

HUNTER INDUSTRY, COMMUNITY, SPORTS & ENTERTAINMENT

@THE COAL FACE

Vol 5 No 4: May 2021

Available online @ thecoalface.net.au

MEET THE CANDIDATES

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THE CANDIDATES FOR THE
UPCOMING UPPER HUNTER BY-
ELECTION ON MAY 22 SHARE WITH
US WHY THEY SHOULD BE CHOSEN
TO REPRESENT OUR REGION.

FREE



CONTINUING TO CONTRIBUTE

MT ARTHUR COAL BEGINS THE APPROVAL PROCESS TO CONTINUE
OPERATIONS AND ENSURE THE FUTURE OF THEIR 2000 STRONG WORKFORCE.

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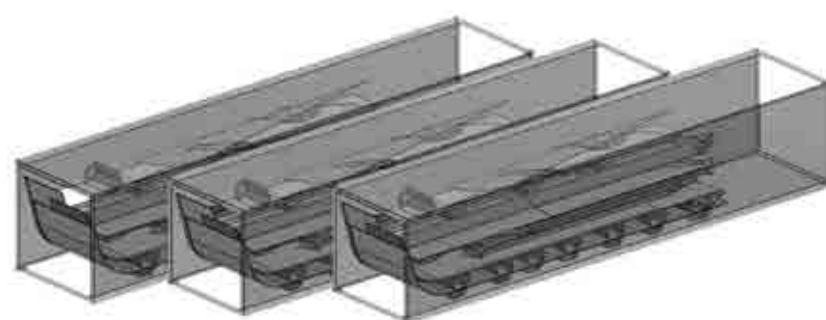
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PROUD AS PUNCH

MINING HAS PLAYED AN IMPORTANT ROLE IN THE UPPER HUNTER FOR MANY DECADES, AND WE ARE PROUD AS PUNCH TO SEE OUR INDUSTRY CONTINUOUSLY STRIVE FOR IMPROVEMENT IN OPERATIONS, ALL WHILE GIVING BACK TO OUR LOCAL COMMUNITIES.

It's no secret that the mining industry has come a long way over the decades, especially in the Upper Hunter. Our miners rarely, if ever, give themselves a pat on the back for the huge leaps forward they have come over the years to create a safer workplace, create more local career opportunities, increase diversity, embrace new technologies, improve rehabilitation and so much more. This month, as we do every month, we proudly share some of the amazing things our local mining industry does.

We sat down with Mt Arthur Coal's

General Manager Adam Lancey to talk about their approval process to continue operations and what it will mean for the local community. And after almost two decades with BHP, Adam has seen Mt Arthur Coal evolve to become the successful operation you see today.

We also share the news of an incredible Australian-first live TV broadcast from an underground mine with Sky News host Chris Smith broadcasting his weekly show from inside Centennial's Airly Coal mine. This event was not only some great TV content, but it was also recognition for our miners and their hard work to keep our mines operating safely, especially during the pandemic.

And one thing our industry has always been a champion at is supporting our local sporting clubs. We share the story of Mangoola's latest donation, one of many recent donations to support the Singleton, Greta Branxton, Denman, Merriwa and Muswellbrook local rugby league football clubs.

To everyone who shared their stories this month and championed our local mining industry, give yourselves a pat on the back. You've earned it!



OPINION

THE COAL VOTE

COAL MINERS AND THEIR FAMILIES HAVE NEVER FELT SO APPRECIATED BY POLITICIANS IN NSW.

With thousands of mining votes up for grabs in the critical Upper Hunter by-election there have been strong declarations of support for coal mining from the Liberal/Nationals Coalition, the Labor Party, the Shooters, Fishers and Farmers Party, and One Nation, and a range of others.

It's great to see such a strong display of broad political support for the NSW coal sector, but how long will it continue? Is the love genuine, or will our sector suffer the political equivalent of being dumped by text message once the by-election is over?

The contribution of coal mining to the Upper Hunter is undeniable.

ACCORDING TO OUR ANNUAL ECONOMIC IMPACT SURVEY, OVER 7000 PEOPLE IN THE UPPER HUNTER ELECTORATE ARE EMPLOYED IN THE MINING SECTOR AND OVER 1000 LOCAL BUSINESSES FROM SINGLETON, MUSWELLBROOK AND SURROUNDING TOWNS

ARE PART OF THE LOCAL MINING SUPPLY CHAIN.

Indirectly, the coal industry also supports thousands of other related local jobs too.

It all means that while support for mining is not the only issue in this by-election, it will be one of the key factors that determines who wins, along with other local issues too.

Hunter coal miners and their families are resilient and tough. They also know that most of the current political love for coal is because a by-election is coming and mining votes are up for grabs.

The real test of genuine support will come once the by-election is over and there are no votes up for grabs, at least until the next election due in less than two years. Those politicians that dump coal once the by-election is over will not be forgotten by voters next time.

Stephen Galilee, CEO, NSW Minerals Council

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OPINION

MORE FEMALE TRADIES NEEDED

AS THE NATURE OF WORK CONTINUES TO EVOLVE ACROSS AUSTRALIA’S MINING REGIONS INCLUDING THE HUNTER, WORKERS WILL NEED A DIVERSE RANGE OF SKILLS AND CAPABILITIES THAT ARE ADAPTABLE, TRANSFERABLE AND RELEVANT TO THE NEEDS OF THE FUTURE ECONOMY.



Diverse teams are more productive, innovative and creative, so it’s no surprise the Australian minerals industry has made diversity and inclusion a priority.

Companies in the Hunter Valley are actively seeking a larger talent pool that gives the sector access to a broad range of skills from across Australia and the globe.

In 2021, women make up only 17.4 per cent of the mining workforce. Tradespersons and technicians account for nearly 30 per cent of the workforce, and only three per cent are women...so there’s plenty of room to do better!

GETTING MORE WOMEN INTO THE INDUSTRY IS A PRIORITY. BUILDING AN INCLUSIVE WORK ENVIRONMENT – ONE WHERE EVERYONE FEELS VALUED – IS ESSENTIAL TO ACHIEVING THIS AND SUPPORTING A DIVERSE WORKPLACE.

Over the last two years, the MCA has been working on initiatives that unlock and support diversity of thought, perspective and experience across

industry to secure existing and future talent pools, deliver inclusive leadership and showcase mining as an industry of choice.

With demand for skilled workers growing across Australia, the MCA has long advocated for more flexible, higher quality and responsive trades training and workforce development to build the minerals workforce of the future.

Supported by the Australian Government and coordinated by the MCA, the industry-led Mining Skills Organisation Pilot (MSOP) is working to secure mining industry access to the skills it needs now and into the future.

MSOP has activated four project hubs (apprenticeships, digital transformation, qualifications reform and, attraction and retention) with the aim of challenging and reforming the existing vocational education and training framework in these areas.

With demand growing for our high-quality coal and other minerals, companies in the

Hunter can’t afford to wait four years to produce a tradesperson.

We need to find new ways of producing quality tradespeople and technicians faster.

MSOP will contribute significantly to this through designing and testing ways to boost levels of enrolment in apprenticeship commencement and training programs and modernise how the industry produces skilled tradespeople.

We’re also working to unlock the value and scope of skill sets through ‘stacking’ them to achieve nationally recognised qualifications while getting more digital and technology related content more quickly into Australia’s training product library.

If Coalface readers who work in mining are asked about how to get into a trade in the industry, the MCA’s message is that there’s never been a better time to dive into a diverse, rewarding and highly-paid career!

Tania Constable
CEO, Minerals Council of Australia

VISIT [HTTPS://MINERALS.ORG.AU/DIVERSITY-AND-INCLUSION](https://minerals.org.au/diversity-and-inclusion) AND [HTTPS://MINERALS.ORG.AU/MINING-SKILLS-ORGANISATION-PILOT](https://minerals.org.au/mining-skills-organisation-pilot) FOR MORE DETAILS.

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IN THE NEWS...

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



PUMPED ABOUT PUMPED HYDRO IN MUSWELLBROOK

Results from a preliminary feasibility study into a pumped hydro project at Muswellbrook are “promising”.

Energy giant AGL and Idemitsu Australia Resources have announced the preliminary phase of the feasibility study for the proposed 250MW Bells Mountain pumped hydro project is nearing completion.

The study began in 2019 to determine whether the project is technically feasible, provide cost estimates for both construction and operation, and assess the required planning and approval processes.

Once this study is done, the companies plan to compete a full feasibility study that includes targeted geotechnical drilling - The full feasibility study is the next phase towards potential completion of the project in 2027.

FUTURE OF COAL MAP ALTERED

The NSW Government has altered their Future of Coal map to open up the Wollar area for potential coal exploration.

Interested parties are invited to apply for an exploration licence.

The government has also made a decision on the Dartbrook mine site regarding the possibility of it being allowed to be an open cut mine - the government has said open cut mining there will not be supported.

Australia Pacific Coal is looking to reopen the mine as underground and did a pre-feasibility study that concluded in 2018 to explore the open cut potential.

The state government said it’s clear locals do not oppose underground mining however an open cut mine is not in line with extensive community consultation.

EPURON HOPING THEIR PLAN HAS ENOUGH WIND

The company behind the Bowmans Creek Wind Farm project have lodged their Environmental Impact Statement and it’s now on public exhibition.

Epuron are planning to build around 60 wind turbines near McCullys Gap, 10-kilometres east of Muswellbrook.

The EIS is with the NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment and on public exhibition until 11 May 2021.

BYPASSING THE ISSUE

It’s an announcement that will make anyone who wanted a full interchange for the Singleton Bypass with the Putty Road very happy.

The NSW Government has announced the bypass will have the full interchange that the community and Singleton Council has been calling for.

But it still won’t be dual carriageway.

The Government also committed to work towards a concept design for the Muswellbrook bypass, that will include connections to Coal Road and will co-fund with Council local road upgrades to support that connection.

Work on both bypasses will begin next year.

NEIGHBOURS NOT HAPPY ABOUT NOISE

An Upper Hunter mine has been fined for exceeding noise limits, at night.

The NSW EPA has fined Wambo Pty Ltd mine near Singleton \$15,000 for exceeding the noise limit by three decibels, at night, in September last year.

The EPA said follow up monitoring showed the mine continued to exceed the limit two nights later and didn’t take sufficient steps to shut down equipment to mitigate the noise.

The EPA said that was concerning because their heavy machinery did not have noise reduction equipment fitted.

HOSPITALITY TRAINING FREEBIE

A pilot program will be piloted in the Upper Hunter to give jobseekers the opportunity to access free hospitality training.

The program will be piloted in the region through the joint NSW Government and Club NSW initiative - Singleton Diggers, Muswellbrook RSL, Singleton Bowlo and Scone RSL will be among the first in the state to take advantage of the

free training and equip locals with specialised skills delivered by TAFE NSW.

Following the pilot in the Upper Hunter, the program will be rolled out to regional areas across the state, making it easier for jobseekers to find jobs in the future, keeping money in the local economy.

The fee-free training will be funded by the NSW Government’s Smart and Skilled program with a pilot expected to begin from July.

NO SURPRISE, DARTBROOK MINE STILL NOT PROGRESSING

There are fresh doubts over plans to reopen the Dartbrook mine at Aberdeen.

Australia Pacific Coal made an announcement to the Australian Stock Exchange that they are commencing a strategic review of the Dartbrook project and the associated assets and needed more time to make those assessments.

The company also said that it had decided not to proceed with the “capital raising” at this time as it has been unable to reach agreement on terms acceptable to the board.

GREEN LIGHT FOR MANGOOLA EXPANSION

The Independent Planning Commission has approved the expansion of the Mangoola mine near Muswellbrook.

The Glencore mine sought approval to establish a new open cut mining area to the north of the existing operations that would provide access to approximately 52 million tonnes of additional coal resources which would also extend the mine life until 2030.

The IPC approved the mine expansion after receiving 895 written public submissions, including 776 in support, 107 objections including Muswellbrook Shire Council and 12 neutral comments.

It’s been approved also subject to 179 conditions with the impacts associated with the project found to be acceptable and the project in the public’s interest.

POLLUTION NOT AS BAD AS IT WAS

New National Pollutant Inventory Data released by the Nature Conservation Council show toxic air emissions actually fell the year before last.

The data on the State’s coal-fired power station shows the emissions fell 15 per cent in the year to June 2020.

But the Nature Conservation Council says power stations still spewed out more than 268,000 tonnes of toxic air pollution - Bayswater and Liddell in Muswellbrook being among the worst.

According to the data, 64,600 tonnes came out of Bayswater and more than 62-thousand tonnes came out of Liddell.



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COMMITTED TO CCUS

China Huaneng Group Clean Energy Research Institute Co., Ltd. and Carbon Capture Transport and Storage Company of Glencore have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for the cooperation on carbon capture utilisation and storage (CCUS) technology, commencing with the CTSCo Project in Millmerran power station in Australia.

By signing the MOU, Glencore, one of the world's largest diversified natural resource companies and China Huaneng, one of the world's largest energy and technology companies, are committing to supporting the deployment of low emissions technologies like CCUS to reduce greenhouse emissions from the use of fossil fuels and other industrial processes.

The CTSCo Project in Queensland will use China Huaneng's CO2 capture technology at the Millmerran coal fired power station to capture a stream of CO2 which will then be transported and

AT THE RECENT 6TH CHINA INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON CO2 CAPTURE UTILISATION AND STORAGE, CHINA HUANENG GROUP AND GLENCORE SIGNED A MOU TO COOPERATE ON CCUS TECHNOLOGY.

stored permanently in a non-potable aquifer at a depth of more than two kilometres.

"This is the first integrated international carbon dioxide capture and storage project that China has participated in," said Dr Li Weidong, Chairman of China Huaneng Group Clean Energy Research Institute Co., Ltd.

"HUANENG WILL WORK WITH GLENCORE TO COMPLETE A HIGH-QUALITY CARBON CAPTURE PROJECT IN AUSTRALIA'S SURAT BASIN, BUILD A HIGH-QUALITY CROSS-INDUSTRY INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION PROJECT, HELP COAL-FIRED POWER GENERATION ACHIEVE 'NEAR ZERO EMISSIONS', AND ENHANCE ITS INTERNATIONAL INFLUENCE."

Glencore CEO, Ivan Glasenberg, welcomed the ongoing collaboration with China Huaneng. "We are very pleased to strengthen our collaboration



with China Huaneng on the CTSCo Project. This project is vitally important because it can scale up to support the reduction of Scope 3 emissions from the use of fossil fuels across a broad range of industrial sectors."

The CTSCo Project is Australia's most advanced onshore CCUS project and will demonstrate CCUS at an industrial scale. Key funding and project participants include Glencore, China Huaneng, Low Emission Technology Australia (LETA), Australian National Low Emissions Coal Research and Development (ANLECR&D) and the Australian Government.

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE CTSCO PROJECT HEAD TO [CTSCO.COM.AU](https://ctscoco.com.au)

INNOVATE TO REGENERATE

THE HUNTER INNOVATION FESTIVAL IS BACK FOR 2021 AND ALREADY UNDERWAY, WITH THIS YEAR'S LINE UP OF EVENTS RUNNING FROM MONDAY 3RD TO SUNDAY 16TH MAY.

The City of Newcastle has partnered with Hunter iF to make the festival possible, with this year's theme being, 'Innovate to Regenerate'. Made up of more than 40 events, this year's Festival aims to connect, inspire, educate and promote a culture of innovation throughout the Hunter.

The events will range from interactive workshops, to information sessions on how to secure funding for new ventures,

tech play for all ages, tours of local businesses achieving great things, business lunches, inspirational talks and more.

Claire Quigley, Festival Coordinator and Innovation Consultant, is excited to be working to deliver a festival focused on making innovation accessible through hybrid and virtual events, as well as relevant and connective live events across Newcastle, Lake Macquarie, Cessnock, and all the way up to Scone. One of her goals for the 2021 Festival is to create connectivity across community, business and industry, government and education. This is thoroughly reflected in the diverse range of events in the Festival line-up.

ACCORDING TO CLAIRE, "THE HUNTER IS THE LEADING REGIONAL ECONOMY IN AUSTRALIA, AND IN ORDER TO MAINTAIN THAT POSITION, WE NEED OPPORTUNITIES TO CONNECT PEOPLE, IDEAS AND CAPABILITIES TO CONTINUE FOSTERING INNOVATION."

Close to home, there's plenty of events to check out such as the 'Innovation in Equine' event at TAFE NSW Scone on May 10, where the Hunter Innovation Festival meets



the Scone Horse Festival to celebrate Upper Hunter innovation in Equine. Don't miss out on a site tour of Hedweld at Mt Thorley on May 11. Hedweld are a world leader in technologically advanced and innovative products for the agricultural, mining and earthmoving industries. Muswellbrook RSL Bowling Club will host the Upper Hunter Inspirations Conference on May 12. With our region slowly recovering and rebuilding from drought,

bushfires and the pandemic, the theme of this event is Bouncing Back – Bouncing Forward. For those who are unable to attend events, check out the virtual event program as there are plenty of online events on offer. The Innovation Festival is actively supported by AusIndustry, who instigated the first Innovation Festival back in 2002, The University of Newcastle and longstanding Hunter organisations the Port of Newcastle and The Garis Group.

A FULL EVENT CALENDAR AND MORE DETAILS ARE AVAILABLE AT [HUNTERINNOVATIONFESTIVAL.ORG/PROGRAM2021](https://hunterinnovationfestival.org/program2021)

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ADAM AND HIS FAMILY.

CONTINUING TO CONTRIBUTE

AS MT ARTHUR COAL BEGINS THE APPROVAL PROCESS TO CONTINUE OPERATIONS, WE SAT DOWN WITH GENERAL MANAGER ADAM LANCEY TO TALK ABOUT THE IMPORTANT ROLE THE MINE HAS PLAYED IN THE UPPER HUNTER SINCE THE 1960S AND THE MANY BENEFITS OF CONTINUING OPERATIONS.

After almost two decades with BHP, Adam has seen the evolution of Mt Arthur Coal which has been operating since 2001. (Prior to this it was Bayswater Colliery). Over those years Adam has held a range of roles with BHP, in finance, operations and supply chain logistics, before being appointed General Manager of Mt Arthur Coal in October 2019. Like many of the other 2000 workers at Mt Arthur Coal, BHP has supported Adam's career development. Mt Arthur Coal's current mining approval is set to expire on 30 June 2026 which means that without approval to continue operations, Adam and those 2000 workers may find their current careers come to an end. "We are the largest single operation in the Hunter Valley with the

biggest workforce and no doubt a much larger group of indirect stakeholders," Adam told us. "This planning approval process marks the next logical step in the life of our operations and will ensure ongoing employment for a workforce who predominantly live here in the Hunter." Many of the workers have had long careers at Mt Arthur Coal, with many of the original Bayswater workforce still working on site. A major expansion in the later 2000's enabled significant operational growth and Adam proudly recalls his involvement with the recruitment process that saw new trainees come onboard at that time. "PEOPLE FROM ALL WALKS OF LIFE WERE GIVEN THE OPPORTUNITY FOR A NEW CAREER PATH. I'M

HAPPY TO SAY THAT MANY ARE STILL WITH US. WITH THE NEW APPROVAL THEY WILL BE ABLE TO CONTINUE ON THEIR CAREER TRAJECTORIES AND WE WILL BE ABLE TO PROVIDE NEW JOBS AS MEMBERS OF THE EXISTING WORKFORCE RETIRE OVER TIME." On the subject of career opportunities, one of Adam's proudest accomplishments is contributing to the growing diversity on site. He is a strong supporter and advocate of diversity in the mining industry and was awarded the NSW Mining Diversity Champion in 2016, having been an active member of the NSW Women in Mining Network and a mentor in their WIMnet mentoring program for several years. Adam also sits on Mt Arthur Coal's Local Diversity and Inclusion Council and

has been instrumental in shifting the dial to increase female participation and gender balance in the workplace. "When I started at Bayswater there were only four females on site and they were all in administrative roles. That dynamic has shifted and now 20% of our total workforce is female and the representation is across all departments and operations. It's been a cultural journey with plenty of challenges but it continues to grow in momentum." It's no surprise Adam is a big believer in closing the gender gap in the mining industry. A devoted father to two daughters, he is keen to ensure they will have the option to follow any career pathway they choose, and to even follow in his footsteps if they want to. If the new approval is successful the mine will continue to operate through to 30 June 2024, and Adam's children, like many others in our region, will potentially have the opportunity to work at Mt Arthur Coal. With a lengthy approval process ahead, Adam and his team are working hard to ensure that each milestone is met on time. "The process of securing new approvals can take several years," said Adam. "Starting now will enable early and comprehensive assessment, review and stakeholder engagement to take place, and provide clarity for local people, the community and businesses who live near and work with Mt Arthur Coal." While the mention of a new mine can attract criticism, it must be noted that Mt Arthur Coal's new approval is for a brownfield project that will enable the continuation of the current mining operation, primarily within the existing footprint. This continuation will extend the mine further to the west of Muswellbrook, moving away from the township and there will be no change to existing approved hours of operation or coal transportation, including rail movements. What will change though will undoubtedly be for the better. "IN THE LAST COUPLE OF DECADES, I HAVE WITNESSED SO MANY IMPROVEMENTS IN HOW WE OPERATE. BHP HAS A GREAT TRACK RECORD FOR EMBRACING NEW TECHNOLOGY AND METHODS IN MANY AREAS, FROM EQUIPMENT TO SAFETY TO REHABILITATION. THE INDUSTRY CONTINUES

TO SET HIGHER STANDARDS OF PERFORMANCE WHICH RAISES THE BAR FOR HOW WE DO THINGS," SAID ADAM. "We are addressing noise issues with sound suppression technology on machinery and equipment, mitigating dust with real time dust receptors and monitoring, and managing blasting according to strict environmental conditions. Back in the Bayswater days, Mt Arthur Coal relied on water carts for dust mitigation. Now we apply the latest advancements in polymer and bituminous based dust suppression, along with workforce training that recognises a watercart operator as a specialist skill." "We have also implemented significant changes in rehabilitation. The introduction of aerial seeding is just one method where we have seen very positive results. Our ongoing progressive rehab of landforms is consistent with geofluvial design and we're on a constant learning curve to do it better." Due to the large size of the operation, a final void will be left when operations end but Adam is confident there will be more options available for a post mining use, such as a reservoir or even hydro. "I'm excited when I think about what developments and innovation we will see in the next couple of decades, especially in the area of rehabilitation and final landform." As announced in August 2020, BHP is assessing options to divest its thermal coal assets, including Mt Arthur



ADAM TALKING WITH THE COMMUNITY AT A SINGLETON COMMUNITY CONVERSATION SESSION.

Coal. This means its ownership or operating control could change in the coming years. "With BHP looking to divest Mt Arthur Coal from their portfolio, it's my job to ensure that regardless of who owns the operation, it is set up for a successful and sustainable future for the people who work here, and so it can continue to support the local community," said Adam. "I CAN DO THIS BY ENSURING WE CONTINUE TO PERFORM, THAT OUR PEOPLE CONTINUE TO TRAIN AND DEVELOP SKILLS, AND THAT EVERY STEP OF THIS APPROVAL PROCESS IS DONE TO THE HIGHEST STANDARD AND WITH PROACTIVE COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT."

"In the current environment, the thought of having to tell our workers we are 'shutting up shop' in a couple of years does play on my mind and so my focus is on making sure that the operation continues in a safe and productive manner. It's also critical to reassure our workforce that while the future may seem uncertain, we are doing everything we can to support their continued role in the industry." It may end up being a thankless job for Adam, with the possibility that new custodians will come in and swap out senior management. But regardless of what his own future holds, Adam is confident BHP will demonstrate their corporate and social responsibility and ensure that any new custodians are in a position to take care of the operation, the workforce and the community. Because community consultation is a crucial part of what they do. Adam says that throughout the entire approval process, he and his team will be consulting with local community and key stakeholders, considering all feedback and making sure concerns are addressed. And if continuation of the mine is approved, it will ensure that the many ways in which the community benefits will continue. Of course, there are the royalties and wages that are invested in the economy, but that's just the beginning of the support Mt Arthur Coal provides.

In the 2020 financial year alone, the workforce donated \$212,000 to the Westpac Rescue Helicopter Service, Muswellbrook PCYC and Ronald McDonald House through payroll deductions which were matched two for every one dollar by BHP, bringing the total donation to \$636,000. \$18 million was spent with local businesses and suppliers through the BHP Local Buying Program. \$400,000 was invested in local community organisations and another \$1.85 million in donations were made by BHP to support local community impacts due to COVID. And the list goes on. Why, even next time you go for a swim at Muswellbrook pool, you can thank Mt Arthur Coal for that. Adam truly believes this approval to continue mining beyond 2026 is a well-planned and considered extension and it will involve a high level of interaction with government, other key stakeholders and the community. It's clear to us that Adam is invested more than just professionally in Mt Arthur Coal. The Hunter is his home. The place he works is more than just a job. Like it is for all of us, it's where we form and keep our connections to local community. As one of the biggest coal resources in New South Wales, the mine was always intended to go beyond its current approval. By continuing operations, it will allow Mt Arthur Coal to continue to contribute to the community for years to come.



ADAM ADDRESSING MT ARTHUR COAL WORKFORCE

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(L-R) IAIN YULE, SCHOOL SUPPORT SERVICE COORDINATOR AT YOUTH EXPRESS, BRAD KEBBLEWHITE, DIRECTOR & GENERAL MANAGER AT SOLID ENGINEERING, JARRAH EWING, 1ST YEAR APPRENTICE AT SOLID ENGINEERING & TREVOR REYNOLDS, DIRECTOR & WORKSHOP MANAGER AT SOLID ENGINEERING.

CREATING A SOLID CULTURE

SINCE DAY ONE SOLID ENGINEERING HAVE SUPPORTED LOCAL YOUTH THROUGH WORK EXPERIENCE AND EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES, THIS YEAR RAMPING UP THEIR PARTNERSHIP WITH YOUTH EXPRESS IN HOPES TO FIND NEW APPRENTICES.

Each year, Youth Express coordinate work placements for approximately 2000 students from 26 high schools in the Hunter Valley giving them valuable opportunity to experience what it's like to work in a range of industries.

Youth Express is a not-for-profit charity who have supported young people in the Hunter through various programs since 1993, including work placements, workshops and life skills programs. Always focused largely on their workplace culture to build and maintain the strong and motivated team they have today, Solid Engineering saw partnering with the Youth Express work placement program as a great opportunity to work with young people and see their potential firsthand.

"WE NEED APPRENTICES, AND WHAT BETTER WAY THAN TO GET THEM HERE FOR A WEEK THROUGH YOUTH EXPRESS TO GIVE STUDENTS A FIRSTHAND ON THE JOB EXPERIENCE TO TRIAL THEM FOR THE JOB," SAID BRAD KEBBLEWHITE, DIRECTOR & GENERAL MANAGER, SOLID ENGINEERING.

Iain Yule, School Support Service Coordinator for Youth Express works with a total of 12 schools in the Hunter Valley and said Solid Engineering have been working with Youth Express for many years with many positive outcomes. "I tell the students before they enter the worksite, it's not an interview, it's an audition," said Iain.

Most recently, Iain accompanied 20 students from Cessnock High School and Maitland High School to Solid Engineering in Kurri Kurri for a full workshop tour.

Brad led the tour, and as a former DJ and

announcer, was more than happy to have an audience. Starting at the front door, Brad gave the students a lighthearted induction to get them ready for a fun and interactive experience.

"The aim was to give the kids an idea of what a job at Solid Engineering looks like from start to finish," said Brad.

The first step led students into the drafting office to see where the magic begins. "For us everything we do here at Solid Engineering starts with a drawing," said Brad.

"One of our draftsmen printed off a drawing of a part and the kids were able to see the computer software that we use to do our drafting."

Under Brad's direction, students made their way to the admin team and into the production office. Then it was off to see where it all comes together, the workshop. "To try and give the students a good feel for the different tooling, the guys showcased how they are used," said Brad.

"They were able to see how raw material becomes what the drawing is pretty quickly.

"We finally finish the tour up in our paint area outside, get one of our painters to paint what we just made in the workshop and then stand as a group to open up to question time."

For Solid Engineering, the way they have always grown as a business has been by focusing on their culture. "To get the right apprentice to join the team, is really important," said Brad.

"We try to make that environment where they're not scared to ask questions and where the fellas will give them crap if they don't show up for work on a Monday because they're hungover.

"WE LOVE SEEING OUR APPRENTICES SUCCEED."

In addition to the group workplace tours Solid Engineering have hosted, they also take on 1 to 2 work experience kids at a time, giving them the opportunity to work very closely with a qualified tradesperson for one week.

"Every apprentice that we have put on in the last 8 years has come from someone doing work experience first, whether it's been through Youth Express or not," said Brad.

"For us the whole process is about being able to grow the business without employing people from a labor hire pool or an ad in the paper.

"We're going to have an apprentice come through for 4 years learning our business and our culture so that when they become a tradesperson, they are a fully functioning member of the team and if we have 1 or 2 a year doing that, the team will grow at a good rate each year internally and organically without impacting the great culture that we have built."

And there's plenty of success stories of youngsters starting out at Solid Engineering through work experience and seeing out the whole process, from apprentice, to tradesman and beyond.



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LET'S KEEP FIGHTING FOR THE 12% SUPER WE DESERVE

Up until the election of the Hawke-Keating Government in the 1980s many Australians were lucky to have any form of super. Most worked all their lives and then had to make do with a pension.

But the 1983 Prices and Incomes Accord saw the new Labor Government sitting down with business and unions to work out how to revitalise the economy. Workers' representatives agreed to give up a national three per cent pay increase to put towards a new superannuation system for everyone, matched by employers' contributions.

The system has thrived since then. And again it is workers who have led the charge though their industry super funds, like our own Mine Super. But the conservatives have never liked compulsory superannuation - and they certainly haven't enjoyed seeing workers' representatives managing workers' money better and more responsibly than bankers.

INDUSTRY FUNDS, MANAGED BY UNIONS AND EMPLOYERS TOGETHER, CONSISTENTLY OUTPERFORM RETAIL FUNDS BECAUSE THEY ARE FULLY COMMITTED TO THE BEST INTERESTS OF WORKING PEOPLE.

At our union's recent National Convention we honoured Peter Muldoon, who has recently retired from Mine Super after 39 years. Peter is a great friend of coal miners who has dedicated his career to helping working families achieve financial security.

Over the course of his career, Peter delivered countless pit top talks to coal miners on financial matters. He attended picket lines to advise striking miners. He assisted bereaved widows and supported members with home visits if they needed help with insurance applications or accessing their superannuation.

The idea of working class Australians being actively engaged in their wealth management through industry funds and people like our friend Peter Muldoon is anathema to the whole conservative way of thinking.

So it has been little surprise to see the Liberal Party forces who opposed compulsory super back

AUSTRALIA'S COMPULSORY SUPERANNUATION SYSTEM IS SOMETHING ALL WORKING PEOPLE SHOULD BE PROUD OF.

at it again, agitating to block the currently legislated Superannuation Guarantee rate of 9.5 per cent rising incrementally to 12 per cent a year.

Their main argument was that many Australians would be better off if they received higher wages rather than an increase in the rate of compulsory superannuation contributions.

BUT CAN YOU SPOT THE BIG FLAW IN THAT ARGUMENT? THERE HAVE BEEN NO HIGHER WAGES.

The super guarantee hasn't gone up since 2014, when Tony Abbott froze the scheduled increases. Since that time Australian wages have been rising at a snail's pace. If the conservatives' theory was right, we should have seen booming wage growth unhindered by super increases. We've seen the opposite.

Increasing the super guarantee is actually one way of forcing employers to increase pay.

Not every Australian has a financial advisor or a swag of investment properties. Super is often their only chance to invest intelligently and capture that capital growth



that has been traditionally confined to the wealthy. The good news for now is that in the wake of all his recent dramas, Scott Morrison seems to be backing off on the super freeze he had been inching toward. That's obviously a good thing.

But given he leads a party itching at the chance to hobble the superannuation sector, you'd be foolish to take your eye off him. Working people must stay on guard to make sure everyone in government understands that blocking our super rises won't stand. Twelve percent has been identified as an appropriate amount to give workers a dignified retirement and we'll keep fighting for it.

After all, federal politicians like Scott Morrison get 15.4% super - who do you think deserves it more?

Peter Jordan, CFMEU Northern Mining and NSW Energy District President



MEET THE BUYER

THE UPPER HUNTER MINING DIALOGUE WILL BRING LOCAL BUSINESSES AND THE MINING INDUSTRY TOGETHER WITH TWO PROCUREMENT NETWORKING EVENTS IN JUNE AND AUGUST.

The "meet the buyer" events are designed to allow local suppliers to network directly with Upper Hunter mine procurement personnel and develop relationships valuable to both business and the mining industry.

The events are being co-hosted by the Muswellbrook Chamber of Commerce

and the Singleton Business Chamber.

At both events, mining procurement personnel will be on hand to meet with local business people looking to become suppliers to the mining industry and lead them through the processes involved in becoming part of the mining supply chain.

BOOKINGS FOR ALL EVENTS ARE ESSENTIAL

Booking details for the Singleton events can be found at the Singleton Business Chamber's website at www.singletonchamber.org.au

Booking details for the Muswellbrook events can be found at the Muswellbrook Chamber of Commerce's website at www.muswellbrookchamberofcommerce.com.au



CO-HOSTED BY THE MUSWELLBROOK CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, THE JUNE 16 PROCUREMENT EVENT AT MUSWELLBROOK RSL CLUB WILL FOLLOW A SEPARATE SESSION FEATURING A MINING ECONOMIC UPDATE FROM NSW MINERALS COUNCIL CEO STEPHEN GALILEE.

Over breakfast, Mr Galilee will brief attendees on a new report analysing mining's economic contribution to the region. Mr Galilee's breakfast session will begin at 7am followed by the procurement event at 9am. Bookings are essential and can be made to attend one or both sessions.

The Singleton procurement event is scheduled for August 19 at the

Singleton Civic Centre, however, Mr Galilee will also present his mining economic update to the Singleton Business Chamber at Club Singleton on May 6.

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UNDERGROUND NEWS

THE MINING INDUSTRY'S VITAL ROLE PROVIDING JOBS AND ECONOMIC STABILITY DURING COVID HAS BEEN FEATURED IN AN INCREDIBLE AUSTRALIAN-FIRST LIVE TV BROADCAST FROM AN UNDERGROUND MINE.

Sky News host Chris Smith broadcast his weekly show Chris Smith Tonight from deep inside Centennial's Airly coal mine. In a



L-R: SKY NEWS HOST CHRIS SMITH, HUNTER MP JOEL FITZGIBBON, MID-WESTERN REGIONAL COUNCILLOR PETER SHELLEY, CENTENNIAL EXECUTIVE KATIE BRASSIL AND DEPUTY PREMIER JOHN BARILARO.

highly technical undertaking, Sky News tapped the mine's fibre optic and communications networks to broadcast the hour-long show from the working mine more than 270m below the surface. It featured exclusive footage of mining operations, and interviews with life-long mine workers, community members and political leaders.

NSW Minerals Council CEO Stephen Galilee said it was an important event that recognised the huge effort undertaken to keep our mines operating safely during the pandemic.

"Mining operations have continued largely uninterrupted and that's delivered major economic benefits for our country, including to help to dig Australia out of deficit," he said.

"WITH THE UPPER HUNTER BY-ELECTION ONLY WEEKS AWAY, THERE IS GREAT INTEREST IN HOW MINING IS UNDERPINNING THE ECONOMIC RECOVERY UNDERWAY ACROSS AUSTRALIA. THE AIRLY MINE IS JUST ONE EXAMPLE OF MANY OPERATIONS DRIVING ECONOMIC ACTIVITY AT A TIME WHEN WE NEED IT MOST AND IT'S GREAT TO SEE THIS BEING CELEBRATED DURING THIS SPECIAL BROADCAST."

Chris Smith was joined underground by NSW Deputy Premier John Barilaro and Federal Member for Hunter Joel Fitzgibbon where they discussed mining's critical role in the national economic recovery.

"Mining underpins our exports, underpins our economy and during COVID it was an industry that never shut down. It's so important," NSW

Deputy Premier John Barilaro said. Centennial Managing Director and CEO Craig Gillard welcomed the opportunity to showcase Airly's operations and people and the contribution they make to NSW.

"The coal from this mine goes to NSW power stations, essential for powering businesses and homes across the State. Our miners are world-class and so it's been great to show viewers around Australia the hard yards they put in every shift to keep the lights on in NSW," he said.

"Our people are proud miners, living locally with their families and making a positive contribution in the community. So I thank them for the work they do every day that strengthens our business, the region's economy and supports local businesses."



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BEST UNDER PRESSURE

Sherlock Holmes and Dr Watson were camping. They pitched their tent under the stars and went to sleep. In the middle of the night Holmes woke Watson up and said, "Watson, look up at the stars, and tell me what you see."

Watson replied, "I see millions and millions of stars."

Holmes said, "and what do you deduce from that?"

Watson replied, "Well, if there are millions of stars and if even a few of those have planets it's quite likely there are some planets like earth out there. And if there are a few planets like earth out there there might also be life."

And Holmes said, "Watson, you idiot, it means that somebody stole our tent."

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LEARN FROM THE LAWMAN

STUART BARNETT IS OUR MINING INDUSTRY'S LEADING PERSONAL INJURY LAWYER. THIS MONTH HE HAS SOME IMPORTANT ADVICE ABOUT YOUR ENTITLEMENT TO CLAIM CENTRELINK BENEFITS WHEN INJURED AT WORK WHEN WORKERS COMPENSATION IS DELAYED OR DECLINED.

When a worker suffers an injury during the course of their employment there is a process which involves reporting the injury and the Insurer, in the case of Coal Miners, Coal Mines Insurance, determining whether or not to accept liability.

In many cases liability is accepted within a relatively short period and, where appropriate, weekly compensation payments commence relatively quickly. Unfortunately in other cases there is either a delay in liability being determined or liability is declined. In both cases if the injured worker is unable to work they will have to rely upon their sick and annual leave entitlements or, if they have it, income protection insurance. Once liability is accepted and weekly compensation commences the sick and annual leave entitlements can be recredited.

IN SITUATIONS WHERE THE INJURED WORKER DOES NOT HAVE ANY SICK OR ANNUAL LEAVE ENTITLEMENTS OR INCOME PROTECTION INSURANCE, THEY COULD FACE THE PROSPECT OF HAVING NO INCOME UNTIL THEIR CLAIM IS DETERMINED. IN THOSE CIRCUMSTANCES IT IS PERMISSIBLE TO APPLY FOR AND RECEIVE CENTRELINK BENEFITS. IN ORDER TO DO SO THE WORKER MUST SATISFY THE USUAL CENTRELINK REQUIREMENTS.

In circumstances where an injured worker receives Centrelink benefits and is then successful in having compensation payments reinstated or awarded there are rules and requirements around the repayment of some or all of the Centrelink benefits received. How much has to be repaid depends upon how the case is determined or resolved. Whilst individual circumstances can vary there are two general propositions.

Firstly, where there is agreement or a Court award to reinstate weekly payments retrospectively then the worker will pay back Centrelink benefits on a dollar-for-dollar basis. If the workers compensation benefit is equal to or greater than the Centrelink benefit, then all of the Centrelink benefit will be refunded. Future Centrelink payments will also be reduced on a dollar-for-dollar basis and often wiped out.

Secondly, if the workers compensation claim is settled by way of a lump sum final settlement, then Centrelink applies a formula that determines how much of the Centrelink benefits received are to be repaid and or for how long into the future the worker is prevented from receiving Centrelink benefits.



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

**STUART BARNETT,
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PARALLEL ECONOMICS

UNDERGROUND FARMING

The world is running out of arable land with much of the world's habitable land already being used for agriculture and every year more rainforests, wilderness, woodlands and natural habitats are destroyed to make space for farming.

Yet all around the world there are vast spaces of disused mining tunnels just waiting to be repurposed into underground agricultural systems. Purpose built buildings for indoor farming are increasingly common, but why build when you have plenty of unused space available.

Above ground farming has plenty of problems, increasing adverse weather conditions from drought to bushfires to floods. Or it's simply too cold in Winter or too hot in Summer to grow the produce required. But if you go below, weather conditions are mitigated.

UNDERGROUND FARMS TAKE ADVANTAGE OF CONTROLLED ENVIRONMENT AGRICULTURE TECHNOLOGY, WHICH COMES WITH CONSIDERABLE PROS COMPARED TO TRADITIONAL AGRICULTURE.

WHY DON'T WE TURN UNDERGROUND COAL MINES INTO FOOD GOLD MINES? WHILST IT MIGHT SEEM STRANGE, AROUND THE WORLD UNDERGROUND FARMING IS BECOMING MORE THAN JUST A NOVEL IDEA.

The air temperature and humidity levels are generally temperate and constant and they use reliable water supplies. Tunnels and shafts need less energy for heating and cooling and lighting can be cheap LED lights or fiber-optic technology which can tunnel sunlight up to 40 metres into the ground.

It might even be possible to capitalise on the requirement for CO2 and use it as an opportunity to disperse quantities of CO2 that had been stored with carbon capture storage.

Mine shafts and tunnels are a perfect environment for growing all types of food, from vegetables to herbs to fungi with crops able to be grown in water or suspended in the air and sprayed with water and nutrients.

With underground farming estimated to potentially yield up to ten times as much as farms above ground it must be considered as a cost-effective way of providing large-scale crop production for our growing global population.

NOT ONLY THAT, BUT AS MINES CLOSE IT OFFERS ALTERNATIVE JOBS TO MINERS WHO WOULD ELSEWISE BE MADE REDUNDANT.

Underground farming is not a new idea, even way back in 1937 two brothers turned a limestone mine in New York into 80 acres of tunnel-linked growing chambers for mushrooms. They became the largest single grower of mushrooms in the country and by 1966 had expanded operations into another 500 acres of former limestone mines. The farm saw a series of ownership changes and eventually closed in 2010 due to increased imports however over seven decades in business demonstrates not only the viability of such ventures, but also the profitability.

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OPINION

MORE GAS IS CHEAPER GAS

EVERY HIGH SCHOOL ECONOMICS STUDENT KNOWS AT LEAST TWO THINGS. FIRST, IN A PROPERLY FUNCTIONING MARKET, THE PRICE OF A PRODUCT WILL BE DETERMINED BY SUPPLY AND DEMAND. IF DEMAND IS GREATER THAN SUPPLY, THE PRICE WILL RISE. SECOND, AND EVEN MORE OBVIOUS, IF THERE ARE TWO BUYERS FOR ONE PRODUCT, THE SUPPLIER WILL SELL TO THE CONSUMER OFFERING THE HIGHER PRICE.

In Australia’s gas market, some still try to argue this second point doesn’t always hold. They want us to believe gas producers are selling gas on global markets at a lower price than they can sell it for here, even as their costs of production rise.

The mistake these people make is to confuse secure gas-supply contract prices with spot market prices where buyers take their chances and exploit moments of over-supply. This is an unfair comparison because buyers will always pay a premium for security of supply.

Now Scott Morrison and his Energy Minister Angus Taylor also want to challenge the law of supply and demand. They want you to believe they can keep consumer prices down by using their legislative power to set gas prices. But when governments threaten to dictate the price of a product as a vote-winning exercise, investors run for the door and supply dries up. When supply dries up, demand runs ahead of supply and prices rise. That’s exactly what Scott Morrison is threatening to do, and the result will be higher prices for householders, electricity generators and manufacturers.

IF GOVERNMENTS ARE SERIOUS ABOUT KEEPING GAS PRICES DOWN, THEY NEED TO DO THREE THINGS.

First, they need to facilitate more

supply by ensuring project approvals processes are sufficiently robust to protect our natural environment but timely enough to encourage investment proposals.

Second, we need more pipeline connectivity to transport the gas from point of extraction to point of consumption. Also, to bring more competition to the gas pipeline sector, so that both producers and consumers have pipeline options.

Third, to bring forward investment in pipeline projects, government should underwrite gas pipeline investment. Potential investors in gas pipelines often face a “chicken or egg” dilemma. They can’t sign up gas customers until they can prove they have secured the finance necessary to build the pipeline, and they can’t secure finance until they can show the lender they have the customers needed to secure a return on their investment. By underwriting a pipeline project, the government is simply giving the lender the assurances he or she needs. It involves no cost to the taxpayer.

OF COURSE, ALL OF THE ABOVE IS A BIT MOOT IF YOU BELIEVE WE CAN ACHIEVE 100% RENEWABLES IN THE FORESEEABLE FUTURE. THAT IS SIMPLY NOT POSSIBLE.

Only around 20 per cent of primary energy globally is electricity, the rest is fuels like gas. We need gas

to keep us warm, we need it to cook, and our manufacturers need it to make things. Around 30 per cent of our gas is used as a feedstock, or ingredient, in the manufacture of clothing, plastics, electronics, beauty products, medical supplies and personal protective equipment to name just a few.

We desperately need more gas for electricity generation too. Indeed, we need it more than ever before. As our coal-fired electricity generators fast approach the end of their physical and economic lives, we need new sources of fast-start firming generation.

The Australian Energy Market Operator (AEMO) has told us that to 2040 we will need at least 6 GW and possibly 19 GW of new “flexible utility scale dispatchable” forms of electricity. That’s the equivalent of between three and ten Liddell coal-fired power stations. That’s more hydro generation, gas generation, and battery storage. It’s not a choice of one or the other – we will need all of them. The option available right now is more gas generation, but to make it happen we need to put downward pressure on gas prices by encouraging investment and competition.

If we don’t get more gas out of the ground, what will power our gas stoves and heating systems? Next time you press the “on

button” remember where the gas is coming from. Remember, too, it is increasingly coming from Queensland where governments have warmly embraced the gas sector and all the jobs it creates. As our traditional gas fields deplete, NSW and Victoria are becoming increasingly dependent on our northern neighbours. The ACCC has pointed out that if this continues to be the case, we can expect gas prices in the southern states to rise.

In the last two years Australians have installed solar generation the equivalent of six Liddell Power Stations. But as AEMO has pointed out, we can’t keep putting more renewable energy into the grid without impacting on its stability and reliability. That’s the other reason we need to put more gas generation into the system.

Scott Morrison’s threats to regulate prices confirms his government is the most interventionist in my lifetime. But if he’s serious about allowing more renewable energy in the system and serious about keeping energy prices down, he’ll fix the market failures in the gas market and then let the market set the price. It’s the only sure path to affordable prices and a stronger manufacturing sector.

Hon Joel Fitzgibbon MP
Federal Member for Hunter

CHAMPIONS DO EXTRA

OUR COAL INDUSTRY LIVES AND BREATHES SAFETY. WE CAN, AND ALWAYS WILL, STRIVE TO DO BETTER. AND SO WE SHOULD.

Every now and again a good news story surfaces where working safely or indeed “safer”, has been taken to new heights, either through innovation or reaching a significant milestone.

ON JANUARY 24, 2011, MANGOOLA CHPP REACHED SUCH A MILESTONE – 10 YEARS LTI FREE.

On this day in 2011, Mangoola CHPP welcomed its first intake of 16 frontline employees hot on the heels of the newly-formed leadership team.

This team of frontline personnel were nearly exclusively “cleanskins” with zero CHPP operating and maintaining experience.

They were charged with the start-up and operation of a class-leading asset and, at the time, nobody was entirely sure just how they would “make this happen”. Yet on reflection, it was never in doubt.

Today, a number of the original intake remain in the team and are justifiably proud of being part of long and successful workplace safety chronicle.

Mangoola Open Cut Operations Manager Nick Slater said, “Rarely did you hear of industrial



workplaces like Mangoola CHPP reaching such a remarkable safety record as 10 years LTI free. It is really a credit to the entire CHPP team including our many contract maintenance partners who have been part of this story.”

I’M FORTUNATE ENOUGH TO HAVE BEEN PART OF THE CHPP TEAM SINCE LATE 2010 AND I BELIEVE THE KEY INGREDIENT IS CULTURE: INDIVIDUALS ALL BEHAVING AS LEADERS IN THE PURSUIT OF SAFE OUTCOMES.

This doesn’t only apply to our core full time team of personnel but, as Nick said, the army of contractors who have come through our gate for the past 10 years, performing intensive

maintenance work on a very regular basis with at times up to 150 trades and other technicians working in close quarters.

Our maintenance effort has totalled in excess of 500,000 hours during those 10 years, not including day-to-day CHPP processing, corrective maintenance and stockpile dozer operations.

We are extremely proud of this achievement, which follows our success in 2019 when Mangoola CHPP collected a trifecta of awards at the Australian Mining Prospect Awards.

Our motto -- “Champions Do Extra” -- remains our call to achievement.

Chris March, Manager, Mangoola CHPP

SHINE A LIGHT

PORT WARATAH COAL SERVICES WILL BE LIGHTING THE SHIPLOADERS AT THE CARRINGTON WHARF FACILITIES PURPLE EVERY NIGHT DURING MAY TO HELP RAISE AWARENESS OF DOMESTIC AND FAMILY VIOLENCE. THIS YEAR’S ANNUAL ILLUMINATION PROJECT FALLS IN MAY TO SUPPORT THE NATIONAL MONTH OF DOMESTIC AND FAMILY VIOLENCE PREVENTION.



PHOTO CREDIT: RICK GARSIDE

For the project, Port Waratah has joined forces with Got Your Back Sista, a local community organisation in Tighes Hill that specialises in supporting women and their children to start a new life after escaping the trauma of domestic violence.

“Unfortunately, domestic and family violence remains too prevalent in

our community. This campaign is an opportunity for everyone, including organisations like ours, to show their support for real change,” said CEO of Port Waratah Hennie du Plooy.

“We’re inviting our community to participate in the project by taking a photo dressed or decorated in purple or with a ‘Say NO to Domestic Violence’ sign and send

it to communitypartnerships@pwcs.com.au, to be part of a social media awareness campaign.

“OUR HOPE IS THE INITIATIVE ENCOURAGES CONVERSATIONS ABOUT DOMESTIC VIOLENCE IN OUR COMMUNITY AND STRENGTHENS AWARENESS OF SUPPORT SERVICES AVAILABLE FOR THOSE WHO NEED IT,” HE SAID.

CEO of Got Your Back Sista, Melissa Histon, said that “sadly, most of us work with, live near, or are related to someone who has experienced violence in their home or in their lives.”

“The latest statistics tell the horrific story: 1 in 5 Australian women and 1 in 20 men have been subjected, since the age of 15, to physical and/or sexual violence by a current or previous partner,” said Ms Histon.

“This community initiative with Port Waratah Coal Services is a wonderful, visible way to remind the community that domestic violence is not acceptable, and it is never okay. We must do everything in our power to stop people being violent to each other.”

A candle-light vigil will be held in Newcastle on Wednesday 5 May at 5.30pm in Civic Park to remember those who have lost their lives as a result of domestic violence.

As their partner in this campaign, Port Waratah also provided a donation to Got Your Back Sista, to help support their valuable work in raising awareness of domestic and family violence through media campaigns, workplace presentations, public events and community partnerships.

IF YOU OR SOMEONE YOU KNOW IS SUFFERING FROM DOMESTIC VIOLENCE, REACH OUT FOR SUPPORT AND MORE INFORMATION AT GOTYOURBACKSISTA.COM OR WHITERIBBON.ORG.AU.

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SUPPLIER INSIDER

TRUCK N EARTH

Tell us about the business?

Truck N Earth Pty Ltd is a small family owned and operated earthmoving equipment maintenance company based in the Hunter Valley. With a well-equipped workshop in Rutherford, we offer all maintenance services

under the one roof including complete machine rebuilds, component replacement, minor defect repairs/ servicing, fabrication and site compliance modifications. Our trained, experienced tradespeople are equipped to carry out quality maintenance and repairs in both workshop and

field service environments as required.

How long have you been doing business?

Truck N Earth was established in 2001 and has slowly evolved into what it is today, proudly celebrating 20 years in business this year.

How many people work for the business?

We currently employ a team of 12 including Plant Mechanics, Auto Electricians and Boilermakers.

Describe a typical day at 'The office'.

A typical day here begins with a 6am toolbox talk with the team. We finalise job allocations for the day before we go about meeting our customers' requirements.

What's the best thing about the business?

Our team – we wouldn't get far without a competent, dedicated group who are committed to producing quality work in line with our company values.

The worst thing?

Nothing!

What are the biggest challenges facing your business?

I believe the biggest challenge at the moment will be finding and securing quality tradespeople to support the continued growth of the business in line with our high quality and safety standards.

What is the biggest opportunity for your business right now?

The biggest opportunity for us at the moment

is diversification and being prepared to adjust and accommodate the everchanging needs of our valued customers.

What is the business most proud of?

The dedication and ability of the team to be flexible and continually meet customer deadlines and targets at short notice.

Community or other causes close to its heart and values?

There are a couple of causes which the company are proud to support where we can, these being Westpac Rescue Helicopter and Surf Lifesaving NSW.

Any funny or heartwarming stories to share?

There is always a laugh to be had when the guys get together but not sure of any stories PC enough to publish here...

Any employees that deserve a shout out?

The entire team! With what has been a hectic few months for Truck N Earth, we couldn't have asked for more with the guys continuously putting their hand up to do that little bit extra. It's awesome.

Teamwork makes the dream work!

Who are you and what do you do?

My name is Lyonel Everett, I work at Royal Equipment. I re-build alternators, blower motors, rotors and armatures for electric drive dump trucks in service at mine sites throughout NSW, WA, North QLD, and SA. Our components are shipped domestically and internationally.

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

I started driving trucks in the early 80's transporting coal from mines all through the Hunter Valley, Wollongong and Bulli on the South Coast to coal handling facilities at Port Waratah and Kooragang Island. Then I went to Exploration Drilling across Australia and then ended up here at Royal Equipment 11 years ago.

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

As a kid I thought of always doing hands on work – I had a fair bit of imagination. So, really where I am now it is all hands on, so I am pretty happy with what I do.

What's a usual day at work entail?

We start with our morning team meeting. Everyone is allocated their days work and we go to it. However, it often entails a bit of swapping between jobs to help when problems arise, I really enjoy helping where I can.

What's the best thing about your job?

I really like the team I work with. There are always challenges popping up which keeps you on your toes. Solving problems when they arise is very satisfying.

MY MINING LIFE

LYONEL EVERETT

**The worst thing?**

The cold weather during Winter makes it hard for us old fellas to function properly first up of a morning.

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

Probably my loss of hearing was my biggest challenge both in my social life and in the work environment.

What has been your proudest achievement?

Probably getting positive feedback from the customers about our high standards of workmanship.

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

The far-reaching service we supply – most people say "Royal Rutherford," but I say we are based in Houston, Texas and have services in South Africa, Canada, Chile and India. We supply to many countries across the world.

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

At our annual Christmas break up last year we set out to play 9 holes of golf at our local club as we do each year. All went well until the 8th hole when a massive storm came through – no one made it back to the club house without being drenched.

What do you do in your downtime?

I enjoy dining – fine foods. Also, whenever possible get to the beach, snorkeling, swimming, and fishing. I love the ocean.

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MEET THE CANDIDATES

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THE UPCOMING UPPER HUNTER BY-ELECTION ON MAY 22 IS AN IMPORTANT ELECTION NOT JUST FOR THE REGION AND NSW, BUT ALSO FOR THE COAL MINING INDUSTRY. WE'VE ASKED THE CANDIDATES TO SHARE WITH US WHY THEY SHOULD BE CHOSEN TO REPRESENT OUR REGION.

Perhaps you've heard about the upcoming Upper Hunter By-election? Maybe you've noticed the TV crews trailing high profile politicians around the region. Premier Gladys Berejiklian, Deputy Premier John Barilaro, Shooters Fishers and Farmers Party Leader Robert Borsak, NSW Labor Leader Jodi McKay, Greens David Shoebridge and One Nation's Mark Latham have all been visiting in recent weeks, loudly singing praises about the coal industry. Why has the Upper Hunter suddenly become a hot spot for politicians?

While the Upper Hunter is only one of 93 electorates in NSW, with the resignation of sitting member Michael Johnsen on March 31 it's become a priority electorate for every political party. For a remarkable 88 years the Nationals have held the seat. With Johnsen in it, the coalition had a one-seat majority in the NSW Lower House. If they lose the seat, they lose that majority and governing will become harder. With that in mind, it's easy to see why our little by-election is receiving nationwide attention.

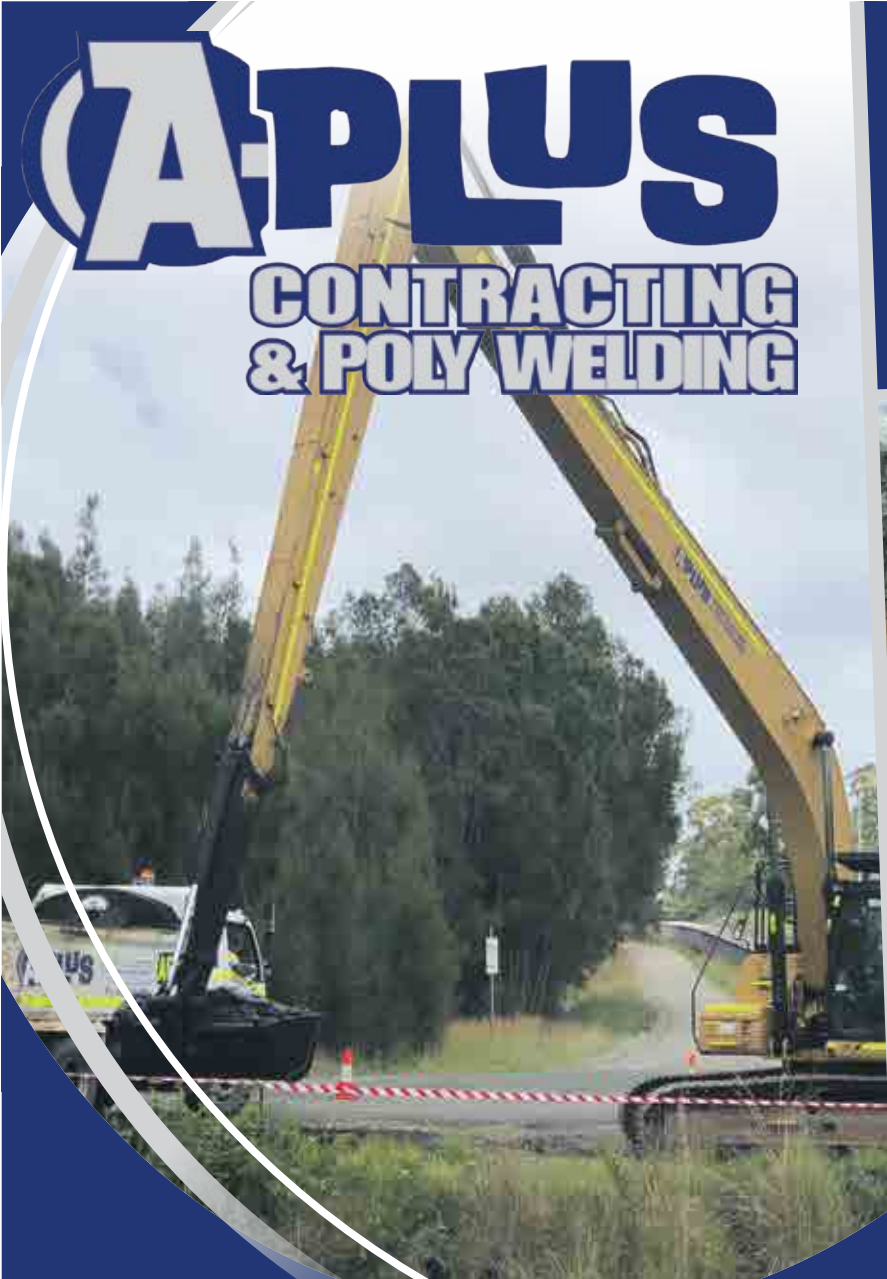
The coal mining industry is a huge contributor to the Upper Hunter and it's great to see every candidate acknowledging that. It's also great to see many of them promising to support the coal mining industry once elected. However, will that support continue once the votes are counted? It's up to you to decide.

NOTE: @ THE COALFACE ENDEAVOURED TO REACH OUT TO EVERY CANDIDATE. THE FOLLOWING PEOPLE WERE LISTED AS REGISTERED CANDIDATES FOR UPPER HUNTER 2021 STATE BY-ELECTION WITH THE NSW ELECTORAL COMMISSION HOWEVER WE WERE UNABLE TO CONTACT - ARCHIE LEA, ALAN DE AUDNEY & BRUCE MACKENZIE.

THE ORDER THAT THE CANDIDATES APPEAR IN THE MAGAZINE IS IN ALPHABETICAL ORDER.

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SUE ABBOTT

GREENS

AS A FORMER NURSE, AND MOTHER AND GRANDMOTHER I CARE ABOUT THE COAL AND RURAL COMMUNITIES HERE IN THE UPPER HUNTER WHICH I HAVE BEEN LUCKY ENOUGH TO BE PART OF AND TO HAVE LIVED AMONGST FOR THE PAST 38 YEARS. I WILL NOT LIE TO YOU OR DECEIVE YOU; I WILL ALWAYS TELL YOU THE TRUTH.

It is already too hot on Planet Earth, and Australia is 'ill-prepared' for the threats that accelerating climate change poses to our local and global security. Our nation's climate emergency policy has been an unforgiveable failure of risk management.

I became an Upper Hunter Shire councillor 4½ years ago and as a local community representative I have been a fearless defender of transparency and the truth.

I know that we do not need to choose between protecting the planet and protecting good jobs because we can choose both.

But we need to decarbonise industry so that we can transition to a genuine green economy – and we need to do that immediately.

So, our first job to do together is to build capacity for 'emergency-speed-emissions-elimination'

by 2030 because if we set a 2050 timeframe, catastrophic outcomes will not be prevented. Statements claiming that we will be net zero by 2050 are tantamount to climate denial.

But we can do this! Here, in the Upper Hunter, we have an amazing talented workforce - 26% of our workforce have a trade qualification. We have the highest number of tradies in NSW, and yet even so the coalition sought to diminish training and further education available by selling off Scone TAFE. It just goes to show the coalition does not care about workers nor is in anyway invested in the essential green economy transition that must take place for our survival.

If you elect me, we can start immediately decarbonising industry by building renewable infrastructure. Once industry is electrified the downstream jobs will flow such as green steel, green aluminium, green manufacturing, green hydrogen. We can then decarbonise transport and electrify all buses, trains, cars and fleets. Retrofitting houses and buildings is a must as is rethinking food and agriculture.

Because we already have an amazing workforce here with the key skills necessary to move to a green economy and renewable industries, we are already ahead of curve.



I care about you and how we navigate the oncoming stormy times to get to a safe harbour ... but you need an elected member who will tell you the truth and not fairy tales.

The next few years will be the most disruptive in our history of energy, transportation, and food and if you vote for the coalition, you will be voting for a 3-degree Celsius increase in temperature and the end of everything.

Please vote for me, and your children and your jobs and our planet.

I will always stand up for you.



JEFF DRAYTON

LABOUR

for mining communities.

The Upper Hunter electorate is an economic powerhouse for NSW. Our coal mines pump rivers of gold into state coffers, our power stations keep the lights on across the state, our wine and thoroughbred industries are world-famous.

But you wouldn't know it from the government services and investment we get in return.

Whether you're stuck in traffic in Singleton because they've put off building a bypass for 10 years, bouncing over potholes in Dungog because they won't upgrade the roads, or watching your local TAFE campus get sold off in Scone, you'd be forgiven for wondering – what have the Nationals been doing all this time?

They certainly haven't been down in Macquarie Street fighting for the Upper Hunter.

Our kids are suffering too. We are at the back of the queue for air conditioning in classrooms. Schools in beachside Sydney are getting air conditioners ahead of many of our electorate's hotter rural schools. And less than a third of Hunter kids reported as being at risk of serious harm actually get seen by a caseworker, because there just aren't the resources. That's the human cost of cuts to funding and services -

it breaks your heart.

I will fight for a better deal for our communities, and I know I can deliver.

As a Muswellbrook Shire Councillor, including three years as Deputy Mayor, I got to know people from across our great community and work with them to deliver outcomes on diverse issues from land management to funding for local services.

As a mining union official, I've gone into bat for countless mineworkers to make sure they get a fair go. I know that strong and committed representation makes a difference. Just as coal miners in the pit need someone on their side dealing with the company, the communities of the Upper Hunter need someone on their side in Macquarie Street. Someone who will put up a fight and won't back down.

The Nationals have had 90 years to do the right thing by this electorate and I reckon they've let us down.

I'm a local. I'm a coal miner. I'm committed to standing up for jobs, workers and our communities. With your support on 22 May, I will go down to Sydney and fight for the Upper Hunter's fair share.



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KATE FRASER

INDEPENDENT

KATE FRASER FROM SCONE SAYS ‘ROADS SHOULD BE A TOP ISSUE IN THE UPCOMING BY-ELECTION.

She says voters need a choice other than voting for one of the major political parties.

Healthcare, hospitals, jobs for youth and education are all key interests for Kate. So are the roads.

“I was sent some photos of amazing potholes in Dungog, they are big enough to disappear into.”

“Then there is the sale of the TAFE at Scone, I don’t think the sale is good idea but I am looking forward to seeing what Racing NSW can bring,” she said.

“Why should a 17 or 18 year old sit on a train for two hours to do a course, they often don’t have their own transport and they don’t have the money and how do you get to Belmont to do a course?” she said.

Among other exploits, Mrs Fraser has served 15 years on Scone Council and her father was senator for NSW for many years, so she comes from a politically minded family despite not having any party ties.

“I am hoping to do my very best for all parts of the electorate,” she said, adding that if elected this will

be a whole new ball game for her. She says she has put a good team together but doesn’t have the backing of a party machine but she didn’t have that when she ran for local government.

Mrs Fraser is pro-jobs and pro the thoroughbred industry and realises the enormous benefits this industry brings to the region.

Kate stated she ‘understands we need to protect the coal mining and associated industries because we are just not ready to change to renewables and the government are in no hurry to transition so for now we need to protect what keeps our electricity on.

To be fair new mines and expansions of existing mines do need an approval based on merit with consultation from the community.

She acknowledges we live in a diverse electorate and the community is supportive of coal, she believes there is a way both industries can work together.



SUE GILROY

SHOOTERS, FISHERS & FARMERS

I’M SUE GILROY, A REGISTERED NURSE, A BUSINESSWOMAN, MOTHER OF THREE, MAMA OF FOUR AND A CANDIDATE FOR THE SHOOTERS FISHERS AND FARMERS PARTY.

I was born into a Horse Racing family in Tamworth before moving out onto sheep stations in the Far West. In my teenage years my family moved to Singleton and I’ve been here ever since.

The Hunter Valley is my home, it’s where I’ve raised my kids and now they’re raising their kids here. I love the country life and what it offers myself, my family and my community. I’m

standing as a candidate because I believe that to ensure the future of strong economies in our rural regions we need a local member who is the true voice of the people. Who walks among their constituents and understands firsthand the challenges of living in the country.

I was part of the last group to undertake their nursing training at the Singleton Hospital. Since then I have watched our health services be slowly pulled out of our communities, with the Expressway down to Maitland and Newcastle becoming a well-trodden path for families with sick kids and people undergoing chemotherapy. Our Paramedics spend hours every month ferrying people down the valley away from their families and support networks for medical care. If we want to grow our communities and ensure they’re good places to live we must make sure we have health services to meet our community’s needs.

For a number of years now I have volunteered my time to the Singleton Business Chamber first as a member, board member then Vice President and since 2017 as President. Through these roles I have been able to support our local businesses to grow, so they can employ locals, buy local and support

our local clubs and teams. I have learnt so much through those roles and my career that I believe can be put to good use in helping the communities of the Upper Hunter all rise and grow together.

I chose to accept the Shooters Fishers and Farmers Party nomination as the Party is fast becoming the party for regional NSW. We are a party that’s about common sense, letting people get on with their lives without too much red tape and regulation. Unlike the major party candidates, I don’t have to answer to anyone in Sydney, and I don’t have to toe a party line. I’m 100 percent accountable to the people of the Upper Hunter electorate, no-one else.

I’m here for the people of this community and if I’m privileged enough to be elected by the people of the Upper Hunter on 22 May I am committed 100 percent to bringing the passion and determination to deliver real change and our fair share. I don’t seek status or accolades, I’m not a career politician and didn’t seek this out. I’m doing this because I believe the people of Upper Hunter deserve an honest local member that’s committed to representing them and advocating for their needs.

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DAVID LAYZELL NATIONALS

I'M DAVE LAYZELL, YOUR NATIONALS CANDIDATE FOR UPPER HUNTER, AND I'M DETERMINED TO BUILD A SAFER, STRONGER FUTURE FOR OUR FAMILIES.

I live in Clarence Town with my wife and four daughters, and I've worked as a construction manager on a number of projects across the Valley. This is an important by-election for the Upper Hunter, because it will determine whether there is a future for local mining jobs. I know your hard work puts food not just on your table but on the tables of families right across the region. Every train full of Hunter Valley coal that rolls down the line to Newcastle means prosperity for the entire region. When you go to work and take home your pay, it's spent at the supermarket and the paper shop, at coffee shops and pubs and the local takeaway on a Friday night. It's the money that fills your petrol tank, pays for the kids' footy rego, and keeps the lights on. Your work, in turn, helps put food on the table for the people who work in those businesses, and they then spend their pay in the community as well. Those dollars earned pulling coal out of the ground and putting it on trains keeps the entire Hunter Valley running, from Mount Thorley right down to the mouth of the river in Newcastle.

This is an important by-election because protecting your mining jobs means we can make sure families right across the Valley can sit around

the kitchen table enjoying a meal and a laugh, sharing the stories of the day and talking about the hopes of tomorrow. We can make sure our children have a bright future ahead of them, that they have great opportunities to learn and grow by transforming the way they learn. And we can make sure our children travel around the region safely by building better roads, and building bypasses to get trucks off local streets.

This is an important by-election because it will determine whether the state government can continue to deliver a strong recovery from COVID. Over the past year, this state government has kept us safe from the worst of the COVID pandemic, while other states have been in and out of lockdown. This has meant jobs have been saved, and our economy is recovering strongly. We can't risk the chaos of a minority government at such a critical time in our recovery, because it could set us back by years.

This is an important by-election because we need to keep building better roads. I am determined to fix local roads, because I drive on them and I know they're not up to scratch. And I am absolutely determined to build the Singleton Bypass, because like you I'm sick of Sydney traffic jams on Singleton roads.

This is an important by-election because your hard work underpins the entire economy of the Hunter Valley, and none of these things are possible if we don't protect your jobs.



DALE MCNAMARA ONE NATION

DALE MCNAMARA, THE ONE NATION CANDIDATE FOR THIS BY-ELECTION, IS A GREAT AUSTRALIAN SUCCESS STORY. HE'S A SELF-MADE MAN WITH EXTENSIVE BUSINESS EXPERIENCE AND SUCCESS IN THE COAL MINING, AGRICULTURAL, HORSE RACING AND HOSPITALITY INDUSTRIES - COVERING THE WIDE ECONOMIC DIVERSITY OF THE UPPER HUNTER SEAT.

Dale is a Singleton local, born and bred and having lived here all his life.

His life story, from his humble beginnings, is one of getting things done, helping local organisations and causes and employing many Hunter Valley residents.

"Dale's first priority is economic development-protecting coal jobs and assisting every industry in the Upper Hunter that can help bring down unemployment and give young people here a strong future", NSW One Nation Leader Mark Latham MLC said.

"Dale is a great, mainstream, successful person and at Pauline Hanson's One Nation party we are delighted in having him as our candidate".

Mr McNamara has:

- Worked as a coal miner for over a decade and been involved in the coal industry for 40 years;
- Invested successfully in companies like PPK, GE Mining and Industrea, with important management roles in each firm; and
- Resurrected buildings and companies employing people in many Hunter industries.

One Nation's Dale McNamara is fighting hard for:

- The Upper Hunter coal industry and job creation;
- The electorate's fair share of mining royalty money - with \$1.1 billion collected from Singleton and Muswellbrook LGAs, with only 10% coming back locally into transport projects; and
- Increased infrastructure funding for roads, health, sporting facilities, vocational training and power generation in the Upper Hunter.





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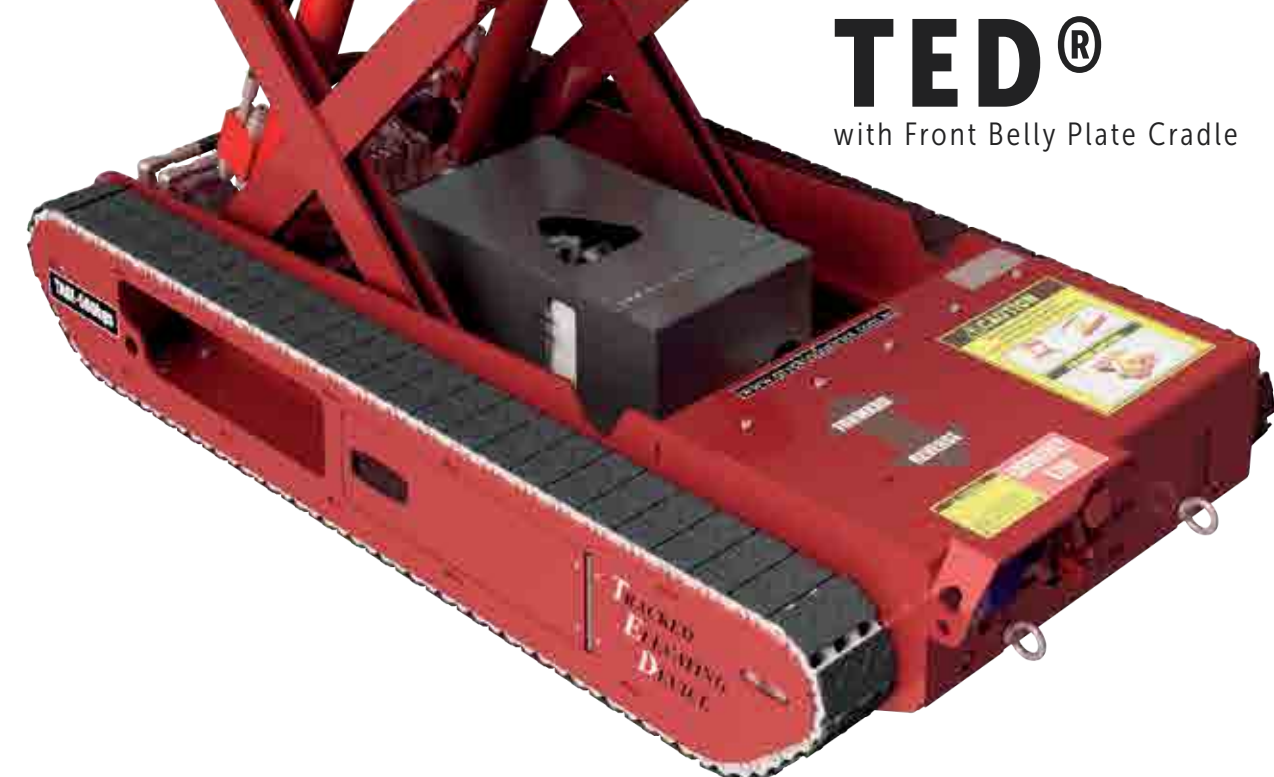
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TRACY NORMAN INDEPENDENT

YOU, THE ELECTORS HAVE A CRITICAL DECISION TO MAKE ON 22 MAY AND THE FUTURE OF THE UPPER HUNTER IS IN YOUR HANDS.

I have been encouraged to run for the seat of the Upper Hunter by several community leaders from across the political spectrum. They share my optimism for the future but also realise we need to be ready for that future. To encourage and invest in future industries in the Upper Hunter so that our children and their children can grow and prosper as we have.

While the coal mining and fossil fuel energy sectors will face challenges in the near future, the economy of the Upper Hunter can remain a vibrant economy if we plan for this. There are opportunities to introduce new industries and train our current and future workers in these industries. However, we need to act now because other regions in Australia are already waking up to this inevitability. We need all levels of government to be involved. We need real funding for training and research and to attract investment. We need to act now to stay ahead of the pack. The finance sector is willing and able to fund “green” projects because their investors are demanding it of them.

We also need to encourage innovation in sectors such as agriculture and tourism. We have the advantage of proximity to Newcastle and Sydney, and their ports and airports.

We need to provide educational opportunities for our young people and we need to protect our environment, including our waterways, while making sure we have secure provision of clean water for our rural and residential communities while maintaining supply for industrial use.

We also need to provide the basics such as good health facilities, safe roads, good public transport and other fundamental infrastructure, as well as a greater police presence.

Each candidate is no doubt aware of these needs. So why vote for me? I have a proven track record in delivering for the community of Dungog Shire. In my time as Mayor of Dungog, we achieved record grant funding for roads, bridges and recreational facilities, as well as cultural facilities such as Dungog Library. I chased down funding promised before the 2013 Federal Election. I successfully negotiated with State and Federal Governments a solution to a decade old issue over a heritage bridge in our Shire and I successfully advocated for the State to take back control of regional roads,



which has significance for the whole of regional NSW. I listened to the community’s concerns and communicated with them to keep them informed of what was happening within Council and within the wider community. I ask for your support so that I can support you.

If you wonder whether an Independent can deliver, please check out Suzanna Sneed, MP for Shepparton and the benefits that she has delivered for her community. She has delivered more than half a billion dollars in projects since taking office in 2014.

KIRSTY O’CONNELL INDEPENDENT



MUSWELLBROOK BORN AND BRED INDEPENDENT CANDIDATE AND FIFTH GENERATION LOCAL, KIRSTY O’CONNELL, SAYS A PAUSE ON NEW MINING WILL SUPPORT LOCAL MINING WORKERS.

“FIFO politicians are busy telling us that new coal is good for us, but the Hunter Valley coal companies are already choosing to produce 100 million tonnes less coal than they are permitted to.”

“I have family, friends and neighbours working in those existing mines. How does opening new mines make those existing mines more profitable? How does it provide greater job

security for local workers?”
“This is why I’m calling for an immediate pause on the approval of new coal mines across the electorate and I’m happy to have that debate with any of the politicians who are busy patting us on the head.”

She said it’s not about all or nothing.
“It’s not about closing existing mines overnight or even prematurely – but we don’t need new mines right now. We need a sensible plan for our future that takes the current cumulative impacts into account. We need to ensure that our existing mines remain profitable and operate to the highest standards. Anything else leaves our local workers and communities holding the bag.”

The Aberdeen mother of two believes the key is to act now.

“It’s not too late for us to be ready for the change that’s coming – but it seems clear that the major parties are content to ignore the problem and let our window of opportunity close.”

“We urgently need to protect the things that are critical for our future, like the Hunter River. We urgently need to invest now to grow jobs in the sectors that we’re already good at like farming, winemaking and tourism. And we urgently need to help mining-focused businesses to

grow and diversify and to give local mining families certainty about how they’ll be supported through this change.”

“We can attract new industries too. For example, we can take advantage of the trend toward regionalisation, but we can’t afford to wait another decade to get started.”

Mrs O’Connell says that while Governments cry poor, in reality, with \$1 billion in royalties generated by local coal workers each year, Upper Hunter voters should be getting a much better deal.

“Why has Singleton Hospital had to rely on a private donation to rebuild its maternity ward? Why did my own mother-in-law have to raise the funds to refurbish the Muswellbrook Hospital oncology room?”

“We do the heavy lifting – the shift work that keeps us away from our families and the community activities we’d like to participate in, the late nights with asthmatic children – surely the least we can expect is a fair share of the upside?”

“We’ve been taken for granted for decades. In this by-election we have a unique opportunity to put an independent in Parliament to work for us and give us real bargaining power. A vote for the major parties just maintains the status quo.”



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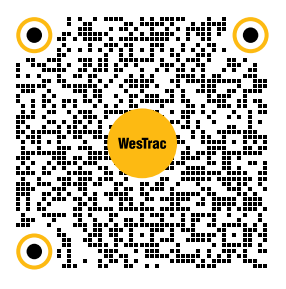
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EVA PEARS LIBERAL DEMOCRATIC

WHY I AM RUNNING FOR UPPER HUNTER ON MAY 22ND.

As an educator, I have taught many students across the region. I also worked with unemployed young people, helping them build the fundamental skills they need to get a job and build their self-confidence. These young people, for the most part, were awesome. They aren't "bad", they just need some guidance, positive role models and the opportunity to apply themselves.

What concerns me is where these kids are going - what jobs will be there for them in a future with increasing automation, falling literacy and numeracy standards, and increasing authoritarian social control?

What worries me is the growing political class on Macquarie Street.

The Liberal/National Coalition and the Labor/Greens Alliance have morphed into one power hungry beast. When they talk about net zero by 2050 or try to give their mates like Malcolm Turnbull a lucrative job, under the guise of "sustainability targets"- that's what worries me. Like it or not, the coal industry is the heart of Upper Hunter.

With unemployment already high, what chance do the next generation have if they put a moratorium on coal mines? How many more people will they need to compete with to get jobs? How many small businesses that are supported by this industry will close, creating more unemployment? Are rolling blackouts required to make people more grateful for their working lights, fridges and TVs? Environmental concerns are legitimate, and a transition to 'cleaner' energy must be on the agenda, but I don't trust the Liberal/National Coalition or the Labor/Green Alliance to effectively manage these issues. These environmental concerns need to be approached in a reasonable way that doesn't end up shooting Australia in the foot. Let the market and the consumer drive it.

While the major parties on one hand talk about protecting the coal industry, while simultaneously pushing Green New Deals, they keep us all distracted while ALWAYS finding a way to line their pockets and increase their ever-expanding authoritarian agendas.

That's why I'm running. I want to ensure there is a third-party option on the crossbench, fighting to stop the Liberal/National Coalition and Labor/Green Alliance who will create instability for



generations to come. The Liberal Democrats have a long history of resisting the authoritarian tendencies of the major parties. From the Federal Senate, to the West Australia Parliament and in Victoria, we have asked the difficult questions and always fought back against big government thinking. Minimising government interference in ALL aspects of our lives is the only way to ensure that we remain free to choose our own paths, as sovereign individuals and as a sovereign nation.



Environmental Scientist



Mechatronic Engineer



Machinery Operator



Field Technician



Chemical Engineer



Software Developer



Training Officer



Accountant



STEVEN REYNOLDS INDEPENDENT

Most people will know me as Steve or Reggie, and this by-election from my perspective is the ideal opportunity to have a local independent voice who can see the benefits and can negotiate the best outcome for our area. I won't be out there fancy dressing in mining gear for the miners' votes. I won't be dressing up and having media crews following me making promises. This is a no bullshit campaign, with traditional values: accountability, transparency and listening to the people in the electorate and ensuring the needs of our region are met.

As an independent my focus is on our region. This by-election it seems everyone loves coal, but in two years' time at the State Election will it be the same? Or will it be coal is again on the outer for the inner-city vote. We need to be mindful of the bigger picture!

Enough money has left our region in royalties to cushion our bigger cousins in the Metro areas.

I have often said you can relate an analogy from any industry or recreational activity back to the political field. I will use the mining one for the purpose of this magazine article. Whilst it looks good on the laptop on the bonnet of the car from a uni graduate, and whilst there is a bigger picture

to adhere to, there is often an easier, quicker way that is just as safe and gets the same results by listening to the people on the ground with years and years of experience.

I will be campaigning to ensure the roads in our area receive more funding than present. Some of the areas that we claim as sealed roads, I have seen better haul roads in the mining industry. I will be campaigning to cut the red tape on medicinal marijuana (declaration though, I don't thankfully need too) as I have seen the benefits it provides to people with various hurdles in life. Then we can move onto the legalising of marijuana. With the same regulations as alcohol and taking into account other countries that have had success, this is a viable option for many reasons. I will be campaigning for increased health services, putting to bed the land conflict issues once and for all.

I have one intention and that's to win. Local communities and local people must have their say, it's time for change. Follow my Facebook Page, or email me stevereynolds.ind@gmail.com and we can arrange a time to catch up. If elected I won't be spending my time with lunches in Sydney. You are the people who have elected me, I will be back here getting the job done with the assistance of you and the team around me.

Mining. Good for Jobs. Good for the Hunter.

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'AVE A LAUGH WITH

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John received a parrot as gift and discovered it had a bad attitude and an even worse vocabulary. He tried everything to change the bird's attitude but nothing worked. Finally he got fed up and in a moment of desperation put the bird in the freezer. For a few minutes the bird squawked and thrashed around and then suddenly it was quiet. Worried that he'd hurt the bird John opened the freezer. The parrot stepped gently out onto John's shoulder and said, "I believe I may have offended you with my rude language and actions. I am truly sorry, and I will do everything to correct my poor behavior."

John was astonished. As he was about to ask the parrot what had made such a dramatic change in his behavior, the bird continued, "May I ask what the chicken did?"

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In the last few weeks Mangoola has made an additional two donations to local rugby league football clubs. The first donation was to Singleton RLFC who will be using the \$500 donation to purchase new tackle bags for the club. The second donation of \$500 went to Greta Braxton RLFC who will put their money towards an ice machine.

Already for 2021 generous donations have been made to Denman RLFC, Merriwa RLFC and Muswellbrook RLFC, with all the donations made possible thanks to the generosity of the Mangoola workforce.

Mitchell Green, Mangoola Coal Environment and Community Coordinator said that fundraising for community groups is something the whole workforce is enthusiastic to get behind.

"These donations are valued contributions by the clubs and the Mangoola workforce takes pride in being able to donate funds to such integral sporting and community groups in our local region," said Mitchell.

"The Mangoola workforce will hopefully be able to provide further donations to the Group 21 RLFC this year and continue to support the community and sports clubs in the future."



MANGOOLA'S BLADE MCNAUGHT WITH SINGLETON RLFC'S JAKE SMITH, & LUKE GARDNER



ACCEPTING THE CHEQUE FOR GRETA BRAXTON RLFC IS ANDREW GRIEVE WITH MANGOOLA'S TAHNEE SCHOFIELD.

THE NATIONALS AND ONE NATION TEAMED UP TO SELL OUT COAL MINERS

Many people in this region rely on the coal industry for jobs.

But 4 in 10 Hunter Valley coal miners are labour hire contractors.

Most are casual with less pay and no leave.

Mineworkers fought hard through the courts and won important rights to end the casual rip-off.

Then the Nationals and One Nation teamed up in Parliament to take away those rights - robbing Hunter Valley mining casuals of justice and fair compensation.

We need politicians who will stand up for mineworkers – not sell us out.

THEY DON'T DESERVE YOUR VOTE

Authorised by S. Thompson, CFMEU Northern Mining and NSW Energy District, 67a Aberdare Road, Cessnock.

CFMEU
Northern Mining & NSW Energy



THE MILLS SISTERS

THIS MONTH THE COMPLETE PARTS AND @ THE COALFACE \$500 COMMUNITY GIFT GOES TO THE CONTINUED TREATMENT AND CARE OF LEANNA AND BETHANY MILLS. FROM THE AGES OF 2 AND 3 THESE COURAGEOUS AND SPIRITED SISTERS HAVE BATTLED EARLY-ONSET GENERALISED DYSTONIA, WITH LEANNA ALSO DIAGNOSED WITH RAPID-ONSET DYSTONIA-PARKINSONISM. LEANNA, BETHANY AND THE REST OF THE MILLS FAMILY NEED YOUR HELP.

Recently, we were privileged to cross paths with former Hunter Valley miner and loving and caring father to Katey, Leanna, Bethany and Olivia and husband to Michelle, Nic Mills. Nic invited @ The Coalface into his home to meet his daughters Leanna and Bethany Mills and to share their ongoing unique, inspiring and at times harrowing story of survival.

Nic began working in the mines at John Darling Colliery at Belmont before transferring to Lambton



Borehole Colliery at Redhead and finally Cumnock Colliery near Singleton where a back injury cut short his 8 year mining career. Having also suffered a stroke a number of years ago, today Nic is a full time Carer for Leanna now 26 and Bethany 24.

Both girls, now young adults, have lived in a world of hospital visits, surgeries, appointments and uncertainty, with journeys around the world to the United Kingdom, America and finally France seeking treatments and better understanding of their rare and somewhat obscure condition, Dystonia.

DYSTONIA IS A NEUROLOGICAL DISORDER THAT CAUSES EXCESSIVE, INVOLUNTARY MUSCLE CONTRACTIONS. EACH DYSTONIA PATIENT IS DIFFERENT AND UNIQUE IN THEIR SYMPTOMS. FOR LEANNA AND BETHANY, THE DISORDER HAS SEEN THEM TWIST AND CONTORT IN PAIN INDUCED BY SPASMS AND SEEN EXTENSIVE DISTRESS ON THEIR BODIES SINCE THEY WERE TINY TODDLERS.



In 2005, after considerable fundraising efforts, the girls received what was to be lifechanging surgery called Deep Brain Stimulation (DBS). This surgical procedure is used to treat a variety of neurological disorders and a battery-powered stimulator is implanted in the body and delivers electrical stimulation to the areas of the brain responsible for causing dystonia symptoms. In the girls' case, two battery computer packs were sewn into their abdomen and electrical pulses aim to reduce the twisting and contortion of the muscles. The hope was to reduce pain as much as possible.

Bethany underwent the surgery before Leanna and her mobility improved significantly. Leanna went through the same surgery, and unfortunately there was hardly any improvement at all. Today Bethany can communicate clearly enough to be understood, but

COMMUNITY GIFT

FAR LEFT: LEFT TO RIGHT: KATEY, BETHANY, OLIVIA, MICHELLE, NIC & LEANNA
LEFT: BETHANY AND LEANNA

Leanna experiences great difficulty speaking with her mother being the only one able to interpret what she is trying to say.

Meeting this beautiful family, I was moved by the strength, character and resilience they have upheld throughout their long and extremely challenging journey to keep Leanna and Bethany alive. Today, Nic and his wife Michelle continue to fight to give Leanna and Bethany the best quality of life they can.

The costs are ongoing and will be for the rest of Leanna and Bethany's lives. If you have the capacity to make a donation to help the Mills family, please visit their GoFundMe page or find donation details below.

[HTTPS://GOFUND.ME/560C8BB0](https://gofund.me/560c8bb0)

DONATIONS CAN ALSO BE MADE TO DONATE TO LEANNA AND BETHANY THROUGH THEIR REGISTERED CHARITY FOR TAX DEDUCTION, THE DETAILS ARE:

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TIGHT KNIT TEAM

THE PROUD CREW FROM LIDDELL UNDERGROUND HAVE ONCE AGAIN REUNITED IN CELEBRATION OF THE MINE THAT BOUGHT THEM ALL TOGETHER, AFTER THE EVENT WAS POSTPONED DUE TO COVID LAST YEAR.

The 2021 reunion saw over 80 people attend the event at Club Singleton on April 24. Being the first official

get together since the mine finished underground operations in 1995, there was a lot for the tight knit crew



to celebrate and catch up on. The mine has since been operated as an open cut mine.

Former crew and organisers Shane Hardy, Scott Brittliffe and Michael Dunn put in a huge effort to put the event together which was open to all past employees of the Liddell Underground and Washery as well as any family members who wished to attend.

"Over the years many of our work mates have unfortunately passed, and it was good to see some family members attend to represent those who are no longer with us," said crew member Shane Hardy.

"A MINUTE'S SILENCE WAS HAD IN RESPECT OF ALL THOSE WHO HAVE SINCE PASSED AND THEN WE JUST HAD A FANTASTIC GET TOGETHER TO REMINISCE ON OLD TIMES, HAVE A LAUGH AND CATCH UP ON WHERE EVERYONE IS NOW."

The mine began Operations in 1923 and with its long heritage, has made

a great impact on those who worked there over the years, their families and the local community. Given the opportunity to catch up at Club Singleton, it was clear that lifelong friendships and memories had been made at Liddell Underground.

"We are extremely grateful and thank Club Singleton for hosting such a great event," added Shane.

"Unfortunately, a lot of people could not attend, but I'm told are looking forward to the next reunion, and everyone who made it this year were extremely happy to have the opportunity to attend such an event."

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HEATING UP THE KITCHEN

THE HOWES VALLEY RURAL FIRE SERVICE (RFS) IS COOKING UP A STORM IN THEIR NEWLY UPGRADED KITCHEN THANKS TO A \$3,600 DONATION FROM YANCOAL AUSTRALIA'S MOUNT THORLEY WARKWORTH (MTW) OPERATION.

The freshly renovated kitchen includes a new oven and cooktop, microwave, and large fridge/freezer. It will cater for over forty volunteer firefighters at the Howes Valley RFS.

Mark Halton Captain of the Howes Valley Rural Fire Service was thrilled with the renovation.

"We hope to never see an event like the 2019/20

L-R DAMIEON CAPE (DEPUTY CAPTAIN) AND MARK HALTON (CAPTAIN) HOWES VALLEY RFS

bushfires again, however it was during this disaster that the need was recognised to upgrade our kitchen facilities. The shed becomes ground zero for us, providing a base for the crew to take a break, get hydrated and eat a meal to help keep their energy levels up.

"WE ARE DELIGHTED THE KITCHEN FACILITIES HAVE BEEN UPDATED AND ARE MORE FUNCTIONAL FOR OUR DEDICATED FIRE CREWS, WHO RESPOND TO FIRE ACTIVITY ACROSS THE SINGLETON REGION," SAID MARK.

Mount Thorley Warkworth General Manager David Bennett welcomed the opportunity to update the facility for the local firefighters.

"The Howes Valley fire crews battled a number of blazes across the Singleton region in the ferocious 2019/20 bushfires. During that time, the crews were exhausted but they showed true bravery and strength pushing on to help save our community.

"We are proud we could fund this upgrade and make a positive impact on the people in our community who are there when we need them most," said David.

The donation was part of the Yancoal Mount Thorley Warkworth (MTW) Community Support Program, which aims to make a positive difference in the local community and to the lives of the people who work and live in the areas it operates.

FUNDING FOR FACILITIES

THE WYBONG RURAL FIRE SERVICE (RFS) HAS BEEN GIVEN A HELPING HAND, WITH BRAND NEW BATHROOM FACILITIES RECENTLY BEING DELIVERED.

MACH Energy Mount Pleasant Operation, Bengalla Mining Company and Glencore's Mangoola Open Cut Operation have banded together to co-fund the facilities for these local heroes, finally giving the Wybong RFS their first ever bathroom.

The project, coordinated by MACH Energy Mount Pleasant Operation is a wonderful example of the Muswellbrook mining industry working together for the greater good of the community.

Ngaire Baker, External Relations Manager, MACH Energy Mount Pleasant Operation said when they were approached to assist with the new bathroom facilities by Wybong RFS Captain Jonathan Moore they jumped onboard because they saw it as an extremely worthwhile project.

"Their current facilities, or lack of them, did not cater for the expanding

numbers of both males and female members. As the Brigade looks after a broad area in the Wybong region I approached our mining neighbours Bengalla and Mangoola to assist with the sponsorship and there was no hesitation to get on board and help. Thanks to Fiona and Nathan for your generous support," said Ngaire.

WYBONG RFS CAPTAIN JONATHAN MOORE SAY THEY WERE VERY GRATEFUL FOR THE SUPPORT FROM THE MINING INDUSTRY.

"We have desperately needed these facilities for so long. In bushfire seasons we might be required to spend the whole day at the shed which wasn't ideal without bathroom facilities. Thanks to the generosity of MACH Energy Mount Pleasant, Bengalla and Mangoola we finally have new facilities. From all of us at Wybong RFS we thank them."



NGAIRE BAKER, EXTERNAL RELATIONS MANAGER, MACH ENERGY MOUNT PLEASANT OPERATION AND WYBONG RFS CAPTAIN JONATHAN MOORE.

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- ✓ I worked in the mining industry for over a decade.
- ✓ Campaign to introduce education and training for all Government agencies on the benefits of mining.
- ✓ Hundreds of questions and speeches in Parliament in **support of mining**.

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1

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At the end of the day, what matters to you matters to me so let's get in touch.

E | sue@sff.net.au

Authorised by Filip Despotoski, 28/9 Salisbury Road, Castle Hill NSW 2154

DUST BUSTING

THIS MONTH, WE DISCUSS DUST AND WASTE MANAGEMENT FOR MINING SITES AND COAL PREPARATION PLANTS WITH SIMON TOAL OF DISAB AUSTRALIA / NEW ZEALAND.

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Limit of one entry per person. By submitting an entry, you consent to the use of your contact details for promotional and marketing purposes.

Keeping dust and waste under control in industrial settings, including mining sites and coal preparation plants, is a major task with implications for WHS, process quality and performance.

When coal, silica and other dust particles are released into the air from mining, quarrying and processing activities, this can pose serious health risks to workers including possible lung and airway damage. Prolonged exposure can also lead to disabling lung diseases like chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), the 5th leading cause of death in Australia in 2018), silicosis, coal workers' pneumoconiosis (CWP) and lung cancer.

Simon, a civil engineer and managing director of SKALA Australasia, has worked with mining and bulk handling clients for over 15 years, and understands the safety and operational requirements of the industry.

"SOME WORKSITES TRY TO CONTROL AIRBORNE DUST WITH SUPPRESSION SPRAYS OR BY BLOWING DUST DOWNWARD, BUT THESE METHODS CAN JUST CREATE FURTHER HAZARDS. BLOWING DOWN CAN CREATE MORE AIRBORNE DUST PARTICLES, AS WELL AS MORE WORK TO CLEAN IT UP ONCE THE DUST SETTLES. DUST SUPPRESSION SPRAYS ALSO DON'T SOLVE THE PROBLEM AS THE THREAT RETURNS AS SOON AS THE MATERIAL DRIES."

Additionally, Simon explains that the more traditional, labour-intensive methods of clean-up, such as with shovels and brooms, also involve inherent WHS risks and inefficiencies, particularly when workers are operating in awkward, hard-to-reach areas.

"I recognised the need on many client sites for a safer and more efficient way of controlling, collecting and recovering dust and waste material", says Simon, "so I brought DISAB to the Australian and New Zealand markets in 2016."

Founded in Sweden in 1976, DISAB designs and manufactures innovative dust and waste management solutions for industrial settings.

"These systems prevent airborne dust and clean up dust particles at the same time," says Simon. "With high suction and filtration levels (up to HEPA filters), they prevent collected dust from escaping, making the working environment safer and cleaner. A variety of discharge options also allow collected material to be easily and safely disposed of or recovered and returned to process."

This has implications for both workers' safety and productivity. "Consistently, our customers say that these vacuum systems are a far more time-efficient, safer and long-term cost-effective way to manage dust and clean ups," says Simon.

Beyond coal, coal dust and coal ash, DISABs also handle cement and concrete, ceramics, sand, grain, saw dust, woodchip, and dust and waste from power stations, steelworks, construction sites, paper and textiles factories, and other industrial settings.

"SAVING TIME MAKES MONEY, BUT REDUCING AIRBORNE HAZARDOUS DUST SAVES LIVES, AND WE'RE COMMITTED TO HELPING WORKSITES BECOME AS SAFE AND DUST-FREE AS POSSIBLE", SAYS SIMON.

DISAB industrial vacuum systems operate at up to 160 kW, with dry or wet material, and meet the requirements of ISO 9001:2015. Better yet, "the machines are oil-free, and they don't require significant servicing", says Simon.

advertising everywhere we go, and a shopping cart full of unhealthy processed food is cheaper than filling it with fresh healthy alternatives. And while an alcoholic can go cold turkey when trying to quit, unfortunately us junk food addicts still need to eat every day.

Sure the big food companies say they are helping by creating 'diet' and 'light' options of processed food to help us shed those extra kilos. Unfortunately, these 'so called' low calorie options are normally not much better than the original product. Ultimately, until better government regulation comes in, it's down to us to help ourselves.

TO HELP US IMPROVE OUR DIETS, THE CSIRO HAS LAUNCHED A FREE, ONLINE TOOL TO PROVIDE A GREATER UNDERSTANDING OF OUR JUNK FOOD INTAKE AND WHERE WE CAN MAKE IMPROVEMENTS TO OUR EATING HABITS.

The new Junk Food Analyser provides individuals with specific advice on which categories of junk foods they are consuming the most and the interactive tool provides strategies and tips on where kilojoules can be reduced which is essential for weight loss.

There is no denying the addictiveness of junk food. Packed full of sugars, fats and all the delicious ingredients that send the reward system in your brain into overdrive, even when not eating them you still spend most of your time thinking

about them! Cutting out junk foods completely is simply unrealistic and unachievable for most of us.

Instead, the interactive Junk Food Analyser help users reduce kilojoules in an achievable way by letting users explore a combination of strategies to reduce junk food intake without cutting their favourite foods altogether. That might include choosing to eliminate alcohol, take a break from cakes and biscuits or halving confectionery consumption.

The goal is to start your own health journey by identifying your weaknesses and making small steps towards a healthier lifestyle without sacrificing everything you love.



JUNKEE FOOD

NEW RESEARCH FROM THE CSIRO SHOWS THAT NEARLY FOUR OUT OF FIVE PEOPLE ARE OVERINDULGING IN JUNK FOODS EVERY DAY.

In the 1950's, processed food began to hit supermarket shelves. Marketed as convenient, low cost and enjoyable, it wasn't long before junk food became a part of modern popular culture.

Not long after, levels of obesity begin to increase. Today, more than 1 in 3 Australian adults are considered obese and more than 2 in 3 are overweight. The culprit? Junk food.

While you might consider a little wobble around the waist not a cause

for concern, it's the underlying health problems that come with it that's the real problem. Excessive consumption of junk food leads to plenty of adverse health problems such as diabetes, heart disease and an increase in mortality.

But who's to blame for our overindulgence in junk food? Food scientists specifically create flavourings that are made to dissipate quicker so we will eat more, we are bombarded with

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A DRIVE TO SURVIVE

FOR THOSE OF YOU WITH NETFLIX, YOU MAY HAVE RECENTLY WATCHED 'FORMULA 1: DRIVE TO SURVIVE'. IF YOU HAVEN'T, DO, THIS DOCUMENTARY PRODUCED IN COLLABORATION BETWEEN NETFLIX AND FORMULA ONE GIVES A BEHIND-THE-SCENES LOOK AT THE DRIVERS AND RACES OF THE F1 WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP.

More than just racing, it looks 'under the bonnet' at the 'players' that make up Formula 1, the personalities, the manufacturers, their cars, drivers and mind-BLOWING operating budgets!

Tasked with building faster, more reliable race cars year-on-year, these teams (even the smallest ones) spend extraordinary amounts of money on their research and development to attain marginal gains that determine the winners and losers of the competition.

One of these companies is Williams Racing, a well-known British Formula One team and constructor. The penultimate racing team of the 80's and 90's, Williams has struggled in recent years (decades...),

to win against the likes of Mercedes, Red Bull, Ferrari, Renault, and McLaren. Fortunately, there is more to their Company than just the F1, with a lesser-known subsidiary Williams Advanced Engineering (WAE) fueling, I suspect, their blind ambitions for motorsport!

IN OCTOBER 2019, THEY BECAME PART OF ANGLOAMERICAN'S 'FUTURESMAST MINING' INNOVATION PROGRAM TO DEVELOP A HYDROGEN-POWERED LARGE MINING TRUCK AT ANGLO'S MOGALAKWENA OPEN-PIT PLATINUM MINE IN SOUTH AFRICA.

Working in collaboration with global energy services company ENGIE and Ballard Power Systems, WAE are assisting Anglo decarbonize

their mining operations globally as part of their broader sustainable mining vision.

Supplying the bulk of battery systems to the global electric racing series including Formula E, Extreme E and ETCR, WAE was called upon for the supply of a scalable high-power modular lithium-ion battery system that when paired with hydrogen fuel cells would power Anglo's mining truck of the future. Using 320 megawatts of solar power generation capacity onsite to produce up to 1 ton of hydrogen a day, Anglo plan to sustainably power their trucks.

Really brilliant stuff and a strategy that considers more than just the machine, with a deeper understanding of how to generate the power and charge a mining machine sustainably and remotely.

To the mining industry's credit, AngloAmerican are not the only Company leading the charge (excuse the pun), with other notable ventures including the Green Hydrogen Consortium comprising AngloAmerican, BHP, FMG and Hatch; Komatsu with Proterra; and the individual pursuits by identities such as Andrew 'Twiggy' Forrest, who in 2018 contributed A\$20m to the CSIRO to establish a hydrogen research partnership.

Technology (and solutions for that matter) are rarely developed in

LIKE TO KNOW MORE? GOOGLE 'FUTURESMAST MINING' AND 'EMINING AG'



isolation and with mining equipment the two specific technologies in development are battery and hydrogen-power. Depending upon the 'outfit', this technology is being pursued independently or together as a hybrid, with developments extending to the power generation and recharge units.

While EV's remain all the rage for consumers, there is in the commercial sector a strong and growing argument for hydrogen fuel that when mastered at scale may well provide the cleaner, greener, and more sustainable fuel of the future.

As with WAE and the BIG budgets 'blown' on motorsport, the contribution by industries such as mining, aviation, rail, and motorsport remain invaluable for the rapid development and testing of technology at scale that accelerate the solutions of tomorrow, today.

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GROUP 21 RETURNS FOR 2021

WE HAVE WAITED PATIENTLY FOR A TOTAL OF 86 WEEKS AND NOW THE BENGALLA HUNTER VALLEY GROUP 21 SEASON FINALLY MAKES ITS LONG-AWAITED RETURN.

Fans had a sneak peak at Aberdeen's McKinnon Field in April when the Tigers hosted the pre-season Scanlon Shield competition under lights. The Scone Thoroughbreds managed to claim the double that evening when prevailing 24-12 in the under-18 final and 18-6 in the first-grade decider (both wins against Singleton).

This year, the Thoroughbreds will aim for a third straight first grade title in the regular season after defeating Aberdeen in the past two grand finals. However, it will be hard to stop the Aberdeen Tigers who have recruited well in their centenary season with Macquarie Scorpions trio Matt Hay, Kyle Smith (centres), Adam Swadling (front rower) and Ourimbah Wyoming Magpies half back Josh Moffitt joining the squad.

"I am not going to be around for the next 100 (years) so it is special for everyone that is going to be a part of it," Aberdeen Tigers first grade coach Daniel Hoogerwerf explained.

"IT WOULD BE ICING ON THE CAKE TO WIN A COMP IN YOUR 100TH YEAR OF THE COMPETITION."

Shortly after the cancellation of the Bengalla Hunter Valley Group 21 season last year Hoogerwerf continued his football with South Newcastle in the Tooheys Newcastle Rugby League. He helped guide South Newcastle to last year's grand final and then backed up his



BAILEY ELLIS (MUSWELLBROOK RAMS), BRADY BENKOVIC (DENMAN DEVILS) AND DANIEL GIGGINS (ABERDEEN TIGERS).

efforts this summer when representing the Greater Northern Tigers. "Last year I completed a full pre-season and I didn't want to waste it once Group 21 did not go ahead so I played with Souths," Hoogerwerf explained.

Now the 31-year-old's sole focus is success with Aberdeen. After two half game trials against Boggabri and Dungowan, the powerhouse faced a narrow 6-0 defeat to Scone in the Scanlon Shield and believe they have what it takes to settle the scores when they meet again under lights in Round 3.

"Scone has been the best side for the last three or four years so we definitely have a challenge ahead for us but we are going into 2021 with a good side so we are happy," Hoogerwerf concluded.

THE TWO SIDES WILL BE JOINED IN THE FIRST-GRADE COMPETITION BY THE RETURNING MUSWELLBROOK RAMS, DENMAN DEVILS AND SINGLETON GREYHOUNDS WHO WILL BE COACHED BY LEGENDARY DUO MARK NEWMAN AND GARY GARDNER.

Singleton Greyhounds senior club president

Luke Gardner announced the recent appointment last month.

"Jake Hawkins has resigned as a coach for personal reasons," Luke explained.

Newman and Gardner are no strangers to the red and white. Both played an integral part of the club's memorable Group 21 and Clayton Cup winning side of 1990 under coach Richard Jones OAM.

From 1993-94 Newman coached the Greyhounds to a side capable of back-to-back grand final appearances in 1995-96 under coach Gardner. Newman returned to the position several years later and, after falling short to Denman in 2005 and Scone in 2006, finally tasted success in 2007-08 and 2012 while Gardner co-coached the club's 2011 title with Russel Richards.

They both hope to see the club cast an end to its nine-year drought in six months' time.

"In our 2012 premierships 14 out of the 17 on our list were local juniors," Gardner added. "We have to get that back; we have to keep our local juniors here."



MAY DEFINITELY MARKS THE START OF WINTER SNAPPER AND WHAT A WAY TO KICK IT OFF WITH OUR GOOD MATE BROWNY NAILING A FEW CRACKERS ON A TRIP UP THE COAST RECENTLY.

MAY DEFINITELY BRINGS WITH IT A MIXED BAG FOR FISHING ENTHUSIASTS. IT'S THE TIME OF YEAR THAT YOU'LL FIND ENDLESS SPECIES TO TARGET, WHETHER FROM THE ROCKS, BEACHES, OFFSHORE OR IN THE ESTUARIES.

LAKE MAC

It's all about the Salmon bust ups at the moment! For those that want to have a bit of fun, try on the light gear spinning a few lures through the feeding fish. It pays to be patient and wait for them to move in rather than rushing onto them; this will only push them deep and shut the bite down.

This month will also be a great time to target Bream as they will be starting to feed up and head towards the beaches for their Winter spawning run. As the water begins to cool, we tend to see the Flathead move into the deeper water throughout the lake. Larger heavier weighted plastic presentations seem to work well during the cooler months on these fish.

FROM THE BEACH

Anzac Day marks the time to start throwing metals from the beach as Tailor and Salmon are moving in and hunting along the surf. We will also still find pretty good numbers of Whiting while the water remains on the warmer side and some consistent numbers of Bream. And last but not least, some of our biggest Jewies have been caught during Autumn so these would also be a cracking target option this month.

OFFSHORE

It's the best of both worlds with Striped and Blue Marlin continuing to hold in the warm water trickling along the shelf. As per the charts though the water is really starting to cool as the current backs off now for the season. We do have an upwelling sitting off the Hunter coast so it's only a matter of time before we see a Yellowfin Tuna bite. Longtails and Mac Tuna are still feasting along the coast and if you're looking for something for the table then we have Tag and let's not forget the Snapper.

May is the best time to target these awesome fish over the inshore reefs. Kingfish are also showing up on the inshore and offshore reefs.

FROM THE STONES

Autumn and into Winter are probably some of the best times to wet a line around the local rocks and headlands. We will see a few Tuna species still hanging around the Port Stephens area and, of course, Tailor and Salmon in the mix as well. We will also see the Winter brawlers push in with the cooler water such as Drummer, Grouper Snapper, big Winter Bream and Squid in the sheltered rocky bays along the coast.

Keep floatin' - Thrifty's



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And we have Jet Ski Safaris NSW to thank for this incredible, exhilarating experience. As the only tour company in NSW to offer unlicensed jet ski tours, they've managed to create a tour that is professional and safe whilst also giving you the freedom and exhilaration of riding your own jet ski without the need for a license. I've never been on the back of a jet ski let alone took one for a ride myself, so the nerves were high, and to be honest I was crapping myself. I'm starting to feel like the boss sends me on these high adrenaline adventures for a laugh. My partner Shaun on the other hand has had loads of experience on these extremely fast water machines, so I brought him along too. The tour sets off from the Hawkesbury River Marina, which is just a quick 60

minute drive from Newcastle, or 90 minutes from Singleton. Upon arrival we met with our tour group for a 30 minute safety and information induction, which immediately put my mind at ease. The Jet Ski Safaris NSW team went above and beyond to ensure everyone doing the tour were fully inducted and felt comfortable enough in their ability to ride the skis safely. Then we were suited up in our life jackets and made our way to the tandem jet skis for takeoff – that's right, Shaun was given the privilege of jumping on the back for my first ever go at riding a jet ski. We followed the lead instructor in single file about 100 meters apart to the old Brooklyn railway bridge and were given a brief on handling the jet ski with a couple of practice runs before cruising under the freeway

bridges and then opening up the throttle for a good 20km. WE WENT TEARING PAST PEAT ISLAND, MILSON ISLAND AND AROUND BAR POINT MAKING OUR WAY TO SPENCER. IT WAS AN ABSOLUTE BLAST AND IT'S SUCH A UNIQUE FEELING AS YOU FLY THROUGH THE WATER AND TAKE IN YOUR SURROUNDINGS. Then it was Shaun's turn to take us back to the Marina. When I had control of the jet ski, I didn't have a care in the world and was far from worried as I went full throttle down the river with Shaun on the back. But being on the back for me was a different story. I honestly think I screamed the whole way back knowing my notorious for thrill seeking partner had the reins. The jet skis that Jet Ski Safaris NSW provide are set to only go at about

60kms per hour so he couldn't do too much damage, but that evil laugh he had all the way home sure didn't help. We made it back to the Marina after around 1.5 hours on the water, safely of course, thanked our brilliant instructors and made our way back up on shore. The way Jet Ski Safaris NSW have put this tour together, from beginning to end, is second to none. Shaun and I had such a good time that we're already looking at when we can book in next for another tour. Despite Shaun's unrelenting efforts to scare me, I honestly felt safe the entire time with the great team Jet Ski Safaris NSW had surrounding us. WANT TO EXPERIENCE THIS FOR YOURSELF? VISIT WWW.JETSKISAFARISNSW.COM.AU

AMAZING, AUTHENTIC ITALIAN

EMILIO'S ITALIAN AT WARNERS BAY BRINGS ALL THE FLAVOURS OF ITALY TO OUR DOORSTEP, SERVING HOME-MADE STYLE PASTAS, PIZZAS AND A BRILLIANT SELECTION OF ITALIAN WINES.



Before I share my experience, I need to warn you my dear readers. Reading on may cause mouthwatering, tummy rumbling, and the unrelenting need to jump in your car and immediately drive to Emilio's in Warners Bay.

Established in Darby Street in the 1990's by the late Emilio and Barbara Falcon along with their 3 children Carlo, Caterina and Angelina, Emilio's has now opened up in their new location in Warners Bay.

Angelina is now the owner of the new Emilio's Ristorante built on the same traditional flavour and relaxed atmosphere Emilio And Barbara once created.

AS YOU WALK INTO EMILIO'S YOU INSTANTLY FEEL AT HOME. THE WARM LIGHTING, COZY FURNISHINGS AND TRADITIONAL ITALIAN MUSIC PLAYING IN THE BACKGROUND OF THE RESTAURANT CREATES A SENSE OF FAMILY MEALTIMES. AFTER READING THE MENU, I COULDN'T WAIT TO TRY SOME OF THAT HOME-STYLE COOKING.

My mum accompanied me on a fine Friday for lunch and we started with an entrée of Chilli Octopus pan fried in chilli oil served in a hot pot with wood-fired pizza bread. This dish was simply superb. The octopus was

exquisite and fried to perfection and the chilli added the perfect amount of heat and the flavours were phenomenal. I've never had octopus as good as this.

The considerable range of pasta's were hard to go past. My mum ordered the Penne Al Pollo with penne pasta cooked in cream, pesto, chicken, mushroom and parmesan cheese. This simple, creamy pasta was a massive hit with my mum and after stealing a mouthful for myself I was equally as obsessed. It was the kind of pasta dreams were made of; that transports your mind to Italy and back again. I've now made every Friday pasta Friday so that I can try every pasta dish on the menu.

For my main I ordered Emilio's Special Seafood dish of sizzling mixed seafood cooked in garlic, chilli and olive oil served with wood-fired bread. It tasted as though they had just stepped out and caught the seafood, combined it on a sizzling plate with beautiful herbs and spices and placed it in front of me. Fresh and flavourful, this dish was pure bliss.

My mum and I honestly couldn't fault Emilio's. Every dish we had was created perfectly with love and you could taste it in every mouthful. The service was impeccable, the atmosphere alluring and inviting and the food was magnificent.

Emilio's in Warners Bay is my new favourite restaurant and I implore all @ The Coalface readers to experience its brilliance for yourselves!



Nationals committed to protecting mining jobs

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Dave Layzell and the NSW Nationals in government are committed to protecting our local mining jobs, and securing a safer, stronger future for the region.

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- Creating a **future fund** for coal towns to create **new jobs**
- **Protecting local jobs** from green activists

"There is not a family in the Upper Hunter who either doesn't work in or know someone who works in the mining industry. Unless you live here you don't understand the importance of mining, because every train full of Hunter Valley coal means food on the table and shoes on children's feet."

– Dave Layzell

Securing a safer, stronger future for mining.



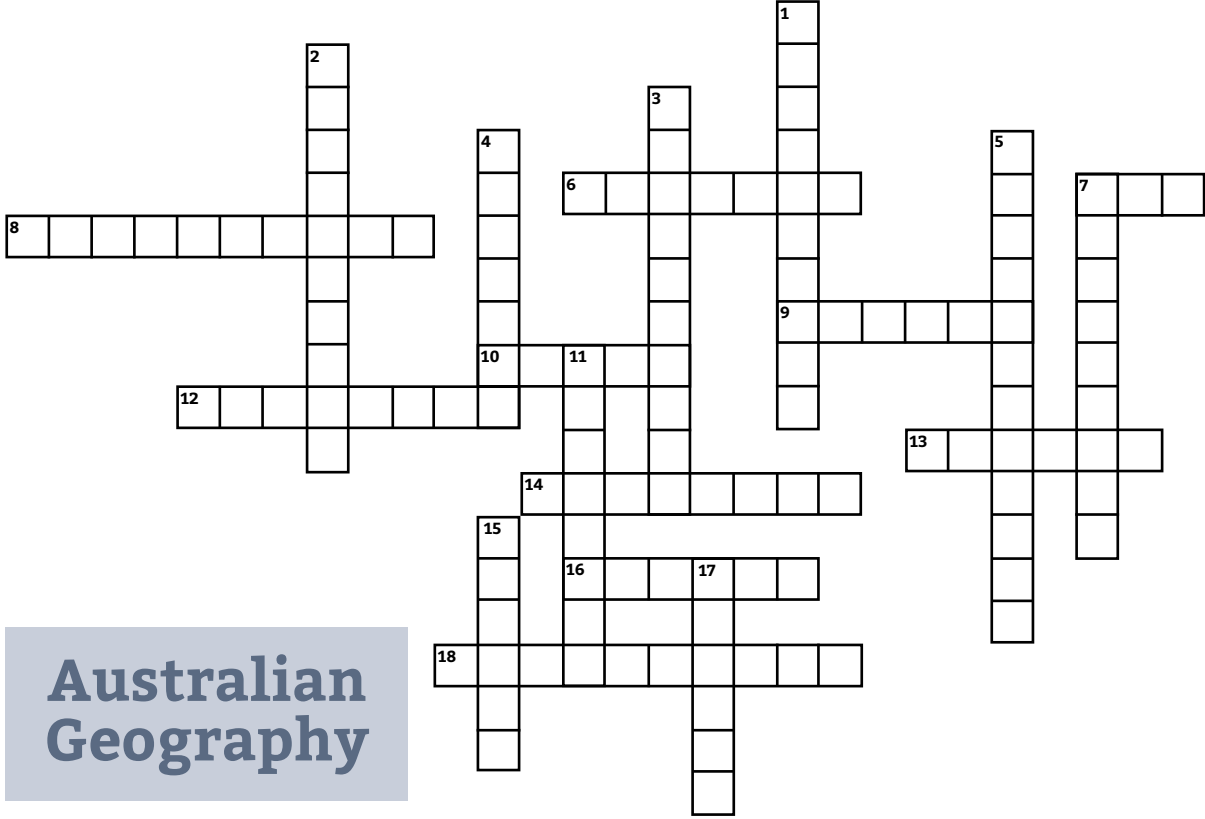
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- 7. Number of Australian states
- 8. ‘Eric’ pliosaur skeleton discovered here
- 9. Composition of Uluru
- 10. Town of first gold discovery
- 12. ‘World’s Biggest Merino’ location
- 13. Largest sand island
- 14. Lowest point in Australia
- 16. Sea surrounding Australia
- 18. ‘Golden Mile’ outback town

DOWN

- 1. State with most islands
- 2. Town on National Heritage list
- 3. ‘Golden Mile’ outback town
- 4. Australian desert
- 5. National floral emblem
- 7. Tasmanian town known for murals
- 11. Cascade beer brewed here
- 15. Largest National Park
- 17. Australia’s longest river

@ THE COALFACE PRIZE WINNERS

Volume 5 – No 3: April 2021

CRIB BAG	Linda Stevens	INNOVAATE ‘ELECTRAATE’ TUB	Chris King
ROBERTS MEATS RAFFLE	Susan Simon	ULTIMATE KIDS VOUCHER	Karin McRae
BANLAW FUEL VOUCHER	Amanda Peredi	BCF VOUCHER	Alex Lidwinski

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The service offers people from our region the first ever opportunity to travel directly to this hugely popular tropical Queensland destination. And with the ideal time to visit Cairns being between June and October with low rainfall, cool comfortable temperatures and fine sunny days, it could not come at better time.

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For adventure-lovers you will be hard pressed to find a better destination with a ton of tours and adrenaline activities on offer. From white water rafting to bungee jumping and skydiving, not to mention the variety of different tours to the Great Barrier Reef. There’s plenty to get the heart racing.

After a more laidback activity? Why not try snorkeling or sailing or how about taking in the infinite vista of blue and green from above in a helicopter. Or if you need a hit of serenity, be sure to visit the Daintree Rainforest. Explore

it at your own pace or sign up for one of the many activities on offer such as the Aboriginal-guided rainforest walks with the local Kuku Yalanji people, river wildlife cruises, guided bird spotting and 4WD safaris.

There’s also a ton of great things to do in and around the city. Framed by a backdrop of rainforest mountain ranges, you’ll discover over 100 restaurants to cater for even the fussiest of foodies and there’s plenty of bars and nightclubs to enjoy once the sun goes down.

During the day take a stroll along the Cairns Esplanade. This scenic promenade that stretches for 2.5km and includes a swimming lagoon, waterfront boardwalks, BBQ areas and a children’s water park.

If you want to spend the day at the beach, you’ll need to head to one of Cairn’s Northern Beaches. Sandy shores sprinkled with palms trees and designated swimming areas are waiting to be enjoyed. Unlike down here, the water temperatures at Cairns beaches are enjoyable all year round.

The Australian tourism industry is still recovering from the pandemic, so it’s up to all of us to help it get back on its feet. And with these bargain flights available there’s no excuse not to get out there and enjoy a fabulous holiday!



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