these fish turn back up again as we are thinking that the fish we see on the beaches are either migrating along the coast or hitting the beaches to feed from a nearby reef or estuary. These being the first we have been able to successfully release from the beach using an oversized live well esky to revive the fish before they hit the wash. We are hoping to gain some useful data not only for us but also for the DPI.

LAKE MAC

Short and sweet for this area this time around as you could imagine the fishing is also catering for all forms around the Lake the stand out would have to be the Squid fishing with a couple of small jigs on a paternoster rig definitely the most productive way to secure a bag of Squid. School Jew are reacting well to soft plastics as they hang out under the bait.

FRESH WATER DAM'S AND RIVERS

The much-loved rain and mild Summer temps have definitely kept the fishing interesting and enjoyable around the freshwater systems so far this year. All fishing destinations whether it's the eastern side of the range or western are fishing well due to the constant water temps and water flow in the rivers and lower water temps in the Dams. Whether its throwing a few lures around for Bass, Cod or Yellowbelly in the creeks and rivers or trolling a few deep divers in the western dams for Cod, you're definitely in for a chance this month.

WIN!

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MOVIES & TV

High Ground

This movie tells the story of a young Aboriginal man, Gutjuk, who teams up with an ex-soldier in a bid to save his family. It's a confronting look at post-colonial Australia and the harsh truths of our history, with stunning cinematography showcasing the raw beauty of our country.

It's a Sin

This 5-part miniseries is set from 1981 to 1991 in London and depicts the lives of group of gay men and their friends who lived during the HIV/AIDS crisis in the UK. The brilliant acting makes you connect with the characters and there's bound to be a few tears watching, but ultimately you will be left inspired.

Schitt's Creek

The fifth and final season of Schitt's Creek brings more of the sublime offbeat humour that made previous seasons a hit. Don't be put off by the trailers as they don't do this show justice. Just make sure you have plenty of time on your hands before you start watching the story of a very quirky family as this is binge worthy TV at its best.

CoComelon

Can't find the time to actually get to anything on this list because you're looking after the little ones? CoComelon is the answer. This extremely annoying but highly addictive Netflix series consists of non-stop nursery rhymes for young children and is giving parents all around the world much needed free time.

BOOKS

The Dry by Jane Harper

Now a motion picture starring Eric Bana, this book is set in drought stricken rural Victoria where AFP agent Aaron Falk returns to his hometown for the funeral of his old friend and is pulled into the mystery of his death. This fast-paced novel will keep you guessing until the very end.

Greenlights by Matthew McConaughey

An engaging and warm memoir that mixes plenty of humour with self-help tidbits. You definitely want to listen to the audiobook version so when the story wanders you can simply relax and immerse yourself in Matthew's iconic drawl. I think you'll agree it's alright alright alright.

Before She Disappeared by Lisa Gardner

Lisa Gardner is arguably one of the best thriller writers around. Her latest novel features another character who you can't help but become invested in as she tries to find missing people; and find herself.

Think Again by Adam Grant

If everyone learnt the lessons in this book the world would be a more accepting and kinder place. Bestselling author Grant examines the critical art of rethinking and learning to question your opinions. Who would have thought that it's alright not to know everything and to even admit you're wrong!

PODCASTS

A Podcast of One's Own with Julia Gillard

Former Prime Minister of Australia, Julia Gillard talks to incredible women from around the world on overcoming sexism and misogyny to become leaders in their respective fields. Every woman in the world could benefit from listening to this podcast. And every man.

Bill Gates and Rashida Jones ask Big Questions

Never have a good answer for those tough questions that get asked around the dinner table? Let Billionaire philanthropist and Microsoft co-founder Bill Gates come up with some answers for you. The 6-episode series attempts to answer some of the biggest questions of our time and Gate's positivity for the future of humankind is very reassuring.

The Junkees

Is it possible to fill a podcast with only chit chat about junk food? Comedian's Dave O'Neil and Kitty Flanagan think so. They ramble on about the love of all things salty and sweet, reminiscing about some of the best junk food of all time. Time for a snack pit stop?

Accidental Celebrity

This new podcast brings you a story each week of an ordinary Australian who faced an extraordinary event and then had their lives thrust in the spotlight. Learn what really happens in the media, the manipulations, the misrepresentations, and the betrayals.



BIG BLOOMIN' BURGERS

MATE...I CAN'T EVEN BEGIN TO DESCRIBE THE SIZE OF THE NEW MONSTROUS BURGER CHALLENGE AT THE KHARTOUM HOTEL, BUT I CAN DESCRIBE HOW SPECTACULARLY WE FAILED SAID CHALLENGE.

A few weeks ago, I was scrolling through Facebook only to come across the biggest burger I have ever seen. A bit of research led me to the Khartoum Hotel in Kitchener, and I was hooked on making one of my mates give this never before completed challenge a go.

Not brave enough to take on the beast of a burger myself, I was lucky enough to rope in my mate Jonesy, a somewhat willing but nervous participant.

It started off with a delightful drive out to Kitchener, a lovely little town with a stunning country style pub. The sun was shining, we grabbed a couple of VBs and took a seat outside in the beautiful beer garden. We were excited for a

moment, but that excitement very quickly turned to fear.

The pub was very busy for a Thursday lunch, so I jumped up to place our order at the bistro. I ordered the 250g Rump cooked medium rare, with a creamy garlic prawn topper and a side of chips and salad. I then put in poor Jonesy's order, the Khartoum Hotel Burger challenge.

AFTER A CHAT WITH STAFF, WE DISCOVERED 22 PEOPLE HAD ATTEMPTED THE CHALLENGE BEFORE US AND ALL 22 OF THOSE PEOPLE FAILED, AND WE NOW UNDERSTAND WHY. THE STAFF LOOKED AT MY SLENDER MATE AND HAD THE DOGGY BAGS READY AND WAITING BEFORE HE'D EVEN TAKEN HIS FIRST BITE, BUT THAT



DIDN'T DISCOURAGE GOOD OLD JONESY. "IT'S NOT THE SIZE OF THE LION IT'S THE FIGHT OF THE LION!" HE ROARED. AND HE WAS OFF.

Meanwhile I tucked into my wonderfully cooked, juicy steak. The creamy, garlic prawn topper was a brilliant choice and overall, it was some simply awesome pub grub. I then looked up into the pained eyes of a man who had hit a very hard wall.

To better paint the picture, here is a list of everything you need to consume in just 30 minutes when attempting the Khartoum Hotel Burger challenge - 1 x 500 gm bun, 2 x 500 gm meat patties, 6 x slices of bacon, 4 x eggs, 8 x slices of cheese, 20 x onion rings, 1/2 head of lettuce, 3 x tomatoes, 3 x beetroots, BBQ sauce, 500 gm wedges, 500 gm fries, 1 x 160 gm bowl BBQ sauce, 1 x 160 gm bowl tomato sauce and 1 x 200 gm bowl sour cream and sweet chilli sauce.

Jonesy paced himself as soon as we started the clock but clearly, he paced himself a little too much. Not even a quarter of what was on his challenge board had been eaten at

the 30 minute mark and he was done. "Doggie bags," he mumbled in defeat.

It was clear this lion needed to go home to sleep off his food coma. We packed the rest of the burger and sides into 3 doggy bags and headed home.

The Khartoum Burger challenge is something not to be attempted by the faint of heart and pictures simply don't do it justice. It is one big bloomin' burger. And after nibbling on Jonesy's leftovers when we got home, I can say it's one bloody delicious burger as well.

So head to Kitchener and try the Khartoum Burger challenge at the Khartoum Hotel. If you dare.

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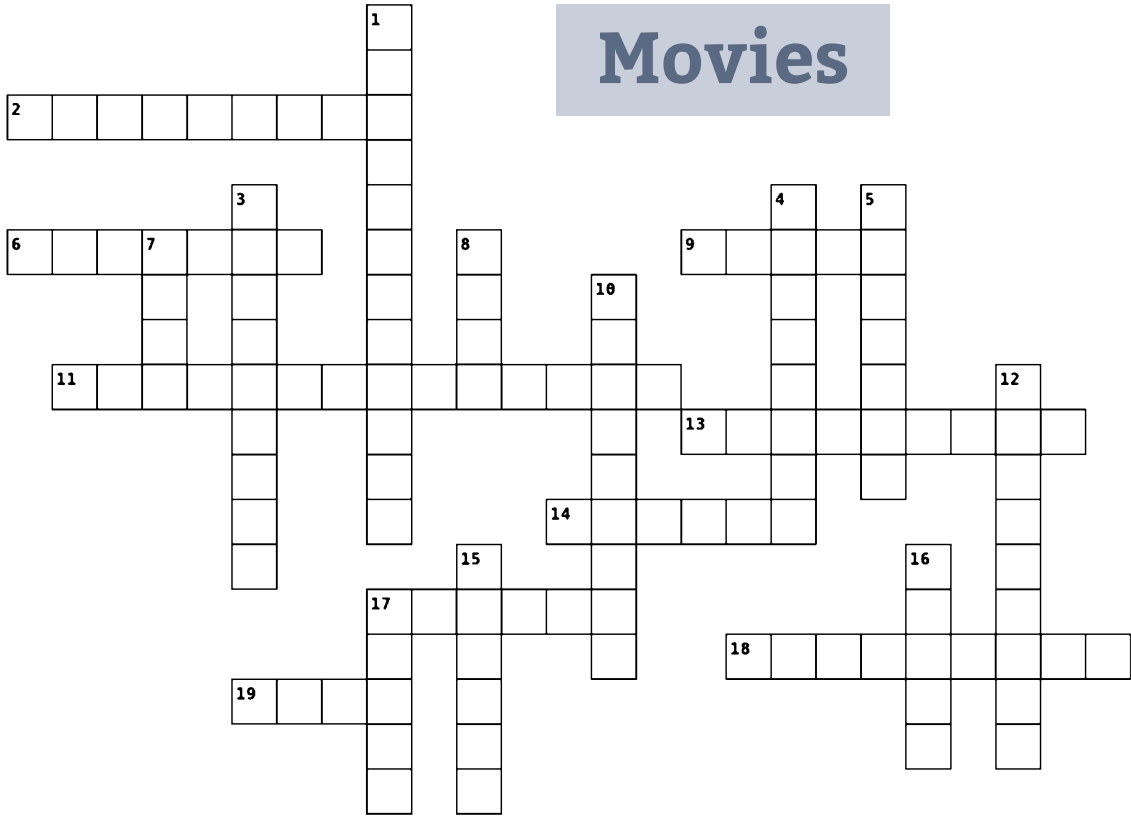
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CROSSWORD

Movies



ACROSS

2. Famous Indian Movie making industry

6. James Bond's favourite cocktail

9. Recent Disney film that focuses on Pacific Island folklore

11. Famous actress that starred in the "Sister Act" franchise

13. Mary Jane Watson's romantic superhero interest
14. First word that completes these movie titles: Supremacy, Ultimatum, Legacy

17. Movie that had a sequel released last year:stars a snowman, a reindeer and lots of songs.

18. Last name of famous director that directed E.T

19. Famous Robot that accompanies R2D2 in a lot of the original Star Wars Movies

DOWN

1. Famous Explorer created by George Lucas

3. A notoriously difficult to follow Christopher Nolan film that stars Leonardo DiCaprio

4. Name of Korean movie that won the 2020 Best Picture Oscar

5. Last name of American comedian that starred in "Happy Gilmore"

7. Dorothy's Dog in The "Wizard Of Oz"

8. First name of actor that played Tyler Durden in "Fight Club"
10. Famous American Film Company that has a logo of a snowy mountain

12. Horror movie series famous for starring Jamie Lee Curtis

15. Last name of famous Actress that had the birth name "Norma Jeane Mortenson"

16. Name of the "Beauty" in Disney's "Beauty and the Beast"

17. First name of Princess central to the Shrek movie franchise

@ THE COALFACE

PRIZE WINNERS

Volume 5 – No 1: February 2021

CRIB BAG

Bradley Bridge

ROBERTS MEATS RAFFLE

Marilyn Gukanovic

BANLAW FUEL VOUCHER

Stefan Kostyk

INNOVAATE 'ELECTRAATE' TUB

Larry Whitmore

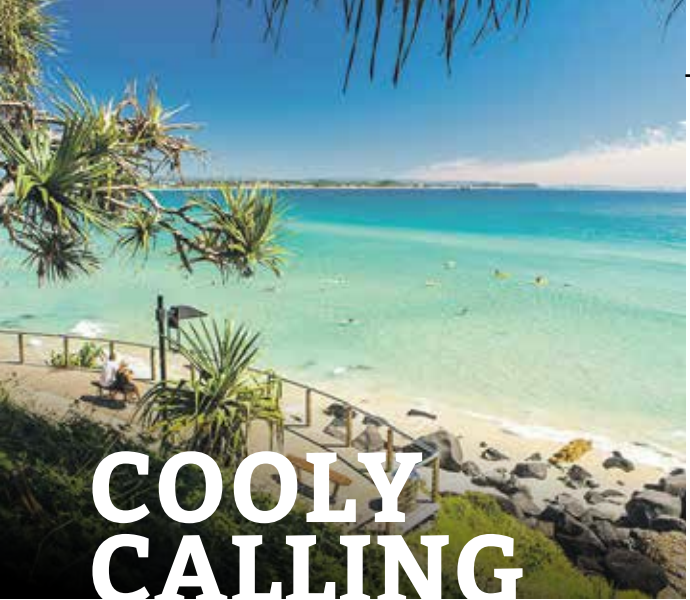
ULTIMATE KIDS VOUCHER

Kim Salder

BCF VOUCHER

Wylee Viana

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COOLY CALLING

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Don't get me wrong the Gold Coast is easily one of the best places to visit in Australia. For me though, it has become so built up and hectic it just isn't as relaxing as I want when it's time to unwind, get a bit of salt water up the nose and soak up some rays.

Just after Christmas I made a snap decision that I needed a bit of extra time off and decided to book eight days at Queensland's Southernmost town, Coolangatta. While 'Cooly' is technically its own destination, years of development and migration by Southerners has seen the Gold Coast expand to be one of Australia's largest and most vibrant localities. With that, 'Cooly' is now really a satellite suburb of the 'Goldy' just a short 30 - 40 minute drive up the Coast.

Getting there from here is lot easier and quicker these days. What used to be a winding, never

ending crawl up the coast taking ten to twelve hours depending on stops, is now a breezy seven or so hours on a world class freeway virtually door to door.

Anyway, off we set on a sunny January day for what was a perfect hassle-free drive. Reaching Nambucca Heads, we stopped in for a quick, tasty pub lunch and two schooy's before heading off on the last leg. After starting just before nine, we arrived still feeling fresh just after midafternoon.

Checking into our tenth floor apartment, 'The Meridian', a beer was cracked in under sixty seconds before sitting on the balcony overlooking crystal clear blue-green waters with the high rises of the Gold Coast framing part of the picture. The smell of salt water carried on the breeze and the sound of waves crashing in the background soothed me into a state of relaxation that had been sorely missing in 2020.

FROM THERE A DETERMINED REGIME OF EATING, DRINKING, MORNING AND AFTERNOON SWIMS AND EXPLORING GOT INTO FULL SWING.

On the food side, there are some seriously good eats to be had. My picks are as follows; Xenia Bar and Grill serving up refined Greek share plates that are to die for. Choofa's Smokehouse & Seafood for seriously awesome steaks, seafood, and beers with a cool and relaxed vibe. Then there is one of the best seafood platters you will never be able to finish at Coolangatta Surf Club.

MY PICK OF THE PICKS THOUGH IS TUPE ALOHA IN KIRRA. THIS JOINT SERVES UP THE BEST MEXICAN / HAWAIIAN THEMED FOOD YOU WILL EVERY EAT. FRESH, SIMPLE BUT A BIT REFINED AS WELL. THE COCKTAILS ARE AS GOOD AS IT GETS AND NOTHING WILL COOL YOU DOWN AT THE END OF A HOT SUMMER DAY LIKE THEIR MEXICAN BEERS. IT'S ALL SET IN AN ULTRA-COOL - KITSCH THEMED SPACE STAFFED BY THE FRIENDLIEST PEOPLE ON THE PLANET.

For activities we mostly went to the beach and had a side visit to Sea World, which was great but there's only so much screaming children and having to move out of way of endless selfie shots that one can take.

My pick of picks though was skydiving the beach! The landing spot was right out the front of our apartment on the sand and after watching dozens of people successfully land, I decided it was just the circuit breaker I needed to put the icing on a perfect getaway.

So, on a perfectly still and clear Gold Coast morning up I went to twelve thousand feet, the only customer that morning and took my second ever jump. Having done it before, the nerves were pretty much nonexistent and the crew at Gold Coast Skydive are way beyond professional and slick giving anyone the confidence needed to take the leap. What a day to do it and place to do it.

Totally in the zone the whole way, we hurtled to earth at a leisurely 200kph taking in the breathtaking coastline views. The parachute then deployed, and we glided down over 'Cooly' taking in the view. It was just bloody fantastic and my advice is just do it!

So for the coolest holiday around, take my advice and check out Coolangatta.



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