

HUNTER INDUSTRY, COMMUNITY, SPORTS & ENTERTAINMENT

@THE COAL FACE

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FREE



THE YEAR THAT WAS 2020

INDUSTRY, GOVERNMENT AND
COMMUNITY LEADERS REFLECT BACK
ON THE YEAR THAT WAS 2020 AND
THEIR HOPES FOR 2021.

PAGE 22-29

MIGHTY MACHINES

HUNTER VALLEY OPERATIONS
HAS INVESTED IN TWO NEW
STATE-OF-THE-ART MACHINES.

PAGE 12

Brauntell
MINING PARTS

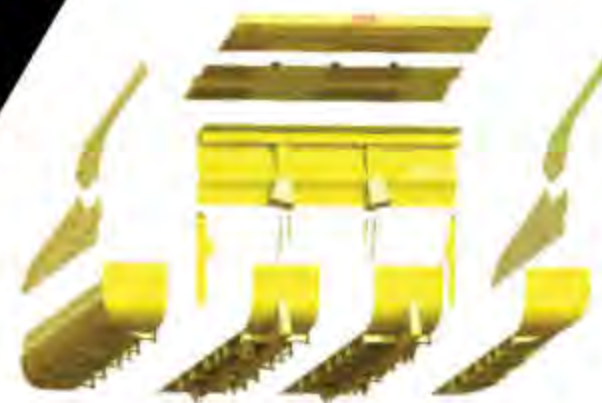


The **Future of Haul
Truck Trays** has
Arrived

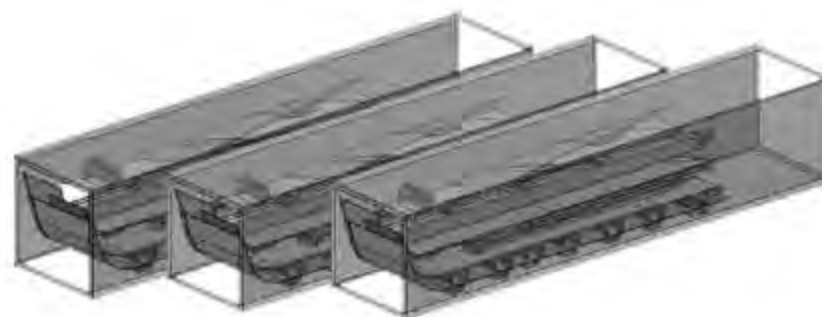
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OPINION

LOOKING TO A BETTER 2021

LAST NEW YEAR'S EVE I DON'T THINK ANYONE WOULD HAVE PREDICTED THE CHALLENGES WE WOULD FACE AS A COMMUNITY, A STATE AND AS A NATION IN 2020.

Like everyone else, the Hunter mining sector was affected by the pandemic, with slowing global economic growth continuing to put downward pressure on coal prices.

THE RESILIENCE OF OUR MINERS AND OUR MINING COMMUNITIES DURING 2020 HAS BEEN ABSOLUTELY AMAZING.

As an industry, we knew the first priority was to keep our miners, their families and our communities safe. Thanks to the commitment of our local mining workforce and our supplier business partners, we've been able to keep operating in our local communities while keeping our people COVID-safe.

This magnificent effort has been recognised by our political leaders on both sides of politics in NSW, who have regularly expressed their respect and support for our industry and those who work in it.

The recent State Budget also delivered a win for mining communities, with a further \$75 million in funding through the Resources for Regions program for 24 eligible mining-related local

councils to invest in local projects to improve their communities.

NOW WE LOOK TOWARD THE RECOVERY THAT WE ALL HOPE 2021 WILL BRING. COAL PRICES ARE SLOWLY INCREASING AGAIN AS THE COVID-19 ECONOMIC RECOVERY CONTINUES, AND SOLID DEMAND IS EXPECTED ACROSS OUR MAIN EXPORT MARKETS IN THE ASIA-PACIFIC REGION.

While there have been some jobs lost in our sector, the NSW Government's Coal Strategy released earlier this year provides a welcome roadmap that will hopefully see more investment in mining projects and more mining jobs.

The NSW Minerals Council will continue our strong advocacy on behalf of the Hunter coal industry and the mining families and communities that rely on it.

I wish all our members, miners, suppliers and their families a Happy Christmas and a safe and prosperous New Year.

Stephen Galilee, CEO,
NSW Minerals Council

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THANK YOU

AS 2020 COMES TO A CLOSE WE WANT TO WISH YOU ALL A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS AND THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT.

2020 has been a hell of a year. The pandemic has impacted all of us in varying degrees and it's clear that our lives will never be quite the same again. But although we've all experienced so many hardships, the pandemic has brought people together like never seen before (well not physically together obviously...)

There have been so many stories this year that have inspired us. Community groups supporting those less fortunate, businesses striving to keep their workers safe, innovations brought to fruition to combat Covid, and so many small acts of kindness.

And big acts of kindness too.

We recapped this month the amazing generosity from Glencore throughout the year, spending millions of dollars on local communities, on a vaccine, even our furry friends got a helping hand.

We also loved hearing from our leaders about what inspired them this year and how they overcame its challenges. The positivity they all have about what's in store for 2021 was also great to hear.

From our loyal readers to our valued supporters, we thank you for standing by us in this difficult year. We can't wait to see what 2021 will bring.

@THE COALFACE

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OPINION

COVID AND THE YEAR THAT WAS

AS 2020 WINDS TO AN OVERDUE CLOSE, IT'S TIME TO REFLECT ON THE CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES THE YEAR HAS THROWN AT US - OFTEN WITH CONSIDERABLE FORCE!



TANIA CONSTABLE

What started with a nation and NSW in particular struck by severe drought and bushfires is wrapping up with COVID-19 restrictions easing in part after eight months of a nationwide pandemic.

Our industry - including every mine and worker across the Hunter - can take pride in how it has handled and continues to handle the pandemic.

We moved swiftly and decisively across geographies. We were disciplined. We were inclusive and cooperative. We left nothing to chance.

WE DON'T TAKE THAT ABILITY TO CONTINUE OPERATING FOR GRANTED.

We are fortunate to be able to keep people in work and mines running, based on our responsible action to protect workers, families and communities.

Because of the intense community interest in what the industry was doing, the MCA and state and territory mining chambers launched

a national media campaign including through @ The Coalface, showing Australians how the resources sector is protecting workers, families and communities from COVID-19.

Communities wanted reassurance that we are taking strict and comprehensive measures to protect workers, families and mining communities from the virus.

It demonstrated a range of COVID-19 protection measures including physical distancing during travel and at site, increased hygiene and cleaning, temperature testing, changes to shift start times and working arrangements.

WE WANTED TO DEMONSTRATE TO THE NATION AND THE WORLD THAT THE MINERALS SECTOR HAD A STRONG PLAN IN PLACE, THE SECTOR WAS SERIOUS ABOUT PROTECTING REGIONAL COMMUNITIES AND IT WAS AN INDUSTRY THAT WAS GOING TO CONTINUE CONTRIBUTING STRONGLY TO THE AUSTRALIAN ECONOMY.

The industry continues to share best practice in relation to protective measures, workforce health and other areas in line with official advice.

But we must not rest on our laurels.

Our industry, workforce, regions, indigenous communities and Australia's economy need us to continue to be vigilant.

What this pandemic has taught us is we can't be complacent.

The United States and some countries in Europe are experiencing a second wave with devastating results.

Until a vaccine is made available, we must continue to implement protocols and procedures to avoid a shutdown of our industry - a scenario we must prevent.

THE MCA IS PROUD TO HAVE LED AUSTRALIA'S MINERALS INDUSTRY FROM THE ONSET OF THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC IN HELPING TO KEEP WORKERS, FAMILIES AND LOCAL COMMUNITIES SAFE.

The industry was able to use its existing strong safety culture and safety systems to rapidly respond and put strict protocols in place.

This has ensured that the Australian minerals industry - including exploration - has continued to operate throughout the global COVID-19 pandemic to support jobs, communities and economic recovery while contributing company tax and royalties to help fund doctors, nurses, police and hospitals.

It's a great privilege to have led the MCA through our response to COVID-19 and to represent mining companies, workers and communities through this trying time.

I wish all Coalface readers and their families a safe, joyous and relaxing Christmas and a wonderful New Year!

Tania Constable
CEO, Minerals Council of Australia

IN THE NEWS...

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



FITZ QUILTS THE FRONTBENCH

Outspoken Hunter MP Joel Fitzgibbon has quit Labor's frontbench.

The long time MP was the Shadow Minister for Agriculture and Resources

but has stepped back from the portfolio saying he'd decided after the 2019 election that he would quit the shadow cabinet after a period of time.

Joel Fitzgibbon said that he is simply following through with his plan, and now he'll have more time to spend in his electorate rather than being everywhere else.

THE DARTBROOK FIGHT THAT NEVER ENDS

At the start of November, the Independent Planning Commission had given the green light for the Dartbrook mine to reopen until 2027, five additional years on their original IPC approval.

The mine was bought by Australia Pacific Coal in 2016 from Anglo American who kept the mine site in care and maintenance since 2006 - in 2018 Australia Pacific Coal sought to reopen the mine using bord and pillar methods to extract six million tonnes of coal each year until 2027.

They were only approved until 2022 so they fought it.

But a last ditch effort from The Hunter Thoroughbred Breeders Association joining the proceedings against the mine is seeing it all go back to court.

MORE JOBS FALL VICTIM TO COVID-19

The COVID-19 pandemic is being blamed for more job losses in the local mining industry.

Glencore confirmed they've initiated discussions with the Hunter Valley Operations workforce "on changes that will be made to the mine's coal processing requirements from January 2021 as a result of ongoing economic and energy demand impacts arising from the COVID-19 pandemic."

"The changes will not impact HVO's permanent workforce numbers but some contracting roles in the mining, coal preparation and maintenance areas will not be required under the revised production plan."

It's understood that 80 workers would be put off.

In previous situations where contractors have been impacted they have in most cases been able to pick up work elsewhere.

MANGOOLA MACHINERY COLLIDES

The NSW Resources Regulator is investigating an incident at Mangoola mine that saw a dozer operator injured.

On October 5 this year, a haul truck collided with a dozer on a dump at Mangoola. As a result of the collision the operator sustained injuries and had to be taken to hospital.

The Regulator says the dozer operator was working on a tip head at the time and was unsure where to unload so reversed to dump the load against the wall - the operator heard a thud and stopped the truck.

The dozer operator sustained soft tissue injuries and was transported to hospital for medical review.

The Regulator is investigating to determine what went wrong.

NO CHARGE ON LIDDELL BATTERY

Energy giant AGL has said they will be reviewing their battery plan for the Liddell site in Muswellbrook.

In August this year the company announced they'd lodged a scoping report with the NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment for a grid-scale battery system to be located alongside the existing coal power plant.

The Liddell battery would be part of the 850 megawatt multi-site integrated battery system AGL targets to develop by the 2024 financial year.

But now they've said they'll review the plan in light of the recent NSW Government energy roadmap.

NATIONALS MPs FLOCK TO THE UPPER HUNTER

It felt like election time this month with Nationals MPs visiting the region left, right and centre.

Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Infrastructure, Transport and Regional Development Michael McCormack was in town to spruik the Singleton Bypass, New England MP Barnaby Joyce with Queensland Senator Matt Canavan and Lyne MP David Gillespie visited the region to

back the coal mining industry and Minister for Regional Roads and Transport Paul Toole with Upper Hunter MP Michael Johnsen unveiled the preferred route for the Muswellbrook bypass.

Minister for Police and Emergency Services David Elliott also paid Muswellbrook a visit to officially announce the \$3.1 million for the NSW Fire and Rescue fire station to be built just 150 metres down the road from the current station that has served the community for more than 40 years.

UNION SPLIT

The National President of Construction Forestry Maritime Mining and Energy Union (CFMMEU), Tony Maher has resigned from his position though will remain in his role as General President of the Mining and Energy Division.

A meeting of the Central Council regarding the future direction of the Mining and Energy Division within the CFMMEU saw unanimous support for the decision to offer support and appreciation to outgoing National Secretary Michael O'Connor and condemn the actions of those who undermined his leadership; and to direct the Mining and Energy Division to withdraw their involvement in CFMMEU forums and activities and operate as an autonomous Union.

Mr Maher said, "My view, shared by our Central Council, is that there is no benefit in continuing in a national leadership role in circumstances where our biggest division has decided to simply use its numbers to bully and steamroll smaller divisions."

"The Mining and Energy Division has a proud history. We have been representing Mining and Energy Workers for over a century and we will continue to represent Mining and Energy workers well into the future."

DON'T BYPASS GIVING YOUR FEEDBACK IF YOU WANT A SAY

The preferred route for the Muswellbrook Bypass has been unveiled.

The \$266 million new highway includes a 9.1-kilometre highway with a single lane in each direction, a refined alignment south of Coal Road with the bypass shifted further to the east to reduce environmental impacts and full southern and northern connections with the existing highway.

Have your say on the route by December 18 via the RMS website.

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B CREW IS BEST

It was November 2014 that Glencore and Peabody Energy announced the 50/50 JV project at United Colliery with the CFMEU as a minority 2.5% partner. The United mine had been closed in May 2010 and the operation had been in care and maintenance since. The current workforce from Wambo is being transitioned to the new Open Cut venture which will be managed by Glencore. Underground operations and the CHPP will continue to be managed by Peabody and around 272 of the Wambo crew moved over officially on December 1. The project will run for 23 years from approval, guaranteeing a bright future for the workforce.

Scott Brittliffe has been at Wambo for around 14 years and was keen to get @ The Coalface out to the mine to help celebrate the end of the Wambo Open Cut era over a few steak sangas. Scott told us, "Getting this all across the line, it was nail-biting going through all the necessary hurdles such as PAC meetings and the massive amount of planning needed to make it a reality. I believe the passion of the workforce combined with major community support really helped get it across the line. A big thanks to Chris Sharpe, James Sherbom and Michael Wood and all of the businesses and supporters in the community that took part in the PAC meetings."

"IT'S A BIG RELIEF THAT IT'S FINALLY HAPPENING. IT'S BEEN A LONG PROCESS BUT WE ARE INCREDIBLY PROUD AND HAPPY WE HAVE RETAINED THE JOBS FOR THE REGION AND THE WORKFORCE."

Scott continued, "It's a great place and I have really enjoyed it as an operator and as a Lodge President. We are a big family. I started underground and I can tell you this open cut crew are just as tight knit as any underground crew I've worked with. We obviously spend a lot of time together on shift, but we are all pretty much mates who socialise outside of work. This chapter is coming to an end, but we are excited for what's next."

WAMBO B CREW LODGE PRESIDENT AND CHIEF CHEERLEADER, SCOTT BRITTLIFFE, IS PASSIONATE ABOUT THE LEGACY OF WAMBO MINE HAVING WORKED THERE FOR MANY YEARS. SO IS THE ENTIRE CREW, WHO BY THE TIME YOU ARE READING THIS, WILL HAVE TRANSITIONED OVER TO THE UNITED WAMBO JOINT VENTURE FOR THEIR NEXT CHAPTER IN MINING.



272 CREW MEMBERS HAVE VENTURED OVER TO THE WAMBO UNITED JOINT VENTURE WITH BASICALLY ALL OF THE CURRENT CREW GETTING A JOB OUT OF IT. OTHER JOBS WILL ALSO BE CREATED OUT OF THIS DOWN THE TRACK, ENSURING A BRIGHT FUTURE FOR MANY LOCAL HUNTER PEOPLE AND FAMILIES.

Talking about the people Scott had plenty of warm words, "There's a lot of great characters here who not only keep it fun, but when it's a tough day that attitude helps us keep it together, pull it back together and power on. I haven't regretted one day of it. We want to bring that positive culture to the new venture as well."

Josh Sable told us, "I've been here operating diggers and dozers and it's been a great place to work and will hopefully continue to be so. Everyone is pretty laid back but good at what they do. We all stick together

like we have, then we will have nothing to worry about."

Melanie Jelenic added, "I'm a truck operator, I've been in the industry around six years. The morale here is awesome, we're all friends and we look after each other. It's very safety orientated, and we all strive to get the job done and do it well and obviously have some fun while we are doing it. Change isn't always bad, I'm pretty excited for the future to be honest."

On my visit they showed me around like someone would proudly show you around their house. The Grand Tour passed historic Wambo Homestead before travelling on to view the pit from the observation area overlooking the workings. The conversations in the LV cab during the trip between Scott and OCE Tony Noud clearly spoke of the ease, enjoyment and good humour this lot enjoy together.

TONY NOUD SAID, "I'VE BEEN AN OCE HERE FOR ABOUT THREE YEARS NOW AND IT'S BEEN A GREAT PLACE TO WORK. PEOPLE MAKE THE JOB, AND THESE ONES ARE REALLY GOOD TO WORK WITH."

I very much got the feeling that this is going to be a good joint venture, they are all determined about that. Those that know Scott know that he's immensely proud of the mine and even more so, his colleagues that work alongside him. He's always keen to celebrate milestones and individual and group achievements and I doubt that will change.

Conrad Smith had the last word: "I'm an operator on graders and dozers. What I love here and about the crew is that we all get along and there is no bad blood. Believe it or not it's actually pretty enjoyable to come to work. Low on politics is great, and I'd say a bit rare."



Merry Christmas

from our family
to yours

After a year like no other, we'd like to wish our community, partners and suppliers a well deserved rest and a safe and happy holiday season.

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THE RESILIENCE & CHARACTER OF MINERS

& THE MINING COMMUNITY BLOWS ME AWAY

PUBLISHERS OPINION

AS WE NEAR THE END OF 2020, I LOOK BACK ON THIS CRAZY YEAR AND I AM SO UNBELIEVABLY GRATEFUL.

When this little magazine started as a crazy idea way back when, one of the most important decisions I made was for it to be a free magazine and available to everyone.

For that to work we have to rely on consistent advertising, and I am amazed and humbled by the support this magazine has received. This year when businesses had to tighten their budgets, not only did the majority of our long-time supporters continue to back us, but we even had the privilege of welcoming new partners on board.

THAT WE NOT ONLY STAYED AFLOAT THROUGH THIS TOUGH YEAR BUT ARE STILL CONTINUING TO GROW, IS PROOF THAT HERE IN THE HUNTER, MINING HAS A FUTURE AND A STRONG FUTURE AT THAT.

To the most important people of all, our loyal readers, you lot are just the best. @ the Coalface has found a home in our strong, enthusiastic, and supportive mining community and I'm happy to say has quite a few non miner readers as well. I'm stopped on the street most days and offered an opinion about something that people loved or resonated with them in the magazine, or a great story idea and it's always fantastic to hear from you all.

These days when we put our 10,000 copies out and about all over the Hunter, I'm surprised to

find only days later that I've got people chasing me up because they can't get their hands on a copy as they've already all been picked up. We couldn't ask for a better response than that.

THE STRONG SUPPORT WE'VE RECEIVED THROUGH THIS TOUGH YEAR FROM EVERYONE IS CLEAR PROOF TO ME THAT OUR INDUSTRY HAS A VERY LONG, BRIGHT, AND POSITIVE FUTURE.

I believe the reason for this is due to everyone who is a part of this industry. The resilience and character of miners and the mining community blows me away as I said in the headline. The level of community support, generosity, and engagement by them is easily the best I have seen in any community anywhere. The comradery between colleagues is something special.

So with that, thanks for a bloody great year in the face of us all enduring many challenges. Have a cracking Christmas and I hope you get a good break to celebrate, catch up with friends and family, and crack a few cold ones.

MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ALL!



MORE MINING MONEY

THE RESOURCES FOR REGIONS ROUND 7 AND STATE BUDGET ANNOUNCEMENTS ARE BOTH GOOD NEWS FOR HUNTER MINING COMMUNITIES.

Michael Johnsen MP, Parliamentary Secretary for Resources and Member for Upper Hunter recently announced the results of Round 7 Resources for Region with over \$15 million in funding for 35 projects across the Hunter and Upper Hunter regions.

Muswellbrook will receive \$3,750,318, Singleton \$4,571,283, Upper Hunter \$1,042,948, Cessnock \$1,312,198, Lake Macquarie \$1,201,545, Maitland \$1,236,213 and Newcastle \$1,591,677.

"This funding is great news for our local councils and organisations in the Upper Hunter electorate, and the wider Hunter region, and it will go far to support local infrastructure projects from health, water, roads, education and tourism," Mr Johnsen said.

"I know from our local councils and communities that the funding from Resources for Regions program is greatly appreciated. These important local projects take the total number of projects supported by the program across regional NSW to 149 since 2012."

THE RECENT STATE BUDGET ANNOUNCEMENT HAS ALSO COMMITTED MORE MONEY FOR MINING COMMUNITIES ACROSS REGIONAL NSW INCLUDING AN INCREASE IN FUNDING FOR THE RESOURCES FOR REGIONS PROGRAM.

Round 8 of the Resources for Regions Program will see an increased commitment of \$75 million. The first seven rounds of the program were each for \$50 million so the additional funding allocated for Round 8 is a great result.

Deputy Premier and Minister for Regional NSW John Barilaro said the revised Resources for Regions program will generate job opportunities, stimulate economic growth, deliver lifestyle improvements and boost wellbeing in mining towns.

"Mining communities and organisations told us how Resources for Regions could be improved and I took action. Now the revised program is funding a broader range of projects and delivering guaranteed and fairer shares of funding," Mr Barilaro said.

"I thank both the Hunter region and the Upper Hunter region councils for putting forward these strong projects on behalf of their community and look forward to seeing the benefits that it will deliver."

The budget also announced funding for the NSW Resources Regulator. Over the next 4 years they will receive almost \$106 million in funding to regulate mine and petroleum

safety in relation to Work Health and Safety compliance and enforcement.

The Coal Innovation Fund is set to receive more than \$45 million over four years for investment and research into carbon capture, use and storage and low emissions coal technology projects.

FAMILIES AND BUSINESSES ACROSS REGIONAL NSW WILL BENEFIT FROM ADDITIONAL VITAL COMMUNITY UPGRADES AND JOB CREATING PROJECTS WITH THE INJECTION OF A FURTHER \$300 MILLION OVER TWO YEARS INTO THE TRANSFORMATIONAL REGIONAL GROWTH FUND.

Deputy Premier John Barilaro said this boost to the Regional Growth Fund will include another round of the \$100 million Stronger Country Communities Fund which will continue works to reinvigorate rural communities and deliver grassroots project upgrades to every Local Government Area in regional NSW.

"The Stronger Country Communities Fund and Resources for Regions Fund are two of the Regional Growth Fund's flagship programs and the new funding announced in the 2020-21 Budget is great news for rural families, businesses and industry."

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They would rather just quietly and determinedly get on with the job building one of the Hunter Valley's finest mining businesses. It took us a year or so to at last wear them down to have this chat. They just aren't interested in blowing their own trumpet.

Starting with just a small team in 2011, Complete Parts and Equipment Solutions have grown to now proudly employ over 100 local people.

Locally owned and operated, Complete Parts specialise in used parts and used equipment sales, machine rebuilds and repairs and component overhauls.

Sean Dyson started the business just 9 years ago with only a laptop, credit card and dream of buying and selling used parts in a market he rightly understood was transforming due to market conditions.

TALKING TO SEAN, HE CONTINUALLY DEFLECTS THE COMPANY'S SUCCESS AWAY FROM HIMSELF TO THE HARD-WORKING PEOPLE AROUND HIM WHO HE BELIEVES ARE THE CORNERSTONE TO WHAT HAS BEEN ACHIEVED.

Proudly born and raised in the Hunter Valley, he said that they are all about local engagement and employment opportunities, adding 6 apprentice opportunities this year to make 19 in total. "We hire local and support local; we don't have any fly in fly outs". Their commitment to local is unwavering and a big clue as to the values they strive to represent.

Now in a purpose-built facility, Complete Parts has always used their profits to invest back into the business, building the company into its next stages wherever possible and that is done with good people as the cornerstone investment. Backing them up with the very best, state-of-

the-art working environment then allows them to fulfill their potential and provide customers with industry leading service and capability.

This year has been no different with 2020 seeing Complete Parts experience good sensible growth despite Covid challenges. "Like everyone, this year has had its challenges including social distancing; despite this we are proud to say we have achieved just about everything we set out to," said Sean.

Part of that growth includes opening a Mackay Branch which officially started trading on October 1 this year. Speaking of the new branch, Complete Parts GM, Craig Tanzer, said Mackay is a satellite branch with a lot of the physical work done right here in the Hunter.

Built around Cat equipment, the company is increasingly seeing a natural progression to diversify into other OEM mining products such as Komatsu and Hitachi. They are also currently moving into the additions of drills and excavators in terms of equipment.

Keeping up with the everchanging market in the mining industry is something the team does best, offering flexible solutions and

looking through all options to provide the best possible service to the customer. "We are continually building our demographic of customers by doing what we say we'll do," said Sean.

"IT'S A BIT OF A PLAY ON THE COMPLETE PARTS AND EQUIPMENT SOLUTIONS NAME, BUT THAT'S EXACTLY WHAT WE DO; PROVIDE COST EFFECTIVE, COMPLETE SOLUTIONS TO OUR CUSTOMERS WHEN THEY NEED THEM," CRAIG ADDED.

Sean said he has never been prouder of the people in the business who have taken those modest beginnings to be the business it is today. "I had goals to be where we are today, well to be realistic they were dreams not goals, and look where we are now. I'm very thankful to the people around me," he said.

With 2020 coming to a close, the Complete Parts team have big goals for 2021, looking to improve efficiency and effectiveness, see continued growth and bring in house more of their outsourced services.

If the last 9 years is anything to go by, we are sure to see them smash 2021 out of the park.

ON AIR TRENDS

TRENDS IN AIR QUALITY LEVELS IN THE UPPER HUNTER HAVE MIRRORED CHANGES IN AIR QUALITY IN OTHER NSW REGIONS OVER THE PAST SEVEN YEARS, ACCORDING TO A NEW DIALOGUE STUDY.

And, the study found that, while the Upper Hunter experienced overall declines in air quality during 2019 compared with previous years, the same deterioration in air quality was observed across NSW.

The Dialogue's Air Quality Monitoring Project commissioned consultants ERM to analyse air quality data recorded by the Government's Upper Hunter Air Quality Monitoring Network and seven other regions' Government run air quality monitoring stations. The project's results were peer reviewed by the CSIRO and its comments have been incorporated in the study's recently published full results.

The study report identifies a strong correlation between lack of rainfall and an increase in particulates with a corresponding drop in air quality. It specifically notes the highest levels of PM10 concentration occurred in the 2018 and 2019 years of drought.

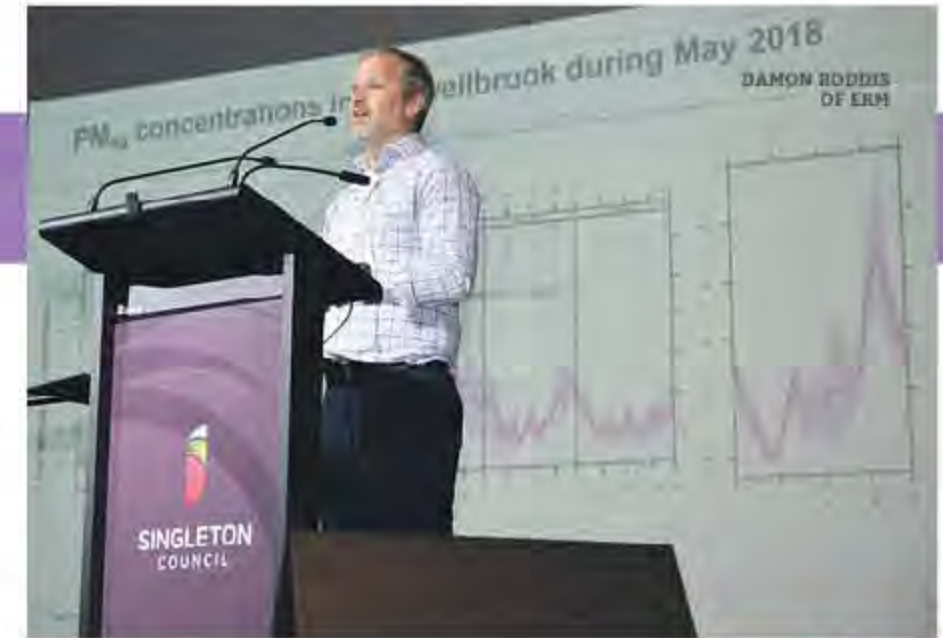
THE ANALYSIS SHOWS THE 2018 AND 2019 INCREASE OCCURRED ACROSS ALL REGIONS INCLUDED IN THE STUDY. THE BIGGEST INCREASE OCCURRED ACROSS ALL AREAS IN 2019 WHICH WAS THE DRIEST YEAR ON RECORD.

Further, the study found no correlation between the increase in PM10 and PM2.5 levels and increased coal production in the Upper Hunter. While coal production levels in the Upper Hunter remained relatively steady across the study period, particulate matter levels increased which points to "regional conditions such as rainfall and are indicative of a minimal change in contribution from local emission sources inclusive of mining."

The study's comparison of PM2.5 levels found trends similar to the PM10 concentrations.

"As consistent with PM10 monitoring results, PM2.5 concentrations are elevated across 2018 and 2019, with the highest concentrations measured at the Upper Hunter Air Quality Monitoring Network large populations station group, which likely contains a significant influence from wood smoke (CSIRO, 2013). Trends in annual average concentrations were also found to be consistent with the remainder of NSW," the report concludes.

The full study will be published on the Dialogue's website at miningdialogue.com.au



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BIG DING

'AVE A LAUGH WITH HUNTER VALLEY Hydraulink Hose and Fittings

BEST UNDER PRESSURE

Santa was very cross. It was Christmas Eve, and nothing was going right. Mrs. Claus had burned all the cookies. The elves were complaining about not getting paid for the overtime they had worked making toys and were threatening to go on strike. The reindeer had been drinking eggnog all afternoon. To make matters worse, a few of the other elves had taken the sleigh out for a spin earlier in the day and had crashed it into a tree.

Santa was furious. "I can't believe it! I've got to deliver millions of presents all over the world in just a few hours, and all my reindeer are drunk, the elves are walking out, and I don't even have a Christmas tree! I sent that stupid little angel out hours ago to find a tree and he isn't even back yet! What am I going to do?"

Just then, the little angel opened the front door and stepped in from the snowy night, dragging a Christmas tree. The angel said, "Yo, fat man! Where do you want me to stick the tree this year?"

And thus, the tradition of angels atop the Christmas trees came to pass...

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IN A HUGE NOD TO THE FUTURE OF HUNTER VALLEY OPERATIONS (JOINT VENTURE WITH YANCOAL & GLENORE), THE MINE HAS INVESTED IN TWO NEW STATE-OF-THE-ART MACHINES TO KEEP THE MINE ROLLING FOR ITS NEXT CHAPTER OF LIFE.

Up close it's still difficult to get your head around the scale of HVO's new Liebherr 9800 Excavator.

This is one very serious machine that will support a lot of jobs for years to come. Also just arrived to help out is the shiny new Komatsu L1850 Gen 2 Loader.

REPLACING OLDER ASSETS, THESE ARE REALLY BIG INVESTMENTS, AND WITH A COMBINED INVESTMENT VALUE OF \$36M THEY WILL PLAY A BIG ROLE IN THE FUTURE OF HVO.

In terms of man hours, the 9800 took 65 days to assemble the machine to handover stage with all local modifications and with no safety incidents.

The 9800 replaces an ageing 150,000 hour, 24 year old P&H 4100 shovel and will provide greater flexibility as electrical cables and associated infrastructure aren't required to operate the machine.



It obviously takes a lot of skill to handle one of these machines and Operator & Maintainer training and familiarisation are part of the introduction to site procedures which are underway before the 9800 commences

operation on January 2, 2021.

The project was headed up by Matthew Brooker, Maintenance Superintendent - Field Shutdown.

Nice work Team HVO, thanks for investing in the future of our industry and region.

VITAL STATISTICS

	LIEBHERR R9800	KOMATSU L1850 GEN 2
Machine operating weight	800 tonne	246 tonne
Engines	2 x 2000 hp V16Cummins diesel engines	Single 2000hp MTU Detroit diesel engine
Bucket Capacity	47.5m³	43m³



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R1150920 - Diploma in Underground Coal Mine Management (pre-requisite to sit exam for Undermanager of underground coal mines)

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For full course details visit www.coalservices.com.au or contact Newcastle Mines Rescue.

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LEARN FROM THE LAWMAN

STUART BARNETT IS OUR MINING INDUSTRY'S LEADING PERSONAL INJURY LAWYER. THIS MONTH HE HAS SOME IMPORTANT ADVICE ABOUT THE DEMISE OF CERTIFICATES OF TITLE FOR REAL PROPERTY.

In the distant past a person proved ownership of land in New South Wales by possessing all of the deeds of transfer going back in time up to the deed transferring the land to themselves. This was called "old System", then came Torrens Title system whereby a certificate of title was issued as proof of ownership, called indefeasible title. Some of you might have seen and still have the elaborate looking title deeds on parchment paper. The next iteration was a computer folio and a certificate of title printed on cardboard, which was less impressive but nevertheless physical proof of ownership.

THE GOVERNMENT HAS ANNOUNCED THAT WITH THE MOVEMENT INTO ELECTRONIC CONVEYANCING THAT ALL CERTIFICATES OF TITLE WILL BE CANCELLED, WITH LEGISLATION EXPECTED TO BE IN PLACE READY FOR INTRODUCTION OF THE PRACTICE IN MID 2021.

Once the legislation takes effect, the certificate of title will no longer have any force at law and will no longer be evidence of indefeasible title. Whilst the complete alternative is not yet set in legislation it will be a form of electronic registration and the registered owner will still have the Government guarantee of absolute ownership.

From a day to day perspective the change will have no real effect upon an individual other than you will not physically hold a certificate of title for your land. I understand that the Government may allow landowners to retain the old certificates but of course they will no longer be evidence of anything, they will only have historical value.

One area where the change will

potentially affect members of the community is in situations where a person or corporation has handed over their title deeds as an unregistered security for a loan. An example might be a cash lender who holds a lien over a person's certificate of title until the loan is repaid. In those circumstances some other form of security will be required.

For many no preparation for the change will be required however if you fall into the category of either handing over your deeds as security or are holding someone else's deeds as security then you need to be considering an alternative.



This is general advice and because your individual circumstances will vary, I recommend seeking out specific advice for your needs. As this is the last publication before Christmas may I take this opportunity to wish you all a safe and pleasant Christmas and New Year and like you all I look forward to a brighter 2021.

STUART BARNETT,
SLATER & GORDON LAWYERS

'AVE A LAUGH WITH

HUNTER VALLEY
Hydraulink
Hose and Fittings

BEST UNDER PRESSURE

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

He gets out a new piece of paper and writes again, "Dear baby Jesus, I have been a good

boy for most of the year, so I want a new..." He again looks at it and throws it away.

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

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ENGINEERING EXPERTS

OVER THEIR 73 YEARS IN BUSINESS, TETERIN ENGINEERING HAVE BEEN EMBRACING NEW TECHNOLOGY AND BY DOING SO THEY HAVE ACHIEVED MANY AUSTRALIAN AND WORLD FIRSTS.

Teterin Engineering specialise in reconditioning and rebuilds of large industrial engines, particularly for the mining industry, and they have built their reputation on being leaders in innovation and employing new technology. Most recently they achieved another first for the Australian industry when they reconditioned the bearing journals of a Cat C175 crankshaft by utilising their 4.6m CNC Crankshaft Grinder - the only machine of its type in Australia.

"We are no ordinary engineering company", says Managing Director Peter Burgess as he takes me on a tour of their impressive workshop in Islington.

"WE BELIEVE WE ARE UNIQUE AS WE ARE AT THE FOREFRONT OF EMBRACING NEW TECHNOLOGIES EVEN IF AT TIMES THAT COMES WITH RISKS. SOME OF OUR ACQUISITIONS ARE NOT ONLY THE FIRST OF THEIR TYPE IN AUSTRALIA, BUT ARE THE FIRST OF THEIR KIND IN THE WORLD."

Along with their CNC Crankshaft Grinder, Teterin also boasts a one of a kind Cylinder Head Machinery Centre (CMC), along with other computer controlled machining centres, many of which have been uniquely customised.

"Our philosophy is not to be at the front, but to be in the lead," says a passionate Peter. "We do that by investing heavily in our people and the technology they use, as evidenced with our new CNC Crankshaft Grinder. This machine and our other computer controlled machining centres help us to significantly improve the

turnaround time of our jobs so that our customers can get their equipment back into operation and production faster, and with the confidence that the quality has been built into the machinery."

Peter goes on to explain that by having these machining centres it allows them to keep manufacturing here in Australia so their customers do not need to send it back to the country of origin.

"I think we've all seen this year how exposed we are in our ability to manufacture locally so it's very important that we keep these capabilities and skills here in Australia. We are proud to be helping do that."

TETERIN ARE ALSO EXTREMELY PROUD OF THEIR WORKFORCE. EVERY YEAR THEY PUT ON 3 OR 4 APPRENTICES AND TRAIN THEM ACROSS ALL THE AREAS OF THEIR OPERATIONS SO THEY ARE FULLY VERSED AND CAPABLE. THESE APPRENTICES ARE MENTORED BY THE SKILLED SENIOR EMPLOYEES, SOME WHO HAVE BEEN THERE MORE THAN FIVE DECADES.

"It's not a boast that our employees are extremely skilled. We continually upskill and train and it's a core part of who we are that we take very seriously. At the heart of our business are our employees. We ensure that their knowledge and expertise continue to grow and that our employees pass along those skills and knowledge as we go through the generations."

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PARALLEL ECONOMICS

THE WORLD'S BIGGEST SANTA



Righto, here we go. It's Xmas and it's time to think big and make this a season to remember for Hunter communities and mines. It's a crazy idea but it could not only put us on the world map, it might just give our tourism operators a big helping hand to get their economic losses back on track after their worst year in history.

LET'S CREATE THE WORLD'S LARGEST SANTA BY CARVING ONE IN THE SIDE OF A HILL!

And by large, I mean freaking massive. On the side of a huge hill on a mine, let's use some of that massive machinery for a few days. A D11 and an excavator should do the trick.

I had a quick look online and I couldn't see anything other than the Guinness World record Santa which is 22 metres tall.

With this one I am talking about one anywhere up to 500 metres tall! What about some reindeer? A Christmas tree? With the mapping technology we have on mine sites it would be a piece of cake to map it out and the GPS's on machines of today should be able to take care of the rest.

For colour we can just use special dyed rehab seeding to colour it in and it would then grow out naturally.

AND A VERY, VERY BIG HO HO HO TO THE WORLD FROM THE HUNTER.

WHAT AN AWESOME SHOWCASE OF OUR OPERATOR TALENT AND XMAS SPIRIT.

This idea would attract thousands of tourists to the area giving everyone a big boost and it will even be easily visible from passenger jets flying overhead on the world's busiest flight path. It's too good an idea for the world's media to not then pick up. If it works, we can then carry the idea forward with other themes.

You thought Mount Rushmore was cool? You ain't seen nothing yet!

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OPINION

LESSONS FROM AN UNFORGETTABLE YEAR

THE YEAR 2020 HAS BEEN BOTH AWFUL AND UNFORGETTABLE. THIS YEAR OUR WORLD CHANGED, IN SOME WAYS PERMANENTLY. WHILE MANY HUNTER RESIDENTS AND BUSINESS HOUSES HAVE FELT CONSIDERABLE PAIN, THE HUNTER REGION HAS BEEN RELATIVELY FORTUNATE. CERTAINLY, OUR COVID-19 CASES HAVE BEEN MUCH FEWER IN NUMBER THAN WAS ORIGINALLY FEARED.

Our coal mining sector showed great resilience in the early months, another reminder of the value of the industry to our local economy. Let's hope the Morrison Government's mismanagement of our relationship with China – a major coal customer – doesn't continue to cause us pain in 2021. Our visitor economy has bounced back quickly after the shock of a lengthy shut-down. Our health and education sectors are big employers and largely government-based and on that basis, employment in those sectors has also been resilient. We've been pretty fortunate.

AS WE LOOK TO 2021, WE BOTH HOPE FOR A BETTER YEAR AND THINK ABOUT THE POSITIVE THINGS WE CAN LEARN FROM 2020. CHIEF AMONG THEM SHOULD BE OUR RELIANCE ON OTHERS FOR SO MANY OF OUR ESSENTIALS: FOOD, FUEL AND LABOUR.

We export two-thirds of all the food we grow but we also import much of our processed food. More importantly, we are almost entirely dependent on China for our crop protection products. No crop protection, no food. People often tell me we need to re-build our fuel refinery capacity. I agree and COVID-19 has reinforced that point. But to refine, you must have oil, and we are around 90 per cent dependent on oil imports. We need to get more local oil out of the ground, environmental activists must come to understand this.

Each year, our agriculture sector relies on around 50,000

foreign labourers to produce the food we rely upon. When our borders closed, this became more apparent. We need to think about this deeply before the next disruption comes along. In any case, we need to think more about how we encourage more local people to fill some of these roles.

We are an island continent and that delivers us certain advantages, including protection from pests and disease. But it also brings vulnerabilities. If there were to be military conflict in our region – God forbid – our "sea lines of communication" could be cut off. Seen through this prism, self-sufficiency becomes all important. This is what COVID-19 highlighted during 2020.

AS WE LOOK TOWARDS 2021 AND BEYOND, LET'S HOPE ALL OF OUR POLITICIANS LEARN THE LESSONS. I CERTAINLY HAVE.

This is my first Happy Christmas message for 2020. It is hard to believe the Festive season is almost upon us once again. For me at least, pandemic notwithstanding, the year has passed all too quickly.

I wish all readers of the Coalface magazine a wonderful Christmas and a better 2021. Stay safe.

Hon Joel Fitzgibbon MP
Federal Member for Hunter



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THEN AND NOW

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

JASON WAEREA

SUPERINTENDENT PRODUCTION, BHP



My family relocated from New Zealand to Australia when I was 9; my dad worked in construction in Bougainville before being seconded to Australia. We grew up in the Central Highlands of QLD surrounded by mining and farming. I loved being around heavy machinery so it's no surprise that I worked for 2 years as an Operator Trainee with M.I.M. That traineeship exposed me to maintenance, surveying and geology teams before moving to production and operating heavy mobile plant. I moved to Brisbane working in mining in Ipswich and to play

rugby for 3 years before moving to NSW. I fell in love with the mix of mining life and coastal living. I never left. I met my wife in NSW and have 3 boys all born and raised here in the Hunter Valley. Mining has afforded me some wonderful work and life experiences and I am forever grateful for that. I work for BHP as Superintendent Production and couldn't have asked for a better mix of lifestyle, work and roster. My healthy routines include time with the family and kids swimming or surfing at any of the amazing beaches along our coastline.



HANNAH JACKA

MARKETING MANAGER, TITAN AUTO



Growing up I always wanted to be a lawyer. Having 4 brothers and sisters I got good at arguing and negotiating so it felt natural. Finishing school, I landed myself in a traineeship for an RTO in finance and payroll and found I had a natural talent in this area. My dad is a systems analyst and I picked up his skill for systems and processes. When I was 20, I saw an opportunity and opened my own business where I found my natural gift for sales, marketing and business development, after 5 years I decided I wanted to go into marketing. I sold my business and worked in accounting & finance and started studying digital marketing and the

following year I landed a full-time job in marketing. Over the past 10 years I had some exposure to the mining industry in way of my fiancé being in the mining industry firstly as a Service Cart operator for Titan Technicians and now as an electrician with Glencore and it gave me a general interest in the industry. Fast forward 3 years and I am now the group marketing manager for Titan Group. With 3 of our primary businesses in the mining industry, over the past year I have really enjoyed learning more about the industry and appreciate the opportunity it has provided me.



CRAIG MOODIE

GENERAL MANAGER, ROYAL EQUIPMENT



I grew up on the mid north coast of NSW in the great lakes area where I attended Forster High School, played soccer and enjoyed all water sports. Having always had a passion for motorsport and machinery, and being the son of a mechanic, it was inevitable that I would follow in the trade. I began my mechanical apprenticeship at age 17 and after completion went on to partner in a family owned and operated mechanical business specialising in engine reconditioning for around 10 years. After having a family, the decision was made to relocate to the Hunter Valley to pursue a career in mining, where I spent 13 years with the current Caterpillar

dealer in various roles. Having worked closely with the release in Australia of the 795F-AC truck in 2012 I found myself interested in the electric drive haul truck technology in the mining industry. I was given the opportunity to join Royal Equipment in 2017. I have been the General Manager for Royal Equipment since 2017 and have grown a successful business and team around local experienced staff and likeminded people with a passion for the industry. My wife Cass and I are family orientated and proud of our journey with our greatest achievements being our children Tayla and Cooper.





MERRY Christmas

AND HAPPY NEW YEAR

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Who are you and what do you do?
Brad Waldon – Owner of Waldon Services. We develop custom software.

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

I started in mining and construction as a plant operator and a diesel fitter. Over the years, I worked various managing, continuous improvement and technology roles with a bit of study along the way. Waldon Services was founded 15 years ago as a project and asset management consultancy. The business pivoted to focus on software development with my passion for technology and process improvement.

Describe a typical day at 'The office'.

There is no typical day for me. I fit in wherever I am needed. Talking with clients and end-users, coming up with new ideas and improving processes as well as managing and supporting the development team.

What's the best thing about your business?

We work intimately with operational people. Traditionally, design of new systems is not something available at the operational level of a business. Combining operational experience

with rapid prototyping, we are able to better explore opportunities for technology to improve safety and productivity in the industry.

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

The industry is embracing latest cloud and mobile technology.

What is the biggest opportunity for your business right now?

With the competitive and continuously evolving global environment, mining businesses in Australia are pursuing opportunities to remain sustainable. This presents a lot of opportunity for us as a business where improving a process and making it more consistent or efficient can result in big wins for the client relative to the investment.

What are the biggest challenges facing your business?

Most people have not been involved in the design or development of software. They either choose software or have software forced upon them. Because of this, they can be unaware of the possibilities or find the prospect daunting. Often technology is not considered as one of the options for solving problems. Once involved, they find it easy and enjoy it, but it is a big challenge getting people to take that first step and reach out.

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

15 years in business, 18 months in the Valley.

Community or other causes close to its heart and values?

Improving sustainability of the industry is the point of what we do. We feel this is the most significant contribution we can make to local communities. Well-being of our people is also front and centre. We have extended the concept of a 'safety share' to a 'well-being share' and have found this has helped embed a supportive culture within what is a diverse work force.

How big is the crew in the Hunter Valley?

Two of us are Hunter Valley based. Our office has been 100% virtual for a few years - spread across Australia and overseas. This seems to be the most efficient approach; it is more rewarding for our people, and we have more success attracting the right people.

What's the best thing about your job?

Solving problems with people who want to make a difference and improve things.

The worst thing?

Marketing.

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

I am responsible for marketing.

MY MINING LIFE

HAYLEY Marsh

Who are you and what do you do?

Hayley Marsh, Trades Assistant at WesTrac Tomago.

Any nicknames good or bad?

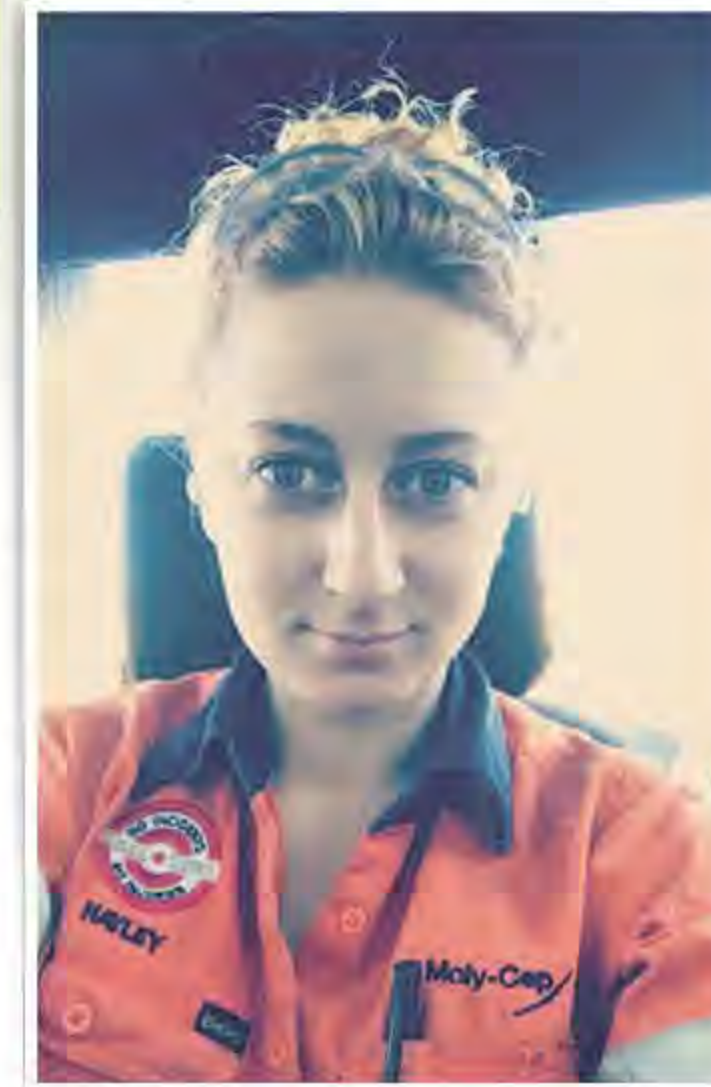
Haylz. I don't mind it at all, so I'd say it's pretty good.

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

Beresfield. I've lived in Valley all my life.

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

My first job in mining was at Molycop in 2016 as an operator. I started at WesTrac late September 2019. I had a pretty bad start seeing as through a couple months into my new job I broke my leg! I had a motorbike accident on a Sunday afternoon and was off work for near 3 months. They were amazing about it and assured me that I would have my job waiting for me as soon as I was fit for work. I found that pretty amazing



considering I was still on probation and they also called to see how I was going. After that my journey with WesTrac has been nothing

short of amazing, working with the best crew.

What's a usual day at work entail?

I'm the mechanics trade

assistant which means I do any odd jobs the boys need doing to help get the job done smoothly. I load and unload trucks that bring in and take away our mining components from various off highway trucks, these come from all different mining locations.

How big is the crew?

There's 10 in our crew.

What's the best thing about your job?

I have opportunities to level up in the workplace, learn new skills, and I interact with all different kinds of people including mechanics, electricians, boilermakers, all the way to truckies. Learning here never stops.

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

You can nominate a person to work with or beside and I took that opportunity, and now I get to work with my best mate! Doesn't get better than that.

The worst thing?

Nothing that I can think of.

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

It's not so much a story but every time I have to drive the 16T or over forklifts I have to take two heavy bits of square

wood with me to put on the seat because I am only small and I don't reach the weight capacity. Everyone thinks it's pretty funny.

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

Pretty opposite actually... when I was younger I had always wanted to be a Nurse or an Ambulance driver.

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

I was a good kid, no trouble... or that's what I think she'd say.

Family?

I have my beautiful partner Ange who also works in the mining industry.

What do you do in your downtime?

I like to have a few nice cold beers, hang out with my friends, go fishing and camping, and spending time with my partner and kids (kids meaning animals).

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

I started my first mining industry job in 2016 and I was the second female operator ever to work at Molycop in 100 years; My partner Ange was the first!

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Freddie and John were fortunate enough to have a season ticket to watch the Knights. They could not help noticing that there was always a spare seat next to them even though they knew it was sold out. Week after week the seat was empty.

Then on Boxing day, the seat was taken for the first time that season.

John asked the newcomer, "Where have you been all season?"

"Don't ask," he said, "My wife bought the season ticket back last winter and kept it for a surprise Christmas present."

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

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

ACDF - "Targeting issues, needs & opportunities of local Aboriginal communities"



THE YEAR 20/20 THAT WAS

AS THE YEAR COMES TO A CLOSE, WE ASKED INDUSTRY, GOVERNMENT, AND COMMUNITY LEADERS TO REFLECT BACK ON THE YEAR THAT WAS 2020. WHAT WERE THE CHALLENGES THEY HAD TO OVERCOME? WHAT INSPIRED THEM AS THEY NAVIGATED A YEAR FULL OF TRIALS NEVER SEEN BEFORE, AND FINALLY, WHAT ARE THEY EXCITED ABOUT FOR 2021?

JUST WEEKS AFTER MY APPOINTMENT AS MINISTER FOR RESOURCES, WATER AND NORTHERN AUSTRALIA THE CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC CHANGED ALMOST EVERY ASPECT OF LIFE IN THIS COUNTRY AND AROUND THE WORLD. THE MOST IMPORTANT CHALLENGE WAS KEEPING THE MINING AND RESOURCES SECTOR OPERATING BECAUSE OF THE ENORMOUS CONTRIBUTION IT MAKES TO OUR NATIONAL ECONOMY AND THE HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS OF JOBS IT SUPPORTS. WE ACTED SWIFTLY AND WORKED COOPERATIVELY WITH STATE AND TERRITORY GOVERNMENTS TO SET CLEAR PARAMETERS THAT PROVIDED THE RESOURCES SECTOR WITH THE CERTAINTY AND CONFIDENCE NEEDED TO MAINTAIN OPERATIONS.

What inspired me most this year has been the efforts of all men and women working right across the sector. They put on their hard hats and hi-vis gear each day and in many cases have gone above and beyond to keep mines

operating and exports flowing. That's meant adapting to new work practices to ensure health and safety of themselves, their colleagues, and communities, and for many they've endured months away from their homes and families. As a result, there's been minimal disruption to the industry unlike many other countries. The sector still directly employs around 240 thousand Australians and in June posted a record annual export earnings total of \$290 billion.

There are clearly challenges ahead in 2021 but COVID has shown how resilient our sector can be. With travel restrictions now easing, it's encouraging to see that whether it's coal, gas or critical minerals investments are being made that ensure resources remain a major employer in this country and long term contributor to our economic strength.

The Hon Keith Pitt MP, Minister for Resources, Water and Northern Australia



UNSURPRISINGLY, COVID-19 HAS CAUSED DELAYS TO THE PLANNING PROCESS, WHICH IMPACTED OUR MAXWELL UNDERGROUND PROJECT IN THE NSW UPPER HUNTER. FORTUNATELY, THE NSW GOVERNMENT AND DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING, INDUSTRY AND ENVIRONMENT HAVE DONE AN AMAZING JOB TO PRIORITISE AND FAST-TRACK JOB-CREATING AND ECONOMY STRENGTHENING INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS.

It has been inspiring to observe the resilience of the Malabar workforce and the communities of the Upper Hunter who have responded so positively to the lockdown and social distancing. We've done our best to lend a hand where we can and to help build the community up during such a difficult period.

The IPC Public Hearing for the Maxwell Project recently concluded, and we are hoping for a final determination before the end of the year. If the Project is approved, construction would begin in 2021, which would mean 250 new jobs for the region and a long-term investment boost for local suppliers and businesses.

Wayne Seabrook, Chairman, Malabar Resources



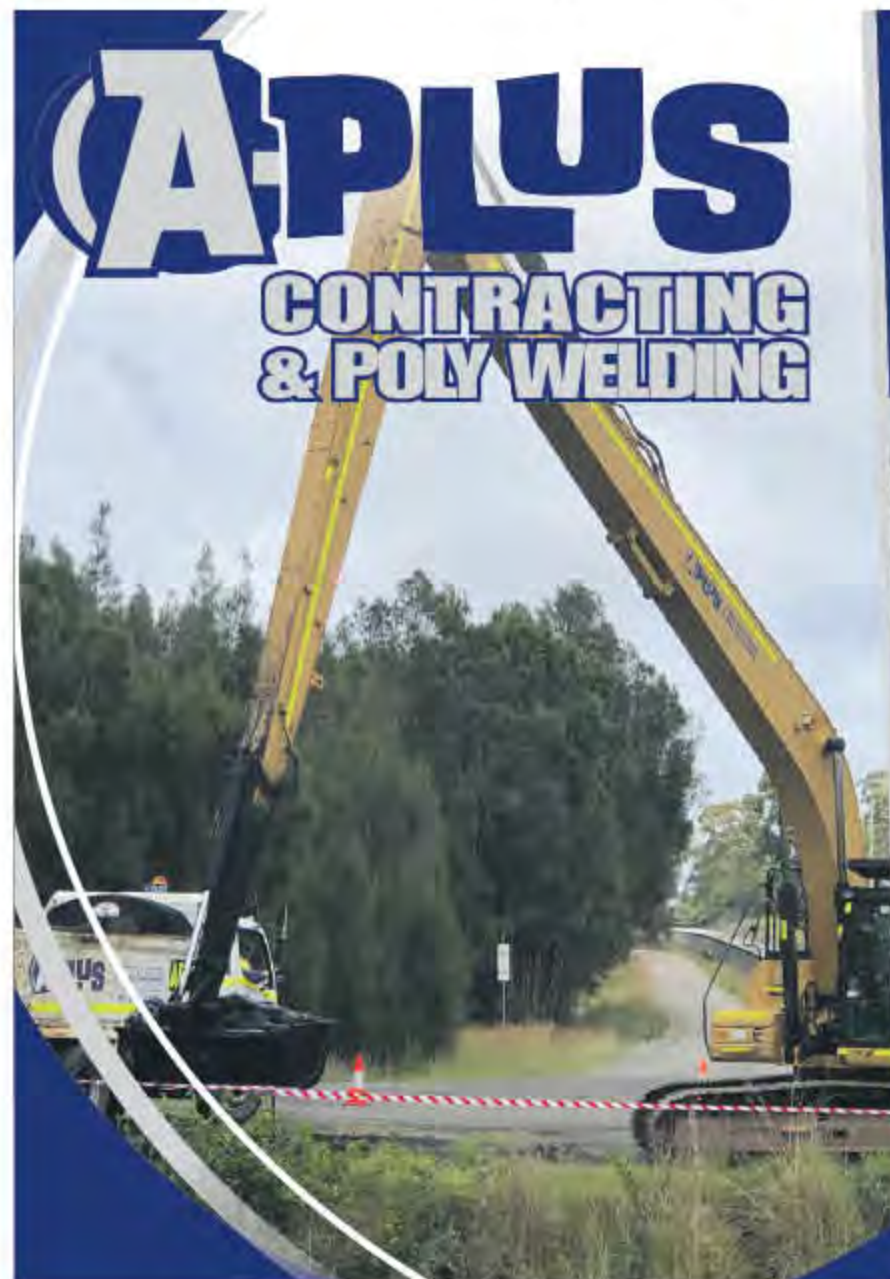
THE OBVIOUS CHOICE FOR OUR BIGGEST CHALLENGE IN 2020 IS RESPONDING TO COVID-19, AND DEVELOPING AND IMPLEMENTING CONTROLS WHILE CONTINUING TO OPERATE. HOWEVER THE SUBSEQUENT IMPACT ON COAL PRICES HAS BEEN A SIGNIFICANT CHALLENGE FOR THE INDUSTRY, AT A TIME WHEN A LOT OF INDUSTRIES ARE ALSO DOING IT VERY TOUGH.

I was inspired by the sheer desire to rally our team to keep going, find a way as to how we can, rather than why we can't. I

think our workforce actively responded to the notion of being "an essential service", to really reinforce the role we play, not just locally but globally. Also, BHP's response to prioritise and free space to respond to the developing impacts of COVID-19 on the operation made a big difference.

For 2021, ideally, I'm excited to see some stability, but maybe I'm just kidding myself :)

Adam Lancey, General Manager, BHP Mt Arthur Coal



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THIS YEAR I'VE BEEN INSPIRED BY THE ABILITY OF OUR WORLD-CLASS MINING WORKFORCE TO KEEP THE INDUSTRY UNITED, OPERATING AND STAYING POSITIVE DESPITE ONE OF THE GREATEST CHALLENGES THE WORLD HAS FACED IN THE MODERN ERA. IT'S BEEN AN IMMENSE SOURCE OF PRIDE TO BE PART OF AN INDUSTRY THAT HAS WORKED OVERTIME TO KEEP STAFF, COMMUNITIES AND FAMILIES SAFE WHILE BEING A RELIABLE PRODUCER OF COMMODITIES WHICH ARE IN GREAT DEMAND AROUND THE WORLD, INCLUDING OUR HIGH QUALITY HUNTER VALLEY COAL.

The industry has also pulled out all stops to back the community – especially with jobs, small business support and apprenticeships along

with wonderful support for remote Indigenous communities. And it's thrown its support behind the Royal Flying Doctor Service, local health services, community groups and many other worthy organisations.

It would be wrong to predict a return to normality in 2021. There is unlikely to be a vaccine to cover all Australians until later in the year, the opening of international borders may be delayed and health and hygiene will remain a top priority for governments and for the mining industry. From the MCA's perspective, we'll be redoubling our efforts to make sure our miners can continue to be reliable suppliers of high-quality commodities to the world while running our operations safely with a greater focus on sustainability. We'll also be working so that more talented people can join our future minerals workforce, which offers huge opportunities for those prepared to give it a go.

Tania Constable, CEO, Minerals Council of Australia

WHEN IT COMES TO THE BIGGEST CHALLENGE IN 2020 IT'S HARD TO IMAGINE AN ANSWER THAT DOESN'T REVOLVE AROUND COVID-19. LIKE MOST BUSINESSES, RESPONDING TO AND MANAGING THE RISKS AROUND COVID WHILE MAINTAINING OUR SERVICES AND REGULATORY ACTIVITIES WAS A SIGNIFICANT CHALLENGE. HOWEVER, WE WERE ABLE TO QUICKLY ADAPT TO MAINTAIN OUR CORE SERVICES AND WORK CLOSELY WITH INDUSTRY TO ENSURE COVID WAS BEING APPROPRIATELY MANAGED - AND NOT AT THE EXPENSE OF OTHER SAFETY RISKS.

In 2020 I was most inspired by the strong tripartite approach shown in NSW. This genuine commitment from mine operators, unions and government to improve safety saw unanimous support through the Mine Safety Advisory Council for bringing forward reduction of the exposure standard for coal dust by nearly two years and the

introduction of an exposure standard for diesel particulates – a first in Australia.

2021 will be a busy year! The report on the Statutory Review of the WHS (Mines and Petroleum Sites) laws was recently tabled in Parliament and we will be engaging with stakeholders to develop a position on each of the report's recommendations. We will also be looking to implement our Operational Rehabilitation Reforms. But most of all, I'm excited for the return of our signature industry engagement forums, including the mining, electrical and mechanical engineering safety seminars.

Anthony Keon, Executive Director, NSW Resources Regulator



THE BIGGEST CHALLENGE UNDOUBTEDLY THIS YEAR WAS COVID. FROM A STAFFING PERSPECTIVE WE HAD TO MAKE SURE WE WERE ALL SAFE AND ACCOMMODATE WORKING FROM HOME WHILE STILL MAKING SURE EVERYONE WAS ABLE TO DO THEIR JOB. WE HAD TO STAY LINKED SO WE COULD TALK AND PLAN AS FUNDRAISING STOPPED OVERNIGHT. WE HAD TO EVALUATE WHAT THE FUTURE WAS GOING TO BE, HOW WE COULD PLAN FOR IT, HOW WE COULD DRIVE INCOME, HOW WE COULD STAY CONNECTED AND COLLABORATE AND WHAT NEW PLATFORMS WE NEEDED TO MAKE ALL THIS WORK. NONE OF WHICH WE HAD EVER DONE BEFORE! OPERATIONALLY, PUTTING NEW PROCEDURES IN PLACE TO KEEP THE CREWS SAFE WAS A NUMBER ONE PRIORITY.

I'm most proud of how the teams at every level dealt with the pandemic. The fact we have posted some really good numbers proves a couple of things, the support of the mining industry, and the broader community has never wavered because of the strong and broad base of supporters over the last 40 plus years. This has meant we are in a very strong position to deliver on our aspirations to be the best we can be, and safely deliver services to the people of the region.

2021 needs to be a year where we continue to pursue excellence in service delivery with our colleagues from NSW Ambulance and Hunter New England Retrieval Network. We need to make certain we say 'thank you appropriately' to our partners, sponsors, and supporters, plus our volunteers.

Richard Jones OAM, CEO, Westpac Rescue Helicopter



WHEN THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC REACHED AUSTRALIA, WE WERE NOT SURE HOW IT WOULD AFFECT THE MINING AND ENERGY INDUSTRIES. I'M EXTREMELY PROUD OF THE WAY THAT MEMBERS HAVE ADAPTED TO NEW WAYS OF WORKING TO KEEP OUR MINES AND POWER STATIONS SAFE AND OPERATIONAL, IN STRESSFUL AND UNCERTAIN TIMES. WITH THE NATION FACING SO MUCH ECONOMIC STRESS, WE ARE RELYING ON MINING MORE THAN EVER FOR JOBS, ROYALTIES AND VITAL ECONOMIC ACTIVITY.

I'm inspired by the Union members, officials and staff who are continually fighting to improve working conditions and safety standards. For many years, our Union has been fighting the 'permanent casual' rort in mining. In May, the Federal Court backed us

for a second time, finding that casual labour hire mineworkers aren't genuine casuals and the work arrangement is unlawful. Now we are fighting to stop the Government overturning this important win. We are also pursuing rightful compensation for our members unlawfully employed as casuals.

COVID has made it difficult for mining and energy workers to come together for the events and activities that are so important to us, like charity events and our Annual Memorial Day to remember lives lost in mining, which is the most important day in our District's calendar. I'm hopeful that in 2021 we can once again gather together for the events that matter to our members and communities.

Peter Jordan, District President, CFMEU



From everyone at Malabar, we wish everyone in the resources sector a joyful Christmas.

Thank you to everyone who supported our Maxwell Underground Project and Maxwell Solar Farm during such a challenging year for all Australians.

We look forward to 2021, when we will hopefully begin construction on the Maxwell Project, which will create 600 new jobs in the Upper Hunter of NSW.

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2020 HAS BEEN A CHALLENGING YEAR FOR EVERYONE, FIRST WITH DROUGHT, THEN BUSHFIRES AND MOST OBVIOUSLY COVID-19. BUT WHAT WAS ALSO MOST INSPIRING WAS HOW THE COMMUNITY PULLED TOGETHER, EVEN WHEN WE WERE FORCED TO BE APART. SOME OF THE BIGGEST SUCCESSSES OF 2020 WERE A DIRECT RESULT OF THE PANDEMIC, INCLUDING COUNCIL'S \$2 MILLION COMMUNITY SUPPORT PACKAGE OFFERING ASSISTANCE TO EVERYONE IN OUR COMMUNITY ADVERSELY FINANCIALLY AFFECTED BY COVID-19. IT INCLUDED FUNDING FOR ORGANISATIONS SUCH AS SINGLETON NEIGHBOURHOOD CENTRE AND THE SALVO'S TO HELP PEOPLE IN NEED, AND IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE SINGLETON

BUSINESS CHAMBER, TO SUPPORT THE RESILIENCE AND VITALITY OF OUR LOCAL BUSINESSES.

As 2020 comes to a close, and despite the uncertainty that surrounds the pandemic, there's plenty to be optimistic about in 2021. With news of Federal Government funding, I'm looking forward to progress on the Singleton bypass and more broadly, planning for the economic future of Singleton through the Hunter Joint Organisation of Councils' Foundation 2050 and the Regional Australia Institute. We're also painting a new outlook on arts and culture that includes construction of a new arts centre and community programs to strengthen our connectedness to people and place.

Cr Sue Moore, Mayor of Singleton

THE BIGGEST CHALLENGE FOR THE HUNTER MINING INDUSTRY WAS THE SAME AS IT IS EVERY YEAR - TO KEEP OUR WORKMATES, OUR FAMILIES AND OUR COMMUNITY SAFE.

It's been great to see the resilience of so many people to the challenges of 2020, including our mining workers and their families who have done so much to look after each other and keep our industry going during tough times. I can't wait to see what's ahead for 2021.

Stephen Galilee, CEO, NSW Minerals Council



INDISPUTABLY THE LARGEST CHALLENGE OF 2020 WAS THE ONSET OF THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC AND ENSURING THAT YANCOAL'S RESPONSE FOCUSED FIRST AND FOREMOST ON THE SAFETY AND WELLBEING OF OUR PEOPLE. IF OUR PEOPLE ARE HEALTHY AND FEEL SECURE ACROSS OUR SITES AND OFFICES, THEN THEY REMAIN FOCUSED ON THEIR JOBS AND OUR OPERATIONS CONTINUE TO ACHIEVE TARGETS. COAL MARKET CONDITIONS ACROSS THE WORLD WERE IMPACTED NEGATIVELY BY COVID-19 AND THIS ADDED ANOTHER CHALLENGE.

What inspired me most in 2020 was the response of Yancoal's people to the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic. We had to introduce numerous measures and change our way of working across the organisation to minimise the transmission of COVID-19 at our sites. Our staff responded with perseverance, determination

and strength to adapt to these changes. We are meeting our production and cost targets for 2020, which, given the circumstances, is a testament to the quality of our staff and the positive 'can do' culture we have instilled at Yancoal.

I am most excited about a vaccine and about a return to normality in 2021, not only for Yancoal but also for our people - we all want to remove the need for social distancing and other restrictive measures that have impacted us all both professionally and personally. Normality would allow us to focus more on growing the organisation, rather than on risk mitigation related to a virus.

David Moul, CEO, Yancoal



We have learned so much about the resilience of our business, that of our industry and indeed that of our community. Seeing our employees at all levels live our values, and particularly our value of caring, is what has shone through as we have navigated our approach to the challenge of COVID-19. Our team's rapid response to support our community through funding and care packages, together with the heart-warming stories from our community partners about how they adapted, been inventive and provided services differently to meet the increasing needs in these unprecedented times is inspiring.

In 2021 we are excited about opportunities to continue to drive improvement, increase internal and external engagement and build on our strengths to deliver quality services to our customers remains our focus for 2021.

Hennie du Plooy, CEO, Port Waratah Coal Services

AT PORT WARATAH, THE SAFETY OF OUR EMPLOYEES AND CONTRACTORS AND CARING FOR THEIR HEALTH AND WELLBEING WAS AND IS OUR TOP PRIORITY. WE OVERCAME CHALLENGES TO RESPOND TO RAPID-FIRE CHANGES TO SAFE WORKING CONDITIONS WHILE MAINTAINING OPERATIONS AND DELIVERING A QUALITY SERVICE TO OUR CUSTOMERS. WE ARE PROUD OF OUR CAPACITY TO ACCEPT CHANGE AND THE DEMONSTRATED ADAPTABILITY SHOWN BY OUR TEAM. THERE REMAINS A LOT OF UNCERTAINTY ABOUT HOW LONG THESE RESTRICTED CONDITIONS WILL LAST AND WHAT IMPACT THIS WILL CONTINUE TO HAVE ON OUR INDUSTRY. OUR CHALLENGE AS WE MOVE INTO 2021 IS TO REMAIN VIGILANT, THE CONTROLS WE HAVE IN PLACE ARE NOW BUSINESS AS USUAL AND SUSTAINABLE.



Wishing our employees, community and local businesses a safe and Happy Christmas and a successful 2021.

From the team at MACH Energy Mount Pleasant Operation



MACH Energy

Mount Pleasant Operation

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THE BIGGEST CHALLENGE OF 2020 HAS BEEN STAYING CONNECTED AS A COMMUNITY. THIS YEAR HAS SEEN NOT ONLY THE CESSNOCK LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA BUT COMMUNITIES ACROSS AUSTRALIA FACE THE CHALLENGES OF DROUGHT, FOLLOWED BY BUSHFIRES AND THE UNPRECEDENTED COVID-19 PANDEMIC. IT HAS BEEN DIFFICULT FOR US TO CONNECT IN PERSON WITH MANY COMMUNITY EVENTS CANCELLED.

Two things stand out to me during 2020, our ability to show resilience as a community and our ability to adapt. I have witnessed people supporting each other and going out of their way to assist, dropping a neighbour groceries or a daily

phone call to check-in. These small acts of generosity go a long way. Seeing our community out and about supporting local business owners gives me a sense of pride.

Speaking of small business owners their innovation and adaptability that has been inspiring. Hopefully in 2021, COVID-19 has less impact on our community. I look forward to Council delivering the largest spend in infrastructure that the Cessnock Local Government Area has experienced. These infrastructure programs will bring about a significant change to the Cessnock LGA better meeting the needs of our growing population. Importantly this investment will assist in the creation of local jobs.

Cr Bob Pynsent, Mayor of Cessnock

LIKE SO MANY OTHERS OUR FOCUS THIS YEAR HAS BEEN NAVIGATING THE UNKNOWN OF COVID. WE WERE VERY FORTUNATE THAT MANY PARTS OF OUR BUSINESS WERE ABLE TO CONTINUE OPERATIONS AS NORMAL WITHIN RESTRICTIONS. IT WASN'T ALWAYS EASY TO MANAGE OUR CUSTOMERS' EXPECTATIONS AS WE OFTEN HAD TO MOVE QUICKLY TO ALIGN WITH THE CHANGING HEALTH ADVICE TO PROTECT OUR PEOPLE, THOSE WORKING IN THE INDUSTRY AND OUR COMMUNITIES (I'D LIKE TO THANK OUR CUSTOMERS FOR THEIR PATIENCE AND UNDERSTANDING IN THAT REGARD AS WE WORK HARD TO CATCH UP).

Throughout it all, it has been heartening to see everyone working together when things were so uncertain – not just at work but in their homes and communities. Seeing the generosity of spirit to make the most of a challenging situation and the innovations that local businesses have come up with has been very inspiring and is something that I hope will continue to evolve into the future.

Next year will be another big year for us. We have some great initiatives in train aimed at making it easier to work with us, help sites meet statutory obligations and keep our industry safe. I also hope to see the return of some of the community and industry activities that we put on hold this year – it would be great to see everyone again in person.

Lucy Flemming, CEO, Coal Services



THE BIGGEST CHALLENGE FOR COUNCIL IN 2020 WAS UNDOUBTEDLY, COVID-19. BUT THE SHIRE WAS ALSO CHALLENGED EARLIER IN THE YEAR BY EXTREME DROUGHT AND BUSH FIRES. AND AS WELL, COUNCIL ADMINISTRATION CENTRE MOVED TO NEW OFFICES AT CAMPBELL'S CORNER. FANTASTIC EFFORT BY ALL STAFF TO KEEP THE BUSINESS OF COUNCIL GOING UNDER TRYING CONDITIONS. COUNCIL RETAINED ALL STAFF DURING THE CORONAVIRUS CRISIS WITH A NUMBER WORKING FROM HOME AND STAGGERED SHIFTS, STRINGENT SOCIAL DISTANCING AND HYGIENE PROTOCOLS ADHERED TO BY ALL.

In 2020 I was inspired by the resilience shown by the community and Council staff during the coronavirus crisis. The way individuals responded and rallied together. The Club Kitchen was one excellent example – Council

worked with local clubs and a score of volunteers to prepare and deliver nourishing meals to those in the community who were unable shop and prepare meals for themselves. Another example was the way library staff at Muswellbrook and Denman swung into action to put a home delivery service in place.

In 2021, Council has several exciting projects underway which will be completed. The Muswellbrook Aquatic and Fitness Centre will reopen after a major upgrade, including refurbishment of the historic Ruth White Memorial Pool. Stage Two of the Tertiary Education Centre, featuring a STEM learning centre and Makerspace, and the new Animal Care Facility and Community Hub will be completed, and the Regional Entertainment Centre will be well underway. There is a lot to look forward to.

Rod Scholes, Deputy Mayor, Muswellbrook Shire Council

WHO WOULD HAVE THOUGHT AT THE BEGINNING OF THE YEAR THAT TOILET PAPER, HAND SANITISER AND FACE MASKS WOULD BECOME THE MOST SOUGHT-AFTER ITEMS IN 2020? THAT GLOBAL SUPPLY CHAINS COULD BE SO BADLY DISRUPTED THAT ACCESS TO BASIC PPE LIKE RESPIRATORY PROTECTION (FACE MASKS), IN THE CASE OF UNDERGROUND MINING, COULD THREATEN OUR MINING OPERATIONS. 2020 GAVE US NO CHOICE OTHER THAN TO ADAPT AND RISE TO THE COVID CHALLENGE.

I was inspired that even in the face of a wild, scary and unknown global threat our miners, supported by their families and

local communities, pulled together, stayed healthy and continued to work safely throughout 2020 with stoicism and professionalism. COVID has delivered a 'step change' in the way our society and economy operates, at least for the next year or so, with some things speeding up others slowing down. One positive for me is our world has become smaller and the pace of life slower providing the opportunity to rediscover and appreciate the simpler things in life. I plan to be kinder to myself and others and to embrace whatever 2021 delivers with enthusiasm and positivity.

Katie Brassil, Executive General Manager External Relations, Centennial



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Support for STARLIGHT

MECHLEC HAVE RALLIED TOGETHER THE LOCAL MINING INDUSTRY AND COMMUNITY FOR THEIR FIRST ANNUAL MECHLEC STARLIGHT FOUNDATION CHARITY GOLF DAY TO BE HELD ON DECEMBER 11, HOPING TO RAISE \$20,000 FOR AN EXTREMELY IMPORTANT CAUSE.

Held at the beautiful Crown Plaza Hunter Valley Golf Course, the event will bring together over 20 local businesses, with 96 people attending for a day of laughs and competition. But the reason for this event is much more than a day of golf, with all proceeds on the day going towards the seriously ill children and their families of the Starlight Foundation.

Mechlec Managing Director, Mark Ostermann has been a long term silver member for donations to the Starlight Foundation, a charity very close to his heart. "The staff at Mechlec have seen firsthand, through Mark's support of the foundation, the great work they do," said Mick Deacon, Manager U/G Division & Business Development.

Mechlec have set themselves a goal to raise at least \$20,000 and you can help them get there. The initial release of tickets for the day were sold out in 10 days but you can still show your support by donating online at <https://starlightfundraisers.org.au/mechlecminingservices> or by emailing Mick Deacon at mick@mechlec.com.au.

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THE SAFETY OF THEIR CREW IS NUMBER ONE FOR SOLID ENGINEERING, AND THEY HAVE NOW TAKEN THAT ONE STEP FURTHER ADDING 'BUSHFIRE SURVIVAL KITS' TO SITE VEHICLES THAT WORK REMOTELY.



constantly on bushfire alert, but really the idea just came from a common Aussie experience which is a really hot, long, dry summer," said Vin.

"Last year caught everyone off guard, so we thought we could be better prepared with a simple, good quality kit that you can take anywhere."

Todd Atchison, Solid Engineering's Site Project Manager added, "We do a fair bit of site work remotely where it could just be a team of two blokes on the outskirts of mine sites, so the kits will be an added safety measure to put in the site vehicles to keep the team safe."

We commend the Solid Engineering team for again putting the safety of their team first and hats off to Vin for developing a brilliant product that can save lives this summer.

DESIGNED FOR THE HOME OR AT WORK, YOU CAN PURCHASE YOUR KIT AT BUSHFIRESURVIVALKITS.COM

Earlier this year Solid Engineering engaged a local start up business, Bushfire Survival Kits, to better equip their team when working remotely, particularly on remote mine sites. After bushfires ravaged Australia and the Hunter Valley last summer, the Solid team decided they needed to take extra precautions.

THAT'S WHERE VIN KEBBLEWHITE, FOUNDER OF BUSHFIRE SURVIVAL KITS, STEPPED IN - TO PROVIDE FIREPAK KITS THAT WILL HELP PROTECT REMOTE TEAMS IF THEY HAPPEN TO GET CAUGHT UP IN OR CUT OFF BY FAST MOVING BUSHFIRES. THE KIT IS FILLED WITH SPECIFICALLY SELECTED SAFETY GEAR TO FACE AN EMERGENCY BUSHFIRE SITUATION.

Covid postponed the February launch of the kits, but fortunately, Vin was able to launch the product on November 28 just in time for summer. "The idea really kicked off last summer with the bushfires; living locally we were

WORTH THE WAIT

IF IT WAS ANY NORMAL YEAR, WE WOULD BE CELEBRATING THE SUCCESSES AND THE CONTRIBUTION THAT OUR LOCAL COAL MINING EMPLOYEES WOULD HAVE MADE TOWARDS THE WESTPAC RESCUE HELICOPTER THROUGH THE ANNUAL A-PLUS CONTRACTING HUNTER VALLEY MINING CHARITY RUGBY LEAGUE DAY. HOWEVER AS WE ALL KNOW THIS HAS NOT BEEN THE CASE GIVEN THAT 2020 HAS BEEN FAR FROM NORMAL.



Although preparations are being made to ensure a 'CovidSafe' version of the postponed 2020 edition of the event can take place at Pirtek Park, Singleton on March 20.

Whilst the event will be modified to comply with Covid restrictions the event will continue to see 16 teams battle it out to be crowned Champions and secure those all-important bragging rights across the mining industry.

In speaking about the changes Event Organiser and the Rescue Helicopters Service's Community Liaison Officer, Danny Eather believes that despite the unique challenges he is confident that the event will live up to the expectations.

"Whilst there is nothing better than standing on the hill at Pirtek Park and looking out too see spectators lining all sides of the field, this year will not be possible under the current restrictions. As we speak we are still limited to a maximum capacity of 500 attendees at the sporting event, so we have made the decision that only players and team officials will be permitted to attend. Whilst we are hoping that the capacity numbers may increase in the coming weeks, we would only want to see this happen if it was safe for the community."

"WE KNOW THAT THIS DECISION WILL DISAPPOINTMENT MANY WITHIN THE COMMUNITY AS EQUALLY IT DOES FOR US HOWEVER WILL BE LIVE STREAMING THE DAYS

COMPETITION SO PEOPLE CAN WATCH AND NOT MISS A SINGLE MOMENT. WE ARE CALLING ON LOCAL LICENSED VENUES THAT MAY WISH TO BECOME A REGISTERED 'LIVE SITE' TO GET IN TOUCH," SAID DANNY.

Despite all of the challenges of 2020 and the modifications to the running of the event it is anticipated that in excess of \$85,000 will be raised for the Westpac Rescue Helicopter Service, which will provide a much needed boost given that all of the Rescue Helicopter Service's face-to-face fundraising activities have been cancelled or postponed for the majority of the this year due to Covid-19 whilst the Rescue Helicopter has continued to be

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there for the community 24-7 during this health crisis. All of which has not been possible without the continued commitment of team sponsors and in particular event partners, A-Plus Contracting, Jennings Print, Pirtek-Singleton & Muswellbrook, Tyre Doctor, Mine Super, Slater & Gordon, Mader New South Wales, NSW Mining, Hunter Valley Operations, Yancoal, All-Pro, Aletek, At The Coalface, Bowers Heavy Haulage, Coal Services Mines Rescue, Oiltest, Walton Mining Service and the Singleton Untied Rugby League Club.

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COMMUNITY GIFT

XMAS GIVING TREE

THIS MONTH THE COMPLETE PARTS AND @ THE COALFACE \$500 COMMUNITY GIFT GOES TO THE SINGLETON NEIGHBOURHOOD CENTRE. WELL ACTUALLY THIS MONTH IT WAS \$650 WORTH OF TOYS BUT WHO'S COUNTING!

The Singleton Neighbourhood Centre are doing the really difficult community work with some of our community's more vulnerable and disadvantaged and again we wanted to support them along with Complete Parts.

Every year for the past few we have joined this great initiative with Complete and other suppliers that they use so that those less fortunate than us get some very real Xmas cheer.

If you want to help too, simply donate either a gift or non-perishable food item that may be used in a hamper and help make someone's Christmas merry and bright. You'll find them up behind Bunnings at Maison Dieu Singleton.



A VERY MERRY XMAS TO ALL INVOLVED AND FROM ALL OF US HAVE A WONDERFUL CELEBRATION THIS YEAR.

CHRISTMAS CHEER

COVID CAN'T STOP CHRISTMAS LUNCH IN SINGLETON, THOUGH THIS YEAR'S EVENT WILL BE A LITTLE DIFFERENT WITH GUESTS TO COLLECT HAMPERS FROM THE SENIOR CITIZENS CENTRE ON CHRISTMAS DAY.

The Lunch is inclusive and organised specifically for those who may otherwise be unable to celebrate. This year, due to Covid compliance, Samaritans has organised an EXPRESS Lunch and Gift PICK UP on Christmas Day.

"We all know that 2020 has been a year like no other. This concept has been created, so we can still deliver Christmas cheer while keeping the community safe," said event coordinator Kim-Cherie Davidson.



SINGLETON COMMUNITY MEMBERS WENDY LOVE, GARY HOLLAND AND CASSIE RUSSELL ARE VOLUNTEERING THEIR TIME AND EXPERTISE.

ON CHRISTMAS DAY BETWEEN 11AM AND 1PM, HAMPERS WITH FOOD, DRINKS AND GIFTS, CAN BE COLLECTED FROM THE STEPS OF THE SENIOR CITIZENS CENTRE, AFTER FOLLOWING THE COVID-CHECK IN OF REGISTRATION, USING SUPPLIED HAND SANITISER AND MASK.

"There will be some Christmas sparkle with joyous greetings (social distancing style) and festive decorations such as a tree, music and colourful tablecloths. It will be different, and people will be asked to collect their goodies and keep moving. However, it will still achieve our goal of looking after people in our community that need us."

Support for this year's event has been confirmed by sponsors Mt Owen Glendell Operations - Glencore, Yancoal - Mt Thorley Warkworth and event partners the Bloomfield Group Foundation and will again work in partnership with the Anglican Parish of Singleton under Reverend Michelle Hazel-Jawhary.

"Due to a later start than normal while we became a COVID-compliant event, we are asking the local community to help where they can as a sponsor, donor or volunteer," said Ms Davidson.

"The event is just not possible without the generosity of the local Parish, volunteers, sponsors and supporters", Ms Davidson said.

TO BE A SPONSOR, DONOR OR VOLUNTEER OF THE SAMARITANS CHRISTMAS EXPRESS LUNCH AND GIFT PICK UP EMAIL KIMCHERIE.DAVIDSON@SAMARITANS.ORG.AU OR PHONE 0427 867 969.



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GLENCORE GIVES BACK

ACROSS THEIR NSW COAL OPERATIONS GLENCORE GENERATED OVER \$8 BILLION IN TOTAL ECONOMIC ACTIVITY THIS YEAR. BUT THEY DON'T STOP THERE WITH CONTRIBUTING TO OUR COMMUNITIES.



\$500,000 went to Blaze Aid, \$250,000 to the NSW Rural Fire Service and another \$250,000 to Aussie Ark. Crews at Bulga and Ravensworth also collected and donated \$36,000 worth of tools to support NSW communities affected by the bushfires.

But they weren't finished helping Aussie Ark. Glencore has a longstanding partnership with Aussie Ark and this year they renewed their 3-year partnership with them pledging a total of \$600,000 towards the organisation's conservation outcome. They also partner with Hunter Wetlands Centre Australia and when the Centre was damaged in an arson attack this year Glencore donated \$100,000 to help rebuild their facilities.

Local sporting clubs got a huge boost with 24 junior sporting clubs receiving grants of up to \$7,500 each in this year's rounds of Glencore's

Junior Sports Development Program. The program has contributed a total of more than \$1.5 million to clubs in NSW and Queensland since its establishment.

Then there was the help for 12 not-for-profit community groups, each receiving general grants of up to \$2,500. The grants fund projects that aim to enhance the sustainability and strength of organisations in the areas around Glencore's coal operations and include recipients in Singleton, Muswellbrook, Denman, Mulbring, Cessnock, Millfield, Greta, Gulgong and Sandy Hollow.

GLENCORE'S SUPPORT OF COMMUNITY GROUPS DOESN'T END THERE. LONG TERM PARTNERS WITH THE SALVATION ARMY, THIS YEAR THEY WORKED WITH THEM ON THE DRIVE FOR LIFE PROGRAM, A PROGRAM THAT NOT ONLY HELPS TEACH YOUNG PEOPLE TO DRIVE, BUT ALSO PROVIDES VALUABLE MENTORING AND NEEDS BASED SUPPORT.

Another partner is Where there's a Will. Thanks to Glencore's



support they can continue their fantastic work in promoting positive wellbeing across 22 schools and seven preschools throughout the Upper Hunter. Supporting education is forefront for Glencore. They support the Solid Pathways program, have a partnership with the Clontarf Academy and are proud supporters of Tocal College. This July when the Singleton Beef and Land Management's Agricultural Education Day was put on hold due to Covid, Glencore was there to help them go online to provide presentations and videos, ensuring students still had access to valuable education material. Then there's their own Apprenticeship Program, kickstarting the mining careers of hundreds of kids every year.

But it's not just the company that is helping our communities. Glencore's workforce is doing their part too. Through the Workplace Giving Program, employees from Glencore's

NSW coal operations donated more than \$234,000 to the Westpac Rescue Helicopter Service this year.

THEN THERE ARE THE ON THE GROUND PROJECTS THAT ARE HAPPENING ACROSS ALL THEIR SITES THANKS TO WORKFORCES WHO ARE ENCOURAGED TO CARE ABOUT THEIR COMMUNITIES AND MAKE A DIFFERENCE.

Glencore has been a long-term sponsor of the Singleton Neighbourhood Centre, providing them with the money to purchase their centre building. This year also saw Glencore sites Integra and Bulga getting onboard with different initiatives to support the organisation. In our last edition, we featured Bulga Coal's donation to the Centre's Open Door facility as a part of their excavator conversion. The Bulga Coal team also helped to build a new skate park, an eight-year long project that the community will enjoy for many years to come.

The Mt Owen/Glendell Operation

team hosted two 'Community Coffee' events as part of their commitment to community engagement while using it as an opportunity to support local businesses. They also supported their local RSPCA by donating new equipment.

Ravensworth's 'Thank you' coffee initiative showed their appreciation to health care workers, shouting them free coffees for a week. Almost 600 coffees provided a much-needed boost of nearly \$3,000 to some of our local cafes.

Liddell got behind the Mark Hughes Foundation, selling used washery baskets to raise \$5,000 for the organisation. They also were proud to support a local Hunter family through the Little Winds charity.

Volunteers from the Ulan Coal team showed up to help the Mudgee Lions Club cut, load, and deliver firewood to 18 residents in Mudgee as part

of the Club's firewood project. They also volunteered to package food hampers that Barnardos distributed to people in the local community who had been disadvantaged by COVID-19. The hampers included enough food to feed a family for a weekend.

The Mangoola team have been busy this year, providing Muswellbrook PCYC with funds to buy relief hampers for those in need in the community, Denman Children's centre with play equipment, and a generous donation to Upper Hunter Homeless Support.

THIS LIST OF DONATIONS AND INITIATIVES JUST GOES ON AND ON. FULL CREDIT TO GLENCORE FOR THEIR FANTASTIC SUPPORT FOR OUR COMMUNITIES AND FOR FOSTERING A WORKFORCE THAT SO STRONGLY CARES ABOUT THE COMMUNITIES THEY WORK IN.



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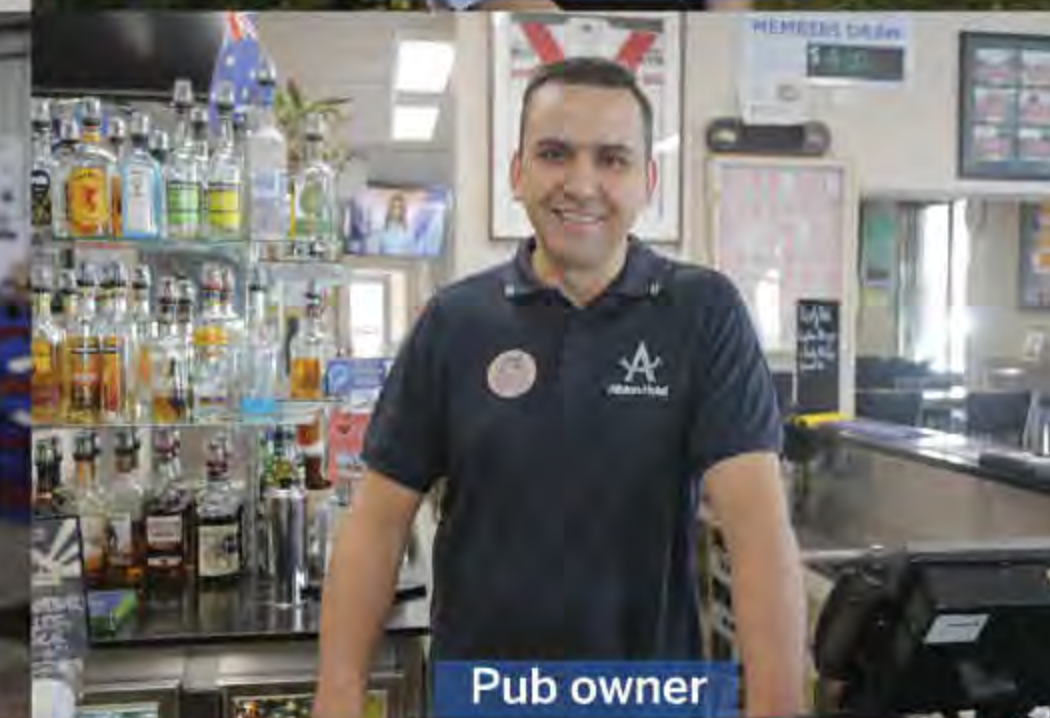
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THIS MONTH WE TALK WITH BANLAW'S MAINTENANCE MANAGER, SAM BARNES ABOUT HOW TO MINIMISE THE THREAT OF FIRES DURING REFUELLING.

Sam specialises in HME maintenance and site infrastructure for the management of industrial fluids. He's installed and serviced hydrocarbon hardware and systems on over 50 Australian mine sites, and regularly travelled to Indonesia and West Africa to help improve maintenance management systems for Banlaw's customers. He knows firsthand that one of the biggest risks for miners to consider for fuel and lubricant management is that of fire.

"Mines have large amounts of stored diesel in their fuel farms, whilst heavy mining equipment can carry tens of thousands of litres onboard," explains Sam. "Poorly maintained refuelling equipment or operator error can very quickly lead to hot engine components igniting fuel, and in seconds you can have a tragedy beyond the cost of a machine."

SAM SAYS THAT FUEL FIRES OCCURRING ON MINING MACHINES BASICALLY BOILS DOWN TO INADEQUATE REFUELLING EQUIPMENT MAINTENANCE, STAFF KNOWLEDGE AND PROCESS ADHERENCE, AND WHETHER OR NOT APPROPRIATE TANK OVERFILL PROTECTION EQUIPMENT HAS BEEN FITTED.

"Equipment fires occur because hot engine components, like turbos, come into contact with fuel, either directly from a fuelling hose, or because the fuel has escaped from the vehicle tank. Fuel from the hose can spray out when splash fill rather than quick connect (dry break) fittings are being used, and when the flow rate is simply too high for filling with this method. Splash filling directly into the tank filler neck means a person must be paying attention to cease refuelling when the tank is full, and to keep the hose under control."

"Fuel can escape directly from the tank on mining equipment because the tank has split due to overpressurisation, or vacuum, or both. Fuel can also be sprayed from a vent on top of the tank, because that vent is not sealing properly, or because the fast fill system doesn't cease filling at the correct time."

Sam indicates that a leading cause of tank rupture is actually behavioural. Refuelling systems are either held or tied into the 'on' position because

machine tanks on site are not filling completely. This situation is easily resolved by installing receivers with the correct spring setting and fitting an effective overfill protection system.

"THERE IS NO REASON TO OVERRIDE REFUELLING SYSTEMS. ALWAYS FIX THE ROOT CAUSE OF THE PROBLEM INSTEAD. THIS CAN BE AS SIMPLE AS USING AN OVERFILL PROTECTION SYSTEM. THESE SYSTEMS WORK BY PUTTING A LEVEL SENSOR IN THE TOP OF A FUEL TANK, AND A CONTROL VALVE IN THE FILL LINE. THE CONTROL VALVE CLOSURES WHEN FUEL INSIDE THE TANK REACHES THE CORRECT SAFE FILL LEVEL, AND THIS FORCES THE REFUELLING PROCESS TO END BEFORE PRESSURE BUILDS UP IN THE TANK."

Sam also recommends using an appropriate venting product to ensure that air can get out of the tank fast enough to avoid pressurising the tank during high speed refuelling, and that incoming air is filtered quickly enough to avoid a vacuum too. It's especially important on service trucks where diesel is being dispensed at hundreds of litres a minute.

Sam says that all mining equipment is different, each with its own requirements. Large mining excavators are a special case but when it comes to haul trucks, wheel loaders, dozers and the like the reasons for fuel fires are usually the same on all the diesel-powered machines and stationary equipment on mine sites. This includes losing control of fuel hoses, not checking and maintaining fuelling equipment to OEM specifications, and using equipment in a manner it was not designed for.

When it comes down to it Sam says for most mining vehicles he recommends a mechanical tank overfill protection solution. The benefits are that it's extremely cost efficient, you can install it yourself, it goes a long way towards mitigating the fire risk, protects your tank from pressure damage, and it makes your refuelling process more efficient as well.

If you want further information about achieving fast fills, and no spills, then read more about Banlaw's Pressureless Overfill Protection Solutions at www.banlaw.com/tank-overfill-protection/

GOOD FOR YOU, GOOD FOR THE PLANET

DID YOU KNOW THAT BY EATING SUSTAINABLY YOU'RE NOT JUST MAKING YOURSELF HEALTHIER, YOU'LL ALSO MAKE THE PLANET HEALTHIER TOO.



Our food choices ultimately impact more than just our waistlines. What we eat also impacts our environment. With over half the population in Australia overweight or obese and food production contributing to roughly 30% of global greenhouse gas emissions it's time for everyone to start thinking about implementing a sustainable diet.

What is a sustainable diet? It's not so much a specific diet, instead it's a flexible dietary pattern that will lead to positive health outcomes for you while having a low impact on the environment and food supply. There are no set rules on what makes a diet sustainable, but we've put together some simple tips to help you get started. After Christmas lunch of course...

GROW YOUR OWN

Grow your own fruits and vegetables. Whether it's some herbs in a pot, tomatoes on the verandah or a small plot in the backyard, it will benefit your health because there is nothing as good as eating fresh grown produce. With no transportation or production

costs it's a win win for you and the environment. And your wallet.

SHOP SMART AND LOCAL

Farmers markets and local grocers are not only a great way to help your community, but it will also reduce food transportation costs. Buy bulk when you can and the less packaging the better as it creates less waste and uses less energy.

GO NUTS FOR GREENS

The best sustainable diet largely consists of vegetables, fruits, whole grains, legumes, nuts, and unsaturated oils. See your mum was right when she told you to eat your greens.

IT'S THE SEASON

Only eat food that is in season. Food that has to be shipped from far away causes more emissions. You also never know how long it's been frozen or stored for and fresh is always best.

SUGAR ISN'T SWEET

Less salt, sugar, and fat - this one's a no brainer. Occasional treats only! Most processed foods contain some form of added salt, sugar, flavouring agents or preservatives which

means that more energy and resources have gone into producing them and because they contain all sorts of unrecognisable nasties they often aren't good for you.

WATER WORKS

Liquids are some of the heaviest items to ship around so stop buying bottled beverages. Nothing is as good for your health

as plain tap water.

WASTE NOT WANT NOT

The average household wastes around 30% of the food they buy. The environment will be better off if you just throw the cash straight in the bin instead of all that food. Start some sensible meal planning to avoid waste.

MODERATE YOUR MEAT

Meat production has the biggest impact on the environment and despite many years of misinformation you do not need to put pork on your fork as part of a healthy diet. Many plant sources contain adequate protein. The recommendation is to include a low to moderate amount of seafood and poultry and none or a very low quantity of red meat and processed meat.

Sustainability is a multifaceted issue in which the food production system and our diets play a crucial role. While you might never have been motivated enough to change your diet for your own health in the past, perhaps the future of our planet might convince you.

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FAR FROM French

DESPITE SOUNDING DECIDEDLY FRENCH, THE NAME LETOURNEAU IS SYNONYMOUS WITH THE UNITED STATES AND WAS ONCE JUST AS WELL-KNOWN AS CATERPILLAR.

Kicking off in 1929 out of Stockton, California, Robert Gilmour LeTourneau was a prolific entrepreneur and inventor possessed with the ability and interest to solve common, everyday mechanical problems and make existing tasks more productive.

Considered by many as the father of the modern earthmoving industry, R.G., as he was best known, enjoyed pushing the limits of design and believed there were 'no big jobs, only small machines!' Such was his thirst for solutions that at the time of his death in 1969, aged 80, he held over 430 patents and is credited, among other things, to have been the first manufacturer to use welding to build earthmoving equipment in place of bolting or riveting.

Opposed to the use of hydraulics, one of R.G.'s most daring, successful and expensive undertakings in 1950 was the earthmoving industry's first internal electric wheel motor, a technology considered 'mainstream' in mining today. Still, a defining feature of LeTourneau's loaders, the replacement of major mechanical components with electric generators and wheel motors powered by a conventional diesel engine permits a range of outcomes that their



mechanical counterparts could only dream off. These dynamics include infinitely variable speed range, lower centre of gravity and tighter turning radiuses during loading cycles.

NEVER ONE FOR AESTHETICS, R.G.'S DESIGNS WERE PRACTICAL AND THE SORT YOU'D EXPECT TO SEE IN SCIENCE FICTION BOOKS. SUCH WAS HIS PHILOSOPHY TO POWER, THAT IF ONE OR TWO BIG DETROIT DIESELS WERE NOT ENOUGH, HE WOULD TRY ADDING THREE, FOUR OR MORE ENGINES TO MAKE 'THINGS' HAPPEN (GOOGLE 'TACTICAL TREE CRUSHER'!)

A religious man, R.G. and his wife Evelyn were dedicated philanthropists giving an estimated 90% of their fortune away as well as founding the Letourneau University. Albeit many transitions over its time, the LeTourneau marque remains. Now owned by Komatsu Mining Corp., the Company continues to be headquartered at its original plant in Longview, Texas where to this



ROBERT GILMOUR LETOURNEAU

day their loaders are manufactured entirely from the ground up.

Enduring, the LeTourneau philosophies continue to stand the test of time and can be found in all modern earthmoving and mining machines. Should you find yourself with some spare time this festive season, YouTube 'R.G. LeTourneau, Pioneer Recognition,' it's truly a fantastic story.

Wishing you all a joyous festive season with family and friends. May 2021 hold good luck, good fortune and good health for all.

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QUADBIKE QUALMS



A CONTROVERSIAL NEW REGULATION BEING PHASED IN NEXT YEAR BY THE GOVERNMENT HAS SEEN MANY OF THE BIG PLAYERS IN THE ATV SEGMENT WITHDRAW PRODUCTION AND DEVELOPMENT OF THEIR QUADBIKES FROM THE AUSTRALIAN MARKET.

Honda, Yamaha and Polaris have all announced that they will no longer supply quad bikes to the Australian market due to the new regulations requiring that roll-over protection be fitted to all general use quad bikes by October 2021.

Part of the new regulations also require that quad bikes are tested for lateral, front and rear longitudinal stability as well, and are to display the maximum tilt angles on the bikes

at the point of sale.

Some of these manufacturer's claim that the systems required to meet these regulations will cause more accidents than they prevent and that designing roll-over protection systems will make the vehicle's impractical for their intended use due to making them larger and less manoeuvrable for farming, hunting and recreational use.

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THE AUSTRALIAN COMPETITION AND CONSUMER COMMISSION (ACCC) FULLY SUPPORTS THE NEW REGULATIONS AFTER RELEASING A REPORT OUTLINING THE RISK OF QUADBIKE ROLL-OVERS AND STRONGLY BELIEVES THAT ROLL-OVER PROTECTION IS THE WAY TO GO TO REDUCE INJURIES AND DEATHS.

So, does this mean the death of the quad bike in Australia – a continent that has relied on the quad bike being part of the agricultural, recreational and essential services' way of life for several decades? Not by a long shot! There are other quadbike manufacturers such as CFMoto that have already implemented the changes and while the field has narrowed when it comes to choice, the manufacturers that are on-board with the new regulations have said that they are here to stay!

Quad bikes have been a way of life in this country for many years. Farmers, hunters, tour operators, recreational uses and essential services such as surf life saving rely on having a machine that is ultra-maneuvrable, and able to carry gear into places that 4WDs just aren't capable of getting to. Not to mention almost every kid that's grown up on a property has almost certainly spent some time learning hand-to-eye coordination and skills on a quadbike, that they've been able to apply later on in life such as learning to drive a car and operate machinery. Did we mention the fun factor?

Only time will tell how effective the new measures will be and really, it was only a matter of time before the Government stepped in to decrease the danger element of quadbike riding. While there may be less players now in the field when it comes to purchasing a quad, it's good to know they will still be around for many years to come.

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REPACHOLI'S RISE TO FAME

DOUBLE R'S HUNTER VALLEY BRANCH MANAGER DAN REPACHOLI IS ONE OF THE NEWEST MEMBERS OF THE CESSNOCK HALL OF FAME, INDUCTED UNDER THE SPORTS CATEGORY FOR HIS IMPRESSIVE SPORTS SHOOTING CAREER.

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This isn't the first time we've seen the name Daniel Repacholi in the spotlight for his sharp shooting skills. We've gotten to know Dan pretty damn well here @ The Coalface trying to keep up with his numerous achievements over the years. And we know this latest achievement won't be his last.

To bring you up to speed, Dan has been competing as a sports shooter since he was just 12 years old and has represented Australia professionally in the sport for over 15 years.

Making his Olympic debut when he was just 22, Dan represented Australia at the 2004 Athens Olympic Games and went on to compete at many Olympic and Commonwealth Games over the years. In 2018 Daniel won gold in the 50m Pistol event at the Gold Coast Commonwealth Games, where he set a new Commonwealth Games record.

Established in 2006, the Hall of Fame recognises those high achieving individuals and families from our region who have attained prominence in their chosen field.

Dan has certainly done that, but said he was surprised to find out about his nomination for the award.

"You're nominated for the award by the public, so it was a bit of a shock to get the call saying I'd been inducted into the Cessnock Hall of Fame," said Dan.

"IT WAS SOMETHING I HADN'T REALLY THOUGHT ABOUT, BUT BEING RECOGNISED FOR THE HARD WORK I HAVE PUT IN FOR A SPORT THAT I AM SO PASSIONATE ABOUT IS A GOOD FEELING."

All of this while heading up the Rutherford Double R Branch, we asked Dan how he brings his sporting mentality to his day job. His answer? Dan says the two roles go hand in hand.

"Both when shooting and when at work, I have to deal with high

pressure situations, communicate with many different people and stay focused," said Dan.

"Sport has given me some amazing communication skills from competing and travelling all over the world and this is something I apply at work, but I would say that my work mentality has had a greater impact on the way I play sport than vice versa."

"WHEN I'M ON THE JOB I HAVE TO STAY FOCUSED ALL THE TIME, WHEREAS IN SPORT I ONLY HAVE TO STAY FOCUSED FOR A FEW HOURS OF COMPETITION OR TRAINING."

"That's where work at Double R has really made me an effective shooting competitor as it has enabled me to stay focused for longer and adapt and change to situations a lot easier."

One thing is clear, no matter what Dan Repacholi is doing, it's a no brainer that you will see him succeed.



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Festive Fishing SEASON

WELL, 2020 HAS DEFINITELY THROWN EVERYTHING AT US INCLUDING THE KITCHEN SINK! BUT THE GOOD NEWS IS THE FISHING SEEMS TO BE HEADING IN THE SAME DIRECTION. HONESTLY, WE WOULD STRUGGLE TO COME UP WITH A SPECIES OR FORM OF FISHING THAT ISN'T ON FIRE AT THE MOMENT.

BEACHES

Let's start at the top of the list. Beach fishing is insane at the moment. I don't think I've seen the quality and numbers of fish for a long time. Especially the Jewies!

FRESH WATER

The recent flush in the rivers has been just what we needed and has the Bass fired up. It's really hard to beat the adventure walking along the creeks and rivers late on a summer's afternoon flicking a few lures around the snags.

OFFSHORE

Things are continuing to improve off the coast when it comes to the coming Marlin season. A few fish have been caught and seen as far as the warm water goes. We have some really warm water wide off Port Macquarie and an upwelling sitting off the coast of Port Stephens. All we need is the warm current to push South and we

should hopefully see the start of an awesome Marlin season.

Offshore reef places like Allmark wide off the Bay and Texas off Norah Head are alive with Kingfish lately, with some bigger than average testing the punters out. As long as the current doesn't kick into gear it should continue for a while yet.

Inshore reefs we are still seeing some great numbers of Snapper in the reefs. We are also seeing plenty of Trag on the reefs and Flathead stacking up on the sand for the Summer. The Pelagic front Kingfish are bullying those who wish to play silly games around the inshore reefs also with some pretty big hoodlums showing up for a fight.

EASTURIES

Lake Mac would have to be the standout with its diverse range of



ABOVE: GUN FISHERMAN AND PLANT MECHANIC CHRIS WITH ONE OF MANY PRIME RIVER BASS HE'S BEEN CATCHING FLUDDING ABOUT THE LOCAL RIVER SYSTEMS.

LEFT: PLINY OF FISHING GOING ON AND WE'VE SEEN SOME OF THE BEST IN A LONG WHILE FROM THE BEACH. THIS BEAUTY WAS ONE OF TEN ENCOUNTERED OVER TWO NIGHTS AWAY FISHING RECENTLY. IT'S TIME TO HEAD TO THE BEACH AND SOAK A FEW BAITS!

target species and ease of fishing with the family. Whiting and Flathead are moving around on the hunt especially in and around the channel and tidal areas of the lake. Kingfish are showing their presence in the lake, these fish also tend to hold in and around the more tidal

areas, especially around the Bridge. Throwing a few lures at the bridge pylons can be a lot of fun but heart breaking at the same time.

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AS WE RACE DOWN THE HOME STRETCH OF 2020, THE NEXT FEW MONTHS ARE JAM PACKED WITH EVENTS TO BE ENJOYED ACROSS THE BOARD AT NEWCASTLE RACECOURSE AND HERE @ THE COALFACE WE CAN'T WAIT.

We recently traded in the high vis for some cocktail dresses and suits and made our way to the Newcastle Racecourse for a punt and a pint and it was one of the best day's we have had all year.

Being one of the few outings we've had in 2020, we went all out booking a table in the Chevals Restaurant for a buffet lunch and to say we were impressed is an understatement. From the moment we walked up the stairs the staff and experience were impossible to fault, with a Covid safe greeting at the door and very efficient table service. So efficient in fact, the moment my glass was empty I had a staff member at the table ready to take my next order.

THE CHEVALS RESTAURANT IS THE PREMIER LOCATION AT THE VENUE, WITH PANORAMIC VIEWS OF THE WINNING POST AND HOME STRAIGHT TO CATCH ALL THE ACTION. THE ATMOSPHERE IS JUST AS AMAZING, WITH THE ROOM ERUPTING AS THE HORSES HIT THE HOME STRETCH TO THE FINISH LINE.

Sitting in the cool restaurant on a beautiful Summer Saturday overlooking the track, we couldn't help but join in the fun. The bets were on and the beers and champagne were flowing throughout the day, and the food exceptional.

Just when the day started to come to a close and thinking the day couldn't get any better, we finished it off with a winning horse. It was truly a day to remember.

Something that stood out was the large amount of different function rooms available at the venue. There's a room to cater for every need and any social event, from birthday's and engagement parties to work and business functions.

There are two levels of public bars, up close and personal lawn marquees and a member's bar all overlooking the racecourse. I'm probably being a little biased given the amazing day I had, but the Chevals Restaurant experience is a must. I've already started to drop hints to the boss for the work Christmas party.

WITH THE CURRENT COVID CLIMATE, I MUST SAY THAT THE NEWCASTLE RACECOURSE HAVE GONE ABOVE AND BEYOND TO ENSURE THAT YOU STILL HAVE AN AMAZING EXPERIENCE WHILST ADHERING TO NSW GOVERNMENT RESTRICTIONS WITH SOME FORMAT CHANGES.

There are loads of social race days coming up, so start filling up your calendar. The Racing at Newcastle day on December 19 is the ideal date for your Christmas lunch or work party, followed by the biggest party of the year, Boxing Day Races. Then

there's races almost every week in January, February and March 2021. But there's one social event idea that's been rolling around the minds of the @ The Coalface team that we think would be bloody brilliant and we're sure you'll agree - a day dedicated to our coal miners, a Coal Miners Cup. Look out 2021!



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A MIGHTY GOOD FEED

THE MIGHTY HUNTER VALLEY IS ONE OF THE NEWEST PLACES TO EAT AND ENJOY IN THE HUNTER, AND THE STUNNING VENUE IS CERTAINLY LIVING UP TO ITS MIGHTY NAME.

Positioned in a picturesque wine country setting in Nulkaba, the freshly refurbished venue has so much more than just a beautiful location to offer. Formerly the Potters Hotel, it's been a popular venue for many years but they have succeeded tenfold in rebranding with style and sophistication.

My partner Shaun and I couldn't resist stopping by for lunch. With a name like The Mighty Hunter Valley, we had high expectations of a mighty dining experience and that's exactly what we were given.

There's a simple elegance to the venue, from the striking entrance archways, fresh and vibrant furnishings and large spacious entertainment areas, to the clever yet approachable dining menu.

We were impressed by just how inviting every room and space in the venue felt with a warm, bright interior throughout. We were quickly seated with menu's as we made our way into the bistro and told to order at the bar when we were ready.

To start we shared the Beef Bresaola with aged, cured, shaved beef, parmesan and fried bread. The bread melted in your mouth like butter it was so soft. The quick eater I am, I made quick work of my bit of moreish bread topped with the beef and parmesan and my eyes quickly moved to Shaun's share. But alas, he saw the threat and threw the rest down his gob with a cheeky, "Mm delicious" to top it off.

Lucky I had my main to come - the Tasmanian Salmon with local tomatoes, green beans, orange, black olive and pepita seeds. I love the taste of Salmon, but the thing that topped this dish off was the combination of ingredients making a salad on the side.

EVERY INGREDIENT ON THE PLATE COMPLIMENTED THE OTHER AND TRANSFORMED A SIMPLE SALMON DISH INTO A UNIQUE BURST OF FLAVOUR I HAVE NEVER BEFORE EXPERIENCED.

Shaun went for the Cherry Wood Smoked Berkshire Pork with roast potatoes, steamed greens and apple sauce. The pork was that beautifully cooked that it almost fell off the bone, and the flavour was something we will be reminiscing about for weeks to come. Shaun generously gave me a fork full covered in the apple sauce and...oh...my...lord. We both agreed we would come back just to get this dish again.

All 3 dishes were simple yet were put together with a unique and clever perspective that created beautiful, vibrant flavours.

Another draw card for the mighty is their selection of craft beers created by some of the local legends in the industry and we can't wait for the holiday season to have a few.

IT TRULY WAS A MIGHTY EXPERIENCE ALL ROUND.

PIEMINISTER

XMAS RAGE!

LAST MONTH THE UNTHINKABLE MOST DISGUSTING THING OCCURRED. MY MONTHLY COLUMN WAS DROPPED FOR SOME START-UP IMPOSTER WHO THINKS THEY KNOW WHAT YOU MY LOYAL SUBJECTS WANT AND NEED FROM THIS WORLD AND LIFE.

To say I lost my sh*t is an understatement. I wasn't the only one. I received thousands of calls from admirers and world leaders who were either in a panic or in tears about what could possibly have happened to me.

Everyone from the outgoing Donny Trump from the U S of A to Jacinda Ardern from sheep lovers land to Kim Jong Un were on the phone in a frantic panic.

Anyway, Kimbo from the hermit state North Korea helped me sort everything out in the end. He simply had a few of his spies catch the Country Link train up from Sydney so as not to raise any suspicions and pay those that put the thing together a little visit. The threat of being tied to a gum tree and being fired out of existence by a handheld ballistic cruise missile was enough for them to reconsider.

AS AN EARLY XMAS PRESENT TO MYSELF AND A CHEER UP PRESSIE FOR THE HUMILIATION,

I ALSO AWARDED MYSELF THE REMAINING COALFACE SHARES I DIDN'T ALREADY OWN AND A CEREMONIAL PIE FROM EVERY SINGLE PIE SHOP IN THE LAND.

I also made the groveling bastards crawl on their hands and knees to get them and bring them back holding the pie bags in clenched teeth. They then had to bark like the mongrel dogs that they are and lick my feet for forgiveness if they were to have any hope of saving their jobs, not to mention their pathetic lives.

I also took over the office and installed a pie kiosk in reception so that I could be fed while barking orders at lowly snakes that work for me as the slaves that they are.

On a lighter note. If they work themselves to within an inch of death between now and Santa time, they may eat the scraps from my Xmas plate and who knows, maybe even be given a 5 minute Xmas lunch break to enjoy it.



As for the rest of my beautiful loyal subjects. May your stockings be full, your family be safe, your lunch be bountiful and your beers

icy cold and plentiful. Merry Xmas my beautiful mofo's.

HAPPY XMAS, SOL THE MERRY DICTATOR. X

'AVE A LAUGH WITH

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BEST UNDER PRESSURE

Sol was in the Big W buying one of those fake plastic Christmas trees when the shop assistant asked him, "Are you going to put

that tree up yourself?" Shocked, Sol replied, "You dirty bastard! I'm going to put it in the living room!"

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@ THE COALFACE
PRIZE WINNERS

Volume 4 - No 12: November - December 2020

Crib Bag	Megan Stevenson
Roberts Meats Raffle	Deb Ernst
Banlaw Fuel Voucher	Elaine Thomas
Terrace Boating Voucher	Shaun Hoadley
Newcastle Brew Shop Kit	Warrick Cole
InnovAte 'ElectrAte' Tub	Helen Harradine

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL OUR WINNERS!

WINNERS!

STRANGE BUT TRUE!

Did you know...

- Snakes can help predict earthquakes. They can sense a coming earthquake from 75 miles away, up to 5 days before it happens.
- An animal's yawn is based on how large their brain is. The bigger the brain, the longer the yawn.
- In Switzerland it is illegal to own just one guinea pig. This is because guinea pigs are social animals and it is considered abuse if they are alone.
- There are more Lego mini-figures than people on Earth.
- Cookie Monster's real name is Sid.
- The fear of vegetables is called Lachanophobia.
- Neptune was the first planet to be found through mathematical predictions rather than telescopic location.
- Selfies now cause more deaths than shark attacks.
- The most leaves ever found on a clover is 56.
- The eye makes movements 50 times every second.
- There are more French restaurants in New York City than in Paris.



White Christmas

ALTHOUGH THE CONCEPT OF A WHITE CHRISTMAS ISN'T POSSIBLE THIS YEAR WITH OUR INTERNATIONAL BORDERS CLOSED, HOPEFULLY ONE DAY SOON WE'LL HAVE TO OPPORTUNITY TO TRAVEL OVERSEAS AGAIN AND IF YOU ARE LOOKING FOR A DIFFERENT EXPERIENCE AT CHRISTMAS, LONDON IS DEFINITELY WORTH CONSIDERING.



Christmas in London brings meaning to the term "it's a marathon, not a sprint" due to the endless Christmas parties and seasonal activities that occur, starting with each town or suburb's traditional "switching-on" of the Christmas lights, when seemingly half the local council's annual budget would be spent on a local footballer or reality TV star pressing a button to launch that year's fireworks and Christmas lights amid much fanfare. This also seems to trigger party season in London, when only the strongest livers will survive.

Whilst you're still able to stand, I'd suggest visiting Kew Gardens with its spectacular light festival augmenting its already enchanting ambience or perhaps some ice skating in beautiful pop-up locations like Somerset House on the Thames or the Natural History Museum. Of course, no article focusing on Christmas in London would be complete without mentioning the biggest event of them all, Winter Wonderland at Hyde Park, London's answer to the northern European Christmas markets, where a multitude of stalls offering drinks and dishes such as Bavarian beer, mulled wine and cider, bratwurst, and waffles will

sustain you throughout the rides and activities that the market has to offer.

IF YOU DO MAKE THE TRIP, ONE ITEM OF CLOTHING THAT YOU'LL NEED TO PACK IS A RIDICULOUSLY GAUDY CHRISTMAS JUMPER IN ORDER TO FIT IN WITH THE HORDES OF OFFICE PARTIES SWARMING THE STREETS THROUGHOUT DECEMBER.

If you're in luck you'll have timed it so that you need the jumper to warm yourself against the snow that falls a couple of times each winter, adding an extra layer of magic to the historic buildings and fairy lights that dominate the city centre. Knowing that the drudgery of post-Christmas winter is coming, the locals on their office parties hold nothing back in their quest for having the most fun possible, leading to a convivial atmosphere that puts a smile on everyone's face.

After all this, it's time to give your feet a rest and engage in one of the UK's great Christmas traditions – the pantomime. Pantomimes usually feature a mix of comics and B-list TV stars portraying a ridiculously camp version of famous stories such as Snow White and the Seven Dwarves or Hook and

are known for playing to the audience with their notorious "he's behind you!". I must admit, they are surprisingly good fun, or maybe that's just because I was half-drunk like the rest of the crowd.

AFTER THE RELENTLESS PACE OF THE PREVIOUS COUPLE OF WEEKS, CHRISTMAS EVE IS A RELAXED AFFAIR, WINDING DOWN PARTY SEASON WITH PRESENT WRAPPING, A GLASS OF MULLED CIDER, AND THE LATEST MAGICAL BBC SLOW TV SPECIAL ON IN THE BACKGROUND (THE SLEIGH RIDE WILL ALWAYS BE A FAVOURITE).

Christmas Day arrives and many families take to their local common (imagine your local park has suddenly expanded and turned into Narnia) for a stroll before heading to their local pub for Christmas lunch, present swapping, and yet more booze. Supermarkets are barely open on a Sunday but woe betide the government who dares to close pubs on Christmas Day in the UK!

That is a London Christmas for you, a perfect mixture of tradition, family and partying that makes the city glow and can't help but draw you in. Hopefully one day we can all experience it.

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