

Mount Pleasant Project

COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

Expo Bursts with Energy



Muswellbrook locals were bursting through the doors at the recent Bursting with Energy Expo at the Upper Hunter Regional Show.

More than 2,000 people took part in the Expo which is now in its sixth year, but the biggest winner was the Muswellbrook branch of the State Emergency Service (SES), which received \$4,000 from the mining and energy companies who hosted the expo to buy two much needed generators.

At Coal & Allied's display, visitors were encouraged to burn fat not fuel by pedaling an exercise bike to produce energy.

Coal & Allied Climate Change Specialist Simon Prendergast said: "The bike demonstration

helped us show how much energy can be saved by using energy efficient lights, and how much extra energy is needed to power household appliances like a television, computer or microwave."

Newcastle Knights player, Mitchell Sargent, lent his muscle to pedal up enough power to operate his entire home entertainment system.

A huge thank-you to our community partners and all other participants who helped make the Expo such a big success, including Wildlife Aid, the University of Newcastle, Hunter Valley Youth Express, Muswellbrook Shire Councils Mobile Sustainability Exhibit, HLA, Thiess, Hunter Life Education and Freedom Fuels.

From the General Manager Studies Mount Pleasant Project taking the next steps



The project team has been working hard to get the Environmental Management Plans ready to move forward. We are now expecting to lodge the plans with the relevant authorities shortly – see page 3 for further details.

The past 12 months were spent reviewing the engineering feasibility of the Mount Pleasant Mine Project. The indications to date are that the mine is an economically attractive project.

We now have a clear path of activities to undertake before making a final decision on this project. These include ensuring the

necessary regulatory approvals are in place, land acquisition and granting of the mining lease, cultural heritage clearance and mitigation of potential mine areas and gaining security around the necessary long term port and rail infrastructure.

This would be a very large investment in New South Wales, more than \$1 billion, so we need to make sure we get it right by considering all impacts and components of the project.

Please drop into our shopfront in Muswellbrook or phone 1800 727 745 if you have any questions you would like to ask us.

Antony Bijok
General Manager Studies
Mount Pleasant Project

Fact File

Location:	Three kilometres west of Muswellbrook
Lease size:	3,985 hectares
Ownership:	100 per cent Coal & Allied
Product:	Thermal coal for export markets
Production:	10.5 mtpa Run of Mine
Reserves:	462 million tonnes
Development Consent granted:	December 1999
Feasibility Phase:	Commenced November 2006
Construction	
Duration:	2.5 years
Employment:	Approximately 700 at peak
Proposed Operations	
Duration:	The Development Consent permits operations until 2020
Employment:	340
Mining type:	Combination dragline and truck and excavator
Infrastructure:	Coal handling preparation plant Rail loop Office and workshop complex
Mining equipment:	Dragline Excavators Truck fleet Ancillary equipment



Youth go green for Forum

Monitoring mine site noise levels, making lip balm from natural grasses and working out how an electric sports car can out-perform a Ferrari were all part of the hands-on experiences given to local high school students at the recent Upper Hunter Enviro Youth Forum.

More than 65 students from years seven to ten took part in workshops designed to increase their awareness of environmental issues and management techniques.

To give the students an insight into Coal & Allied's commitment to water conservation efforts, students had to simulate a live mine site and calculate the amount of water needed for tasks around the mine. Then, by using the Bengalla

Mount Pleasant Project Environmental Specialist Leah Cook with students at the Enviro Youth Forum.



Mine blasting rules, the students had to decide the best times for blasts to occur.

Thank you to Muswellbrook Shire and Singleton Councils for organising such a great day for the students and to the students who attended from St Joseph's High School Aberdeen, Scone High School and Merriwa Central High School.

History of Mount Pleasant

1992	Authorisation to Prospect granted
1992 – 1997	Exploration, Mine Planning and Environmental Studies
Sep 1997	Environmental Impact Statement completed
1998 – 1999	Commission of Inquiry
Dec 1999	Development Consent granted
2001	Order of Magnitude Study
2002 – 2006	Pre-Feasibility Studies
Nov 2004	First Community Consultative Committee (CCC) meeting
Nov 2004	Construction of dam on site
Aug 2005	Project Options Study commenced
Nov 2006	Feasibility Study announced
Apr 2007	Muswellbrook Office opened
Nov 2007	Stage 3 tree planting completed
Dec 2007	EMP Focus Group sessions held

Coal and Allied is committed to supporting local community projects and activities.

We are pleased to be working with our community partners to make a difference.

This year we are helping our partners with events and programmes such as:

Muswellbrook Relay for Life
Muswellbrook and Upper Hunter Eisteddfod; and
Muswellbrook Polocrosse Club.

About us

In late 2006, Coal & Allied announced the start of the feasibility study into the development of the Mount Pleasant Project near Muswellbrook.

The indications to date are that the mine is an economically attractive project. There is a clear path of activities to undertake before making a final decision on this project.

The Mount Pleasant Project is 100 per cent owned by Coal & Allied. Coal & Allied is listed on the Australian Stock Exchange and is 75 per cent owned by Rio Tinto. It is managed by Rio Tinto Coal Australia.

In 2007, Coal & Allied produced 24 million tonnes of coal. Coal & Allied has a workforce of more than 1,600 people across its three operations – Bengalla, Hunter Valley Operations and Mount Thorley Warkworth.

HGT and Coal & Allied Apprentice Recruitment

Apprenticeships in Electrical and Plant Mechanic trades will be advertised in July 2008 in all local newspapers.

For more information please contact Brian Marsh at HGT Australia Ltd on 0408 478 085.





Coal & Allied's Richard Bailey and Janelle Risby from the HPFC help the children show off their Certificate's from the Mosaic Workshop.



Environmental Management Plans on track

Following several months of community consultation and review, Coal & Allied will lodge its Environmental Management Plans for the Mount Pleasant Project to the relevant New South Wales government authorities.

After the department's review and approval process, the plans will be provided to both the Muswellbrook Shire Council and the Mount Pleasant Project Community Consultative Committee.

Local family centre gets crafty with kids

The school holidays got creative for 19 local children who took part in the Hunter Park Family Centre's Mosaic Workshops in January.

With \$1,000 funding from Coal & Allied's Mount Pleasant Project, award winning sculptor and ceramicist Irene Esteves helped the children (aged six to ten) and their families design nine colourful stepping stones made out of mosaic tiles.

Team members from the Mount Pleasant Project helped out in the designing sessions, and at the

conclusion Coal & Allied's Jennifer Bowcock and Richard Bailey handed out certificates to the children who participated.

The workshop is just one of the many activities that take place at the Hunter Park Family Centre. The Centre also offers services such as family legal services, a health clinic, holiday activities, the current 'well-being and self-esteem' program, speech therapy and playgroup.

For further information about the centre call 6543 3566 or email hpfc@hotmail.net.au

Date Claimer –

Calling all kids - grab your footy boots and head to the Kids to Kangaroos NRL Junior Development Clinic being held in Muswellbrook on Tuesday 8 July. For further information go to www.arldevelopment.com.au

Coal & Allied Community Trust Update

The Coal & Allied Community Trust has launched into 2008, supporting two very worthy causes.

Alzheimer's Australia will receive \$8,400 to run "Living with Memory Loss" programmes in Muswellbrook, Cessnock, Maitland and Singleton.

In the Hunter/New England region the number of people with dementia was 9,100 in 2005. The Access Economics Report 2006 expects that will increase to more than 32,100 by 2050. The Coal & Allied Community Trust is pleased to provide help for those in need now, and help to build networks for both carers and sufferers.

The Community Trust will also continue to support the Cessnock "Let's Read" initiative with a further \$20,000 in funding. The money will be used to fund more reading kits to teach parents the importance of reading to their young children.

To date 1,000 kits have been distributed, with another 1,000 in the process of going out. The new funding will enable a further 2,500 kits to be distributed.

The 2007 Coal & Allied Community Trust Annual Report is available at www.coalandalied.com.au



Upcoming Workshops

The Hunter Region Business Enterprise Centre (BEC) is running a series of workshops, funded by the Coal & Allied Community Trust, to help local businesses learn some new skills or update existing ones.

17 June	Customer Service Workshop
24 June	Business Planning Series Workshop
1 July	7 Steps to Business Success
5 August	7 Steps to Business Success
12 August	Customer Service Workshop

Venue: Coal and Allied Office, 19 Bridge Street Muswellbrook.

For further information and bookings please call the BEC on 1300 304 794 or go to www.hunterregionbec.com.au



*Coal & Allied Chairman
Chris Renwick delivers the news.*

Coal & Allied AGM Highlights

Coal & Allied has a vision to spend some \$5 billion on new projects, more than double its production from its existing portfolio of coal and other assets, create more than 6,000 jobs and many more jobs indirectly in the Hunter region over the next seven years.

That was the key message in Coal & Allied Chairman Chris Renwick's address to the Annual General Meeting on 18 April.

Mr Renwick used his address to detail the company's performance in 2007 - and where the company aims to be by 2015.

In line with planned and forecast infrastructure expansions in the Hunter Valley, Mr Renwick highlighted Coal & Allied's potential mine expansions and proposed residential development in the Lower Hunter area.

Mr Renwick also detailed the need to remain environmentally responsible and continue to further its strong community presence in the Hunter.

"The Coal & Allied Community Trust, now in its ninth year, last year delivered 15 partnership initiatives, totalling more than \$1.5 million with funding focused on business and economic enhancement, vocational learning, personal development and the environment," Mr Renwick said.

Indigenous support from Coal & Allied

Since its inception in 2006 the Coal & Allied ADCC has provided more than \$450,000 to 19 projects.

Projects approved for funding by the ADCC in 2008 include:

- \$61,000 to Capability Resources to employ an Indigenous person to deliver training programmes and mentor indigenous employees;
- \$69,000 to not-for-profit organisation, Ungooroo Aboriginal Corporation, to employ a full-time coordinator to help provide outreach services, community support and employment;
- \$113,000 to Mandurah Hunter Indigenous Business Chamber to conduct an employment skills and resource audit of not-for-profit groups, businesses and corporations in the local community; and



Full time coordinator Taasha Layer at Ungooroo Aboriginal Corporation, funded by the Coal & Allied ADCC.

- \$2,500 to help an Aboriginal teacher at Muswellbrook South Primary School undertake a Masters degree in Indigenous language.

For more information about the Coal & Allied ADCC, or to apply for funding, please contact Gate Sims on 02 6570 0360.

Mount Pleasant Community Consultative Committee

Cr John Douglas (Chair)	22 Skellatar Street, Muswellbrook 2333	65 433128
Chris Gidney	Muswellbrook Shire Council PO Box 122, Muswellbrook 2333	65 493770
Jim Loneragan	"Marylands" Kayuga Road, Kayuga 2333	65 431934
Trevor Parkinson	71 Brecht Street, Muswellbrook 2333	65 432445
Kenneth Weekes	"Mirrabooka" 1071 Castlerock Road, Muswellbrook 2333	65 479212
Pat Watts	"Warrabee" 186 Castlerock Road, Muswellbrook 2333	65 431782

Coal & Allied Representatives

Antony Bijok	General Manager Studies	65 490504
Jen Bowcock	Community Relations Officer	65 490506

2008 CCC Meeting Dates:

7 August
6 November

Mount Pleasant Project Team

- **Antony Bijok**, General Manager Studies
antony.bijok@rtca.riotinto.com.au
- **Robin Herringe**, Study Manager
robin.herringe@rtca.riotinto.com.au
- **Richard Bailey**, Mining Manager
richard.bailey@rtca.riotinto.com.au
- **Dion Lucke**, Manager Coal Chain and Services
dion.lucke@rtca.riotinto.com.au
- **Jen Bowcock**, Community Relations Officer
jennifer.bowcock@rtca.riotinto.com.au

**Mount Pleasant Project
Muswellbrook Office
19 Bridge Street, Muswellbrook**

Freecall: 1800 727 745

Email: community.relations@rtca.riotinto.com.au

Website: www.coalandallied.com.au

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Managed by Rio Tinto Coal Australia

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