

ILLAWARRA COAL DENDROBIUM NEWS



DENDROBIUM Community newsletter



Above: Members of Dendrobium CCC discuss subsidence impacts from longwall mining with Illawarra Coal representatives.

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DENDROBIUM CCC INSPECTS AREAS 1 AND 2

The Dendrobium Community Consultative Committee (CCC) recently undertook an inspection of the surface of Dendrobium Area 1 (Longwalls 1 and 2) and Area 2 (Longwall 3) in April.

The inspection is part of a regular program of field trips organised for CCC members to view mining areas and impacts of mining, as part of Dendrobium's commitment to engaging the community on matters relating to our operations.

Members of the committee - including representatives from Wollongong City Council and the Department of Primary Industries (Minerals) - were accompanied by representatives from Dendrobium Mine and Illawarra Coal, and discussed subsidence issues systems used to predict impacts from longwall mining.

The CCC was shown subsidence impacts associated with these areas, including rockfalls in Area 1, and ground cracking in Area 1 and Area 2, as well as areas of ground cracking remediation. Cracks throughout this area vary in size and will reduce over time - many are already filling with sediment and leaf litter.

These surface impacts are reported regularly to the Dendrobium CCC and all relevant

stakeholders including government agencies such as the Department of Primary Industries, the Sydney Catchment Authority, as well as community and environmental groups. These impacts are well within predictions outlined in the government-approved Subsidence Management Plan.

The Dendrobium CCC was formed in 2002 to facilitate and maintain a two-way communication process between Dendrobium Mine and local residents regarding activities at Dendrobium Mine. The Committee meets bi-monthly and is comprised of representatives from community and environmental groups, and chaired by an independent facilitator.

Your Dendrobium CCC members are:

- Alex Beccari
- Jan Waples
- Karyn Bartholomew
- Julie Sheppard
- Ann Young
- David Whitfield (Wollongong City Council)
- Judith Egan (Department of Primary Industries - Minerals)

Applications received for new CCC membership are currently being assessed.

Harry Graham Drive Update

Recently, questions have been raised about the rock fall on Harry Graham Drive, and if this event is related to Dendrobium Mine activities.

Thorough investigations have determined that land instability in the area is **not** a result of Dendrobium's mining operations.

We have no current workings in this area and the area of instability is outside the line of draw for the longwall panels in Dendrobium Area 1.

June

08

DENDROBIUM COMMISSIONS A NEW RECYCLED WATER PIPELINE

02



Above: Dendrobium has commissioned a new pipeline to pump recycled water from underground workings to the pit top.

Dendrobium has continued its commitment to reducing the environmental impacts of its operations by recently commissioning a recycled water pipeline.

The mine currently extracts recycled water from old mine workings, which is used extensively throughout our underground workings (excluding longwall hydraulics). The new pipeline enables this recycled water to also be pumped to Dendrobium pit top facilities for use across our surface activities (excluding office and bathhouse amenities).

The utilisation of recycled water across all of Dendrobium operations allows us to remove our need for Sydney Water in the wash-down bay for mine vehicles, the portal road dust suppression system, and general hose down and cleaning activities around the pit top site.

The project, which cost in excess of \$100,000 to install, is expected to reduce Dendrobium's current yearly usage of 80 megalitres of Sydney Water to less than 12 megalitres per annum. This will provide annual fresh water savings of up to 75 percent for the site.

This is one of several innovative projects that Illawarra Coal has recently implemented across all of our sites. The completion of Dendrobium's pipeline project, coupled with Appin's Water Filtration Plant and the WestVAMP power plant at West Cliff mine, highlights Illawarra Coal's overriding dedication to minimising the Company's environmental footprint of our mining-related activities.



Mine Memorial Pathway - Construction commences

The construction of Stage 1 of the Mt Kembla Mine Memorial Pathway (between Cordeaux Road and Stones Road) has commenced.

The Pathway will provide accessible amenities for all members of the community, and will reflect the long history of coal mining in the Mt Kembla community. The Pathway will provide a fantastic education and tourism resource that displays the history of the Mt Kembla village for residents and visitors alike.

Left: The construction of the Mt Kembla Mine Memorial Pathway is finally underway.

The Mine Memorial Pathway is being funded by the Dendrobium Community Enhancement Program (CEP), as well as contributions from Wollongong City Council.

It is anticipated that the construction of Stage 1 of the Pathway will take approximately 16 weeks. It is requested that residents stay away from the construction site for their own safety.

OPERATIONAL UPDATE

03

BY DAVID OLIVER – OPERATIONS MANAGER

Dendrobium Mine continues to focus on our commitment to the Health, Safety, Environment and Community (HSEC) of our employees, contractors and the surrounding community.

Dendrobium is currently extracting Longwall 4 (the second longwall block in Area 2) which began in December 2007, and this extraction is likely to be completed in October 2008. Relocation to Longwall 5 is expected to commence soon after with extraction beginning in late November 2008.

This intense longwall changeover activity underground typically means a larger number of heavy vehicles on Cordeaux Road to enable the overhaul of equipment and the delivery and removal of specialist mining equipment associated with longwall relocation. The Driver's Code of Conduct will continue to be followed throughout this time of heavy vehicle movement to ensure curfew conditions are adhered to.

In development, we have been completing the driveage of the Maingate 5 panel with one machine in Area 2. Roadways have also been formed in the North West Mains in order to install key infrastructure for Area 3 and the future of the mine (e.g. conveyors, ventilation and sumps).

Development conditions in the North West Mains panel (now branching into South Mains) continue to be challenging, but our performance will improve as we commence the driving of the Longwall 6 gate roads.



Right: Operations Manager David Oliver.



Vale Cate Stevenson

Cate Stevenson was a passionate member of the Dendrobium Community Consultative Committee (CCC) and Dendrobium Community Enhancement Program Committee (CEP).

She was heavily involved in the planning and implementation of a number of projects funded by the CEP.

In addition, Cate was the driving force behind the Mt Kembla Heritage Festival, in which Dendrobium Mine and Illawarra Coal actively participate.

Cate Stevenson was a remarkable person and will be sadly missed.

Left: The late Cate Stevenson.

BEIJING OLYMPICS COME TO MT KEMBLA

04

Dendrobium employees had the opportunity to soak up some of the colour and excitement of the upcoming Beijing Olympics, when an Olympic Celebration day was held at Mt Kembla Oval in May for Illawarra Coal employees, contractors and their families. The festivities were run as part of BHP Billiton's sponsorship of the 2008 Beijing Olympics.

The oval was transformed into an Olympic arena for the day, with a range of activities taking place to keep both young and old entertained.

Sports skills clinics were held with some of Australia's best current and former Olympians. Former Hockeyroos captain Rechelle Hawkes ran a series of hockey workshops, while current 400 metres track champion Joel Milburn challenged young and old to sprint races and other athletic events, such as shot put and hurdles.

For those feeling slightly less energetic, there were plenty of other activities to keep employees and their families entertained. Live music filled the air thanks

to The South Coast Country Music Association. Kids were treated to face painting and a jumping castle, and the Wollongong Science Centre performed their interactive science shows, teaching onlookers about bubbles, fantastic fluids and liquid nitrogen.

The Mt Kembla Rural Fire Brigade kindly provided a sausage sizzle on the day to satisfy hungry stomachs, as well as displaying some of their vehicles and equipment at the oval.

The Olympic Celebration was held in conjunction with Dendrobium Mine's Family Day, which was an opportunity for Dendrobium employees to showcase their workplace and the site's day-to-day operations to their families.

Right: Dendrobium's Hjalti 'Husty' Hjaltason took up the opportunity to show his son Bryce the underground workings of a coalmine at the recent Mt Kembla Olympic Celebration.



Dendrobium website change

The link to the Dendrobium website has changed, and can now be accessed through the following link:

<http://bhpbilliton.com/bb/ourBusinesses/metallurgicalCoal/illawarraCoal/aboutillawarracoal/dendrobium.jsp>

The site still offers detailed information about the mine, including the history of Dendrobium, the mine's system of operations, and environmental and community initiatives and monitoring on site.

Application forms for the Dendrobium Community Enhancement Program (CEP) can still be downloaded from the webpage.

The CEP was funded by an initial investment of \$600,000 and receives annual contributions of three cents per saleable tonne of coal from Dendrobium. The Community Enhancement Committee, which administers the fund, is comprised of four representatives from the community, and a representative from Wollongong City Council and Dendrobium Mine.

Copies of the minutes from Dendrobium Community Consultative Committee (CCC) meetings are also available from the site. The CCC meets bi-monthly and is comprised of representatives from community and environmental groups, and chaired by an independent facilitator.

An electronic version of the latest edition of the Dendrobium News is also available for download from this website.

DENDROBIUM HELPS MAKE AUSTRALIA A LITTLE CLEANER 05



Dendrobium employees once again donned their gloves for the annual Clean Up Australia Day held earlier this year.

The "green team" participated in a clean up along Cordeaux Road, between Central Road and the start of Mt Kembla.

Approximately 20 bags of rubbish were collected, which were filled with bottles and cans, cigarette packets, cardboard, flower pots and even parts of a computer. The group was disappointed to see so much rubbish in the area, however, they were greatly satisfied to see the improvement once they had finished.

Wollongong City Council provided traffic control for the day, including Stop/Slow signs and a support vehicle to ensure employees were safe along the busy road while performing the clean up.

Our Dendrobium team joined approximately 800,000 other volunteers across 6,000 sites Australia-wide, who collectively cleaned up 7,000 tonnes of rubbish.

Left: Dendrobium employees Alfred Pitt, Scott Coleman, Cindy Fleming and Chris Schultz after their rubbish collecting efforts.



Dendrobium shaves for a cure

Some Dendrobium employees might need to invest in a beanie this winter, after shaving their locks for the Leukaemia Foundation's World's Greatest Shave.

A number of employees volunteered to shave their heads or colour their hair, and over \$520 was raised on the day.

Dendrobium is greatly appreciative of local hairdresser Kim Baes, who volunteered her time to complete the shaving and colouring.

The money raised will be able to be matched by BHP Billiton's Matched Giving Program, which commits to match employees' fundraising and volunteering efforts. This means that Dendrobium will donate over \$1000 to the Leukaemia Foundation!

Left: Dendrobium Operations Manager David Oliver having his head shaved by Belinda Webb, who paid for the privilege.

LUKE PASCOT JOINS THE DENDROBIUM TEAM

06

Meet Luke Pascot, who has moved to Dendrobium as part of a four-month job rotation as Environment and Community Advisor.

Luke has worked with Illawarra Coal for the past three years at Cordeaux Colliery, conducting subsidence-related monitoring across the Appin, West Cliff and Dendrobium mining operations.

This role has seen Luke involved in geological mapping and drilling, water sampling, data collection and reporting, and environmental rehabilitation projects. Dendrobium's former Environment and Community Advisor, Scott Coleman, has taken on Luke's duties at Cordeaux until September.

Luke has always had a love of the great outdoors, and this passion has followed him in life, right from his childhood family holidays through to his education, and his eventual career path.

"The experiences I gained when I was younger gave me an appreciation for the outdoors and the Australian environment, and so I decided to further pursue my interests through my studies," Luke said.

Luke has completed a Science degree at the University of Wollongong, majoring in Physical Geography and Geology, as well as an Honours project on the Woronora Plateau Swamps, a topic which is increasingly important to the future of coal mining in the local area.



Above: Dendrobium's new Environment and Community Advisor Luke Pascot.

Luke said he was looking forward to taking on the role of Environment and Community Advisor for Dendrobium to give him further experience in and around an operating mine site.

Born in Wollongong, and living in the southern Illawarra suburb of Mt Warrigal, Luke enjoys travelling, surfing, fishing, soccer and snowboarding.

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Pride, passion, performance



For further information or to provide feedback on this newsletter, contact:

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<http://bhpbilliton.com/bb/ourBusinesses/metallurgicalCoal/illawarraCoal/aboutillawarracoal/dendrobium.jsp>

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