

# ILLAWARRA COAL COALITION NEWS

The community newsletter  
of Illawarra Coal, BHP Billiton



Above: A Merry Christmas from everyone at Illawarra Coal.

## CHRISTMAS WISHES FROM ILLAWARRA COAL

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year from everyone at Illawarra Coal.

We would like to wish you and your family a happy, healthy holiday period.

We hope all our readers stay safe this holiday season so they are able to enjoy Christmas with family and friends for many more years to come.

Christmas is certainly a season for giving, and the generosity of many Appin residents has helped ensure a happy Christmas for many financially disadvantaged Wollondilly residents, thanks to a Giving Tree that was established at the Appin Tourist Centre.

Members of the community were encouraged to bring a gift and place it under the tree with special arrangements made to ensure the gifts would be distributed to residents in need in the Wollondilly region.

An outstanding number of more than 400 gifts were generously handed over to the St Vincent De Paul Society, to help relieve the financial burden for many Wollondilly families during the Christmas period.

Illawarra Coal was pleased to assist the cause, donating some funds for the purchase of gifts.

### Inside this Coalition News issue

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### Coalition welcome

Welcome to the twelfth edition of Illawarra Coal's Coalition News. Inside you will find current information on the Company's mining activities in the region in which you live.

In response to results from the Illawarra Coal Community Attitudes Survey conducted in mid-2007, Illawarra Coal has committed to bringing you more regular information about the Company's activities. Coalition News will now be produced on a quarterly basis.

If you have any questions about our operations or mining activities, please don't hesitate to contact us directly via our **Community Call Line 1800 102 210** or drop into our community office located in the main street of Appin. It's open from 9.30am to 2pm Tuesdays and noon to 4pm Thursdays.



## Illawarra Coal 2008 Sustainability Report released

The report has been produced to provide the communities in which we operate, government, employees and other stakeholders with an understanding of our performance against the three pillars of sustainability, namely economic, environmental and social criteria during the 2007-2008 financial year.

Two versions of the report have been produced — an extensive on-line Report and a printed Summary Report.

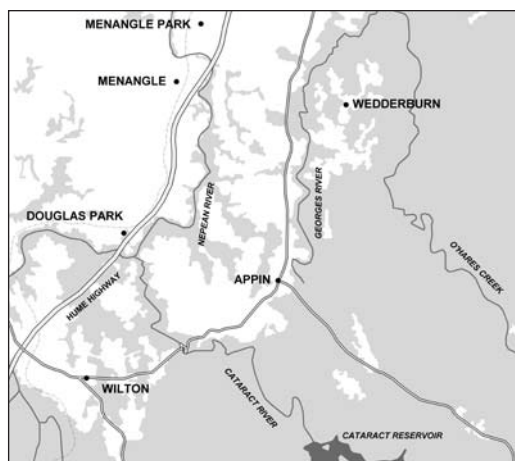
Both documents are available online through our website at [www.bhpbilliton.com/illawarracoal](http://www.bhpbilliton.com/illawarracoal).

ISSUE 12  
December

08

# PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE — AN UPDATE

# 02



**Above:** The proposed development areas for the next 30 years of Illawarra Coal's Bulli Seam Operations are located throughout the Wollondilly area — a more detailed map of the boundaries is available from the NSW Department of Planning website (details in article at right).

In this issue of Coalition News you will find an information sheet outlining Illawarra Coal's preparation of a Part 3A application for its Bulli Seam operations.

Preparing the application is a requirement of the NSW Environmental Planning and Assessment Act, and will address the continued operations of our mining in the Bulli coal seam — the Appin and West Cliff Mines and their associated operations.

The application will include proposed maximum footprints of the future operations of Appin and West Cliff mines which are located in the Appin and Douglas Park areas.

Part 3A approval will not remove the need for the preparation of Subsidence Management Plans — the Company will still have to submit a SMP for approval of each series of longwalls associated with its operations.

The final submission of the application which is expected to be June 2009 will include a complete environmental assessment and work is well underway in the collection of information to support this. A number of surveys including flora, fauna and cultural heritage have been conducted and will continue over the coming months.

Project Manager, Gary Brassington said the Part 3A application will look at a range of possibilities for future mining in the area for up to 30 years.

"Due to amendments in NSW Planning law, all companies must submit a Part 3A application for any future development," Gary said.

"For this reason, we have looked at our future

requirements and the potential for mining in the area for the next 30 years which will take us further within the existing mining leases for our Bulli seam mines.

"The application therefore, will be quite detailed and the complete environmental assessment will address all potential impacts."

In order to facilitate community feedback on the process and the information gathered, a community reference group will be formed for the duration of the application and submission process (see advertisement this issue).

"We are aiming to comprise the group of people representative of the application area," Gary explained.

"Depending on the needs of the group, we will alternate our meeting venues to suit, instead of the same place each time.

"It is hoped that in discussing the Part 3A process a forum will be provided to the group where questions can be asked and answered and specific information requested and provided."

The proposed development areas for the next 30 years of Bulli Seam Operations are located within the area shown on the map on this page. For more information including a more detailed description of the project and its boundaries, please refer to the *Bulli Seam Operations Project Description Report and Preliminary Assessment* on the NSW Department of Planning website [http://www.planning.nsw.gov.au/asp/pdf/08\\_0150\\_bulli\\_seam\\_prelim\\_asst.pdf](http://www.planning.nsw.gov.au/asp/pdf/08_0150_bulli_seam_prelim_asst.pdf) or contact Gary Brassington on 42 553318 or email [Gary.M.Brassington@BHPBilliton.com](mailto:Gary.M.Brassington@BHPBilliton.com).



**Above:** Wollondilly Bass Club committee members John McInnes (left), Anthony McLean (centre) and Brett Hardey (right) recently showed off the Club's new boat to Illawarra Coal's Zina Ainsworth and Rob Zylstra.

## Illawarra Coal partners with Wollondilly Bass Club

Illawarra Coal has entered into a working partnership with the Wollondilly Bass Club, which will focus on a program of maintaining and improving the Upper Nepean River.

The Wollondilly Bass Club is a catch-and-release fishing club whose members are also engaged in conducting voluntary Upper Nepean River management projects, including river clean-ups and fish-ladder maintenance (fish-ladders are man-made passages used by fish to migrate up and down the river to breed).

Illawarra Coal's support has enabled the Club to purchase a boat and light-weight punt, which will be used along the river to conduct clean-ups and fish ladder maintenance. The punt is small enough to be carried into parts of the river where it is not possible to launch

the boat. Until now the Club relied on the use of members' boats, canoes and kayaks for these activities.

Illawarra Coal is proud to enter into this partnership with the Wollondilly Bass Club and looks forward to being part of future projects that focus on providing a better future for the Upper Nepean River and a beautiful place for the entire community to visit and enjoy.

The Wollondilly Bass Club is always looking for new members, so if you are interested in joining or would like further information about the Club and their activities, please contact one of the committee members via their website at [www.basinlureandfly.org.au/wbs/php](http://www.basinlureandfly.org.au/wbs/php).

# CSIRO SCIENTIST GETS GOOD HEARING WITH THE AACWG AND THEIR GUESTS 03

In October, the Appin Area Community Working Group extended an invitation to Principal Research Scientist for CSIRO Exploration and Mining, Dr Baotang Shen to discuss his research into a technology that may be available to reduce subsidence from underground mining with the Group and their invited guests.

Dr Shen is currently engaged in a research project into developing a cost-effective, flexible Overburden Grout Injection system suited to Australian longwall mining.

Overburden Grout Injection is a possible technique to reduce subsidence from underground longwall mining, where a grout made of waste material (fly ash or coalwash) is injected via surface boreholes into the separated beds beneath the surface, and in certain situations can reduce subsidence by up to 60 per cent.

While still in its research stage, the technique is seen as relatively cost effective when compared with other current longwall mining subsidence reduction methods such as backfilling or protection pillars which support surface features.

The research program is being undertaken by the CSIRO in cooperation with the Australian Coal Association Research Program and BHP Billiton, who are keen to evaluate this technique for use in the Australian coalfields, following its successful use in China.

As part of the project, a comprehensive review of the Chinese experience was carried out by the CSIRO, and followed by detailed site investigations, including at Illawarra Coal's West Cliff mine.

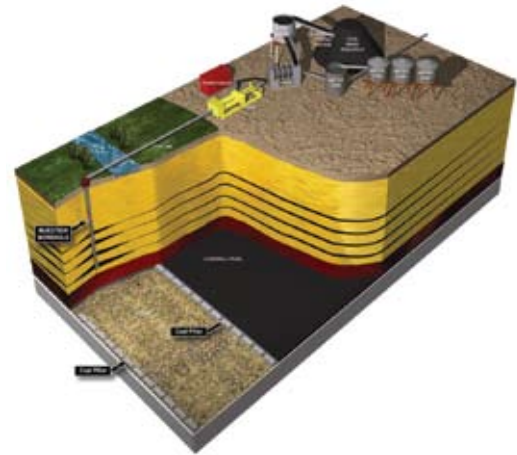
While there have been a number of technical challenges, recent monitoring of trials at Illawarra Coal's West Cliff mine on Longwalls 29, 31 and 32 have been useful in predicting how grout technology can reduce subsidence.

Using the CSIRO's modelling estimate, the process could reduce subsidence by 43 per cent at the West Cliff sites tested, while Chinese figures show that a 55 per cent reduction may be possible.

The audience for Dr Shen's presentation consisted of members of the AACWG, as well as guests invited by the Group, all of whom represented community-based and voluntary organisations, as well as representatives from both Campbelltown City and Wollondilly Shire Councils.

Throughout the presentation, Dr Shen and Illawarra Coal encouraged questions from the audience which ensured a lively meeting, with questions and discussion ranging from seeking specific points of clarification on grout injection technology to those of a broad industry nature.

For more information see the presentation summary on the AACWG website at [www.bhpbilliton.com/illawarracoal/aacwg](http://www.bhpbilliton.com/illawarracoal/aacwg).



**Above:** Overburden Grout Injection technology is currently being researched as a possible method of reducing subsidence from longwall mining by injecting a grout into the separated beds beneath the surface. (Image courtesy of CSIRO).



**Above:** Over 590 trucks and 380 motorbikes participated in the 2008 Camp Quality Convoy, which started at West Cliff Mine.

## West Cliff waves off Convoy for Kids

Illawarra Coal halted coal truck operations at West Cliff Mine recently to help raise money for children with cancer and launch another successful Camp Quality Convoy for Kids.

The Mine's access road became the muster ground and starting point for hundreds and trucks and motorbikes for the Convoy, which is organised by local radio station i98 FM presenters Marty Haynes and Erica Hodge.

This is the fourth consecutive year the Company has offered the mine's access road and carpark, which is one of very few places along the route which is big enough to cater for the large number of vehicles involved.

Illawarra Coal employees also lent their time as support staff to the Convoy, working with event

organisers on safety and traffic plans and being on hand on the day to ensure that the day rolled smoothly.

The Mine's truck movements were also halted for approximately five hours to avoid heavy traffic travelling in opposite directions on the mine access road.

This year, 592 trucks and 380 motorbikes assembled at West Cliff Mine and travelled 70 kilometres through the Wollondilly and Illawarra regions to Albion Park, near Shellharbour.

The 2008 Convoy surpassed all expectations, with an amazing \$285,000 raised through vehicle registrations, raffle ticket sales and donations, which almost doubled last year's tally of \$180,000.

Competition for the coveted Lead Truck in the Convoy was fierce in 2008, with local trucking company M. J. Rowles winning the front spot for the second year running with a \$43,000 donation. Many other truck companies who just missed out on the lead spot also still donated their bids.

All funds raised go directly to Camp Quality Illawarra and help provide access to a variety of fun activities and resources to help brighten the lives of kids living with cancer and their families in the local regions. Last year, some of the funding was used to purchase tickets to the Royal Easter Show for families living with cancer, run a camp for young cancer sufferers in the Northern Territory, organise Mother and Daughter and Father and Son weekends away, as well as family ski weekends.

# ILLAWARRA COAL COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS PROGRAM UPDATE

# 04

ILLAWARRA COAL COALITION NEWSLETTER DEC08

The Illawarra Coal Community Partnerships Program (CPP) is continuing to support the communities surrounding the Company's operations, with the Board awarding funding to several key projects recently.

The Children's Hope Foundation, which focuses on helping physically and intellectually disabled children overcome everyday challenges, has received funding to upgrade the outdoor facilities for one of its beneficiaries, Beverley Park School in Campbelltown.

Beverley Park School provides care and development for 57 students from Kindergarten through to high school with physical and intellectual disabilities. The funding will be used to complete the landscaping and concreting of the school's outdoor classroom.

The Wollongong Science Centre and Planetarium has also benefited from CPP funding, with the Board becoming the major sponsor of the Centre's new exhibition 'The Machine'.

The exhibition will create an awareness of the nature and importance of machines, and examine the types of machines which power major industries.

Schools in the Wollondilly region will be given the opportunity to experience the exhibition, which is due to be launched in April/May 2009. Nominated Wollondilly schools will receive special offers such as vouchers for visiting the exhibition, free family passes to the Centre for schools to use for fundraising events, and teachers will receive discounted memberships.

In other CPP news, Appin tourism has received a boost with the installation of the first set of Heritage Signs. The Appin Chamber of Commerce received funding in late 2007 to have a series of signs highlighting key points of interest of Appin's heritage.

Appin Chamber of Commerce President Ernie Ring said that the signs will help to further promote the strong history and heritage of Appin to interested visitors and locals alike.

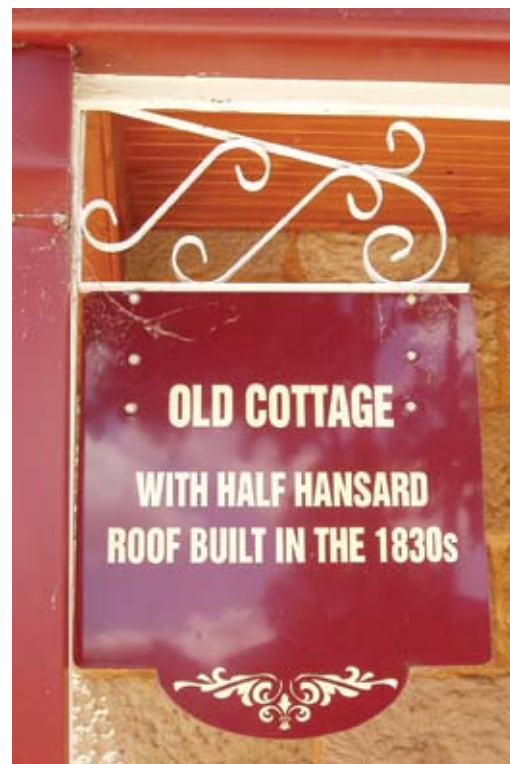
"The Appin Heritage Signs link to the Appin tourist map and History Gazebo, which allows visitors to take self-guided tours around Appin's key heritage areas, including the Appin Primary School, the old Post Office and the police station," Ernie said.

"The installation of these signs is a valuable addition to the great work being done by Appin locals to make the township a key attraction point for tourists to the Wollondilly area."

The CPP Board is currently preparing for its first funding round of 2009. The Board is keen to receive and consider applications from groups and organisations that require funding for projects that can greatly benefit the regions around Illawarra Coal's Appin and West Cliff mining operations (e.g. Appin, Douglas Park, Menangle and other nearby communities).

The first round of nominations for 2009 CPP funding close on 31 March 2009.

Application forms and further information can be obtained from Jennifer Finlay by emailing Jennifer.Finlay@BHPBilliton.com or calling 4255 3313.



**Above:** CPP funding has helped fund the creation and installation of Heritage Signs around Appin's key locations of historical interest, such as the Old Cottage, located on Appin Road.

Alternatively, this information can be accessed on the Illawarra Coal CPP webpage via <http://www.bhpbilliton.com/illawarracoal/cpp>.

## ILLAWARRACOAL

### Call for Expressions of Interest — Illawarra Coal Community Reference Group

Illawarra Coal is looking for interested people to join a community reference group as it prepares a Part 3A application for the continuation of its Bulli Seam Operations for the next 30 years. The project is called the Part 3A Bulli Seam Operations.

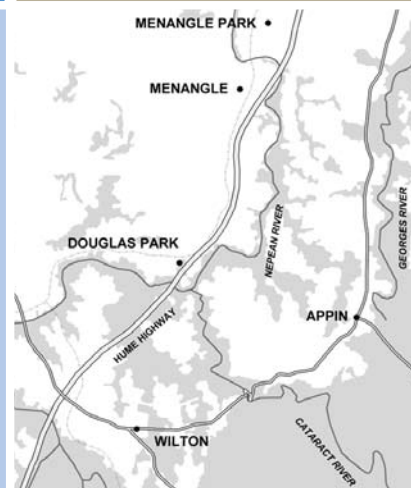
Illawarra Coal operates two underground coal mines in the Bulli Seam — the Appin and West Cliff Mines, and is committed to working closely with the community as it prepares the Part 3A application which includes environmental, economic and social impact assessments. As a result, expressions of interest for the Community Reference Group are invited from interested residents willing to give their experience and time to

this process. Residents in the areas of Appin, Douglas Park, Maldon, Menangle, Picton, Wedderburn and Wilton are encouraged to join.

The Community Reference Group will help inform Illawarra Coal of considerations and issues from the community and will be part of regular communication with all residents and other interested parties.

It is anticipated that meetings will be held in the evening (depending on availability of interested members) on a monthly basis from late January to around July 2009. The location for the meetings will vary, covering the project area. **Closing date for expressions of interest is 19 January 2009.**

For more information or an Expression of Interest Form please contact Jennifer Finlay at Illawarra Coal on 4255 3313, or by email at [Jennifer.Finlay@BHPBilliton.com](mailto:Jennifer.Finlay@BHPBilliton.com)



# ILLAWARRA COAL REGIONAL SCIENCE FAIR ATTRACTS 300 STUDENTS

# 05

More than 300 primary and high school students from throughout the Macarthur, Wollondilly and Illawarra regions, converged on the University of Wollongong to participate in the 2008 Illawarra Coal Regional Science Fair held on 28 October.

The standard of projects at this year's Fair was fantastic, with enthusiastic young scientists presenting information on topics that covered the interests and imaginations of young and old, from the ecology of rock pools to the most absorbent brand of paper towel to the best point to kick a soccer ball to make it curl.

This year's Fair was the second in a three-year naming-rights partnership between Illawarra Coal and the University of Wollongong to stage the event, which provides a unique opportunity for primary and high school students to explore the exciting world of science.

The 2008 Fair attracted more than 200 projects from students throughout the Illawarra and South Coast, Campbelltown, Southern Sydney, Southern Highlands and

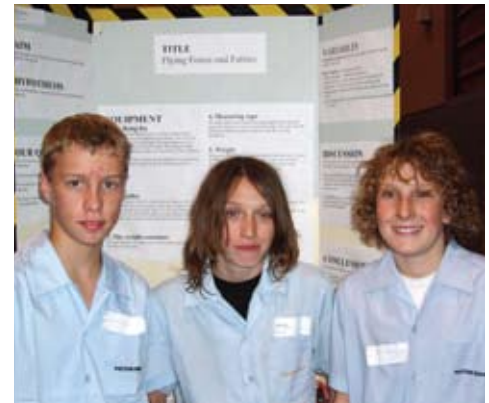
surrounds in subject areas such as biology, chemistry, earth and environmental science, geography and physics.

The Illawarra Coal Regional Science Fair is one of the few of its kind held in NSW, and provides students with the unique opportunity to research a topic of their choice and then explain their project to judges who are representatives of industries in science-related areas.

University of Wollongong Faculty Schools Liaison Officer, Melissa Thompson said the Fair was a wonderful opportunity to encourage students to choose science subjects at school or even consider careers in the industry.

"I'm always amazed at just how motivated students of all ages are to be involved in the Science Fair," Melissa said.

"The Science Fair is such a great resource that allows students to display their passion and creativity for science and develop their interests and talents in the scientific field, and it's wonderful to be involved in something that could be playing a real role in inspiring our future scientists."



**Above:** (From left) Picton High School students Tristan Jones, Ethan McKenzie and Evan McCauley presented a project at the Science Fair on the connection between weight and rebound on flying foxes.

Illawarra Coal has supported the Science Fair since its inception as a school-based event five years ago, and is delighted to see the Fair successfully develop into one of the most significant local science events for primary and high school students.

## Exploration Licence granted

Earlier this year, Illawarra Coal made application to the Department of Primary Industries for an exploration licence in the area of Wedderburn, which has recently been granted.

West Cliff Mine, situated on Wedderburn Road (off Appin Road) and to the south east of the Wedderburn community, is nearing the end of its current mining area, and the company is now considering options for the future life of the mine.

The licence will enable the company to determine more detailed information about the coal seam in the area, providing certainty for all, including the Wedderburn community, about the viability of future mining.

While a range of exploration techniques can be applied over a period of time, the first which is proposed to be conducted is a seismic survey using a truck mounted machine, referred to as a "Vibroseis" machine, which will travel along roadways during daylight hours.



The technique which is faster, less invasive and more environmentally sensitive than traditional seismic techniques, uses a truck mounted vibration source to look deep beneath the ground, rather than the traditional means of drilling lines of seismic shot holes to provide a conduit for an explosive energy source. The new technique can be used in relatively flat open areas or along roadways.

Since making the application, Illawarra Coal has undertaken a number of consultation activities in order to explain what is involved in the process and the type of exploration activity proposed.

These consultation activities have included information sessions held in the Wedderburn Resource Centre, letterbox drops of information, and a door-knock of residences in the exploration application area.

In order to continue this consultative process, it is the company's intention to establish a community reference group to specifically address the exploration activity in Wedderburn. Details of how this group will be established are currently being finalised including the appointment of an independent facilitator.

**Above:** Truck-mounted vibroseis equipment will be used for exploration activities in the Wedderburn area.

# 2009 MINERALS EDUCATION BURSARY SCHEME APPLICATIONS NOW OPEN 06

ILLAWARRA COAL COALITION NEWSLETTER DEC08

Illawarra Coal and The NSW Minerals Council are inviting senior secondary students to apply for the 2009 Minerals Education Bursary Scheme (MEBS).

Students who will be in Year 11 or Year 12 in 2009 are eligible for the Scheme, which aims to encourage high school students to consider pursuing a career in the minerals industry.

Bursary recipients will receive a cash grant of \$500 for Year 11 students and \$1000 for Year 12 students sponsored by Illawarra Coal, in conjunction with the NSW Minerals Council to assist them in furthering their study pursuits.

Students who attend schools within the communities surrounding the Company's operations in the Wollondilly and Illawarra regions are eligible for the Illawarra Coal-sponsored grants. These schools include:

- Ambarvale High School
- Broughton Anglican College
- Camden High School
- John Therry Catholic High School
- Picton High School
- St Gregory's College
- St Patrick's College, Campbelltown
- Magdalene Catholic School, Narellan.

The MEBS program offers students with an interest in the minerals industry access to industry-based resources to explore possible



Above: In 2008, Illawarra Coal and the NSW Minerals Council awarded Minerals Education Bursaries to five Year 11 and Year 12 high school students from the Wollondilly and Illawarra regions.

minerals career opportunities, including invitations to attend open days at mine sites and universities, careers expos, and minerals careers dinners.

The students will also have access to a mentor from Illawarra Coal, who will provide long-term contact within the industry for the students, and offer career advice, study assistance and access to work experience and other mine site activities and resources.

Successfully applicants will also be eligible for a \$2,000 undergraduate bursary if they complete the first year of a minerals-related

undergraduate degree within 12 months of completing their Higher School Certificate.

Written applications for the Minerals Education Bursary Scheme are due by Friday 13 March 2009.

Further information about the program and application forms for the 2009 MEBS program can be found at <http://www.nswmin.com.au/education/careers>.

## ILLAWARRACOAL

Pride, passion, performance

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