

@THE COAL FACE

Vol 2 No 2: October - November 2017



TRAIN WRECK

RICHMOND VALE RAILWAY MUSEUM HAS SUFFERED TERRIBLE LOSSES IN THE DEVASTATING FIRE. FIND OUT WHAT YOU CAN DO TO HELP. **PAGE 23**



TOP TRADIES

JOSH TERRAS TAKES OUT TOP APPRENTICE IN VEHICLE TRADES. HE'S JUST ONE OF OUR INDUSTRY'S YOUNG STARS FEATURED THIS MONTH. **PAGE 14**



NOT A BAD LOOKING MINE IS IT?

FIND OUT THE LATEST ON MALABAR COAL'S SPUR HILL PROJECT. **PAGE 9**



mrs
SERVICES
GROUP
MANAGEMENT RESOURCE SOLUTIONS

39-43 Thomas Mitchell Drive
Muswellbrook NSW 2333
Australia
+61 (2) 6540 9400
info@mrssg.net
mrssg.net



UNRIVALLED MINING SERVICE CAPACITY & SUPPORT

- › Equipment rebuilds
- › Fabrication
- › Mechanical
- › Earth moving and Civil

**SAFETY | CUSTOMER SERVICE | QUALITY
RESPECT | INTEGRITY & ACCOUNTABILITY**

J&S Engineering are the TRACK FRAME SPECIALISTS

**J&S HAVE BEEN AT THE FOREFRONT OF
RE-MANUFACTURING TRACK FRAMES FOR OVER 30 YEARS!**

**OUR CUSTOMERS ARE TELLING US THAT OUR RE-MANUFACTURED
TRACK FRAMES DON'T COME OFF THE DOZER UNTIL AT LEAST
20,000 OPERATING HOURS ARE DELIVERED.**

THESE CUSTOMERS HAVE DONE THE NUMBERS...
HAVE YOU?



IT'S GETTING HOT IN HERE

IN OUR LAST EDITION, WE FEATURED A STORY ON FIRE SAFETY AS EXPERTS WERE WARNING WE WERE IN FOR A HOT AND DRY SUMMER, THE PERFECT BREEDING GROUND FOR BUSH FIRES.

Sadly, that forecast is proving true as we have already seen fires all over the Hunter, like the one that devastated Richmond Vale Railway Museum. If you didn't get a chance to read the fire safety article you can check it out on our website, or get yourself onto the RFS website and learn how to keep your family safe. We also hope you get behind the fundraising for the museum so we can get the trains back on track

and full steam ahead.

Thanks to Aussie Pumps and Maximus, one family will be even safer as we have a top of the line fire pump valued at \$1500 to give away. Our feature this month is the outstanding stories of some of the young guns in the industry who are winning awards as they further their careers and education. These guys and girls have the right

attitude, determination and passion that will ensure a promising future for them and our industry.

We headed down Muswellbrook way to review GJ's by the Lake and burn some rubber. This is the perfect place to take the kids for a day of fun and excitement and you will also be supporting a great family business that has taken a hard knock and is fighting to get back on its feet.

@ The Coalface always welcomes feedback, both positive and negative, but we know that most people couldn't be bothered contacting us to have their say. To motivate you to send us some feedback to help us improve we have a \$50 gift card for BCF if you get out. Send us an email to rebecca@thecoalface.net.au and it could be yours.

STRONG SUPPORT FOR LOW-EMISSIONS COAL POWER IN THE HUNTER

YOU ONLY NEED TO PICK UP A NEWSPAPER OR TURN ON A TELEVISION TO SEE THAT PROVIDING RELIABLE AND AFFORDABLE ENERGY TO OUR HOMES AND BUSINESSES HAS BECOME A BIG ISSUE.

While politicians in Sydney and Canberra argue on the best way to ensure the lights stay on across the country, most people just want to avoid rolling blackouts this summer and be able to afford their power bills.

A NEW LOW-EMISSIONS COAL-FIRED POWER PLANT BUILT RIGHT HERE IN THE HUNTER COULD DO EXACTLY THAT.

Hundreds of High Efficiency, Low Emission (HELE) coal power plants are in use or being built around the world. Building one here would help meet the energy needs of the Hunter and NSW for decades while also cutting emissions by around 25 per cent compared to our current power plants.

A new Hunter HELE plant would also help relieve pressure on household

energy bills, and make it easier for the integration of more renewable energy into the grid.

Recent research shows a new HELE plant would be strongly supported.

A SURVEY OF 2,000 PEOPLE ACROSS THE UPPER HUNTER FOUND 67 PERCENT SUPPORT FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF A NEW COAL-FIRED POWER PLANT IN THE REGION, IF IT COULD PRODUCE LOWER EMISSIONS THAN EXISTING POWER PLANTS. ONLY 22 PERCENT OF THOSE SURVEYED WERE OPPOSED.

A similar survey of 1000 people from across NSW found 64 percent support for the construction of a low emissions coal-fired power plant in our State, with only 33 percent opposed.



Stephen Galilee
CEO, NSW Minerals Council

Here in the Hunter, we have the infrastructure, the high-quality coal, the world class mining workforce and the growing demand needed to make low-emissions coal-fired power a success.

We also have potential sites ideal for a new coal-fired power plant to lock in our baseload energy needs for decades.

@THE
COAL
FACE

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

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

Editorial Contributor
Daniel James

Design
Catch Creative

@ The Coalface
14B/169 John Street
Singleton NSW 2330
www.thecoalface.net.au

MORGAN
ENGINEERING

PH 02 6572 2032

morganengineering.com.au
159 MAISON DIEU ROAD SINGLETON

EXPERIENCE • QUALITY • RELIABILITY

GENERAL ENGINEERING CNC MACHINING MOBILE LINE BORING SOLUTIONS
WELD RECLAMATION LIQUID NITROGEN SERVICE & SUPPLY CATERPILLAR SERVICE
EXCHANGE COMPONENTS LIGHT FABRICATION





THE HON. DON HARWIN,
MINISTER FOR RESOURCES

THIS MONTH I'M PLEASED TO INTRODUCE YOU TO THE NSW RESOURCES REGULATOR'S NEW PRACTISING CERTIFICATES SCHEME.

From September 1, people who work - or wish to work - in certain safety-critical statutory functions in the NSW mining industry are required to apply for a practising certificate. About 4000 workers in the mining industry are expected to be issued with a certificate.

A practising certificate is an occupational licence. It ensures that only individuals who have and maintain the required competencies can practise. A well-trained, competent workforce is critical to managing hazards in the workplace.

It is one of the first lines of defence against a major incident in the mining industry. The requirements for practising certificates are set out in the Work Health and Safety Regulation. This is an important element in improving work health and safety in our mining industry.

A SAFE MINING INDUSTRY STARTS WITH MAKING SURE THOSE PEOPLE EXERCISING

SAFETY-CRITICAL FUNCTIONS IN THE INDUSTRY ARE EQUIPPED WITH UP-TO-DATE KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS.

We are living in a time when change is continuous and happening faster than ever. Standing still can mean knowledge and skills will soon become outdated and the way we work becomes less effective.

For this reason, holders of practising certificates must undertake ongoing learning over the five-year period of their certificates to meet the requirements of the maintenance of competence scheme.

Specific learning requirements must be met before a practising certificate can be renewed. This means the Regulator can suspend or cancel a practising certificate if a holder doesn't comply with their obligations.

The Practising Certificate and Maintenance of Competence schemes have the support of the mining industry, who were consulted extensively.

The schemes will benefit the mining industry through continued

'AVE A LAUGH WITH



PH 1300 ALFABS (253227)
alfabs.com.au

Molecule 1: I just lost an electron.

Molecule 2: Are you sure?

Molecule 1: I'm positive.

education and learning, enhanced competence, and an improved knowledge base for its workers in safety-critical functions.

These are changes that will ultimately deliver improved health and safety outcomes for NSW's mine workers.

To apply for a certificate visit resourcesandenergy.nsw.gov.au and type practising certificate into the search function at the top right-hand side of the webpage.

Make sure you read the relevant guidance material before submitting your application. Stay safe.



PH 02 4946 6005

QLD Office
25-29 Interlink Court Mackay 4740

Head Office
Level 3, 414 Hunter Street Newcastle 2300

WA Office
4 Bellows Street Welshpool 6106

Alliance Labour Solutions have experienced trades and TAs located in Newcastle and the Hunter Valley and available now!

Our experienced team can facilitate the on-board process from:

- Database search
- Advertising
- Engaging suitable candidate – skills and qualifications
- Pre-employment checks – reference, background, police
- Medical and induction management
- Placement

Competitive permanent placement service rolled out July 1 - **Enquire today!**

Call now on 02 4946 6005 and talk to our friendly staff about your recruitment needs today! We can be sure to tailor a service that is suitable to your business.



www.alliancelabour.com.au

NEWCASTLE
53 Rural Drive
Sandgate, 2304
Ph 02 4967 4622



CENTRAL COAST
6 Yandina Rd
West Gosford, 2250
Ph 02 4322 6220

YOUR FORKLIFT SPECIALIST

LOCALLY OWNED AND OPERATED FOR 35 YEARS

NEW AND USED SALES • HIRE • PARTS • SERVICE



www.hunterlift.com.au



MANUFACTURER OF MATERIAL HANDLING EQUIPMENT FOR OVER 140 YEARS

LONGWALL GOOD TO GO

AUSTAR HAS RECEIVED APPROVAL TO MODIFY THEIR BELLBIRD SOUTH CONSENT WITH AN EXTENSION INTO A NEW AREA COVERING FOUR NEW LONGWALL PANELS.

The extension will see the extraction of an additional 3.65 million tonnes of ROM coal from the Yancoal owned mine.

The approval is a sigh of relief for the hundreds of Austar employees as well as many more indirect workers, as it will ensure no discontinuity of work once the current longwalls are completed. Mining operations on the new longwalls is expected to continue until 2019.

Austar Operations Manager, Brian Wesley, said, "The approval provides the Austar team with new opportunities for continued mining operations and greater certainty for the immediate future."

The submission to the NSW Department of Planning received no objections and was approved based upon the clear economic benefits to the local area and the negligible environmental risks.

LOXFORD FABRICATIONS

REPUTATION KNOWLEDGE QUALITY SERVICE
INNOVATION & INTEGRITY

SPECIALIST PIPE, FITTINGS AND MANIFOLD MANUFACTURING
AND SUPPLY TO THE MINING INDUSTRY SINCE 1974.

OFFICE: 02 4936 1320

FAX: 02 4937 5505

e-mail: loxfabs@bigpond.net.au
Web: www.loxfordfabrications.com.au

ESTABLISHED SINCE 1974

COMMON CAUSE CONCLUDES

FIRST PUBLISHED IN 1920, THE COMMON CAUSE HAS BEEN THE VOICE OF MINERS FOR NEARLY 100 YEARS. THIS MONTH IT WENT OUT IN PRINT EDITION FOR THE LAST TIME.

It has chronicled disasters and tragedies, celebrated triumphs and accomplishments and held to account wrongdoings as it endeavoured to be the voice for those in our industry who sought to be heard.

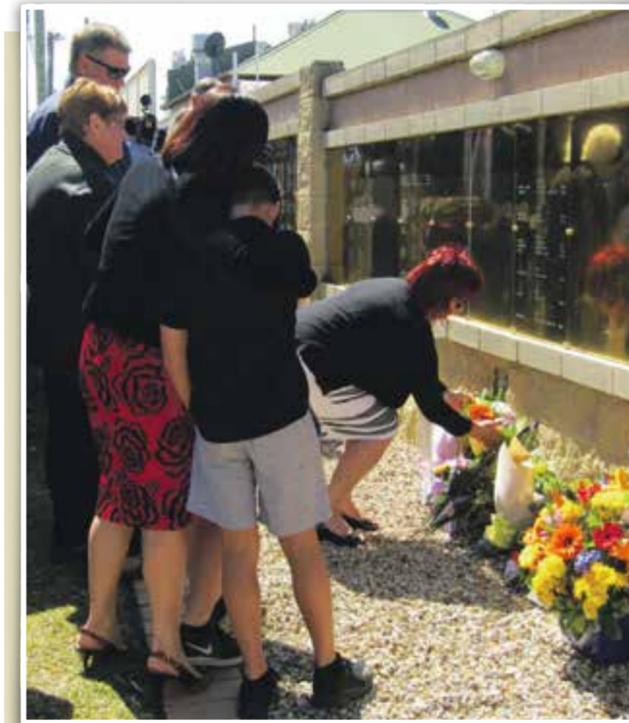
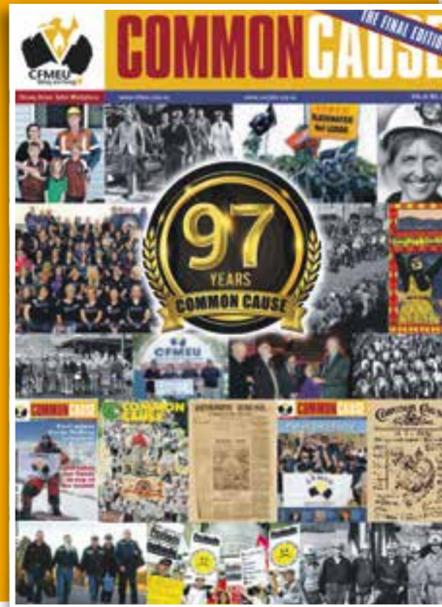
The CFMEU made the decision to cease publication of Common Cause and operate through their social media platforms due to an evolving media, but they have promised to make sure members stay informed on all the important issues in our industry.

Paddy Gorman has been the Editor of the Common Cause for the past 38 years and the final edition includes his heartfelt farewell. "Being Editor of Common Cause has never just been a job to me, but a way of life," Paddy wrote.

"For me the most impressive feature of our Union and its great strength are the rank

and file delegates and their families that I have been associated with through decades of campaigning on the job, in our mining communities and in political battles."

The magazine and Paddy will be greatly missed.



MINER'S MEMORIAL DAY

THE CFMEU'S NORTHERN DISTRICT CAME TO TOGETHER TO REMEMBER THOSE WHO HAVE LOST THEIR LIVES AT THE 22ND ANNUAL MEMORIAL DAY SERVICE THIS MONTH.

The service was held at the Jim Comerford Memorial Wall, inscribed with the names of over 1800 miners who have lost their lives in our district. The names of so many men, women and children who never made it back home.

As the crowd gathered on this somber occasion, what was most

evident was the huge support for our industry as representatives from government, business and community all attended to pay their respects.

In one of his last public speeches before retiring from his position as CFMEU General Secretary, Andrew Vickers spoke passionately about CFMEU's commitment in ensuring that no more names are ever written on the wall.

Because the significance of the day is twofold, not only is it a way to remember and pay tribute to loved ones, but it also emphasises the importance of constant vigilance in making safety the number one priority in our industry.

As the United Mineworker's Pipe Band played, wreath after wreath were laid in tribute. Since last's year memorial another name has been inscribed on the wall, Rix's Creek truck driver Stephen Norman who tragically died in an accident in December. We pray that Stephen's name will be the last.



GET CATTY!

THE CAT D10T TRACK-TYPE TRACTOR IS A MUST FOR ANY CAT COLLECTOR. OR IF YOU'RE NOT A COLLECTOR NOW IT'S THE PERFECT REASON TO BECOME ONE!

For your chance to win, simply SMS: TRACTOR and your email address to 0438 474 290.

Limit of one entry per person. LTPM/16/01100



WIN!



WE'LL KEEP YOU OPERATING

24 HOURS, 7 DAYS A WEEK,
98 LOCATIONS



Contact:

Dubbo
Call 0417 844 578

Gunnedah
26 Barber St. Gunnedah (02) 6742 4988

Lithgow
1 Ian Holt Dr. Lithgow (02) 6355 7004

Maitland
129 Racecourse Rd. Rutherford (02) 4932 1120

Mudgee
36 Sydney Rd. Mudgee (02) 6372 3454

Muswellbrook
88 Maitland Rd. (02) 6543 4255

Newcastle
20 Munibung Rd. Cardiff (02) 4954 5933

Orange
97 Elsham Ave. Orange (02) 6360 2944

Singleton
14 Maskey Rd. Mt Thorley (02) 6574 2782

Tamworth
4/61 Barnes St. Tamworth (02) 6762 0600



134-222

24 HOURS - 7 DAYS
www.pirtek.com.au

HPOTS Training

high risk & plant operator training school

1800 640 580

CUSTOMISED FLEXIBLE SITE SPECIFIC TRAINING FOR MINING AND CIVIL INDUSTRIES

COURSES DELIVERED ON OR OFF-SITE TO CLIENT REQUIREMENTS

VOC'S AND STATEMENTS OF ATTAINMENT FOR ALL PLANT AND HIGH RISK TRAINING

35 YEARS EXPERIENCE + ALL COURSES NATIONALLY ACCREDITED

www.hpots.com.au

GLENCORE

Australia is an important part of our global business. We've operated here for nearly 20 years.

Since 2007, we've invested \$21 billion in Australia – building mines, plants, material handling systems, rail & other infrastructure, wages, goods and services.

During 2016 in Australia, we contributed more than \$12 billion to the regional, state and national economies.

JOBS
15,700



DIRECT EMPLOYMENT ACROSS AUSTRALIA

TAXES & ROYALTIES
\$1.3 b



PAID TO STATE AND FEDERAL GOVERNMENTS

COMMUNITIES
\$8 m



REGIONAL COMMUNITY INVESTMENT INITIATIVES, IN ADDITION TO OUR VOLUNTARY PLANNING AGREEMENTS WITH LOCAL COUNCILS

CAPITAL INVESTMENT
\$895 m



ON SUSTAINING AND EXPANSIONARY INVESTMENT ACROSS OUR AUSTRALIAN BUSINESSES

WAGES
\$1.7 b



ANNUAL WAGES AND SALARIES PAYMENTS

SPEND
\$8.2 b



ON GOODS AND SUPPLIERS, INCLUDING SUPPORTING OUR LOCAL SUPPLIES

THIS IS THE ACTUAL LAND AND HOW THE WORKING MINE WILL LOOK

STOP LOOKING A GIFT HORSE IN THE MOUTH

GOVERNMENT NEEDS TO GET A MOVE ON AND STOP LOOKING THE PROVERBIAL GIFT HORSE IN THE MOUTH WHEN IT COMES TO THE ACQUISITION OF DRAYTON'S ASSETS BY MALABAR COAL. THE COMPANY'S PLAN TO SENSITIVELY AND INTELLIGENTLY DEVELOP THE RESERVES OF THE DRAYTON SOUTH RESOURCE AS AN EXTENSION OF THE SPUR HILL PROJECT BY WAY OF UNDERGROUND MINING IS A GOOD ONE.

In May 2017 Malabar announced the acquisition of the Drayton mine and the exploration licence (EL 5460) for the land previously known as Drayton South. Malabar has committed to developing a vastly different underground only project at EL 5460 shaped by ongoing consultation with the local community.

UNSURPRISINGLY LITTLE GOVERNMENT ACTION HAS HAPPENED SINCE.

This new underground proposal is completely different from past proposals and Malabar understands it must co-exist with the community and other industries and land uses in the area, including local horse studs.

Spur Hill is a project that's going to happen, and like it or not, the Drayton South reserve will always be there and one way or another that resource will likely be extracted at some point.

OF COURSE, SOME WILL DISAGREE.

The reality however is that when sensibly and fairly assessed on merits and true impact, this new plan jumps every hurdle by a fair margin while solving more than a few other problems including a potentially uncertain future.

Malabar are demonstrating a smart and sensitive approach showing committed coexistence and every

possible concession and guarantee. Factors including willingness to work to a plan that protects and addresses the equine CIC issues and local jobs while significantly decreasing coal production infrastructure development, mean inaction is stalling a proposal that makes sense.

Using the existing processing, handling and rail infrastructure at Drayton for the Spur Hill project is clearly a great idea that actually decreases the overall mine infrastructure development in the region.

Perhaps we could start by giving the project a new name; 'Spur Hill East?' and leave the negative Drayton connotations where they need to be consigned to – History.

Malabar's proposal will generate significant economic and social benefits for the local area, for NSW more broadly and for the national economy.

Benefits include removing any attempt to open cut mine, about 350 new direct, long term jobs for the region and many more indirect jobs. The project will also provide ongoing support for local businesses and over the 30 years of this project, provide \$1.7 billion of royalties to the State.

It's time for this project to get out of the gate.

HOW IS MALABAR'S PROPOSAL DIFFERENT FROM PAST PROPOSALS?

- 1. Malabar will only mine underground.** No need for blasting, with no dust and noise related impacts or impact on equine health or nearby properties. Mining operations will not be seen from the horse studs addressing any impact to the reputation or operations of the horse studs.
- 2. The portion of EL 5460 beneath and south of the Golden Highway has been relinquished.** This includes the land beneath the Godolphin and Coolmore horse studs and Golden Highway.
- 3. Better rehabilitation outcomes.** Malabar will deliver a far more visually appealing final outcome at the existing Drayton Mine-site by using reject stone and rock from the underground mine at Spur Hill or an underground mine at EL 5460 to fill the legacy voids at the Drayton Mine.

THRE3DP
COM.AU



Do you need **good quality filament** for your 3D printer?

- High quality filament for professional results
- Bulk orders at great prices
- Tested in our printer first, to ensure it is suitable for you
- Stocks held in Newcastle, Australia

Order your filament today:

02 4966 5028 enquiries@thre3dp.com.au

www.thre3dp.com.au



NPE
NATIONAL PUMP & ENERGY

Ready For Rent
PUMP, GENERATOR & COMPRESSOR SOLUTIONS



1800 737 687

www.nationalpump.com.au





PUBLISHERS OPINION

SHOW US THE MONEY!

AS THE REGION THAT BRINGS IN THE BUCKS TO MAKE NSW THE ECONOMIC POWERHOUSE IT IS, HUNTER MINING COMMUNITIES RIGHTFULLY HAVE A CASE TO GET A MORE GENEROUS INVESTMENT FROM THE NEXT STAGE OF THE RESOURCES FOR REGIONS FUNDING.

We weathered the downturn storm and our people and industry then helped deliver another royalty bonanza nobody thought possible. It's the right time and arguably fair we get a bit of a bonus this time for a job well done. The state government has had a very economically productive win over the last year and Hunter communities should too. Kick-start community prosperity with a bit of well earned and much

needed cash to help stimulate a faster and fuller return to confidence in our towns. The last round of Resources for Regions funding grants was met with disappointment all round from Hunter communities. The successful ones got less than they wanted and the unsuccessful who got nothing were pissed off despite strong arguments for their projects, mining community credentials, history and mining

resident populations. **UP TO \$50 MILLION IS AVAILABLE IN THE 2017-18 RESOURCES FOR REGIONS PROGRAM.**

Talking to folk in business and on the street there is no doubt things are improving but there is also no doubt a bit of a negative hangover still exists from the tougher times. We need a boost to accelerate and turn around the effects and significant social and economic cost that the mining downturn had on our communities. Right now is the time for that proverbial shot in the arm to accelerate our return to the community prosperity and

confidence we all remember. Make Muswellbrook confident it can continue down the path of revitalisation and diversification it has been travelling so well. Give Lake Macquarie and Maitland a well-earned opportunity to take another step toward the regional cities of the future they are already are evolving into. The continued beautification and infrastructure investment in Singleton will bring a stronger pride and prosperity that the town is working hard towards, while Cessnock could strengthen its tourism gateway reputation and potential. There's lots of places I could mention and not enough space. Listen up please Mr Government, investment in our future is a good investment in yours.

MIXED AGENDER

HISTORICALLY, MINING WAS A MAN'S WORK AND TODAY IT STILL IS UNDERREPRESENTED BY WOMEN. HOWEVER, THE CHANGE TO AN INDUSTRY WITH GENDER BALANCE IS HAPPENING.

BHP recently released their latest workforce figures which showed that they increased female representation in the last year by 2.9%, with women now comprising more than 20% of their workforce. This percentage is much higher than many of their mining counterparts. BHP hired 1,000 women during the year and improved on retention, managing to halve their female turnover from the previous year. For a company that has set itself a goal of achieving 50/50 gender balance by 2025 across their entire company, it's a significant step. BHP CEO Andrew Mackenzie said they have made more progress towards gender diversity in the last year than they have made in the past 10.

"We still have a long way to go as we embark on our second year of change. This is not a linear process. We're changing 130 years of industry convention. Gender balance is a challenge for all industries but if a mining company like ours can achieve this progress I am hopeful of what can be achieved throughout society more broadly." **ALSO ON THE GENDER DIVERSITY NEWS FRONT THIS MONTH WAS THE INAUGURAL WOMEN IN**

MINING BREAKFAST WHICH BROUGHT TOGETHER INDUSTRY LEADERS AND GENDER DIVERSITY CHAMPIONS AIMING TO HIGHLIGHT THE INDUSTRY'S COMMITMENT TO INCREASING GENDER DIVERSITY ACROSS ITS WORKFORCE.

Development opportunities, such as industry scholarships, as well as increasing flexibility in

workplace arrangements, generous paid parental leave and targeted efforts to encourage women to consider a career in mining have helped lift female employment in the mining industry to around 13 per cent – up from just 9 per cent in 1999.

The breakfast also saw presentation of five prestigious industry scholarships supporting women to advance their careers in the mining industry. Supported by the Minerals Council of Australia in partnership with BHP and Downer, the scholarships aim to increase female participation on minerals company boards. The program has supported 15 women to complete the course since 2011.





TITAN HIGH RISK TRAINING

Titan High Risk Training is a brand new training facility based in Thornton NSW.

Our staff and trainers have over 50 years combined experience within the crane hire, mining and construction industries.

With this experience our qualified trainers and assessors are able to pass on relevant knowledge and skills to ensure every trainee at Titan High Risk Training is adequately trained to perform high risk work competently and safely.

Our trainers are dedicated and passionate about providing trainees with the highest quality and compliant training in a professional and safe learning environment.

WE OFFER THE FOLLOWING COURSES:

ACCREDITED COURSES:

- RIWHS204D - WORK SAFELY AT HEIGHTS
- RIWHS202D - ENTER AND WORK IN CONFINED SPACES
- TLULIC2005 - LICENCE TO OPERATE A BOOM-TYPE ELEVATING WORK PLATFORM (BOOM LENGTH 11 METRES OR MORE)
- TLULIC2001 - LICENCE TO OPERATE A FORKLIFT TRUCK
- CPCLDG3001A - LICENCE TO PERFORM DOGGING
- TLULIC4009 - LICENCE TO OPERATE A SLEWING MOBILE CRANE (UP TO 60 TONNES)

THIS TRAINING IS PROVIDED BY TITAN HIGH RISK TRAINING, PARTNERING WITH AND UNDER THE AUSPICES OF SAFETY CORP PTY LTD RTO 91694

THIS TRAINING IS PROVIDED BY TITAN HIGH RISK TRAINING, PARTNERING WITH AND UNDER THE AUSPICES OF HALO NT PTY LTD RTO 32485

NON-ACCREDITED COURSES:

- FIRE AWARENESS
- MDG25
- CONDUCT LOCAL RISK CONTROL
- MANUAL HANDLING
- FIRE AWARENESS AND MDG25



BOOK ONLINE @ titanhrt.com.au

Or email: bookings@titanhrt.com.au phone: 02 4966 2551 address: 25D Sandringham Ave Thornton NSW 2322

NOW OPEN



COALFACE SPECIAL

MENTION THIS AD AND RECEIVE 10% OR \$50 (WHICHEVER IS HIGHER) OFF YOUR NEXT VEHICLE SERVICE

Titan Auto Maintenance is a mechanical workshop specializing in the repair and maintenance of most makes and models of vehicles.

Our team of mechanics are experts in their field with each member having their own speciality and qualifications including but not limited to:

- SERVICING
- ALL LIGHT VEHICLE MECHANICAL REPAIRS
- MINE SPECCING - FLAGS, CHOCKS, LIGHT BARS, REFLECTIVE STICKERING, FIRE EXTINGUISHERS, UHF INSTALLATION
- TRAILER MAINTENANCE AND REPAIRS
- LIGHT TRUCK MAINTENANCE AND REPAIRS

LICENCE NUMBER MVRL54428

Email: ben@titantech.com.au phone: 02 4966 2551 address: 25D Sandringham Ave Thornton NSW 2322



GONE WITH THE WIND

IT WAS "LIGHTS, CAMERA, ACTION" AT MANGOOLA MINE IN SEPTEMBER AS THE GLENCORE SITE HOSTED PRODUCTION OF THE UPPER HUNTER MINING DIALOGUE'S "WINDY DAY" EDUCATIONAL VIDEO.

The video is being made to explain the results of the Dialogue's successful Weather Forecasting Project which helps mine operators to predict potential problematic weather and put in place work practices to minimise the impact of dust caused by wind.

With a working title of "What Happens at Mines on a Windy Day", the video will illustrate and explain how Upper Hunter mine sites alter their operations to minimise dust.

Dialogue Chairman David O'Brien said mining companies and government regulators recognise that dust emissions from mining activities can be a serious issue if not closely monitored and effectively controlled.

"The mining industry works very hard to manage air quality each and every day," Mr O'Brien said. "Minimising dust is a part of

procedures at Upper Hunter mines and is the responsibility of all mine workers."

Each mine operates an extensive network of air quality monitoring stations in and around each mining operation that provide up to date data in real time. These monitoring networks are supported by the Upper Hunter Air Quality Monitoring Network; an industry funded, government managed realtime ambient air quality monitoring network.

One achievement of the Upper Hunter Mining Dialogue is the consistent use of weather forecast information to reduce or avoid air quality impacts from Upper Hunter mines.

"By using weather forecast information, mines plan ahead and make better informed decisions about managing air quality at their

operations," Mr O'Brien said. "If adverse conditions are forecast, measures are put in place to minimise the impact."

Such measures include but are not limited to:

- Postponing blasting to avoid unfavourable wind conditions
- Closing elevated exposed working

areas, and operating only at lower levels

- Limiting traffic to main haul roads
- Wetting dry areas by using water carts
- Reducing vehicle speeds to minimise wheel generated dust
- If necessary ceasing operations until conditions improve.

HAVE YOUR SAY

THE COMMUNITY AND MINING INDUSTRY WILL COME TOGETHER FOR THE ANNUAL UPPER HUNTER MINING DIALOGUE FORUM ON NOVEMBER 22.

The annual forum will update community members and industry representatives on the Dialogue's progress over the past year.

Participants will also have the opportunity to help shape the future direction of the Dialogue.

Dialogue Chairman Dave O'Brien is especially encouraging community members to attend the forum to have their input into the Dialogue which was formed in 2011 as a collaborative effort to help minimise the impacts of mining on the Upper Hunter community.

"The Dialogue's annual forum is an opportunity for people from the community to have their say on how the Dialogue is progressing and where it should be headed," Mr O'Brien said.

"We are hoping for a wide cross-section of people from

the community to help map the direction of the Dialogue. The community is a valuable partner in the Dialogue and it is very important that it has input."

As well as updates on Dialogue projects, the forum will feature presentations from experts speaking on subjects including the future of mining in the Hunter region, new rehabilitation programs and regulations, research on potential beneficial use for final voids, an update on the synoptic plan review and more.

The day will also see participants workshop potential solutions to issues facing the Upper Hunter.

As seating for the forum is limited, people interested in attending are encouraged to register their interest at info@nswmining.com.au



Australian Mining

Making the future possible



"EVERYTHING ABOUT MODERN SOCIETY REQUIRES ELEMENTS WE GET FROM THE GROUND. WITHOUT MINING, WE DON'T HAVE ANY OF THAT."

— KARI ARMITAGE, MANAGING DIRECTOR QUARRY MINING.

Quarry Mining once made a hundred parts for mining companies in a week. Now, they make a hundred in just one morning. For Kari Armitage, the key to growing was continually reinventing the way they worked. When they needed new skills they invested in retraining and discovered that old hands could learn new tricks in CAD design and computer programming.

When the market was in a downturn, they put on more apprentices and graduates, continuing to provide employment and support the local economy.

What began with Kari's father, then became one of the world's premier manufacturers of drilling consumables.

As Kari explains, "There will always be great opportunities for us because the world will always need what Australian mining produces. Our homes, our mobile devices, everything about modern society requires elements we get from the ground. Without mining, we don't have any of that."

GO TO MAKINGTHEFUTUREPOSSIBLE.INFO

WIN! TRY SOME THAI

BRIDGE STREET THAI AT MUSWELLBROOK IS THE NEWEST ASIAN RESTAURANT IN THE HUNTER AND IS SURE TO BE A HUGE HIT WITH THEIR DELECTABLE AND AUTHENTIC RANGE OF TRADITIONAL THAI DISHES.

One lucky reader will have the chance to win dinner to the value of \$100. It's your choice to take the family along or keep it all to yourself.

For your chance to win, simply SMS: THAI and your email address to 0438 474 290.

Limit of one entry per person. LTPM/16/01100



BRIDGE STREET THAI
91 BRIDGE ST MUSWELLBROOK
PH 02 6543 2833



A BRIGHT FUTURE

OUR INDUSTRY OF TOMORROW WILL RELY ON THE TALENT, DETERMINATION AND EDUCATION OF TODAY'S APPRENTICES. AND IF THESE STORIES ARE ANYTHING TO JUDGE BY, THAT FUTURE IS GOING TO BE BLOODY GREAT.

TOP OF HIS TRADE



JOSHUA TERRAS TOOK HOME THE GOLD AT THE NSW DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRY'S TRAINING AWARDS WINNING THE AWARD FOR TOP APPRENTICE IN VEHICLE TRADES.

"I guess my dad pushed me towards this industry but over time I've become truly passionate about it. He's proud as punch at what I've managed to achieve and I'm really happy I followed his advice." Josh said. But it hasn't been a smooth ride, Josh missed out on the first apprenticeship he was after but did manage to get a parts apprenticeship with Komatsu. It wasn't where he planned on being but he committed himself to the work and study and after a year he got the opportunity to move into a mechanical apprenticeship.

WHILE WORKING FOR KOMATSU JOSH COMPLETED A CERTIFICATE III IN MOBILE PLANT TECHNOLOGY, BUT THEN WITH KOMATSU'S ENCOURAGEMENT WENT ON TO COMPLETE A CERTIFICATE III IN AUTOMOTIVE ELECTRICAL TECHNOLOGY.

"From the very beginning Komatsu have supported me with training and opportunities which has helped me to get to where I am now." Josh said.

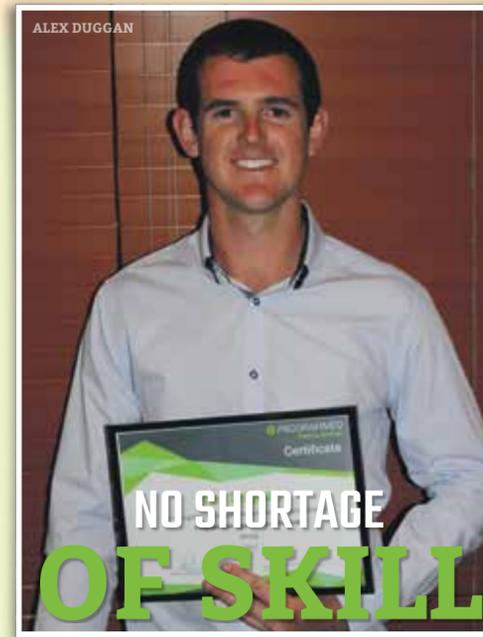
Craig Burgess, Komatsu's Mt Thorley Branch Manager said that when Josh started with Komatsu as a parts apprentice it quickly became clear that he had the drive and passion to succeed. "When the opportunity to complete a mechanical apprenticeship came along he grabbed it with both hands and hasn't looked back. The award is a reflection of the hard work Josh put into his apprenticeship and he has carried this enthusiasm over to his new role as a field service technician." Craig said.

Josh has now been at Komatsu for 6 years and has secure fulltime work that sees him out at sites like HVO and Moolarben diagnosing and repairing mining equipment. "I'm always travelling out to new places which guarantees every day will be interesting and I'm always learning something new." Josh said.

When he's not out on site he's in the workshop training the other young apprentices who no doubt hope to follow in his footsteps.

The award is in recognition of his training in Automotive Mechanical Technology at Hunter TAFE and his work at Komatsu Australia and it's not the first accolade Josh has received for his hard work. Just last year Josh was named Komatsu's National Apprentice of the Year.

So, what does it take to win not just one prestigious award but two? You could say working on machines is in his blood, Josh's dad is a truck mechanic and a teacher at Kurri TAFE and when Josh left school encouraged him towards vocational training.



ON TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 19, THE SINGLETON BRANCH OF PROGRAMMED SKILLED WORKFORCE HOSTED AN AWARDS NIGHT AT MAMA'S KITCHEN TO PRESENT ITS 2017 MINING TRAINEE AND APPRENTICE AWARDS.

These awards are recognition of trainees and apprentices who excel in their chosen fields, and with over 600 trainees and apprentices engaged by Programmed Skilled Workforce at mine sites

throughout the Hunter it's a huge accolade to be acknowledged. Apprentice of the Year was Alex Duggan who has worked across both HVO and MTW sites since he started

his electrical apprenticeship in 2013. Alex displayed a high level of motivation, undertaking multiple external courses in his own time whilst completing his apprenticeship and so it is no surprise that Alex recently secured a permanent position with MTW working at the South CHPP.

"I was very honoured to receive the award for the 2017 Apprentice of the Year for Programmed. It was a wonderful night, allowing me to speak with some fellow co-workers as well as my mentors whom I am very thankful for all their advice and help throughout the past 4 years." Alex said Alison Davis is a mobile plant operator at HVO was also acknowledged for her hard work throughout her traineeship. Alison has risen above personal adversity and voluntarily undertakes a mentoring role with her fellow co-workers and trainees.

"I wouldn't be where I am today without Programmed and HVO providing opportunities like this for women trying to get into the mining field." Alison said when asked what the award meant to her.

YOU'RE HIRED!



BLOOMFIELD APPRENTICES AWARDED TRADES POSITIONS: L-R- ANDREW EASDOWN, ALANA SEE, ZACHARY MULDER, BEN HARRIS, BEN TAYLOR, ANGUS PAPWORTH

THANKS TO COMPANIES LIKE BLOOMFIELD WHO TAKE ON APPRENTICES EVERY YEAR, OUR INDUSTRY'S FUTURE REMAINS STRONG.

For over 40 years The Bloomfield Group has maintained a long standing apprenticeship program which has produced a large number of excellent tradespeople for our industry.

Over the past decades apprentice electricians, fitters, plant mechanics and boilermakers have been provided with comprehensive training at the Four Mile Engineering division, with this program now continuing within the Kings Engineering division.

FOLLOWING THE EXPANSION OF THE OPERATIONS AT RIX'S CREEK, SIX GRADUATE APPRENTICES AT THE GROUP'S KINGS ENGINEERING DIVISION

AT RUTHERFORD WERE AWARDED FULL TIME TRADES POSITIONS.

Throughout their apprenticeships these six tradespeople, like the former apprentices and the ones still following in their footsteps have been highly trained with a strong focus on safety on the job. Their training programs are conducted in conjunction with external service providers to make these apprentices some of the most highly skilled, knowledgeable and competent tradespeople within the Hunter and arguably NSW.

The Bloomfield Group is well into the recruitment process for their program next year and their commitment helps to ensure a promising future for our industry.

The kind of service your grandparents remember with the excitement they want the grandkids to experience.



Holden | Cessnock City Holden

Cessnock City Motor Group - The Hunter's proudest family dealership. 240-246 Maitland Road Cessnock NSW 2325 Sales: 02 4993 6000 | Service: 02 4993 6085



KENNARDS HIRE

FOR ALL YOUR PUMP & POWER NEEDS

PUMP & POWER SINGLETON

Make your job *EASY!*

PUMP & POWER SINGLETON 2 ROSEDALE CLOSE, MCDUGALLS HILL

02 6574 2600 | kennards.com.au



39-43 Thomas Mitchell Drive
Muswellbrook NSW 2333
Australia
+61 (2) 6540 9400
info@mrssg.net
mrssg.net

UNRIVALLED MINING SERVICE CAPACITY & SUPPORT



WHAT WE DO

We provide a range of support services to enable mining companies to focus on maximizing production.

HOW WE DO IT

We listen and understand our customers needs, and deliver a service which exceeds expectations. We'll do what we say we'll do. We'll reduce downtime and extend the life of customer equipment. We only hire the best people to ensure a superior 24/7 available service. We'll ensure customer compliance is met and maintained.

WHY WE DO WHAT WE DO

We aim to enhance sustainability of mining in the Hunter Valley.

ONE STOP MAINTENANCE AND SUPPORT SERVICES FOR THE MINING INDUSTRY

MRS Services Group Production Support offers a comprehensive range of services which focuses on maximising production and minimising downtime for its customers to aid the overall efficiency of core activities, and therefore increasing production capacity.

MRS Services Group Production Support provides a broad range of resources that directly support mining across every phase of the mining cycle.

- > Mine Rehabilitation
- > Mine Services
- > Wet and Dry Plant Hire
- > Industrial Services
- > Poly and Water Reticulation
- > Fabrication
- > Mechanical
- > Automotive
- > Lineboring
- > Electrical
- > Maintenance Support

SAFETY | CUSTOMER SERVICE | QUALITY | RESPECT | INTEGRITY & ACCOUNTABILITY

YANCOAL ON A ROLL

YANCOAL IS FORKING OUT ANOTHER US\$230 MILLION TO INCREASE ITS POSITION IN THE HUNTER.

Yancoal has exercised their option to acquire Mitsubishi's 28.9% interest in the Warkworth coal joint venture. The acquisition is expected to be completed by March next year and at its completion Yancoal will own approximately 84.5% of the venture.

Yancoal Australia Chief Executive Officer, Reinhold Schmidt, said, "By exercising the call option, we are

strengthening our position within the Hunter Valley and progressing our long-term strategy for continued growth and investment into tier one assets."

The deal will increase Yancoal's share of coal production from the integrated MTW operations from 64.1% to 82.9%. In 2016, MTW's total saleable coal production was 12.3 million tonnes.



OUT OF THIS WORLD

THE OFF-EARTH MINING FORUM WAS HELD AT THE UNSW ON SEPTEMBER 20 - 21 AND PROVIDED SOME FASCINATING INSIGHTS INTO THE FUTURE OF SPACE MINING.

In its third year, the forum saw space experts from all around the globe gather in Sydney to discuss the spectrum of off-earth mining issues: missions, resources, mining technologies, robotics, automation, instrumentation, legal impediments, business risks, and ethical considerations. The predictions are that within 10 years we will see the first asteroid mining and resource transactions taking place in space with asteroids, the Moon and Mars being the focus of attention. Professor Andrew Dempster from the UNSW's Australian Centre for Space Engineering Research said "It's not that far down the road. The market is already emerging."

Further predictions are that once commercial space mining operations are successful, it will trigger the colonisation of the Moon and Mars, all within the next 50 years.

LIFE REBEL

CHIROPRACTIC

6/24 GARNETT ROAD EAST MAITLAND
P: 02 4933 5134

FIX. YOUR. BACK.

Driving heavy vehicles, repetitive manual labour, and prolonged work postures put enormous stress on the spine. When the spine becomes dysfunctional it puts pressure on the nervous system resulting in low back and neck pain, headaches, and vertigo, among other things. These symptoms are merely a warning sign of a deeper degenerative process that will only get worse with time, and harder to correct.

At Life Rebel Chiropractic we use state of the art equipment to analyse the spine and restore its function, helping you to become a happier, more productive worker, but most importantly to enjoy the things you love most with friends and family.

All @theCoalFace readers (and their loved ones) receive a FREE initial consult, including neurological testing MyoVision scan, and X-ray analysis (if required). Simply mention @theCoalFace when booking your appointment.

NAUTITECH

DEVOTED TO SOLUTIONS IN HAZARDOUS AREAS

THERMAL CAMERA WITH S.M.A.R.T. ANALYTICS

Save Human Life and Protect Expensive Assets

The Nautitech camera with SMART Analytics:

- Surveys up to 40 metres for a heat source
- Measures the size and distance of the hazard
- Assesses danger based on programmed criteria
- Relays information to a remote location
- Takes action which can save lives and assets

MARKET LEADING PRODUCTS DEVELOPED AND PRODUCED IN AUSTRALIA

www.nautitech.com.au | +61 (2) 9899 6857 | sales@nautitech.com.au

FIGHT FIRE & WIN!

MAXIMUS Aussie Pumps

WITH LOW RAINFALL AND WARM WEATHER FORECAST OVER THE COMING MONTHS, MAXIMUS AND AUSSIE PUMPS HAVE TEAMED UP TO GIVE YOU SOME FIRE SAFETY TIPS AND THE CHANCE TO WIN YOUR OWN AWESOME FIREFIGHTING PUMP IN THE LEAD UP TO XMAS.

All up the kit is worth a hefty \$1500 but could prove to be a whole lot more valuable in an emergency.

PRIZE INCLUDES:

- Aussie QP-2S/GP160
- 5 year pump end warranty
- 2 year Genuine Honda GP recoil start engine warranty
- 2" inlet, 3 way outlet
- 1 off 6m x 50mm suction hose and fittings
- 1 off 20m x 20mm discharge hose with nut and tail plus jet spray nozzle

For your chance to win, simply SMS: AUSSIE PUMPS and your email address to 0438 474 290.

Limit of one entry per person per month. LTPM/16/01100

OCTOBER TIPS - PREPARE YOUR RURAL PROPERTY FOR FIRE SEASON

- Remove overhanging branches from power lines
- Ensure that a fire tanker can access your property
- Clear fire breaks along paddock boundaries
- Store petrol, diesel and gas away from home
- Keep a well-maintained area around the home and sheds
- Place water pipes from dams underground and install pump to the house
- Make sure hoses have spray nozzles
- Keep water tanks full and connect them to pumps

m ine

We're working for you

We know it's not just the destination that matters, but how you get there. We're here to help every step of the way, so you can have peace of mind that you're on the right track for an exceptional retirement.

We can help with super, pension and insurance. Call us on 13 MINE (13 64 63) to find out more or join online at mine.com.au/join

Mine Wealth + Wellbeing
13 MINE (13 64 63) | help@mine.com.au | mine.com.au
AUSCOAL Superannuation Pty Ltd ABN 70 003 566 989 AFSL 246 864
Trustee for Mine Wealth and Wellbeing Superannuation Fund ABN 16 457 520 308

MINE METAMORPHOSIS

PARALLEL ECONOMICS

RENEWABLES ARE SET TO GRADUALLY TRANSITION FROM COAL OVER THE NEXT DECADES BUT THAT DOESN'T MEAN MINES CAN'T STILL PLAY A PART IN OUR ENERGY FUTURE.

We are already seeing around the world some very clever engineering that is transitioning mines into renewable energy sources instead of being shut down and discarded. Take for instance Pumped Hydroelectric Storage (PHS). PHS relies on two water reservoirs separated vertically. Cheap, off-peak, renewable electricity is used to pump water into the higher reservoir. During peak times, the water is released back into the lower reservoir driving turbines to generate electricity. This cycle

of storing and releasing energy provides an ongoing backup source of energy. Hydroelectric plants require a specific geography and are limited by land availability, environmental impacts and being an eyesore does not encourage communities to having one pop up next door.

THAT'S WHERE MINES CAN PLAY A PART. EXISTING UNDERGROUND NETWORKS SUCH AS MINE SHAFTS AND OPEN CUT MINES OFFER, CAN MINIMISE THESE

IMPACTS AS WELL AS REDUCE CONSTRUCTION COSTS.

Here in Australia plans are underway to use an abandoned gold mine in Queensland and the Bendigo goldfields in Victoria. The Queensland mine will not just be a site for Hydro energy storage, but will be transformed into a renewable energy hub which will also comprise solar projects. These projects and others like them will also ensure communities that relied on mining still have economic opportunities, jobs will still be available in the energy sector and that mines can help secure our energy future long after the last coal is dug.



'AVE A LAUGH WITH



alfabs.com.au
PH 1300 ALFABS (253227)

A man rushes his dog to the vets and when the vet pronounces his dog dead he demands a second opinion.

The vet goes into the back room and comes out with a cat. The cat sniffs the body and meows. The vet says, "I'm sorry, but the cat thinks that your dog is dead, too."

The man is still unwilling to accept that his dog is dead.

The vet brings in a black Labrador. The lab sniffs the body and barks. The vet says, "I'm sorry, but the lab thinks your dog is dead, too."

The man finally resigns to the diagnosis and asks how much he owes. The vet answers, "\$650." "\$650 to tell me my dog is dead?" exclaims the man.

"Well," the vet replies, "I would only have charged you \$50 for my initial diagnosis. The additional \$600 is for the cat scan and lab tests."



JACK 'SPANNER' WALSH
MY MINING LIFE

MAD ROOSTERS FAN AND GO TO GUY FOR THE LATEST GOSSIP AND OPINION ON JUST ABOUT ANYTHING FROM POLITICS TO LOCAL SCANDALS. JACK CHEWED OUR EAR OVER A BEER WITH HIS STORY.

Where do you work?

I work at MTW. It was originally Warkworth until the Thorley boys built the bridge and invaded us.

Jack's your name, what else are you known by, any nick names good or bad?

Spanner - because I used to

have a business called Jack's Master Spanners. You'd think they'd call me Master, but no, I got the other half.

How long you been in the Valley?

I got to the Valley in 1998 and brought my mechanical business and ran that for a

few years.

So how long have you been mining?

I saw all these lazy bludgers getting the big money in the mines and quizzed them how to get in. I started out at HVO in 2001 before going to Warkworth six months later.

So how did you get your job?

Not long after moving to Singleton I went to the pub with a mate in the mines. I'd never seen a mine in my life so one Sunday he showed me around. One of his mates was operating a truck and he put me in the passenger seat. After a couple of laps he pulled up under one of the loading units and said, "You wanna drive?" I jumped in the drivers seat. No experience. So I'm backing under the big shovel then off to the dump and tipped it and did a couple of laps. He said, "You done this before?" I said "Nope." I thought this isn't rocket science.

I knew a few people in other mines who told me who to apply to. One of the old mines inspectors gave me a reference and next thing I know I'm employed at HVO. Obviously, you'd never get away with it these days.

What's a usual day at work?

Start at six. Grab a coffee. Toolbox at 6.30, then find out which piece of equipment I'm on. I operate haul trucks, front end loaders and dozers. I'm like a kid in a sand pit building things and it gives you good job satisfaction at the end of the day.

Tell me about your crew and the people you work with?

They're a great crew, a very comical bunch who always try to keep it fun. We give each other a bit in good humour and it keeps us happy.

What's the best thing about your job?

From working for myself, the job security, conditions and the people. It's given me a great life.

What's the worst thing?

Roster hours and switching from day to night shifts. And losing every second weekend which can be hard with kids. But it just becomes a part of life.

Funny stories from work that you can tell?

One shift I was home sick and had the wife ring to tell them. Next thing I'm in the Super's office and put on a management plan. It stated for any sickies I had to personally ring and speak to someone. No leaving messages. A few months later I was crook again and keen to follow the plan to the letter of the law. I rang the super and wasn't able to leave a message. I tried the company office, message bank again. Tried another and it went to the GM's message bank and left him a message explaining how I needed to give notification personally under the plan. Then I rang the Brisbane office. No answer so left a message again. Then I got the London office's number and spoke to them. Next minute I was in trouble for doing what the plan said. I protested that surely I had exceeded my duties under the plan. That plan was promptly cancelled.

How different is your job from what you thought you wanted to do when you were a kid?

I always wanted to be a helicopter pilot but the closest I've got to it is a few joy flights.

Family?

Three great kids, Patrina's the wife. Jessica is my eldest, she's a '92 model. Maddison, she'll be 20 this year and young Jackson will be turning 19 this year. None are in mining. The Eldest works down ay John Hunter Hospital doing blood testing, Maddison's a beautician in town and Jackson's madly pursuing a career as a referee.

What do you do in your down time?

Doing up old cars, I've got an old Chevy. Watch the youngest referee footy or watching the Roosters. And of course, having a few beers with mates.

Mount Thorley PPK Firefly 02 6574 6500
Port Kembla PPK ME 02 4207 3000
Tomago PPK ME 02 4964 5400
ppkgroup.com.au

Leading Australian OEM and Service Provider of Pneumatic and Hydraulic Drilling, Grouting, Pumping, Roof Support, and Ventilation Products.

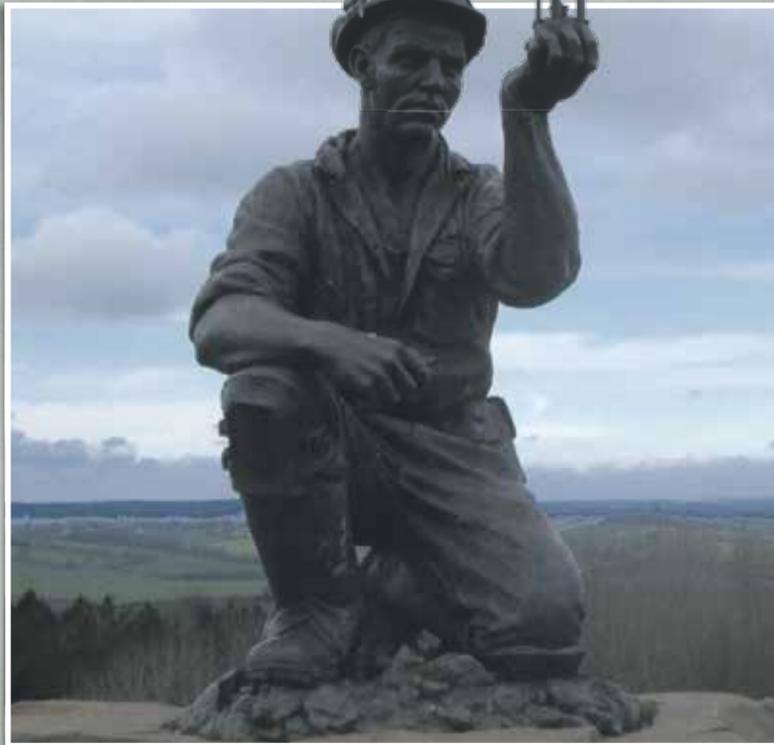
- Rambor Drilling and Boring Products
- Rambor Grouting and Pumping Products
- Roof Support Products
- Ventilation Products
- Pneumatic and Hydraulic Motors

MAXHIRE EQUIPMENT DRY HIRE SPECIALISTS

DOZER | EXCAVATORS | SKID STEER | BACKHOES | TRUCKS | ROLLERS | GRADERS | LOADERS | COMPACTORS | MINI EXCAVATORS

PH 02 4936 8100

21 KYLE STREET RUTHERFORD NSW 2320
www.maxhire.com.au



LIGHTING THE WAY

SAFETY HAS ALWAYS BEEN AN ISSUE FOR MINERS AND NONE MORE SO THAN IN ITS EARLY DAYS. ONE OF THE BIGGEST ADVANCES TO MINING SAFETY WAS THE INVENTION OF THE SAFETY LAMP.

Before the invention of safety lamps, miners used candles with open flames which often resulted in explosions due to the presence of flammable

gases in mines.

The safety lamp operated by having holes in the screen around the flame which did not allow the fire to ignite

the methane around the lamp. The flames of the lamp also helped to notify miners of the invisible presence of flammable gases by burning brighter

and with a blue tinge when flammable gases were present.

THREE MEN ARE NOW RECOGNISED AS INVENTING THE SAFETY LAMP DESPITE MUCH CONTROVERSY AT THE TIME.

The first safety lamp made by William Clanny in 1812 using a pair of bellows to pump air through water to a candle burning in a metal case with a glass window. Exhaust gases passed out through water. It was heavy and ungainly and required a man to pump it continuously and was not a practical success.

Within months of Clanny's demonstration of his first lamp, two improved designs had been announced, one by George Stephenson, which later became the Geordie lamp, and one by Humphry Davy known as the Davy lamp.

George Stephenson worked at Killingworth Colliery and was present at both the 1806 and 1809 mine explosions. He began to experiment and devised a lamp in which the air entered via tiny holes, through which the flames of the lamp could not pass. In 1815, he demonstrated his lamp to two witnesses by taking it down Killingworth Colliery and holding it in front of a fissure from which firedamp was issuing.

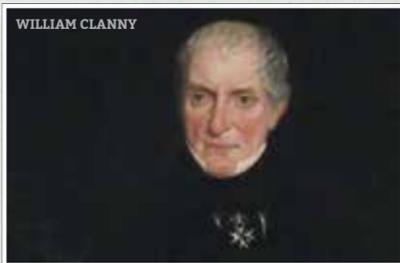
At the same time Stephenson was working on his lamp, Humphry Davy was also looking at

the problem. Davy used an iron gauze to enclose the lamp's flame and prevent the methane burning inside the lamp from passing out to the general atmosphere. A month after Stephenson's demonstration at Killingworth, Davy presented his design to the Royal Society and the first trial of a Davy lamp with a wire sieve was at Hebburn Colliery in 1816.

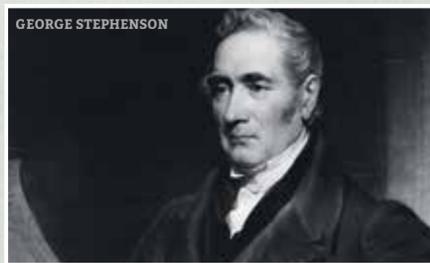
Davy's lamp differed from Stephenson's in that the flame was surrounded by a screen of gauze, whereas Stephenson's prototype lamp had a perforated plate contained in a glass cylinder.

Davy was awarded £1,000 by the Royal Society in 1816 and a £2,000 prize by the country's colliery owners. He refused to patent his designs and was awarded the Rumford medal in 1816. He accused Stephenson of stealing his invention however a local committee of enquiry gathered in support and exonerated Stephenson, proving he had been working separately to create his lamp and awarding him £1,000.

Davy and his supporters refused to accept their findings but in 1833 a House of Commons committee found that Stephenson had equal claim to having invented the safety lamp. Despite all the controversy each of these men deserved to be recognised and applauded.



WILLIAM CLANNY



GEORGE STEPHENSON



HUMPHRY DAVY



WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 16 WAS A DEVASTATING DAY FOR THE RICHMOND VALE RAILWAY MUSEUM AS BUSHFIRES CAUSED AN ESTIMATED \$1 MILLION IN DAMAGE.

Despite the tireless work of emergency services and museum volunteers to battle the flames, there was significant damage to the museum collection and all operations have ceased.

In the face of the fast-moving fire front, much of the museum's rollingstock collection couldn't be saved including many non-air hoppers. The restored

demonstration non-air coal train was severely damaged, with ten of its sixteen vehicles burned. Two former interurban trailers, including TF6001, were completely gutted and a third partially damaged.

2.5 kilometres of track were rendered unserviceable due to fire damage to sleepers and Number 1 Bridge has also been damaged



as well as the carriage shed and platform roads.

Museum Director Graham Harper said their priority was getting the track repaired so they can start operations again. "Our first step will be repairing the Mulbring road track so we can get some services up and running again. Then we will start on the No.1 bridge and the Pelaw Main line. We also have the hard work ahead of restoring carriages and cars to bring them into service to replace what we've lost. We are hoping the community will get behind our fundraising appeals or otherwise we won't be

able to get the trains operating again anytime soon."

They have started up two fundraising appeals. First is their Rebuilding Richi appeal where anyone can go on the website and make a donation.

www.gofundraise.com.au/beneficiary/rebuildingrichi

They also will be a trivia night at Kurri Kurri Senior Citizens Hall on Saturday, October 28 at 7pm. Tickets are \$10 per person for teams of eight. Call Graham Smith on 0408 333 604 for bookings.



RICHMOND MAIN COLLIERY REUNION

ON SATURDAY NOVEMBER 25, RICHMOND MAIN COLLIERY WILL PLAY HOST TO A MEMORABLE EVENING WHERE OLD WORKMATES WILL BE REUNITED.

The reunion will celebrate the history of the colliery which was once the largest vertical shaft mine in the Southern Hemisphere and at its peak employed over 1200 men and had a stable of over 200 pit horses.

In 1926, the colliery set a world record (which still stands today) for coal production in a vertical shaft mine, with 3,482 tons wound up a single shaft in one 8-hour shift.

Invitations will be sent out over the coming weeks and anyone with any association with the colliery is welcome to attend.

For enquiries call Graham Harper on 0434 015 149.

MAXIMUS

ONE STOP for pumps

AUSSIE FIREMAN PUMPS AVAILABLE NOW

4057 0281



Aussie Pumps

ONE STOP for all hoses and fittings

Hydraulic hose assemblies while you wait

No assembly fees



MAXIMUS

Hydraulic and industrial hose fitting kits for mining and OEM

MDG 41 compliant

7/11 Kyle St Rutherford
maximusindustrial.com.au



TEACHING TEACHERS

THANKS TO YANCOAL'S COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT FUND, SINGLETON TEACHERS WILL BE BETTER EQUIPPED TO DEAL WITH MENTAL HEALTH ISSUES.

We all know the great work the Where There's A Will Foundation does in addressing and educating the community in mental health issues, and thanks to \$80,000 in funding from Yancoal their latest project is set to make a real difference.

Their Positive Education Program involves funding teachers to complete a Professional Certificate in Education (Positive Education) through the University of Melbourne's Graduate School of Education.

Melbourne University's Dr Peggy Kern is delivering the training and says the course will benefit teachers and students alike.

"If you're a student it means your teacher will know exactly how to go about making sure you feel good and function well. If you're one of the participating teachers it means you'll have a comprehensive understanding of what positive education and wellbeing is, how to practice it, and how to create positive change in a community." Dr Kern said.

ONCE QUALIFIED, THE TEACHERS WILL THEN GO ON TO TRAIN OTHER TEACHERS ALONG WITH DELIVERING THE POSITIVE EDUCATION PROGRAM TO ALL PRIMARY AND SECONDARY STUDENTS IN PARTICIPATING SCHOOLS WITHIN THE REGION.

Where There's A Will founder Pauline Carrigan has applauded Yancoal's generous contribution. "Having the support of Yancoal has helped make this program possible and as a result we hope to make a significant difference in the wellbeing of the community and especially our children." Yancoal's Community Development Fund Executive Officer Travis Bates said, "Our community is fortunate to have an organisation like Where There's A Will working so hard to deliver initiatives like this that will go a long way to improving the mental health of our children. We are proud to support the work of Where There's A Will and sincerely thank all the teachers who are taking on this extra load to be better able to serve our children."

'AVE A LAUGH WITH

AE ALFABS PH 1300 ALFABS (253227)
alfabs.com.au

Steak puns... They're a rare medium, well done.



BEHIND GOOD WINES, YOU CAN SOMETIMES FIND A GENEROUS COAL MINE, WHICH WAS THE CASE FOR THE 29TH HUNTER VALLEY BOUTIQUE WINEMAKERS SHOW WHICH WAS PROUDLY SUPPORTED BY THE BLOOMFIELD GROUP.

The Show was held over 5 days at the Maitland Showground last month with Crowne Plaza hosting the Presentation Dinner on September 14. In attendance to present some of the winning awards was Bloomfield representative Reg Crick.

"The Bloomfield Group



has sponsored this event for many years because we believe in supporting the diversity of the Hunter Valley. It was a wonderful night with great people who are so clearly passionate about what they do, much the same as we are here at Bloomfield." Reg said.

The best white wine of the show was RidgeView Wines with their 2009 Semillon and the winner of the best red was Thomas Wines with their 2016 Shiraz.

RidgeView Wines also took out the coveted Karl Stockhausen Trophy, and the newly introduced Dr Ray Healey Trophy was won by David Hook Wines.



THIS MONTH THE RECIPIENT OF OUR \$500 COMMUNITY GIFT IS THE UPPER HUNTER WILDLIFE AID. THIS AMAZING AND DEDICATED GROUP OF VOLUNTEERS SPEND THEIR DAYS (AND NIGHTS!) RESCUING AND CARING FOR THE HUNTER'S SICK AND INJURED NATIVE ANIMALS.

There are so many ways you can help this great organisation, whether it's volunteering your time as a carer or rescuer, donating money desperately needed for milk and food, giving goods such as blankets or towels, or just spreading awareness of what they do.

We spoke to volunteer Julie about ways people can help and one of the things she hoped everyone would do is check pouches if they see any wounded or dead marsupials. At this time of year there's a very good chance that any females will be carrying young and because joeys can survive in their mother's pouches for up to 5 days it's important to check regardless of how long the animal has been there.

"It's such an easy thing to do and

can prevent a terrible and prolonged death for the baby. Keep your safety in mind first and move the animal if you need. You can tell by looking if it's a female and you can normally feel movement under the pouch. Have a blanket or jacket ready and wrap up the joey immediately to keep it warm or if you're not comfortable removing the joey call our 24-hour hotline and we will take it from there."

If you want to find out more about donating or volunteering or want to take a look at the wonderful work of the Upper Hunter Wildlife Aid then head to one of the links below:

Facebook - [wildlifeaidupperhuntervalley](https://www.facebook.com/wildlifeaidupperhuntervalley)
Website - www.wildlifeaid.org.au
Hotline - 0429 850 089

'AVE A LAUGH WITH

AE ALFABS

alfabs.com.au | PH 1300 ALFABS (253227)

One day Einstein has to speak at an important conference. On the way there, he says to his driver that looks a bit like him:

"I'm sick of all these conferences. I always say the same things over and over!"

The driver agrees: "You're right. As your driver, I've attended all of them and even though I don't know anything about science, I could give the conference in your place."

"That's a great idea!" says Einstein. "Let's switch places then!"

So they switch clothes and as soon as they arrive, the driver dressed as Einstein goes on stage and starts

giving the usual speech, while the real Einstein, dressed as the car driver, attends it.

But in the crowd, there is one scientist who wants to impress everyone and thinks of a very difficult question to ask Einstein, hoping he won't be able to respond. He stands up and interrupts the conference by posing his very difficult question. The whole room goes silent, holding their breath, waiting for the response.

The driver looks at him, dead in the eye, and says:

"Sir, your question is so easy to answer that I'm going to let my driver reply to it for me."



MEET THE VOLUNTEERS AT BENGALLA COMMUNITY OPEN DAY
Muswellbrook Showground - Saturday October 14

In addition to all the great entertainment and guided mine tours on offer at Bengalla's Community Open Day this month, you'll also have the opportunity to meet the Upper Hunter Wildlife Aid's fantastic volunteers. Make sure you head to their stall and say hello!

CRJ MAINTENANCE
MECHANICAL SERVICES

PH 02 6542 5196

2 STRATHMORE RD MUSWELLBROOK
www.crjmaintenance.com

COMMERCIAL FLEET SPECIALISTS

FLEET MANAGEMENT
FLEET MAINTENANCE, SERVICE & REPAIRS
TRUCK, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT SERVICE & REPAIR
VEHICLE SET-UPS
COMPLIANCE
GPS TRACKING INSTALLATION & SERVICE
4X4 & OFF-ROAD SPECIALIST
AUTO-ELECTRICAL & TYRES

YOUR ONE STOP FLEET MAINTENANCE SHOP

TRADECORE INDUSTRIES PH (02) 6572 4811
www.tradecore.net.au | 16 MAGPIE ST SINGLETON

MINING MAINTENANCE AND OVERHAUL SPECIALISTS

MAJOR CAPABILITY & EXPERIENCE DELIVERED WITH FAMILY VALUES

Tradecore are your one stop shop for complete maintenance services:

- Fabrications and welding repairs
- Asset management
- Shutdown work and management
- Earthmoving equipment repairs
- Labour Hire
- Light vehicle repairs and servicing
- Equipment and commercial light vehicle hire fleet
- High voltage and auto electrical services

TOP GUNS IN OPEN CUT



diversity of situations on the surface which is a big challenge; it's very different to underground. We provide critical training and safety leadership skills so that in an emergency we can control hazards, stabilise, extricate and treat casualties until external medical care can be provided and do what's needed to get our people home."

CAPTAIN JEREMY BURGESS OF THE WINNING MT ARTHUR TEAM SAID THAT IN THE 11 YEARS HE HAS BEEN A PART OF THE COMPETITION MINES RESCUE HAVE NEVER REPEATED A SCENARIO MAKING IT ALWAYS A CHALLENGE.

Mr Burgess said the win was down to team work and training and also thanked Mt Arthur Coal for their support in making it possible. "Our win is not just a win for our team, but also for Mt Arthur Coal and a reflection on BHP's focus, commitment and investment in building a strong safety culture."

At the end of the day these guys are generally first on the scene in the pit and even in the community at times. First aid is the foundation of what they do, but the rescue training they undertake is what that foundation is built upon.

BHP'S MT ARTHUR WAS NAMED THE 2017 OPEN CUT MINES RESCUE CHAMPIONS WHEN OUR ABOVE GROUND TEAMS PUT THEIR RESCUE SKILLS TO THE TEST.

Teams from across the Hunter Valley and as far reaching as Mudgee competed in the 2017 Annual Open Cut Mines Rescue Competition in Singleton on September 15. Competing mines included Bulga, Mt Owen, Bengalla, Mt Arthur, HVO, MTW, Ravensworth, Wambo, Ulan and Wilpinjong.

YOU ARE IN EXTREMELY SAFE HANDS IF IT ALL GOES WRONG. The teams were assessed on their

ability and response skills across a variety of scenarios including vertical rescue, vehicle extrication, and use of Compressed Air Breathing Apparatus (CABA), industrial and general first aid, firefighting and theory based on extremely realistic emergency response scenarios.

Mr David Connell, Hunter Valley Mines Rescue Regional Manager told us, "The difference between underground and open cut rescue training is the



Fluren

PROVIDING QUALITY SERVICES FROM A COMPANY THAT CARES ABOUT RESULTS



Earthmoving • Mining Services • Polywelding
Rehabilitation • Civil Construction • Land Management

PH 02 4966 8429
www.fluren.com.au



DON'T BREAKDOWN FROM A BREAKUP

WHEN A RELATIONSHIP ENDS YOU ARE LEFT DEALING WITH THE LOSS AND PAIN AS YOU FACE AN UNCERTAIN FUTURE. BUT WHAT THAT FUTURE HOLDS IS ENTIRELY UP TO YOU.

When you planned on spending the rest of your life with someone, having that come to a sudden end will no doubt leave you floundering and unsure of how to forge ahead alone.

Whether the breakup was your decision or not, the hard choices that you must make and the disruption it causes in your life can leave you an emotional wreck. You may suddenly have to worry about finances when you've never had to before, you may be dealing with custody battles and children who are suddenly torn between two parents, and you may suddenly find you are no longer welcome in the home you have had for years.

It's no wonder that you feel your problems are too big to solve and you are left anxious, depressed and maybe even angry. But it's up to you to turn your life around.

Look after yourself - Don't let the situation take over every part of your life. Homecooked meals may not be on the table every night now but that's a perfect excuse to go out for some delicious meals with friends. Hit the gym or go for a walk as those endorphins from exercise will help to make up for the temporary loss in the bedroom.

Ask for help - Friends, family and coworkers all want to help you but don't want to interfere. Don't be afraid to talk to them and ask for advice or help. Sure, some of it will be unwanted but they mean well. If you need to seek specialist help, there are a ton of services available.

Don't blame - Okay so maybe one person is more to blame - them! But pointing fingers and staying angry is not going to help you move on. Avoid venting on social media - this will not help and can have serious repercussions so keep your venting limited to over beers with your best mate.

Put the kids first - If you must continue to have the person in your life, such as a co-parent, it's best to start treating the relationship like a new one. A relationship that is only about the wellbeing of your child and not about your personal lives.

Take a lesson from it - Step back and look at what went wrong and help prevent the same mistakes happening again. Be honest with yourself and use it as an opportunity to grow. Don't dwell on the past as now is the time to focus on the future.



ONE DAY FIRST AID TRAINING



LIFE-SAVING SKILLS FOR JUST \$110

Course includes:

- General First Aid
- CPR
- Basic Life Support

For bookings or information contact:

Hunter Valley
Mines Rescue
(02) 6573 9000

Newcastle
Mines Rescue
(02) 4922 4400

www.minesrescueservices.com.au

Nationally accredited first aid supplier to industry and the community

Mines Rescue Pty Limited (RTO ID 90508)
ABN: 15 099 078 261

THE MEGA MONTHLY MEAT RAFFLE WORTH \$150 COMPLIMENTS OF ROBERT'S MEATS



The Hunters best butcher of hand picked meaty goodness!

FOR YOUR CHANCE TO WIN, SIMPLY SMS: MEAT MASTER AND YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS TO 0438 474 290.

Limit of one entry per person.
LTPM/16/01100

WIN!



PUT THE KETTLE BELL DOWN

AND PICK UP AN ORIGINAL WEBER KETTLE FOR OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES OF A DIFFERENT KIND THIS SUMMER.

Weber's Original Premium Kettle has all the features that made the Original Kettle famous the world over, but this time, instead of an open ash catcher, the PK model features a special high capacity saucepan container that traps the ashes. The two welded bowl handles make it easy to move up and down stairs and feature handy tool hooks for hanging tongs, mitts and grill brushes. Be the boss of the BBQ this summer.

weberbbq.com.au

BUCKLE-UP BUCKAROO

THIS IS IT. THE ULTIMATE TOOL BELT FOR BLOKES WHO TAKE THEIR PRACTICAL FASHION STATEMENTS SERIOUSLY.

The Signature Tradesman's Back Support Tool Belt by Buckaroo is Australian designed, made and owned and offers you the style, sophistication, and most importantly, the support you need for a day on the tools. Only 100% natural Australian wool felt padding is used, which, being natural, means it breathes in warmer climates and insulates in cooler climates. Dead set, the more you wear this belt the more comfortable it gets. Get one.

buckarooleather.com.au



FLIGHT OF THE CONTOUR 60

ALL HAIL THE KING OF CHROME, KINCROME AND THEIR BEAST OF A TOOL BOX, THE 500-PIECE CONTOUR 60 TOOL TROLLEY. IT'S GOT ROOM FOR JUST ABOUT EVERY TOOL YOU THINK OF, EXCEPT, MAYBE YOUR BOSS.

If you're after a sleek and stylish box to store your tools in then look no further than this glossy powdered coated box by Kingcrome. The CONTOUR 60 is a thing of beauty. It's got chamfered embossed side panels, custom 'Automatic Drawer Retention' locking system, super heavy duty 'Big Grip' side carry handles and trolley handle, plus side folding work trays, MDF worktop and easy manoeuvrability.

allweldservices.com.au

STINGING TO GET OUT ON THE WATER

SUMMER'S COMING AND YOU'VE GOT TO BLOW YOUR PAY CHECK ON SOMETHING, RIGHT? HOW ABOUT A BOAT?

Leave the boating hive mind behind and head out on the water this summer on the Stealth Hornet 530 by Quintrex. Weighing in at only 630 kg, capable of handling up to 150hp, and rated up to four people, the Stealth Hornet 530 has more storage, more comfort, and more safety features, including the optional Stealth Hornet Deluxe Rod Locker for optimal rod and reel storage that will be the envy of all your fishing buddies. Grab the old Ugly Stick and tell 'em all you've gone fishin'.

quintrex.com.au



YOU'VE COME A LONG WAY KOMBI

THIS SHAGGIN' WAGON HAS NEVER LOOKED SO SEXY.

Imagine driving up to Bimbadeen look-out in this thing. So long as you don't get car jacked beforehand, you'll certainly boost your chances of getting lucky if you take your date in Volkswagen's new concept Kombi, the ID Buzz. With futuristic LED headlights, yellow ambient exterior lighting, and illuminated badging, the ID Buzz is powered by VW's Modular Electric Drive for a combined power output of 275kW, getting you from zero to 100km/h (and second base) in 5 seconds.

volkswagen.com.au

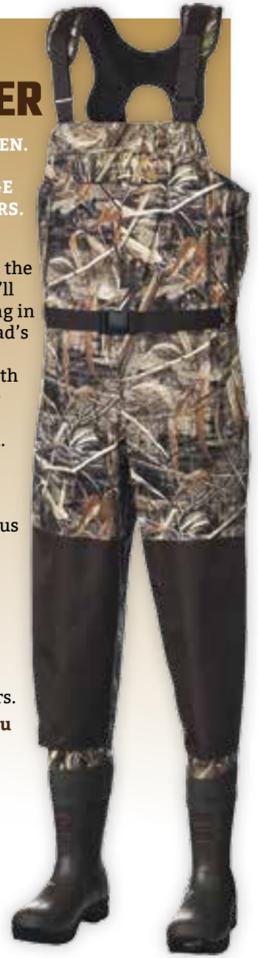


WADE IN THE WATER

TROUT SEASON IS OPEN. GO PRO WITH THE NEW REDHEAD ROUGE WATERPROOF WADERS.

The sun is shinin', the streams a runnin' and the fish are bitin' and you'll be dry as a bone wading in the water with RedHead's Rouge Waterproof Waders. Durable as with breathable membrane technology for 100% waterproof protection. Fully adjustable suspenders with neoprene padding for maximum comfort, plus the boots are molded rubber for superior traction and come lined with patented 3M Thinsulate Ultra insulation to shield your feet from the cold stream waters.

basspro.com.au



Mining Tyre Group

THE LEADERS IN MINING TYRE SERVICE, SUPPLY & REPAIR

Kal Tire Muswellbrook repairs all sizes of earthmover tyres and specialise in the complete range of tyre management services for mining and industry.

The facility has an extensive history and reputation for quality repairs within the Hunter Valley over the last 25 years.

The Muswellbrook repair facility has long term experienced and qualified tyre repairers who work and live in the Hunter Valley and is a locally based employer.

PH 02 6542 5281

28 STRATHMORE ROAD MUSWELLBROOK

e: Australia@kaltire.com www.kaltiremining.com



HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO US... THANKS FOR THE SUPPORT!



To celebrate our first year we are giving away an **MDC DELUXE OFF ROAD CAMPER TRAILER!**

Complete with tent, annexe and a host of other accessories.*

RANGER WILDTRAK
FOR IMMEDIATE DELIVERY



NAVARA BLACK EDITION
IN STOCK NOW INCLUDING OTHER COLOURS

*CAMPER TRAILER GIVEAWAY T&C'S: TO GIVE THOSE AN OPPORTUNITY WHO HAVE ALREADY BOUGHT A CAR OFF US THE WINNER WILL NOT BE LIMITED TO THOSE WHO BUY A CAR THROUGHOUT THE PROMOTION. IN SHORT IT WILL RUN FOR 3 MONTHS AND THE WINNER WILL BE DRAWN FROM THOSE WHO WITHIN THE PROMOTION PERIOD EITHER HAVE THEIR VEHICLE SERVICED WITH US, PURCHASE SPARE PARTS FROM US OR BUY A CAR. FULL TERMS AND CONDITIONS ARE ON DISPLAY AT THE DEALERSHIP. PRIZE WILL BE DRAWN ON THE 1ST OF DECEMBER.



45 John St, Singleton
Phone: (02) 4040 6200
www.singletonford.com.au



CODY HEFFERENAN

"IT'S THE BULLS AND THE BLOOD, AND THE DUST AND THE MUD. IT'S THE ROPES AND THE REINS AND THE JOY AND THE PAIN, AND THEY CALL THE THING RODEO..." ON HIS RECENT RETURN HOME TO SINGLETON, 2016 AUSTRALIAN PBR CHAMPION, CODY HEFFERENAN SAT DOWN WITH AND SHARED WHAT IT'S LIKE TO GO HEAD TO HEAD WITH A CRANKY-ASS, BUCKING BULL EACH NIGHT IN THE PBR.

G'day Cody, Thanks for taking time to have a chat with @TheCoalface. When did you start bull riding and how did you get into this mad sport?

I rode my first calf when I was four after being encouraged by my older siblings. I rode sparingly until I was around seven or eight, and that's when I started to develop a competitive nature to win and really wanted to learn to ride bulls properly. You've certainly done that, mate. What would you say is your favourite thing about riding bulls professionally?

There's just something about the thrill of lasting eight seconds that keeps me coming back. It's such

a great feeling whenever you complete a high scoring ride in a packed stadium and the crowd is going nuts. I also love doing autograph signings with the kids. They look up to you like you're a superhero, which is always a humbling experience. It only feels like a short time ago that I was one of those little kids. Plus, I get to travel the world doing something that I love.

Aside from the tough competition, how is the PBR different from other bull riding competitions?

It doesn't get any bigger or tougher than the PBR. It's definitely the big leagues with the world's best bull riders riding the very toughest bulls. The thing about it too is that it's not just a bull-riding comp,

it's three-hour high class entertainment show with fireworks and loud music, a bit of comedy from the clown based around one of the most dangerous events in the world; bull riding. **How does it feel when you climb up on an angry bull and prepare to ride it right before the chute opens?**

I'm just trying to give myself the best opportunity to go the distance with the bull and win. I need to be supremely confident in my ability to match my moves with the bull, whatever bull it happens to be. I'm relaxed, yet ready for that explosive moment when the chute comes open. I need to be as calm as I can in the chute, not panicky and rushing, otherwise the bull will know.

Whenever we watch blokes like you in that position we often wonder what goes through your mind while that bull thrashes about as it tries to knock you off?

Basically, stay on. You know, his moves are so quick that you don't really have time to think about it. All my moves are pre-programmed; muscle memory would be the best way to describe it. I'm just focused on making that eight seconds, being calm but aggressive with my moves as the ride unfolds.

Who would you say is the toughest bull you've ever ridden in competition?

Some of the best bulls in Australia that have thrown everybody off including myself are Cocaine, Storm Boy and Unbroken. The toughest bull I've ever made the eight on would be a bull called Shepard Hills Trapper. That was in Anaheim, California. He was giving everybody problems that night, because of his unpredictability, his quick front feet and his belly rolls. He's a very tough bull

that I was able to make look easy by training properly and believing in my ability. That ride felt flawless.

What's one word that you think best sums up what you do?

Without a doubt, balance. I rely heavily on great balance when riding, you just can't out muscle a bull. But also being able to have a great balance and order with other things in my life is very important to my success in the PBR arena.

What do you look forward to most when you come back home to Singleton to ride in front of your home crowd?

To be honest, I look forward to only having to drive five minutes to the Singleton Showgrounds and not have to deal with airports or motels (haha). But, obviously, being able to compete at home and having plenty of family and friends come watch is great because they only get to see me compete live a few times a year. When it comes down to getting on the bull, I'm going to treat it like any other event. I want to win.



SPEED DEMONS

LIKE A BLAST OF ANFO IN AN OPEN-CUT PIT, OUR REGION'S RACING TALENT CONTINUES TO BLOW US AWAY HERE AT @THECOALFACE.

Between Speedway rider Jason Doyle, who's just about to wrap up his maiden world championship title at the Torun Speedway Grand Prix in Poland, and local young bloke, Ryan Smith from Singleton, who's absolutely killing it in the Australian Dirt Bike Racing scene, we reckon there must be something in the water that makes our young speed racers so good.

Speedway champ, Jason Doyle has been braining it all season long in the Speedway World Championships

with the Novocastrian tipped to edge out his rivals and take the title with flying colours after a dominating performance at the Stockholm Grand Prix, which saw his lead stretch out to a commanding 22 points. However, Doyle says it's not all about winning.

"It's not all about winning the final; I am very happy with the points I scored tonight," Doyle told Speedwaygp.com. "Who would have dreamt that I could get 18 points in a GP and extend my lead?"

We did, Jason. You can see Jason race

THE SHOUT'S ON US!



WIN A CASE OF XXXX GOLD TO CELEBRATE THE GOOD TIMES THANKS TO THE CLUBHOUSE.

For your chance to win, simply SMS: CHEERS SOL and your email address to 0438 474 290.

Limit of one entry per person. LTPM/16/01100



SPORT @ THE COALFACE IS BROUGHT TO YOU BY THE CLUBBY AND LOCAL LIQUOR



around the track and (hopefully) win and be crowned champion at the Australian Grand Prix in Melbourne this month, on October 28th.

MEANWHILE, YOUNG BLOKE AND DIRT BIKE SPEED DEMON, RYAN SMITH HAS BEEN GOING HARD AND FAST IN THE 85CC 2-STROKE AND 150CC4-STROKE UNDER 13S RACING CATEGORIES, TAKING OUT SILVER AT THE AUSTRALIAN JUNIOR DIRT BIKE TRACK CHAMPIONSHIPS IN TAREE BACK IN SEPTEMBER.

With his friends and family cheering him on from the side lines, Smith kept his cool and claimed second spot on the podium with a blistering ride full of speed, agility and phenomenal energy that left much of the field eating his dust and sets him up well,

going into next season.

Despite the season being over, Smith is not keen to slow down just yet. He said he was already stinging to get out and race next year in a new age category, the U16s, which will require him to ride an even bigger bike. Yew!

RYAN SMITH



Process Equipment
Wear Prevention
Asset Management
Engineering and Mechanical



Providing industrial solutions since 1978

www.hicservices.com.au

The Clubby
CLUB HOUSE HOTEL

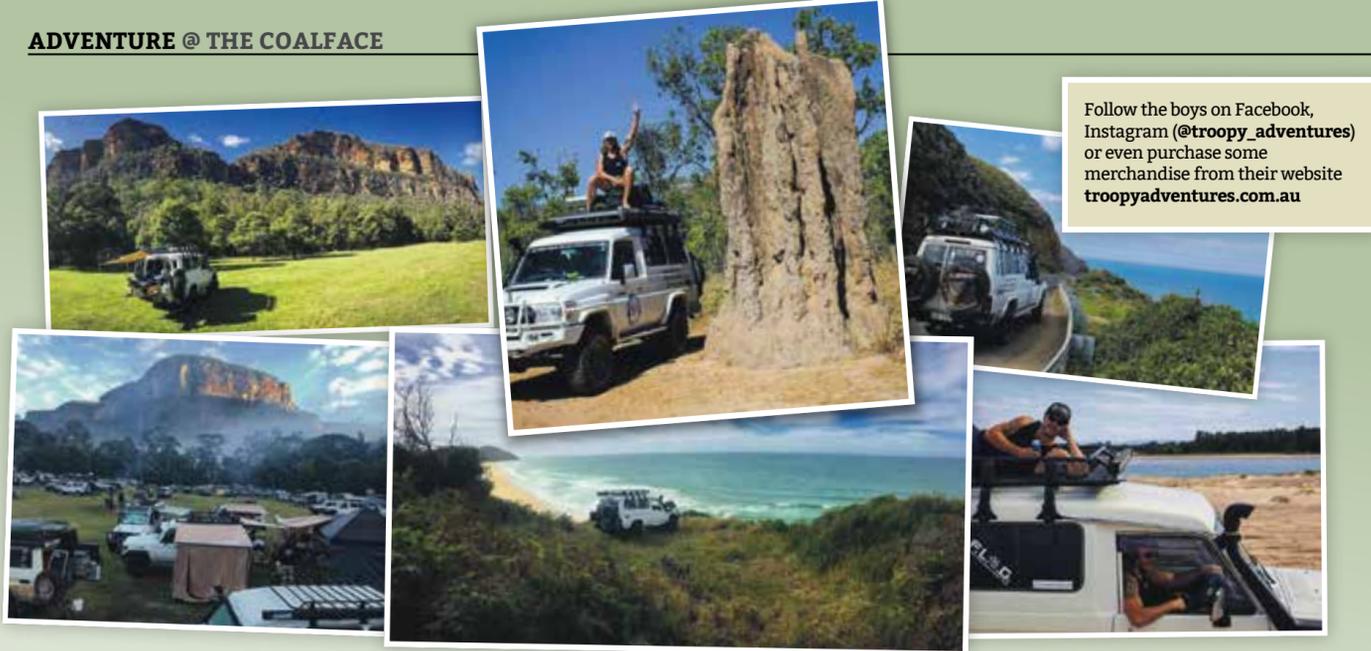


Tell 'em
SOL
sent ya!

If you can't find us...
try harder.

LOCAL LIQUOR
THERE'S ONE NEAR YOU

Singleton's home of sport, beer, betting, tucker, drive through and good times!



Follow the boys on Facebook, Instagram (@troopy_adventures) or even purchase some merchandise from their website troopyadventures.com.au

A REAL PAIR OF TROOPERS

TROOPY ADVENTURES ORIGINATED AS A SIMPLE FACEBOOK PAGE FOR A COUPLE OF BLOKES TO SHARE UPDATES OF THEIR OUTDOOR ADVENTURES WITH THEIR FAMILY AND FRIENDS AND IS NOW AN INTERNET SENSATION.

For those uninitiated, Troopy is short for Troopcarrier as in Landcruiser! Over the course of their travels and adventures, Cal and Dan have gained a loyal following. Not only from fellow adventure lovers, but from people of all ages and from all walks of life. Hunter Valley born and bred with a mining background, the boys have ticked off plenty of amazing destinations, local and abroad. With plenty more

adventures on the drawing board, good times look set to keep on rolling.

Cal told us, "Like most Aussie blokes and sheila's, we both love nothing more than getting out there, tipping a few tins by a fire and spinning a yarn with good mates whether it's the bush, beach or even the odd night away on our Harley's."

AND GET OUT THERE THESE TWO DO! ONE LOOK AT THEIR FACEBOOK PAGE

'TROOPY ADVENTURES' (WHICH YOU SHOULD 'LIKE') AND IT'S CLEAR THE BOYS HAVE PERFECTED THE ART OF GETTING AWAY FROM IT ALL. AND THEY'RE NOT ALONE.

This Troopy religion has a lot of followers that have learnt that life is not all about stress and hard work. Cal and Dan are proof and a bloody good example of what you can get out of life with the right attitude – and of course a troop carrier.

When not getting as far away from the rat race as they can, Dan is keeping the dream alive at Mount Thorley Warkworth and Cal was made redundant when the controversial

Drayton South Project couldn't get up and running. Cal is now a personal trainer working out of Snap Fitness in Cessnock.

The Troopy's are community minded too. "Every July, Dan and I along with our friends at Troopcarriers of Australia host a charity event called "The Winter Ramble". The aim is to get as many troopcarriers as possible to the event and raise money for a charity of our choosing. This year we had just under two hundred troopcarriers and raised just over thirteen thousand dollars for the Black Dog institute," Cal proudly boasted.

Keep on Troopin' lads.



SPRING BRINGS WARMER WEATHER AND NIBBLE TIME

WE RECKON YOU COULD CRACK A BASS IN THE BATHTUB AT THE MOMENT WITH ANY SORT OF WOBBLE GETTING THE GOBBLE IN LAKE ST CLAIR AND GLENBAWN AS THEY ARE FIRING ON ALL CYLINDERS.

The natives in Hunter River and creeks are also fishing well with plenty of good sessions recently to report. Fishing from the tinny in the Hunter had us landing a few good bass and we were also surprised to land a river golden perch.

LOCAL LAKE MAC

It's been a while between casts down in the lake though from all reports the bream and flatties in the system are cranking. Plenty of pics floating around of some serious fish, especially the crocs, and soft vibes are proving to be the key to success.

The perfect plan B in and around the Lake and channel are the Aussie salmon. Still holding in huge numbers though watch out for the birds working above the fish. Best method of attack is to arm yourself with small metal lures or plastics and work them though the schooled fish but be mindful to take a stealth approach while targeting the sambos as they will shut down as soon as they are fired up with boat noise and traffic.

OFFSHORE

The offshore scene continues to roll on with the snapper fishing continuing to prove hot and cold with the fish firing up and shutting down day to day. Some cracker snapper to report from the better days with most reef edges and gravel patches fishing well using plastics and micro jigs.

Bombing sand flathead along the forty metre has proven very productive lately as we move into the warmer months.

October is the month to hit the wider reefs with bar cod and kings before the currents fire back up.

Kings have also started to show up in the shallows with word from the Spearos of some serious hoods working the local washes around the Bay.

YOUNG GUN OF THE MONTH

Kobi and his old man Daniel recently enjoyed a session together on Lake St Clair and the young fella reports that trolling his Basko Cudgee 45 over the weed beds has been very productive.

Keep floatin' – Thrifty's



THE Bloomfield GROUP

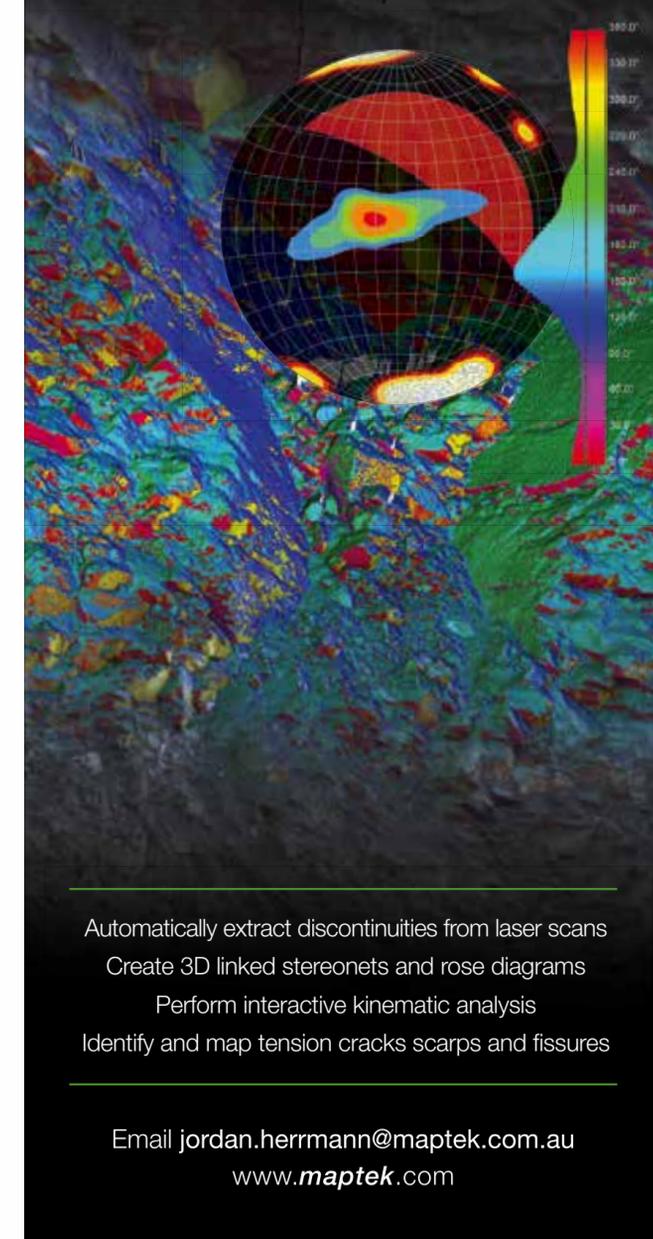
Things would be a bit dark without coal.

Bloomfield Group – Proud Australian producers of coal for power and steel since 1937



Geotechnical analysis tools help minimise risk

Fast, accurate results support safe operational decisions



- Automatically extract discontinuities from laser scans
- Create 3D linked stereonet and rose diagrams
- Perform interactive kinematic analysis
- Identify and map tension cracks scarp and fissures

Email jordan.herrmann@maptek.com.au
www.maptek.com

APEX PREDATOR



TO KEEP THIS MACHINE WORKING RELIABLY, REQUIRED FOUR SHIFT CREWS, WITH SEVEN EMPLOYEES PER CREW. EACH CREW WITH AN OPERATOR, OILER, ELECTRICIAN, WELDER, GENERAL LABOURER AND TWO GROUND MEN OPERATING DOZERS TO MAINTAIN THE DRAGLINES WORKING BENCH. MY MIND SIMPLY BOGGLES!

Now I know that there will be those among you, that will argue that this machine may not have been the largest and depending upon the metric you use, you may well be right. By weight, I admit, 'Big Muskie' was pipped by other machines however, by capacity (and let's face it, this is the only true metric that miners and

corporates truly appreciate), 'Big Muskie' was the largest single bucket earthmoving machine ever created. If she were an Olympic wrestler, on 'Power to Weight', she would be crowned grand champion. To put it into perspective, when eventually stripped in the '90's, the steel recycled would have been enough to make over 9,000 cars...

Given such stats, it's of little surprise why these mining machines captured the minds of generations. With names including 'Big Hog', 'Brutus', 'The Captain' and 'Big Muskie', these machines were human marvels. I encourage you to Google these names, I guarantee you'll be amazed their history.

This error was not intentional and certainly was not to deceive, for when it comes to large hydraulic excavators they are indeed the largest machines that you can load with. There is however a larger 'apex predator', a machine that tops all others, a machine so big in size that it makes all others pale into insignificance and it is my friends, the dragline. When massive amounts of overburden must be removed economically, there is simply no other type of machine that can dig deeper and more efficiently than the dragline. With large

working radiuses and their immense ability in moving dirt, the dragline can dig one area and deposit overburden circa 500 to 600 feet away. And so, it was in 1969, the world's largest dragline was officially commissioned for service. Manufactured by the then Bucyrus-Erie (now Caterpillar), she was a mammoth machine of gigantic proportion and christened 'Big Muskie'. The stats say it all. She was 22 stories tall, weighed 14,000 metric tons, was circa 500 ft long with boom down and had a bucket size (cop this) of 220 cubic yards (circa 168 cubic metres).

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

The easiest way to buy and sell heavy equipment components

WE SOURCE AND SELL COMPONENTS GLOBALLY TO KEEP YOU MOVING

COMPONENTS ONLY

1300 726 801
WWW.COMPONENTSONLY.COM.AU



FAMILY FUN

WANT TO KNOW A GREAT PLACE TO SPEND A FUN FILLED DAY WITH THE FAMILY? LOOK NO FURTHER THAN GJ'S BY THE LAKE.



CHEERS!

WITH ALL THE RAVE ABOUT ORGANIC BEING GOOD FOR YOU, @ THE COALFACE DECIDED TO GET ONTO THE ORGANIC BANDWAGON.

Yep, we've just discovered organic wine which we're told will help prevent a hangover. We have three bottles of AcSELLa organic wine to give away so one lucky reader so they can try for themselves.

For your chance to win, simply SMS: ORGANIC and your email address to 0438 474 290.

Limit of one entry per person.
LTPM/16/01100



Located between Muswellbrook and Singleton at Lake Liddell Sports and Recreation Park is a venue that will guarantee excitement, laughter and probably a few screams too (whether in fear or delight will depend on you!).

@ The Coalface was lucky enough to be invited to attend the opening of GJ's newest attraction – a state of the art go-kart track. Now I've been around the track a few times when it comes to go-karts, and I can tell you this track is as good as they get. Plenty of spots to put your pedal to the metal and a couple of tricky corners to keep you challenged. Being new, the track hasn't had much rubber laid down on it yet so the extra slide around the corners is an added thrill.

Once I'd taken out the competition on the track (doesn't matter if they were only 8 and 10 years old, a win is a win), it was time to check out the climbing

wall. The auto-belaying system meant I didn't need to rope in a buddy (pun intended!) The wall has four different levels of difficulty and all you need to do is clip in and up you go. If you make it to the top it's worth taking a minute to check out the view.

GJ's also has laser tag which is a family favourite. With everything from helicopters to boats to bunkers to hide in or behind as you settle old rivalries with your opponents. And if that's not enough to keep you entertained they also offer indoor skydiving with speeds hitting 160KPH. Working at GJ's is a team of friendly and welcoming staff, whether it was moving my kart back in the right direction after every stack with a smile or giving me tips to conquer the climbing wall, they all helped create a welcoming atmosphere and make it a great day.

And it's all thanks to owners Ged and Julie Elphinstone. Muswellbrook born and bred, these two friendly locals had been working hard until the closure of Lake Liddell last year meant a huge blow for their camping ground business. But instead of closing their doors and walking away, they decided to go all in and turn their camping ground into a premium entertainment venue.

Because they're not stopping with the new go-karts. Plans are underway for a speedway and more which are set to turn GJ's in one of the Upper Hunters best attractions.

So, get your family to GJ's for a bloody good time and to support a great local family owned business.



ADVANCED PHOTONICS AUSTRALIA

FIRE AVOIDANCE | FIRE DETECTION | CONDITION MONITORING



FIGHT FIRE WITH FIBRE WITH OUR DISTRIBUTED TEMPERATURE SENSING

FOR MORE INFORMATION
www.apapl.com.au
or call 1800 571 828



FIRE DETECTION
Features ruggedised stainless steel fibre cable, that is immune to EMI, requires no calibration and has a 40 year life span.

CONDITION MONITORING
Long distance temperature measurement for conveyor idler bearings, HV cable thermal mapping & switchboard busbars.



IT'S WORTH HEADIN' TO HEDDON GRETA

EACH SPRING I GIVE THE KINGSWOOD ITS ANNUAL TUNE UP BEFORE TAKING IT AND THE MISSUS FOR A SPIN TO CLEAN OUT HER COBWEBS - THE CAR THAT IS, THE MISSUS ONLY LETS ME TAKE HER FOR A TUNE UP AND SPIN ON MY BIRTHDAY IF YOU KNOW WHAT I MEAN.

Get your mind out of the gutter you perverts, that proceeding comment refers to our annual visit to Tunncurry Van Park for a few days, which we always do to celebrate the joyous day of my birth.

Anyway, back to the Kingswood's day of the year where she gets to decide where we are going. Now I know most blokes love their motor, but as your head of state and Pieminister I'm telling you mine's the best. It's as if this six cylinder, gold painted piece of engineering and design excellence has a mind of its own. After 432,000 km's of faithful service she has never broken down and always tells me what she needs.

When I bought her two days after getting my licence in '75, it was from a retired nun who left the church after falling in love and breaking her vows with the parish handyman one balmy August night in scandal that rocked the village she lived in - Heddon Greta. With only 5000k's on the clock and having only ever been driven to church on Sundays, the car was as pure and uncorrupted as Snow White before she hooked up with the seven dwarfs.

On the day, we set off from Pielament House with a determined roar and headed south on the freeway before she gently took us left off the Maitland exit where the first stop is...you guessed it... Heddon Greta. Before long the Kingswood spluttered to a broken down stop for the first time in her life. I couldn't believe it, she has never let me down.

Soon I was to learn neither would she this time. Perhaps she heard the groans in my gut. She may have read my mind. As I got out to see what the problem was all my problems disappeared as I looked up to see the Heddon Greta Bakehouse right there in front of me. It drew me in, we feasted on a quick dozen. Damn good pies! I reckon it was divine intervention from the old nun. Back in the car a gentle turn of the key brought the old girl back to life as if nothing had ever happened and we purred forth back up the highway after an emotional visit to the place of her journeys beginnings as a young mechanical lass. And I learnt that Heddon Greta is worth visiting for more than the Hunters last drive in. They do a bloody good pie too. **Bless you children - Sol**



GETTING BETTER WITH AGE

IT'S SAID THAT WHEN YOU ARE PASSIONATE ABOUT WHAT YOU DO YOU NEVER WORK A DAY IN YOUR LIFE. THAT'S TRUE FOR LISA AND ANDREW MARGAN WHOSE PASSION AND HARD WORK SEES THEIR BUSINESS GET BETTER EVERY YEAR, JUST LIKE A GOOD WINE.

The few times I've been to Margan's for lunch the experience they have created makes it feel more like a special long lunch at a friend's instead of a fine dining restaurant. Even though the place looks like a million bucks, it's as friendly and relaxed as a backyard barbie. Located in Broke this place is worth the drive. The business was established in 1996 and is surrounded by 100 hectares of vineyards, a state of the art winery, cellar door and the award-winning restaurant.

THE DAY WE WENT WE DIDN'T BOTHER TELLING THEM WE WERE DOING A REVIEW BECAUSE WE HADN'T PLANNED TO. THE MISSUS AND I WERE JUST OUT FOR A GREAT LUNCH BUT BY THE END OF IT I WAS SO IMPRESSED BY THE PLACE AND THE FOOD I JUST HAD TO WRITE ABOUT IT.

Straight away we were offered a drink and instantly a cold beer was in my hand then down my throat. I like that kind of service. And the

girl serving us only got better as the day wore on. If the standard she set was upheld at every place we went then I'm sorry to say at least 99% of waiters would be out of a job. I could certainly get used to that service. I'll stop blowing wind up the service and save some for the tucker. We went for the 5-course tasting menu because we are lazy and suspected whatever we ordered would be good. While the beers kept flowing, we also decided to go with a

MARGAN 5 COURSE MENU
Hens egg Jerusalem artichoke celeriac and parmesan
Roast scallop bonito butter and garden brassicas
Pork belly, apple fennel and crackling
Jack's Creek angus rump cap, leek, potato and onion
Margan citrus curd, granite vanilla and meringue

glass of each of the matching wines to try and look posh - it was a good idea. I'm not going to talk about each separate dish in detail because this was a meal that can be described in one thought. 'Everything tastes better than you expect and leaves you wanting more even though you are stuffed by the end.' The menu we had in the box above had no duds and showed how great this place really is.

Now in its tenth year, Margan's base their menus around what comes out of their one-acre kitchen garden. What they don't grow they source from the local area including Wagyu beef, pigs from Krinklewood biodynamic farm, mushrooms, olive oil and farm gate produce from Broke. Make your way to Margan's - Thank me later.

TITAN TECHNICIANS ENTERPRISE

Titan Technicians are your industry leading labour hire experts in the hunter valley for the past 6 six years.

Currently seeking new employees for all of the below-mentioned job title's for immediate start...

- FITTERS
- ELECTRICIANS
- SERVICEMEN
- TRADES ASSISTANTS
- FIRE WATCHERS
- SUPERVISORS
- PLANNERS

TITAN TECHNICIANS CONTINUALLY PROVIDE ONGOING TRAINING TO IMPROVE EMPLOYEE SKILL SETS

Email: labour@titantech.com.au phone: 02 4966 2551 address: 25D Sandringham Ave Thornton NSW 2322

WIA BLUEFX

Protection, Comfort & Performance at an Affordable Price

- SUITS MIG, STICK, TIG & PLASMA CUTTING
- 2 ARC SENSORS
- GRIND MODE
- MEETS AUSTRALIAN STANDARDS
- HIGH IMPACT RATING
- 1 YEAR WARRANTY

NOW IN STOCK AT ALLWELD SERVICES

ALLWELD

BERESFIELD | MUSWELLBROOK | EAST MAITLAND
1300 663 888

@ THE COALFACE TRIVIA

BROUGHT TO YOU BY THE SINGLETON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Where is the Aberdare Central Colliery Poppet Head located?

What is the oldest pub in Cessnock?

What road contributed to the settlement of Cessnock?

Answers next month.

1. Original name of Greta's first mine? **Anvil Creek Colliery**
2. What year did the Branxton railway station open? **1862**
3. Before being renamed Branxton, what was the settlement known as? **Black Creek**



@ THE COALFACE PRIZE WINNERS

VOLUME 2 - NO 1: SEPTEMBER - OCTOBER 2017

Cheesecake Shop Gift Vouchers - jamaslen005@bigpond.com, carrji1711@gmail.com, jmcarter76@hotmail.com, kbeavis68@hotmail.com

Roberts Meats Monthly Meat Raffle - skegabite@live.com.au

CAT Diecast & Accessories - alancummings48@hotmail.com

Clubhouse XXXX - ookmook@yahoo.com.au

Bunnings Gift Voucher - ezzybezzy@hotmail.com

Margan Wines - ashleighwilliams10@live.com.au

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL OUR WINNERS!



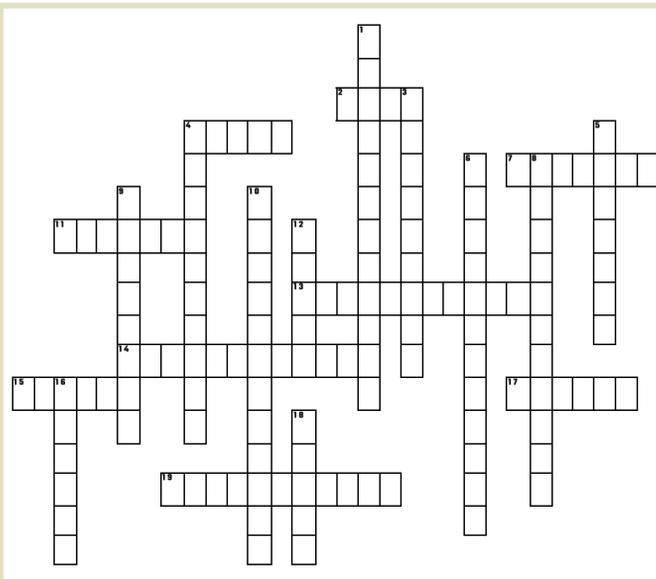
@ THE COALFACE CROSSWORD

ACROSS

2. What colour was St Patrick's Day originally associated with (4)
4. What colour was Ford's first Model T automobile available in (5)
7. Which civil war began in 1936 (7)
11. What ship sunk in 1912 (7)
13. The Declaration of what was created in 1776 (12)
14. Which Christopher Columbus ship ran aground on his first voyage (2,5,5)
15. Ireland's Great Famine in 1845 was due to the collapse of this crop (6)
17. The Roman name for the goddess Hecate (6)
19. Surname of the first billionaire in the US (11)

DOWN

1. Dictator assassinated on the Ides of March (7,6)
3. Name of the English Queen born in 1926 (9)
4. Pirate Edward Teach was better known by this name (10)
5. Surname of the first person to climb Mt Everest (7)
6. Who painted the Sistine Chapel (12)
8. US mail service started in 1860 (4,7)
9. In 1815 Napoleon suffered defeat here (8)
10. What was the first toy advertised on TV (2,6,4)
12. Chopsticks originated in this country (5)
16. How many years are in a score (6)
18. The most popular board game of all time (5)



WEIGH ANCHOR ON YOUR ALL WORK COMMITMENTS FOR A WHILE, HEAD NORTH AND PREPARE TO EAT, DRINK, SLEEP AND WAKE UP TO THE SOUND OF WAVES LAPPING AGAINST THE HULL OF YOUR CHARTED YACHT. WELCOME TO THE WHITSUNDAYS.

You don't need a boat license to go sailing around the Whitsunday's. There are plenty of companies operating out of Airlie Beach - gateway to the Great Barrier Reef - in the sunny climes of tropical north Queensland. Companies who are willing and waiting to take you, your family, and friends out on a relaxing voyage around one of the most beautiful places in the world. On a recent trip to XXXX Gold country, we booked an epic 6-day sailing adventure with Charter Yachts Australia, who gave us the experience of a lifetime by taking us to some of the best spots to go - walking across white sands, seeing historic rock art and the rugged beauty of the headlands, taking a stroll through rainforest teaming with wildlife, and, of course, sailing over the gorgeous turquoise waters of the Whitsundays. Here's how it played out.

Day One we left Abell Point Marina and sailed a few hours across the Whitsunday Passage to get to our first night's destination, the Nara Inlet on Hook Island. We anchored

for an overnight stay before taking a short ride by tender to a walking track on the island that leads to some ancient Aboriginal Caves and a spectacular waterfall. A bit of lunch under the waterfall and we were back on the boat for a swim and snooze before tea.

Day Two and we sailed through (Captain) Hook Passage, east toward Border Island. The snorkelling around here is top notch. We saw plenty of colourful life under the waves at Butterfly Bay before taking a short walk up to the top of the island to gaze out into panoramic views of the islands beyond. Pure magic.

Day Three was made for recharging the batteries after a couple of busy days, relaxing. Haha. We spent the day cruising around Butterfly Bay, through Blue Pearl Bay to end up at Stonehaven, we dropped anchor for the night, cracked a few cold ones, sat back and watched the sun light up the sky before settling in below the water horizon.

Day Four was definitely a favourite amongst the kids. Stopping in



briefly to Hamilton Island for resupplies and check out how the other half lived it wasn't long before we were pushing away from our yacht and paddling solo in a couple of the on-board kayaks, stopping every now and then to get wet and see what's doing underneath the waves at Plantation Bay.

Day Five was probably the most touristy of all the days, but definitely one of the most spectacular. Conditions were good, so we floated on down to Whitehaven Beach, via Shaw Island. The beach is made up of 98% pure silica and literally shimmers in the sun as we stepped off to explore the walking tracks and trails of this

naturally beautiful island. **Day Six** and I think it's safe to say that everyone on the boat, even the crew were feeling very relaxed by this stage. Waking up at first light, we caught an amazing sunrise across the water before weighing anchor and slowly making our way back to civilisation. But not before we sailed past Bauer Bay for one last snorkel next to South Molle Island. Soon it was time to become a land lover again, back to Abell Point Marina and then straight to the pub for one last hurrah. Seriously, if you've ever thought about sailing across the seas of the Whitsunday's, don't think about it. Just do it.

MACHEnergy

PROUD TO BE MAKING THE FUTURE HAPPEN

SPEND LOCAL EMPLOY LOCAL **BE LOCAL...**

machenergyaustralia.com.au

ALFABS

1300 253 227

QUALITY ON TIME

ENGINEERING
 LOGISTICS
 PROTECTIVE COATING
 SITE SERVICES
 MINING
 EQUIPMENT HIRE
 RAIL

ALFABS GROUP HUNTER VALLEY WOLLONGONG MACKAY www.alfabs.com.au

DON'T BE FUELISH – GET A SMARTROC

Save up to **50% fuel**

High pen rates, great hole accuracy, smart engine and compressor management, **50% less hoses....**

Is SmartROC the most fuel efficient drill rig in the world?

Go to ***mostfuelefficient.com*** and see for yourself

Atlas Copco

