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Giving back to our community



I started my career at HVO, so it is rewarding to return as its new General Manager.

Leading the great team at HVO is exciting as we progress our proposal to continue mining until 2050. We received overwhelming support during the public exhibition of the Environmental Impact Statement. Thank you to everyone who took the time to have their say.

I'm looking forward to meeting the many community groups and charities that HVO and its staff support. In this newsletter we shine a light on one of our new charity partners – Hunter Breast Cancer Foundation.

Our mine has been a part of the community for 70 years. We appreciate the great support we receive from the community and hope to keep supporting the community with jobs, and funding for community projects, charities, and local infrastructure.

Speaking of support, our first of two community grants rounds for 2023 are now open. Apprenticeships are another example of the benefits we can provide to local people. You'll meet our 2023 first year apprentices as you read on.

We're also getting around this year's Great Cattle Dog Muster which will showcase our region and provide a fun day for the community.

My door is always open to any neighbour or community member wanting to chat about supporting each other.

Dave Foster, General Manager

Overwhelming support for HVO continuation

Hunter Valley Operations' (HVO) proposal to continue mining until 2050 received overwhelming support during the NSW Government's public exhibition of the Environmental Impact Statement.

Of the more than 1,500 submissions lodged, more than 90% were in support of the proposal.

HVO General Manager Dave

Foster thanked people for again taking the time to attend community information sessions and have their say on an important project. He said ongoing community and stakeholder feedback over several years has shaped the design of the proposal.

"The strong show of support reflects the benefits of the proposal – continued local jobs as well as continued support to businesses, public infrastructure, community and charity organisations and community projects," Mr Foster said.

HVO is responding to the submissions in a report to the NSW Department of Planning and Environment. The Government will consider this report as part of its determination process. The proposal is also being assessed by the Federal Government.



For more information visit

hvo.com.au/continuation



Supporting people, jobs & local businesses



12 new apprentices – their future, our future

New local Hunter Valley Operations' (HVO) apprentices have settled into building skills and careers for a successful future.

HVO's Apprentices Home Site Co-ordinator Paul Watters said 12 is one of the highest number of first year apprentices HVO has put on in recent times. This year's intake has high voltage electricians, auto electricians and plant mechanics. It takes the total number of apprentices at HVO to 32.

Paul said apprentices are an important part of HVO's strategy to combat skills shortages and create the next generation of local tradespeople.

"Our apprenticeship program gives people a very beneficial opportunity to gain a trade and future employment in the Hunter Valley," Paul said.

"People get to earn while they learn. Retaining their current lifestyle - without having to uproot themselves," he said.

"Our apprentices work along-side and learn from amazing HVO tradespeople, some of whom have 30 to 40 years' experience."

He said the program is about creating leaders too. *"I love watching how our recently graduated apprentices take the new apprentices under their wing."*

HVO recruits apprentices through Glencore Coal Australia's program. Applications for 2024 apprenticeships open in May 2023.

For information about all career opportunities with HVO visit

hvo.com.au/careers



Peter's successfully farming rehabilitated mining land



Peter Nichols reckons you can farm land after mining and produce the yields you got from the land before it was mined.

He should know. Peter has been farming Hunter Valley Operations' (HVO) land for more than 20 years. His company is licenced to farm 863 ha of HVO land.

He and HVO conducted trials, in conjunction with the Department of Agriculture, running beef cattle on rehabilitated HVO mining land and on neighbouring non mined land.

"The rehabilitated block out yielded the non-mined block in terms of kilograms per head of cattle," Peter said.

Peter's great grandparents had a nearby farm on land now owned by HVO that is licenced to Peter's company to farm. He started his farming business from scratch using 200 ha of HVO land. Another arm of Peter's family business provides pump and general duties services in the pit for HVO.

"We are lucky to be involved here. HVO has helped us quite a bit. They are good people to work with. This has been an excellent business relationship."

He agrees his business is an example of how mining and agriculture can work together for mutual benefit.

HVO's Environment and Community Manager Andrew Speechly said seven licensees farm around 6,000 ha of buffer and rehabilitated lands for dairy, cattle grazing or pasture.

"There are around 2,000 head of dairy and beef cattle on HVO land at the moment," Andrew said.

"We continue to rehabilitate land no longer needed for mining for agriculture."

To watch Peter's video scan the QR code or visit

hvo.com.au/videos



Supporting our communities

HVO community grants now open

Not for profit community groups in the Upper Hunter and Lower Hunter can gain funding for their community and environmental projects from Hunter Valley Operations' (HVO) latest community grants round.

Environment and community manager Andrew Speechly said the grants are open to any project that is about making a community stronger or improving the skills or lives of local people.

"As well as providing local jobs and support for local businesses, it is important to support local initiatives that make our community a better place for people to live and work," Andrew said.

"We have been here for more than 70 years and this is one of the ways HVO gives back to the community that has given us great support over that time."

Grants are awarded twice a year. Two of the seven projects funded in the last round included leadership workshops for 300 Singleton primary students as well as support for the Star Club equestrian programme.

HVO has provided more than \$350,000 in funding to 82 projects since 2018.

Applications close on April 30.
To find out more and apply visit

hvo.com.au/community

More charity trucks in operations



The last two of our five charity trucks have been painted in the colours of Type 1 Foundation (pictured) and Singleton Family Support Service, ready for operations.

HVO gets around The Great Cattle Dog Muster



We're getting around The Great Cattle Dog Muster in Muswellbrook in September 2023.

The first of its kind Australian event will draw visitors from across Australia and overseas. Organised by Muswellbrook Chamber of Commerce and Industry, the event will have activities for the serious cattle dog enthusiast, the pet cattle dog owner, and the general public.

Environment and Community Manager Andrew Speechly said HVO is sponsoring the event because it will be great for local people. It promises to bring economic benefit to the region and showcase what the Upper Hunter has to offer.

"The Upper Hunter is the birth place of the Blue Heeler," Andrew said.

"The business chamber is hoping it will become an annual signature event for Muswellbrook and the region so we're happy to lend our support," he said.

The muster will run from September 9 to 11 with events for exhibitor cattle dogs, working cattle dogs and pet cattle dogs.

A free community family fun day at Muswellbrook Showground on Saturday September 9 will include a special appearance by Bluey and Bingo from the iconic Australian cartoon series plus cattle dog demonstrations, competitions and exhibits, market stalls, live country music, rides and other kids' entertainment. There will be a showcase of Upper Hunter, wine, food and produce. Pet cattle dogs are welcome at the fun day.

Find out more at

greatcattledogmuster.com.au





HVO Charity Partner – Hunter Breast Care Foundation

Hunter Breast Cancer Foundation (HBCF) provides support for Hunter people diagnosed with, or being treated for breast cancer, and for their families. Services include transport to treatment and fuel cards, house cleaning and lawn mowing, and providing comfort cushions, wigs, and headwear. Families can access education grants and online resources too.

Not for profit HBCF is not affiliated with other breast cancer charities. It relies solely on community funding to help Hunter people.

Hunter Valley Operations (HVO) chose HBCF as one of five charity partners. One of our mining trucks is painted in its colours and HBCF will receive an annual donation based on the loads carried by that truck.

HBCF General Manager Abbey McDonell told *Coalface Magazine* that partnerships like the one with HVO are vital for the grassroots organisation to keep operating. As well as the fantastic financial support from HVO, the awareness that the partnership brings is equally important.

"Having the truck as a daily visual reminder to everyone working at the mine is invaluable. The more people who know about us, the more people we can help," Abbey said.

At the unveiling of the painted trucks HBCF Board Member and Breast Care Nurse at GenesisCare Rosemary Brezmen shared her personal journey with breast cancer.

"I received my first diagnosis in 2014. At the time I had a 14 month old baby and my husband was working as a mining supervisor, often on 16 hour shifts, so the support I received through HBCF made a real difference," said Rosemary.

"I then received a second diagnosis for breast cancer in 2018 and again HBCF were there to support me. That's why I share my story. To spread the word about the HBCF services and support. To have this truck driving past every day ensures they will know where to turn to if they need us."

HVO General Manager Dave Foster said HBCF was chosen because they make a positive difference to the health and welfare of the Hunter community.

"HBCF does great work to support the many women and families impacted by breast cancer in our region - they need our funding and support," Dave said.

To access support or donate visit
hbcf.org.au



Selina Kilgour (HBCF Ambassador, Radiation Therapist, GenesisCare)
Abbey McDonell (HBCF General Manager) Rosemary Brezmen (HBCF Board Member, Breast Care Nurse, GenesisCare)

Community Consultative Committee (CCC) update

The HVO CCC last met in February. Topics of discussion included mine operations, environmental performance, community relations and historic homestead preservation.



More information and meeting minutes are at

hvo.com.au/community

FREE Neighbour water filter or water tank clean

HVO continues to offer either an under sink water filter kit or water tank cleaning to near neighbours, free of charge.

Register your interest at:

environmentandcommunity@hvo.com.au

Get in touch.
Find out more about HVO

hvo.com.au



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