

# ILLAWARRA COAL COALITION NEWS

The community newsletter  
of Illawarra Coal, BHP Billiton



**Above:** Members of the Appin Area Community Working Group recently celebrated 10 years since the Group's formation in 1998.

## APPIN AREA COMMUNITY WORKING GROUP CELEBRATES 10 YEARS

**THE APPIN AREA COMMUNITY WORKING GROUP (AACWG) HAS CELEBRATED 10 YEARS OF ACTIVE SERVICE IN THE WOLLONDILLY REGION.**

Originally known as the West Cliff Community Forum, the Appin Area Community Working Group was established in 1998 to proactively address key community concerns in the Appin Area in regards to Illawarra Coal's operations.

Current AACWG members Barry Durman, Pat Durman, Christine Towndrow and Richard Walsh celebrated 10 years of continuous service, having been actively involved with the Group since its inaugural meeting in 1998. The Osgood family also celebrated 10 years of service with the AACWG, with Gary Osgood Snr serving many years with the Group, while his son Gary Osgood Jnr is now an active member.

Since its inception, the AACWG has maintained a close working relationship with Illawarra Coal, focused on identifying areas of improvement in the Company's approach to its operations and its community engagement strategy.

Long-time member Christine Towndrow said the AACWG was a real first in community consultation for Illawarra Coal's operations and the mining industry in general.

"Long before other mines were setting up community advisory groups, BHP advertised for interested community members to liaise with the wider community affected by the Company's activities," Christine said.

Across the last 10 years, the AACWG has engaged in a two-way consultation with Illawarra Coal on a wide range of issues concerning the Appin Area regarding the Company's operations, including environmental impacts of the mine, such as the impacts of underground mining on river systems; impacts and remediation to houses and infrastructure; alternative uses to coal-wash; transporting of coal and coal wash; and ensuring ongoing and effective consultation with the community using updates in Coalition News.

Illawarra Coal believes that the presence of the AACWG has helped the Company engage more effectively with the community and ensure that two-way communication between the community and the Company is ongoing and constructive.

Illawarra Coal would like to say thank you to all the local residents who have been involved with the AACWG over the last 10 years for their valuable contribution to the Group. The Company looks forward to working with the AACWG into the future to ensure that Illawarra Coal continues to effectively engage with the community and that community questions and concerns continue to be addressed.

### Inside this Coalition News issue

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### Coalition welcome

Welcome to the thirteenth 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 regular information about the Company's activities. Coalition News is distributed 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 WELCOMES NEW APPRENTICES

# 02



Above: Illawarra Coal has welcomed 13 new apprentices to its operations.

## ILLAWARRA COAL HAS CONTINUED ITS COMMITMENT TO EMPLOYING LOCAL PEOPLE, WELCOMING 13 NEW APPRENTICES TO ITS OPERATIONS.

Each Illawarra Coal mine site (Appin, West Cliff and Dendrobium) has welcomed to the team two electrical and two mechanical apprentices, while the West Cliff Coal Preparation Plant will also host an electrical apprentice.

The young adults, aged from 16 to 23, are all locals from the Wollondilly, Illawarra and Southern Highlands regions.

The apprentices will spend the first six months at the University of Ballarat's Steelhaven Skills Centre, located at the Port Kembla Steelworks. Here they will complete an intensive development program including an accelerated TAFE course, prior to their placement onsite. While being trained onsite, the apprentices also continue their learning at TAFE, and also have the opportunity to pursue further post-trade studies in the final 18 months of their apprenticeship.



Above: The Illawarra Coal CPP Board is calling for applications from organisations that require funding for projects that can benefit the communities surrounding Illawarra Coal's Appin and West Cliff mines.

## Illawarra Coal Community Partnerships Program Update

Appin Public School P and C has received CPP funding to purchase a much-needed Tasmanian Oak storage cabinet to store and display records relating to the school's longstanding history.

Appin Primary School was built in 1867 and is the oldest sandstone building in continuous educational use in Australia and its records are of great historical and cultural significance locally, and state-and Australia-wide.

Meanwhile, the Douglas Park Community Catholic Hall Committee has received funds to replace four sets of the hall's exterior doors, improving security, and providing a greater level of comfort for groups using the venue.

Just as these Groups did, your organisation and local community could receive funding from the Illawarra Coal CPP.

The CPP Board is calling for applications from organisations that require funding for projects that can benefit the regions in which Illawarra Coal's Appin and West Cliff mines operate.

This year's first round of nominations closes on 31 March.

A range of projects will be considered in different fields such as aged care, education and youth, health and medical services, environment and heritage, town recreational facilities and arts and cultural projects.

To be eligible for CPP funding, projects must demonstrate:

- Sustainability — continued project life after funding
- Partnerships — community ownership of projects and joint funding
- Innovation — projects that meet needs and are not otherwise funded
- Broad community benefit and application.

Funding applications and further information can be obtained from Jennifer Finlay by emailing [Jennifer.Finlay@BHPBilliton.com](mailto:Jennifer.Finlay@BHPBilliton.com) or calling 4255 3313.

Alternatively, applications and the CPP information brochure can be downloaded from the Illawarra Coal CPP website at [www.bhpbilliton.com/illawarracoal/cpp](http://www.bhpbilliton.com/illawarracoal/cpp).

The Illawarra Coal Community Partnerships Program (CPP) has given two local groups a happy start to the New Year, awarding some much-needed funding to the Appin Public School P and C and the Douglas Park Community Catholic Hall Committee.

# BULLI SEAM OPERATIONS PROJECT COMMUNITY REFERENCE GROUP BEGINS 03

The Bulli Seam Operations Project Community Reference Group has begun its consultation with Illawarra Coal for the preparation of the Environmental Assessment (EA) for the Company's Part 3A application for its Bulli Seam operations.

The inaugural meeting of the Group was held on 10 February, which acted as an introductory forum between community members the Illawarra Coal team.

The CRG is made up of nine volunteer members from the local community, two representatives of Illawarra Coal and has an independent facilitator. Residents of Appin, Douglas Park, Maldon, Menangle, Picton, Wedderburn and Wilton nominated to join the Group, following a call for Expressions of Interest through advertisements in local newspapers and the Coalition News.

Members of the CRG will provide their experience and time to work with Illawarra Coal over the coming months as the Company prepares its Environmental Assessment for the Bulli Seam Project.

Illawarra Coal is currently preparing a Part 3A application for its Bulli Seam operations, which will address the continued operations of the Company's mining in the Bulli coal seam — the

Appin and West Cliff Mines and their associated operations. Preparing the application is a requirement of the NSW Environmental Planning and Assessment Act.

The Environmental Assessment (EA) is the first step for Illawarra Coal in preparing its comprehensive and integrated long term mining and management plan for its Bulli Seam operations.

The CRG will meet monthly during the Environmental Assessment process, which is expected to take place from February to July this year.

It is anticipated that the EA will be finalised and ready for submission to the NSW Government by July and, following a government review process, would be placed on public exhibition.

Your local Bulli Seam Part 3A Community Reference Group members are:

- Peter Chaffer, Wilton
- Kevin Cannon, Douglas Park
- Barry Durman, Wedderburn
- Michael Reardon-Small, Menangle
- Wendy Lewis, Pheasants Nest
- Marilyn Dollemore, Razorback
- Noel Tromp, Douglas Park
- Paul Shipley, Douglas Park
- Ernie Ring, Appin.



**Above:** The Bulli Seam Operations Project CRG will help consult with Illawarra Coal as it prepares its Environmental Assessment for its Bulli Seam operations, which will consider the future impacts of the Company's operations on natural and man-made surface features including railways, roads, flora, fauna, cultural heritage, rivers and streams.

## MEBS students take a look underground

Four local high school students swapped school uniforms for overalls recently in an underground tour of West Cliff Mine.

The four Wollondilly and Illawarra students travelled underground as part of their involvement in the 2008 Minerals Education Bursary Scheme (MEBS), which provides senior secondary high school students the opportunity to explore career options in the minerals industry.

These students were awarded bursaries in late 2008, after demonstrating their interest in pursuing a career in the minerals industry through proven personal and academic capabilities.

The MEBS Program is run by the NSW Minerals Council and sponsored by Illawarra Coal (and other mining companies). The bursaries entitle the Year 11 and Year 12 students to an Illawarra Coal-sponsored cash grant of \$500 or \$1,000 to assist them in their study pursuits, as well as access to a range of minerals industry opportunities, including Illawarra Coal mentor support, attendance at minerals-related

activities such as career expos and mine site open days, and on-site work experience.

Illawarra Coal is again sponsoring the Minerals Education Bursary Scheme in 2009 in conjunction with the NSW Minerals Council.

The Company will offer \$500 and \$1,000 bursaries to senior secondary students who attend schools within the communities surrounding the Company's operations in the Wollondilly and Illawarra regions and demonstrate an interest in learning more about career opportunities in the minerals industry.

Schools eligible for the Illawarra Coal-sponsored grants 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
- Magdelene Catholic School, Narellan.



**Above:** Illawarra Coal MEBS mentors Rhys James (left) and Luke Davis (right) accompanied Matthew Crisafi, Patrick Meaney, Lachlan McInnes and Romeo Harb underground at West Cliff recently.

Successful applicants who go on to complete the first year of a minerals-related undergraduate degree within 12 months of completing their Higher School Certificate will be eligible for an additional \$2,000 undergraduate bursary.

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

# ILLAWARRA COAL HELPS ENCOURAGE TEENS TO GET READING THIS SUMMER 04

ILLAWARRA COAL COALITION NEWSLETTER FEB09

## TEENAGERS THROUGHOUT THE MACARTHUR REGION HAVE BEEN GIVEN EXTRA INCENTIVE TO PICK UP A BOOK THIS SUMMER, THANKS TO THE INAUGURAL MACARTHUR YOUTH SUMMER READING PROGRAM SPONSORED BY ILLAWARRA COAL.

Wollondilly, Campbelltown and Camden Councils ran the Program from December to February, with an aim to promoting reading and literacy to young people during the summer school holidays.

The program specifically encouraged teenagers in reading, writing and engaging with literature, and followed the region's successful participation in the national "Get in the Game, READ" program for children aged between 0 and 12 for a number of years.

The Program was a great success in the Wollondilly region, with 60 young people registering, and who managed to read a total of 300 books throughout the summer. A further 200 young adults from the wider Macarthur region also participated in the program.

Through the program, teenagers who registered at their local library received a logbook where they recorded the titles of each book they borrowed and read from the library. Participants received a ticket into a prize draw for every book read and recorded in the logbook, and additional

tickets were awarded to participants who also handed in reviews of the books they had borrowed and read.

Picton Library's Young Adult Library Officer, George Konstanta said sponsorship from companies such as Illawarra Coal helped give young adults further encouragement to participate in the Macarthur Youth Summer Reading Program.

"We know that getting and keeping young people reading is essential to improve literacy skills in our community, and it has been great to run this program so that we can encourage our young people to do just that," George said.

"Sponsorship from companies such as Illawarra Coal allows us to provide real incentives in the form of great prizes."

Funding from Illawarra Coal and other local companies helped the Councils to reward the participants with over \$3,000 worth of prizes, including passes to Taronga Zoo, the Sydney Observatory, the Australian National Maritime Museum, IMAX Theatre, Luna Park, as well

as shopping vouchers to spend at Macarthur Square.

**Below:** Charlotte Bond-Quist from Picton High School was one of the lucky prize winners thanks to her participation in the Macarthur Youth Summer Reading Program.



## BOOKS NEEDED — Lifeline Macarthur Big Book Fair

### Lifeline Macarthur is holding its annual Big Book Fair and needs your help!

The Big Book Fair will take place across the weekend of the 29th to 31st May at the AH&I Hall in Camden. The Fair is one of the major fundraising events for Lifeline Macarthur, with funds raised supporting Lifeline's range of community welfare services.

Illawarra Coal would like to encourage local residents to donate their much-loved books to the Big Book Fair so that other people can enjoy the stories while raising much-needed funds for Lifeline Macarthur.

Illawarra Coal is offering its Appin Community Office (located at the Appin Shops on Appin Rd) as a book collection point for Wollondilly residents. The Office is open on Tuesdays from 9.30am to 2pm and on Thursdays from noon to 4pm.

Any type of book can be donated, old or new, including fiction, non-fiction, children's, art, science, literature, history, royalty, military, travel, cooking, gardening, craft, sport, new age,

self-help, music, education and reference books.

Books can also be left at Lifeline Macarthur retail shops, located throughout the Wollondilly and Macarthur regions.

Lifeline Macarthur is a local community service, which means that the funds raised stay in the local community and are used to help local people talk about their problems and find ways to solve them.

So why not take the opportunity to clean out the bookshelves and select some books that you believe others would enjoy reading and donate them to Lifeline Macarthur's Big Book Fair!

 Lifeline  
Macarthur



# ILLAWARRA COAL EMPLOYEES GIVE GENEROUSLY TO THE SMITH FAMILY 05

## HUNDREDS OF LOCAL FAMILIES HAD THEIR CHRISTMAS DAY BRIGHTENED THROUGH THE GENEROSITY OF ILLAWARRA COAL EMPLOYEES WHO DONATED GIFTS TO THE ILLAWARRA COAL CHRISTMAS GIVING TREE IN AID OF THE SMITH FAMILY.

In the third year of what has become a very successful initiative, Illawarra Coal employees again responded with kindness and generosity to the call for the donation of Christmas gifts for local disadvantaged children and teenagers.

Hundreds of presents were donated to the Christmas Giving Tree appeal set up at Illawarra Coal's Appin, West Cliff and Dendrobium sites and Port Kembla regional office.

Many employees placed gifts under the Giving Trees located across the sites, while others took up a collection of funds, which was used to purchase a selection of toys for girls and boys of all ages.

Employees from West Cliff also donated gift cards received for safety performance recognition to disadvantaged families to purchase food and toys for their Christmas celebrations. This generosity was further enhanced by an impressive donation by the West Cliff branch of the CFMEU of \$1,000 for the purchase of gifts.

The gifts and donations were handed over to The Smith Family for distribution to local children and teenagers in its Learning for

Life program, which is an education support project providing financial assistance to parents and carers for the education needs of their children.

The Smith Family's Jennifer Reilly said that the generosity and kindness shown by Illawarra Coal employees would help relieve some of the financial burden for less fortunate families during the Christmas period.

"The families involved in the Learning for Life program greatly appreciated Illawarra Coal employees' generosity through their donations to the Christmas Giving Tree Appeal," Jennifer said.

"We support over 1100 local students and the task of spreading cheer at Christmas time by way of gifts for the children and food hampers to help parents and carers is a huge task and the support from Illawarra Coal has been greatly appreciated."

**Below:** Appin employees Phil Smith and Brett Jones were on hand recently to hand over toys donated by the site to the Illawarra Coal Christmas Giving Tree Appeal to The Smith Family's Jennifer Reilly.



## Marquee for hire

Illawarra Coal has two small marquees (3 metres x 3 metres) available for free loan. Members of the public are welcome to borrow the marquees for community events to provide some much needed shelter and protection.

The marquees can be booked individually or as a pair for short periods of time (e.g. weekends).

The marquees feature an easy-to-use pop-up design with safety instructions, and come complete with pegs, ropes and a carry-bag.

If you are interested in booking a marquee, please contact Karen Parlato on 4255 3535 or at [Karen.Parlato@BHPBilliton.com](mailto:Karen.Parlato@BHPBilliton.com) for more information.



# JOBS AT ILLAWARRA COAL

# 06

ILLAWARRA COAL COALITION NEWSLETTER FEB09

Illawarra Coal has been operating in the southern coalfields for close to 80 years and is a major employer within the Wollondilly and Illawarra regions, providing direct employment benefits for 1000 people and their families, and flow-on employment benefits for almost another 5000 people.

The Company advertises a range of jobs and employment opportunities throughout the year and is keen to encourage local people in the communities surrounding Illawarra Coal's operations to become involved with the business.

Interested job seekers can find up-to-date job notices for positions across all of Illawarra Coal's sites in the window of the Appin Community Office (Appin Shops on Appin Rd, Appin).

The BHP Billiton website ([jobs.bhpbilliton.com](http://jobs.bhpbilliton.com)) is also a useful tool to explore job opportunities not only at Illawarra Coal, but also throughout BHP Billiton's other sites throughout the world.

The website offers two useful functions: the job search tool, which allows people to search for current job opportunities by entering or selecting particular criteria; and the email

alert tool, which sends an email notifying you when positions become available that match your search criteria.

Illawarra Coal also offers apprenticeships in the Electrical and Mechanical (Fitting and Machining) Trades, providing a combination of on-site, off-site and TAFE training (see article page 2). The next round of apprenticeships will be advertised in local newspapers, on online job websites and the BHP Billiton website in August 2009, for an intake in January 2010.

University students have the opportunity to develop their business skills through two key programs offered by Illawarra Coal. The Illawarra Coal Graduate Program enables graduates to combine their technical capability with new sets of people skills and knowledge of the BHP Billiton business as they experience a range of positions across our Illawarra Coal sites.

The Illawarra Coal Vacation Student Program offers second and third-year university students paid work during summer which provides on-the-job experience and the chance to explore career options within Illawarra Coal.



Above: Illawarra Coal employs 1000 local people directly and another 1000 local contractors.

If you are interested in further information about jobs at Illawarra Coal please check out the BHP Billiton website, or alternatively drop past the Appin Community Office to view the window notices for updated employment opportunities, or to speak to a Company representative — the office is open from 9.30am to 2pm Tuesdays and noon to 4pm Thursdays.

## ILLAWARRACOAL

Pride, passion, performance

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