

# ILLAWARRA COAL DENDROBIUM NEWS



DENDROBIUM Community newsletter



Above: The NSW Roof Bolting Championships were a crowd-pleaser at this year's festival.

## Inside this Community news

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## MT KEMBLA MINING HERITAGE FESTIVAL A SUNNY SUCCESS

After a week of pouring rain and strong winds, the sun emerged to shine on the seventh annual Mt Kembla Mining Heritage Festival.

Held during the first weekend in August, the 2008 Festival was a resounding success, with an estimated 10,000 people enjoying the variety of events throughout the Mt Kembla township.

The fine conditions arrived just in time for the Windy Gully 96 Candles Ceremony, which commemorates the 96 miners who lost their lives in the Mt Kembla Mine Disaster on 31 July 1902. As part of this year's ceremony, a plaque was unveiled dedicated to the memory of Cate Stevenson OAM, who passed away earlier this year.

This year's festival had an extra pair of hands to help make sure things ran smoothly thanks to the Dendrobium Community Enhancement Program (CEP), which provided funding for an event coordinator for the Heritage Festival.

Mt Kembla Oval hosted a variety of stalls and activities to keep many attendees entertained.

Illawarra Coal provided a display at the Oval, featuring underground machinery and displays that highlighted Illawarra Coal's operations and Dendrobium's environmental and community programs. Free showbags were available for the kids, who could also have their photo taken on the underground machinery to take home as a free memento of the day.

The University of Wollongong Science Centre also hosted a series of shows (courtesy of Illawarra Coal) for kids and adults alike, entertaining the crowds with liquid nitrogen, bubbles and fantastic fluids.

Live music filled the air thanks to the South Coast Country Music Association, also provided by Illawarra Coal.

The Oval was the scene for the action-packed NSW Coal Shovelling and Roof Bolting Championships, sponsored by Dendrobium Mine, which saw competitors from across Australia visit Mt Kembla to participate.

The Roof Bolting Competition was taken out by a Tasmanian team, who narrowly beat a local team for the coveted title.

The Coal Shovelling Doubles was won by a team from Moura, Queensland, while Wollongong local Stuart Turner successfully defended his 2007 title win in the Coal Shovelling Singles.

Dendrobium would like to acknowledge the assistance provided by the many volunteers throughout the Festival weekend, particularly local residents, Dendrobium employees, and the many sponsors.

September

08

# 02 DENDROBIUM CCC WELCOMES NEW MEMBERS



**Above:** Chris Haley and Maxine Lapham are the newest members of the Dendrobium CCC.

The Dendrobium Community Consultative Committee (CCC) is delighted to welcome two new members to the Group, which aims to facilitate and maintain a two-way communication process between Dendrobium Mine and local residents regarding the Mine's activities.

Maxine Lapham has been involved in the Mt Kembla community since moving to the township seven years ago with her husband and two young children.

During her time in Mt Kembla, Maxine has been the coordinator of the Mt Kembla Safety House Program (until its closure across NSW in 2007) and is currently the President of the Mt Kembla Public School P&C Committee and a member of the School Council.

Maxine studied at the University of Wollongong, where she graduated with a degree in Geology and Chemistry. She is now a teacher at a local high school, and has taught at various schools in Sydney and Wollongong for 15 years.

Maxine holds a keen interest in the Mt Kembla area and its community and its close association with Dendrobium Mine and hopes

her position on the Dendrobium CCC will further this relationship.

Chris Haley is a well-known member of the Mt Kembla community, having lived in the area since 1979.

Chris has been an active member of the Mt Kembla community beginning with membership of the Mt Kembla Village Fair Committee that ran fairs at Mt Kembla Public School in the 1980s, and the establishment of the Mt Kembla Residents Action Group. Chris has also been the chairman of the Port Kembla Harbour Environment Group since 1996.

Chris worked for the Port Kembla Port Corporation for twenty-four years as a marine pilot before retiring in 2004. He continues to teach ship handling and navigation part-time and manages his own marine consultancy business.

Chris joins the Dendrobium CCC with a key focus on the environment, and in particular, the protection and regeneration of local creeks and their associated flora and fauna.



**Above:** Construction of one of three ventilation fans being installed on Shaft 3.

## Ventilation Shaft Update

Drilling activities at Ventilation Shaft 2 and 3 sites, located 6.6km north-west of the Dendrobium pit top, have recently been completed.

Both shafts now provide the connection between underground workings and the surface.

Construction of the ventilation fans is now underway. The fans currently installed at Ventilation Shaft 1 will be disassembled and then progressively reassembled at Shaft 2/3. Each stage of this process requires operating and performance tests to be undertaken.

Rehabilitation of the site has commenced, with a new sediment pond constructed and the shaft site and easement layered with mulch.

Different seed mixes were developed for specific areas of the site, and all the seed has been sourced from within a 10km radius of the area to ensure local provenance. Seeding commenced in late August and has now been completed, with over 13,000 tubestock being planted.

Representatives from the Department of Environment and Climate Change, Department of Primary Industries, and the Sydney Catchment Authority also recently visited the site to review progress.

# OPERATIONAL UPDATE

# 03

DENDROBIUM COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER SEP08

BY DAVID OLIVER

Dendrobium Mine has a strong commitment to the Health, Safety, Environment and Community (HSEC) of our employees, contractors and the surrounding community.

Recently, we achieved 45 days recordable injury free – this is a positive result, and we will continue to challenge our people to always work safely. This is particularly relevant as we commemorate the 1902 Mt Kembla Mine Disaster, where 96 men and boys lost their lives.

Dendrobium will continue to implement and maintain effective safety systems, enforce site standards and encourage safe working behaviours.

The 2008 financial year ended well for Dendrobium with roadway development in June above forecast. We are also very proud of our longwall performance, achieving new mine and Southern District Production records of 3.483 million tonnes.

This accomplishment is also good news for the Community Enhancement Program, which has received over \$82,000 thanks to Dendrobium's production efforts in FY08.

We are continuing to extract Longwall 4, which is expected to be completed by the end of September 2008. Relocation to Longwall 5 is expected to commence soon after, with the extraction of coal in Longwall 5 beginning in late November 2008. As noted in the last newsletter, there will be increased truck movements during the period of the longwall move.

In development, we are continuing with the driveage of the Maingate 5 panel,



Above: Operations Manager, Dave Oliver.

while two machines undertake development in the North West Mains Junction, which are the first workings for future mining areas in Area 3. Installation of the Maingate 6 conveyor infrastructure is also nearing completion.

The new ventilation Shafts 2 and 3 have been connected underground, with Shaft 2 down-casting fresh air into the mine, and Shaft 3 extracting air from the workings through the newly installed ventilation fan.

## Charity Shield kicks off Heritage Festival

Local coal miners swapped their overalls for footy shorts in July to take to the field in the Cate Stevenson Coal Miners Shield OZTAG competition and kick off this year's Mt Kembla Mining Heritage Festival.

Eight teams representing the mining industry took up the challenge, including Illawarra Coal's own Dendrobium and Appin Mines, as well as teams from Tahmoor Colliery, Mastermyne and PYD Mining Services and the Mt Kembla Lowries.

More than 100 players took to the field at Mt Kembla Oval and raised more than \$2,500 for Illawarra Cancer Carers in the fiercely competitive knock-out event.

Six Australian OZTAG representatives took part in this year's competition. The day also attracted the odd 'ring-in' wanting to be a part of the festivities, including former Australian rugby league stars Brett Dallas and John Dorahy, professional surfer Mick Lowe and i98 radio personality Marty Haynes.

After many a hard fought battle in sun and rain, last year's winners the Dendrobium Blues and Mastermyne Cowboys met in the final, which was eventually won by Mastermyne in a close game, 7-6.

All teams vowed to be back in 2009, faster and stronger, and ready to again raise much needed funds for charity.

Below: The Mastermyne Cowboys (pictured), won the 2008 Cate Stevenson Coal Miners Shield in a close game against the Dendrobium Blues, 7-6.



# 04 SMITH'S HILL 'ROCKS' FOR MT KEMBLA



**Above:** Smith's Hill High School students recently performed their Rock Eisteddfod production, 96 Crosses, at the Mt Kembla Mining Heritage Festival

Mt Kembla's long mining history was brought to life recently through Smith's Hill High School's entry into the 2008 NSW Rock Eisteddfod Challenge.

The school choreographed and performed a production entitled 96 Crosses, which focused on the 1902 Mt Kembla Mine Disaster, and told the story of George Dixon and Ann Walker who had been married for just a few months when the tragedy occurred.

The High School received \$1,000 through the Dendrobium Community Enhancement Program (CEP) to assist with their production and entry into the RAW division of the Rock Eisteddfod, which is free from the use of sets and instead focuses on performance elements.

Through their performance in the Wollongong heats of the Rock Eisteddfod, Smith's Hill High School received awards for their production, including Excellence for Performance Skill, Excellence for Concept, Excellence for Drama, and Excellence for Soundtrack, as well as an

invitation to perform in the Grand Final at the Sydney Entertainment Centre.

Students also had the chance to be a part of the Mt Kembla Mining Heritage Festival, participating in the Grand Parade and performing their piece at Mt Kembla Oval for Festival crowds.

Smith's Hill High School teacher Elaine Bennett said all the students involved thoroughly enjoyed and appreciated the opportunity to perform and be involved in the Rock Eisteddfod competition.

"The whole Rock Eisteddfod experience has been very exciting and will be a lifetime memory for the 105 students involved," Elaine said.

"It is a great opportunity which has been able to occur due to the kind support of the Dendrobium Community Enhancement Program, and we would like to pass on our sincere thanks."

# MT KEMBLA PUBLIC SCHOOL GETS ENVIROSMART

# 05

DENDROBIUM | COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER | SEP08

Congratulations to Mt Kembla Public School, which has received an EnviroSmart grant from Illawarra Coal and the NSW Minerals Council (NSWMC) to assist students to implement an innovative environmental program at the school.

The \$500 grant will be used to install an improved waste collection system at the school, with a focus on waste from lunches. This system will include the establishment of worm farms and the purchase of two tumblers for other waste products.

The EnviroSmart program established by the NSW Minerals Council is a valuable education resource for schools that uses the mining industry as a model for learning about environmental management, and focuses on five key environmental issues – Air, Water, Land, Energy and Waste.

Dendrobium's parent company Illawarra Coal is the regional sponsor of the state-wide program, which teaches students about environmental growth, maintenance and sustainability and encourages students of all ages to take responsibility for making a positive difference to their surrounding environment.

Awarded annually, the EnviroSmart grants are designed to encourage and recognise environmental excellence in schools that develop and implement a School Environmental Management Plan (SEMP), which is similar to the environmental planning and management models that Illawarra Coal uses at its mine sites in the Illawarra and Wollondilly regions.



**Above:** Dendrobium Environment and Community Manager Chris Schultz (right) recently presented Mt Kembla Public School students and Principal Peter Houweling (left) with their \$500 EnviroSmart grant cheque.

## Dendrobium tees off for charity

Dendrobium held its inaugural Charity Golf Day at the Kembla Grange Golf Club in perfect June sun after the event was postponed in April due to rain.

The wait was certainly worth it, with 19 teams teeing off to raise over \$1,400 for the Illawarra Cancer Carers and \$1,800 for the Kids Fund of the Illawarra Disability Trust.

Thanks to the BHP Billiton Employee Matched Giving Program and its Double Matched Giving incentives, the total raised for charity amounted to \$9,200.



**Above:** Dendrobium Operations Manager Dave Oliver was delighted to hand over a cheque to Illawarra Cancer Carers representatives Reg and Leila Duffy at the Dendrobium Charity Golf Day.

# 06 MT KEMBLA HERITAGE CENTRE OPENS ITS DOORS TO THE PAST



**Above:** Dendrobium Environment and Community Manager Chris Schultz, Heritage Sub-Committee Chairman Phil Donaldson and Illawarra Coal General Manager, Sustainable Development and External Affairs John Brannon all enjoyed the official opening of the Heritage Centre and the 'Thunder in a Cloudless Sky' exhibition premiere.

## THE MT KEMBLA HERITAGE CENTRE WAS OFFICIALLY OPENED DURING THE 2008 MT KEMBLA MINING HERITAGE FESTIVAL CELEBRATIONS IN AUGUST.

The Heritage Centre, located on Cordeaux Road, displays a variety of materials that highlight Mt Kembla's long and diverse history.

The Dendrobium Community Enhancement Program (CEP) has provided over \$50,000 to the Heritage Centre across a two-year period to assist with its establishment and running costs. Local government and community cooperation also played an integral role in ensuring the successful launch of the Centre.

The official opening doubled as the premiere of the latest exhibition for the Centre, 'Thunder in a Cloudless Sky', which focuses on the 1902 Mt Kembla Mine disaster, and showcases a variety of information and media, including a short film by Romina Goy entitled 'That Day in 1902'.

Following the Heritage Centre's Community Introduction Day in February, the Heritage Sub Committee undertook extensive work to incorporate visitor feedback on display content and opening times.

The Mt Kembla Heritage Centre will now open each Sunday 11am-3pm in winter and 10am-4pm in summer (except major public holidays).

## Dendrobium Community Call Line feedback

Dendrobium has a Community Call Line to enable local residents to register complaints about the mine's operations, or provide feedback and notifications.

While Dendrobium is constantly working towards minimising its impacts on the surrounding community, the mine acknowledges that there are still areas of concern for some residents.

Dendrobium is committed to implementing, monitoring and maintaining a variety of systems to ensure effective operations across all its sites while minimising impacts on the local community.

The mine encourages local residents to contact the 24-hour **Dendrobium Community Call Line** on **1800 000 510** with any comments or concerns regarding mine-related activities.



# DENDROBIUM DRIVERS' CODE OF CONDUCT UPDATE

# 07

DENDROBIUM COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER SEP08

As a part of Dendrobium's Development Consent, the mine is required to establish and adhere to a Drivers' Code of Conduct, which aims to minimise the impacts of traffic associated with Dendrobium Mine on local residents.

All employees, contractors and suppliers who work at or with Dendrobium must abide by this Code of Conduct, to ensure a safer traffic environment by reducing noise and limiting mine-related traffic movements.

Under the Drivers' Code of Conduct, mine site vehicles are only allowed to travel to or from the Dendrobium Pit Top, Kemira Valley or No. 1 Ventilation Shaft sites through the area between the Mt Kembla Village sign at the eastern end of the village to the Dendrobium Pit Top entrance at the western end of the village between certain hours.

## THESE HOURS ARE:

### Monday-Friday:

7am-8am, 9.30am-2.30pm, 4pm-5pm

**Saturday:** 8am-1pm

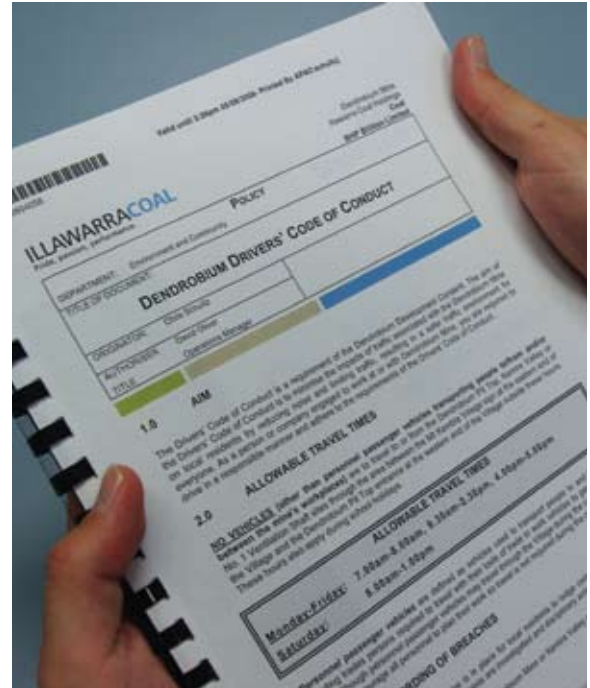
(It should be noted that truck movements outside of these hours are permitted for safety and production related emergencies.)

Only personnel passenger vehicles transporting people to and from or between mine site areas are exempt from these travel hours.

Penalties apply for breaches of curfew hours, with offending companies required to make a donation to a nominated charity if found in breach.

Breaches can be identified and reported by community members (through calls made to the Dendrobium Community Call Line on 1800 000 510) or by personnel at Dendrobium or Kemira Valley.

A copy of the Drivers' Code of Conduct is available from the Dendrobium website via the following link <http://bhpbilliton.com/bb/ourBusinesses/metallurgicalCoal/illawarraCoal/aboutillawarracoal/dendrobium.jsp>.



Above: The Dendrobium Drivers' Code of Conduct is a requirement of Dendrobium's Development Consent.

## Mine Memorial Pathway Stage 1 completed

Stage 1 of the Mt Kembla Mine Memorial Pathway, between Cordeaux Rd and Stones Rd, has been completed.

Features of the pathway include an Aboriginal mosaic rest area, the American Creek Bridge, and a memorial site dedicated to the 96 lives lost in the Mt Kembla Mine disaster where five large slate monoliths have also been installed and feature carvings of Conal Fitzpatrick's poems about the 1902 mine disaster.

Residents and tourists alike are welcome to enjoy the Pathway, which provides a valuable education and tourism resource for the Mt Kembla community and beyond.

An official opening of the Pathway is planned to be held in association with the Mt Kembla Mining Heritage Festival in 2009.

**Right:** The construction of Stage 1 of the Mt Kembla Mining Memorial Pathway, which was jointly funded by the Dendrobium CEP and Wollongong City Council, has now been completed.



# DENDROBIUM CCC INSPECTS MINE OPERATION AREAS

# 08

DENDROBIUM COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER SEP08



The Dendrobium Community Consultative Committee (CCC) has continued its focus on monitoring the environmental impacts of Dendrobium's operations, by conducting regular site inspections in the areas surrounding the mine.

The CCC inspected subsidence impacts above Longwalls 3 and 4, and swamp areas located above Longwalls 4 and 5.

The Committee also visited the construction site for Ventilation Shafts 2 and 3.

**Above:** Illawarra Coal representatives accompanied Dendrobium CCC members to inspect areas surrounding Dendrobium Mine.

## ILLAWARRACOAL

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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