THE START OF A 7 YEAR CYCLE?

1 NEW MINE, 2 MEGA PROJECTS,
3 EXPANSIONS AND TWO REOPENINGS

MARCH, BUCK, CIRCUS AND KICK
Massive Mayday weekend in Blackwater

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LABOUR HIRE RULES
What’s going to change?
>> Page 21
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May 28, 2018
Murphy’s Law & 160 new jobs

CEO of Bounty Mining Gary Cochrane says just under two million tonnes of saleable coal is possible at Cook Colliery despite the recent flooding and a decision to abandon Longwall mining. In the same week as Bounty released its prospectus for an Initial Public Offering (IPO) of shares on the Australian Stock Exchange, Mr Cochrane told Shift Miner they had been pleasantly surprised by what they found at Cook Colliery after previous owners Caledon Coal abandoned it.

“Unfortunately for the Chinese they bought at the top of the market, they paid $450 million, and at that price, you have got to have a big production,” he said.

“And it’s not necessarily a mine that suits big production, and certainly it doesn’t suit longwall mining.

“The biggest misunderstanding is actually how little water damage was in the mine.

“The longwall face is 150 metres wide, but the panel itself is 1.8 kilometres long, and it was only flooded at the intensively part of the mine, which was effectively the first 18 metres of the 1.8-kilometre longwall panel.

“So it was literally just the longwall itself, everything else in the mine was dry, and also the water was only there for two weeks, and it has been dry since May anyway.

“So it wasn’t in any way major flooding, it certainly stopped them, but it was just Murphy’s law at the worst possible time.

“If they had advanced the longwall another 20 metres they would have had enough storage in the old broken ground behind it; it was literally a tiny part of the mine.”

According to Mr Cochrane, only 2% of the mine was affected by the water which came from old workings above the longwall. However, given Caledon had take-or-pay commitments worth $40 million a quarter it was the straw that broke the camels back for them.

Nonetheless, Bounty does not intend to pick up where Caledon left off. Instead, they will abandon the Longwall and return to Bord and Pillar mining which has been the preferred system of mining for most of Cook’s 20-year mining history.

“We continue to ramp up, we have about 150 people at the mine now, and we had just 14 people when we took over in December,” he said.

“When you look at the mines history its mostly been a bord and pillar mine and the two times they have introduced a longwall they haven’t worked.

“So we are taking it back to its roots really.

“It will take us about a year, but we hope we will get to 2.2 million ROM coal, and just under 2 million tonnes of product coal, which is better than we thought, they have done such a good job on the wash plant.”

When Caledon was the owner of Cook, there was a complicated ownership structure that involved Glencore retaining ownership of key infrastructure like the railhead and washplant which Caledon used under a lease arrangement.

However, Mr Cochrane says they have done deals with both Caledon’s liquidator and Glencore that has given them ownership of all the auxiliary mine infrastructure they need, plus two wash plants that are significantly underutilised.

Cook and the nearby Cook North mine have a joint mine life of about 15 years, and they will remain the sole short-term focus for Bounty.

However, Mr Cochrane says the nearby Minyango project that they picked up in the deal with Caledon’s liquidator is their flagship project.

“It already has a mining licence and environmental permit, so within maybe two years, once we get Cook stabilised, and hopefully generating some cash, we can then start the Minyango mine,” he said.

“Then we can operate it as a satellite, which feeds into the centralised wash plant which is half way between the mines.

“The part of the Minyango mining lease that is approved is closer to the wash plant than the existing mine.

“So that was really the big opportunity, getting all that infrastructure with a completely new 25 year plus mine next door.”

$1 billion gas growth projects

The State Government has announced in 2018 it would be investing nearly a billion dollars expanding its gas fields across the Western Downs, Maranoa, Central Highlands and Banana Shire Council areas.

A key component of this investment is the development of the Roma East Project which Santos says will generate around 400 construction jobs.

“The Roma East project will involve bringing online another 480 wells including drilling around 430 new wells, connecting existing appraisal wells, and drilling pre-development wells in the surrounding areas,” the Company said.

“It will also include around 420 kilometres of water, gas gathering and other pipelines, 120 TJ per day of additional compression, 670 kilometres of power lines and around 25 kilometres of fibre optic cables.”

Surat Recovery

After years of inactivity in the resources sector through the downturn, Surat Basin Enterprise believes the outlook has changed.

This month they hosted a meeting in Chinchilla looking at a suite of energy projects they believe will invigorate the local economy into the future.

Among the projects, they’re excited about are AGL’s $820 million Coopers Gap wind farm project, BOC’s operational Micro-LNG plant in Chinchilla, Senex’s proposed Wandoan gas project and some Surat Basin solar projects at various stages in development.

Western Downs Regional Council Mayor, Cr Paul McVeigh, described energy as one of the four pillars of the region’s economy.

The renewables sector in the Western Downs is progressing at a remarkable pace,” he said.

“We currently have $5.5 billion worth of renewables on the books for the Western Downs, and of that $1.2 billion is under construction - this is happening right now, and it’s a very exciting time for the Western Downs,” he said.

“The real strength of the Western Downs is our diverse economy, made up of energy, agriculture, intensive agriculture and manufacturing.

“We are also proud to have an agile and skilled workforce capable of working across these sectors, and our unemployment rate being one of the lowest in regional Queensland is evidence of that.”

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Valuers Herron Todd White (HTW) have looked at the performance of “prestige property” in their most recent monthly review, and reported signs of improvement across Gladstone, Mackay and Rockhampton.

In each of those centres, the definition of prestige differs slightly, but in all cases their value is to a large extent driven by the fortunes of the mining sector.

In Mackay HTW says the top end of the Mackay market is generally considered to be properties worth more than $800,000, and like every other property type it’s taken a big hit during the mining downturn.

“The prestige market has not been immune from these reductions and we saw activity in this sector fall sharply,” they reported.

“In the past 18 months however, there seemed to be a comeback in the prestige markets, with sales activity increasing on the back of renewed confidence.

“We have seen 11 sales recorded over $1 million with two properties recording sales at $1.4 million and $1.42 million respectively. The renewed confidence in the prestige market is also seen by the quality and scale of new dwellings being constructed, particularly in estates such as Settlers Rise at Erakala and Emma and Shuttlewood Drive in Richmond.

In Gladstone the prestige market is much smaller and HTW says just one sale in the last six months would classify as prestige.

It was for a large 5 bedroom house with a large shed and pool in an established area of New Auckland which sold for $720,000 in January.

Prior to this, there were several large rural residential properties that sold in 2016 for above $850,000 and the last million dollar plus home sold in Gladstone in 2015.

“Just like the rest of the market, the prestige sector has seen sharp declines in value over the past several years,” HTW said.

“Most buyers in this sector are locals who are upgrading.”

In Rockhampton around 2.5% of property sales would classify as prestige, and among that group a far smaller number have sold for more that $1 million.

“I think most people would straight away envisage the beach, off shore island and sparkling ocean views along the Capricorn Coast, however much of the recent activity has been focused on the older established South Rockhampton residential suburb of The Range, sitting high above the CBD, with easterly views back to the Berserker Ranges and Mt Archer,” HTW said.

“There have been a number of sales above $1 million in recent months, none more publicised than the grand old home at 3 Athelstane, an expansive two storey Queenslander style home that has been fully renovated with a large inground pool, 4-bay shed on an elevated 1770 square metre parcel of land which sold shortly after auction for just under the $1.4 million mark earlier this year.

“The Rockhampton market appears to be capped at $1.5 million. In fact it’s the highest price ever received for a home in Rockhampton and it has occurred twice, previously in 2009.

“Many have marketed their homes over the years for a higher figure but buyers have refused to pay any more.”
Roolston Gas
Santos has commissioned its Scotia gasfield around Rolleston delivering the project 16% under budget.

The gasfield currently produces around 40 TJ/day and will reach 70 TJ/day at peak production late next year - most of which will be piped through to the Santos GLNG project in Gladstone.

Around 400 people were employed in the construction phase during which they sunk 75 new wells and built supporting infrastructure.

Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer Kevin Gallagher said the execution of the project was outstanding, coming in well ahead of schedule and well under budget.

“Site infrastructure is also running three months ahead of schedule, and some of the well completions are a year ahead of time.”

“Coal mine ventilation officers will now be a competency if holders fail to meet their obligations.”

Safety breaches now civil offences
The State Government has updated legislation surrounding mine safety which will increase fines and the individual liability of bosses in the event of a problem.

The Resources Safety Amendment Bill will also increase the government’s powers to cancel statutory certificates of competency if holders fail to meet their obligations.

Issac Plains East close
Stanmore Coal is anticipating first coal by July this year from the Isaac Plains East (IPE) mining area as it finalises nearly $8 million worth of capital works on the site. Two months ago, Stanmore was awarded mining leases, and received federal environmental approval for IPE, clearing the way for a new coal project adjacent to existing operations which they say will sustain 200 jobs, and see Stanmore’s production double next financial year.

However, the company continues to tread cautiously on how they will resource the new operation, with a truck and shoveller operation - adding around $10/tonne to costs - still the preferred option.

“Stanmore’s intent for FY19 in the short term was to operate Isaac Plains and Isaac Plains East concurrently,” they said this week. “This will involve mining initially with a truck and shovel fleet until Isaac Plains mining ceases during the 2019 financial year when the dragline will walk to Isaac Plains East.

“In the event coal prices fall, Stanmore will be able to react to reduce costs by deploying the dragline to Isaac Plains East earlier and reducing concurrent activities.”

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However, in a sign of the changing tide in the Bowen Basin, Stanmore says it’s reevaluating all decisions in light of rising costs across the sector.

“The company will continue to review and optimise the cost and production profile for the Isaac Plains East Project,” they said.

“This will involve taking into account the current industry-wide pressure on cost structures including contractor costs, logistics capacity implications, labour costs and a moderating outlook for coal prices.”

The Isaac Plains East (IPE) coal deposit – formerly known as Wetonga – was purchased from Peabody for around $7 million in 2015.

In its Mining Lease application, Stanmore predicted the coal produced over the life of the IPE project would be worth around $890 million (assuming a long-run average price of US$83.91/t and US$68.23/t for semi-soft coking and thermal products respectively, and an average exchange rate of AU$0.77/US$).

Another epic Galilee proposal
Waratah Coal has lodged initial paperwork with the Federal Government for the development of the Alpha North Coal mine project 210 Kilometres North West of Emerald in the Galilee Basin.

In line with other proposals in the Galilee, the mine plan put forward by the Clive Palmer controlled Waratah Coal, involves massive infrastructure developments, labour requirements, and thermal coal production.

According to paperwork, the mine would have four pits producing more than 80 million tonnes of saleable thermal coal a year at full production.

“Coal will be produced from four underground longwall operations in mining area North and a combination of open cut, and underground longwall operations will produce coal in mining area South,” Waratah says.

“Total Run of Mine (ROM) coal to be processed from each mining area is 56 million tonnes per annum (Mtpa) with 72% yield to give a product quantity of 40 Mtpa.

“The two open-cut operations in mining area South will collectively produce 20 Mtpa of ROM coal.

“Open cut mining method will be a dragline operation with truck shovel and truck excavator fleets handling overburden and coal excavation and being transported from the open cut to ROM stock utilising haul trucks and overland conveyor systems.

“The four underground longwall operations in mining area South and mining area North will collectively produce 36 Mtpa and 56 Mtpa respectively of ROM coal.”

Waratah says they will use a retreating longwall approach in their underground mines with each longwall block being 400 metres wide and with a length of seven kilometres. Coal will be extracted from the mines using conveyors.

To support this sort of mining activity, Waratah is proposing to build four coal handling and preparation plants, two train loading facilities, and a 2000 person mining camp.

Unlike other Galilee projects currently in development, Waratah is not planning to build its own railway, instead relying on Adani, GVK or the proponents of the China First project to allow them access to theirs (if built) to get their coal to Abbot Point Coal Terminal.

At Abbot Point, they hope to use Adani’s expanded facilities, but if that proves impossible they will “seek to have our proposed standalone port infrastructure assessed under a separate EIS process”.

Given the scale of the proposal, and speed of the approvals process, Waratah has listed 2027 as a start date and 2068 as a finish date.
Terracom - the owners of the Blair Athol coal mine near Clermont - have loaded their first on-site coal train nearly two years after buying the mine, and eight months after first coal.

Terracom achieved the goal after spending just under ten million dollars upgrading an existing unused agricultural rail line that links into the Goonyella rail system and building a loading facility that is about as basic as it gets. Unlike other Train Load Out (TLO) facilities in the Bowen Basin that use conveyor and hopper systems to load trains, Terracom has established an extensive stockpile adjacent to the rail line from which coal is being front-end-loaded direct into coal wagons.

However, basic as it is, Terracom says it represents a major improvement on the previous system of trucking coal more than 100 kilometres to Stanmore Coal’s Isaac Plains mine for loading onto trains under a contract arrangement.

“Based on the forecasted earnings increase of A$34 million per annum the capital paid to date to the TLO has a capital payback of approximately 3½ months,” Terracom said.

“The commissioning of the train load-out facility has allowed the company to cease trucking product to the alternate rail loadout facility with 100% of all product now transported through the new dedicated train loadout facility at Blair Athol.”

The logistics issue for Blair Athol emerged last year when negotiations between Terracom and Glencore for the sharing of a modern TLO facility at the nearby Clermont mine collapsed.

Since that time the company says its stop-gap loadout option using trucks, has been adding around $20/t to costs, which meant in the first three months of this year they had a thin cash margin of around $11 a tonne.

However with the TLO operating, coal sales up 159%, and ROM coal production up nearly 30% for the first quarter, they are expecting solid improvements for the remainder of this financial year.

“Average revenue received per sales tonne to be A$103,” they predicted.

“With the commissioning of the TLO the cash margin (EBITDA) per sales tonne is expected to be A$42.

“This is a strong forecasted margin for the June 2019 quarter, and reflects the company having trial shipments to end users in Japan and Korea to which it is expecting to realise higher prices from these customers in the long term.”

Notably, the next phase of the company’s development has been partially funded by media identity John Singleton who substantially underwrote a $15 million rights issue.

Blair Athol is Queensland’s oldest open cut coal mine having been first mined in 1864. Around one hundred and fifty years later, under the ownership of Rio Tinto, the mine reached what will be its peak annual production of just under 13 million tonnes of coal in a single year.

In September 2016, Terracom reached a binding agreement to buy the mothballed Blair Athol coal mine from Rio Tinto, for a headline-making $1 nominal price, plus tens of millions of dollars worth of undisclosed liabilities.

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The first coal in two and a half years has been mined at the Baralaba Coal mine this fortnight, under a new management structure and contractor arrangement.

It’s been a long and winding road for the mine, which has now had three different parent companies since former owners Cockatoo Coal went broke in the downturn.

However throughout, there has been one constant - US-based major shareholder Liberty Mines and Metals - who has presented various rescue packages or Deed of Company Arrangements (DOCA) to creditors each time the company went into administration - resulting in a new company structure and name each time.

This week Golding Contractors announced they had finalised terms on a roughly $350 million contract with yet another entity - Wonbindi Coal Pty Ltd - which is a subsidiary of the recently created Baralaba Coal Company.

The contract will see them undertake the majority of mining operations at the mine, including overburden removal, coal mining and haulage, and the operation of the wash plant.

However they will do this using plant and machinery owned by Wonbindi Coal.

Golding Executive General Manager Geoff Caton said there was scope for further expansion.

“Golding is delighted to have executed this contract to provide a complete mining service solution for the operation of Wonbindi’s Baralaba North mine,” he said.

“We have worked closely with the company over the last two months to restart the mine, and two fleets have now been commissioned and operating with first coal mined today.

“Golding will continue to commission additional fleets to reach full production by the end of 2018.”

According to Jules Pemberton, CEO of Golding’s parent company NRW Holdings the contractor arrangements are aimed at being more collaborative.

“The partnership style contract reflects the parties intention to work collaboratively and closely together,” she said.

“It is drafted to incentivise the contractor to maximise coal production and to operate at below budget cost. Actual project costs are reimbursable.”

Shift Miner understands this will result in 50 to 100 new operational roles at the mine.

The Baralaba North Mine is around 5 kilometres north of the Baralaba Township and operates as an open-cut truck and excavator operation. Approval has been obtained to operate up to 4.1Mtpa run-of-mine (ROM) coal and transport 3.5Mtpa on the approved Haul Route through to the Train Load Out (TLO) Facility, located approximately 2km east of Moura.
What went wrong for UCG?

Abandoned road

After consultations with hundreds of locals and extensive geotechnical work, miner Anglo American has abandoned plans to rebuild the Gibihi road near their Dawson mine.

Instead, the company will most likely upgrade the nearby “Three Chain” road over the next year, which will connect the Dawson and Leichhardt Highways.

CEO of Anglo American’s Metallurgical Coal business, David Diamond said they would work with stakeholders.

“Thank you to the 120 members of the community who participated in our focus groups,” he told a meeting in May.

Twice is a trend

The Wards Well underground metallurgical coal project 30 kilometres South West of Glenden has made BHP’s list of the seven projects most likely to be developed in the medium term.

While the company has in no way committed to developing the mine, CEO of BHP Andrew Mackenzie told investors this week it was on a short list of projects worldwide that made a compelling case for capital expenditure.

“Latent capacity opportunities to debottleneck our assets are only possible because they piggy-back on previous investments we’ve made to develop new projects,” he said.

“These projects have been an important contributor to BHP’s value creation over the last century, so it is important that we maintain a broad suite of options for the future.”

“We must work on these options at all points of the cycle to cement our future over the medium to long-term, and to be ready to act counter-cyclically.”

Against a backdrop of further improvements in coal prices this year, but a rise in per unit costs across their Bowen basin operations, BHP said the Ward’s Well project is up for consideration given its attractive internal rate of return of around 15%.

According to BHP, the project will benefit from its proximity to Goonyella Riverside mine and is a billion tonne resource that could be longwall mined for around 50 years.

In the heady days of 2011 during the height of the mining boom, it was one of a suite of underground coal projects BHP earmarked for development including Red Hill and the Saraji East expansion.

It’s also the second time in less than 12 months that a senior figure within BHP has talked about the Wards Well project to investors, with BHP’s head of Minerals Mike Henry mentioning it in late 2017.

During that discussion, Mr Henry said current production of 48 million tonnes of coking coal a year was at the “light” end of the spectrum, and that subject to market conditions they were exploring options to increase production by around 20 million tonnes a year.

Queensland’s failed experiments with Underground Coal Gasification (UCG) early this decade have left a lasting legacy, with Line Energy found guilty of allowing “explosive and toxic gases, tars and oils” to escape into the groundwater around it’s Chinchilla demonstration facility.

As a consequence, the now liquidated Line Energy was handed the state’s largest-ever environmental damage fine of $4.5 million in the Brisbane District Court this month.

However, given Line Energy no longer exists, the money is unlikely ever to be paid, unless it’s a consequence of ongoing criminal proceedings against the company’s former executives, including founder Peter Bond.

Judge Micheal Shanahan told the Court Line had applied improper practices for “financial gain” that resulted in the area around their UCG trial site needing monitoring for up to twenty years.

He also accused the company of trying to cover up problems. “There was a clear indication that Line was well aware of the damage being done and sought to hide it from the regulator,” Mr Shanahan said.

“The defendant was plainly ignoring information and concerned with its operations.”

UCG is the process by which coal deposits that are not viable for mining are ignited underground creating a synthetic gas. This gas is subsequently captured at the surface and used to drive a gas turbine or compressed into synthetic liquid fuel.

Various companies have been trying to commercialise UCG in Queensland for more than 20 years. At various times in its history, it’s been labelled a triumph of engineering innovation or an environmental disaster waiting to happen.

Probably the high point for UCG, and certainly Line Energy, was in 2011 when Peter Bond received large positive media attention when he travelled across the continent – first by car and then by plane – fueled entirely by fuel from their UCG trial plant at Chinchilla.

A year later Mr Bond was ranked 99 on the BRW rich list with an estimated personal wealth of $450 million – based mostly on the value of his shareholding in Line Energy.

However, since at least 2010 the UCG sector has been plagued by claims that the process is unsafe.

In 2010 fellow UCG company Cougar Energy had its underground coal gasification (UCG) project at Kingaroy temporarily, then permanently shut down when minute traces of banned chemicals were found in a nearby water bore.

A government-funded independent scientific panel decided Cougar could not operate without an unacceptable risk of causing environmental harm.

Cougar challenged the decision arguing that closing down the site was an excessive response to two isolated readings that found minute levels of benzene in smaller quantities than have been recorded in other resource projects around the state.

In late 2014 after the Government first moved to prosecute Linc. Peter Bond accused government regulators of a deliberate campaign of harassment that eventually destroyed the RHD industry.

“We absolutely became the sacrificial lamb for the CSG industry,” Mr Bond told Shift Miner.

“The CSG industry had an agenda, they needed a lot of acreages to make it work, and they saw UCG as a competitor for that acreage.”

In fact, Mr Bond said there were people in key roles within the department who had a deliberate policy to harass.

“For our one square kilometre of space in Chinchilla we would receive and have to respond to documentation from the government every eight hours,” he said.

“That went on for years; we had a full-time staff of four or five people just to do that.”

In early 2016, the Queensland Government banned the process in Queensland.
Rio Tinto has continued its exit from the coal sector, announcing they have sold their 75% interest in the Winchester South (WS) coal development South of Moranbah for $200 million to Whitehaven Coal.

Winchester South is a large undeveloped coal tenement that contains 356 million tonnes of coking and thermal coal, of which around 76 million tonnes is in the JORC measured category, meaning it’s been highly drilled and tested for quality. According to Whitehaven, Winchester South is “well positioned from an infrastructure perspective with one of the main rail lines in the Goonyella System crossing the tenement and High Voltage power supplies nearby. According to Whitehaven, current analysis of the coal deposit would see it developed as a significant above-ground coal mine producing between 7 and 15 million tonnes of coal a year for 20 or 30 years.

While Whitehaven says the mine is a significant strategic investment, they have not set a date for construction work to begin. “The Winchester South project is a significant strategic acquisition for the company which offers an opportunity to develop and operate a high-quality, large-scale coking coal mine in one of the world’s premier coking coal basins,” Whitehaven Coal Managing Director Paul Flynn said.

**Winchester South will form a key part of the company’s longer-term growth plan and complements our Vickery project in the Gunnedah Basin as another high-quality asset which will help Whitehaven respond to the strong and growing demand for premium coking coal that exists in Asian markets.**

*Whitehaven generates the greatest value for shareholders where the company can deploy its full breadth of skills across approvals, construction and operations and the Winchester South project aligns perfectly with these strengths.*

The sale still has to go through the usual government approvals process, but once that is done Whitehaven will pay $150 million to Rio Tinto to close the deal, followed by $50 million 12 months later.

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**BMA on track**

BHP has reached the halfway mark in the construction of an 11-kilometre overland conveyor system which will transport coal from Peak Downs mine to the Coal Handling Preparation Plant (CHPP) at the nearby Caval Ridge Mine.

In a statement to Shift Miner, BHP said their contractors were on track to finish the job on schedule.

“To date, civil concrete and earthworks have been well progressed by Whittens and CPB Contractors, [while] G&G Engineering has completed the structural steelwork, including the run of mine (ROM) pad, conveyor foundations and a reinforced earth wall that supports the ROM dump station,” a spokesperson for BHP said.

Known as the Southern Circuit Project, the new facility will allow BMA to increase its coking coal exports by 4 million tonnes a year, by increasing throughput at the Caval Ridge CHPP which was built with extra capacity in 2014.

Work started on the project in mid-2016 and is expected to take 18 months to complete.

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**Luckiest miner in CQ**

A gem miner from Sapphire 50 kilometres west of Emerald has stumbled upon a $30,000, 141 carat clear uncut Sapphire lying on the ground. The miner (who has chosen to keep his identity secret) was walking through the Reward fossicking area - one of the most well known and well mined fossicking areas in the Southern Hemisphere - when he noticed something shining on the ground which turned out to be the discovery of a lifetime.

Having a walk through the bush, with your eyes downward after rain is a form of gem mining known as “specking”, so Central Highlands Tourism Development Officer Peter Grigg says the find while lucky was not unintentional. “For this lucky specker, it was all about being in the right place at the right time,” he said.

“There had been considerable rain a week or so before, and there it was, lying tantalisingly within reach on the surface of the ground, well away from the usual sweating, blisters and hard work that is required when digging sapphires.

“Looking over the years, but it’s always a thrill to find a good one. I find it amazing that after 100 plus years of people scratching around on the ground at the Gemfields, stones of this quality pop up. “I too, like to consider myself a specker and have been scratching around for quite a few years and have a great collection of horseshoe nails, old bottle tops and broken bits of this and that, but I did speck a small but crystal clear blue sapphire one Sunday afternoon.”
Batchfire takes long view

Management of the Batchfire Resources owned Callide mine in the Southern Bowen Basin say they are on track to reach their goal of around 11 million tonnes of annual thermal coal production, following significant investments in plant and machinery.

When Batchfire purchased the mine from Anglo American in 2016 annual coal production was around 7 to 8 million tonnes meaning coal production is up approximately 30% in less than two years.

The massive rally in coal prices since early 2016 has been a key driver of this improvement, however, Batchfire CEO Peter Westerhuis told Shift Miner they have done what they set out to do.

“We are about where we wanted, and planned to be,” he said.

“We have significantly increased our production and are on track for around 11 million tonnes this year.

“Given we are a purely thermal coal operation our focus is very much on productivity.

“We have made significant investments in our machinery, and we are taking a long-term view on that.

“While there is still lots of work to be done, we are happy with how things are going.”

In late 2015 around 40 miners lost their job at Callide after the Boundary Hill pit was put it into care and maintenance by former owners Anglo American.

However, Batchfire has since restarted the Boundary Hill mining operations and pushed ahead with the Boundary Hill South expansion project.

Nonetheless, Mr Westerhuis says they have no immediate plans for significant further recruitment, or to start looking at other developments beyond the boundaries of the Callide mine.

“I think the thermal coal price is going to bounce around a bit, but we are happy with the outlook for now,” he said.

“Our focus is on productivity at Callide, and having a good local workforce is critical to that, and we are not looking beyond Callide for the foreseeable future.

“One of the advantages we have is that our people can live and work in a town like Biloela which is great for families.”

Callide is an open cut dragline, truck and excavator operation comprising four pits: Dunn Creek, Trap Gully, The Hut and Boundary Hill, and employs around 600 people.

The Callide mining tenure extends across 180 square kilometres and contains an estimated coal resource of up to 1.7 billion tonnes.

A significant amount of its coal is sold under contract to the Callide power station which provides 15% of Queensland’s baseload power.

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Contact Jon Ward – 0422 380 572
“Bradbury affect” arrives

At the height of the mining downturn, when once strong companies were entering administration every other week, members of the Mackay-based Resource Industry Network (RIN) were speculating on the “Bradbury effect” happening somewhere down the line.

The expectation was that those companies who could stay afloat through the downturn would win piles of gold, as pent-up demand for maintenance work in the mines, met with a significantly reduced supply base for those services.

Well today with a strong start to 2018, that picture is proving accurate – to a degree.

Tony Caruso, Chairman of RIN and CEO of Mastermyne, says there’s been a uptick in work for the mining support sector.

“Revenues are quite strong, although a lot of people are saying they do not see a big improvement in margin,” he told Shift Miner.

“But this sustained improvement has been around for about 12 months now, and is evidenced by the uptake of houses and rentals, and people through the airport, that sort of thing.

“What we are seeing is that a lot of companies really contracted at the bottom of the cycle, and they are now working their way back up and rebuilding their capacity - so everyone is very busy.

“At the moment it is very much about getting the work out the door, but as that rebuild happens, they will get a chance to look at more strategic plans for the future and other opportunities.”

However, the elephant in the room remains the culture of slow payments in the local mining sector – driven by the likes of BHP.

In early 2016 when the mining outlook was most grim, both BMA and Rio Tinto outraged local businesses when they decided to double the time they would take to pay their bills from 30 to 60 days.

In reality, however, that meant some companies are still waiting more than 120 days to get paid by the time “delays” and other “issues” are resolved in the invoicing process.

It was the first time that the global miners had taken this step, and despite deep resentment, most businesses accepted that slow pay was better than no pay at all.

They also hoped it would be reversed when things improved - but it hasn’t.

“Unfortunately no, we haven’t seen too much change in payment terms,” Mr Caruso said.

“The majors have provided some options for companies to be able to get support around payments, through things like C-res, local buying programs and difficulty relief.

“So while the payment term issue hasn’t changed, they realise some companies need support and are getting it.”

Research last year found that the number of small and medium-sized enterprises (SME) in mining not being paid on time, is more than double that of other industries.

It also found that 36% of mining businesses had more than 20 invoices outstanding which is more than twice the percentage in the non-mining sector.

Thiess at Dawson

Thiess will continue at the Anglo American owned Dawson coal mine near Moura for another three years following the signing a AS190 million contract extension.

The 36-month deal will see Thiess continue delivering coal mining, overburden removal and run of mine rehandling services.

CIMIC Group Chief Executive Officer Michael Wright said this would mean they have been working on this contract at Dawson uninterrupted for more than a decade.

“This contract extension builds on our long-standing relationship with Anglo American, and reflects the team’s ability to create value for our clients globally,” he said.

“We’ve been working with Anglo at Dawson for eight years, and I’m pleased the relationship continues to prosper.”

Dawson adds to a long list of contract wins by Thiess in the last two years including major deals with BMA at Peak Downs, Jellinbah and at QCoal’s Byerwen project through their recently acquired Sedgman business.

FWC puts Oaky EA battle to bed

The Oaky Creek North mine enterprise agreement has been formally approved, with the Fair Work Commission giving it the rubber stamp last month.

After the best part of a year’s worth of strikes, and lockouts (an Australian record of 238 days), the dispute at Oaky North between unionised miners and their employer Glencore over the new EA ended in March with 74% of miners voting to support it.

That’s despite more than 90% of miners voting the same EA down two months earlier.

The CFMEU’s Chris Brodsky said the system conspired to make it impossible for the fight to continue.

“Due to the Fair Work Act being broken, we think it left Oaky North miners with no other option but to vote the agreement up,” he said.

“They (Glencore) had locked them out for 238 days and forced them into a position where they would lose 20 years worth of collective agreement entitlements if the old EA scrapped and we went to the award.

“We keep reiterating that the response from Glencore in this dispute was so disproportionate, that the laws in this country allow any employer to lock their employees out for that period is inconceivable.”

A spokesperson for Glencore said they were “pleased” that their employees had chosen to support the EA.

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A spokesperson for Glencore said they were “pleased” that their employees had chosen to support the EA.
The American’s are expected to take over the Curragh coal mine at Blackwater “soon” according to a spokesperson from the mine’s current owners Wesfarmers.

Wesfarmers announced the sale of the mine to American based Coronado Coal Group for AU$700 million (plus a share of future coal sales) over the Christmas break. A spokesperson for Curragh says they are close to finalising the approval process with the Foreign Investment Review Board.

“The latest we have on it is that it’s going to happen soon,” she told Shift Miner.

“It came up at a briefing last week, and Rob Scott the CEO indicated that we are close to satisfying the conditions precedent for the sale, and we expect the transition not long after that.

“We have allowed six months for the final transition to take place, but we are hopeful that it can be finalised in a lot less than that. But I can’t tell you whether it’s going to be weeks or months from now.”

Curragh is one of the world’s largest metallurgical coal mines, with baseline production of 8.5 million tonnes per annum (mtpa) of export metallurgical coal and 3.5 mtpa of steaming coal, which is sold to the Queensland Government’s Stanwell Power Station.

The sale of the mine reflects the volatility in the coal market at the moment, with Wesfarmers negotiating to receive 25% of any revenue from Curragh coal sold at prices above US$145 a tonne for the next two years.

Coronado Coal Group is a privately owned company incorporated at the height of the downturn in 2014. It currently has three mines in West Virginia producing 8.2 mtpa.
MASSIVE MAY DAY IN BLACKWATER
March, fair, rodeo and rugby

Chrissy and Luke

(L-R) Amy, Henry, Sarah, William, Savannah, Harrison and Kerry Picot

Nicole Sherwell and Ainsley Best

Neve Flint and Shaylee Booker

Friends (can supply names if you want but takes up a lot of space)

(L-R) Sadie, Daphne and Queenie Russell

Sgt Rob and Tanya Smith

Jan and Audrey Cook

(L-R) Const Lovaney Beaumont, Const Chris Tison, Sgt Rob Smith and Const Dustin Forbes

(L-R) Ethan, Zac, Jamie and Chelsea Malcomson

Winner of the Gill Bendal Junior Bull Ride Memorial Buckle Brody Woodard

Emily Watson and Chloe Woodley

(L-R) Jake and Angela Mare, and Isabella, Sophia and Evie

(L-R) Arianne Flint and Matthew and Vanessa Ash

(L-R) Marley, Nanny, Mikayla, Poppy Broom and Molly Hopes
MASSIVE MAY DAY IN BLACKWATER

More march, fair, rodeo and rugby

Rebekah and Matthew Vanderwolf

Ky Hamilton winner of the Matty O’Brien Memorial Buckle for Open Bull ride seen here with Jono Date from QES.

(L-R) Jordan Billsborough, John King, Emerson Ohl, Aleell Wedel and Tony Milne

Jordan Mayfield and Sarah Brookes

Rod Green and Rob Smith

David Felschow and Erica Noonan

(L-R) Rob and Violet Coppo and Megan Smith

(L-R) Alwyn, Daniell and Logan Vipen

(L-R) Denise and Edna Doyle, Annabel Powder, Edward, Debra and Maria Diamond

(L-R) Ellie, Ann-Maree and Doug Ericson-Downs

Ethan Little and Ayden Ballantine

Lara Bush

Isabella Brown with her grandfather Barry Smith on the Dodgems

(L-R) Shane, Tina and Liam Shoesmith, Kealhon O’Brien and Will Daly

Taylor Ryan and Sienna Booker on the “Swings”
MASSIVE MAY DAY IN BLACKWATER

Even more march, fair, rodeo and rugby

(L-R) Mr Horsewood, Mr Harris, 1st Officer Barry McKay, George and Kathy Hoare, Regional Manager Fire Services Mr Andrew Houley and Alice Horsewood cutting the cake.

(L-R) Oliver Ameerena, Monique Mackenzie, Pam Henderson, Wendy Downey and Lackian Hall

(L-R) Kevin and Dallas Daniels and Bruce Reid

(L-R) Julie, Ainsley, Nick, Kristofer and Kaitlin Mara

(L-R) Karryn, Salvatore, Frank and Francesca Brunetto

The Hughes family

(L-R) Connor McLennan, Rocco Freeman, Andre Joubert, Shane Ohomiro and RJ King

Isabella Flint

Dale and Kaylene Sealey

Floyd Cavell of Q Gess and Sion Pretorius

(L-R) Jo Reid, Nancy and Reid Daniels

Barry McKay and Regional Manager Rural Fire Service Mr Andrew Houley unveiling the plaque.

(L-R) Violet Coppo, Megan Smith and Gee

(L-R) Helen Blackwater Lioness, Cathy Bluff Rural Fire Service, Linda Bluff Lions, Patty Blackwater Lioness, George Bluff Rural Fire Service, Cathy and Peter Bluff Lions.

(L-R) Elizabeth, Sophia and Johann
The Chairman and CEO of Pembroke Resources, Barry Tudor says their recent multi-million dollar purchase of 41,000 ha of prime cattle country around Moranbah is a tangible sign they are determined to make the Olive Downs coal project happen.

The company is very much at the beginning of the development road having lodged its first preliminary paperwork with the Federal Department of Environment in 2017.

The purchase this week covers land where Pembroke plans to extract the significant coking and PCI coal deposits known as Olive Downs South, Willunga, and Olive Downs North, using an open-cut truck and shovel mine development that would generate around 600 construction and nearly a 1000 operational jobs.

At full production the project would deliver 15 million tonnes ROM coal a year, and would have a mine life of 37 years.

Mr Tudor, who previously was CEO and Managing Director of ASX listed Gloucester Coal, and Managing Director of Noble Group’s Australian operations says the investment underscores their belief in metallurgical coal and this project in particular.

“All Hail Glencore”

Miner and commodities trader Glencore has purchased the Hail Creek mine west of Mackay and a suite of other undeveloped Central Queensland tenements from Rio Tinto for $1.7 billion.

The deal includes Rio Tinto’s 80% share in the Hail Creek mine (including some rights agreements over adjacent coal tenements), plus Rio Tinto’s 70% share in the 760 million tonne, undeveloped Valeria thermal coal deposit around 70 kilometres South East of Clermont.

The minority shareholders in the assets sold by Rio now have to decide whether to sell their share to Glencore through the “Tag Along” conditions of their ownership rights. If they do, it will push the final sale price to around $2 billion.

Rio Tinto chief executive J-S Jacques said the sale of Hail Creek and Valeria continues their strategy of strengthening their portfolio.

“We expect that Hail Creek will continue to perform strongly under its new owner, securing long-term jobs and continuing its contribution to the State of Queensland,” he said.

The transaction is subject to regulatory approvals from Australia’s Foreign Investment and Review Board, the Queensland Government and applicable foreign competition authorities.

“Subject to all regulatory approvals and other conditions precedent being satisfied, completion is expected in the second half of 2018.”

In the 2017 financial year Rio Tinto made a pre-tax profit of US$357 million (US$435 million, on a 100% basis) at Hail Creek, and with the Valeria resource added in, had gross assets of US$859 million (US$1,013 million, on a 100% basis) at 31 December 2017. The purchase caps off an extraordinary turn around for Glencore who in 2015 at the height of the downturn saw their share price fall by nearly a third, only to recover most of the falls a week later. At the low point, the company was valued at $16 Billion down from its value of $60 billion when it floated in 2011.

Pembroke says its working on its EIS and is hopeful that a major announcement can be made in the next fortnight.

In the meantime, Mr Tudor says he’s buoyed by what he sees happening in the global coal market.

“I have been in it long enough to know you can’t pick the highs and lows, and you can’t control pricing,” he said.

“What I would say about the market is that it’s understandable there has been some stability over the last 12 months and I am not concerned if prices soften a little bit.

“Fundamentally, if you’ve got a good asset and you are developing that asset sensibly, it withstands high and lows in the long-term.

“I think there will always be demand for reliable metallurgical coal out of the Bowen Basin, and there are not too many new developments in the world, in fact, I think there are more supply-side constrictions over the next decade, so I feel very comfortable with that.”

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KINGS OF STORAGE, MOVING & MORE.
The long-dormant Springsure Creek Coal project is well and truly back on track with the Land Court dismissing an attempt by a nearby landholder to block the proposed mines approval.

Springsure Creek Coal (SCC) - formerly owned by defunct Bandanna Coal - and now owned by the Adamalia Group which is led by a former Bandanna employee, is the proponent of an underground coal project 47 kilometres south-east of Emerald.

It’s in an area known locally as the Golden Triangle because of its highly productive cropping land, and one of those nearby properties - Arcturus Downs - is concerned about the impact on their land if the mine goes ahead.

As a consequence, it has sought to block two mining leases applications - one covering a haul road from conveyor systems, while the other covering the mine. While their primary concern was over the environmental aspects of the proposed development, they also asked the court to consider SCC’s financial ability to deliver the project.

However, Judge Stilgoe of the Land Court dismissed this concern “I received and read details of Springsure Creek’s financial arrangements, the redacted version of which was available to Arcturus,” he said.

“Mr Johansen [from SCC] also gave evidence about Springsure Creek’s financial capability. “I am satisfied that Springsure Creek does have the financial capability to carry on the mining operations under the proposed leases.”

In making a final decision, the court considered the past performance of Bandanna Energy and some breaches that it incurred while exploring, as well as evidence submitted by both parties relating to the effects of subsidence on farming land above old coal mines. Particular attention was given to the Strategic Cropping Land Act which will make SCC liable to the state for an extra mitigation payment of around $34 million because of cropping land disturbed by the mine.

However, a lack of clarity over what the Strategic Cropping Land Legislation means when it says a miner has to return the disturbed land to the “best possible class of agricultural land” led the court to provide added direction to the minister responsible for approving the mine.

“The general application filed by Arcturus Downs Limited on 6 March 2018 is dismissed,” the court ruled.

Subject to the following recommendations in relation to the draft environmental authority being adopted, I recommend that mining leases 70486 and 70502 be granted over the application area, for the term and purpose sought by the applicant.

[However] I recommend that the conditions relating to the standard of rehabilitation of Strategic Cropping Land be amended to provide clarity about the standard of rehabilitation contemplated.”

U&D first coal

U&D Mining and Japanese owned Sojitz Coal Mining Pty Ltd have mined first coal at their Meteor Downs South Coal project 45 kilometres South East of Springsure this month.

MDS is expected to create 40-50 full-time jobs and have annual coal production of around 1.5 million tonnes for ten years. Under the current mining plan, coal mined at MDS will be hauled by road 65 kilometres through Springsure to the Sojitz owned Minerva coal mine where it will be processed and loaded onto rail for export.

In a short statement, the company said first coal was a “fabulous” effort by everyone involved in getting an open padlock to an operating pit in “6 months almost to the day”. Concurrently the Central Highlands Regional Council voted to seek compensation from the mine’s owners to cover costs associated with their plan to use the largest possible road trains to haul their coal. Their plan triggers the “notifiable road use” provisions of legislation governing mineral and energy resources in Queensland.

Cr Godwin-Smith moved a motion that Council endorse the issue of a Road Use Direction to Sojitz “formalising a compensation agreement due to their operations impacting road conditions”.

Council further stipulated that all money flowing from the agreement could only be used for maintaining the actual roads used by Sojitz.

In 2014 U&D Mining chief financial officer Peter Edwards told Shift Miner the MDS operation was viable in even the toughest conditions.

“We are a very low-cost coal mine so subject to prices being at a reasonable level we are very able to move ahead.

“We have a low strip ratio, and the coal doesn’t need to be washed. “We are expecting a very simplistic truck-and-shovel operation with no draglines.”

Coal will be shipped through Gladstone Port.
MASSIVE MAY DAY IN BLACKWATER

More march, fair, rodeo and rugby

Rebekah and Matthew Vanderwolf

Ky Hamilton winner of the Matty O’Brien Memorial Buckle for Open Bull ride seen here with Jono Date from QES.

(L-R) Jordan Billsborough, John King, Emerson Ohl, Aleell Wedel and Tony Milne

Jordan Mayfield and Sarah Brookes

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Ethan Little and Ayden Ballantine

Lara Bush

Isabella Brown with her grandfather Barry Smith on the Dodgems

(L-R) Shane, Tina and Liam Shoesmith, Kealhon O’Brien and Will Daly

Taylor Ryan and Sienna Booker on the “Swings”
Dear Frank,

I left my wife a year ago and have just met a new woman – who is 15 years younger than me. I’m worried about the age difference; can you help? –

Dear Oscar,

The older man/younger woman combo has always worried me. My Uncle Col was always after the fresher tail and it got him into no end of trouble. I remember him saying to me at his 58th birthday bash: “Frankie mate, I gotta say, I like my women like I like my scotch: 25 years old and up with coke”. Uncle Col has just finished his second stint in rehab for cocaine addiction and his 28-year-old former wife is now living in his former villa, spending his former money and sailing his former yacht round the Greek Islands.

So I’ve always had alarm bells ring in my head whenever I’ve heard of a younger woman having met my wife when they were both born is less important than the time you spend together. Shakespeare said that. Don’t worry about the age difference. The time passed between when you were both born is less important than the time you spend together.

My point? Some animals can never be tamed. But they can be forced to pay $200,000 worth of tax on undeclared income.

Frank

Sensible Susan

Dear Oscar,

“Love’s not time’s fool; though rosy lips and cheeks within his bending sickle’s compass come. Love alters not with his brief hours and weeks, but bears it out, even to the edge of doom.” Shakespeare said that. Don’t worry about the age difference. The time passed between when you were both born is less important than the time you spend together.

Good luck,

Susan

FRANK THE TANK’S

Dear Oscar,

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Frank

STANDING UNITED FOR MENTAL HEALTH

Local Services CHRC (Police, Fire and Ambos) hosted “STAND UNITED”

Rebecca Wheeler and Madison Tilmarsh enjoying the live music

Briella Munday and Jazzmin Edson

Josie Wheeler and Emma Flower

(L-R) Jason Hunter, Jazzmin Edson and Alex Fraser

Sam and Isabella

Jake and Brodie

Hope and Amelia Knapman

Kwinn and Fletcher Ryan

(L-R) Kaylah Lippitt, Ashley Merchant and Skye Knowles

Streaking good love advice
Workplace consultant Craig Joy has labelled the new laws governing Labour Hire in Queensland mining a “fee-gouge” that could cost industry millions and achieve nothing.

Under new laws enacted by the Queensland Government this month, companies which provide temporary and casual workers will now have to spend between $1000 and $5000 to get a licence. What they pay will be based on their total wages bill - not just the wages paid to labour hire staff, and if a company doesn’t have a licence, it faces fines per infringement approaching $1 million.

“It’s a farce and another fee-gouge by the government, and will do nothing to address the issues they claim it will fix,” Mr Joy said.

“I mean there are group training organisations here in Mackay, and you couldn’t find more ethical businesses, who are now going to have to go out and find the money to pay these fees, and deal with all the extra bureaucracy and bullshit.

“Currently I have a lot of little clients that go out to the mines and the mine says hey we need a carpenter for a couple of weeks, can you put him on your books? “They ask why, and the mine says because it will take us three months to do it through our HR system in Brisbane, and we need this bloke next week.

“So they do it, now that’s labour hire, and all those businesses are going to need a licence, or those local businesses won’t get the work.”

Worst still, Mr Joy says the rollout has been a fast-tracked debacle, with no one sure of where they stand, and very few pathways for finding out.

“As we know, the devil is in the detail, and the detail is in the regulations,” he told Shift Miner. “Although the act passed State Parliament in November with the scheme kicking off on 16th April, they did not release the regulations until the 12th April, just four days before they came into effect.

“They had a link where you could submit queries, and I have been using it since last year to ask questions, and I have never received a reply to anything.

“The whole thing runs off a website that wasn’t activated until the last minute, and it’s been crashing ever since.”

On announcing the new laws, Queensland Industrial Relations Minister Grace Grace said they would protect workers’ rights and ensure employers were held to account if they did the wrong thing.

“Labour hire has been an unregulated industry for far too long and, unfortunately, this has meant some rogue operators with scant regard for their obligations have been able to take advantage of employees,” Ms Grace said.

“You need a licence to sell a house, and you need one to sell a car, so it only makes sense that you would need a licence to hire out labour.”

Realm Resources (Realm), has negotiated an 18% price increase with one of its customers in a sign that demand for Australian coal remains robust.

From March the client will pay Realm US$159/t for its Foxleigh PCI coal under a quarterly contract arrangement, which is up from US$135/t last year.

In other good news for Realm, coal sales were up 14% for the quarter as ship congestion before Christmas dissipated through January, February and March. However, they were the only bright spots in an otherwise lacklustre quarter at Foxleigh where strip ratio’s (Bcm/ROM) increased 71% leading to Run of Mine (ROM) coal production falling 41% and saleable coal production dropping 36%.

Despite this, Realm was upbeat on the production. “A solid performance in relation to the material movement was achieved in the quarter with production mainly from the Foxleigh Plains pit and work continuing with overburden stripping in One Tree West pit,” they said.

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May 28, 2018 21
**SODOKU**

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2 4 3 7
5 9
7 6 1
3 9 5
6 4 3 2
9 6 4
3 8 9 2
5 3 2 1
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**CROSS WORD**

**Across**
1. Of city outskirts
5. Prickly desert plant
9. The Doors singer, Jim ... 10. Selection
12. Far-reaching
13. Give off
14. Horse’s neck hair
16. Ape or monkey
19. Trapeze artist
21. Dress ribbon
24. Carreras or Domingo
25. Helper
27. Artist’s workplace
28. Prescribed drug
29. Gold fn ... 30. Stammers

**Down**
1. Warmest season
2. French caps
3. Monarch’s rule
4. Turn to spray
6. Track & Field events
7. Appeals board
8. Speared
11. Large brown seaweed
15. Black-skinned vegetable
17. Christens
18. Calm
20. Frog relative
21. Doubt innocence of
22. Severe food shortage
23. Pressure of work
26. Man’s attire, ... & tie

**THE “GREATEST AUSTRALIAN IN THE CRIB ROOM” QUIZ.**

1. In rhyming slang, if someone said they we going to have a “bo-
peep”, what they be doing?
2. Australians hold the world record for which amazing feat? A) Fastest Beer bottle opening B) Largest Christmas Cracker C) Most Sheep Sheared in 24 hours D) Largest Chicken Dance
3. What is Kylie Minogue’s lingerie line called?
4. Where is the Big Prawn?
5. Approximately how many rabbits are there in Australia today? A) 3 million B) 30 million C) 300 million D) 3,000 million.
6. What was the name of Olivia Newton-John’s chain of clothing stores?
7. What outback town’s population swells from 120 to crowds of over 5000 for a racing carnival?
8. Which of the following is not an Australian innovation? A) Chiko Roll B) Lawn Sprinkler C) Plastic bank notes D) Dual flush toilet E) Wine Cask?
9. What creature does Jana Pittman have tattooed on her body?
10. The Idiot Fruit and Darling Peas are poisonous, True or False?

**ANSWERS**

10. Choice
24. Tenor 25. Assistant 26. Man’s attire, ... & tie

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May 28, 2018
BHP pulls pin on Coal body

The World Coal Association has blamed BHP’s decision to stop their membership on an incorrect newspaper headline and a misunderstanding of what it does. It also says their relationship hasn’t been helped by BHP’s historical lack of involvement in the organisation.

This month BHP - the world’s biggest coking coal exporter and one of the world’s biggest thermal coal exporters - released a review of their membership to various national and international lobby groups.

As a result of that review, BHP has stopped its $110,000 a year membership of the World Coal Association (WCA) but will maintain its $1.8 million membership of the Minerals Council of Australia (MCA).

According to BHP, the WCA only offered a narrow range of benefits and had a significantly different policy on energy and climate policy.

However, the WCA has disputed that claim saying BHP helped develop their climate and energy policies, and there was no material difference anyway.

“The WCA’s position has always been clear; we support a balanced approach that integrates climate and energy policy that works towards a low emission future,” Benjamin Sporton, Chief Executive of the WCA, said.

“We believe a balanced approach should not exclude high efficiency, low emissions power generation and carbon capture and storage.

“BHP is one of the world’s largest exporters of coal, and we have compared our position on energy and climate policies with those set out in BHP’s Industry Association Review, and believe there are no material differences between the two.”

In particular, the WCA says BHP decision to leave is based on an inaccurate headline in the Australian Financial Review regarding the Federal Government’s clean energy target.

“It should be noted that WCA has never taken a position on the Australian Clean Energy Target,” WCA said.

“WCA’s CEO had provided extensive commentary to the journalist on global energy and climate policies, which naturally included the Australian situation.

“In the article, the WCA called for a more balanced approach to energy policy which would make room for HELE coal-fuelled power generation, allowing investors to support such generation as they saw fit.

“At the time of publication, WCA raised concerns with the journalist about how WCA’s position was not accurately represented in the headline and informal communications; the journalist agreed the headline was possibly too strong and could be reviewed.

“ It is disappointing that the headline deflected from the crux of the article itself which was a call for a more balanced and technology neutral approach to energy policy.

“WCA would suggest that the alleged material difference [according to BHP] is effectively based on that one headline.”

The WCA also says BHP had missed opportunities to get greater benefit from its membership by limiting its engagement with the organisation.

“The members who derive the most value from their membership are those that fully engage in its processes and support the organisation,” they said.

“WCA members are generally represented on our Board by CEOs and senior sustainability executives, and in the case of diversified miners like BHP, the coal business unit CEO has traditionally been the representative on the WCA Board.

“Historically, however, BHP has not engaged with WCA at this level, generally sending less senior executives to WCA Board meetings.

“It is only in the past 12 months that a senior coal executive from BHP has attended WCA meetings and joined our Executive Committee.

“We believe this has been mutually beneficial for WCA and BHP.”

WCA also said BHP’s expectation that the benefits from different organisations would be the same did not reflect commercial realities, with WCA’s current membership representing just 6% of the fee paid to the MCA.

$40M to improve drive to work

Forty million dollars will be spent on road repairs across the Bowen Basin over the next 12 months as part of the Federal and State governments jointly funded Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements (NDRRA).

The money will go towards repairing 85% of the Isaac regions roads which were damaged by Cyclone Debbie and more recently the wild weather around Moranbah late last year.

The list of communities who will have significant repair work done are Clarke Creek, Clermont, Coppabella, Dysart, Glenden, Middlemount, Mackenzie Creek, Moranbah, Nebo and St Lawrence.

Isaac Regional Council will be coordinating the work, with Brisbane based contractor FK Gardner completing it.

Federal Minister Angus Taylor, who has responsibility for Commonwealth disaster assistance, said the repair work would support the regional economy.

“The region’s future economic and social growth relies on fit-for-purpose road infrastructure to link communities to jobs and essential services,” he said.

Minister for State Development Cameron Dick said the funding demonstrated the Australian and Queensland governments’ commitment to providing continued relief and recovery assistance following natural disasters.

“It is clear Isaac communities have endured significant hardship,” he said.

“It will include the restoration of unsealed roads, which includes formation grading and the replacement of gravel, as well as the reconstruction of sealed roads and drainage structures.”

May 28, 2018 23
I want my old job

A miner’s right to their old job following a downturn has been clarified by the Fair Work Commission this month.

In what was effectively a test case, the CFMEU and BMA asked the FWC to determine whether miner Shane O’Brien had a right to return to a relevant position in the Coal Mining Department at Blackwater Mine after being forced out of a similar role during the mining downturn.

Mr O’Brien had been working for BMA for about ten years when in 2014, 42 people working in that part of the business were either relocated or given voluntary redundancies.

As part of this, in early January 2015, Mr O’Brien was given a job in the pre-stripe area of the Blackwater mine.

However later that same year, eight new roles were re-added to the Coal Mining Department following BMA’s decision to outsource significant mining operations to contractor Thiess.

Miners - including Mr O’Brien - had the opportunity to express an interest in the new positions, and as a consequence of that process, Mr O’Brien was offered (and took) a new job in the Dozer Push Department.

However the Dozer Push Department job was only his second preference, and two years later in October 2017 when one of the people in his preferred role in the Coal Mining Department resigned, Mr O’Brien sought to exercise his preferential right over the vacant position.

BMA refused the request leading to the FWC hearing.

In her determination of the case, Deputy President Asbury ruled that Mr O’Brien did not have preferential rights to the vacant position.

Ms Asbury said the relevant part of the BMA enterprise agreement (section 8.4) only applied to a particular set of circumstances where an employee’s exact machine was parked up (and then later restarted) or when the restructure involved a roster change from 7 to 5 days (and back again).

“The clause is not intended to give displaced employees a right to return to any vacant job in their previous functional work area,” she said.

“Mr O’Brien had a right to return to a position in the Coal Mining Department up until 9 January 2018, where such a position was available due to an increase in crew numbers.

“Mr O’Brien did not have a right to fill any vacant position in the Coal Mining Department during this period.

“There were no increases in crew numbers in the Coal Mining Department in the relevant period other than in the second restructure where Mr O’Brien was unsuccessful in being appointed to a position, following the process in clause 8.4(b) being followed.

“Accordingly, there was no position to which Mr O’Brien was entitled to return.”

$100 million - more to come

Adani has recommitted itself to its Galilee Carmicheal coal project following news that its primary rail contractor AECOM has been asked to stop working on the rail design.

The rail line is a critical part of Adani’s goal of mining, raling, and shipping coal from the Galilee Basin to power India, and at its peak, AECOM had more than 100 people working on it. However, Adani has told Australian media, the pause is not a sign that they are pulling out.

“We are 100 percent committed to the Carmichael project,” they said.

“AECOM remains an important partner for Adani, and we appreciate the quality of the work they have completed to date and look forward to continuing to work with them.

“It’s normal for contractor numbers to change through the life of a project as milestones are reached, and stages of work are completed.”

AECOM has confirmed they had completed the required tasks, paid in full and asked to stop work on the project.

Meanwhile, Adani says it’s rugby run solar farm South East of Moranbah - which they say will cost $100 million to build - is on track for completion by October this year.

The solar farm will be on the Rugby Run grazing property near Moranbah, which is owned by vertically integrated beef business Australian Country Choice, who in turn purchased it from the Acton family in 2015.

The 65MW project is the first of several stages planned for Rugby Run where Adani wants to increase solar power generation to 170 MW. Australia wide Adani says it plans to build 1500 MW of solar capacity in the next five years.

Dysart Bengal tiger?

Late last year Bengal Coal and the DECP popped up again when the Land Court made a final assessment of how much landholder compensation was payable on an effected 299 Ha parcel of land on the 18,000 Ha Dysart Station.

Negotiations between Bengal Coal and the Station owners Cradcorp Pty Ltd ended up in court after their respective valuations of compensation came in vastly different.

“Mr Patrick Lyons, engaged by Bengal Coal, assessed the market value of the land subject to the ML at $442,500,” the Land Court reported.

“Mr Peter Jinks, engaged by Cradcorp, assessed it at $1,345,000.

“The gulf between their assessments arises from their conflicting views about what sales and other evidence are relevant in determining the market value of Dysart Station as a whole, and the overlapped land in particular.”

In the end, however, the court more or less split the difference between the two valuations ordering Bengal to pay compensation to Cradcorp Pty Ltd of $836,213.40 within 14 days of receiving a Mining Lease. However, Cradcorp was also ordered to pay a proportion of Bengal’s legal costs.
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<tr>
<th>Car for Sale</th>
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<tr>
<td>TOYOTA LANDCRUISER</td>
<td>1977 TRIUMPH 2500 S</td>
<td>1981 TOYOTA LANDCRUISER UTE</td>
<td>2008 LANDCRUISER GXL UTE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Toyota 200 series V8 turbo diesel Bullbar double side rails, hid spotlights, towbar, uhf. Good condition, auto.</td>
<td>New wheel bearings all round, new poly drive shafts, new bottom ball joints, new shockies all round, reconditioned engine.</td>
<td>1981 Toyota Landcruiser ute in very good original condition. 2H diesel motor fitted recently and still under warranty. Runs very well and has been well looked after, been in the family for over 20 years.</td>
<td>Old dash style, Near new BF Goodrich tyres 265/75 R16. Power windows, carpet floors, seat covers always used. 3&quot; Redback exhaust.</td>
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<td>$49,000</td>
<td>Price on Application</td>
<td>$20,000 nego</td>
<td>$38,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Call: 0428 468 440</td>
<td>Call: 0749 418 113</td>
<td>Call: 0400 304 648</td>
<td>Call: 0407 745 994</td>
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<td>80 SERIES LANDCRUISER</td>
<td>FJ CRUISER</td>
<td>2003 NISSAN DIESEL PATROL WAGON</td>
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<tr>
<td>80 series landcruiser 97gx/ 4.5 petrol</td>
<td>FJ cruiser.</td>
<td>ST 4 X 4 Nissan Patrol 3ltr turbo diesel automatic Wagon Air Condition, Power windows and mirrors. Rego expires in May 2018 No RWVC. Wallumbilla, Queensland</td>
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<tr>
<td>$15,000</td>
<td>$35,000</td>
<td>$15,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Call: 0409 748 398</td>
<td>Call: 0498 100 994</td>
<td>Call: 0417 905 709</td>
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<td>PHAT GU</td>
<td>2004 JAYCO MOTORHOME HINO</td>
<td>FORD LOUISVILLE 1976 VT903</td>
<td>ISUZU DUAL CAB TRUCK</td>
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<td>$29000</td>
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<td>Call: 0400 490 281</td>
<td>Call: 0459 698 132</td>
<td>Call: 0427 546 177</td>
<td>Call: 0429 875 400</td>
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<th>Bike for Sale</th>
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<tr>
<td>OUTBACK DROVER CAMPER TRAILER</td>
<td>SOFTFLOOR CAMPER TRAIL</td>
<td>JAYCO SWAN OUTBACK, 2016</td>
<td>YAMAHA YZF450</td>
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<tr>
<td>$4,500</td>
<td>$3,800</td>
<td>$33,000</td>
<td>$4,300</td>
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<tr>
<td>Call: 0467 220 337</td>
<td>Call: 0400 071 879</td>
<td>Call: 0419 791 675</td>
<td>Call: 0432 158 300</td>
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May 28, 2018
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>BOAT FOR SALE</strong></th>
<th><strong>GOLF CART FOR SALE</strong></th>
<th><strong>ENGINE FOR SALE</strong></th>
<th><strong>TUFF BULL BAR FOR SALE</strong></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>BOAT FOR SALE</strong></td>
<td><strong>EZEGO GOLF CART</strong></td>
<td><strong>383 ROLLER CAM PROJECT ENGINE</strong></td>
<td><strong>TUFF BULL BAR AND DUAL SIDE RAILS</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.1 meter salmon tinny with 40 hp motor Garmin depth sounder, safety gear, Dunbluer trailer with new tyres and wheel bearings, motor has done about 130 hours.</td>
<td>Golf cart 36v in good condition comes with smart charger and single point watering system, will do 36 holes, never had a problem, has Trojan batteries in excellent condition.</td>
<td>Holden project 383 roller cam project engine. Parts includ VT roller cam block (no machining done yet), COME racing 383 stroker kit with forged pistons H-beam rods and 4 bolt conversion caps.</td>
<td>Tuff bull bar [winch compatible] and dual side rails in polished alloy to suit 10/15+ 200 series Land Cruiser GXL. All parts in good useable condition.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>$ 5,400</strong></td>
<td><strong>$ 3,300</strong></td>
<td><strong>$ 6,500</strong></td>
<td><strong>$ 1,800</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Call: 0408 058 585</strong></td>
<td><strong>Call: 0418779 970</strong></td>
<td><strong>Call: 0407 152 988</strong></td>
<td><strong>Call: 0418 716 506</strong></td>
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<tr>
<th><strong>ROOF RACK FOR SALE</strong></th>
<th><strong>BUZZ SAW FOR SALE</strong></th>
<th><strong>EXCAVATOR FOR SALE</strong></th>
<th><strong>EXCAVATOR FOR SALE</strong></th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>ROOF RACK FOR SALE</strong></td>
<td><strong>9HP MOBILCO BUZZ SAW</strong></td>
<td><strong>CASE CX75SR 8T EXCAVATOR</strong></td>
<td><strong>CASE CX75SR 8T EXCAVATOR</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DUEL CAB ALLOY ROOF RACK</td>
<td>Mobilco Buzz Saw, 9HP Briggs and Stratton engine. Good working order. Comes with extra 34 inch stainless steel blade. Also available is a 240 volt 1000 watt generator for and extra $200.</td>
<td>Mud bucket, 700mm bucket, 450mm bucket, Plus front blade, Machine has been well serviced, Runs very well.</td>
<td>Mud bucket, 700mm bucket, 450mm bucket, Plus front blade, Machine has been well serviced, Runs very well.</td>
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<td>6 months old in New condition, has had a weld let go and needs rewelding.</td>
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<td><strong>$ 160</strong></td>
<td><strong>$ 1,000</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Call: 0499 009 608</strong></td>
<td><strong>Call: 0439 634 269</strong></td>
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<th><strong>CRIMPERS FOR SALE</strong></th>
<th><strong>BACKHOE FOR SALE</strong></th>
<th><strong>RELOCATABLE UNIT FOR SALE</strong></th>
<th><strong>RIMS TYRES FOR SALE</strong></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>CRIMPERS FOR SALE</strong></td>
<td><strong>BACKHOE JCB 3CX SITEMASTER</strong></td>
<td><strong>DEMOUNTABLE ACCOMMODATION UNIT</strong></td>
<td><strong>RIMS TYRES</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CABAC CRIMPERS FOR SALE</td>
<td>JCB sitemaster 4x4, 4 in 1 bucket, Extender hoe, Air conditioning, machine is in excellent condition, Machine is currently located at clermont qld, Freight can be arranged.</td>
<td>8.4 x 3.4 Steel frame, cladded. Excellent condition, 2 sliding doors. Kitchentte 1 x 1800mm Kitchen bench with Single bowl sink with mixer tap.</td>
<td>X3 excel rims two with tyres. One front rim without us only 6 months old. $250 for the lot. Must sell rims tyres.</td>
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<td>Cabac Hex crimpers 10-120mm. Pick up only. Glenella.</td>
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<td><strong>$ 75</strong></td>
<td><strong>$ 31,000</strong></td>
<td><strong>$ 22,000</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Call: 0474 565 193</strong></td>
<td><strong>Call: 041 268 357</strong></td>
<td><strong>Call: 0408 063 441</strong></td>
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<th><strong>EIMCOS FOR SALE</strong></th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>EIMCOS FOR SALE</strong></td>
<td><strong>METAL BULL SCULPTURE</strong></td>
<td><strong>FORD 351 MOTOR AND AUTO GEARBOX</strong></td>
<td><strong>FORD 351 MOTOR AND AUTO GEARBOX</strong></td>
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<td><strong>$ 24,000</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Call: 0400 995 354</strong></td>
<td><strong>Call: 0457 759 519</strong></td>
<td><strong>Call: 041 268 357</strong></td>
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WA
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QLD
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