

News Release



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Footy competition kicks off Mt Kembla celebration

Reputation and pride will be placed on the line this Sunday when local coal miners take to the field in the Mt Kembla Mining Heritage Festival's Cate Stevenson Coal Miners' Shield.

Eight teams representing the mining industry in the competition – including Illawarra Coal's own Dendrobium, West Cliff, and Appin mines, will take to the field at Mt Kembla to raise money for Illawarra Cancer Carers, and enjoy a healthy rivalry at the same time.

Joined last year by Wendell Sailor, the competition attracted close to 100 players from the mining industry and resulted in a hard fought final between the Appin Cockatoos and Dendrobium Blues with Dendrobium taking the prize.

General Manager Sustainable Development and External Affairs John Brannon said that this year's competition was expected to attract as many players and be highly competitive, with Appin hoping to turn the tables on last year's winners, Dendrobium.

"Other teams representing Tahmoor Colliery, contract firm, Mastermyne and the Mt Kembla Lowries Rugby League Club are joining the competition which this year will be played in honour of Mt Kembla's Cate Stevenson who passed away earlier this year," he said.

"Illawarra Coal and Dendrobium mine have long supported the annual Mt Kembla Mining Heritage Festival which was very much driven by the energy of Cate and her Committee.

"We're pleased to participate again in the football competition and the festival activities the following weekend, and we are especially honoured to be associated with an event held in Cate's memory."

Games will kick off at 10am on Sunday at Mt Kembla Oval, with proceeds raised on the day going to Illawarra Cancer Carers. This will be followed later in the week by the 96 Candles Ceremony on Thursday 31 July, the opening of the Mt Kembla Art Prize Exhibition on Friday 1 August and the main festival activities commencing Saturday morning, 2 August.

Highlights of the Festival next Saturday will include the Main Parade through Mt Kembla beginning at midday, and the annual roof bolting and coal shovelling competition.

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