THE HUNTER COAL FESTIVAL IS BACK IN 2018 WITH A HUGE LINE UP OF EVENTS RUNNING FROM APRIL 6 TO APRIL 10.

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MICHAEL AKERS
HIS WORKMATES SAID HE’D NEVER GET ON OUR FRONT COVER.

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PORT WARATAH COAL SERVICES SETS A NEW SHIPLOADING RECORD.

PAGE 6

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BRING ON 2018

2018 HAS STARTED OFF STRONG AND WE CAN’T WAIT TO SEE WHAT’S AHEAD FOR THE HUNTER MINING INDUSTRY AND COMMUNITY.

There’s been a lot of good news for our industry with approvals for Wabarla and Wallarah II offering plenty of new job opportunities and economic benefits. Integra Underground has also submitted expansion plans which, if approved, will guarantee its workers secure employment in the coming years.

With the future of Hunter’s mining industry looking good, it is more important than ever that we get behind Carbon Capture Storage technologies. Greg Evans from the Minerals Council of Australia talks about the many benefits CCS offers to our industry and to us right here in the Hunter.

It’s a resounding hot summer so far, but we were lucky enough to golf off and have some fun at Aquasplash down on the Central Coast. Don’t miss out on your chance to win tickets to take your family.

For those of you in our industry, that deal with shift work, you know firsthand that it can have ill effects on your health, family and social life. Make sure you check out our article on what you can do to help mitigate these issues.

We hope you got to enjoy some time off with your family and are back to work rested and ready to take on 2018!

A GOOD YEAR

2017 WAS A GOOD YEAR FOR OUR LOCAL MINING INDUSTRY. WE SAW SUSTAINED HIGHER COAL PRICES THROUGHOUT THE YEAR THAT HAVE CONTINUED INTO 2018.

Demand for our high-quality coal also remains strong, including from major trading partners like Japan, China, Korea and Taiwan. Last year also saw interesting coal mining jobs growth in the Hunter with around 400 new mining jobs by September 2017 than the year before.

The improvement in business conditions for mining also means more money in local wallets and cash registers, helping to improve the local economy and drive growth more broadly across the Hunter.

Looking ahead, it’s just over a year until the next NSW election. Throughout 2018 and leading up to the election, we’ll be focusing the attention of our elected representatives on the needs of our mining communities and the contribution of our world class mining industry.

We’ll also be highlighting our skilled mining workforce and the role of technological innovation of our sector.

As part of this, we’ve recently released the latest stage of our national Making the Future Possible campaign, featuring the Australian mining industry’s innovative use of cutting-edge drone technology. You can see the new advertisement at www.makingthefuturepossible.com.au.

The new advertisement highlights the important role drone technology is playing in the Australian mining industry, including monitoring and mapping work and site safety, more efficiently gathering information about large mining operations and mapping our digitally record areas of Indigenous cultural heritage. The use of drone technology to enhance safety and productivity at mine sites is an example of how the mining industry in Hunter and across the country is one of the most technologically advanced in the world.

Increasing use of technology in our local mining sector also opens up new opportunities for young people, in particular to forge a dynamic career in technology and innovation.

I wish all miners, their families and supporters a safe and prosperous New Year as we continue our work to keep NSW mining strong in 2018.

Stephen Galilee
CEO, NSW Minerals Council

© THE COALFACE | FEBRUARY - MARCH 2018 3
OPEN CUT SHUT

THE MOST SIGNIFICANT INDUSTRY NEWS SINCE I LAST WROTE HAS BEEN THE RENEWAL OF EXPLORATION LICENCE (EL) 5460, MORE COMMONLY KNOWN AS DRAYTON SOUTH.

We all know from Anglo’s attempts that the Independent Planning Assessment Commission has sent a clear message: there is no place for an open cut mine site at the north of the Golden Highway. They would only consider an underground mine proposal, which would occur to the north of the Golden Highway. We want a sustainable mining operation that would be permitted on the site, including the internationally renowned equine operations in the Hartley Valley. So, our decision to allow at the Drayton South site provides certainty to the community and local industry, including the internationally renowned equine operations in the Hartley Valley.

I would like to make clear that there is still – as yet – no proposal for a mine, and any proposed project would have to go through the planning system where it would be subject to rigorous assessment, and of course extensive community consultation.

I wish you and your families all the best for the year ahead and I look forward to speaking to you about the future of our resources industry. As part of this announcement, Anglo has agreed to voluntarily relinquish all the licence area south of the Golden Highway.

In a statement, Malabar Coal said, “This is very pleased to be provided with the opportunity to develop the most significant industry news since we last wrote”. We are very pleased to be provided with the opportunity to develop another ten, how many would you have?”

Johnny: “Six.”

Teacher: “Good. Now if I gave you two cats, and another two cats and another two, how many would you have?”

Johnny: “Seven!”

Teacher: “Johnny, where in the heck do you get seven from?”

Johnny: “Because I’ve already got a freaking cat!”

Teacher: “If I gave you 2 apples and another 2 apples and another 2 apples, how many would you have?”

Johnny: “Seven.”

Teacher: “No, listen carefully. If I gave you two apples and another two and another two apples, how many would you have?”

Johnny: “Seven.”

Teacher: “Johnny, where in the heck do you get seven from?”

Johnny: “Because I’ve already got a freaking cat!”
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Vessel movements in the Port of Newcastle were restricted due to the heavy swells and as a result, shiploading at Port Waratah’s Carrington and Kooragang terminals ceased from Monday 15 to Friday 19 January. The closure meant the pressure was on since the terminals reopened.

PROVING THEIR ABILITY TO RISE TO THE CHALLENGE, PORT WARATAH LOADED A RECORD 512,504 TONNES ON SATURDAY 20 JANUARY, BREAKING THE PREVIOUS DAILY SHIPLOADING RECORD SET IN MAY 2016 BY MORE THAN 10,000 TONNES.

Extensive planning of stacker movements and coordination of stockyard layout allowed a record 2.96 million tonnes to be held across the two terminals until vessel movements recommenced.

The CEO of Port Waratah, Hennie du Plooy, said Port Waratah actively continues to plan and remain flexible in changing circumstances, to benefit its customers, the coal chain and the community.

“The performance over the weekend after the closure is a testament to the quality of our people – working together as one outstanding team, to deliver quality, agile service for our customers and the region.” Mr du Plooy said.

2017 WAS A BIG YEAR FOR PORT WARATAH COAL SERVICES WITH A TOTAL ANNUAL THROUGHPUT OF 104.6 MILLION TONNES. ALTHOUGH DOWN ON THE 2016 FIGURE, IT SHOWS THAT GLOBAL DEMAND FOR HUNTER VALLEY COAL REMAINS STEADY.

And it wasn’t just a big year for shipping. The Port Waratah Community Investment and Partnership Programme provided $747,125 of funding to 112 community groups, initiatives and events, delivering direct benefits to Newcastle and the Hunter.

Last year also marked a milestone in the approvals for the Terminal 4 (T4) project. The Site Management Plan and Priority Action Statement both received approval on November 23. T4 will have a throughput capacity of 70 million tonnes per year, which if required, will be constructed in stages according to demand.

With the favourable thermal coal prices and the World Coal Association’s forecast that coal will remain the single largest source of electricity generation through to 2040, 2018 is promising to be a great year for Port Waratah Coal Services and the Hunter Valley coal chain will continue to connect the Hunter’s coal with the world.

A new, state-of-the-art, deepwater coal terminal opened in May 2016 and is already exceeding expectations in the first year of operation.

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An organization is like a tree full of monkeys, all on different levels and all with different jobs. The monkeys on top look down and see a tree full of smiling faces. The monkeys on the bottom look up and see nothing but assholes.
The NSW Planning Assessment Commission has given its approval for the mine after over a decade of applications and operational amendments to the project. Since the first application was lodged, there have been objections to the proposal by components of the Central Coast community, primarily because of potential risks to the local water catchment, however overall the PAC has voted that the benefits far outweigh the concerns.

“The creation of 300 operational jobs, and 450 construction jobs along with the investment in the local community, provides an invaluable opportunity to maximise the long-term contribution of coal, and position the region for the future,” the Commission explained.

“The issue has been assessed in detail. Impacts were assessed to be small and acceptable, with no net impact on the availability of water for the Central Coast drinking water supply catchment during the life of the mine.”

Parliamentary Secretary for the Central Coast Scot Macdonald stands by the PAC’s approval, pointing out that the Commission had imposed more than 40 conditions on the mine. “It has gone through an extensive process and the Commission points to benefits to the economy and the community. I think there’s a pretty sound track record on the Central Coast that mining can be done and can be done safely. Some of those mines have been there for decades without impact,” said Mr Macdonald.

If developed, the Wallarah 2 project would become a 5 million tonne a year operation with a 28-year mine life.

Negotiations between union members and their employer were at an impasse. The union denied that their workers were flagrantly abusing the sick-leave provisions set out by their contract.

“One morning at the bargaining table, the company’s chief negotiator held aloft the morning edition of the newspaper.

“This man,” he announced, “called in sick yesterday!”

There on the sports page, was a photo of the supposedly ill-employee, who had just won a local golf tournament with an excellent score.

A union negotiator broke the silence in the room. “Well,” he said, “just think of the score he could have broken if he’d had no sick!”

WIN!

The development and adoption of new energy policies by government creates economic and social impacts which can last many decades. Australia’s history shows that when we get it right we can improve our competitiveness, delivering productivity benefits and boosting our standard of living.

For example, the large-scale thermal coal-fired power station developments built over past decades in NSW – including in the Hunter Valley – still account for approximately eighty per cent of the State’s generation output. These investments spurred growth in manufacturing, minerals processing and the chemicals industry, providing jobs and affordable and reliable power for industry and households. Australian coal producers have been strong advocates for the take-up of high-efficiency low emission (HLE) coal-fired power generation plants as the current generation fleet ages over time.

The adoption of HLE provides a pathway to carbon capture and storage (CCS), which can reduce CO2 emissions by up to 90% from a coal-fired power plant – so it makes sense that if we are to pursue CCS, it should be fitted to a modern, longer-lived and more efficient plant. CCS captures CO2 at a power station and stores it deep underground – ideally in geological structures.

This process is used widely overseas, with 22 large-scale CCS facilities in operation or under construction around the world. Australia’s Coal21 industry fund, which has invested over $300 million over the past decade in low-emission coal technologies, is looking for CCS to identify storage opportunities including in NSW.

NEW IS AN ENERGY-INTENSIVE STATE WITH A STRONG RELIANCE ON COAL-FIRED POWER. THIS MAKES IT IDEALLY POSITIONED TO MODERNISE ITS POWER STATION FLEET OVER TIME AND MAKE THE MOST OF CCS OPPORTUNITIES.

Knowledge of NSW geology is limited because there has been less oil and gas exploration compared with other states. The NSW Storage Assessment project is investigating prospective areas for in-depth exploration – giving future project developers, including a new coal-fired power station, stronger base data.

The work completed to date indicates the Darling Basin is the most likely area to offer CO2 storage potential in NSW. It is important this work continues if we are to maximise the long-term contribution of coal, including the vital role it plays in creating jobs and supporting businesses in the Hunter.
MINING FORWARD

ROBOTS REPLACING OVER HALF THE WORLD’S MINERS BY 2020 IS JUST ONE OF THE PREDICTIONS BY ADVISORY ORGANISATION BDO.

In BDO’s Energy 2020 Vision: The Near Future of Mining report, BDO’s Natural Resources leaders around the world have made key predictions for the mining industry in 2020. These predictions include:

- Robots will replace more than 50 percent of miners, and mining accidents will be cut by 75 percent. Half of the miners will themselves be retrained to run the technology controlling the robots.
- Technology will drive a 30 percent decrease in per ton digging costs for global mining companies leveraging Internet-connected sensors and automated drillers.
- Cybersecurity: By 2020, activist hackers will launch at least five cyberattacks on mines around the world in Permanent Denial of Service attacks aimed at eliminating the environmental and social threats they pose.

Miners of the Future - As technology companies become more dependent on the security of supply of important minerals we will see them take direct stakes in mining companies or in the operating mines themselves. By 2020, renewables will account for one quarter of the world’s electricity generation as dependence on coal wanes. Sheriff Andreas, National Leader, Natural Resources at BDO said “As the focus on minimising costs of production increases, mining companies are under pressure to reimagine their business models. Those that have incorporated technology into their operations have seen their revenue streams live on, while those that haven’t have fallen short.”

“The value of harnessing technology is clear. Driverless technology increases mining output by 15 to 20 percent while cutting fuel and maintenance costs by 10 to 15 percent and 8 percent, respectively. It also improves mining safety exponentially. At the same time, though, these Internet-connected technologies open the mining industry up to new cyberattack vectors that they must hedge against through proper internal controls. If not, they risk seeing their entire operation crippled by a single attack.”

With driverless technology, deep-sea excavations and mining expeditions to the moon by 2020, we can only imagine what will be in store by 2050.

Robots replacing over half the world’s miners by 2020 is just one of the predictions by advisory organisation BDO.
HUNTER MINING INNOVATION AND LOCAL MANUFACTURE ARE ALIVE AND WELL. WE RECENTLY SAW THE MINE SECTOR TAKE A STEP FORWARD WITH THE RELEASE OF A NEW TOOL THAT IS CHANGING THE WAY MINE WORKERS OPERATE.

**LOVE IT WHEN A PLAN COMES TOGETHER**

If there's a leaking hose or other problem or breakdown, the old way of taking them down if they couldn't get them back to the workshop was dangerous and cumbersome. They had to bring another truck up. That also means more down time for the driver and machine and they then have to tie slings and things and hope the guard comes off cleanly. With the TED you can drive it underneath, lift it to the height of the belly guard safety supporting it while the fitter unbolts it. This allows the fitter to get out of the way and by remote control lower the guard safely. Once the belly guard is down they just drive it out. Being on tracks it has great maneuverability in pit situations and generally handles most terrain without getting stuck.

TED IS THE ONLY ONE OF ITS KIND IN THE WORLD OVER.

Feedback has been that repairs in the pit and in other situations can save up to 75% in time. In the workshop it saves about half the time. Rachel from Blake told us, "It's a big year ahead! We've got our overseas distributors now and we're off to America in February and Mexico in March. So hopefully we will be signing a couple more distributors. We are going to the SME trade show in Minnesota for some pre arranged meetings while we are there. In Mexico we will be with AusTrade spending a bit of time getting to know them over a few dinners and plenty of great food and hospitality. Later in the year we are going to the Mining World Russia trade show. We will also be up in Mackay and Vegas as well. The world is looking like TED's oyster this year."

With 125 machines in mines all over Australia, councils and earthmoving companies are now coming on board. Being designed by a fitter, for fitters, TED's design has undergone several upgrades since release with a whole range of attachments now available to make numerous maintenance jobs safer and physically less stressful.

Best of luck guys! The future looks bright.
THE 2018 HUNTER COAL FESTIVAL

THE HUNTER COAL FESTIVAL WILL RETURN IN APRIL WITH A FULL LINE UP OF EVENTS FOCUSING ON THE FESTIVAL’S THEMES OF ‘COMMUNITY CO-EXISTENCE + INNOVATION + EDUCATION’

Organised by Singleton Business Chamber with support from Muswellbrook Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Muswellbrook Shire Council and Singleton Shire Council, the 2018 festival is scheduled to run from April 6 to 12.

Singleton Business Chamber president Sue Gilroy said, while events and details were still being finalised, a number of major events had been fully locked in.

“The Festival will kick off with its popular Mining Leaders Lunch on Friday, April 6 at Club Singleton which will feature industry updates from high-profile keynote speakers,” Mrs Gilroy said.

A massive community celebration will take place on Saturday, April 7, with the Singleton Community Day at the Singleton Showground preceded by a parade down John Street.

Ms Gilroy said the Singleton Community Day was designed to be a celebration of the co-existence between the mining industry and community with family-oriented entertainment and activities featuring throughout the day.

The showground would be centre stage for children’s activities, industry sponsor community engagement and educational displays, bus tours to local mine sites and tug of war, touch footy displays, bus tours to local mines and coal-shovelling competitions and more.

AS A MAJOR Drawcard, THE SHOWGROUND WILL ALSO COME ALIVE WITH THE THRILLING AERIAL ANTS OF THE FREESTYLE KING’S MOTOCROSS SHOW. THE PROFESSIONAL MOTOCROSS RIDERS ARE SCHEDULED TO PERFORM THREE SHOWS THROUGHOUT THE DAY.

The Singleton Business Chamber also encouraged local schools, groups and companies to participate in the John Street parade.

“We hope to have a huge turnout from local groups and companies parading down John Street and we are sure taking expressions of interest,” Ms Gilroy said.

People and groups interested in participating in the parade can find out more information by emailing admin@singletonbusiness.org.au.


Singleton Business Chamber’s lunch on Monday, April 9, will feature an industry update from NSW Mining CEO Stephen Galilee and Mr Galilee will also present the update at a Muswellbrook Chamber of Commerce and Industry breakfast on Tuesday, April 10.

The Tom Farrell Institute’s annual Mine Land Rehabilitation Conference will again join the festival as an official event on Thursday, April 12 at the University of Newcastle.

Ms Gilroy said the festival line up was shaping up well with a spread of events aimed at entertaining and educating the community.

“The festival is again enjoying strong support from the mining industry through sponsorship and hands-on involvement in the planning. Companies that would like to support the festival can still get on board through sponsorship: anyone interested in becoming a sponsor should contact the Chamber,” info@singletonbusiness.org.au 0417 432 081

LINE UP SO FAR

• Mining Leaders Lunch – Friday, April 6
• Singleton Community Day – Saturday April 7
• Kurri Coalface Pedal – Sunday April 8
• Singleton Business Chamber Lunch – Monday April 9
• Muswellbrook Chamber of Commerce Breakfast – Tuesday April 10
• Mine Land Rehabilitation Conference – Tuesday April 10

OTHER PLANNED EVENTS

• Careers/Innovation expo at Muswellbrook
• Upper Hunter Synoptic Plan community update at Muswellbrook
• Art competition in Singleton
• Science Technology Engineering Maths (STEM) tours for local students
• Charity golf day in Singleton

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The teacher asks her class “So children, if there are four pigeons sitting on a fence, and you throw a rock and knock one of them off, how many pigeons are left on the fence?”

A student in the back raises his hand and says “Zero.”

The teacher responds, “Sorry that’s not correct, the answer is three.”

A student in the back raises his hand and asks “Ms. Teacher, I have a question. There are four pigeons walking out of an ice cream parlour. One is licking their ice cream, one is sucking on it, and one eating it with a spoon. Which one is thearmchair?”

“I don’t know, the one sucking on their ice cream?”

“No,” responds the student, “the one wearing the wedding ring, but I like the way you think.”

The Hunter Coal Festival will return in April with a full line up of events focusing on the festival’s themes of ‘Community Co-existence + Innovation + Education.’ The festival is designed to be a celebration of the co-existence between the mining industry and community with family-oriented entertainment and activities featuring throughout the day. The showground will be centre stage for children’s activities, industry sponsor community engagement and educational displays, bus tours to local mine sites and tug of war, touch footy displays, bus tours to local mines and coal-shovelling competitions and more.

On Sunday, April 8, the Hunter Coal Festival will move to Kurri Kurri for the Kurri Coal Face Pedal. For the first time, the annual charity mountain bike ride joins the festival line up as an associated event. The Westtac Rescue Helicopter Service fundraising event offers rush rides which range from “easy to hard” and more information and entry details are available at www.rescue72chopper.com.au/events. Singleton Business Chamber’s lunch on Monday, April 9, will feature an industry update from NSW Mining CEO Stephen Galilee and Mr Galilee will also present the update at a Muswellbrook Chamber of Commerce and Industry breakfast on Tuesday, April 10.

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The teacher asks her class, “So children, if there are four pigeons sitting on a fence, and you throw a rock and knock one of them off, how many pigeons are left on the fence?” A student in the back raises his hand and says, “Zero.” The teacher responds, “Sorry that’s not correct, the answer is three.” A student in the back later the same student raises his hand and asks, “Ms. Teacher, I have a question. There are four pigeons walking out of an ice cream parlour. One is licking their ice cream, one is sucking on it, and one eating it with a spoon. Which one is the armchair?” “I don’t know, the one sucking on their ice cream?” “No,” responds the student, “the one wearing the wedding ring, but I like the way you think.”
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Limit of one entry per person.

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The Apprentice Employment Network NSW & ACT (AEN NSW ACT) and its 23-member Group Training Organisations (GTOs) have over 1000 unfilled apprenticeships and traineeships across the state.

Jason Sultana, the Executive Officer of AEN NSW ACT said “this is our peak recruitment time of year. Members (GTOs) are indicating they cannot fill all the apprenticeships and traineeships they have available right now. There are some wonderful career opportunities available.”

There is always a demand for skilled tradespeople and especially now with the mining industry thriving. With the demand set to increase, it is vitally important that the next generation of young people take up apprenticeships, or else we risk being faced with a massive skill shortage in the future.

HERE IN THE HUNTER, HVTC CURRENTLY FINDS ITSELF WITH 33 UNFILLED APPRENTICE AND TRAINEE VACANCIES IN THE HUNTER REGION DESPITE THE COMPANY’S ACTIVE RECRUITMENT PROCESS.

HVTC CEO Sharon Smith says undertaking an apprenticeship or a traineeship is an excellent alternative to university study and should not be overlooked by people wanting to start or change their career.

“Apprenticeships and traineeships provide school leavers with an opportunity to earn while they learn, obtain a nationally recognised qualification and hands-on work experience that will kick start their career.”

If you want to find out more about opportunities right here in the Hunter, head to www.hvtc.com.au

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DUST STRIKES AGAIN
THE BEST POSSIBLE LEVEL OF SUPPORT AND CARE - AND ENSURING THAT AIRBORNE CONTAMINANTS ARE ACTIVELY BEING CONTROLLED THROUGHOUT THE ENTIRE MINING INDUSTRY.

Two new cases of dust disease have been detected in New South Wales with the NSW Resources Regulator investigating the cases.

One case involves a worker who has been diagnosed with mixed dust pneumoconiosis while the other relates to a worker diagnosed with a confirmed case of simple silicosis.

The Resources Regulator's CCO, Anthony Keon, said both workers were detected through health surveillance screening, which is provided to all current and retired coal workers as part of the NSW regulatory framework.

"Ensuring the appropriate management of airborne contaminants has been a key priority for the Resources Regulator and the detection of two confirmed cases of dust diseases is a significant concern," Mr Keon said.

"The priority is to ensure these workers are getting the best possible level of support and care, and ensuring that airborne contaminants are actively being controlled throughout the entire mining industry."

The line was the result of an incident in late 2017 after a witness provided photographs of excessive mine dust blowing across a public road near the Muswellbrook mine.

EPA Hunter Director Karen Marler said that mines must not be complacent about managing dust from their activities.

"All mines are required to apply best practice dust controls and minimise dust generation at all times. If they aren't doing so, they face regulatory action from the EPA. The EPA will monitor this mine to check that it is using appropriate dust control measures."

DUST DILIGENCE

As a reminder of the diligence needed by mines in ensuring best dust management practices, NSW's Mount Arthur Coal Mine has been fined $15,000 for dust pollution by the EPA.

The fine was the result of an incident in late 2017 after a witness provided photographs of excessive mine dust blowing across a public road near the Muswellbrook mine.

EPA Hunter Director Karen Marler said that mines must not be complacent about managing dust from their activities.

"All mines are required to apply best practice dust controls and minimise dust generation at all times. If they aren't doing so, they face regulatory action from the EPA. The EPA will monitor this mine to check that it is using appropriate dust control measures."

As a kind of future farmers institute high school, 'The Paddock' would create an agricultural centre of excellence and a working agricultural learning enterprise in conjunction with the education system for secondary students.

Australia’s biggest farming classroom if you like, ‘The Paddock’ would be a single or perhaps collection of farms and agricultural enterprises on Hunter mining land. On site could be everything from grazing to cropping, dairy, viticulture orchards, timber, aquaculture, equine, food production, sustainability, rehabilitation and flora and fauna management.

The idea would drive future focused thinking that allows the next generation of primary production knowledge to significantly leapfrog the present.

A MINING LED AGRICULTURAL REVIVAL - RESIDENTIAL FARMING EDUCATION IN A REAL-WORLD ENVIRONMENT.

A potential centralised campus could be kick started on a foundation within existing, underutilised mining and farming infrastructure that accelerates development. Dormant mine located farming infrastructure could be revamped to industry leading standards.

On the upside we could see a lot of mine land returned to productive agricultural production. On the downside... well there isn't any.
I started at Mt Arthur in 2011 and I love it. I’d been at other mines before that but not as an operator. I was lucky to get on the boom wagon with Mt Arthur and do a traineeship with them. They really looked after us back then, we got skilled in a whole range of areas and you don’t seem to get that anymore. I think I was in the last of the good traineeships and so I feel really lucky. I have to give a big thumbs up to the industry, it’s been so good to me, allowed me to buy a house and stuff like that. People are quick to condemn the industry but it’s what keeps towns like Singleton going. If the coal industry bailed up and left, I don’t know if places like Singleton would survive.

What’s a usual day at a job like this? She’d say I was a beautiful kid, but I sure wasn’t. Mum was great, she’d always say I could do anything and she just wanted us to be happy.

Family. I've got a twin brother, he works on a farm just out of Inglewood in Queensland. We grew up in town but when we needed to earn some extra money we would work out on the farms driving tractors and stuff. That's probably where my first passion for the big machinery was.

What do you do in the downtime? I'd like to get to the gym. When I started mining I put on some extra weight, it’s hard not to with all the drinking and smoking and a few large fires which burned underground to light up the tunnels so that they could see what they were doing, hacking away at large chunks of black gold from the walls before carting it back to the surface, using the same buckets they were lowered down in.

From the first coal discovery by runaway convicts in 1793 until military rule ended in Newcastle in 1823, convicts played a big part in the Hunter’s coal mining history.

In the early days, men would walk along the beach and collect coal deposits lying on the beach or scrape it out from the face of the cliffs. Then they’d carry their loads of coal in heavy baskets back to the boats for delivery onto ships waiting at port. As the potential for coal mining grew in the area around Newcastle, a convict settlement was established that was specifically designed for punishing the worst of the worst and the ‘most turbulent and refractory characters’ which were ‘to be kept at the coal works’. One of the convicts, John Slater, is said to have wrote his wife back in 1839:

“On landing in Newcastle, both bars are put on in rows and sent to work...lam is reduced to the lowest state of indigence and poverty which man can possibly bear...A man in this place cannot earn anything by work as labour as all the work is an account of Government and thus solely depending on his poundpounds...of meat and flour.”

The convict miners experienced harsh conditions and practices, which included being lowered by a shoddy length of rope into mine shafts in nothing but an oversized bucket! These blokes would mine by the light of a kerosene lamp and a few large fires which burned underground to light up the tunnels so that they could see what they were doing, hacking away at large chunks of black gold from the walls before carting it back to the surface, using the same buckets they were lowered down in.

It was expected that these men would essentially live underground, eating and sleeping, usually for an entire week, before they were allowed ‘up’ on Saturday’s (hopefully for a cold beer, but probably not). On Sunday’s, many convicts were whipped for various offenses, including ‘laziness’. The convicts were almost certainly hungry. Supplies to the settlement were often a problem with shortages of food, clothing and essentials such as soap.

The crop-crush and peeling paint in the crb room seems like paradise compared to what these blokes had to go through!
HAT’S OFF!

Mt Arthur Coal Operator Nayomi Chick has been busy raising money for prostate cancer and giving a whole new meaning to passing the hat around.

While at work one day, an idea came to Nayomi to sell blue hard hats to raise money for prostate cancer. “I’d been thinking that despite working in a male dominated industry you didn’t hear much about prostate cancer, and so I thought it could do with more recognition,” Nayomi said.

“I went to management with the idea for the hard hats not sure what kind of response I would get, but they were fully behind it from the get go. I chatted up a supplier for the hats, got in contact with the Prostate Cancer Foundation of Australia and soon had 200 blue hard hats ready for sale.”

“The whole site got behind it and I was bombarded with people wanting one and more than happy to pay $40 to support the cause. Even after I sold out of hats I still had people wanting to donate.”

What’s great about Nayomi’s project is not just the $8000 she raised for the Foundation, but also the ongoing recognition the hats will bring. Prostate cancer is the most commonly diagnosed cancer for males and causes more than 3,000 deaths in Australia every year. The chances of a man being diagnosed with prostate cancer in his lifetime is 1 in 6, making awareness of paramount importance. 

Now at Mt Arthur, blue hard hats pop up among the standard sea of white hard hats and is a constant reminder that prostate cancer should not be ignored.

NAYOMI’S ENDEAVOUR WOULD NOT HAVE BEEN POSSIBLE WITHOUT THE STRONG SUPPORT FROM MT ARTHUR COAL WHO NOT ONLY WELCOMED HER IDEA BUT ALSO PAID FOR THE COST OF THE HATS, ALLOWING ALL THE MONEY RAISED TO GO DIRECTLY TO THE FOUNDATION.

Statutory Compliance & Standards Supervisor Jimee Urquhart said they were proud to support Nayomi. “It’s great to see one of our employees going to such great lengths to raise money for a worthy cause and we hope that her example will encourage other miners around the Valley to follow suit. In fact, we challenge other mines to try and outsell what she’s done.”

RIDE ON!

REGISTRATIONS ARE NOW OPEN FOR THE 1000K’S FOR KIDS, A 35-DAY RIDE BID TO RAISE MONEY FOR KIDS LIVING WITH CANCER.

This year’s ride starts on the Sunshine Coast on the 7th September and visits Ek, Taree, Wollongong, Warners Bay, Gosford, Nana Glen and Scone before finishing at West Side on the 3rd November.

The event is strongly supported by our industry with miners Cowboys who are riding the 1000k’s for Kids. Mining companies and suppliers have also been quick to get on board to sponsor this great event. This year they aim to raise over $500,000 for Camp Quality.

The event is a fantastic opportunity for children living with cancer and their families.

Anthony Fleming from Bengalla will be riding this year for the sixth time. “If you want to make a difference in the lives of children living with cancer and their families.”

BENGALLA MINING COMPANY IS CONTINUING TO SUPPORT LOCAL STUDENTS FROM THE UPPER HUNTER REGION. The annual scholarship programme has now run for eleven years and is open to students from Muswellbrook High School, St Joseph’s Aberdeen, Stone High School and Stone Grammar who plan to complete an undergraduate engineering degree in any of the disciplines of mining, electrical, mechanical, environmental, chemical or mineral processing.

In addition to financial support, the scholarship provides valuable industry experience through ten weeks of paid vacation work at Bengalla each year.

Scholarship recipient, Taleisin Court-Kriesch said that he has always had an interest in science and technology and after completing work experience at Bengalla in Year 10 he set himself the goal of studying engineering at university.

“ACHIEVING THIS SCHOLARSHIP HAS GIVEN ME THE ABILITY TO BETTER FOCUS ON MY STUDIES AT UNIVERSITY AND, COMING FROM AN AVERAGE RURAL FAMILY, BELIEVED MUCH OF THE STRESS REGARDING THE COST OF STUDYING AND LIVING AWAY FROM HOME. FROM THIS I AM LOOKING FORWARD TO CHALLENGING MYSELF AND LEARNING AN EXCITING NEW SUBJECT AT UNIVERSITY, ALONG WITH THE CHANCE TO SOLVE PROBLEMS AND WORK IN A TEAM ENVIRONMENT IN THE FUTURE.” Taleisin said.

Bengalla Chief Executive Officer, Cam Halfpenny said, “We want local students to achieve their future goals and vision in the mining sector, which is why we are pleased to provide this scholarship to a local student like Taleisin every year. Engineering is an exciting field to work in and we encourage young people to consider it as a career option.”

Taleisin will join students from previous years on site at the end of the year to undertake vacation work as part of the scholarship programme. This will equip Taleisin with real life engineering skills that will help him with his studies and future career.

Congratulations Taleisin and good on you Bengalla for continuing a great program for our local community.
“Future opportunities and growth make the nation’s mining industry an exciting place to forge a career. Essential to making the future possible is embracing new technology and innovation, such as using drones to survey mine sites.”
SAFETY @ THE COALFACE

ONE DAY FIRST AID TRAINING

WE ALL KNOW THAT COAL MINING IS A DANGEROUS JOB, BUT THANKS TO THE RIGOROUS REGULATION OF OUR INDUSTRY FOUR MINES ARE THE SAFEST IN THE WORLD.

The International Labour Organization (ILO) says the high rate of death, injury and illness associated with mining make it the most hazardous of all occupations. Over the history of mining there have been significant advances in mining equipment and methods that continually contribute to make the work of a miner safer, but undoubtedly the biggest factor in increasing safety has been regulation.

In Australia, the mining industry has a fatality average of 9 workers dying each year. Yes, that’s 9 too many but we are fortunate to have here in Australia some of the toughest safety standards in the world that helped to ensure the toll wasn’t higher.

China on the other hand has the largest number of coal mining fatalities with an average 13 miners killed every day. They account for 80% of the world’s total fatalities even though they produce roughly 35% of the world’s coal.

There are still many countries around the world where a worker does not have the right to refuse work they consider unsafe, nor to leave a mine they consider dangerous.

Although there are no accurate figures, estimates suggest upwards of 10,000 deaths every single year. This means that in Australia we account for less than 0.09 percent of the world’s fatalities even though we provide 30 percent of the world coal trade.

Shift work is often in direct conflict with our biological functions and creates disorder in our circadian clock (inner body clock). Body temperature, heart rate, blood pressure, respiration rate and adrenaline production normally rise during the day and fall at night. Altering these natural rhythms will affect behaviour, alertness, reaction time and mental capacity in all people by varying degrees.

When you have to modify your time for sleep, meals and leisure it’s no wonder it can lead to stress, fatigue, depression, headaches, high blood pressure and other more serious health issues.

Adapting to shiftwork is easy for some people while others never adjust. There are strategies and lifestyle changes that can help you adapt, but even with the best practices in places studies are suggesting that in the long-term shift work is likely to lessen your life span alongside the increased health risks. The first step to take in minimising these risks is exercising and maintaining a well-balanced diet. It’s also important to minimise alcohol, get rid of the cigarettes and the absolute number one key is to sleep! At least 8 hours every day.

When moving to shift work sleeping is a lot harder than you think so you might want to try scheduling naps, learning about different sleep strategies and making sure you are in an environment that is conducive to sleep.

IN ADDITION TO THE IMPACTS ON YOUR PHYSICAL AND MENTAL HEALTH, SHIFT WORK ALSO CONFLICTS WITH FAMILY AND SOCIAL LIFE WHICH COMES WITH ITS OWN SET OF PROBLEMS. You need to get the family and friends on board. Work out ways you can still fit in with their activities and make the most of your time off. The more active you are, the more you get out and have a good time, the easier it will be to sleep and the more productive you will be at work.

SHIFT CHANGE TIPS

• Reset your sleep-wake cycle by reframing from eating for 12 to 16 hours before you want to be fully awake. When you begin eating again, your internal clock will reset as if it is starting a new day.
• No gorging on big meals at night.
• Go to bed as soon as you get home from afternoon or night shift.
• Go out in daylight before your afternoon and night shift.
• Always take a nap later if you didn’t get enough sleep.
• Try to avoid exposure to daylight on the way home from afternoon and night shift. Wear sunglasses.
• Sleep only two to three hours after your last night shift and then get a good sleep that night and on the following nights.
• Get plenty of exposure to daylight on your days off as this will help adjust your body clock to a daytime setting.
• Rotating shifts are best in a clockwise pattern with each new shift starting later than the last. (Day – Afternoon – Night – Day)
• Don’t fall for the quick fix. There is no supplement or sleep aid that will provide the same benefit as just closing your eyes and drifting happily to sleep.

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SINGLETON EMERGENCY SERVICE EXPO 2018

LOOKING FOR A FUN AND SAFE DAY OUT WITH THE FAMILY? THEN HEAD TO SINGLETON TOWNEHEAD PARK ON SATURDAY MARCH 17.

The emergency services of Singleton have teamed up to bring the community a fun filled event to build disaster preparedness and service familiarisation.

With live demonstrations, scenarios and stalls from the SES, RFS, Fire and Rescue, Ambulance, Police, Westpac Rescue Helicopter Service, Red Cross, Mines Rescue and Local Land services.

FREE ENTRY
• 10:30am: Red Cross Surviving without Power Demonstration
• 11:00am: SES Fire Demonstration
• 11:30am: Mascot Race
• 12:00pm: SES Flood Demonstration
• 12:30pm: Car Accident Scenario

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This revolutionary water drone can go to depths of 30 metres, locate fish as far away as 40 metres, and even cast the last of your birds from up to 12 lights. Meanwhile it’s busy recording everything that is happening and sending video and photos to your hand-held device from up to 80 metres away.

So next time you go fishing have a nap on the bank while it does the work!

www.powervision.me

THE HYDROFOIL TAKES MOTORIZED SURFBOARDS TO A WHOLE NEW LEVEL WITH ITS MOTORIZED HYDROFOIL.

The hydrofoil lifts the surfboard off the surface of water, which reduces drag and allows greater speeds. Looking down on the surfboard, while riding will feel like you’re flying above water. The surfboard doesn’t initially hover over water though. You’d have to reach a certain speed and then lean back a little to get the surfboard off the surface. The motor is controlled via a handheld remote which will quickly get you blasting or bring you to a halt.

www.jetfoiler.com

SH*T HAPPENS... EVEN IN THE DARK

WHEN NATURE CALLS IN THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT, A NEW PRODUCT IS AVAILABLE TO HELP MAKE THAT RUN TO THE WOODS A HAPPIER EXPERIENCE.

Glow in the dark toilet paper means you never have to fumble around looking for that crucial paper again. It also makes a great last minute mummy costume on Halloween…

www.amazon.com.au

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The ‘Scream Jar’ voice silencer stress reliever lets you scream as loud as you want while miraculously transferring your voice into a whisper. So, no matter where you are you can vent all that anger.

www.amazon.com.au

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The Travelmate is not just a suitcase; it’s a robotic companion. Also featuring a built-in scale, smart lock system, integrated camera and a horizontally as you make your way and follow you vertically and

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Covering up when you use sunscreen or the areas that have worn off after sweating, you can see all the areas that have missed.

www.sunscreenr.com

Malabar Coal has developed a radically different proposal for EL 5460, previously known as Drayton South. This new underground proposal has been designed to address community and stakeholder concerns about past proposals and minimise any possible impacts on our neighbours.

We understand that, if a coal mine is to be successful, it must coexist with local industries and gain its social licence from the community. Malabar’s plan will use the existing processing, handling and rail infrastructure at the Drayton Mine for the any future project, so that there are no new impacts for our neighbours.

Benefits of the underground only project include about 350 new direct, long term jobs for the region and many more indirect jobs. Malabar’s proposal will also generate significant economic and social benefits for the local area, for NSW more broadly and for the national economy. The project will provide ongoing support for local businesses and, over the 30 years of this project, provide $1.7 billion of royalties to the State.

How is Malabar’s proposal different from past proposals?

1. Malabar will only mine underground. No need for blasting, with no dust and noise related impacts or impact on equine health or nearby properties. Mining operations will be invisible to the horse studs addressing any impact to the reputation or operations of the horse studs.

2. The portion of EL 5460 beneath and south of the Golden Highway has been relinquished. This includes the land beneath the Godolphin and Coolmore horse studs and Golden Highway.

3. Better rehabilitation outcomes Malabar will deliver a far more visually appealing final outcome at the existing Drayton Mine site by using reject stone and rock from the underground mine at Spur Hill or an underground mine at EL 5460 to fill the legacy voids at the Drayton Mine.

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COMMITED TO WORKING TOGETHER

Malabar Coal brings jobs and investment to the local community.
DEAD SET, THERE MUST BE SOMETHING IN THE DIRT...

BECAUSE, IN THE WORLD OF FAST PACED RACING, KURRI KURRI SURE KNOWS HOW TO BREED A CHAMPION OR TWO.

CHAD REED
There’s no need for us to introduce Chad Reed. A household name in Supercross and Motocross racing, Chad’s been racking up wins since the Knight’s won their first Grand Final in ’97. His consistency and dedication to the sport has made him Australia’s most successful Motocross racer ever. Recently ripping it up in the 2018 Monster Energy Supercross, it doesn’t look like this local legend will be giving up the spotlight anytime soon.

JAMIE STAUFFER
Retired in 2007, Jamie was not only a 9 times Australian Superbike Champion, he then went on to become an international champion in road racing winning the Aprilia Challenge Series in 2000. He still loves to race speedway bikes for fun on the family track at Mulbring.

ADAM SHIELDS
Shieldsy was an international racer who was best known for racing on the UK circuit racing for Eastbourne Eagles and Lakeside Hammers. He represented Australia in the Speedway World Cup and was the Under 21 Australian Speedway Champion. And he just happens to be Jamie Stauffer’s brother in law.

MASON CAMPTON
Born in ‘93, Mason has been lighting up the Speedway scene for more than a few years now. Taking out the Queensland Speedway Solo Championship in 2016, although he went on to be beaten by his Hunter mate, Sam Masters, Mason is set to light up the 2018 Speedway calendar with big plans to move to the UK and race for the Worthington Comets in the British Premier League.

ROBAN TUNGATE
Tungate is another of Kurri’s famous racing exports, competing overseas in the United Kingdom and Poland. 2016 was a huge year for Rohan. In one year he was named South Australian Champion back in the 2015/16 season, then went on to become the Slovakian Champion, right before being named New South Wales State Champion. Last December, Rohan won the Crump Cup in his hometown of Kurri and now he’s the Australian Solo Speedway Champ for 2018.

SAM MASTERS
OK, Sam’s not technically a Kurri boy, but he’s a Hunter boy racer and an absolute gun on the motorcycle speedway, so he’s worth a mention amongst the other champions. Winning the British Premier League Riders Championship in 2011 and just 20 years old. He got a start in the Speedway Grand Prix World Championship series in 2015, finishing 12th. Last year, Sam was crowned Australian Speedway Champion at his hometown track, Lenford Park Speedway in Kurri Kurri.
Miner's Shiner

Originally from Gunnedah, life among cars Peter has been in Singleton 20 years. He started in underground mining in Gunnedah around 1990. Eventually he went to open cut before being transferred to Liddell and that's where he's been ever since as a digger driver and trainer assessor. Peter said, “It's a great job and a great pit, a really good place to work. I got a lot of encouragement from the guys – especially after Summernats.”

On car Peter told us, “I've been a car person all my life, I kicked off with an FJ Holden. It brought me into the story.”

My son is into cars as well and he decided to buy a new Mustang and had it all supercharged and suggested I look at getting a muscle car too. So, I decided to go down the muscle car path so I could still hang out with him. That’s where the Chevy came into the story.”

“I bought the car from a guy in Queensland but originally it came from San Diego where it had done a lot of car shows. I've done a few minor things to it with the help of the Bassett Racing guys who help take care of the maintenance. Mark and Zac from Bassett Racing are carminers as well, but this is our passion,” explained Peter.

“Summernats was the car's very first Australian car show and where we unveiled it. Massive preparation was involved to have it up to standard. The cleaning and detailing is immense, it's not just what you can see but everything you can't as well. Everything under the skin is also out!”

“I was going for a top 60. We made that and then we went for top 20 and top 10. We were then second name called out in the top 10. On top of that, out of the whole show only 6 cars were picked to show at Melbourne Meguiar’s MotorEx Super Stars event in Melbourne. Only 6 from Summernats got to go. It's the pinnacle so I am chuffed,” Peter told us.

On the car itself Peter made the point that it doesn't just sit in the shed, it's a driver. “I like to drive my cars, not just look at them. Getting them out and enjoying them is why I love it. Once if gets in your blood you can't get it out.”

Good luck in Melbourne Peter – not that you will need it!
THANKS TO COMPONENTS ONLY, OUR HEAVY EQUIPMENT EXPERTS

**THE BEAST**

An adaptation of a far smaller machine generally used in civil and mining projects, the self-named Caterpillar 895D Compactor is a super-sized, customized, big brother of Cat’s smaller 825 and 835 compactors. Like many innovations, the genesis of this Compactor was born out of necessity, to better manage a specific set of challenges experienced by the miner. Since hitting dirt, it has exceeded expectations and achieved impressive results.

Derived from the success of a Tiger 690D Wheel Dozer (Caterpillar 992D Wheel Loader equivalent), the origin of the 895D Compactor was formed from the desire to create a fit-for-purpose machine. Working in residue dams with particularly hard and problematic clay, the owner operators engaged a local manufacturer in search of a heavier and more powerful Compactor than was available in the marketplace and their own fleet of Caterpillar 825 and 835 Compactors.

What they got was a modified, cost-effective, reliable and versatile machine, that has increased operational efficiencies. In production terms, the original Cat 825 Compactor onsite took 24 passes to bring the compaction of the clay to specification, the Cat 835, 14 passes and the self-named 895D Compactor a mere four passes with equal or less fuel burn. Remarkable results, when one considers the additional costs of staff and the last production experienced with the accompanying scraper fleet.

Albeit a strong concept, it wasn’t all smooth sailing, with several areas requiring fundamental design considerations. These considerations included the customisation of the compaction wheels with reference to the inner rim, segments, outer rim and feet, ‘fortification’ of the back-end scraper bar, management of the heat build-up in the torque converter (made easier with the later model Tiger used) as well as ensuring a solid lock-up clutch was installed. While unofficially christened the 895D, I can’t help but feel that in this instance, it would have been more appropriate to name this machine ‘The Beast’, call sign ‘TB1’. Like to know more, visit our website to see componentsonly.com/video/thebeast

**MAKE A SPLASH**

What a great day out! My mates and I tried out the gondola rides as it weaved its way around the giant artificial theme park. The ride was named ‘Beast’ after our local club. The ride itself was pretty intense, with its twists and turns, it was hard to keep your balance. We ended up with a hangover and a lot of water in our ears. But overall, it was an amazing experience.

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GRAB A BITE @ THE COALFACE

36  FEBRUARY - MARCH 2018 | @ THE COALFACE

Walking through the doors of Fratelli Roma, we were greeted by a smiling waiter who had us seated so quickly the tantalizing aromas of chilli and garlic had barely reached our noses. Softly playing music, muted warm colours, and antique furniture created a warm and welcoming atmosphere. I settled into the cozy bench seat and began perusing their extensive wine list. I ended up selecting a bottle from their Italian wine list figuring while in Roma do as the Romans do – I highly recommend the Clic Bianco IGT. On to the food; and as usual I had great difficulty choosing just one dish so thankfully our waiter was able to give recommendations based on what I like. I started with tomato bruschetta which was perfectly prepared, I also ate half of the hubby’s insalata di calevarani as I wanted to make sure it tasted as good as it looked. It did.

AS THE WE WAITED FOR MAIN COURSE, THE RESTAURANT’S LOUD LIGHTING AND CANDLELIGHT COULDN’T HELP BUT MAKE ME THINK HOW ATTRACTIVE MY HUBBY WAS LOOKING TONIGHT. BUT AS I ORDERED A SECOND BOTTLE OF WINE IT OCCURRED TO ME THERE MAY BE ANOTHER REASON...

My main course arrived, fettucine with spanner crab, white wine, chilli, garlic, tomato and it had the perfect amount of bite. Hubby got the veal scaloppini which he assured me was great. Crudely, he would not share so I had to take his word for it. Although the generous bowl of pasta and the two bottles of now empty wine had left me sated, I knew it wouldn’t be a fair review unless I sampled a dessert. I mean what choice did I have? Crostata di Limone – translation: a tart made of lemony goodness with homemade peels and crowned with delectable sugary confectons that left me on the sweetest of sugar highs.

You had me at Delizioso.

THE PIE MINISTER

alcoholic beverage. All will then raise their glasses and make a toast to reminding their own business while worshipping whoever the hell they like.

My birthday is May, the month not the day. It goes for the whole month because that’s how long my dear mother was in labour for – a baby Jesus this Easter which starts March 30, I also have devised a plan for religious harmony. This year everyone will be required to check a religious themed BBQ sometime over the break. Regardless of which god everyone worships, how they eat their halal Easter eggs or which sacred animal they are forbidden to eat, everyone must bring a tray of their approved animal for grilling on the flames and bottle of their favourite alcoholic or non-

To minding their own business and celebrating the occasion.

Finally, it will be Xmas again before you know it! The only thing I’d ask between now and then is to mind your own business and celebrate whatever the hell you want and all things that make us different. Oh, and if you’re feeling like a pie, head to Grices in Cessnock…full of meat and hard to beat!

Delizioso!

THIS MONTH I HEADED TO MAITLAND’S RENOWNED RESTAURANT FRATELLI ROMA, TO EXPERIENCE A LITTLE OF ITALY’S MOUTHWATERING CUISINE RIGHT HERE IN THE HUNTER.

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I’VE BEEN TO
BALI

The whole Kuta chaos we had heard so much about was nowhere in the plan for us. Bali’s most stylish and upscale beach resort area of Seminyak, which is home to the island’s most luxurious resorts, fine restaurants and boutiques, was more what we were looking for.

From the moment we reached our Seminyak villa complete with its own pool, me and the missus started planning to spend as much time as possible in the water, the beach and the pool. The people we saw with kids were part of the fun if you approach it the right way. All in all it was better than expected if you haven’t been to Bali, you better book soon.

The food is surprisingly better than a snorkeling trip or cheap eats. The food is surprisingly better than what we had at the Kuta chaos we heard so much about was nowhere in the plan for us.

I still think I smelled that old, but I can’t deny the romantic vibe Bali gives off meant the blue pill business was clearly pumping in this part of the world. I resisted the temptation though and continued beach side.

While we encountered more locals who wanted to say hi and get to know us almost as much they wanted to sell us their fine wares, taxi services and these little blue pills they called Viagra.

I didn’t think I looked that old, but I can’t deny the romantic vibe Bali gives off meant the blue pill business was clearly pumping in this part of the world. I resisted the temptation though and continued beach side.

The people we saw with kids were part of the fun if you approach it the right way. All in all it was better than expected if you haven’t been to Bali, you better book soon.

PRETTY MUCH EVERY PERSON I KNOW HAS BEEN TO BALI ONCE OR EVEN TIMES EXCEPT ME - UNTIL A BIT OVER A MONTH AGO THAT IS! WITH BUGGER ALL INTEREST IN EVER GOING BEFORE, I QUICKLY LEARNED WHY THIS TROPICAL PARADISE IS A NUMBER ONE DESTINATION FOR SO MANY AUSSES.
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