

## Coal & Allied community newsletter Muswellbrook edition

Issue 2 - November 2009

Pictured: (l-r) Joe Matthews and  
Knights Dan Tolar and Ben Cross with  
Muswellbrook High School captains.



## Black coal cup swings into action

It was another successful year on the green for the annual Black Coal Challenge Cup, with more than \$120,000 raised for the Westpac Rescue Helicopter Service.

This brings the total amount raised to \$818,000 since the event began nine years ago, and event organiser and Bengalla employee Joe Matthews said local support for the event has been key to its success.

"Each year the Muswellbrook community digs deep for the Black Coal Challenge Cup and this year was no exception, with residents, businesses and schools all showing their support," Joe said.

"More than 240 competitors took part in this year's Cup, and we are hoping that for our tenth year in 2010 we will reach the magic \$1 million in donations."

Joe said Coal & Allied was always keen to get involved and assisted in more ways than one.

"Bengalla and the Mount Pleasant Project were both gold sponsors of the challenge this year, contributing \$2000 each," Joe said.

"We also had Newcastle Knights players Ben Cross and Dan Tolar drop in as part of Coal & Allied's Community Alliance with the Knights, handing out goodies from the Community Alliance

trailer to more than 400 local students.

"Coal & Allied and Bengalla are also major sponsors and charity partners of the Black Coal Ball which has been held in May for the past five years.

"With health and safety the primary focus at our mines, it makes sense for Coal & Allied to throw its weight behind a service that is able to provide emergency medical aid.

"I can't thank Coal & Allied enough for its support; we couldn't run these events without it."

Coal & Allied's also provides \$50,000 each year in support of the Westpac Rescue Helicopter Service and also has an employee payroll deduction scheme.

# From the General Managers



**Andrea Sutton - General Manager Operations Bengalla.** In 2009 Bengalla has seen several changes and has celebrated a number of milestones including our 10 year anniversary.

Health and safety continue to be part of our core values as we focus on our goal of zero injuries and illnesses. We have seen some strong improvements identified by the team across the site this year. Bengalla apprentice Kris Andrews received a highly commended award at the New South Wales Minerals Council Awards for a hydraulic torque wrench safety innovation. This was after he was also awarded the 2008 Albert Weeks Award for Apprentice Safety Innovation. Unfortunately we have had three reportable injuries in 2009; the investigation of each incident has provided Bengalla with opportunities for improvement. These types of incidents are a stark reminder of how we need to continue to look for improvements and remain focused on health and safety in each and every task we do.

On an environmental front, the planned rehabilitation of the spoil area has continued in the later

half of this year and we are on track to complete the 10 hectares planned for 2009. We also hosted our second annual Bird Watch event with support from the Hunter Bird Observers Club.

As I reflect on the busy and interesting year 2009 has been I would like to take the opportunity to thank the entire Bengalla team and our service providers for their efforts and dedication to work safely and productively each and every day.

As our minds turn towards the festive season, I would like to wish you and your families a happy holiday season and a safe new year.

**Antony Bijok - General Manager Studies.** As we enter the festive season it certainly has been a busy year for Coal & Allied.

This year we celebrated our second birthday of the Muswellbrook shopfront, which provides a direct point of contact in the community for people to drop in and talk to us about our work in the region.

The shopfront has provided us with a great opportunity to host a

number of activities and events, including the Muswellbrook Chamber of Commerce breakfast in October. It was great to see so many of our local businesses attend, and I was pleased to welcome many of our community partners to the event.

At the breakfast I was also able to give an overview on the recent Hunter Valley Coal Chain industry agreement, which is designed to end one of Australia's biggest infrastructure bottlenecks. This historic agreement is critical for the industry to move forward and realise growth opportunities, such as the development of the Mount Pleasant Project.

The Mount Pleasant team will consider this agreement in their current work to identify innovations and improvements in the ongoing study of the Mount Pleasant Project. We will keep you informed of our activities on this project.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish you and your family a happy and relaxing Christmas, and please make it a safe one by taking special care on our roads over the festive season.



## Bengalla helps students reduce energy use

Bengalla is going back to school to help Upper Hunter students save water and energy as part of the innovative ClimateCam for Schools programme.

ClimateCam for Schools incorporates a web-based programme that allows schools to track their energy use. It began through Newcastle City Council's involvement in the Together Today foundation, of which Coal & Allied is a founding partner.

Extra financial and in-kind support for the programme is being offered by Bengalla to Denman's St Joseph's Primary School and Muswellbrook Primary School.

Bengalla Environmental Specialist Sharon Green said she was very pleased to assist the students progress through the milestones.

"Currently I am sharing my knowledge with students from both schools so that they can introduce initiatives including waste recycling and planting trees to offset greenhouse gas emissions," Sharon said.

Bengalla General Manager Operations Andrea Sutton said the initiative is playing an important

role in educating students about how they can minimise their environmental footprint.

"I wish them all the best for tracking and reducing their energy use through the ClimateCam for Schools programme," Andrea said.



## Indigenous trainee paves the way

A traineeship at Bengalla has opened doors for Indigenous local, Brooke Wilton, who has been awarded for her efforts with a fulltime job and is now helping to mentor a new trainee.

Brooke won the Aboriginal Employment Strategy's (AES) 'Excellence in Fulltime Traineeship Award' at a ceremony in Newcastle this year.

"My colleagues have been very friendly and supportive so it's great to continue working at Bengalla and an honour to have been formally recognised by the AES," Brooke said.

"I would certainly recommend a traineeship to other Indigenous people looking to start a rewarding career in a diverse industry."

Brooke has been keen to share her knowledge and offer support to Bengalla's latest recruit, Alicia Cronin, who is following in her footsteps.

"My previous job was in retail, so I've swapped the heels for steel-capped boots for my traineeship at Bengalla," Alicia said.

Bengalla General Manager Operations Andrea Sutton congratulated Brooke on her achievements and welcomed Alicia to the team.

"Bengalla has partnered with the Maitland AES since early 2006, and it is just one of the many ways Coal & Allied is working to boost our Indigenous workforce," Andrea said.



From left: Alicia Cronin and Brooke Wilton.

## Bengalla wraps up celebrations

A ceremonial time capsule burial on site in October has marked the final celebration of Bengalla's first decade.

General Manager Operations Andrea Sutton said the capsule contained a selection of newsletters and clippings from when the mine started operations right up to the present.

"This year we have reflected on our 10 years of operation with a range of celebrations with both employees and the community," Andrea said.

"Highlights included a community open day in November 2008 at the Muswellbrook Showgrounds and a special 10 year anniversary lift-out in the Muswellbrook Chronicle.

"We've taken this lift-out, plus some photographs, editions of the Bengalla Upfront newsletter and Coal & Allied Muswellbrook

newsletters and copies of entries in Bengalla's family day colouring-in competition and buried them to be unearthed when we finish mining at Bengalla."

Muswellbrook Councillor Malcolm Ogg and Coal & Allied General Manager - Joint Ventures Tony Miller buried the time capsule next to a tree planted when the mine was opened by then NSW Premier Bob Carr.

Andrea said she enjoyed sharing the time capsule ceremony with those who have been instrumental in Bengalla's success.

"Bengalla started operating in 1999 and today we employ more than 260 people and produce in excess of five million tonnes of coal each year," Andrea said.

"We consider ourselves very much a part of the Muswellbrook community and are proud to share this event with our employees, joint venture partners, community members and local Councillors."

**Below: General Manager Operations Andrea Sutton (holding shovel) joins with local councillors, community members and joint venture partners to bury the time capsule.**





PaL tutor Tanya Riley with some of Muswellbrook's new bookworms

## Bookworms blossom with PaL

A programme developed in Cape York is helping Indigenous children in Muswellbrook discover a hidden love of reading, with eight local children already enrolled in the successful Parents and Learning (PaL) programme.

The PaL programme supports Indigenous parents and family members to get involved in their children's learning through weekly home visits over a two year period by a PaL tutor, who delivers books, instruction kits and educational games.

PaL tutor Tanya Riley said she has enjoyed implementing the programme in her local community, made possible through \$40,000 in funding from the Coal & Allied Aboriginal Development Consultative Committee (ADCC).

"There are so many challenges parents face when it comes to engaging in their child's education," Tanya said.

"Growing up, my parents were unable to read and write, but I had the opportunity to go to school and get a good education.

"I love working with children so when the opening for a PaL tutor came up, I was delighted to get the position. It's so rewarding to be able to help Aboriginal families so their children can reach their potential and lead the best lives they can."

ADCC Executive Officer Cate Sims said Coal & Allied was pleased to have the opportunity to invest in programmes which deliver educational outcomes for the Aboriginal community.

"PaL is an excellent example of such a programme, which is focused on supporting parents to instill in their children a love of learning and in the process help them build a bright future for themselves and their families," Cate said.

## CCC visits monitoring site

The Mount Pleasant Community Consultative Committee (CCC) had an opportunity to learn more about environmental monitoring equipment when it visited one of Coal & Allied's monitoring sites in early November.

Coal & Allied General Manager Studies Antony Bijok was part of the group visit to the monitoring station located at Warkworth Village.

"This site collects environmental data for Coal & Allied's Hunter Valley Operations and Mount Thorley Warkworth mines, giving the CCC an insight into the level and scope of monitoring that would apply to the Mount Pleasant project during the operational phase," Antony said.

"The group were shown a number of data collection systems, including a depositional dust gauge, high volume air samplers and computerised real time dust monitoring equipment.

"Monitors for recording blasts and ground vibration were also examined, and the group learnt more about noise monitoring including the Barn Owl system.

"This latest tour is yet another opportunity for our Mount Pleasant CCC to learn more about the mining industry."

Both the Mount Pleasant and Bengalla CCCs meet regularly throughout the year.

Minutes from these meetings are available from the Muswellbrook Library and on the Coal & Allied website: [www.coalandalied.com.au/whatwedo/338\\_mount\\_pleasant.asp](http://www.coalandalied.com.au/whatwedo/338_mount_pleasant.asp)

## Mount Pleasant Community Consultative Committee

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