

ILLAWARRA COAL 2008 NEWS

The employee newsletter
of Illawarra Coal



Above: Appin Mines Rescue Team member Daniel Ward with his son Cooper.

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APPIN FAMILY DAY AND OLYMPICS CELEBRATION HUGE SUCCESS

Appin employees were given the opportunity to showcase the operations of their mine site to their families at the Appin Mine Family Day held in February.

Employees from both Appin West and Appin East and their families were invited to a festive open day held at the Appin West site, which offered a range of different of activities, events and tours for the whole family. Over 400 people attended the day.

Employees and their families were given the chance to go on an underground tour. Surface tours and tours of the award-winning Water Filtration Plant were also provided.

The big winners on the day were the youngest visitors to site, who were kept entertained by face painting, a jumping castle, rides on Appin's famous Thomas the Tank Engine shunter, and travelling science shows from the Wollongong Science Centre.

Appin Operations Manager, Heath Hannigan, said the day was a huge success and was delighted with the large turn out of Appin employees and their families.

"Our family day was really well received by everyone that attended and everyone who came had a fantastic time," he said.

"The day provided a great opportunity to highlight the many faces of our operations who help keep the Mine running day-to-day."

Adding to the fun and excitement of the day was the presence of the BHP Billiton Olympic Celebration, which is being held across BHP Billiton sites as part of the Company's sponsorship of the Beijing Olympics.

West Cliff employees and their families were also invited to this event, to enjoy the benefits of the Celebration. Kids and adults alike were given the opportunity to participate in a range of activities including Sports Skills clinics for basketball, soccer and rugby league with Australian basketballer Trish Fallon and former Illawarra Dragon, Brad Mackay.

Attendees also received BHP Billiton Olympic merchandise to take home.

And the good news is that employees of Dendrobium, Cordeaux, Processing and Logistics and the Administration Centre and their families won't miss out; with an employee family day planned at Mt Kembla on 10 May.

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February

08

FROM THE PRESIDENT



Colin Bloomfield
PRESIDENT BHP BILLITON
ILLAWARRA COAL

There is no evidence of impact to the quantity of water in the River, aquatic life, fauna or riverbank vegetation. This area of the River does not form part of the catchment area for Sydney's water supply – in fact it is downstream of the catchment.

RECENT MEDIA ATTENTION ON OUR OPERATIONS AT DENDROBIUM AND APPIN AREA 7 HAVE CONCERNED MANY OF US AT ILLAWARRA COAL PARTICULARLY BECAUSE MANY STATEMENTS HAVE BEEN MADE THAT ARE CONFUSING, MISLEADING OR JUST PLAIN WRONG!

I believe it is important for us all to be aware of the facts so that in our conversations with family and friends we can clarify the issue and spread the word in relation to our integrity, and overriding commitment to health, safety, environment and community.

Underground coal mining is not without its impacts on the surface environment. We acknowledge this and submit plans for approval that seek to minimise the impacts and maximise the valuable coking coal reserve. When the impacts occur, we do not hide them. We responsibly report them in an open and transparent manner.

In seeking approval to mine the first four longwalls at Appin Area 7, Illawarra Coal made the responsible decision to move our longwalls away from the Nepean River in order to significantly minimise impacts to the waterway. In so doing some 12 million tonnes of coal were sterilised. It might help to tell your friends and family that this is the equivalent to about four years of production from Appin Mine.

Recent impacts on the Nepean River were identified by our field crews and reported to government and other stakeholders. The impacts observed are in the form of small gas bubbles on the surface of the river and are well within predictions outlined in the approved Subsidence Management Plan. These small bubbles are a temporary effect and some of them have already disappeared from the river. The gas bubbles come from the sandstone strata and not the coal seam, and will not sustain a flame.

Discolouration on the surface of the river reported in some media to be iron staining, has been independently tested and found to be a floating algae resulting from nutrients in the water and had also been observed prior to the commencement of mining last year.

It's a shame that the media does not require people who make claims about the impacts of our operations to justify these claims with facts and data.

In the Sydney Catchment Area above the Dendrobium workings some cracking has occurred as a result of mine subsidence. Again, these cracks are well within predictions outlined in the government approved Mine Subsidence Plan.

The cracks vary in size and will reduce over time. In fact, many are already filling with sediment and leaf litter. We would rehabilitate these cracks by filling them but the Sydney Catchment Authority generally prevents this preferring to have the cracks fill naturally.

These subsidence effects were observed in May 2007, and reported immediately to all relevant stakeholders including Department of Primary Industries, the Sydney Catchment Authority, community, and environmental groups.

Illawarra Coal has a long and proud history of working in the Wollondilly and Illawarra regions to provide highly valued coking coal for the local steel industry, and an economic contribution to the region which is second to none in terms of employment flow-on effects.

Aware of the sensitive environments in which we operate, and that our mining does have impacts to the surface environment, we are committed to pursuing sustainable operations for the future.

As a business we make our decisions based on fact. Our applications to mine are comprehensive in nature and include predictions of impacts based on years of scientific data collected by specialists in; subsidence, aquatic biology, flora, fauna and archaeology.

We must recognise that some will see things differently than we do, but it would be good if when people make their judgements about our operations, they do so with all the facts.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Colin Bloomfield'. The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above the printed name.

Colin Bloomfield

OLYMPICS, HERE WE COME!

03

ILLAWARRA COAL | EMPLOYEE NEWSLETTER FEB08

Two Illawarra Coal employees have been awarded an Olympics experience through the Coal Customer Sector Group (CSG) Living the Values Competition run by BHP Billiton.

Troy McDonald and Geoff Tolhurst were nominated by the Illawarra Coal Senior Leadership Team (SLT) for the recent employee reward competition after strongly demonstrating the BHP Billiton Charter Values.

General Manager – Projects and Engineering (formerly Dendrobium Mine Production Manager) Troy McDonald is off to the Beijing Olympics after winning a Coal Hospitality Package including airfares, accommodation and ticketing to the Games for three days.

Troy said he was delighted but quite surprised at his win. "I didn't even know that I had been entered until Colin Bloomfield announced that two Illawarra Coal employees have been selected and would go through to the final," he said.

"I am excited (about going to Beijing) given I missed the Sydney Olympics."

Troy said he found out about the win on the Friday before Christmas and had been planning a quiet night in.

"Of course I decided to go celebrate instead," he said

Although he has travelled overseas before, Troy hasn't been to an Olympics or to China.

"I have been to a number of Asian countries and find the culture fascinating," he said.

He is most looking forward to being poolside for the swimming events.

Meanwhile, West Cliff nightshift Under Manager Geoff Tolhurst has won a Coal Recognition Package which allows him to attend the nearest Olympics event to his region, such as the Australian trials for the Beijing Games. Geoff's prize includes return economy airfares; airport transfers; five-star accommodation, tickets to pre and post event functions (with the chance to meet BHP Billiton Olympics Ambassadors and athletes), premium reserved seating, entertainment, merchandise packs and ambassador memorabilia.

As well as offering Torch Relay and Hospitality Packages to the Games, BHP Billiton thought it was important to reward all those nominated/recognised for making a significant contribution to HSEC excellence and their workplace.

Both men were rewarded for their nomination to the Coal CSG Living the Values Competition at local level last month when President Col Bloomfield presented them with an award.

Other people considered by the SLT were Pat Booth, Joe Antonelli, Paul Mahe, Lewis Grainger, Gary Brassington and Garry Morrissy.

Appin wins top water saver award for Illawarra Coal

Appin mine has been recognised by Sydney Water as the best water saver in the Sydney Water supply area – not a bad effort when you consider the area takes in 1.7 million homes and businesses.

The mine took out the Largest Volume Reduction Award for 2007 in recognition of its water savings achievements for the 2006-07 financial year.

Although water savings initiatives have been rolled out at all Illawarra Coal's operations in recent years, it was the \$6 million water filtration plant at Appin West that enabled the Company to significantly reduce water usages.

The plant has not only enabled us to reduce our demand on the Sydney water supply, but also reduce the salinity level and quantity of discharges from the mine.

In its first year of operation, the plant saved 600,000 litres of water a day. Believed to be

the first of its kind in the region, it has the capacity to enable Appin to treat and re-use more than two megalitres of mine water each day, which is the same amount of water that would fill two Olympic swimming pools.

Illawarra Coal has been a member of Sydney Water's Make Every Drop Count campaign since it was launched in 2001. The program's success has been immediate, with 24.1 million litres of water a day (8.7 billion litres a year) saved.

Below: (from left) Appin mine's representatives Heath Hannigan, Joanne Page and Rob Zylstra and Illawarra Coal's Energy Utilisation and Projects Engineer Pat Booth at the presentation of Sydney Water's water savings awards 2007.



04 ILLAWARRA COAL AIMS TO MAKE 2008 A YEAR OF ZERO HARM



Above: General Manager Processing and Logistics Keith Grimson presented key safety messages to our Processing and Logistics team as part of BHP Billiton's 2008 Safety Week.

ILLAWARRA COAL'S OVERRIDING COMMITMENT TO SAFETY WAS HIGHLIGHTED AND ENFORCED DURING BHP BILLITON SAFETY WEEK IN MID-JANUARY.

BHP Billiton Safety Week was held across all BHP Billiton Customer Sector Groups to encourage employees to begin 2008 with a solid commitment towards safety.

Illawarra Coal held Safety Week meetings across all our operations, with presentations being given by President Colin Bloomfield, Vice President Mining Operations Jim Middleton, and General Manager Processing and Logistics Keith Grimson.

Over 390 employees attended at least one of 17 three-hour sessions at Appin, West Cliff, and Dendrobium Mines, Processing and Logistics, Port Kembla Coal Terminal, Research and Exploration and Regional Office. The meeting turn-out included HSEC committee members, Leading Hands, Deputies, Engineers and Line Managers and contractors from surface and underground operations.

The safety meetings examined BHP Billiton and Illawarra Coal's safety performance, including recent fatalities within BHP Billiton and the history of Southern District fatalities, as well as recent Illawarra Coal significant incidents. The key focus and discussion centred on expectations of Demonstrated Commitment to Leadership. Participants were also given the opportunity to discuss and provide feedback throughout the presentations.

General Manager Health and Safety, Roger Bowman, said there was a universal positive response from our safety leaders that showed a real commitment to safety for all Illawarra Coal employees.

"These safety meetings provided an opportunity for all of us to remember lost workmates and to really think about safety at work and how each of us can make a difference if we work together," he said.

"Many of us agreed that we must remember that safety is a value and that taking risks that can cause fatalities is unacceptable.

"Safety buys us the things that are important in our lives, and the discussion and focus on safety at Illawarra Coal must continue."

Roger was highly impressed by the level of interaction from all meeting attendees to

improve their attitudes towards safety and focus on their safety leadership qualities.

"The meetings stimulated some personal critical thinking, and we have received some very positive feedback in relation to the ways in which we can commit to improve our personal leadership to safety," he said.

"One theme discussed was that following procedures and checking on each other is not about blame and catching each other out – it's about saying 'I care about your safety'."

All attendees were encouraged to think about their attitudes towards safety. Feedback surveys showed our safety leaders feel responsible and accountable for safety, however, we acknowledged areas in which we could personally improve, including:

- increasing critical safety observations and expectations
- holding more regular safety meetings in their area
- increasing safety discussions with supervisors and employees everyday
- encouraging everyone in our teams to participate in safety discussions, observations and using the safety tools.

Many employees made personal improvement commitments that addressed these issues.

Some of these commitments included:

- "To hold regular safety meetings in my area and make sure my workers know their safety is my highest concern. I will set clear expectations and standards for managing safety."
- "To look out for myself and others, ask questions of current safety procedures and work practices, and take the time to assess the risks involved with jobs."
- "To ensure my team has the correct tools and equipment to perform work safely, and make sure people are aware of hazards in routine and non-routine work. To equip people with the necessary information they require to perform the job safely."

Site teams have been examining the feedback at their sites to determine common themes for their site so they can be discussed again in the near future and ways these important messages can be shared with all employees.

WESTVAMP CONFERENCE ATTRACTS INTERNATIONAL ATTENTION

05

ILLAWARRA COAL | EMPLOYEE NEWSLETTER FEB08



Above: (from left) MEGTEC's Ake Kallstrand, Richard Mattus, Illawarra Coal President Colin Bloomfield, MEGTEC's Lars Sundback, and Illawarra Coal's Pat Booth and Richard Dannel.

REPRESENTATIVES FROM SOME OF THE WORLD'S MOST INFLUENTIAL COMPANIES AND ORGANISATIONS ATTENDED A CONFERENCE THAT HIGHLIGHTED THE TECHNICAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL SUCCESS OF OUR WESTVAMP POWER PLANT IN DECEMBER.

Thirty people attended the event, which included representatives of Government Agencies from Australia, USA and Sweden, as well as delegates from coal mines, international mine gas specialists and international carbon credits facilitator companies.

Representatives from the Australian Ministry of Industry, Resources and Tourism, Mitsubishi, Xstrata Coal, Anglo Coal, Mitsui and EcoSecurities also attended the conference.

Manager Communication and Consultation, Rosanne Moore, said the Company was delighted to help MEGTEC Systems AB, WestVAMP's technology providers, showcase the world-first technology to potential investors and facilitators.

"Our WestVAMP power plant is the first commercial application of MEGTEC's

VOCSIDIZER® technology. This conference provided a platform for companies and organisations from across the globe to learn about, consider and understand technology that can provide a real, positive and influential impact in reducing greenhouse gas emissions worldwide," Rosanne said.

Energy Utilisation and Projects Engineer Pat Booth said the conference was a wonderful opportunity to highlight the amazing environmental capabilities of the WestVAMP technology.

"This conference was great acknowledgement of Illawarra Coal's proactive approach to climate change. Our WestVAMP team were committed to successfully implementing this environmental improvement technology, and the fact that it is now gaining worldwide interest is very rewarding," he said.

"To have representatives from a range of organisations from across the globe interested in this technology is fantastic recognition for the entire WestVAMP team who developed the technology and who are responsible for ensuring its successful day-to-day operation."

The \$30 million project was officially opened by the Premier of NSW, Morris Iemma, in September 2007. Since the plant began operating in early 2007, WestVAMP has abated more than 150,000 tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent and has exported about 20 gigawatt hours of electricity to our West Cliff mine.

This achievement has already been recognised, with Illawarra Coal's WestVAMP power plant winning the Australian Institute of Energy's Excellence in Energy Award 2007, which acknowledges the Company's contribution to environmental improvement through the development of WestVAMP.

06 GAS GUN SENDS DUCKS PACKING



Above: Appin's Rob Zylstra shows the Macarthur Chronicle photographer the new gas scare gun on the Appin West dam. The weather on the day of the shoot was suitably rainy – just right for ducks, but there were none in sight!

COLD AND WET WEATHER IS OFTEN CITED "A DAY FOR DUCKS", BUT DESPITE THE RAIN AND THE WIND ON THE DAY THE MACARTHUR CHRONICLE PHOTOGRAPHER CAME CALLING, THERE WERE DEFINITELY NO DUCKS ON THE MINE DAM AT APPIN WEST.

The photographer was a tad disappointed, but Environmental officer Rob Zylstra couldn't have been happier.

"That means the gun's working," he said.

"We've managed to scare the ducks away and in turn the dam water won't be fouled by them which allows the Water Filtration plant to do what it was designed for, produce quality water and not spend unnecessary time backwashing expensive filters, hence increasing the lifespan of the filters.

"We've achieved what we set out to do."

Appin mine bought the gas scare gun in a bid to chase away more than 100 ducks which had taken up residence on the dam during the drought. It appears they chose that particular dam because it was one of the few full waterways in the area.

The gun, similar to those used in orchards (also known as audible bird scarers), was set up to emit a loud blast every half an hour during daylight hours.

Rob said it took less than a week for the ducks to decide that they didn't like having their day interrupted by the cannon-like blasts and move on to quieter pastures.

Many stayed on-site, but as Rob said, they couldn't do any harm on other waterways.

"Nitrogen from bird faeces promotes algae growth, which can block the filtration plant filters" he said. "It can be a very expensive cleaning process. We had to do something, however, we wanted something environmentally friendly. We didn't want to cull them."

Appin West employees conducted a thorough investigation and risk assessment into the best ways to remove the ducks and came up with the recommendation to buy the gas scare gun. Driven by propane gas ignition, it fires nothing but air.

Nearby residents were consulted and it was agreed the gun would only be set off in daylight hours.

TIM RIDES HARD FOR MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS

07

ILLAWARRA COAL | EMPLOYEE NEWSLETTER FEB08



IN EARLY NOVEMBER, COAL QUALITY AND UTILISATION MANAGER TIM MANTON AND HIS FRIEND GEOFF CHAPMAN JOINED 11,000 OTHER RIDERS TO COMPLETE THE 56KM HEATHCOTE TO WOLLONGONG LEG OF THE 26TH ANNUAL SYDNEY TO GONG MS BIKE RIDE.

While both men have thoroughly enjoyed participating in the event together for the past two years, the two have differing opinions of their most memorable aspect of the ride.

"The views from Bald Hill and Stanwell Tops are stunning along the track and it is always a thrill to ride along the Sea Cliff Bridge and look down at the ocean," Tim said.

"Riding through the Royal National Park, however, is my favourite part of the Sydney to Gong bike ride. I remember, though, when I first rode down the hill from Waterfall to the National Park in 2006, and Geoff commented about the wonderful smells of the bush."

The reason Geoff pays more attention to the smells rather than the surrounding sights is because he is blind. For the past two years, Tim and Geoff have completed the Sydney to Gong ride on a tandem bicycle.

"I suggested to Geoff in early 2006 that it might be fun to ride in the Sydney to Gong bike ride together on a tandem bike. I thought this would be a good way to renew my friendship with Geoff while combining an activity that I enjoy," Tim said.

"Physically, tandem bike riding is not very different from riding a normal bike. However, communication is very important to ensure that you are working together on the tandem. If one rider stops pedalling while the other keeps going, the chain comes off!

"Tandem riding is a very clear demonstration of how much I take for granted simply because I can see what is going on around me."

The Sydney to Gong MS Bike Ride is regarded as one of Australia's premier one-day recreational cycling events, and widely regarded as cycling's City2Surf. The bike ride is an annual fundraising event for MS Australia.

MS stands for Multiple Sclerosis, which is a life-long disease of the central nervous system, for which a cure is yet to be found. As well as supporting the search for a cure, MS Australia provides support for people living with MS and their families through information, advice and programs that help sufferers better manage their symptoms and maintain their independence and dignity.

All funds raised for MS from the ride are due to fundraising by the participants. In 2007, over \$1.3 million was raised, which is a major increase from the \$800,000 raised in 2006 and \$200,000 in 2005.

Tim personally managed to raise almost \$2400 and will be applying to have this figure matched by BHP Billiton through their Matched Giving Program.

"I like to support charities wherever I can because I feel very fortunate that I have a good job and hope that my contributions might help someone out," Tim said.

"We were stoked last year when we nearly tripled our fundraising from the previous year. I am hopeful that we can encourage more corporate support for the 2008 ride.

"It's fantastic that every dollar we raise is then matched by BHP Billiton."

Tim has previously submitted a number of applications for the Matched Giving Program and was impressed by how quick and easy the process really is.

"The system is great – I donate money or time to a charity and then the company matches this figure. All I have to do is fill in the form and send it in – What could be simpler?"

Tim's passion for bike riding looks to continue throughout the year, with several more bike rides planned both on his own and with Geoff on the tandem.

"We are keen to do some more rides this year in preparation for the 2008 Sydney to Gong ride. We're hoping to complete the entire 90km Sydney to Wollongong ride this time," he said.

"We're also hoping to ride the M7 cycleway in the next couple of months."

Above (left): Tim's sons David (left) and Liam (centre) with Geoff and Tim at the start of the 2007 Sydney to Gong MS Bike Ride in Heathcote.

Above: Tim (left) and Geoff (right) head out for one of their practice runs before the big race.

08

MT KEMBLA HERITAGE CENTRE COMMUNITY INTRODUCTION DAY



Above: Part of the mining evolution display features mannequins highlighting the development of mining apparel and safety gear.



THE FIRST SHOWING OF THE NEWLY-FOUNDED MT KEMBLA HERITAGE CENTRE RECEIVED GREAT COMMUNITY SUPPORT AND INTEREST IN FEBRUARY.

Several hundred people attended a Community Introduction Day at the centre, including members of the Mt Kembla community, and residents from surrounding suburbs. The Open Day acted as a preview of material gathered by the Mt Kembla Heritage Inc that showcases Mt Kembla's long and diverse history.

Displays at the centre were based on different themes central to Mt Kembla's history, including family, sport, church, school, and mining evolution.

Local government, industry, commercial and community cooperation was integral in seeing the centre created. The Dendrobium CEP

donated over \$50,000 to help give the Heritage Centre a kick start. Dendrobium mine employees also provided assistance in organising the Community Introduction Day.

Visitors were asked to provide feedback on the centre, such as the displays showcased and possible regular opening times.

Heritage Sub committee chairman Phillip Donaldson is hoping that the initial interest and involvement of local residents in the establishment of the centre will continue so that the centre can be enjoyed by students, locals and visitors to the region for many years to come.

John; Troy join senior leadership ranks



Illawarra Coal's senior leadership team has welcomed two new faces in early 2008.

Former Port Kembla Coal Terminal General Manager John Brannon has taken a new role with Illawarra Coal as General Manager Sustainable Development and External Affairs, replacing Wendy Tyrrell; while former Dendrobium Production Manager Troy McDonald, is the Company's new General Manager – Engineering and Projects.

Troy's appointment follows the departure of Allan Dann, who has been promoted to the new role of General Manager Newcastle Property Group.

Far Left: Troy McDonald is the new General Manager – Engineering and Projects.

Left: John Brannon is the new General Manager – Sustainable Development and External Affairs.

HELPING THE SMITH FAMILY SPREAD CHRISTMAS CHEER

09

ILLAWARRA COAL EMPLOYEE NEWSLETTER FEB08

ILLAWARRA COAL EMPLOYEES HAVE AGAIN HELPED TO BRIGHTEN UP CHRISTMAS DAY FOR HUNDREDS OF LOCAL FAMILIES BY DONATING GIFTS TO THE ILLAWARRA COAL CHRISTMAS GIVING TREE.

In the second year of what has become a successful event, employees from all our sites were encouraged to replace a tag on the large Christmas tree with a gift suitable for the child's age specified on the tag. The tree was established at our Administration Centre as a central point for donations.

All the gifts received were donated to The Smith Family, who distributed these presents to needy families in the Illawarra in time for Christmas through their Learning for Life program. This year a range of wonderful gifts were left under the tree, including bicycles, cricket bats, skateboards, doll houses and teddy bears.

Julie Duff from Business Services, and coordinator of the Christmas Giving Tree, said it was heart-warming to see so many employees support a locally-based child support program.

"It was absolutely fantastic to see so many of our employees get involved in the Illawarra Coal Christmas Giving Tree. Appin Mine erected their own mini giving tree to promote the gift collection, while other sites took up cash collections and a couple of volunteers went and purchased gifts on behalf of everyone. Our contract partner, Hatch, also donated a substantial number of gifts for which we are very grateful," Julie said.

"The Smith Family was so grateful for the donation of gifts from our Giving Tree in 2006 that we were more than happy to donate to their centre for the second year running."

Stacey Kernaghan from The Smith Family's Learning for Life Centre said the charity was immensely grateful to have received the support of Illawarra Coal for the past two years at Christmas time.

"The kindness and generosity of Illawarra Coal's employees has been outstanding. By donating the proceeds of their Christmas Giving Tree, Illawarra Coal has assisted in



Above: (from left) Illawarra Coal's Teagon Ridley, The Smith Family's Jennifer Reilly, Illawarra Coal's Julie Duff and Learning for Life Stacey Kernaghan checking out this year's gift collection.

helping over 1100 children and their families enjoy the festive season," she said.

"The gifts will be distributed to local children of The Smith Family's Learning for Life Program which is an education support program providing financial assistance to help parents and carers with the education needs of their children."

10 APPRECIATION PLAQUES FROM ST JOHN AMBULANCE



Above: Brett Hamilton (NSW Sales Manager), Amanda Murray (Account Development Manager), Karyn Heeley (Appin HSEC Systems Administrator), Maria Venettacci (Wollongong St John Ambulance branch), Connie Tonkin (Manager Wollongong St John Ambulance branch) and Paul Doyle (Appin Training Officer) with the St John Ambulance appreciation plaque.

ILLAWARRA COAL'S STRONG RELATIONSHIP WITH ST JOHN AMBULANCE AUSTRALIA (NSW) WAS RECOGNISED WHEN THE COMPANY WAS PRESENTED WITH CUSTOMER RECOGNITION PLAQUES FROM THE ORGANISATION IN NOVEMBER.

The plaques were awarded to Dendrobium and Appin mines in appreciation of the sites' long and continuous support of the self-funding charitable organisation.

St John has been integral in providing our sites with first aid training and consultation for mine personnel, and maintaining site first aid rooms and first aid kits.

General Manager, Health, Safety and Risk, Roger Bowman said Illawarra Coal's relationship with St John was of great benefit to the Company in guaranteeing up-to-date information and supplies.

"The training and services provided by St John (NSW) to our operations helps to ensure effective and expedient management of injuries, and this is a key requirement for our business and we value this service," he said.

"We greatly appreciate the recognition that St John is giving us and will continue to work with them to provide the safest workplace possible."

Business Manager of St John (NSW), Brett Hamilton said St John's valuable relationship with Illawarra Coal was important in both providing the correct advice and products for first aid and emergency situations and allowing the St John Ambulance Service to run effectively.

"St John is a completely self-funded organisation, and without the support of companies such as Illawarra Coal, we would not continue to fund the vital work of our volunteers," he said.

"The services provided to the mine operations by St John help provide the correct advice and products in the event of a first aid/emergency situation."



Marquee for hire

Do you have a community event coming up? Then why don't you enquire about hiring an Illawarra Coal marquee to provide some much needed shelter and protection!

We have two small marquees (3m x 3m) available for free loan by employees and community members for community events. The marquees can be booked individually or as a pair for short periods of time (eg. weekends).

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

If you are interested in booking a marquee, please contact Donna Rout on **4255 3535** or at **Donna.A.Rout@BHPBilliton.com** for more information.

Left: One of Illawarra Coal's marquees, which are available for free loan to employees, is pictured in action at a recent sports carnival.

MINE APPLICATIONS AND APPROVALS UPDATE

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ILLAWARRA COAL | EMPLOYEE NEWSLETTER FEB08



Above: A Subsidence Management Plan has been submitted for approval of Longwalls 34-36 at West Cliff.

WEST CLIFF

A Subsidence Management Plan has been submitted to the NSW Department of Primary Industries for approval of further longwalls at West Cliff.

Approval is sought for three longwalls (34-36) and follows consultation with landowners, key stakeholders, and completion of extensive impact studies.

The proposed mine plan is aimed at minimising impacts to the surface environment and its significant features while maximising the volume of coal produced, with longwalls positioned between the Nepean and Georges River and not directly beneath these significant waterways.

These next three longwalls will ensure continued supply to our major customers with close to 11 million tonnes of coal.

APPIN Longwall 409

Approval from the NSW Department of Primary Industries for extraction of Appin Longwall 409 was received in November.

Approval for this longwall was sought in order to overcome a production shortfall resulting from the decision not to longwall mine directly beneath the Nepean River in Appin Area 7.

Situated to the west of the Appin village, Longwall 409 will help ensure continuity while development continues for further long walls in Area 7.

The approval follows extensive consultation with key stakeholders, and careful consideration of all aspects of the application by the regulatory authorities.

In the preparation of the Subsidence Management Plan Application, landholders whose properties are potentially impacted by this plan were consulted and individual Property Subsidence Management Plans prepared. Risk reviews and Management Plans were also prepared in consultation with relevant Infrastructure owners.

In particular Illawarra Coal has also worked closely with the Sydney Catchment Authority in relation to the Upper Canal, which is located

above the proposed mining area, and a comprehensive management plan is being prepared following a rigorous risk assessment and independent peer review process.

Longwalls 705-710

Preparations have begun on the development of a Subsidence Management Plan (SMP) for the next stage of Appin Area 7.

The first series of Area 7 longwalls (Longwalls 701-704) was approved in November 2006, and production began in October 2007.

Like the first series of longwalls, this application for a further five longwalls will not include longwall mining directly beneath the Nepean River.

Preparations for the SMP will involve comprehensive assessment of the impacts on flora, fauna, natural and man-made features, as well as consultation with all relevant stakeholders.

It is anticipated that details of the SMP will be finalised for submission by the middle of this year.

APPIN EMPLOYEES CLOCK UP 25 YEARS

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ILLAWARRA COAL | EMPLOYEE NEWSLETTER FEB08



Two Appin employees have reached 25 years service with Illawarra Coal.

David Brown (Mechanical Engineer, Projects, left) and Barry Buckley (Electrical Scheduler, right) received their 25 year service watches from Maintenance and Engineering Manager Allen Bond (centre).

ILLAWARRACOAL

Pride, passion, performance

Coal News team

Coal News is the quarterly staff publication of Illawarra Coal.

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