

@THE COAL FACE

THE BEST OF 2021

PAGES
18-25

FOR OUR FINAL EDITION OF 2021, WE
SHOWCASE SOME OF THE AMAZING THINGS
OUR LOCAL MINES HAVE DONE THIS YEAR.

Vol 5 No 11: December 2021

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CHRISTMAS CHEER

CH4 DRILLING WILL BE BRINGING PLENTY CHRISTMAS CHEER THIS YEAR, DONATING OVER 100 GIFTS TO ALLAMBI CARE FOR CHILDREN WHO HAVE BEEN IMPACTED BY TRAUMA AND ADVERSITY.

PAGE 30

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15TH DECEMBER, 2021

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2021 HAS BEEN ANOTHER CRAZY YEAR FULL OF UPS AND DOWNS BUT WE ARE FINISHING THE YEAR WITH AN ISSUE JAM PACKED FULL OF POSITIVE AND ENTERTAINING STORIES.

Our December feature this year is one of our favourites as we share and reflect on what local mines have been doing in 2021. We're proud to celebrate the Hunter Valley mining industry for leading the way in innovation and technology, being at the forefront of increasing diversity and inclusion in the workplace, and always prioritising the health and safety of its workforce above all else.

When it comes to community support, I doubt there is a single community group or organisation in the Hunter that hasn't received a helping hand from the mining industry at some stage. So much of the contributions made by our industry go unnoticed so we are proud to be able to put a spotlight on them this month.

There's also plenty of heartwarming stories to get you in the Christmas spirit. We are so proud to highlight two fantastic Christmas causes this year. Complete Parts & Equipment have been running their annual Christmas Giving Tree for a few years now and this year CH4 Drilling have run their first Toy Drive with outstanding results. Thanks to both of these companies, there will be plenty of less fortunate kids with a smile on their face this Christmas.

For travel this month we take you to Santa's home in Lapland, Finland. While it won't be possible to visit Santa at home this year due to the restrictions still in place, don't worry as thanks to the NSW RFS and Fire and Rescue NSW he will be visiting most areas of the Hunter on the Santa Lolly Runs. Check out our list to find out when he's coming to your neighbourhood.

FROM ALL OF US @ THE COALFACE, IT'S BEEN AN ABSOLUTE PLEASURE AND A PRIVILEGE TO BRING YOU THE COMMUNITY AND INDUSTRY STORIES OF THE HUNTER FOR ANOTHER YEAR. HAVE A MERRY CHRISTMAS & HAPPY NEW YEAR!



OPINION

AFTER A TOUGH YEAR, THERE'S HOPE ON THE HORIZON

THE RESILIENCE OF OUR MINERS AND OUR MINING COMMUNITIES DURING 2021 HAS BEEN ABSOLUTELY AMAZING.

After the challenges of last year we all started 2022 with NSW on track for recovery.

Then in June the delta-strain of COVID-19 struck, and once again NSW was plunged into months of lockdowns and other restrictions as we all did what was necessary to meet the challenge.

As an industry, we've all worked hard to keep our miners, their families and our communities safe. Thanks to the commitment of our local mining workforce and our supplier business partners, we've been able to keep mines operating while also keeping our people and communities COVID-safe.

WORKING CLOSELY WITH OUR MEMBER COMPANIES AND WITH THE NSW GOVERNMENT OUR INDUSTRY HAS BEEN AT THE FOREFRONT

OF PROTECTING WORKERS AND COMMUNITIES, AND ALSO ENCOURAGING PEOPLE TO GET VACCINATED.

Now, with the highest vaccination rates anywhere in Australia and as one of the highest vaccinated jurisdictions in the world, NSW is reopening again, and we can look to the future with optimism.

Our world-class local mining industry is well placed to help the economic recovery. The NSW Minerals Council will continue our strong advocacy on behalf of the sector and the mining families, supplier businesses and local communities that rely on it.

I wish everyone a Happy Christmas and a safe and prosperous New Year.

Stephen Galilee, CEO, NSW Minerals Council



Publisher Shane Davey
shane@thecoalface.net.au
0408 759 088

Journalist Ashley Grogan
ashley@thecoalface.net.au
0402 348 341

Editor Rebecca Connolly
rebecca@thecoalface.net.au
0408 769 699

Client Manager Melessa Ernst
melessa@thecoalface.net.au
0429 823 635

Design CarrollMel Design

@ THE COALFACE
Shop 10, 157-159 John Street,
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OPINION

CHANGE FOR THE BETTER

THE MCA'S ESG: CHANGE FOR THE BETTER REPORT RELEASED RECENTLY DEMONSTRATES THE MINERALS INDUSTRY IS NOT ONLY A LEADER IN INNOVATIVE, EFFICIENT MINING AND MINERALS PROCESSING, BUT ALSO IN ENVIRONMENTAL, SOCIAL AND GOVERNANCE PERFORMANCE PRACTICE.



The Australian industry is committed to operating in a way that is safe, ethical and responsible and aligned with community values. Australian industry expertise has long been recognised and exported around the world. The success of Australia's minerals industry, both now and in the future, depends upon its ability to operate in line with community expectations on environmental, social and governance (ESG) performance. In line with the industry's commitment to continual improvement, MCA member companies are adopting the Towards Sustainable Mining sustainability system which will drive further improvement and accountability in site-level ESG management. The 44-page report includes case studies from a broad range of MCA member companies. These provide an insight into the ongoing commitment, investment and innovation that is occurring across the sector.

Report highlights include:

- Initiatives underway to support climate action, water stewardship and biodiversity
- Partnerships with First Nations and regional communities to support enduring outcomes
- Programs to support diverse, inclusive and respectful workplaces
- Good governance standards and practices that underpin the industry's sustainability performance.
- Regardless of size or commodity, Australia's mining companies are translating ESG commitments into action.

The Australian minerals industry remains committed to doing more. These ongoing efforts will ensure the industry keeps pace with changing community expectations and fully realise the opportunities afforded by responsible minerals development.

Tania Constable
CEO, Minerals Council of Australia



READ THE ESG CHANGE FOR THE BETTER REPORT IN FULL AT WWW.MINERALS.ORG.AU

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IN THE NEWS

NEWS DIRECTOR JESSICA ROUSE FROM 2HD NEWFM HAS THE LATEST NEWS STORIES

STRIKE FORCE CRACK DOWN ON COAL PROTESTERS

Local police were forced to form a Strike Force in a bid to crack down on protesters disrupting coal movements in the Hunter Valley. There were more than 20 people arrested over the course of nearly two weeks for climbing on coal wagons, chaining themselves to railway lines and stopping work at Kooragang Island. One climate activist who stopped a coal train for five hours has been sentenced to 12 months in jail.

EPA DISHES OUT BIGGEST FINE THEY CAN TO LIDDELL

AGL has copped a fine from the NSW Environment Protection Authority after their Liddell Power Station exceeded its permitted emissions. The EPA said the exceedances were allegedly caused by a small number of failures of bags in the baghouse, which are designed to filter out very small solid particles and those failures were not detected by the continuous monitoring system. The EPA has issued AGL with a \$15,000 Penalty Notice for allegedly contravening its Environment Protection Licence under the Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997 – it's the largest fine the EPA can issue.

EMISSION REDUCTION PLAN FOR KOORAGANG

One of NSW's biggest industrial sites, Kooragang Island, has received a huge grant to install an emission reduction system. Through the NSW Government's Net Zero Industry and Innovation Program, site owner Orica has received \$13 million for a Decarbonisation Project, an emissions reduction system which will reduce almost half the emissions that come from the site. The project is expected to start in August 2022 and will take three months to complete.

HYDROGEN HUB FOR NEWCASTLE

The Federal Government is investing in a potential hydrogen hub in Newcastle. Prime Minister Scott Morrison paid the Hunter a visit to announce a \$1.5 million grant towards a \$3 million feasibility study for a hydrogen hub at the Port of Newcastle. The other \$1.5 million will be put forward by the project partner Macquarie Group's Green Investment Group. The study will consider the best location in the Port for hydrogen infrastructure, with Newcastle having great potential both as a local energy provider and exporter of clean hydrogen. The Government is investing more than \$1.2 billion to accelerate the development of an Australian hydrogen industry, including \$464 million to develop up to seven Clean Hydrogen Industrial Hubs in regional Australia.

FAIR WORK HEARS MINE WORKERS PLEA

The Fair Work Commission held two days of hearings into a vaccine mandate at a Hunter Valley mine. The mining arm of the CFMEU took workers' fight over a COVID-19 vaccine mandate at BHP's Mount Arthur mine at Muswellbrook to Fair Work saying it was "unfair". Mine workers were told they had to have had the first dose of a vaccine by November 10 and the second by the end of January or face being stood down without pay. About 50 workers are going to be impacted if the mandate isn't changed. BHP did release a statement to say they had researched the issue thoroughly and believed it was the best decision moving forward to protect their workers, their families and the communities they mine in.

GLENCORE ON THE GROUND AT MOUNT OWEN

Glencore has announced they plan to take over the running of their Mt Owen mine near Singleton on the ground. The mine is owned by the mining giant but was run by contractor Theiss. Glencore has announced they won't renew Theiss' contract after December next year and Glencore will take over the day-to-day running of the mine. That move will provide ongoing work for staff at the Glendell mine with it's life scheduled to wind down in 2023 if an extension to operations doesn't get approved - those workers would move over to Mt Owen. The CFMEU says they are in talks with both Glencore and Theiss to make sure workers get a fair go.

GOVERNMENT NOT BYPASSING COMMUNITY FOR COMMENT

Locals can now comment on revised plans for the Muswellbrook Bypass project. The design unveiled last month includes five bridges and features a 367 metre long bridge spanning Sandy Creek Road, Sandy Creek and the Main North railway line plus adjustments to local roads. Construction is expected to start on the project in late-2022 and you can comment on the plans online, via email, post or by calling the project hotline. Details: <https://nswroads.work/muswellbrook>

MILLIONS DELIVERED THROUGH RESOURCES TO REGIONS

More than 20 projects in the Upper Hunter are benefitting from the eighth round of Resources for Regions from the NSW Government. Some projects include nearly \$6.4 million is going to the Muswellbrook Regional Entertainment and Conference Centre project, \$1.199 million towards Singleton Council's Mining Roads Upgrade Program, and \$434,244 to assist Upper Hunter Shire Council to improve Muffett Street providing upgraded access to the Scone Industrial area, saleyards, etc.

AJ DISAPPEARANCE SIMPLY MISADVENTURE

Hunter Valley police have concluded their investigation into the three-day disappearance of AJ Elfalak as "misadventure". In September 3-year-old AJ was reported missing to police after he disappeared from the family's property at Putty near Singleton. Hundreds of emergency services and volunteers combed through the bushland surrounding the home for three days before AJ was found drinking water from a creek by PolAir, only about 200-metres from the family's home as the crow flies. Miraculously he was unhurt. NSW Police released a statement this morning to say the investigations Hunter Valley Police District officers were conducting were now complete. "That investigation has now concluded, and the incident has been determined to be as a result of misadventure."





Merry Christmas & Happy New Year

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WINNING WOMEN

BHP MT ARTHUR COAL'S PHOEBE THOMAS IS THE WINNER OF THE EXCEPTIONAL YOUNG WOMAN IN AUSTRALIAN RESOURCES AWARD.

THE WINNERS OF THE BHP 2021 WOMEN IN RESOURCES NATIONAL AWARDS HAVE BEEN ANNOUNCED AND WE ARE PROUD TO SHARE THAT PHOEBE THOMAS FROM BHP'S MT ARTHUR COAL HAS TAKEN HOME THE EXCEPTIONAL YOUNG WOMAN IN AUSTRALIAN RESOURCES AWARD.

These awards provide the opportunity for the talented women in our industry to share their inspirational stories and by doing so encourage more young women to follow in their footsteps into a rewarding career in the resources sector. With women making up less than 20% of the mining workforce it is important that we continue to work on increasing the diversity of the sector and encouraging more women into careers in mining.

Phoebe is one of those inspirational women. Starting work as a rehabilitation consultant in 2016, and then commencing at BHP Mt Arthur Coal in 2017 as a Health Specialist, Phoebe is now Principal Operations Performance at Mt Arthur Coal.

The impacts of Phoebe's work and leadership are highly tangible. A campaign spearheaded by Phoebe has seen Mt Arthur Coal become a smoke free workplace and Phoebe has also led the company's response to the Covid-19 pandemic which has been recognised by the Resources Regulator as industry leading in the Hunter Valley.

Phoebe has had a lead role in workforce gender diversity as well as female leadership representation. Retaining female employees is a passion for Phoebe who has moved to ensure all female staff have a mentor and mentor's two staff herself. She is a deserving winner and will no doubt continue to pave the way for more young women to follow in her footsteps.

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL THE WINNERS OF THE BHP 2021 WOMEN IN RESOURCES NATIONAL AWARDS.

Dyno Nobel Exceptional Woman in Australian Resources Award

Maryann Wipaki, General Manager Health, Safety, Environment, Community, Glencore Queensland Metals for her strong advocacy of the important role the mining industry plays in Queensland and her commitment to the safety of the workforce as a member of the Queensland Mining Safety and Health Advisory Committee.

Thiess Outstanding Australian Tradeswoman, Operator or Technician Award

Laura Allen, Process Owner at Woodside Energy for her active participation as a member of Woodside's Gender Equality Matters Network and her support for women to work offshore through recruitment, mentorship and safety advocacy.

Maptek Women in Resources Technological Innovation Award

Alison Van Lent, Commercialisation Manager at Woodside Energy for her ability to develop and apply technology to improve safety and quality through FUSE, which enables users to identify areas of concern and opportunities.

Newcrest Exceptional Young Woman in Australian Resources Award

Phoebe Thomas, Principal Business Performance at BHP Mt Arthur Coal for her impressive leadership, mentorship and injury management across the business, as well as strong advocacy on gender diversity and community outreach.

Rio Tinto Gender Diversity Champion in Australian Resources Award

Michael Spicer, Production Materials Movement Manager at Liberty Bell Bay for his tireless efforts to increase female participation in the workforce from a 100 per cent male team to 40 per cent female participation today, simultaneously overseeing a 25 per cent increase in female apprenticeships.

Barbara Crossley, Managing Director at Umwelt Australia for her trailblazing adoption of policies such as paid parental leave and genuine flexible working arrangements, as well as her drive to maintain a gender balance across all levels of the business from the graduate to executive level.

St Barbara Excellence in Company Programs and Performance Award

Step in 2020 People Improvers on behalf of the North West Inclusion Group Tasmania for their impressive and well devised collaborative approach to increase female participation by expanding the pool of women applying for roles in the resources industry from the North West coast of Tasmania.

MUSEUM FOR MUSWELLBROOK

BENGALLA MINING COMPANY HAS GENEROUSLY MADE AVAILABLE LAND IN MUSWELLBROOK FOR A PROPOSED UPPER HUNTER REGIONAL MUSEUM, WHICH WILL SHOWCASE THE DIVERSITY AND RICH HERITAGE OF OUR REGION.

The Upper Hunter Regional Museum Inc (UHRM Inc) is a not-for-profit incorporated association governed by a board of directors who recently announced their proposal for an Upper Hunter Regional Museum.

The Museum will be a major drawcard for the region and is planned to include exhibits that encompass, early settlement, indigenous heritage, coal mining industry, agricultural history, power generation, equine, an Australian cattle dog history exhibit, plus much more.

Proposed visitor facilities will include a visitor information centre, café, gift shop, a park and playground, as well as providing day parking for caravan and motor homes. Also planned in the

Museum is an Education and Training Centre, plus an Auditorium and Function Centre. **CHAIRMAN OF UHRM INC, WAYNE TOMS, SAID, "THE MUSEUM PROJECT WILL BE A SIGNIFICANT ASSET TO THE UPPER HUNTER AND WILL PROVIDE THE OPPORTUNITY TO SHOWCASE THE RICH HISTORY OF THE REGION AND THE GREAT DIVERSITY OF INDUSTRIES THAT OPERATE WITHIN IT. THE MUSEUM IS BEING DESIGNED AS A MAJOR SHOWPIECE, NOT ONLY FOR MUSWELLBROOK AND THE UPPER HUNTER, BUT FOR THE STATE."**

The proposed site for the Museum is on land located on the corner of Denman Road and Bengalla Road. The



L-R: MIKE KELLY (MUSWELLBROOK CHAMBER PRESIDENT), FIONA HARTIN (BENGALLA MINING COMPANY), WAYNE TOMS (CHAIRMAN OF UHRM INC)

land for the Museum."

A project steering committee is currently being formalised with a Business Case Study to commence in the coming weeks. Discussions with stakeholders have been taking place over the last 6 months with strong support for the project being shown. The Business Case Study is targeted to be completed by the end of March 2022 in readiness for State and Federal funding applications.

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'AVE A LAUGH WITH

Jack wakes up with a huge hangover after his work Christmas Party and can't remember getting home. The first thing he sees is Panadol and a glass of water on the side table. Next to them is a red rose. Sitting up he sees his clothes laid out all clean and pressed. In the bathroom he finds a note on the mirror written in red with little hearts on it, "Honey, breakfast is on the stove, I left early to get groceries to make your favorite dinner tonight. I love you, darling! Love, Jillian."

He stumbles into the kitchen and sure enough, there is a hot breakfast, steaming hot coffee, and

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BEST UNDER PRESSURE

the morning newspaper all waiting for him. His son is also at the table, eating. Jack asks, "Son... what happened last night?"

"Well, you came home after 3 in the morning, drunk and out of your mind. You fell over the coffee table and broke it, and then you puked in the hallway."

Confused, he asked his son, "So, why has your Mum done all these nice things?"

His son replies, "Oh THAT! Well, Mum dragged you to the bedroom and when she tried to take your pants off, you screamed, "Leave me alone, I'm married!"

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TOWARDS DECARBONISATION

THIS MONTH WE CAUGHT UP WITH MARK MCCALLUM, CEO OF LOW EMISSION TECHNOLOGY AUSTRALIA (LETA) TO FIND OUT WHAT'S NEW IN THE WORLD OF CARBON CAPTURE UTILISATION AND STORAGE (CCUS).

It's been a couple of years since we delved into the technologies of CCUS and since then there's been plenty of exciting new developments. While CCUS is a proven technology that is already working in more than 25 countries around the world, Mark explained how the exponential growth of the technology is continually opening up new avenues to explore.

"These past 18 months we have been expanding our scope of interest and investing in projects that can reduce and remove emissions not just from power generation, but across a broad range of hard-to-abate industries such as steel, cement, petrochemical and fertiliser production," Mark shared.

Decarbonising these sectors which we heavily rely on for everyday products through carbon capture and storage is something Australia has an enormous potential for. You only have to look at Glencore's CTSCO project in the Surat basin. This one site alone has the potential to store over 500 million tonnes of CO₂, possibly even double that. It's a great example of how we are beginning to unlock the potential of storage options in Australia and Mark says it's only the beginning.

"We are looking at different suitable storage locations across Australia and here in NSW we are working with the Coal Innovation team to find sites with the right characteristics. The more storage options we have, the more opportunities we have to reach the end goal of decarbonisation. We have also been focusing on increasing people's understanding of storage, so they can be confident that when CO₂ is stored it will safely stay where it's put."

WHILE THE POSSIBILITIES OF STORAGE IN AUSTRALIA ARE ENORMOUS, WHAT'S GOT MARK EXCITED IS THE INNOVATIVE TECHNOLOGIES THAT ARE COMING INTO PLAY THAT ARE GIVING US THE ABILITY TO GENERATE BRAND NEW FORMS OF ENERGY AND NEW CLEAN INDUSTRIES.

"CCUS can also be used to produce clean fuels of the future, like hydrogen and ammonia, and help establish Australia as a world-leading clean energy exporter," explained Mark.

"One of the new technologies that is a potential game changer is zero-emission Allam-Fetvedt Cycle technology. The Allam-Fetvedt Cycle is a new type of power cycle that converts

gaseous fuels into thermal energy, while capturing the generated CO₂. Which simply put, means generating low cost power without producing air emissions."

LETA is involved in funding two major projects using the Allam Cycle technology. The first is the Zero Emission Syngas Combustor Test which is co-funded by the US Department of Energy and is exploring the adaptation of Allam Cycle technology from natural gas to coal. The second is a feasibility study to assess the viability of developing Allam Cycle projects from black coal in Australia.

Together, the Allam Cycle projects aim to prove that competitive, zero-emission industries like hydrogen and fertiliser can be created using CCUS and coal. Additionally, at scale use of the Allam Cycle would introduce near-zero emission fossil-fuel and biomass power for Australia and establish new, clean industries - complementing renewables' increasing role in the energy mix.

Mark said that by embracing these technologies it means Australia will not only be able to meet our own obligations but will also mean that we can help our customer nations meet theirs.

"We need to take advantage of what we have in Australia. We have the workers, we have the infrastructure, and we have the resources. There is a universal demand for these technologies and countries all around the world are embracing them. The momentum we're seeing in CCUS advancing globally is a result of government, industry and environmental leaders understanding this and working together to incorporate this important technology into emissions reduction efforts."

Last month, the federal government announced their new \$1 billion Low Emissions Technology Commercialisation Fund, a significant new initiative to incentivise continued low emissions technology development. Alongside the work LETA is doing, the Fund will play an important role in driving the development and deployment of the technologies required to decarbonise Australia.

"It's important that we remember the end goal isn't zero emissions, the end goal is net zero," concluded Mark. "Adapting and changing through technology is how we will continue to solve the world's problems."

WIN!

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A year of community cheer

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a safe and Happy Christmas and successful 2022.
From the team at Mount Pleasant Operation.



Scone Rodeo



World Environment Day at Singleton High



Voice for Mining Family Day Mount Pleasant Phoenix



Cancer Council Australia's Biggest Morning Tea



Upper Hunter Mining Dialogue's School Mine Tours Program



Protech, Sedgman and Dreampath traineeships



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2021 Muswellbrook Chamber of Commerce Business Awards



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OPINION

NEW MEMORIAL WALL A SANCTUARY FOR GRIEVING FAMILIES

THE 23RD OF NOVEMBER WAS A SPECIAL DAY FOR OUR UNION. AFTER THE DISAPPOINTMENT OF CANCELLING OUR ANNUAL MEMORIAL DAY IN SEPTEMBER FOR TWO YEARS IN A ROW DUE TO COVID RESTRICTIONS WE GATHERED TO OFFICIALLY UNVEIL THE NEWLY RESTORED JIM COMERFORD MEMORIAL WALL AT CESSNOCK.

The original wall was unveiled by Prime Minister Paul Keating in 1996. However, structural failings of the wall and deterioration of the brass plaques meant an overhaul was needed.

With support from the Mineworkers Trust – our union’s charitable foundation - our District has rebuilt the wall with striking black granite plaques to honour and remember coal miners killed in the Northern District Coalfields.

After painstaking research to identify and correct any errors or omissions of names on the previous wall, it now features 1793 names. The names tell a story about the history of coal mining in



DISTRICT SECRETARY SHANE THOMPSON, GENERAL PRESIDENT TONY MAHER, GENERAL SECRETARY GRAHAME KELLY, DISTRICT PRESIDENT PETER JORDAN.

our District and the human toll it has taken. The youngest name on the wall is nine-year-old William France, killed at Pacific Colliery and the eldest is 80-year-old William Howes, killed at Abermain Colliery.

We were delighted to invite our Mining and Energy Union General President Tony Maher to officially unveil the wall before an audience of union delegates from across our District.

Tony spoke about the legacy of Miners’ Federation legend Jim Comerford, who passed away in 2006 aged 93.

Jim started working in the mines as a pit boy at Richmond Main Colliery in the 1920s aged just 13. His firsthand experience of the brutal Rothbury Riot in 1939 – where police fired on locked out coal miners - reinforced a lifelong commitment to the union and the working class.

Jim was District President of our Union for 20 years from the 1950s through to the 1970s, using his intelligence and commitment to build a strong and effective union that substantially improved working and living conditions for coal miners. We are pleased to honour him with the Memorial Wall and commemorative bust as we endeavour to continue serving coal miners and our mining communities with the same spirited determination.

Tony reflected on the importance of the District’s annual Memorial Day at the wall as an event for the community to come together, remember our

history and support grieving families, but as he noted, the Memorial Wall also provides a place of solace and remembrance all year round.

“THIS WALL DEPICTS THE TRUE COST OF THE COAL THAT WE MINE. THE UNION AND ITS CHARITABLE TRUST HAS SPENT A SIGNIFICANT AMOUNT OF MONEY ON THE ORIGINAL JIM COMERFORD MEMORIAL WALL AND NOW THIS BEAUTIFUL INCARNATION.

“The fact that it sits in the grounds of the union office in Cessnock but is available to the community all year round means that people can come to Memorial Days or visit in more private circumstances any time that suits. It shows what a gift it is from the Mining Union to the mining community of the Hunter. It is a gift that should live on forever.”

Tony’s words beautifully sum up the significance of the Memorial Wall to our union and our community.

We were again reminded of the dangerous nature of the coal mining industry with the tragic death of Queensland coal miner Clark Peadon, who was tragically killed at Curragh Mine just two days before we unveiled the restored Jim Comerford Memorial Wall. We held a minute’s silence in Clark’s honour and we know that his memory will be held dear by coal miners everywhere. May he rest in peace.

Peter Jordan, CFMEU Northern Mining and NSW Energy District President



THE UPPER HUNTER MINING DIALOGUE IS HELPING SPREAD CHRISTMAS CHEER IN LOCAL SCHOOLS.

Offered in conjunction with the Hunter River Times newspaper, the Dialogue Christmas in the Classroom competition aims to help local schools and their students showcase their festive celebrations while farewelling what has again been a trying year for all.

For the second year, schools involved

with the Dialogue’s School Mine Tours Program have been offered \$150 ‘buy local’ gift cards which can be used to help decorate their classrooms for Christmas.

The competition will also benefit local businesses as the gift cards must be spent with participating businesses within the school’s local government area.

THE DIALOGUE WILL ALSO REWARD THE TOP THREE SCHOOL CHRISTMAS DECORATION PROJECTS WITH FIRST PRIZE RECEIVING \$750, SECOND \$500 AND THIRD \$250 TO BE USED ON A SCHOOL PROJECT OF THEIR CHOICE.

Last year’s top prize was taken out by the students of Scone Public School – pictured with their winning Christmas decorations.

Meanwhile, following the disruptions from Covid-19 this year, the Dialogue is gearing up for a busy 2022 and plans a full return to its activities including community engagement at local shows, procurement networking events, the return of the School Mine Tours Program and hosting of its Community Forum early in the new year.

The Dialogue wishes all its supporters a safe and merry Christmas and happy New Year.



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From all of us at Coal Services we wish you a happy and safe festive season.

Thank you for your support during the year. We look forward to working together in 2022.

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KEEPING MINERS SAFE

AROUND THE WORLD, MANY MINERS CELEBRATE DECEMBER 4 AS MINERS DAY AND COMMEMORATE THEIR PATRON SAINT, ST. BARBARA, REQUESTING HER CONTINUING PROTECTION FOR THEIR DAILY WORK.

For Coal Services, their company's purpose 'to protect' ensures that keeping workers safe is the focus every day.

Wayne Green, General Manager Mines Rescue and Regulation & Compliance explained that the breadth of services offered by Coal Services' businesses help protect the health and safety of those working in the NSW coal industry.

"There are almost 22,000 workers directly employed in the production of coal across NSW and more than 13,000 of those are in the Hunter region. At some stage during their mining careers almost every one of those workers will have visited one of Coal Services' offices for services such as a medical or attending a safety training course," he said.

COAL SERVICES HAS PLAYED A KEY ROLE IN NSW COAL MINING COMMUNITIES IN ONE WAY OR ANOTHER FOR NEARLY ONE HUNDRED YEARS. MINES RESCUE'S ROOTS WERE FOUNDED IN EMERGENCY RESPONSE IN 1926, YET TODAY

THE BUSINESS IS BETTER KNOWN FOR HELPING MINING OPERATORS TO MANAGE RISK AND OPERATE SAFELY THROUGH SPECIALISED SAFETY TRAINING.

"Mines Rescue is still required to maintain a response capability should an incident occur at a mine, but the training we offer looks beyond emergency response. We emphasise building the skills and knowledge that focus on safety awareness to reduce incidents from happening in the first place.

"Our trainers have decades of hands-on industry experience which complements the classroom theory and practical demonstrations. The use of virtual reality also enables us to immerse workers into real-life scenarios but in a safe, simulated environment at absolutely no risk and with no impact on productivity."

Mr Green said that safety training is critical in any hazardous industry but equally important is ensuring that health and safety policies are in place and that they are implemented

and monitored on a regular basis.

"This is a side of safety management that can be difficult and complex, or even forgotten until it's too late," he said.

"We wanted to help employers to better understand and manage their work health and safety obligations, so we created a team dedicated to this function. It is a service that complements the work we do in safety training and emergency response."

The team is responsible for providing safety and emergency management consulting and compliance services. This includes audit services, crisis and emergency management solutions, development and testing of safety management systems and risk scoping and assessment.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT HOW MINES RESCUE CAN HELP THE HEALTH AND SAFETY OF YOUR WORKFORCE PLEASE VISIT WWW.COALSERVICES.COM.AU



MINES RESCUE BRIGADE TRAINING



AUSTRALIA'S LARGEST AND MOST INFLUENTIAL MINING EVENT, THE INTERNATIONAL MINING AND RESOURCES CONFERENCE (IMARC) IS AT MELBOURNE SHOWGROUNDS FROM JANUARY 31 - FEBRUARY 2.

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IMARC is the only place where you can see cutting-edge equipment, technologies, innovations, and services. Find new solutions from ground-breaking companies and the biggest names in the industry, discuss your specific challenges with knowledgeable technical experts, and get what you need to transform your operations. Whether it's for exploration, mine development, sustainability, or safety, you'll find it at IMARC with more than 200 leading companies exhibiting

across the expo floor.

With over 70 hours of networking, there will be ample opportunity for you to meet more than 8,000 decision makers, mining leaders, policy makers, investors, commodity buyers, technical experts, innovators, and educators at Australia's largest mining event.

Due to ongoing travel and gathering restrictions as a result of Covid, the hybrid event will welcome Australian attendees in-person to Melbourne, and international attendees from more than 130 countries via an online platform.



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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 ACCESSING YOUR SUPERANNUATION AFTER TOTAL AND PERMANENT DISABILITY.

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BEST UNDER PRESSURE

As a little girl climbed onto Santa’s lap, he asked her the usual question, “And what would you like for Christmas?” The child stared at him open mouthed and horrified for a minute, then gasped, “Didn’t you get my text?”

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Members of Superannuation funds will often have a basic level of Total and Permanent Disability Insurance, often referred to as TPD. Some members will have applied for additional or increased TPD insurance benefits. You pay a premium out of your Superannuation fund for TPD insurance. If you are unsure about what coverage you have it would be sensible to check with your Fund.

Total and Permanent Disability benefits may be available to a fund member who has coverage in circumstances where they are unlikely to ever work again. An example of a current definition of TPD includes circumstances where the insured is unlikely to ever work again in employment for which they are reasonably qualified by education, training and experience. It is important to note that definitions vary between Funds and even vary within the same

Fund, depending upon when the TPD insurance was taken out. It is recommended as part of your regular financial reviews that you check the definition that applies to you.

Your Fund will have appropriate application forms to apply for TPD benefits and will require certification for your doctors. Once you meet the requirements of the Fund for TPD benefits the amount of the benefit will be credited to your Superannuation account.


IT IS VERY IMPORTANT TO UNDERSTAND THAT JUST BECAUSE YOU MEET YOUR FUNDS TPD GUIDELINES AND THE BENEFIT IS TRANSFERRED TO YOUR ACCOUNT IT DOES NOT AUTOMATICALLY MEAN THAT YOU WILL HAVE ACCESS TO THE MONEY.

Federal law requires that in order to access the benefit you must meet a “condition of release” under the super law. Whilst meeting your funds definition of TPD may also

mean that you meet the condition of release it does not always follow.

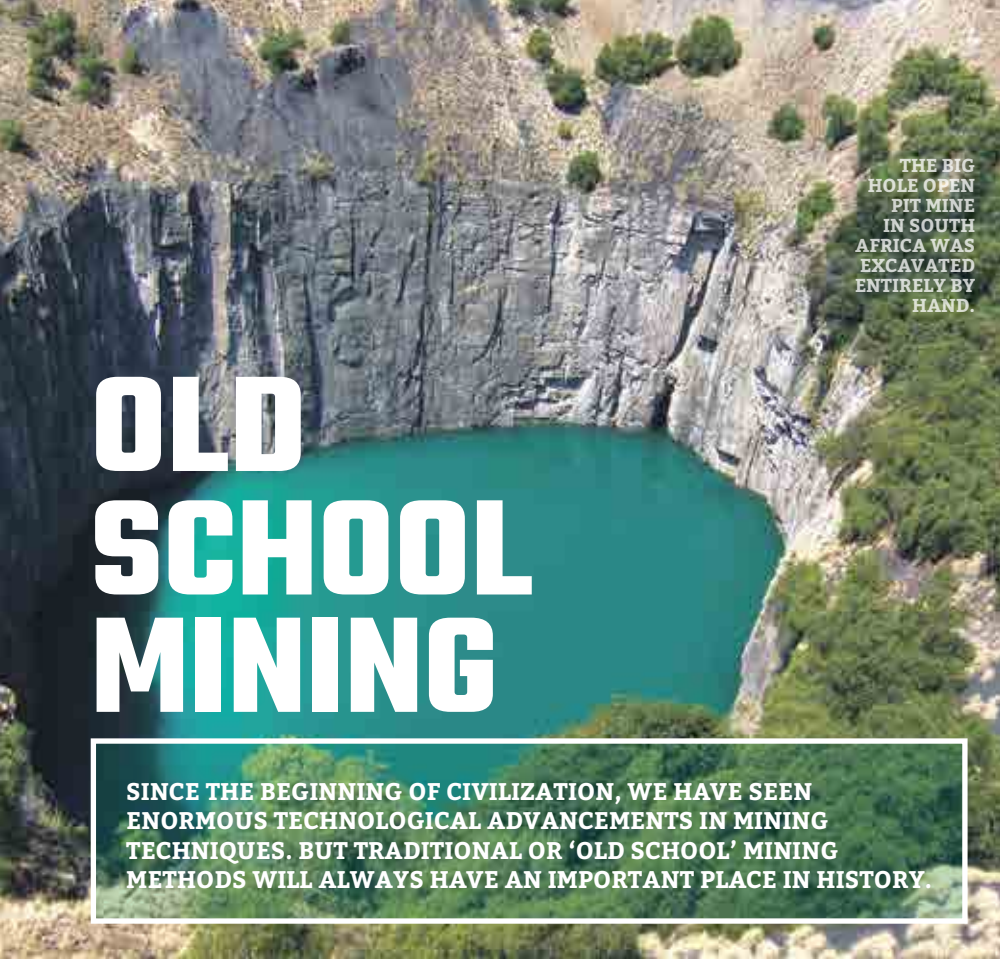
TPD Insurance Benefits and definitions may vary from fund to Fund and indeed within the same Fund depending on such things as when you took out coverage, your job classification and whether you have increased your coverage. For that reason check your entitlements with your Fund.

May I also take this opportunity to wish readers and their family and friends a merry Christmas and happy New Year. In particular stay safe, this time of year can be a period where accidents happen as people relax and, for example, hit the road. I look forward to providing you with useful information in the new year.



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

STUART BARNETT,
SLATER & GORDON LAWYERS



THE BIG HOLE OPEN PIT MINE IN SOUTH AFRICA WAS EXCAVATED ENTIRELY BY HAND.

OLD SCHOOL MINING

SINCE THE BEGINNING OF CIVILIZATION, WE HAVE SEEN ENORMOUS TECHNOLOGICAL ADVANCEMENTS IN MINING TECHNIQUES. BUT TRADITIONAL OR ‘OLD SCHOOL’ MINING METHODS WILL ALWAYS HAVE AN IMPORTANT PLACE IN HISTORY.

Mining in its simplest form began with Paleolithic humans some 450,000 years ago when our ancestors’ extracted pieces of flint from easily accessed outcrops and using crude methods of chipping the flint, shaped them into tools and weapons. While mining has seen vast improvements since these beginnings, for many centuries the only way to dig minerals and rocks from the ground was by hand using primitive tools.

Early miners employed crude methods of ground control,

ventilation, haulage, hoisting, lighting, and rock breakage. The go to tools were hammers, chisels, pickaxes and shovels. Haulage relied on using people or animals to carry materials or to cart them using minecarts and wheelbarrows. Pans were used for placer mining operations, such as gold panning. Hoisting up shafts and inclines was done with a windlass. Timber support systems were employed in tunnels to prevent collapse.

The first challenge for early miners was to break the ore and loosen it



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Travel safely on our roads and arrive alive. For road safety tips <https://roadsafety.transport.nsw.gov.au/stayingsafe/index.html>



Dave Layzell MP
MEMBER FOR UPPER HUNTER

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Authorised by Dave Layzell MP, 20 Bridge Street, Muswellbrook NSW 2332
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from the surrounding rock mass. Often, their crude tools made of bone, wood, and stone were no match for the harder rock, unless the rock contained crevices or cracks that could be opened by wedging or prying. As a result, they soon devised a revolutionary technique called fire setting, whereby they first heated the rock to expand it and then doused it with cold water to contract and break it. Fire-setting was one of the most effective rock breaking methods until 1867 when Alfred Nobel invented dynamite.

WITH THE INDUSTRIAL REVOLUTION AND THE INCREASED NEED FOR MINERALS, CAME SPECTACULAR IMPROVEMENTS IN MINING TECHNOLOGY, ESPECIALLY IN SCIENTIFIC CONCEPTS AND MECHANISATION. AMONG THESE NEW TECHNOLOGIES, TWO IN PARTICULAR CHANGED THE PROCESS OF MINING PROFOUNDLY.

During the nineteenth century, the aforementioned invention of dynamite was the most important advance. In the twentieth century, the invention of continuous mining equipment, which extracts the softer minerals like coal without the use of explosives was perhaps the most notable accomplishment.

Yet despite the many advancements over the last two centuries, traditional mining is still used as a mining method in places around the world such as Colombia, Peru and Niger.

And whilst traditional mining certainly has its disadvantages, it’s responsible for creating some of the largest handmade features on Earth, such as the Big Hole open pit mine in South Africa, which is claimed to be the largest hole on Earth excavated by hand.

It just goes to show that some traditions are worth keeping around.

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THE BEST OF 2021

2021 HAS BEEN A BIG YEAR FOR THE COAL MINING INDUSTRY. WE HAVE SEEN COUNTLESS AWARDS AND ACCOLADES AWARDED TO THE PEOPLE IN OUR INDUSTRY AND MINES RECOGNISED FOR BEST PRACTICE REHABILITATION, HEALTH AND SAFETY. COAL PRICES HAVE HIT RECORD LEVELS, WE HAVE WELCOMED THE INTRODUCTION OF NEW ENERGY EFFICIENT TECHNOLOGIES, AND OF COURSE, THERE HAS BEEN COUNTLESS PROGRAMS, PROJECTS AND INITIATIVES GIVING BACK TO THE COMMUNITY. WE ARE PROUD TO BRING YOU A SMALL SNAPSHOT OF SOME THE WONDERFUL THINGS OUR LOCAL MINES HAVE BEEN UP TO IN 2021.



MOUNT THORLEY WARKWORTH & ASHTON COAL MINE

YANCOAL IS COMMITTED TO INVESTING IN THE COMMUNITIES IN WHICH IT OPERATES AND PARTNERING WITH COMMUNITY GROUPS TO ACHIEVE MEANINGFUL OUTCOMES. ONE OF THE WAYS IT DOES IS THROUGH THEIR COMMUNITY SUPPORT PROGRAM, WHICH HAS BEEN SPECIFICALLY DESIGNED TO INVEST IN PROJECTS, PROGRAMS AND INITIATIVES THAT ARE DESIGNED TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE TO THE LIVES OF OTHERS.

Each year, Yancoal allocates funds at both a site and corporate level to provide financial support to community groups and programs operating across the areas of health, community, environment, arts, culture, education or training. Since its inception, Yancoal's Community Support Program has invested considerable funds into local initiatives across Australia and has forged partnerships with organisations such as the Westpac Rescue Helicopter Service, The Clontarf Foundation and the Queensland University of Technology Cancer and Aging Research Program. On a local level, both Mount Thorley Warkworth

(MTW) and Ashton Coal operate their own site Community Support Programs, and in 2021 partnered with many organisations in the local community to help make a difference.

MTW provided a much-needed electronic scoreboard for the basketballers at Singleton PCYC. Their basketball program has been growing in popularity and the new scoreboard will enable them to host competitions and expand even further.

The Howes Valley Rural Fire Service (RFS) are cooking up a storm in their newly upgraded kitchen thanks to MTW. During the bushfires a real need was recognised for the 40 plus volunteer firefighters to have a place where they could refuel and recharge between battling blazes, and the newly renovated kitchen provides just that.

For several years, MTW has supported the Samaritans Christmas Lunch in Singleton, 'A Picnic at Singleton Showground'. The annual Lunch is organised specifically for those who may otherwise be unable to celebrate Christmas.

ASHTON'S COMMUNITY SUPPORT PROGRAM IN 2021 PROVIDED FIVE LOCAL COMMUNITY ORGANISATIONS IN THE UPPER HUNTER SHARE WITH OVER \$25,000 OF FUNDING. IN ITS TENTH YEAR, ASHTON'S PROGRAM CONTINUES TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE TO THE LIVES OF PEOPLE WHO LIVE AND WORK IN THE COMMUNITY.

This year, the program funded solar panels



YANCOAL'S R U OK? DAY VIRTUAL MORNING TEA

for Singleton Heights Pre-School, instructor training at Singleton Pony Club, facility upgrades at Singleton PCYC, water filtration points at Australian Christian College, and education and training at Singleton Gymkhana.

Together, MTW and Ashton were joint sponsors of The University of Newcastle's award-winning Science and Engineering Challenge in June, which was delivered over three exciting days in Muswellbrook. The not-for-profit Science and Engineering Challenge program is aimed at stimulating interest in STEM fields by exploring scientific concepts with practical problem solving. This STEM investment in local student's futures has been in place since 2002, making Yancoal the longest serving sponsor of the Challenge.

We can't wait to see how Yancoal's Community Support Program will make a difference to our communities in 2022.

AUSTAR COAL MINE

THE AUSTAR COAL MINE PRODUCED HIGH-GRADE METALLURGICAL COAL FOR OVER 100 YEARS UNTIL BEING TRANSITIONED TO CLOSURE IN FEBRUARY 2021. DESPITE THE CESSATION OF COAL MINING, THERE WILL BE PLENTY OF ACTIVITY AT AUSTAR OVER THE COMING YEARS AS YANCOAL UNDERTAKES CLOSURE, REHABILITATION AND RESTORATIVE WORK AT THE SITE IN PREPARATION FOR THE EVENTUAL RELINQUISHMENT OF AUSTAR'S MINING LEASES.

The amount of preparation and sophisticated planning that is required to ensure the safe and effective closure and rehabilitation of a mine site is probably a surprise to many in the community. Rehabilitation and closure commitments and obligations are established and enforced under a range of Government regulatory mechanisms, and the planning and execution of works to address these regulatory requirements takes several years.

Yancoal has implemented a rigorous, risk-based and staged approach in planning for closure of the Austar site. Initial activity involves the identification of a range of issues that need to be assessed and addressed, including: closure risks and opportunities; the range of relevant stakeholders to be impacted by closure and rehabilitation activities; likely knowledge gaps within the organisation; and an awareness of legal or other regulatory obligations. During the early stages of the closure process subject matter experts are engaged to

undertake detailed assessments and to develop closure execution plans.

A raft of studies are already being undertaken at the Austar site on issues such as: ground and surface water; the historic heritage of existing structures; emplacement area and tailings dam design; remediation of surface facilities; and mine sealing options.

During this planning period at Austar, Yancoal continues to manage the site in accordance with its environmental compliance obligations and will regularly engage with the community and relevant stakeholders to ensure they are aware of what is happening at site.

Management and monitoring of the site will continue for many years to verify that successful rehabilitation and restoration has been achieved, so that the lease can be relinquished and the land returned to a beneficial post mining land use for future generations.



THE BEGINNING OF PELTON COLLIERY – PHOTO COURTESY OF A. GALLOWAY, ED TONKS COLLECTION

AUSTAR COAL MINE TIMELINE

- 1916** – Underground mining commenced at Pelton Colliery
- 1960/61** – Pelton's Coal Handling Preparation Plant constructed
- Late 1960s** – Cessnock No. 1 Colliery (Kalingo) amalgamated into Pelton
- 1978** – Underground mining commenced at Ellalong Colliery with coal delivered to Pelton washery by overland conveyor
- 1983** – Ellalong pioneers the first longwall in the South Maitland Coalfields, and steam power is replaced by diesel electric locomotives on South Maitland Railways
- 1992** – Underground mining ceased at Pelton
- 1995** – Pelton Open Cut Coal Mine established
- 1998** – Ellalong and Pelton amalgamated with Bellbird South Colliery and renamed Southland Colliery
- 2003** – Underground fire caused the mine to be placed on care and maintenance for 18 months
- 2004** – Yancoal purchased Southland and changed the name to Austar Coal Mine
- 2006** – Yancoal pioneers the introduction of Longwall Top Coal Caving Technology into Australia at Austar
- 2016** – Austar celebrates 100 years and is the last remaining coal mine in the Cessnock area
- 2020** – Austar enters care and maintenance
- 2021** – Austar commences transition to closure



RIX'S CREEK & BLOOMFIELD MINE

BLOOMFIELD'S FOCUS ON NAVIGATING THE CHALLENGES OF COVID-19 CONTINUED THROUGH 2021, WITH THE LAUNCH OF THE SPEND WITH LOCAL SMALL BUSINESSES INITIATIVE. EVERY EMPLOYEE THAT CONFIRMED THAT THEY WERE FULLY VACCINATED RECEIVED A \$250 GIFT CARD TO BE SPENT WITH LOCAL SMALL BUSINESSES. THE INITIATIVE HELPED PROTECT THE WORKFORCE AND THE COMMUNITY AGAINST THE RISKS OF COVID-19, WHILE INJECTING OVER \$100,000 BACK INTO THE LOCAL COMMUNITY.

Bloomfield's operations were recognised for environmental and safety excellence.

In October, Bloomfield Mine reached five year Lost Time Injury Free. It was an amazing achievement by the Bloomfield Mine crew.

Rix's Creek Mine was highly commended in the Environmental Excellence category of the NSW Minerals Council Health, Safety, Environment and Community Awards for its Noise Management Program. Also, a program focusing on improving mental health (MY Mindset), was confirmed as a finalist in the Health Excellence category.

New and more energy efficient fleet and machinery made its way across the Group's mining and engineering operations with the introduction of a new earthmoving truck fleet and hybrid on-road vehicles.



NEW FLEET: A CAT 793F DOING ITS VERY FIRST RUN AT RIX'S CREEK MINE IN NOVEMBER



BLOOMFIELD HAS PROUDLY SUPPORTED THE HUNTER COMMUNITY FOR OVER 80 YEARS, AND 2021 WAS NO DIFFERENT.

Its support of the Singleton Neighbourhood Centre continued, with Bloomfield funding the Project Officer who runs the Centre's Open Door program for another year.

Bloomfield's support for Youth Off the Streets (YOTS) now extends well over a decade. This year, underpinned by Bloomfield, YOTS expanded its footprint into the Upper Hunter community, and established a weekly Engagement and Support program at Singleton Heights Sports Centre.

Support for Lifeline also continued, with a recent donation to assist local Lifeline provide free telehealth video counselling, and crisis support via the Lifeline hotline (13 11 14).

And in a new initiative, Bloomfield is supporting the DRIVE program being run by Singleton Police Citizens Youth Club. The DRIVE program trains driving mentors who then help local young people get the supervised learner hours that they need to achieve their drivers licence. Some young people experience barriers to getting their licence including access to a car, and the lack of suitable supervisor drivers. This free program at PCYC helps to remove these barriers for local youth.

Joel Fitzgibbon MP Federal Member for Hunter

Follow me on:   



I've always loudly and proudly supported our coal mining industry and its workforce. The sector will continue to create local and national wealth for decades to come and that's a good thing.



 joelfitzgibbon.com

3 Edward Street, Cessnock | Phone: 4991 1022 | joel.fitzgibbon.mp@aph.gov.au

Authorised by Joel Fitzgibbon, Australian Labor Party (NSW Branch), 3 Edward Street Cessnock 2325 NSW.

BHP

MT ARTHUR COAL

IN 2021, MT ARTHUR COAL HAVE CONTINUED TO BE AT THE FOREFRONT FOR PROMOTING DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION IN OUR INDUSTRY. OVER 18.5% OF THE TOTAL WORKFORCE ARE NOW FEMALE THANKS TO THEIR STRONG FOCUS ON INCREASING FEMALE PARTICIPATION AND GENDER BALANCE IN THE WORKPLACE.



MT ARTHUR COAL WERE PROUD SUPPORTERS OF NATIONAL WEAR IT PURPLE DAY.

Every month, Mt Arthur Coal focus on an issue targeted at inclusion, diversity and giving back to the workforce and community. From raising awareness of mental health, to addressing sexual harassment, to supporting causes like Movember, each month a different department takes the lead to address and promote these important issues and causes.

On International Women's Day in March, it was all about having those important conversations. Over the course of the week the BHP team heard from a variety of females and males on what they #choosetochallenge including those at BHP's own Mt Arthur Coal Lunch & Learn event.

In August, they were proud supporters of national Wear It Purple Day where their site-based Inclusion and Diversity team sold specially designed purple hard hats and held presentations at pre-starts, all aimed at making Mt Arthur Coal a more welcoming and inclusive workplace for all.

2021 ALSO SAW MT ARTHUR COAL LAUNCH A BRAND NEW WOMEN IN MINING PROGRAM IN PARTNERSHIP WITH CHANDLER MACLEOD. THIS NEW PROGRAM IS ONE OF THE MT ARTHUR COAL PRODUCTION TEAM'S KEY DIVERSITY INITIATIVES AND IS ALREADY PROVING TO BE AN EXCITING WAY TO BRING NEW RECRUITS INTO BHP AND THE INDUSTRY.

The work Mt Arthur Coal are doing in diversity and inclusion was highlighted just this month, with Phoebe Thomas taking home the win for the Exceptional Young Woman in Australian Resources at the BHP 2021 Women in Resources National Awards. Phoebe has had a lead role in



MT ARTHUR COAL WOMEN IN MINING PROGRAM IS A KEY DIVERSITY INITIATIVE.

workforce gender diversity as well as female leadership representation on site and this win is in recognition of that.

Mt Arthur Coal's community support remained strong in 2021, with their Local Buying Program continuing to make a big difference in the local community. In 2021, \$8.2 million was spent with local businesses and suppliers through the BHP Local Buying Program and since it's inception more than \$43.2 million has been spent. On procurement in general, their annual target to spend in 2021 locally is \$120 million. These are just some of the many ways that they are supporting the community.

2021 also saw Mt Arthur Coal focus heavily on their Covid response. From Rapid Antigen testing, on-site vaccinations hubs, and supporting pop up clinics in Muswellbrook, their efforts have been acknowledged by the Resources Regulator as industry leading in the Hunter Valley and have contributed to helping our community stay safe throughout 2021.

BENGALLA MINING COMPANY

BENGALLA MINING COMPANY ARE COMMITTED TO PROVIDING CAREER OPPORTUNITIES TO PEOPLE IN OUR COMMUNITY AND ENSURING A SKILLED WORKFORCE INTO THE FUTURE. ONE WAY THEY DO THIS IS THROUGH THEIR APPRENTICESHIP AND SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAMS.

Every year Bengalla offers an Engineering Scholarship to a student who is attending Muswellbrook High School, St Josephs High School, Aberdeen, Scone High School, Scone Grammar School, Singleton High School, or St Catherine's Singleton.



LATEST INTAKE OF BENGALLA APPRENTICES. L-R: JYE, JACKSON, BRODY, LEVI,

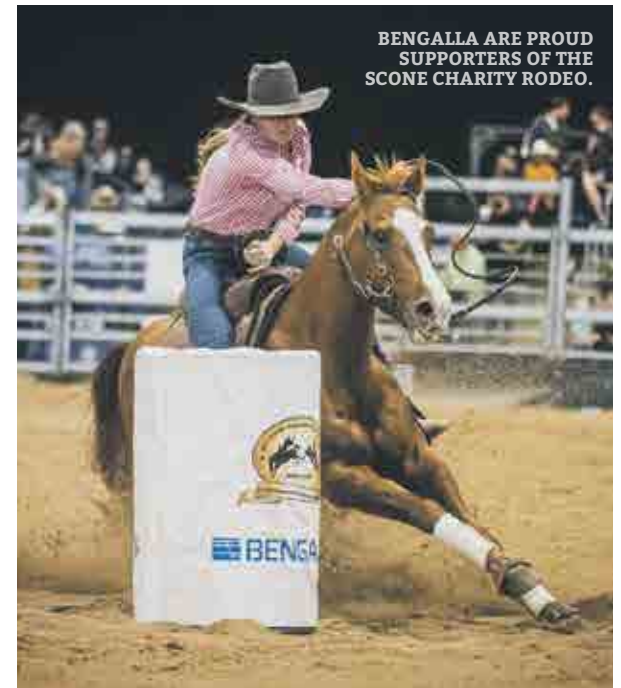
Bengalla value being a part of the school to careers pathway for local students and the Engineering Scholarship which now also includes Surveying and Geology in the Scholarship eligible criteria, is something they are particularly proud to provide. The four year scholarship is valued at \$34,000 and also includes paid vacation work. Applications are still open for 2022 and will close on December 6.

There are four current scholarship recipients in the program. Alex and Brock are both studying Mechanical Engineering at Newcastle University and are currently onsite completing their stint of vacation work. They have a number of projects they are working on over the next 10 weeks and will soon be joined by the two Electrical Engineering students (Talesin and Kye).

RECENTLY BENGALLA ALSO WELCOMED THEIR LATEST ROUND OF FIRST YEAR APPRENTICES WHERE THEY WILL BE SUPPORTED, COACHED AND MENTORED WHILE THEY GAIN SKILLS FOR LIFE AS WELL AS FORMAL QUALIFICATIONS.

Since 2005, Bengalla have been taking on four apprentices every year and the latest intake consists of three Electrical Apprentices, two Plant Mechanic apprentices, and for the first time, Bengalla also has a Farm Trainee joining the ranks who will work with the Bengalla Agricultural Company on the farmland surrounding the mine.

Bengalla are firm believers in the co-existence of mining and agriculture and are demonstrating this with the work of Bengalla Agricultural Company. Significant work was undertaken to re-establish infrastructure and renovate the property consisting of 450ha for



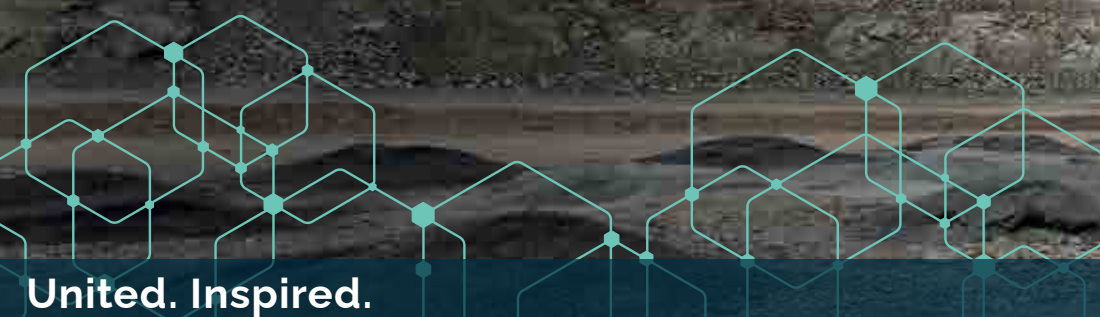
BENGALLA ARE PROUD SUPPORTERS OF THE SCONE CHARITY RODEO.

grazing cattle, 235ha for dryland cropping and an additional 165ha of irrigated cropping area. It has produced substantial summer and winter crops and is currently backgrounding 500 weaner steers making use of the quality feed on offer.

When it comes to community support Bengalla has made a big difference in the community. From the upcoming Bengalla Charity Golf Luncheon which will see an incredible donation of a brand-new vehicle for TransCare, made possible due to the combined effort of local industry and business to getting behinds events and organisations such as the Scone Charity Rodeo, the Bengalla Cup Day and the Scone Bucking Bull Association, this is a company that cares about their community and the people in it. And that's no bull.

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SCAN FOR CONTACT

GLENCORE

GLENCORE IS AUSTRALIA'S LARGEST COAL PRODUCER WITH 17 MINING OPERATIONS ACROSS NSW AND QLD AND THE HUNTER IS HOME TO 8 OF THEM. AS YOU CAN IMAGINE, WITH SUCH A LARGE PORTFOLIO THERE WAS A LOT OF GOING ON FOR GLENCORE IN 2021.

Glencore's Asset Management team developed a new Welder Competency Training Program to assist the fabricators, boilermakers and third-party repairers across their operations and the wider industry.

When it came to education, training and career opportunities, Glencore had a variety of programs operating in 2021 such as their Graduate, Summer Vacation and Apprenticeship programs. Their Indigenous Pathway Program was a huge success, with 27 of the original 39 participants completing the 26-week program and 21 gaining employment on completion.

Glencore supports several Hunter Valley high school students with University Scholarships and Glencore's Jamie Collins claimed the 2020 Hunter

Safety Awards WHS Student of the Year Award, which was delivered in 2021 due to Covid. In 2021, as our economy struggled through another year of Covid, Glencore's contribution for our Hunter region gave us a much needed boost with \$3.6 billion in total economic activity. That's 5,230 direct jobs, 9,380 indirect jobs, 1,290 suppliers, an annual spend of \$1.6 billion on goods and services.

On the community front, a partnership between Singleton Council, Glencore and the Bloomfield Group is providing \$500,000 for community programs or projects that will deliver an economic, social or environmental outcome for the Singleton LGA.

Their community investment didn't stop there, with significant investments in NSW & QLD junior sport, school P&C grants and general grants equalling more than \$600,000 over the 2021 period and a total community investment of over \$1.6 million in NSW alone.

Glencore's employees are also making a difference, donating \$272,000 to the Westpac Rescue Helicopter Service in 2020/21 alone, which was over and above Glencore's corporate sponsorship.

Across each of Glencore's sites, significant contributions are made on every level, with each site operating their own Community Investment Program. Here are just a few of the contributions and highlights from 2021.

BULGA OPEN CUT

Finalist in the NSW Mining HSEC Awards for Safety Excellence. Sponsored the Singleton Library's 2021 Summer Reading Program. Senior Long/Medium Term Planning Engineer Simone Ivanov presented at this year's NSW Mining Careers Dinner. Operator Phoebe Desmond was selected for the Newcastle Knights NRLW side.

INTEGRA UNDERGROUND

Donated fifty laptops to year 5 and 6 students at St Catherine's Catholic College. Along with Mt Owen/Glendell Operation, Integra Underground donated a commercial grade refrigerator to Darlington Rural Fire Brigade.

HUNTER VALLEY OPERATIONS

Finalist in the NSW Mining HSEC Awards Health Excellence category for their electrical cabinet dust extraction system improvement project. Donated \$11,000 to Singleton Family Support and Beyond Blue.

MT OWEN/GLENDELL OPERATIONS (MGO)

The CHPP reached their 25-year milestone. Several workers also celebrated 25 years. Long term supporters of Mt Pleasant Public School and Singleton Samaritans Christmas Lunch, this support continued in 2021. The first Glencore site to introduce a 3D Predictive Noise Model to improve noise management. Established an off-site seed nursery at Congewai to assist with hard to germinate shrub species to ensure they are meeting the final land use outcome during the mine's operational phase. They will also plant on-site seed nurseries with alternate species in 2022. At the 2021 NSW DPIE RR Rehab Forum, MGO was presented as a case study to 400 plus delegates in attendance. The Westpac Rescue Helicopter Service (WRHS) was featured on a giant haul truck tray at MGO as a workforce reminder of both companies' commitment to safe work practices. The site also donated \$10,000 to the WRHS.



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RAVENSWORTH

On the corner of the New England Highway and Hebden Road is the old Ravensworth Public School which was unfortunately damaged in 2019 by an arson attack. Together with community members, Singleton Council, an archaeologist and a structural engineer, Ravensworth were able to help repair parts of the building and install educational resources around the site. The school was originally opened in 1876 with just 14 students and is an important historical site. 2021 saw the continued integration and supplementing of Glencore's Greater Ravensworth Water and Tailings Scheme, which also includes Glendell Open Cut. This scheme ensures the Ravensworth operations reuse and recycle as much water on site as possible. By storing water generated on site and optimising its use, there's less water drawn from our local river system which minimises impacts on local tributaries.

UNITED WAMBO JOINT VENTURE

A major milestone for United Wambo Joint Venture was the successful integration of Peabody's Wambo workforce in December 2020 and moving operations to their brand-new facilities in July. 2021 saw the introduction of new mining fleets including 4 new excavators and 12 new trucks. Investment in these state of the art machines is a commitment to the future of mining in the Hunter Valley. As part of their initiatives to enhance cultural awareness among their employees and the wider community they supported the launch of the book 'Spirit of Place – Aboriginal Sites of the Hunter Region' by Uncle Warren, Elder of the Wonnarua people, Hunter Valley.

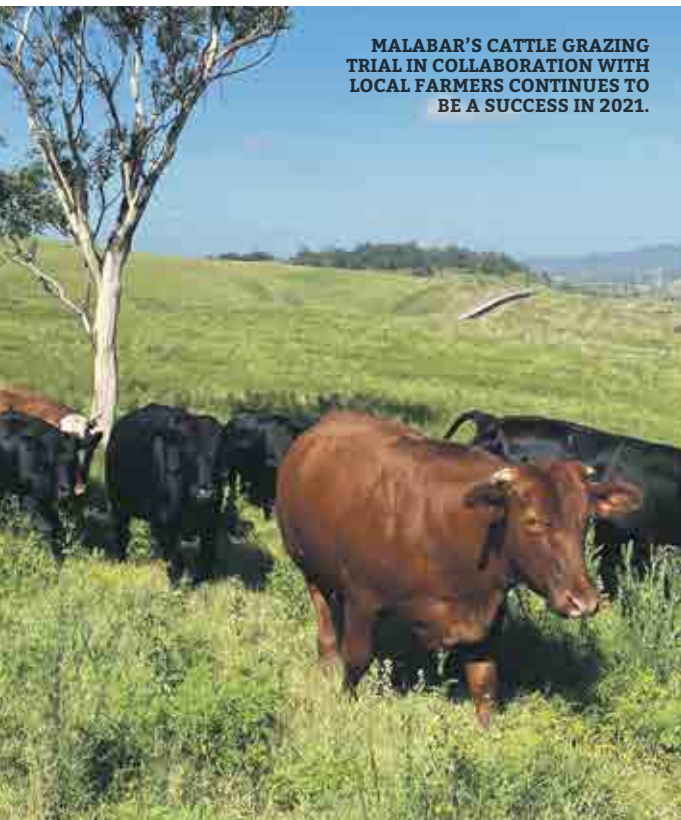




MALABAR RESOURCES

AS MALABAR RESOURCES PREPARES FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE MAXWELL UNDERGROUND MINE, THEY CONTINUED TO BUILD AND STRENGTHEN THEIR RELATIONSHIPS WITH THOSE WHO MATTER MOST – MEMBERS OF THE UPPER HUNTER COMMUNITY.

MALABAR'S CATTLE GRAZING TRIAL IN COLLABORATION WITH LOCAL FARMERS CONTINUES TO BE A SUCCESS IN 2021.



"Community, momentum and preparation defined our year," chairman Wayne Seabrook said.

"As we managed the post-approval planning process, we focused on our local relationships with community organisations and individuals, which are absolutely vital to our long-term success.

"Through these conversations we were able to provide direct and targeted support for a range of people in our region, many of whom struggled through lockdown."

Malabar donated school supplies to the Singleton Neighbourhood Centre, a not-for-profit organisation providing emergency relief and financial assistance to those in the local area, supporting roughly 20 families juggling the demands of at-home learning due to school closures.

The Scone Community Pantry, which prepares hot meals for struggling families, received \$500 in addition to basic food supplies. Most recently, every student at Jerrys Plains Public School was gifted sporting equipment to help them stay active during lockdown as part of an initiative to improve physical and mental wellbeing.

Malabar also continued its support for the Upper Hunter Education Fund (UHEF) – an important local organisation whose mission is to foster the further education, career and personal development opportunities of young people in the Upper Hunter.

"This year we committed ourselves to checking in with all our community partners to see how we can help," said Donna McLaughlin, Malabar's Manager of Health, Safety, Environment and Community.



MALABAR'S DONATION TO Scone COMMUNITY PANTRY WILL ALLOW THEM TO PREPARE MORE HOT MEALS FOR STRUGGLING FAMILIES IN NEED.

"We were also fortunate to build new relationships with community organisations that do great work in our local community."

MALABAR HAS DONATED MORE THAN \$500,000 TO THE COMMUNITY TO DATE, PROVIDING TARGETED DONATIONS TO EDUCATION, AGED CARE, COMMUNITY ORGANISATIONS AND LOCAL SPORTING CLUBS IN NEED.

In addition to direct community investment, Malabar continued to make significant progress on the rehabilitation of the Maxwell Infrastructure site – formally an open-cut mine – with more than 850 hectares of land rehabilitated.

Malabar's focus in 2022 is the construction of the Maxwell Underground Mine.

"The entire team is beyond excited to begin construction on a project that has been close to a decade in the making, and one that will contribute to the growth and vitality of the Upper Hunter for decades to come," Mr Seabrook said.

WAMBO COAL

THE PAST FEW YEARS HAVE THROWN MANY CHALLENGES AT THE WAMBO COAL TEAM, AND THEY'VE MANAGED TO OVERCOME MOST TO RECORD A SOLID 2021 FOR THE PEABODY-OWNED UNDERGROUND OPERATION.

Extremely challenging market conditions in 2020 and early 2021 prompted the scaling back of production at Wambo Underground, however a commitment to safety, hard work and healthier coal prices have allowed the continuation of mining through the later stages of 2021 into 2022.

Despite tough mining conditions, Wambo's smaller, focused team managed to exceed production targets, complete a longwall relocation, re-start a second continuous miner unit, all while maintaining the best safety performance on record.

From a technical perspective, 2021 saw Wambo's Coal Handling and Preparation Plant undergo an upgrade to improve yield and coal recovery, providing the opportunity for increased production of high energy coal and improved quality and consistency for Wambo's customers.

Their Community and Environment team had another successful year enhancing biodiversity within important offset areas and continuing work on the North Wambo Creek Diversion including the design and construction of four drainage chutes and re-profiling of batters and native revegetation establishment.

IN NOVEMBER THIS YEAR THEY WELCOMED ANOTHER FIVE INDUCTEES TO THE WAMBO



WAMBO COAL'S D CREW



WAMBO COAL'S MINE RESCUE TEAM, CAPTAIN MATT BAILEY, DAVID MALONE, KURT BEREZA, CHAD KUOSMAN, BRETT STEVENS AND TRENT HUMBY.

COAL SINGLETON HALL OF FAME. THESE ANNUAL AWARDS CELEBRATE INDIVIDUALS, FAMILIES AND COMMUNITY ORGANISATIONS WHO HAVE GIVEN THEIR TIME AND ENERGY TO THE SINGLETON COMMUNITY OR HAVE EXCELLED ON THE STATE, NATIONAL OR GLOBAL STAGE IN THEIR CHOSEN FIELDS.

The Hall of Fame has now recognised 64 inductees since 2009, each person celebrated with their own personalised commemorative paver on the walkway at the Civic Centre. Peabody is proud of the success and longevity of the Wambo Coal Singleton Hall of Fame which is operated in partnership with the Singleton Council.

The Wambo Mines Rescue Team provided another reason for Peabody to be proud by taking top honors - again - at the 2021 Hunter Valley Underground Mines Rescue Competition. Team leader Captain Matt Bailey, a 29-year veteran of mines rescue has now led the Wambo team to victory an amazing eight times. Peabody's outgoing Australian President Marc Hathhorn paid tribute to the team's performance. "We congratulate the superb effort by Captain Matt Bailey, David Malone, Kurt Bereza, Chad Kuosman, Brett Stevens and Trent Humby for a superb effort. These men personify Peabody's commitment to Safety and set a great example for our workforce worldwide."

WAMBO COAL AND PEABODY WOULD LIKE TO TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO GENUINELY THANK OUR EMPLOYEES, CONTRACTORS AND SUPPLY CHAIN PARTNERS AS WELL AS THE LOCAL COMMUNITY FOR SUPPORTING OUR OPERATION IN 2021. FROM ALL OF US AT WAMBO WE HOPE YOU, YOUR FAMILY AND FRIENDS HAVE A RELAXED AND ENJOYABLE CHRISTMAS AND PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR.



WISHING OUR FRIENDS,
COLLEAGUES, CUSTOMERS AND TEAM A VERY

Merry Christmas
AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR!



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Thankyou

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We look forward to continuing working with you in the new year.



We hope you have a fantastic Christmas and a happy New Year.

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COMMUNITY GIFT

TONS OF TOYS!

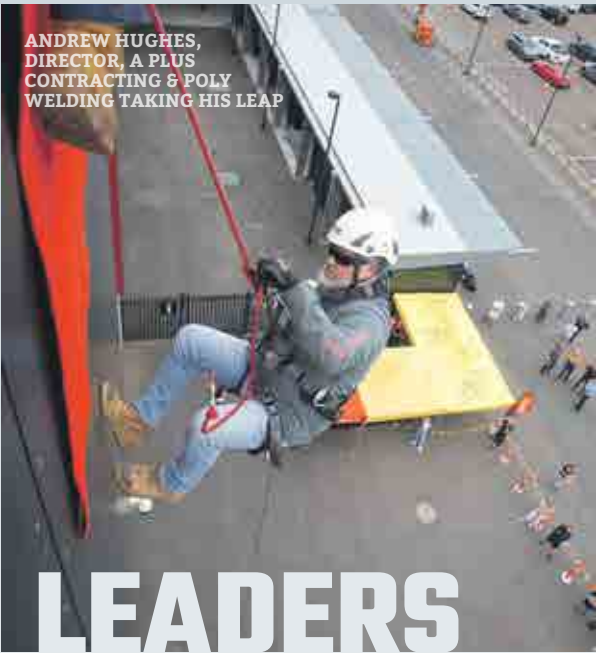
THIS MONTH THE COMPLETE PARTS AND @ THE COALFACE \$500 COMMUNITY GIFT HAS GONE TOWARDS A TON OF TOYS FOR THE COMPLETE PARTS CHRISTMAS GIVING TREE IN SUPPORT OF THE SINGLETON NEIGHBOURHOOD CENTRE.

The Singleton Neighbourhood Centre provide invaluable services to the local community, helping our most

vulnerable and disadvantaged. At this time of year, they are hard at work making sure everyone in the community will get to celebrate Christmas and the Complete Parts Christmas Giving Tree helps to make that happen. The Complete Parts foyer has been turned into a Santa's workshop with a ton of toys donated by their staff, suppliers and members of the community, all aimed at providing some Christmas cheer to those less fortunate. You too can help by donating gifts or non-perishable food items that can be used in a hamper. These donations can make all the difference into turning someone's bleak Christmas into an occasion of laughter and joy.



DROP OFF YOUR GIFTS AT COMPLETE PARTS BEFORE DECEMBER 10TH AND SPREAD SOME CHRISTMAS CHEER. YOU'LL FIND THEM ON MAGPIE STREET AT MAISON DIEU, SINGLETON



LEADERS TAKE A LEAP

FOR THE SECOND YEAR IN A ROW HUGHESY FROM A PLUS CONTRACTING & POLY WELDING HAS TAKEN TOP SPOT ON THE FUNDRAISING LEADERBOARD RAISING A MASSIVE \$19,542 FOR THE WESTPAC RESCUE HELICOPTER SERVICE IN THIS YEAR'S LEADERS LEAP EVENT.

Andrew Hughes, A Plus Contracting & Poly Welding Director has faced his fear of heights yet again this year at the 2021 Leader's Leap Fundraising event, also raising the top amount for

the Westpac Rescue Helicopter Service. After two postponements due to Covid, the Leader's Leap was finally able to take place on November 19. Alongside another 18 Hunter Valley leaders, Andrew stepped off the roof and abseiled down the face of McDonald Jones Stadium, Newcastle. Like many of the leaders who took the leap, Andrew faced his fear of heights to raise money for an organisation close to his heart. "ALTHOUGH I AM ALWAYS NERVOUS BEFORE I TAKE THAT FIRST STEP OFF THE TOP, I FELT HUMBLER TO BE GIVEN THE OPPORTUNITY TO FACE MY FEARS FOR AN ORGANISATION THAT WORKS SO HARD FOR OUR COMMUNITY 24 HOURS A DAY, 7 DAYS A WEEK." Andrew took the opportunity to reflect on the vital work of the Westpac Rescue Helicopter crew, who regularly winch people to safety from the bush, mine sites, ocean and hard to access locations. "Their support saves local lives every day, and so summoning the courage to abseil off the stadium for the Service was a great feeling." A total of \$73,133 was raised through the Leader's Leap Challenge with 539 donations across the board.

Andrew again commended the Westpac Rescue Helicopter Service Volunteers who were helpful on the day making it a fun experience for all leaders involved. "Thank you to all the companies and individuals who donated, to again make me the highest Leader's Leap contributor for the second year running, I couldn't have done it without your support," said Andrew. "A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO OUR BIGGEST CONTRIBUTORS, FARRELLY CONSTRUCTION

SERVICES, BOOTH CONTRACTING, CPR PLANT REPAIRS, KELLY'S FINANCIAL GROUP, PITCHER PARTNERS NEWCASTLE & HUNTER, CLUB MAITLAND CITY, DNA PROPERTY GROUP AND ATL TRANSPORT." Want to get involved? Andrew said you don't need to be a business leader to take up this challenge, anyone can do it, it's all about having a bit of fun on the day and raising money for a great community service.

TOP 10 LEADERS		
Andrew Hughes – Director, A Plus Contracting & Poly Welding		\$19,542
Maureen Jack – General Manager, Lambourne Partners		\$6,042
Cassandra Agnew – Senior Business Manager, oOh! Media		\$5,796
Brad Rogers – Business Manager, Rentokil Initial		\$5,723
Lachlan Grant – Northern Regional Manager, NSW Mines Rescue		\$4,949
Nick Clark – Licensee, The Shortland Hotel		\$4,021
Danielle Anthony – Director, Psychology One		\$3,808
Matthew Voigt – Vice President Sales & Marketing Australasia, Molycop		\$3,269
Andrew Sambell – Operations Manager, F45 Training		\$3,178
Kirsty Tonkin – Senior Manager, Hunter Imaging		\$3,114

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After another year with its challenges, we'd like to wish our community, partners and suppliers a well deserved rest, a safe and happy holiday season and a smooth road ahead.



WE CARE. WE DELIVER.



NEW TRANSPORT FOR TRANSCARE

THE FIRST BENGALLA CHARITY GOLF DAY IS SET TO BE A ROARING SUCCESS, WITH AN INCREDIBLE DONATION OF A BRAND-NEW VEHICLE FOR TRANSCARE.

The Bengalla Charity Golf Day was originally planned for 2020 but had to be postponed due to Covid. Then, weeks out from the 2021 event, Covid struck again. But Bengalla and all the sponsors and supporters involved refused to let Covid prevent them from giving back to the community, instead transforming the event into a new format.

"Our original sponsors all generously wanted to continue with their sponsorship plus we had even more sponsors who wanted to get involved so we came up with an event that would work with current restrictions. And so the Bengalla Charity Golf Day Luncheon was born," said Bengalla's Genelle Scotts.

The luncheon will be held on the 3rd of December at Muswellbrook Golf Club where Helping Hand Group Auction Services will assist Bengalla in holding an online and live auction to raise additional money for TransCare. The online auction is also up and running and we encourage all our readers to check out the website www.event.gives/bmc2021 and help raise as much money as possible.

Members of the general public are welcome to come along to the live auction at 2pm, where not only

can you bid on some fantastic items, but you will also have the opportunity to meet former Manly rugby league player Brett Fulton who will be in attendance.

BUT THE HIGHLIGHT OF THE DAY WILL BE THE DONATION OF THE BRAND-NEW VEHICLE TO THE TRANSCARE FLEET AT SCONE. TRANSCARE ARE A NOT-FOR-PROFIT ORGANISATION WHO PROVIDE TRANSPORT TO THOSE MOST VULNERABLE IN THE UPPER HUNTER AND MUSWELLBROOK SHIRE COUNCILS, ENABLING THEM TO GET TO LOCAL PHARMACIES AND ATTEND MEDICAL APPOINTMENTS NOT ONLY LOCALLY, BUT ANYWHERE IN BETWEEN NEWCASTLE AND TAMWORTH.

TransCare General Manager Garry Lane said the new vehicle would allow them to provide even more support for the community. "Bengalla have been great supporters for many years and this latest gesture is simply fantastic. We are very thankful to them and all the sponsors involved."

Kim and John Jones, owners of Jonesy Excavations are just one of the sponsors who supported the decision to continue the event under the new format.

"We've worked with Bengalla for 7

years and they are always looking for ways to support the community. In the past we have come on board for some of their initiatives and we were very keen to do so again for this great cause. While the event itself has been scaled back, the outcome of providing a new vehicle to TransCare for them to support their clients and the community is what matters," said Kim.

Genelle said she was so thankful to all the sponsors and supporters. "On behalf of Bengalla I cannot thank our sponsors and supporters

enough for their generous contributions. We are so pleased that with their help we could provide this donation to TransCare and the wider community.

"I also must thank the Helping Hand Group for helping us put the online and live auction together. They provide auction items on consignment and their auction services are at no cost. It's a really a wonderful service that supports fundraisers and not-for-profit organisations in helping them to raise money for good causes."

THANK YOU TO ALL THE SPONSORS

Gold Sponsors Bengalla Mining Company, Northwest Mining, Ampol
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SENSATIONAL SUPPORT FOR LOCAL SCHOOLS



GLENCORE HAS PROVIDED MORE THAN \$270,000 FOR SCHOOL PROJECTS AS PART OF THE LATEST ROUND OF FUNDING FROM THEIR SCHOOLS P&C GRANTS PROGRAM.

The funding has been put towards important projects that address long term needs of schools. A total of 21 grants were made during the current round of funding with projects ranging from the purchase of new technology to installation of additional seating and sun safe equipment, and noticeboard signage.

"It's wonderful to have such a high level of interest in these grants and to be in a position to provide such a large number of schools with funding for key projects," said Glencore's Community Relations Manager, Craig Strudwick.

"THESE SCHOOLS ARE LOCATED WITHIN COMMUNITIES THAT ARE CENTRAL TO OUR AUSTRALIAN COAL BUSINESS, SO IT'S EXTRAORDINARILY IMPORTANT TO US THAT WE CONTINUE TO SUPPORT THEM."

"It's extremely rewarding to see them moving forward."

Mt Pleasant Public School, a school of 53 students, is investing in new technology such as laptops and robotic and engineering equipment.

With a grant of \$13,165, they have budgeted to purchase coding activities that will provide hands on experience in creating, building and testing design.

"Our school community is grateful for the generosity of Glencore over many years," Mt Pleasant Public-School P & C President, Mrs Jane Bower, said.

"The financial support has enabled the school to purchase state-of-the-art electronic and robotic learning resources.

"Our dedicated teachers can use these additional resources to enhance the focused and quality education the students at MPPS already receive. Of the 21 grants delivered, 8 were to schools in New South Wales worth almost \$110,000, with the remaining 13 schools based in Queensland.

Muswellbrook High School was granted \$12,250 for picnic tables which will provide much needed additional seating for meal breaks and Muswellbrook South Public School received \$15,000 for two giant fans, one for above the stage area of the hall, while the other is for a covered outdoor learning space.

ST CATHERINE'S CATHOLIC COLLEGE, SINGLETON NEEDED WEATHERPROOF AND SUNSMART SEATING FOR THEIR SPORTS FIELDS. GLENCORE FUNDING OF \$14,820 WILL DELIVER SEATING THAT WILL ALSO PROVIDE AN ADDITIONAL LUNCH AREA.

Nearby the Singleton High School received \$13,965 to purchase 16 sets of iSTEM Virtual Reality Headsets and Singleton Heights Public School will use their \$14,000 grant to purchase safety rubber soft fall for their new play equipment.

Kirkton Public School will put the \$14,000 they've

secured towards a vegetable garden, kitchen benches and teacher training and King Street Public School plan to use more than \$10,000 in funding for the time-honoured 'Cracker Night', which has been held within the Singleton community for over 20 years.

The Glencore Schools P&C Grants program has been, and continues to be, a fantastic initiative for our Hunter Valley youth and community.

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- ✓ Increased services for the elderly and vulnerable
- ✓ Investment in technologies and innovation
- ✓ Increased water security
- ✓ Expansion of our TAFE offering in Singleton
- ✓ Better recognition and outcomes for our Aboriginal community
- ✓ Upgrades to disaster planning to respond to the impacts of climate change
- ✓ Better land use planning to secure Singleton's future
- ✓ A future plan for Singleton that ensures no one in our community is left behind.

Don't wish for a better Singleton. Vote for it!



Written and Authorised by
Belinda Charlton
259 John Street
Singleton NSW 2330

**FOR MAYOR
OF SINGLETON**

SUPPLIER INSIDER

DOUBLE ARROW

Tell us about the business?

Zhejiang Double Arrow Rubber Co., Ltd is a leading rubber conveyor belting manufacturer based in Mainland China and is globally the largest singly located conveyor manufacturing site.

The manufacturing capability of our factory is an annual output capacity of ± 90,000,000 square meters, across 20 steel cord belt production lines, 24 fabric belt production lines, and 9 special belt production lines, producing multi-ply, steel cord, aramid, anti-tear, straight warp, rip 8 impact resistant, plus various other specialised belt constructions. We can manufacture single rolls of belting weighing up to 80 tons per reel.

Our advanced production facility and testing equipment, along with our ISO Certification,

ensures our products meet and exceed local and international industry demands at mine sites, ports, power plants, and other industries, across five continents.

How long have you been doing business?

Double Arrow has been in operation since 1986. In 2010, the company listed on the Shenzhen stock exchange. Through acquisition Double Arrow acquired a local Australian sales company, which became a fully integrated subsidiary in 2018.

How many people work for the business?

Along with the five dedicated sales and technical consultants and an amazing National distributor network in Australia; Double Arrow employs over 1300 staff at our manufacturing plant in China.

Describe a typical day at 'The office'.

Given the size of the company and the numerous departments required to manufacture our product range there is never a dull moment.

Each department may function independently in their respective zones i.e., Technical, Procurement, Production, Laboratory, etc., yet we are all very dependent of each other.

When it comes to communication, we have learnt to value the various communication platforms to engage with our factory and clients daily.

What's the best thing about the business?

The flexibility and resilience of each stakeholder to overcome the fears and challenges introduced by COVID-19.

We are all in this together, and we encourage each

other daily as we adapt and navigate through the challenges we face, whilst learning to do business in this new environment.

At the end of the day, we still find the time to stop and "smell the roses".

The worst thing?

Not company related, but rather the ongoing challenges in adapting to the various local, interstate, and international travel restrictions including Customer Specific Site requirements of COVID-19.

What are the biggest challenges facing your business?

We live in rapidly changing times, having to adapt to entirely new marketing channels, deciding how best to invest in and utilise new technologies to compete both locally and on the global stage. Being able to predict those all-important trends.

What is the biggest opportunity for your business right now?

Given the investment in our "manufacturing lines", we can offer our customer improved deliveries.

What is the business most proud of?

Our company is very proud of all stakeholders and their personal experience and commitment to their work.

Community or other causes close to its heart and values?

Double Arrow adheres to the principle of Health and Safety which is valued above all else, and we constantly improve our environment management system, reducing energy consumption and emissions, making every effort to create a "green factory".

Since the company was founded, it is committed to helping needy families and established the "Double Arrow Fund" to subsidise people in difficulty.

Any employees that deserve a shout out?

Every Double Arrow stakeholder deserves a shout out.

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GREG LYNCH, MANAGER OF DOUBLE ARROW AUSTRALIA.

JOSHUA WITH HIS ELDEST DAUGHTER CHARLETTE.



MY MINING LIFE

JOSHUA YOUNG

Who are you and what do you do?

Joshua Young – I am an Overhauls Project Manager for Sandvik Mining and Rock Solutions at Heatherbrae NSW.

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

I started in the mining industry in 2002 as a Fitter and Machinist apprentice at Waratah Engineering at Cardiff.

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

Quite different, I wanted to be a mechanic when I was a kid, so for the beginning of my career I sort of followed that path but on mining equipment as a fitter. I eventually worked my way into a leadership role as Leading Hand and then moved into Planning/Estimating which saw me move out of the workshop

into an office role. I have been in the office since as I moved onto become a Supervisor, I then had the opportunity to move into the Project Management role which I have now been in for almost 4 years. Early in my career I had always planned to be an underground fitter in a coal mine after my apprenticeship, so whilst I am still in mining I wound up on the opposite side of the field by going into office managerial roles.

What's a usual day at work entail?

Starting with coffee of course, but a normal day for me would be checking in on my projects and the teams to make sure everything is on track, running project meetings and tending to emails and phone calls.

What's the best thing about your job?

The satisfaction when a machine is complete and leaves to go to site. We get to see the finished product and celebrate what the team has accomplished.

The worst thing?

When a machine experiences issues after delivery to site, letting a customer down.

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

Getting a machine out on

time when we had a long lead time for some major components from the factory that were running late. We still managed to get the components on at the end of the project to commission the machine and complete the overhaul on time. This was also for a new customer, who we then won their trust putting out a quality machine on time and on budget.

What has been your proudest achievement?

Finishing my apprenticeship was up there but also when I reflect on where I am now compared to starting as an apprentice is a great achievement for me.

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

I think the opportunities working for a global company and getting to travel to other parts of the world, like our factory in Austria, pre Covid of course.

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

Can't really think of one that could go into the magazine.

What do you do in your downtime?

Camping with family and friends.

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

I think at this stage the mining industry is still a requirement for our day to day lives and needs, whether it be for metal or resources required to make and produce everyday necessities, down to the power and fuels we all need to flick on a light switch or for our transportation needs. Everybody needs to realise we are all dependent on some form of mining indirectly.

The mining industry and companies in it have come a long way in regards to environmental impact and also the safety for the people in communities and working in the industry, this is evolving every day. Mining provides jobs for so many people and even whole communities are still based and built on mining across the world.

Diversity in mining is also opening so many doors for anyone who would like to start or advance their career in this field and is such an important driver for our industry these days. I think in Australia at least, mining is one of the industries leading the way with this.

Merry Christmas FROM THE TEAM AT **Double R**

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FACE YOUR FEAR

FEELING SOME DEGREE OF ANXIETY WHEN ANTICIPATING A PAINFUL EXPERIENCE OR FACED WITH POTENTIAL DANGER IS NORMAL, BUT IF YOU HAVE DEVELOPED AN EXTREME FEAR OF A PARTICULAR OBJECT, ACTIVITY OR SITUATION, YOU MIGHT BE SUFFERING FROM A PHOBIA.

A phobia is an irrational fear of something that's unlikely to cause harm. The word itself comes from the Greek word phobos, which means fear or horror.

Latest research from the Federal Health Department showed that one in seven Australians, or almost 15 per cent, will develop a phobia or anxiety disorder during their lives. Phobias often start in childhood but can occur at any age and are roughly twice as common among women than men. Over 75 per cent of people with a specific phobia will experience multiple phobias over their lifetime.

Phobias are among several anxiety disorders, which also include panic disorder, post-traumatic stress disorder, obsessive-compulsive disorder and generalised anxiety disorder. Unlike general anxiety disorders, a phobia is usually connected with something specific.

There are more than four hundred types of phobias ranging from common to extremely rare and strange. Such as coulrophobia; the fear of clowns, alektorophobia; the fear of chickens, onomatophobia; the fear of names, pogonophobia;

the fear of beards and omphalophobia; the fear of belly buttons. While some phobias are as old as the hills, others are more recent. For example, there has been a big rise in nomophobia which is the fear of not having your mobile phone on you.

While many phobias have no obvious cause, a number of factors have been linked to the development of a specific phobia such as genetic factors, following a negative or traumatic experience, or after observing another person's fearful response to that same object or situation. Once a specific phobia has developed, a person's continued experience of fear is thought to occur due to a number of behavioural and cognitive factors such as continued and repetitive unhelpful thoughts about it and avoiding the cause of the phobia, thus unable to develop effective coping skills to overcome it.

A DIAGNOSIS OF SPECIFIC PHOBIA IS MADE WHEN SYMPTOMS ARE PRESENT FOR SIX MONTHS OR LONGER AND CAUSE THE PERSON SIGNIFICANT DISTRESS, OR INTERFERE WITH IMPORTANT ASPECTS OF THE PERSON'S LIFE, SUCH AS THEIR WORK OR RELATIONSHIPS.

When it comes to treatment, the most effective method is exposure therapy, where you confront the feared object or situation without engaging in any avoidance or escape behaviours. By facing your fears, it teaches you that feelings of anxiety decrease naturally over time and that the feared consequences of the phobic object or situation are unlikely to occur. Cognitive therapy can also be applied which involves helping you to identify and challenge your unhelpful thoughts. This technique might be used alone or in conjunction with exposure therapy.

Although phobias are common, they don't always cause considerable distress or significantly disrupt your life. For example, if you have arachibutyrophobia, the fear of peanut butter sticking to the roof of your mouth, you can avoid this easily by not eating peanut butter. But if your phobia is interfering with your normal functioning or keeps you from doing things you would otherwise enjoy, it's time to seek help.

Now I wonder if the boss will believe that I have ergophobia and can't come to work?



REVOLUTIONISING SAFETY

NEW GROUND-BREAKING PREDICTIVE BIOMETRIC TECHNOLOGY IS SET TO TRANSFORM THE WAY PEOPLE AND COMPANIES WORK THROUGH REAL-TIME HEALTH MANAGEMENT, SAVING LIVES AND INCREASING PRODUCTIVITY BY PREDICTING SERIOUS MEDICAL INCIDENTS IN USERS BEFORE THEY HAPPEN.

Australian technology innovator Canaria Technologies has partnered with Rio Tinto globally to roll out its ground-breaking predictive biometric technology as part of an international pilot program, working with the mining giant to break ground in the industry and truly revolutionise onsite safety management.

In Australia alone, cognitive fatigue currently accounts for two thirds of all industrial accidents and costs the country \$61.8 billion in safety-related work injuries. The Canaria-V Earpiece — a medical-grade, wearable MedTech device — works to counteract these risks by using a proprietary, real-time predictive biometric algorithm to measure a series of internal and external variables, alerting both the individual and supervisors to any cognitive fatigue and heat stress-driven risks before they happen, preventing potentially fatal on-site incidents.

Recently, they marked a significant step in the world-first program to roll out the technology, with the launch of a pilot program in partnership with Embley Contracting, taking place at Rio Tinto's Weipa site in Cape York to implement the devices to monitor

cognitive fatigue and heat stress among onsite workers including bus drivers, technicians, and plant workers in extreme heat conditions.

CANARIA TECHNOLOGIES MANAGING DIRECTOR THEODORA LE SOUQUET SAID THE PARTNERSHIP WITH EMBLEY CONTRACTING WAS A SIGNIFICANT STEP IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION TO REVOLUTIONISING WORKPLACE HEALTH AND SAFETY MANDATES IN THE MINING INDUSTRY, AND BEYOND.

"Our partnership with Embley Contracting will assist Canaria Technologies in becoming a recognised leader in predictive biometrics on the global stage, pioneering the next generation of industrial safety and positioning us for international growth with some of the world's largest mining companies," she said.

"The Canaria-V Earpiece software allows for the constant evolution of protocols and safety management to set a new standard in workplace health and safety mandates which have not seen substantial progression in decades.

"The success of this pilot program in Weipa, as well as a previous project undertaken at Rio Tinto's joint

venture Resolution Copper Mine in Arizona earlier this year, has positioned Canaria Technologies at the forefront of workplace health and safety innovation" she said.

The pilot program included the deployment of prototype predictive biometric devices across underground mine sites to capture data for use in the prediction of heat stress, man down and cognitive fatigue scenarios throughout ordinary rostered shifts.

The Canaria-V Earpiece works by using a proprietary, real-time predictive biometric algorithm to measure skin temperature, movement, volumetric variations of blood circulation and environmental data, alerting the individual to any cognitive fatigue and heat stress-driven risks before they happen, preventing potentially fatal on-site incidents.

"Our overarching objective is to improve safety for those on the ground while reducing on-site incident frequency, and associated insurance and asset damage costs, as well as optimising incident recovery time for workers affected by heat stress and cognitive fatigue to improve site productivity," Le Souquet said.



L-R: CANARIA TECHNOLOGIES HEAD OF MARKETING SHARON DARGAVILLE AND MANAGING DIRECTOR THEODORA LE SOUQUET

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FOR THE FELLAS

SINCE ITS LAUNCH LAST YEAR, THE PLAYSTATION®5 IS PLAYSTATION'S BESTSELLING CONSOLE, WITH PEOPLE ALL OVER THE WORLD RUSHING TO GET THEIR HANDS ON ONE.



Even a year on, PlayStation are struggling to keep up with the demand for their latest console and it's not hard to see why. The advanced system unleashes gaming possibilities that you've never seen before, with lightning fast loading, 3D audio, 4K TV gaming, ray tracing haptic feedback and adaptive triggers. Released with this impressive console is a whole new generation of exciting games to explore, making it the gift that keeps on giving. Andrea Pirlo once said, "After the wheel, the best invention is the PlayStation," and who wouldn't want the second best invention of all time for Christmas?

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Lightweight and user friendly, Kindles are a great gift for Grandma or Grandpa this Christmas. Kindle is an e-reader that can hold dozens of book titles right at your fingertips and features a unique screen designed to look like real paper. If you really want to impress with your gift giving skills, you can even pre-download a heap of titles onto the Kindle for them before Christmas. Why buy them one book when you give gift them all the book titles they desire.

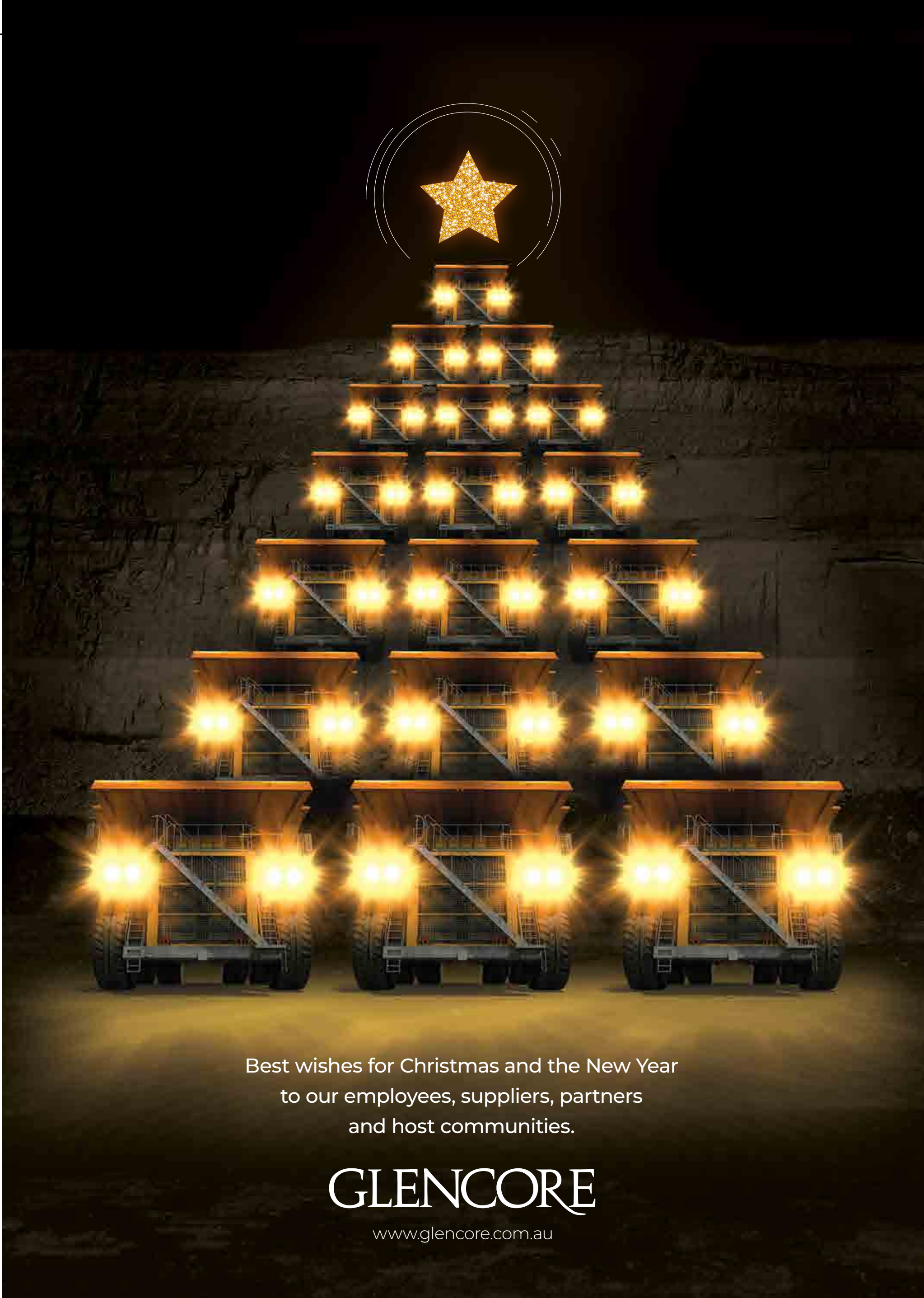


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THIESS' SURVEYING TEAM HAS BEGUN INTRODUCING DJI'S M300 RTK MULTI-ROTOR DRONE ACROSS AUSTRALIAN OPERATIONS INCREASING EFFICIENCY, AVAILABILITY AND SAFETY ENABLING TIMELY AND ACCURATE OPERATIONAL DECISION MAKING.

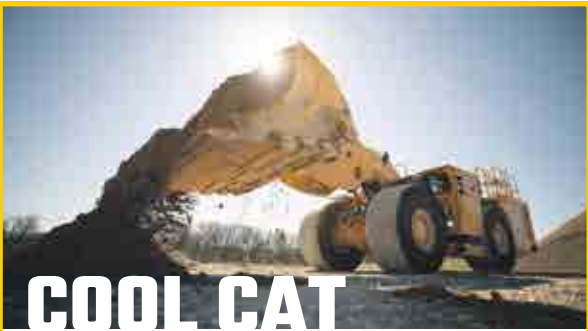
The M300 will eventually replace the Phantom 4 RTK's across Thiess' Australian projects and it's already delivering results. With longer battery life, the M300 can capture 210 hectares of imagery in just 40 minutes and with an additional multi-spectrum camera can penetrate vegetation to support rehabilitation monitoring. It also has significant safety features including a dual battery operating system. This means if one battery fails, the second battery takes over preventing a falling hazard. Flying higher and further, the M300 can capture imagery of entire operations fast and efficiently.

WWW.DJI.COM

METSO OUTOTEC HAS LAUNCHED INNOVATIVE CONCORDE CELL FLOTATION TECHNOLOGY FOR FINE AND ULTRA-FINE PARTICLE RECOVERY.

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WITH ITS CLASS-LEADING PRODUCTIVITY, THE NEW CAT® R1700 XE UNDERGROUND BATTERY-ELECTRIC LHD DELIVERS SUPERIOR AND RELIABLE PERFORMANCE WITH NO ENGINE HEAT OR EXHAUST EMISSIONS

In support of customers' goals for reduced carbon operations and leveraging over 400 Caterpillar advanced power system design patents, the new electric Cat® R1700 XE LHD offers 100% battery-electric propulsion, producing zero exhaust emissions and significantly less heat generation than a reciprocating engine powered model for underground mining operations. The new underground LHD matches the performance of the diesel-powered R1700 while using switch reluctance technology that draws from Caterpillar's more than 15 years of electric drivetrain experience and thousands of field application operating hours. Designed for productivity, improved comfort, better safety and durability, this machine is the coolest Cat on the block.

WWW.CAT.COM

consumption per tons of metal produced. The patented technology is the first fine and ultra-fine flotation solution for more finely disseminated and complex orebodies that have previously been inaccessible. Treating 100% of fresh feed combined with tailings recycling for improved performance, it allows finer grinding to get extra liberation without the risk of valuable particles lost into tailings.



HARD-LINE'S NEW TELEOP ASSIST DRastically REDUCES VEHICLE DAMAGE, ENHANCING THE EFFICIENCY OF UNDERGROUND LHDS.

The new semi-autonomous upgrade serves as an add on to the TeleOp base system providing users with collision detection and intelligent steering assistance. While new to market, TeleOp Assist is installed at mines all over the world. By having advanced driving modes like Cruise Control and Takeover Command the system's accuracy has proven to be a significant cost saving measure. Exhibitors at MINExpo who tried the TeleOP Assist simulation at the event got to see firsthand the intuitiveness and ease of use of the interface. TeleOp Assist is a perfect fit for areas that are being blasted and can be installed on any LHD, no matter the make, model, and year.

WWW.HARD-LINE.COM

ROUGH TERRAIN CRANE

WWW.TEREX.COM

TEREX CRANES HAS UNVEILED ITS LATEST INNOVATION - THE NEW TRT 35 ROUGH TERRAIN CRANE. THE NEW MODEL WILL EXPAND THE TEREX TRT ROUGH TERRAIN OFFERING, FOLLOWING THE SUCCESSFUL LAUNCH OF THE TRT 80 AND THE TRT 90 EARLIER THIS YEAR.

The range features the Terex Operating System that improves safety, usability, efficiency of navigation, operation and information flow. The TRT 35 is a 35-t rough terrain crane with a synchronised, four section boom that gives the

operator the best lifting performance, regardless of the boom length. With a machine width of only 2.5m, the crane can be easily manoeuvred, even on congested job sites with narrow or confined areas. Manoeuvrability is also enhanced by having four steering options. The TRT 35 is equipped with a Cummins 4-cylinder engine, bringing high power and optimised consumption, thanks also to the Eco Mode function. If you're looking for a crane that can handle the toughest of terrain, this beast will do the job.



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FOLLOWING LAST MONTH'S UPDATE ON THE ARRAY OF INNOVATIONS ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF AUTONOMOUS MACHINES ON SHOW AT MINEXPO 2021, WE FELT IT ONLY FITTING TO ROUND OUT OUR BEST OF THE BEST WITH A LOOK AT THE LATEST ADVANCEMENTS IN ELECTRIFICATION OF THE MINING INDUSTRY. WITH A TOUGH FIELD TO CHOOSE FROM, THESE ARE A FEW OF THE STAND OUTS FROM THIS YEAR'S SHOW.

KOMATSU'S WE1850 ELECTRIC WHEEL LOADER

Komatsu's WE1850-3 hybrid wheel loader, a 267-ton behemoth with a 59-ton payload was a standout at the event.

The WE1850-3 uses a Generation 3 SR Hybrid Drive propulsion system that reduces fuel consumption by up to 45% and carbon dioxide emission by 35%, in comparison to a traditional mechanical loader or hydraulic excavator.

The WE1850-3's SR ("switched reluctance") Hybrid Drive system is paired with a 1,491kW 16-cylinder, turbocharged diesel engine made by either Cummins or Detroit.

Being fully regenerative, the hybrid system reclaims electrical power during braking or retarding actions when its electric motors, being driven by inertia, temporarily act as generators. Likewise, the loader's 1,268-kW Kinetic Energy Storage System (KESS) also captures power produced by braking. The KESS

works in conjunction with the SR hybrid drive to store horsepower for use when the WE1850-3 experiences peak power demand.

The machine can move up to 30 cubic metres of material, or a payload just shy of 59 ton and marks the introduction of the WE series and the rebranding of legacy hybrid wheel loaders such as the L1850 and L2350.

DANA'S SPICER ELECTRIFIED E-POWERSHIFT TRANSMISSION

Dana debuted the new Spicer Electrified™ e-Powershift transmission, a modular and flexible two-speed solution that offers power take-off (PTO) functionality for electrified heavy-duty mining vehicles. Designed to not only deliver higher performance and efficiency, this product will also assist in the industry's adoption of electrification as a whole.

Delivering high efficiency and superior performance in a compact package that simplifies the mining industry's transition

to electrification, the dual-motor version of the e-Powershift transmission supports continuous power outputs up to 240 kW, while the single-motor configuration is engineered for 120 kW of continuous output.

Its flexible, power-dense design makes it ideal for a wide range of applications, including small to medium-sized loaders and trucks used in underground mining, as well as construction wheel loaders, large lift trucks and terminal tractors. The highly efficient dual-motor configuration shown at MINExpo delivers the optimal tractive effort in every duty cycle without torque interruption, according to Dana.

According to a Dana spokesperson, "The new e-Powershift transmission showcases how we are leveraging our comprehensive portfolio of electrification technologies to provide mining OEMs with complete solutions that can help accelerate their journeys to e-Mobility."

The e-Powershift transmission provides highly efficient shifting through a patented wet clutch and synchroniser, and it can be configured with four-wheel-drive disconnect and a PTO that eliminates the need for an additional motor and inverter.

The Spicer Electrified e-Powershift transmission will be available for prototype testing by OEMs by the end of this year.

CATERPILLAR'S D11 XE

Never one to disappoint, Caterpillar launched a raft of new equipment and technology at this year's event. Touted as the most advanced, most efficient dozer in the industry, the new CAT D11 XE dozer is designed to lower the cost of moving materials. Taking its place as the world's largest, most powerful, and efficient electric drive dozer with high drive, the machine has been designed to require fewer parts and longer rebuild cycles.

According to CAT, The D11 XE delivers the lowest cost per ton operation in dozing applications, providing a reduction in fuel costs of up to 25% when compared to the previous model. Additionally, the rebuild cycle is another thing that CAT looks to improve in this model. It claims that the new design will offer 20% longer rebuild cycles and with 60% fewer moving parts, the

D11 XE will require fewer touches, which will result in better machine uptime availability.

The D11 XE integrates CAT powertrain, CAT electronics, CAT software and CAT controls and features electronic architecture that allows it to use MineStar Command. This telematics system for mining offers both remote control and semiautonomous dozing.

The D11 XE is currently operating at Caterpillar's dozer proving grounds in Peoria, Illinois, and will then complete an extensive field validation plan before entering full production.

WITH OVER 1,100 EXHIBITORS AT MINEXPO THIS YEAR, THIS SELECTION IS A MERE SNIPPET OF MINING TECHNOLOGY THAT WAS ON DISPLAY. IT'S A LONG FOUR-YEAR WAIT UNTIL THE NEXT MINEXPO, SO WATCH THIS SPACE FOR NEWS ON FURTHER ADVANCEMENTS IN ELECTRIFICATION AND AUTOMATION IN MINING IN THE MONTHS AND YEARS TO COME.

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COMPONENTS ONLY CONTINUES TRADING THROUGHOUT CHRISTMAS, BECAUSE SOMETIMES EVEN SANTA NEEDS A HELPING HAND.

The silly season is upon us, and while most people are gearing up for Christmas parties, end of school awards nights and buying ham and turkey for Christmas day, we know that as the rest of the world celebrates, you'll be working hard to keep the mining industry humming.

It's a fact not lost on the team at ComponentsONLY, announcing that there will be no change to their trading hours over the holidays, with critical support available across the entire Christmas period.

"We appreciate that just because the rest of the country goes on holiday for two weeks, mining never stops. Having worked in the industry for many years, I've seen how supplier shutdowns can have a massive impact on an operation. Particularly when there's a catastrophic failure and time is of the essence to get a machine back to work," says Dan Fedder, Director of Operations.

According to Mr Fedder, supply shortages over the December and January period put pressure on maintenance crews, extending downtime and impacting production.



Dan Fedder, Director

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TOUGH TRUCKS

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BEST UNDER PRESSURE

A mobster's son sits at his desk writing a Christmas list to Jesus. He first writes, "Dear baby Jesus, I have been a good boy the whole year, so I want a new..." He looks at it, then crumples it up into a ball and throws it away.

He gets out a new piece of paper and writes again, "Dear baby Jesus, I have been a good boy for most of the year, so I want a new..." He again looks at it and throws it away.

He then gets an idea. He goes into his mother's room, takes a statue of the Virgin Mary, puts it in the closet and locks the door. He takes another piece of paper and writes, "Dear baby Jesus, if you ever want to see your mother again..."

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HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS OF TATRA TRUCKS SERVE IN MILITARIES ALL OVER THE WORLD, WITH THEIR UNIQUE DESIGN AND EXTREME ENDURANCE NOW GAINING TRACTION IN THE NSW MINING INDUSTRY THROUGH TEFOL.

When you think of the military, you think quality, endurance and power; characteristics that can be similarly attributed to Australia's mining industry. Building trucks since 1898, Tatra Trucks have developed their off-road vehicles to withstand tough military environments and in turn have enabled universal industry

applications from firefighting and construction to mining and even winning the Dakar Rally.

Tefol visited Tatra Australia in WA 5 years ago and were extremely impressed with the build quality and capability of the trucks as well as the 100% in-country spare parts warehouses in WA and QLD, where they came on board as a Tatra dealer.

Tefol technicians have now undergone specialised factory training in the Czech Republic as part of their support model and Tefol have invested significantly in marketing and raising awareness of the trucks and their off-road capability and applications.

There are currently around 800 trucks in mining, drilling and construction industries in Australia, primarily in WA and QLD. Now gaining some serious traction with Tatra Trucks in Hunter Valley Glencore and BHP mine sites, Tefol are pushing to build more awareness of the high quality vehicle in NSW. "We knew it would be a slow uptake, but we also knew it was a good quality product. We understand that people don't like change and it was a case of creating awareness in the mining industry that Tatra Trucks are the truck for the job," said Ben Dolman, Manager - ICT & Marketing at Tefol.

"We now have trucks in the mining and civil construction industries and even an all-wheel drive motor home."

Sealing their name in history, Tatra Trucks were producers of trucks and tank engines for the World War II effort and have continued to build on their capabilities through technological innovations and creative design, developing a vehicle that is unmatched in many aspects.

"TATRA TRUCKS HAVE THE ABILITY TO CARRY MISSILES, TANKS AND HEAVY MILITARY GEAR, WE DON'T ENCOURAGE THAT IN THE MINING INDUSTRY," BEN QUIPPED, "BUT IT GIVES YOU AN IDEA OF JUST HOW POWERFUL AND VERSATILE THESE TRUCKS ARE."

The past 12 months has seen the mining industry better informed and better equipped to understand the Tatra Truck is the future, cutting costs and doing the job of multiple applications.

The unique chassis design has a rigid backbone frame with central tube and swinging half axles with independent suspension essentially creating a purpose built, highly operable, off-road truck that can take on the toughest terrain.

"In mining and drilling for example, by definition they are exploring new ground where there are no roads or the roads that are there aren't secure enough for the standard vehicle or truck - that's where Tatra Trucks come in with their off-road ability, setting them apart from the standard truck," said Ben.

"You can imagine the turning circle on a long, rigid vehicle is pretty ordinary, but with Tatra Trucks you can rear and front steer and the half-axes with independent suspension support a higher off-road travel speed in various operating conditions.

"They can basically do anything; you think it and you can build the Tatra Truck to do the job."

Ben said Tefol are looking forward to seeing the growth of Tatra Trucks servicing the NSW mining industry. "As we start to see the trucks on sites around NSW, we're excited at the forecast of Tatra Trucks leading into 2022."



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2021 SANTA LOLLY RUN

WITH ONLY A COUPLE OF WEEKS UNTIL CHRISTMAS IT'S TIME TO KEEP AN EYE OUT FOR SANTA ON HIS ANNUAL LOLLY RUN WITH THE HELP OF OUR LOCAL FIRE BRIGADES. AFTER A CHAT WITH SANTA AND HIS HANDY FIREFIGHTING HELPERS WE'VE FOUND OUT SANTA'S MOVEMENTS OVER THE WEEKS COMING UP TO CHRISTMAS AROUND THE HUNTER VALLEY.

DENMAN

Fire and Rescue NSW
Station 283, Denman
Saturday December 18th
From 4pm

SINGLETON

Fire and Rescue NSW
Station 444, Singleton
Monday December 6th
- Friday December 10th
4pm - 8pm

CESSNOCK

NSW RFS - Central
- Cessnock Brigade
Saturday December 18th
From 8:30am

KEARSLEY, ABERDARE, ABERNETHY & KITCHENER

Fire and Rescue NSW
Station 344, Kearsley
Friday December 17th
From 5pm

RUTHERFORD, TELARAH & ABERGLASSLYN

Fire and Rescue NSW
Station 445, Rutherford
Friday December 17th
From 4pm

Saturday December 18th
- Sunday December 19th
From 12pm

MAITLAND

Fire and Rescue NSW
Station 374, Maitland
Monday December 20th
- Thursday December 23rd
Times TBC

MAITLAND VALE, ROSEBROOK & MELVILLE

NSW RFS - Maitland Vale/
Luskintyre Brigade
Sunday December 12th
2pm - 4pm

TARRO

Fire and Rescue NSW
Station 454, Tarro
Friday December 24th
5pm - 8pm

RAYMOND TERRACE

Fire and Rescue NSW
Station 432, Raymond Terrace
Sunday December 19th
Times TBC

KURRI KURRI

Fire and Rescue NSW
Station 349, Kurri Kurri
Saturday December 18th
- Sunday December 19th
From 3:30pm



SANTA GETTING READY WITH THE TEAM AT FIRE AND RESCUE NSW STATION 374 MAITLAND TO HAND OUT LOLLIES AND CHRISTMAS CHEER.

THESE DATES TIMES ARE PLANNED BUT MAY CHANGE AT ANY TIME DUE TO WEATHER OR BEING CALLED TO INCIDENTS. FOR MORE INFORMATION KEEP AN EYE OUT ON YOUR LOCAL FIRE AND RESCUE OR RURAL FIRE SERVICE FACEBOOK PAGE.



CHEERS FROM US!



AL WITH A NICE MIDDAY JEWIE HE CAUGHT SPINNING LURES ALONG THE BEACH.

WHAT A ROLLER COASTER RIDE THE YEAR HAS BEEN AGAIN, BUT WE MADE IT AND CAN ONLY HOPE WITH THE FESTIVE SEASON UPON US WE FIND OURSELVES SPENDING A BIT OF TIME WITH FAMILY AND FRIENDS. WHETHER IT'S AROUND ONE OF OUR MANY WATERWAYS WETTING A LINE, OR JUST ENJOYING COMPANY WITH A BREW OR TWO.

As they say drought on the land, drought in the ocean. So what a difference the recent precipitation has made around the area, with things red hot in all areas of fishing. **OFFSHORE**

The rain has really kept the Snapper on the chew around the inshore reefs smashing plastics. Kingfish are starting to turn up in the warmer water as it pushes down as well, it pays to fish a live bait around the reefs this time of year.

Trag and Jew will start showing up with good numbers taking up residence on the deeper reefs. On the pelagic front, the warm water has been teasing us and is currently sitting wide of Forster. We don't have a lot to report yet other than a fish here and there, but if we were to have a punt we could be in for a Striped Marlin run over the Christmas/New Year period.

INSIDE THE BAY

Flathead and Whiting are smashing lures and baits in the shallows throughout the bay.

Jewfish continue to be plentiful in the holes and around the structure behind Middle Island and around Soldiers Point. Fresh squid or live baits and the trusty vibe lures are proving to be deadly.

THE LAKE

It's a similar story to the bay with plenty of Whiting on the flats and Flathead and Jew are being caught throughout the lake.

Soaking a few pots should find a few Blue Swimmers or Muddies, especially with the runoff from the recent rain pushing out of the lake.

BEACHES

It's Whiting time of year with substantial numbers starting to show up and a few solid Bream in the mix along all our local beaches.

The standout being Birubi end of Stockton beach with the fish chewing on beach worms and Pippies.

Jew have been chewing their heads off of late and as we head into summer it's not likely to slow down.

IMPOUNDMENTS

On the rise in more ways than one, the wet cooler weather of late has kept the water temperatures mild and the fish biting well. Bass and Yellow Belly across all the dams reacting well to all kinds of lures and baits.

With some luck the weed growth catches up to the rise in water levels and the edges fire right up once the weather finally warms up for the summer.

Keep floatin' - Thrifty's



LET'S GO FISHING!

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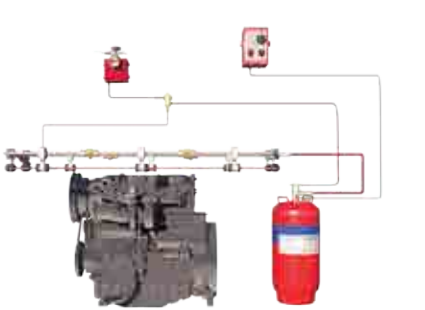
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Muswellbrook
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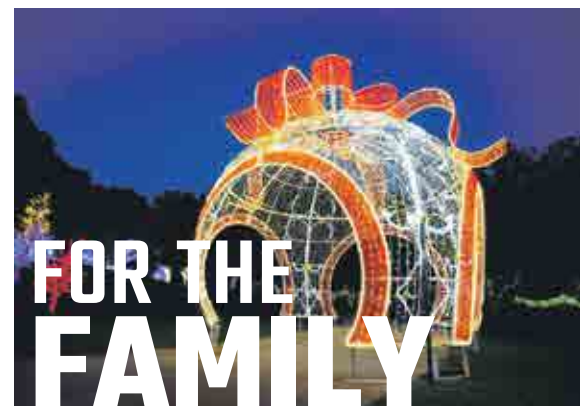


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LET THE GOOD TIMES ROLL

CHRISTMAS, NEW YEARS AND SCHOOL HOLIDAYS ARE ALL FAST APPROACHING, AND WE CAN'T WAIT TO GET OUT AND ABOUT WITH COVID RESTRICTIONS FINALLY STARTING TO EASE. WITH SO MANY EXCITING ACTIVITIES AND ATTRACTIONS HERE IN THE HUNTER, HERE'S A FEW OF OUR FAVOURITES TO KEEP YOU BUSY THESE HOLIDAYS.

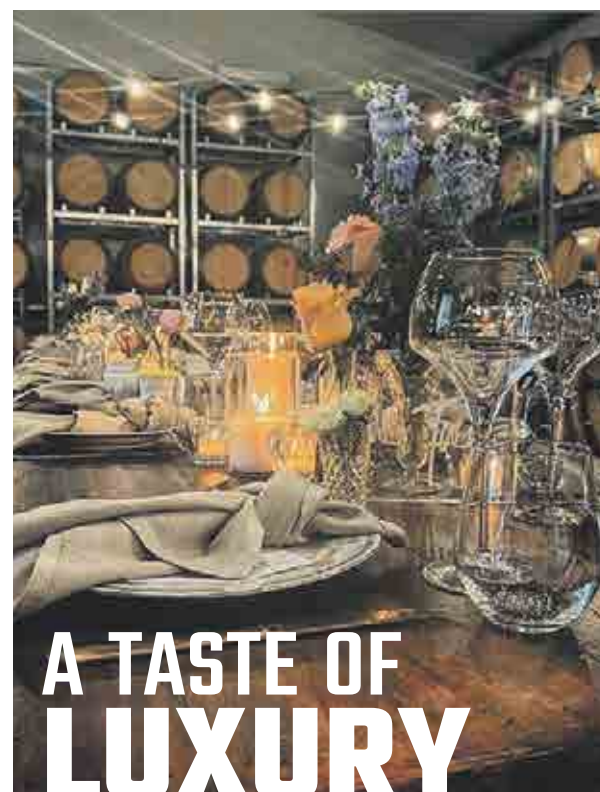


When it comes to family activities, you can't go past the annual Hunter Valley Gardens Christmas Lights Spectacular. On display now until January 26, 2022, over 3 million Christmas lights illuminate the gardens with the addition of amusement rides and a range of hearty food and beverages available. The kids will love the giant light up teddy bear and the Lover's Tunnel makes for the perfect photo opportunity for any of you lovebirds out there.

The Hunter Wine Country Markets have also returned to De Bortoli Wines in Pokolbin after a Covid induced hiatus. On a sunny summer day, there's nothing quite like taking a stroll around stalls of fashion, local products and handmade goodies. Held every Saturday, weather permitting, you'll have an excuse every week for a bit of shopping whilst also supporting local artisans.



For those with kids a little older, Maitland's True Crime Tour might tickle your fancy. Take a walk on the dark side of Maitland's history retracing the steps of some of the infamous crimes that have taken place over time. The old buildings and streets of Maitland have hundreds of stories to tell. Explore the sleepy city's dark and twisted past if you dare.



Nothing says luxury like a stunning lunch or dinner at one of the various fine dining restaurants amongst the vineyards. When it comes to stunning scenery, family owned and award winning restaurant Margan takes the cake. Set in the Broke Fordwich Wine region, sweeping views across the Brokenback Range will take your breath away as you wine and dine on some of the best food and wine our region has to offer.

Another of our favourites is Yellow Billy, and I know we rave on about how great this place is quite often, but it's well deserved. Designed to bring people together over a meal, their banquets are delectable. Their flexible sharing menu is built to suit everyone's palate and needs meaning large get togethers are made easy. It gives off that big family gathering feel, making it a one-of-a-kind fine dining experience in the Hunter.



MUSIC AND MORE

Dashville's making their return on December 10 to 11 with a Dashville Nights concert under the stars on Friday followed by the Dashville Christmas Party and portrait day on Sunday. Camp all weekend long to enjoy both events and with great, local live music all weekend make sure you pack your dancing shoes. Bring your kids, bring your pals, and even bring the family dog, this pet

and family friendly event is jam packed with awesome activities.

Also making its return is Grapevine Gathering, with headliners including Peking Duck, Vera Blue, The Jungle Giants and our personal favourite, The Veronicas. Set to take place on January 15, 2022 at Roche Estate, you'll be well rested from New Years and ready to boogie, have a bevvie and let loose at this famous local event.



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CROSSWORD
CHRISTMAS

EclipseCrossword.com

ACROSS

2. Scrooge's first name

5. Christmas beverage

7. Christmas decoration originally made from strands of silver

8. Ornaments on the tips of elves shoes

11. How many points does a snowflake traditionally have

13. Most popular Christmas tree ornament

15. Stollen is the traditional fruit cake of this country

17. What you do under mistletoe

19. Food you leave for reindeers

21. How many ghosts in A Christmas Carol

22. Who stole Christmas

23. Miracle on 34th street centres on this department store

24. Santa knows if you have been naughty or ?

25. Country with a tradition of a witch dropping gifts down a chimney

26. Who track's Santa's location on Christmas Eve

27. Where was St. Nicholas born

28. What do you hang above the fireplace

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WINNERS

VOLUME 5
NO 10- NOVEMBER 2021

CRIB BAG
Kate Milliner

ROBERTS MEATS RAFFLE
Troy Mussio

HUNTER VALLEY MINING APPAREL
David Murphy

ULTIMATE KIDS VOUCHER
Nick McLoughlin

BCF VOUCHER
Katrina Armand

CONGRATULATIONS
TO ALL OUR WINNERS!

DOWN

1. Tree the partridge sits in

3. Baby Jesus birthplace

4. How many reindeer drive Santa's sleigh

6. What do you get five of on the fifth day of Christmas

9. What Christmas carol was the first song ever broadcast from space in 1965

10. What direction do you stir mincemeat for good luck

12. Star of movie White Christmas

14. Most recorded Christmas song

16. Alcohol used in eggnog

18. Highest grossing Christmas movie

20. Christmas Island has an annual migration of these animals

SANTA
LAND

THERE COMES AN AGE WHEN YOU'RE TOO OLD TO SIT IN SANTA'S LAP. BUT THE GOOD NEWS IS YOU'RE NEVER TOO OLD TO VISIT SANTA AT LAPLAND.

It's a common misconception that Santa Claus lives at the North Pole, keeping himself busy year-round training reindeer, overseeing his toy making elves and trying out Mrs. Claus' new cookie recipes.

However, The North Pole, which is the northernmost point on Earth, is in the middle of the Arctic Ocean on constantly shifting pieces of sea ice. No one could live in that environment, not even magical Santa. Which is why Santa prefers to reside in Lapland.

Lapland, the northernmost part of Finland, is a magical region within the Arctic Circle with 200 long days of winter, huge glittering expanses of snow, amazing wildlife and displays so pristine that they take your breath away. But the real drawcard is Santa Claus Village and Santa Park in Rovaniemi.

Every day of the year you can meet Santa Claus and you can also meet the lovely Mrs. Claus. Have a souvenir photograph taken with the

real Santa (not one of those store imposters), take a ride in Santa's sleigh or enjoy an interactive show or workshop. You can even bake delicious gingerbread with the elves. You'll also learn a ton of interesting tidbits about the jolly red fellow and perhaps even discover the true story of Father Christmas.

Santa's Village is one of the most popular destinations in Lapland, however there's only so long you can listen to Ho Ho Ho before No No No. Luckily there's lots more to explore in Lapland.

LAPLAND IS A TRUE WINTER WONDERLAND. IT'S SNOW-COVERED HILLS, FORESTS, FROZEN LAKES AND FALLS OFFER UNLIMITED EXCITING EXPERIENCES FOR OUTDOORS ENTHUSIASTS. SKIING, SNOWBOARDING, ICE FISHING, ICE CARTING, TOBOGGANING, SNOWMOBILING, SNOWSHOEING - IF IT INVOLVES ICE OR SNOW THEN YOU'LL FIND IT IN LAPLAND.

When you are ready to come indoors, don't expect to get away from the cold just yet if you visit one of their unique ice and snow structures, such as a snow hotel. Sleep on a transparent bed made from snow and ice surrounded by ice art and illuminated artwork. The room temperature is just above minus, so you'll want to stay snuggled in your reindeer fur to keep warm. It also helps if you hit the ice bar before bed.

Another great sleeping option is a glass igloo. In these you can lay back and be witness to one of nature's most spectacular shows, the Northern Lights, also known as Aurora Borealis. Playing out on the Arctic sky between January and April, this eerie phenomenon is caused by electrically charged particles from the sun colliding with air molecules in Earth's atmosphere and deflected by Earth's magnetic field. This process results in an emission of colourful lights visible at night, and it is deserving of its title as a natural wonder of the world.

In addition to Santa's 13 reindeer, Lapland is also home to another 200,000 reindeer and there's plenty of fun experiences involving them. Enjoy the frosty bite of a reindeer

sleigh ride or safari or watch the annual reindeer races where the jockeys are pulled on skis behind reindeer doing over 50kms an hour.

If reindeers aren't you're thing, then try a hugely popular husky sled ride, where you might even get to try your hand at mushing. Or if you'd rather be up close (and not dashing through the snow) there's plenty of reindeer and husky farms to visit and make new friends.

And when it's finally time to warm up, Lapland has you covered. Or uncovered. Often considered a landmark of Finland, the sauna has always been used for bathing and relaxation in this part of the world. According to Wikipedia, in Finland there are more saunas than personal vehicles and you can experience them almost everywhere you go. There's even a gondola equipped with an electric sauna that allows you to admire the breathtaking and freezing snow-capped surroundings while you work up a sweat.

So what are you waiting for? Have yourself a very Merry Christmas in Lapland!

Aboriginal Community
Development Fund

MACHEnergy Mount Pleasant Operation

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.

For Applications or further information about the ACDF please visit: www.machenergy.com.au/acdf

WE'RE
GETTING
VACCINATED

Mining has been working safely during the pandemic.

That's been good for jobs and helped local businesses across the Hunter region.

We're doing everything we can to keep our mining families & communities safe. That's why we're also getting vaccinated.

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